

# Henry Stokes Tiffen



Surveyor,  
developer,  
farmer,  
winemaker

Wairarapa  
Central Hawke's Bay  
Napier

by Ian St George

# HENRY STOKES TIFFEN

SURVEYOR FARMER  
DEVELOPER WINEMAKER

by  
Ian St George



Henry Stokes Tiffen 1816–1896, aged about 55 in 1871.

Archibald McDonald (b.1831, d.1873), gifted by Mr Edwin Cornford,  
Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhara Tā-ū-rangi, 1573

THE TIFFEN ESTATE. The property covered the area of Avenue and Church Roads and extended over most of Taradale. It came this side of Church Road (North: North-West) and ran up to Puketapu including the present Mission property and Mr. Waterworth's and Mr. Williams' farms. It excluded the area of the Taradale School and Presbyterian Church (probably given to them by Tiffen).

—Brother Sylvester, Nt. St. Mary's, 1969.

The Wairarapa is a magnificent piece of water, perhaps 11 Miles long, and 5 Miles wide. I estimate its Area at 30,000 acres at the present time. I crossed it at the Southern end, where it is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  Mile wide, and found the depth of the water to be 12 feet. The South East swell being considerable, any further examination by means of a Canoe was rendered impracticable, for to do so with safety a boat of large dimensions would be required.

—Henry Stokes Tiffen, 1844.

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## CHAPTER 1: COLENZO MEETS TIFFEN

On 12 April 1847 the Reverend William Colenso wrote his regular report to the Church Missionary Society in London and said,

*... we... went on... to Te Ahiaruhe, which place we reached shortly after dusk. Being kindly invited to spend the night with Mr and Mrs Northwood & Mr Tiffen, I went thither, and remained conversing with them till midnight. They spoke well of the Natives of the valley; but said, there was a great alteration for the worse, on those of Port Nicholson. Mr. Tiffen said, he had lately seen as many as 6 drunk together there. And Mr. Northwood remarked, the last time he was there, he was importuned by a Native for 6d. to buy rum with! I wished the Settlers here, to assemble on every visit of mine (only once in six months) at any place in the valley they would appoint, and I would devote a Sunday exclusively for their benefit, but it did not meet with their approval. My valuable travelling companion, my poor dog, was poisoned here this evening, through swallowing a piece of meat which had been poisoned with Strychnia, and which (rather rashly I think) is laid every where about in order to poison all dogs; he was however recovered when very near death, by administering a large dose of Tartar Emetic.*

This racially integrated, church rejecting dog poisoner was Henry Stokes Tiffen, who had surveyed this Wairarapa block on what is now Ahiaruhe road west of Gladstone for the New Zealand Company in 1843. After the expiry of his contract, he and James Henry Northwood took it up.

Tiffen and party later left Wellington on 23 August 1845 and drove 762 merino ewes, imported from Sydney and near lambing, around the coast in 14 days. They lost only four ewes, reaching Ahiaruhe on 5 September. The station soon had seven men, two women, one child, four horses, nine cattle, 2,750 sheep, five acres under cultivation and an annual rental of £48. In 1847 the men extended the property across the river into the Tararua District.<sup>1</sup> That was the year Colenso first met them.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ketemasterton.peoplesnetworknz.info/wairarapa\\_archive/images/show/81-ahiaruhe](http://ketemasterton.peoplesnetworknz.info/wairarapa_archive/images/show/81-ahiaruhe) accessed 26 July 2017.

## CHAPTER 2: TIFFEN IN ENGLAND

Henry Stokes Tiffen was born on 12 July 1816 and baptised 28 December 1817 at Hythe, one of the Cinque Ports on the south Kent coast near Folkestone. His father was William Tiffen born 1785, printer, of Hythe and his mother Charlotte Stokes born 1791.

They had seven surviving children of whom Henry was the second and Frederick John the sixth, born in 1829.<sup>1</sup>

William Tiffen had competition in the printing trade and advertised often,

*Military and Commercial Printing Office*

HYTHE

WILLIAM TIFFEN

Begs to return sincere thanks to his Friends and the Public, for the very liberal support he has experienced in the PRINTING Business; and respectfully informs them, that having taken commodious Premises, near the NEW WALK, he intends in future, carrying on the above, in conjunction with

*Bookbinding and Copperplate-Printing;*

hoping in each branch of business, by due attention, to merit and obtain the encouragement and support of the public.

\*\* Wanted, a Youth of respectability, as an Apprentice.—A premium will be expected.<sup>2</sup>

W. TIFFEN,

*Printer, Bookseller, Stationer, and*

BOOKBINDER,

HYTHE

IMPRESSED with gratitude for the distinguished support he has experienced in the above branches, tenders his respectful thanks to his Friends and the Public; and begs to inform them that he continues to execute every kind of BINDING in that very superior manner, which he is happy to say, has during these last three years given complete satisfaction to his employers;

amongst whom are several of the most respectable Booksellers in the vicinity, and who for some time past have given him a decided preference over any London House.

*Bona fide* specimens of W. TIFFEN'S Binding, plain and elegant, may be seen on application as above.

\*\* Gentlemen's Libraries furnished and repaired, or rebound on the spot, if required, by competent workmen.

*Hythe, 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1813.*<sup>3</sup>

*MOORE'S and other ALMANACKS,*

FOR 1816,

To which W. TIFFEN'S USEFUL APPENDIX is subjoined, *without extra charge*, may now be had in any quantity, at the

LIBRARY, HYTHE.

Also various Pocket Books, and other Annual Publications.

Good allowance to Shopkeepers and Retailers.<sup>4</sup>

LIBRARY, HYTHE.

W. TIFFEN,

*Printer, Bookseller, and Stationer,*

Informs the Public, that the ALMANACKS for the ensuing Year were published on the 18<sup>th</sup>. inst., and that he will as usual, subjoin his

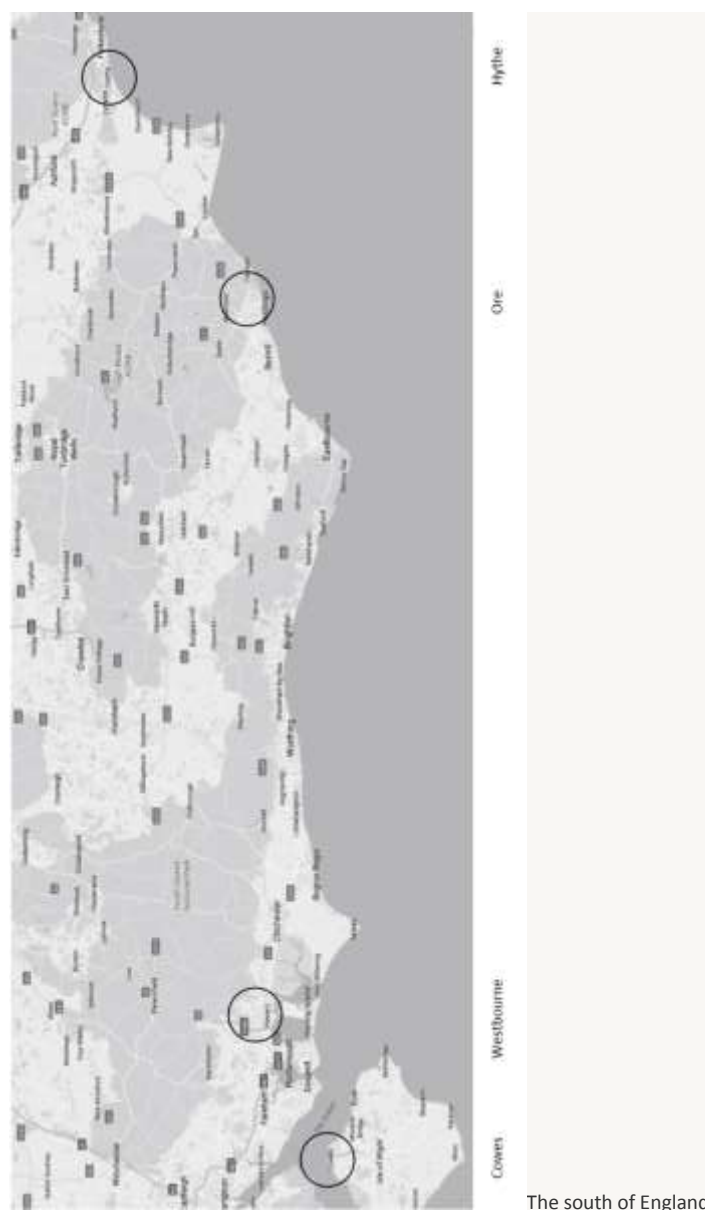
USEFUL APPENDIX,

without any additional charge.—Shops, &c. supplied.

W. TIFFEN has a vacancy for an APPRENTICE, with whom a moderate premium will be required.<sup>5</sup>

Henry Tiffen trained as a surveyor and civil engineer and must have moved to Sussex to work. Some of his maps survive in the West Sussex Record Office in Chichester: a plan of Alsdean Farm in Westbourne<sup>6</sup> and the Westbourne tithe map,<sup>7</sup> both dated 1840 and a tithe map of the west part of the parish of Westbourne dated 1841.<sup>8</sup>





The south of England

The 1841 England census has 20 year old Tiffen (“Civil Engineer”) living at Broomgrove, Hastings, the home of Royal Navy Captain Mark and Mrs Anne White, their son William and daughters Louisa and Caroline aged 15.

He signed a contract with the New Zealand Company for service as assistant surveyor on 27 September 1841<sup>9</sup> and married 16 year old Caroline two days later, “Sept. 29, at Oare church, Sussex, Mr. H.S. Tiffen, of the surveying staff proceeding to New Zealand, eldest son of Mr. Tiffen, library, Hythe, to Caroline Ellen, youngest daughter of Captain Mark White, R.N., of Broomgrove, Hastings”.<sup>10</sup> Ore Anglican church serves the area of Hastings containing Broomgrove.

White had been a midshipman on the *Bellerophon* and was listed among the “surviving heroes of Trafalgar”. He was promoted to Commander in 1827.<sup>11</sup>

Henry and Caroline Tiffen sailed three days after their wedding, on the barque *Brougham* which left London on 2 October.

The *Brougham* had been chartered by the New Zealand Company with the express purpose of conveying its surveying staff to Wellington and she carried no other passengers. One of the cadets, Sixteen year old Albert James Allom, wrote an account of the voyage. On board were Principal Surveyor Samuel Charles Brees (who would take over from Captain Mein Smith), his wife, two children and two servants; Assistant Surveyors the brothers Robert and Frederick Sheppard and their wives, Henry and Caroline Tiffen, Arthur Whitehead, Alfred Wylie, William Searancke; and Cadets Albert James Allom, John Tully, Horace Charlton, Edmund Norman, Thomas Henry Smith, Richard Nicholson, Edward Jollie, Alfred Wills, Frederick Hunt and Sydney Malet Scroggs.<sup>12</sup>

The Company directors treated them all to a sumptuous dinner given for passengers and guests at Gravesend. They said their farewells and Allom wrote,

*It seemed but a moment ere we were floating down the river towards an unknown land—cut off, it might be forever, from home and family, and dependent for the future upon strangers. Had I been a few years older, I should probably have suffered more. Boys of my age, however, soon recover their spirits, and my old friend Tiffen would*

*probably now say that, within forty eight hours after leaving Gravesend, he discovered that of the ten cadets (all nearly my own age, but of whom myself and Tully were the youngest), it would be difficult to award the palm for high spirits, mischief, and peculiar gentlemanly cussedness, to either of us.<sup>13</sup>*

The voyage began badly. Strong head winds and then a heavy gale compelled them to put in to Cowes, where they lay wind bound for three weeks. The young gentlemen

*... had of course suffered more or less from mal-de-mer, but we suffered more from insufficient accommodation, want of proper attendance and of food.... I had written some account of our condition and our experiences in the Channel to my mother... Horrified at the state of matters on board my mother hurried to Mr Wakefield with my letter. At a subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors my mother was authorised to proceed to Cowes, with carte-blanche to remedy all evils and put us in a proper position to proceed to sea. In a few days a marvellous change was effected—Carpenters were employed to improve our sleeping berths—a second servant was engaged for the cadets—large quantities of poultry and other provisions were put on board—and many comforts suitable to a long sea voyage were supplied for our use.<sup>14</sup>*

John Tully's diary of the voyage expressed their excitement as landfall approached on 8 February,

*I and my companion, a native of Plymouth, determined last night that we would stay up all night and be the first amongst the surveying staff to see the land of our first career in the world. About four o'clock New Zealand was discovered by the man at the helm, on our starboard bow; we however were disappointed for one of the assistants saw it before us, when we neared the land, it was really a beautiful sight to see one Hill rising above another, and some of their top covered with snow. We approached near enough by noon to discover trees growing in clusters, this land is called the Southern Island, inhabited by French colonists, by ½ past two we were abreast of Cape Farewell, by four o'clock we were altogether clear of the Cape, and bending our course up Cooks Straits with a fair wind, during this forenoon one of the cannons a nine pounder was discharged, and gave a splendid report. A great many birds were*

*about to day a great many porpoises were gamboling about the bows of the vessel about ½ past five o'clock in the morning....*<sup>15</sup>

The *Brougham* reached Port Nicholson on 9 February 1842 after 106 days. She sailed from there to New Plymouth and back to Wellington on 28 March.

In July 1845 Caroline's father "*Mark White*, Hastings, captain in the Royal Navy" was listed among insolvent debtors imprisoned and brought up before the Commissioner on circuit at the Lewes courthouse.<sup>16</sup> In 1854 one Mark White was acquitted of a charge of manslaughter.

Tiffen's father died in 1855 and their house was sold in 1856, by which time his mother was living in Folkestone.<sup>17</sup>

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1 Tiffen–Monteith family genealogical information. Alexander Turnbull Library MS-Papers-1348-25.

2 *Kentish Weekly Post or Canterbury Journal* 22 March 1811.

3 *Kentish Gazette* 3 September 1813.

4 *Kentish Weekly Post or Canterbury Journal* 24 November 1815.

5 *Kentish Weekly Post or Canterbury Journal* 21 November 1817.

6 Catalogue No. Add Mss 1987.

7 Catalogue No. Par 206/21/2.

8 Catalogue No. TD/W138.

9 New Zealand Company Records. Series 8984 Miscellaneous papers and legal documents. No. 94 Agreement dated 27 Sep 1841 Mr Henry Stokes Tiffen of Hythe, Kent, surveyor and civil engineer with the NZ Co.; for service as Assistant Surveyor and Civil Engineer in New Zealand. Witness: John B. Ellicombe, clerk to Messrs Few & Co., Covent Garden, London.

10 *South Eastern Gazette* 5 October 1841. Ore and Broomgrove are in the same area of Hastings, East Sussex.

11 *Naval & Military Gazette and Weekly Chronicle of the United Service* 13 April 1844.

12 Allom AJ 1825–1909. A rough outline for the autobiography of one of the early pioneers of New Zealand. Alexander Turnbull Library qMS-0061. The Christian names and the spelling differ somewhat in the list published in the *New Zealand Journal* of 30 October 1841.

13 *ibid.*

14 *ibid.*

15 Tully J. Diaries. Alexander Turnbull Library MS-2167-2168.

16 *The Jurist* Vol. 8, p243.

17 *Kentish Gazette* 11 December 1855; *South Eastern Gazette* 18 March 1856.

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### CHAPTER 3: WELLINGTON AND THE WAIRARAPA

They berthed at Port Nicholson on 9 February 1842. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> Tiffen was at work, “Receiving orders & reducing plan of Makara” and for the next two weeks copied and reduced maps of “Kinapora, Ohira, Porirua, Manawetu, Orewenua, Hutt”. On 10 March he “Left office at 2 to pack for removing abode” and spent the next two days “Removing”. He continued at office work, remarking at one point, “In this week much time was consumed in taking Observations, Paying Labourers &c and in Supervising 4 Cadets”.<sup>1</sup> He worked on maps of Wellington, Wanganui and Taranaki.

On 9 June, “The rain having come in and completely soaked Wanganui Map—I remounted the same. New Index Map.”

On 23 October 1842 Caroline died “in bearing a stillborn son” in Wellington.<sup>2</sup> She was just 17, her husband 26.

Tiffen was absent from work 3–10 October and again on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.<sup>3</sup> Her brother William Bertram White would arrive on the *George Fyfe* on 7 November, to become the first European settler on the Horowhenua block. Years later he would name his own daughter Caroline Ellen.

On 25 October Tiffen’s work took him out of the office and into the field—to “Surveying Tinakori Road and various Town Acres” and on the 26<sup>th</sup>, “Surveying Glenbervie Terrace—and Town Acres”. Then for the rest of the month and the first two weeks of November, cutting the road to Horokiwi, surveying Glenbervie Terrace, surveying the “Kaiwarra River” and in December continuing the work in the Horokiwi valley and surveying from “5 Mile Whare to Waikanae”.

One of Tiffen’s late 1842 field books is titled, in his hand, *Field book of Horokiwi Valley and Kai warra*. It includes a survey of the Kaiwharawhara river, Wellington Town Acre 200, a composite sketch and a survey of the “Horoki District... commencing at 5 Mile Whare & ending at Porirua Harbour” and “Mr. Smith’s Measurement of a portion of the Town of Welln. (near Willis Street)”.<sup>4</sup> There are a few diary entries, translations of te reo words and comments.

EG Wakefield had plans for settling the Wairarapa and he sent Samuel Brees to survey the Rimutaka Hill Road. Brees’s full report was

addressed to "Colonel Wakefield, Principl. Agent, N.Z. Coy." and follows.

*Survey Office Wellington  
January 1<sup>st</sup> 1844.*

*Sir*

*I have the honour to report to you the result of my last exploration of the Upper part of the river Hutt, the Wairarapa &c. The object of my visit to these parts was to ascertain, whether the upper portion of the valley of the Hutt continued to afford facilities for a road, either in the direction of the East Coast via Wairarapa, as with the West Coast, also to ascertain whether there was any more land suitable for occupation in that direction.*

*I left Wellington on the 10<sup>th</sup> ultimo. with two men who carried rations for two weeks. I inspected the works of the bridge over the Hutt which appear to be very satisfactory, altho' the progress is not great owing to the want of proper tackle & the Hutt Road which is stretching along the second hill past Stokes Valley & will soon reached the upper districts. After passing beyond the Survey lines at the Mungaroa I proceeded up the bed of the river. I found the general direction to be Northerly, but could proceed only a short distance, the valley becoming a perfect Gorge, with rocky walls on each side. I then explored the ridge which was some hundred feet high with sides almost perpendicular. I accordingly returned to the river, where the ridge was very difficult to travel. I journeyed in this manner for some distance until it became so dangerous that I left the river without reaching the confluence with the river Pakuratahi & turned Eastwards across the Hills to the latter which stream I passed down & once more joined the Hutt. I travelled up at much in the same manner as before along its bed & sometimes on the hills & continued this course until I was satisfied that nothing would be gained by taking the road in that direction the country being unavailable. There are two vallies on the right bank of the Hutt one immediately above & the other just below the river Mungaroa which I expect may afford a pass to the West Coast & which I shall explore the first opportunity. Somewhat extensive remains of Maori gardens also exist above the higher one. I understand from the Maories that there is an old Maori path passing from Porirua to the Wairarapa. I think it highly probable that it crosses the Hutt at this part.*

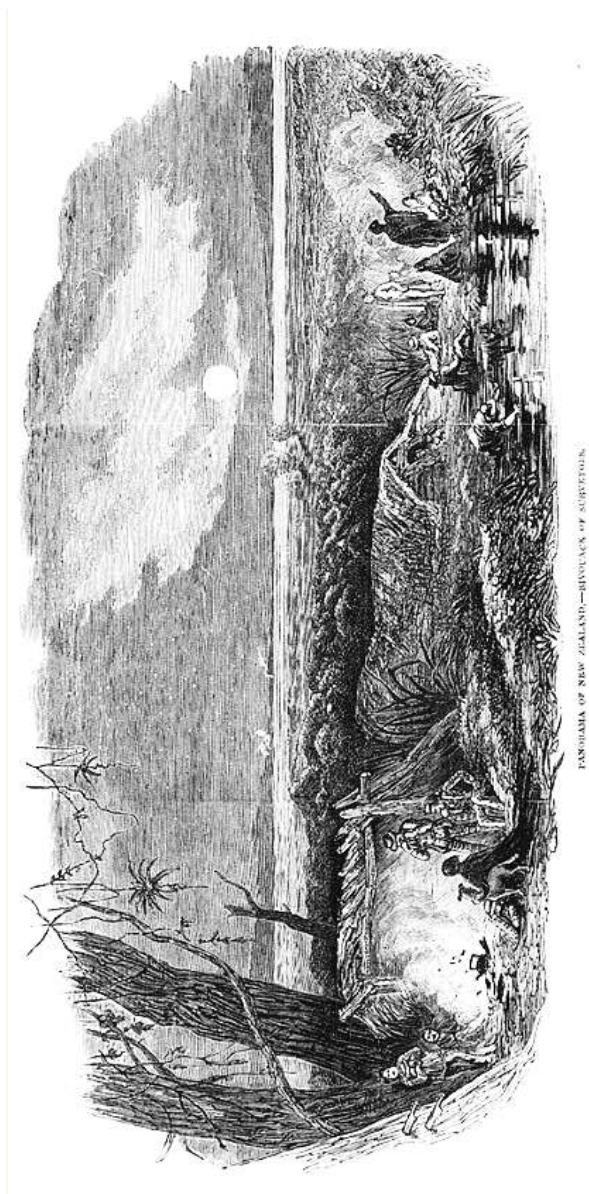
*I now directed my attention to the hills between the Hutt & the Wairarapa, also those between the Pakuratahi & the Wairarapa & crossed there in reference to the road to the latter. I spent some time in exploring & am happy to add with very good success. I believe this road to the Wairarapa will not exceed forty miles & moreover the route is not difficult. The road after reaching the upper Hutt would cross along it & so cross the Mungaroa near the confluence with the Hutt; thence it would continue along the terrace land by the side of the Hutt & pass to the Pakuratahi over the country described in my report dated Feby. 4<sup>th</sup>. 1843 but not by the same line.*

*There is a hill at the commencement which presented the greatest difficulty in the whole route, however I can arrange the gradients of the road so as to counteract it from thence to the Pakuratahi, it is undulating country with merely an occasional point to be removed. The road would then proceed across the Pakuratahi Valley & immediately take the Rimutaka hills, over which I have left an excellent track; the rise to the summit will require but little side cutting & the Bush is very clear. The descent is not quite so easy but the earthwork would be light. The fact of my having passed from the Pakuratahi into the Wairarapa Valley in 4½ hours is some criterion of the excellence of the route. I did not reach the plain in that time but passed beyond any sign of great declivity in the road.*

*It must be a grand point in the construction of a road from Port Nicholson to the Wairarapa to carry it as direct as possible to reduce the distance to the shortest span & it is on this account that I prefer the present place to that over the Horo Hills. There is however another point which should not be overlooked in the final determination of the new terminal of the road in the Wairarapa, viz: the facilities which it affords or its position in reference to some desirable situation for a town: this however is a subject I have not at present considered.*

*The line passes thro' very good country, the Pakuratahi is a beautiful valley of far greater extent than I anticipated, & much of the soil is equal to the best of the Hutt. The approach to the Wairarapa is very beautiful & the impression produced on the mind of a traveller is highly favourable. The soil along the Valley of approach from the Hills contains excellent soil & vegetation is most luxuriant.*

*However highly I thought of the Wairarapa at the period of former trips, I can truly state that I was surprised at the great extent & magnificence of the Wairarapa district on the present occasion.*



Panorama of New Zealand—bivouac of the surveyors. *Illustrated London News* 1850.



*I have prepared the following table of estimated distances & time of completion with the present party of men which I believe is tolerable correct.*

*I have the honour to be, Sir  
Your most obedt. Servant  
Sam. Chas. Brees  
Principal Surveyor.*

In December 1843 Tiffen was sent to survey the Wairarapa. There is a rather low quality photocopy of fragments of his diary of that journey, including sketch maps of the area in the Alexander Turnbull Library. The first page is missing and the second mutilated, but the questions he was to answer included,

3. Whether the River \*\*\*\*\* the sea—if the former \*\*\*\*\* between the anchorage in the Bay and commencement of water communication inland.
4. What is the quality of the land on the Western side of the lake, extent and general nature, whether swampy or much intersected with streams, and how far available.
5. The direction, general character and presumed utility of the native paths from Wairarapa & Port N.—distance & estimated labour to make it available for live stock to travel.
6. The inclination of the Maories to white people settling in the district.
7. General information from actual observation.<sup>5</sup>

The *New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator* of 24 January 1844 carried Tiffen's formal report to Colonel Wakefield of that journey to the Wairarapa; it has some minor departures from the original report which is reproduced here.

*Survey Office, Wellington  
January 16<sup>th</sup>. 1844.*

*Sir,*

*I have the honour to report my return from Wairarapa, and beg to lay before you the results of my expedition.*

*The Ruamahunga River is at the present time barred at the mouth, but about a month since, the bar was forced by the pressure of the water in the lower or Southern lake, and a very strong current*

formed, which renders the entrance unsafe. The portage, between the haulout of Te Kopi and the commencement of the inland water communication, would be about 8 Miles, and a Road might be very easily made by ascending at Te Kopi, and ascending at Hokorewa, at which point the inland water communication should commence.

