Palmer Family History

by

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supplementary material by MS added in end notes
chart on page 2 added by MS

VIEW OF NELSON HAVEN NOV 1841

WILL WATCH       WHITBY       ARROW

Charles Palmer came to New Zealand on Whitby
I married Ena Faith Palmer. Her father was Edmund Sutherland Palmer and her mother Edith Alice Gill. As a result of an article in The Christchurch Press 10 Sept 1940 contributed by A.C.P. a large amount of material on the Palmer family, their arrival in New Zealand and their subsequent history was available to me. The information in the article was given to A.C.P. by Mrs Salome Wayland, nee Palmer, daughter of Charles Palmer, when she was 86. I have been able to check some of this information and to add some points of further interest. Of the family of Edith Alice Gill I had very little information but have managed to establish something about their arrival in New Zealand and their history in New Zealand.

The writer of the above article would be A.C. Perrin. The attached family tree shows that Amy Ellen Palmer, fifth daughter of Charles and Emma Palmer, married Alfred Perrin, a journalist, and I think he or his son was the contributor.

Salome Wayland was born in Nelson in 1854. She knew her grandmother Miriam Palmer (b.1792), her uncles, her aunts, her parents, all born in England and destined to become pioneer settlers in Nelson and Kaikoura. She was about 11 when her father Charles moved to Kaikoura. Her story, given at the age of 86, is a pretty accurate and detailed story of her family, the detail often concerning events which happened over 100 years earlier. There are one or two minor errors.

CHARLES PALMER
Sailor and Settler
CAREER OF ADVENTURE RECALLED

(SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR THE PRESS.)
[By A.C.P.]

Because his parents wanted him to become apprenticed to a linen draper in England more than 100 years ago, a young Englishman, Charles Palmer, ran away from his home in Suffolk and went to sea, there to begin an adventerous life in all parts of the world. He took an active part in the engagements fought in the Mediterranean by the British Fleet during the Greek revolt, and those arising from hostilities between the Egyptians and the Turks. Later he became one of the early bands of pioneers who took up land under settlement schemes in the Nelson district.

His daughter, the last surviving member of the original family, Mrs Salome Wayland of Kaikoura, who celebrated her eighty-sixth birthday last month can recall many of the incidents told to her as a child by her father.

When he left his home Charles Palmer was between 12 and 14 years of age. He immediately joined the Navy, his first position being as a "powder monkey" on H.M.S. Powerful then one
of the units of the British Fleet in the Mediterranean under the command of Admiral Sir Charles Napier. Later, young Palmer was in charge of a gun and it was during the siege of Acre, a seaport in Syria, that he was badly wounded in the leg. The doctors wanted to amputate the limb, but he would not allow them to do so. Being unfit for further service in the Navy, he accepted his discharge after being awarded the Turkish Star and a Service medal.

Trading Across the Tasman
He later became a supercargo on a vessel trading to various parts of the Mediterranean, and on his return to England became associated with Captain Liardet, who took a brief but active part in the early settlement of the Taranaki Province. Palmer eventually arrived in New Plymouth to assist in carrying out the survey of the land on behalf of the company anxious to open up settlement. In the course of this work, during which there was constant trouble with the Maoris, Captain Liardet met with a serious injury which resulted in his resignation from office. Young Palmer accompanied the captain back to Sydney, and while the latter was recuperating from his illness he joined his older brother, Henry Palmer, and together they made several trips between Sydney and North Island ports, bringing cattle across the Tasman and taking back flax. Henry Palmer, being the sole owner of his ship, had for several years been profitably trading between Sydney and the Pacific Islands, and the extension of his sphere of operations to the Dominion added considerably to his wealth.

While spending a period of leave in Sydney between voyages across the Tasman, Charles Palmer met his future wife, a Miss Emma Webber, who was governess to the two children of a Mr and Mrs Gregory who had come out from England via Rio de Janeiro. While in Sydney Mr Gregory died and later his widow married Captain Liardet. Shortly afterwards they left for England accompanied by Miss Webber and Charles Palmer. On October 18, 1842, they were married at St Mary Abbout, the parish church of Kensington, London, and shortly afterwards they took passage accompanied by Charles' brother, John (on either the Whitby or the Will Watch - probably the latter), arriving in Nelson a few months later and taking up land under the settlement scheme, Charles at Appleby and John at Waimea West.

Farming In New Zealand
Not long after the two brothers had become established their mother, along with her youngest son, Robert, came out to Nelson. Robert eventually made his way to Kaikoura, probably about 1858, and, while digging some ground for the foundation of a house, unearthed the first and most perfect moa's egg found in New Zealand. It is now to be seen in the famous Kensington Museum. In 1859 Robert was in charge of the first flock of sheep to be run in the Clarence Valley.

Because of the constant flooding of his farm at Appleby (Nelson), Charles Palmer in 1864 decided to transfer his belongings and his family to Kaikoura, and, for this purpose, chartered the small sailing vessel Elizabeth. The transfer of his stock was a more perplexing problem, but eventually this was solved by a decision that the two eldest sons, Charles and Oscar, should drive these animals overland to Kaikoura. Such a journey was a much more formidable undertaking than in these modern days, but it was successfully accomplished, though not without incident and difficulty.

When the Elizabeth arrived off the Kaikoura coast, she was piloted into the landing place by whaleboats from George Fyffe's whaling station. Planks were laid from the ship to the rocks and the members of the family walked ashore. They were then taken by bullock dray to Charleston's accommodation house, which consisted of two mud whares situated on the site where the Adelphi Hotel now stands.

Charles Palmer purchased a section at Mount Fyffe, where the family lived and carried on farming pursuits until the flood of 1868 brought Luke's Creek and the Waimangaroa stream across the property and caused much damage. He then decided to move to his other farm about a mile further up the mountain slope, and well away from the effects of any flood-waters. Charles Palmer carried on his farming activities there until he died at the comparatively early age of 52 years, the farm being carried on by his son Oscar, who incidentally
was one of the first members of the Kaikoura County Council.

**Many Descendants**

Descendants of Charles and Emma Palmer are now scattered over the Dominion, extending from Auckland in the north to Invercargill in the south, and they number no fewer than 176 of whom 49 are great-great-grandchildren.

During the recent Dominion celebrations Mrs Wayland received the Centennial Medal, and was the recipient of many congratulatory messages. She has lived continuously in the Kaikoura district since her parents took up residence there more than 76 years ago, and she has taken a keen interest in the welfare of the district. Her father was a prominent member of the first Road Board established in Kaikoura, and his period of public service was in later years carried on by one of his sons, Oscar.

The majority of Charles Palmer's family married and settled down in the Kaikoura district, and many of their descendants to-day still farm areas developed in the earlier days. Charles Palmer's mother, Miriam Palmer, also resided in the district until her death. Details of her family are as follows: Henry (lived in Sydney), John (Waimea West), Salome (Nelson, married Lovel, Nelson), Charles (Nelson and Kaikoura), George (Sydney and later New Zealand), Stephen (Australia), Robert (Nelson and Kaikoura; died in Kaikoura).

Charles and Emma Palmer's family comprised four sons and five daughters. Charles (Kaikoura, bachelor), Oscar (Kaikoura, married Elizabeth Morrison), Annie (Kaikoura, married Charles Evans), Jane (Kaikoura, married William Gibson), Salome (Kaikoura married P. F. Wayland), Emma (Levin and Kaikoura, spinster), George (Auckland, married Emma Tarr), Amy Ellen (Wellington, married Alfred Perrin), Robert (Kaikoura, died in New South Wales).

In the above article Mrs Wayland refers to Suffolk as their home area in England. In his diary (more later) Robert Palmer states: 'when i was lonely in the long winter days i used to think of old bramford.' Bramford would then be a small village just north of Ipswich (now on the A45). Marion Palmer of The Gables, Waimea West, Nelson, told me they came from Ipswich. This fixes their birthplace, Bramford, on a river, near the sea, so the boys would have every opportunity of becoming familiar with ships and the sea.

To confirm this I wrote to Ian Palmer, great, great grandson of Charles Palmer and now resident in London and asked him to visit Ipswich and Bramford to search for Palmers. This he did and found Bramford completely rebuilt with none of the village atmosphere remaining.

He inspected the marriage register, the baptism register and the burial register of the Parish Church of Bramford in the county of Suffolk. He found these records "full of Palmers from 1750 onwards." He forwarded a very full list of these records from which I have been able to take the Palmer family record back to 1750. Charles Palmer's parents were John Palmer and Miriam Palmer. Unfortunately Miriam's maiden name was not found. Her marriage to John Palmer was probably recorded in an adjacent parish. The dates of baptism, and in most cases the dates of birth, of all their children were in the baptism register and I have recorded these on the Palmer family tree.

Street scene in Bramford, a short distance from the church.
John Palmer's parents were James and Susan Palmer. James was born in 1750 and about 1772 he married his first wife. Child bearing was a hazardous undertaking and infant mortality high as the following record shows:

To James and Elizabeth Palmer were born:

- Elizabeth baptised 4 March 1773 buried 17 March 1773
- James baptised 7 Aug 1774 buried 10 Aug 1774
- James baptised 19 July 1775 buried 3 July 1777

Elizabeth, the mother, died and was buried 18 March 1777

James, now a widower, married Susan Haxell 29 Sept 1778. James was now 28 and Susan 21.

To James and Susan were born:

- James baptised 5 Sept 1779
- John baptised 18 April 1783
- Samuel baptised 3 Apr 1786
- Susan baptised 7 March 1790
- Johnathan baptised 23 Oct 1791

John was to marry Miriam, and it was their children who were to emigrate to Australia and New Zealand. John was to die in 1847 and it was soon after this that Miriam and her youngest son Robert left England for New Zealand.

The Press article refers to the marriage of Charles Palmer and Emma Webber at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, London on 18 Oct 1842. When in London in 1963 I checked the marriage register and the date is correct. In the register Emma Webber's address is given as Orme Square. They were later to call their Kaikoura home Brentwood. Brentwood is a few miles N.E. of London. I wonder - could Brentwood have been her birthplace? Almost immediately they sailed for New Zealand. Mrs Wayland states they sailed on the Whitby or the Will Watch. This is not correct but I hope that I can account for her confusion on this point. They sailed on the Phoebe, 420 tons, Captain Dale, arriving Nelson 29 Feb 1843. They were cabin passengers and with them came brother John Palmer and their sister Salome Palmer. They occupied the fore cabin, paying £20 per head passage money.

Another cabin passenger was Donald Sinclair who became a magistrate in the Nelson district. One hundred and eighteen years later our son John Peyton Skipworth married Mary Sinclair Scott, great great granddaughter of Donald Sinclair.

The Phoebe passenger list gave their ages as John 32, Charles 30, Emma 28, Salome 22, but from the death certificates of Charles and Emma, from headstones on their graves in the Kaikoura cemetery, and from church birth registers, their ages were John 26, Salome 20, Charles 24, Emma 18. I cannot account for this discrepancy in ages - the Phoebe was the first ship to offer reduced fares. Perhaps age and reduction were related. It is interesting to note that Donald Sinclair's age was reduced from 40 to 28. Passenger lists are not a very accurate source of information.

Charles and Emma must have been unique emigrants in 1843. Charles had been in New Zealand in New Plymouth in 1841, returned to England to marry Emma, and then back to New Zealand for the second time in 1843. Few men had done this by 1843. Emma had been in Australia with the Gregorys before 1842, returned to England, and then after her marriage
to Charles, came to New Zealand in 1843. Very, very few women, if any, had had that experience by 1843.

They are buried in the Kaikoura cemetery, their grave being in the top east corner, and a stone, still in a good state of preservation in 1974 states "In loving memory of Charles Palmer died June 23 1870 aged 52 also his wife Emma died Oct 19 1876 aged 52. Pioneers."

Marion Palmer of The Gables Waihoe West, granddaughter of Charles Palmer's brother John, has given some of their cabin furniture to the Dominion Museum. The main piece is a canework settee which could be adapted for use as a cabin bed. It was made by S.W. Silver and Co Outfitters London and Liverpool. Other items are a cabin trunk, cowhide covered and brass nail studded and a carpetbag. Pictures of these items and further descriptions of them are to be found in a book Colonial Furniture by Northcote Bade.4,5

How did Mrs Wayland think her parents had come to New Zealand in the Whitby or Will Watch? I think the answer is to be found in her description of Charles Palmer's association with a Captain Liardet. Captain Francis Liardet was appointed by the New Zealand Company to be their agent in New Plymouth. He sailed on the Whitby, 347 tons, Captain William Lacey, from Gravesend on 27 April 1841 and arrived in Nelson on 18 Sept 1841. He arrived in New Plymouth on the Regina on Oct 18 to take over from Captain King. The passenger list of the Whitby included a William Palmer, servant, aged 19. Liardet did not last long in New Plymouth. Salome stated he was wounded in an accident. She is quite correct. About Dec 1 1841 he was endaevouring to fire one of the cannon salvaged from the wreck of the Regina. After some difficulty in igniting the powder it went off accidentally while his face was close to the muzzle. He suffered greatly and it was doubtful if he would be able to see. On 3 March 1842 he, together with a Mr Palmer sailed for Sydney aboard the brig Caroline arriving Sydney 14 March. Taken in conjunction with Salome's story I think William Palmer and Mr Palmer were in fact Charles Palmer.

The above is all confirmed in a letter written by Charles Palmer and contained in Letters from Settlers & Labouring Emigrants in the N.Z. Company's settlements of Wellington, Nelson and New Plymouth, February 1842 - January 1843, London, Smith, Elder & Co., 1843. On page 177 is the following:

From Mr Charles Palmer, to the Editor of the New Zealand Journal.

London, 12th September, 1842

Sir,

Having gone out with the Nelson Expedition last year, and proceeded from Wellington to New Plymouth with Captain Liardet, from whence I have just returned with him, and having experience of six month's residence in the country, I wish to offer a few observations respecting New Zealand.

I had conversation with many settlers at New Plymouth, particularly as regards the land, and their opinion of the capabilities of the place. The general opinion is, that there could be no better soil in any country: it is well watered by the rivers Huatoki, the Enui, and the Waitera. The place is well covered with timber; and just before I left they had discovered coal about four miles inland in some quantity. The beach is covered with a sand in which quantities of iron have been discovered.

The soil is a black vegetable mould, about four feet or from four to six feet deep; generally speaking the sub-soil is a yellow clay. Gooseberries, among other fruits, grow plentifully; and all kinds of vegetables will grow.

