

Albertland Heritage Museum Inc

Patron - Mr Alan Gibbs



Newsletter July 2023

Open Hours

Monday, Tuesday - Closed

Wednesday - Saturday - 11am to 3pm

Sunday - 1pm to 3pm

The Museum is open for visitors

STOP PRESS

The Albertland Heritage Museum has been able to secure a date for the next

Gibbs Farm Visit

Date : 26th October 2023

Harold Marsh Photographic Collection – Editor's Pick



2004-2-99-18 – Shepherd family arrive in their Wichita truck for a picnic at Marsh's beach.

One of my personal favourites – go to <https://www.facebook.com/AlbertlandHeritage> to find out more.

If you have a favourite photo in the Harold Marsh collection send an email to albertlandmuseum@gmail.com and we will include it in our newsletter.

Childhood Memories of Wharehine

Desmond Karl Witheford (known as Des) was the youngest child of Thomas Henry Witheford and Alfreda (Freda) Shepherd. Freda was the daughter of John Alfred and Mary Jane Shepherd (John Shepherd was the owner of the Co-operative store at Port Albert). Family trees can be complicated at the best of times but when a bride's sister or brother marries the sister or brother of the bridegroom another family connection is made and everyone becomes double cousins – have I got that correct? In this case Freda's brother, Leonard married John's sister Dorothy, or Dolly, as she was known. It was often said in the early days of settlement that the range of finding a partner was "the distance a horse could travel back and forth in one day."

Thomas Henry Witheford was born at 'The Grange' in Wharehine on June 19th, 1886. By age 17 he was earning his living working as a carpenter. After his marriage to Freda in 1915 they lived near the home of Freda's parents in an area known as 'Shepherd's Valley' on the Port Albert Road. In 1917, Thomas was called up to serve in World War I, and returned home to his family in 1919 when the war ended. Thomas and Freda purchased 36 acres in Witheford Road and lived in a corrugated iron shed for six months.

Thomas built a three-bedroom house for his family which he completed just before the arrival of Desmond, their ninth child. Thomas and Freda had a great garden with lots of vegetables which they shared with neighbours and friends. When the Regnault family moved next door, Thomas supplied them with vegetables, helping them in times of extreme hardship for which Mr. Regnault expressed his thanks to Des in later years, and in return he made some of the earliest concrete posts in the district on the Witheford farm, from a mould he purchased, and using sand from the river which Thomas bought back from his much-loved trips down the river.



2004.2.2007.152 Withefords Home 'The Grange' at Te Whau 10th July 1925

There was no doubt that Thomas Witheford was a hard-worker and he charged 'one pound a day after tax' for his carpentry skills. Locals preferred to use him during the summer months when the days were longer and they received more hours for their one pound a day after tax!

When Desmond was born, he was named after his uncle, Karl Shepherd, who had died during WW1 after becoming ill. He never returned home and was buried at sea. Des and his family had a good upbringing and

were taught to be honest and caring (especially to the younger members of the family) and to always use their initiative. The children were very active and loved to play games such as table tennis. Des and his siblings all found good wives and partners and each member of the family were avid gardeners.

On his first day at school, Des rode to Wharehine School perched on the handlebars of his sister's bike and he shared a desk at school with cousin, Bryan Sherwin. The children used a slate to write on at first before being presented with an exercise book issued by the school committee.

They played games such as 'rounders and 'echo'. To play 'echo' half of the children would be on each side of the shed and when someone threw the ball over the roof the aim was to catch the ball on the full and shout out 'echo'. Everyone would then run to the other side and throw the ball at the 'slow coaches' who would join the opposing team if they were hit). Des inherited a 'slide' made by his brother Laurie and he would rub candle grease on the underside to make it more slippery. The walk to school could sometimes be dangerous when the children encountered horses, cows and bulls who had escaped through broken boundary fences. On one occasion when a jersey bull had escaped, the neighbour, offered to escort the children 'safely' past the creature. He told the children, "I would like you to follow me, I will make the bull chase me and when he does, I want you to run as fast as you can!" This is exactly what happened, but just as the bull was on the neighbour, he stepped aside like a 'Spanish Matador' which resulted in the bull heading towards the boundary fence and trying to jump the fence. He caught his nose ring on the top wire and turned a complete somersault before landing, winded on the farm side of the fence.



