

‘Too Much Land?’
Maraekakaho Station, 1877 – 1929.

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

Alan L. Scarfe
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RODERICK MACDONALD

HEAD SHEPHERD AT MARAEKAKAHO STATION

WORKED AT STATION FOR 40 YEARS

CONTENTS

Page i	Title Page
Page ii	Contents
Page iii	Acknowledgements.
Page vi	Site Map.
Page vii	Sub-division Map.
Page viii	Illustrations.
Page x	Imperial / Metric Conversion Table.
Page xi	Translations of Maori Place Names.
Page 1	Introduction.
Page 8	Chapter One ‘Understanding The Landscape’
Page 23	Chapter Two ‘The Maraekakaho Community’
Page 56	Chapter Three ‘Striving For Farming Excellence’
Page 96	Conclusion
Inside Back Cover	Plan of the Maraekakaho Estate, circa 1884. (this plan was produced as clear as possible within the constraints of size reduction.)

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Illustrations

Silverfish loving the cellulose in old photographs have eaten parts of some photographs leaving small white blemishes, however as much care as possible has been taken to present clear photographs without compromising their authenticity so these have not been eliminated from the negatives by computer.

Between Pages

Roderick MacDonald, Head Shepherd.....	i-ii
Sir Donald McLean, drawn by A. Koch, Surveyor	2-3
Reduced plan of Ngatarawa and Washpool Water Races in 1905, copied from C.B. Hoadley & Son, Auctioneers plan of Sale. By kind permission of The Hawke’s Bay Cultural Trust.....	22-23
Sir Douglas McLean & Family.....	28-29
Maraekakaho & Aorangi by Accommodation House.....	28-29
Jack McConochie’s House.....	32-33
Woolshed & Nightstore.....	35-36
1901 Workers.....	35-36
Shepherds, Dogs & Horses.....	35-36
Manager’s House & Office behind Shepherd.....	35-36
Coach Crossing Ngaruroro River.....	35-36
Woolshed area at Maraekakaho from across Ngaruroro River....	38-39
The Valley Cookhouse.....	42- 43
Flax Cutters in the Valley.....	42-43
Stables, Cowshed & Bullhouses in the Valley.....	42-43
The Cowshed.....	42-43
Cowshed Floor.....	42-43
Yearling Clydesdales.....	42-43
Doonside.....	42-43
The Cottage.....	42-43
Jack Neal & Gig.....	47-48
Jack Neal & Landau.....	47-48
Archie McLean & Friends.....	47-48
Green Hill Station.....	47-48
Wedding Guests at Accommodation House.....	52-53
Pre 1891 Blade Shearers & Shed workers.....	52-53
Woolshed Lift Wheel.....	52-53
Ploughmen, Families & Friends in Front of Mobile Homes.....	65-66
Mobile Hut Today.....	65-66

Cutting Hay.....	65-66
Threshing Hay 1927.....	65-66
Chaff Cutting.....	65-66
Maraekakaho Style Gate.....	65-66
Plastered Brick Trough.....	65-66
‘Mills’ Truck & Wool Bales.....	76-77
Loading Grain on Oxen Cart.....	81-82
Cob Stallion ‘Comet’.....	90-91
Roderick MacDonald & His Friends.....	90-91
Sword Dancer & His Faithful Attendant.....	90-91

IMPERIAL / METRIC CONVERSION TABLE.

1 Mile = 1.61 Kilometres 1 Kilometre = 0.621 Miles

1 Foot = 0.305 Metres

6 inches = 150 Millimetres

1 inch = 25.4 Millimetres

Money

Pound £1 = 2 Dollars

Shillings 10/- = 1 Dollar

7/- = 70 cents

Pence 2^d = 2 cents

Weight

Pound 1lb = 0.454 Kilograms

Ounce 1oz = 28 grams

Liquid

5 gallons = 22.730 litres

Area

1 Acre = 0.405 hectare

300 Acres = 121.5 hectares

3500 Acres = 1417.5 hectares

58,093.2 Acres = 23,527.746 hectares

TRANSLATIONS OF MAORI NAMES.

APPARENTLY THERE IS NO TRADITIONAL TRANSLATION FOR THE WORD 'MARA EKAKAHO' OR MANY OTHER LOCAL NAMES. SIMILAR TO ANCIENT NAMES IN MANY COUNTRIES THERE CAN BE MANY DIFFERENT MEANINGS, BUT THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS OR SOMETHING LIKE THEM, ARE ACCEPTED BY SOME OF THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT.

'MARA EKAKAHO', ITS TRUE MEANING MAY BE LOST IN THE MISTS OF TIME, HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO H.W. WILLIAMS DICTIONARY 'MARAE' IS THE VILLAGE COMMON GROUND, 'KAKAHO' IS THE CULM OF THE TOETOE. (Pampas Grass)

'RAUKAWA' A SWEET SCENTED PLANT, *nothopanax edgerleyi*.

'NGATARAWA'.. or 'NGA TA ARAWA', THE RIPPLES OF THE ACQUIFER.

'MANGAROA' LONG STREAM.

'AORANGI' NAME OF A SACRED MAT BELONGING TO AN ANCESTOR

'PARITUA' a version of PARI ATUA, A CLIFF OF THE GOD(S)

'WHAKAPIRAU' MAKE, or CAUSE TO GO ROTTEN.

'AOMARAMA' WORLD OF LIFE AND LIGHT.

'WAIPIROPIRO' BAD or STAGNANT WATER, (the stream ended in a swamp.)

'ONGARU' OF, or, BELONGING TO NGARU, (a person.)

'NGARURORO' THE WAVES or SPLASHING OF THE GRAYLING, a small fresh water fish.

INTRODUCTION

As a builder I built houses and farm buildings at Maraekakaho, on some of the pastoral farms that had been sub-divided out of the once vast Maraekakaho Station. Maraekakaho is a district situated about 20 miles southwest of Napier in Hawke's Bay, it has a landscape of rolling hills pierced and surrounded by fertile flat land. After retiring I did not have the need to visit the area for a few years until my grandson went on a holiday camp at Stoney Creek. I was astounded at the changes in what had been only pastoral country. I was driving across the Maori flatlands of Ngatarawa along the Bridge Pa – Maraekakaho Road that had once been the main highway from Napier towards the south and eventually Wellington. When Douglas McLean owned Maraekakaho Station it farmed land on both sides of this highway.

Changing the landscape were vineyards, olive groves and alpaca farms, along with other land uses. My interest in Maraekakaho initiated with noticing the changing landscape. This had mainly occurred on the flat lands of Ngatarawa and Mangaroa, the country behind was still pastoral though even some of this was yielding to high intensity cropping. The steeper dry pastoral land was changing with lifestyle blocks and small plantations springing up. I was as surprised at the changes as Maori must have been when they saw pastoral farms appearing from the fern and scrub. I wondered whether the extent of the changes would mean the original hard work that the colonists and their families had endured would be remembered. Or would all this disappear like the history of many of the Maori people who had once lived there.

There is a Maori gravesite at Maraekakaho said to be that of someone called Sarah. I wondered who was Sarah. And where was Sarah's lane? Residents knew about them but were not very positive about where they were or why they were called after Sarah? I wondered how long it would be before people also forgot about the McLeans and the station.

I learnt that Sarah was Hera Te Upokoiri a chieftaness who occupied her Pah, Sarah's pah, near the main highway, and rented land to Douglas McLean.¹ The remainder of this thesis is a report on what I have discovered about the station in the period 1877 to 1929. In short this thesis is about some of the people who worked for Maraekakaho Station during the ownership of Douglas McLean, later Sir Douglas McLean, their work on it and the farms sub-divided from it.

It is study of a successful colonial farm. It is not focussed on one particular individual or a small group, it centres on the people, on a particular piece of land in the lifetime of the owner, and even after the land was sold. It is impossible to include all of the individuals and work that was done on the farm in the time frame in a thesis of this length.

Donald McLean, the government land buyer who later became Native Minister, had established Maraekakaho Station in Hawke's Bay in 1857, and his son Douglas McLean inherited the station from him in 1877. Robert Donald Douglas, known as Douglas, was Sir Donald McLean's and his wife Susan's only child. Douglas' mother died shortly after his birth in 1852 and Sir Donald never remarried.

When I first mooted the idea of writing a history of Maraekakaho Station I was reminded of the three existing theses on Sir Donald McLean and his estate. They are R.W.S. Fargher's 'Donald McLean: Chief Land Purchase Agent (1846-1861) & Native Secretary (1856-1861)', Carol Yeo's 'Ideals, Policy & Practice: The New Zealand Protectorate of Aborigines (1840-1846)' and Bruce C. Parr's 'The McLean Estate: a Study of Pastoral Finance and Estate Management in New Zealand, 1853-91'.

The first two of these focussed on Sir Donald McLean, the latter was on the management under him and his son Douglas McLean in the nineteenth century. This thesis is not a history of the McLean family, they are only relevant to this work in conjunction with their work for the farm.

This project is not an attempt to reassess those theses from a different perspective, but to add another dimension to the work that the McLeans and their employees did at Maraekakaho. I was more interested in the people who farmed

¹ Simpson, Miria, (ed), *Nga Taumata, A portrait of Ngati Kahungunu, 1870-1906*, Wellington: Huia Publishers, 2003, p.72, Letter A. Lockie to Douglas McLean, 15 Oct 1897, microfilm 0726-reel 56, folder 1045, Alexander Turnbull Library, & Plan of Maraekakaho Estate, Hawke's Bay, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, (see reduced copy inside back cover of thesis).



SIR DONALD McLEAN

SKETCHED BY A. KOCH
SURVEYOR

the land, the methods they used, the animals they raised and how successful they were. This work will give some idea of these aspects of Maraekakaho Station in the lifetime of Sir Douglas McLean. I recorded 1,180 names of people that I discovered during my research who worked for Douglas at the station, many have been forgotten and except for their occupations I could not find any details about most of them. Naturally there were many more employees whose names were not on the rolls or worked at the station before rolls were instituted.

Ann Macphee and her family the McKinnons arrived at Maraekakaho about 1925, Ann still lives at Maraekakaho and kindly spent time informing me of station matters and any details about those people that she could remember. Any questions that I had forgotten to ask in our first interview she gladly answered subsequently. I was fortunate to be able to interview two elderly women, Eden Robertson nee Macfarlane and Sheila de Gruchy nee McLean, who were able to share their memories about Maraekakaho Station from the start of the twentieth century. Many descendents of the original owners of the sub-divided farms still farm their land successfully and they and descendents of Maraekakaho Station workers allowed me access to family papers and photographs. Oral tape recordings and written interviews left by older family members of the sub-divided farms were invaluable.

An unsigned and undated map of Maraekakaho Estate drawn circa 1884 and measuring 1.2 metres x 1.6 metres was located, forgotten and water stained in a Hawke's Bay Regional Council storeroom, this map delineates the size and boundaries of the station at that time and the range of this thesis. The map showed 58,093.2 acres in approximately 111 paddocks, ranging between 2.2 acres to 3,485 acres, and incorporated a store of other information. This map reduced in size is located inside the back cover of this thesis.

Inter-loaning microfilms of the few Douglas McLean papers from the Turnbull Library were another source of information, microfilming these allowed me to study them in my hometown. These letters were written mainly during the early days of Douglas' ownership when he was absent overseas. Records became sparser when he was in New Zealand and supervising the station personally. Information on the station at that time nearing the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th was taken mainly from reporters' records of the time, primarily in *The Farmer*, *Dominion* newspaper and *New Zealand- Aotearoa*.

Bruce C. Parr's M.A. thesis, 'The McLean Estate' was to prove invaluable for my understanding of Maraekakaho Station, by providing a timeline and background to the people who managed the station. M.D.N. Campbell's M.A. and Ph.D. theses on 'Hawke's Bay Landed Gentry' and 'Hawke's Bay Politics 1890-1914' were also helpful, as was Agnes Jameson's *Old Memories* about early days on one of the sub-divided farms. Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society catalogues besides being a mine of information about the breeds of animals on the station furnished the names of station workers who exhibited at their Shows. With names from the Electoral Rolls all of these sources allowed me to compile a database to refresh people's memories.

I have taken the liberty of calling many of the main participants by their Christian names as an easier way to differentiate them. Many of these people were clansmen but not related, and the use of McLean so often only tends to be confusing at first. Robert Donald Douglas the owner was known by many as R.D.D. and this was suitable for a figurehead. However I have used his more personal name of Douglas because of his friendship to Archie, and because of his being personally involved in the supervision of the station.

Some of the present owners thought that the demise of Maraekakaho Station was due to bad management, would this perception become accepted? I hope this thesis will counteract this perception.

Donald McLean's friends Alexander Alexander the first storekeeper at Napier and Donald Gollan a local settler had chosen the land for him. They chose hilly land, as the frequently flooded swampy land of the Heretaunga plain was not suitable for sheep farming. Maraekakaho Station, as it was to be named later, was an ideal prospect for sheep farming being above the area that flooded. Donald McLean enlarged the station in the years after 1863 from its initial 10,000 acres by acquiring approximately 21,000 acres from George Oliver and Frederick Ormond on his southern boundary, then buying or leasing the Maori flat land of Ngatarawa, Mangaroa and Raukawa from 1871. All of these blocks of land had different groups of Maori owners, five blocks comprising the area called Ngatarawa and each block had to be negotiated separately.²

² See sketch map, & B.C. Parr, *The McLean Estate: A Study of Pastoral Finance and Estate Management in New Zealand, 1853-1891*, MA Thesis in History, Auckland University, 1970, pp.100-104.