I have brought home a very good sample of wheat, grown about three-quarters of a mile from the shore on the northern side of the town. The soil was merely rooted up, and the seed put in, and the wheat was cut in February last. The Indian corn also thrives very well; indeed, it is finer at New Plymouth than I have seen it in any other part of the world: the natives use a great deal themselves. New Plymouth produces, in my opinion, finer potatoes than anywhere in the Islands of New Zealand. The natives get two crops a year, merely scratching the ground with a stick before planting. Watermelons are in quantity and are eaten also by the natives.
The timber is very fine about three-quarters of a mile from the town, and may be floated down
the rivers. The red pine is easily worked, and I have seen some furniture, drawers, and chairs
made of it; the grain is close, and susceptible of a high polish. The furniture has a handsome
appearance; some chairs were made for Mr Cutfield.

The flax is in abundance, and very superior, being almost entirely the tall flax. There are whole
fields of it, and it appears finer than what is generally seen.

In the months of December, January, February, and March is beautiful weather; and the
roadstead is then perfectly safe. The New Zealand Company have sent out moorings, which
were laid down just before we left, and which enable vessels to lie in safety throughout the year.

By inserting these remarks you will oblige your obedient servant,

Charles Palmer

P.S. I have only accompanied Captain Liardet here on account of the accident which befel him;
but it is my intention to return in a very short time to New Zealand.

I think he was originally bound for Nelson as a settler, but his association with Liardet took
him to New Plymouth, to Sydney where apparently he fell in love, returned to England to be
married and then carried out his 'intention to return in a very short time to New Zealand.'

Liardet's opinion of New Plymouth was stated in one of his reports: 'One might just as well
live on a solitary rock in the middle of the ocean.' (28 Nov 1841 Report to N.Z. Coy.)

No doubt Salome as a small girl had heard stories of this adventurous period in her father's
life and associated his arrival in New Zealand with the Whitby or the Will Watch. She was
correct when she stated that her father Charles first came to New Zealand on the Whitby or
the Will Watch, but Charles and his wife Emma certainly came to New Zealand on the
Phoebe. It is strange she did not mention the Phoebe.

In her story she associates Charles Palmer with naval service in the Mediterranean under the
flag of Sir Charles Napier on H.M.S. Powerful, the siege of Acre, the Greek revolt. All this is
probably correct. Napier had had a colourful career, financially ruined by 1827 and
dismissed. He was brought back into service and appointed to the Galatea. While cruising in
the Azores area he decided to support the Queen of Portugal against Don Miguel - and was
again struck off the Navy list. He continued to give his services to the Queen who made him
a grand commander of the Order of the Tower and Sword. My great grandfather, John Henry
Skipworth, had also fought in Portugal on the Queen's side and he also was rewarded with
the Order of the Tower and Sword, the badge of the order still being in my possession. On
Napier's return to England he was appointed second in command of the Mediterranean fleet
and in 1838 hoisted his flag in H.M.S. Powerful. He led the storming column at Sidon on 26
Sept 1840 and on 4 Nov 1840 bombarded Acre. Salome's story of Charles Palmer at this
stage of his career fits fairly well into actual history. From the above dates Charles had to
move fairly quickly, heal a wound, return to England, be discharged and be ready to sail with
Liardet for New Zealand in April 1841.

Salome states in her article that her grandmother Miriam Palmer lived with her son Charles
and his family when he moved to Kaikoura, residing there until her death. Her death
certificate states she died in Nelson on 8 March 1866 and there is a headstone in the
graveyard at St Michael's, Waimea West, which states 'Sacred to the memory of Miriam
Palmer, died 8 March 1866 age 74.' I doubt if Miriam ever came to Kaikoura. She was born
in 1792. There must have been very few women born in England before 1792 who came to
live in New Zealand.
To return to the *Phoebe*:

The surgeon on the *Phoebe* was Dr Greenwood. He was aided by an assistant selected from the passengers, it being important to choose a man of responsible character and some education for the assistant to the surgeon had to be schoolmaster too. Dr Greenwood considered that his assistant, Charles Palmer, had by his firmness and tact very much contributed to the order, regularity and harmony which prevailed amongst the passengers.

In *Phoebe* report of N.Z. Company

He received £25 for his services. I can well imagine that a man with Charles Palmer's experience - naval service, previous experience of New Zealand conditions, well educated for the time - would be a very useful man in this position of assistant to the surgeon.

John Palmer settled in Waimea West. On the *Phoebe* passenger list he was described as a merchant and apparently put this training to good use. The Waimea West soil was very tough and required the use of very heavy ploughs, drawn by oxen rather than horses. He bought a team of oxen and put them to good use. In addition most Waimea settlers came from Nelson by boat, landing at Cotterells landing place. So with land to be ploughed and goods to be carried he established an excellent business. His first home was burnt down after which he decided to build a new home in permanent materials. 60,000 bricks were burnt on the property and a very substantial home, complete with slate roof was built. This was *The Gables* built in 1862; it must have been one of the finest homes in the Nelson area and in 1974 is still a graceful building in a good state of preservation and occupied by Miss Marion Palmer, a daughter of John Palmer's son Louis. Attached at the back of the house is a long lean-to building forming the kitchen and work area. The old hand pump and well are in this section. In the room on the left front (as you look at it from the road) he conducted a store, a post office and operated a licence to sell liquor which accounts for him being described as a merchant, farmer, publican. As he prospered he no doubt extended his farming enterprise. In an old photograph I noticed oast houses at the rear of the house. Marion Palmer informed me he was one of the earliest settlers to grow hops in Nelson and that he owned two early hotels, namely the *Volunteer Arms* and the *Waimea Inn*.7,8,9
Sister Salome married a Lovell. Marion informed me that she thought the family felt she was marrying 'beneath her station' - a cabin passenger to someone described as 'a labouring emigrant'.

Earlier I mentioned Robert Palmer (1836-1865). After the Palmers (Charles, Emma, Salome and John) had become established in Nelson the youngest member of the family, Robert, together with his mother Miriam, now a widow, emigrated to Nelson. Their arrival date is not known in Palmer family circles and the Turnbull Library has not been able to trace their arrival. My own reckoning would place it between 1849 and 1851. It is possible that they came from England to Sydney by immigrant ship to contact Miriam's sons there and then carried on to New Zealand on a trading vessel. In this case no record of their arrival would have been kept. Robert worked about in the Nelson, Blenheim and Kaikoura districts and by 1864 considered himself fortunate to be appointed manager on R. Fyffe's station at the Kahutara. He kept a diary which has survived and is preserved in the Fyffe papers at the Canterbury Museum. It is foolscap size, a space for each day of the year 1864, and interleaved with pink blotting paper.

An entry is made every day of the year and records weather, activities on the run, comings and goings to Kaikoura, men employed, visitors, cash transactions, arrivals of the coastal vessel Ruby. Salome states her brother Charles came to Kaikoura in 1864 but in Robert's diary there is not a single reference to Charles or his family. He records receiving letters from his mother 22 Feb, 21 June, 2 Oct, and writing to his mother on 1 March, 1 May, 5 June and this seems to prove his mother was not in Kaikoura in 1864. The only personal record is written in a few spaces early in the diary where he records some of his earlier experiences.

My Dear Friend you must not think that I had forgotten my old Bramford friends because I did not write to you before I can assure you I have often thought of you although so far away. I was very glad to see your letter that you sent to my mother I should have answered it before but I had not seen mother for 3 years until last July. Then I went to see her and she showed me your letter. She could not read it her self as her sight is getting very bad and the ink had faded on the voige. So she could not answer it before.

I wrote to you in July last but my letter was very short and I now have no nouse to tell you so I will give you an account of the life I have led since I came out here.

When I first came out I engaged for 12 months as a storekeeper for £18 pr year at a place called the Wairau distant 120 miles from Nelson and there was very few people living there then. The next year I engaged as a shepherd at 25 £ pr year I had to live alone and my work was to range about over the mountains with my dog and gun I staid in the Wairau as shepherd for seven years then as I had got so used to living alone the inhabertants was getting to thick for me so there was a new place found but a long way inland. It was between two high ranges of mountains one range is 12,000 feet high and the other is 8,000 feet high. They have snow on all year round and in the winter no one can cross over them. A gentilman asked me if I wold go to live in this place and I told him I wold for good wages so he offered me £100 pr year and rations. So I started with 1600 sheep from the Wairau on 2 of April 1859 and arrived at my gourney' end on the 22th of the same month I had five men went with me to help drive the sheep and horses as I had to take Flour, tea and Sugar enough to last me six months. The men staid with me five days to help me to build a hut with long grass and then when that was done then they bid me good by, lo and left me to my fate for the winter and I never saw any one until the 9 of Nov. it was when I was all alone in the long winter days and nights that I used to think of old Bramford and every one that I knew there I staid in that place for 3 years until I was out one day and got caurt in a very heavy snow Storm and had to stop all night in the snow it was 4 feet deep it very nearly killed me I had to go to Nelson and was there 4 months under the doctors so I gave up my place turn once then I got the situation that I am in now as manager of a sheep Station. My wages is £100 pr year and every thing found me and two horses to ride, as I was tired of living alone and so far a way from any town.
The 'Gentilman' referred to in Robert Palmer's story would be J. Ward. Early in 1857 he had applied for a run in the Clarence in the area below the Acheron junction. He applied again in May and the application was for land on the south side of the Clarence between the Gore and the Tytler. To use this land efficiently he needed a route from the lower Wairau. In 1858 he found that route up the Waihopi, crossing to the Awatere, up the Awatere to the Tone, over the Tone saddle down to the Clarence upstream from Quail flat and the Tytler. Travelling with 1600 sheep could well have taken Robert Palmer 20 days as he travelled over this route. What a prospect, winter near, his accommodation a grass hut, not another person for miles, food primitive, everything primitive, and a Clarence winter closing in.

Ward had found a route through the inland Kaikouras but he still had to find a route over the Seaward Kaikouras through which he could take his sheep to Fyffe's at Kaikoura for shearing. Ward returned in the early summer to search for that route and discovered the Palmer Saddle in January 1860.

Robert Palmer certainly earned the right to have his name preserved in this area and his name occurs on today's maps - the Palmer Saddle, the Palmer Stream, the Palmer yards and Mt Palmer. They can be found in the inch to the mile series NZMS Charwell Sheet S48. The Palmer Saddle is 3185 feet map ref 572980 between the Clarence and the Conway Rivers, the Palmer Stream runs down from the Palmer Saddle into the Clarence, the Palmer Yards map ref 617078, Mount Palmer 3239 ft map ref 634091. The Palmer Yards are probably in the area in which his grass hut was built. To reach Kaikoura he probably travelled up the most westerly branch of the Palmer Stream over the Palmer Saddle and down the Conway until he reached a point about 6 miles above the present Charwell School. On the present day maps a foot track is shown from Quail Flat to the Willows Hut to the Palmer Yards to the Palmer Stream, up the Palmer Stream over the Palmer Saddle and down the Conway. The run was known as the Warden.

Some further quotations from Robert Palmer's diary are of interest. At one time in 1864, 28 June, he records that he started for Nelson having received £50 from Mr Fyffe (wages for six months probably).

"my fellow countrymen and I volunteered into the 5th regiment of foot of which General England was the Colonel. Other foreigners went with us to the number perhaps of twenty-five of whom several though they presented themselves as Italians or Germans were in point of fact Frenchmen."

He returned on 3 Aug leaving a month's gap in his diary but he later filled in this month as for January 1865.

He records that on 25 Jan 1865 he 'went from W.B.'s to Blenheim with the plough.' On 26 Jan he records 'came to Lyfords'. This would be Thomas Lyford at Clarence Ferry, Fay's great grandfather.
Some further extracts from the diary are:

- the Ruby brought the bricks
- came home with the bricks (for chimney or for well?)
- saw Gilling at the sawpit
- went up to the bush for timber and shingels
- weight of tobacco W Smiths tobacco 210 lbs
  weight of tobacco in shed 360 lbs
  weight of tobacco total 570 lbs
- many references of 'wood to Kaikoura'
- a few references to liquor 'Dickinson came home drunk'
  'Mr McInes came over but too tipsy to work'
  'Mr Harmon came home at night but left Thompson drunk on the road. Thompson came home in the morning.'
- lots of expeditions to catch straying horses, cattle and sheep
- Sunday was recorded as a day of rest and he seems to have spent many Sundays or part of them at Dickinson's.
- Sheep shearing tallies
  Smith 63
  HB 20
  Kerepted 66
  Preston 68

In May 1865 he was found one morning lying dead beside his horse in front of the Kahutara run homestead Rakanui Gully (marked R on my sketch map). Marion Palmer of The Gables has the following letter:

Picton May 12 65

Mr John Palmer,

Sir,

I am very sorry indeed to have to write to you this letter. It contains some very sad news. Mr Fyffe is from Kaikoura is here attending council. A special came a/c today to tell him that your brother Robert had been thrown from his horse last Friday (May 9th) and killed. Poor fellow. I sympathise with all his friends especially his poor mother. I do not write to her as I think it better that you should break the matter to her. Your brother slept at Mr Fyffe's house a the Peninsula rode by My Fyffe's house at the Kahutara about eight miles. He was well, spoke to one of the men in a joking manner and ten minutes after (one) of the men named Gilling found him quite dead in front of the house. Mr Keene J.P. examined the body and the only mark visible was a slight bruise on the temple and nose. This I learn from a letter of Mr Keene's. Mr Fyffe will write to Mrs Sharp as most probably your brother died without a will - Poor fellow I feel extremely sorry. He was a faithful good fellow. I sincerely hope he is better off. It is the will of God which is the only consolation.

I am truly yours

B.S. Ward (not sure of initials)

In Palmer family circles for the last hundred years Robert Palmer was the man who discovered a complete moa egg while digging foundations for Fyffe's house on the Kaikoura peninsula. The house still stands in 1974 and has been occupied by the Low family for many years. George Low, the present occupant, was able to point out the spot where the moa's egg was found, in the angle of the shape of the house. The foundations of the house are the vertebrae of whales, huge blocks of whale bone, just as solid as the day they were put in 114 years ago. On the property are huge whalebone gateposts and some whalebone fence posts. The family story is that the egg had been sent to the Science Museum at Kensington, London. We searched for it in 1963 but could not trace it. Since then the egg has come to light, has obviously been sold and resold, but has finally come home to the Dominion Museum, Wellington. The Dominion Museum has a publication "Dominion Museum Records in Ethnology Vol 2 No 9" headed "The Kaikoura Moa Egg." It gives a very full account of the wanderings of this egg. Most of the accounts give its finding as late 1859 or early 1860.
Robert Palmer was almost certainly at Fyffe's in early 1860. He was in charge of sheep in the Clarence in 1859. Ward and Dan Brennan discovered the Palmer Saddle over the Seaward Kaikouras 17 Jan 1860 and returned to where Palmer was holding the sheep. Ward went on to Kaikoura and Palmer and Dennis almost certainly brought the sheep to Kaikoura for shearing. A snag in the above story is that Torlesse states in his journal 23 Oct 1857 'saw the egg found by Mr Fyffe recently.' I still would not dismiss Robert Palmer's claim. He had been in the Wairau area 1851-1859 and it is possible he was in Kaikoura at some time in those years.

