

Police Station & Court Cases – Upper Hutt

1863

Table showing the civil case in which Maori were concerned disposed of in the undermentioned residential Magistrates courts in New Zealand during the year 1863

Upper Hutt No 57

6 in which Europeans were defendants

6 total cases between Maori and Europeans

Sued £7.8s10d in which Europeans were defendants

Recovered £1.11s.0d in which Europeans were defendants

(Reference New Plymouth Pake Ariki Archives Statistics New Zealand volumes)

1864

His Excellency Sir George Grey KCB Governor and Commander Chief in and over the Islands of New Zealand

The Humble Memorial of Robert CLELAND of the Upper Hutt in the Province of Wellington Draper and Grocer.

That your Memorialist was charged before I J Willis Esquire Resident Magistrate Upper Hutt aforesaid with having sold less than two gallons of spirituous liquid on the 5th September Last. That the Memorialist admitted to having sold Two gallons of Gin to Robert DOUGLAS of the Upper Hutt Labourer on the said 5th September and that the said Robert Douglas took away at that time two bottles of Gin part of the said two gallons and the remainder within eight days afterwards. That your Memorialist having permitted the said Robert Douglas to do so was entirely through ignorance and without the slightest intention of your Memorialist infringing the law.

That your Memorialist was fined on the 19th January last in the Penal sum of Fifty Pounds and Costs for months after the alleged offence and contrary to the Summary [section of paper missing so cannot read] Ordinance.

[section of paper missing so cannot read] Memorialists humbly pray [section of paper missing so cannot read] will take a favourable view of the above case and [section of paper missing so cannot read] of Fifty Pounds and cost and [section of paper missing so cannot read] as in duly bound will ever pray [section of paper missing so cannot read]

Dated this 11th day of February 1864 (*Signed Robert M CLELAND*)

And

Wairarapa 19 February 1864

Sir

With reference to, the Memorial in the case of Robert Cleland, which you have sent to me, to give my opinion on. I have the honour to inform you that on the day on which that case was heard, I allowed a second charge against Robert Cleland for the illegal sale of spirits to be withdrawn. Solely in consideration of the heavy fin which I had no discretion but to inflict. I have also reason to believe that Robert Cleland was frequently in the habit of selling spirits contrary to the provision of the Licencing Ordinance.

Taking the above facts into consideration I considered at the time that R Cleland had been most clemently dealt with.

I have the honor to be Sir your most obedient Servant

(*signed John J Willis R.M.*)

To Hon The Superintendent Wellington

And

Wairarapa 1864

Sir

Won the 19th Instant the Mr Cleland of the Upper Hutt Storekeeper was brought before me on a charge of Breach of the Sale of Spirits Ordinance convicted and fined £50. I have the honor to request to be allowed to award some part of the fine say £10 to the informer Constable Lyster of the Wellington Police.

I am induced to ask this as Constable Lyster has always displayed great zeal in the discharge of his duties in which opinion Mr Wardell R.M. had begged me to say that he fully concedes.

I have the honor to be Sir your most obedient Servant

(signed John J Willis R.M.)

To Hon The Attorney General Auckland

(Reference R24257946 ACGS 16211 J1 43/br 1864/248 Robert M Cleland Upper Hutt 11 February 1864 for remission of a penalty of £50 breach of the sale of Spirits Ordinance)

1865

Table showing the criminal cases and convictions in which Europeans were defendants in the undermentioned Resident magistrates and Magistrates courts in New Zealand during year 1865
Upper Hutt No 52

Assault 8 cases 2 convictions European

Drunkenness 6 cases 6 convicted

Other cases 23 cases 19 convictions

Total cases 37 total convictions 27

Upper Hutt No 58

54 civil cases & 37 criminal cases & 91 total cases (European)

(Reference New Plymouth Pake Ariki Archives Statistics New Zealand volumes)

1866 = Table showing the civil case in which Maori were concerned disposed of in the undermentioned residential Magistrates courts in New Zealand during the year 1866

