

SCHOOL BLOCKHOUSE - 1861

William Taylor had completed building the Blockhouse and stockade by December 1860. The Blockhouse was then occupied by 34 volunteers of the local Militia from December 1860 to May 1861.



(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection Recollect Bruce Bold collection)

When the Blockhouse became unoccupied a request to rent the building as a school house and place of worship was made.

Bishop House Wellington - 18 October 1861

Sir

Having understood from some of the Civil Military authorities of the Province that there was no apparent need just now of the Stockade at the Upper Hutt for its original purpose, I wish to be informed whether the General Government would let me rent it for the purpose of a school and Devine service, as I am sending a Clergyman to reside up there to minister to the English and Natives of the Valley of course, whenever the military were wanted for its original uses ,I would give it up immediately, and I would make arrangements with the present occupant so as not to inconvenience them. If the General Government would allow me to rent it, I should wish to know in which terms.

I have the honour to be Sir you're obedient Servant

C J Wellington - To Colonel Secretary

(Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington Office Colonial Secretary correspondence)

Bishops House Wellington - 21 October 1861

Sir

I wrote almost a duplicate of this letter by way of Napier last week but hearing it may not be forwarded quickly from that Port I venture to repeat what I then said – It was to this effect that having understood from the Civil and Military authorities of this Province that there was not

much apparent likelihood of the Stockade at the Upper Hutt being wanted for its original purpose I wish to be informed whether the General Government would allow me to rent it for a School House and place of Devine worship as I am sending a Clergyman to reside there after Christmas to minister to the Natives of the Valley & to the English of that locality of course I would engage to vacate it whenever it may be wanted for its original purpose and I would make arrangements with the present occupant to live in some portion of it and keep it in good order – If the Government can accept my wished I would be glad to know what the rent would be per annum?

I have the honour to be Sir your obedient Servant [signed] C J Wellington
The Hon'ble The Colonial Secretary

(Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington Office Colonial Secretary correspondence)

Superintendent Office - Wellington 23 October 1861

Sir

I have the honour to enclose a letter from the Bishop of Wellington in which his Lordship offers to rent the Stockade in the Upper Hutt, intending to use it as a School House and place of worship.

As I trust there is very little prospect of its ever being required for the purpose for what it was erected I have great pleasure in recommending that his Lordships application should be granted.

I have the Honour to be Sir your most obedient Servant

I E Featherston – Superintendent - Honourable Colonial Secretary

(Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington Office Colonial Secretary correspondence)

Wellington Independent newspaper 29 October 1861

Signs of the Times – No better illustration of the different of the feeling existing between the two cares now and this time last year can perhaps be given than in the fact that the Bishop of Wellington has recently applied to the Auckland authorities to rent temporarily the Upper Hutt Stockade for the purpose of a School and place of Divine Worship.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 29 October 1861 page 5)

Wellington Independent newspaper 08 November 1861

We have had no intelligence from Auckland for a month and locally the most significant “sign of the times” is the reported application of the Bishop of Wellington for the hire of the Upper Hutt Stockade for temporary church and school purposes his Lordship expecting a clergyman shortly from England to supply that locality. The stockade was it will be remembered built last year as a protection to the settlers should they have to abandon their homes.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 08 November 1861 page 4)

The Anglican Minister James Edward HERRING and his wife Margaret arrived in the Valley in December 1861 to administer to members of the Anglican congregation. There was no Anglican Church in Upper Hutt at the time and it was not until 1863 that St John's Church was built.

Otago Daily Times newspaper 03 March 1862

A few months since the use of the stockade erected during the Taranaki troubles at the Upper Hutt was granted for church and school purposes now the Lower Hutt stockade had been applied for the use of the common school there and will no doubt be granted.

(Reference Papers past website Otago Daily Times newspaper 03 March 1862 page 2)

23 November 1868 - Memo for Mr Richmond

The Stockade in the Upper Hutt near Barton's Estate be put in repair. The Stockade in the Lower Hutt is now used as a school room. It has been renewed of gravel taken out of the walls which should be explained

G W Stafford 23.11.1968

(Draft letter to Mr Ludlam accordingly. The Government think that when ready the Volunteers should supply a guard of ten men to each stockade.