The well-watered fern and scrub clad rolling hills and valleys of the area would prove to be easier and cheaper to break into pastureland than bushland, although there was an area of bush on the Whakapirau that would provide the necessary timber for initial needs.³ While the bush-clad districts of Kereru and Raukawa, adjacent to the south and west, would provide for future buildings.

Between 1857 and 1877 the station became renowned because it belonged to Sir Donald. From 1877 until 1929 his son Douglas McLean, became renowned because of the success of his station. Noted for the quality of his animals, his treatment of his employees, and later how by pre-empting the Liberal Party's Land Reform policy being applied to Maraekakaho Station he was able to choose for himself which areas of his land to sell.

Maraekakaho Station became a very successful business under Douglas McLean, but then when at its best it was progressively sub-divided with most of these sub-divided farms being sold to station workers. This thesis explains why and how this occurred.

It does not try to compare in detail the differences between Maraekakaho Station and other Hawke's Bay stations but to concentrate thematically on the station's geography, people and how the estate was farmed.

The first focus is on the land and climate of Maraekakaho and how it influenced farming decisions and contributed to the station's success. It shows how the people of Maraekakaho began to understand the climate and the landscape and use it to their advantage. Then in Chapter two we meet some of the people who lived there and farmed it and how all concerned with the station made it successful, and what changes occurred after sub-division. While Maraekakaho was noted for its Scottishness not all of the workers were Scots, there were many Irish and English. Then why did the station fragment when it was so successful and how did that affect the station people?

The final chapter is about the farm and how they farmed it. What stock they bred and reared and the results of their experimentations and how they coped with conditions they were not familiar with. What farming changes occurred after sub-division on the new farms and the smaller station?

³ McLean Letters and Journals, 31 May 1859, J1 39, p.71, Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust.

By the time Douglas McLean inherited the Station in 1877 his father's original purchase of 10,000 acres had grown to nearly 30,000 acres plus leased land.⁴ Further buying and leasing by Douglas extended this to just over 58,000 acres.⁵ The Station had extended onto the leased Maori flat land of Ngatarawa, Mangaroa and Raukawa in the north and east. Some of this land was purchased after a period of leasing by his father, while other parts of Ngatarawa and Raukawa were still in dispute.⁶

Under the guidance of his father and Tom Condie, Sir Donald McLean's long time manager, the basis for a breeding plan had been put in place, and by the time of Douglas's ownership the station had already gained a reputation for the quality of its stock. Condie was a brilliant stockman and a Tiree man like Sir Donald.

Another Tiree man, Archibald McLean and known as Archie, was Condie's assistant manager since 1868. Archie, unrelated to Douglas, was recommended by Condie to become the new manager on his retirement in 1876.⁷ This managerial continuity, and Douglas' involvement in station affairs during Sir Donald's long illness with rheumatism and dropsy meant that there was a smooth handover of ownership after Sir Donald McLean's death. With the efficient staff and excellent stock Douglas probably felt that it was his responsibility to continue with what station people believed was his father's hopes and expectations for Maraekakaho Station. These were to help his family and gather Scots to work for him. Douglas' uncle Archibald still lived on the station and it was generally understood by workers that no Scot, or a person with Mac in their name, would be refused employment.⁸

Douglas's success was to be based on the land and climate of Maraekakaho Station, and how successfully he and his people coped with its challenges. How these people in an alien environment strove to find new ways to

⁴ McLean Letters and Journals, 11 Jan 1856, J1 40, pp.30-31, Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust, & Parr, p.39.

⁵ Plan of Maraekakaho Estate, Hawke's Bay.

⁶ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 5 Dec 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850, Alexander Turnbull Library.

⁷ McLean Letters and Journals, 27 Mar 1876, Micro-MS- 0032-0799, Alexander Turnbull Library.

⁸ Interviews with Sheila de Gruchy, granddaughter of Donald McLean, 1 Oct 2003, & Ann Macphée, daughter of Donald McKinnon the blacksmith and resident of Maraekakaho for 78 years, 1 Sep 2003.

combine the differing components of pastoral farming life to balance with the natural elements of a district that had never been farmed before. This thesis argues that the station's success should not be measured in the narrow financial meaning but incorporate the social aspect of the people's lives.

Maraekakaho Station was not the only large station in Hawke's Bay that reared Shorthorn cattle and Clydesdale horses, and experimented successfully with breeding sheep more suited to the land and climate of Hawke's Bay, there was a rivalry between these stations that was obvious at the Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Shows. Maraekakaho Station however, won more than its fair share of rewards in these competitions, competing in a wider range of events and for a longer time than any of their competitors.

The station was distinctive in Hawke's Bay because many of its managers and workers came from a little Inner Hebridean island named Tiree. Some of these came because friends and relatives who had immigrated to Maraekakaho Station previously informed them that the station was a good employer. This Scottish west coast island was where Sir Donald was born, and when Douglas sub-divided the station some of these men from Tiree became the new farm owners.⁹

Douglas did not agree with the land limitation ideas of the Liberal Party, but had enough common sense to see that with increasing public pressure on the government in the first decade of the twentieth century closer land development was inevitable.¹⁰ He had great faith in the farming ability of his workers, preferring to give some of them the chance to own their own farms, rather than having the government appropriating his land. He did this in the knowledge that by doing this he and his station were losing their skills, but this way he could choose which land he preferred to retain. Death duties continued the pressure on the sub-dividing of the station, however this fragmentation while causing the demise of a successful business did benefit the new owners, many of whose families continue to farm their land today.

⁹ Older spelling, Tyree.

¹⁰ David Hamer, *The New Zealand Liberals, The years of Power, 1891 – 1912*, Auckland: Auckland University Press, 1988, endnote 191, p.393.

CHAPTER ONE.

UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE.

The natural environment of a district influences the type of farming that may be successfully pursued in that area. We naturally accept the type of farming of the district we live in, however the success of these farms is the result of trial and experimentation over many years. The farmer must work with, and not against the environment, utilising its benefits and preparing for its disadvantages. Minor adjustments can be made to overcome some of these disadvantages but these adjustments need to be well maintained to continue to benefit the farm. This chapter will discuss the environment of Maraekakaho and some of the work that Maraekakaho Station employed in trying to build a successful farm.

The landscape of Maraekakaho Station varied and was roughly divided into three sections, the alluvial flats of the north and east extending south into three valleys. The valley to the west was an unnamed valley containing the Ongaru swamp, the centre valley was simply called the Valley, and Raukawa was the valley to the west. Between the valleys are the low rolling downlands, called spurs by the colonists, which lead up to the small plateau of Whakapirau in the southwest. Whakapirau rises approximately 800 feet above the flats of Ngatarawa to 1,000 feet above sea level, and the base rock of the plateau is limestone. This limestone is very hard near the junctions of Raukawa and Whakapirau Roads and with its very thin topsoil changed the type of farming there compared to the flat lands. The shallower topsoil in this area with an underlying hard pan causes exotic grass to burn off early in the hot summers of Hawke's Bay. The southern area of limestone goes deeper below the surface and becomes softer in texture. The softer limestone erodes more easily making the sides of the valleys in this area noticeably steeper and nearly impossible to cultivate.¹

The northeastern boundary of the station was the Ngaruroro River that with two other rivers, the Tutaekuri and the Tukituki, formed the alluvial flats of the Heretaunga Plain. Maraekakaho Station was at the southwestern end of this

¹ Interview with Ian Macphree, owner of Mason Ridge, 22 Jan 2004.

Plain.² The Ngaruroro has a large catchment area, 700 square miles, with its headwaters in the western Kaweka, Ruahine and Wakarara ranges whose closeness to the coast produced a catchment that has a steep fall.³

The Ruahine ranges lying west of Maraekakaho have an average height of 4500 feet and behind them to the west coast is a wide expanse of bush. These cause an early theft of moisture from the prevailing westerly winds creating a rain shadow effect on the Heretaunga Plain and Maraekakaho. This decreases the amount of rain and causes an accelerated warm dry wind, the Foehn effect.⁴ In the Spring the foehn is particularly troublesome as the warm winds dry any cultivated soil and create dust storms.

Heavy rain occurs occasionally, produced by tropical cyclones from the north. These warm moist winds bring deluges that may last for many days. When this occurs the steep slopes of the ranges shed water quickly leading to the extreme flooding that created the low flat lands. The catchment's size also meant a wide variety of eroded material coming down as sediment.⁵ It is these extremes of weather that have moulded the Heretaunga Plain and its surrounding hills.⁶

A bend in the river when it reached the flat land at Maraekakaho slowed its speed allowing sediment to be deposited. This process was repeated many times. This build up at the Maraekakaho flats created a natural fall of land to the east and north that resulted in floodwater flowing over all of the flat lands of the station. The result is a kaleidoscope of subtle differing alluvium deposits that have been changed and intermingled by wind and floods.⁷

The soils of the Maraekakaho area are volcanic in origin, originating from the volcanoes of the central plateau, including Lake Taupo. The heavier particles of the eruptions were deposited on the eastern ranges by the prevailing westerly winds where they were changed by natural interaction into soil. This soil would in time be washed down into the larger rivers. The smaller particle ash, called

² *Floods in New Zealand 1920-53, with notes on some earlier floods*, Wellington: The Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council, 1957, p.62.

³ Kenneth Cumberland, *Soil Erosion in New Zealand*, Christchurch: Whitcombe and Tombs Limited, 1947, p.46.

⁴ C.S. Thompson, *The Climate and Weather of Hawke's Bay*, Wellington: New Zealand Meteorological Service, 1987, p.27.

⁵ Anon, *Water and Soil: The Ruahine Range*, Wellington: New Zealand Forest Service, 1978, p.31.

⁶ Interview with Elwyn Griffiths, soil consultant, 14 Oct 2003.

⁷ Interview with Elwyn Griffiths, 14 Oct 2003.

loess, being lighter travelled further aerially and fell directly on the flat lands. The combination of loess and volcanic ash was affected by the hot dry summers, producing a pan that is extremely hard and only seen on the east coast of New Zealand.⁸

In the valleys springs emanating from the higher limestone plateau fed streams that created swamps in any bowl shaped pan. The swamps filled with silt from the hills allowing plants unpalatable to animals to grow. To convert this area to pasture meant the draining of the swamp by breaking the pan and allowing the spring water to flow freely through it.

In geological terms these soils are very new, being no older than 700 years. This newness meant the soils were very fertile and completely different to those of Britain, forcing the colonists to learn new methods to farm them efficiently.⁹

While the colonists appreciated the existing fertile land that the river had built up over the years, it was not in their interest to allow it to continue to flood their agricultural paddocks at inconvenient times. Floodwater from the Ngaruroro River backed up at Maraekakaho impeded by the volume of water in the Tutaekuri River downstream, while flood water from both could not escape into the sea because of shingle bars at the river mouths. This attempt to control the rivers, or really partially control, was to continue for the lifetime of Douglas McLean with complete success not being achieved in his lifetime due to the tremendous costs involved and need for co-ordinated district control.¹⁰

Lack of water occurred during the frequent droughts when strong, sometimes violent, foehn winds occurred regularly every Spring in the district. Then a controlled water supply to the loess soils of the flat lands would become a matter of extreme importance.

Hawke's Bay is a region of highly variable and sporadic rainfall and in a farm as large as Maraekakaho Station the rainfall can vary greatly from one region of the farm to another.¹¹ Maraekakaho, where rainfall records were kept from 1894 to 1930, shows a widely fluctuating and variable annual rainfall. The

⁸ Interview with Elwyn Griffiths, 14 Oct 2003.

⁹ Interview with Elwyn Griffiths, 14 Oct 2003.

¹⁰ J.D. Dunlop, *Catchment: A History of the Hawke's Bay Catchment Board and Regional Water Board*, Napier: Hawke's Bay Regional Council, 1992, p.1.

¹¹ Thompson, p.1.

wettest year 1905 totalled 51 inches, being more than double the total of 1914, the driest year. No month received a consistent amount of rainfall year to year. January varied from $\frac{1}{32}$ inch in 1908 to $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches in 1923. Every month of the year, except February, had at sometime earned the title of the wettest month. March and May were normally the wettest months, but any month could be the driest month of the year.¹² Within this unpredictable supply of rain there were seasonal variations that were slightly more reliable, Raukawa getting more rain in the spring than Whakapirau, this was reversed in the autumn.¹³

To ensure a steady reliable water supply complementary sources were needed. It was important for the farm to control the supply of water as much as possible, not only to dry areas but to swamps and areas prone to flooding. This control meant investment in time and money. Storage or supply of water in areas where continuous supply was unavailable would enable the farm to function in times of drought, while swamps dangerous for animals, needed to be drained to allow these to be pastured to grow forage suitable for animals.

It was imperative that Maraekakaho Station was able to harness their water supply to alleviate the sporadic rainfall. Draining the swamps was the first step, besides increasing good land available for grazing it also freed the water for the stock. Draining would take many years to complete and besides the initial cost the drains needed continuing maintenance or the land would revert to swamp. After sub-division races were built on the flat lands of Ngatarawa and Mangaroa to provide drinking water for stock.