The water in the Southern lake is about six feet lower now than it was at the period of my last visit. Within ten feet of the bar I found the Ruamahunga River, the depth of which at this point was 30 feet. Proceeding up the River, my next depth was 20 feet; and opposite pa Pokokirikiri, 9 feet, probably in this last measured depth, I did not find the River's true course. My next soundings indicated 15 feet, which depth is kept as far as the Wairarapa, which was the extent of my personal observations. The River is from 100 to 200 yards wide, and deep enough close to its banks, for a schooner of about 50 Tons burden to discharge her cargo.

The current is scarcely perceptible, so that neither snags, or anything that indicates freshets is to be found, not even on the sand bar, which would be the natural depot for all drifted wood.

The Wairarapa is a magnificent piece of water, perhaps 11 Miles long, and 5 Miles wide. I estimate its Area at 30,000 acres at the present time. I crossed it at the Southern end, where it is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  Mile wide, and found the depth of the water to be 12 feet. The South East swell being considerable, any further examination by means of a Canoe was rendered impracticable, for to do so with safety a boat of large dimensions would be required.

From the bar to the Wairarapa, the contiguous land is very liable to be overflowed: it is now for the most part dry and sound, and if the Southern lake could by any means be kept as low as it is at present, it would prove 4000 Acres of rich water'd meadow land. The general Soil of the lower part of the Valley consists of a light hazel loam, in some parts mixed with gravel. About half a mile above the southern lake, the Turanganui River joins the Ruamahunga, running nearly at right angles to it. I proceeded for about three Miles up its banks: for the first quarter of a mile the land was covered with Toi Toi and grass, and liable to be overflowed, which would render it unfit for agricultural purposes: for the next mile the land was fine, being composed of a moist sandy loam, covered with grass and Fern, and free from floods; for the remainder of the distance, the land was of a similar nature, but undulating gently, the highest parts being covered

*with grass, and the hollows with bush. I found the depth of soil by the side of the Turanganui River to be above six feet.*

*I believe that upwards of 6000 Acres of available land, one half consisting of bush, and the other of grass, will be found on the Western side of the Lakes; and on the Eastern side, about 30,000 acres of fine grass land, free at all times from inundation. These estimated quantities may be found too great or too small, as, in looking over a tract of land so flat, the situation of the Observer, and the state of the atmosphere, must rule the judgement considerably. There is little or no swamp on either side of the water, for, when flooded, the land is firm.*

*The land on the Western side of the Wairarapa, extending Northward, being covered with Bush, I could not examine its nature, without far exceeding my allowed time. Could I have found a pathway thro' it, I should have assured myself of the complete practicability of carrying a road from the Wairarapa to the Ruamahunga valley. Judging, however, from that portion I saw, whilst crossing the lake, such a road might easily be made to some advantage, as it would run through well timbered land, whilst there is a scarcity of timber in the lower part of the Valley.*

*Vallies of fine Totara running into the Remutaka Range contain some fine agricultural land.*

*The native track from Wairarapa to Port Nicholson is at present obscured by dense bush, so that it was only by cutting our way we were enabled to make any progress, excepting whilst travelling in the water. This track commences at the South East corner of the Wairarapa, at the Waiorongomai River, which it follows until the Ori Ori joins it. The path then follows the Ori Ori to its source where I found some fine flat land, probably 800 acres in extent. Within about five Chains from this spot, another river, called likewise the Ori Ori, rises; this branch I followed down until it joins the Orongorongo. The tracts then leads up that River to its source, where, as at the source of the Ori Ori, I found some fine well-timbered land. Within a few chains of this spot the Wainuiomata rises; the River is followed down, until it reaches the borders of the Lowry Bay swamp. From this point it would be advisable to search for a road that would lead over the Hills at Waiwhetu, so as to cross the Hutt at the same point as the new Hutt road now crosses, and this appears to me very practicable.*

*The Waiwhetu Range is the only obstacle to the formation of a Road that presents itself between Wairarapa and the Hutt; and in the*

event of its being impracticable to carry over a Road to the Hutt Bridge, it must be taken over at the low part of the hills, at the northern side of Lowry Bay, and carried through around the swamp.

I estimate the total distance from Pipitea to Wairarapa by this route to be 28 Miles,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  of which is completed. A bridle road of  $20\frac{1}{2}$  Miles through this part of the country, calculating it to be cut for 8/- per chain, which I think possible, would thus cost £656 without including the expense of a survey. At first sight it appears impossible that a Road can be made from the Lowry Bay swamp to the Wairarapa Valley without crossing a single Hill; such however is the case, and in no part need it be steeper than the New Karori Road, and that too without side cutting. With the exception of about 50 Rods, the Road will run by the side of streams fordable at all times, and along the whole line fine sections may be laid out on each side.

It will be necessary to explore thoroughly the whole line to avoid crossing the Rivers too often. "Te Raro" led us completely astray twice; in one case he took us to a bare and rocky part of the Taumata o Tawaka Range, from whence I made sufficient observations to enable me to make a tolerably accurate sketch survey of my route. The Rocks appeared to me to be a kind of freestone, and from it I could see the whole of the line from Wairarapa to Lowry Bay, which appeared most excellent, but before any other person attempts to follow our track, it will be necessary that it be more clearly defined than at present. The Valley of the Waiongomai contains about 5000 acres of land, well timbered with Totara, Miro, &c. with a soil admirably adapted for Agricultural purposes. The River, which is about 20 feet wide, is at present shallow, and not particularly rapid, by the flood marks it appears to rise until it reaches a depth of about 3 feet. The Orongorongo Valley is of a rich deep loamy soil with a subsoil of gravel, it is well timbered, and contains, I think, about 4000 Acres of fine land. The River rises to 30 inches, and is fordable at all times—

The Wainuiomata Valley is narrow, but 2000 acres of fine bush land may be found in it. The River is rather rapid, but not to such an extent as to prevent sheep from fording it. The Native Chiefs "Te Raro", Te Teira, "E Hiko" and "Raniera" are very anxious to have white people among them, that they and their people may obtain such comforts and luxuries, as they see the Ngatiawa possessed of. From them I learn that the River Ruamahunga is navigable for 20 miles above the part I have examined: at about 11 miles up the River,

*opposite the head of the Lake, the Banks begin and continue to be belted with Bush, and excepting in winter, but little wet land is to be found. "Raniera" offers to take me in three days from the Pa Turanganui to the Pa in the centre of the Valley of the Ruamahunga. He states that the whole distance can be performed by water, but above that part of the Valley, called Taw-hera-nikau, the Canoes must be poled up.*

*The Chiefs, before alluded to, state their willingness to commence at the Wairarapa, and work towards port Nicholson in order that the Road may be the sooner completed. A Road could not be made round the Coast from Port Nicholson to the Wairarapa without a very great outlay, as the sea, even at midtide, dashed at the foot of the cliffs, which are too precipitous for the purpose, rendering the path very unsafe and difficult.*

*"Te Raro" wishes to know where the Road will go, that he may build a large Whare, and cultivate some land for the sole use of the white men travelling the road; and I am not inclined to doubt his sincerity, as they were hospitable in the extreme, and scrupulously honest*

*I have the honour to subscribe myself*

*Sir, your most obedient servant*

*H.S. Tiffen*

*Assist. Surveyor NZCo.*<sup>6</sup>

Clearly Tiffen preferred access to the Wairarapa via Lowry Bay to Waiorongomai, but Brees's ideas prevailed and the Remutaka Hill Road follows his course.

One page of his notebook of Tiffen's journey shows a "Native sketch" of Lakes Wairarapa and Onoke, suggesting they were regarded as fatally dangerous waters even then.<sup>7</sup>

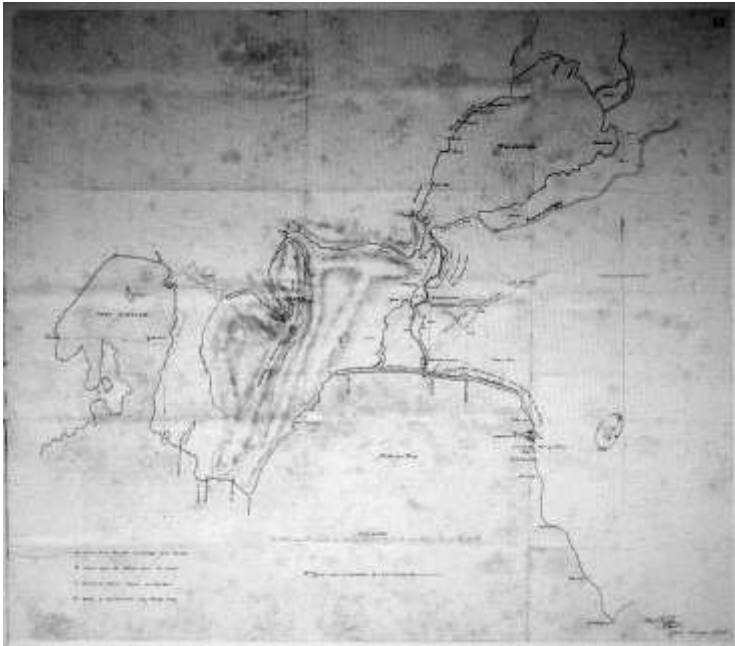
The formal report contains two maps, illustrated overleaf.

In 1843 Henry Tiffen won prizes at the Wellington Horticultural Society for his collections of seeds, was appointed a judge at its show and in February 1844 was praised at the Society's second annual general meeting.

In February 1845 his name was on the list of persons qualified to serve as jurors, his address given as "Wellington Terrace".<sup>8</sup>



Tiffen's sketch of "Wairarapa Lake Native sketch"

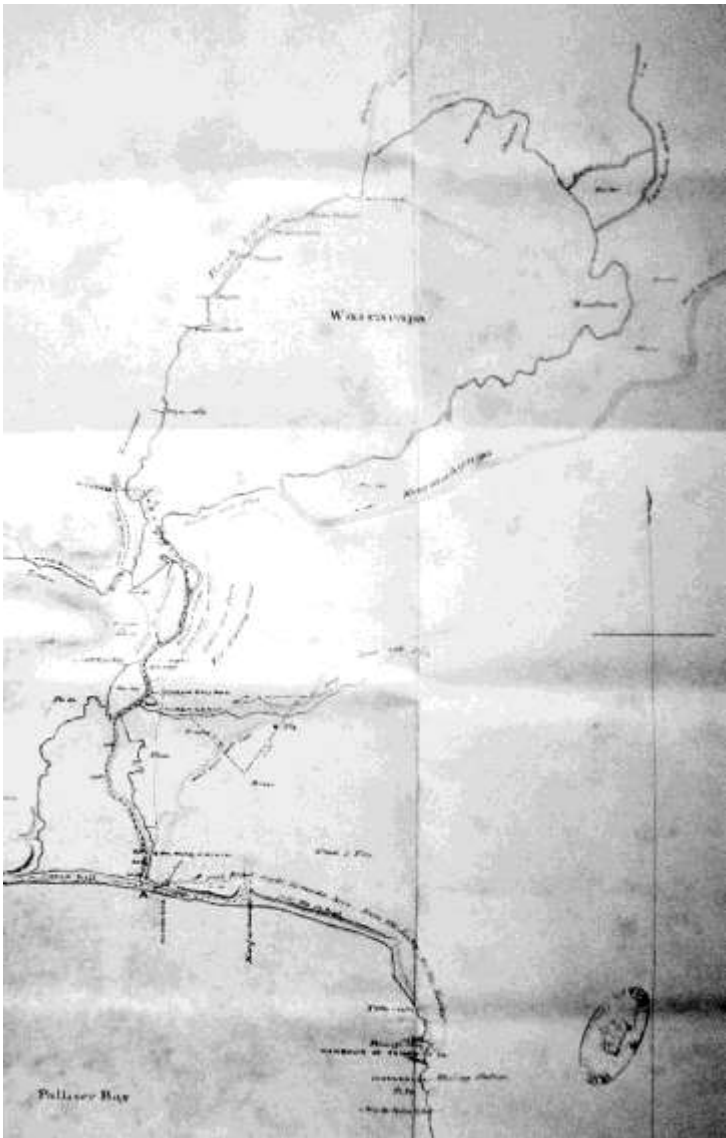


Wellington Harbour to Palliser Bay

Soon afterwards he used his insider knowledge and took up the choice land at Ahiaruhe. In April 1845 the *Wellington Independent* published a

#### LIST OF STATIONS IN THE WAIRARAPA.—

1. Mr. Russell's old station now unoccupied, and house used as an Inn.<sup>9</sup>
2. Mr. Kelly's—occupied as a cattle station.
3. Messrs. Allom, Charlton, and Tully, surveyors—intended to be occupied by sheep.
4. Messrs. M'Masters and Gillis—occupied as a cattle station.
5. Messrs. Clifford and Vavasour—sheep station.
6. Mr. Duke—unoccupied, fit for cattle.
7. Mr. Russell—sheep station.
8. Mr. Ingles—intended to be occupied by sheep expected from Sydney.



### The lower Wairarapa in 1843



9. Mr. Bidwell—sheep, cattle and horses.

10. Capt. Smith—sheep and cattle.

11. Messrs. Tiffin and Northwood—to be occupied by sheep expected shortly from Sydney.

12. Mr. Barton—round Palliser head, a sheep station.

We have further been informed that the owner of the brig *Bee*, purposes sending one thousand ewes from Sydney, to be run in the Wairarapa on his own account. There are from forty to fifty Europeans now occupied in the Wairarapa.

As his younger brother Frederick John Tiffin wrote later,

*Prior to expiry of (HS Tiffin's) three years contract with the N.Z. Coy. Mr James Henry Northwood, wife and daughter Elizabeth arrived in Wellington and a 7 years' partnership was entered into as Sheep Farmers. H.S.T. later on proceeding to the Wairarapa and acquiring a tract of land known as Te Ahiaaruhi from the Native Owners at a rental of £12, a year. The area was about 8,000 acres. Maories built the first dwelling-house of 3 rooms. Totara bark sides and divisions and Manuka bark roof. A patch of ground cleared by Natives and 1 white man (Bennet) and a crop of wheat put in. H.S.T. was here on my arrival in Wellington.*<sup>10</sup>

Frederick John Tiffin, aged 16, arrived in Wellington on 24 June 1845 on the *Louisa Campbell* (Captain Darby).<sup>11</sup>

Northwood and Tiffin as yet had no sheep, but

According to advices received from Sydney, a vessel was about to embark there 800 ewes for Messrs. Northwood and Tiffin. Sheep continue to advance, and good ewes cannot now be had in Sydney under ten shillings per head.<sup>12</sup>

Frederick Tiffin picks up the story, six weeks after his arrival in Wellington,

*... a cargo of Merino Ewes arrived in Wellington from Newcastle N.S.W. to the order of Northwood and Tiffin, which after being landed a few days were on Aug 19 driven through the main street of Wellington, Lambton Quay, en route Wairarapa via coast route—the only one then.*

*The flock numbered between 700 and 800 and 1 pack horse and 2 small pigs. Engaged on the expedition were the partners N. and T., myself, York, Paddock, Mr C.J. Pharazyn sen, now 99 yrs of age, G. Swainson and D. Henderson. At Wainuiomata a half dozen head of cattle of H.S.T. were added to the live stock, having been sent by W. Bertram White (H.S.T.'s brother-in-law who was settled near).*



Frederick John Tiffen, George Dalrymple Monteith, gifted by Mrs Priscilla Feickert, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi, 14849.

*Memo.*

*The Ahiaruhi (Ahi fire aruhi fern roots) run contained about 8,000 acres, the Hills being covered with stunted fern and the terraces and flats with native grasses and a goodly sprinkling of Te tree scrub. It was the farthest run up the Valley that was taken up, and remained so for a year or two, when "Manaia" run (W.N. Donald or Rhodes and Donald) was settled by Donald, wife and family, and later on Te Oriori run by R. Collins who removed from Bidwills with his sheep.*

*Northwood and Tiffen after a while purchased a mob of heifers and turned them on to the run but nobody ever mustered them or went among them and they became wild, their presence being known only by their crashing among the scrub in the gullies. We never had any more cattle beyond a few milkers.*

*1845. Sept. after 17 days journeying we reached Ahiaruhi with 758 Ewes 6 head of cattle and a mare.*

*The route around the coast from Wellington to Wairarapa Lake afforded obstacles which the earthquake of 1848 removed through a general upheaval of the land in that neighbourhood. Rocky points which could be got round only at low water and with smooth or moderate sea became passable at all tides even at the Muka Muka rocks where it used to be a ticklish job to negotiate at all times. Maories ferried the sheep across the Lake (it being open at the time), but the sheep were pretty tame from their sea voyage and coast journey and easily caught and tied and placed in canoes. The only incident that occurred in the Valley was the bogging on Wharekaka Plain of the Mare and smothering the two Porkers which formed part of her load. Swainson and myself were in this, but H.S.T. was supposed to be directing us to a firmer crossing but did not look back to see if we were following, until it was too late.*

*Memo.*

*To negotiate the Muka Muka Rocks half the sheep were left behind at last camp, and we were at the obstacles with the other half before daylight, piled up stones at one point so that the sheep might scale the point and at another point it had to be tumbled and was known as "Coles Hole" named after Rev. Coles who used to visit the country occasionally. Riders had to go into the sea a bit to get round these points but even then the tide had to be well out. If a swell was on nobody attempted to pass. This is as the Muka Muka was. It became safe travelling after the earthquake even at high tide. It was great relief getting quit of the coast but it was not all coast as a long stretch of hills, known as Rhodes Hills had to be travelled between Okiwi (Brown Acorn house) and Wainui-o-mata near Orongorongo (Riddifords). We had but one sheep-dog "Bob" imported from Australia with the sheep, fortunately the Merinos were low or Bob would have been of little use.*

*1845.*

*After leaving the Pa at the Lake called Kai-ko-kiri-kiri<sup>43</sup> in the neighbourhood of which was the first Station owned by, or rather rented from the Maories, by Drummond and Wallace— a cattle station and it was stated that one of the partners not knowing mules did not breed, grazed a number on account of an Australian, on*

*thirds* that is to say his recompense was to be  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the progeny—which came not.

A trifle further up the Valley the “Sow and Spuds” accommodation house kept by J. Grindall was reached and welcomed too as the first European quarters—though primitive.

Tauanui Station came next rented by Charlton Scroggs Tully,<sup>14</sup> two if not three being of the N.Z. Coy. Survey Staff. To the right of Tauanui, and on the coast was Wangai-Moana Sheep Station Purvis Russels and one of his brothers with him. There was no other coast Station near Te Kopi, the landing place, until Mr. C. Pharazyn sen. (who helped us up with the sheep) took up Waterangi run (just beyond Te Kopi) at this visit to Wairarapa. From Tauanui we passed Tuitarata (McMasters) Otaria (Gillies, wife and family).

1845. Memo.

Packing Station requisites and household requirements from Te Kopi, their landing places, to Ahiahuhi, about 40 miles, also Wool as return load occupied much of my time, in conjunction with one David Henderson. The journey occupied 5 days nearly all on foot, and when the packages were not equally balanced on the pack animal a few stones had to be requisitioned. My chief animal was the bull, but mule horse and donkey were also used. The bull had a ring in his nose but was not comfortable riding perched on a packsaddle and but one rein to guide him. Sometimes our neighbour and us would go for stores &c at same time and thus about 6 loads were brought home. Packing wool to Te Kopi, about two tons first shearing, was an awkward job on account of its bulk, and on arrival re-packing into larger bags or bales for shipment to Wellington. A pair of harrows once formed a pack made snug with a few schoolyards of calico. The mule got bogged in a creek and we had to unload the animal before it would rise. There was not a bridge or half a mile of formed road to travel over at this time nor several years later, nor was there an acre of freehold land in the hands of Europeans.

Wharekaka (Clifford & Weld) Kupungarara (since Pihaurea) Bidwell and his friend Collins, the latter afterwards taking up Te Oriori near the top of the Valley a few years later on; next to Wharekaka, a large plain extending to the Huangaroa river, on the other side of which was the run known as Huangaroa, on other side of which Morrison and family occupied a cattle run. These runs constituted the Col. in

1845, when every acre of land with small exceptions from the Hutt near Wellington to Auckland was owned by Natives, and it is surprising on looking back, to the fact that the Maories rigidly respected the primitive leases made between them and their white tenants. Rent was invariably paid in coin, but it immediately came back in payment for clothing, prints, calico etc.

1846. Memo.

The Ewes imported from N.S.W. were timed to lamb in Sep and this is the way that event was conducted. Paddock, the shepherd of English origin, had me as his assistant and my picture I formed of reclining on a bank and watching the gambols of the lambs was dispelled on the first day, for as soon as the flock was got well together I had to keep going round and backwards and forwards all day to keep them within bounds. Even to late in the evening when we used to leave them camping we would remain there and go home for a bull's-eye lantern. Every morning it took two or three hours to collect the ewes again, give some lambs a drink of milk and keep them in close compass as the previous day and so to the end of the lambing. When the lambing ground, from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 mile off had to be changed an extra hand helped us two to drive Ewes and Lambs right off to that ground, such a job to get the young lambs to move in the right direction, such confusion, such folly. No wonder the percentage was low at docking.

Shearing followed, the operation being performed by an old hand, Jim Coutes and his co-shearer Charlie Cameron. Each fleece was rolled up and tied with a strip of flax-leaf, locks and pieces loose; a woolpack, known as  $\frac{3}{4}$  bale was suspended to the roof by its 4 corners and into that was packed by treading in enough fleeces to make about a hundred pound bale for packing to the coast, about 30 miles, where they were repacked for shipment by boat to Wellington. Scab existed in the flock either the first or the second year. Our neighbouring run (Smith & Revans') had scabby sheep and there being no fencing on the Stations beyond a few hundred acres the flocks roamed sometimes beyond their own limits.<sup>15</sup>

Henry Tiffen wrote to the Wellington Provincial Superintendent on 25 September,

*Ahiaruhi Wairarapa Sept 25/45*

*Sir*

*At the request of Te Korou (a chief residing at Kaikokirikiri a pa nearly at the head of the Wairarapa valley) I beg to enclose a letter addressed to His Excellency the Governor, by which and by repeated conversation I infer that the natives here seriously anticipate an invasion by the Rebels, or as he says "when Rangihacata gets together a taua of hundreds".—I informed him that Captain Smith is to have a stand of Twenty Muskets deposited with him to be given out in any emergency; to which he answered "what will be the use of 20 Muskets when the Taua comes: Although I do not think it very probable Rangihacata will attempt to force his way from Manawatu over the Tararua and by the Pakuratahi to the Hutt as was a few weeks back the intention of a portion of the Ngatirangihui, still I believe it to be my imperative duty to inform your Honour what the views of this tribe are in the matter, lest by withholding such information the rebels might pass this way and do mischief.— Perhaps it may not be foreign to this matter for me to acquaint you that it would be an easy matter for the rebel party to come by night the route before written without the knowledge of a single individual in the valley, the pathway from Manawatu enters Wairarapa on a grassy plain a succession of which stretch to the foot of the Pakuratahi with scarcely half a mile of Bush and by such path all pas or settler's houses would be avoided.*

*The bearer "Henere" is a son of Te Korou and I have requested him to deliver this in the event of your Honor requiring any information from him.*

*I have the honor to be*

*Sir*

*Your most obedient servant*

*H.S. Tiffen.<sup>16</sup>*

Northwood and Tiffen expanded their holdings to lease more land in 1846, west from the Ruamahanga to the Taratahi flats and the Tararua range, and north to the Waingawa river. An outstation called Tananui, on the flat at the northern end of what is now called Tiffin hill (Te Paranui-o-Kuaka), near Hurunuiorangi, serviced this larger area. Tiffin Road now runs by.

On 23 August 1846 Tiffen wrote to Frederick Weld at "Warrekaka" in the south of the Wairarapa,

*There are 20 of the Ngatirangitai tribe from Wanganui at Kaikokirikiri on their way to join Mokau, they are armed with 2 Muskets and 2 double barrellled guns, and leave on Monday but it is uncertain whether they go via Pakuratahi or by the path down the Valley. If they choose the former they mean mischief and Bidwill will be in their direct way I believe; if they come down the Valley their intention probably is to learn how affairs stand with Rangihacata before they join him—there can be no doubt but that they are Rebels and it strikes me we should be justified in either sending them back or taking them prisoners if such should be your opinion and you will send across to Bidwill. I am willing to join in the matter, but it must be done immediately or not at all—in either case I shall hold myself prepared—I have 50 Bullets, 4 Pistols, 1 Double, and 1 Single Gun and 2 Cutlasses—It is peculiarly awkward for me that Northwood is away—Smith is also I believe on his way to PN. I send a letter with an enclosure from te Kainara to Major Richmond hoping it may be of service to him if we do not decide upon stopping them—The Natives I think are willing to fight, massacre or tye them whichever we advise them to do. I send by bearer a letter from the Natives to Ngatuku on the same subject—If the bearer succeeds in getting a horse from Capt. Smith's station he will be off to Bidwill's so as to bring me word of what we shall do—I do not think there is the slightest doubt but that these 20 are in the Valley and however unnecessary it may appear that I should have troubled you in the matter; as we are uncertain what they mean to do it is as well that we should avoid being taken by surprise; if you are of an idea that we had better remain neutral in the matter I shall certainly abide thereby.*

*I send the enclosed letter for you to read and then perhaps you will enclose it to his Honor as a Native just starting permits me so doing.*

Weld scribbled a memo on the last page,

*I thought that bloodshed & murder might be averted by turning these fellows back to their own district & went that night to ensure my friendly natives & Bidwills are armed—our natives however persuaded the others to turn back without fighting.<sup>17</sup>*

In 1887 The *Hawke's Bay Herald* reported an historical piece from the *Wellington Press*, based on a copy of a “census” of the Wairarapa, which, it said, was...

