

Petone's First Hundred Years, 1940

Petone's First 100 Years (1940)

PETONE'S First Hundred Years

A Historical Record of Petone's Progress from 1840 to 1940

Compiled by a Committee of Citizens
on which the Borough was represented
by Councillors J. C. Burns, J. R. Gaynor
and A. M. Macfarlane.

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The photography in this publication is principally the work of Mr. C. L. Jackson.

The publication of this record of the First Hundred Years of Petone's History has been delayed in order to incorporate, within its pages, the celebration of two important events—the Jubilee of the Borough and the Centennial of the Wellington Province in which Petone played an important part.

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First Bank in New Zealand.

SOMEWHERE in Petone is located the site of the first bank to be established in New Zealand—the Union Bank of Australia. Just where that site is will probably never be known, the only clue is contained in a paragraph in a copy of the *New Zealand Gazette*, published in May, 1840 (probably May 2nd), which reads: "The Rev. J. Macfarlane of the Kirk of Scotland will perform Divine Service at half-past ten o'clock, and the Rev. J. G. Butler at twelve o'clock, every Sunday, at the Council House, *in front of the Bank.*"

E. J. Wakefield tells us that the Council House was half-a-mile from Pito-one, *i.e.*, the pa.

The date when the bank opened is fixed by an advertisement in the *New Zealand Gazette*, establishing the fact that business was commenced on Tuesday, 24th March, 1840. A typical letter in the *New Zealand Gazette* reads, "The Bank has arrived and will relieve us from the inconvenience of barter trade."

In regard to the location, half-a-mile along the beach would give the end of Nelson Street, but it is more than likely that the bank was situated nearer Victoria Street. Elsewhere, reasons are given for believing that Clyde Terrace was somewhere in this locality. We do know that the Rev. J. Macfarlane lived in Clyde Terrace, and that a letter states that "the houses there are the best in the colony."

On the arrival of the *Glenbervie*, by which the "bank" arrived, Captain Mein Smith was living in "a large tent," so that the building of his house must have been after the bank was established.

First Newspaper.

IN addition to having been the home of the first bank, Petone also was the home of the first newspaper in New Zealand: *The New Zealand Gazette*, of which the second number (the first number was issued in England) was printed in Petone, on April 18th, 1840, by Mr. Samuel Révans, the plant also arriving by the *Glenbervie*.

The Bay of Islands lays claim to being the site of the first bank, and also the first newspaper; but the bank which opened there did not commence till September, 1840, and the first issue of a paper in the Bay of Islands was June, 1840, some two months after the Petone paper.