

Golden Fleece Hotel - Pakuratahi 1851-1880

<u>Time line</u>	<u>Golden Fleece Hotel owners, licences & events</u>
1851 – 1868	Walter Hodder (owner)
1861	Farewell dinner for Walter Hodder (July 1861)
1866	Fire destroyed Hotel (February)
1866	Licensee Michael Corcoran
1867	Hotel rebuilt
1868 – 1870	Unknown
1870	J B Mason
1871 – 1874	Thomas Wagg
1875	Walter Hodder Frederick W Hodder (son)
1876 - 1877	Robert H Elliott (1876-77)
1877	George Jones (1877)
1878	Application to transfer license from Richard Webb the owner to J F A Montgomery
1880	William Valentine Jackson
1880	Fire (03 March)
1880	William Wood Gilbrath
1880	Hotel history ended never rebuilt

Walter Hodder built the Golden Fleece at Pakuratahi, Kaitoke, and north of Upper Hutt. Walter was given a special bush licence 04 April 1851. On 19 June 1851 Walter Hodder made an application for the renewal of his bush licence at Pakuratahi. The licence was prepared on 30 June 1851 and sent to Walter on 01 July 1851.

19 June 1851 Walter Hodder Memorialist praying renewal of Bush Licence Pakuratahi

To his Excellency Sir George Grey KCM Governor in Chief of the Lands of New Zealand
The Memorial of Walter Hodder of Wellington Diary Man
Herewith

That on the fourth day of April last a special licence was granted to your Memorialist for the sale of any Spirituous Liquors Wine Ale or Beer in any quantity at his House at Pakuratahi on the terms and conditions herewith expressed and that such Licence shall expire on the thirtieth day of Jun instant.

That your Memorialist is desirous for an annual of such Licence in respect of the same Premises and on the same terms and conditions wish new Licence to commence and take effect from the first day of July next and so continue in force for the space of twelve calendar months thence next ensuring

Yours Memorialist therefor humbly prays that your Excellency will be pleased to give direction for the issue to your Memorialist under the Public Seal of the Province of such new Licence accordingly - And your Memorialist will ever for pray

Walter Hodder

Wellington 05 June 1851.

I beg to recommend the Memorialist as a fit and proper person to be licensed as prayed in the foregoing Memorial

M Smith JP - D Morrison – R Martin

License prepared 30 June 1851

Sent to Memorialist 01 July 1851

(Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington ACFP 8217 NM8 47 [42] 1851/792 Walter Hodder 19 June 1851 Memorial praying for bush licence Pakuratahi)

21 June 1852 Walter Hodder application for renewal of Bush Licence

Pakuratuhi 01 June 1852

Sir

I beg to enclose a Memorial for the renewal of my Licensed Victuallers at the Pakuratahi and have to request that you will be good enough to cause the same to be laid before His Excellency The Governor in Chief.

I have the honour to be Sir

Yours obedient Servant

Walter Hodder (signature)

Alfred Domett Esquire Colonial Secretary Wellington

Licence prepared 22 June 1852

(Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington ACFP 8217 NM8 55 [127] 1852/738 Walter Hodder 21 June 1852 application renewal of Bush licence)

21 June 1852 Walter Hodder application for renewal of Bush Licence

To His Excellency

Sir George Grey KEZ

Governor in Chief of the Islands of New Zealand

The Memorial of Walter Hodder of Pakuratahi Licensed Victualler
Therewith

That your Memorialist is the Holder of a Special Licence for the Sale of any Spirituous Liquors Wine Ale or Beer in any quantity at his House situated at the Pakuratahi afore said on the terms and conditions therein Expressed and that such Licence will expire on the thirtieth day of June now next.

That your Memorialists is anxious for a renewal of such Licence in respect of the same premises and on the same terms and Conditions – Such new Licence to commence and take effect from the first day of July next and to continue in force from the first day of July next and to continue in force for the space of twelve Calendar Months thence next ensuring.

