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ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: Two views of Crofton College in the 1860's. Prints: William Main.

Prige 5: Map showing Mr. William Fox's land.

Page 8 & 9: "Plan of the township of Crofton".

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COMING EVENTS

February 12th, 1976 at Khandallah Plunket Rooms. Guest Speaker – Mr. M. Stanley, subject 'Postal History'.

EDITORIAL

In an earlier issue of our magazine Mrs. N. Parr wrote of the history of Sections 4, 5 and part of 3 of the Kaiwarra district. (Historian Vol. 3 No. 3). She now continues with details of the Crofton Estate which includes facts about Sir William Fox's residence and the subsequent use of the property for an Anglican Boys College.

Our cover photograph depicts Crofton College in the 1860's. This came from a collection in the Nelson Provincial Museum and was discovered by William Main in 1972. It appeared in his book "Wellington Through a Victorian Lens" with this

caption:

"Wellington's suburbs in the 1860's could be described as ribbon settlements running along the roads in and out of the capital. Almanacs of the period indicate that the majority of the residents earned their living as farmers. In addition to farming and milling, Crofton (later called Ngaio) was able to boast the first exclusive boarding school in Wellington. Here a Church of England grammar school was established in 1863 in a house formerly occupied by Sir William Fox, statesman and social reformer. An advertised syllabus in 1863 stated will comprise the Bible and Prayer Book, Ancient and Modern Classical Languages, History and Geography. Arithemetic and Mathematics. No pupil will be received who cannot read and write fairly. Terms; Tuition £15 a year, Board £50." Catering as it did for the sons of wealthy run-holders and other prominent people, it functioned successfully until 1875 when it was forced to close down with the opening of Wellington College and the advent of free education. The photographer who captured this scene in the late 1860's, W.T.L. Travers, spent a considerable time in the region, documenting many views from Kaiwharawhara to Ngauranga Gorge. The group of boys depicted are unknown but the photograph gives an excellent view of the college and its grounds, part of which still stands on Kenya Street today. Note Mr. Travers' shadow in the foreground".

Mr. Main's reference to the advertised syllabus came from an issue of the "New Zealand Spectator and Cooks Straight Guardian", January 31st, 1863. Professor C.L. Bailey has contributed with an account of the College and notes

on Mr. W.T.L. Travers.

Finally a comment from Mrs. Parr on the use of the name 'Crofton' which in spite of legend, up to 1880 did not appear to be a popular name for the district. In fact, except for William Fox for a year or so, no mention was discovered of that name on Electoral Rolls up to 1881. 'Trelissic' with or without a final 'k' -Kaiwarra — Upper Kaiwarra — or just Proriua Road — are the addresses given by known owners of land in Ngaio. The coming of the railway in 1885 and the naming of the station 'Crofton' was probably the beginning of the general use of the name and as it was replace by 'Ngaio' in 1908, it was only for a comparatively short time. Judy Siers.

THE CROFTON ESTATE AND ITS LAND TRANSACTIONS'

by Norah Parr.

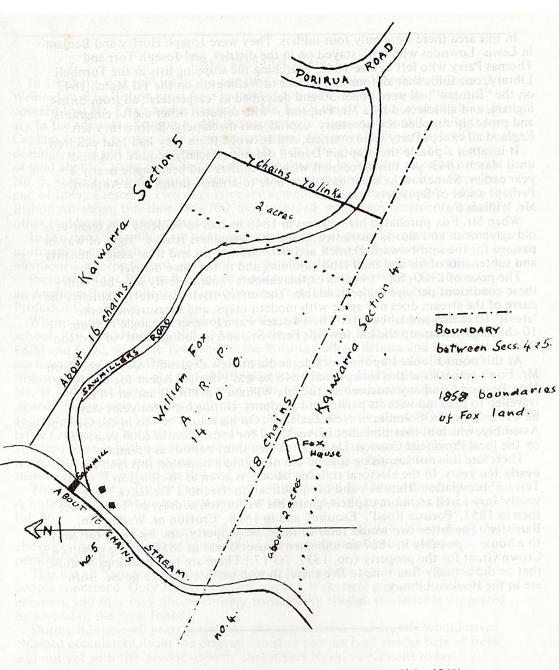
In March 1843 Captain Edward Daniell officially chose the adjoining country sections Kaiwarra 4 and 5, comprising the greater part of presentday Ngaio. He lived here for three years, and in 1848, when moving to the Hutt, sold a block of 14 acres to Mr. William Fox.