Upper Hutt No 57

Number of cases between Maori and Europeans

3 in which Europeans were Defendants

3 total cases between Maori and Europeans

Upper Hutt No 59

Courts = 71 civil and 49 criminal 120 total cases disposed of

(Reference New Plymouth Pake Ariki Archives Statistics New Zealand volumes)

Upper Hutt Police Stations

1st Police Station was in the blockhouse

2nd Police Station 1878 to 1920

3rd Police Station 1919 to unknown

In 1949 the Police Station was in the Court House

1950 old Police Station in Station Street Upper Hutt to be removed

Police Station corner of Main Street and Royal Street

Police Station Fergusson Drive

1871

Trentham Parsonage Upper Hutt 09 November 1871

Sir

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 06th instant stating that no appointment of Justice of the Peace is certain planed at the Upper Hutt

I have no personal feeling or interest in the matter but I respect that no steps are intended to be taken as I feel convinced that some such appointment is very much required and it has the approval of Mr Crawford the present R.M.

I have the honour to be Sir your obedient Servant

(signed A H S Nicholls)

R.C. Foundation Eyr. Pro. Asst. Law Officer Wellington.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R24288139 ACGS 16211 J1 118/ar 1871/2868 CHS Nicholls Upper Hutt 11 November 1871 regrets that no Justice of Peace is to be appointed at Upper Hutt 30 October 1871 recommending appointment of Justice Peace at Upper Hutt and offering his service)

Trentham Upper Hutt 28 October 1871

Sir

I enclose a copy of a letter which I forwarded to you on the 28th August instant. As I have received no reply, I suppose it must have miscarried, or have been overlooked in the term of business.

I am dear Sir Yours faithfully

(signed C H S Nicholls)

The Hon W Fox wellington

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R24288139 ACGS 16211 J1 118/ar 1871/2868 CHS Nicholls Upper Hutt 11 November 1871 regrets that no Justice of Peace is to be appointed at Upper Hutt 30 October 1871 recommending appointment of Justice Peace at Upper Hutt and offering his service)

Upper Hutt 28 August 1871

Sir

The one policeman stationed in this isolated place has often mentioned to me the advantage of having at least one magistrate here, often information has to be taken or a summons issued a long journey is necessary and in many ways the presence of a J.P. would be a benefit should you deem it advisable to appoint one and should no one else be found suitable for the office I should have no objection to act. I do not desire the appointment nor do I ask for it but I am willing to undertake the duties of assigned. In cases of little importance a J.P. could act and leave the R.M. a long journey and perform the necessary work satisfactory.

I have the honour to be your obedant servant

(signed C H S Nicholls)

The Hon W Fox Wellington

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R24288139 ACGS 16211 J1 118/ar 1871/2868 CHS Nicholls Upper Hutt 11 November 1871 regrets that no Justice of Peace is to be appointed at Upper Hutt 30 October 1871 recommending appointment of Justice Peace at Upper Hutt and offering his service)

1879

New Zealand Constabulary correspondence & records

10 April 1879 = Constable Lyster report on Stockade Upper Hutt

Police Station
Upper Hutt
07th April 1879

Constable Lyster Report for the Information by the Superintendent that between Saturday night and Sunday morning last that the South east Wall of the Government Stockade at the Upper Hutt was blown down on examination the studs where completely rotten resting on the frame work near the Ground the Police have the Keys of this place and in charge of it.

David Lyster
Constable

W H James Esq
Supt of Police
Wellington

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACIS 17627 P1 91 1879/956 Superintendent Shearman Wellington 10 April 1879 Forwards report from Constable Lyster stating that the Government Stockade Upper Hutt was blown down on Saturday night 5th instant)
Notes written on cover of the above correspondence state "It has not been used by the Police".

