

## Part 7.

### Richard Vanstone and settlement

#### Naval and Military Settlers and Volunteers Land Acts

The Naval and Military Settlers and Volunteers Land Acts were a series of laws passed in 1856 and 1858 granting land to former soldiers and sailors settling in New Zealand. This was intended to encourage the settlement of men with a military background in areas requiring defence against the Maori, first in Auckland then later extending to Wellington and New Plymouth. The system officially ended in 1860 but it appears that, word having spread amongst British forces serving around the world, many ex-servicemen came to settle in New Zealand expecting a grant of free land and found they were too late. The issue festered in the 1870s and 1880s with petitions to Parliament and in 1889 a committee appointed to review the ongoing situation reported that nearly 2000 claimants were still pursuing claims. They reported:

The Committee felt that it was quite impossible to examine properly into the merits of each individual case, and determined, therefore, not to enquire into the prayer of each petitioner, but to limit enquiry to the general principles which should, in its opinion, guide it in recommending the House what course should be adopted to make a final settlement of the various claims.

With regard to claimants under "The Naval and Military Scrip Act, 1856," the Committee resolved that such persons late of Her Majesty's naval and military forces who were entitled to scrip under "The Auckland Naval and Military Scrip Act, 1856," whose claims have not been satisfied are still entitled to a remission of 20 pounds in the purchase of Crown lands within the provincial district of Auckland.

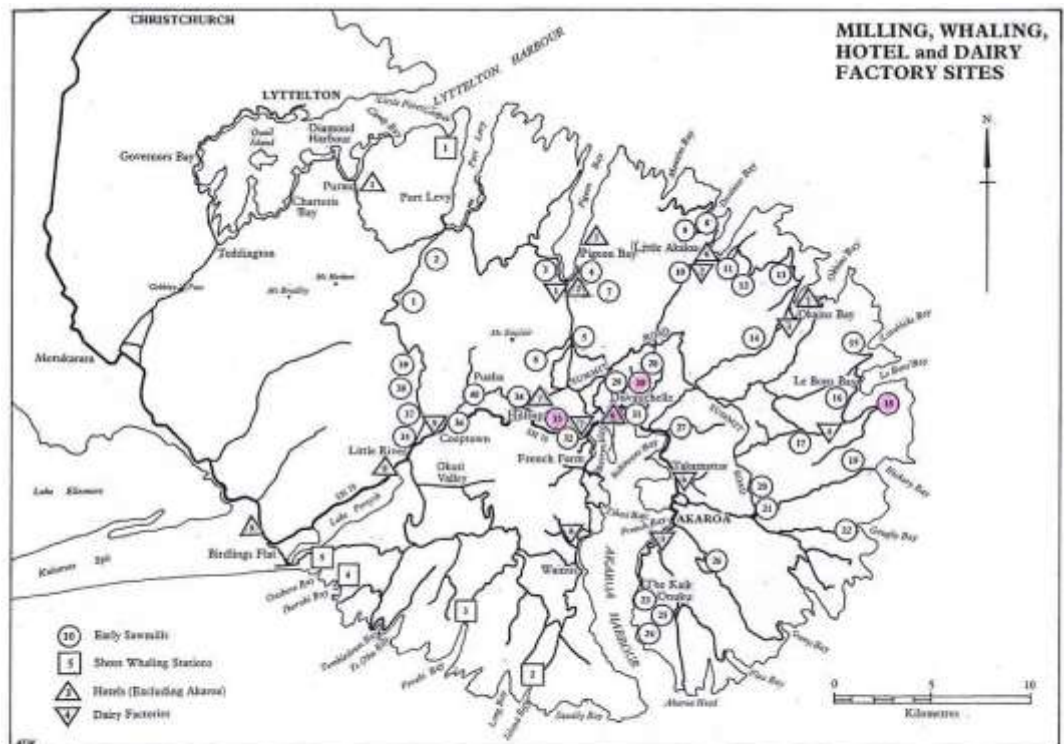
With regard to the claims of the naval and military settlers, the Committee had some difficulty in arriving at a conclusion. These men, on entering Her Majesty's service, undoubtedly were led to believe to suppose that, if they retired from the service for the purpose of settling in New Zealand, they would be entitled to grants of land, and many men took their discharge with the object of securing land, unaware that subsequent to their enlistment various Provincial Acts provided that claims for land had to be made within a definite period; and, further, that residence within district boundaries for a defined period also was essential before the issue of a Crown grant. It appears that those conditions were not well known to most of the claimants who, in many cases, were quite uneducated men and did not know how to set to work to acquire the land to which they were entitled. Many, undoubtedly, were careless of those rights, and did not apply for land which they did not know how to make use of. Others were deterred from pushing their claims on account of the poor quality of the available lands near the settled districts which remained open for selection on account of their poverty, and could not, on account of the unsettled state of the Native tribes, and the difficulty of obtaining any employment, occupy lands in the remoter parts of the country. But one of the remarkable features of the case is the fact that the acquisition of land was extremely difficult; most persons applying for land had to wait until surveys were made, and Mr. Percy Smith stated in evidence that surveys took months, and, in many instances, years, to complete. Of course, the ordinary discharged soldier, unprovided with any means of subsistence but his own labour, was unable to wait while surveys were being made, and therefore joined the colonial forces, or wandered away in search of work, and, having got employment, allowed the period during which his claim should have been made to lapse.