Other references to Robert Palmer in the Ward papers:

Agreement with Robert Palmer May 30 1853
Engaged as asstn shepherd and to do any necessary work belonging to the station from 1 year from the date he arrives at the station for the yearly wage of £20.
To Mr Jas Ward West Wairau signed Robert Palmer

Also in Ward papers: Wairau September 3rd (sic) 1853
Please pay Thomas Wholf the sum of £2 pounds on my account
Robert Palmer (sic)

At this distance in time it is difficult to reconstruct the movements of Charles Palmer and his family after their arrival in Kaikoura by sea. Salome Wayland states he arrived in 1864 and purchased a section on Mt Fyffe. I think he arrived in Kaikoura in 1865. In May 1865 Ward had written from Picton to John Palmer in Nelson informing him of Robert Palmer's death and asking him to convey the sad news to his mother. Had Charles and his family and his mother been in Kaikoura the natural assumption would be that Charles as next of kin on the spot would advise the relations in Nelson of Robert's death. Edmund Oscar Palmer reports arriving in Kaikoura early in 1866 after an overland trip with stock.
Charles had struggled at Appleby from 1843-1864, floods regularly bringing destruction to his efforts. In 1864 and until May 1865 Robert Palmer was managing Fyffe's Kahutara run but in his diary makes no mention of seeing his brother Charles or his stock. The Kaikoura reserve was first offered for sale on 29 Feb 1864 but sales were few and continued very slowly for the next few years. Robert states he left Kaikoura in July 1864 and went to Nelson. No doubt he discussed Kaikoura with Charles while in Nelson and told him of the land available in Kaikoura. As a result of these discussions Charles may have decided to give up in Nelson and try his fortune in Kaikoura. If I am correct in assuming Charles arrived in Kaikoura in 1865 another event may have influenced his decision. His brother Robert died in May 1865 and Robert, early in 1865, had been granted a section on Mt Fyffe, the section which was destined to become Brentwood. (A on my map.)

I asked the Lands and Survey Department Blenheim for any information they had on land held by Charles Palmer 1864-1870. They sent me a copy of the certificate of title to Brentwood. The certificate describes 'the fifty-six acres three roods and eighteen perches more or less ..... as the same was originally granted the thirty first day of January one thousand eight hundred and sixty five under the hand of Sir George Grey K.C.B. the Governor of New Zealand and the seal of the colony to Robert Palmer, aforesaid settler.'

The title in which the above statement is made is in the name of Charles Webber Palmer of Kaikoura and is dated 28 Feb 1874. The compound name is interesting as Webber was Emma Palmer's maiden name. Why this name? An early joint family home idea? Charles had died in 1870 so nine years after Robert's death and four years after Charles' death the title came to Charles' widow Emma.

The Lands and Survey department informed me they had no record of any land purchase made by Charles Palmer between 1864 and 1870. A few 10 acre sections, six of them on the Lyell Creek, had been granted to whalers. I think it was on one of these sections that Charles Palmer first settled. He had brought a horse driven flour mill to Kaikoura in 1864 and by 1870 his sons, Charles and Edmund Oscar had installed a flour mill powered by a water wheel situated midway between Hawthorne and Mill Road on the Lyell Creek. I think Charles soon moved to a farm at the junction of Postmans and Mt Fyffe Road. A chance meeting with Tom and Jim Hemingway on 30 March 1974 provided me with some useful information, namely that the original Palmer home on the mill site was still standing, on what is now 181 Beach Road, and that Fay's father had told them he was born in this house in 1871. I later checked this in the Kaikoura Herald. In the 3rd June issue 1871 the birth is recorded 'Birth on 28th inst at the Lyel Mill Kaikoura the wife of E.O. Palmer a son.' No living Palmer knew this. We went to visit the old home, cruised round, crossed Lyell Creek by footbridge and a few things
clicked into place. The Palmer mill was certainly at this point on the Lyell Creek. There was a race which looked as if it might have brought water down to the wheel. Edmund Oscar used to recall listening to the sound of the mill during the night. Edmund Oscar and Elizabeth's second son Charles Oscar was also born here. They lived and worked here until 1873 when the whole mill site was sold to Harry Parsons. In 1876 the mill was taken over by Athelston Parsons who moved it 300 to 400 yards upstream. Rex Boyd remembers the remains of the old mill wheel and mill stone lying on this site. Here too the line of an old water race can still be seen (1974). The water was drawn off into a race at a point upstream from the Mill Road bridge and ran down a race which crossed Mill Road about a chain west of the bridge. The Palmer house now over 100 years old and in some state of disrepair is a substantial one, on wooden piles and of pit sawn timber. In 1873 Edmund Oscar and his family would have had to vacate the mill site. Fay remembers her father telling her he walked to the Suburban school from the Hales Creek area, a long walk for a small child so perhaps Edmund Oscar and family moved top this area in 1873 before moving to Brentwood in 1882.

Soon after his arrival Charles must have moved to a farm situated at the junction of Postmans Road and the Mt Fyffe Road, marked E on my map. A glance at the map shows how vulnerable this site was to flooding from Lukes Creek and the Waimangarara. It was from here that the great floods of 1868 drove him out, as Salome says 'to his other farm about a mile further up the mountain slope.' Brentwood is about 'a mile further up the mountain slope' and fits the description of 'his other farm.' So Charles and Emma, plagued by floods as in Nelson, settled in at Brentwood in 1868. By this time Charles and his sons would have cleared some of the bush from Brentwood and started to farm the cleared land. The Palmers seem to have been capable and experienced house builders and soon after 1868 the first home on Brentwood must have been built.

Two years after the title of Brentwood came to Emma she died, 1876. At this time the youngest of her children would be unable to fend for themselves but I have no information on how they managed, or were managed. By now the farm was a going concern with some improvements and stock. Once again it took a long time to get the ownership of Brentwood straightened out - six years in fact. The next entry on the title is:
Transfer Number 659    Charles Webber Palmer to
                      Edmund Oscar Palmer 25 Jan 1882

So Edmund Oscar was now the official owner of Brentwood. Apparently he needed some money, perhaps to pay out the other members of the family because on the same day he took out two mortgages:
Mortgage 360    Edmund Oscar Palmer to  
                Francis Pallisier Wayland 25 Jan 1882
Wayland's wife was Salome Palmer, sister of Edmund Oscar, and the Salome Wayland who was to provide the Press article in 1940.
Mortgage 361    Edmund Oscar Palmer to  
                Robert Warner 25 Jan 1882

He discharged both these mortgages in 1884. In 1889 he again took a mortgage on the property and discharged it in 1898. The next entry on the title is:
Transfer No. 5218  Edmund Oscar Palmer to 
                Edmund Sutherland Palmer of Kaikoura, farmer 10 July 1914

From the time of their marriage in 1902 Fay's mother and father had worked hard on Brentwood without any real security as the property was held in Edmund Oscar's name until 1914. Titles were also transferred to Charles Oscar, Glenburn Morrison and William Arthur at this time. Robert Daniel had died in November 1913, and his wife in February 1914. Perhaps these two events influenced his decision.

Edmund Oscar Palmer, son of Charles Palmer, was born in Nelson in 1846. At the time his father decided to leave Nelson and settle in Kaikoura, 1864 (or 1865), Edmund Oscar was 18. While the family moved by sea to Kaikoura the movement of the stock to Kaikoura was by overland route, the two oldest sons Charles and Edmund Oscar being responsible for driving the stock from Appleby to Kaikoura. I have no information on their route but it would almost certainly have been Appleby - Golden Downs - Top House - Old Tandale - Acheron River - Clarence River - Jollies Pass - Hanmer - Waiau - Chanwell - Kaikoura. This route had been discovered by Weld in 1855 and it was soon in use as the shortest stock route from Nelson to Canterbury. In 1864 38,500 sheep are reported to have used the route. It must have been a difficult and exciting trip for two young men. The distance from Appleby to
Kaikoura would be about 200 miles. The time? In 1904 regular drovers were taking 21 days from Nelson to Hanmer. Another 8 or 10 days to Kaikoura, a total of 30 days, and this probably good weather time.

In his old age Edmund Oscar Palmer described Kaikoura as he first saw it in 1866 as a young man of 20 (Kaikoura Star 7 Dec 1923 - Canterbury Museum).

It was in its primitive state, covered with a dense crop of vegetation viz toi toi, flax, bulrush, niggerheads, fern, tutu, cutty grass, koromiko and many of the bush shrubs, on the edge of the small streams, which flowed very slowly, and left the whole place covered with water and bogs of a very soft nature. In many places you could push a pole into the bogs for 15 feet or more in depth before reaching anything solid. Even the small gullies running into the Ludstone Block were impassable for traffic, therefore the only means of getting round to the drier land on the slopes of Mt Fyffe and the Kowhai was over the Peninsula, round the South Bay, and up the Kowhai River, or up the beach nearer the sea than the present road runs, and part of the way on the sand near the sea as far as Harnetts Creek. From this point up past Inglis's house, thence along a break in the bush to the Waimanariri, above the Postman's Road, crossing over Brougham's Creek and Schoolhouse Road near the Presbyterian Church (this was at the north west corner of the junction of Schoolhouse and Red Swamp Roads) thence above the line of the road to the English Church, crossing Garrett's land to the Kowhai crossing.

I have marked this track on my map.

Edmund Oscar was to marry Elizabeth Morrison. Their marriage certificate shows that the marriage was recorded at the Registrar's Office Kaikoras on 17 Aug 1870, certificate number 14. Their marriage is also recorded in the Kaikoura Herald 20 Aug 1870: 'On the 17 instant at the Registrar's Office Kaikoura by J Goodall Esq. Registrar for the district, Mr E.O. Palmer to Miss Elizabeth Morrison, both of Kaikoura.'

The 'both of Kaikoura' is interesting. How did Elizabeth come to be living in Kaikoura? The bridegroom was described as a miller. His wife's parents were Daniel Morrison and Elizabeth Cooper and from this point I tried to get some information on Daniel Morrison and Elizabeth Cooper. Fay and her cousins had heard of their great grandfather as a sea captain, drowned at sea, and of their grandmother as related to the Coopers of the now well known seed firm. The Turnbull Library was, as always, very helpful, and what follows is a summary of their information.

Samuel Cooper, a tailor, of Montacute Somerset, was born in 1801. He and his wife Elizabeth, born 1806, arrived in Wellington on board the Oriental Oct 29 1841, accompanied by their six children aged 16 years to six months. They were

Charlotte, a seamstress, 16 years
Thomas, a labourer, 14 years
Mary Ann, 12 years
Betsy, 9 years, born 1831
James, 5 years
Frederick, 6 months

The Turnbull Library notes stated that an older son, John, 18 years, a tailor, was shown on the embarkation list but his name was scratched out indicating he either died before embarkation or did not come. But I am sure he did come. I have his death certificate which gives a lot of information about him. He died in Kaikoura 20 Aug 1895, a tailor, aged 74, with 56 years of residence in New Zealand and this fits his description on the embarkation list, namely 18 years of age, and his arrival in 1841. His mother's maiden name was Wright, and when 29 he married Mary Ann Barrett in Wellington. At his death he was survived by 4 sons and 4 daughters so the name Cooper was well represented in Kaikoura.

Betsy, no doubt christened Elizabeth, was called Betsy to distinguish her from her mother. In 1848, aged 16 or 17, she was to marry Daniel Morrison. Six months old Frederick was later to found the seed merchants firm.
Daniel Morrison, born 1812, arrived in New Zealand on the *Aurora* 22 Jan 1840 probably as a cabin passenger or a crew member. There are records (N.Z. Journal 1841, 42, 43, 44) to show that he was the captain of the barque *Bright Planet* 240 tons. He died 1 Sept 1858 and was buried in the Sydney Street Cemetery, Wellington now known as Bolton St Cemetery. He died of injuries received when his ship was wrecked. So the Kaikoura Palmers were related to the Coopers and the story about the sea captain was correct.

Betsy, aged 28, with two young children was now a widow. According to information supplied by the Turnbull Library 'the public of Wellington, probably by public subscription, bought a house for Daniel Morrison's widow, the house standing near the site of the present Kings Theatre.' Betsy was soon to remarry. Her marriage certificate shows that 'on 29 July 1859 in the private residence of Mrs Morrison in Little Ghuzne St she married Michael Twomey aged 28, a bachelor and a mariner.' Betsy was 29. Little Ghuzne St is now called Egmont St on to which the Kings Theatre has a boundary.

Betsy and Michael Twomey had quite a long life together and produced two girls followed by 4 boys. They lived in Wellington for some years, their second son, Joseph Thomas, being born there on 29 Aug 1867. By 1871 they had moved to Hokitika where on 20 Sept 1871 Betsy gave birth to another son, Walter John. The last son, Oscar Charles, was born in Hokitika 11 Jan 1875. The names Oscar and Charles, are Palmer names. Betsy must have kept in touch with her daughter Elizabeth, wife of Edmund Oscar Palmer, because Elizabeth had christened her second son, born in 1872, Charles Oscar - nephew of his uncle Oscar Charles to be born in 1875! I think they moved to Hokitika about 1869, probably drawn there by the gold boom. For some years they lived at Hokitika. In Wise's directories Michael Twomey is recorded as living at Little Grey 1878-1881 and at Boatman's (later Copleston) 1885-1895, his occupation being described as miner, sawmiller, carrier. About 1894-95 they moved to Kaikoura where Michael Twomey died on 13 Aug 1897.22

It is unfortunate that no-one ever recorded Betsy's life story - born in England and old enough to remember it, lived on an immigrant ship, watched Wellington grow for its first thirty years, lived for twenty years on the West Coast during its gold boom, and spending her final ten years of life in the still pioneer town of Kaikoura. During my research into the Palmer family history I have obtained many certificates of births deaths and marriages. Some are sketchy but two are full in every detail on the form, namely the death certificates of Michael Twomey and John Cooper. The information for both must have been supplied by Betsy. I am sure she could have told a fascinating story.