Your Memorialists therefore humbly prays that your Excellency will be pleased to give direction for the issue to your Memorialist under the Public Seal of the Province of New Munster of such Licence accordingly and your Memorialist will ever pray

Walter Hodder

We the undersigned beg to recommend the Memorialist as a fit and proper Person to be Licensed

(signed by) R Barton – A Gillies Wairarapa – A Ludlam JP

Pakuratahi [sic] 16 April 1852

(Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington ACFP 8217 NM8 55 [127] 1852/738 Walter Hodder 21 June 1852 application renewal of Bush licence)

Wellington Independent newspaper 19 & 23 July 1861

Farewell Dinner and Ball – The undersigned being about to relinquish Business at the “Golden Fleece” Pakuratahi intends giving a Farewell Dinner and Ball on the 25th inst., to which he respectfully invites all his friends – WALTER HODDER – 18 July 1861

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 19 & 23 July 1861 page 2)

Wellington Independent newspaper 27 January 1866

1866 Corcoran's Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 27 January 1866 page 6)

Evening Post newspaper 10 February 1866

On Thursday afternoon a fire broke out at the Fleece Hotel, Pakuratahi occupied by Mr Michael Corcoran. The house, furniture and stock were destroyed and nothing left standing but the stables. It appears that at the time of the outbreak of the fire there were only Mrs Corcoran and a traveller in the house, the traveller having dined there. Ongoing to the back of the premises for a pail of water, he discovered the upper part of the hotel in flames and gave the alarm. The man servant was away at work in the bush at the time and the servant

girl was also absent. The fire is supposed to have originated from a defect in a brick oven which had been heated that afternoon for the purpose of baking bread. Mr Corcoran is insured for £600 and Mr Hodder, the owner of the house, for £400.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 10 February 1866 page 2)

New Zealand Herald newspaper 20 February 1866

Fire at Pakuratahi Wellington – The Wellington Independent of the 13th ult., says – On Thursday afternoon the 8th inst., at about three o'clock a fire broke out at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi and in a very short time the whole of the building with nearly all it contained was reduced to a heap of ashes. The house belonged to Mr Hodder and was insured in the London and Liverpool for. The furniture and stock belonged to Mr Corcoran and was insured in the New Zealand Insurance Office for £600.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Herald newspaper 20 February 1866)

Wellington Independent newspaper 24 February 1866

The Golden Fleece – In a late issue we mentioned that the house we at the Pakuratahi known as the Golden Fleece had been totally destroyed by fire and we now learn that a court of enquiry will assemble at the Upper Hutt today for the purpose of collecting evidence touching the cause of the fire.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 24 February 1866 page 5)

27 February 1866

Inquest held at the Criterion Hotel (owner James Brown) Hutt 24 February 1866 of the Premises known formerly as the Golden Fleece Pukuratahi [sic]

Upon oath of James Cruickshank, John Wilkins, John Williams, Peter Wilkins, William Gardner, Edward Morgan, James Bayliss, John Peterson, David Garrick, Henry Millward, George Leach & Charles Wyatt (crossed out was Thomas Charles Butler & Charles Rouse)

Fire at the Golden Fleece Pakuratahi originated that the said fire was purely accidental Evidence = Michael Corcouser [sic] not on the premises so was unable to give any evidence mention his wife a man Henry Clarke and servant Ellen Cahill were left in charge also comments on bricks in kitchen chimney & Andrew Johnston a sawyer came from Mr Gillies Wairarapa gave evidence on the progress of the fire & Bridget Corencer [sic] wife of Michael Concoran [sic] who was in the bar a long time before the fire began Mr Johnston assisted her & Mary Leach who lives in Pakuratahi a mile from the Golden Fleece she did not think the kitchen fire was safe

Witness signed = James Kilgan (Coroner) James Cruickshank (foreman) John Wilkins, John Williams, Peter Wilkie, William Gardner, Edward Morgan, James Bayliss, I Peterson, Daniel Carrick, Henry Millard, George Leach & Charles Wyeth

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACGS 16211 J1 54/cj 1866/446 Coroners Hutt 27 February 1866 inquest proceedings on Fire)

Wellington Independent newspaper 27 February 1866

The Golden Fleece Hotel - A court of enquiry assembled at the Upper Hutt on Saturday afternoon to take evidence as to how Mr Corcoran's hostelry at the Pakuratahi took fire. Mr Robert Hart attended on behalf of the Insurance Companies and Mr Buckley watched the case for Mr Corcoran. Dr Kilgour the coroner of the district recapitulated the whole of the evidence and left the case in the hands of the jury, who returned a verdict to the effect that the Golden Fleece Hotel was accidentally, burnt to the ground.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 27 February 1866 page 5)

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 25 May 1867

Arrived at the Golden Fleece Pakuratahi about 1 pm where we had a good dinner. This hotel has just been rebuilt and in size and appearance reminds you of the Panama Hotel in Wellington

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper 25 May 1867 page 3)