Your committee recognise that by a strict interpretation of the law these men forfeited their rights, but cannot think that the Government of the colony has been without blame. The men were led to believe that they would be given land, but, as a matter of fact, they found it practically impossible to obtain it unless in such a remote or dangerous locality that occupation and subsistence would be impossible.

To compensate these claimants with money would perhaps be unwise, but your Committee is of opinion that all officers, non-commissioned officers, privates, seamen, and marines who retired from the service with a good character for the purpose of settling in the colony, and who have remained therein, are equitably entitled to the grants of land, according to their respective ranks, they would have been entitled to had they put in their claims (as the provincial statutes provided they should) within twelve months. (*Peter Mitchell crash.ihug.co.nz*)

Richard Vanstone of Canterbury (late seaman Royal Navy) was one of the claimants but he was rejected on the grounds that he did not settle in the Colony until 10 years after his date of discharge from Her Majesty's service and did not serve in the colony. Obviously not all of the committee's recommendations were followed, but it does give us an indication that Richard Vanstone was in the British Royal Navy before he came to New Zealand, taking his discharge about 1861. Unfortunately attempts to find his naval record have so far been unsuccessful. His youngest daughter Hazel thought he had served in the Crimea and had a disfigured hand as a legacy, but Hazel was a posthumous child, born seven months after her father's death, so her evidence can only be hearsay. The hunt continues.

**BANKS  
PENINSULA,  
CRADLE OF  
CANTERBURY**  
by Gordon  
Ogilvie



**KEY:**

*Early Saw Mills*

1. Hall's Chelston Mill, 1897 - early 1900s
2. Richard Fleming's Mill, 1880s - 1920s
3. George Holmes's Mill, 1862 - 86
4. George Marshall's Mill, 1857 - late 1860s
5. James Pettigrew's Mill, 1878 - 83
6. David Hunt's Mill, early 1900s - 1919
7. Arthur Goodwin's Mill, early 1900s
8. Decanter Bay Mill, 1874 - 77
9. William Ashwin's Mill, 1878 - 80
10. Little Akaloa Mill, 1858 - 74
11. Chorlton Mill, 1874 - 77
12. Robert Shuttleworth's Mill, 1887 - 92
13. Fred Heath's Mill, early 1900s
14. Thacker's Emerald Mill, 1872 - 1890s
15. Lavericks Bay Mill, early 1860s - 76
16. Le Bons Bay Mill, 1857 - 69
17. John Smith's Mill, (Panama Rd), 1869 - 78
18. James Dalglish's Mill, 1867 - 80
19. Smith's Waikerikikari Mill, 1878 - 87
20. Malmanche's Hickory Bay Mill, 1882 - 90s
21. Pegg and Grimwood's Mill, 1890s
22. Malmanche's Goughs Bay Mill, 1878 - 82
23. Garwood's Onuku Mill, 1860s - 70s

24. Fraser's Manukatahi Mill, 1870s
25. Onuku Kainga Mill, 1879 - 83
26. George Armstrong's Mill, 1881 - 91
27. Robinson Bay Mill, 1854 - 77
28. Piper's Cumberland Mill, 1858 - 78
29. Samuel Gammon's Mill, 1858 - 65
30. Pawson's Yock Mill, 1859 - 69
31. Ben Shadbolc's Mill, 1869 - 78
32. Barryton Mill, 1857 - late 1860s
33. Larter's Barrys Bay Mill, 1873 - 82
34. Hilltop Mill, 1890s
35. William White's Forsyth Mill, 1864 - late 70s
36. William Coop's Springvale Mill, 1873 - 1900
37. George Joblin's Mill, 1880s - 1890s
38. Sydney Harris's Mill, 1890s - 1900s
39. Josiah & George Jones's Mill, 1890s - 1900s
40. Tarawera Mill, 1883 - 1905