... the most advanced district in the colony, taken in March, 1847; and from it may be gathered a fair idea of the state of things when the colony was seven years old. The Wairarapa was then divided into fifteen stations, leased from the natives at a rental varying from £12 to £48, averaging £21, and totalling £325 a year for the whole district. The names of the proprietors are far from being yet extinct. They were Messieurs Tiffen and Northwood, Captain Smith, Messieurs Morrison, C. B. Bidwell, Clifford and Weld, Gillies, M'Master, Allom, Kelly, Williamson and Drummond, Russell and Wilson, Fitzherbert and Pharazyn, T. P. Russell, Cameron, and Barton. The European population numbered 59 men, 14 women, and 19 children, 146 in all; and there were 73 horses, 1365 cattle, and 10,691 sheep. There were only 25 acres under cultivation, six of the stations not having yet got the luxury of a garden patch.<sup>18</sup>

William Colenso made eleven journeys to the Wairarapa after his first reconnaissance with William Williams in 1843 until his penultimate pastoral visit between March and May 1851. He first met James Grindell in the southern Wairarapa on 17 March 1846 and wrote,

*I called at 'Wangai'wakarere in my way (a small village principally belonging to the Wesleyan Natives of Te Upokokirikiri); here we dined. Called on J. Grendall, a young Settler, who was full of bitterness against Missions and Missionaries. He declared against all Religion, and said, that he often spoke against Missionaries and Religion to the Native Converts, and cursed them in the Native language, and yet, overflowing with invective against their insincerity! I spent more than an hour under his roof to little purpose. Among other things, he said, "One reason I have against the Missionaries is, that formerly—before these wretches" (the Natives) "took to Psalm-singing, a man could get a Pig, and a woman, at every place, free, but now it is just the reverse!" This man has been several years in New Zealand, and knows the language pretty well. I scarce need add, that he is a sad thorn in the sides of the Christian Natives.*<sup>19</sup>

AG Bagnall wrote of Grindell,

"Long Jim" or "Maori Jim" as he was variously known, was the son of an army captain who ran away from school to sea but jumped ship at Sydney having been ill treated by his master. He came to New Zealand about 1840 as a member of Captain



Peacock's crew of smugglers but finally plumbed for shore life with a Maori girlfriend from whom he acquired his undoubted facility in the Maori language. For a time he worked in the employ of WB White of Muhunua (HS Tiffen's brother-in-law).<sup>20</sup>

Back in Hawke's Bay at the Mission Station on 19 July 1847, Colenso wrote,

*a travelling party of Natives arrived from Wairarapa, bringing the news of my having committed adultery with an English woman residing at the Hutt near Wellington! which made no small sensation among the N(ative) Chiefs. I recommended them to wait patiently, until the N(ative) Teachers from that district (who would be here now in a few days to their Annual School) should arrive.*<sup>21</sup>

A fortnight later

*the Wairarapa Teachers informed me, the author of the report lately raised against me was the notorious James Grindell! in revenge for their young men listening to my request to shun evil Society, and not going at his desire to work upon the Public Roads, where he is overseer.*<sup>22</sup>

Grindell was by then looking for Maori labour, working for the Government as overseer on the construction of the Wairarapa-Rimutaka road under TH Fitzgerald. Colenso's paternalistic advice to local Maori was to avoid the road gangs, whose gambling, rum-drinking and prostitution would be to their moral detriment.

Grindell's reaction was to blacken Colenso's character by making up the adultery story—or, at least, that was what Colenso thought. Colenso reported the issues to officials in Wellington and Grindell wrote a letter of apology, denying he had started the rumour, but admitting he had passed it on.<sup>23</sup>

On Colenso's return journey in November,

*Leaving Huaangaru I called at Te Ahiaruhe, Messrs. Northwood and Tiffen's Station. During my short stay, Mr. Tiffen asked me, if I had received a Letter from James Grindell, relating to that shameful report he had circulated. I said, I had: on which Mr. Tiffen rejoined,—"When I heard of it (the report,) I sought for and saw*

*Grindell, and told him, if you do not make an ample apology to Mr. Colenso, I will report your conduct to the Governor, for it is really too bad." I suppose, therefore, the Letter which he sent me, is to be attributed to Mr. Tiffen's kind and seasonable remark.<sup>24</sup>*

Colenso called briefly at Ahiaruhe in April 1851 but did not do so on his last missionary journey south through the Wairarapa in April 1852.

On 5 February 1849 Northwood and Tiffen wrote to the Colonial Secretary.

*Ahiaruhe Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 1850<sup>25</sup>*

*Sir,*

*Deeming it probable that the Wairarapa District would be immediately required for the purposes of the Church of England Association and finding our flock of 3800 Sheep were on the point of starvation owing to the scarcity of feed on this run we have driven our sheep on to the East Coast and have succeeded in finding a tract of Country at Tuingara about 46 miles south of Ahuriri.*

*We therefore beg to know whether the Government is in a position to grant us a Squatting Licence and in the event of such not being the case to request you will register this our application in order that we may have the preference when the Government is in such position.*

*An early answer addressed to Mr Thomas Northwood, Wellington will particularly oblige us.*

*We are*

*Sir*

*Your most obedient Servants*

*Northwood & Tiffen.<sup>26</sup>*

Alfred Domett was Colonial Secretary and Edward John Eyre Lieutenant Governor of New Munster Province. Domett wrote a note to Eyre, "This letter seems only a feeler put forth by Messrs Northwood & Tiffen to discover the intentions of Govt with respect to persons taking fresh runs. They know well enough both that Govt has no power to grant licences of land not belonging to it—and that they themselves are liable to a penalty for taking such of the natives. The run they speak of is I believe rented of Te Hapuku". Eyre replied, "Mr Domett, Refer Mr Tiffin & Co. to the Proclamation on the subject & inform them that if they choose to set the law at defiance, they must

abide any consequences which may result". He added a PS, "Let this letter be returned to me to lay before the Executive Council".<sup>27</sup>

Frederick Tiffen described that first drive of sheep into Hawke's Bay in the summer of 1850,

*To Mr J.H. Northwood is attached the credit of securing, by leasing from the Maories, the first run in Hawkes Bay. He was ably assisted by Mr Charles Nairn, who was a good linguist whilst Mr N. was a failure in that respect. Pourere and the inland run Omakari were leased—fully 50,000 acres for less than £100 a year. Nothing but Merinos would have thriven on Pourerere for the hills seemed nothing but fern-clad from summits to base, but at Omakari there were good flats and moderate hills.*

*Jan. 2. Left Ahiaruhi run for the East Coast run Pourere with about 3000 Merino sheep and a packhorse. There was Mr Northwood and myself, Ed Davis, Dutch Charlie, another white and six Maories who had come down from Ahuriri District to help us up. We followed down the river Pahau, with its numerous crossings, to the coast to Cameron's Run and up the coast camping a fortnight after leaving Ahiaruhi, on a flat about 2 miles south of Castle point, and on 30 January—4 weeks journey—reached Pourerere. Not a run to the south of us nearer than Castle Point (Guthries and family) and none nearer than Auckland district to the north.*

*Feb. 2/3. Self and Edward Davis removed about 2,000 sheep from Pourere to Omakari leaving about 1,000 under Edward Collins the appointed manager for N.&T. A Maori built house served as homestead.*<sup>28</sup>

The path they took was probably the old Maori track up what is now Admiral Road to the upper reaches of the Pahaoa river and thence by its "numerous crossings" to the river mouth south of Flat Point. It was a route Colenso had taken from Hurunuiorangi to Pahawa village in 1848.

The issues of the legality of their "squatting" seem not to have been settled, for Tiffen was to meet Donald McLean (in charge of Government land purchases), but missed him, so scribbled a note from Te Aute,

*My dear Sir*

*Immediately on the receipt of your first note I hastened to intercept you on your way to Patangata but owing to my being misdirected by a native boy as to the road you would take I failed in reaching you; I therefore started at Dawn from Tamumu and reached Aute about an hour after you had left and received your second letter the substance of which we shall act up to, at present waiving the question as to the validity or legality of our actions—*

*We beg you will accept the above explanation as sufficient excuse for not meeting you; and also that you will believe it is our most earnest wish that you should meet with your usual success in the purchase of this country—*

*Yours faithfully*

*H.S. Tiffen*

*for*

*Northwood & Tiffen.*

*I think you will make all allowances for the roughness of this writing as I am on my knee.<sup>29</sup>*

Tiffen wrote to the Governor,

*To His Excellency, Sir George Grey, K.C.B.  
Governor in Chief, &c &c—*

*Wellington, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. 1851*

*Sir,*

*On making enquiries of the Natives in the Wairarapa and Ahuriri I am informed that a nearly level country connects these districts, intersected by but few rivers: and from the Map of the Manawatu and Wairarapa and subsequent survey of the line of coast &c. by myself, I feel fully assured that the total distance between the two districts is about twenty five miles, which is covered with bush of an open character and through which a good track might be cut at an outlay, for Labour, of about Three pounds per mile.*

*As a road of this kind would shorten the time usually occupied in travelling from Wellington to Ahuriri by at least five days; and, (although very beneficial to myself individually) be of great advantage to all who may settle in the newly acquired districts. I respectfully tender my services to superintend the cutting of the same, provided*

*your Excellency would order that I be supplied with Labourers and Tools for that purpose.*

*I have the honour to be*

*Your Excellency's most obedient servant*

*H.S. Tiffen.*

Grey noted, "The Council are of opinion that H.S. Tiffen should be written to know if he will contract to cut the track alluded to within a specified time, for a certain sum, and what that amount may be. G. Grey July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1851". A clerk has noted "Mr Tiffen accordingly, July 10/51".

And on 6 August Tiffen responded, to Alfred Domett, soon to be Grey's Civil Secretary to the Central Government,

*Ahiaruhe, Wairarapa.*

*August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1851.*

*Sir,*

*Owing to the succession of freshets in the Rivers between here and Port Nicholson, yours of the 10<sup>th</sup> of July only yesterday came to hand: In reply thereto I beg to acquaint you for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief that I am willing to cut a line six feet wide through the forest lying between the Wairarapa and Ahuriri districts at Three pounds per mile: or for a total sum of Ninety pounds: and that, if either of these terms should be accepted, I will get it completed within two months of the time I receive notice of the same.*

*I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient Servant*

*H.S. Tiffen.*

Alas, it was not to be. Tiffen wrote again to Domett a month later,

*Wairarapa, September 9<sup>th</sup>. 1851*

*Sir*

*I have the honour of acquainting you that I am under the necessity of abandoning the idea of cutting a line from the Wairarapa to Ahuriri, as the Natives object to its being done until the country through which the line would pass is purchased.*

*I have the honour to be*

*Sir*

*Your most obedient servant*

*H.S. Tiffen.*

Frederick Tiffen recorded,

*During a visit made by H.S.T. to Wellington Dr Featherstone Superintendent of the Province expressed an inclination to see a bridle track opened through the 40 mile bush to Ahuriri, then part of Wellington Province, (which was the general name given to the whole of the country north of the said bush at that time). £100 was the sum agreed upon for an 8 or 10 feet wide track through the bush.<sup>30</sup>*

Perhaps it was Henry Tiffen's desire to return to his profession that led his brother Frederick to leave "Northwood & Tiffens service after being with them 3½ years in Wairarapa and 3 years in Omakari". He intended going to Australia.

Probably it was this desire that led to the dissolution of Tiffen's sheep farming partnership with Northwood the following April,

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the co-partnership lately carried on between the undersigned **JAMES HENRY NORTHWOOD** and **HENRY STOKES TIFFEN**, as Graziers and Sheep Farmers, under the style of Northwood & Tiffen, was dissolved on the First day of April last, by mutual consent. Mr. James Henry Northwood is empowered to discharge and settle all Debts due to and by the said late co-partnership concern.

Dated at Wellington this 26th day of August, 1852.

**JAS. H. NORTHWOOD,  
H. S. TIFFEN.**

Witness—I. E. JAMES,  
Wellington.

Northwood took the Wairarapa land (Ahiaruhe, Pouerere and Omakari runs) while Tiffen established himself on his Homewood sheep station near Waipukurau in Hawke's Bay.

Or perhaps Henry Tiffen could see only too clearly what James Northwood could not: that squatters' land would be appropriated by the Government and they would have to buy it back,

Much later Tiffen would write to McLean,

*October 2. 1862.*

*My dear McLean*

*I write merely to jog your memory respecting Northwood's place at Pourere. If you will expedite the matter so that he may be enabled to get a Grant I'm sure you'll confer a great favour---and I am*

*also sure you will feel he is entitled to the early consideration of the Govt. I suppose the land will have to be handed over to the Provl. Govt. and Northwood purchase from them.*

*Hard lines paying twice but better than losing the place.*

*I am*

*My dear McLean*

*Yours truly*

*HS Tiffen*

*Napier.<sup>31</sup>*

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- 1 New Zealand Company papers. Surveyors' diaries. HS Tiffen 23 Feb 1842 to 3 Dec 1842. NZ National Archives Ref. No. NZC 135 1.
  - 2 Different accounts have 1 or 10 October, eg *Colonial Magazine and Commercial-maritime Journal* Fisher, Son & Co, London. 1843. p255.
  - 3 Surveyor's diaries: HS Tiffen 23 February to 3 December 1842. NZ National Archives Ref. No. NZC135 1.
  - 4 NZ National Archives, [http://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps\\_pid=IE25513655](http://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE25513655) accessed 27 July 2017.
  - 5 Easdale, Nola. Research notes on surveyors. HS Tiffen. Alexander Turnbull Library Ref. 90-143-3.
  - 6 ATL MSDL-2483.
  - 7 Easdale, Nola. Research notes on surveyors. HS Tiffen. Alexander Turnbull Library Ref. 90-143-3.
  - 8 *New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian* 8 February 1845.
  - 9 "Wairarapa House of Entertainment.—The first station in the Wairarapa is known as Mr. Russell's. That gentleman has, however, recently left it and proceeded further inland. The house thereon is now occupied by Mr. James Grindall, who has made it a resting place to the great convenience of travellers desirous of not taxing the settlers of the district. The charge for a meal of pork, potatoes, and tea, is one shilling." (*Wellington Independent* 30 April 1845).
  - 10 Tiffen FJ. Diary. Alexander Turnbull Library Ms-Copy-Micro-0570.
  - 11 *Nelson Examiner and New Zealand Chronicle* 12 July 1845.
  - 12 *Nelson Examiner and New Zealand Chronicle* 9 August 1845.
  - 13 Actually Upokokirikiri. Te Kaikokirikiri was in what is now Masterton.
  - 14 John Tully, Horace Charlton, Sydney Malet Scroggs—all surveyor cadets.
  - 15 Tiffen FJ. Diary. Alexander Turnbull Library Ms-Copy-Micro-0570.
  - 16 ATL MS-Papers-0032-0003.
  - 17 ATL Ms-micro-\*\*\*\*
  - 18 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 28 January 1887.
  - 19 Hocken Library MS-0064. Copy in Alexander Turnbull Library qMS-0490.
  - 20 Bagnall AG 1976. *Wairarapa, an historical excursion*. Hedley's, Masterton.
  - 21 Hocken Library MS-0064. Copy in Alexander Turnbull Library qMS-0487.
  - 22 *ibid*.
  - 23 St George IM 2015. Long Jim: James Stephen Grindell 1823–1900. *eColenso* June, pp10–14.
  - 24 Colenso to JE Grimstone, Acting Colonial Secretary, 15 March 1848. ATL qMS-0492. This is Colenso's copy: the original is in the Archives, Colonial Secretary's Inward Correspondence, 1848/675.
  - 25 Not 1850: the letter was received in Wellington on 13 February 1849.
  - 26 NZ National Archives NM8 35.
  - 27 *ibid*.
  - 28 Tiffen FJ. Diary. Alexander Turnbull Library Ms-Copy-Micro-0570.
  - 29 ATL Object #1003756 from MS-Papers-0032-0604.
  - 30 *ibid*. 10 January 1852. Featherston persisted with the idea and asked Colenso, who had walked that route several times in the 1840s, for his view: Colenso wrote to Featherston on 5 May 1857, strongly opposing the scheme.
  - 31 ATL Object #1016377 from MS-Papers-0032-0604.
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## CHAPTER 4: HAWKE'S BAY

The Homewood house, Waitukai, was on the banks of the Tukituki, and Tiffen's brother Frederick visited for the first time on 29 September 1852,

*... selected as a convenient spot for a Woolshed and a residence, as station stores and requisites had to be brought up that river from Napier then known as Ahuriri by canoes and the wool taken down by same means. Four bales of wool were generally taken by each canoe and it required steady balancing of the canoes to avoid getting the wool wet. On one occasion I had to go to Port Ahuriri to dry and repack wool which had so become wet.*

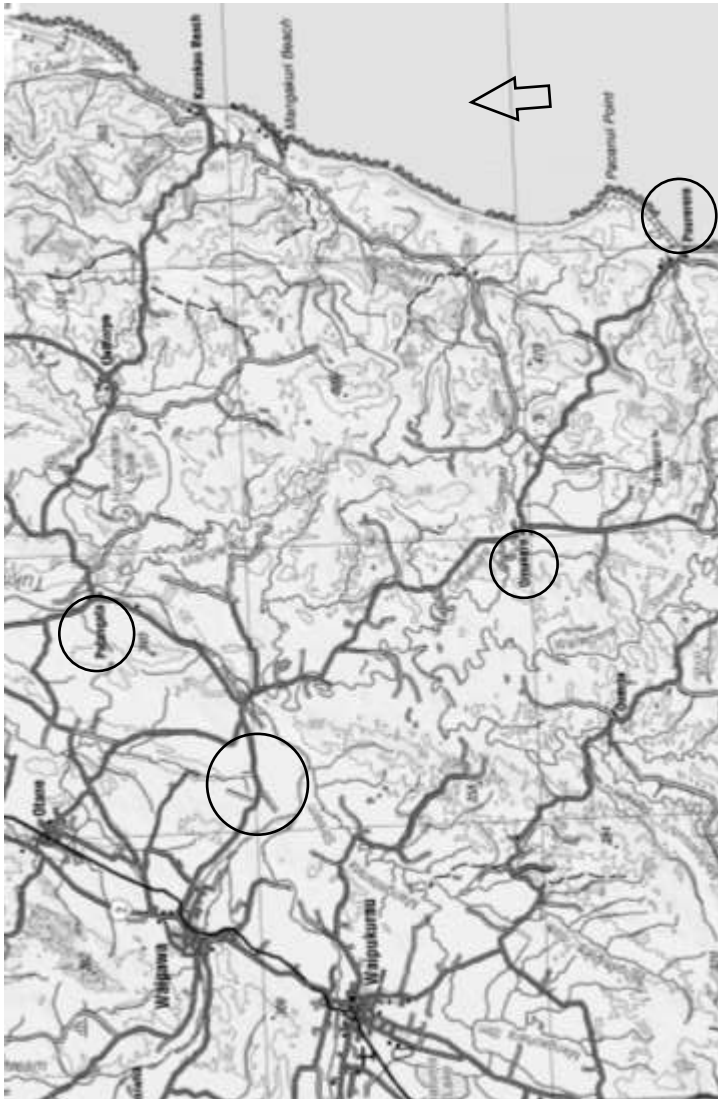
*Shearing was got through, self & others shearing, at Waitukai H.S.T. self and Henderson & 2 shearers occupying the residence, whilst 2 shepherds occupied a clay-&-batten cottage about 4 miles to westward (afterwards known as "Homewood" proper).*

*I was at Waitukai about 3 months Oct-Dec shearing, lime-burning & dipping in the new lime-dip H.S.T. had thought proper to adopt—result a failure. Sheep-dipping in arsenic was also tried later on at Homewood. The brewing was strong enough and the fumes arising therefrom was effectual only in knocking the operators up. Each sheep was caught and a man on each side, holding 2 legs each, immersed it in the dip tub and tossed it up on to the draining stage. The mens hands were constantly wet and parts of their body also and before the work was through they found it a difficult task even to button their clothes or lace their boots.<sup>1</sup>*

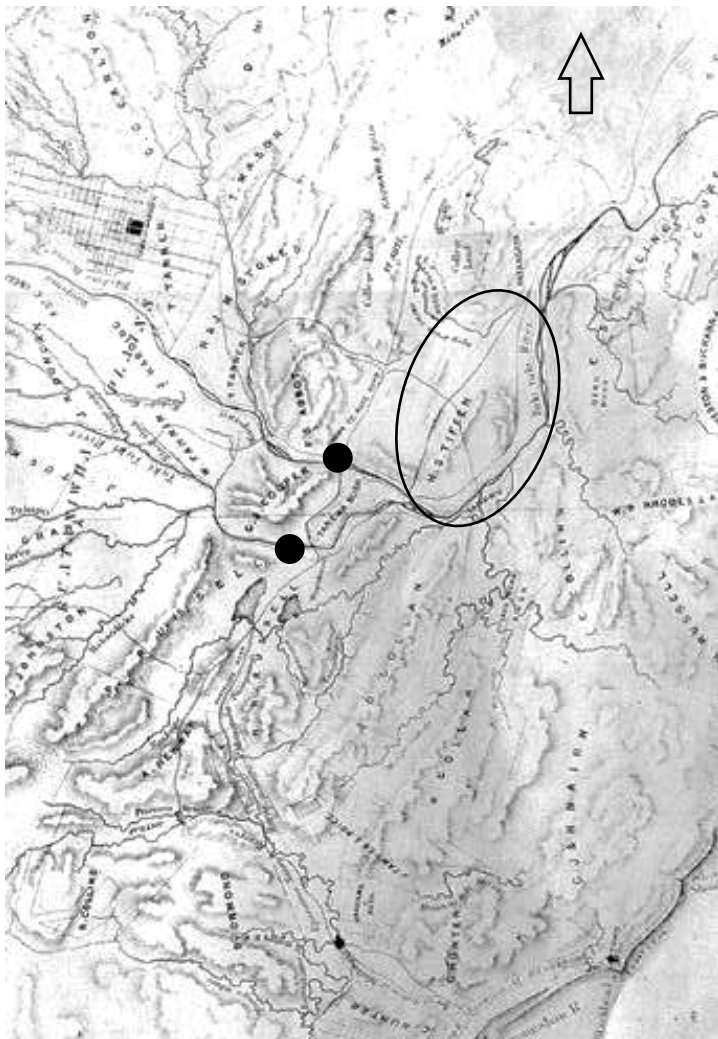
The most frequent neurological manifestation of arsenic poisoning is peripheral neuropathy, initially sensory with a glove and stocking anaesthesia.

On 27 February 1853 Frederick Tiffen "left H.S.T.'s service in which I had been five months" and went looking for land for himself, but July "finds me back to Waitukai 'boss' of the work. About a month after my return H.S.T. had to make a business visit to Wellington from which place he returned on Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>." <sup>2</sup>





Pourerere, Omakere, Homewood, Patangata

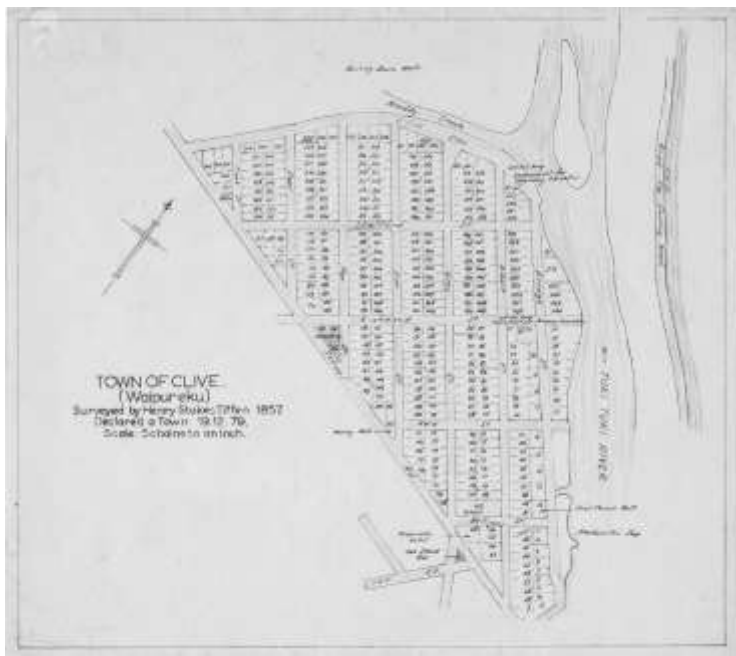


Detail from Map, Province of Hawke's Bay, 1864, Augustus Koch (b.1834, d.1901),  
 gifted by R D Speedy, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhāro  
 Tā-ū-rangi, m74/12. HS Tiffen's "Homewood" run on the Tukituki;  
 Waipawa and Waipukurau marked.

Leaving Homewood under the management of his brother, Henry Tiffen resumed surveying. After visiting Britain in 1855–56, where he married Caroline’s sister, Louisa Anne White (she was now 28) in London on 31 July 1855, Tiffen secured an appointment as a Wellington provincial surveyor, based in Napier.

From October 1856 he was in control of the Napier land office and all surveying in the district.

Frederick Tiffen “Resigned management of Homewood, James Lawrence succeeding” on 8 January 1857. He would marry Lucy Monteith (on 17 January 1859), move to their Elms Hill Station at Patangata (April 1860) and raise a family.