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 06 January 1868

To be sold or let – The Golden Fleece Hotel Pukuratahi with the good-will, furniture, out-houses, stables and ten acres of land adjoining. The house is newly built contains every

accommodation and is now doing a capital business. Amongst other advantages it being Cobb & Co.'s house for dinning and changing horses. For further particulars apply to the undersigned – W HODDER Proprietor Pakuratahi 01 January 1868

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper 06 January 1868 page 2)

Evening Post & Wellington Independent newspaper 11 & 20 January 1868

For Sale with immediate possession - That well-known and first-class Hotel at the Pakuratahi, known as the Golden Fleece - At present in the possession of Mr Walter Hodder with the Hotel will be sold the stables, out-buildings and all conveniences for carrying on a first-class business. The stock and furniture are to be taken at a valuation. Attached to the Hotel are fifty acres of land and the purchaser will have the option of taking the lot or whatever less quantity he may think fit. The land is laid out in two well fenced paddocks, containing twenty acres; one acre of garden, the remainder is standing bush. The Golden Fleece is a newly and substantially built hotel, doing a first-class business, with accommodation for twenty travellers and the same number of horses. Cobb & Co change horses here and the passengers by their coaches dine daily at this hotel. For further particulars apply to Mr Walter Hodder, Pakuratahi, or to Mr Francis Sidey, Wellington - 7th January 1868.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post & Wellington Independent newspaper 11 & 20 January 1868 page 3 & 7)

Wellington Independent newspaper 20 February 1868

Notice – A free dinner and ball will be given by Mr W Hodder at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi on Thursday 27 February 1868. Dinner at 6 o'clock. Walter Hodder – 19 February 1868

(Reference Papers Past website Wellington Independent newspaper 20 February 1868 page 5)

Golden Fleece Hotel proprietor became J B MASON between 1868 and 1870

Wellington Independent Newspaper 26 March 1870

To let or sell with immediate possession the well-known hotel Golden Fleece Pakuratahi doing a good and profitable business the present occupants being compelled to leave for England.

For particulars apply to JB Mason on the premises or to W Hodder Featherstone.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 26 March 1870 page 7)

Wellington Independent newspaper 07 May 1870

Notice – All Persons having Claims against the undersigned are requested to forward them for Payment on or before the 7th of May as I am leaving the colony – J B Mason Golden Fleece Pakuratahi.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 07 May 1870 page 7)

Golden Fleece Hotel proprietor became Thomas WAGG between 1871 and 1874

Wellington Independent newspaper 04 May 1871

Wanted an experienced cook for the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi - Apply to Thom Wagg proprietor.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 04 May 1871 page 3)

Evening Post newspaper 23 April 1874

Licensing Court – Country Licenses – The following licenses were granted – Hutt District – Isaac Wilkins Railway Hotel Upper Hutt – Annie Collins Mangaroa Hotel Mangaroa – Thomas Wagg Pakuratahi Hotel Pakuratahi

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 23 April 1874 page 2)

Golden Fleece Hotel proprietor was Walter HODDER & Frederick W HODDER in 1875

Evening Post newspaper website 01 June 1875

The Pukaratahi Hotel – To the editor of the Evening Post – Sir – I reference to a local in this morning's times and the opposition of the police to renewal of the licence for Golden Fleece Pakuratahi allow me to say that I am the applicant for the licence but have only been in occupation of the house for a few days and am not therefore responsible for past

mismanagement. It is my intention not to keep a bar only, but a good house of accommodation for travellers on the road and with that view I have already arranged for large additions to both house and stable. Twelve bedrooms and two sitting rooms are now actually in course of erection. I am &c F W Hodder

(Reference Papers past Evening Post newspaper website 01 June 1875 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 10 June 1875

The rival applications of Walter and Frederick Hodder, father and son, for the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi were opposed, first by one another on the ground that each was the rightful owner of the property and secondly by the Inspector on the ground of mismanagement. Mr Buckley for Frederik Hodder asserted that his client had bought the property. Mr Brandon for Walter Hodder denied this as the son had not paid the money. Mr Buckley re-joined that he was ready to do so. The Commissioners decided to treat the father as the applicant. Inspector Atchison gave a very bad account of the house which had been disgracefully conducted by the former owner Wagg and was still worse in Hodder's hands. It was filthy to a degree with broken windows the accommodation was wretched the meals for coach passengers were not half cooked and of wretched quality. Travellers often were refused beds and horse fed and the house was given over entirely to drunkenness. Constable Lyster confirmed this statement. Mr Brandon said the former landlord was responsible for these defects, and not his client. The Inspector said complaints were made to him only the day before of travellers being annoyed and insulted there by drunken men. Messrs Brandon and Buckley both put in petitions numerously signed in favor of their clients and the latter displayed elaborate plans for improvements if he were licenses. Mr Commissioner Beetham said he also had heard many complaints of Waggons being pilfered while standing by the house. After a consultation - The Chairman said the Bench would adjourn the case for a fortnight but would not grant a licence unless then they were satisfied that the house would be properly conducted.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 10 June 1875 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 05 November 1875