*Shore Whaling Stations*

1. Little Port Cooper, 1844
2. Island Bay, 1842 - c 1871
3. Peraki, 1837 - 43

4. Ikoraki, 1840 - c 1876
5. Oashore, 1840 - c 1850

*Hotels (Excluding Akaroa)*

1. Purau Inn, 1860 - c 1865
2. Pigeon Bay Inn, 1851 - Late 1870s
3. Pigeon Bay Hotel, 1884 - 86
4. Pig and Whistle, Little Akaloa, early 1870s - 1882
5. Pier Hotel, Okains Bay, 1878 - 80
6. Duvauchelle Hotel, 1851 - present
7. Hilltop Hotel, 1872 - present
8. Little River Hotel, 1878 - present
9. Beach Arms Hotel, Birdlings Flat,

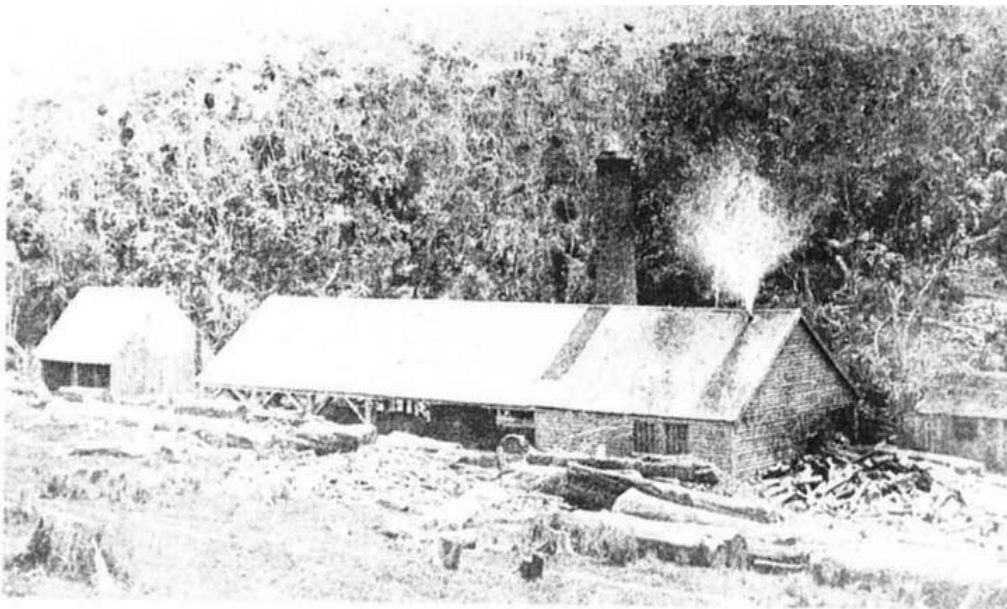
*Dairy Factories*

1. Pigeon Bay, 1911 - 64
2. Little Akaloa, 1894 - 1956
3. Okains Bay, 1894 - 1967
4. Le Bons Bay, 1893 - 1937
5. Akaroa Butter Factory
6. Takamatua, 1893 - 1957
7. Barrys Bay, 1895
8. Wainui, 1894 - 1928
9. Little River, 1903 - 1963

P127: (Le Bons Bay)... Another mill, probably a pit-sawing operation, was started on the south headland by William Hartstone and Richard Savage, the latter having earlier worked for John Smith (at the Le Bons Bay mill). these two sold out to Francis Vanstone who had been milling timber at Barrys Bay for Henry Piper. Vanstone sold his Vanstone and Co's steam sawmill in 1867 to James Dalglish, founder of the family which has now been the longest established at Le Bons Bay.

P177: ...Ben Shadbolt at Duvauchelle ... purchased Anderson's hotel site in 1861, built another Traveller's Rest, and delegated the management of it to a variety of licensees including Frank Vanstone.

