

Taranaki Watercolours



18 May — 19 June 1983

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery
Queen St., New Plymouth.

1870

1871

1872

1873

1874

1875

1876

1877

1878

1879

FOREWARD

The visual record of Taranaki from the first settlement by the Plymouth Company to the mid 1860's relies almost entirely on artists passing through the province and on a handful of local residents.

These artists have left us with their impressions of the embryonic settlement of New Plymouth, the surrounding district and some of the events which forged the beginnings of the modern Taranaki.

This exhibition drawn from the collections held by both the Taranaki Museum and the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery are predominately a representative selection of our early resident artists.

Many of the works by itinerant artists such as Heaphy, Maplestone, Fox and Strutt are not represented here but are held in public institutions in the main centres. Of singular importance locally are Edwin Harris, a Plymouth Company draughtsman, who arrived in the province in 1841 on the first of the Company ships, William Bryan, and the Ardens, father and son, Hamar Humphrey and Francis Hamar who arrived in 1853.

The wars of the 1860's saw a further influx of artists - this time associated with the Imperial Regiments - but works by Gold, Warre and Williams are not well represented in our local collections.

Although the first photographic view of New Plymouth dates from 1859 photography was not common in the province until the late 1860's or early 1870's. With its introduction the documentary value of paintings and sketches begins to diminish until by late in the century the photographic record is, in historical terms, paramount.

A number of the Museum's paintings in this exhibition have not been shown since their recent restoration at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery.

The works which emerged from the process have regained much of their original charm and vibrancy although the passage of time and, in some cases, neglect have unfortunately taken their toll.

We trust that this exhibition will draw attention to the considerable provincial holdings of early watercolours and their importance to our local history and artistic heritage.

Ron Lambert
Director, Taranaki Museum.

18 May 1983

CATALOGUE

FRANCIS HAMAR ARDEN, 1841 - 1899

1. THE AIREDALE ON THE REEF NEAR WAITARA, 1871

Watercolour and pencil

207mm x 334mm

Acc. No.

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, Mrs H. Renauld Bequest

The Airedale left Manukau on 13 February 1871 with English mails bound for Taranaki and Southern ports. The Airedale struck a reef near Taniwha Point, a mile north of Waitara, at 3.35am, 14 February, 1871.

The Airedale was a brig-rigged steamer of 363 gross tons, built of iron at South Stockton in 1857. It was 169 feet in length, had a 23 foot beam and a depth of 13 feet. At the time of the wreck it was owned by Henderson and MacFarlane of Auckland, insured for 6,000 pounds and was captained by H. Kenny.

2. MOUNT EGMONT AND RANGES, 1888

Watercolour

765mm x 1105mm

Acc. No. 819

Taranaki Museum

3. VIEW NORTH OF ONAERO, 1884

Watercolour

835mm x 1140mm

Acc. No. 820

Taranaki Museum

4. VIEW NORTH OF WAITARA, 1884

Watercolour

835mm x 1140mm

Acc. No. 768

Taranaki Museum

This view of an isolated settlers cottage in the Urenui area is reputed to depict a visit by the Rev. H.H. Brown (with the white horse).

5. GRAYLINGS CLEARING, 1888

Watercolour

171mm x 225mm

Acc. No.

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, Mrs H. Renauld Bequest

The figures are members of the Hempton family. Thomas and Jack Hempton and Annie and Alice Hempton. Thomas Hempton was a Captain and Pay Master in Militia and subsequently the second Town Clerk of New Plymouth.

HAMAR HUMPHREY ARDEN, 1815 - 1895

6. LOWER BROUGHAM STREET, NEW PLYMOUTH, 1850s

Watercolour

255mm x 350mm

Acc. No. 1313

Taranaki Museum

7. SETTLERS COTTAGE NEAR POWDERHAM STREET, 1850s

Watercolour

380mm x 465mm

Acc. No. 103

Taranaki Museum

8. LAUNCHING OF THE SHIP "TARANAKI", 1854

Watercolour

250mm x 355mm

Acc. No. 1314

Taranaki Museum

The launching of the Taranaki in April 1855. Built of local timbers from bush on Barrett Road the Taranaki was designed along the lines of an English revenue cutter. She was wrecked on a trading voyage in the Pacific Islands a year or so later.

9. NEW PLYMOUTH FROM LIARDET STREET, 1855 - 1860

Watercolour

250mm x 360mm

Acc. No. 1311

Taranaki Museum

This general view of central New Plymouth shows, on the left the Methodist Church; to the right St Mary's and centre background the military barracks on Marsland Hill.