I have recorded the Twomeys fairly fully. I set out to establish the year in which they left Wellington for the West Coast. This proved to be about 1869. At this time Elizabeth Morrison would be 20 living with her mother and stepfather in a small house surrounded by four young children. In these conditions faced with the movement of her mother and stepfather to the West Coast I think she turned towards the Cooper side of her family and went to Kaikoura to visit relations. Who were her relations in Kaikoura in 1869?

My first clue in searching for an answer to this question was a statement in J. Sherrard's book that one, J. Cooper, was established in Kaikoura as a tailor in 1869. Evidence for this is contained in the *Kaikoura Herald* - November 1869 when the following advertisement appeared:

| J Cooper |
| Tailor & Clothier |
| Kaikoura |

What was the christian name of this J. Cooper?

A notice in the *Kaikoura Herald* 4 May 1869 provided the probable answer: 'the birth of a daughter to John Cooper and his wife.' So the tailor was John Cooper. I began to wonder if this John Cooper was a relative of Elizabeth Morrison. Elizabeth's grandfather, Samuel Cooper, who with his wife and family arrived in Wellington in 1841, was a tailor and had a son John who was also a tailor. A further notice in the *Kaikoura Herald* 4 Sept 1869 recorded 'the
death on the 22 ultimo at Wellington aged 70, mother of John and George Cooper.' Samuel Cooper also had a son George born in New Zealand. What was the name of the mother whose death was recorded in the *Kaikoura Herald*? Was it Elizabeth? The registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages supplied the answer on her death certificate. Yes, Elizabeth. I think this proves that the ’John and George Cooper of Kaikoura’ 1869 were Elizabeth Morrison’s uncles. I was later to find that John Cooper was still listed as a tailor in Kaikoura in 1881, but brother George had returned to Wellington and had set himself up in Lambton Quay as a manufacturer of soft drinks.

So the Coopers were early established in Kaikoura and I think Elizabeth Morrison came to visit, to live with, to work with her uncles and aunt in Kaikoura about 1869. By August 1870, the time of her marriage, she could describe herself as ‘of Kaikoura.’

I have not been able to trace the source of the name Sutherland given to Edmund Sutherland Palmer. Sutherland does not occur in any other Palmer names so I am inclined to think it came from Daniel Morrison’s family. Perhaps the maiden name of his mother was Sutherland, or he may have come from Sutherland in Scotland.

The 1876 Suburban School, Kaikoura

As earlier stated Edmund Oscar and his family moved to *Brentwood* in 1882. He remained there until about 1902 when he passed *Brentwood* over to his son Edmund Sutherland Palmer. In 1897 Charles Oscar Palmer had drawn by ballot a small grazing run in a Hundalee subdivision, 1410 acres on a 21 year lease. This block bordered on the Kahautara. It was to this block that Edmund Oscar moved from *Brentwood*. He did not remain there long. He suspected his neighbours were stealing his stock and his wife never liked the place. He then sold out and built himself a new home complete with attractive landscaped gardens at the junction of the Mt Fyffe and Ludstone Roads, marked X on my map. He called it *Kohanga* which translated means a nest. He also owned the land on which the present Kaikoura Golf Course is sited. It was farmed by his son Alexander. When Dr Withers approached him to induce him to sell the land for a golf course he agreed subject to a private arrangement with Dr Withers that Dr Withers would always attend him in his home and never have him moved to hospital. He died in his home in 1935.
Edmund Oscar and Elizabeth produced a large family, 7 boys and 1 girl and from accounts from various members of the family he kept a fairly tight patriarchal control over his family. As his sons grew towards manhood they drew land sections in various ballots, e.g.:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hundalee Settlement</td>
<td>23 Sept 1897</td>
<td>Sect 4 420 acres E.S. Palmer ORP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hundalee Small Grazing Runs</td>
<td>23 Sept 1897</td>
<td>Run No 88 1410 acres C.O. Palmer rent per acre 6 3/4d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puhi Puhi Block</td>
<td>11 May 1899</td>
<td>Sect 3 640 acres Glenburn Palmer L.I.P.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

But apparently Edmund Oscar disposed of the sections as he saw fit, no doubt provided finance and held any title. Robert Palmer was despatched to the Hundalee section 4 drawn in the name of E.S. Palmer. Edmund Sutherland was to go to Brentwood, and Charles Oscar to the Mt Fyffe section west of Brentwood near Lukes Creek. The 1907 Palmer family picnic photograph, copies of which (done in 1973) are held by many members of the family, was near the site of Charles Oscar Palmer's home. During our talk with the Hemingway brothers they made the comment that Edmund Oscar owned a substantial number of farm sections. In addition to those already mentioned Glenburn farmed a section on Schoolhouse Road (L on my map) and Alexander farmed a section on the present golfcourse (K on my map). Another son William occupied land on the banks of Lukes Creek (D on my map) opposite the home of Charles Palmer, but he married and some years later went to Ahaura on the West Coast.

His one daughter Annie did not marry and lived with her father at Kohanga until his death. She was sent to Girton College, a private school for young ladies in Christchurch. It was in
the Gloucester St Latimer Square area. Her niece, Rita Guard, has her school prizes. Her nephews, nieces and Kaikoura friends remember her for her musical talent, particularly for her ability as a singer. She was also a capable artist.

Bill Palmer aged about 19 years
Annie Palmer aged about 12 years

His wife Elizabeth died in 1914, and Edmund Oscar in 1935. They are buried in the churchyard of St James Anglican Church, Kowhai.

Edmund Oscar Palmer was interested in local body affairs. His father Charles had been a foundation member of the Kaikoura Road Board in 1870. Edmund Oscar's special interest was the Hospital Board. He was a member of the North Canterbury Hospital Board and is reported to have driven in his gig to Christchurch in order to attend the meetings. In 1910 he stirred public opinion in Kaikoura to renewed efforts to secure their own hospital and these efforts came to fruition with the opening of the Kaikoura Hospital 3 June 1912. He was also a member of the Kaikoura County Council from 1904 - 1911.
Edmund Sutherland Palmer farmed *Brentwood* until 1920 when he leased it to George Wilson and later to Frank Palmer, son of Glenburn Palmer. Frank Palmer ultimately bought it. Edmund Sutherland Palmer moved to a smaller farm further down the Mt Fyffe Road marked B on my map. He it was who found one of the most perfect greenstone meres ever found. He found it in Lukes Creek about 1914 at a spot marked Z on my map. He later sold it to Frank Bullen who sold it to Raymond Gibson from whom the Canterbury Museum purchased it in 1973 for about $2000.

The director of the Canterbury Museum appears to be in an aggressive mood as he wields a mere, one of the museum's latest acquisitions. Purchased at a cost of more than $1500, the mere was found in 1914 on the lower stones (sic) of Mt Fyffe, Kaikoura. … The mere was valued at $10 when sold in 1914. Found by Mr Edward (sic) Palmer in Lukes Creek, the mere is a unique South island representation of a patu club featuring a waisted grip, parallel blade sides and a cutting edge at fight angles. It is about 12 inches long. The mere will be displayed in the Cook exhibition in the Pacific Hall of the museum.

*Cities Press* 20 July 1973

About 1928 the family moved to Christchurch. Edmund Sutherland Palmer was always interested in trees and planted many about his home. An interesting clump still survives. As you drive north along the Beach Road you pass on your left a group of weeping willows. These he planted when a boy. On my map at a point marked W

He had married Edith Alice Gill in 1902, lovingly known to me and her seven grandchildren as Nana. The family tree shows that she also was descended from the first pioneer families to make their homes in Nelson, Marlborough and Kaikoura. Her grandfather, Thomas Lyford, born in England in 1828, arrived in Nelson with his parents in 1842. He married Sarah Richardson who arrived in Nelson with her parents on the *Fifeshire* in 1842. In 1862 he took over the Clarence Accommodation House and Ferry having tendered the sum of £100 for the privilege.
Coach about to leave Clarence Accommodation House for Kekerengu, 1892

Their daughter Alice, b.1854, was to marry Thomas Gill, born 1847, whose parents had arrived in Nelson of the Mary Ann. Their marriage certificate, number 2, was recorded at the Clarence Ferry on 11 July 1870. Itinerant clergymen stopped at the accommodation house from time to time, held church services there and marriages, christenings etc. Alice was 16 at the time of her marriage. On the death of her mother she left the Clarence for Kaikoura carrying her baby sister on the saddle in front of her. She was later to act as midwife to many families in the Kaikoura district.

Alice Gill nee Lyford
nursing her great grandson, Arthur Bremner

In 1902 Kaikoura was still an isolated community and remained so for many years, depending on the same pioneer skills and fortitude as had been required in earlier years. Nana was a capable pioneer woman, able to play her full part in the working day of farm life, a proficient horsewoman, and she possessed the ability and artistic sensitivity to develop an attractive home and garden. She has left us many examples of her beautiful handwork. In her later years she was ever ready to help her sons and daughter in the early stages of their married lives and later still was able to help her granddaughter Judith in her early married life. My own parents were indebted to her for wonderful support during a period of serious illness. Her grandchildren adored her.

Nana would have had to work very hard when her babies were being born and that may have taken some part in the deaths of four of them. There was only one doctor to serve from the Clarence to the Conway by horse and gig, no telephone and for most of the period no hospital. Only the last was born in hospital. Noted also that Nana’s sister had died a few days before the birth of her first baby.

Charles Palmer had a long association with the sea. His great grandson Lyford Palmer also had an intense interest in the sea and owned various launches including the twin engined 38 ft Makora. He later built for himself a magnificent 36 ft launch and named it the Kaikoura. It was launched in 1958 and is still based on Plimmerton and operates as a charter vessel. He made many crossings between Wellington and Picton and many less capable boat owners were pleased to have him take their launches across the Strait. His son Godfrey Palmer has also been keenly interested in the sea and boats. He served in the Naval Volunteer Reserve from 1954 to 1971 when he retired with the rank of Chief Petty Officer.
On the Palmer family tree I have shown that George Palmer, third son of Charles and Emma Palmer married Emma Tarr and to them was born Charles Henry Tarr Palmer. While I have been completing this story he died in Auckland aged 91. Throughout his life he was associated with yachting and naval affairs. He was on active service with the navy in British waters in World War I. After the war he was associated with the formation of the N.Z. Naval Volunteer Reserve, retiring in 1932 with the rank of Commander. For his services he was awarded an O.B.E. and the French Government bestowed on him the Cross of a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. When he heard that Godfrey Palmer held Charles Palmer's sword he was anxious to obtain it from him. But Godfrey Palmer is the senior direct male descendant of Charles Palmer and rightfully retained possession of the sword. In his autobiographical notes he does not mention his father, his father's birthplace Nelson, or Kaikoura and his many relations there. His father left Kaikoura as a very young man and probably lost contact with his relatives in Kaikoura and Nelson.

The name Tarr is unusual. In Petticoat Pioneers (Miriam McGregor) the story of Elizabeth Tarr (nee Elizabeth Lane) is recorded. She was born in 1812 in Kingsdon in Somerset. Her husband John was born in 1808 in the same village. They arrived in Wellington on the London 1 May 1842 together with 3 children, later extended to 12 children. They were amongst the earliest settlers in Poverty Bay. Elizabeth was a tiny woman. She died in 1908 and her husband in 1875. I think it likely that the Emma Tarr mentioned above could have come from this pioneer couple. This may be of some interest to the descendants of Charles Henry Tarr Palmer.

Earlier I stated that I had little information on the ancestors of Edith Alice Gill, Fay's mother. The family tree shows the names of Richardsons, Lyfords and Gills. It also shows the dates of their arrival in Nelson and the ships upon which they arrived. This information comes from the embarkation lists of the various ships. In most cases the names of the children who accompanied their parents is also shown.

The Gills:
William and his wife Harriet, together with their children, arrived in Nelson on the Mary Ann in 1842. In Bett's list of passengers to Nelson 1841-50 Vol 1 p.14 Gills are listed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harriet</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophia</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>? Born on board</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also on board were

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>20  (22 according to N.Z. Company list of applicants early in 1841)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercy</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the Register of Emigrant Labourers applying for a free passage to New Zealand their occupations were listed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Gill</td>
<td>Mason of Baltonsborough (Town of Walton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Gill</td>
<td>Agricultural Labourer of Glastonbury Somerset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Gill</td>
<td>Farm Labourer of Baltonsborough (Town of Walton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Gill</td>
<td>Dairymaid of Baltonsborough (Town of Walton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercy Gill</td>
<td>Dairymaid of Charlton Mackrell, Somerset</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It appears from this register that these two groups of Gills were related. From the ages of the second group they could not have been children of William and Harriet. From correspondence I have had with elderly descendants of William Gill I think William and George were brothers. From the towns of origin Henry and Jane could well have been brother and sister of William and George. Mercy could have been another sister, possibly a
cousin. Jane and Mercy were not the wives of George and Henry as Jane Gill married Hiram Dane on 18/7/1842 and Mercy Gill married Thomas Potter on 18/11/1842. From death certificates I have obtained for Henry Gill and an Edward Gill I believe Henry Gill returned to England soon after arrival in Nelson, married a Jane Baker, produced a family including Edward Gill born 1845 in Somerset, and in 1853 returned with his family to Nelson. He died in Nelson on 13/2/1883 survived by his second wife Charlotte Small.

So in my search for the parents of Thomas Gill, born 1847 in Nelson, I have to consider William and Harriet Gill and possibly George Gill. Neither I or any other Gill genealogist have been able to establish the name of the ? Gill born on Mary Ann. Mrs Edwards (granddaughter of William Gill) mentioned two half-brothers of her mother; their names were Ted and Fred. William and Harriet continued to produce children after arrival in New Zealand, Frederick on 9/8/1843 and Adeline on 9/11/1844. This Frederick was the half-brother Fred and I think the ? born on the Mary Ann was the other half-brother Ted. I think they also produced Thomas in 1847. My reason for this rests on the 1849 Nelson census examined by my daughter-in-law Mary Skipworth. William Gill and his household are listed as follows:

1 male under 2 (was this Thomas, b.1847? I think so.)
1 female between 2 & 7 (This would be Adeline b.1844)
1 male between 2 & 7 (This would be Frederick b.1843)
1 male between 7 & 14 (? Born on Mary Ann 1841/42 or George b.1938)
2 females between 14 & 21 (Sophia b.1833, Ellen b.1834)
1 female between 21 & 45 (Harriet b.1810)
1 male between 21 & 45 (William b.1810)

Listed separately but adjacent to the above are
Henry Gill between 14 & 21 years
Benjamin Gill between 14 & 21 years

William Gill was described as a squatter, had a wooden house with thatch roof, owned 7 cattle, 40 goats, 1 pig, and had various crops which included 2 acres of potatoes. Of those in the first group only one male and one female (presumably William and Harriet) could read and write. This certainly is the census return of William and Harriet Gill of the Mary Ann and I think Thomas was the one male under 2 in 1849. Harriet died 16/10/1855 and six months later on 25/4/1856 William married Anne Edwards and produced five more children. William died on 17/4/1885 and Anne on 7/6/1886.