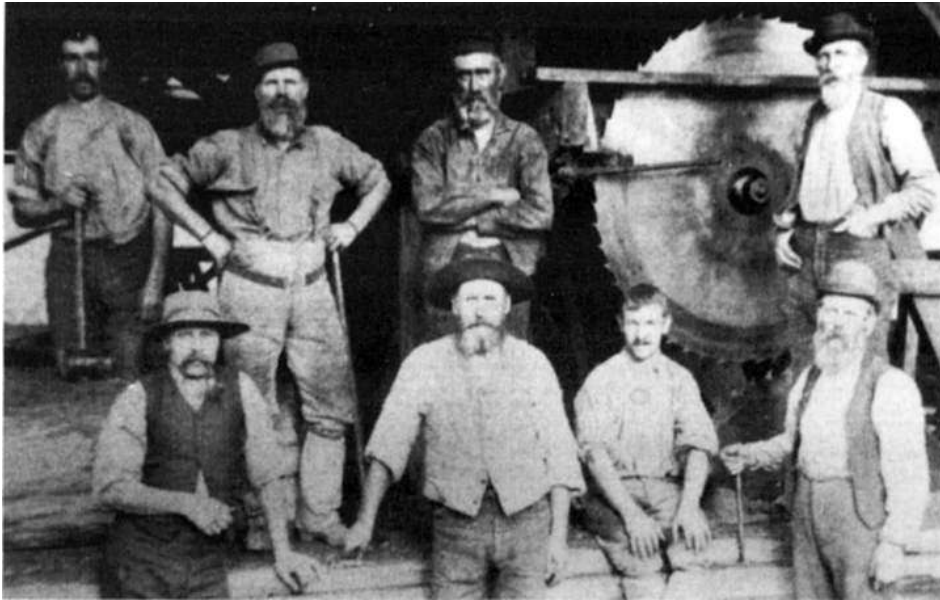
P184: Despite the closure of Gibbons Pawson & Co's mill, timber felling evidently continued at Barrys Bay under the direction of a former Barryton miller, Francis Vanstone, working for Henry Piper of Duvauchelle. Frank and Richard Vanstone later farmed at the bay, on the flat near the present cheese factory. In 1873 Edward Latter gave up his merchant and shipping agency at Akaroa to start the Barrys Bay Steam Sawmills. Francis Vanstone became his mill manager. The mill was soon producing 9150 metres of sawn timber a week in a mixture of totara, and black and white pine. It was situated where Ross Curry's dairy now stands and a tramway, whose wagons were towed by bullocks, extended from there down to the bay. A jetty was built from where the timber was shipped out. Two special contracts were to produce 67,000 sleepers for the railways, and in 1875, the roofing timbers for Christchurch Cathedral. Vanstone later worked at the Tarawera Mill near Little River.



**The Barrys Bay steam sawmill, usually known as Latter's Mill, managed by Francis Vanstone. This mill produced the roofing timbers for the Christchurch Cathedral.**

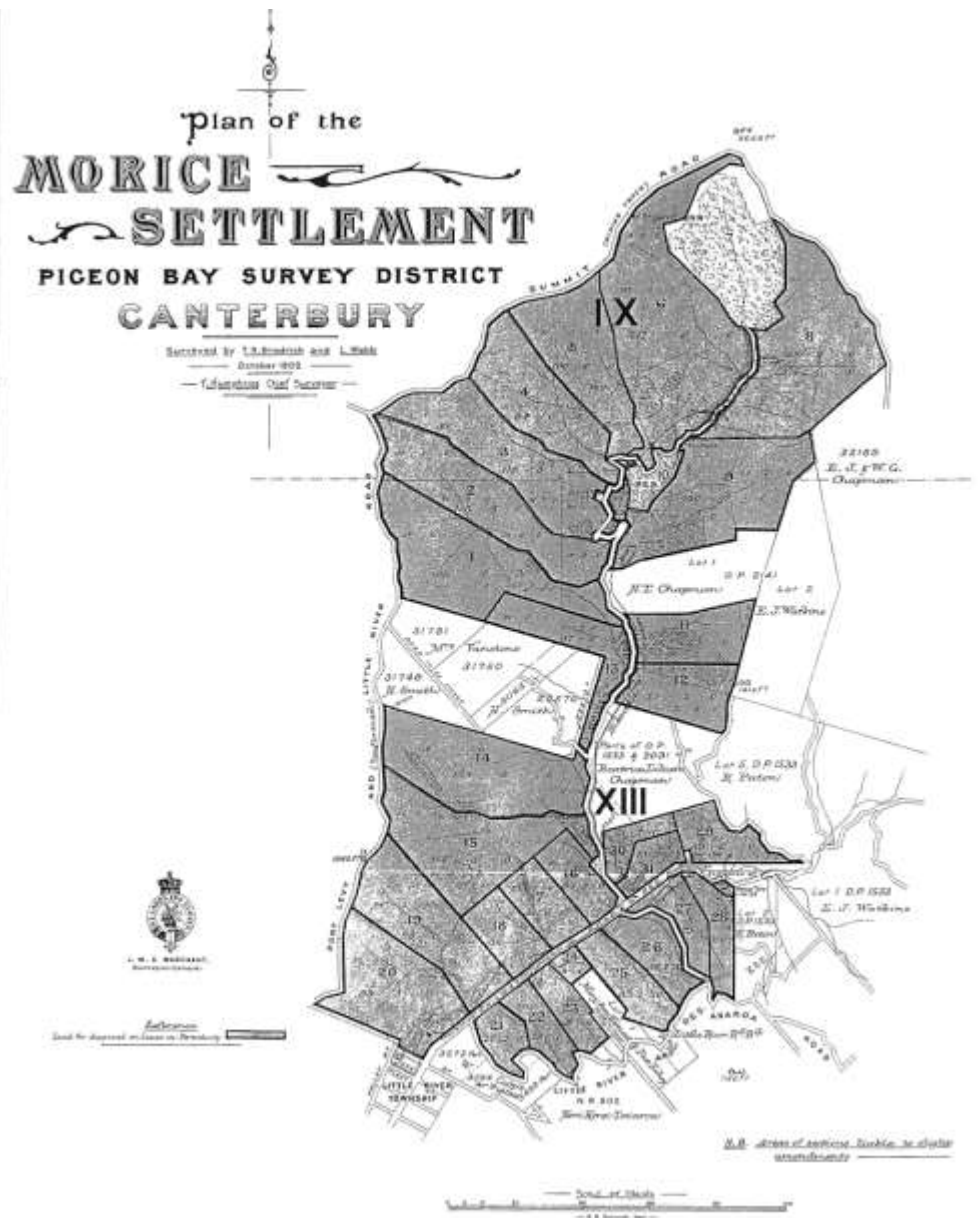
**The Tarawera Mill soon after it opened in 1883 just as the Barrys Bay mill over the hill shut down. This view looks back down Puaha Valley towards Little River.**





