

**THE HISTORY OF  
TARANAKI: A STANDARD  
WORK ON THE HISTORY  
OF THE PROVINCE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649604821

The History of Taranaki: A Standard Work on the History of the Province by B. Wells

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**B. WELLS**

**THE HISTORY OF  
TARANAKI: A STANDARD  
WORK ON THE HISTORY  
OF THE PROVINCE**



THE  
HISTORY OF TARANAKI

BY  
B. WELLS:

A STANDARD WORK ON THE HISTORY OF THE  
PROVINCE.

---

“It appears to me to be a noble employment to rescue from oblivion those who deserve to be eternally remembered, and by extending the reputation of others, to advance at the same time our own.”—

PLINY THE YOUNGER.

---

NEW ZEALAND:  
EDMONDSON & AVERY, “TARANAKI NEWS” OFFICE,  
NEW PLYMOUTH.

1878.

DU  
430  
T17W46

## P R E F A C E .

---

THE Establishment of the European Settlements of Taranaki was attended with no ordinary difficulty. Not only had the heroic pioneers to contend with the primeval wilderness which received them when they landed on the Taranaki shores, and a barbarous and turbulent race of aborigines, but also with the inability of the Plymouth and New Zealand Companies to fulfil in a satisfactory manner the work of colonisation which they had undertaken. The records of these proceedings are few and very scarce, death has removed some of the chief actors in them and age has dimmed the memories of others; it seemed therefore right to me, having a love for the work and having more than ordinary opportunities for its accomplishment, to collect, arrange, and publish all the more important documents and traditions relating to these affairs. My labors having been brought to a close, I am able now to present to my fellow settlers a lasting memorial of those truly heroic deeds in which a majority of them have taken part, and which have happily resulted in the foundation of a beautiful home for us in a fertile land and under genial skies, and in adding another Province to that Empire on which the sun never sets. I am persuaded that this little work will be generally welcomed in the Province whose history it relates, and that it will have the use of all history by

#### PREFACE.

extending the lives of its readers into the past by leading them to the sources of existing things, and therefore to a deeper comprehension of them, and by examples of heroism and patient endurance incite a repetition of such virtues. I desire very cordially to express my thanks for aid rendered to me in the preparation of this work to F. A. Carrington, Esq., M.H.R., late Superintendent of Taranaki; Major Charles Brown, Civil Commissioner; R. Parris, Esq., late Civil Commissioner; Major Charles Stapp, Commanding Taranaki Militia and Volunteers; C. D. Whitecombe, Esq., Commissioner of Crown Lands; Mrs. S. Popham King; Miss Kate Flight; G. D. Hamerton, Esq., Coroner; J. B. Lawson, Esq., Clerk to the Provincial Council of Taranaki; Mr. F. U. Gledhill, and Mr. Max. D. King.

In passing the work through the press I have received every assistance from Messrs. Edmondson and Avery, the printers.

B. WELLS.

“News Office,” New Plymouth,

March 31st, 1878.

# CONTENTS.

## CHAPTER I.

	PAGE.
MAORI traditions respecting the Morioris.—Resemblance of the Maoris to a tribe in India.—Affinity of the Maori and Indo-European tongues.—Resemblance of Maori customs with those of a tribe in China and with those of the ancient Africans.—Indian ship's bell found in New Zealand.—Remarkable resemblance of some Maori and Egyptian words ... ..	1

## CHAPTER II.

The canoes of the Maori immigrants.—The naming of the Taranaki rivers and hills.—The Etymology of some Maori common names.—The arrival of the Ngatiawa at the Bay of Islands—They double the North Cape and enter the Waitara—They subdue the aborigines and establish themselves at Ngapuketurua—They roam about the island—They send a taua to assist Rauparaha—They flee to the Chatham Islands, and return to Taranaki—The location of the hapus.—Maori antiquities ... ..	4
--	---