During Sir Donald's lifetime his salary and farm profits had been used in buying land and stock, the basic needs of a growing farm. The water available in those years had been sufficient for the station needs at that time. However, in 1877 Maraekakaho Station's need to become more profitable, due to falling wool prices, meant an increase in their sheep numbers.¹⁴ At the start of Douglas' ownership it became necessary to start to invest in ways to manage the available water if more stock was to be carried. More pasture was needed, but it took less investment to increase the usable pastoral acres existing on the station than to

¹² Maraekakaho Station Annual Rainfall Records 1894-1930, National Institute of Water and Atmospherics, Wellington.

¹³ Interview with Ian Macphie, 21 Apr 2004.

¹⁴ Muriel F. Lloyd - Prichard, *An Economic History of New Zealand to 1939*, Auckland: Collins, 1970, wool price Graph between pp.182-3.

buy more land. In 1879 Archie advised Douglas McLean that the ploughable but hilly Raukawa West block would cost about £3 an acre to buy¹⁵ while the estimated cost of draining the flat 600 acres Valley swamp would be between £800 to £900.¹⁶ The actual cost was £808.¹⁷

The northwest boundary of Maraekakaho Station lies along a right-angled curve of the Ngaruroro River. This curve was to be a mixed blessing to Maraekakaho Station. During times of torrential downpours the flooded river would erupt through the gorge at Maraekakaho overflowing through a gap between the hills of Maraekakaho and Roy's Hill.¹⁸ This procedure had built up the fertile Maori flatlands of Ngatarawa, Mangaroa and Raukawa that were so important and desirable to Maraekakaho Station. However by 1877 this land was now cropped with oats and other cereals that were extremely important for the draught and transport animals of the station, and flooding at any time of the year was not desirable. The width of the gap and the effect of creating stop banks, which were to be on Maraekakaho Station land, were to be so contentious that Douglas McLean for the rest of his life spent a lot of time searching for a method of containing the river to the benefit of Maraekakaho Station that did not have disastrous effects downstream.

One of the unforeseen benefits, to Maraekakaho Station, of flooding was to occur 10 years before Douglas McLean inherited the station. In the flood of 1867 the Ngaruroro River changed its bed into that of the Ohiwia Stream downstream from Maraekakaho, causing a drying up of the Heretaunga Plain and allowing the establishment of Hastings.¹⁹ This town being closer to Maraekakaho was in later years to usurp Napier as the main service town for the station and the new farms.

Efforts to contain the Ngaruroro River at Roy's Hill were started in Sir Donald McLean's time, with stop banks being built in 1874, by whom was not

¹⁵ Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 5 Dec 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

¹⁶ Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 2 Dec 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

¹⁷ Telegram Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 4 Aug 1886, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851, Alexander Turnbull Library.

¹⁸ Kay Mooney, *The History of the County of Hawke's Bay*, vol. 2, Napier: Hawke's Bay County Council, 1973-92, p.107.

¹⁹ Mary B. Boyd, *City of the Plains: A History of Hastings*, Wellington: Hastings City Council, 1984, pp.3-4.

stated.²⁰ However, there was apparently still not enough prevention in that area because in 1900 the *Hastings Standard* stated ‘that the Ngaruroro River at Roy’s Hill needs a groyne as it may erode the beach and break through and flood Hastings’.²¹

Problems caused to Maraekakaho Station by flooding were not confined only to station lands. The new railway line to the east, built in 1875 and allowing stock and wool to be moved more easily to Napier and the south, effectively became downstream from Ngatarawa in floods. So important was the need to plug the gap at Roy’s Hill to protect the rail lines and yards that help must have come from the government, as part of the land near Roy’s Hill, became Government Railway Reserve Land and the stopbank was called the Railways Department stopbank.²² River containment was not an easy task, and this was shown later in the 1897 flood when the embankment was broken and Hastings was menaced. The problem affected Douglas and his lower lying eastern neighbours Archie, Thomas Tanner and Hugh Campbell, and they all subscribed privately to its repair.²³ There were four tenders for the repairs ranging from R. McGaffin’s £349 plus £5 for stones to T. Tracy’s £615 plus £7-10-0 for stones, but no mention of who did the job.²⁴

Owners subjected the stopbanks to close inspection when the river was running high to ensure that any defects could be corrected in time. Archie worried about what damage the river could cause downstream as well as to the flat lands of Ngatarawa and Mangaroa. He mentions in a letter to Douglas McLean that the ‘river is not affecting much the banks in the Hill paddock or Roy’s Hill’.²⁵ The Hill paddock would probably refer to the Gordon and Hill land on the downstream side of Roy’s Hill. If that stopbank broke it would affect the main Napier highway between Bridge Pa and Maraekakaho, and if the stockbank held the water by joining the Tutaekuri River would threaten Clive, Taradale, Meeanee and the port of Napier downstream.²⁶ This would at certain times of the

²⁰ Mooney, *The History of the County of Hawke’s Bay*, vol. 4, Napier: Hawke’s Bay County Council, 1973-92, p.63.

²¹ *Hastings Standard*, 6 July 1900, p.4.

²² Petition to the Hawke’s Bay County Council, 13 Nov 1905, p.2, Douglas Twigg files.

²³ Mooney, vol. 4, p.45.

²⁴ Tenders for Repairs, July 1898, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1035, Alexander Turnbull Library.

²⁵ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 2 Sep 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

²⁶ Mooney, vol 4, p.11.

year affect Maraekakaho Station by interfering with the loading of wool, and in later years, meat shipments.

It was not only the Ngaruroro River that affected Maraekakaho Station when violent downpours caused it to run high, its feeder streams were also affected. The floodwater in the Maraekakaho Stream in 1893 washed away the swing bridge connecting the two areas of the main heart of Maraekakaho Station.²⁷ These were Aorangi on the western side of the Maraekakaho Stream where the Accommodation House, the store, the blacksmith forge and some workers' cottages were situated, with the manager's house, offices, dairy, woolshed and other cottages on the eastern side.

Some of the best land in the valleys, and in the larger gullies on the Whakapirau, was contained in swamps making it unavailable for feeding stock for much of the year. Not only did the swamps prevent stock from accessing streams during wet weather but also created bog holes in droughts that were dangerous to stock.²⁸ If drained, by either breaking through the sides or bottom of the pan, the swamps would then provide many acres of potentially valuable land. The largest on the station was the Mangaroa swamp in the Raukawa valley straddling the eastern boundary of Maraekakaho Station. However more important to Maraekakaho Station and Douglas McLean were the swamps in the Valley and in the smaller Ongaru valley. These swamps being smaller would cost less to drain, and their proximity to Maraekakaho would make moving stock from the new paddocks to the woolshed easier.

In a letter to Archie Douglas McLean in 1879 had mentioned increasing the numbers of sheep on the station. Archie's reply explained the need for more pasture, he emphasised that the best land was swampy and needed draining to make it suitable for animals.²⁹ Douglas McLean agreed and gave Archie permission to draw up to £1,000 for this and other purposes. This was to be used at Archie's discretion.³⁰

²⁷ *Daily Telegraph*, 5 Dec 1893.

²⁸ Letters Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 11 Mar 1887, 28 Mar 1887, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

²⁹ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 27 Feb 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

³⁰ Letter Douglas McLean to Archibald McLean, 31 Jan 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 25, Folder 850.

Archie wrote 'I know you want me to confer with Mr. Hart on draining the swamp' mentioning that Robert Hart, Douglas' uncle, was worried about the effects that draining the swamps would have on the weather.³¹ Archie wrote that Hart had advised him to plant trees to attract rain, thus helping to offset any influence that draining the swamps may have on reducing rainfall. Archie must have thought there was some sense in Hart's reasoning, because in the same letter to Douglas he mentions how he had come to an agreement with a Mr. Sturm, a botanist, who would contract to plant trees at 5/- per day. Trees, species not mentioned, to be supplied at the lowest rates ruling. Sturm would find men to plant the trees and Archie was to pay them. Sturm's men would plant about 500 trees a day, with a guarantee that he would replace next year any that failed.³²

Sturm's proposal led to the Paritua Stream drain having three miles of walnut and quince trees, planted alternately on both sides.³³ Archie also wrote 'that Sturm would make bush which would become valuable one day and also draw rain at the same time'.³⁴ These trees along the drain did not become valuable as Archie hoped as they were never pruned, picked or utilised for timber, though they have been vital in keeping the sides of the drain in good condition without root interference to the stream. However Hart's idea influenced Douglas and Archie to plant trees all over the station.

The major task was the draining of the large swamp in the Valley fed by the Paritua Stream, and the Ongaru swamp. The streams feeding both these swamps were spring fed so did not dry out in a drought, thus making the land permanently unavailable for pasture unless drained. Not only would the station benefit by increasing the dry land in the Valleys but the greater flow of water would also help the drier land downstream.

The main drain in the Valley had to be cut down 15 feet to get below the pan to ensure good drainage. Apparently the contractors had mainly Dalmatian

³¹ Robert Hart was a District Judge and the husband of Douglas' Aunt Catherine the younger sister of Sir Donald.

³² This was probably Frederick Sturm who was the first Botanist to arrive in Hawke's Bay, Telephone conversation with Annette Hildesheim, granddaughter of Frederick Sturm, 5 Aug 2004, & Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 27 Feb 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

³³ Interview with Leonora McCormack, wife of Thomas McCormack, Peter Patullo and Jock Crawford, past owners of sub-divided farms, 19 May, 2004.

³⁴ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 27 Feb 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

workers dig the main drain. There were difficulties that the depth had on manual digging. One man of a two-man team digging with a shovel at the bottom, while his mate then hauled it to the top with a rope tied to the shovel.³⁵ This drain and the draining of the Ongaru swamp was completed by 1884, but not before the workers on these swamps encountered unexpected trouble. Archie wrote 'contractors had trouble contending with shafts of timber obstructing them' but went on 'the work has been completed to satisfaction of Mr Bot the supervisor' and later 'Drain working well, flow incredible.' However the cost was higher than expected, the original cost of the drain had increased by £89-16-8 to a total of £946-19-2 because another 70 chain of drain was needed 'to carry water off the plain' into the main drain from a wider area of land than had been anticipated.³⁶

This important task of draining swamps was not taken lightly. Archie said he had the falls ascertained, most probably by an engineer or surveyor, who planned to feed the drain from the Ongaru swamp around the base of the spur dividing the two valleys to connect it with the main drain in the Valley.³⁷ To cut costs the drains where possible utilised and connected the natural streams leading into or out of the swamps. So important were these drains that they are still being utilised today.

The smaller Spurnairn swamp drains further up the Valley were shallower, these were probably the lateral drains that fed into the main drain. Archie had the designer-engineer of these drains C. D. Kennedy of Napier advertise these contracts, who estimated the cost around £275.³⁸ The contract cost for this was £240, however draining the longer thinner Middle Spur swamp would cost another £568.³⁹

³⁵ Telephone interview with Sheila de Gruchy, 15 May 2004, & interview with Leonora McCormack, 20 Apr 2004.

³⁶ Letter Douglas McLean to Archibald McLean, 26 Mar 1880, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850, & plan of Maraekakaho Estate, Hawke's Bay.

³⁷ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 31 Jan 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

³⁸ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 18 June 1886, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

³⁹ Telegram Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean 4 Aug 1886, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

Draining all of the swamps proved to be a long undertaking, draining contracts still being sorted out in 1886.⁴⁰ These apparently did not include the Mangaroa swamp in the Raukawa valley as Archie mentions later that he was having trouble with grasses and ewes in the Mangaroa swamp.⁴¹ When he owned Greenhill Station in 1895 he was still commenting about this swamp, and what he would do 'were I once able to say that my drainage scheme was complete'.⁴² This swamp was still prone to flooding many years later, and in wet weather never really dried out.

The work was not finished with the building of a drain. Constant inspection after floods for stock trampling and tree root intrusion was needed to keep them in good condition. Drainage was a skilled occupation, though physically hard it was not common labouring and John Smith, John Lee and John Harney were three who were employed by the station as drainers at the start of the twentieth century.⁴³ These men were employed for maintenance as the digging of the drains was contracted out. These men did not work only at that one specific trade on the station and were not the only men employed on drains, Herbert Richard Beale in 1897 called himself a ditch digger and painter while Jack McConochie a labourer also worked in the swamps in 1893.⁴⁴

The hills of Whakapirau and Middlespur are limestone based, they fracture in earthquakes and the resulting fissures preclude the building of dams, water soaking away within a few days. However these fissures allow rainwater to fill synclines, natural rock troughs, which overflow as springs ensuring a pure water supply even in droughts.⁴⁵ These springs fed small streams that were extremely valuable to the station, one of these called the Paritua flowed into the Valley allowing the station to locate horse and cattle studs there because of the guaranteed water supply. These studs, and those founded on the sub-divided farms by 1912, were known throughout New Zealand for breeding healthy stock. It was the pure water and the excellent grass it helped produce that was the basis

⁴⁰ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 18 June 1886, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

⁴¹ Letters Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 11 Mar 1887, 28 Mar 1887, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

⁴² Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 16 Apr 1895, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 852.

⁴³ Electoral Rolls, Waipawa District, 1900, 1911, 1914, Hastings District Library.

⁴⁴ See photograph, & Electoral Roll 1897.

