

WAVERLEY

1860 — 1920



BY LARAINÉ SOLE

Foreword **NEW PLYMOUTH
DISTRICT LIBRARY**

There is always a danger in presenting a work of this kind that the author will become regarded as an "expert". I can honestly say that the more I have researched the history of this little town, the more it has been driven home exactly how little I do know. There are a thousand untold tales which would make a book in themselves, but this is a book primarily to inform and I have tried to be as factual as possible.

For that reason, I hope you will forgive me if, at times, the style is a little pedantic!

As far as errors are concerned, it would be hard to imagine any work of this type, especially in the family areas, having none. The search for missing and unknown persons has been one of the most fascinating aspects of all the research, but memories are distorted and faded by time, and the account of one person differs from the memories of another. Official records themselves argue over dates and spellings too, and so I can only say that I have done everything in my power to ensure that I have presented as much information as carefully as I could.

This is essentially a photographic history, and therefore there are areas which I should have liked to cover, but couldn't because no photographs were available. The photos which I have received have turned up in a most amazing variety of ways, many of them a story in themselves, and I would thank from the bottom of my heart, all the people who came forward with their treasures. The response has been terrific and a constant source of encouragement to my sometimes failing enthusiasm!

I have chosen the period 1860 – 1920 because for me it represents such a period of growth. Settlers over this period lived to see Waverley tamed from the bush into a thriving town. It was an exciting period too; the dances and balls, picnics, camping at the beach, hunting, evening singalongs . . . I have the conviction that Waverley truly was a great little town to be brought up in. Indeed we hope it is still so.

I have, in a few cases used photos taken after 1920. There were some I considered historically too important to miss out. Others were just too charming, as you will see.

This is not "An Oracle". It is only a BEGINNING. It is for you to discuss, argue and enjoy, to build on and extend. In presenting you with this book I am only giving back to you what you have always had. It is your roots – your heritage . . . I hope it gives you as much pleasure as it gave me.

– Laraine Sole
September 1983
Waitotara

Laraine Sole

This book is dedicated to Ian Handley of Waitotara, who copied all but a very few of all the photographs in this book and developed them. Without his skill, reliability and willingness to help, this book would not have been possible.



I should like to thank the following people for their contribution to this book:—

*Kim Peters for the exquisite art work;
Jannet Newland for the italics;
Hanton and Andersen for the printing;*

and last but not least the WAVERLEY-AOTEA ROTARY CLUB who always had faith in me and presented this book as a community project.



I should like to specially mention three people who were a tremendous help to me, and who gave me hours of their time as well as many photographs from their private collections. They are Bill Hone of Kobi and Ray Wall and Nesta Mathieson of Waverley.

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COMMERCE

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"Such are the changes that a few years bring, and so things pass away like a tale that is told."

"The Old Curiosity Shop"
Charles Dickens.

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MAIN STREET

The main street in Waverley still boasts many of the buildings that could be seen in the latter half of the last century and early this one. A glance of early photos taken in Waverley show this clearly. Waverley was once a thriving commercial centre with such businesses as a dentist, jeweller, billiard hall, shoe shop and restaurant, just to name a few. Amazingly few shops went up in fire considering how the timber would have burnt. Perhaps the biggest casualty is the now Waverley Hotel. It, like the Phoenix, has risen from the ashes . . . twice!

A surfaceman was employed to handle the road's surface; dirt, then gravelled with the usual array of potholes! All manner of horse drawn traffic made its way along with scant regard for modern road rules, and in 1920 when cars were overcoming their cussed new-fangledness the policeman was asked to remind drivers that the speed limit in the main street of Waverley was 12 miles per hour!

Enough lighting was maintained to engage the services of a lamplighter before electricity in 1915, and professionally the township emanated a prosperous, busy glow.

Enough dramas occurred to keep the population on its toes, such as in the early days when a wagon driver left his team unattended while he popped into the local for a "quick one". The team however continued on their journey alone, and as the leaders just happened to go one each side of the verandah poles holding up Mr Leo's shop, the result was disastrous. Fortunately, although part of the verandah came down the occupants of the shop were un-hurt!

Of such stuff are the old stories of Waverley made.

GROCERY LIST — 1880

Flour — best quality.	25lbs - 2s 5d
.	50lbs - 4s 7d
Barley (pearl) 2d
Brown Sugar.	11lbs - 2d
Soap.	1½d; 2d; 3d; 4d; 5d a bar 8d a large bar
1lb Lunch Biscuits. 2½d
Galvanised Buckets 1s
English Pickles	6d a bottle
Tin of Jam. 5d
Honey.	9d a bottle
Sardines.	8½d a tin



Looking toward the Post Office, Clarendon Hotel, Bank buildings and the watchmakers clearly visible. On the left is the signboard for the stables adjoining the "Commercial" Hotel (now rebuilt for the second time as the "Waverley"). Watchmaker's building burnt down and was rebuilt by Jack Palmer; they were known for years as Palmer's Buildings.



View from the Post Office corner looking towards Patea. Note the lovely gas lamp and horse and wagon on the wrong side of the road! Muirs, on the right is now Dallisons. Buildings on the left still standing today.



Same view taken further up the road about the site of the present butchers. The Town Board is the building just before the Clarendon.



Same view further up the road. The pub on the right is the "Waverley", after it was rebuilt the first time. On the left is Daltons Butchery and Bakery, later rebuilt and now "E. & J's".

BANK OF NSW – Waverley

The Bank of New South Wales opened a branch in Waverley on 28th August 1903, but before that an agency had been operating in Patea since mid 1887, first once a week, and then twice weekly from mid 1888.

The first premises (used by the agency and then by the branch) were in the main road, in front of the Clarendon stables. Owned by Mr G. Oakenfull, the building was made of wood, 15' x 32', and contained a manager's room and a public office.

In June 1905 the bank moved to the present day building, erected and owned by Mr E.P. Blake. The lessor died in 1919 and the bank purchased the property in 1920. The bank was, as reported to his inspector by the manager in 1905, "substantial with brick side walls and contains eight living rooms besides the banking chamber and manager's room, also a good strong room. The property contains one rood, being part section No. 324 Okutuku and is situated in the centre of the main street Waverley."

The early days of the bank were not without its drama. In 1901 while the Waverley office was still operating as an agency to Patea, the Agency Officer, Mr Hickson was shot at twice while walking to the train which would take him back to Patea. Mr Hickson was fortunately unhurt, and the assailant arrested. It was thought that he was the same person who robbed the agency in 1899, and who had also attempted another break-in in December 1900!

A report sent in by the manager to his inspector about 1903 echoes the optimism of the Bank of Australasia. "The Waverley District is in a very sound position and prosperous, the surrounding settlers having done very well from sale of stock which have maintained their high values for a considerable time past. Many of them received good surplus from their last season's wool and it is anticipated that in view of the satisfactory price ruling in the home market, a large number of farmers will relinquish dairying and re-stock with sheep. The dairy farmers have had a splendid season for their industry and have received good returns from their respective factories. Land Values continue high, very few properties changing hands."

The comment about farmers changing to sheep was an astute one, as most of the farmers in the area did go into sheep and fat stock, a situation which has continued until the present day.

Managers of the Branch until 1920 were:—

First Manager Herbert Earl Blythe
 From 23/6/05. Richard Chaman Esse
 From 23/3/12. Cecil Claude William Haselden
 From 7/3/13 William Campbell Christie
 From 19/1/18. Charles Reginald Corfe

(From notes provided by Mrs C.E. Dawe, Westpac Archivist)

Deposited at Waverley 20 Dec 1898 for Credit at Patea 189

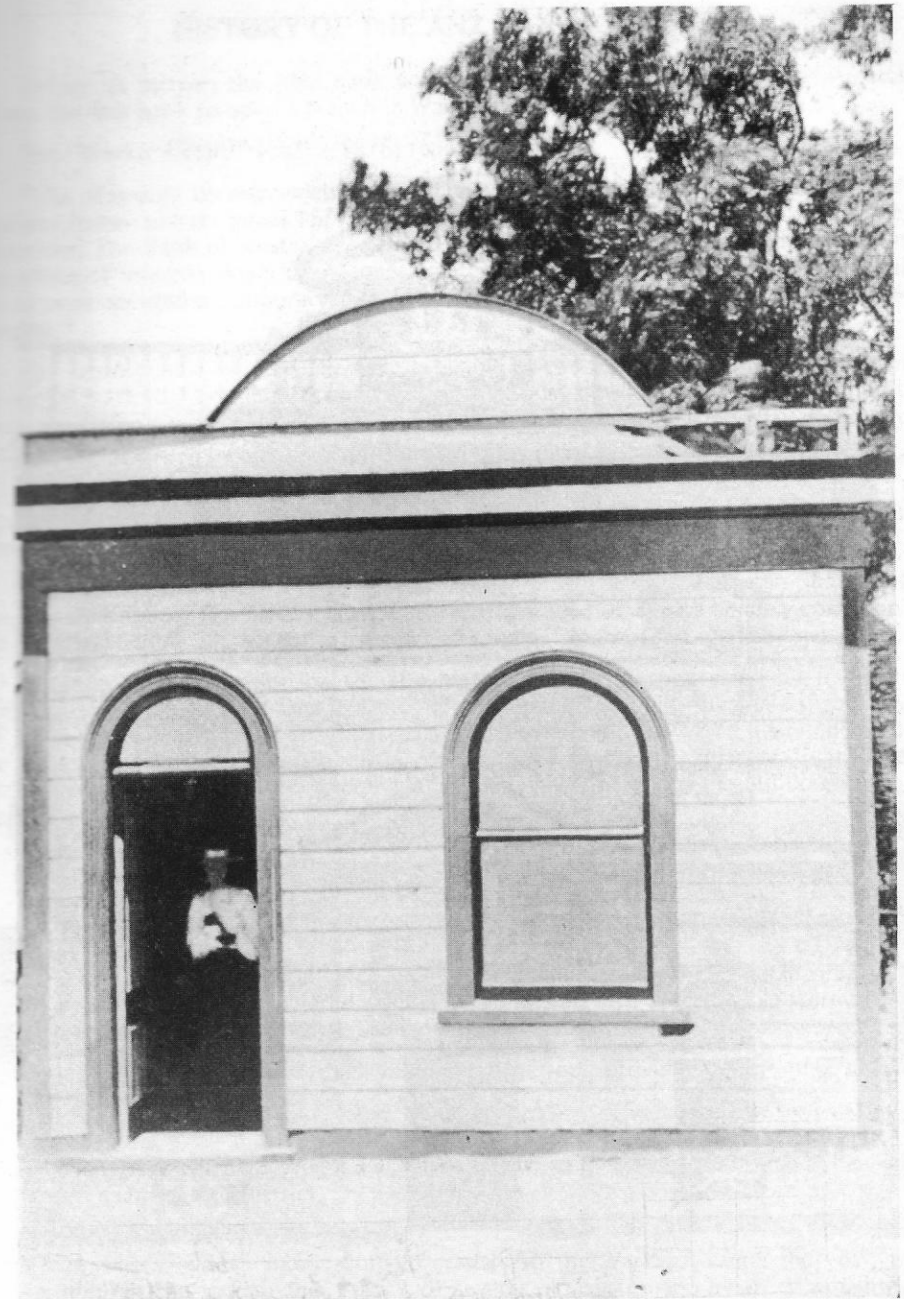
	£	s.	d.
Notes			
Gold			
Silver			
Copper			
Cheques &c. <small>as per back not to be available till collected.</small>			
	£	500	