Map, Clive (Waipureku), Hawke's Bay, 1857, Henry Stokes Tiffen (b.1816, d.1896),  
 gifted by Mr G A Dyett, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust,  
 Ruawhāro Tā-ū-rangi, m66/31b

In the meantime,

Clive, then, was surveyed and laid out in 1857 by Mr Tiffen who was a Government Surveyor at the time. The original township was not where it is today but at Waipuheku near the mouth of the Tuki Tuki river. When the present site of Clive was built up it was called West Clive, the earlier site, Old Clive or East Clive. The Ngaruroro River was crossed by ferry and the Tuki Tuki forded at Matawhai when not in flood. It was situated on land occupied by Captain Joey Rhodes, a Sydney trader who first visited Ahuriri about 1837 and you will be surprised to know, even at the early period he found two white men with Maori wives settled at Ahuriri in what is now known as Sturms Gully. One of these men was that fine old botanist, Fred Sturm who established and conducted for many years a noted nursery at Mangateretere. The site is now occupied by the Kirkmanns. The other man was named Edwards, who later became connected with the whaling station between Taurapa and the Kidnappers, where the old try pot still lies.<sup>3</sup>

Havelock was not surveyed until three years later (1860) by the same Mr Tiffen. There is some obscurity as to who owned the land on which it was built at the time. It is well known that it was part of the Karanema Reserve. Karanema was the eldest son of the noted paramount chief called Hapuku. It was from the latter that Donald McLean bought, on behalf of that Government, a large part of Hawke's Bay. When the finalities were being arranged an area, I think, bounded by the Here Here creek, the present Town Board boundary on the South West, the Karituwhenua or Danvers Creek on the North East and the old Ngaruroro on the North West, extending well back into the hills, probably the whole of the Te Mata block, was set aside as a native reserve and vested in the name of the above son. There is no doubt it was occupied by the late John Chambers, senior, who had taken up a large area hereabouts in the middle 50s. Havelock was intended to be the principal inland town of Hawke's Bay, hence the junction of so many fine roads in the centre of the township leading to everywhere but, owing to the aversion of the squatters to closer settlement, the town area became so land-locked and so much opposition to the railway line running through their properties was put up that the

township was diverted to Hastings. The circumstances of this diversion are so well known that we will leave it at that. The original inland railway survey line ran between St Luke's Church and my house. The history of St Luke's has been so extensively dealt with during its 75th birthday celebrations that I feel it would be superfluous here.<sup>4</sup>

Meanwhile, on 1 November 1858 Hawke's Bay was the first Province to be established under the New Provinces Act of 1858.

In 1857 the European population of Hawkes Bay had reached about 1,000 and the land revenue approximated £2,000 per annum. Then it was that 317 settlers, i.e. the majority of the taxpayers, feeling they were being unjustly treated by the Wellington Provincial Council in its disbursement of the revenue, petitioned Parliament requesting that Hawkes Bay be separated from the Wellington Province. The outcome was the New Provinces Act of 1858 which provided that on the petition of three-fifths of the electors—not fewer than 150 in all—in any district of a province (such district being not less than half a million acres nor more than three million acres in extent) with a population of not less than a thousand European civilians, with a centre and port of its own, and distant—except in the case of Taranaki and Nelson—not less than sixty miles at any point from the capital of the parent province, the Governor should with all convenient speed issue an Order-in-Council establishing a new province and defining its limits. Under this act, Hawkes Bay became a Province on 1st. November, 1858. Among the leaders of the separation movement were the surveyors, T. H. Fitzgerald, H. S. Tiffen and D. Gollan. All were elected to the Provincial Council and on 3rd April, 1859, T. H. Fitzgerald became the first Superintendent of the Province of Hawkes Bay. 130 Tiffen had succeeded Alfred Domett as Commissioner of Crown Lands for Hawkes Bay in June, 1857. In 1862 he was Chief (Provincial) Surveyor also and he relinquished both offices towards the end of 1863.<sup>5</sup>

On the 12th of November, 1858, the schooner *Acadian* arrived from Auckland, which was then the seat of Government, bearing the following despatch addressed to Messrs H. S. Tiffen, Joseph Rhodes, and other petitioners:— “Colonial

Secretary's office, Auckland, November 2, 1858. Gentlemen,— I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your petition (transmitted in Mr Ferguson's letter of the 12th ult.) praying His Excellency the Governor to establish under The New Provinces Act, 1858, a separate province comprising the district of Hawke's Bay. In reply, I have the honor to state that your petition has been duly laid before the Governor-in-Council, and that in accordance with the provisions of the above mentioned Act, His Excellency the Governor-in-Council has been pleased to establish that district as the province of Hawke's Bay from the 1st inst. by an Order-in-Council, copy of which I enclose for your information. I have, &c, W. Gisborne, Under-Secretary."<sup>6</sup>

He was a runholder and at first he identified with landowners, attracting criticism for protecting their interests.

In 1857 Tiffen bought and from 1866 to 1885 subdivided for sale all the land that would become Greenmeadows, promising buyers he would build a bridge over the harbour to provide access, with a steamboat in the interim. Later he led the efforts to build the Taradale road. He developed his Greenmeadows land, establishing a vineyard and an orchard, experimenting with sugarbeet and tobacco.

He surveyed the land for Te Aute College and in 1860 surveyed the town of Porangahau. By then he had a house in Napier. It is portrayed in James Cowan's 1860 watercolour of Tennyson St,<sup>7</sup> and in the 1861 photograph by an unknown photographer—the fifth house from the left.<sup>8</sup> There he would develop a famous garden.

Tiffen was not a racing man; in October 1866 the Jockey Club sought to buy land for a racecourse and the matter was considered at the Provincial Council,

Mr Tiffen had never seen any good come from racing yet. Its principal feature was the whole of Napier being drunk for three days, and he thought £150 was rather a large sum for a Government to expend annually to secure to the people three days' intoxication. He hoped that every member would vote in accordance with his convictions of the good or evil such a measure would do.<sup>9</sup>

In January 1869 Te Kooti and his men escaped the siege of Ngā Tapa pā; in May Lieutenant Colonel Lambert recommended Mr. H. S. Tiffen JP for a Commission as Ensign in the Napier Militia. On the advent of the Fox Ministry in June Donald McLean was appointed Native Minister and Minister for Colonial Defence.

Henry Tiffen wrote to McLean on 26 July 1869,

*Napier 25/7/69*

*My dear McLean*

*I feel much pleasure in congratulating you on your accession to office and fully believe that through it we shall soon see confidence restored in the Colony; the extremely critical position you find matters in renders yours very difficult task, one thing you may be sure of which is that you will have the earnest sympathies and cordial support of this Province.*

*No doubt you are worked hard just now, when you have time I wish you would consider the matter of the Gaol discipline and management. If you could spare a morning to see how they manage in Wellington I feel sure you would advocate a change up here—Mind that although I am an advocate of permanent visiting justices (three or four in number) I have a great objection to form one of them.*

*Are the Constabulary in the same position as Imperial Troops as regards their Sunday religious duties the latter if 25 attending divine service are paid for under head of Military Chaplaincy— it is but fair the same should be carried out with Constabulary.*

*We have commenced our Hospital duties and have to ask of General Govt. to allow 2/- per week per patient for Medical attendance— we pay our Surgeon £125 per year; enough when we have only one ordinary average of patients, but when a lot of Constabulary or Friendly Natives become inmates of course a Medical Man has such an extra amount of work as makes his Salary quite inadequate—I believe some arrangement was contemplated by your predecessor.*

*The RM has been again nearly dead; our State in this department is inexplicable to strangers:—how in these times a man can jeopardise the loss of a comfortable salary with not overmuch work to do I cannot conceive.*

*I enclose you a prospectus of what I am trying to bring about as regards Schools. You will have as Supt. to grant a site for the Boys' School near Clive Square. I think that could be done:— I am sorry to*

*find you were not a Subscriber as I feel confident I should have had your support.*

*I was much in hopes Ormond would have been one of the new Ministry; that would have been too good for Hawke's Bay.*

*JA Smith is very much cut up at the loss of his wife, his friends all advise him to go to his family in England. I question whether he would have the means.*

*What in the name of goodness are we coming to, a fall of 14 to 20% in Wool:—I shall begin to think of taking again to my profession in some other part of the world:—Our friend AGT will almost surely have to meet the times or many of his clients had better succumb before they get irretrievably ruined; if it costs 3/- to grow half a crown's worth of wool, a very few years would settle the best of us. Flax may prove a success in which case matters may improve with us. Many thanks for the seeds; they are sewn already.*

*Now after such a chapter of wants and wishes you will be cautious before you ask me again to "drop you a line".*

*Mrs Tiffen joins me in compliments to you—*

*Yours faithfully, HS Tiffen*

*If you want anything done command my services.*

On 10 November 1868, Te Kooti and his Hauhau had attacked the township of Matawhero on the outskirts of Gisborne, killing 54 people, including 22 local Māori as well as European settlers, women and children. The refugees arrived in Napier, to the grief and anger of Hawke's Bay residents. Money was raised for their support: Tiffen and McLean were involved.

The Otago gold discoveries of the 1860s excited the fervour of treasure seekers everywhere. Then,

#### RUMOURED INDICATIONS OF GOLD.

A day or two ago, at the homestead of Messrs. Russell and Canning, Porangahau, a tame duck was killed, in the gizzard of which was found a piece of quartz, with a spec or specs of gold visible on the surface. The discovery created, as may be supposed, some excitement, and several persons are said to be prospecting in the neighborhood.<sup>10</sup>

Tiffen wrote to McLean, "What think you of Cannings Duck being entitled to our £1000 for discovery of a payable Gold field?"



Intelligence reached town yesterday that a very respectable native named Tararapa, formerly in the employ of Mr. Lowry, of Okawa, called upon that gentleman on Tuesday last with a beautiful specimen of quartz, filled with particles of gold. It was found in a creek of the Kaimanawa range, and he says that a great deal of quartz of equal richness is to be found in the same place. It had only just been discovered.<sup>11</sup>

Tiffen convened a public meeting to form a company for the purpose of prospecting for gold in the Province. The rush was on. He tried to calm things down,

#### THE KAIMANAWA

SIR, — On my return to Napier on Saturday last, I was somewhat surprised to find reports in circulation to the effect that rich quartzose veins had already been discovered at Kaimanawa, and that several “parties” were preparing to start for there. In order that great disappointment may not meet them, I am induced to state, through your columns, a few facts, that, it is to be hoped, may deter persons “rushing” unadvisedly to that place.

First, then, Captain Macdonnell, of Bracken’s party, was not, on Wednesday, the 20th instant, in a position to show me any reef of quartz in which gold was visible. They had eight or ten pieces of bluish quartz, very similar to that from the Thames, mostly showing one water-worn side, but no gold could be detected, even through the aid of a strong glass. Captain Macdonnell was using every exertion to find the lost reef, and I have but little doubt he will prove successful after a few weeks’ research. He has promised then to send such quantity of the stone down to Napier as will enable the value of the reef to be determined.

Secondly, there are already six prospecting parties out, namely,—

1.—Star of Wanganui, a fine lot of real diggers, who “swagged their kit” through an unknown region, including forty miles of forest. They say they are determined to get gold if it is there.

2.—Bracken's party (Captain Macdonnells), some of whom have been prospecting for nearly a year in these ranges, and are now working at the north end.

3.—Happy-go-Lucky, the captain of which bristles all over with bowie knives and revolvers, but is apparently one of the right sort, and a thorough bushman.

4.—Baldwin's party, who are evidently "keeping dark." If perseverance does conquer difficulties, this party surely deserves the reward of £1000 offered by the Wellington Government. They have endured great hardships, through shortness of supplies and inclemency of weather.

5.—The Hawke's Bay Gold Prospecting and Mining Co., under Thomas Roberts, an old experienced 'reefer.' This party, in the success of which Napier is mostly interested, have worked onwards, prospecting all the country en route. They have now moved to the south end of the Kaimanawa, about 65 miles from Napier, and "like the look of it."

6.—A small party which will reach the field of research about Tuesday.

Thirdly—It is of no use any prospecting party going out without means to convey ample stores and tools. There are but very few native kaingas in the vicinity of Kaimanawa, and the potatoes are nearly expended, and pigs are extremely scarce.

Fourthly—As the base of the ranges is from 1400 to 1600 feet above the level of the sea, the season is not far enough advanced for prospecting parties. From the 15th to the 19th instant, snow, varying from three inches to one foot in depth, was lying on the Rangipo plain.

Having stated thus much, in order to make people who are desirous of trying for the £1000 reward offered by the Wellington Government, or the £500 reward offered by the Hawke's Bay Government, consider what they have to encounter, I will only add that should any of my fellow settlers decide upon forming another prospecting party or company, I shall be happy to give them every information that lies in my power, as well as such sketch of the country as will enable them to reach the ranges without inconvenience.—I am, &c.,

H. S. TIFFEN,

Napier, Monday, Oct. 25, 1869.<sup>12</sup>

On 1 April 1870 Tiffen read the report of the provisional directors to a meeting of shareholders of the Hawke's Bay Gold Mining and Prospecting Company,

In accordance with the resolution of the meeting of shareholders, the committee engaged the services of prospectors whom they believed to be efficient. The party, under the charge of Thomas Roberts, lost no time in prosecuting their search.

Commencing on the 6th. of October, 1869, they were engaged up to the 27th. January last, in prospecting the rivers Rangiteki, Taruarau, and the Ngaruroro, tracing them to their sources in the Kaimanawa range, and in examining the head waters of sundry streams running northerly.

The party was subsequently engaged in prospecting all the streams running between the Ngaruroro and Makaretu.

Up to this time their researches have been unsuccessful in discovering gold; they have on more than one occasion found "the colour," as it is termed, but have failed to do more.

Dr. Hector, the Government Geologist, paid a visit to the Kaimanawa district in the months of December and January, and kindly offered to the prospectors suggestions as to the localities worthy of research, to which every attention has been paid.

Mr. Tiffen, the Legal Manager, paid a visit to the ranges at the end of October, and again in November, and was satisfied that the search was being prosecuted with zeal and industry.

The party of prospectors (now reduced to three), still in charge of Thomas Roberts, are engaged in prospecting the bed of the Makaretu river, where they have found fine granite and sandstone, such as they consider more favourable indications of future discovery than any previously met with. The river Makaretu was selected by Dr. Hector as showing better signs than any he had seen in the district.<sup>13</sup>

Reports were discouraging,

Mr. Roberts, overseer of the party sent out by the directors of the Hawke's Bay Gold Mining Company, thus reports under date the 3rd November:—"We have prospected the Tararau thoroughly, without finding any indication of gold. We have

now moved camp to the source of the Rangitikei, where we find the primitive rocks take a favorable change." It will be seen from our telegraphic news that a large quantity of specimens from Kaimanawa have been brought in by the Wanganui prospecting party, and are now undergoing analysis by Mr. Skey, of the Museum. At present, they afford no indication of the presence of gold.<sup>14</sup>

The last we read of Kaimanawa gold is in May 1871,

The following letter has been received by H. S. Tiffen, Esq , from Mr K King, on behalf of the prospecting party:

Napier, May 29.

SIR,—We have again returned to town, after an absence of over three months. I am sorry we were no more successful on this, than we were on either of our former trips. The most of our time has been spent in prospecting the western slopes of the Kaimanawa ranges, more in particular one river named the Witikau, running N.E. and S.W., and flowing into the Waikato; we traced this river to its source, a distance of thirty or forty miles, finding gold in small quantities the whole distance, also in several of the tributary streams, and from the regular way in which it is scattered, I have no hesitation in saying, I believe it is washed from some of the numerous reefs in the neighborhood, as the ranges on both sides of this river are covered with broken quartz, with numerous reefs and leaders trending in all directions. The country in this part of the Kaimanawa resembles the Thames district more than any we have previously travelled over. We have done very little in regard to prospecting for reef gold, as you must be aware that it requires a deal of time, labour and capital to develop a quartz field, and for one small party of three men, it would take years to fully prove even one single spur of the Kaimanawa, unless we were fortunate enough to strike it on the surface, as Hunt did at the Thames. I am far from satisfied with this part, and intend to prospect it further yet, in fact we should not have left it now, but the weather became so intensely cold and wet we were compelled to leave the country or the horses would have perished. As it was I was forced to leave one of them on the ranges, and I doubt if it is alive now. I am very sanguine that

good payable quartz will yet be found in those ranges, and if I am in a position to do so, I shall certainly spend the whole of next summer in prosecuting the search for it, although at the same time I would not spend one single day in looking for alluvial gold, as I am perfectly convinced, in my own mind, there is nothing like payable alluvial ground in that country, and I doubt very much if there is any elsewhere in this North Island.

In concluding this report, I beg to tender our sincere thanks to yourself and other gentlemen directors of the H.B.P. Co., for the great assistance we have received from them. Trusting our humble exertions have proved satisfactory to all concerned, I beg to remain your humble servant,

ED. KING,

For E. King and party.<sup>15</sup>

Tiffen subdivided and sold his Homewood farm in December 1874. He had begun to oppose further land purchases by big runholders in favour of division into smaller holdings and set the example with his own sale.

He became Immigration Commissioner in 1875 and in 1877 announced his candidacy for the Napier seat in the House of Representatives.

#### TO THE ELECTORS OF THE NAPIER DISTRICT.

GENTLEMEN,—In my notification to you that I was a Candidate for the seat in the House of Representatives, rendered vacant by the decease of our tried and true friend Sir Donald McLean, I stated that my views were entirely in accordance with those of the present Ministry, i.e., a Progressive policy with rigid Economy.

As I am requested by some of my supporters to express my opinions on sundry subjects that they conceive will be brought forward during the next session of the General Assembly, I beg to reply to their queries through the advertising columns of our daily papers.

1. Will you use your influence to stay the flood of immigrants, as we deem it to be far in excess of the requirements of the colony? I consider that our labor market is sufficiently well supplied at the present with the exception of

single women. I shall advocate a continuance of free immigration on the nominated system, so as to enable persons to get their friends and relatives to join them.

2. Will you, if elected, vote for a Breakwater and a Bridge from Spit to Spit?

It is well known to you all that I strongly advocated the construction of the Breakwater in the Provincial Council, and was Chairman of the Committee thereon. I do not think in the face of the Chief Engineer's report on the practicability of the present harbour works, and the refusal of the General Assembly to sanction the loan, that we can immediately look for a Breakwater. As the trade of our port increases we shall have stronger claims for insisting on such a work; meanwhile we can watch the progress and success of that at Oamaru. It is found, I believe, that the expense of the breakwater there will be nearly double the estimated cost. In regard to the bridge—the records of the Provincial Council will show that I voted for it; more harbour accommodation will shortly be a necessity. I hope, when the construction of additional wharves and docks has to be considered, communication with the Western Spit will be taken into account.

3. Would you support a Permissive Bill?

If a Bill of that nature were introduced, provided it did not contain clauses oppressive to the general public or clauses that would unduly interfere with vested interests, I should support it; I consider that whenever a special settlement is founded on Temperance principles, the inhabitants should have the power of controlling the sale of spirituous liquors within the limits thereof.

4. Are you in favor of secular or denominational schools?

The question of education, we all know, has engaged the attention of the most eminent statesmen in the mother country, and as yet they have failed in legislating satisfactorily thereon. I can hardly understand the meaning of this question, because I cannot conceive any Government school could be otherwise than secular where no State religion exists. My convictions are that education should be compulsory, at the same time it should be attainable at a very low rate, and in many cases no fees should be charged. I would have every denominational school receive a capitation allowance, and still further Government aid on

account of necessitous orphans and children of indigent parents. I do not think any fairer scheme can be brought forward than that on which we have been acting for many years in Hawke's Bay. No doubt the successful working of our Provincial Act is greatly to be attributed to the constant supervision that has been exercised — this kind of inspection I should like to see maintained.

5. Are you a "Repudiationist?"

The curtness of this question almost equals the brevity of my address. My reply is NO. If I should be honored with a seat in the House of Representatives, I shall strive only for right, irrespective of color. I have never bought an acre of land from the Maoris, and am not, therefore, hampered in any way in considering any fresh Legislation which may be brought forward to replace those complex and contradictory Acts now in force. I am aware that the prosperity of the province has been much retarded by the doubt which has been cast on Native Titles, and I have no sympathy with those who counsel the Natives to repudiate their just engagements.

6. Are you in favor of a yeoman class?

Most decidedly: the greatest proof of which is that I have divided my own run at Homewood into farms for the yeoman settler, and I am glad to find that many of those to whom I sold have re-divided and resold at a considerably enhanced price. I am greatly in hopes that my example will be followed by other runholders.

If, gentlemen, you should honor me with your confidence, I shall go to the House to vote in accordance with these replies.

I am, Yours faithfully, H. S. TIFFEN.<sup>16</sup>

An opponent, Frederick Sutton, addressed the election crowd,

Mr Tiffen had issued a very short address; he was an old colonist, and had been a member of the Provincial Council, and, perhaps, he thought that those things together qualified him to represent the constituency in Parliament. But he (Mr Sutton) thought the meeting would agree with him that Mr Tiffen never had any opinions of his own, and that he would vote as he was ordered by the powers that be. (Applause.) In a letter which had been published in advocacy of Mr. Tiffen, he was praised because he had cut up his estate and had disposed

of it in small lots. There could be no doubt that that course provided more work than would otherwise be the case, but at the same time it must be remembered that it was advantageous to Mr. Tiffen to do it.<sup>17</sup>

“Q.E.D.”, a supporter of Rhodes wrote to the editor,

Mr Tiffen, as of old, still sails in his circular boat—cautiously admitting nothing, promising nothing. As a politician, this gentleman is not to be trusted, for he sails his funny little boat only with fair winds, or, as Mr Punch puts it, “What for shall I come, for to fetch, for to carry, for to go.” He professes to support the Government policy. This is rubbish; the Government have no policy.<sup>18</sup>

In February 1877 the nomination of candidates for the vacant seat for the Napier electoral district took place in the Courthouse. Of five candidates Tiffen polled third and Colenso, planning his political comeback, polled lowest attracting only 3 of the 81 votes cast. Nonetheless he decided to address those assembled,

Mr. Colenso, on rising, was received with very great applause; and his first remark, that he was an old hand at elections, elicited quite a universal roar of laughter, mingled with demonstrations of applause. He reminded the meeting of the injunction of the good Spartan mother to her son to come back from the battle either with his shield or on his shield. Well, Mr. Colenso said, that was what he was going to do; he would either be at the head of the poll or dead on his shield. (Great laughter.) He was going to fight the battle fairly, and they might judge of his mode of fighting by what he had already done. He had advertised his address only three times. (Laughter.) He was not like those who let their addresses hang in the newspapers for weeks together. He did not exercise any of those manoeuvres, such as bowing and scraping, crying and promising. (Laughter.) No, he would stand much as he had always done, and he would win either honestly or not at all. (Applause.) He could not but confess that he did not understand the newspapers at all. There was one of them, the editor of which, certainly, was young, for his beard had scarcely grown—(laughter)—and that paper had said of him (Mr. Colenso), “The absurdity of his expectations now is due to his past history. Some ten or fifteen years ago, he was the



representative of Her Majesty's Opposition in Hawke's Bay. He voted in all matters dead against his colleague, the present Minister of Public Works. Recently, however, he has gained the determined enmity of most of his old party by going over to the Government side and accepting the post of Inspector of Schools." What namby-pamby stuff! (Laughter.) However, after that the paper went on to say that he (Mr. Colenso) "filled the post with remarkable ability." Well, it was the old story, "Save me from my friends." At all events, it could not be denied that he had been more usefully employed than any of the other candidates who were seeking the votes of the constituency. He now would say a few words about each of those candidates. (Great laughter.) Yes, he meant to polish off the whole four, and having removed the impedimenta, he would have room for himself to reach the head of the poll. He would begin with Mr. Tiffen. (Laughter.) If Mr. Tiffen had gained knowledge by going round the world, it was well for him, but he had little grown by the travel. (Laughter.) What had Mr. Tiffen ever done? Had they not seen Sealy undo whatever Mr. Tiffen did? (Laughter.) What was Mr. Tiffen going to do in the House? What had He to do with the laws that were to govern the country? Would he not be better among his ferns and his flowers, his grapes and so on? (Laughter.) Mr. Tiffen would be altogether out of place in the House of Representatives. There was one thing, certainly, that Mr. Tiffen would do; as soon as 10 o'clock arrived he would put on his hat and go. (Laughter.) Mr. Tiffen would never pipe all day and all night too; and when the Speaker's bell rang, Mr. Tiffen would not be there. (Laughter.) He (Mr. Colenso) could not help thinking of the scene in "Hamlet," where, after seeing the players, Hamlet and Polonius being together, Hamlet shows Polonius a cloud, and asks if it is not almost in shape like a camel? Polonius answers, "By the mass, and it's like a camel indeed." "Methinks it is like a weasel," says Hamlet. "Its backed like a weasel," replies Polonius. "Or like a whale," again says Hamlet. "Very like a whale," returns Polonius. (Roars of laughter.) And that was Mr. Tiffen, continued Mr. Colenso. (Renewed laughter.) They must not find fault with him (Mr. Colenso) and think him too severe; they must remember this was their Saturnalia.<sup>19</sup>

In 1885 Tiffen bought the Maungataniwha block, 36,140 acres, for £5700,<sup>20</sup> inviting tenders to cut 30,000 feet of totara.<sup>21</sup> He gave it to his nephews Fred and Bert White without ever seeing the property himself.<sup>22</sup>







Hohai

23

*Polewardia*  
*microphylla*











Shrine, gifted by The Dominion Museum, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums  
Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 55/42



Tiffen House and Original St Paul's Church, Circa 1874,  
Joseph Annabell (b.1815, d.1893), gifted by Miss E M Boyle, 59/78

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- 1 ATL MS-Papers-1348-34.
  - 2 *ibid.*
  - 3 Joll JH 1950. Impromptu talk touching early history of a small part of Hawke's Bay, customs of old timers and personal reminiscences. <https://knowledgebank.org.nz/563/579/23772> accessed 27 April 2018.
  - 4 *Ibid.*
  - 5 CA Lawn 1977. The pioneer land surveyors of New Zealand. [https://www.surveyors.org.nz/Attachment?Action=Download&Attachment\\_id=2653](https://www.surveyors.org.nz/Attachment?Action=Download&Attachment_id=2653) accessed 26 April 2018.
  - 6 *Daily Telegraph* 2 November 1892.
  - 7 ATL Drawings & Prints Collection, reference number B-156-008.
  - 8 Reproduced in Taylor E 2011. Edward Lyndon: painting for pleasure and profit on the colonial frontier. *The Napier Athenaeum*, 1 (4). <https://athenaeumjournal.wordpress.com/2011/08/02/vol-1-no-4/>
  - 9 *Hawke's Bay Times* 15 October 1866
  - 10 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 13 August 1869.
  - 11 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 14 November 1868.
  - 12 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 26 October, 1869.
  - 13 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 1 April 1870.
  - 14 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 9 November 1869.
  - 15 *Hawke's Bay Times* 31 May 1871.
  - 16 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 2 February 1877.
  - 17 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 23 January 1877.
  - 18 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 15 February 1877.
  - 19 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 9 February 1877.
  - 20 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 2 April 1885.
  - 21 *Daily Telegraph* 30 May 1891.
  - 22 MacGregor, Miriam 1973. Early stations of Hawke's Bay. Reed, Wellington.
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## CHAPTER 5: THE NATURALIST-HORTICULTURALIST

As a young man in 1843 HS Tiffen had won prizes at the Wellington Horticultural Society for his collections of seeds, was appointed a judge at its show and in February 1844 was praised at the Society's second annual general meeting, chaired by EG Wakefield himself,

A collection of dried specimens of native flowers is in course of preparation, and will when completed be forwarded to Professor Lindley, the Secretary of the London Horticultural Society, so that your Committee hope your society will in this way render material assistance to those who are able and willing to undertake the botanical arrangement of the plants of New

Zealand, and that no long time will elapse before appropriate names are affixed to those plants which are new.