The deed recording this conveyance is in National Archives. (NZC Fox Claim 1042). A photocopy is in possession of this Society, and I have another. Like several old deeds that I have seen, it has far more in it than just the conveyance, which makes it more interesting, even exciting. It goes back to an agreement made on 31st May, 1842, between E. Daniell and four sawmillers, all named. On the plan (see opposite) the approximate site of the first sawmill and the sawmillers' road is marked. The latter, over the years, losing it's accompanying stream and taking a different curve at the Western end, has developed into our Crofton Road.

Edward Jerningham Wakefield in his book "Adventure in New Zealand", 1839-44, speaks of 'six active, industrious and intelligent mechanics', possessed of some capital, who had begun to erect a sawmill on leased land towards Porirua—had been "outraged" by Rangihaeata and forced to retire, but "undaunted" had found a spot on a large tributary of the Kaiwharawhara, fit for the erection of a mill—which was then at work. His description of the scene is as follows:

"In the bottom of a thickly wooded valley, only accessible over a steep ridge, a natural fall in the narrow rocky gully of the stream afforded great opportunities for erecting a dam. A platform and rough shed extended from side to side of the gully over the dam-head; the wheel and machinery were working underneath; and two or three circular saws were kept in constant employment. The open sides of the workshop displayed this curious work of art in the midst of nature's wildest scenery. Two trees mingled their branches overhead above the rough mill, and several others seemed to grow out of the pool formed by the dam underneath their arching boughs. The stern craggy sides of the gully might be imagined to frown upon so strange a neighbour as the fretting wheel. Two or three log-huts under the forest sent up their curl of smoke; while the neat housewives, with their flaxen-haired children, stood at the doors to receive with joyful pride the praises bestowed by visitors on the untiring industry of their husbands."

The site of this mill has been a matter of conjecture, but here on the plan is the site definitely shown; a comparison of maps and plans places it on the stream in today's Ngaio behind Western Auto Services Ltd. and the Willow Butchery, on the corner of Kenya Street and Crofton Road.



This plan is based on that in the 1848 deed (National Archives, Fox Claim 1042). Superimposed are lines showing the exchange of 2 acres that took place in 1862. Lastly, the approximate site of the Fox house is shown, from an 1888 subdivision plan.

In this area there were only four millers. They were Joseph Hurley and Benjamin Lewis Lowndes who both stayed on in the district, and Joseph Torr and Thomas Parry who left before 1848. Searching the shipping lists in the Turnbull Library, one finds that all four had arrived in Wellington on the 1st March 1842 on the "Birman"; all were under 30 and described as 'carpenters'; all from Birmingham, and all selected by a Mr. Phipson — who selected other useful emigrants, and probably supplied the necessary 'capital' and machinery. Before they left England all except Parry were married, and between them they had four children.

It is rather a puzzle that Captain Daniell did not officially acquire this land until March 1843, yet this agreement with the millers had been made nearly a year earlier. Somehow he must have been able to arrange things with Authority.

Perhaps a sort of Squatters' Licence?

Mr. William Fox.

When Mr. Fox purchased his 14 acres in 1848 he had to abide by this eight-year old agreement, and also to guarantee, along the sawmillers road, a "right of way or passage for the said Edward Daniell and his heirs and his and their assigns tenants and subtenants of his and their land adjoining and in the same district . . ."

The price of £100. for "14 acres or thereabouts" sounds fairly low, but with these conditions perhaps understandable. The survey itself was pretty sketchy, the curve of the stream does not agree with modern maps, and measurements are 'about' 10 chains and 'about' 16. The 14 acres was a longish rectangle running the 10 chains of stream up the hill towards Perth St., and including most of Crofton Road.

At this point I looked up the Encyclopaedia of New Zealand 1966, to check on Mr. Fox's activities at this time. From 1848 he was Principal Agent for the dying New Zealand Company (succeeding the late William Wakefield) and in 1851 travelled to England with its papers and accounts. During his three years stay he wrote "The Six Colonies of New Zealand". On his return he was in the General Assembly, which at that time met in Auckland for some months each year; and on the local Provincial Council. He also had two short periods as Premier.