21 July 1880 = J D Cruickshank regarding removal of Upper Hutt Police Station

Upper Hutt
19 July 1880

To the Hon Minister of Justice
Dear Sir

I hear that the Police Station is to be done away with ___ here. I do not think you can be aware of this as I do not know a district where the services of a Policeman are more required. I have here three Public Houses & a great many people passing through who are not of the best characters sometimes. The settlers are all very respectable people but the people who are employed at the Saw Mills etc. do not behave themselves as they ought in times.

We had a Police Station here when the population was not one fourth to what it is now. The Policeman had to keep the road clear of cattle & horses, & also in calling in Juryman at inquest. I believe it would cost the Police more in other ways than it would to keep a Policeman.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant
J D Cruickshank

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACIS 17627 P1 119 1880/2143 Justice Department Wellington 21 July 1880 letter from J D Cruickshank Justice of the Peace as to removal of police station from Upper Hutt)

31 July 1880 = Memo New Zealand Constabulary

New Zealand Constabulary
Depot Wellington
31st July 1880

Memo No 338

In re closing Upper Hutt Police station as per attached papers

The Police station of the Upper Hutt was established before the introduction of Railway or Telegraphic communication. The Township was then the halting place for Waggoneers and other travellers to and from the Wairarapa and the resort of many who now travel through by train – The population of the township I am informed does not number more than two hundred only two serious offences were committed during the year ending December 1879 under the altered circumstances of the Sub District I consider one Police Station will be sufficient the Constable at the Lower Hutt can visit the Upper Hutt frequently at uncertain times which I anticipate will have the effect of insuring good order

R B SHERMAN Superintendent
In Charge HPD

The Commissioner Armed Constabulary Wellington

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACIS 17627 P1 119 1880/2143 Justice Department Wellington 21 July 1880 letter from J D Cruickshank Justice of the Peace as to removal of police station from Upper Hutt)

30 July 1880 = Correspondence regarding Upper Hutt Police Station

Police Office Wellington
30th July 1880
No 1184 W.80

Sir

In reply to your Memo No 336 of this date I beg to inform you that since I have been in charge of this District the Upper Hutt Sub District had been exceedingly orderly and free from crime.

During the year ending 31st December 1879 the total number of offences reported was twenty two, of these sixteen were for drunkenness, two for breach of the peace, two for housebreaking, one for indecent exposure and one for vagrancy.

The only case of Carrikinism reported from there was an instance of some cayenne pepper having been put on the floor of a room in whciih a dance was being held.

Four trains arrive and four depart daily.

I estimate the population of the sub district at 500 of all ages and sexes.

I ahev been informed that it is the intension of the New Zealand Bank authorities to withdraw their agency from Upper Hutt whether the Constable is allowed to remain there or not.

Instructions have already been given to the Constable at Lower Hutt to visit Upper Hutt periodically

I have the honor to be Sir
Your obedient servant
W P James Supt.

The Superintendent In charge NP Division Wellington

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACIS 17627 P1 119 1880/2143 Justice Department Wellington 21 July 1880 letter from J D Cruickshank Justice of the Peace as to removal of police station from Upper Hutt)

30 July 1880 = Memo

New Zealand Constabulary
Depot Wellington
30 July 1880

Supt James

The attached paragraph taken from the Evening Post newspaper of 29th Instant is forwarded for the prompt attention and remark of the Supt in charge of the Wellington District

R B Sheerman Supt
In Charge of PD
Memo No 336 – 3027/1880 [newspaper article enclosed]

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACIS 17627 P1 119 1880/2143 Justice Department Wellington 21 July 1880 letter from J D Cruickshank Justice of the Peace as to removal of police station from Upper Hutt)

Evening Post newspaper 29 July 1880

Deputation from Upper Hutt

A deputation of residence in the Upper Hutt district waited on the Hon Mr Bryce Defence Minister to-day to protest against the proposed removal of the constable hitherto stationed at Upper Hutt. The deputation comprised Mr Mason, MHR, Dr Wilford, Messrs Morgan, Cruickshank, Brown and Bishop.