Mill hands at the Tarawera Mill (1883-1903) with the mill's engineer Edward Chapman. Could the man at the top right be Richard Anstone? It is very like his photo.

The Morice Settlement survey plan of 1905. Section 30 is the site of the former Tarawera mill. The Vanstone and Henry Smith land was one of the few blocks in ownership at that time. Robert Taylor, who married Alice May Vanstone in 1912, won Lot 12 opposite the Vanstone property in the land ballot of 1905.





(Form B)

Reference: Vol. 124, folio 19.63  
Transfer No. 37130.

Register-book,  
Vol. 154, folio 175.

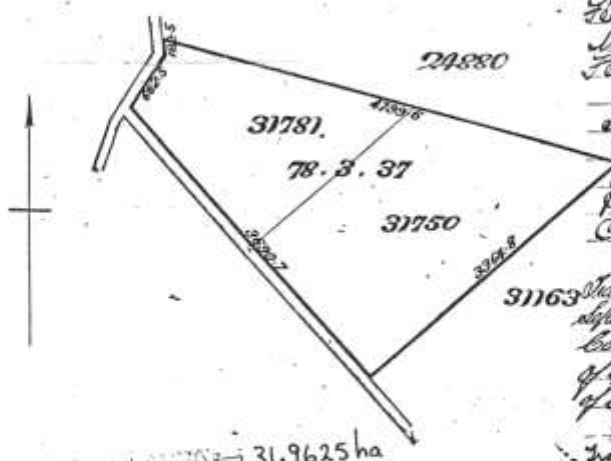
CERTIFICATE OF TITLE UNDER LAND TRANSFER ACT.

This Certificate, dated the first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, under the hand and seal of the District Land Registrar of the Land Registration District of Canterbury Witnesseth that Richard Vanstone of Little River Farmer

is seized of an estate in fee-simple (subject to such reservations, restrictions, encumbrances, liens, and interests as are notified by memorial under-written or indorsed hereon, subject also to any existing right of the Crown to take and lay off roads under the provisions of any Act of the General Assembly of New Zealand) in the land hereinafter described, as the same is delineated by the plan hereon bordered green, to the several admeasurements a little more or less, that is to say: All that parcel of land containing seventy eight acres three roods thirty seven perches or thereabouts situated in Block XIII Pigeon Bay Survey District and being Rural Sections 31750 and 31781.



*M. H. G. J.*  
District Land Registrar



Mortgage 30807 produced 1 March 1893 at 2.50 per cent. **DISCHARGED**  
John Frederick Miles & Septimus Phillips

Transfer of Mortgage 30807 produced 3 September 1895 at 11.45 per cent. **DISCHARGED**  
John Frederick Miles & Mrs. George Frederick Miles

Mortgage 39560 produced 27 April 1895 at 11 per cent. **DISCHARGED**  
The Farmers' Co-operative Assurance Association of Canterbury Limited

Transfer of Mortgage 39560 produced 25 September 1920 at 10 per cent. **DISCHARGED**  
The Farmers' Co-operative Assurance Association of Canterbury Limited

Transmission 112487 of Mortgage 39560 to Annesley De Bary Harman, Thomas De Bary Harman, and Rosa Jane Agnes Harman. Entered 2 August 1926 at 12 per cent. **DISCHARGED**

Scale 10 chains to an Inch.