In detailing these operations, your Committee feel bound to tender their best acknowledgments to Mr. Tiffen, for the very efficient services he has rendered to them, not only in collecting the native seeds, but also in preparing the dried specimens, and in filling the cases with plants.

Your Committee have transmitted to the Court of Directors of the New Zealand Company, in acknowledgment of their liberal donation, a series of drawings 40 in number, of the most beautiful indigenous flowering plants, and they feel peculiar pleasure in expressing their thanks to Miss King by whom the drawings were made, for the care exhibited in selecting the specimens, and the taste and skill displayed in the execution of the drawings....

Mr. Stokes<sup>1</sup> (Treasurer) said that... he would offer a few remarks on the general state of the Society's affairs. It must be very satisfactory to the subscribers to find, at the end of the second year, the Committee were able to report so favourably of the Society's proceedings and the state of its funds, that so much had been accomplished at so trifling a cost; but they should bear in mind the Committee had been able to do this mainly through the assistance of those members who had kindly devoted their time in aid of the objects of the Society. Among many who had thus assisted, none had contributed more than his excellent friend Mr. Tiffen, who seldom returned from a surveying or exploring expedition without bringing with him a collection of seeds, or some beautiful specimen of the Flora of New Zealand; by his exertions the collection sent in the *Glenarm* was exceedingly rich in choice plants, many of which are not often to be met with in this district.<sup>2</sup>

Four of Martha King's drawings, prepared for the New Zealand Company and commissioned by the Wellington Horticultural Society in 1842, were lithographed for EJ Wakefield's *Illustrations to Adventure in New Zealand* (Smith, Elder & Co, London, 1845). The collection of 40 originals was presented to the Library of the Royal Colonial Institute by Sir Frederick Young, vice-president and son of GF Young, an active member of the New Zealand Company. They were purchased by the Alexander Turnbull Library in 1982 from the

Royal Colonial Institute Library, together with five watercolours of New Zealand plants by an unknown hand, all in a bound volume, along with pressed plant specimens collected by HS Tiffen and identified by Sir William Jackson Hooker, who also identified the plants in the watercolours.

The watercolours remain in the Alexander Turnbull Library which donated the plant specimens to the Museum of New Zealand in 1982; the specimens have an index where they are numbered 1-40 and the five "Drawings" are numbered 41-45. No. 44 is annotated "Same as No. 14" and No. 45 is annotated "Same as No. 23".

Neither the numbers nor the pressed plants match the numbers on Martha King's 40 watercolours so it is clear she worked from different specimens.

The five "Drawings" have been tentatively attributed to Henry Stokes Tiffen and it does seem likely they are his: they are appended to his plant collection and are labelled in his hand and that of WJ Hooker. Drawing 44 and Tiffen's specimen 14 are both lancewood but they do not match; similarly drawing 45 and specimen 23 are both kowhai but do not match. Although several of his neatly drawn maps have survived, no other specimen of his art work is available for comparison.

The five watercolours attributed to Tiffen are

41. Kohia. *Passiflora*? *Parviflorum* (1840s) = *Passiflora tetrandra*. Kōhia. New Zealand passionfruit. B-121-005.
42. Hou hou. Hawhaw. *Panax arboreum* (1840s) = *Pseudopanax arboreus*. Whauwhaupaku. Five-finger. B-121-001.
43. Kowarrawarra in seed. *Freycinetia banksii* = *Freycinetia banksii*. Kiekie. Weaving plant. B-121-002.
44. Coroeke. *Aralia crassifolia* Dec 14 (1840s) = *Pseudopanax crassifolius*. Horoeke. Lancewood. B-121-003.
45. Kohai. *Edwardsia microphylla*. Dec 23 (1842?) = *Sophora microphylla*. Kowhai. Weeping kowhai, small-leaved kowhai. B-121-004.

Tiffen's album at Te Papa is of cartridge paper, 15 x 22 inches (381 x 559mm), bound in half leather. A leather title patch is engraved "NEW ZEALAND COMPANY. NATIVE PLANTS OF NEW ZEALAND".



The *Wellington Independent* of 19 September 1849 reported,

**SETTLERS' CONSTITUTIONAL ASSOCIATION.**

A meeting was held on Thursday, the 13th, at which communications on the subject of Flax were read from Mr. Bowen, Mr. Gill, and Mr. Tiffen, and specimens prepared by Mr. Tiffen exhibited:—as Mr. Tiffen gives some interesting details respecting his experiments, we shall publish his letter in our next.

Unfortunately it was not published in the next issue—or ever.

In 1851 the Crown bought the Ahuriri Block (including what are now Taradale and Greenmeadows) and in 1856 the Tutaekuri Block. Both were subdivided as the river Meeanee District; the European population increased in response.

William Colenso bought several blocks, in Puketapu, Meeanee and near Otatara—from Guppy Road to the Puketapu hills, bounded by the

Great North Road and the Tutaekuri River. Tiffen bought most of the land north of the road to Puketapu and west of Guppy Road and named it Green Meadows. It was to be the site for his orchard and vineyard and the source of much of his wealth as he sold off sections of the estate.

Tiffen had left Wairarapa partly because Wakefield's New Zealand Company had indicated it wanted to set up its Canterbury settlement there and the rental agreement Northwood & Tiffen had with local Maori might be seen as illegal. Tiffen (now Chief Surveyor) and Wakefield had not yet finished with each other,

*To those Gentlemen who attended the Land Sale at Napier,  
June 12, 1857.*

Gentlemen,—Mr. E. Jerningham Wakefield has publicly stated in Wellington that Mr. McLean, Mr. Cooper, and myself “monopolised *unfairly* the best portions of the land unsold.”

Will any of you endeavour to enlighten me in what the unfairness consisted? If, as I believe you will, you acquit us of such a gross imputation, then must Mr. Wakefield's observations be taken for what they are worth; but if his charges are true, it behoves you to call on his Honor the Superintendent for my dismissal from office, as, if unfair monopoly was practised, it could only be through my instrumentality.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant,  
H. S. TIFFEN.<sup>3</sup>

An enquiry acquitted Tiffen of all charges brought against him.<sup>4</sup>

At a Provincial Council meeting in August 1864,

Mr. COLENSO asked the government when they intended bringing in the promised Goat Nuisance Bill.

Mr. M'LEAN said there was so much business before the Council, that there would be no time to bring in a bill of this nature. He thought the nuisance complained of was not so serious but that it might stand over till next session.

Mr. TIFFEN,— Oh that the Superintendent had a garden!<sup>5</sup>

A letter to William Seed, later to become MHR for Lambton Ward but at that time (1865), Collector of Customs has survived,

*May 15, 1865*

*My dear Seed*

*If you want a good book of reference as regards  
nomenclature of plants and their varieties, with concise*

*instructions in their culture get the "Cottage Gardener's Dictionary" it is published in one volume price in England 6/6—should you prefer a half yearly vol. more fully descriptive get the "Cottage Gardener"—I think each vol. 6/6. by all means get it in half yearly volumes Published by Orr and Co. Amen Corner.*

*Glenny's Handbook to Greenhouse Published by C Cox 12 King William St price 5/6 and the Handbook to Fruit & Vegetable Garden 7/6 will give you everything you can desire—*

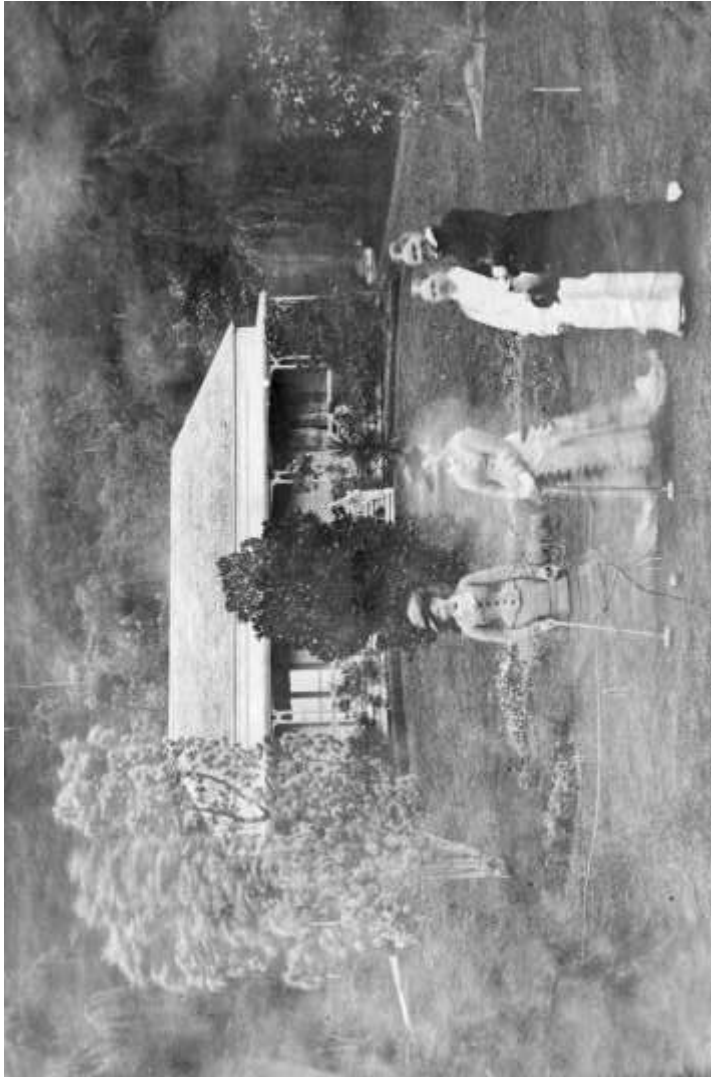
*We are jogging on quietly, my farm & Garden look very well; I nearly sold Homewood a few months back—had I dealt with the principal (T Russell) no doubt I should have met him half way but I was too much annoyed with his agent (Mr Court) to feel disposed to have any further negotiation; having no small fry to provide for I thought it would be quite as well that the "old woman" and I should launch out a bit and spend a few thousands on pleasuring.*

*Our kindest regards,*

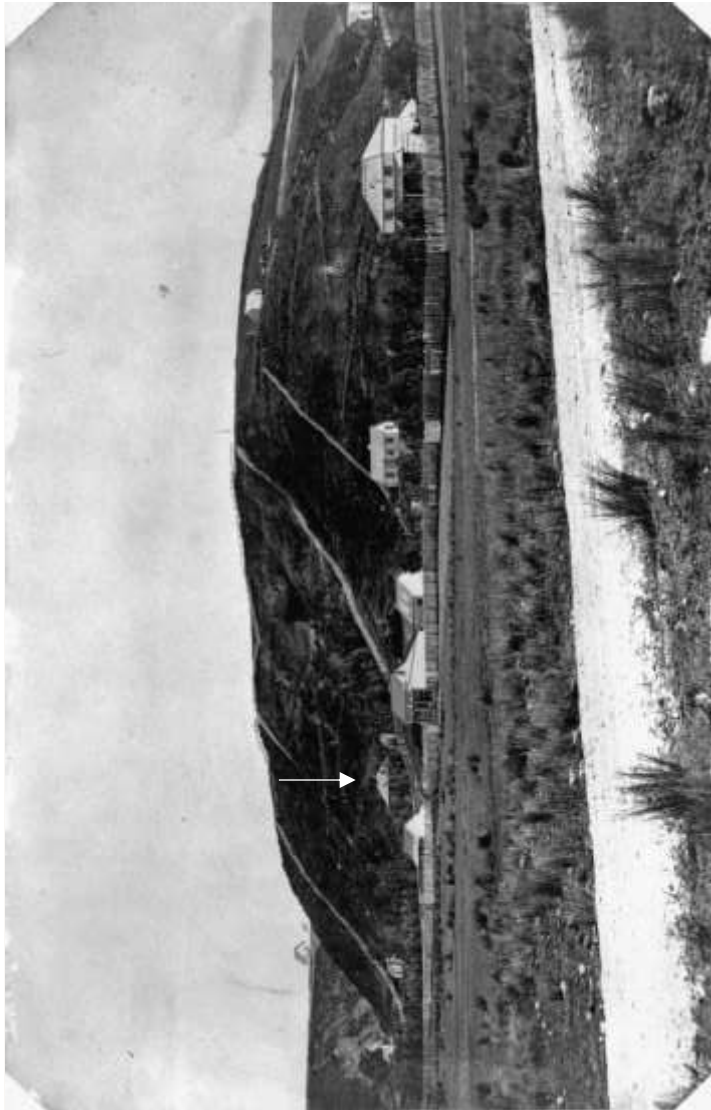
*Yours faithfully,*

*H.S. Tiffen.*





Women playing croquet in the garden of the Tiffen Residence, Tennyson Street, Napier, gifted by Mrs Priscilla Feickert, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 4235



Tennyson Street, Napier. Rhodes, Beatrice, fl 1978 :Photographs.  
Ref: PA1-q-193-062. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.  
Photographer unknown, 1861, Tiffen's house arrowed.

Tiffen's garden was celebrated. In Colenso's herbarium at Te Papa there are specimens "from Tiffen's garden"—e.g., *Coprosma Baueri* ("The *Coprosma* is a pretty thick growing evergreen shrub, or sm. tree, one of the ornaments of Tiffen's garden").<sup>6</sup> *Nephrolepis cordifolia*.<sup>7</sup> Colenso mentioned Tiffen's fernery in a letter to GM Thomson in 1882,<sup>8</sup> and sent Tiffen live fern roots from the Bush in 1887.<sup>9</sup> He wrote, of a new fern, *Polypodium pennigerum* var. *hamiltonii*, that "plants of it are thriving well in Mrs. Tiffen's fernery in Napier".<sup>10</sup>

Walter Buller wrote of the Southern Black-backed Gull,

In Napier, where the cultivated grounds were at one time infested with the introduced snail (*Helix hortensis*), this Gull was found to be quite invaluable. In Mr. Tiffen's beautiful garden a pair of them lived for a considerable time, subsisting entirely on the snail, and performing good service among the ferneries. In another place, however, the gardener complained that he was unable to keep them on account of their inquisitive habits, all the labels being torn out of the seed-beds as soon as they were put down.<sup>11</sup>

At the Hawke's Bay Poultry and Canary Association's annual show in 1879, "The hall was very tastefully decorated, principally with flowers from Mr Tiffen's garden, and presented a very pleasing appearance."<sup>12</sup>

After Louisa died in 1875, Tiffen travelled widely overseas, always on the look-out for plants or produce that might thrive in or benefit Hawke's Bay.<sup>13</sup>

He and Louisa had intended travelling to Europe and America in 1875–1876 ("having no small fry to provide for I thought it would be quite as well that the 'old woman' and I should launch out a bit and spend a few thousands on pleasuring," he had written to Seed in May) and her death only briefly delayed his journey. He was abroad a year, returning to Napier in October 1876.

In 1880 Tiffen was in Japan,

#### CULTIVATION OF THE PERSIMMON IN NEW ZEALAND.

Mr H. S. Tiffen writes:— "The insertion of the enclosed article on the Japan Persimmon or Kaki would probably cause attention to the advisability of introducing to New Zealand so

valuable a fruit. Whilst in Japan in June last I arranged on the behalf of our Government for a shipment to be despatched to Wellington this month, and I should advise the Acclimatisation Society to send an order for a thousand at once. The introduction of the Japanese bamboo would also be of immense benefit to the colony, and judging from the climate where it flourishes it should succeed in this latitude admirably.— Yours, &c, H. S. Tiffen.”<sup>14</sup>

The bamboos, persimmons, and other Japanese plants and trees ordered by Mr. H. S. Tiffen, for the Government and himself, are now on the way to New Zealand by steamer.<sup>15</sup>

The *Herald* of 27 September 1880 reported,

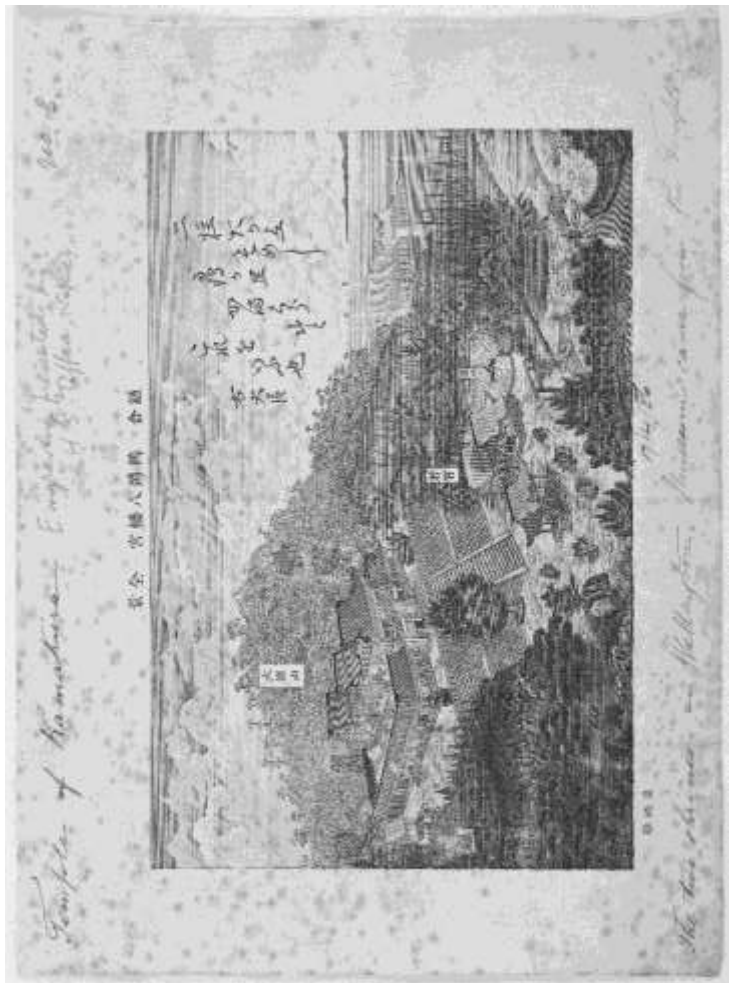
When in Japan Mr Tiffen, on behalf of the New Zealand Government, purchased 50 hardy orange trees, 1000 persimmons, 200 assorted kiaki, 50 pear-shaped plums, 1000 very large kind of chestnut, and 200 bamboos. He also obtained a number of fruit trees with which to experiment in his own garden.

The trees arrived, but many appeared dead. Nonetheless,

We are glad to hear that a number of the Japanese persimmons imported by the Acclimatisation Society, which were supposed to be dead and were given away, have proved to be alive. Out of half-a-dozen of the worst planted in Mr Tiffen’s garden three are alive, two of them throwing out long shoots. At Taradale there are also growing trees.<sup>16</sup>

He also brought home two Japanese shrines. In the *Transactions* of 1882 James Hector noted in his annual report that very large ethnological collections had been received. “Amongst the articles more especially worthy of notice are... two Japanese shrines, 500 years old, from the Temple of Kamakura, presented by Mr. H. S. Tiffen, of Napier...”<sup>17</sup>

There is also an engraving of the temple, inscribed in Tiffen’s hand five years later, “Temple of Kamakura. The two shrines in Wellington Museum came from this temple”. In another hand, “Engraving presented by H.S. Tiffen, Napier”.<sup>18</sup> It is dated “17/4/86”.



Tsurugaoka Hachiman Shrine at Kamakura, Dating from the 12th century, the spiritual heart of Kamakura and one of its most popular attractions.  
Gift of H S Tiffen, Te Papa (1992-0035-1911).

Tiffen's shrines are Buddhist and were obtained following the Meiji Restoration in Japan, when Buddhism and Shintoism were forcibly separated, and many centuries-old religious artworks from Japan found their way to the United States, Europe, Asia and other places, bought very cheaply. "Some of the world's best museums of Japanese religious art (e.g., The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston) got a large portion of their collections during this turbulent time in Japan's history; so too did many museums that today are considered world class." (*pers. com.* Mark Schumaker).

One of the shrines was at some time returned to the museum at Napier; the other is in the Te Papa collection.

The *Herald* of 22 June 1881:

The cultivation of the tea-plant in Hawke's Bay is sometimes talked about. Tea grows to perfection here. There are several varieties in Mr Tiffen's garden, and we believe that other gentlemen can show tea-shrubs, but unless labor could be obtained at about 15s per week it would never do to engage in the cultivation of tea. It comes to this: If we would grow tea or tobacco we must have Chinamen or Indian coolies to do the work, or else women and children must be employed. Without cheap labor neither tea nor tobacco could be grown at a profit.

Later in 1881 Tiffen and Mrs Randall would travel abroad,

Mr H. S. Tiffen and Mrs Randall leave for Europe, via San Francisco, on Saturday. Their precise movements are uncertain, but they expect to remain some time in America, as Mr Tiffen has to make various inquiries as to the sending of prairie hens to Hawke's Bay, to get Japanese plants and seeds for the Acclimatisation Society, and obtain all possible information as to the relative merits of beet and sorghum as sugar-producing plants. Mr Tiffen and Mrs Randall will not stop long in England, but will make an extended tour of the Continent of Europe before returning to New Zealand.<sup>19</sup>

#### MR H. S. TIFFEN ON CALIFORNIA.

The San Francisco mail brought letters from Mr H. S. Tiffen, under date Kansas City, September 11. In one of these letters

he says:— “We stayed at Los Angeles, Cal., for a fortnight, whilst the railway was undergoing repairs, and we were greatly pleased with what we saw there. It is impossible to conceive or describe the wonderful richness of the southern slopes of California. The vine and orange grow to perfection. Of the former 6000 acres are in crop in the county and 65,000 acres in the whole State—40,000,000 acres are said to be adopted for vineyards, so that viticulture may be said to be only in its infancy. In Los Angeles there are about 2000 acres in oranges—192,000 trees, yielding from 1000 to 3000 oranges each tree; the net returns are said to be about £40 per year per acre. The holdings in general are from 10 to 40 acres, and are kept in a high state of cultivation by one man to 20 acres. A more attractive mode of gaining a comfortable living I cannot imagine. The only thing to be feared, is whether oranges may not become a drug in the market. As regards the vines, the excellence of the kinds, and the adaptability of the climate for wine and brandy making, make it almost a certain industry. Much as I like the climate of New Zealand, I think I should prefer that of Southern California, only one would get so tired of the everlasting blue sky. A man of small means—say £1000—should do well. Cattle and sheep are not paying articles, the long season of drought is so trying to them. The wool is awful rubbish; the breed is a mongrel merino, and, owing to the necessity of shearing twice a year in consequence of scab, it is very, very short. We visited a splendid ranch here—area, 2000 acres, more than half in fruit. The owner has made a large fortune within the last 20 years. He has one special hobby—that of breeding trotting horses, and his stable of 20 stalls is very handsomely fitted. One of the sires does his mile in 2min. 22sec, and a mare, Sweetheart, has done it in something under 2min. 16secs. I cannot say that I admire the symmetry of the trotters so much as our racers—I call them ugly headed, but their hindquarters are grand for strength and speed. We have been disappointed in seeing the famous Maud S. trot. She has received a wrench and is to rest a season. Her last achievement was a mile in 2min. 10½ secs.—the fastest on record. We go to-morrow to see the cattle and horse show. We are told that we shall see some good stock and a good trotting match. Another event is to be a 20-mile race between two ladies—as many horses as they choose, but they must change

without touching the ground. The first three hours from Los Angeles we travelled through beautiful country; then we came to a desert of sand, 250 feet below the sea level, useless in the extreme. Indeed, for one or two days' travel the land is execrable. However, the last 500 miles we have been through looks like the Karamu Plains, only the soil appears better. Cattle are up to their knees in grass for a continuous area twice the size of New Zealand. We were told, however, that six weeks back the country was as bare as a board, and had been so for several months. Were it not for the regular dry seven months out of the twelve, what a grand country it would be for English farmers! The time will come when a water supply will be organised. Near Los Angeles we saw several reservoirs supplied by 7-inch artesian pipes, the water ascending at least 10ft. above ground level, and I have no doubt that as the agricultural interest expands a similar system will be adopted in this splendid district. This southern route should never be attempted at this season of the year. An hour's rain brings torrents from the Rocky Mountains which damage miles of railway. We passed one wreck of engine, tender, and eleven freight cars, and we had to wait a day for the line to be cleared before we could proceed—a lucky escape for us, and an awfully close shave. This part of America is a most lawless one. Two railway trains have been “stuck-up” in a month, and “pistol practice” is very common. A great number of Mexican half-breeds engaged in stock-tending do as some of our laborers do—have periodical “sprees” at the nearest town, gambling and drinking heavily. At the least dispute out come revolvers, and it is “Look out.”<sup>20</sup>

His garden attracted unwanted attention too,<sup>21,22</sup>

### NOTICE.

**W**HEREAS disreputable people are in the habit of stealing flowers from Mr Tiffin's garden, of which I am at present tenant, This is to give notice that for the future anyone intruding without the permission of myself or the gardener, will be given into the custody of the police

J. A. SMITH

10th November 1881



Three defendants were punished at the Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday for fruit stealing. Michael Daly, an elderly man, stole apples, and was fined 5s and costs, and two lads named James and Robert Allen, for stealing walnuts, were each fined 3s and costs. In each case the fruit was stolen from Mr H. S. Tiffen's orchard, near Taradale.