⁴⁵ Interview with Ian Macphee, 21 Apr 2004.

for that quality, stock drinking pure stream water in low rainfall areas like Maraekakaho were healthier than stock watering at dams in high rainfall districts.⁴⁶

Raukawa mainly relied on the Waipiro, a small stream fed from a spring on the eastern side of Whakapirau. The stream started at the south end of Raukawa and ran northwards into a swamp east of Greenhill Paddock. It flowed continuously and Archie was able to create a dam at the southern Greenhill Station boundary, when it was built is not known but thought to be in the last decade of the nineteenth century.⁴⁷

No streams emanated from the Spurnairn hills, these being mudstone based. Later to counteract the lack of springs in that area dams were built in the Valley between the eastern lateral spurs of Spurnairn to collect surface run off water.⁴⁸

At Maraekakaho a spring up on the hill supplied water by pipes to the buildings in the area, including those situated across the Maraekakaho Stream. However the springs had one drawback, the supply of water was limited by a natural flow that could not be increased, so at Maraekakaho all buildings had supplementary rainwater tanks.⁴⁹

Two larger streams, the Maraekakaho that started on the Whakapirau plateau, and the Mangaonuku, supplied water to the western side of Maraekakaho Station. This plateau was rift by deep valleys that fed spring and surface water into both streams. The Maraekakaho Stream was probably the most important water source for Maraekakaho Station in its early days. This stream fed north into the Ngaruroro River, bisecting the main station area and providing good clean water, however, due to the buildings being above the stream this could not be piped to the houses. Later the springs on the Maraekakaho hill were piped to all of the buildings in this area.

To the south was the Mangaonuku, this stream on the south-western boundary of Maraekakaho Station flowed south towards Hampden. (now Tikokino) Being a boundary stream, the Mangaonuku while useful was not as

⁴⁶ Interview with William Macfarlane, owner of Waiterenui, 8 May 2004.

⁴⁷ Interview with Hamish Ross, owner of Greenhill, 3 Nov 2004, & Letter William Nelson to Douglas McLean, 14 Oct 1893, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1038.

⁴⁸ Interview with Derek Glazebrook, 28 Oct 2004.

⁴⁹ Telephone conversation with Ann Macphee, 30 July 2004.

important to the station as streams that ran through the station. The internal streams provided water to station paddocks on either bank and could be dammed to form small lakes, while boundary streams could not be dammed without consultation with neighbours. Especially if like the Mangaonuku they also provided water for downstream neighbours.⁵⁰

In the early days of Douglas' ownership a stream was the only water supply in the main pasturing paddocks, this meant the hill paddocks usually had to include part of a valley in them. The need to include access to a stream was a determining factor for the size of each paddock. On, or just after, 1885 the Valley paddocks were able to be made smaller for stud stock when water was gravity fed from the streams to brick troughs sited in the paddocks.⁵¹

Falling wool prices meant the need to increase farm income if improvements were to be done.⁵² The simplest solution was to produce more wool by increasing sheep numbers to fill the large paddocks. However a more lucrative method was to increase the variety of stud flocks, allowing the farm to have a breeding programme that would enable them to produce a more profitable grade of wool, thus ensuring a greater return by meeting market requirements. That meant a need for smaller paddocks, and the provision of water to them.

By 1884 a pump driven by a windmill was installed in the 88 acre paddock near Bridge Pa, however this could only supply that area and Douglas seeking different methods of moving water onto the dry lands contacted William Nelson about his new irrigation pump. Nelson, another landowner and founder of Tomoana Meat Works, must have found the pump successful as he described sizes and costs then offered to order one for Douglas. For just under £500 including cartage a six to twelve inch pump could be bought.⁵³

Many areas of Maraekakaho Station suffered badly in a drought due to the climate and the types of soil. Especially the lighter flat lands of Ngatarawa, Mangaroa and the north and western hill faces that dried out very fast.⁵⁴

However, dry conditions were planned for, as they were normally part of a Maraekakaho summer and autumn. Outstation yards were built at Whakapirau

⁵⁰ Plan of Maraekakaho Estate, Hawke's Bay.

⁵¹ Plan of Maraekakaho Estate, Hawke's Bay.

⁵² Lloyd - Prichard, wool price Graph between pp. 182-3.

⁵³ Letter William Nelson to Douglas McLean, 14 Oct 1893, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1038.

⁵⁴ Interviews with Douglas Twigg, 2 Sep 2003, & Ian Macphee, 21 Apr 2004.

for the wethers, castrated rams, that were usually grazed there. Even in the driest of conditions there was usually some grass available, if the introduced grasses dried out the native *Danthonia* grasses would give the wethers some nourishment. The main problem was maintaining access to water if the streams ran low due to evaporation.

In summer ewes, lambs and rams, more valuable than wethers, were generally kept down in the watered paddocks of the Valley or in other better grassed paddocks.⁵⁵ Good watered paddocks were kept for capital stock. In severe droughts the unvarying flow of the Paritua Stream that watered the Valley and part of Ngatarawa sometimes ran dry at the lower end, due to soakage and evaporation over its length. Before frozen meat exports this problem was overcome by reducing stock numbers by boiling down, providing tallow for candles, because it was not profitable for the station to allow these sheep to continue to eat good grass.⁵⁶ This method was a desperation move to get some return from surplus sheep and gave very little return to the farmer for investing.

When exported frozen meat became profitable the extra income allowed more investment in bringing water to drier paddocks, then only in the severest of droughts did lack of water force the reducing of numbers of sheep by boiling down.⁵⁷

The light sandy land at Ngatarawa and Mangaroa became extremely dry during droughts, and consistent supplies of good water from another source were vital to continue stocking animals. Some of this land at the mouth of the Valley was later sold to Henry and Howard Glazebrook, and the lack of water for stock induced them to build a water race on their property, 'Washpool'. This race was on the south side of the main highway between Napier and Palmerston North, it was fed from the spring in the Ongaru valley and finished at Greenhill.⁵⁸ This water-race was successful but could only deliver enough water for their own needs, the flow did not deliver enough water for the farmers on the other side of the highway.

⁵⁵ Interview with Ian Macphee, 21 Apr 2004.

⁵⁶ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 30 Apr 1887, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

⁵⁷ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 30 Apr 1887, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

⁵⁸ Interview with Douglas Twigg, 2 Sep 2003.

Those farmers decided they would have a race that would be fed by the Ngaruroro River and pass through station land. Their race was constructed prior to 1900, working on dry land horses pulling scoops rather than men on shovels became the main means of removing the soil.⁵⁹ It was to be a communal one and called 'The Ngatarawa Water Race'. This race, due to the amount of water available, was not for irrigating crops but only to provide drinking water for stock.⁶⁰ The race followed the natural fall of the land allowing the water from the Ngaruroro River to flow freely. It had a total length of 20 miles and flowed to terminal ponds that were just west of Bridge Pa, it was to reach as far as Archie's land at Greenhill Station.⁶¹ The Race was to be controlled by the Hawke's Bay County Council.

In November 1905 ten farm owners and Harry Gascoyne, then manager of Maraekakaho Station, wanted the area irrigated to be increased to 7,200 acres. The Council would raise a loan and be repaid by a ratepayer levy.⁶² This area covered the triangle of land between the main Hastings-Maraekakaho road and Ngatarawa Road and from the river to Bridge Pa.

Maintenance was a continuing problem so the committee decided unanimously to ask the Council to hand over control of the water supply to them. Recurring nuisances were the Willow trees with their roots choking the intake and channels.⁶³ Mr G.P. Donnelly, one of the farmers and Council representative, said the Council was quite willing to hand over the control of the water supply to the committee.⁶⁴ Due to evaporation and the low levels of the Ngaruroro River in droughts sufficient supply of water by both races was to be an ongoing problem over the years.

In dry years evaporation meant that the water arriving at the Greenhill end of the Washpool race was very low if not non-existent. A supplementary connection from the Ngatarawa Race had been part of their original plan but this

⁵⁹ Interviews with Douglas Twigg, 2 Sept 2003, & Hugh Greenwood, owner of Paretua a Valley farm sub-divided after 1929, 21 May 2004.

⁶⁰ Interview with Douglas Twigg, 2 Sep 2003.

⁶¹ Letter from Douglas Twigg, 2 Sept 2003, & Petition to the Hawke's Bay County Council, First Schedule, 13 Nov 1905, pp.2-3, Douglas Twigg files.

⁶² Petition to the Hawke's Bay County Council, 13 Nov 1905, Douglas Twigg Files.

⁶³ Petition to the Hawke's Bay County Council, 14 Feb 1914, Douglas Twigg Files.

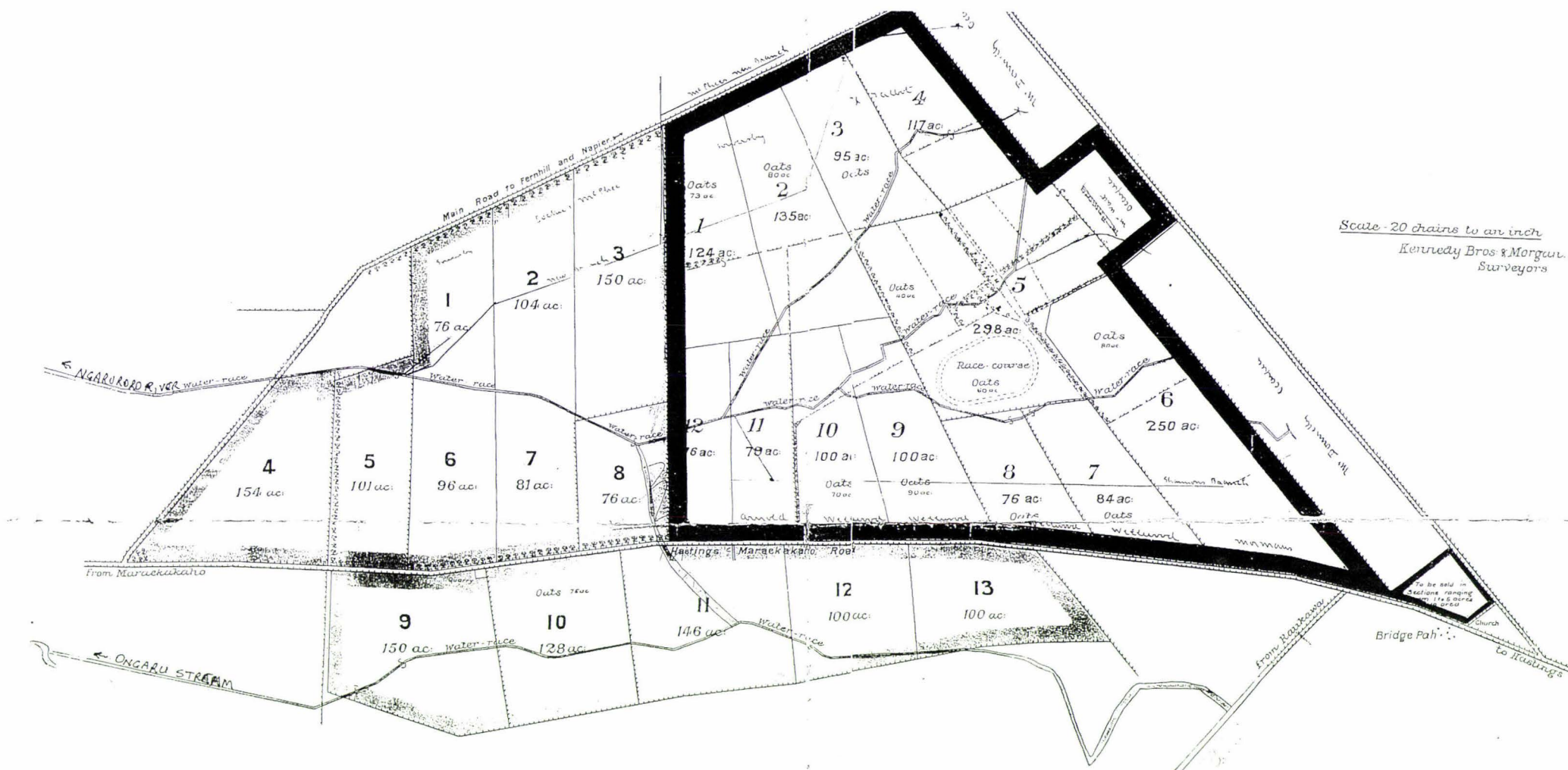
⁶⁴ Minute Book of the Ngatarawa Water-Race committee, 18 Feb 1907, Douglas Twigg Files.

had not been proceeded with.⁶⁵ Then again on the 28th December 1915 it was recommended that a branch be connected with the Greenhill Race to supplement their supply of water and this motion was agreed to three weeks later.⁶⁶


Working with the environment on the station was not the only problem demanding more workers and capital input, with falling wool prices the need arose to build on and extend the existing infrastructure of the station to cope with the increased numbers of stock and workers needed to increase the station's income if it was to remain a successful business.

⁶⁵ C.B. Hoadley & Son, Auctioneer's plan of sale of Ngatarawa Estate, 20 Oct 1905, Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust.

⁶⁶ Minute Book of the Ngatarawa Water-Race committee, 24 Jan 1916, Douglas Twigg Files.