## CHAPTER III.

Description of Pukerangiora.—Description of Ngamotu.—Waikato spies arrive in a canoe.—War party of Waikatos arrive at Waitara—The assault on Pukerangiora—The Massacre of the Garrison—The cannibal feast—The attack and defence of Ngamotu—The defeat and retreat of the Waikatos.—Visit to Poarama ... ..	7
---	---

## CHAPTER IV.

Discovery of New Zealand.—Juan Fernandez.—Tasman sights Taranaki.—Captain Cook names Mount Egmont.—M. Marion du Fresne ... ..	12
---	----

## CHAPTER V.

Commerce with New Zealand.—Arrival of the Missionaries.—Kororaraka The British Resident.—Native Confederation.—The New Zealand Company—Grant of Charter—Difficulties of the Company—Relinquishment of Charter—Debt Cancelled ... ..	15
---	----

## CHAPTER VI.

Despatch of the Tory.—Arrival of the Tory in Cook Strait.—Richard Barrett.—Guard the whaler.—Wreck of the Harriet.—Rev. H. Williams.—E. Puni and Warepori.—Sale of land by Ngatiawa.—Colonel Wakefield sails northward—Anchors off the Sagarloaves.—Dr. Dieffenbach and Barrett land at Ngamotu ... ..	19
--	----



## CHAPTER VII.

	PAGE.
Dr. Dieffenbach obtains a view of Egmont and Ruapahu—Description of the Ngamotu rocks—Description of the Huatoki, Henui, and Waiwakaiho rivers—Starts for the Mountain—Travels up the right bank of the Waiwakaiho—Returns unsuccessful to Ngamotu—Makes a second attempt to reach the Mountain—The ascent—Returns to Ngamotu—Starts to the Waitara—Visits Mokau—Buys the land of the natives.—The deed of sale ... ..	23

## CHAPTER VIII.

New Zealand made a dependency of New South Wales.—Captain Hobson appointed Lieutenant-Governor.—Mr. Somes remonstrates with Lord Palmerston.—Arrival of Governor Hobson.—The Treaty of Waitangi.—A French expedition arrives at Akaroa ... ..	43
---	----

## CHAPTER IX.

The establishment of the Plymouth Company.—Despatch of the Chief Surveyor.—Taranaki overland exploring expedition—The expedition reaches Ngamotu.—Colonel Wakefield's letter to the Plymouth Company.—The prospectus of the Company.—Arrival of Mr. Carrington in Wellington—He sails in the Brougham on an expedition in search of a site for a settlement—Selects Taranaki—Lands at Ngamotu with his staff ... ..	48
---	----

## CHAPTER X.

Despatch of the William Bryan.—Failure of Wright's Bank.—Port to be called Port Eliot.—Mr. Cutfield's letter describing the landing of the pioneers.—Commencement of trouble with the natives.—Mr. Cutfield sows the first European seeds.—Despatch of the Amelia Thompson—Farewell dinner at Plymouth—God Speed the Ship.—Bahia.—Arrival at New Plymouth.—Arrival and wreck of the Regina.—Arrival of the Oriental.—Captain Liardet ... ..	59
---	----

## CHAPTER XI.

Governor Hobson—His service in the Royal Navy—Attempts to establish a town at the Bay of Islands—Founds Auckland—Opposes the settlement of Wanganui and Taranaki—Constitutes a Legislative Council.—Te Kaka of Waikato visits Taranaki to claim the land by right of conquest.—Governor Hobson purchases the rights of Waikato—Proclaims a commission to inquire into land claims by Europeans.—Mr. Spain appointed commissioner.—New Zealand constituted a distinct Colony.—The Governor attempts to curtail the New Plymouth settlement.—Financial difficulties of the Government.—Governor Hobson's death ... ..	74
---	----