Some further particulars are to hand today in reference to the sudden death which occurred yesterday at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi. The deceased was about 40 years of age his name was John McLeod. He has no friends in the colony. He was working for about three months for Mr Oakes the railway contractor.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 05 November 1875 page 2)

James John MCLEOD died 03 November 1875 New Zealand

(Reference RGO NZ death registration 1876 folio website 1876/885 age 35 born about 1841 = Note late registration)

Evening Post newspaper 27 November 1875

Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi - The above Hotel having undergone a thorough renovation and been refurnished throughout the Proprietor begs to inform the travelling public that he is in a position to provide accommodation equal to any house on the road and begs to solicit a share of patronage. Wines and Spirits of the best brands. A new twenty four stall Stable is just completed and every attention will be paid to the horses. Good secure paddocks for stock. F W Hodder Proprietor

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 27 November 1875 page 4)

Hutt Licensing Court middle of 1875

- Mungaroa (Mrs Collins)
- The Golden Fleece (W Hodder) Pakuratahi
- Criterion Hotel (J Martyn)
- The Railway (Isaac Wilkins) ex Highland Home (later Quinn's Post)
- Provincial Hotel opened 23 February 1876 (Joseph Ames)

Golden Fleece Hotel proprietor was Robert H ELLIOTT between 1876 and 1877

Evening Post newspaper 28 June 1876

Tenders are invited until noon on Monday 3rd July for the erection of additions to the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi. Also to repairing stables and building another large new stable. Plans &c., to be seen at the Hotel. The lowest in any tender not necessarily accepted. R H Elliott.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 28 June 1876 page 3)

Evening Post newspaper 19 September 1876

At the Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday, the case of Hodder v Elliott was heard. It was an action arising out of the recent transfer from the plaintiff to the defendant of the hotel known as the Golden Fleece, situate at the Pakuratahi, and was brought for the recovery of the sum of £43 18s 3d for goods sold and delivered, work and labour done and money paid by the plaintiff to the use of the defendant. Mr Moorhouse appeared for the plaintiff and Mr Buckley for the defendant. A set off was put in by the defendant, every item of which was allowed by the bench. After hearing the evidence of the plaintiff and defendant and their respective witnesses judgment was given for the defendant with costs.

(Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 19 September 1876 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 23 November 1876

Robbing a Bar - William Daniel was charged with stealing 5s from the till in the bar of Elliott's Golden Fleece Hotel, Pakuratahi. George Moss the barman in the hotel, while standing in the cellar, but with his head above the floor of the bar, had seen the prisoner putting his hand through a small window and into the till. He followed him, took him into a room in the hotel, and, because he was obstropolous, tied him down until Mr Elliott returned, and until Constable Lister [Lyster] was sent for. When searched, five shillings were found on him and this amount was missed from the till. He previously appeared to have no money, his drinks having been paid for by others. The prisoner said he could, if he were allowed time, procure good character from his late employer, who lived on the other side of Napier, but the Magistrate thought the suggestion and the situation were rather remote, and that the theft had been proved. He therefore sentenced prisoner to three months hard labour. Thomas Brown, who was described as the chum of Daniel, was charged with stealing a bottle of porter from the bar of the same hotel. Mrs. Elliot had informed Moss, the barman, that the prisoner was sitting in front of the hotel with a bottle of porter in his hands, and Moss found him there playing with it, he had not bought a bottle of porter, and he was given in charge. The prisoner was remanded for a week, to enable evidence to be given as to his having taken the bottle from the bar.

(Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 23 November 1876 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 11 June 1877

It is believed that a man named Thomas Edwards, who has been missing from Pakuratahi since Friday morning last, has committed suicide. For the past year he has been employed in the capacity of cook by Mr Elliott, of the Golden Fleece Hotel, and his employer had always regarded him as a respectable man. A few days ago he determined to take a holiday, and accordingly came to town with £48 in his pocket. He put up at an hotel in town, and remained there for three days, drinking a good deal in the meantime. At the end of the three days he had spent £37. He then returned to the Pakuratahi Hotel, and on Thursday last it was found that he was suffering from an attack of delirium tremens. Edwards was put to bed and attended to, but next morning it was discovered that he had escaped from the house during the night. The police and others have been searching for him ever since, but up to the present time no traces of him have been discovered. It is feared that he has made away with himself. [Since writing the foregoing, we learn that Edwards has been found. A telegram from the Upper Hutt, received by the Inspector of Police from Constable Lyster is as follows, ["Edwards was discovered, alive, at nine o'clock this morning, in a thick scrub, one and a quarter miles from Pukuratahi. Further particulars when I come in."]

(Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 11 June 1877 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 13 June 1877

Constable Lyster has sent in his official report with regard to the case of the man Thomas Edwards, who was missing from the Golden Fleece Hotel, Pakuratahi, for some days last

week. It appears that Edwards was walking all the time he was away in the bush, or he might have died from exposure. As soon as he was discovered on Monday morning, he was taken to Mr Elliott's hotel, where he received every attention. He is now progressing favourably.

(Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 13 June 1877 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 07 June 1878

The Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi - Is a large commodious house capable of accommodating forty persons comfortably. Is beautifully situated at the foot of the hill Rimutaka, thirty miles from the Empire city, and at present the terminus on the Wellington and Masterton Railway, offers every convenience to visitors. This establishment is under the personal superintendence of the proprietor, whose long experience offers a substantial guarantee that his patrons will be properly attended to. The inducements this hotel offers to those who wish to spend a few hours of sweet repose from the cares of a busy life, is second to none in the colony. The scenery is grand, the bush magnificent, and abounds with all the choicest ferns. The shooting (in season) is first rate - hundreds visit it. To bathers, a rare opportunity for everyone who is anxious to indulge, in a luxury that every white man considers a blessing, ablution gratis. Visitors will be able to leave Wellington in the morning and return in the evening. (See time table). A Coach will be running to meet every train, at a very moderate fare. Stable accommodation for seventy horses. Good secure paddocks. Wines, Spirits, Ales, &c., of the very best brands only. All kinds of games indulged in. Rifle and Carbine practice. R H Elliott Proprietor.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 07 June 1878 page 4)

1878 Application to transfer license from Mr Webb to Mr Montgomery

Evening Post newspaper 12 September 1878

The application for sanction to transfer the license of the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi from Mr Webb to Mr Montgomery was adjourned for fourteen days.

(Reference Papers past newspaper Evening Post newspaper 12 September 1878 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 10 August 1878

Monday 12th August 1878 at 2 o'clock pm - Lot 3 Valuable Hotel Property with Ten Acres Freehold Land - One mile and a half from Kaitoke Railway Station. Important to Brewers Hotel Keepers, Speculators, and Others. T Kennedy Macdonald & Co. are favoured with instructions to offer for sale by public auction, on the above date - The valuable property known as the Golden Fleece Hotel, on the main road to Wairarapa, within one and a half miles from the Kaitoke Railway Station. The building contains on the ground floor, bar, bar parlour, large commercial room, two dining rooms, two private rooms, and kitchen and on the upper floor twenty bedrooms, capable of accommodating forty persons. The outbuildings consist of coach house, dairies, pig sties, fowl houses. Also four large stables, containing in all sixty one stalls. With the hotel will be sold ten acres of splendid land, divided into paddocks. The hotel is insured for £1700 and the stables for £500. Arrangements can be made for immediate possession of the property, stock and furniture being taken at valuation. Plans of the property and full details may be seen and obtained at the Auctioneers office. Mr Montgomery the present landlord has kindly consented to show intending purchasers over the property.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 10 August 1878 page 4)

Wairarapa Standard 17 August & 19 September 1878

Caledonian Hotel Adelaide Road Wellington – R H Elliott (late of the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi Proprietor. Wine and spirits of the best brands accommodations unsurpassed

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard 19 September 1878 page 4)