10. NEW PLYMOUTH FROM LIARDET STREET, 1855 - 60

Watercolour

175mm x 225mm

Acc. No. 259

Taranaki Museum

11. REAR OF MARSLAND HILL, NEW PLYMOUTH, 1855 - 60

(Hamar Humphrey Arden, attrib.)

Watercolour

255mm x 335mm

Acc. No. 29

Taranaki Museum

12. LIMIT OF THE SAP AT HUIRANGI, MARCH 19, 1861

(Hamar Humphrey Arden, attrib.)

Watercolour

175mm x 250mm

Acc. No. 971

Taranaki Museum

Major Pratt's sapping campaign, which eventually resulted in the surrender of Maori forces at Pukerangiora in March 1861, was considered too slow and methodical by the local populace. The end of the sap shown here may still be viewed within the Pukerangiora Historic Reserve. Earth excavated from the trench was used to fill supplejack gabions (baskets) which raised the parapet by several feet.

13. BELL BLOCK STOCKADE, 1860

Pencil & Wash

255mm x 350mm

Acc. No. 985

Taranaki Museum

With the outbreak of hostilities in 1860 the two settler-built stockades at Bell Block and Omata became strategically important military posts designed to protect the local residents.

14. NEW PLYMOUTH FROM LIARDET STREET, 1866

Watercolour

350mm x 445mm

Acc. No. 1310

Taranaki Museum

15. Dr H.W. LEATHAM'S COTTAGE, WOOLCOMBE STREET, NEW PLYMOUTH, 1880

Watercolour

340mm x 450mm

Acc. No. 103a

Taranaki Museum

16. UNTITLED, c 1875

Watercolour

178mm x 258mm

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, Mrs H. Renauld Bequest

A view of Mount Egmont from near New Plymouth

WILLIAM GEORGE BAKER, 1864 - 1929

17. PARIHAKA, 1881

Pencil & Ink

210mm x 460mm

Acc. No. 990

Maori resistance to Government land acquisition led to the Parihaka campaign of 1881 when the Maori leaders, Te Whiti O Rongomai and Tohi Kakahi were arrested by a large force of Armed Constabulary and Volunteers.

FREDERICK DE JERSEY CLERE, 1856 - 1952

18. SURFBOATS OFF HUATOKI, NEW PLYMOUTH c 1884

Watercolour

180mm x 230mm

Acc. No. 1288

Taranaki Museum

Before the construction of the port at Moturoa, ships lightered ashore their passengers and cargo near the Huatoki. This is reputed to be one of the last such occasions before the port came into general use.

W.K. COLLINS

19. GENERAL PANORAMA OF NEW PLYMOUTH FROM PRESENT METHODIST CHURCH, c 1860

Pencil

335mm x 740mm

Acc. No. 237

Taranaki Museum

ROBERT GREENWOOD

20. FORT ST GEORGE, TATARAIMAKA

Watercolour

285mm x 370mm

Acc. No. 1298

Taranaki Museum

Built near the site of the Maori fortress of Tataraimaka, Fort St George was one of the several out posts constructed during the re-occupation of the Tataraimaka Block - 1863.

The pa itself known to the occupying troops as the "Crows Nest" was also fortified and served as a signal station.

JOHN CULLY, 1819 - 1888

21. LOWER BROUGHAM STREET, NEW PLYMOUTH, c 1858

Watercolour

335mm x 510mm

Acc. No. 1304

Taranaki Museum

This area, near the mouth of the Huatoki River, was the site of the early 'port' of New Plymouth as it was here that cargo and passengers were lightered ashore.

Richard Brown's store is to be seen in the foreground. Across the river is the Kawau kainga and the Maori Church where Bishop Selwyn is reputed to have preached his first sermon in Taranaki.

22. BONITHON, NEW PLYMOUTH, c 1859

Watercolour

390mm x 550mm

Acc. No. 1305

Taranaki Museum

The home of James Craig Sharland, near the site of the present West End School. Sharland eventually moved to Auckland to found the well known firm of Sharland & Co.

23. MARSLAND HILL IN MOONLIGHT, c 1859

Watercolour

205mm x 265mm

Acc. No. 966

Taranaki Museum

The Marsland Hill barracks were erected in 1855 after importation from Australia.