During the voyage out on the Mary Ann a meeting was held to consider forming a Benefit Club or Friendly Association. Workers would contribute from their wages to a fund from which benefits would be paid in the event of accident, sickness or death. A Mr Gill (presumably William) was included in the temporary committee representative of all classes of passengers. (Refer Nelson Histories by Ruth Allen and Judge Broad.)

Of George Gill I have only one piece of information, again from Mrs Edwards, namely that Frederick Gill married his cousin Mercy Gill, daughter of George Gill.
The Lyfords:
The Lyfords also arrived in Nelson on the Mary Ann 8/2/1842. Laurence Lyford was 39 and his wife Margaret 36. With them were their children William b.1823, Ann b.1825, Thomas b.1828, John b.1832, Charles b.1833, George b.1834, Absolam b.1835, Frederick b.1840, and Mary. Thomas was to marry Sarah Richardson b.1835, daughter of William and Fanny Richardson. The marriage took place on 19 May 1851 in the house of John Spittels, Suburban North, Wakapuaka. On their marriage certificate Thomas Lyford is classified as a shepherd. In 1862 they moved to the Clarence Ferry.

The Richardsons:
The Richardsons came from Somerset. They arrived in Nelson on the Fifeshire. William was 36 and his wife Fanny was 33. With them came three children, a boy aged 5, a girl aged 7 and a girl aged 18 months. The 7 year old girl was Sarah who married Thomas Lyford in 1851. She was 16 at that time.

There were other Richardsons on the Fifeshire, namely G.R. Richardson, single, who was killed in the Wairau massacre, and James Richardson and his wife Mary Ann aged 23 and 21 respectively. They had 2 children with them James 11 months and Mary Ann 2 1/2 years. I do not know if these Richardsons were related but William and Fanny were Fay's great great grandparents.

If you look at the combined family tree you will see that Fay's ancestors all arrived in New Zealand, either Nelson or Wellington, in the earliest and now famous immigrant ships, the Fifeshire, the Mary Ann, the Phoebe, the Aurora, the Oriental. On these ships were her eight great grandparents and six of her great, great grandparents, all in New Zealand by 1842 or early 1843. Another great, great grandparent came to New Zealand a few years later. Fay must be one of the best qualified New Zealanders for membership of an early settlers association.

Today when I look at the Kaikoura farms, 50 acres, they look too small. It was probably a different story 110 years ago - 50 bush and forest covered acres, or 50 acres of swamp. To carve a home out of such areas and to provide a living for a family was sufficient to absorb the full energy of any settler and his family. I have discussed the Palmer families with Fay and with Elsie Palmer, daughter of Charles Oscar Palmer, and in their opinion the Palmers were not really farmers by background, training or interest. I got a very interesting comment from the Hemingway brothers who agreed that "the Palmers were not farmers, they were too clever." They were there from the earliest days and one might expect them to have acquired some good land. Edmund Oscar did hold many pieces of land, but for some combination of reasons life on these farms was not sufficiently attractive to bind the family to the land. Edmund Oscar was the only son of Charles Palmer to farm in Kaikoura throughout his life. Of his seven sons, four worked farms in Kaikoura until their retirement. But in the next generation none of the boys remained on farms in Kaikoura and since 1950 no-one carrying the Palmer name remains a farmer in the Kaikoura district, James Palmer, son of Charles Oscar Palmer, being the last of the Palmers. Parents realised the limited possibilities for their children in Kaikoura and moved to town, or the younger members left to seek employment elsewhere.

Fyffe Palmer purchased 20 acres on Mt Fyffe. He has presented this to the government and it has been gazetted as the Fyffe Palmer Scenic Reserve. He had spent his boyhood in the area and has happy recollections of those days. This will preserve the Palmer name in the district.

Kaikoura is a beautiful place - stand on the peninsula, look north, look south, on a clear winter day look north across the azure blue bay with 9,000 ft snow capped mountains rising sheer out of the sea - there are few views of equal beauty. The children grew up in a wonderful natural environment - and some have returned to live out their retirement in the surroundings of their childhood days.

I feel I must add a final note on Salome Wayland, remember she was the daughter of Charles Palmer. Born in 1854, she married Francis Pallisier Wayland. He was to die in 1885 leaving
Salome a widow with four young daughters. Fifty seven years of widowhood lay ahead of her. In January 1974 we visited her old home, a two storey house on the north side of Hawthorne Road, a short distance from the main road north. It was occupied by the Lamonts. It is surrounded by a garden which contains Kauris and Totaras and still retains an old world atmosphere. In its heyday it must have been a very gracious home. One of the daughters married a Pettengill and their son is an electrician in Cheviot. Another daughter married Thomas Hitchcock. The Palmers of today owe a debt to Salome for without her Press article in 1940 most of their history would now be gone. With them I say "Thankyou, Salome."

So all you Palmers of today write something about your family history to pass to your children - and make sure you have purchased Kaikoura - A History of the District by J.M. Sherrard to pass on to at least one of your children.

I.H. Skipworth
5 Westburn Terrace
Christchurch.
20th May 1975.

Since finishing the story some further points of interest have come to light.

From birth and death certificates
Glenburn Morrison Palmer was born at Hapuka 30/5/1874
Alexander Pallisier Palmer was born at Hapuka 22/12/1881
Philip Carrington Palmer was born at Mount Fyffe 21/8/1883, died at Christchurch 5/9/1930
Elizabeth Anne Palmer was born at Kaikoura 20/2/1890, died at Christchurch 8/12/1936

These dates confirm my earlier conclusions that Edmund Oscar moved to the Hales Creek area about 1873, and from Hales Creek to Brentwood in 1882 as soon as he held title to Brentwood.

I have some further information on the Morrisons. Recently Frederick Cooper Fox, born in Kaikoura in 1875, celebrated his hundredth birthday. He is the son of Charles and Mary Fox (nee Morrison). Betsy had at least two other children in addition to Elizabeth and Mary, namely James and Alice. James left New Zealand to join the Mormons at Salt Lake City. Alice married her cousin Frederick Cooper. Alicetown near Lower Hutt is named after her. James must have had some influence on his relatives in New Zealand because two of his nieces, Bessy and Lye Fox became Mormons. Frederick Cooper Fox still remembers the happy boyhood days he spent with his cousins Ted, Charlie and Glen and recalls the big water wheel which his uncle Oscar built in a creek to run the mill. He recalls that the Cooper gardens, on which the seed firm was originally based ran from Hopper St to Taranaki St and that the firm's premises were situated first in Manners St and later in Willis St.
DESCENDANTS
of
EDMUND OSCAR PALMER and ELIZABETH PALMER (nee MORRISON)

Children:  (A) Edmund Sutherland  (B) Charles Oscar
           (C) Glenburn Morrison   (D) Robert Daniel
           (E) William Arthur      (F) Alexander Pallisier
           (G) Philip Carrington   (H) Elizabeth Annie

(A) Edmund Sutherland Palmer married Edith Alice Gill
   (1) Edith Palmer died 29 Jan 1904 aged 2 days, ill developed, malnutrition
   (2) Thomas Edmund Lyford Palmer married Eileen Farnham
       (a) Godfrey Francis Palmer married Mary Cecilia Greally
           (i) Anne Marie Palmer m Barry Allan "Jock" McGregor (d 15 June 1998, aged 50)
               A. Andrew McGregor bc 1983
               B. Richard McGregor bc 1985
               C. Hamish McGregor
           (ii) Jane Frances Palmer m Kevin Northcott
           (iii) Sarah Margaret Palmer m Graham Watson
           (iv) Helen Mary Edith Palmer
           (v) Thomas Godfrey Palmer
       (b) Patricia Eileen Palmer married Robert Zorzi
           (i) Christina Suzanne Zorzi
           (ii) Therese Catherine Zorzi
           (iii) Barbara Elinora Adelaide Zorzi
   (3) Ena Faith Palmer married Ivan Horace Skipworth
       (a) John Peyton Skipworth married Mary Sinclair Scott
           (i) Ian Robert Skipworth
           (ii) Jeremy John Skipworth
       (b) Judith Ailsa Skipworth married Kenneth James Moulder
           (i) Geoffrey James Moulder
           (ii) Paul John Moulder
   (4) Esther Palmer died 5 Apr 1908 aged 12 days, debility
   (5) Godfrey Stevens Palmer, d 31 Jul 1913, aged 8 months, of pneumonia
   (6) Andrew Morrison Palmer married (i) Nancy Louvain Black
       (a) Sandra Margaret Palmer married John Wilfred Turnbull
           (i) James Turnbull
           (ii) Elizabeth Turnbull
           (iii) Sarah Turnbull
       (b) Richard Stephen Palmer married Pamela Claire Bell
           (i) Sally Claire Palmer
           (ii) Anthony Andrew Palmer
           (iii) Gretchen Jane Palmer
       (c) David Morrison Palmer married Jennifer Swain
           (i) Katrina Jane Palmer
           (ii) Tracy Marie Palmer
   Andrew married (ii) Ngarita Fraser
   (7) Ngaire Winsome Palmer d 2 Dec 1925 Kaikoura Hospital, aged 3 months, of malnutrition

(B) Charles Oscar Palmer married Elsie Saunders-Loder
   (1) Mary Saunders-Loder Palmer (Polly)
           (a) Leonard James Brown married Joyce Boucher
               (i) Lisa Jane Brown
               (ii) Peter Timothy Brown
           (3) Oscar John Fyffe Palmer married Nina Clark
               (a) Gloria Vivienne Palmer married Warren Pugh
                   (i) Beverley Pugh married John Dutton
                       (A) Katherine Dutton
                   (ii) Norman Pugh
                   (iii) Nigel Pugh
                   (iv) Adrian Pugh
                   (v) Heather Pugh
                   (vi) Anthea Pugh
                   (vii) Gerald Pugh
(b) Beverley Palmer
(c) Pamela Palmer married (i) Evan Ronald Woods
   (i) Jennifer Elizabeth Woods
   (ii) Grant Evan Woods
   (iii) Susan Pamela Woods
   Pamela married (ii) Gene Estree
   (i) Robert Mark Estree
(d) Glenburn Charles Palmer married Alison Botherway
   (i) John Graham Palmer
   (ii) Helen Palmer
   (iii) Fiona Palmer
   (iv) Stephen Michael Palmer
(4) Ivy Elizabeth Palmer married Archibald Randolph Brown
   (a) Rae Brown married Julia Hawkins
      (i) Cynthia Ruth Brown married Edward du Faan
         (A) Xan du Faan
      (ii) Lynette Rae Brown
      (iii) Rangi Elizabeth Brown married Timor Pongo
         (A) Santana Pongo
         (B) A son
      (iv) Hone Eruera Brown
      (v) Julian Brown
      (vi) Susan Brown
      (vii) Ivan Sydney Oliver Brown
      (viii) Teena Brown
   (b) Jean Brown married David Wilson
      (i) Mark Wilson
      (ii) Karen Wilson
   (c) Tui Brown married Edward Shove
      (i) Michael Shove
      (ii) Thomas Shove
      (iii) Matthew Shove
      (iv) Catherine Shove
      (v) Rosemary Shove
      (vi) Gretchen Shove
   (d) Robin Brown
   (e) Moreen Brown married Charles van Raalte
      (i) Roger van Raalte
      (ii) Anita Grace van Raalte
   (f) Clive Brown
(5) James Morrison Webber Palmer married Jean Gordon. He died Blenheim 1986 and wife soon
    after.
(6) Alison May Palmer, unmarried, died 4 Jul 1985
(7) Thomas Pattinson (Pat) Palmer married Esme Mary Norris
   (a) David Norris Palmer (biochemist, MSc Toronto)
   (b) Rosemary Eileen Palmer married Paul Bowden
      (i) Katherine Bronwyn Bowden
      (ii) Tessa Rose Bowden
   (c) John Crispin Palmer married Jacqueline Halliday
   (C) Glenburn Morrison Palmer married Ellen Boyd
(1) Glenburn Edmund David (Eddie) Palmer married Clara Boyd (nee Gilling)
   (a) Ross Palmer married Noeline Watson
   (b) Barry Palmer married Yvonne Esmay Boundy
      (i) Anthony David Palmer
      (ii) Vicki Ann Palmer
(2) Kathleen Mildred Olive (Kate) Palmer married John Lawson
   (a) Neita May Lawson married (i) Morton Brown
      (i) Wendy Ann Brown married Vernon Copedo
      (ii) Barbara Kay Brown married Fani Thouleyrakin
         (A) Maria Thouleyrakin
         (B) Mihalis Thouleyrakin
      Neita married (ii) John Timpany Mason
(3) Elizabeth Anne Helena (Lena) Palmer married William Inglis
   (a) William Glenburn Inglis married Lorna Green
   (b) Leslie Ian Inglis married Winifred Redmond
      (i) Anne Inglis married William Fuller
      (ii) David Inglis
(c) Colin Richard Inglis married Connie Steer
   (i) Richard Inglis married Caroline Saunders
   (ii) William Inglis
   (iii) Julie Inglis

(d) Betty Inglis married Robert France
   (i) Linda France married James McNicol
   (ii) Barry France

(4) Francis Philip Morrison (Frank) Palmer married Rachael Mary Joyce

(5) Richard James Alexander (Dick) Palmer married Charlotte Jean Duncan
   (a) Brian Glenburn Morrison Palmer married Bette Dawn Blanchard
       (i) Richard Dean Palmer
       (ii) Dale Christine Palmer
       (iii) Jane Suzanne Palmer

(6) Malcolm Roderick Douglas (Mac) Palmer married Beatrice Victoria McLeod
   (a) John Malcolm Palmer married Margaret Elizabeth White
       (i) Kerry Ann Palmer
       (ii) Susan Margaret Palmer