Evening Post newspaper 10 August & 02 October 1878

The Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi - Is a large commodious house capable of accommodating forty persons comfortably. Is beautifully situated at the foot of the hill Rimutaka, thirty miles from the Empire city, and at present the terminus on the Wellington and Masterton Railway, offers every convenience to visitors. This establishment is under the

personal superintendence of the proprietor, whose long experience offers a substantial guarantee that his patrons will be properly attended to. The inducements this hotel offers to those who wish to spend a few hours of sweet repose from the cares of a busy life, is second to none in the colony. The scenery is grand, the bush magnificent, and abounds with all the choicest ferns. The shooting (in season) is first rate - hundreds visit it. To bathers, a rare opportunity for everyone who is anxious to indulge, in a luxury that every white man considers a blessing, ablution gratis. Visitors will be able to leave Wellington in the morning and return in the evening. (See time table). A Coach will be running to meet every train, at a very moderate fare. Stable accommodation for seventy horses. Good secure paddocks. Wines, Spirits, Ales, &c., of the very best brands only. All kinds of games indulged in. Rifle and Carbine practice. W H MONTGOMERY Proprietor.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 02 October 1878 page 1)

Evening Post newspaper 28 November & 04 December 1878

Thursday 5th December at 12 o'clock In the Estate of Richard Webb by order of the Trustee at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi. – Alfred A Barneet will sell by Public auction – The whole of the Household, Furniture, Stock and Effects Appertaining to the Hotel, Horse, Cart and Harness, Cow, Poultry, Pigs and Sundries.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 04 December 1878 page 3)

1878 George JONES proprietor

Evening Post newspaper 23 December 1878 & 21 January 1879

Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuaratahi – George Jones having leased the above Hotel begs to inform the Citizens of Wellington likewise Travellers that favor him with their patronage that they will meet with everything to promote the comfort and enjoyment of Country life. The Wines and Spirits are all of the choicest brands. Staple's XXXX Ale on Draught. 60 Stall Stables and well-grassed secure Paddocks.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 23 December 1878 & 21 January 1879)

Evening Post newspaper 19 June 1879

The annual meeting of the Hutt Licensing Court was held yesterday when the following licenses were renewed – W Bishop Provincial Hotel Upper Hutt – Henry Border Criterion Hotel Upper Hutt – Isaac Wilkins Railway Hotel Upper Hutt – The application of George Jones for a renewal of the lease the Pakuratahi Hotel was refused owing to the fact that the application was not sent in at the proper time.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 19 June 1879 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 21 November 1879

District Court This Day (Before His Honor District Judge Mansford) Carroll, Trustee of Robert Elliott v Hastwell - A jury of four composed of Messrs J M'Lean, W Fraser, B Donovan and William Luke were empanelled to try this case, which is an action to recover the sum of £200, alleged to be due for stabling accommodation from the defendant, a coach proprietor, to Robert Elliott, now a bankrupt but formerly landlord of the Rising Sun Hotel Greytown and the Golden Fleece Hotel at Pakuratahi.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 21 November 1879 page 3)

Evening Post newspaper 03 March 1880

Pakuratahi Hotel and Stables destroyed by Fire - [By Telegraph from own correspondent] - Kaitoke This Day - The old Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi, together with the extensive stabling, was burnt to the ground at 5 o'clock last evening. Mr Gilruth cannot account for the fire. It appears that he and his brother were some distance from the house when they saw smoke issuing from the roof. They immediately did all they could with the assistance of the hands on the farm and neighbours, but were unable to get the fire under. The property is owned by Mr W V Jackson of Wellington and for some time has not been used as an hotel. A new arrival Mr Gilruth had recently taken a lease of the place and intended going in for stock breeding. The buildings were insured for £1200-£1000 in the Colonial Insurance Company, and £200 in the Royal. They were originally insured for £2000, but had been reduced to

£1200 in order to lessen expenses of premium. Mr Gilruth loses about £300 worth of furniture, which was not insured.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 03 March 1880 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 04 March 1880

Mr Allen of the Colonial Insurance Company has informed us that £250 is the amount held by that company in the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi yesterday destroyed by fire, the remaining £750 being reinsured. An agent of the Colonial Company has been out to the scene of the fire and it is probable an inquest will be held.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 04 March 1880 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 12 March 1880

An inquest was held at Bishop's Hotel at the Upper Hutt yesterday before Dr Wilford Coroner the object being to ascertain if possible the cause of the late fire at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi. At the conclusion of the evidence which threw no light whatsoever on the origin of the disaster the jury returned an open verdict.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 12 March 1880 page 2)