The site, originally the pa Pukaka, was levelled in 1855 and during the excavations one of Taranaki's minor mysteries in the form of a coffin containing a body in full naval uniform was unearthed.

The origin of the body has never been satisfactorily explained.

24. THE WRECK OF THE LARD WORSLEY, 1862

Watercolour

260mm x 420mm

Acc. No. 992

Taranaki Museum

On September 1, 1862 the Lord Worsley was wrecked near Opunake on her passage from Nelson to New Plymouth. Fears were held for the safety of the passengers and crew because the area was held by Maori forces. All were, however, well treated and eventually escorted to New Plymouth.

One of the masks from the Lord Worsley is reputed to have been used as the first of the niu poles around which Te Va's Pai Mairire followers based their ceremonies.

EDWIN HARRIS, c1805 - 1895

25. TARANAKI WITH THE WILLIAM BRYAN, 1841

Watercolour

130mm x 215mm

Acc. No. 988

Taranaki Museum

The first of the Plymouth Company ships the William Bryan arrived off Taranaki on the 30 March 1841 after leaving Plymouth Sound on 19 November 1840.

26. SUSPENSION BRIDGE OVER WAIWAKAIHO

Oil and watercolour

280mm x 380mm

Acc. No. 32

Taranaki Museum

The first Waiwakaiho bridge was constructed in 1842 after the wreck of the Pifeshire at Nelson. Chains from this ship were used to erect the suspension bridge shown here. The pukatea piers collapsed in 1848 and the bridge washed away. It was to be a further 10 years before a replacement was completed.

27. NEW PLYMOUTH PANORANIA, 1844

Watercolour

295mm x 810mm

Acc. No.

Taranaki Museum

In early June 1844 Commissioner William Spain was in New Plymouth to investigate the land claims of the New Zealand company. The meetings were held on Mt Eliot (near the present Taranaki Club) and may be seen in progress to the left of the painting.

28. NEW PLYMOUTH, 1860

Oil and watercolour

345mm x 560mm

Acc. No. 1315

Taranaki Museum

During 1860 New Plymouth became an armed camp with thousands of troops and civilians in overcrowded conditions within the town. Dysentery and typhoid eventually forced the authorities to evacuate several hundred civilians to Nelson.

29. VOLUNTEER RIFLES GOING ON DUTY NEW PLYMOUTH, 1860

Watercolour

400mm x 555mm

Acc. No. 1306

Taranaki Museum

The relationship between regular troops and the locally raised Militia was often vitriolic during the first years of the wars. The British commanders preferred the local troops to participate only in picquet duty and base operations instead of taking part in field operations.

30. TROOPS LANDING AT NEW PLYMOUTH 5TH AUGUST, 1860

Watercolour

525mm x 755mm

Acc. No. 1316

Taranaki Museum

The steam sloop "Victoria" is seen here disembarking General Pratt, Lt. Col. Carey and 50 men of the 40th Regiment. Other vessels in the roadstead are the paddlesteamer "Tasmanian Maid", the "George Henderson" and the "Airdale".

C.J. JOHNSON

31. TARANAKI FROM THE SEA, AUGUST 1856

Monochrome wash

257mm x 355mm

Acc. No. 972

Taranaki Museum

The town of New Plymouth as it was seen by many of the early arrivals to the province with Egmont covered in cloud and the fledging town huddled around the Huatoki.

GEORGINA MAUDE LIMBRICK

32. OPUNAKE REDOUBT AND BLOCKHOUSE

Wash

107mm x 230mm

Acc. No. 980

Taranaki Museum

The Opunake Redoubt was originally established in 1865 and was in almost continuous occupation until the 1880's. The loopholed blockhouse was erected during the Armed Constabulary buildup prior to the Parihaka campaign of 1881.

RICHARD C.F. PHENEY, 1803 - 1881

33. NEW PLYMOUTH FORESHORE, 1868

Watercolour and pencil

380mm x 535mm

Acc. No.

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, Mrs D. McRae Bequest

A view of the New Plymouth foreshore, with Port Taranaki in the background, from the Molesworth Street area.

Richard Pheny was editor of the Taranaki Herald from 1852 until 1856.

HENRY FREER RAWSON, 1839 - 1874

34. OMATA STOCKADE, 1869

Watercolour

340mm x 530mm

Acc. No. 1317

Taranaki Museum

The Omata Stockade was situated above the Herekawe Stream on the outskirts of New Plymouth. It was built by local settlers early in 1860 in response to rising tension between Maori and Pakeha over the proposed Waitara land purchase. Before historical times the site was occupied by a Maori pa Ngaturi.