2004.2.00.404 Wharehine School
Reunion 1939

The children ran as fast as they could to school and despite all the excitement were not late for class. Walking home was usually less exciting but on one occasion, Des and cousin Bryan decided to have a stone-throwing competition with the target being the A.A.A. (Auckland Automobile Association) signpost on Shegadin Road. Bryan told Des he was welcome to have the first throw and to everyone's amazement, Des hit it on his first attempt. When the boys went closer to see where they had hit the sign, they read the words, "TWO POUNDS



REWARD for anyone giving information to the conviction of anyone damaging this sign." The boys ran home, looking back for any sign of the little yellow A.A.A. car often seen in the district.

The war years brought with it many hardships, the men were overseas fighting and the women were helping on the farms. There were a shortage of teachers and bus drivers, so Mrs. Wiltshire drove the bus when very few ladies held a driving license. There were shortages of sugar, tea, petrol, tyres and even clothing but fruit was always plentiful and not required for essential exports so when Des was the apple monitor at school, he would take enough apples to each classroom for every pupil to have one a day. Chocolate was a rarity, but much to Des's surprise he received a large bar from the Farmer's Trading Co. (a large mail-order company that sold everyday household items). It was the store's policy to mark the occasion of the birthday of the youngest child of each household by sending them chocolate.

During the war years, thousands of American soldiers came to New Zealand to train in jungle warfare, practicing on little-used land such as the 'Run' or Okahukura Peninsula. The soldiers were based at Warkworth and Kaipara Flats but would travel to the 'Run' for manoeuvres. The soldiers were not used to driving on the left-hand side and caused many accidents on the local roads including the day when the Witheford children were travelling home on the school bus and noticed wheel marks up a bank near their home. Thinking to themselves, "What silly person would drive away up there?" they soon came across their father and sister Olive sitting in their car looking shocked as it had been them who had driven up the bank to avoid a U.S.A vehicle driving on the wrong side of the road. The children would often ride down to the American camp to see what they could scavenge, and on one occasion they found not only a screwdriver on the road, but also a small spanner which had very likely fallen from an unlocked toolbox spilling onto the ground.

The end of the war not only signified the last term of Des's primary schooling but also the return of his brother Walter from overseas service. Their father Thomas, Des and two of his brothers met the afternoon express train in Wellsford just before Christmas when his brother returned, making that holiday period a very happy one indeed. The end of the war also saw hundreds of army huts left behind in Warkworth. They were comparatively cheap, so Des's dad bought three of them. Ed Inger, the local carrier would take his truck to Warkworth and loaded the dismantled huts for their return to the Witheford farm.

Des did very well at school and gained good passes in School Certificate gaining him entry into Teacher's Training College where he trained to be a teacher. This meant leaving the district and everything he knew, nevertheless he retained all the wonderful memories of his upbringing and captured them in his book 'Gateways to the Run' which he dedicated to his wife Janice and his grandchildren. The museum has several books about local families which all tell similar stories, but each one is unique.

At the Albertland Heritage Museum we quite often hear the words, "I have been meaning to write a story about my life, but never get around to it." Our researchers would love to hear your stories and can record them for you. If this is something you would like to do, contact Rose (Curator/Secretary) at the museum (Phone 09 423 8181 or email albertlandmuseum@gmail.com) to make arrangements. Help us to help preserve tomorrow's history!