Paid into the BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES the Sum of

Five hundred pounds to be placed
 in the Credit of *Isaac Lupton*

by the hands of *Isaac Lupton* Teller.

Williams & Powell Limited, Printers. 1908



Earliest building of Bank of New South Wales – 1888-1905 (Agency and Branch premises)
 Photo from 'Westpac' Archives

Before its merger, the ANZ bank was known in Waverley as the Bank of Australasia and was the first bank to open a branch in Waverley, although only just.

The "Weekly Herald" (16/12/1876) reported that . . .

"Our Waverley correspondent says there was great excitement there the day before yesterday (other sources quote 18/12/1876) caused by the sudden opening of two monetary institutions. The Bank of Australasia opened a branch in the morning, which had the immediate effect of bringing down the Manager of the Patea Branch of the Bank of New Zealand who at once secured a temporary office and announced that an agency was established in Waverley."

The townspeople of Waverley were probably in two minds about the establishment of two banks, some thinking that it spoke well of their busy developing community, and others wondering if the community was large enough to support both banks. The latter proved correct.

Business in fact was so depressed in the 80's that in 1885, the two banks held a conference. The result being that the Bank of Australasia agreed to close its branch at Sanson if the BNZ closed its branch in Waverley.

It was a decision which as time progressed was shown to be very much in favour of the Bank of Australasia as the BNZ's Sanson branch dwindled to a once a week operation and then eventually closed. It was to be 87 years before the BNZ returned to Waverley.

There is no information on the site of the first building operated by the Bank of Australasia, although Harold Dickie writes of it as being "a diminutive little shack". Whatever it was, it was functional for nine years before the bank purchased a site and building from the BNZ for two hundred and fifty pounds. That site was adjacent to the present building and was a single storey wooden structure. Records record the buildings as consisting of:—

- Banking Hall, 20' x 13', 2 bedrooms and servant's room.
- Manager's Room, 13' x 9', 2 very small rooms and bathroom.
- Sitting Room, 14' x 13', kitchen and scullery.
- Out-buildings consisting of a stable and wash house.

In 1913 the section was divided into two and the section with the old premises was sold and two thousand one hundred pounds was invested into a new single storey building still used by the bank today. It too, still had a servant's room.

A few extracts taken from half yearly balance book provided by the BNZ's archivist make interesting reading.

"15/10/1900:

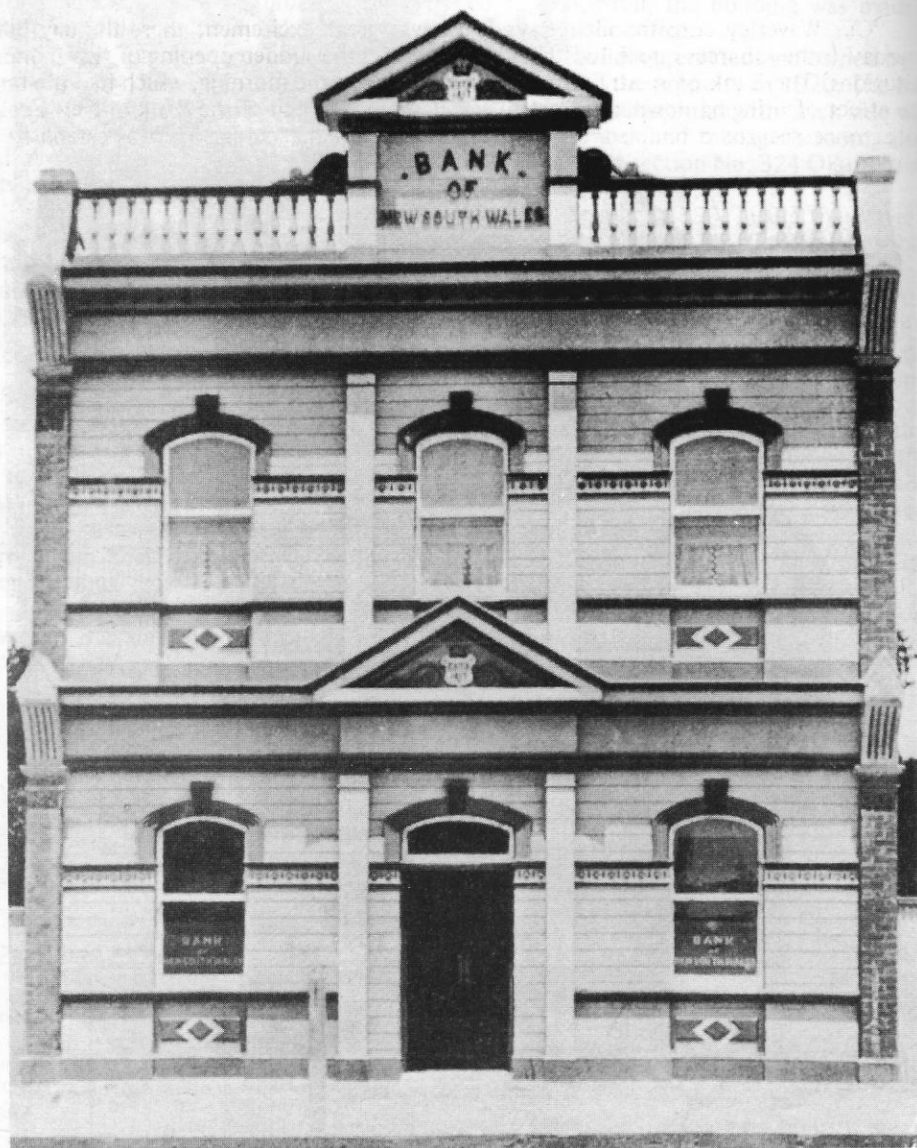
. . . the steady growth of the dairy industry which to some extent has enhanced the value of land in this district."

"1906:

There was a sudden exodus of old settlers to the Waikato during the year, which resulted in the loss to this branch of several old customers, all of whom, however are banking with our newly opened branch in Hamilton."

"October 1915:

Labour has been a continual source of worry and many farmers are unable to cope with work on the land. The local Water and Lighting Scheme is nearing completion. There are very few empty houses or shops in the township and rental values are fairly well maintained.



Waverley Branch of New South Wales from 1905 on.
Photo from 'Westpac' Archives

Managers who served the bank in Waverley have been:—

M. Cookham	1876-77
W.S. Cobham	1877-79
G.H. Norman	1879-81
W. Fawcner	1881-86
J.H. Bethune	1886-87
W.F. Kemp	1887-1900
D.M. Graham	1900-05
H.P. Butts	1905-11
J.H. Blacke	1911-11
H.F. Law	1911-15
Thos. Taylor	1915-18
H.J.W. Bradmore	1918-31

(From notes provided by ANZ archivist, Kevin Bourke)

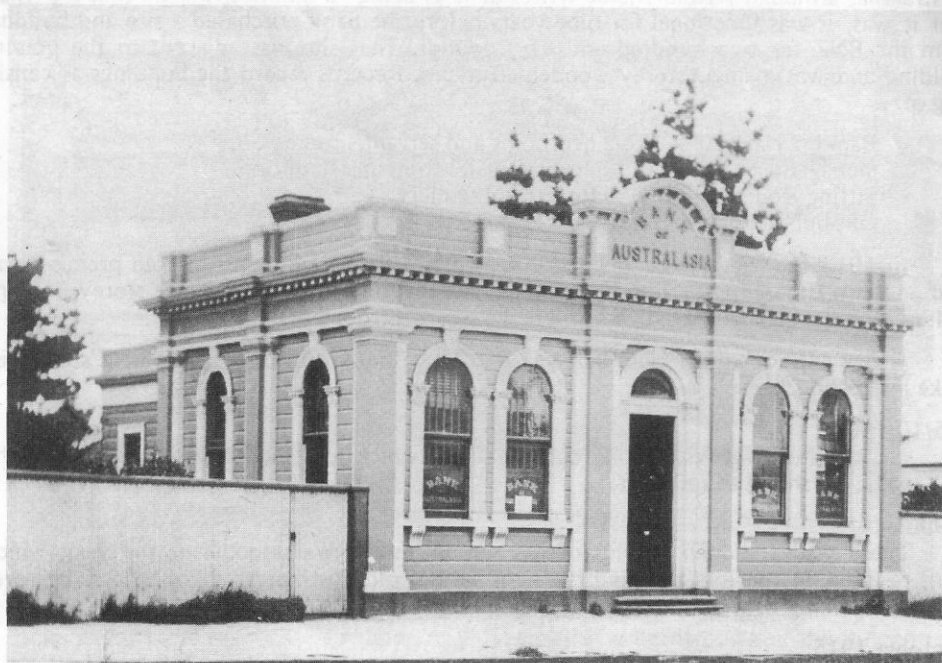


JAMES DALTON'S BUTCHERY AND BAKERY

In all probability the store owned by Dalton was originally started off by a Mr Mason Lupton refers to. It is also possible that it belonged to Lissaman and Wallace whose account heading appears on this page. There is no proof of this, but then again there is no record of more than one butcher and baker operating in Waverley at this time.