The deputation represented very forcibly to the Minister the hardship which would be inflicted on the district by the removal of the resident constable. They pointed out that a constable had always been stationed at Upper Hutt for twenty years past and the population had doubled during the last few years that of the district new being fully 700 adults. Several important roads converged there and it was also the terminus of several trains from Wellington. It thus formed a sort of outlet for the criminal population of the town who generally got as far as that by the evening trains and remained there for the night committing various petty thefts and other crimes. Most of the criminals cases dealt with at the Lower Hutt Court came from Upper Hutt. There were numerous sawmills in the vicinity and the mill-hands when they were paid their wages were very apt to go on the spree and then to commit all sorts of excesses. There were three hotels there and the men would arrive intoxicated and call for more liquor threatening the landlords with personal violence if it were refused. Only last night one landlord was threatened to be stabbed because he refused to supply a drunken man. Then some of the young men were very unruly and addicted to breaking windows and doing mischief so that the ladies and children could not attend church in the evening or go out at night in safety unless it was known that a constable was within reach. The deputation went so far as to declare that if the constable were taken away the place would be a little hell upon earth and would be quite uninhabitable. This would be a grievous hardship to many who had lived there more than 20 years and had erected homes there. Besides the bank manager had said the branch would have to be closed if there were no resident Constable. Sawmill accidents also were somewhat frequent involving inquests. It would cost so much more to serve summonses &c than now that no real saving would be effected indeed the fines &c collected more than compensated for the expenses. The deputation therefore urged the Government to reconsider their determination and presented a memorial to the same effect signed by 112 residents.

The Hon Mr Bryce reminded the deputation that retrenchment was forced on the Government by the Position of the colony and this was one of the directions in which a saving could be made. Probably an equally strong case could be made out by each district from which it was proposed to remove the constable. There was very much in what they said and no doubt the presence of a constable tended somewhat to prevent crime. Although their population might have increased so had the facilities for communication by railway and telegraph which would enable the services of a constable to be obtained at very short notice.

The deputation urged that this was no remedy as most of the necessity arose in the evening after railway and telegraph hours when nothing could be done until the next day. A constable also would need to be used to the place to find his way alone about the various roads and bush tracks.

Mr Bryce said he would compare the district with others and if he found the case was so exceptional as the deputation contended he would give their application his serious and favourable consideration.

The deputation thanked him and withdrew.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACIS 17627 P1 119 1880/2143 Justice Department Wellington 21 July 1880 letter from J D Cruickshank Justice of the Peace as to removal of police station from Upper Hutt)

21 July 1880 = Petition

Upper Hutt 21 July 1880

The Honourable the Minister of Justice of the Colony of New Zealand – Wellington

We the undersigned Electors & residents of the Upper Hutt district understanding that it is the intention of the Government to abolish the Police Office which had been established upwards of twenty years would earnestly ask that the question may be reconsidered. We would respectfully urge that in our opinion it would be a most impolite step and if persisted in would entail very great inconvenience and annoyance to your memoirists and others. We therefor hope that you will be able to accede to the request that the office be not abolished

[signed (image of signatures) by many early Upper Hutt settlers and residence]

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACIS 17627 P1 119 1880/2143 Justice Department Wellington 21 July 1880 letter from J D Cruickshank Justice of the Peace as to removal of police station from Upper Hutt)

03 December 1880 = William O'NEILL Upper Hutt making application for employment in forces

The Officer in Charge
Police Department
Wellington

Sir

I made application for appointment to the Police on the 9th June last.

I submitted characters from Victorian & Queensland Police for about four years' service and now as I see no chance of appointment here for some time to come I am anxious to get back to Australia but although I have been working hard since my arrival I have not yet sufficient money for that purpose.

In case an Escort is required to any of the Colonies I would be willing to give my services free providing my passage be paid, I believe it is probable there still be one to Sydney shortly as there is at present a man named Robinson in custody in Wellington for an offence committed in Sydney N.S.W.

I may also mention that I intend making application for an appointment to the New South Wales Police and perhaps Escorting a prisoner from this colony might in a small degree assist in my purpose.