Our grand old Piano - the 'Boudoir Queen' Update

Just a little update on our story from the last newsletter about our Cornish Company Piano. We received a phone call from Warren Kelly who suggested that it may have been owned by the Pricor family who lived in the old homestead in Clagues Road many years ago. He recalled a piano which was American made being near the entranceway to the house and that it was very heavy! If you are descended from the Pricor family and can add to this story please let me know. I am happy to report that during a recent visit by Dawn Greenwood we were able to make a recording of her playing this beautiful piano and during our recent Volunteer's Lunch, Brian Becroft treated everyone attending to a beautiful rendition of classical music. Thank you to you both for allowing this 'old girl' to be enjoyed by everyone.



Dates to Remember - Coming Events

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 3rd August | Age Concern Rodney Health Promotion Seminars held at Wellsford RSA 11.30 am (see attached flyer). |
| 12th August | Rhona Olesen 100th Birthday Celebration (contact Museum for further details) |
| 13th August | Port Albert Church Service 1.30 pm (bring something for shared afternoon tea and a donation is appreciated to help with the upkeep of this historic church. |
| 19th August | Seniors Expo held at Wellsford District Community Centre (see attached flyer) |
| 24th September | Albertland Heritage Museum AGM at Wellsford RSA 1.30 pm – more information to follow in August newsletter |
| 26th October | Albertland Heritage Museum 'Gibbs Farm' Fundraiser (more information to follow in August newsletter) |

Marja Lubeck invites you to

Seniors Expo

with **Ginny Andersen, MP for Hutt South and Minister for Seniors**

Saturday 19 August | 10am–2pm

**Wellsford Community Centre,
224 Rodney Street**

Come along to find out what services and assistance are available to you from Central and local Government Departments, such as WINZ, AT and Local Board and local service providers.

Marja Lubeck

Labour List MP based in Kaipara ki Mahurangi

0800 582 325

marja.lubeck@parliament.govt.nz

[f/MarjaLubeck](#)



Authorised by Marja Lubeck MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington





Age Concern Rodney Health Promotion Presentation

Information is Power!

series of information sessions to help you navigate the issues that may arise as you get older.

Presenter: Paddy Sullivan

Venue: Wellsford RSA, Matheson Rd, Wellsford

First Thursday of the month

Time: 11am – 12.30pm

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| • 3rd August 2023 | Demystifying dementia |
| • 7th September | Communicating with people dementia. |
| • 5th October | Caring for people with chronic conditions (the impact on the carer) |
| • 2nd November | Advanced care planning |
| • 7th December | Enduring Power of Attorney Residential care transition |
| • 1st February 2024 | Support for seniors |
| • 7th March | Life without a car |
| • 4th April | Continence |

To find out more contact

Paddy Sullivan Ph: (09) 426 0916 or 021 425820

Email: hp@ageconcernrodney.org.nz

or

Jackie Steele Ph: 021 1150058

Democracy in Action – Albertland 1893

In July 1893 there was quite a stir in the district over the shifting of the Port Albert School. The existing school was considered by the Board to be not fit for the children to sit in, and too small for the numbers attending so had offered to replace it with a new building.

Five members of the seven-strong Committee were in favour of putting the school on a new site which would be much nearer to the bulk of children who were currently attending the school; however, the other two committee members opposed this shift arguing that with a recent spate of marriages in the district, the roll would subsequently rise and the walking distance for their children should also be taken into consideration. What a dilemma, and it was decided that the fairest way to settle this would be to call a Householder's meeting.



One week later, a meeting of the Householders of the school district was held on Saturday, August 5th, in the school, to settle the question where the new school should be built. There was great opposition shown on the one side to removal and a great determination shown on the other to have it removed to the site chosen by the majority of the Committee. Great interest was taken in the matter with some forty-seven attending. Mrs J. Shepherd was voted to the chair and did very well to keep the meeting in good order. Mr Neal, chairman of the School Committee was called upon to state the business for the meeting and read a lot of correspondence from the Board of Education in regard to the enlargement of the school, and stated that the Committee asked for an enlargement but when the architect came up to inspect the building he stated it would be cheaper to put up a new school than to add to the old one, which the Committee accepted, after which the

question of a new site was suggested by some of the Committee so as to bring it nearer the bulk of the children who have to come over the worst part of the road.