The bakery was originally underneath the shop. A careful look at the shop in an early photograph show the window where the light was let through to the bakery. This building was subsequently pulled down and the present shop (E. & J's) built on the same site. It is still possible to see that there is a large area underneath the present shop where the bakery was filled in.

The owner, James Dalton sold out to Eddie Symes, then Heginbothams ran it for some years. Dalton himself continued to work for them for many years as their butcher.



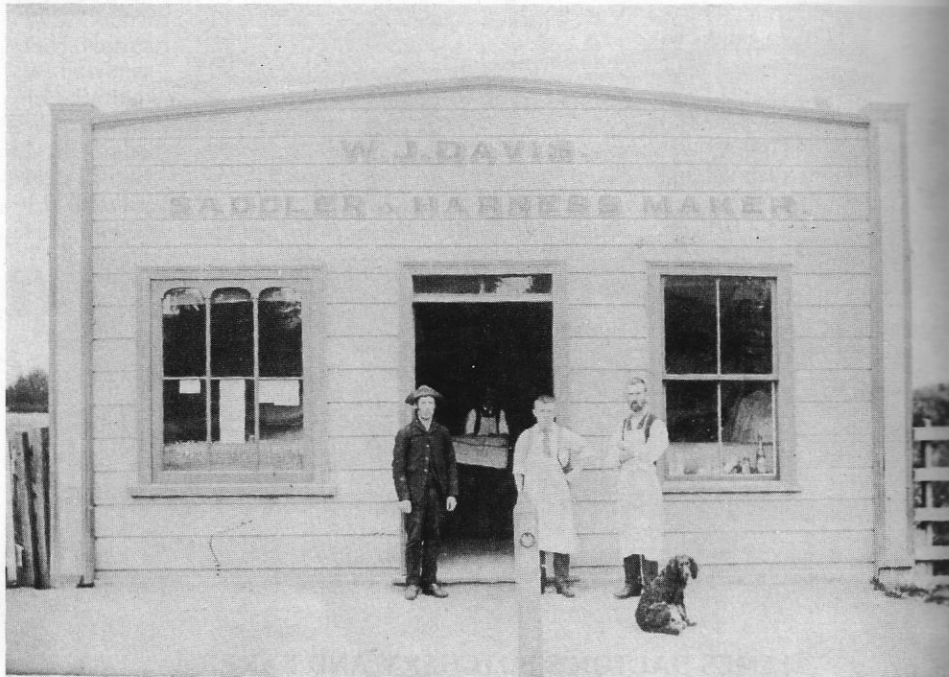
Bank of Australasia (ANZ) taken 1906. (Now Harvey's Bookshop)
Photo from ANZ Archives

WAVERLEY

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LISSAMAN & WALLACE

Cash Purchasers of Butter, Eggs, and all kinds of Farm Produce. **Butchers, Bakers, &c.**
GENERAL DEALERS



1890's



After the Fire, 1907. Although the front was burnt it was otherwise saved. Notice there are now six windows to the right of the door.

W. J. DAVIS
SADDLER and HARNESS MAKER
HIGH STREET, WAVERLEY . . . (Where Waverley Motors now are.)

Mr Davis came to Waverley from New South Wales in 1874. He learned his trade locally with Mr Thomas Reid, subsequently working at Manaia for a few months. In 1883 he established his business in Waverley with conveniently fitted, freehold premises.

He owned two sewing machines — a Singer and a Pearson's and all the tools of the trade. As well as dealing throughout the district Mr Davis imported a range of goods including saddlers' furniture, spurs, stirrups, etc. His special lines were saddles, collars, harnesses, horse covers and tarpaulins. He also had quite a trade in re-stringing old tennis rackets for 7/6d (75c).



Clarendon Hotel taken from the remains of the Commercial Hotel.

The Clarendon was built by Macfarlane and Son of Waverley in 1878 and one of the first proprietors was Mr William Andrews whose son took over from him in 1894. Harry Andrews was by trade a dentist and not very enamoured with hotel life. He left soon after to resume his trade.

He did however have a reputation for being courteous and efficient, and was no mean talent on the cornet! At this stage the hotel had 21 rooms. No information exists as to who bought the Clarendon after Andrews, but an old Bill of Charges displayed still in the Clarendon lists Mr E. le G. Jacob as proprietor. There may have been others.

Business must have been good as by 1906 the hotel had extended to a 29 room hotel including 18 bedrooms, 4 sitting rooms, a commercial room and a splendid dining room with accommodation for 50 guests. There were also well appointed stables.

An advertisement in 1905 in the Patea Mail tells the world that George Oakenfull of Waipawa "begs to inform the travelling public and the residents of Waverley, that he has taken over the Clarendon Hotel. He hopes that with strict attention to the comfort of his guests, a good stable and the best of ales, wines, spirits, etc., to be favoured with their patronage." He had in fact taken over from his father.

THE
CLARENDON HOTEL
WAVERLEY

E. LE G. JACOB,
PROPRIETOR

Speight's Dunedin XXXX Ale on Draft.

CHARGES:

Breakfast	—	—	—	—	1s	6d
Dinner (including Beer or Tea)					1s	3d
Tea	—	—	—	—	1s	6d
Beds	—	—	—	—	1s	0d
Board per Week	—	—	—	—	20s	0d
Horse Feed	—	—	—	—	1s	6d
Stabling	—	—	—	—		Free

Good Accommodation for Stock adjoining Hotel.

Copy of the original still hanging at the "Clarendon".

COMMERCIAL HOTEL



Outside the Commercial Hotel. This photo shows celebration to mark the end of the Boer War. On the cart (the old fire engine) is an effigy of Kruger.

Known are — the man with the child is Micky Lea, holding the child whose name was Price. Next to him behind the wheel is Jimmie Wilcox. Man with pipe is Bob Sinclair, second from right Norman Plummer.

(Thanks to Mrs Scoringe, Tauranga for above information)

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The original hotel in Waverley was Palmers, but by 1870 it had been rebuilt as a two storey building with seven bedrooms, called the Commercial. This was claimed by fire in 1907 and was built again as the Commercial. The building burnt down in the 30's and was again built as the Waverley. As the story goes the name was originally spelt 'Waverly' on the front sign, because as one wit put it, "the board ran out before the name did."

This building also burnt down in the thirties and was rebuilt as the present Waverley.



First organised motor run by the Wanganui Automobile Association — party photographed outside the Waverley Commercial Hotel in 1911.

Taken off an old newspaper clipping. This is the second Commercial Hotel. Still the same cut-off corner, but different frontage.



Wine List.

- Australian Wines.**
 Constantia. Tokay. Muscat.
 Frontignac. Verdeilho.
 Reisling. Hockheimer. Claret.
 * * * * *
Sherry.
 ** Golden. **
 * * * * *
Port.
 Fine Old Tawney.
 * * * * *
Liqueurs.
 ** Curacao. **
 * * * * *
Tea & Coffee.



Menu.

- Entrees.**
 Chicken in Aspec. Quail en Creton. Pork Pie.
 Chicken Pie. Sausage Rolls.
Relevés.
 Haunch of Mutton & Red Currant Jelly.
 Roast Turkey. Braised Turkey. Roast Goose.
 Roast Duck. Ham in Aspec. York Ham.
 Pressed Ox Tongue. Braised Ox Tongue.
 Sucking Pig. Spiced Beef. Roast Chicken.
Salads.
 Lobster Salad. Chicken Salad.
 Celery Salad. Lettuce Salad.
Entremets.
 Wine Jelly. Charlotte Rasse. Sponge Trifle.
 Pine Apple in Jelly. Apricots in Jelly.
 Peaches in Jelly. Pears in Jelly. Tipsu Cake.
 Velvet Cream. Stone Cream. Milan Souffle.
 Ribbon Blanc Mange. Hedge-Hog Pudding.
 Meringues. Swiss Rolls. Neapolitan Cake.
 Almond Meringues. Cream Puffs. Fruit Salad.
 Small Pastru.
 Dessert: _____ In Season.

Commercial Hotel

From the Wedding Breakfast of Miss Nesta Mathieson's mother.

* * *

After the Maori Wars, the government upon application, paid compensation to businesses which suffered damage.

A.C. Fookes Evaluation of Palmer's Hotel:

House — £385
 Stall, Stockyard, etc. — £47
 Total — £432.0.0

Premises consists of house containing bar, large parlour, small do . . (door?), kitchen and back kitchen on ground floor and seven bedrooms on the first floor, all newly papered and painted and well fitted up; the building is substantial and well built, painted and roofed with iron. A four stalled stable with loft (new), a large stockyard — quite new and very solid (word not deciphered) and other outdoor appliances, a good well, garden and four small paddocks strongly fenced with line fence and good swing gates. Premises is at present let for two pounds per week.

Section 88, 50 a O r 29p. Town Section 10.
 Rough estimate of actual loss: 6 cattle killed by Hauhaus. Fences destroyed and house damaged by troops — £80.
 Amount applied for — £100.

— Supplied by South Taranaki Museum, Patea



The Wairoa Hotel was situated on the main road opposite Luptonville Street, being originally owned by one Mr Edwards who later sold it to Cornelius Dempsey who closed it in face of competition with the Commercial and Clarendon.

In 1875 there was an advertisement in the Patea Mail advertising that the hotel had, since its recent possession by the proprietors, been refitted and undergone extensive alterations, claiming to possess "superior accommodation for travellers".

The ad goes on to proclaim good wines and spirits of the purest quality, good stabling and secure paddocks, and extensive sale yards for cattle.

It concludes with the claim of first class ale always on tap.

The Wairoa Hotel was also the patron of the game of cricket and during the 1870's when the local club played regular games against Wanganui and Patea, they played their games in Morton and Lupton's paddock, just along from the hotel.

