Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.
The Gilfillan Killings - Narrative, Marginality and the Strangeness of the Colonial Past

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in History at Massey University.

Greg Loveridge

2003.
Contents

List of Illustrations iii
Acknowledgements iv
Prologue v


Introduction: Strange Stories and Theoretical Tools 1
Chapter One: The Violent Anecdote and Access To The Past 11
Chapter Two: Fragments Come Together to Form Larger Fragments 32
Epilogue: Violence, Post-Colonialism, and Judging Historical Injustice 67
Bibliography 71

---

List of illustrations

Illustration I (After page 10).
John Gilfillan’s Sketch of the Mataraua Valley (and preface to Tyrone Power’s Sketches of New Zealand)

Illustration II (After page 32)

Illustration III (After page 60)
The Gilfillan family; John, Sarah, and Mary. Mary is in the centre. Note the blurred features where her scar has been removed from the photo. From the Collection of the Whanganui Regional Museum, Whanganui, New Zealand.
Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks to:

Basil Poff for his patience and encouragement in his supervision of this work.

Danny Keenan for taking me to the site of the Gilfillan House.

Staff of the Alexander Turnbull Library, Massey University Library and the Whanganui Regional Museum for their assistance.

All my friends who assisted me throughout this exploration.

Also the staff of St. Josephs College, Northpoint, Darjeeling, for their support during the final stage of this thesis.

And to my mother, Anne Weir.