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and the **Whole of Mr. J. L. Donnelly's Ngatarawa Estate** (EDGED RED) 
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CHAPTER TWO

THE MARAEKAKAHO COMMUNITY

Sir Donald McLean had managed to establish Maraekakaho Station by utilising his knowledge, contacts and reputation as the government land buyer to his advantage. He used these advantages to obtain loans to supplement his government salary, however not being from a wealthy family the need to buy and pay for his land himself meant his means of investment in stock and buildings was limited. So Douglas McLean at the time of his father's death did not inherit a farm that was fully developed. For Douglas, who was not trained as a farmer but raised to belong to the colonial gentry, his father's death was premature.¹ Douglas wanted to finish his law degree in England so relied on Archie to guide him on the practical matters and run the station under his supervision. Douglas' time in Britain was to prove to be of great benefit to the station's future business, it allowed him to make the personal contacts and gain important market knowledge vital to any business' success.

The woolshed area at Maraekakaho the main centre of the station where the staff and workers lived was partially developed, but there were many problems still to be overcome on other parts of the farm. Making these improvements was to prove expensive, drainage, the lack of fences and fern regrowth were among many issues that needed to be considered.² A farm the size of Maraekakaho could not be managed or run efficiently from one place, considering the modes of communication and transport of that time, so outlying stations would also be needed. These were to be established at Whakapirau and the Valley.

Sir Donald's frequent absences on Government business had meant that he had relied on trustworthy employees, who were able to work as directed without constant supervision. Douglas was able to benefit from this arrangement, and to trust these people who would help him develop the station as a more successful business. He was just 25 years old when his father died and the experienced staff available allowed him to go back to England to finish his law

¹ Parr, pp.149-53.

² Letters Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 1 Feb 1878, 31 Jan 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

degree.³ That Douglas was still a student and open to learning was important to his future relations with the people who had supervised and managed the station. Archie, whom Douglas had known since early childhood was trusted and respected by him and his father. Early in 1879 when he was in Britain Douglas showed this trust when he replied to a letter from Archie mentioning urgent work that needed attention. Douglas wrote when he approved expenditure for £1,000 that he 'expects him to spend it wisely'.⁴

Douglas' time in England was to prove to the station's advantage. He was able to inform Archie of wool sale prices and the preference of the wool buyers there in regard to the type of wool and size of bales they preferred.⁵ Douglas was able to travel and ascertain market requirements, observe and understand problems that arose outside the farm gate while being advised about station needs by Archie and his other trusted friend and employee, W. Kentish McLean.

W. Kentish McLean the accountant, no relation to Douglas, was the vital third person needed to ensure that Maraekakaho Station was managed successfully. The station was the largest of his clients. Sir Donald had employed Kentish for many years, and his expertise in financial matters had contributed much to the early success of the Station. Douglas' contact with Kentish and other business people during the illness of his father had given him a good grounding in this important part of administration.⁶ Unfortunately Kentish had financial and family problems that affected his health. Archie knowing the value of Kentish's expertise in money matters helped him, not least because he would rather be out with the stock than sitting with a stack of accounts.⁷ To Kentish Archie's bachelorhood seemed to be a fortunate position, as family concerns were continually causing him trouble in preparing the station financial audit for 'My Lord'.⁸ This delay caused some irritation to Douglas, as like all good businessmen he wanted to keep a close eye on immediate as well as long-term

³ Parr, p.152.

⁴ Letter Douglas McLean to Archibald McLean, n.d., 31 Jan 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

⁵ Letter Douglas McLean to Archibald McLean, 18 July 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850, & Parr, p.156.

⁶ Parr, p.151, Letter W.K. McLean to Douglas McLean, 27 Dec 1876, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850, & Telegram Douglas McLean to Hesketh and Richmond, 1 Jan 1876, Sir Douglas McLean Papers, Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust.

⁷ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 8 Jul 1881, Letter W.K. McLean to Douglas McLean, 17 Aug 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

⁸ Letter W.K. McLean to Douglas McLean, 18 Feb 1880, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

financial matters.⁹ By 1881 most of Kentish's problems had disappeared when he gave up his private practice and worked full time for the station.

Douglas' full name was Robert Donald Douglas and to many people he was known as R.D.D., though to the majority of his employees and their families he was the Laird. Douglas revelled in his Scots heritage and had great pride in his position as head of 'a bonny band o' Scots'.¹⁰ He liked his men's respect, even encouraged it, as they said it with affection knowing Douglas had treated them well. Tom McCormack, who the same as his father before him worked in the Valley, said many of Douglas' men appreciated his treatment of them and thought of him as a god.¹¹ Douglas lived luxuriously compared to his workers, yet they expected it. They admired him and his father for building a Scottish community that softened the homesickness they had first felt when coming to Maraekakaho. This inherent Scottishness of Maraekakaho was something that gave the Scots of Maraekakaho great pride in the station, even for those who arrived near the end of Douglas' ownership. They immediately felt part of the station by meeting old friends and passing on the latest news from Tīree or the mainland of Scotland.¹² Clannishness is strong, and probably necessary for Scots, the establishment of strong Highland and Caledonian Societies and the continuance of Highland Games, piping and dancing in the colony is testimony to this.

When in New Zealand Douglas involved himself with many aspects of local government, serving for many years on organisations that would in some way affect and help the station. The Hawke's Bay County Council, Agricultural and Pastoral Society and the Rabbit Board plus many others.¹³ Then in 1896 after much urging from local businessmen and the National Association, an organisation hoping to form a strong opposition to the Liberal Government, he became the member of the House of Representatives for Napier hoping to forestall the Liberal Party's plans for land reform.¹⁴ A man who believed in the necessity of large estates for the benefit of New Zealand farming he believed that

⁹ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 8 Jul 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

¹⁰ M.D.N. Campbell, *The Evolution of Hawke's Bay Landed Society*, vol. 1, PhD Thesis in History, Victoria University of Wellington, 1973, p.262.

¹¹ Interview with Leonora McCormack, 20 Apr 2004.

¹² Interview with Ann Macphee, 1 Sep 2003.

¹³ *The Cyclopaedia of New Zealand*, vol. 6, Christchurch: The Cyclopaedia Company, 1908, p.320.

¹⁴ Parr, p.199.

landless people needed land, but not his while Crown land was still available.¹⁵ He was a reluctant politician, and when he must have realised that the ideas of the Liberal Party would probably be carried out he never campaigned hard to retain his parliamentary seat.¹⁶

Judicious employment of experts in all phases of farming at Maraekakaho Station, many from Scotland and the isle of Tiree, created a manorial hierarchy who had respect for each other and a clannish pride in their accomplishments.¹⁷ The respect that the station was accorded in articles around the turn of the century was not solely because of its economic success, it was the way the workers were housed and treated. One of the reasons for their respect for Douglas and management staff according to a *New Zealand Farmer* reporter was 'They were treated like men.' Douglas considered time for family life, religion, sport and other pursuits important towards having a contented workforce and contributing to the success of the station.¹⁸

Not all of the workers were Scots. Irish, English and New Zealanders were also employed.¹⁹ While Maori were employed their names did not show up in the wages estimate of 1888 or in the Electoral Rolls as station workers.²⁰ This is probably due to their preference for working with their families on contract work. However old photos show a few Maori who were on the permanent staff.²¹ The contract and temporary workers were a very important part of the station's workforce, in 1894 while there were 60 to 70 men employed permanently this doubled at shearing time.²² Sixteen years later the same number of permanent workers were employed, twenty of them being married men, counting their families 144 people in total lived on the station.²³

How the men worked was very important to Archie, he preferred inexperienced or local shepherds who would fit into the station's methods as he

¹⁵ *ibid.* p.176.

¹⁶ *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 15 Nov 1899, p.3.

¹⁷ Telephone conversation with Sheila de Gruchy, 8 Jun 2004.

¹⁸ *The New Zealand Farmer, Bee and Poultry Journal*, May 1894, p.171-3, Life on a Model Station, *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16, & F. Holderness Gale, (ed.) *New Zealand (Ao-Tea-Roa) Its History, Commerce, and Industrial Resources*, London: The Foreign and Colonial Compiling and Publishing Co., 1912-13, pp.179-80, 191-2, 207-12.

¹⁹ Interview with Ann Macphee, 1 Sep 2003.

²⁰ Maraekakaho Estimate of Wages, 30 June 1888, microfilm 0726-reel 25, Folder 852, Alexander Turnbull Library.

²¹ See photographs of the Valley cookhouse and the mobile homes.

²² *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894, p.173.

²³ *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16.

wrote 'as a rule shepherds from the old country have a great deal to unlearn before they are much value in the line out here.'²⁴ When Douglas' cousin Johnny McLean was to come to Maraekakaho Archie thought it would be better for him to work on another station. This was not because Johnny would use his relationship with Douglas to his own advantage but because 'he was a peculiar sort of farming man.' Archie did not write how Johnny was peculiar but mentioned he would reserve any further comment until he had seen Johnny work.²⁵

Archie knew that settled men, himself included, were contented and worked better and at the end of his letters he sometimes asks Douglas if he has found a lady yet and hopefully another for him, a Scotch one for preference.²⁶ Archie did not want to remain an old bachelor.²⁷ Seeing he was unable to leave Maraekakaho Station for socialising Archie asked Douglas to find a lady for him as well. 'I am waiting anxiously for a photo of the lady you are choosing for me, if I approve of your choice.'²⁸ When Douglas was in England in 1878 Archie was sure Douglas would find a wife, so he apparently bet a gold watch on Douglas' good chance of achieving this status, but was sorry to learn that he did not win the watch.²⁹ These reminders were to continue for another couple of years, however with no luck for Archie who was to marry much later.

Douglas with more spare time and the money to travel had better luck. He married an Anglo Irish lady, Florence Kate Butler-Stoney in Tipperary in 1882. They were later to have three children, Beatrice, Louise Constance and Algernon. Living in Napier and educated in England they did not become involved in the station affairs.

Douglas had always treated Archie well and in 1882 he promised Archie a raise from his yearly wage of £250, and in case Douglas forgot Archie

²⁴ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 22 Apr 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

²⁵ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 23 Apr 1880, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

²⁶ Letters Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 13 Sep 1878, 14 Aug 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850, 22 Apr 1881, 2 Dec 1881, 20 Apr 1882, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

²⁷ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 13 Sep 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

²⁸ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 14 Aug 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

²⁹ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 13 Sep 1878, Maraekakaho Estimate of Wages, 30 June 1888, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 852.

reminded him of this before he was leaving on a trip to Ireland.³⁰ The rise was granted, as by 1888 he was receiving £350. Compare this with an expert ploughman, Sween Macphee receiving £46 and the new bookkeeper Allan Lockie £75. Lockie had replaced the retired Kentish McLean. Ordinary ploughmen and shepherds received £35.³¹ Archie was well rewarded for his services, his salary was higher than the £150-£300 average for managers of that time.³² The other incomes were not ungenerous even for Hawke's Bay, considering its higher wage rates offered compared to most of the other provinces. This was probably due to the lack of skilled labour in the province, as wages were higher for skilled trades.³³

The station wages estimate for 1888 was £2455 and Douglas' own drawings of £2,013 were only slightly less than this.³⁴ This was not because the wages of station employees were low, but because Douglas enjoyed his wealth and dispersed some of it to worthy causes. The workers were at the same rate or slightly higher than the majority of other Hawke's Bay workers, allowing for board.³⁵ Wages had remained remarkably static in New Zealand for a couple of decades, due to the long depression from 1879 to the mid 1890's that affected farm incomes.³⁶ If Douglas' workers did not have very much spare money it did not stop them answering a Hawke's Bay wide collection for the Enright family, a widow and three children of a man who died of consumption. Though the worker was not of Maraekakaho their fund was the first received.³⁷ However station wages for ordinary workers were never excessive, Ann Macphee remembers the years just before Douglas died and times were good, even then though the workers wages were sufficient it left them with little extra money.³⁸

Such a large farm needed specialist workers as well as general farmhands, some gaining skills enabling them to increase their worth to the

³⁰ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 24 Feb 1882, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

³¹ Maraekakaho Estimate of Wages, 30 June 1888, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 852.

³² John E. Martin, *The Forgotten Worker*, Allen and Unwin, 1990, p.99, & Statistics of the Colony of New Zealand, Wages and Prices, 1888, Wellington: Government Printer, 1889, p.226.

³³ M.N. Arnold, *Wage Rates, 1873 to 1911*, Wellington: Department of Economics, Victoria University of Wellington, 1982, pp.3,13,19.

³⁴ Maraekakaho Wages Estimates, 30 Jun 1888, microfilm 0726-reel 25, Folder 852.

³⁵ Arnold, pp.3,13,19, & Mount Herbert Station Diaries, Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust.

³⁶ Arnold, p.24.

³⁷ *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 22 Sep 1884.

³⁸ Interview with Ann Macphee, 1 Sep 2003.



SIR R.D. DOUGLAS McLEAN & FAMILY

BEATRICE & SIR DOUGLAS
CONSTANCE & LADY FLORENCE
ALGERNON



MARAEKAKAHO & MARAEKAKAHO STREAM FROM ACROSS THE NGARURORO RIVER
TWO STORIED ACCOMMODATION HOUSE IN CENTRE BY STREAM

owner. One of these was Sween Macphee of Tiree who arrived at Maraekakaho in 1884 and worked mainly as a contract fencer. Only two years later he bought six teams of horses and contracted to the station.³⁹ This work would have been mainly ploughing as he gave his occupation as ploughman.⁴⁰ He contracted for nearly 50 years when he became agricultural manager and overseer of fencing and draining for Maraekakaho Station. He was then in charge of 16 four-horse teams to prepare 600 acres for grain and 800 acres for the Rape and Turnips grown each year.⁴¹

While the workers had their special tasks they all helped out doing general work when called upon, Sween Macphee when Agriculture Manager and years later the blacksmith, Donald McKinnon, both helped press wool when needed.⁴²

By 1894 Maraekakaho was a picturesque village. The houses, farm buildings and yards were sited in groves of trees of different species, mainly pines, with low hills behind them providing shelter from the south and the Ngaruroro River providing scenic views to the north. Poplar and willow trees had been planted by the station along the near bank of the river to guard against erosion near the station's main working area.⁴³

There was not much standing native bush on the station, the largest being Whakapirau Bush, though the trees there were not numerous enough to provide timber for all the station's building needs. While another smaller bush at Pukati was only used as a place for pleasant rides.⁴⁴

The buildings were planned and built well, with many of them still being used. The thought and hard work that had gone into siting station buildings and trees under Sir Donald McLean and Thomas Condie was to continue during Douglas' ownership.