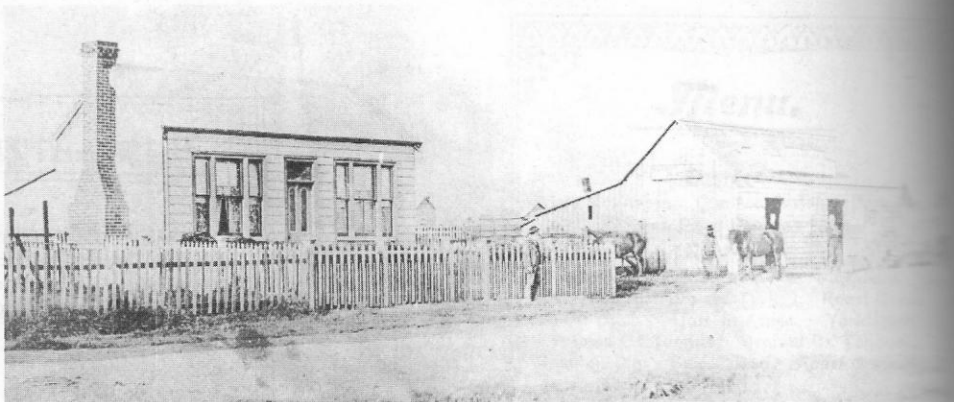
During breaks in play, players refreshed themselves with drink and food from the hotel. This is possibly why one game in 1873 became rather marred by arguments and almost ended in a boxing match.

The hotel also provided refreshments for the races held on Morton and Lupton's property in the early stages of the club's history.

The hotel was later pulled down and the land bought about 1890 by W.J. Davis. It was this family who found the brass beer pull, teaspoon and keg taps.

Nothing else appears to remain of the Wairoa Hotel.

TAYLOR AND BREMNER



Originally "Taylor's", the business was started by Mr Taylor, the older brother of the Taylor of Taylor and Bremners who took over the business in 1882.

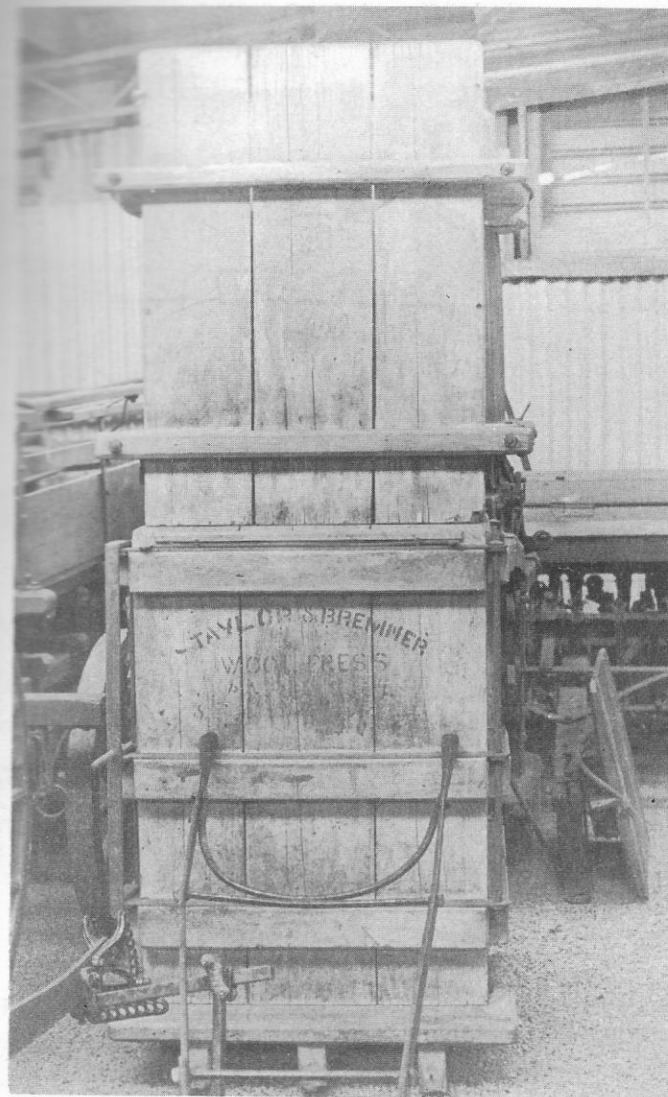
The business was agents for the sale of wool presses (ref. wool press), also the Mercantile Agency throughout the colony and Messrs Barraud and Abraham of Palmerston North. The premises were large and convenient and covered a large area of ground. (Situated where Hair and There and Anderson's are now.)

The machinery included three American drills by Wiley and Russell, and bandsaws, etc. A fine tiring bed, equal to the heaviest work was also among the appliances. In the blacksmith's shop there were four forges constantly in use, and the firm employed a competent staff of workmen. Messrs Taylor and Bremner did a good trade and the work done by them was unrivalled in the area. At Wanganui and local shows, the firm repeatedly carried off prizes for their various exhibits.

Both partners came from Aberdeen, Scotland, both having been employed by and apprenticed to Messrs Hay and Cowie, Coachbuilders, etc. Mr Taylor completed his apprenticeship in 1879 and Mr Bremner five years later. They then left together to come to New Zealand with the encouragement of Mr Taylor's brother who had been in New Zealand for some years.

They arrived on Arethusa 1879, coming straight to Waverley and establishing themselves. (This business was later sold to Williams, Duffy and Catanach.)

Notable employees of the firm were Breitler (who later had a business with Higgins where Donco's is now), and Cunningham. Both of these men worked extensively on the wool press which T. & B. patented.



TAYLOR AND BREMNER'S WOOLPRESS – Patent 1887
(Donated to South Taranaki Regional Museum by H. Symes, Waverley)

Mr William Hone of Kohi invented the press for which Taylor and Bremner held the patent and became famous. The press was double acting, strong, compact, light-running and quick acting with a very ingenious double ratchet motion to operate in the racks. They were used extensively, but were in fact hard to operate and were claimed to have "killed more men than WWI!" The wool presses took high awards at the Hawkes Bay, Hawera and Woodville Shows.

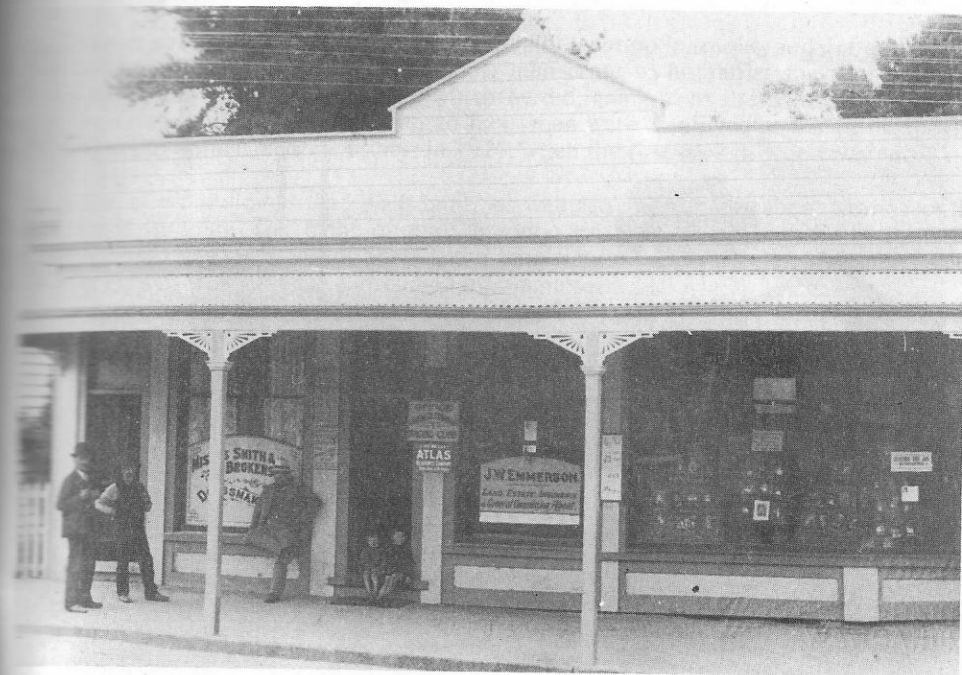


J. MUIR and SONS

was built after Palmers burnt down. It was sold to Dallison's in 1919.



Earlier premises of Emmerson's. (Approximately on site of restrooms.)

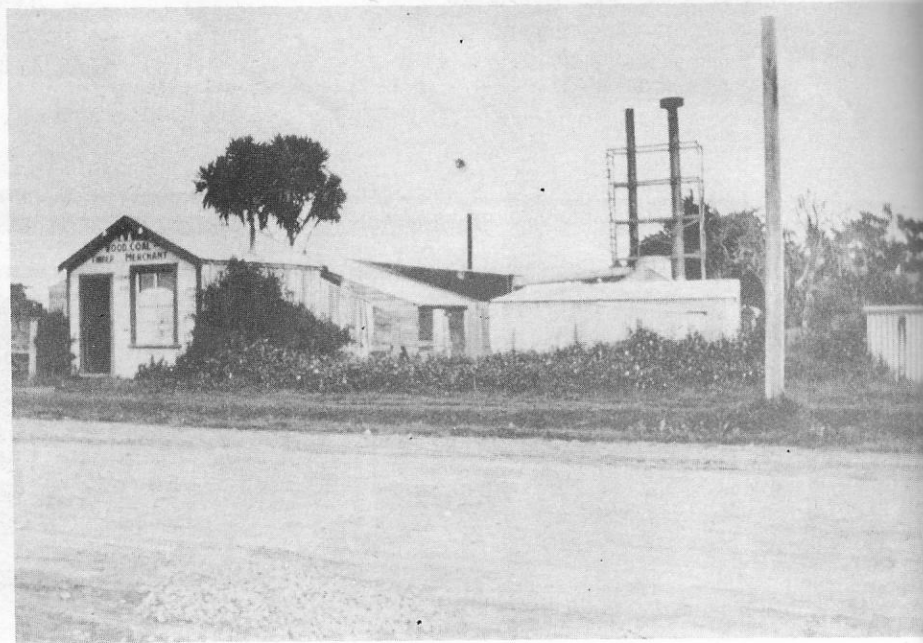


Situated opposite the Post Office. Building still stands. The dressmaker on the left later became a dentist, J.W. Emmerson's became H.W. James, accountant, and the shop on right, not identifiable was later a photographers.