## CHAPTER XII.

Arrival of the Timandra.—Moorings laid in the roadstead.—Colonel Wakefield visits the settlement—Appoints Mr. Wicksteed Resident Agent.—Mr. Wicksteed's report.—Death of Mr. C. Brown, senr.—The Nairn's employed to open a bridle path behind the Mountain.—Quarrels between settlers and natives.—Introduction of horses.—The Chief Surveyor's horse.—State of the settlement.—Return of the Ngatiawa slaves.—The first Waiwakaiho bridge.—Arrival of the Blenheim.—Another quarrel with the natives ... ..	81
---	----

## CHAPTER XIII.

	PAGE.
Arrival of the Essex.—Captain Cooke drives cattle and sheep from Wellington.—Mr. E. J. Wakefield visits the settlement.—Reduction of expenditure.—Notice to the Chief Surveyor that his services are no longer required.—Arrival of the Thomas Sparks.—Reduction of wages.—The Wairau massacre.—Governor Shortland's proclamation.—Mr. Wicksteed's report.—Erection of the first mill and brewery.—Appointment of Rev. W. Bolland.—Arrival of the William Stovell.—Arrival of the Himalaya.—Governor Fitzroy ... ..	93

## CHAPTER XIV.

Scarcity of food.—Natives cut the timber on Captain Cooke's section at Te Hua.—State of the settlement.—Arrival of the Theresa—Mutiny on board.—Arrival of the Bella Marina.—Arrival of Colonel Wakefield and Mr. Commissioner Spain.—Mr. Spain's award.—Threatenings of the natives.—Messengers despatched to Auckland.—Arrival of the Governor by H.M.S. Hazard, and of Bishop Selwyn, Rev. J. Whiteley and Mr. Maclean overland.—Temporary conciliation of the natives effected.—Governor again visits the settlement and reduces New Plymouth to a block of 3,500 acres.—Extracts from the reports of Messrs. Forsaith and Maclean.—Extract of a letter from the Rev. John Whiteley.—Wi Kingi's letter to the Governor.—Other reports and letters relating to the affairs of the settlement ... ..	102
--	-----

## CHAPTER XV.

Rev S. Marsden. Rev. J. F. Churton. The Church Society for New Zealand. Arrangement for the endowment of a Bishopric. Despatch of Mr. Wicksteed to the colony as agent. Nomination of Rev. G. A. Selwyn to the office of Bishop—Consecration—Presentation of Communion service at Windsor—Description of the service. The Bishop sails for Sydney. His arrival in Auckland—His tour of his diocese—Description of his journey to New Plymouth. Waimate College. Cathedral library. First consecration. The Company's grant for churches. Appointment of Rev. W. Bolland to New Plymouth—His zeal. Church building committee—Collecting materials—Laying the first stone. Fever in the parsonage. Death of Rev. W. Bolland. Appointment of Rev. H. Govett, B.A. Brief notice of other clergymen. Roman Catholic Church. Appointment of Bishop Pompallier by Pope Gregory XVI—Lands in the North—Takes up his abode at the Bay of Islands. Father Pezant visits Taranaki. Chapel built in Courtenay-street. Arrival of Father Tressallet. Church built in Devon-street. Rev. Father Pertuis. Rev. Father Rolland—His bravery. Fathers Binfield and Lampilla. Wesleyan Methodist Church. Mission established at Waingarua—Missionaries driven away. Re-establishment of the Mission at Hokianga. Mr. Creed sent to Ngauotu. Mr. Skevington sent to Taranaki proper. Wesleyan Chapel built in Brongham-street. Captain King and Mr. Wicksteed wish to hold a horticultural show in the chapel and are refused. Wesleyans ordered to remove their chapel. Mr. Groube commences the erection of a sandstone chapel in Courtenay-street—Sells it to the Wesleyans. Mr. Turton. The Grey Institution. Death of Mr. Skevington. Arrival of Mr. Whiteley. Mr. Ironside. Other Ministers. Primitive Methodist Church. Origin of Primitive Methodism. Bible Christians. Mr. Veale gives a site for a chapel. Mr. Ward preaches on the town bridge—Bible Christians accept him as their minister—Takes up his residence at Te Henui—Attempts to preach to the Maoris who threaten to tomahawk him—Succeeded by Mr. Long.	
---	--

