

“From there to here”
Vessels relevant to passengers with Ohinemuri / Waihi Links

“The master,
With a gesture of command,
Waved his hand
And at the word,
Loud and sudden there was heard,
All around them, and below,
The sound of hammers blow on blow,
Knocking away the shores and spurs.
And see ' she stirs!

The Bristol Mirror, November 5, 1859
In The Sydney Morning Herald, Monday 16 January 1860 P4

“The knocking away of the shores and spurs” marked the launch of another new vessel from the Bristol ship yards of William Patterson. The barque *Constance* was bound for New Zealand, a new addition to the fleet of, the then, well known Henderson & Macfarlane Circular Saw Shipping line. *Constance*, as the bigger ships did, brought immigrants to New Zealand shores, some of them making their way to the Coromandel Peninsula and settlement.

Her captains doing the San Francisco and Sydney run became well known household names – Captains Jones, Barron, Butt and Elliott. The Coromandel Peninsula was home for Captain Butt when he “cast his lot in” with Thames, having arrived there aboard on 1 August 1867, *P.S. Enterprise* (the small coastal steamer that bought passengers to the opening of the Thames Goldfields) Captain Butt ran what became the renown Butts Shortland hotel and teamed up for a short while with Captain Anderson ship chandler. Captain Hugh Anderson, a foundation director of a company whose name and steamers were synonymous with transport and settlement in the Ohinemuri and Waihi area. Northern Steamship Company – and numerous are the tales told and stories written of travel up the rivers or along the coastal harbours of the Coromandel.

The names of the Captains bringing immigrants on the bigger ships were also popular with their passengers, some of them making a number of voyages – the Britain to New Zealand run. Amongst them Captain Sellars of the *Bombay*, Captain Reynolds of the *Ida Ziegler* , Captain Jenkins of *Lady Jocelyn*, Captain Gray of the *s.s. Great Britain*, Captain Watt of the *Wanganui*. Out of the Great Western Shipyards of William Patterson who built *Constance*, came the famous steamer *s.s. Great Britain*, bringer of many immigrants to Australasian shores.

Captains logs and newspaper accounts of the voyages out recorded the first arrivals to the Katikati Special Settlement aboard *Carisbrooke Castle*; the shipwreck of the *Northumberland*; maintenance of passenger discipline by the Captain aboard *Duchess of Argyle*; the arrival and entry into the Waitemata of the brave little brig *Prince Edward*; the shifted loads of the *Ida Ziegler* in a storm; the concerts aboard *Joseph Fletcher* on the voyage out; the demasting of the *Bombay* and the welcome towing help given from Captain Elliot of *Constance* . Brett was to write (Brett, White Wings I p 5 – 8) of the dangers and rivalry faced by shipping reporters to “get the story.”Brett refers also to William Wilkinson, then shipping reporter for the Daily Southern Cross. It was William Wilkinson who established one of the first newspapers of the Thames Goldfield – The Thames Advertiser - firstly with Claude Corlett and then in partnership (Wilkinson & Horton) with Henry Horton.

The following are a small number of passengers who were to find their way to the Ohinemuri / Waihi Goldfields. Some were early settlers of the area and some have settled in the area for several generations. Some came because of occupation on the goldfields and others to join the Katikati Special Settlement. Some came as part of Vogel’s Immigration scheme, some part of the Waikato Immigration scheme.



Sailing ships at wharves foot of Queen Street in 1880's Photo in “Bold Century”