WALL'S TIMBER MILL



First photo of T.W. Wall outside his office, 1904.



About 1920, still up by the main road. Office approximately where Howell's property is on Station Road.

Wall had previously been a builder and general contractor in Waverley and Wanganui until 1894 he moved to Waverley setting up timber yards and a coal business. The timber was brought out into lengths from Ewen McGregor at Mangaweka and F.J. Carter in Rangitau and brought through by train at rates which were cheap even then. The wood and coal were delivered about town by horse and cart.

Tom found the going hard at first, in view of competition of Macfarlane and Son and he had to comment in the early days that he had "made ten pounds so was starting to make a bit of headway!"

Later he was able to hire such men as Alec Maule and Tom Tucker (see Fire Brigade accounts) and go back to building.

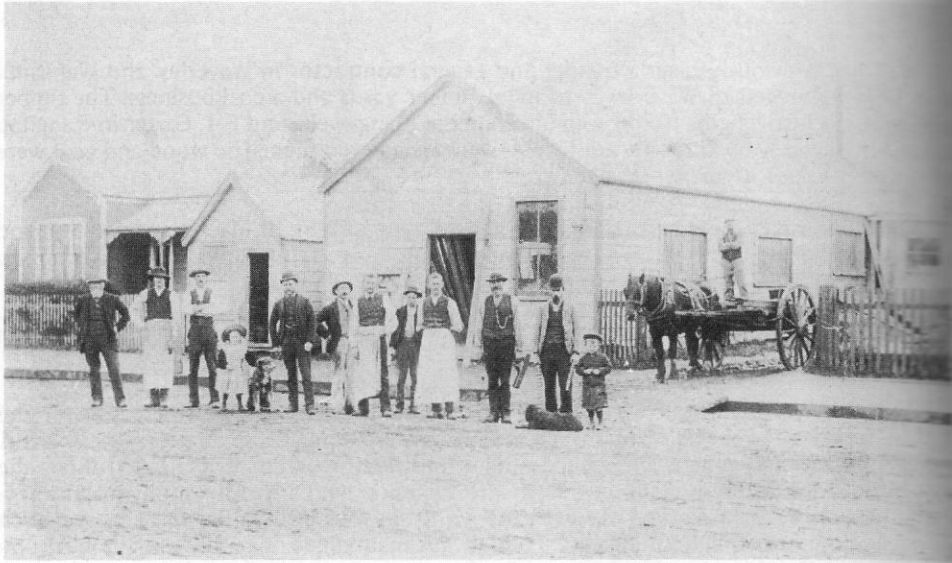
By WWI, Wall had built his business into a thriving one, part of the reason for this being shutter boxes and cheese crates, which eventually were shipped out all over New Zealand. Another was the expanding town needed timber for new homes, and Macfarlane Jnr left the timber business to go farming, leaving Wall with a monopoly. One of the problems in 1914-15 was the scarcity of men. To help with the work boys were recruited to help, two such boys being Fred and Bill Cunningham. Tom always maintained that Bill was the best boy he ever worked for him, but Bill followed the Cunningham trend into the car business.

Ray Wall and his friend Ron Howie also helped, and Ron actually ended up working here for some years after, as did Ray.

Disaster struck in 1918 when the mill literally went up in smoke, and not one inch of it was insured. Ray Wall can remember how men came to his father the very next day offering him money to start up again, which he did, going from strength to strength. Between the years of WWI and WWII up to forty men were employed at the yards, moving in 1925 into the timber milling business in 1926, when the first stick of wood was cut.

Some of the buildings that Walls built, as well as several homes about town were the Town Board Building, the front of the Clarendon Hotel after the fire, the Presbyterian Sunday School Hall, the Convent School, the shop now occupied by Boxer and the group of shops opposite the Post Office, occupied by Emmerson's.

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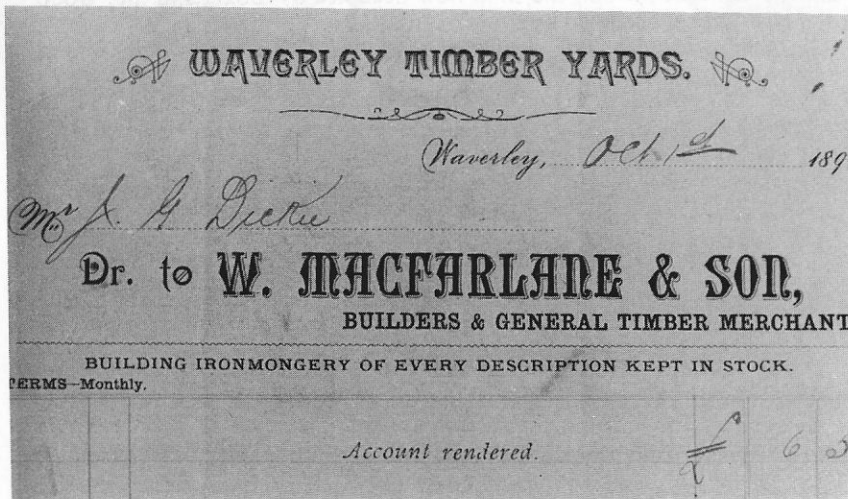


Group of employees of Macfarlanes pose for a photo. The house is still there on the corner of Gloag Street and Weraroa Road.

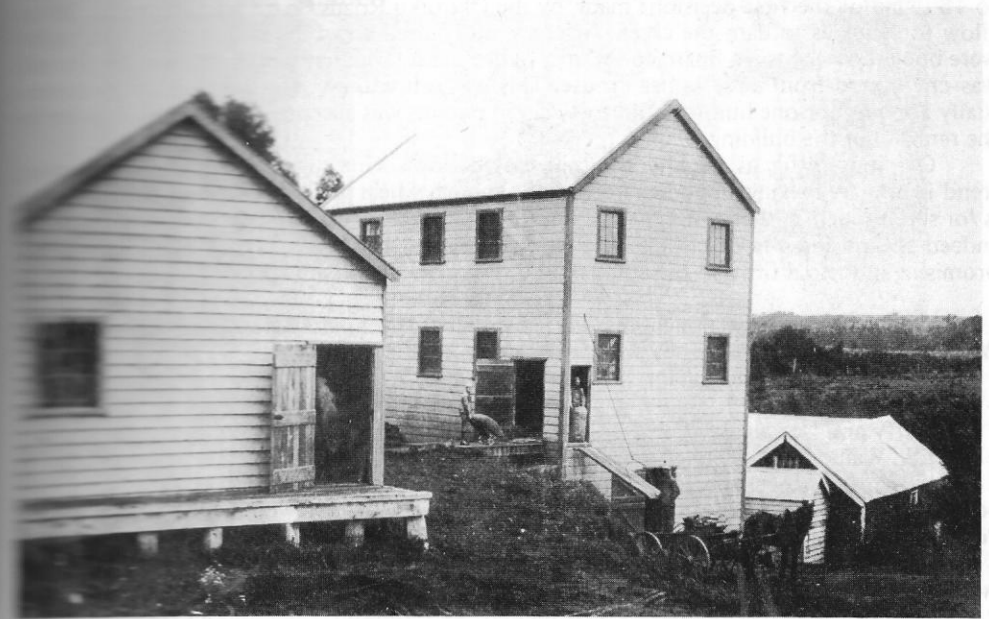
The firm of Macfarlane & Son was established about 1875 in Waverley. Macfarlane Sr was an astute businessman and an extremely competent builder, and had his premises on the main road of Waverley (school end).

Macfarlane was responsible for the majority of early buildings about Waverley, both commercial and residential.

The firm discontinued about 1910. (See Macfarlane family.)



An Account Letterhead from the 1890's.



A close-up of the Mill

The flour milling business known as Dickie's Mill was established and built by William Dickie in 1875, who ran it with an overshot wheel and was later bought by William Dickie who passed it on to his sons, William and Robert. The mill was built of wood and iron and was three stories high. Alterations to it at a later date were done by Macfarlane and Son. The grain store measured 20' x 38' and the mill 24' x 36'. A six feet Pelton Water-wheel worked under a head of 40'.

This was later sold to T.W. Wall for when the mill was tendered for demolition. The method of the mill's operation is best taken from the New Zealand Cyclopaedia.

"Page 1480: The wheat is shot into a bin over a Eureka milling separator for removing all chaff, small shrunk grains and foreign seeds. It is then elevated into a Cranston scouring machine with magnetic attachment for polishing and taking out any small pieces of iron that may have got into the wheat. The wheat is then elevated to the top of the mill and passes through a Ganz No 21 fluted roller mill to get reduced.

From there it is again elevated to the top of the mill into a scalper flour dresser which separates the bran from the other stock. The bran runs from here through a pair of fluted bran rolls, and is dressed in a centrifugal bran duster and the bran is now properly cleaned and put into sacks. The stock that comes through the scalper dresser goes into a flour dresser covered with fine silk which sifts all the fine flour. The coarser material or middlings goes over a middling purifier, which takes out any small bran specks. It is then ground on a pair of stones and the flour dressed out, and then taken to another pair of stones to reduce what coarse particles remain; it is then put over another flour dressing reel to take out the flour. The residue now goes to a smooth pair of rolls along with the fine stock from the centrifugal bran duster, and is then dressed on a centrifugal flour dresser to take out the flour. The residue now goes for pollard, and this completes the dressing and grinding operations. The flour, pollard and bran is all sacked on the middle floor, from which it can be run down a shoot right into the drays. The material never has to be handled from the time the wheat is emptied over the wheat cleaning machine until it comes down as flour, bran pollard and bran."