*Over*

Transmission 18475 to Harriette Ellen Winstons of Little River Widow as Administratrix Entered 14 September 1926 at 2.33 pm

412161 Transmission of the joint interest of Robert Stachan De Kozzy Harman and Annesley De Kozzy Harman (Deceased) to the said Annesley De Kozzy Harman entered 14 February 1955 at 12.1 pm

Transfer 177554 of mortgage 39560 produced 1<sup>st</sup> June 1927 at 10.59 am Annesley De Kozzy Harman, Thomas De Kozzy Harman, and atora Agnes Ballfein to Elizabeth Kate Child Samuel John Gordon and the said Thomas De Kozzy Harman the said Thomas De Kozzy Harman and Mary Phillips

423757 Transfer of the joint interest of Robert Gray and Elizabeth John Gray in mortgage 39560 to Helen Christabel Gray produced 19 August 1955 at 11.40 am

Transfer 208595 produced 26 October 1934 at 2.55 pm Thomas De Kozzy Harman and Samuel John Gordon of their joint interest in mortgage 39560 to Anne Jacqueline Emily Harris and Francis Chambers Harris

465724 Transmission of the interest of Helen Christabel Gray in mortgage 39560 to Helen Griffin Gray and Samuel John Gray as executors

Transmission 27157 to the Public Trustee Entered 9<sup>th</sup> January 1936 at 12.30 pm

Transfer 286767 The Public Trustee to Henry Mc Kay of Little River - Towner produced 27/1/1958 at 12.17 pm

Transmission 28492 of interest of Thomas De Kozzy Harman and Samuel John Gordon in mortgage 39560 to Annesley De Kozzy Harman and Mary Phillips

486768 Mortgage to the State Advances Corporation of New Zealand produced 27/1/1958 at 12.17 pm

Transmission 28492 interest of Mary Phillips in mortgage 39560 to Annesley De Kozzy Harman and Samuel John Gordon entered 9<sup>th</sup> January 1936 at 2.45 pm

Transfer 566198 Henry Mc Kay to Donald Edwin Dallen of Little River Farmer Produced 27/1/1961 at 11.21 am

Transfer 220159 produced 9<sup>th</sup> September 1927 at 2.45 pm Annesley De Kozzy Harman and Mary Phillips of his interest in mortgage 39560 to Thomas De Kozzy Harman

Mortgage 566199 Donald Edwin Dallen to the State Advances Corporation of New Zealand Produced 27/1/1961 at 11.40 am

332218 Transmission of the joint interest of Annie Barbara Emily Harris and Francis Chambers Harris in mortgage 39560 to Francis Chambers Harris entered 14 December 1950 at 11.29 am

THIS REPRODUCTION (ON A REDUCED SCALE) CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL REGISTER FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 215A LAND TRANSFER ACT 1952. CERTIFICATE OF TRUE COPY. J. Simson A.I.R.

332266 Transmission of the interest of Thomas De Kozzy Harman in mortgage 39560 to Robert Stachan De Kozzy Harman and Annesley De Kozzy Harman entered 14 December 1950 at 2.45 pm

302917 Transfer of the interest of Francis Chambers Harris in mortgage 39560 to The State Advances Corporation Limited a company having its registered office at Auckland and the said Francis Chambers Harris produced 28 June 1951 at 12.31 pm

412107 Transmission of the interest of Elizabeth Kate Child Samuel John Gordon and Thomas John Gray of their joint interest in mortgage 39560 to Helen Christabel Gray of Christchurch and Thomas John Gray of Geraldine retired farmers as tenants entered 14 February 1955 at 11.55 am

Vol. , folio

Richard and Harriet moved to Little River after the 1890 land transfer and there, over the next 10 years, produced another five daughters - Alice May (1891), Lucy Louisa (1893), Florence Ethel (1895), Ellen Evelyn Ruth (1898), and Hazel Pearl (1900) - who were each baptised in St Andrews Church at Little River.

Richard did purchase the land on which he lived in February 1893, paying £493.12.7. The Vanstone family settled comfortably into the community, Richard farming the land and Harriet busy with her ever increasing family. She was later to tell her grandchildren that she would “pop inside the house, have a baby, bathe and wrap it and go back to milk the cows”. While this description might (or might not!) be a little extreme, no doubt Harriet was a very busy woman.

The house was high on the side of a steep hill, reached by a mile-long winding track lined with sweetly scented mignonette, sweet william, granny bonnets and snapdragons. The garden surrounding the house also included primroses and roses. A trip to the site of the house in the early 1980s resulted in several members of the family taking cuttings of a hybrid musk rose called Francesca, released in 1922, which now flourish in several gardens.