Hoping you will consider my application favourable and thereby confer a great benefit upon me I will conclude

And have the honor to be Sir
Your Most obedient Servant
William O'NEILL

Trentham Upper Hutt

25th November 1880

PS My Testimonials are still in your office at the depot (WON)

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACIS 17627 P1 127 1880/3507 William O'Neill Upper Hutt 03 December 1880 makes further application for employment in forces)

20 June 1891 to 13 September 1911

Court criminal cases reports & Justice of the Peace reports & James Brown Upper Hutt offering sections for sale for site of Courthouse at Upper Hutt

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(Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington R24673409 ACGS 16211 J1 838/w 1891/594 P Davis JP additional archives R24673406 ACGS 16211 J1 838/w 1911/1284 James Brown Upper Hutt 13 September 1911 offering sections for sale for site for Courthouse at Upper Hutt)

1909-1975

Upper Hutt Police Station (1st Police Station was in the blockhouse) (old Police Station 1878 to 1920) (new Station 1919 to unknown) (1949 Police Station was in the Court House).

This set of 1909-1975 records and correspondence is about the Upper Hutt Police Station. The old police station was built in 1878 and was vacated in 1920 then let to tenants from time to time. A new Station was built in 1919. I have only transcribed part of this large set of records.

- 17 February 1909 referring to the building

- 02 March 1909 renovations required for building
- 17 May 1909 tender for repairs Mr J Harrison Upper Hutt, Mr M McNab Upper Hutt, Mr H Shaw Upper Hutt, Messrs Pulsford & Goodman Upper Hutt and Messrs Emery and Corbett Trentham (Emery & Corbet lowest recommended)
- 17 April 1914 urgent need of repairs
- 26 May 1914 Public Works Department schedule of repairs and cost
- 11 May 1918 urgent report render the house habitable until provision can be made for a new station
- 24 February 1919 value and costs of sections No 12,13,14 for new police station (main road) property of Mr Gill at Upper Hutt, land belongs to Roger Francis Bacon residing in Nelson report by Constable Gurden & section 11 owned by James Judd of Ekatahuna Note Land is on Section 127 Hutt District
- 22 August 1919 Payment to Mr Bacon & Mr Judd (also Upper Hutt Town Board receipt)
- 11 October 1919 plan of section and building placement site on Main Road between Princess Street and Wilson Street.
- Various document covering building Police Station Cottage outbuildings and lock up
- 06 February 1943 account for repairs including chimney damaged by Earthquake
- Various other documents about state of building
- 31 October 1949 letter about the old building built 1878 vacated 1920 then let to tenants from time to time
- 16 November 1949 building 50 years old comprising of two bedrooms kitchen dining room bathroom sitting room and outside washhouse and lavatory. The section would make an excellent site for e new Police station. The present Police Station is in the Court House.
- 05 January 1950 old Police Station at Station Street Upper Hutt up for demolition and/or removal (tender Evening Post Saturday 15th April 1950)
- Various 1950 correspondence Railway demolished building in error believed it was theirs so Police claimed compensation for the removal of the building
- 1950 & 1952 correspondence about Police Station, garage and lock up for prisoners to be built next to Court House south side
- 26 March 1954 Lots 4 & 5 DP 2250 corner Main Road and Royal Street Upper Hutt proposed that be erected in the front of existing building for Police Office (plan of section)
- NZ Gazette 16 February 1956 No 8 page 182 Proclamation for land (above)
- 12 May 1964 proposal for stand by power plant (generator) for Station later installed futher correspondence covers operations for the generator to 1966
- New Upper Hutt Police Station Plans in envelop marked 25/95
- 1971 extensions to Police station and proposal for new at 867-871 Fergusson Drive Upper Hutt
- Building Police Station, Prison & Reception block began 1974 and plan of building on file between 22 July 1974 & 19 July 1974 letters
- Final letter 26 August 1975 covering target date for completion.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington AAQB W3950 889 box 598 25/95 1 Upper Hutt Police Station 1909-1975)