Therefore it is not surprising that he did not build a house on this land for nearly ten years. In the electoral rolls his 'abode' is given as 'Wellington Terrace' occupation 'Esquire', and his qualification 'freehold Trelissick'. But the yearly Jury Lists, are more explicit, giving his Wellington address as 'The Terrace', then in 1857, 'Porirua Road', 'Esquire', and in 1858, 'Crofton nr. Wellington, Barrister'. The latter two would refer to the same property, and by 1858 certainly to a house — possibly in 1857 an unnamed house. It was in 1858 that he obtained a Crown Grant for the property (no. 1332. 2G 17.) There are two paintings to show that he did actually find time to live there, though neither shows a house. Both are in the Hocken Library.

CROFTON COLLEGE

In 1862 Mr. Fox sold his house and land to Charles John Abraham, Bishop of Wellington. The Bishop must have requested a more exact survey, as it was discovered that Mr. Fox's house was not on Mr. Fox's land, but just over the boundary in the adjoining Section 4, still the property of Captain Daniell. Luckily the Captain appears to have been both generous and accommodating in his land dealings, (and not only with equals like Mr. Fox). On 22nd March, 1862, a wedge of land about 2 acres, from Section 4, was exchanged by him for an equal area in No. 5, at the top of Mr. Fox's rectangle which would now only reach to the upper end of Imlay Crescent. Two days later the amended 14 acres were conveyed to Bishop Abraham, this time for £700. as it included 'messuages tenements and other buildings and appurtenances'.

In this deed the millers are not mentioned, they had probably already moved upstream to establish the mill that became Chew's. The road, however, is mentioned, a 'private road', but with a right of way for the other residents.

Presumably the Bishop then set to work making the house ready for its use as an Anglican Boys' College for the following year. I have left details of this era to

Professor C.L. Bailey.

When four years later the Bishop sold the estate to the headmaster of the school, Rev. Woodford St. Hill, the price was £1,300. St. Hill had two mortages £800 and £200, with the Trustees for the Porirua College Estates and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Wellington respectively; the trustees included Bishop Abraham, now of Lichfield, England, and Bishop Hadfield of Wellington. Mr. St. Hill must have prospered, as in April, 1875 (no doubt when the school had closed), he was able to repay both the mortgages in full. A month later he appointed trustees (Mr. Kemp, surgeon, and Leonard Stowe, Clerk of the Legislative Council) to hold the estate in trust for his wife and children — 'for her sole and separate use without power of anticipation so that the same shall be free from debts control and engagements of her present or any future husband' and then to Harry Woodford St. Hill and his assigns.

This is the last entry for this piece of land in the old Lands and Deeds Register. A note says 'brought under the Land and Transfer Act' (Appn. 1165) Reg. vol. 25

fol. 86.

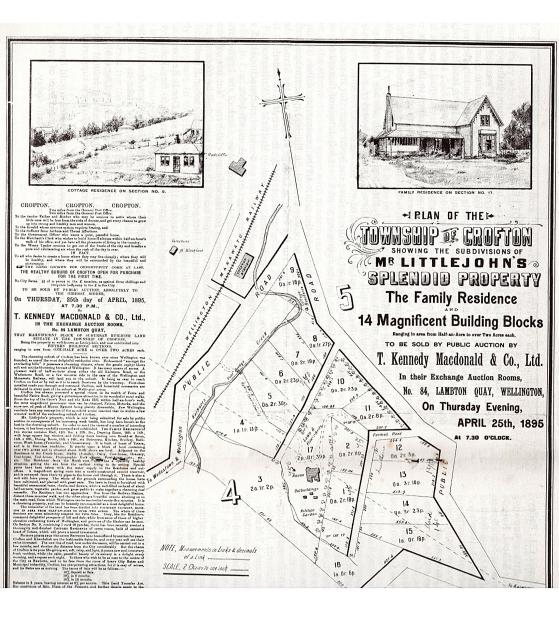
It is sad to find, some years later, in 1883, a letter to Mr. John Chew from the above young St. Hill, asking plaintively if the coming railway may make it

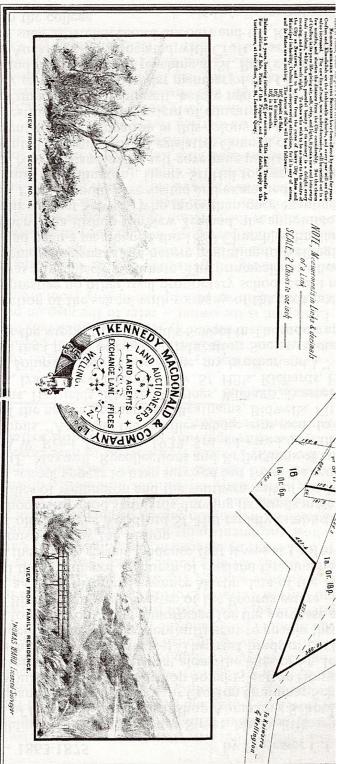
possible to 'sell Crofton'.

