

THE NELSON SETTLEMENT

(Weblink SP The Nelson Settlement)

New Zealand Company papers

The New Zealand Company chief surveyor Frederick TUCKETT wrote many reports to Col William WAKEFIELD about the condition of the German Immigrants in Nelson. TUCKETT also wrote to BEIT about three settlers LANGE, HUTER and STADE who were all seeking employment.¹ The transcribed NZC papers can be found in [Appendix N3](#)

RE CHECK Archives New Zealand Wellington Agency NZC Series 3 Item 450

William Fox report to W Wakefield reads, "*I have felt it necessary to take some of them (Germans) into employment of the Company upon the public works.*"²

When the German settlers arrived in New Zealand, the New Zealand Company employed them to build roads and bridges around the Nelson district. The Public work ledgers and invoices record the names of the Germans, which helped in mapping their movement to Moutere and around the Nelson district. The transcriptions of the NZC ledgers and invoices are located in [Appendix N2](#).

The NZC public works invoices are most helpful when trying to trace the movements of the German settlers in Nelson and the outlying areas.³ As the names disappear from the invoices we can then begin to work out the time frame when these German families left for Australia. The original New Zealand Company documents are held at the National Archives (ex Public Records Officer) in England. The records have been microfilmed and are available from Archives of New Zealand in Wellington and Alexander Turnbull Library Wellington. Compiled lists of the microfilms are located on [Part 2 Appendix C1](#)

Please note that if you are researching early Nelson English settlers then these public work invoices are also a valuable resource that will assist in tracing these English settlers movements in and around Nelson.

When the German settlers from Moutere arrived back in Nelson conditions were difficult due to the financial state of the New Zealand Company. No employment could be found as too many absentee landowners still lived in England. Some of the German families went to live in the New Zealand Company barracks and a few of the German families became destitute. In time many of these German settlers travelled to Australia hoping to find a better life.

BEIT was paid by the NZC for rations, which were given to 7 destitute German families. Some of these families left for Australia in a hope to find better conditions for their families.⁴

1. M BUSCHL (Michael) family of 6
2. J FRANK (Jacob) family of 6
3. C LANGE (Conrad Johann Frederich) family of 9 including stepsons the Sixtus boys
4. H MOHR (Herman) family of 5
5. C PAHL (Johann Friedrich Carl) family of 4
6. W PAHL (Wilhelm) family of 6
7. G SCHEUCHER (George) family of 3 including step son Eberhard

¹ Archives of New Zealand Wellington Agency NZC Series 3 Item 13 page 426 Nelson 22 July 1843 Tuckett to Beit

² Archives of New Zealand Wellington Agency NZC Series 3 Item 13 page 124 Nelson 7th November 1843 Fox to Wakefield

³ Archives of New Zealand Wellington Agency NZC Micro Z Reel 653 Various items refer to Appendix Three

⁴ Archives of New Zealand Wellington Agency NZC CO 208 Micro Z Reel 654 Item 1250 and Alexander Turnbull Library Wellington NZC CO 208 Microfilm Reels 1453-1454

Frederick Tuckett wrote to John N Beit Esq. 22 July 1843 about 3 destitute German families in Nelson. They were the LANGE & SEXTUS family of 9, the HUTER family of 2 and STADE family of 3.

Naturalisation of the St Pauli passengers

On 16 July 1844 the German settlers from the St Pauli were naturalised. There are two sets of records detailing their naturalisation.

The Naturalisation Index publication has been microfilmed and is available from many New Zealand repositories⁵. Recorded on this index next to the names of the St Pauli passengers is the first reference to their naturalisation and is dated 14 June 1843.

First Naturalization documentation

This first naturalization document is an exact copy of the “St Pauli” arrival passenger list, which records the German immigrants who arrived in Nelson. The Lutheran Missionaries WOHLERS & RIEMSCHNEIDER and the ships Surgeon Dr GODERS who travelled as Cabin passengers are not listed. The steerage passengers SPRING, BEHREND & LAMOTTE who stayed in Bahia are also not listed.⁶

Second Naturalization documentation

The second naturalisation documentation was published in a Government publication the “Ordinance of New Zealand”. It lists the entire St Pauli steerage passengers and includes the 3 passengers who stayed in Bahia and the ships surgeon who never settled in New Zealand. On a closer examination of the document you can see clearly that it is an exact copy of the “St Pauli” Embarkation register.⁷ A transcription of the Ordinance of New Zealand publication is located in [Appendix C1](#).

One St Pauli sailor Mr JACOBSEN left the ship in New Zealand and settled in Nelson. He is not listed on the Embarkation or Arrival register and also does not appear on any of the above naturalisation list. He was naturalised at a later date.

Naturalised twice

The LANGE and SEXTUS family left Nelson around 1844 and travelled to Australia. Later between 1855 and 1856 Marie LANGE and son's by her first marriage the SEXTUS boys returned to New Zealand and settled in Nelson. The SEXTUS boys were naturalised twice, first in 1844 and second in 1856.⁸ Details of the family below were taken from the St Pauli passenger list.