Water for the house was collected by a funnel-shaped wooden structure in the creek further up the hill behind the house. It was channelled into barrels outside the back door and carried from there to the dairy, washhouse or scullery. Baths were taken in the kitchen in a large two-handled tub. The lavatory was some distance from the house, down a gully and across a creek. It included two seats - one for adults and a smaller one for children - but it could only be used when the weather was favourable. Too much rain would swell the creek until it became impassable. A large vegetable garden, orchard and berry-fruit plot were maintained and jams and preserves lined the shelves of a large walk-in pantry

The school was about five miles from the house on the coach road to Akaroa on the other side of the valley. If the horse was free three children would ride him while the others walked alongside, but in the shorter winter days it was dark when they left home and dark again by the time they got back. Richard Vanstone died on 13 April 1900 aged 68, of cancer of the liver, leaving 10 children and a pregnant 38-year-old wife. He was buried in the cemetery at Little River and his posthumous daughter, Hazel Pearl, was born on 7 November, seven months later.



**Akaroa  
Harbour  
from  
Barrys Bay  
1881  
by Nicholas  
Chevalier,  
Canterbury  
Museum  
Collection.**



**Barry's Bay C1886**



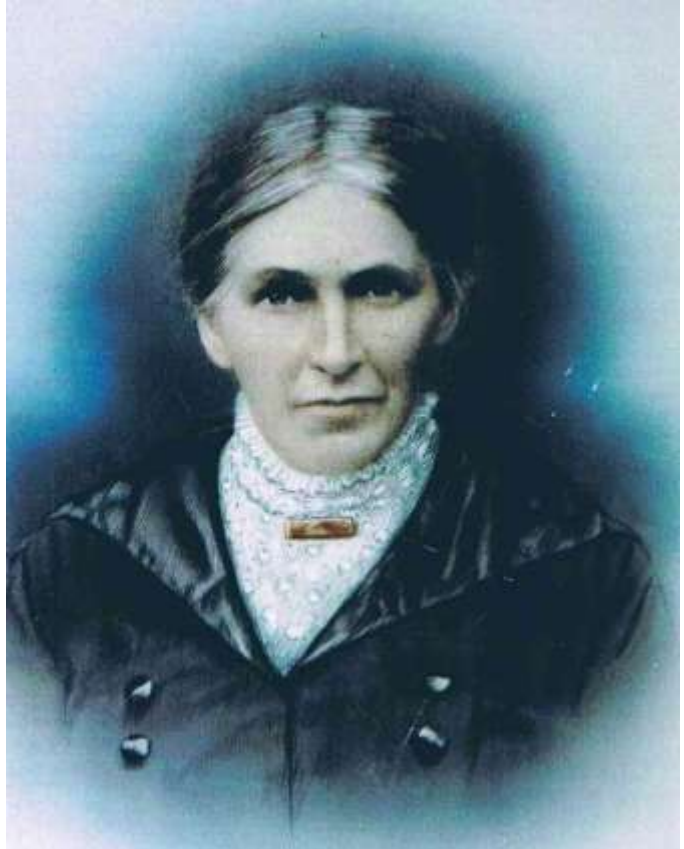
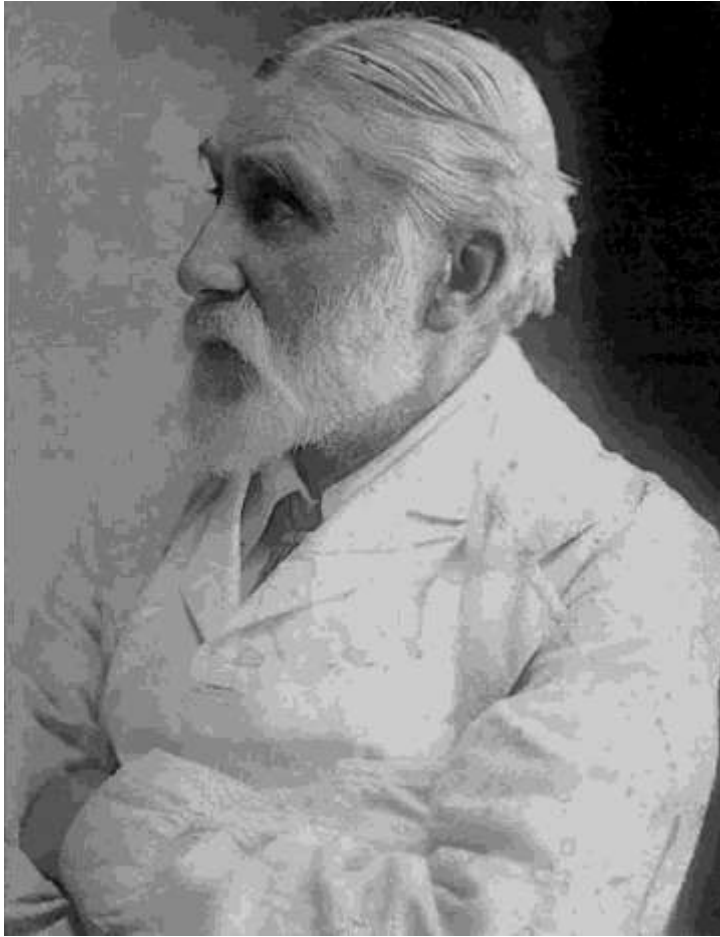
**Little River's first government school opened in 1873 by the site of the present Roman Catholic church, and was replaced in 1880 by the two-roomed building above. This second school was situated between Little River and Cooptown and burned down spectacularly in 1939. It was attended by the Vanstone children from 1890 when the family moved from Barry's Bay.**