This has all been very factual; we know so little of the real lives lived by the people concerned. Only Juliette Daniell and E.J. Wakefield give us any human glimpses, and they may not be entirely trustworthy though the latter is supported by several of the facts found.

During this near-40 years period the character of the countryside would have changed completely, from the original forest to pasture land almost bare of trees

and not yet with the 'second-growth' that makes Ngaio so pleasant today.





C.F. CORLETT, WILLINGTON

PLAN OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CROFTON.

many years and behind it are sketches of early Ottawa Road Homes, including Chew Cottage on the left. surrounding land as it was sub-divided for sale in 1895. The top right illustration shows the home. In the left hand illustration appears the small cottage occupied by Mrs. Rankin for This document, made available to the Society by Mr. A.C. Aplin of Ngaio, shows the buildings of Crofton College and it's

Peter's at Te Aro.

Although its main buildings still stand in Kenya Street, Ngaio, little is known of the origins or the end of Crofton College, or Bishop Abraham's School, Kaiwarawara, Church of England Grammar School, or Crofton Grammar School as it was variously called. It would seem that the Bishop bought Crofton House from Fox to set up a higher-level school for the district along the lines of St. John's College Auckland of which he had been principal. The trust funds of the early-endowed but never-founded Porirua College were sufficient to enable the Rev. Harry Woodford St. Hill to raise from them a mortgage for the purchase of Crofton House from the Bishop who was a trustee of the Proirua estate. This was in 1865. Also on record: a Captain Walter Lawrence Martin, late of the 15th Regiment, had advertised the opening of a Church of England Grammar School (sic) at Kaiwarawara but there is no certain evidence that it was at Crofton House or that he had been commissioned by the Bishop.

At all events Crofton College under Woodford St. Hill rapidly established itself as an esteem boarding school with good standards drawing its pupils mainly from the leading Anglican families of Wellington and the southern half of the North Island. No records of the school appear to have survived but from the reminiscences of a former pupil (E. Maxwell, Recollections and Reflections of an Old New Zealander, A.H. & A.W. Reed, Dunedin, 1937, 3rd. ed.) we know the names of at least some of the pupils. "Amongst the families whose sons went to Crofton, the following are some of the names I remember: Beathams, Bidwells, Fitzherberts, Marshalls, Abrahams, Hadfields, Rhodes, Gorings, Williams, Pearces, Harrisons, Lethbridges, Bealys, Izards, Rev. Harveys, Rev. St. Hills, Richards, Hendersons, my cousin Fletcher Johnston, son of the Judge, my brother and I." Many of these were stalwarts of the Church of England Education Society (founded 1851) who subscribed for the support of St. Paul's School in Thorndon and St.

Doubtlessly the connection of the school with so many of the province's leading families gave it a prestige no other rival proprietary school could match. The St. Hill connection was particularly fortunate. The principal's brother James Henry was Wellington's senior magistrate and before migrating to Wellington in the "Adelaide" in 1840 had been a member of the 1839 Church of England Society for the Appointment of a Bishop for New Zealand, the appointee being Selwyn. (It is more than likely that Selwyn, who more than once examined the pupils of St Paul's and St. Peter's would have visited and examined in Crofton College on his frequent visits to Wellington). Henry St. Hill too was a Legislative Council member of New Zealand's first self-governing parliament in 1854 and had been appointed a member of a Legislative Council committee "to enquire into the present state of education in this colony" a few days after Travers had raised the question of a general system of education for New Zealand in the lower house. Principal St. Hill himself, before taking over Crofton College, had been a highly respected and popular member of the Church of England Education Society, and had done some teaching at St. Paul's after passing out of St. John's College Auckland. He associated with Crofton several of his more scholarly colleagues such as Archdeacon Fancourt and the Rev. Mr. Harvey who acted as examiners in the college.