The dam which supplied water for the wheel was half a mile long varying in depth to 18'. One of the first decisions made by the Okutuku Roads Board was whether or not to allow the Dickies to dam the creek. After the mill closed down the mill and the water rights were bought by the town board to set up a hydro plant. The first tender received for the mill was one pound from a Mr James Prouse. This was refused, as were the next lots, but eventually a tender for one hundred and forty-seven pounds was accepted and six weeks given for the removal of the building.

Opinions differ as to why the mill closed down. One suggestion is that the farming trend in the area changed, and there was not enough wheat grown to support the mill. What is for sure though, is that while the Dickies ran the mill they were respected for their work. Indeed the business is described by the New Zealand Encyclopaedia as being one of the promising industrial firms in the country.

When the mill was bought by the Town Board, tenders were called for the Pelton Wheel. Four were received. They were:—

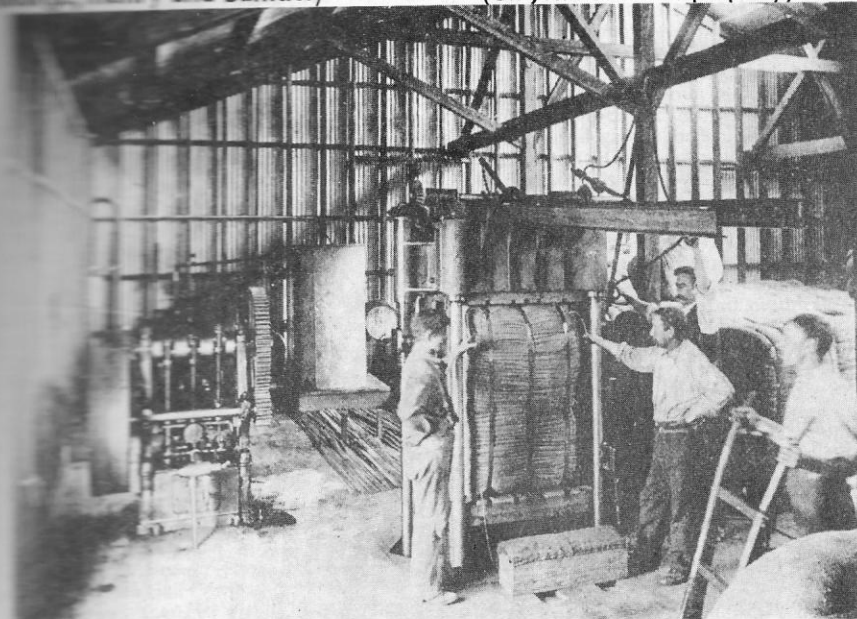
Williams, Duffy and Catanach	— £17.10.0
W.G. Jones	— £10.0.0
Duffy and Newell	— £14.0.0
J.W. Wall	— £9.0.0

It is interesting to note that Walls, although the lowest tender, was accepted. I have been unable to find out what Walls, being timber merchants, would have wanted with a Pelton Wheel! but Ray Wall thinks that they may have been buying for someone else.

Tenders for the old mill resulted in only one reply for one pound from James Prouse. Although the tender was accepted, it either fell through or the board changed its mind, as it was re-advertised. All the next lot of tenders were refused, the contract finally going to Christensen Bros for one hundred and forty-seven pounds. That gave them the right to move the mill and frame shed, but their tender for the machinery was declined. The firm was given six weeks to remove the mill, and whoever got the machinery was allowed two weeks. Unfortunately I could find no reference in the Town Board minutes as to who eventually received the machinery.



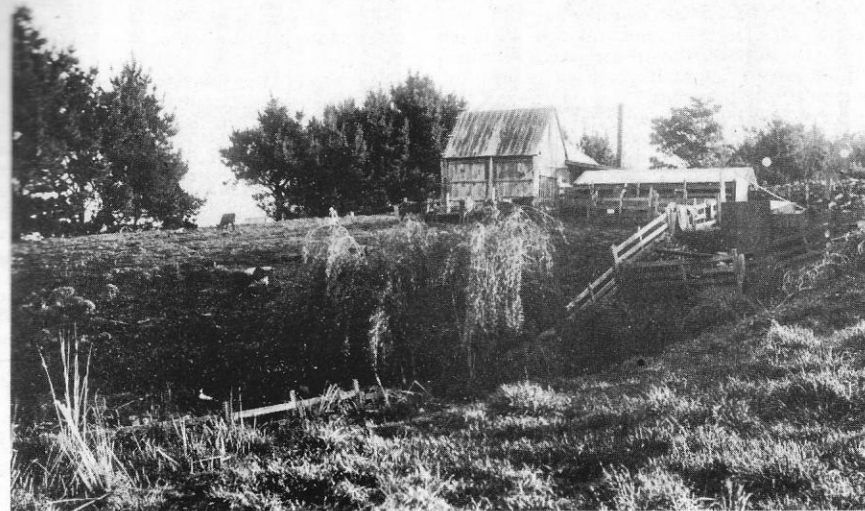
Same mill, but different view, with clear view of the house and dam.



Interior view of the Woolscouring Plant

Messrs Johnston had 300 acres of freehold land close to Waverley and about 200 acres in Koumahaki. On the Waverley property there was a large fellmongery and boiling down business, scouring about two to three hundred bales of wool a season, and approximately 2,500 sheep were also boiled down in a season. In addition to this about 70 cows were also milked, and the milk sent to the Waverley Dairy Factory.

By all accounts the premises and plant were well maintained, and in the peak of the season eight men were usually employed.



Exterior view of the Woolscouring Plant



I could find no old photo of this, but I have been assured that the exterior has never changed, so have included a modern shot of Waverley's Hall.

This hall which still stands and is still used (1983), was indeed the social centre of town. Every Friday night there was a dance or ball under the auspices of various clubs such as the Hunt (formed 1894), the Assembly, the Football Club, the Golf Club or the Mounted Rifles. Old timers recall the ladies arriving with their finery for the night carefully draped across saddles, in saddle bags or over their arm, people arriving in groups, and all enjoying themselves tremendously. The music was often only a piano, and there is no doubt that the social life before WWI was of a calibre that has not been equalled since. (ref also hydro scheme)

The following article explains the opening of the hall . . .

WANGANUI HERALD, August 22nd, 1908

WAVERLEY NOTES

Opening of the New Town Hall

The new Town Hall, which has been in progress of construction for the past four months, was completed last week, and was officially opened last evening, the opening being celebrated by a Citizens' Ball, which proved the most enjoyable event of the year.

Both the north, and south trains brought large numbers of visitors from up and down the coast, while a party came by coach from Wanganui.

The official opening of the hall was left in the able hands of Mr Oscar Symes, who, just before the dancing commenced, came on the stage and said, "Ladies and gentlemen — In the absence of our chairman, Mr John Muir, it gives me very great pleasure to perform this ceremony tonight. It is 30 years since the old Town Hall was built, and the new one we see in tonight is the result of the untiring efforts of the promoters and people of this town. Ladies and gentlemen, I now declare this hall open."

Telegrams apologising for absence were received from Messrs W. Brewer and T.H. Nicholson, members of the Town Hall Company.

Dancing was then indulged in till about midnight this morning, 70 couples being present and a large number of onlookers. The floor was in splendid order for a new hall and the music furnished by Mr Bert Crozier's orchestra from Marton, was very favourably commented on by all present. The M.C.'s were Messrs A.D. Macpherson, G. Symes, E. Hammerton, C.H. Ball, and O. Symes, and to these gentlemen a great deal of the success of the evening is due.

The catering was in the able hands of Mr J. Dalton, and the supper he put on last evening was really first-class, there being an abundance of hams, ducks, turkeys, hams, sucking pig, jellies, coffee, etc., all daintily served up, and cooked to a nicety.

There is no doubt those present last evening will look back with pleasure to the very jolly time they had at the Citizens' Ball at the opening of the new Town Hall.

It is about two years since the old hall was burnt down, and the people here have felt the need of a hall very much since that time. An inspection of the present one proves that we have now one of the largest and most up-to-date buildings of this kind in any country town in the Dominion, and it is a monument to the great enterprise shown by the promoters and shareholders of the Town Hall Company.

The building is on brick foundations, with heart of rimu plates resting on malthoid, and secured by galvanised wire to the piers. The principal studs are 6 x 2 heart of rimu, and the studs are openings 6 x 3 of the same timber; the floor joists are 5 x 2 heart of rimu, and the flooring 4 x 1 heart of matai. The walls inside are match-lined with heart of rimu, with a vertical dado with stencil decorations. The ceiling joists are 5 x 2 Oregon pine, match-lined and finished with bold

mouldings divided into bays, with four large perforated ceiling centres for ventilation purposes. Ten large windows, five on the south wall, and five in front of the building, give the necessary light during the day time, and six gas brackets, comprising a total of 30 burners light up the auditorium and gallery brilliantly at night, acetylene gas being laid right through the building.

The stage is 40ft by 30ft with heart of matai floor, with a slope of 1/4 in to 1ft. The proscenium is 21 1/2 ft by 16ft, and is 12ft high, and the whole stage is splendidly lit by flylights, sidelights and footlights. As regards scenery, at present only an exterior set, with a very artistically painted back cloth, representing a lake and mountains, is provided, but it is the intention of the directors, I hear, to have an interior set painted immediately.

Off the stage are three dressing-rooms, one 16ft by 10ft, and the other two 16ft by 9ft 6in, all fitted with every modern convenience. There is a private exit off the side of the stage, and a large door at the back for convenience in taking scenery and props in.