**Harriet and Richard Vanstone's headstone at Little River Cemetery.**



**The second Vanstone house at Puaha, Little River**



**Richard and Harriet Vanstone**

Harriet continued working the farm. The older children were there to help her and life continued as before. Richard had not left a will, but Harriet did not make application for letters of administration of the estate, assuming that the property would automatically pass to her. She carried on as before improving the property with subdividing and fencing, extending the orchard and plantations, laying on water, electric light, and eventually the telephone.

The following year, 1901, the first of the children to marry - Daisy - wed Frank Hubbard at Little River and went to live in Levin. Just over a year later Daisy was dead, leaving a small son. She was mourned by her family, and her sister Alice May later named one of her daughters after Daisy, describing her sister as "an angel".

1902 was a sad year for Harriet, because also in that year her house burnt down but, undaunted, Harriet rebuilt. The second house was large - four bedrooms, a large living room, farmhouse-sized kitchen and a lean-to washhouse-woodshed. Decorative wrought iron laced the eaves and next to the house was a dairy where Harriet made butter and cheese which were stored in the loft.

The oldest son, Frank, also went to the North Island, working first in the King Country and later moving to Auckland, where he married in 1921. The two younger sons, Herbert James and Rupert Ernest, joined him for a time but returned to Banks Peninsula, both marrying in 1916 and continuing to help on the family farm as well as working their own properties.

The growth and export of cocksfoot played a large part in the expansion and prosperity of the peninsula and, in several ways, was significant in the lives of the Vanstone family. Cocksfoot seed was introduced in Pigeon Bay in 1853, and by the turn of the century the industry had reached its height and the cocksfoot was of such excellent quality that the Government granted permission to certify the seed. Excellent prices were paid, and the average yield was four to five 80lb sacks per acre. The cocksfoot was reaped by hand with a sickle, tied in bundles and threshed with a flail.

The men of the peninsula worked long and hard in the hot summer days, harvesting their crops, but large gangs of itinerant labourers were needed to help gather it all before the autumn. A young lad called the billy boy would supply the men with a drink every hour, but owing to complaints of heartburn, the traditional ships lime juice was replaced by "burgoo", a mixture of oatmeal and water. Towards the end of a hard day, half a mug of oatmeal from the bottom of the billy was regarded as a pick-me-up. The Vanstone farm had a two-roomed whare where the grass seeders slept during their stint there, and the women of the house supplied their meals.

In the summer of 1911-12 a young labourer from Rakaia in the Canterbury plains joined the grassseeders at the Vanstone farm - Robert Taylor. Harriet had four daughters of marriageable age by then, although the oldest, Millie, was working in Christchurch. However, it was to the 20-year-old May that Robert was attracted. Harriet had acknowledged the difficulties that would arise trying to stage weddings for seven daughters, and she had decided that the first of the girls to marry would have the grandest wedding, with subsequent marriages making use of the gown and accessories already provided. Aware of this, there was some competition among the sisters to be first to the altar, and it was May who won.

She was married to Robert Taylor at Little River that October and went to live in Rakaia. By the early 1920s all but one of Harriet's children had either married or left home, and Harriet and her daughter Harriet Hanna, known as Fairy, remained together at the farm. They remained there together until Harriet died in September 1948, just five days before her 87th birthday. In her will she bequeathed the whole of her estate to Fairy.

**Information on more recent generations may be available to family members and can be obtained from [carolbel@es.co.nz](mailto:carolbel@es.co.nz)**

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