(7) Evelyn Doris Jane Palmer married Charles William Reeves
   (a) Basil Reeves married Julie Cecilia Clayton
       (i) Michael David Reeves
       (ii) Alan Reeves
       (iii) Carol Reeves
   (b) Margaret Joy Reeves married William Frazer Hislop
       (i) Catherine Anne Hislop
       (ii) Robert Andrew Hislop
       (iii) Glenburn David Hislop
   (c) Shirley Jean Reeves married Roger John Vaughan
       (i) Michael John Vaughan
       (ii) David Roger Vaughan
   (d) Evelyn Betty Reeves married James Robert Kirk
       (i) James Robert Kirk
       (ii) Meager Jane Kirk

(8) Flora Henrietta Clarke Palmer married Ernest Arthur Robinson
   (a) Beryl Robinson married David Hawthorne
       (i) Richard Hawthorne
       (ii) Graeme Hawthorne
       (iii) Jill Hawthorne
       (iv) Sara Hawthorne
   (b) Graham Robinson married Lorraine Bobbie
       (i) Kenneth Robinson
       (ii) Christopher Robinson
       (iii) David Robinson
       (iv) Roger Robinson
       (v) Tracey Robinson
   (c) Jillian Robinson married Howard Saunders
       (i) Kirston Saunders
       (ii) Stuart Saunders
       (iii) Emma Josephine Saunders b.21/12/75

(9) Margaret Ethel Grace Palmer married (i) Adrian Wilfred Bengerfield
   (a) Malcolm Wilfred Hayman Bengerfield married Beverley Dix
       (i) Brett Malcolm Bengerfield
   (b) Margaret married (ii) Fergus Hodgson

(10) Rebecca Josephine Palmer married Walter John Crawford
    (a) Kathleen Lorraine Crawford married Richard Michael Evans (Canadian)
        (i) Carol Meredith Evans
    (b) Ellen Christine Crawford married Dennis Smith
        (i) Katherine Joyce Smith
        (ii) Rowan Annabelle Smith
        (iii) Emma Josephine Smith * Late addition - confusion with 8cii?
    (c) Helen Winifred Crawford married Robert Wilson Webb
        (i) Robert Johnathan Webb

(11) Freda Hamilton French Palmer married Bernard Thacker Inkson
    (a) Bernard John Inkson married Elna Jane Fountain
        (i) Helen Margaret Inkson

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(ii) Anthony John Inkson
(iii) Ian Andrew Inkson
(b) David Inkson married Janice Margaret Jeavons
(i) Wayne David Inkson
(ii) Brian Joseph Inkson
(iii) Vicki Jan Inkson
(c) Mary Margaret Inkson married Maurice Hilton Turpin
(i) Michelle Turpin
(ii) Stuart Turpin
(d) Rachel Inkson married Robert Sidney Gibbons
(i) Dee Gibbons
(ii) Janice Margaret Jeavons
(c) Jane Maurice Inkson married John Edward McMillan
(i) Cameron Sean McMillan
(f) Patricia Inkson married George Thomas Simon
(i) Shane Bernard Simon
(12) Colleen Marjorie Joyce Palmer married Allan Cave Vaughan
(a) Gary Allan Vaughan married Anne Jackson
(i) David Vaughan
(D) Robert Daniel Palmer married Marianne Hitchcock
(1) Elizabeth (Lily) Palmer married Victor Usherwood
(a) Marianne Usherwood married William Oliver
(i) Karen Lillian Oliver married Anthony Bowkett Matthews
(ii) Gerald Rex Oliver
(b) Stanley Ernest Usherwood married Valerie Good
(c) Doreen Olive Usherwood married Alan Hector Brown
(i) Jennifer Ruth Brown married Bruce Murray Yates
(ii) Susan Lorraine Brown married Murray Bell
(iii) Nigel Ross Brown
(d) Lilian Ruth Usherwood married Ian Alexander McDonald
(i) Lynette Joy McDonald
(ii) Glenys Olive McDonald
(e) Nola Mary Usherwood married Christopher Trevor Burton
(i) Tony Philip Burton
(ii) Kathy Anne Burton
(2) Harold Robert Palmer, died 26 May 1986 at Christchurch, aged 81, married Millie Shepherd
(a) David Robert Palmer married Rachael Shortcliffe
(b) Beverley Palmer married Stanley Ormandy
(i) David Ormandy
(ii) Sharon Ormandy
(iii) Judith Ormandy
(iv) Anthony Ormandy
(c) Audrey Palmer married Ian Taylor
(i) Gennet Taylor
(ii) Kim Taylor
(3) Hubert Conway Palmer married Susan Harvey
(a) Norma Palmer married Ivan Pearcy
(i) Michael Pearcy
(ii) Robert Pearcy
(iii) Rosemary Pearcy
(b) Margaret Fay Palmer married Barrie Green
(i) Amanda Green
(ii) Christopher Green
(iii) Cheryl Green
(a) Ian Robert Palmer married Glenys (of London in 1985)
(b) Eric Rex Palmer married Glenys Houghton
(i) Timothy Mark Palmer
(ii) Geoffrey Stephen Palmer
(iii) Andrew Craig Palmer
(c) Keith George Palmer married Janet Hyam
(d) Roger John Palmer
(E) William Arthur Palmer married Henrietta Wylie
(1) Mavis Henrietta Palmer
(F) Alexander Pallisier Palmer married Ellen Mary Golding
(1) Alice Palmer
(2) Samuel Oscar Palmer
(3) Rita Jessie Palmer married Walter James Guard
(a) Walter David Guard  
(b) Elizabeth Anne Guard married John William Smart  
   (i) Catherine Jane Smart  
(4) Lorna Annie Palmer married Charles Smith Durie  
   (a) Alexander Samuel Durie  
   (b) Rosemary Joy Durie married Brian Christopher Lewis  
      (i) Cherie Julia Lewis  
      (ii) Paula Rachel Lewis  
   (c) Heather Jean Durie  
   (d) George Selwyn Durie  
   (e) Jennifer Helen Durie  
   (f) Dawn Noeline Durie  
(5) Bruce Alexander Palmer  
(6) George Arnold Palmer  
(7) John Allan Palmer married (i) Pamela Ellis  
   (a) Peter Palmer  
   (b) Jeanette Palmer  
   John married (ii) Marjory Walker  
(G) Philip Carrington Palmer not married  
(H) Elizabeth Annie Palmer not married

THE PALMER NAME
The following males are the living descendants of Edmund Oscar Palmer who carry the Palmer name in 1975:

A(1)a Godfrey Francis Palmer  
A(1)a(v) Thomas Godfrey Palmer  
A(3) Andrew Morrison Palmer  
A(3)b Richard Stephen Palmer  
A(3)b(ii) Anthony Andrew Palmer  
A(3)c David Morrison Palmer  
B(3) Oscar John Fyffe Palmer  
B(3)d Glenburn Charles Palmer  
B(3)d(i) John Graham Palmer  
B(3)d(iv) Stephen Michael Palmer  
B95) James Morrison Webber Palmer  
B(7) Thomas Pattinson (Pat) Palmer  
B(7)a David Norris Palmer  
B(7)c John Crispin Palmer  
C(1)a Ross Palmer  
C(1)b Barry Palmer  
C(1)b(i) Anthony David Palmer  
C(5) Richard James Alexander (Dick) Palmer  
C(5)a Brian Glenburn Morrison Palmer  
C(5)a(i) Richard Dean Palmer  
C(6)a John Malcolm Palmer  
D(2) Harold Robert Palmer  
D(2)a David Robert Palmer  
D(3) Hubert Conway Palmer  
D(4) George Hartnell Palmer  
D(4)a Ian Robert Palmer  
D(4)b Eric Rex Palmer  
D(4)b(i) Timothy Mark Palmer  
D(4)b(ii) Geoffrey Stephen Palmer  
D(4)b(iii) Andrew Craig Palmer  
D(4)c Keith George Palmer  
D(4)d Roger John Palmer  
F(6) George Arnold Palmer  
F(7) John Allan Palmer  
F(7)a Peter Palmer
End Notes - Corrections and additions resulting from further information (by MSS)

1. The name Miriam DINSON has been obtained from Salome LOVELL's death certificate.
2. A family member has suggested that the marriage of John and Miriam PALMER occurred at Brentwood near Bury St Edmonds, but no such place has been found. The IGI provides a marriage date of 14 Feb 1814 for marriage of John Palmer and Miriam VINSON at St Matthews Church, Ipswich, Suffolk. [Film 0952320 for BT or 0919618 for PR]
3. For an account of John Palmer's death, and something of his work refer Appendix 1 - letter from Miriam Marion Alzier PALMER died at Nelson 2nd June 1977, daughter of the late Alzier and Louis PALMER, sister of Eileen (Mrs BARTON), Mabel (Mrs THOMAS), and the late Flora, Phoebe, and Gordon. Cremation (Newspaper notice)
4. Colonel William Wakefield (NZ Company) also held the Order of the Tower and Sword for similar services - refer inscription in Bolton St cemetery chapel.
5. From Fox's report to NZ Company 1843: Mr [J] Palmer much occupied in carrying for the Company and other partners, having a good team of oxen.
6. Several of John Palmer's descendants are mentioned among "conspicuous names in the church records in last 50 years" in St Michael's Anglican Church, Waimea West, Nelson 1843 - 1968. Various other references to family.
8. 1863: John Palmer had 485 sheep at Waimea West Paid tax £1-0-2 1/2
9. Tenants, house wood roof shingles workhouse 1
10. 1863: Charles Palmer filed a claim for compensation "for hardship suffered owing to non-fulfilment of contract by NZ Company." The claim was disallowed.
11. Map at Isel Museum - Waimea East 1848 shows Palmers on banks of Waimea River near present Appleby Bridge.
12. 1849 Nelson Census:
   Charles Palmer: 1 male, 1 female aged 21-45; 2 males aged 2-7 in house
   Farmer, Religion English, Birthplace England
   1 cannot read and write, 1 reads only, 1 male 1 female read and write
   100? Acres farmed, 32 cleared, 32 cultivated, wheat 8, oats 4, barley 17, tares 1
   Tenant, house wood roof shingles workhouse 1
   2 horses, 30 cattle, 90 sheep, 3 goats, 4 pigs
13. In Edmund Oscar Palmer's interview with the Kaikoura Star 2 Nov 1923 his brother is referred to as Charles W Palmer. Later in the article it is stated: "When his brother left for England Mr Palmer purchased Brentwood." It seems likely that Charles Webber Palmer was Charles Palmer's eldest son. Need to find his death certificate - Ivan thought he died about 1910 in NZ. Rebecca Crawford wrote suggesting it was customary in some parts of Europe for a husband to take his wife's name, but this seems a less likely explanation in this case. Charles, the eldest son, has been described as "a very handsome, big, dark man. He did not live long."
14. Rebecca Crawford says the place at Hapuka was called Glenburn. Elizabeth named it after the burn in the glen - now Hales Creek. The walk to school was 7 miles each way but the children always won prizes at school and Sunday school. Rebecca says spelling is Hailes Creek, Hailes family - check map for modern usage.
15. Palms in Freeholders of NZ
   Edward Oscar 145 acres £844 Kaikoura
   Charles Arthur, hopgrower Waimea West, 20 acres 700 Waimea
   Albert John, storekeeper, Foxhill, 10 acres 450 Waimea
   Mary Ann, Waimea West 28 acres 900 Waimea
   John, storekeeper, Waimea West 1118 acres 3,500 Waimea
   Richard, farmer, Wakefield 192 500 Waimea
   Henry Thomas, farmer, Brightwater 85 700 Waimea
   Harriett, farmer, Hope 400 4,200 Waimea
   William, farmer, Hope 207 1,800 Waimea
John Cooper, tailor, Molesworth St
Thomas Cooper, shoemaker
1850: Same
1851: Thomas a publican, otherwise the same
1852: Samuel and John in Pipitea Street, Thomas Lambton Quay, shoemaker
1852: James Cooper, Porirua Road, labourer
Electoral Roll 1853: Thomas ginger beer manufacturer, household Pipitea St
John tailor household Pipitea St
No listing for Samuel or James

22. Children of Elizabeth (Betsy) Cooper/Morrison/Twomey:
   1. Elizabeth Morrison b 1849 Wgtn, m 1870 E O Palmer
   2. Alice Morrison married Frederick Cooper (her cousin)
   3. Mary Morrison married Charles Fox (of Kaikoura)
      children:
      Frederic Cooper Fox d New Plymouth 4 Nov 1978 aged 102 1/2
      [This Fred's son Jack remarked they had another relative, Mrs Dearsley of Christchurch who died aged 104]
      Bessie Box married Gordon Stevens Wellington (?Mormon). Known to Faith as "Aunt Bessie," she was actually Ted's first cousin. Godfrey Stevens Palmer would have been named for this family.
      Lye Fox (?Mormon)
   4. James Morrison, Salt Lake City, Mormon
   5. Helen Ada Twomey b 28.2.1862 Wellington, m Ronnison of Kaikoura, died fairly young of brain tumour (according to Rebecca) Ronnison was "an old Scotsman"
   7. Unnamed male twin of previous
   9. Frederick George Twomey b 2.4.1866 Wgtn.
      Birth registered to Henry (sic) TWOMEY, marriner and Elizabeth, nee Cooper. Informant Elizabeth Cooper, grandmother who made her mark.
      Minor, son of Michael Twomey, fireman, and Ellen nee Cooper, a minor and a blacksmith of Wellington, married 19 Sep 1885 in home of Mrs Olsen, Roxburgh St, Wgtn, to Louisa Caroline Hodgson, minor, b Dunedin dau of Robert Hodgson, storekeeper, and Martha nee Hayes. Their children included: Isabella Louisa Twomey born in NZ before 1887
      William G Twomey b. NSW Woollahra 1893 no 39523
      Walter Twomey b NSW Sydney 1888 no 2655
      A Louisa C Twomey died 1923/10978 NSW Hurstville, parents names William W and Martha. This could be Frederick's wife.
      Anglea Finnerty did a search for a relatives in NSW in 1987: George Twomey, 97 Ocean Drive, Evans Head, NSW Australia 2473. She could find no death for Henry or Michael or Henry Michael Twomey 1875-1940 but Ivan had a date 13 Aug 1897.
      A son was Henry John Twomey b 14 Mar 1891 Wgtn
   11. Walter John Twomey, b 20 Sep 1871 Hokitika
   12. Oscar Charles Twomey, b 11 Jan 1875 Hokitika (parents Henry Michael Twomey and Elizabeth, nee Cooper)
      Note that Michael Twomey at Boatman's (WestCoast) is of a different family, from Macroom, co Cork. He died in 1919.