DOROTHY KATE RICHMOND, 1861 - 1935

35. EGMONT FROM THE EAST, 1925

Watercolour

255mm x 355mm

Acc. No. 1297

Taranaki Museum

36. UNTITLED, 1929

Watercolour

435mm x 548mm

Acc. No. 74/10

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, Monica Brewster Bequest

A view of Mt Egmont executed September 1929.

37. MT EGMONT AND FANTHAMS PEAK

Watercolour

255mm x 360mm

Acc. No. 1312

Taranaki Museum

JAMES CROWE RICHMOND, 1822 - 1898

38. NGA MOTU, THE SUGAR LOAVES, JANUARY 6 1854

Pencil

260mm x 780mm

Acc. No. 705

Taranaki Museum

JOHN SKINNER

39. BELL BLOCK STOCKADE WITH MT EGMONT

Watercolour

280mm x 410mm

Acc. No. 1296

Taranaki Museum

Constructed in 1860 the Bell Block stockade was used as a base for operations in the Waitara area. The remaining earthworks were totally destroyed in 1972 when a hotel was built on the site.

ARCHDEACON PHILLIP WALSH, d1914

40. EGMONT FROM MARSLAND HILL, 1876

Watercolour

175mm x 250mm

Acc. No. 1292

Taranaki Museum

Phillip Walsh was responsible for the paintings of the military hatchments which may now be seen in St Mary's church New Plymouth.

41. MT EGMONT AND RANGES, 1876

Watercolour

175mm x 250mm

Acc. No. 1292b

Taranaki Museum

HENRY JAMES WARRE, 1819 - 1898

42. a. WAITARA RIVER FROM SEA, MARCH 4 1861

b. MT EGMONT FROM SEA, MARCH 4 1861

Watercolour

170mm x 255mm

Acc. No. 1291

Taranaki Museum

With the first Taranaki was drawing to a close most of the military supplies for the campaign were being brought ashore at Waitara to supply Pratt's massive operations further up the river at Te Arai.

LT. WOORE

43. NEW ZEALAND STOCKADES - WYAMATTEE AND TARNACKEE, 1834

Pen

185mm x 495mm

Acc. No. 1309

Taranaki Museum

In 1834 HMS Alligator was sent from Australia to effect the rescue of the crew of the trading vessel Harriel which was wrecked near Cape Egmont. The incident resulted in the first clash between Maori and Imperial troops.

This sketch of Orangi tu a peka and Waimate pa is one of the first known pictorial representations of Taranaki available.

Watercolour

215mm x 282mm

ARTIST UNKNOWN

44. UNTITLED

Watercolour

215mm x 282mm

Yet to be accessioned

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, Mrs A.P. Fergusson Bequest

A view of New Plymouth with the Methodist Church, Marsland Hill and Mount Egmont in the background

ARTIST UNKNOWN

45. SUGAR LOAVES AND HARBOUR WITH MOTUROA HOTEL

Watercolour

320mm x 480mm

Acc. No. 1299

Taranaki Museum

This view of the Moturoa area before the construction of the first wharf (only the breakwater is present) dates from about 1885.

ARTIST UNKNOWN

46. MISSION STATION, WAREA c1850

Pen & Wash

237mm x 320mm

Acc. No. 989

Taranaki Museum

The Reverend J.F. Riemenschneider's Mission Station at Warea was established in 1846 and survived as an isolated outpost until the outbreak of hostilities in 1860.

ARTIST UNKNOWN

44. DEVELIN

Watercolor

Time & Place

Not to be illustrated

Great-Entrance Art Gallery, The A.P. Bergstedt Request

A view of New Plymouth with the Methodist Church, Inland Hill and Mount Spout in the background

ARTIST UNKNOWN

45. SOLAR DRIVE AND GARDEN WITH MOUNTAIN VIEW

Watercolor

Time & Place

Not to be illustrated

Terminal Station

This view of the houses was before the construction of the first wharf (only the structure in ground) dates from about 1885.

ARTIST UNKNOWN

46. MARINE STATION, MARX 1870

Time & Place

Time & Place

Not to be illustrated

Terminal Station

The Alexander F.P. Bismarck's Marine Station at Marx was established in 1870 and remained an isolated outpost until the outbreak of hostilities in 1914.