The year that Archie was manager for Sir Donald McLean, 1876, gave him experience on supervising building of a house and the necessity of being

³⁹ Mason Ridge, in G. A. Tait, (ed), *Farms and Stations of New Zealand*, vol. 1, Auckland: Cranwell Publishing Co. Ltd., 1957, p.114.

⁴⁰ Electoral Roll, 1893.

⁴¹ Tait, p.114.

⁴² Interview with Ann Macphee, 27 Oct 2004.

⁴³ Interview with Sheila de Gruchy, 1 Oct 2003.

⁴⁴ Interview with Anne Anderson, granddaughter of James Macfarlane, 15 Jun 2004.

flexible as to its plan.⁴⁵ That year also showed him how buildings and their ancillary works had to be proceeded with, without interfering with farm duties.⁴⁶

Archie amongst his other duties had ideas about the buildings that were needed, he thought about the house sites and their surroundings and how to make them pleasant places to live in. He loved trees, whether for fruit, shelter or beautification.⁴⁷ The family homes for workers were made private by planting of trees, and each was provided with land for gardens and animals.⁴⁸

Buildings, trees and their seeds were the content of many of the letters between Archie, Douglas and Alexander Campbell the Cottage gardener, some were sourced locally though Douglas bought various exotic seeds when he was in England from 1877 to 1880. Douglas had a vision 'we shall have a forest one day at Maraekakaho' and he bought different species in an endeavour to find trees suitable for the district.⁴⁹ Campbell told Douglas that he had planted Ironbark gums and many Pines and requested forestry books of trees introduced from Nepal and California.⁵⁰ In 1878 he wrote that he had planted Oaks at the Cottage from seeds that Mr Kinross a Raukawa neighbour had provided, unfortunately some growing Oaks must have caught fire but were resprouting well. He maintained that the mania for clearing everything off the ground was not good for the animals as cattle needed shelter and sheep needed shade, besides this, trees would stop the district getting colder every year.⁵¹ He refers to clearing all the scrub and fern off the land when preparing it for ploughing and grass sowing. Willows were sought for riverbank protection, these were plentiful in the district and Archie asked Noa Huke a Maori chief who lived at Willow Pa near Hastings for some trees.⁵² Douglas evidently wanted a wide variety of species, he sent

⁴⁵ Letters Archibald McLean to Sir Donald McLean, 27 Mar 1876, 2 Apr 1876, Micro-MS-0032-0799.

⁴⁶ Letter Archibald McLean to Sir Donald McLean, 22 May 1876, Micro-MS-0032-0799.

⁴⁷ Interview with Sheila de Gruchy, 1 Oct 2003.

⁴⁸ Interview with Ann Macphee, 1 Sept 2003.

⁴⁹ Letter Douglas McLean to Archibald McLean, n.d., microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

⁵⁰ Letter Alexander Campbell to Douglas McLean, 16 Feb 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1036.

⁵¹ Letter Alexander Campbell to Douglas McLean, 8 Oct 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1036.

⁵² Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 5 Jul 1886, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

Scotch Fir seeds from the Highlands probably for sentimental reasons, and wrote he had asked Scottish agents to find suitable Californian variety seed for him.⁵³

New buildings were a continuous need with Archie in 1878 asking Douglas for permission to erect a shed in the stud sheep paddock, giving convincing reasons for its erection. There was a need to take more care and attention of the stud sheep if they wanted to breed better animals, the sheep could lie in the shed rather than in the woolshed where they could interfere with work. Part of the shed could be used as quarters for the Maori contract shearers at shearing time and the remainder could be used as a wagon shed.⁵⁴

The need for draining swamps and more stock in the early 1880's was draining station finances, and Archie warned Douglas that before he incurred further expenses he should know that the woolshed was fast decaying, and would need to be replaced before 1882, the next shearing season. This was such a major outlay that he thought that it would be better for Douglas to see the extent of the problem himself. He wrote 'rain showers were wetting the men on one side of the shed and they had to move' to the other side, reducing the numbers of sheep shorn or crutched per day. The ground plates were giving way and would cost a good lot of money to fix up.⁵⁵ The 'ground plates' he mentioned must have been the sleepers and floor joists and laid straight on the ground or on very low piles.

Then the newly married waggoner Ned Rune asked for a house that Archie could not provide, but Archie had an idea to overcome this. Providing enough houses for married staff was worrying him at a time when the station needed family men because they were generally more settled and reliable workers. Though it was much easier to build quarters for single men because of the lower cost per worker. He wrote to Douglas 'there are several of the station hands [who] want to enter into matrimony if they could only be sure of securing a house. If you would approve of providing such the best plan would be to build a few and charge a certain rental to cover outlay on same'.⁵⁶

⁵³ Letter Douglas McLean to Archibald McLean, 4 Nov 1880, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851, & Letter Douglas McLean to Archibald McLean, n.d., microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

⁵⁴ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 17 Aug 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

⁵⁵ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 30 Dec 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

⁵⁶ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 19 Aug 1884, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

Douglas must have agreed to this idea as this is the procedure that the station seemed to have followed. Ann McKinnon arrived at Maraekakaho Station in 1925 with her family and her blacksmith father Donald McKinnon. She recalls when the houses of that time were first built they were rented out for 10/- a week to the first tenants, then when the totalled rent had covered the building cost, usually after eight to ten years, they were let rent free. They were very simple four roomed houses with no plumbing, open fires and wood stoves with lighting provided by lanterns and candles. The toilets and laundry were outside.⁵⁷

Up to the time of sub-division station tradesmen were kept busy with a constant building of new houses, additions, alterations and repairs similar to any other village. In the 1920's there was a little mobility of employees between station houses, Donald McKinnon a blacksmith-farrier moved to a house nearer the smithy when the longer serving blacksmith William McKeown Caskey left the station. Occasionally houses when not needed in a specific area were relocated to new sites, using traction engines.⁵⁸

Knowing he could trust Archie not to waste money Douglas gave him the authority in 1882 to build a new woolshed. Despite this Archie was still hesitant about going ahead without Douglas visiting and inspecting the old woolshed personally. He wrote 'but the paddock I had intended to use for it and yards I was obliged to lay down in grass and am afraid to spoil it as it has taken thorough root, and it is my desire that you should be here to consult with'.⁵⁹

Archie was worried about going ahead alone with the new woolshed, he did not mention whether this was because of the cost of such a large building or that he preferred Douglas to ratify the design before it was started. So worried was he that he decided to patch the old shed roof with the galvanised iron bought for the new shed. He did not think it would 'in the least way be damaged'.⁶⁰ This iron was heavier than the standard iron used for a house, and too heavy to nail through.⁶¹ He would also 'patch up the inside by supporting blocks that will do

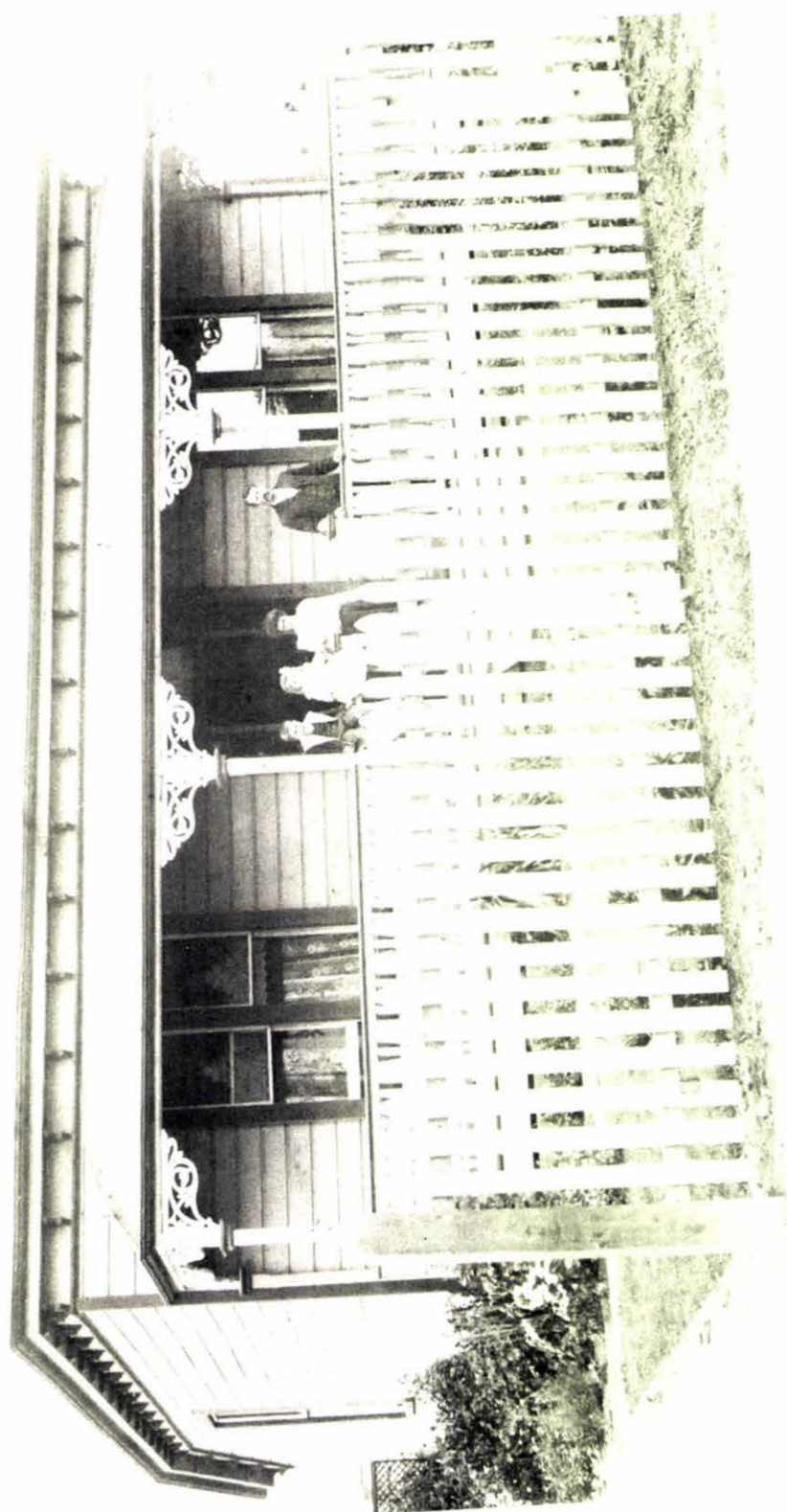
⁵⁷ Interview with Ann Macphee, 1 Sep 2003.

⁵⁸ Interview with Ann Macphee, 27 Oct 2004.

⁵⁹ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 20 Apr 1882, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

⁶⁰ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 20 Apr 1882, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

⁶¹ Interview with John Wenley, owner of Rocksyde a farm sub-divided after 1929 that included the Maraekakaho Station woolshed, 18 Nov 2003.



JACK McCONOCHIE'S HOUSE

us this season I hope'. The design of the new shed not being decided on Archie was not able to give an estimate of its cost.⁶²

The new woolshed was built for the 1884 shearing season along with some of the 'rental' houses for the married men. Archie was to prove a hard bargainer over the timber for the new buildings. He wrote to the Waipukurau supplier,

I hope you can fulfil at reasonable rates, I can get the same price in Napier delivered to Hastings, with the size of the order I think you can reduce price by sixpence all round in your quotations. If you agree to this you can commence forwarding the dwelling houses at once.⁶³

He knew the species of timber he required specifying White Pine, 4,000 feet of 6x1 and 1,000 feet of 6x1 in respective orders to be delivered at once.⁶⁴ This order was for the houses.

Douglas certainly did not skimp on the new woolshed, the building was T shaped with the top of the tee being longer than the stem. It had 28 shearing stands with 14 shearers in each arm. The woolshed was built of the best materials available, using Totara probably from Kereru. It was erected at Maraekakaho on a different site to their existing one. Archie picked a good site on slightly sloping land, ensuring the sub-structure would be relatively dry. It was close to the main highway so there was no need for the horses to pull the heavy bales far to get to it. It was more efficient in those days to have the sheep carry the wool on their backs closer to the road. The woolshed stands today and is still used with only slight alterations to the original plan. The usual design of woolsheds is an oblong shape with the woolclassing area at one end of the shearing board. The T design was in effect two sheds joined with the woolclassing area between the two shearing boards, so women gathering the shorn fleece only walked past 14 shearers, not the full 28.