23. I have a note 1845 census: John S Palmer, was this Sutherland. Try his will 1898.
24. Rebecca said EOPalmer also travelled to Nelson for meetings of Anglican Synod.
25. The pamphlet indicates he tendered £100 per annum but the letter says "you will be allowed £100 a year to keep the said house and ferry …… You will be required to build a stable and paddocks for the use of the Public and may charge 1/- per day. You may run up to 300 sheep on the Reserve." The ferry ceased operation in 1887. The accommodation house served the public until 1912 (check date) when a new place was built 50 yds downstream.
   Plaque erected by Historic Places Trust 28 Jun 1975 reads: "An accommodation house and ferry were established here in 1862. The house stood on this site and the 1868 flood reached its foundations" The ferry was temporarily under charge of Troloves of Woodbank. Taken over by Thomas Lyford - letter 25 June 1862
27. Henry and George Gill not mentioned in 1845 or 1849 census
   1845: William, Cambria St.
28. 1862 Votes Proc Nelson Prov Council 1862:
   Compensation claim Mr Peter Higgins by his widow Mary now the wife of Daniel Eyles.
   Compensation claim Laurence Lyford by his widow Margaret, Suburban Nth
29. Mary Ann passenger list gives different order for Lyford family:
   Laurence Lyford 39, ag lab
   Margaret L, 36 wife
   Thomas L, 13
   John L, 9
   Charles L, 8
   Mary L, 7
   George L, 5
   Absolom L 4
   Frederick L 1
   William L 19 Ag Lab
   Ann L 17 wife

30. Thomas Lyford liable for Education Rate at Suburban Nth for 1 child in 1874 - this could be a different
   Thomas Lyford.

31. A [?Absolom] Lyford leased 200 acres happy Valley for £2/10/- pa     31.3.1869

32. George Palmer b 11 Oct 1820, m1 Roseanne Connor and had son Robert George Palmer, bc 1847
   He m 2 Elizabeth Mary NAYLOR and they had Emily Mary Palmer and George Cresswell Palmer
   (b1856). This last George married and had issue.

33. I have seen a thesis "Old Kaikoura" by E J Watts 1930, V.U.C. He had info from E O Palmer.

34. From published diary of Dr Henry Weekes (who went to New Plymouth as surgeon on the William
   Bryan): March 3 1842: Set sail for Sydney on brig Caroline 150 tons, arrived Sydney March 14 paid
   £12 for passage, Captain Liardet, Captain King, Ware, and Browse of Regina fellow passengers.
   Lodging at Vercoe's Coffee House 25/- a week including good board and private bedroom

35. From Ivan's visit to The Gables Proceed straight ahead at Brightwater, don't take sharp left bend in main
   route. Cross river and proceed until reaching the hills, then turn right. About 1/2 - 3/4 mile on is
   The Gables, on your right, close to road, in large trees. The front room contained relics of former store -
   office section, scales, counter, connecting doors to room behind with circular peepholes to see arriving
   cursomers.

36. Fyffe Palmer Scenic reserve - donated 8 hectares adjoining state forest land on Mr Fyffe.

37. Letter from Turnbull Library 12 Sept 1973 ref TL 3/1/2 Embarkation Register shows that William
   Palmer was engaged by Captain Liardet before emigrating and was recommended by Capt Liardet for
   the voyage. Liardet, NZ Company Agent for New Plymouth, is listed among the cabin passengers for
   the Whitby. Sailed from Gravesend 27 Apr 1841 under Capt William lacey, arrived Nelson 18 Sept
   1841.

38. The Establishment of the New Plymouth settlement in New Zealand 1841-1845 be J Rutherford and
   W H Skinner, publ 1969, p 200: "March 3ed The brig Caroline which arrived from Wellington on
   Monday, saiedy for Sydney as passengers Captain Liardet, R.N., late resident Agent of the New
   Zealand Company, Br Weekes, Surgeon of the William Bryan, Captain Browse, late of the Regina,
   wrecked at new Plymouth in November and Mr Palmer, attendant on Captain Liardet. All these were en
   route for England. Captain King, R.N., was also a passenger to Sydney for the purpose of purchasing
   stock - cattle and sheep for the New Plymouth settlement."

   commissioned the 84-gun ship Powerful, which was sent out to the Mediterranean in the summer, when
   the troubled state of the Levant made it necessary to reinforce the fleet … ” page 42: Siege of Acre.
Palmer Nelson Births 1845-1865  [John & Charles were brothers, William was not related]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Records</th>
<th>John Palmer</th>
<th>Charles Palmer</th>
<th>William Palmer/Elizabeth (mainly grandchildren)</th>
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<td>Charles Webber c 1844</td>
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<td>Annie b 1850</td>
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<td>Albert John 1851</td>
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<td>Clara ? (1850)</td>
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<td>Jane b 1853</td>
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<td>William 1865/309</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unnamed male 1870</td>
<td>Conrad George ?</td>
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Appendix A
Copy of Letter from mother of Salome Palmer (Lovell)
From Bramford England, 14th Nov 1847

My Dear Salome

The evenings being very long and am so much alone i thought i would amuse myself by beginning a few lines to you 5 years have now passed away since you undertook that long journey it may not seem long to you but it does to me i hope you received my letter that i sent of in September there was a ship to sail the 20 of that Month no doubt you feel shocked at hearing of poor fathers death how swift he was snatched from time into eternity he was at his work between four and five o'clock in the afternoon of the 25 of August and was stretched on the bed a corpse before seven what an Awful change in such a short time. Poor soul he was put to unload some dews rakings of barley at Mumfords stock yard and was going down the lane with one horse and the empty waggon to set it in the Lodge at Papermill farm and a cart load of deal coming out of a field the horse took fright and ran of as he was on the shaft it is supposed and was in the act of getting onto the horses back and it kicked and chucked him off and the wheels passed over him and his poor back was intirely broken in two Doctor Mumford examined him after he was dead his watch was crushed it cost 7s shillings to repair it and he had new pair of highlows as they are called brought home only the night before and paid half a sovereign for them and the club he was in was broken up last Spring so tis all the worse for me but thank God i have that consolation that there is not doubt but he is arrived at that Blessed city where the Wicked cease from troubling and the Weary are at Rest and the Servant is free from his Master it was but a few days before as they were plowing a piece of land three or four of them had to plow in the same furrow one before the other and Mumford was looking on and poor father did but slacken his pace to shift something in the plow and Mumford called out to the hinder one Plow over that old man and Poor soul how he threatened he would tell him of it and ask him what he ment by saying so but the Lord will settle all such accounts he will be an old man if he live long enough but tis not worth while to dwell upon it when you receive this it will be long since but if the Lord had spared him a few years his time would have been but Labour and Sorrow he was in his 65 year i had often thought when he had gone to work of a morning that he was so sad and was glad to find he was home but did not see him any more Stephen said he never felt so anxious to get home sadly he would have to be brought home but what Providence have decreed for us we cannot get out of the way of receiving this it will be long since but if the Lord had spared him a few years his time would have been but Labour and Sorrow he was in his 65 year. Stephen came home about 8 in the morning of the Awful day and Poor Soul he came in about 9 for a few minnits and was glad to find he was home but did not see him any more Stephen said he never felt so anxious to get home in before in his life he is now tired of the sea this Voyage have sickend him he have been 2 voyages to Russia and Prusia but he is now out door servant to an old man at the house where Mrs Collins did live He is a retired clergyman and only one servant her name is Hannah Crooks she did live at Stoke Hall with Brother John when steward was there Steven work in the garden and have a horse and gig to see to the old man is quite an old fashion one and a very Misserable one but Stephen get nine shillings a week of him at present and Robert is slushing about the fields with Mumfords sheep for 2 shillings a week i hope he will soon meet with a light place as we are all living in the old hut at present but the washing go hard with me but i must try to keep a home for them as long as i can but George would have me go to live in London and if i had only myself i shouldnt mind for his wife is a nice little cleaver woman and we might do very well together no doubt for she is a capital hand at ironing for the Laundreys before she married she went out 5 days in the week half a crown a day in winter and 3s in summer but now she take it home to iron her own house she have many times ironed 60 shirts a day and did it last winter but now she have a dear little boy and how she manage i dont know but when she went from here she took my old stove home with her as i did not use it she only started at our station half past 4 and was at London half past 7 and that stove and a deal more luggage for five shillings and elevenpence by railway we see trains on this line that reach a quarter of a mile drawn by one engine only

Dear Salome i received a letter from you the 29 of September dated March 7 giving the account of John being married you told me his wifes name but did not say if she was from England i hope he is comfortable and Charles also give my kind love to them all and may they and yourself be preserved from such troubles and sorrow as i have met with is the prayer of your poor unhappy mother but a little while and the worlds frowns and smiles will be all buried together.  
[The following written in blood and hard to read]

November 21st Dear Salome as my nose set of bleeding i make use of it for ink a few words and must tell you that i have just heard from George and he is out of employ again owing to the stopage in the railway works There is not less than a hundred and thirty thousand men out of employ in England from the stopage of the railway work alone and numbers of large merchants in London are failed and bankers also that had shares in the railways the Mr Barclays that were emensisly rich are failed by means of the same and London if full of men out of employ and George say go to seek for any employment is as bad as going begging he was out last year from August to April and was obliged to make away or at least to Pledge allmost all they possessed and was now getting round but what he will do now i cannot tell but i expect he will be obliged to go to sea if he can get a berth if his wife would consent to emigrate to some other country he would for he say he is sure any Where is better than this country 12 months ago he was all hot for going to the Cape but Rose would not consent.

November 28 (in ink) Poor father was burried this day 13 weeks and the next that was burried here was Maryann 12 months ago he was all hot for going to the Cape but Rose would not consent. Dear Salome you say you hear from Henry sometimes i wish you would ask him to write to Sarah's father or brother if he would they will be glad to hear of them for it seems he have left of writing to me so that i can give them no account of him i doubt he is not doing himself any good there but had better have stayed in England i am glad to hear that Eliza Brown have received a letter from John sometime since
but Mrs Manning is surprised that John have not written to her she live at 39 Georgen Street Cambden new town
if John wish to write but Mr Chew the butler have been dead 12 months Mr Evans have left Lady Rendlesham but
there was one maid servant there that was when John was there she told George she had heard Mr Evans express
his surprise that John did not write to him according to his promis Dear Salome if i am spared to hear from you
again i hope i shall hear you are living nearer to your brothers for when i consider the distance you are from home
and then so far from them you seams like an outcast.
Crossed: Jane and Jim Woods was married the 4 of last May.

[Comment on the above - from Roger Nuttall I think:
Cost of postage was an issue for poorer correspondents so the lack of paragraph breaks is entirely understandable.
They wished to get the maximum words onto the page. On this occasion she did not go to the extent of "crossing"
what she had written except for the brief mention of the Woods marriage.
The club referred to would probably have been a funeral insurance scheme.
Both at the beginning and at the end there are hints as to unreliability of letters reaching their destinations, so
important news had to be repeated, and news received was shared with others who may have missed out on
receiving their letters.
The picture painted is of a family living in quite grim poverty. It is possible there had been some slight
exaggeration in the hope that more fortunate family members might be able to send some help. Coming from such
a background, it is surprising that any comment could be made that Salome had married "beneath her station"
when she took a "labouring immigrant" for her husband. Salome's brothers John and Charles, and perhaps some of
the others too, had raised themselves to a better situation as landowners by their own efforts, but that did not
necessarily alter Salome's position, even though they did pay for a cabin passage for her on the voyage to NZ.]
IN THE EARLY DAYS.

I.