The fairest way was to call a meeting to consider the matter, whether it should be on the East or West side of the school property. Mr Mander was the first speaker to come forward for the west side, and stated that he and Mr T. Partridge had taken the trouble to measure the distance on his side, and showed a plan which some of the speakers ridiculed but which was a very good one for the purpose, and although it was on a small scale, was the right thing to set the whole question before the meeting as it showed the number of children that would have further to go if the school was removed, and the number that would gain a quarter of a mile, and which showed forty for the former and thirty for the latter which he contended should prove that the idea of shifting it would be wrong, and gave all the distances as near as he could get them. After a great deal of talk Mr J. C. Smith moved a resolution that a vote be taken to settle the matter which was duly seconded and carried; after which an amendment was proposed that it should be put on a central site which made three sites to choose from, so it was deemed best to have to ballot. The first ballot was to be old west site or new east site when 26 voted for the old and only 18 for the new, but the next ballot altered the state of the poll when 22 voted for the central site and 20 for the old site which was a gain of four votes.; so that settled the matter so far, and let us hope for good, as the distance on either side is not worth talking about. Mr J. Shepherd proposed that the Board of Education be requested to proceed with the erection of the new school as soon as possible, to get the new building finished before the warm weather sets in (if ever we are going to have any). A vote of thanks to the lady who presided was given, and all dispersed well pleased with the proceedings.

Excerpts taken from Papers Past Wairoa Bell, Volume V, Issue 208, 28 July 1893, Page 6 and Papers Past Wairoa Bell, Volume V, Issue 211, 18 August 1893, Page 3

Wishing all of our volunteers and supporters had a really Happy Birthday in June and July

June

12th Peter Cox

16th Kerrie Reid

16th Carol Henderson

23rd Clare Joensen

July

12th Tricia Cox

14th Lockie Reid



Historical Birthdays of "Albertlanders"

01st June 1874 Maurice Rupert Buckton

30th June 1889 Margaret Louise Grice

14th July 1890 Andrew Davies Armour

16th July 1884 Dora Lillian Stables

19th July 1877 Robert Wilkin Neal

OUR SPECIAL MUSEUM VOLUNTEER 'LYN JOHNSTON'

In Loving Memory
Lyn Johnston
1947—2021



To remember the birthday of Lyn Johnston, (former Secretary and long-time volunteer at Albertland Heritage Museum), some of our museum volunteers met up with her son Richard, brother Phillip and sister-in-law Caroline at Minniesdale on Tuesday, 4th of July. Lyn who lived in the historic Marsh homestead built by her grandfather Harold Marsh, was born in 1947 and possessed a wealth of knowledge about the local district and people who lived here. After sharing some carrot cake in her honour and lots of memories, the cold, wet weather was too much for the hardest amongst us and it was decided to head back to Wellsford to enjoy a nice coffee at Caffe Cozy and continue to remember this remarkable lady who is still very much missed by her family and our museum volunteers. Happy Birthday Lyn!



Bertha Alice (nee Neal) born 4th June 1883 and Leonard Bennett born 17th June 1892

Taken from 'This Love of the Land' – A story of a growing family written by Myrtle Neal for family reunion in 1985

This husband-and-wife duo of Bertha Alice Neal and Leonard Bennett both shared birthdays in June so there really wouldn't be any excuse to forget each other's birthday!