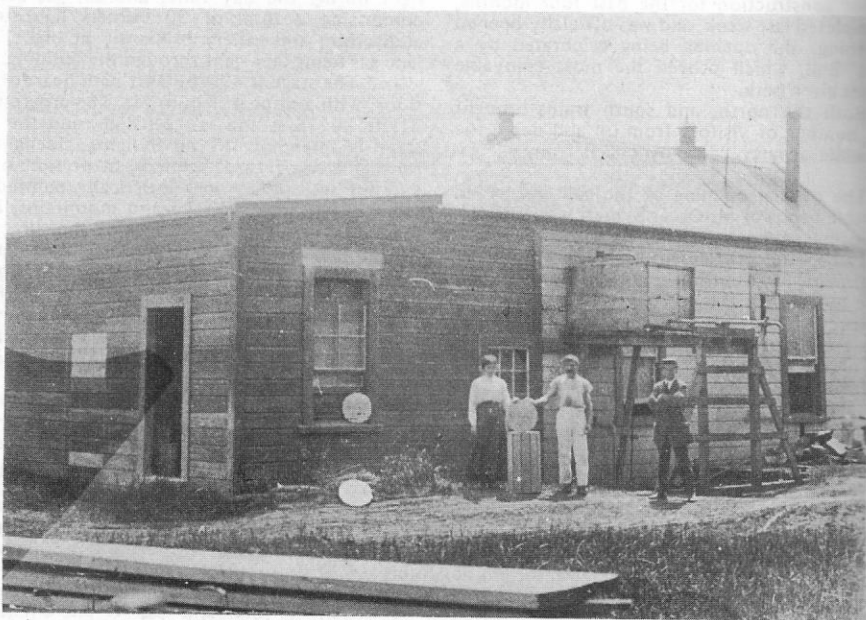
The curtain is of heavy red plush, worked on the same principle as that in the Wanganui Opera House. The auditorium is 57ft by 40ft, and seating accommodation for 250 is provided by 56 comfortable backed forms, 10ft long. The gallery, which is 40ft by 19ft, is reached by a convenient stair, three feet wide, and is furnished with 150 Austrian chairs, so that the hall will seat about 500 comfortably. A large supper room, 50ft by 16ft and a kitchen, 16ft by 15ft, are just off the auditorium, and the supper room will seat 70. The kitchen is to be fitted with an acetylene gas stove, and when this is done it will have every convenience necessary.

The entrance passage to the hall is 10ft wide, and a ticket office and ladies' and gentlemen's cloak rooms are just off this.

The building in front presents a bold appearance, and it reflects the greatest credit on Mr J.E. Roe, the well-known architect of Hawera, who designed the building, prepared the plans, and generally supervised its construction.

Our local contractors, Messrs Macfarlane and Price, who were entrusted with the contract, have carried out their work in a very finished manner, as have Messrs R. and E. Tingey Ltd., who did the painting and Messrs Burrell and Sigley, who had the contract for the plumbing work. A word of praise is also due to Miss Cameron of Patea, whose brush is responsible for the artistic scenery.

MOTUROA CHEESE FACTORY



THE OPENING OF THE MOTUROA CHEESE FACTORY AT OMAHINA – 1912
(Reminisces of Caleb White, New Plymouth)

In about 1910 my parents Caleb and Agnes Wyatt and I moved onto a sheep farm inland from Waverley at Moturoa, just past and opposite to Barrow Road. It had previously been occupied by people named Mitcalfe.

On the farm, and quite close to the house was the district's small closed factory – built and opened in 1902, as a creamery or skimming branch of the first Waverley Co-Operative, and closed some years later.

The district was mainly sheep farming, but as dairy farming increased the settlers decided to form the Moturoa Co-Operative Cheese Company in 1912, and reopen the factory for cheese making.

A small amount of equipment was purchased – a milk vat, curd mill, cheese press, cheese hoops, Babcock hand driven milk tester, test bottles, etc. A room for curing the cheese was built onto the factory.

A manager, Mr Ansell, was engaged. He was married just as the factory was opened and he and his wife lived in a small building next to the factory. Mrs Ansell used to do some of the work in the factory.

Mr Thomas J. Allan was chairman of directors. My father and Mr Allan cut up the felled trees on our farm and supplied the wood in four feet lengths for firing the boiler which supplied the hot water and steam for the running of the factory.

Although my father had now built up a herd of dairy cows, built a milking shed and

... a house-milker, he still kept a few house cows and from them supplied the milk for the factory for the cheese making, carrying the milk in buckets to the factory every day.

I can vividly remember the making of the first cheese. It was a disastrous day. My mother and I went to watch.

The curd having been mixed into the vat of milk and it having set into curd, the manager cut it into slabs to feed the curd mill. He clamped the curd mill across the vat, connected the driving belt from the overhead shafting to its pulleys, started the steam engine and commenced to feed the slabs into the mill, then the belt came off. He rushed into the engine room and stopped the engine, then back to put the belt on the mill idler pulley, back to start the engine; his hands now covered with grease and oil – washed hands, back to feed in curd; within a minute belt off again; out to stop the engine, etc. (The curd mill was a second hand one and an absolute wreck; they purchased a new one the next day.)

This went on for an hour or two with the manager trying to make adjustments and stopping, stopping and starting the engine, repeatedly replacing the belt and stoking the fire.

He gave up trying to wash his hands each time, and grease, oil and dirt were dripping into the curd every time along with lots of perspiration.

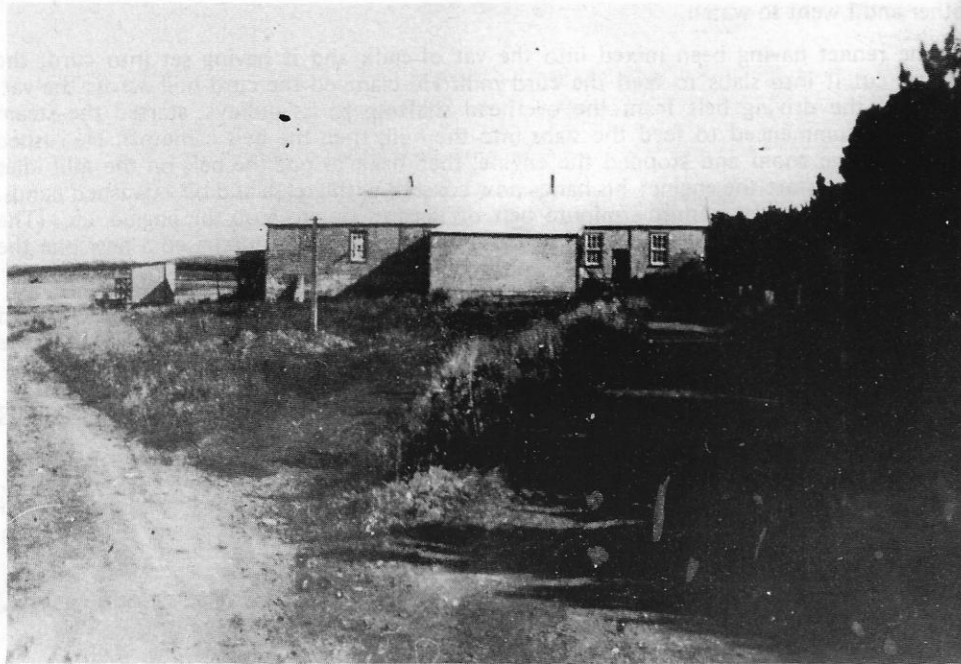
My mother suggested that we cut all the curd up by hand, so the manager, his wife, my mother and I armed with carving knives set to work to cut all the curd into finger-sized pieces. The manager cut his hand very badly and we couldn't stop the bleeding, so it went on bleeding into the curd all the time.

Cheese used to be of two kinds, white and coloured; milk dyed first to a reddish colour. Fortunately this was a coloured cheese.

There was not enough milk the first day to make two cheeses, so one large one was made. It wouldn't go into a standard sized crate cart so it was decided to sell it in small amounts to suppliers.

The first day of sale the suppliers all took some home; all were back the next day for some more of it. They said it was the best cheese they had ever tasted. My mother said to my father, "Don't you ever bring a scrap of that cheese into this house," so we never tasted it. Anyway, I believe most of the buyers lived to quite an old age. Only my folks and the manager ever knew what went into it . . . what the eye doesn't see . . .!

In 1919 the Company was wound up. The factory was dismantled and shifted to a nearby farm where I saw parts of it in use in 1976.



Oturi Co-Operative Cheese Company, established 1908, changed its name to Waverley Dairy Co. Ltd. in 1910.

The new co-operative dairy company was formed by George Johnston, and opened in 1908, the building being built below the railway station by Nicholas Meuli of Wanganui and opening for business in October.

The business was registered as the OTURI CO-OPERATIVE DAIRY COMPANY as there could not be two Waverley companies. Johnston was the chairman, with fellow directors being Exley, W. Best, S.D. Johnston, W.H. Hall, S. Huston and A. Howie. The secretary was T.E. Wilson and the manager J. Nicholls. The banks refused to put up the finance and so Johnston raised the money from businesses in town.

By 1909 the factory had 15 suppliers who received a payout of 11d a pound butter-fat.

The company decided to fine those who took more than their share of whey, 5/- for a second offence, and 10/- for a third.

April 1910 — a consignment of 240 crates of cheese sent through Dalgety and Co., of Wanganui on the "Orari" fetched three pounds to three pounds three shillings a cwt.

Production that year was 230 tons from 23 suppliers. By 1914 this had increased to 320 tons from 30 suppliers.

1912 — J.C. Gray became secretary, a position he was to hold for the rest of the company's history (until 1961).

In 1915 the name was changed to Waverley, however it retained the name 'Oturi' for its whey butter which it made from 1917-38 and its creamery butter made from 1930-1933.

★ ★ ★

Four men who played a big part in the running of the Dairy Company. They are:—

Standing: Jim C. Gray and B. Parkinson.

Sitting: W. Macfarlane Jnr and J.P. Nicholls.