Ask Mr Ludlam to advise J C Richmond - 23 November 1868

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington AAYS 8638 AD1 77/ah CS 1868/4196 refer and order [with CD1869/614] S Fagan Chairman School Committee 14 January 1869 requests discharge for 10 for purchase of Hutt Stockade also enclosed is correspondence regarding the Upper Hutt Stockade)

24 November 1868 - Draft letter to Captain Ludlam 24/11/68

Sir

Under instructions from the Hon J C Richmond in the absence of the Defence Minister I have the honour to request you will be good enough to undertake the arrangements for enrolling & arming the militia in the Upper & Lower Hutt. The times & places you may best upon you will communicate to Col Reader in order that they may be published.

I am further ___ to direct an examination of the Upper Hutt stockade near Barton's and arrange for it to be placed in efficient repair without delay. [letter then covers Lower Hutt stockade]

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington AAYS 8638 AD1 77/ah CS 1868/4196 refer and order [with CD1869/614] S Fagan Chairman School Committee 14 January 1869 requests discharge for 10 for purchase of Hutt Stockade also enclosed is correspondence regarding the Upper Hutt Stockade)

1868 to 1869 – [8] Letters and memos requesting the purchase of the Lower Hutt stockade so that the building (used as a School for 4 years) could be relocated to a safer situation due to continual flooding of the river near the stockade. A report was done on condition of the Lower and Upper Hutt stockade.

The above information and records above is all the information I could locate regarding a school occupying the Blockhouse in the Upper Hutt district.

Folk lore details that James Lansdale was the teacher at the school in the Upper Hutt Blockhouse. Access to the Blockhouse was from Fortune Lane off the road running through the Upper Hutt district.

SCHOOL TEACHER

0- James LANSDALE born 1798 Antrim Northern Ireland died 31 August 1866 New Zealand married Scotland Mary Eleanor / Ellen born 1803-1819 Antrim Northern Ireland died 07 October 1872 New Zealand

#James Lonsdale age 31 gardener & Mary Lonsdale wife age 20 & May Jane Lonsdale children age 1 steerage passengers on ship Bengal Merchant departed Glasgow Scotland 30 October 1839 and arrived Post Nicolson (Wellington) 20 February 1840

#James Lansdale Wai-nui-o-mate gardener Jury List 1848 Port Nicholson

#James Lansdale Waiwetu Gardener Freehold Hutt District 1853-1864 Hutt Electoral Roll

#Disbanding No 2 Company Hutt Volunteers – Public Meeting – Mr Lansdale said he stood before them that evening to raise his voice against oppression. He was sixty six years old and he was proud to say was still able if necessary to assist in protecting his country. He had always shown his hatred for despotism in any form and would always try so far as was in his power to put a stop to it. He had travelled in Scotland and in England and had found none there and he certainly thought those who emigrated to this country [full contents not transcribed] reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 27 August 1864 page 3

#James Lansdale age 68 born about 1798 died 1866 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1866 folio 249 or 5750

#Fatal Accident – On Wednesday last as Mr James Lansdale was returning from the Wainui-o-mata to his residence on the Waiwetu the horse he was riding shied on meeting a female on horseback and threw him. He was picked up and taken to the residence of Mr John Dick when medical assistance was obtained he found that four of the unfortunate man's ribs were broken and that he had sustained other internal injuries. All that was possible to be done was affected but the injuries were so server that he died at five o'clock yesterday morning. Mr Lansdale was one of the earliest settlers having arrived here in the Bengal Merchant in 1840 and was greatly respected by a large circle of friends. Deceased was 68 years of age when

he met with the accident reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper
01 September 1866 page 4

#James LANSDALE died 31 August 1866 age 68 years & Mary Ellen LANSDALE died 07
October 1872 age 69 both buried St James churchyard Lower Hutt

#children of James & Mary Lansdale [1] Dorothy Lansdale (married Cook) [2] Mary Jane Clark
Lansdale (married Davidson)

RECORD COLLECTIONS

Publications

- Genealogy Resources in the Hutt Valley edited by Peggy Crawford for the Hutt Valley Group NZSG 1992
- Upper Hutt – the History by J A Kelleher 1991
- List of Names and Places from the book Upper Hutt – the history compiled by Janet Doyle June 2005

Archives New Zealand

- Colonial Secretary correspondence
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