Alice as she was known was not only the 12th child of Alfred and Mary Neal but also the youngest daughter. Her parents didn't move to Port Albert until almost 10 years after the first 'Albertland' settlers arrived but they soon found themselves fitting in well with all aspects of the new settlement. From the social activities to the spiritual, Alfred and Mary turned their scrub and manuka-covered piece of paradise at the end of Harataua Road, Port Albert into a productive farm, producing eggs, vegetables, and fruit which they sold to the local store for income. Their first home in New Zealand had been in the Waitakere Ranges, on the outskirts of Auckland but when they moved North to Port Albert they lived in a two-bedroom house, raising a large family together. Everyday chores for Mary would be cooking, washing the dishes in a basin on the table, and bathing the children in a tub bought in for the occasion from outside, not to mention the arduous job of doing the laundry and getting it dry!! Alfred worked hard on the land, which he cleared before planting. The couple both had a keen interest in poultry, providing enough eggs for the family (some of which were preserved for the 'off season') and the surplus sold to supplement their income. Mary also loved to grow potatoes and would often be found planting them late in the evening under the moonlight when she had some spare time while her family slept. Like many farms in Port Albert, the soil proved to be quite suitable for the planting of fruit trees which became very popular amongst the locals. Alfred and Mary were no different and soon planted a variety of lemons, plums, peaches, nectarines, pears, and apples. By 1915, these trees reached the peak of their production, providing much fruit for the family and the district. The family was involved in all aspects of the everyday life of the district, especially the 'spiritual' side with Alfred a local preacher holding church services for the locals. The family's

kindness and compassion were never more evident than at Christmas time when the couple invited anyone in need or living alone to their home for Christmas dinner. Alfred died on 15th March 1919 and a few years later in 1922, his wife Mary died while brushing her hair before attending a Sunday church service.

Bertha (Alice) Neal attended the local school at Port Albert and was very skilled at embroidery and crochet. She also loved to play table tennis and would go by horseback to play against others, often arriving home in the early hours of the morning. In her early twenties, she worked as a housemaid in Auckland before marrying Leonard (Len) Bennett on 8th April 1912. After the untimely death of his father George Bennett in a drowning accident, Len and his wife Alice found themselves running the local store. Alice loved being involved in the business and successfully managed to run the shop and raise her family, sometimes having a baby in a tub beside her while serving customers. She was known to be a very efficient organiser, and often would take the lead on picnics to Hargreaves Bay on the 'Belle,' a launch owned by the family. She was also a great cook, pastries, and cakes were always provided for church teas and suppers. There was nothing she loved more than to accompany Len to Auckland on a buying trip for the store, it was her job to purchase items for the drapery side of the business, making the trip in their truck.

Alice also loved to fundraise for her church, with springtime coming earlier to Port Albert than many other places she implemented a scheme of sending daffodils, jonquils, and arum lilies by the thousands as far away as Christchurch to raise money for the Church Foreign Mission. This fundraiser was carried on by younger members of the family, for a total of forty years, until the 1960s.

All of Alice and Len's family worked at the iconic Bennett's store at some stage. Daughter, Grace, worked there for some years before marrying Rhys Williams before moving to Kaitaia to run their own store until 1973. Their son, Alf (married to Lena) was the buyer and manager for the store for over 50 years as well as the rural delivery run for mail and groceries. Joe also helped in the store along with milking the cows and running the farm, while Lloyd was Company Secretary, Accountant, and Postmaster. He was married to Laura and worked in the store until his death in 1980. Always helping others, Alice suffered a stroke while helping to push a car at a church concert at Port Albert Hall. She was taken to Warkworth Cottage Hospital where she died a few days later aged only 53.



2004-2-96-198 Outside Primrose Farm – wedding of Len Bennett and Bertha Alice Neal



2004-2-98-126 Wedding Bertha (Alice) Neal and Leonard (Len) Bennett in 1912

Community Fundraising Dinner 1st July 2023

On Saturday evening, 1st July 2023, local community group 'Support Your Local' held a Community Fundraising Dinner at the Wellsford RSA to raise money on behalf of Albertland Heritage Museum, Wellsford School (AIMS games) and Support Your Local community funding.



Melissa Wallace and Tania Hamilton (the organisers) worked tirelessly to organise this event, selling tickets, organising donations, and decorating the RSA for the dinner. This was truly an amazing effort that you made on our behalf.