17 March 1880 Coroner's report on fire at Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi Upper Hutt

An Inquest indent taken from our Sovereign Lady the Queen at the house of Walter Bishop Provincial Hotel Upper Hutt in the said Colony on the Eleventh day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty before John G F Wilford one of the corners of our Sovereign Lady the Queen for the said Colony fire at Golden Fleece Hotel Pukuritahi upon the oath of *Isaac Wilkins foreman, George Hall, James Martin, Alexander Cruickshank, William Corbett, Charles Kippel, William Collins, William Jones, Martin Scully, Samuel Smith, William Harrison and James Stevens* good and lawful men of the neighbourhood duly chosen and who being there and then duly sworn and charged to inquire for our Lady the Queen when how and by what means the said fire at Golden Fleece Hotel originated do upon their oaths say that *The Golden Fleece Hotel Pukuritahi was destroyed by fire on Tuesday March 2nd 1880 but how the fire originated there is not sufficient evidence to show.*

In witness whereof as well the said Coroner as the said Jurors aforesaid have hereunto set and subscribed their hands and seals the day

J G F Wilford coroner - Isaac Wilkins foreman – William Collins – George Hall – William Jones – Jas Martin – Martin Scully – A Cruickshank – Sam Smith – William Corbett – William Harrison – Charles Kippel – James Stevens his X mark - Witnesses – David Lyster – Arthur Warren

and

The above named deposition of William Valentine Jackson - William Nord Gibraith – Edward Morgan – John Gibraith – James Hamlin Farr – Catherine Blanford – Louis Marshall – George Cooper written on twelve pages of paper numbered consecutively from one to twelve and by me affixed together were taken and sworn before me at the Upper Hutt in the said Colony on the eleventh day of March 1880 J G F Wilford Coroner

And

Information of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen touching the death of fire at Golden Fleece Hotel Pukuratahi at the dwelling house of Walter Bishop known by the name of The Provincial Hotel in the Province of Wellington in the Colony above mentioned on Thursday the eleventh day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighty before John G F Wilford one of the Coroners for the said Colony on an Inquisition then and there taken on fire at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pukuratahi as follows to wit.

William Valentine Jackson – I am the owner of the property land & building at the Pukurartahi the scene of the late fire. I sold the property to W H Gilbreith as atonally for Peter Gilbreith the price fixed was ten pounds per acre, the acreage we estimated at 280 more or less a summary was to be made to determine the exact amount, I gave up possession on Saturday February 21st 1880. The money was paid as a deposit but the purchaser agreed to pay 500 on the first of July 1880 and the balance as it suited him during the kind years from the time of his takings possession of the Hotel & Stables in case in secured in September 1879 for £1200

previous to that they had been insured for £2000 for the previous shall years. The reduction in the insurance was to save expenses as I was not making much use of the place. There was a clause in my agreement with Gilbeith that the building should be kept insured for not less than £1200. According to a clause in my agreement Gilbrath can call upon me to except dwellings to the extent of £1200 the amount of the insurance money signed W V Jackson.

and

William Wood Gilbrath being sworn saith that I am the lessee of the property at the Pukeratahi the scene of the late fire. I as attorney for my father I took possession on the 1st of March I had occupied the house from February 21st. The house was burnt down on the second of March. I had some of my furniture in the house including chairs beds &c., The value kit the furniture burnt in the house I estimate at fifty pounds besides that I lost twenty pounds in money, ball ounces of gold dust and jewellery & clothing all together I consider my cost between two & three hundred pounds, I have no insurance and my goods I had intending insuring that morning. The furniture was in difficult no overs in the house. At the time the fire broke out I was away in the back trying to shoot some rabbits out starting home I saw smoke coming through the shingles I gave my gun to my brother who was with me. I ran up to the house he followed. I got two buckets of water and entering the house I going up the stairs I found the roof over the stair case ceiling well alight I applied the water but it was useless. I then tried to get into my bedroom the handle of the door was quite not stepping back to burst in the door the fire from the roof he fell to fall upon me I flew cleaned out. I could not say from the appearance of the fire whether it had originated inside the house or outside. I think it must have been an hour or an hour and half from the time I went out with the gun to my seeing the fire. Nobody was left in the house when my brother & I left to go to the bush the only fire was in the kitchen which was some distance away from where the fire started. There were stumps burning at the back of the house about one hundred & fifty yards from the house the wind was shifting sometimes blowing from the burning stumps to the house. Had the fire have been smouldering at the time we left the house we noticed not accessibly have seen it as we were in a different part of the house.