Kaikoura Star, Friday November 2 1923

Our representative set out the other day to glean a few particulars from old identities concerning the early days of Kaikoura. He first made the acquaintance of Mr Edmund Oscar Palmer, who was born in Nelson seventy-eight years ago. His father came to New Zealand in the man-o’-war Phoebe, and settled down at Appleby, Nelson, in 1844. In those days (says Mr Palmer) commodities were very scarce, especially timber. The New Zealand Company was then in operation, and eventually had difficulties to contend with. Mr Palmer's father brought bullocks over from Australia, and performed carting work for the New Zealand Company. There was no proper education system in vogue at the time, and Mr E O Palmer received his first instruction from Mrs John Flower, his principal reading book being the New Testament, as there were no other reading books in New Zealand. Later district boards took over the education system, Mr Bryant being his second teacher, and he was subsequently taught by the late Mr Sunley. After receiving what education was then available, Mr Palmer worked on the farm with his father until 1866, and when he was 20 years of age, with his brother Charles W Palmer, came overland to Kaikoura on horseback, the family arriving by schooner at a later period. Mr T Blick was the mail contractor at the time, and the mail was carried by Mr H Lovell, the run being from Blenheim to Hawkeswood, the Post Office being situated at Mr Haile's place, on the North Road. The first steamer to reach Kaikoura was the Lyttelton, a paddle steamer. Mr Palmer put in four years as a volunteer in Nelson, during the time the Maoris were troublesome. As the Imperial soldiers in the early days had to take orders from England, they could not make much impression on the Maoris, the method of capturing a pa being by means of trenches and saps, storming the paes therefrom. On one occasion when orders were given to capture a pa, the soldiers discovered that there remained but one lone Native woman. Later the Colonial forces were brought into requisition in connection with suppressing the Maoris, and they understood better how to attack the Maoris. All prisoners captured were sent to the Chathams. On one occasion the Chatham prisoners overpowered the guard, commandeered a schooner, and returned to New Zealand, landing in Poverty Bay. This was in Te Kooti's time. It was all work and very little play in those days. Mr Palmer and his brother first settled at the foot of Mt Fyffe, naming the settlement "Brentwood." The land had been surveyed two years previously by Mr Ward, Mr W Poulter being on the survey staff. An uncle of Mr Palmer's had acted as manager of the Clarence Station previous to this, and knew the country fairly well. Mt Fyffe was named after the late Mr George Fyffe, who died in Kaikoura, and was buried on the hill near the Old Wharf, his remains being subsequently removed to the Cemetery. The first woolshed in the district was erected in the bend just beyond the Old Wharf, and was constructed of whalebones and thatched with toitoi. Mr Palmer was engaged in shearing in this particular shed. The late Mr G F Bullen came to Kaikoura in October of 1866, and took over the Kahutara Run from Mr G Fyffe, the latter then living where Mr J Low now resides. The first wharf consisted of a couple of spars with a few stays, and here it was that the wool was shipped by the Ruby. Mr Bob Fyffe carried on whaling operations with his nephew George Fyffe, Jimmy and Barney Riley also being engaged in the industry. Barney's Rock was named after Barney Riley. Mr Palmer and his brother brought cattle and gear down with them, also a couple of horses, landing here on 10th April 1866. Mr Pat Peoples, Mr James O'Donnell, Mr D Smith, and Mr Hugh Tremble came later. Mrs Abraham and Mrs Malcolm Campbell then resided in Kaikoura. Mr J Haile's father had resided at Mt Pleasant for about a year previous to this, his mother being a sister of Mr Ward, the surveyor. Mr John Schroeder was also in Kaikoura at the time. The settlers were engaged in farming pursuits principally. Captain Keene was the first settler at Swyncombe, the boundary between the latter place being the Kahutara, Monkey Face being the boundary between Green Hills and Mt Fyffe. Captain Keene purchased the freehold of the property, his boundary being from the Kowhai River to the Conway (inland), and Mr Bullen's property from the Clarence Reserve to the Conway (Greenhills Estate). Mr Ward owned Quail Flat, Mr C Watts held the Titler, subleasing to Mr W Smith. Land sold in those days from 4/6 up to £2 per acre. The late Mr William Smith had the Titler run then, starting with 1500 ewes, two sets of lambs being born in the first season, an occurrence which has not since been repeated. Mr Smith also took over Ludstone. For the first year Mr Palmer and his brother ploughed about ten acres, putting in wheat, oats, and potatoes, and was also engaged in sawing timber for two cottages, later shearing at Fyffe's and Inglis's. Mr Palmer next started a flour mill, on the site now occupied by Mr H Chisnall's residence, Beach Road, the plant coming from Nelson, having been purchased by Messers Hooper and Dodson, of Nelson, who traded with English firms. Two years later he sold the plant to Messers Parsons Brothers, who later removed it to Ashwick. The plant, with 42 acres and a six acre strip was sold for £600. Messers E.G. (sic) and C.O. Palmer were born at the flour mill site. Mr Palmer in 1870 married Miss Elizabeth Morrison, a daughter of Captain Morrison, of Wellington. Eight sons and one daughter resulted from the marriage. After the flour mill had been disposed of he went to Glenburn, where general farming was carried on, until he sold to Mr Skevington. He then removed to the township, carrying on carpentering and the breaking in of horses, living where Mr J Prince's residence now stands. He built the house where Mr J Prince resides, selling the cottage to him later. The road at that time from McAra's Corner to the wharf ran...
along the foot of the hill along Torquay Street, Cave Rock jutting out into the sea. When his brother left for England, Mr Palmer purchased Brentwood, and other blocks of land. In those days he had to cut and deliver manuka firewood at £1 per cord. The dairy business was mooted about this time, and Mr Guy Boyd and Mr B Mackle offered sites for a factory, the latter's land eventually being chosen. Mr A S Collyns was the chairman of the first meeting, and Mr C Wood was the first chairman of directors, Messers J Curtain and Palmer being included as his associate directors. The price paid for milk was 2 1/4d per gallon, cheese bringing 4d per lb in the Sydney market. This was in 1896. Then followed an agitation for cutting up Crown lands, resulting in the land being subdivided, Mr Palmer taking an active part in the movement, as he had done in dairy matters. Mr Meredith was then the member for Parliament. Kahautera Block was the first subdivision. Mr Palmer was for 10 years at Kahautera, and then moved to Kohanga. He was instrumental in securing the hospital for Kaikoura, being a strong advocate for the present site in the face of much opposition in favour of building the hospital on the site where the Farmers' saleyards are now situate. He put up a great fight for the site on the hill, and was eventually backed up by Dr Valantine. Mr Palmer also took a keen interest in harbour matters, and represented the town for nine years on the Kaikoura County Council.

Although 78 years of age, Mr Palmer is hale, hearty and active, and very rarely finds occasion to use glasses for reading. He is a fine stamp of the old and active, and very rarely finds occasion to use glasses for reading. He is a fine stamp of the old

**EARLY KAIKOURA**

II

[In our previous notes it was mentioned that the Post Office was at Mr Haile's property. It should have been stated that the site was at Mt Pleasant.]

Captain Pilliat, who subsequently became Customhouse Officer and Resident Magistrate, came over in charge of the Government steamer to survey the bay and coast of Kaikoura. Soon after arrival here, the St Kilda struck the rock named after her. She then left for Wellington, and Captain Pilliat remained in Kaikoura with two boats, to complete the survey of the coast. They later left for Gore Bay, near Cheviot, in the schooner Sea Bird, on the day previous to the great storm of 1868, and had to take shelter under the Amuri Bluff. The severity of the storm increasing, the crew of the schooner took to the boats, the sea running over the shore and rocks. They waited until a large wave rolled along, rose on top of it, and succeeded in getting clear over the rocks. One of the crew sustained broken ribs in the ride over the waves to the shore. Shortly after the schooner sank at anchor. She had a cargo of limestone on board. Probably

the sunken vessel is still at the bottom where she sank.

The schooner Triumph, belonging to the same owner, leaving Lyttelton, arrived here early in the morning, mooring opposite the old wharf. When the storm reached this vessel her easterly moorings carried away, and the vessel crashed against the wharf, which broke through her side, and she remained fast until the crew landed safely. The inner moorings still held fast, and the vessel rolled until the mast tips touched the water and the rocks, on the inshore side, the return waves turning her over in the opposite direction, until the strain of the seas broke her to pieces, the wreckage being strewn in all directions. The keel and lower portions of the vessel sank to the bottom of the harbour, where they remained for several years. The only cargo the vessel had on board was a ton of flour, which was washed ashore, and strange to relate, it was very little damaged. The Triumph was engaged in the limestone trade, and she also made several trips to Port Underwood, with wool, etc., the sailing vessels at that time loading wool, which was brought down the rivers from Blenheim and the East Coast stations.

The barques Indus and Camilla, with bullocks, from the Clarence River, New South Wales, for Mr Bullen, were then traders here. The Indus left the Clarence (Australia) first with 200 head of cattle and several horses, Mr Frank Bullen coming over in her. They had rather a long passage across, and entered the bay late in the afternoon. In the morning the vessel was seen at anchor, opposite Inglis's Creek. A whaleboat went out to show the skipper to the anchorage, the wind blowing a southerly. Those on the vessel were told not to go past the reef, as the strong current running would cause the vessel to drift north, which, it turned out, actually did happen, the vessel drifting as far as Picton. Hay was secured at Picton to feed the hungry cattle on the way back to Kaikoura, the vessel arriving here a few days afterwards, this time securing the proper anchorage. The cattle were landed with the aid of boats, the beasts swimming on each side of the craft, with lines attached, which were released when nearing the shore.

The Camilla arrived shortly after, and discharged about 250 head of cattle. Both vessels then returned to Australia for further lots, and in due course came down the bay at the same time, reaching the anchorage safely, and commencing to land their cattle. When about half way through the operation a very heavy easterly gale sprang up, causing a heavy sea. The ships stranded at their anchors that much that the crews came ashore for safety. The gale continued for two days, and the crew remained on shore until it abated, then returned to the vessels to complete the landing of the cattle. The cattle were able to walk above high water mark. In all 800 head of cattle were delivered, and paid for, the conditions being that they were to be safely landed. The seller was in Kaikoura personally to give delivery of the cattle to the purchasers, Messers F and GF Bullen, uncle and father of Messers F and WR Bullen.
Those were the good old days when people did not complain of the hardships they had to endure - they knew too well that if improvements were to be made, they must effect them themselves.

OLD KAIKOURA

III

Description of that part of Kaikoura known at "The Swamp" and its appearance in the year 1869

At that period it was in its primitive state, covered with a dense crop of vegetation, viz., toitoi, flax, bullrush, niggerheads, fern, tutu, cutty grass, koromiko, and many of the bush shrubs, on the edge of small streams, which flowed very slowly, and left the whole place covered with water and bogs of a very soft nature. In many places you could push a pole into the bogs for 15 feet or more in depth before reaching anything solid. Even the small gullies running into the Ludstone Block were impassable for traffic, therefore the only means of getting round to the dryer land on the slopes of Mt Fyffe and the Kowhai was over the Peninsula, round the South Bay, and up the Kowhai River, or up the beach nearer the sea than the present road runs, and part of the way on the sand near the sea as far as Harnett's Creek. From this point up past Inglis's house, thence along through a break in the bush to the Waimanariri, above the Postman's Road, crossing over Ward's creek above where Mr John Taylor's house now stands, crossing the School road near the Presbyterian Church, thence along the line of road to the English Church, crossing Garrett's land to the Kowhai crossing. These tracks were used until ditches were cut through all the soft parts along the Ludstone Road. The soil from these ditches was placed on the centre of the road, and when it became hard enough for travelling over, gradually the road came into use. The next piece drained and formed was commenced opposite the Ludstone woolshed, to near Keenan's Corner. These roads were constructed under the supervision of the Blenheim officials. The Mt Fyffe Road was then taken in hand, contracts of small sections being let to the settlers willing to take land in payment for their labour. This formation having been completed it was some time before teams could travel on it. The settlers interested in parts that could be made fit for use joined together, and by using bundles of flax bound close together, over the softest places, and covered with clay, they were enabled to get along with light loads.

The Kaikoura Road Board was elected in 1870, and took charge of things. Road matters began to look brighter, as the Board were enabled to have the most urgent work done. Later on they had the Mt Fyffe Road metalled. Happily the cross roads were laid out on harder ground, and did not require so much to make them passable.

Leaving the roads for the present, we will pass on to get over farms, in order to give us something to live on. The easiest of it would take £5 an acre to prepare for a crop of potatoes, which were generally grown first; then oats or wheat. Fancy selling a four bushel sack of oats for 5/-, or 4/6 per bushel for wheat, and bacon for 4d per lb!

Wool and mutton being at very low prices, sheep increasing very quickly, it became necessary to have them boiled down for the tallow. Mr E G T Gooch commenced one of the first local industries, by erecting an up-to-date boiling down establishment, erecting it at the farm now owned by Mr Frank Bullen near the Old Wharf. The boiler was a very large one, capable of holding 500 carcases of sheep at one time. The tallow was extracted by steam being turned through the boiler through a pipe from the engine, which did its task so effectively that the bones crumbled up into powder. After drawing off the tallow the remainder of the refuse was trucked away into the sea, along a truck line erected for the purpose. The tallow and skins were shipped to market. Large quantities of sheep were dealt with at this establishment, sheep coming from all the stations anywhere near Kaikoura. Ten thousand came from Parnassus in one season. Four butchers were employed doing the slaughtering, and several other men were engaged for the after work. This industry was carried on until the frozen meat industry was a success.
Appendix C

(From Otago Witness, October 4, 1927.)

NELSON TO KAIKOURA IN 1866

Dictated by Edmund Oscar Palmer, who was born in Nelson on May 28, 1846, and transcribed by Charles Oscar Palmer, his son.

(Special for the Otago Witness.)

Charles Palmer sen. Was born in Essex in 1818. He served in the Royal Navy and fought under the renowned Charles Napier. He served aboard a small trader between Sydney and the New Zealand coast in the mid 'thirties, and took service for the New Zealand Company when the Nelson settlement was planned. He drove the first team of bullocks in those parts. There his family of eight or nine was born.

In 1865 he journeyed overland to look at the Kaikoura district, then being surveyed into small holdings - that is, the swamp, peninsula, and township, the great outlying areas of land being locked up by and for the wool kings of those times. Mr Palmer determined to bring his family round to Kaikoura.

In the following year, 1866, he chartered the ketch or schooner Isabella. She belonged to Hobart, and was running for Lyttelton. For £40 he chartered her to carry his family, farm implements, provisions, one year's stock of flour, etc., to Kaikoura. They put to sea the evening of April 1, 1866. When near the French Pass they fell in with the Wellington packet. Dr Monroe and some other Parliamentarians were aboard. The doctor, knowing Mr Palmer, after some conference, called for three cheers for the pioneering father and mother and their children.

Meanwhile, the elder boys, Charles Webber and Edmund Oscar Palmer, left Appleby on the overland track with the livestock - three draught animals, one horse and two mares, several milch cows, and some heifers. Their first day's journey was up the Maitai Valley to the foot of Moketapu, where they stayed the night with a settler.

In the Maitai River valley the drovers met a gold escort, the noble mounted guard of which rode by with drawn and flourishing weapons, and pushed the cattle over the bank of the pack track. It was in the "good old times" you know, just a fortnight before the horrible deeds of Burgess, Levi, Sullivan and Kelly about that very locality.

The gold escort left one fine cow with an injured back. She could be taken only at a snail's pace until they reached Charleston's hotel, where the Adelphi now stands. Charlie and Oscar arrived on Saturday evening, June 6, 1866, and were entertained by Joe Martin the year before. So, up to their knees in sand, they came past Kekerangu to the Flags. They were also a lot of Maori graves there.

There was a grove of fine karaka trees at Aniseed Creek, and a large number of Maoris from Waipapa and Maungamaunu were camping there to pick the berries. They met Mr Harry Lovell riding north with his pack-horse and the fortnightly mail. They passed the night at Lyford's, and had a good "pitch" with Tom, an old Nelson man. Then, and for 20 years thereafter, only a bridle track led from Clarence to Kaikoura. A big crowd of Maoris lived under the bluff at the boat sheds, about five miles from Waipapa. There were also a lot of Maori graves there.

They reached the Clarence that evening. Tom Lyford, the ferryman, found them a ford, and they got the cattle safely over. Only three times in Oscar's later experience did he ford the Clarence without swimming his horse. They passed the night at Lyford's, and had a good "pitch" with Tom, an old Nelson man. Then, and for 20 years thereafter, only a bridle track led from Clarence to Kaikoura. A big crowd of Maoris lived under the bluff at the boat sheds, about five miles from Waipapa. There were also a lot of Maori graves there.

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They forded the Pateke and rode on to the Kaikoura township. They met their sisters at the ford across the Waikowai, into what is now known as the West End. The Isabella had got into Kaikoura about Thursday.

Charlie and Oscar arrived on Saturday evening, and passed the night with the family at Joe Charleston's hotel, where the Adelphi now stands.
Acknowledgments

Copy of Whity picture - Alexander Turnbull Library
Charles Palmer article - The Press Christchurch
St Michael's Church Waimea West - Jubilee Booklet 1843 - 1668
Robert Palmer Diary - Canterbury Museum
Photo Moa Egg - The Press Christchurch
Photo Moa Egg Cast - Historic Places Trust newsletter
Map Waimea 1848 - National Library
Photo Suburban School Kaikoura - Kaikoura Herald
Photo mere - The Press Christchurch
Photo coach at Clarence Ferry - Historic Places Trust
Articles from Kaikoura Star - Canterbury Museum
Information from archives –
   Alexander Turnbull Library,
   Canterbury Provincial Museum,
   Nelson Provincial Museum

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