A special mention must also be made for Shirley and Terry Blakemore and the Wellsford RSA volunteers for providing such an amazing two-course dinner to guests and the children who helped on the night. Lastly we cannot forget to mention Roger Farr, who did an outstanding job as Auctioneer to raise money for all the organisations involved.

Our museum would also like to publicly acknowledge all the businesses and individuals who donated items to make this a very successful evening.

Please check out the 'Support your Local' Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/221438451563521> for an update of everyone who donated.

If you were involved in any way, a big THANK YOU to each one of you from the Committee and Volunteers of Albertland Heritage Museum.

Go to Mahurangi Matters <https://www.localmatters.co.nz/health/dinner-helps-museum/> (July 25th 2023)

Wellsford Library 10th Anniversary Celebration



Wellsford Library Team

After receiving a very kind invitation from our neighbours at the Wellsford Library we joined with them to celebrate their 10th Anniversary since opening in 2013. After months of planning several groups took part in an enjoyable day with many visitors and locals enjoyed what was on offer. Games for the children, food stalls, displays by many of the



Albertland Heritage Museum stand

towns volunteer organisations (such as St Johns, RSA, Wellsford Genealogy group and of course Albertland Heritage Museum) there was so much for everyone to enjoy.

Congratulations to the Library team who spent many hours planning this special day. Thank you for bringing your expertise and skills to our community.

And of course, the volunteers at Albertland Museum wish Gene, who has been a very special member of the Library Team for several years now, all the best for his retirement overseas. We thank you for being such a great neighbour, checking on our volunteers, and our building (bringing in the flag left out by volunteers on several occasions) and for making sure our recycling bin was left kerbside every second Tuesday. Thank you, Gene, – we will certainly miss you and hope you come and visit us when you return.



Members of the Wellsford Genealogy Group



St Johns Volunteers on duty



Terry Blakemore from the Wellsford RSA

Volunteers Lunch – Sunday 23rd of July 2023

Each year we celebrate 'our volunteers' with a lunch made by our committee, so it is a good thing that we currently have 15 committee members who all catered for 40 guests who joined us to honour everyone who helps our museum in some way or another.

Volunteers who received a special mention this year were, Rob Lennon (Recognition of his long service and outstanding contribution to the museum running of Albertland Heritage Museum), Grahame Henderson (Long Service and Dedication as a Museum volunteer and outstanding skills as a researcher), Allan Peake (For excellent work with collection care and implementation of Health & Safety Policies), Pat Bennett and Pauline Stables (Long Service and Dedication given to Albertland Heritage Museum) and Peter Buckton (For service and dedication to Albertland Heritage Museum)

Chairman, Paul Allen also acknowledged several members of our community who also contributed in some way to our museum this year.

Brian Becroft (tuning our piano), Dawn Greenwood (for playing our piano at all our special events) Carolynne Andrew (for collaboration work with Wellsford Drama Club for 29th of May celebrations) Tania Hamilton and Melissa Wallace (for organising fundraising dinner on our behalf and supporting the museum in other ways throughout the year)

Terry and Shirley Blakemore – Wellsford RSA (for hosting multiple Museum events during the year at the Wellsford RSA)

Mitch and Rebecca (Hammer Hardware) – (for generous support of the museum)

This was a very enjoyable day, with a lovely lunch made by the Committee and enjoyed by all. Looking forward to next year.