This photo was taken in 1932 and their service then was:—

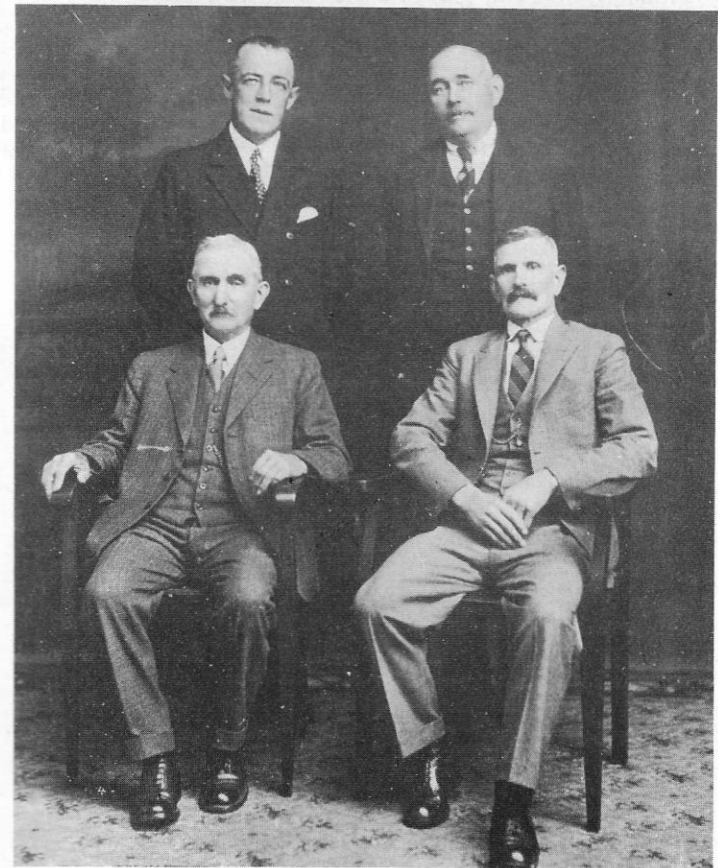
Gray, secretary, 21 years.

Parkinson, director, 21 years.

Macfarlane, 20 years service, 6 years director.

Nicholls, manager, 24 years service.

Ref. "Dairy Enterprise"



KOHI CREAMERY

The Kohi Creamery was built by the first Waverley Co-Operative Dairy Company. The plant cost eight hundred and thirty-six pounds and was managed by George Mackie, in 1894. In 1906 it was taken over by Blake, and was managed by F. Cooper.

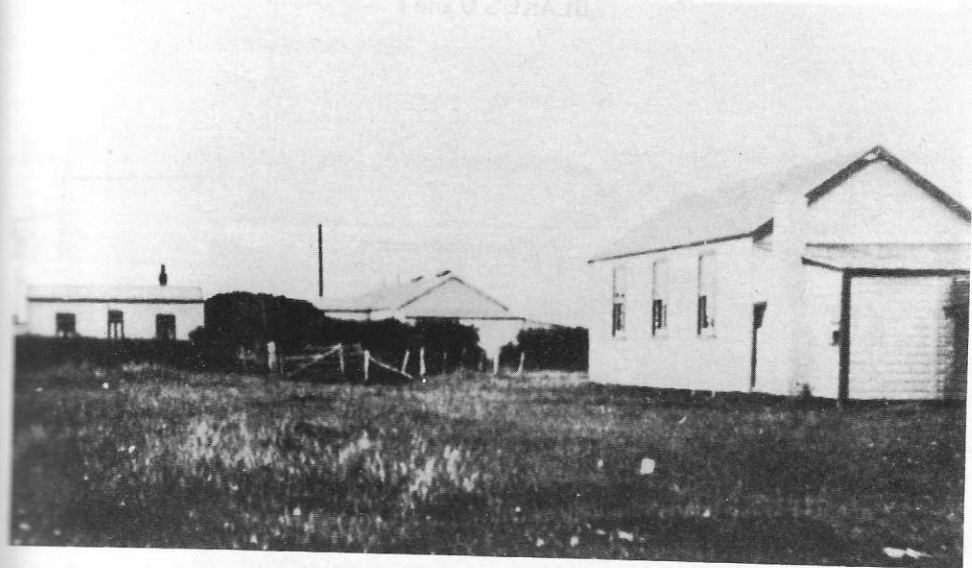
The company sold the creamery in 1910 to the Kohi Creamery Syndicate for four hundred and fifty pounds. This group was financed by the Bank NSW, Patea.

The Kohi Co-Operative Cheese Company was set up in 1912 after a local committee headed by W. Watkins had canvassed the area and secured a dozen suppliers who milked 1200 cows. Watkins became first chairman.

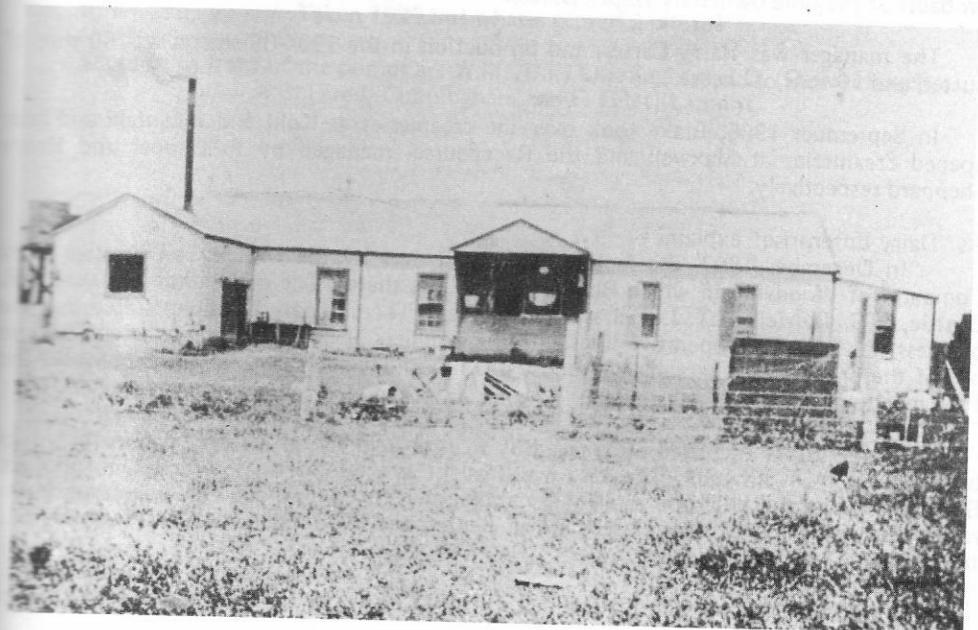
The company's secretary was J. Palmer, auditor E. Horner, solicitor G. Graham. The factory was on the site of the creamery adjacent to the hall and school. It was managed by F. Brooking until 1914 when it was taken over by C. Crews.

1912-13 — production was 50 tons of cheese from 12 suppliers, and this increased to 149 tons from 14 suppliers in 1916.

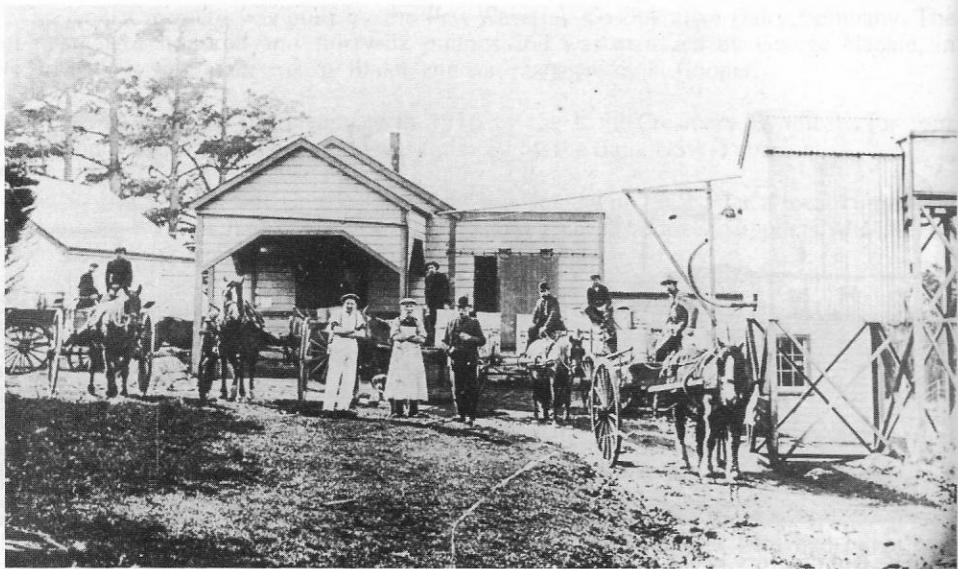
J. McCall became manager in 1918 and remained there until his death in 1937. In 1924 he won the Taranaki Cheese Championship at the South Taranaki Winter Show. Kohi also won the prize for the "best two cheese from a manager who had never won before."
Ref. "Dairy Enterprise"



The Kohi factory peeks over the hedge, looking from behind the Kohi Settlers Hall, once the social nucleus of Kohi.



Close up of Kohi Factory



One of my favourite photos is of Blake's factory.
It really captures the essence of a bygone age.

E.P. Blake established his company in 1903 behind what is in 1983 E. & J.'s and was probably at the time owned by Jasper Dalton.

The manager was Harry Carter, and production in the 1904-05 season was 60 tons of butter, and 50 tons of cheese.

In September 1906, Blake took over the creameries at Kohi and Manutahi and later opened creameries at Maxwell and the Racecourse, managed by F. Cooper and Henry Sheppard respectively.

As "Dairy Enterprise" explains –

"In December 1907, the factory was taken over by the United Co-Operative Dairy Company of Woodville in which Blake held half the shares. The other directors were C.R. Beattie, F.G. Dalziell, H.T. Lovell and J.J.B. Veale. The company's articles stated that the business was run on co-operative lines with the suppliers of dairy produce to receive bonuse out of the profits. This explains the unusual U.I. brand which stood for U the producer and I the manufacturer.

In 1909 Blake was sued by W. Gadsby of Manutahi for not keeping proper records of butter made from his milk. The case was brought as a test for all the Manutahi suppliers. Blake was acquitted but soon after Manutahi formed its own co-op. The creameries at the racecourse and Maxwell also closed and in September 1910 the Kohi Creamery was sold to the Kohi Creamery Syndicate."

In 1909 it appears that Blake's factory burnt down, and he amalgamated with Lupton's Stanley Park.



Taken 1929 but what a gem of a photo!

Standing in front of the pumps are W.M. (Bill) Cunningham, I.O. (Ossie) Howell,
A.B. (Fred) Cunningham and F. (Flet) Lamont.