A fine start indeed, but why did the school not survive beyond 1875? In that year, probably because of falling enrolments, Woodford St. Hill accepted the vicarate of Havelock North and Clive. (Does Woodford House school celebrate his name?). By the late 1860's other secondary level schools had begun to operate in Wellington, mainly taught by well-qualified clergymen and by English and Scottish trained teachers. Wellington College finally emerged on its present site in 1874 after evolving through the Rev. Mr. Tuckey's Wellington College and Commercial School (1867) and the Rev. Thomas Bowden's Wellington College and Grammar School (1868) with protem sites in Woodward Street, Fitzherbert Terrace and Clifton Terrace, Crofton College could now hardly compete with such easily accessible schools. The day of the church school too was largely over as Wellington tardily set up a public school system under an Education Board in 1872. It took over, by agreement, the Anglican and Catholic schools - but not Crofton, whose enrolments must have continued to dwindle as Te Kooti's threatened raids on Wellington caused parents to fear for this outpost school on the edge of the bush, and as Nelson College and the Wanganui Endowed School (the Collegiate) after many vicissitudes now settled down to serve as boarding schools for well-to-do families and the out-back sheep runholders. Though retained in the family Crofton House seems to have closed down as a school in 1875, exactly a century ago, fully deserving, in this writer's opinion, a gong or at least a commemorative plaque.

Further Notes on Crofton

There is a gap in the history of Crofton College after the school closed down. Mrs Parr's history mentions St. Hill's enquiry about possible sale in 1883. Presumably the property was temporarily leased but no details have been recorded. By 1895 Mr. Littlejohn is the owner — refer to the map on pages 8 and 9.

From Mr. A.C. Aplin we pick up the history from around the turn of the

century;

"My earliest memory of the former College was during the Holmes' ownership. Mr Holmes was one of the partners in the Hirst and Company Tannery at Kaiwharawhara and had previously lived closeby in a cottage situated just above today's bus stop at the junction of Old Proriua and the Ngaio Gorge Roads. He had a large family — Jim, Jack, Toby, Rachel and Henrietta. Rachel became Mrs. Rankin, but was widowed early, when her husband died of T.B., and left her with two small boys. The small cottage below todays All Saints Church was built by Jack Holmes and Mrs. Rankin lived here for some time before moving to Cockayne Road. John Holme's first wife died and he later married a Mrs. Woodhouse. Henrietta married Henry Ashworth.* Mr. Blacklock, an accountant for Hirst & Co. lived in an early house in Chelmsford Street behind Ngaio station". Early in the 1920's Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Tracey purchased the Holmes property.

Mr. Tracey was a tailor. They had four children when they arrived; finally a family of 8-7 boys and 1 girl. After a time the land was subdivided and the stables were rented as Doctor's rooms — first Dr. Kelly and later Dr. Costello. Today the house

^{*} Refer: "Historian" Vol. 3 No. 3.

and stables are rented as apartments, still owned by the Tracey family. The original entrance was via Holmes Street (now Orari Street) through the property

now at No. 8.

The area of land, seen in the foreground of the cover photo, in the front of the house was known as 'John Holmes Paddock'. For years one of the tree stumps carried a fly pole for children to play on. This was a simple device of two pieces of wood crossed over the top of the stump and attached in the centre. This formed four poles and ropes were attached to each end. The children took the ropes in their hands and built up speed running around the stump, finally taking their feet off the ground to enjoy the ride.

NOTES ON W.T.L. TRAVERS

by Professor C.L. Bailey

William Thomas Loche Travers who took the photographs appearing in this issue was one of New Zealand's most colourful and energetic pioneers, explorers, politicians, botanists, and photographers. Before migrating to Nelson in 1849 he was educated in France and had served as a 'legionairre' in the Spanish Carlist Wars. In Nelson he became a member of the first Nelson Provincial Council and took a prominent part in establishing Nelson's provincial education system which, besides nurturing young Rutherford, came to be one of the main models for the national system of education of 1877. Travers is noteworthy as the mover of a motion in New Zealand's first national parliament in 1854 raising the question of a general or national education system for New Zealand. Only Prussia and France had such systems, and Travers was familiar with them.