Presumably Tiffen and his niece went on to England, for Frederick noted their return in his diary (9 September 1882), "H.S.T. & niece... from England via Auckland".

In 1882 he was President of the Hawke's Bay Horticultural Society, which was "determined to make their first show a success,"

Mr H. S. Tiffen has offered to throw the whole of his beautiful garden open for the benefit of visitors to the show; the band will be in attendance during the evening on the lawn under the large evergreen trees, where Japanese and Chinese lanterns will be placed to light up the scene, and a refreshment stall will be erected where strawberries and cream, tea and coffee, cordials, &c., may be obtained by those who require such refreshment.<sup>23</sup>

There was a fernery, hot houses and extensive grounds.<sup>24</sup> He tried growing tobacco,

We have in our office a sample of a tobacco plant which should be a great encouragement to those contemplating experiments in tobacco culture. It is cut at hap-hazard from a number of plants in the garden of Mr H. S. Tiffen, and it is conclusive proof of the adaptability of our soil and climate for the growth of fine qualities of tobacco. It has long been known and admitted that the coarser tobaccos thrive well here — the Maori cultivations have sufficiently proved that; but this particular specimen is from the finest Havana seed. Mr Tiffen, indeed, did not anticipate any great things from this planting, his object being only to grow tobacco for fumigating his green-houses. The result has been simply surprising. Though very little attention has been paid to the plants they have grown to a very large size, and the yield per acre of such tobacco must be enormous. Some of the lower leaves have been plucked and dried, and without any other preparation have been smoked by lovers of "the

weed,” the unanimous verdict being that the flavor is exceptionally fine. Properly prepared, we have no doubt the leaf would be equal to the finest Havana grown. The seed, we should say, was planted on the 14th of September last year, and as the plants have now reached perfection, the seed being quite ripe, the middle of September would appear to be the best time for sowing tobacco.<sup>25</sup>

On 8 August 1888 Fred noted, “H.S.T. & niece arr. N(apier) from the Islands! Broken L-c-g”. On 18 August 1888, “H.S.T. & niece & Mabel Dunk arr. N. per S.S. Wairarapa from Sydney”.<sup>26</sup>

In November 1889, “The Napier Omnibus Company to-day conveyed the children of the St. John’s and St. Augustine’s Sunday Schools to Greenmeadows, where the annual picnic was held. The children totalled five hundred and fiftysix, and as the weather was very favourable, an enjoyable day was spent on Mr. H. S. Tiffen’s estate”.<sup>27</sup>

In 1883 William Beetham had planted an eighth of an acre in vines at his town house in Masterton, where ultimately he gathered up to the equivalent of nine tonnes of grapes to the acre, had his gardener tread the vintage, and began winemaking. Beetham experimented with Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier, Hermitage, Black Hamburg, Black Muscat, Golden Chasselas and the white Spanish grape Doradillo. Over 3000 cuttings, mostly Pinots and some Hermitage, were transplanted to a three-acre vineyard named “Lansdowne” in 1892.<sup>28</sup>

In 1890 Tiffen visited Beetham’s Wairarapa vineyard (on the site now occupied by Lansdowne Estate) and tasted the wines. Beetham subsequently wrote, “He paid us a visit and saw my vineyard; he lunched with us and tasted our wine. He said, ‘This is enough for me’, went back to Napier and planted a vineyard.”<sup>29</sup>

The Hawke’s Bay wine boom thus started in 1890 when Tiffen, who had sporadically endeavoured to support viticulture in the region, began grape growing and winemaking in earnest. (The first wine made in Hawke’s Bay was William Colenso’s gooseberry and elder wine which he offered to McLean in April 1851;<sup>30</sup> the first vineyard was that of the Roman Catholic Mission, planted in 1851).

The *Hawke’s Bay Herald* recounted some viniferous history,

There is a legend—we know not how far it is true—that in the days of the free immigration policy Mr Ormond, then Minister of Public Works, sent to France for a party of experienced vigneron, who were to be placed near Havelock to show our settlers how to grow grapes and make wine. The party, so the story goes, consisted of one man and several women. Whether they really knew anything of viticulture is questionable. At any rate the man is said to have found a more congenial occupation as a billiard marker, and as to the women—well, the less said the better. However that may be, it is a fact that, prior to about 1880, grapes were pretty extensively grown in the open air. As a rule no great care was given to their cultivation, and they were grown only for eating purposes. Here and there one experimented in making wine, but for want of knowledge as to the varieties to be used, or of the making of wine, the results were not encouraging. The writer once tasted some made by a dear old lady now gone to her rest—and he was thankful afterwards for a strong cordial administered by the lady's husband, who knew—and avoided—that wine. Still some little progress was being made, when down came the *oidium* blight, and in a year or two practically destroyed every vine in the open air. For a time that seemed to settle grape-growing as an industry. One American vine resisted the blight, but the “foxy” flavor of the fruit did not commend itself to most palates. Of late years, however, the blight has been less virulent, or the settlers have learned to cope with it better, and more attention is being paid to grape culture. The most notable experiment is that undertaken at Green meadows by Mr H. S. Tiffen.... Mr Tiffen has not gone in for grape culture on such a large scale merely in the hope of making profit. To a very considerable extent his venture is experimental, and undertaken to test the varieties of grapes best adapted to our soil and climate, so that small holders may benefit from his experience, and by putting part of their land under vines, make a material addition to their income. The French priests at the Meanee mission established a vineyard long ago, and we believe that through their superior knowledge they were not much troubled by the blight which caused nine out of ten Englishmen to grub up their vines in despair. We remember seeing healthy vines there ten years ago, when they were almost the only ones in the district grown in the open air.

A very fair light wine, of a type between claret and Burgundy, has also been made by the priests for many years.... Mr Waterhouse, of Taradale, has demonstrated that wine of a warmer character than that produced at the Mission can be successfully made, though the rich flats held by him are more adapted to produce table fruit than grapes for wine-making. No doubt Mr Tiffen's experiments will yield very valuable information on that point, for he is growing vines of many varieties, and he has fortunately the will and energy, as well as the means, to carry his venture to a successful issue. The results obtained by the culture of so many varieties on a strictly commercial basis will be invaluable as a guide to others, and this year his vineyard should give a very respectable crop, though it is not yet in fall bearing.<sup>31</sup>

In the same issue the *Herald* reprinted an article by L Hanlon from the *NZ Herald*. "It may now be asserted with tolerable confidence that the time is not far distant when certain parts—the drier parts of Hawke's Bay—will become famed as producers of wine...."

Not far away from the Meanee Mission is Taradale, where the Greenmeadows orchard and vineyard of Mr H. S. Tiffen is situated. This is at present, perhaps, the largest vineyard in the colony, being sixteen acres in extent. This vineyard is planted on rich loam on the flat, at the base of some low limestone hills belonging to the same owner. It in a very great pity he did not plant his vines on these same hills. That is where it should have been, as the quality of the wine produced from grapes grown there will most undoubtedly prove itself (as it always has done in other countries) infinitely superior to that produced from grapes grown on the flat. It is no uncommon thing in France for wines produced from the slopes to be fifty or even more per cent more valuable than those produced on the flat lands only a couple of hundred yards away. The vines in the Greenmeadows vineyard are tended with care, the ground being kept thoroughly well cultivated. The plantation is quite young, two and three years old. Strong posts are sunk in the ground at intervals, to which two wires are stretched near the ground. The vines, planted from six to eight feet apart, are trained to these. Being pruned with care and sprayed in due season to prevent the appearance of fungoid diseases, they

should this season return their owner a fair crop. The varieties grown are chiefly Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier; also some Golden Chasselas, Rose Chasselas, Sweetwater, Trebbiano, Black Lombardy, Black Alicante, Black Hamburgh, and Muscat of Alexandria. Mr Tiffen would like to obtain other varieties of wine grapes for trial, and would import a collection of the best suited to cool regions could he obtain permission from the Government to do so.

Hanlon followed up a few months later,

I have just learned that Mr Tiffen's vineyard has been enlarged to 27 acres during the past planting season. It is, of course, the largest in New Zealand; but, as the spirit of experiment and inquiry as to the prospects and potential profits of vine culture is abroad, it is to be hoped that in the near future the present largest vineyard may become one of the small ones.<sup>32</sup>

In 1895 Romeo Bragato, an Italian viticulturist employed by the government of Victoria, was sent to New Zealand to report on the suitability of the different districts,<sup>33</sup>

At Napier he found Mr. Tiffen's Greenmeadows Vineyard, of 22 acres in extent, under the capable management of Mr. Anderson. It lies low, and has become affected with oidium and black spot, but he thinks that by a proper system of drainage and the application of sulphur it will be quickly eradicated. The cellar, and everything connected with it, "does infinite credit to the skill of the manager." Here he saw totara used for the staves in wine vats, and thinks this timber is likely to be largely used for this purpose in the future. "In this vineyard the Pinot, the proper grape for champagne, yielded a magnificent crop of the finest grapes seen by me." This is high praise indeed, and gives hope that the time may be near when wine production will be one of the thriving agricultural industries in the colony.<sup>34</sup>

On 29 March 1895 the Reverend William Colenso wrote his regular gossip-filled letter from Napier to his young friend Coupland Harding in Wellington and said, "Tiffen is making many 1000ds gallons of wine at Green-Meadows".<sup>35</sup> Indeed, by 1896 Greenmeadows Vineyard—planted with varieties such as chardonnay, pinot noir, pinot blanc, and meunier—was described as "the premier vineyard in New Zealand".<sup>36</sup>

It produced 10,000 litres a year of red table wines, Tiffen (or his winemaker Tom Anderson) adapting old and new winemaking techniques, including motorised grape elevators, a crusher, destemmer and barrel aging for up to three years—in German oak oval casks rather than the totara Bragato had so admired.<sup>37</sup> Not everyone applauded,

There are many good people who look askance at the endeavors of Mr Tiffen, Mr Beetham, and others, to establish the wine-making industry in New Zealand. We are among those who think that as long as the majority of people will use intoxicating drinks it is advisable to foster a taste for light wines, and those produced in New Zealand without fortification must necessarily be light. The wine-drinking people of Europe are far more sober than those who use heavy beers and spirits. We are aware that our temperance friends sometimes dispute this, and refer to the increase of drunkenness in France as disclosed in the police statistics. But the Chief of Police of Paris, in his last report, expressly ascribed this to the growing use of ardent spirits instead of the wines of the country.<sup>38</sup>

Church Road Winery, now owned by Montana Wines, occupies part of the site of Tiffen's vineyard in Taradale.

While the Greenmeadows winery was a monument to his enterprise, Tiffen also attempted to cultivate sugar beet and tobacco. He wrote to the *Hawke's Bay Herald* on 5 April 1893,

SIR,—I am much impressed with the desirableness of some new industry being started in Hawke's Bay, such as would furnish employment to a great number of people, old and young, and would enable small farmers to gain a comfortable livelihood. After much inquiry and research I have come to the conclusion that there could be no better industry than that of growing beet for sugar, for which the climate and soil of this district is admirably adapted.

Several minor experiments have from time to time been made, but I can find no record of the results thereof, nor would they be of much service, seeing what great advances have been made during the last few years. First, in the plant itself, which by careful selection and judicious crossing now yields at least 5 per cent more sugar than formerly. Second, in the great improvements effected in the machinery used in the

manipulation. Third, in the increased chemical knowledge as to the best and most economical modes of extracting the sugar. To show what strides beet sugar growing is making in California, I glean from the *Pacific Rural Press* that whilst their output in 1891 was 8,000,000 lb, in 1892 it was 23,000,000 lb.

The main question is, will it pay with us! To ascertain this I have imported seeds of six of the most valued varieties, namely, Vilmorin's improved, white French, Brabant green top, Kleinwanzlebener, select red top, and prize nursery, and I am anxious to get a few of my fellow settlers in different parts of the district to join me in experimenting, first, as to what would be the cost per acre of growing and harvesting, second, the weight of crop, and third, the percentage of sugar in the roots, I will supply them with enough seed of either kind to sow a quarter of an acre if they make early application to me.—I am, &c.,

H. S. Tiffen.

April 4, 1893.<sup>39</sup>

The Woodville *Examiner* of 6 July 1894 reported on a successful trial planting of sugar beet by EA Haggen, at the request of Henry Stokes Tiffen of Napier. Tiffen...

... as the result of his visit to America, became impressed with the importance of the beet root, fruit growing, and tobacco industries. In regard to fruit growing he has set the example himself by planting out a large orchard and vineyard near Taradale. He has also done much to introduce the beet sugar and tobacco industries. Last season he obtained a lot of prime beet and tobacco seed, and sent supplies to gentlemen in different portions of Hawke's Bay with a view to ascertaining the suitability of the soil in the different localities for the taking up of these industries by the farmers. Mr Haggen has tried both the beet and the tobacco, but owing to the exceptionally wet season, the latter was a failure. The beet was, however, an unqualified success.<sup>40</sup>

Tiffen wrote again to the *Herald*, effusive about the perceived benefits of home-grown sugar.<sup>41</sup> William Frederick Howlett replied with cool and destructive logic,

SIR,—Here are some reasons why this industry should be discouraged. We are naturally fitted to produce wool, mutton,

butter, and certain minerals. These yield a large profit, as you may readily see if you consider that nearly all our rich colonists have made their money out of them. Hence, if there is capital free for investment, I say the best use for it is to grow more, wool, mutton, and butter. Then we can exchange these for sugar or tea or whatever we want. I need not explain to Mr Tiffen that I am not advocating an actual despatch of butter to Queensland. I mean, of course, that we sell our butter in the best market, divide the proceeds among the producers, and then let them buy sugar. The upshot of it all is that we do well with our butter and Queensland with her sugar. But here Mr Tiffen steps in and says, "No, produce all the butter you can, and sell it, and get the money. But do not buy sugar; produce it." My reply to that is that if we produce sugar it requires land and capital, both of which are limited. We must therefore produce less butter. Now let us look at the question which will pay best, sugar or butter. Surely Queensland has peculiar advantages for producing sugar? She has any amount of cheap land, she has cheap labor, she has cane, and above all there are no risks to run in the way of those unforeseen expenses that always attach to a new industry. If I am right in this contention, then I ought to be able to show that Mr Tiffen's figures are wrong, because it would appear from his letter that beets would "pan" in the general commercial sense. First, then, remember that he claims a bonus of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb on the first 1000 tons made, which means a dead loss to the community of nearly £5000. Then he says his sugar would pay no duty, so if he makes 3000 tons a year we have another dead loss of £15,000 a year in revenue. This would be made up by taxation, paid generally by the people. Then he reckons his sugar when made would net £20 a ton. I doubt this very much, and would like to see the returns of some Queensland growers before accepting it. Very likely at present if I wanted to buy sugar I should pay £20, but it does not follow that I could sell 3000 tons at that price. The proposed company would have to supply large merchants like Messrs Turnbull and others. I do not know what it costs them to land sugar, and I think it would be very hard to find out. If the company propose to deal with all-comers they would have to give credit, and employ travellers, and whether they would net £20 is questionable. Then as to cost of production; if in Queensland



with exceptional facilities it costs £12 a ton, I think it would cost more than double here. I have always I heard that to produce the cane is very easy. I am sure it is very hard to grow beet. You have to cultivate and manure in a special way, so as to get very small sweet roots, and I am told you have to grow your own seed. To get good results a farmer gets his crop ripe, and then I hear he selects a number of roots that look good and tests each one separately, reserving those that show a high percentage of sugar. Those are planted and next year yield seed, which is sown the year after. Would £1 a ton pay him? That depends on many things. It seems to me that as far as the manure goes we are particularly well off, as the by-products of Tomoana ought to be sufficient to yield all the manure wanted at a very cheap rate. If Mr Tiffen can show that the industry would pay if unprotected, then start it by all means. The Beet Root Sugar Act, 1884, is only protective up to the end of 1899. Is Mr Tiffen prepared to pay ½d per lb excise on his sugar in six years? If not, I do not think the loss of revenue which would occur would be compensated for in any way. It would simply mean that we paid the company ½d per lb on all their sugar to defray the expenses of producing it in the face of natural difficulties. We should get our sugar no cheaper, the company would make no bigger profits than they might out of wool or butter, and there is no reason to suppose the community would derive any other advantage.—I am, &c., W.F.H.,  
May 5, 1893.<sup>42</sup>

The arguments continued in the *Herald* correspondence columns through the middle months of 1893; but the next year, at the Agricultural Conference in Wellington,

A proposal to encourage the growth of sugar beet by extending scholarships to boys of fifteen years was lost. Mr Cartwright Brown, of Hawke's Bay, said the industry had been tried there, and was an utter failure.<sup>43</sup>

Not so and Brown was taken to task for his comments.<sup>44</sup> Tiffen continued his experiments, importing seed and receiving encouragement from analyses of the sugar yield of his crops in Wellington.

He diversified: "This is proving a splendid season for tomatoes, and large quantities have been grown in this district. Mr H. S. Tiffen expects to have a crop of something like fifty tons from his large new orchard and garden at Greenmeadows," wrote the *Herald*<sup>45</sup> and, "Mr H. S. Tiffen is trying to set an example by going in for fruit culture on an extensive scale, to show small settlers how to make the most of the rich land around Napier".<sup>46</sup>

He would try drying fruit,

Mr H. S. Tiffen has imported from America a large fruit-evaporator of the latest type, worked by steam. He will erect it in Napier for experimental purposes, prior to its removal to Greenmeadows, where Mr. Tiffen has established a large orchard and vineyard. He intends to go in for fruit-growing, evaporating, &c., systematically, in order to demonstrate to small holders how to make the most of their land.<sup>47</sup>

The new evaporator imported by Mr H. S. Tiffen from California is most ingenious, and when completed will put through a large quantity of fruit per diem. Steam is used for the evaporating process, and is generated and conducted around the fruit in a very clever manner. The walls and shelves of the evaporating chamber are of galvanised iron, and are hollow, there being nearly an inch of clear space throughout shelves and walls. These are connected with a long but shallow boiler, extending over a furnace that will burn either wood, coal, or rubbish. Through the furnace four iron pipes extend, having openings at one end into the outer air and into the evaporating chamber at the other. These tubes cause a strong current of heated air to pass into the chamber, and thus to carry off by a ventilating apparatus the moisture which is created by the effect of the evaporating process. There are twenty compartments in the chamber, so that a like number of trays of fruit can be dealt with at once. The maximum temperature of the evaporator when at work is to be kept below 190 degrees. It is to be hoped that Mr Tiffen's enterprise will be the means of giving the fruit-growing industry a fillip.<sup>48</sup>

Mr H. S. Tiffen has got his evaporator at work in an experimental way, and has dried a quantity of prunes,

mulberries, and tomatoes successfully. The prunes from the evaporator show in strong and favorable contrast to some which were dried by the sun. Mr Tiffen has obtained from California a great variety of dried fruits from the most successful users of evaporators, and these will be regarded as a standard to be emulated. The samples range from muscatel and sultana raisins to cherries, peaches, apricots, nectarines, &c.<sup>49</sup>

The *Herald* visited in 1895 and reported at length on Tiffen's horticulture,

Yesterday a representative of the HERALD paid a visit to the Greenmeadows vineyard and fruit farm. It is pretty widely known that Mr H. S. Tiffen has for the last two years been preparing to go into wine manufacture and the drying of fruit, but few know on what a large scale operations have been conducted. There are about twenty-two acres in vines, the varieties including Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier, Pinot Chardonnay, Rose Chasselas, Golden Chasselas, Alicante, Black Lombardy, White Muscat, Black Hamburg, Vineland, Isabella, Allen's Hybrid, Ironbark, and some others, twenty eight in all. Every inch of the vineyard is carefully cultivated, not a weed being allowed to grow. The vines are grown on a system common in France, but unusual in New Zealand. A wire fence runs down each row. The selected wood made last year, which is the bearing wood this year, is trained along the bottom wire in most instances, though in some the two bottom wires are utilised. All superfluous shoots are kept nipped off, but two or three of the strongest shoots are retained and trained on the higher wires, to take their place on the lower wires next year, all the old wood being cut clean away. The grapes, with which the older-planted vines are literally crowded, thus hang close to the ground, some of the longest bunches all but touching in fact. There is a twofold object in this. One is that the heat of the ground is thus utilised in thoroughly ripening the grapes—a first essential in making good wine, free from fortification by added spirits. The second is that the vines are less liable to be attacked by that pest of the vine-grower, *Oidium Tuckeri*. Though in other gardens and vineyards near Greenmeadows the blight is very bad, there is not a trace of it to be found on Greenmeadows. Cleaner fruit and healthier vines could not be

desired. This is not, of course, entirely due to the method of training, though that helps the vigneron in fighting the blight. The main secret is in the systematic use of sulphur. Every vine has been dressed four times by a "sulphur gun," the nozzle of which points upward in a slanting direction. On turning a handle, which sets a fan in rapid motion, the sulphur is sent upwards in a fine cloud, thus getting at the under side of the leaves, which the oidium always attacks first. Mr Anderson, the manager of the farm, went all over Australia studying the best methods of cultivation and wine manufacture and the result is an object lesson to those who doubt whether the grape vine can be kept free from blight in New Zealand, or that the fruit will thoroughly ripen out of doors. On most varieties the clusters are showing dark purple or golden tints, and very shortly they will be ready for the wine press.

In one corner of the vineyard the finishing touches are being put to the machinery for wine making. This is contained in a building three stories high, 57ft by 42ft. On the ground floor, which is concreted, are the press, rotary pump, &c. The grapes will be delivered on to a platform level with the bottom of the carts. From this platform an endless band with battens, on the principle of a Californian pomp, conveys the grapes to the top story. There they are differently treated, according to whether the wine is red or white. For white wines the bunches pass into a hopper fitted with a revolving drum, which removes the berries from the stalks. They then pass between revolving rollers, and the pulp runs down a shoot to a powerful circular screw press, the staves of which do not quite touch, to allow the juice to escape into receivers, whence it is pumped into the fermenting vats. For red wine the grapes are merely crushed between rollers, the skins and stalks being left in the must during the process of fermentation. The building and machinery are capable of dealing with the produce of 150 acres. Mr Tiffen's main object in establishing the vineyard has been to demonstrate that with proper care and cultivation the growing of grapes for wine making can be made commercially successful, and that on a few acres of land a settler may make a good living. He has, therefore, erected a building and plant far larger than necessary for the present area in vines, with a view to purchasing the grapes grown by others, thus saving the settlers

the expense of erecting buildings and plant, and also freeing them from the risk of loss through imperfect knowledge in the making of the wine. There is nothing like it in New Zealand, and but one or two in Australia are as large. From vines Mr Tiffen expects this year to get 3000 gallons of wine, but when all the vineyard is in bearing the produce should be from 12,000 to 14,000 gallons. He has many thousand vines planted, but many are too young to bear. Last year there was a sprinkling of fruit on some of the older vines, from which wine was made, similar to hock, without any fortification or addition whatever, only the pure juice of the grape being used. Adjoining the vineyard is an extensive orchard in apples, walnuts, peaches, plums, &c. The apple trees, though young, are bearing large crops of sound apples, the sprayer having got the better of the codlin moth, very little of the fruit being affected. The other trees, except a few peaches of a new and very rich flavored variety, are not yet in bearing, but the extent of the operations may be guessed from the fact that there are between 800 and 900 trees of the prune plum, and 128 Japanese plums, besides hundreds of other trees. When the orchard is in bearing a large evaporating plant will be erected, Two years ago Mr Tiffen evaporated experimental lots of prunes, &c, and the fruit has kept splendidly, and is equal in quality to the best imported brands. Here again a main object has been to show small holders how to make a living off their sections. At present, when the limited local demand for vegetables and fresh fruit is supplied, the owners of small farms are at their wits' end. Cropping does not pay, dairying offers a hard life and but a poor return, and stock cannot be relied on for a living on small areas. But in the growing of grapes and fruit there is a tempting field, for when the market for the fresh article is supplied the former can be converted into wine and the latter evaporated. Mr Tiffen is a pioneer in what we trust to see in a very few years, leading industries in Hawke's Bay.<sup>50</sup>

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1 Robert Stokes, possibly related to Tiffen.