⁶² Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 20 Apr 1882, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

⁶³ Letter Archibald McLean to Wilding and Bull, 18 Jan 1883, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

⁶⁴ Letter Archibald McLean to Wilding and Bull, 18 Jan 1883, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

There is no mention of an architect, so station staff probably designed it.⁶⁵ This seems logical, as a person or people who knew sheep intimately conceived the whole design. The sheep left the holding yards and rounding a curve to the entrance of the shed meant they could not see the shed opening until the last minute, at that point they would be able to see the open fields through the open doors at the other end of the building, this would draw them into the shed without any balking. The counting-out pens were located in the angles created on each side of the protruding wool classing area. (see plan)

A tower at the front of the woolshed contained a rope wound drum that was connected to a large wheel. Horses pulling ropes wound around the wheel lifted up the bales of wool, a few years later the lifting was done by a traction engine that was housed between the woolshed and the night pen.⁶⁶

The wall between the catching pens and the shearing board was close boarded to avoid frightening the sheep too soon, but the boards to the walls between the races and the catching pens were wide spaced and this allowed them to see other animals and made them easy to move. The gates in the races and catching pens were vertical lift with counterweights to allow free movement. Only the gates of the drafting race and between some of the catching pens were hinged allowing the workers to swing the gates behind the sheep and crowd them into the pens. This allowed the shearers to catch them more easily. A grating floor was laid to the races and catching pens, a new innovation, this allowed sheep faeces and urine to fall through the gaps to the ground under the woolshed. Only the shearing board, wool classing area and loft were solid floored.

The races, pens and shearing board were in the top of the tee, while the woolclassing area and bins were in the stem. It was originally built for blade shearing, seven years later it was adapted for machine shearing without lessening the number of shearers. Mr Taylor the installation company expert installed the equipment, and then trained the shearers to sharpen the combs and cutters in a small machine shed added at one end of the shearing board. Power was provided by an eight horsepower Hornsby portable engine.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ D.N. Fenwick, *Measured Drawing*, Auckland: Auckland University, 1972.

⁶⁶ Interview with John Wenley, 18 Nov 2003.

⁶⁷ *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 3 Nov 1891.

The machines cut four ounces more wool off each of the 54,000 sheep on the station, with hopes of this rising to six or even seven ounces when the shearers were more proficient. This increase and the fact that the sheep were not cut or knocked about as much meant the machine would soon pay for itself.⁶⁸

A *Hawke's Bay Herald* reporter attests to the very physical work that was still done in the woolshed 'An enormous flywheel drove a band for the woolpress,' and 'worked by four to five stalwart fellows, who though taking it by spell and spell about, pour with perspiration, their muscles standing out like cords.' The station hoped they might improve on this by the using spring-supplied water to drive a hydraulic press.⁶⁹ This was done later as Harry Gascoyne the manager from 1916 to 1930 verified. The hydraulic press had a very long handle with waterproof washers at vulnerable points. He remembered this well because one of these had ruptured giving him a shower bath.⁷⁰

A night pen built near the woolshed also had a grated floor, it was situated over a large hollow to allow for easy cleaning. Combined with the woolshed cover 3,400 sheep were dry housed overnight.⁷¹ The night pen must have been extended as the total sheep held overnight in both buildings later increased to about 5,000.⁷² This was necessary to have dry sheep ready for the shearers. Further alterations at the other end of the woolshed allowed the sheep to access a 60 feet long concrete dip built outside, in which 5,000 to 6,000 sheep could be dipped each day.⁷³ Eight shearing stands were removed to allow a portion of the shed to be used in conjunction with the new dip. To cope with the large mobs needed to keep the 28 shearers busy the main stockyards were built nearby, across the road.⁷⁴

Travellers and visitors were also important to the station, and in 1877 Archie agreed with Robert Walker that the station owned Accommodation House needed a kitchen at a cost of £60. 'In my idea the building is most necessary to provide for the comforts of travellers'.⁷⁵ Walker was the postmaster, and with his

⁶⁸ *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 3 Nov 1891.

⁶⁹ *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 3 Nov 1891.

⁷⁰ Interview with John Wenley, 18 Nov 2003.

⁷¹ *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894, p.172.

⁷² *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16.

⁷³ *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894, p.172, & Gale, p.212.

⁷⁴ *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16.

⁷⁵ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 21 Apr 1877, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.



WOOLSHED & NIGHTSTORE AT REAR
HELD 5,000 SHEEP OVERNIGHT
TO PROVIDE DRY SHEEP FOR SHEARERS



STATION HANDS 1901
THOMAS McCORMACK ON LEFT, MICK DONOVAN VALLEY STUDMASTER 3RD LEFT IN BACK ROW



MORNING INSTRUCTIONS ON THE DAY'S WORK



MANAGER'S HOUSE & OFFICE IN BACKGROUND



COACH CROSSING THE NGARURORO RIVER

wife Annie ran the Accommodation House and the station store that was sited alongside.⁷⁶ This supplied station families with bulk grocery supplies like flour that was supplied in 70 lb bags, the groceries were priced at market rates.⁷⁷

The Accommodation House was a double storied establishment situated on the western side of the Maraekakaho Stream near the main north-south highway. It had four double bedrooms and 11 single ones with private, public and nursery sitting rooms. There was also the good stabling that was necessary for those times.⁷⁸ There was a full-length balustraded verandah to the front. It was a dry House not an inn, with this liquor ban extending to the station as well. This station rule was not always strictly kept, in some houses a whisky bottle was kept for special occasions, like Hogmanay. Drinking among workers on the station was never a problem.⁷⁹

The House provided for farmers from Kereru and Mangatahi, districts nearer the Ruahines, as well as those from Matapiro who had to ford the river. Highway travellers and visitors to the station for events like weddings also used the House.

The Accommodation House was also useful for staff when they were sick. In 1881 Kentish McLean had become ill because of living in a draughty house, and he only recovered after shifting to the Accommodation House. Draughts were common in houses of that era, with Archie suffering from these in his own house. His solution was 'arranging to add two more rooms in front to counteract the draft'.⁸⁰

The store was nearly to be the end of the Accommodation House. In 1897 the store was completely burnt down, and only a windless night and willing workers using water from the Maraekakaho stream flowing nearby saved the Accommodation House. The then postmaster Francis Nugent 'had no idea of how the fire started as all lights were extinguished at 8-30 p.m. the night before.' However some sensible precautions had been taken, the store was insured by the

⁷⁶ Interview with Marion Miller, daughter of William Graham, 26 Mar 2004, & Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 18 Feb 1897, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 852.

⁷⁷ Interview with Ann Macphee, 1 Sep 2003.

⁷⁸ *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894, p.173.

⁷⁹ Interview with Ann Macphee, 1 Sep 2003.

⁸⁰ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 14 Aug 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

station for £950 and Nugent had insured the stock for £750 because of the ever-present risk of fire in country districts.⁸¹

Near the woolshed was the double storied manager's house alongside the fireproof stone office. The latter was built of cut limestone and had a vaulted ceiling. The cottage of Allen Lockie the secretary was further along on a ridge, as was the Manse and the dwelling of A. McLean the overseer.⁸² This was Alex McLean the Agricultural Manager who had arrived in 1893.⁸³ Below the Manse by the road was the cottage of Archibald Donald McLean, brother to Alex the overseer. He was called Donald the carpenter to stop any confusion with other Archibald McLeans and his job was to oversee repairs and build future station buildings.⁸⁴

Shearing and harvesting time required more temporary staff so their quarters and the single men's quarters were sited together for convenience near the woolshed and stables.⁸⁵ This was to be the working centre of the station. By 1910 the main layout of this area was established. The large single men's quarters had varnished matched lining for easy cleaning, and was surrounded by a verandah catering for the 24 occupant's leisure time. It had a large reading room with books, light novels and magazines that provided entertainment and education. With such a large workforce cleanliness was vital and everything was kept as clean as a new pin.⁸⁶ There were also about 20 married couples and their families, their houses being far enough away to allow for some privacy.⁸⁷ A European shearers' whare that was nearby was only used during shearing and crutching time. Station sanitation rules were placed on a wall in all dwellings.⁸⁸

Between these dwellings and the woolshed were two buildings for the Maori shearers and their families.⁸⁹ The commonly accepted reason by station workers for separate quarters was that the Maori contractors preferred to live apart from Europeans, probably because they liked to keep an eye on their

⁸¹ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 18 Feb 1897, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 852.

⁸² *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894, p.173.

⁸³ Telephone conversation with Ann Macphee, 27 Oct 2004, & Electoral Roll, 1893.

⁸⁴ Telephone conversation with Ann Macphee, 27 Oct 2004.

⁸⁵ *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16.

⁸⁶ *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 3 Nov 1891.

⁸⁷ *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16.

⁸⁸ *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894, p.173.

⁸⁹ *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16.

families, especially the younger women who worked alongside the men.⁹⁰ These women were excellent woolclassers, sorters and fleece pickers.⁹¹ Maori families preferred to travel with their men, cooking their traditional food and allowing the older children to go to the local school. Separate quarters also allowed the elderly to look after the infant children away from the busy station workers, giving the young mothers freedom to work without worry while earning extra money.⁹² On Aomarama, a sub-divided farm on the south side of Glencoe, the owner's wife Agnes Jameson found their Maori shearers were a very quiet peaceful folk, and it was a comfort for her that Maori cooked for themselves as the Europeans mostly drink. This was written around 1916 and the old Maraekakaho Station rules on liquor apparently did not continue onto the new sub-divided farms.⁹³

Nearby was the swaggers hut accommodating ten men, with an average of six staying a night, but at times up to 14 to 15 men called in to the station.⁹⁴ These men had to apply to the office where they received a ticket entitling them to two meals and a bunk, one swagger called Sweetpea kept turning up for 20 years.⁹⁵ Not all farms were so charitable, not because of lack of kindness but of necessity. After sub-division some of the smaller farms did not have the amount of work like wood chopping for all of the swaggers to earn a meal, that is if the swagger was inclined to earn his keep. Nor could the small farms afford to provide unearned meals. Some farms that were one day's walk from Maraekakaho Station on the main swaggers' route had to turn many of them away, hoping that the swaggers in retaliation did not take revenge.⁹⁶ Others like Glen Aros on less travelled roads allowed swaggers to do small jobs and nothing was ever stolen.⁹⁷

There was a large implement shed to house the numerous reapers, binders, threshing machines and other assorted implements when not in use. With the plumbers' workshop, men's bathroom, the coach-houses and stables in

⁹⁰ Interview with Ann Macphee, 1 Sep 2003.

⁹¹ Gale, p.212.

⁹² Telephone conversation with Hana Cotter, woolclasser on Glencoe and Maraekakaho Station, 23 Nov 2004.

⁹³ Jameson, p.15.

⁹⁴ Gale, p.212. & *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16.

⁹⁵ Gale, p.212. & interview with John Wenley, 18 Nov 2003.

⁹⁶ Interview with Robin Bell, past owner of Glenorchy a farm sub-divided off Ben Lomond, 5 Sep 2003.

⁹⁷ Mary White, manuscript memories, circa 1990-2000, Anne Anderson Files.



WOOLSHED AND BUILDINGS AT MARAEKAKAHO FROM ACROSS THE NGARURORO RIVER

the same area. There had been at least three plumbers at the station, Roland Thompson had been employed at the station before 1884, and both John Strachan from 1902 and Thomas Kiddle from 1928 were there when Douglas McLean died.⁹⁸ The large and airy single men's dining room, bakehouse and kitchen were in one building, the bakehouse turning out 120 four pound loaves each week.⁹⁹ Over the years there at least five bakers employed William Keith being there in 1896 and Sydney Sangster in 1925.¹⁰⁰ These bakers were all men as were the 27 cooks who worked on the station. Women did not work at these jobs on the station during Douglas's lifetime, either doing domestic duties for owners' families or their own families.¹⁰¹ When motor coaches became regular bread was sourced from Hastings and the bakery closed down.¹⁰² There was a concrete dairy that kept the dairy produce cool and fresh. Excess summer butter was stored in a Hastings cold store for the winter when the cows dried off.¹⁰³ Dairy produce like the produce from the garden and bakery was usually not available to families. This rule was broken when Mrs John Neal the wife of Douglas's coachman had triplets, three daughters. The family were provided with free dairy produce for as long as they stayed at Maraekakaho Station.¹⁰⁴

To describe the killing house built about 1901 will emphasise the thoughtful planning of station buildings. It had a small holding pen with a slatted floor, it had a cooling room with louvred windows, a killing room and another room for spreading the skins, as well as a loading-out platform at the front.¹⁰⁵ In 1925 meat was supplied to the workers at 2^d a lb., while smaller sub-divided farms were able to buy meat when required.¹⁰⁶

By 1910 a powerhouse was built near the dairy that 'supplied power for working the wood saws, shearing machines, the wool-presses and the horse clipping machinery'. All of the buildings and the hall were lit by electricity. A 44 horsepower gas engine powered a 15-kilowatt dynamo, with a 20 horsepower

⁹⁸ Electoral Rolls, 1902,1928, *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 22 Sep 1884.

⁹⁹ *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16.

¹⁰⁰ Electoral Rolls, 1896, 1925.

¹⁰¹ Electoral Rolls, 1893,1928.

¹⁰² Interview with Ann Macphee, 1 Sep 2003.

¹⁰³ *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16.

¹⁰⁴ Interview with Ann Macphee, 1 Sep 2003.