	PAGE.
Chapels built at Bell Block and Hurdon. Return of Mr. Ward—His sufferings during the war. Erection of Queen-street chapel. Arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Waters. Arrival of Messrs. Dumbell, Standrin and Clover. Congregationalism in New Plymouth. Mr. Groube arrives in the Timandra—Conducts service in a raupo whare—Attempts to erect a sandstone chapel in Courtenay-street—Builds a timber chapel in Devon-street. His sufferings during the war. Leaves for Melbourne. Presbyterianism in Taranaki. Rev. J. Thom visits the settlement—Conducts the service in the Independent Chapel—Induces the Military Settlers to petition the Church of Scotland for a Minister. The ordination of the Rev. R. F. Macnicol—His arrival. The building of the kirk. Mr. Macnicol accepts a call from Auckland. Rev. T. Blain. Lay Ministry. Rev. M. S. Breach. Death of Rev. J. Thom. The Baptist cause. Laying foundation stone of chapel. The trustees. Building shut up	122

## CHAPTER XVI.

Mr. Day goes to Sydney in the <i>Slaines Castle</i> to buy cattle and goods. The Paul Jones conveys eighteen despairing settlers to Adelaide. Maoris build a church at Mangoraka of materials stolen from the settlers. Dreadful storm and loss of the schooner <i>Richmond</i> on Kawhia bar. W. Bayly's barn and wheat stack burned at Mangoraka. Mr. Bolland returns from Auckland overland with the news of the appointment of a new Governor. Sir George Grey—His birth and education—Joins the 83rd Regiment—Commands an expedition sent to the interior of Australia—Assumes the Governorship of Australia—Arrives in Auckland—Brings the war in the North to a close—Is invested with the Star of the Order of the Bath—Chooses Tamati Waka Nene and Te Puni as his esquires—Settles the land claims in New Plymouth—Establishes Pensioner Settlements in Auckland—Delays the proclamation of the Constitution—Returns to England His literary works—He receives the degree of Doctor of Civil Laws at Oxford—Is appointed Governor of the Cape Colony—Is re-appointed Governor of New Zealand—Tries diplomacy and fails—Breaks the power of Waikato—Treats his prisoners in a weak and ridiculous manner—Proceeds to England—Returns and retires to the Kawau—Accepts the office of Superintendent of Auckland—Enters Parliament and becomes Premier of the Colony. Origin of the Union Mill. Arrival of the <i>Marianne</i> . Letter from Mr. Gladstone to Governor Grey. Suicide of Mr. Williams. Arrival of the <i>Madras</i> and <i>Ralph Bernal</i> . Constabulary Barracks built. Site and plan for the hospital. Bells Falls discovered. Arrival of the <i>Elora</i> . Death of Richard Barrett. Arrival of the inflexible with Governor Grey. The Governor's instructions to Mr. Maclean. Quarrel among the Puketapu. Purchase of Tataraimaka. Death of Rev. W. Bolland. Mr. F. D. Bell supersedes Mr. Wicksteed as Resident Agent. Bishop Selwyn lands from the <i>Undine</i> . Quarrel between the Puketapus and Taranakis of Omata. Arrival of Lieutenant Collinson, R.E. and Corporal Henderson, R.A. on secret service. The Grey and Omata Blocks purchased. Land allotted to the whalers. Dr. Wilson and Mr. Hulke leave Wanganni for Taranaki. Mr. Devenish brings a herd of cattle from Wellington. The Governor revisits New Plymouth. Mr. Bell purchases Bell Block of the Puketapu. The Waikanae migration. Kingi settles on the south bank of the Waitara. Opening of the Omata block. Establishment of the Grey Institution. Death of Colonel Wakefield. Severe earthquake. Table of Waikanae migration	135
---	-----