2 *New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator* 3 February 1844.

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- 3 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 17 October 1857
  - 4 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 19 June 1858
  - 5 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 23 August 1864
  - 6 Colenso to Luff 26 March 1883. ATL MS-Copy-Micro-0485-4.
  - 7 St George IM 2009. *Colenso's collections*. NZ Native Orchid Group.
  - 8 Hocken MS-0381.
  - 9 Colenso to Balfour 5 June 1887. ATL 88-103-1/07. Original at MTG HB 67861.
  - 10 Colenso W 1881. A description of a few new Plants from our New Zealand Forests. *Trans. NZ Inst.* 14: 329-341.
  - 11 Walter Lawry Buller 1888. *A History of the Birds of New Zealand*.
  - 12 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 27 September 1879
  - 13 Ian McGibbon. "Tiffen, Henry Stokes", first published in the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, vol. 1, 1990. *Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1t99/tiffen-henry-stokes> (accessed 1 August 2017)
  - 14 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 7 December 1880.
  - 15 *New Zealand Herald* 15 February 1881.
  - 16 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 2 December 1881.
  - 17 *Trans. N.Z. Inst* 1882. 15: 515.
  - 18 Te Papa 1992-0035-1911.
  - 19 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 13 July 1881
  - 20 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 22 October 1881.
  - 21 *Daily Telegraph* 10 November 1881
  - 22 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 28 February 1893
  - 23 *Daily Telegraph* 22 November 1882
  - 24 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 19 January 1883
  - 25 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 28 March 1883
  - 26 ATL MS-Papers-1348-1.
  - 27 *Daily Telegraph* 20 November 1889
  - 28 Dick Scott 1964. *Winemakers of New Zealand*, pp34–35.
  - 29 Michael Cooper 2002. *The Wine Atlas of New Zealand*.
  - 30 Colenso to McLean undated letter, but undoubtedly April 1851: ATL Object #1014696 from MS-Papers-0032-0222.
  - 31 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 19 December 1893.
  - 32 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 30 March 1894.
  - 33 Dick Scott 1964. *Winemakers of New Zealand*.
  - 34 *New Zealand Herald* 21 December 1895.
  - 35 ATL qMS-0498.
  - 36 Cooper 2002.
  - 37 Howland PJ 2014. *Social, Cultural and Economic Impacts of Wine in New Zealand*. Routledge.
  - 38 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 6 February 1896.
  - 39 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 5 April 1893.
  - 40 *Examiner* 6 July 1894. See also St George IM 2018. *Edward Alexander Haggen ME*.
  - 41 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 2 May 1893.
  - 42 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 8 May 1893.
  - 43 *Daily Telegraph* 1 June 1894.
  - 44 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 11 June 1894.
  - 45 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 1 February 1892.
  - 46 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 10 May 1892.
  - 47 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 14 October 1892.
  - 48 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 1 November 1892.
  - 49 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 3 February 1893.
  - 50 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 13 February 1895.
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## CHAPTER 6: THE ALTRUIST, THE PUBLIC SERVANT

Tiffen maintained a high profile in community affairs. He served on a succession of public bodies, frequently as chairman, beginning with the Napier harbour improvement commission of 1857. Elected to the first Hawke's Bay Provincial Council in 1859, he sat continuously (with a brief interruption in 1860-61) until defeated in 1875, and was chairman of committees (1859-60), member of the executive council (1861-62) and Speaker (1867-71). He was first chairman (1877-78) of the Hawke's Bay County Council but failed in an attempt to enter national politics in 1877. From December 1858 he was a justice of the peace and in 1869 became a junior officer in the Napier Militia. He was prominent in the establishment of Hawke's Bay's acclimatisation, agricultural and horticultural societies, the Napier Turf Club, and the Napier Mechanics' Institute. He gave long service to the Anglican church as an administrator and benefactor, chaired the hospital board, took an active interest in the administration of charitable aid (chaired the Charitable Aid Board), Napier prison and the cemetery, and helped found the children's home. In education his involvement over 40 years ranged from administration of Napier's first school to service as a Hawke's Bay School Commissioner (1884-96).<sup>1</sup>

As District Surveyor in Hawkes Bay he was signatory to the Deed of Purchase of Scinde Island (Mataruahou), the site of Napier, on 13 November 1856. In 1862 he was Chief Surveyor for the Province of Hawke's Bay, and in 1857 he succeeded Alfred Domett as Commissioner of Crown Lands for Hawke's Bay, a position he held until September 1863. On 1 November 1858 Hawke's Bay was proclaimed a Province, with Napier as its capital. H. S. Tiffen was one of the ten Councillors elected to the first Council for the Province. He was a member of Hawke's Bay Provincial Council, 1859-61 and 1867-75.

At times Tiffen's ideas of charity differed from those of his niece, a founder of the Hawke's Bay Children's Home, its first secretary and treasurer and later, in 1906, the first woman on its Board of Trustees,<sup>2</sup>

The ladies connected with the Bible Women and Nurses' Society of Napier wrote to the Charitable Aid Board yesterday stating that they had established a home for destitute children

(capable of accommodating fourteen) in Macdonald street, and asked the Board to subsidise the institution, which was a most necessary one, and would effect good work. The Hon. Mr Ormond said he did not know such a letter had been written, and had come prepared to move a motion in regard to destitute children, to the effect that accommodation be provided at the Refuge in the women's quarters for such cases, and as soon as opportunity afforded, that they be boarded out in families. He thought the boarding-out system the best as Children's Homes tended to attach the stigma of pauperism to all brought up in them, while on the other hand if they were brought up with private families they would be trained to look upon themselves as members of society, and would turn out better. He thought that the ladies, who might be actuated by the highest motives, and were worthy of praise, would not be able to look after destitute children so well as the Board would. Messrs Carnell, Faulknor, Tiffen, Cohen, and Swan spoke on the subject, all favoring the boarding-out system, and Mr Ormond's motion was put and carried.<sup>3</sup>

Tiffen stood down as Chairman of the Charitable Aid Board in December,<sup>4</sup> but at the first annual meeting of the Children's Home was voted to the chair and, with Ms Randall and others, was elected to its Executive Committee.<sup>5</sup>

Regarded as a moderate in the first election for the Licensing Committee since women's suffrage, Tiffen received the highest number of votes.<sup>6</sup> Suffrage and temperance campaigners Emily Hill and Agnes Begg were not elected.

Early in 1895 the *Herald* paid tribute to Tiffen,

#### A DIMINISHING BAND.

On Saturday Mr H. S. Tiffen celebrated the fifty-third anniversary of his arrival in New Zealand. He was one of a survey party sent out by the New Zealand Company to lay out the town of Britannia (now Petone), where the company intended to establish its capital, but as the ground was found to be subject to floods the site of the present town of Wellington was chosen instead. There were 17 in the party, and they came in an uncomfortable old tub, the Brougham. Their names were S. C. Brees, H. S. Tiffen, R. Shepherd, F. Shepherd,



Whitehead, Wylie, Searancke, Charlton, Wills, T. H. Smith, Norman, Hunt, Scroggs, Jollie, Tully, Nicholson, and A. J. Allom. From hardships on sea they came to hardships on land, and cheerfully suffered discomforts at which the most confirmed swagger would now grumble loudly. Some succumbed comparatively early; others, finding no other relief to the monotony of existence, learned to love intoxicating liquor “not wisely, but too well,” and dropped off one by one. But a surprising number survived a long time. Mr H. S. Tiffen, who was even then no boy, but a fully qualified surveyor, is still amongst us, vigorous in mind and body, enjoying in the autumn of life well-earned ease. May he long be with us! Mr A. J. Allom, who left the colony for a time, and became Colonial Secretary of Tobago, subsequently returned as manager of the Great Barrier Company, afterwards joined the Justice Department, and was retired only a few years ago. He is now in Launceston, Tasmania, and is also in the enjoyment of full strength, with all his faculties active as ever. Ex-Judge Smith, of Auckland, is another survivor, and periodically delights the Philosophical Society there or the readers of the *N.Z. Herald* with Maori lore and reminiscences drawn from the sources of a still active memory. Mr Searancke is also alive somewhere in the Auckland province, Mr Nicholson was alive very recently, but when heard from was very ill, and he may have passed to his long rest. Only the other day Mr Jollie and Mr Tully were amongst us. Surely that is a remarkable record, seeing that the party was so small, They did indeed pioneer’s work; to them colonisation was not the present comparatively diletante affair, with roads, railways, and bridges, and shops where every necessity and luxury can be bought. They labored hard for very small returns for many years, suffering “the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” with fortitude and even serenity, sometimes apparently on the high road to fortune, only to be ruined by Maori wars or other unforeseen and unavoidable reverses. But they were Englishmen—grit to the backbone— and with undismayed front started again at the foot of the ladder, some to climb but to fall again, some to achieve moderate fortune. Those who survive have all, or all with one exception, passed “the allotted span of man,” but Messrs Tiffen, Smith, and Allom give promise of being with us many years yet, to

interchange congratulations on the 9th of every February; May the event fulfil the promise!<sup>7</sup>

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1 Ian McGibbon. *Tiffen, Henry Stokes*, Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, first published in 1990. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1t99/tiffen-henry-stokes> accessed 26 April 2018.

2 Kay Morris Matthews 2013. *Who cared? childhoods within Hawke's Bay children's homes and orphanages 1892–1988*. 2nd edition. EIT.

3 *Daily Telegraph* 15 June 1892.

4 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 8 December 1892.

5 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 3 June 1893.

6 *Daily Telegraph* 22 March 1894.

7 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 11 February 1895.

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## CHAPTER 7: THE WOMEN IN TIFFEN'S LIFE

Of Caroline Ellen (White) Tiffen we know almost nothing. On 6 June 1841 when the Census was taken, she and Louisa Ann were said to be aged 15 and Henry Tiffen 20 (he was living in their family house in Hastings).

But the ages in that Census were usually rounded down to the nearest 5 and his birth year was 1816 so he was actually 24. Louisa and Caroline (who was said to be the younger sister) could have been between 15 and 19. Their tombstone however gives Louisa's age as 50 in 1875 (ie, born 1825) and Caroline's as 17 in 1842 (ie, born 1825) so they may have been twins. There are no birth certificates.

Tiffen and Caroline Ellen White married on 29 September 1841 when she was 16 and embarked at Gravesend on 2 October 1841. She died aged 17 in childbirth on 23 October 1842, was buried in Thorndon Cemetery, Wellington and disinterred in the 1960s to make room for the motorway. There is no death certificate.

Of her older sister Louisa Anne White we know a little more. She was born on 5 January 1823 at Perranuthnoe in Cornwall. Tiffen visited Britain in 1855–1856, married her at St Clement Danes in the Strand in London on 31 July 1855, visited the Paris Exposition and returned on the clipper *Westminster* in May 1856.

The Westminster, one of Messrs. F. Young and Co.'s line, arrived on Wednesday from England direct after a favourable passage of ninety-eight days. The Westminster is a fine large vessel, and we understand this is her first voyage, being a new ship. The passage has been marked chiefly by light winds and calms; she has a considerable number of passengers for this place and Canterbury; among those for Wellington, we are glad to welcome back Mr. Tiffin after a short visit to England. Mr. Tiffin we understand has imported four rams and eight ewes of the Negretti breed, being some of the purest Merino flocks of Spain, with the view of improving the wool of New Zealand, and these valuable animals will shortly be sent to his station at the Ahuriri.<sup>1</sup>

Two births and one death occurred on board during the voyage. A woman, who had been prematurely confined shortly after leaving England, died on board on Wednesday morning last, and has since been buried in the public cemetery. Mr. Tiffen, of the Ahuriri, has returned by her, and brought with him two rams that obtained prizes at the Paris Exhibition last year, and twelve very superior fine-woolled merino ewes.<sup>2</sup>

No mention of his new wife, nor of his younger brother Louis Ansell Tiffen who emigrated to New Zealand with them. And one of the Negretti "rams", Frederick Tiffen (by now Inspector of Sheep and Registrar of Brands for Ahuriri) noted sardonically in his diary, was a wether.<sup>3</sup>

The Exposition Universelle des produits de l'Agriculture, de l'Industrie et des Beaux-Arts de Paris was held on the Champs-Élysées from 15 May to 15 November 1855 during the reign of Napoleon III. It is said 5,162,330 visitors attended. The exposition covered 16 hectares (40 acres) with 34 countries participating.

In 1875 Colenso wrote to his friend Andrew Luff in London,

*Mrs Tiffen upset travelling at Taupo, & much bruised* (5 May);<sup>4</sup>

*Tiffen & wife are off directly for America* (2 June);<sup>5</sup>

*Tiffen & lady left last week en route for America: she has been long ill* (25 August).<sup>6</sup>

On 22 September Colenso wrote,

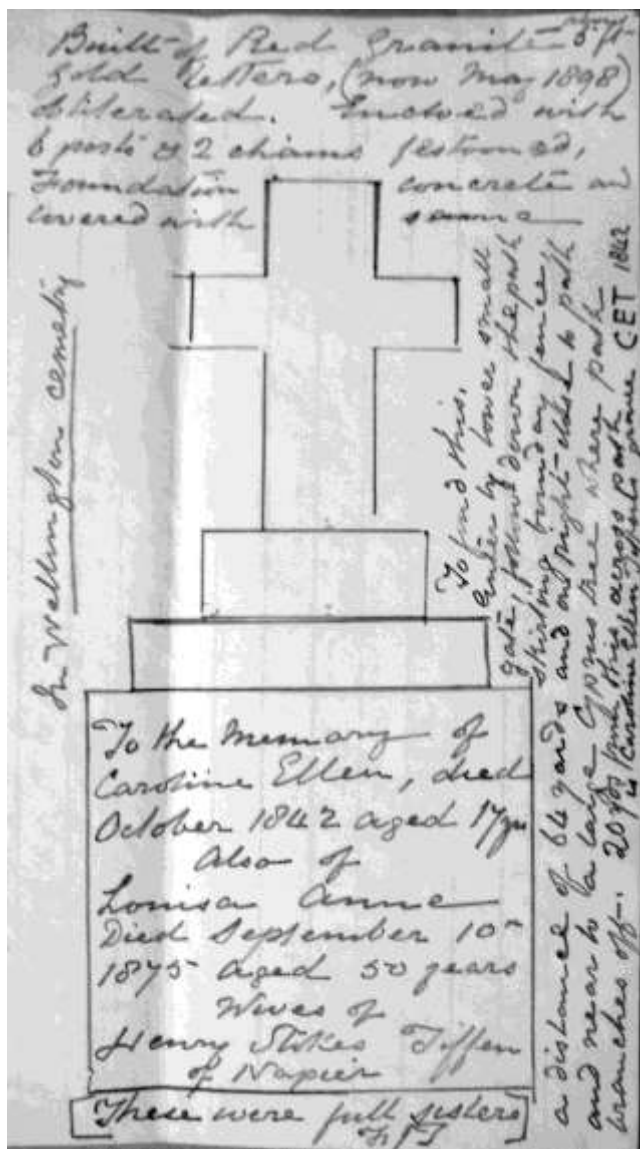
*Poor Mrs Tiffen died at Wellington last week, & there she has been buried. She had been long ill here, and, as a last resource, a sea voyage & travelling in America was thought of—but she only reached W.—F(rederick) T(iffen) went down, but not in time to see her alive.<sup>7</sup>*

Louisa's death certificate states that she died aged 48 of cirrhosis of the liver. Her youth suggests the liver disease may have been primary cirrhosis, which can be familial: one wonders whether that was related to her sister's stillbirth and maternal death. Louisa was buried on 13 September with her sister Caroline and her rest was similarly disturbed for the motorway.

TO THE MEMORY OF  
**CAROLINE ELLEN**  
 DIED 23 OCTOBER 1842  
 AGED 17 YEARS.  
 ALSO OF  
**LOUISA ANNE**  
 DIED 10 SEPTEMBER 1875  
 AGED 50 YEARS.  
 WIVES OF HENRY STOKES TIFFEN  
 OF NAPIER.

Two weeks after Louisa died Tiffen left for Auckland on the *Taupo* on 25 September, arriving on 1 October and continuing his voyage to England. The *Anglo-American Times* of 26 November 1875 announced the arrival in London of the *Baltic* with a list of passengers including HS Tiffen. It was an eventful voyage,

Shortly after midnight on November 18, as the White Star, United States mail-steamship *Baltic*, which left New York on November 13, was under steam and canvass in the Atlantic, and going at about fourteen knots an hour, the attention of the officers on watch was attracted by what appeared to them to be the masthead light of a steamer some miles off. The proper look-out was kept, and on passing the light, at some five miles to the starboard of the *Baltic*, the officers observed the absence of the regulation lights which are hoisted by steamers at night when on a voyage.



Frederick John Tiffen's sketch of Caroline and Louisa Tiffen's gravestone.  
ATL Ref. MS-Papers-1348-25.



Caroline and Louisa Tiffen's red granite headstone,  
relocated in Bowen St Cemetery, Wellington

They at once communicated with Captain Gleadell, the commander of the ship, who, thinking that something was wrong, gave orders that his course should be altered in the direction of the light. As the *Baltic* approached the object for which she was now making it became evident to all on board that the strange sight was caused by a blazing tar-barrel on a hull to which only one mast remained attached. The *Baltic* had 245 passengers and a crew of considerably over 100 hands on board, and great was the excitement among them. The night was fine, but a heavy sea was running. Nearly everyone was on deck, as the engines were stopped at within about a quarter of a mile of the wreck. Captain Gleadell, with his officers, was on the bridge, and he gave the order for Mr Irving, the chief officer, to man one of the boats and proceed to the floating hull, for the purpose of ascertaining whether there was anyone on board of it. The half-hour during which the boat was away was a time of the deepest anxiety and interest to all. Mr Irving and his crew worked gallantly through the great Atlantic waves, and did so, it need scarcely be observed, at imminent peril to their own lives. Happily, they returned safely with the captain and fifteen of the crew of the *Oriental*, for this the wreck proved to be. She was a sailing vessel of some 1800 tons burden, and had sailed from London for St. John, New Brunswick, about three weeks before. On November 16 she sprang a leak, and, gradually becoming waterlogged, she settled on her port beam-ends during the forenoon of the 17th. On that day the captain got out his four boats; one of them was swamped, though without loss of life, and another with ten men by some means got parted from her companions, which remained about the wreck until it was reached by the boat of the *Baltic*. When brought on board the *Baltic*, the captain of the *Oriental* had no knowledge of the position of his boat with the ten men; but Captain Gleadell being of opinion that there was still a hope of rescuing these seamen, resolved to move about gently until daylight. By between four and five p.m. the tar-barrel before referred to, communicated its flames to a number of others, and to all the inflammable material of the ship, and awfully grand was the sight of the huge fire rising, as it were, from the depths of the ocean and illuminating the vast waves for many miles around.

All through the small hours of the morning Captain Gleadell caused blue rockets to be sent up from the deck of the *Baltic*. These were seen by the crew of the missing boat, and at 7 a.m. the captain saw them a few miles off, and had the pleasure of taking them on board very soon after. Their boat was hoisted on board also, and after a delay of about eight hours from the time the *Baltic* had steamed towards the wreck she pursued her course to Queenstown. The crew of the *Oriental* had suffered severely from, the cold during their exposure.

The next report of Tiffen is ten months later: a notice from Carlin, Nevada, in the *Oakland Evening Tribune* of 9 September 1876, listing overland passengers passing Carlin to arrive in Oakland on 9 September. Among them were “H S Tiffen, Mrs Randall, New Zealand”.

Amelia Mary (Davenport) Randall was his niece, the daughter of Tiffen’s sister Charlotte who had married the scholar and teacher Theodore Davenport. Mary was multilingual and widely travelled; her own husband Joseph Randall had died in Ghana in 1869 and she was left destitute until HS Tiffen invited her to join him in New Zealand as his companion and housekeeper.

They returned on the Pacific Mail Steam Ship Co.’s liners—from San Francisco to Fiji on the *City of New York*—and from Fiji to Auckland in October 1876 on the *Australia* in record time.<sup>8</sup>

Colenso told Luff, “I saw Tiffen *last week* who is looking *well*”.<sup>9</sup>

While Tiffen was abroad,

*a desperate burglar named Symonds in gaol for 10 yrs! broke away from Miller’s hard labour gang, &, after having been in the town a whole week! was captured at night in Tiffen’s garden! J. Chambers the good peace-loving Quaker jumping out of bed & out of of the window too in his nt. shirt to aid the gardener in his capture: he, or they, may gain the Victorian ⚔ for such deeds of daring & valour!*<sup>10</sup>

Symonds was attempting to rob the larder and struck Tiffen’s gardener Chambers with a heavy stick, hurting him badly.<sup>11</sup>

Amelia Mary Randall was to become a prominent figure,<sup>12</sup> one of the wealthiest women in Hawke’s Bay, and an important public benefactor.



She was proficient in French and German—was said to have a “brilliant brain”—and in her youth travelled throughout Europe and the British Isles, America and Asia. She arrived in New Zealand in 1876 and went to live with her uncle in Napier. In the following years she acquired business skills and financial resources. Both were to be of use to the causes she supported.

She was a devout Baptist, and in 1887 was one of the prime movers when it was decided to build a church. She was a suffragist and signed the petition twice. In 1892, with other members of the Napier Baptist Bible Women and Nurses’ Society, she helped found the Hawke’s Bay Children’s Home. She held several offices of the Home and when the home moved to a new building in 1909 it was named for her.

Her charitable donations increased in frequency and significance after Tiffen’s death in 1896, when she inherited nearly half of his vast estate, including the Greenmeadows vineyard and fruit farm.

Amelia Randall moved from Napier to a house in the centre of the fruit farm. For a time she continued to grow grapes, but possibly because of pressure from prohibitionist church members she eventually had most of the vines removed.<sup>13</sup> In 1904, though,

At Greenmeadows Vineyard our representative found a large staff busily engaged gathering the grapes. This estate, known in the district as the “Fruit-Farm” consists of 70 acres, of which 30 acres are in vines. The Manager for the proprietor, Mrs Randall, is Mr C. E. Dunk, and the winemaker Mr Twiss, an expert who recently arrived from California. Mr Dunk stated that this season white grapes and Black Hamburgs have turned out very well indeed, but the variety used for wine making has been to some extent injured by the wet weather. The season’s vintage will probably result in the production of about 6000 or 7000 gallons of wine, as compared with about 8000 gallons last year. The quantity at present stored in the cellars amounts to 25,000 gallons, of vintages dating back to 1896, and consisting of burgundy, claret, chablis, hock, port, sherry, Constantia, and madeira.<sup>14</sup>

#### GREENMEADOWS WINES.

Among the exhibits at the show was a display of the celebrated Greenmeadows wines of Mrs. Randall. These included Port,

Sherry, Madeira Constantia, Claret, Burgundy, Hock and Chablis, and are of varying age, some dating from 1900. The agent, Mr. J. J. Jones had a large number of bottles from which he dispensed samples to over 500 people. Orders for these wines may be left at Messrs. Beard, Bullen and Co.'s or Mr G. F. Reach, Hastings.<sup>15</sup>

The Greenmeadows Fruit Farm was the largest in the North Island around the turn of the century, exporting apples and pears, and was renowned for the quality of its fruit. The Napier Baptist Church was always decorated with flowers from her garden, and a bountiful supply of fruit from the farm was provided for the annual harvest festival.

When she died in 1930 at Greenmeadows her estate, estimated at £50,000, was left largely to charities.<sup>16</sup>

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1 Daily Southern Cross 20 May 1856.

2 Nelson Examiner and New Zealand Chronicle 3 May 1856.

3 Diary 29 April 1856. ATL MS-Papers-1348-1.

4 ATL MS-Copy-Micro-0485-4.

5 *ibid.*

6 *ibid.*

7 *ibid.*

8 *New Zealand Herald* 20 October 1876.

9 Colenso to Luff 14 November 1876. ATL MS-Copy-Micro-0485-4.

10 Colenso to Luff 31 May 1876; ATL MS-Copy-Micro-0485-4.

11 *Thames Advertiser* 19 May 1876.

12 Morris Matthews K 2013. *Who cared? childhoods within Hawke's Bay children's homes and orphanages*. Eastern Institute of Technology. <https://www.eit.ac.nz/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Who-Cared-2nd-Edition-May-13.pdf> accessed 26 April 2018.

13 Irene Lister. *Randall, Amelia Mary*, Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, first published in 1996. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/3r2/randall-amelia-mary> accessed 26 April 2018

14 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 30 March 1904.

15 *Hastings Standard* 23 October 1914.