Rose Reid (Secretary/Co-Curator)



Rob Lennon



Grahame Henderson



Peter Buckton

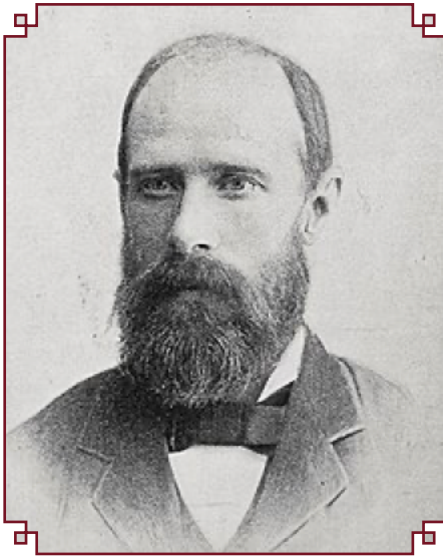


Pauline Stables

Visitors to the Museum

A big part of museum work is cleaning of artifacts, checking for damage, re-packing and recording or researching details. Some things stand out above all others, like the lovely old frame of a gentleman dressed in court dress with the label 'Sir Theophilus Cooper.' Immediately this was worth investigating, who was this important looking man and what connection did he have with Albertland? Curious to know more, I did a quick search on Wikipedia to find that Theophilus, born on 15th November 1850 in Newington, Surrey, England was the son of Susannah Bugby and her husband, Theophilus Cooper, a mercantile clerk. In 1862, the Cooper family travelled to New Zealand on the 'Gertrude' as part of the Albertland settlement scheme. In February 1863, when they finally reached the shores of New Zealand, they travelled north to their allotment in Port Albert but found that their attempts to farm the infertile land were unrewarding so by 1865, they returned to Auckland. The young Theo, while living in the Albertland settlement had picked up a job working for the

Albertland Gazette which then helped him to obtain a position on the Daily Southern Cross newspaper when they returned to Auckland, as the reader-boy, the lad who held the copy for the proof-reader. He rose to be chief compositor and the quickest typesetter on the staff, however, in 1869 he shifted to the legal office of J.B. Russell to become a bookkeeper. His employer, Mr Russell saw a brighter future for this young man and on 20th June 1878, Theophilus was admitted a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand. Yet,



Sir Theophilus Cooper (Jnr)

another story from this early settlement of a man who despite having only spent a short time in Albertland went on to become probably one of the most distinguished sons of Albertland,' receiving a Knighthood in 1921. He died at Eltham on 18th May 1925, survived by his wife, three daughters and two sons. This was such an interesting story of a self-made man I thought it worthy of more investigation and a story when time would allow. What came next was even more interesting! I am a great believer in the old saying, "everything happens for a reason" and soon after this discovery I was told about a lady who had commented on an Albertland Facebook page who was asking about opening hours of the museum. The following day, accompanied by family members, museum visitor Lynne arrived from Auckland asking about her Great Great Grandfather, Theophilus Cooper (Snr).

Lynne, a historian was accompanied by her husband, Graham and two other family members, was able to help museum volunteers to get a better understanding of her family. Thank you all for visiting Albertland Heritage Museum - "We don't meet people by accident, they are meant to cross our path for a reason."



Another recent visitor to the museum was June, who called in with her husband when travelling north. June's brother Wally Bilton had contacted the museum in 2018 with some family information after seeing a family photo used in our fundraising calendar. June and her brother Wally are both descendants of Frank Smith, son of David Smith and Kate Sharpe who were part of the Albertland Settlement. The family lived at Wharehine and were also connected by marriage to the Grice family. June was delighted to be shown a picture of the family's home in Wharehine and to her surprise when posing for a photo with the calendar noticed that she was standing next to the piano donated to the museum that once belonged to the Grice Family. Thank you for stopping by June, the information you and your family have provided helps us to continue to tell the story of the early Albertlanders. I hope you can visit us again soon!

VOLUNTEERING

Tucked away in the museum are letters, diaries, school registers and photographs that give an insight into what life was like for the settlers. Some of these items were written on board the ship when making the journey from England and others were written after their arrival while they settled into life in Albertland. Many of these items have been transcribed but there is a lot more to do and we need help! Sometimes the handwriting is hard to decipher but the work is rewarding and when completed this material can be made available to others for research into their family history.

We are looking for volunteers who can spare a little bit of time each week or month to help us with this ongoing work. Call us and have a chat.

09 423 8181 Wednesday to Saturday between 11am - 3pm