Passengers and vessels 1840 – 1900 arrival NZ

Passenger	Vessel	Type	Tonnage	Captain	Voyage Arrival NZ	Port of Arrival	Notes
Harvey, William Henry	s.s. Aotea	steamer	6633?	E J Evans ?	?	Wellington	
Ulph, William	s.s. Arawa ⁽¹⁾	passenger cargo	5026	John Stuart	1884	Port Chalmers To Auckland on Wairarapa	NZ Herald 16 & 24/12/1884
Colebrook, George	Armstrong	ship	817	Armstrong	1865	Auckland	DSC 17/02/1865
Quinn, Edwin	Balaclava (spelling)	ship	817	Stewart	1865	Auckland	DSC 30/06/1865
Collings, Charles Alexander	Bombay	ship	900	Sellars	1865	Auckland	DSC 20/03/1865
Tregoweth, William	Bombay	ship	900	Sellars	1865	Auckland	DSC 20/03/1865
Corbett, Edward Mann	British Trident	ship	1400	Wright	1864	Auckland	DSC 04/11/1864
Geddis, William J	British Trident	ship	1400	Wright	1864	Auckland	DSC 04/11/1864
Allom, Albert James	Brougham	barque	238	John Robertson	1842	Wellington	arrival 09/02/1842
Slevin , Joseph	Carisbrooke Castle	ship	1415	Freebody	1875	Auckland 92 days	arrival 08/09/1875
Hogg, Alexander	Chatham	barque	540	Cole	1856	Auckland 109 days	arrival June 1856
Waddell, David Gardner	Coptic ⁽¹⁾	steamer	4367?		1894		Cyclopaedia NZ
Cotter ,Richard Joseph	Dorette	ship	847	Ayles	1874	Auckland	arrival 14/04/1874
Thorburn family	Duchess of Argyle	ship	667		1842	Auckland	arrival 9/10/1842
Snow, Harry Longueville	Durham	steamer			1897	Lyttelton	Cyclopaedia NZ
Molloy, Charles Joseph	Earl Granville	barque	abt 900	Campbell	1880	Auckland	arrival 04/03/1880
Jackson, Joshua	Electra	ship	668	Sellars	1869	Wellington	arrival 11/10/1869
Anderson, Captain Hugh Falconer	Gazelle	clipper schooner	165	McKenzie	1854	Auckland	arrival 06/05/1854
Adams, Ernest Feltus	s.s. Great Britain	steamer	3270 gross	John Gray	1871	Auckland	s.s. Great Britain passenger lists
Lever, John	Hastings	ship	500	Carew	1856	Wellington	arrival 14/10/1856
Clark, Archibald Hugh	Harp	brig	200?	Clark	1856	Nelson	
Carnachan, William	Helenslee				1864		
Savage, Henry Charles	Hindostan	ship	1300	Gregory	1875 (departure)	Wellington 100 days	arrival 22/05/1876
Jansen, John Marcus	Humboldt				1876	Wellington	
Montgomery, William Shore	Hydaspes	ship			1874	Auckland	
Cornes family	Ida Zeigler	ship	860	Abraham L Reynolds	1861	Onehunga, Auckland 90 days	DSC 23/08/1861

Passenger	Vessel	Type	Tonnage	Captain	Voyage Arrival NZ	Port of Arrival	Notes
Morton , William Henry & family	Ida Zeigler	ship	860	Abraham L Reynolds	1861	Onehunga Auckland 90 days	DSC 23/08/1861
Marsh, William	Ida Zeigler	ship	860	Abraham L Reynolds	1863	Auckland 95 days	arrival 06/10/1863
Farrelly, Robert Goodfellow	Indiana	ship	852	McKirdy	1859	Port Chalmers	arrival 14/12/1859
Taylor, John Ede	s.s. Ionic ^(1)	steamer	4748	J G Cameron	1885	Auckland	arrival 29/10/1885
Howard, Samuel	Jessie Readman	clipper ship	960	Strachan	1870	Port Chalmers Dunedin	arrival 11/03/1870 Otago Daily Times 12/03/1870
Heard, George St. Clair	Jessie Readman	clipper ship	960	Mitchell	1874	Port Chalmers Dunedin	arrival 26/10/1874 Otago Witness 31/10/1874
Stewart, James	Joseph Fletcher	clipper barque	672	John Pook	1859	Auckland	arrival 18 /08/1959 DSC 19/08/1859
Clarke, Thomas Plummer family	s.s. Kaikoura ^(1)	passenger cargo	4507 gross		1886	Port Chalmers	New Zealand Herald 04 /01/1886,col 2
Forbes, Dr. Francis Courtney Sutherland	s.s. Kaikoura ^(1)	passenger cargo	4507 gross		1889	Auckland	Arrival 22/06/1889 NZ Herald 24/06/1889
Shotbolt, Walter	s.s. Kaikoura ^(1)	passenger cargo	4507 gross		?	Wellington	
Alexander, George Erskine	Lady Jocelyn	ship	2138	Geo Jenkins	1878	Auckland 88 days	arrival 17/08/1878
Allom, Albert James ^(2nd arrival in NZ)	Mermaid	ship	1326	Henry Rose	1861	Auckland 101 days	DSC 17/12/1861
Aspinall, John	Northumberland	ship	2095	Richard Todd	1884	Auckland 99 days	arrival 19/03/1884
Robinson, Charles Captain	Nimrod	brig		Davis	1840	Wellington via Bay of Islands	arrival 13/06/1840 New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator, 20 /06/ 1840, P 2
McDonald, Ronald	s.s. Omeo	steamer	605	Spence Edwards	1864		
Laurie, William	Pegasus	ship		Cornwall	1865	Auckland	arrival 28 /03/1865
Haszard, family	Prince Edward	brig	174	Edward Nowlan	1859	Auckland	arrival 13/05/1859 DSC 17/05/1859
Benner, Henry	s.s Rimutaka ^(1)	refrigerated passenger cargo	4514 gross		?	Wellington	
Johnston, George	s.s. Rimutaka ^(1)	refrigerated passenger cargo	4514 gross	Herbert Edward Greenstreet	1891	Wellington	
Taylor, John Ede	s.s. Ruapehu ^(1)	refrigerated passenger cargo	4163 gross		1884	Wellington	maiden voyage