By lecturer Warren I don't recollect which door I left by when I went out with my brother my brother locked the back door when we went out I am not sure whether I locked a door or not I bathed in the river that day I remember Mr Ivan's presenting a bill to me a day or two before the fire I told him I had no change till I went to town I was about half way between the bridge and the house when I met Mr Cooper [sic] had five or six chairs besides a sitting chair & a reclining chair also a sofa these were saved that half of these things in the east part of the house were saved don't know what my brother saved from the rooms. Mr Servants had left a few days before the fire. I was to give £2700 for the property a little more or less according to the arrange testable the value of the land at & per acre I consider the building to be the Hotel part of the house if I could get a hotel license I intending asking a year next I expect Mr Jackson to get the Insurance money and to rebuild the premises. According to my agreement with Mr Jackson I bought to have paid a quarter next in advance but he agreed to give me time. I have been told by several people that the building could be put up -- & myself don't know the value of Colonial Insurance signed Wm W Gilbraith

and

Edward Morgan being sworn saith that I am a builder I know the premises burnt down at the Pakuratahi may back I should value these at from £1800 to £2000 and think it would cost more than that to rebuild them signed Edward Morgan

and

John Gibreth being sworn saith that I was with my brother the day the Hotel was burnt down. We were near the Pukeratahi bridge where we first saw smoke issuing from the roof I ran to the house and at once went up to my bedroom and threw my things out of the window I saw no fire when I went into my bedroom I threw everything out of the window and then got out myself. My bedroom is separated from my brothers by another door before going out I bolted the back door. My brother left the house after me he was not above two minutes in the house after me. I think the front door was left unlocked. We shot no rabbits that day & I think we bathed. We left the house somewhere about nine o'clock signed I Gilbruth

and

James Hamlin Farr being sworn saith that I was in the Gilbreiths employ at the time of the fire I was working in the bush and between two and three o'clock in the afternoon went up to the house to feed some growing parquetted I was rearing I went into the back kitchen I entered by the back door I don't think anybody was in the house at the time I went in I did not go into any other part of the house the brothers Gilbrath I had seen in the bush before I came up to the house I was about twenty minutes away from the bush about ten minutes in the house whilst I was in the house two children of a neighbour (Mr Manbray sic) came in I took them out with me and saw them go home. The wind was not in the shift direction to convey sparks from the stumps running at the back to the house in fact there was little or no wind at all I have not the slightest idea how the fire could have originated. It would take about five minutes to walk from where we were working to the house & about eight to the Bridge I lost a good deal of my things in clothing a watch The furniture I saw consisted of boxes, chairs, table, small sofa, file & c., I could not say the value of the furniture I am not confident [sic] in value buildings signed Jas Hamlin Farr

and

Catherine Blanford being sworn saith that I live at the Pukeritahi near the scene of the late fire. On that afternoon of the fire on going to my door and looking up the road I noticed a large body of smoke coming out of the chimney in the hotel I watched it about a quarter of an hour and then it began to come through the roof and especially near the chimney soon the roof was all alight and I noticed my daughter and the two Gilbraths getting out the furniture. I particularly noticed thick black smoke coming out of the chimney before it broke through the roof signed Catherine Blanford her X mark witnesses David Tyates – Arthur Warren

and

Louisa Marshall being sworn saith that I live at the Pukuratahi my house is on the opposite side of the road to the hotel burnt down. I was in my house about half past four on the afternoon of the fire where John Gilbrath came over & told me the house was on fire on going out into the road the fire burst out through the roof the lower part of the house apparently not being affected. Mr Gilbrath and his brother were being getting out the furniture I don't know whether everything was got out or not Two of my children came in the house at the time the man Farr came to feed the parquetted he sent them home I was sure they were not over at the house after that I saw nothing about the house after seeing Mr Gilbrath about past two I should think nearly all the furniture was saved signed Louisa Marshall her X mark witnesses David Yates & R Warren

and

George Cooper being sworn saith that I was down at the Pukeritahi bridge on the afternoon of the second I saw the brothers Gilbrath coming from having a bathe between two & three I saw them again about twenty minutes past four coming from the direction of the house when I first saw them they were coming along the side of the stable down to what is called the mill flat I did not speak to them as they did not come near enough to me. I was about four o'clock when I saw them near the stable they might have been coming from the ground signed George Cooper

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACGS 16211 J1 262 av 1880/1148 Coroner Upper Hutt date 17 March 1880 subject inquest proceedings on fire at Golden Fleece Hotel Pukeritahi)

Note I have been unable to locate any additional information about the Golden Fleece Hotel after the fire in 1880. I believe the hotel was never rebuilt and its history ended in 1880