Travers too is part of the history of exploration in New Zealand. He spent much time exploring overland routes for sheep and cattle between Christchurch and Nelson. Many of the place names in the moutain areas of the Nelson Province commemorate his bush and mountain journeys; the Travers Range, the Travers River, Mt. Travers, the Travers Saddle. Many other names were bestowed by Travers including the St. Arnaud Range named after Lord Raglan's French colleague in the Crimean War, the Spencer Mountains, named for Travers' favourite English poet, and its finest peak, the Faerie Queene. Travers, later, as City Solicitor for Wellington gave us some of our more colourful Spanish street names Salamanca Road, Talavera Terrace, St. Sebastian Road, echoes of his own Spanish

days and of the Duke of Wellington's Peninsular campaigns.

Wellington too is largely indebted to Travers, as Wellington's City Solicitor for the conversion of the Wesleyan Church education reserve (granted by Governor Grey in 1852) into the Botanical Gardens. He was a talented botanist, a Fellow of the Linnean Society and a world authority on alpine vegetation, which he studied and collected intensively in his exploration of the Nelson mountain regions. Hooker named an alpine shrub, Traversia, after him, and Hebe lovers will know

the Hebe Traversii.

Travers had the unique distinction of holding parliamentary seats, at different times, for three widely separated cities, Nelson, Christchurch, and Wellington, being elected to Wellington City seat in 1877 - in time to be involved in the passage of the Education Bill setting up the national system of education he had raised as an issue in 1854.

The first State school in Khandallah was established around 1894. This was in Clark Street and our home was next-door, with only a post and wire fence bet-

ween us for many years.

For sometime it was quite small, only two rooms and the teacher's small office. One was Mr. Jenkin's Room for older children and the other Miss McGregor's for the little ones. Mr. Jenkins (Old Jenks!) was the headmaster for many years and was a well known character in the district, but Miss McGregor was later replaced.

My brother went to Khandallah school, but we girls did not.

However, we did not escape contact and one of my earliest memories occurred during one playtime when big girls came through the wire fence and asked if they could borrow the baby — me! They carried me over to the girls playground on the far side of the school, passed me from one to another and talked and poked me. I was most indignant and stood it for a while then began to yell, "Want Mummy". They hastily returned the bawling child. I remember it very clearly, but I must have been very young, being carried all the time.

Victorian attitudes of the time influenced our mother, and mothers of many of our friends, who considered the State school system rather rough for girls. There

was, therefore, an opportunity for the establishment of private schools.

Our first school was run by Miss Bessie Cock. I think it was the first private school in Khandallah, because as far as I can recall, my Mother said it was in existence when they first came to Khandallah, in 1900. Miss Cock held the school in her home in Clark Street on the last bend of the road, as it went to the Reserve. It was almost opposite our old home at 46 Clark Street.

Her school became a real institution in Khandallah and she carried on for many years until the 1920's. Toward the end classes were held in the Oddfellows Hall

in Ngatoto Street.

Miss Cock always seemed old and unchanged to us over all the years. We liked her, but could never have been fond of her. She was fair, rather strict and held in respect, but not much else. I imagine that she would not have been a teacher if something else had been possible, but in those days occupations for young

ladies were very limited.

My brother and I went to "Miss Cock's School" for a year. I cannot remember very much about it, and I don't think we learn't much more than the three R's. We sat, each side of an ordinary dining table on benches without backs. Miss Cock sat at one end and if we talked or she did not think we were paying proper attention she would rap loudly on the table with a large knitting needle. We always secretly hoped she would break it one day! (Knitting needles did break quite easily in those days).

I well remember the garden at playtime. There were beds in front, edged with grass, which had a wonderful show of anemones in springtime. We played chasing round them. Also we were allowed to go down the garden which adjoined the

reserve and there were little paths almost in the bush.

"Please Miss Cock may I leave the room" was always the start of a real trek, out the front door, along the side of the house, and down one of these paths in

the bush until one found the little building tucked away behind some trees.

When Miss Cock retired some of her old pupils organised a farewell party. Held in the Town Hall it was a wonderful affair. Crowds of people attended – ex-pupils and friends and she was presented with an armchair and a small table to stand beside it.

After we left Miss Cock's school we had a governess at home for about two years. The latter was quite a common thing in those days. There were four of us then as Mary joined us and Miss Finn, our governess brought her little brother,

Arthur to share our lessons.

