

SHIP – SETTLER – SUBDIVISION – STREET

Ship - Blenheim

The "Blenheim" a 378 tons barque departed Greenock Glasgow Scotland on 25 August 1840. The captain John Grey and Surgeon Neil Campbell were in charge of transporting the New Zealand Company cabin and 200 Scottish steerage passengers to New Zealand. On Sunday 27 December 1840 the "Blenheim" sailed into Port Nicholson Wellington New Zealand.

This year we celebrate the 175 anniversary of the ships arrival in New Zealand.

One steerage family aboard the "Blenheim" were from Paisley Renfrew Scotland

- James Brown age 28 occupation labourer
- Mary Brown age 30 wife of James
- Sarah Brown age 9
- James Brown age 7½
- George Brown age 5
- Elizabeth Brown age 1½

The Brown family were the first Pioneer family to settle in the Township of Upper Hutt.

Settler - Brown

James Brown was born in Paisley Scotland and his wife Mary Flynn was born in Co Wicklow Ireland. They were married on 26 February 1831 in Paisley Abbey Renfrew Scotland. Their four children Sarah, James, George and Elizabeth were all born in Paisley Scotland. The younger sons David and Andrew Brown were born in New Zealand.

James and his family first resided at Alicetown and later Belmont Lower Hutt before settling in Upper Hutt around 1847. In 1852 James Brown was granted sections 119 and 128 in the Upper Hutt district. James was listed as a freehold farmer in the 1853 Hutt district Electoral Roll.

James had established and was operating the "Shepherd Tavern" in Upper Hutt. He advertised to transport goods between Wellington and Upper Hutt for £4 per ton in 1854. In 1859 James advertised for sale the "Criterion Hotel" which was previously known as the "Shepherds Inn".

The Hotel included stables, outbuildings and 100 acres of land of which 50 acres was grassed. He did not sell the Hotel as in 1861 James was advertising that a Public Ball was to take place at the Criterion Hotel. James was the Upper Hutt Pound keeper in the 1860s and purchased the Upper Hutt Mail cart in 1862 which ran between the Criterion Hotel and the Whitewood's Hotel in Lower Hutt.

The Duke of Edinburgh stayed at the Criterion Hotel when he visited Upper Hutt in 1865.

James died on Sunday 26 February 1871 in Upper Hutt and Mary died on 3 January 1884 in Upper Hutt. They were both buried at St Joseph's Churchyard in Upper Hutt

Subdivision - Melbaville

The Town of Melbaville Estate developer and owner of the land was George Brown. George was the son of James and Mary Brown who in 1840 arrived in New Zealand on the ship "Blenheim".

The first plan for the proposed township of the Georgetown Estate was submitted in 1902 by George but was rejected on account of the existence of another township by the same name in the Colony. Another proposal was submitted with the name Melbaville Estate which was part of section 127, block 1 Rimutaka. The subdivision was situated on the south eastern side of the Upper Hutt Township and connected to part of the Wellington to Wairarapa main road which was previously known as the Old Military Road. We now know it as Fergusson Drive.

A later reply to an enquiry by the Upper Hutt Town Clerk Angus J McCurdy stated that a plan for the Melbaville Estate was received in the office of the District Land Register on the 16 September 1902, examined by the Land Transfer Branch of the Survey Office on 17 September and approved by the Chief Surveyor on 25 March 1902 and finally deposited by the District Land Register on the 18 May 1903. On the 18 May 1903 Martin, Wilson, Princess and Brown Streets were dedicated.

Streets

The streets named in the Melbaville Estate are listed along with their origins. Part of the proposed street developments in the Town of Bentinck and Town of Palfrey were renamed Town of Melbaville Extension No 1.

Blenheim Street was named after the New Zealand Company ship "Blenheim" which the Brown family came to New Zealand on.

Brown Street was named after the Brown family. The first family to settle in the Township of Upper Hutt

Martin Street was named after Alexander Gordon Martin who married Elizabeth Brown the sister of George Brown the developer of the Melbaville Estate.

Wilson Street was named after James Wilson who married Sarah Brown the sister of George Brown the developer of the Melbaville Estate.

William Street was noted on an early plan but later became part of the southern extension of Martin Street through to Ward Street.

Bentinck Street was named after Lady Oliva Caroline Amelia Bentinck of England who owned the neighbouring land part section 125 Hutt District. She inherited the land from her father Thomas Tylour Earl of Bective who inherited from William B Thompson of London.

Benzie Avenue was named after Charles Benzie of the Trentham Hotel who was involved in the development.

Palfrey Street was the name used for the proposed development of the Town of Palfrey. John Palfrey held the original land orders for section 127 before his wife Mary.

Wood Street was named because of the large number of wooden trees around the area.

Princess Street was named after Louise who became Princess Royal in 1905 around the same time of the Melbaville Estates development.