LANGE Conrad Johann Fredriech age 36 calling Smith & Farrier

LANGE Marie Josefine Elisabeth age 44 wife

LANGE Johanna Sophia Dorothea age 9

LANGE Anna Maria age 7

SEXTUS Johann Friedrich Andreas age 20 calling Smith (mother Marie Lange)

SEXTUS Johann Carl Christof age 18 calling Printer (mother Marie Lange)

SEXTUS Johann Wilhelm Heinrich age 16 calling Labourer (mother Marie Lange)

SEXTUS Johann Andreas age 14 calling Labourer (mother Marie Lange)

SEXTUS Johann Gottfried Georg age 12 calling Labourer (mother Marie Lange)

⁵ Archives of New Zealand Wellington Readers room held at Enquiries reception desk Naturalisation Index

⁶ Archives of New Zealand Wellington Agency IA [Internal Affairs] series 1 Item 1843/1733

⁷ Archives of New Zealand Wellington Register Room Ordinance of New Zealand Volume 1841-1853 16 July 1844 No 2 page 388 to 389.

⁸ Sixtus Family Reunion Pro Patria 1843-1993 Compiled by Craig Sixtus

Another passenger from the St Pauli was naturalised twice. Details below are from the passenger lists and I have also record the different names he was known by. Johann Heinrich Eberhard SCHEUCHER age 3, (his mother was Anne Dorothea SCHEUCHER) also known as Jn. Henry EBERHARD and Johann H ABERHARD

Diaries and memories

Rev WOHLER diary records very little detail after Moutere.⁹ After the floods in Moutere, he left for Stewart Island and stopped writing about the German settlers in Nelson.

Rev HEINE remained in Nelson and continued to write about the German families not only in his diary but many articles can be found in Nelson newspapers and other National publications.¹⁰ His son August HEINE collection of papers regarding the German families that settled in Nelson can be found at the Alexander Turnbull Library manuscript section.

JMC BISLEY formerly KARSTEN writes about the abandonment of Moutere and the condition her family experience when returning to Nelson.¹¹ Her life as a child, the struggles that the KARSTEN family endured in those early days of Nelson settlement make interesting reading.

Nelson Newspapers

There are a numerous newspaper articles, reports and letters to the editor regarding the condition of the German settlers in Nelson. A compiled list can be found in [Appendix N4](#).

I located information that 6 St Pauli families settled in Waimea East and 11 settled in Nelson Town. I have not been able to prove the names of all of the German families but with additional research I hope one day to complete the list of names.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Calling</i>	<i>Dwelled</i>
C H BENSEMANN	32	Carpenter	Waimea East
A M Elisabeth BENSEMANN	31	Wife	Waimea East
A Katarina Maria BENSEMANN	8	(later married Rev Heine)	Waimea East
Johann Albert BENSEMANN	5		Waimea East
Johann Heinrich BENSEMANN	3		Waimea East
Johann George Ch HEMPEL	32	Joiner	Waimea East
Meta Adelheid HEMPEL	25	Wife	Waimea East
Christel Eduard HEMPEL	2		Waimea East
Friedrich Julius HEMPEL	1		Waimea East
Johann Heinrich Samuel KORBER	48	Shoemaker	Nelson Town
Maria Elisabeth KORBER	40	wife	Nelson Town
Jurgen Heinrich Reinhard KORBER	17	Shoemaker	Nelson Town
Johann Carl Josef KORBER	14	Shoemaker	Nelson Town
Johann Friedrich Carl PAHL	34	Saddler	Nelson Town
Anna Magdalena PAHL	33	wife	Nelson Town
Margarete Elisabeth PAHL	4	Girl	Nelson Town
Magdalena Dorothea PAHL	1	Girl	Nelson Town
Wilhelm PAHL	36	Cooper Yeoman	Nelson Town
Elisabeth PAHL	34	Wife	Nelson Town
Friedrich PAHL	9	Boy	Nelson Town
Magdalena PAHL	7	Girl	Nelson Town
Heinrich PAHL	4	Boy	Nelson Town

⁹ Alexander Turnbull Library Wellington [Manuscripts] MS papers 428 Wohler J item 1-2

¹⁰ Nelson Provincial Museum, Isle Park, Stoke Nelson Heine Diary

¹¹ Nelson Provincial Museum Isle Park Stoke Nelson Bisley JMK 1836-1917 Memoirs

Elisabeth PAHL	1	Girl	Nelson Town
Friedrich Mr De SCHUMCHER	28	Joiner	Nelson Town
Maria SCHUMCHER	24	Wife	Nelson Town
Conrad Johann Fredrieck LANGE	36	Smith & Farrier	Nelson Town
Marie Josefine Elisabeth LANGE	44	Wife	Nelson Town
Johanna Sophia Dorothea LANGE	9	Girl	Nelson Town
Anna Maria LANGE	7	Girl	Nelson Town
Johann Friedrich Andreas SEXTUS	20	Smith	Nelson Town
Johann Carl Christof SEXTUS	18	Printer	Nelson Town
Johann Wilhelm Heinrich SEXTUS	16	Labourer	Nelson Town
Johann Andreas SEXTUS	14	Labourer	Nelson Town
Johann Gottfried Georg SEXTUS	12	Labourer	Nelson Town
Josef HUTER	38	Joiner	Nelson Town
Conradine HUTER	27	Wife	Nelson Town
3 rd family unknown			Waimea East
4 th family unknown			Waimea East
5 th family unknown			Waimea East
6 th family unknown			Waimea East
7 th family unknown			Nelson Town
8 th family unknown			Nelson Town
9 th family unknown			Nelson Town
10 th family unknown			Nelson Town
11 th family unknown			Nelson Town