Arthur was a rather precocious child, the youngest of the family, he had learnt various tricks from his older brothers. He showed us how to make cigarettes from newspaper and grass, or pineneedles, which we smoked on the quiet. Horrid, but we pretended to like it!

These were quite pleasant years, but I think that we missed the stimulation of

learning with other children.

In 1909 a new private school started in Khandallah. Miss Thornton with her young assistant and friend came down from Napier where she had formerly run quite a large school. She was elderly and I think wanted something a little less strenuous. They began the school in Baroda Street, "Balquidda" they called it, but I believe that the correct spelling was "Balquhidder", but there was not room on the gate to spell it the right way! One letter went to each slat on the gate!

Miss Thornton was very upright and plump and reminded one of Queen Victoria. She was very prim and always wore boots. Repeatedly she said to us "Next time your mother buys you shoes, ask her to buy you boots, they look so much more ladylike". One mother did, and when Mona came to school in her boots, Miss Thornton said to her in a loud aside, "Your feet look very nice my

dear".

There were always about four boarders at the school and to begin with about a dozen or so day pupils, mostly girls, but from time to time a few boys. Shortly after we started school I recall coming out of church one Sunday and saw Miss Thornton leading the boarders down the aisle, I smiled at her and got a very quelling look, and not the ghost of a smile in return! I realised that I had done a

dreadful thing — I had smiled in church!

The teaching was rather indifferent. In fact some of the ways of the school were quite Dickensonian. There was one little boarder who was not clever with figures. She was kept in at playtime day after day because she could not get her sums right. She would be sent into her room and Miss Thornton would follow, stand over her and demand answers to simple arithmetic. She invariably answered wrongly, and a whack with a ruler over her knuckles would follow. Poor little girl she was too terrified to answer correctly. She had a mane of flaming red hair and was a sensitive little girl; my chief memory is eyes as red as her lovely hair, she cried so much.

I had music lessons at school and was taught by Miss Aplin, the younger teacher. She gave me music too difficult for me and without much explanation. When I played wrong notes she would stamp and shout at me. Naturally I played more wrong notes! After a lesson I would be so ashamed to go into the school room next door when everyone would look up wondering about all the

commotion.

The methods of the times required that everything was written onto the black-board by Miss Aplin and we copied it word for word into penny notebooks. These were taken home and learnt by heart. The next day we wrote it all out from memory. We lost a mark for every mistake. One day Mother was helping me to work and said "But what does it mean, don't they ever explain the meaning to you?" I thought that a very unnecessary remark.

The amount of work and the speed required, quite spoilt my writing. I was always a slow writer. Miss Thornton would scold me and make me go back to a copy book with pot hooks etc. She made very sure that I knew she was treating me like a beginner. She also spoiled singing for me. I loved singing but she badgered me so to open my mouth that I just became obstinate and refused. Ever since I

have been self conscious about singing.

We also learnt, by heart, passages from the Bible, psalms, and masses of poetry. I once knew the whole of Longfellows "Evangeline" word perfect, and most of "Hiawatha".

I believe that both these women were rather sadistic. The poor boarders were given a very bad time. If any of them misbehaved out of school hours it was al-

ways mentioned in school next day in front of us all.

The School moved from Baroda Street to Armitsar Street after about two years, Miss Thornton bought a large property with grounds that extended down into the bush below. A little cottage in the garden was the school, while the boarders, who had increased in number, lived in the house.

During the last period of our time with Miss Thornton, school was held in a house in Torwood Road, a few yards from the corner on the bank on the left. Originally a small house and they added a big school room on the side. I don't

recall any boarders then.

Finally we left and went to Marsden for the last term of the year. Mother felt this would give us a better start for the next year, as the standard of work was worrying her. Mary, four years younger, was doing almost the same work as I, except for arithmetic. On leaving, Miss Thornton remarked primly, that Mother would find that we were well up to standard. It did not turn out that way! Mary was not so bad, but I was very behind girls of my own age and stayed that way throughout my school days.

I don't remember Miss Thornton's school existing much longer, but for a time

it was quite a part of the life of the district.

It was not replaced as there did not seem the need. Transport into town was better, and the standard of the State school was higher. Outlook and attitudes to

education were changing.

Some time later, before the Free Kindergarten started, Mrs Nesta Bollinger had a very good kindergarten for the tinies. She carried it on successfully for a number of years and many Khandallah children were introduced to school under her wise and gentle care.