Cassrels, Ascher	Scimitar	ship	1300?	J Potts	1864	Auckland 108 days	arrival 11/03/1864
Clarke, Thomas Plummer	Te Anau	passenger cargo	1652 gross		1885	Auckland	arrival 14/07/1885
Dorricott, Abraham, Ruth & 4 children	Triumph				1883	Auckland	
Stevens, John L	Tyburnia	ship	905	Coote	1863	Auckland	arrival 03/10/1863
Pascoe, Benjamin Eddy	s.s. Waitangi	steamer	1128 tons	Hodder	1878	Lyttelton	Arrival 13 /08/1878
Knight, John Tracy	Wanganui	iron ship	1136 gross	Watt	1878	Port Chalmers	arrival 30/12/1878 Otago Witness 4/01/1879 P 12

*Beyond the white
Of Maria Light.
And the red on Columbia Shoal,
Where the long, clean seas come tramping in,
Tramping in, stamping in
With slow, resistless roll-
—Will Lawson*

When the passengers aboard the *Duchess of Argyle* waded ashore through ankle deep mud on the Waitemata, Auckland in 1842 there were neither roads nor railway to Waihi. Kauri spars were being loaded aboard *H.M.S. Tortoise* over on the east coast near Tairua.

March 1865 saw the ship *Bombay* limping into the Port of Auckland, demasted, and in tow by *H.M.S Curacao*. During the 1860's ships on the Britain – New Zealand run were beating regular voyages bringing immigrants to New Zealand. The coastal trade too was busy. Small schooners and cutters were beating a regular route along the eastern coasts near Waihi and Katikati with cargos of pork, wheat, gum and timber.

When passengers bound for George Vesey Stewart's Katikati Special Settlement arrived on board the ship *Carisbrooke Castle* in 1875, the Ohinemuri Goldfield had just been opened. Waihi was but a "glint of gold" in prospectors eyes. Certainly still no township then and tracks only to Katikati. For these passengers it was a first experience of the New Zealand "coasters" to reach their destination end. These were the steamers *Rowena* and *Pretty Jane*. *Rowena* was to be absorbed into the Northern Steamship Company in 1881.

By the time *Lady Jocelyn* bought another group of passengers bound for the Katikati Special Settlement to Auckland in 1878, gold had been discovered on Pukewa Hill at Waihi by McCombie and Lee. One of the first European Settlers to the Waihi district – the Compston family - had made their home near Waihi. Settlers on the Eastern coasts of the Peninsula and Whangamata, Waihi Beach, Katikati, Tauranga, Maketu and Opotiki further down the coast were still heavily reliant on coastal transport to get supplies, cattle and passengers.

Into the 1880's and the ships were becoming larger in tonnage and size. Immigration to New Zealand was certainly entering the steamer age. As passengers arrived at Auckland on board the *Kaikoura* in 1889, the Ohinemuri Waihi area was about to change and go through a period of rapid industrial and community settlement. The reason – successful trialing of the MacArthur & Forrest process at the Crown Mines by the Cassell Company.

When the *Durham* docked at Lyttelton in 1897, work had begun on the Victoria Battery at Waikino. A road had opened Paeroa to Waihi and there was talk of a railway. Northern Steamship Company had launched the steamer *Waimarie* which was then on the regular Paeroa run on the Waihou River. Northern Steamship Company vessels also beat a regular track down the east coast of the Peninsula. Waihi's first school had opened. The towns of the Ohinemuri Waihi area were beginning to flourish with new businesses, new houses and more settlers arriving.

Looking back now in 2011 it could be said that for the towns slightly inland, shipping certainly played a relevant part for those who came “from there to here” and found their way to Waihi. It could also be said that these towns in the early days before roads and railways relied on coastal shipping.

Anne Stewart Ball
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Acknowledgement

It is thanks to my Godmother known to me as “Aunty Spider” who nurtured my passion for transport history, research and writing. “Aunty Spider” – official name known as Wilma Marryatt Latter, nee Wilkinson, grand daughter of William Wilkinson shipping reporter - passed on 24/04/2010. This article has been researched, compiled and written referring to many records of the past, left by her forebears and others for us of the now and the future. Appropriate that it is of the area so well loved by “Aunty Spider”, who also followed in family footsteps with writing and of course a love of the sea.

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