16 Irene Lister. *Randall, Amelia Mary*, Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, first published in 1996. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/3r2/randall-amelia-mary> accessed 26 April 2018

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## CHAPTER 8: THE END

In 1889 the *Hawke's Bay Herald* announced,

The friends of Mr H. S. Tiffen will regret to learn that he is suffering from an obscure affection of the eyesight for which he has been able to obtain no relief in Australasia. He will leave for England, via Canada, on the 23rd of February, in order to place himself in the hands of an expert. He will be accompanied by Mrs Randall and Mrs de Lisle.<sup>1</sup>

Mr H. S. Tiffen left Napier to-day for a visit to England, and will be absent from the colony for about nine months. His primary object is to obtain the services of the highest oculist known to the profession, and, secondly, to, note while passing through the United States of all the latest improvements in farm buildings, &c., with a view to their adoption on his Greenmeadows estate. Mr Tiffen's numerous friends will sincerely hope that he may derive permanent benefit to his eyesight from his visit to the Old Country. Mrs de Lisle and Mrs Randell also go Home by this outgoing 'Frisco mail-boat.'<sup>2</sup>

He was 73. They left on 23 February on the *Wairarapa* for Auckland,<sup>3</sup> and on to San Francisco on the *Zealandia*.<sup>4</sup>

Mr H. S. Tiffen's numerous friends will be sorry to learn that the eye trouble from which he was suffering when he left Napier has developed into cataract. In San Francisco he was examined by a celebrated oculist, who pronounced one eye to be certainly affected by cataract, and there was little doubt as to the other being also affected. This will probably prolong his absence from New Zealand, as some time must elapse before the surgical operation necessary to a radical cure can be attempted.<sup>5</sup>

It was still considered fashionably safe to go to London for such delicate surgery, even though the procedure had been available in Wellington since 1874—as the *Wellington Independent* of 18 April 1874 reported,

On the 19th ult. an operation for double cataract was performed with great skill and success by Dr Diver, of this city,

on a poor woman named Mrs Atkins, in Ghuznee street. The operation was a very delicate and difficult one, peculiarly so from the weak constitution of the patient. It has been very successful, as she is now fast recovering, and has regained the use of sight to a very considerable extent; there is the prospect of its improving so that she may be able even to read. This is the first time this operation has been performed in Wellington, and, so far as we know, in the Colony. Dr Diver has been exceedingly kind and attentive in this case, and his successful accomplishment of the operation must add much to his reputation as a skilful surgeon.

Meantime in Hawke's Bay the *Daily Telegraph* chronicled Tiffen's progress,

Mr. H. S. Tiffen, who left some few months since for England, and whose sight was threatened at the time, is, we learn, now nearly blind. He has consulted some of the leading oculists in London, and it is hoped the operation which was about to be made will give the relief so much desired by Mr. Tiffen's many friends.<sup>6</sup>

Mr H. S. Tiffen's friends will be pleased to learn that there are hopes of him recovering his sight. He is under a celebrated London oculist, who has operated upon one of his patient's eyes, and will operate upon the other as soon as is expedient. The actual good done is not fully known yet, as Mr Tiffen has to reside constantly in a darkened room, but the operator is very sanguine, and his patient's general health keeps good.<sup>7</sup>

Mr H. S. Tiffen and his niece, Mrs Randle, return to Napier by the Coptic on 13th November. Mr Tiffen had intended going out via Suez, but in view of the recent operation to his eyes (which, by the way, has proved thoroughly successful) his doctors advised the long sea route would be safest.<sup>8</sup>

Owing to the break-down of the Coptic (which met with a slight accident two days after leaving Rio and had to put back for repairs), Shaw, Savill have chartered the Rimutaka to take their December service. Mr Tiffen, of Napier, and Mrs Randle go by the Rimutaka.<sup>9</sup>

Mrs de Lisle returned on the *Arawa*.<sup>10</sup>

Despite having been active in organising and promoting a “Choral and Floral Festival” in aid of the Children’s Home, he was “on the sick list” in December 1895 and could not attend.<sup>11</sup> He resigned from the Napier High School Board of Governors in January 1896, his resignation “rendered necessary by old age”.<sup>12</sup>

On 20 February 1896 the *Telegraph* reported, “We regret to learn that Mr H. S. Tiffen, who has been confined to his bed for some time, shows no signs of improvement, and his condition is giving serious anxiety to his relatives and friends”.

It was said that while he was in Italy he contracted malaria, which troubled him intermittently until his death at Napier on 21 February 1896. (At the end of the 19th Century, malaria in Italy was widespread in about one third of its territory. The total number of malaria deaths was in the range of 15,000–20,000 per year, and the malaria cases amounted to 2 million in a population of about 30 million).<sup>13</sup>

Colenso noted in his 1896 diary,

*15 February: To town this mg. to see Mr. H.S. Tiffen—but could not see him! confined to bed, & to be kept quiet.*

*20: In town this mg. business: called at Mr. Tiffen’s, very low (did not see him)....*

*21: Early this mg. saw mention of Mr. Tiffen’s death, at 1, a.m. in mg. paper! so, I don’t leave till after the funeral: just 50 years this time since I first made his acquaintance at Wairarapa.—Half upset w. this tidings....*

*22: At 1.30 p.m. went to Mr. Tiffen’s late residence, found the Bishop, Revds. Welch, Tuke, & others there, rode (same carriage) w. Bp. to Cathedral where the Dean offd., thence, w. Bp. & Archdn. S(amuel) W(illiams) to Cemetery, Archdn. offd. there: very large attendance: walked to house with Rev. W. Welch who stayed ¾ hour.<sup>14</sup>*

The *Telegraph* eulogised,

#### OBITUARY. HENKY STOKES TIFFEN

In Last evening’s issue a paragraph appeared announcing the serious illness of Mr H.S. Tiffen, but we never thought that

we should be called upon so soon to chronicle the fact of his death. The deceased gentleman passed peacefully away at his residence, Tennyson street, at one o'clock this morning, death being due to blood poisoning. He was attended by his medical adviser, Dr. Caro, in conjunction with Dr. Bernau, and all that medical skill could suggest was done for the sufferer, but without avail.

In Mr Tiffen Napier has lost one of its greatest benefactors. His purse was ever open to supply the wants of the needy, and his kindly words and cheerful disposition have on very many occasions helped to sooth the troubles of the distressed. As chairman of the Charitable Aid Board he found abundance of opportunities in this direction, and many a poverty-stricken family benefitted by his benevolence.

Deceased came to the colony in 1841, as a surveyor under engagement to the old New Zealand Company. From Wellington he was amongst the first who made their way across the Rimutaka, and settled in the Wairarapa. There he started sheep-farming pursuits, and was the first to introduce merino sheep, brought by sailing vessels from New South Wales. Great difficulties were encountered in those early days in driving the sheep over the Rimutakas, not to mention the flooded state of rivers, and many interesting reminiscences Mr Tiffen could tell. Some years later he brought the first mob of sheep to Hawke's Bay, subsequently leasing an immense tract of land from the natives, but afterwards gave it up, recognising that it was required for closer settlement, and in its place, in conjunction with Mr. Northwood, he secured what are now known as the Pourerere and Homewood estates, acquiring also the Jervoiston estate (Greenmeadows) later. Many persons who settled on these have to thank Mr Tiffen for giving them a start in life, and fairly establishing them in their homes.

On the constitution of the Provincial Council of Hawke's Bay, Mr Tiffen was appointed Chief Surveyor and Commissioner of Crown Lands, and on resigning from that office he became a member of the Council. From that period up to the time of his death the deceased gentleman has identified himself with the affairs of the different public bodies in Hawke's Bay, and was never behind hand in assisting the promotion of any proposal likely to benefit the community. He

devoted much of his time to furthering the cultivation of the sugar beet industry, while the vinery established by him at the Greenmeadows will be a lasting monument to his enterprise. He took considerable trouble in connection with the scheme proposed for laying a tramway line from Napier to Taradale, but found that the time was premature for such a work. Deceased was one of the largest shareholders in the proprietary of the *H.B. Herald*, and also held a seat on the colonial Board of the North British and Hawke's Bay Freezing Company (ltd).

As an instance of his charitable disposition, it may be mentioned that the establishment of the Children's Home in Burlington road was almost solely due to the energy of Mr Tiffen. He was a staunch member of the Church of England, and when the proposal to erect a Cathedral was first mooted, the movement obtained a great fillip by a most liberal donation from him. Though twice married, Mr Tiffen leaves no family, but he has two brothers, Mr F. J. Tiffen (of Elmshill station), L. A. Tiffen, and one sister, Mrs Haseldon, of Wellington. Years may go on, but Time will not obliterate from memory the good deeds which Henry Stokes Tiffen accomplished in Hawke's Bay. The funeral of deceased, who was aged 77 years, will take place to-morrow at 2 p.m.<sup>15</sup>

The *Herald* was even more fulsome,

#### THE LATE HENRY STOKES TIFFEN.

It is with the very keenest regret that we have to announce the death of Mr H. S. Tiffen, who passed quietly away shortly before 1 o'clock this morning. Mr Tiffen was one of the oldest settlers of New Zealand, and of him it may be truly said that in no ordinary degree did he "bear the heat and burden of the day" of early colonisation. He came out in 1841, as a surveyor under engagement to the old New Zealand Company, and landed at Wellington. He was one of the first to cross the Rimutaka, making a home in the Wairarapa, where he established a cattle run. Some years afterwards he came overland to Hawke's Bay with a mob of sheep—the first sheep brought to this provincial district. Here he leased from the natives a vast tract of country—not that he wanted so much land, for sheep were scarce and dear, but he desired to secure natural boundaries, to save fencing, then a very expensive item. The

lease was not recognised by the law, but when Mr G. S. Cooper came as Land Purchase Commissioner and tried to acquire the land the old chief Hapuku would not desert Mr Tiffen, and refused to sell. Mr Tiffen, however, saw that the time had come for closer settlement, and he voluntarily surrendered his lease on condition that he was allowed to select a tract and purchase it at the upset price. The country selected by Mr Tiffen and his partner, Mr Northwood, comprised the present Pourerere run and the old Homewood estate, long ago subdivided. Subsequently the partnership was dissolved, Mr Northwood taking Pourerere and Mr Tiffen Homewood. After that Mr Tiffen bought the Greenmeadows property. On the separation of Hawke's Bay from Wellington, and the establishment of Provincial Government Mr Tiffen became Chief Surveyor and Commissioner of Crown Lands, which office he held for many years. On his resignation he became a member of the Provincial Council, and when the provinces were abolished he was the first chairman of the Hawke's Bay County Council, and it is largely due to his initiative that that body has managed to work so well. He was also closely identified with the High School, and for some years with the administration of the hospital and charitable aid, being chairman of the Hospital Board. Whatever he undertook he threw himself heart and soul into, never sparing either time or pocket, the last monument to his energy being the Children's Home, in which, as chairman, he took the greatest interest. He was, indeed, at one time actively identified with nearly every movement for the advancement of Hawke's Bay, generally being content to retire when he found that things had worked down into a smooth groove, and he felt that his energy might be more profitably directed in new channels. As a settler he was truly a pioneer, showing others the way, and even to the last he was actively engaged in trying to show, by practical example, how the rich lands of the Ahuriri Plains could be profitably worked as fruit farms and vineyards, while for several years past he was, with the same object of showing small settlers how to use their land to the best advantage, engaged in experiments in growing beet root sugar. Kindliness and sympathy with all who were struggling or in distress were ever his most prominent characteristics. Many a successful settler owes his start in life to the ready aid of Mr Tiffen, and no case



of genuine distress ever applied to him and was sent empty away. Wealth came to him as the reward of his ~~??~~ly years of hard, uphill work, but he truly hold it as if in trust for others. To all religious denominations, Presbyterian, Baptist, or Roman Catholic, he was a generous friend, and his own beloved Church of England owes much to him. The fine cathedral, of which Napier is so justly proud, was made possible largely by his munificent liberality. Few know or well how to use fortune, and none grudged him the success he achieved. Truly it may of him be said that "He was a man, take him for all in all, we shall not look upon his like again." His end will come as a shock to many, for only a few days ago his cheery voice was heard in the streets of Napier. But in truth ever since he visited Italy some years since he has suffered more or less from the effects of malarial fever contracted there. Latterly, though still mentally vigorous, his bodily health failed visibly, and his medical adviser, Dr. Caro, was often in attendance. But it was not until last Friday that there appeared any cause for apprehension that his end was near. Then Dr. Caro detected symptoms of a most serious nature, and Dr. Bernau was called in to consult, and they acted in conjunction until the end, which came somewhat suddenly, euremia, or blood-poisoning, setting in. Though Mr Tiffen was twice married he had no direct issue. He leaves, however, two brothers, Mr F. J. Tiffen and Mr L. A. Tiffen, a sister, Mrs Haselden, of Wellington, and numerous nephews and nieces.<sup>16</sup>

Feeling reference was made at the Cathedral last evening by the Bishop of Waiapu to the loss the diocese had sustained by the death of Mr H. S. Tiffen. At the Baptist Church, the Rev. G. D. Cox also referred briefly to the open-hearted benevolence of the deceased. It is stated that Mr Tiffen's will provides for a bequest of £2000 to the Children's Home, £1000 to the Cathedral Parish, and £1000 to the Bishopric Endowment Fund.<sup>17</sup>

The rest of his estate was divided into twenty-six equal shares, allotted to various relatives.<sup>18</sup> Four days after Tiffen's death an eighteen year old girl died in Napier Hospital of peritonitis; she was Constance Grace Sutton and the *Herald* reported,

A pathetic feature of the death of Miss Constance Sutton is the fact that the unfortunate young lady was on her death-bed when she received the late Mr Tiffen's medal as dux of the High School, the donor having died just the day before. Two or three days previously the young lady who was a deserved favorite had entertained a number of friends partly to commemorate her success at school and partly to celebrate her eighteenth birthday.<sup>19</sup>

Emily Hill took his place on the Licensing Board,

Mrs H. Hill, who was a defeated candidate at the last licensing election in Napier, but who was tenth on the list has been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Mr H. S. Tiffen.<sup>20</sup>

Colenso paid tribute to Tiffen in his Presidential Address, delivered to the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Society on 11 May 1896,

I have already barely mentioned the death of two of our members. As, however, this is unusual with us, I would offer a few observations concerning them. Those two gentlemen, [135] Mr. F.H. Meinertzhagen and Mr. H.S. Tiffen, were old and valuable members of our Institute; both of them were original members from its foundation in 1874 (when lovers of natural science were few who joined us), and these require a special brief notice....

Mr. H.S. Tiffen also was one of the founders of our society. Although he wrote no paper for our meetings, he was always a warm supporter of them, while his beautiful and extensive garden, greenhouse, hothouse, and ferneries were always cheerfully open at our service. From the ferneries especially, containing such a large and varied collection of both foreign and native ferns, both Mr. Hamilton (our late curator) and myself have derived much valuable, true, and living information with specimens. Mr. Tiffen, being a devoted lover and disciple of Flora, introduced a large number of flowering-plants, shrubs, and trees from various parts of the globe regardless of expense, his flower-garden, the admiration of visitors and tourists, being the best one in Napier, if not on the whole east coast of New Zealand.<sup>21</sup>

He had written on 16 March to Harding, “Of course you have heard of Tiffen’s death—& all about funeral.... I fear Tiffen’s fine 1st. rate garden must now go but I have not yet heard anything”.

Hector published Colenso’s address in the *Transactions* and Colenso told Harding (9 September 1897), “the main reason with me for getting H. to publish it in “Trans.” was, my having mentioned Mantell, Huxley, Tiffen, & Meinitzhagen deceased, & Hooker, in it, so I am satisfied”.<sup>22</sup>

Henry Stokes Tiffen had no surviving children. His principal beneficiaries were his housekeeper-niece Amelia Mary Randall, the Anglican church, the rest divided among various siblings and other relatives.<sup>23</sup>

Old Napier Cemetery has the family gravestone of red granite.



*In Loving Memory*  
of  
HENRY STOKES  
TIFFEN  
CALLED HOME FEB. 21<sup>st</sup>. 1896  
IN HIS 80<sup>th</sup> YEAR

“THANKS BE TO GOD WHO GIVETH US THE VICTORY  
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD”

ALSO OF  
AMELIA MARY RANDALL  
DIED 17<sup>th</sup>. OCT. 1930  
AGED 86 YEARS.

SACRED  
TO THE MEMORY OF  
HENRIETTA  
CHARLOTTE  
DAUGHTER OF T.A. DAVENPORT  
TIFFEN OF BOULOGNE  
SUR-MER FRANCE  
DIED FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup> 1918.

*In loving Memory*  
of  
LOUIS ANSELL  
TIFFEN,  
CALLED HOME NOV 29, 1916  
IN HIS 88<sup>th</sup> YEAR



Henry Stokes Tiffen 12 July 1816–21 February 1896 was a notable New Zealand surveyor, pastoralist, land commissioner, politician, community leader, horticulturist, winemaker and entrepreneur.

Ian McGibbon wrote of the “Tiffen blend of capitalist self-interest and improving zeal and assiduous public service”.<sup>24</sup> He was a successful businessman, interested in everything, excited by the possibilities of the new, willing (and able) to “try the experiment,” generous with time and money, a public benefactor and a leader.

HS Tiffen left few documents and no diary. Some have written they were destroyed in a house fire, but as far as I can determine, the house that burned was that of his niece, Amelia Mary Randall, many years after his death. She may well have had his papers.

Some myths should be dispelled.

Douglas Cresswell wrote, of Tiffen’s proposal of marriage to Caroline White in Hastings in the south of England,

Henry squared his shoulders and, without saying a word to the family, saddled his horse at the first opportunity and rode into Hastings to put the case before Caroline.<sup>25</sup>

A pleasing and romantic notion, but it was a long ride of 86 miles if he rode from Hythe to Hastings. In fact 20 year old Henry was living with the White family in Hastings in 1841.

Louisa Anne did not, as some have written, die in childbirth as her sister had: she was 48 and died of cirrhosis of the liver. She and Tiffen would have been shaken by a death on board ship on their way back to New Zealand: “A woman, who had been prematurely confined shortly after leaving England, died on board on Wednesday morning last, and has since been buried in the public cemetery”.

Frederick Tiffen did not drive the pregnant merino ewes from Wellington around the coast to the Wairarapa by himself: as he related the events, there were eight men including himself.

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<sup>1</sup> *Hawke’s Bay Herald* 7 January 1889.

<sup>2</sup> *Daily Telegraph* 23 February 1889.

<sup>3</sup> *Hawke’s Bay Herald* 25 February 1889.

<sup>4</sup> *New Zealand Herald* 25 March 1889.

<sup>5</sup> *Hawke’s Bay Herald* 3 May 1889.

<sup>6</sup> *Daily Telegraph* 20 June 1889.

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- 7 *Poverty Bay Herald* 9 August 1889.
  - 8 *Evening Star* 16 October 1889.
  - 9 *Evening Star* 14 December 1889.
  - 10 *Auckland Star* 3 December 1889.
  - 11 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 19 December 1895.
  - 12 *Daily Telegraph* 21 January 1896.
  - 13 Giancarlo Majori 2102. Short History of Malaria and Its Eradication in Italy. *Mediterr J Hematol Infect Disv.* 4(1).
  - 14 Colenso's surviving late diaries are in the Hawke's Bay Museums Trust collection at MTG Hawke's Bay.
  - 15 *Daily Telegraph* 21 February 1896.
  - 16 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 21 February 1896.
  - 17 *Daily Telegraph* 24 February 1896.
  - 18 *Daily Telegraph* 21 March 1896.
  - 19 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 27 February 1896.
  - 20 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 7 March 1896.
  - 21 *Transactions of the New Zealand Institute* 29: 129-150.
  - 22 ATL qMS-0499.
  - 23 ATL MS-Papers-1348-34.
  - 24 Ian McGibbon. *Tiffen, Henry Stokes*, Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, first published in 1990. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1t99/tiffen-henry-stokes> (accessed 26 April 2018)
  - 25 Cresswell D 1956. Tiffen of Elms Hill. In *Early New Zealand families, second series*. Whitcomb & Tombs.
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The gates of Tiffen Park in Napier in 2018

## EPILOGUE: A REMINISCENCE

(*Daily Telegraph* 15 July 1893).

The death of Mr John Chambers, of Te Mata, reminds one of the fact that few of the very early settlers are now with us. And when one of the few sees the number decreasing, he likes to recall to his memory the history of the settlement in which he played a part. There is not now a European living who was here in Napier when Mr J. Grindell first stepped ashore. Other Europeans there are amongst us who were then living in the country, such as the Rev. W. Colenso, Mr H. S. Tiffen, and one or two more, but of the then residents in Napier, or Port Ahuriri as it was called, all have gone to their long home. Messrs Alexander and Gollan were the first to arrive here, and opened their head trading station in Onepoto Gully, where a small wharf was run out into Corunna Bay. These names are almost forgotten. Corunna Bay disappeared when the railway was built to the Spit, and the gully is now known as Main street. Messrs Alexander and Gollan had several trading out-stations along the coast between Wellington and Poverty Bay, and did a large business with the natives in the exchange of English manufactures for corn, potatoes, grain, and pigs. It was a business in which much trust had to be placed in the honesty of the Maoris, and the late Mr Gollan used to tell an amusing story of the first visit he paid to this port, with all his worldly possessions in the hold of his small schooner. The natives swarmed on board and cleared the ship of every case of goods it contained, and it was an anxious time waiting for the arrival of the *quid pro quo*. But it came at last; the hold was filled with Maori produce, brought down in canoes from upcountry, and the deck was loaded up with live pigs, which, by the way, were all washed overboard on the run down to Wellington. An extensive business of this kind absolutely required for its conduct some one who was versed in the Maori language, and Mr J. Grindell's services were engaged for the management at headquarters. That is what brought Mr Grindell here. In addition to their trade, Messrs Alexander and Gollan were in partnership in some sheep running on the Mangatarata country, Mr Spencer Gollan's present estate, and when they dissolved partnership Mr Gollan took the sheep, and Mr Alexander



retained the trading business. About this time, 1852, Mr Newton came up from Wellington with the intention of cutting into the business, and he occupied a deserted pumice stone cottage on the Western Spit, that had been erected by Mr Parke, Chief Surveyor of the province of Wellington. Mr Parke was the father of the late Mrs Kinross. Mr Newton, finding the trade fully occupied by Mr Alexander, bought the business out, and shortly afterwards Mr Grindell went into the country to do some trading on his own account. He bought eighty acres of land at a place then called Taipo, but which we now know as Redclyffe. It was here that Mr Grindell erected a dwelling-house, a store, and another building, and this brings us to the arrival of Mr and Mrs John Chambers, Mrs Chambers's father, and a mutual friend of the family, the late Captain Morrison. This party of new arrivals took up their abode at Villers and McKain's public-house on the Western Spit. There was then no house of accommodation in Napier, the only buildings being in Onepoto Gully, belonging to Mr Newton's trading station. So Mr and Mrs Chambers took up their residence on the Western Spit in Mr Villers's hotel. Mr Villers ran sheep on the fern-covered hills that we now call Napier, and pumice stone and pipi shells composed the flats. We might mention that this Mr Villers was the father of the late William Villers, of Petane, of the present Mr Charles Villers, of Mrs Grindell, and of Mrs Isaac McKain. Mr Grindell being on a visit to his future father-in-law, met Mr Chambers, who expressed a wish to get away into the country, and Mr Grindell placed his spare building at his disposal. Mr Chambers and family lived there about a year, and then he purchased the Te Mata country. Mr Alexander about this time had joined Mr Newton in partnership, and on their subsequent dissolution Mr W. Irvine joined the firm. Mr Alexander then went into pastoral pursuits at Poraito and Puketapu. All this time dribblets of colonists had been creeping up the coast, following their few sheep, and squatting wherever there was feeding ground, and a prospect of acquiring the country. These were the forerunners of our sheepfarmers, and of their flocks. But how sparsely the country was settled may be imagined when Mr Chambers and his party made up the total of European settlers to twenty-five. Then came the late Mr Munn, Mr H. S. Tiffen, and Dr. Hitchings The Rev. Mr

Colenso had long been settled at Awapuni, now called Farndon, where he had a beautiful garden, and a large raupo-built church, afterwards burnt down. Mr Colenso bought Mr Grindell's property at Redclyffe, and subsequently sold it to Mr Alley, who, in course of time, cut it up, and on one of the sections now stands Mr Henry Williams's residence. Of the names we have mentioned, Alexander, Munn, Morrison, Irvine, Villers (father and son), Gollan, and Chambers, have died. The Rev. Mr Colenso, Mr Tiffen, Mr Newton, Dr Hitchings, and Mr Grindell remain to us, and when they read these old reminiscences, we have no doubt that they will remember many a pleasant story of the early settlement of Hawke's Bay, which will be well worth telling, and which we hope they will give to the present generation as incidents in the history of this colony.

William Colenso read his newspaper and wrote to Coupland Harding the next day, on 16 July 1893,

*You will have heard of the death of Mr. John Chambers—it took me by surprise, as, although I had heard of his having been very ill last summer, I had also heard of his being got round again: I lament (vainly!) my not having visited him—after so many invitations! so many broken promises!! Tiffen was there a fortnight ago, & neither T. nor I could go to the funeral at Havelock—both of us having colds & fearing exposure: there is a long article, mainly resp. J.C., in “Dy. T.” of last night which I will send you. There are however several errors in it; and it certy. is not written by R.P. J.C. was a fortunate man—in many respects (and he deserved it!) particularly in having his 3 daughters married, & his sons also, & all settled, & doing well.<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> ATL qMS-0497.