¹⁰⁵ Geoffrey Thornton, *New Zealand Heritage of Farm Buildings*, Auckland: Reed Methuen Publishers Limited, 1986, p.225.

¹⁰⁶ Interview with Ann Macphee, 1 Sep 2003, Glenelg Account book, Expenditure for 1919, 3 Feb 1919, p.96, part of Glenelg was originally part of Ben Lomond, Flora Ross papers.

petrol engine for standby. A storage battery of 130 cells was in an adjoining room.¹⁰⁷ The electricity did not extend to the family houses these were still using lanterns and candles in 1925.¹⁰⁸ Robert Houston was the Electrical Engineer who looked after the supply, aided by Thomas Dawson who in 1893 was an engine driver, then he also became an electrician.¹⁰⁹

Across the road and the Maraekakaho stream near the Accommodation house and store was the blacksmith's smithy, which also did farrier work for small adjacent farms as well as the station.¹¹⁰ Nearby were the schoolhouse, some houses, the public hall which doubled for a church and a library 'containing 3000 volumes a good portion of which are up to date.'¹¹¹ Novels were also popular among Maraekakaho people.¹¹² Douglas had bought many books in Britain for the library, a task he continued when he arrived back in Hawke's Bay but he never mentioned their subjects.¹¹³

The country house of the owner was apart from the hub of the station, it was a couple of miles further to the west. This house was originally built for George Oliver and was called Doonside. When Sir Donald McLean bought Oliver's land in 1857 he used the house when he was at Maraekakaho.¹¹⁴ Later Sir Donald built a residence in Napier that he, and later Douglas, normally used when in Hawke's Bay. The closer town of Hastings had only been established four years before Sir Donald McLean's death. Residing mainly in Napier Douglas would have been in contact with people of affluence and influence through his clubs and meetings and would have been more satisfactory socially for his wife and family. Douglas had Robert Armour design a new cottage at Maraekakaho, sited in front of the old one. Armour, a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects, a Fellow of the Society of Arts and other institutions had arrived in Napier in 1879.¹¹⁵ This house was called The Cottage, it was based on Scottish architecture single storied with a double gabled steep

¹⁰⁷ *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16.

¹⁰⁸ Interview with Ann Macphee, 1 Sep 2003.

¹⁰⁹ Electoral Rolls, 1893, 1905, & interview Ann Macphee 1 Sep 2003.

¹¹⁰ Agnes Jameson, *Old Memories*, Christchurch: Smith and Anthony, 1916, p.28.

¹¹¹ *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16.

¹¹² M.D.N. Campbell, *The Evolution of Hawke's Bay Landed Society*, vol 2, PhD Thesis in History, Victoria University of Wellington, 1973, p.259.

¹¹³ Letters Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 26 May 1881, 2 Oct 1882, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

¹¹⁴ Parr, p.59.

¹¹⁵ Campbell, vol 1, p.226.

roof and bay windows. Stables were built at the same time. Douglas subsequently extended the house to its present size, probably after his children were born. Both of these buildings were built of Kauri from Northland and Totara from Kereru.¹¹⁶ Douglas' visits to the Cottage were irregular and during his frequent absences the cottage was looked after by a housekeeper, Mrs Patrick Muir wife of the rabbitier was one of these.¹¹⁷

Fire destroying valuable property was an ever-present anxiety especially in rural areas. In 1886 Robert Lamb a Napier architect designed a concrete cellarage for the Cottage, and Worth's lowest tender of £57-18-0 was probably accepted as Lamb considered him a reputable tradesman.¹¹⁸ Books and Highland regalia, as well as the wine, were some of the items stored there later.¹¹⁹ Other work was also undertaken with a concrete safe to be built at the Cottage, and a 20'x10' concrete store at the station.¹²⁰

A large five-acre station garden sited behind the woolshed supplied the staff and the cookhouse with vegetables and fruit, married workers having their own gardens.¹²¹ However, new families to the station were allowed free vegetables until their gardens were productive.¹²² The station garden kept three or four gardeners busily employed with vegetables and the many fruit trees that included a row of orange and lemon trees.¹²³ In a flight of fancy Agnes Jameson called Mr Sterne a gardener 'a stern dragon' guarding the golden apples of the 'Garden of Hesperides'.¹²⁴ Donald Macphee, called Dan, was one of the last of the many station gardeners, 34 station workers giving this as their occupation in the Electoral rolls between 1897 and 1929.¹²⁵

There were station gardeners who looked after The Cottage garden. One of these devoted his time to growing roses, box hedges and climbers along the river from the house to the Bridge paddock, it was called John's walk. This

¹¹⁶ Interview with Timothy and Petra Logan, owners of The Cottage, 10 Mar 2004.

¹¹⁷ Telephone conversation with Ann Macphee, 9 Feb 2005, & Agricultural and Pastoral Society record of exhibitors, 1920, Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Archives, Hastings.

¹¹⁸ Letter Robert Lamb to Douglas McLean, 14 Jun 1886, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1039.

¹¹⁹ Interview with Timothy and Petra Logan, 10 Mar 2004.

¹²⁰ Letter Allen Lockie to Douglas McLean, 12 Jun 1886, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1043.

¹²¹ *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16, & *Changing Times*, Maraekakaho file 2, M/2001/29/48, Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust.

¹²² Interview with Ann Macphee, 27 Oct 2004.

¹²³ *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894, p.172.

¹²⁴ Jameson, p.28.

¹²⁵ Interview with Ann Macphee, 27 Oct 2004.

would have been John Cameron who had written to Douglas in 1891 requesting a job as a gardener.¹²⁶

There was a large orchard with pears and apples that were stored in the apple house, while Oak and gum trees had been planted about the 1860's or 70's. Later Lombardy Poplars and Lawsoniana Firs were added with Pines, Macrocarpas and many others. Alex Campbell, a station worker with some arboreal knowledge, became the Cottage gardener and planted some of these as well as grapevines around 1878. Probably for wine as Douglas built a cellar eight years later at the cottage. Douglas also sent flower seeds to Campbell, who replied that he had better see the Kinross' gardener, a neighbour, about these as he did not understand flowers. However he asked for seeds of quicker growing trees like the Catalpa.¹²⁷

The Valley cookhouse had its own garden for the workers employed there, and later so did the subdivided farms. They continued on this tradition of having their own gardeners, because of the need to be self sufficient in vegetables due to the cost and irregularity of town supplies.

The extremely valuable out-station in the Valley where the stud animals were kept was not forgotten while building proceeded at Maraekakaho. When the large L shaped cow shed was built in the valley was built is not clear, there is a date of 1876 on a door, however the shed is not shown on the detailed 1884 map of the estate that shows the woolshed on it. This building was mainly for the Shorthorns, the heavy draught animal on the station. It would seem that the cowshed was built around the same time as the woolshed, about 1884, as both had the same construction and were built of Totara. The shorter leg of the L had storage rooms for hay and hard feed while the longer leg was mainly open sided, containing stalls for the stud cows and milking bails. The floor was a combination of bricks and river stones that would not wear with the sharp edges of the cloven hoofs. They were laid in a pattern ensuring that the stones were placed in areas of most use. The stones, brought by bullock dray from the Ngaruroro River, and bricks were laid on edge on a bed of limestone quarried

¹²⁶ Letter John Cameron to Douglas McLean, 3 Dec 1891, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1043.

¹²⁷ Letter Alex Campbell to Douglas McLean, 8 Oct 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1036.



VALLEY COOKHOUSE,
NOTE ROASTING SPIT IN RIGHT FOREGROUND
JACK McCONOCHIE WITH WHITE SHIRT KNEELING BEHIND THREE MEN ON RIGHT



FLAX CUTTERS IN THE VALLEY



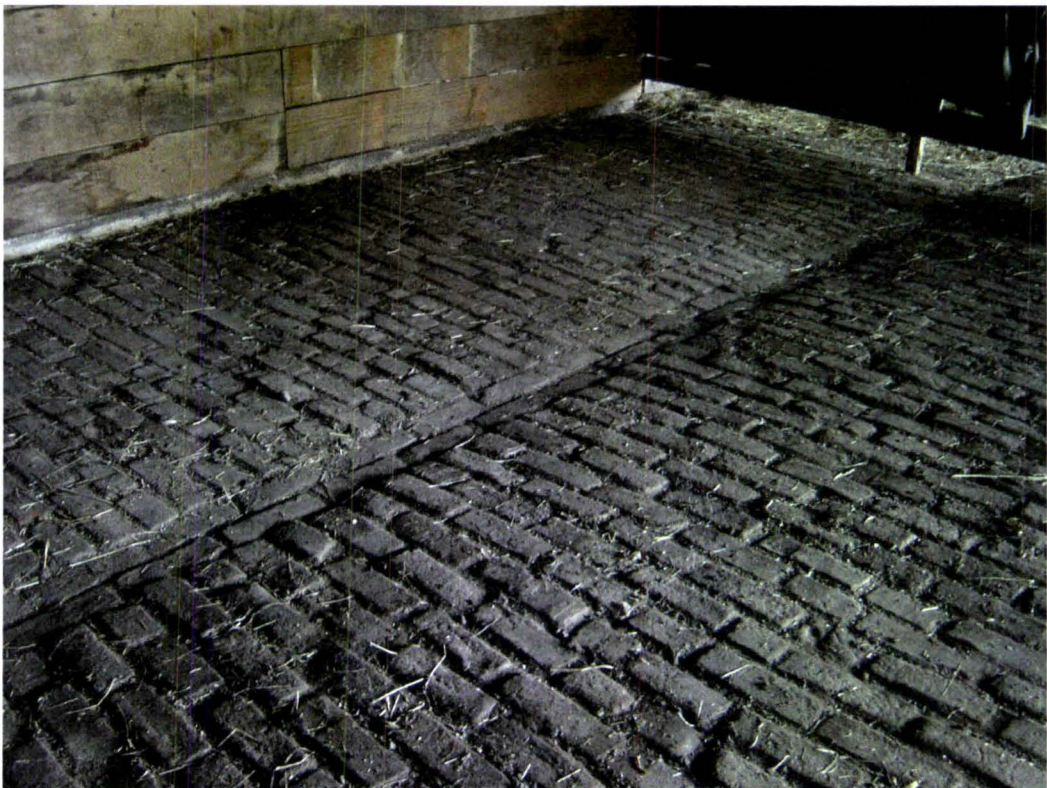
VALLEY BULLSHEDS, COWSHEDS AND STABLES



THE VALLEY COWSHED TODAY – 121 YEARS OLD



COWSHED FLOOR IN RACES & STALLS - RIVERSTONES & BRICKS



MAIN COWSHED FLOOR & DRAIN



YEARLING CLYDESDALES AT MARAEKAKAHO STATION



DOONSIDE



THE COTTAGE

from 'The Pit' on a nearby hill.¹²⁸ The main bullhouses for about a score of bulls as well as some smaller bullhouses were spread a short distance away.¹²⁹

Besides the workers in the cattle and horse studs in the Valley there were shepherds, ploughmen, fencers, general hands, swamp workers and drainers stationed there, as well as the cooks.¹³⁰ Their cookhouse and quarters were situated near the cowshed.¹³¹ These quarters were the best appointed that Alex Whyte, the studmaster after Hugh Macdonald, had ever seen.¹³² They had weatherboard exterior cladding and corrugated iron roofs, plain by today's standards but very comfortable for the workers. Both McDonald in 1878 and Whyte by 1919 had been employed by Douglas in Scotland to travel with horses to New Zealand and take over the position as studmaster to the Clydesdales.¹³³

In the early days of Douglas' ownership of Maraekakaho Station the Clydesdale horses were only stabled at Maraekakaho. These horses were the light motive power for the station. They were used to pull wagons and agricultural machinery like ploughs. This attitude of Douglas striving for the best Clydesdale horses was reflected in his provision of stables for the stud horses and houses for the grooms. As the stud increased in numbers the Clydesdales were shifted to the Valley and a new house built for the groom Hugh McDonald, and new larger stud stables than those at Maraekakaho were built near the Shorthorn cattle shed and cookhouse with the horseboxes facing inwards to a courtyard.¹³⁴ This yard was paved with irregular cobbles of Australian Karri hardwood, while long hinged shutters on the rear wall provided ventilation. The building contained harness rooms, fodder bins and a hayloft. This building was built in 1888-9 and a coach house was added a year later.¹³⁵ In 1910 new quarters close to the stables were built for the then studmaster Mr Harkness and his assistants.¹³⁶

Partial fragmentation of the estate of owned and leased land started in 1885. Disputed land totalling about 1,500 acres at Ngatarawa next to Bridge Pa,

¹²⁸ Interview with Leonora McCormack, 20 Apr 2004.

¹²⁹ *Dominion*, 24 Sept 1910, p.16.

¹³⁰ Interview with Leonora McCormack, 20 Apr 2004.

¹³¹ Interview with Leonora McCormack, 20 Apr 2004.

¹³² *Hawke's Bay Herald Tribune*, cutting, n.d., Peter Patullo files.

¹³³ *Hawke's Bay Herald Tribune*, cutting, n.d., Electoral Roll, 1919, & Letter Hugh McDonald to Douglas McLean, 25 Apr 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 850.

¹³⁴ Interview with Sheila de Gruchy, 1 Oct 2003, & photograph.

¹³⁵ Thornton, p.69.

¹³⁶ *Dominion*, 24 Sept 1910, p.16.

was divested from Maraekakaho Station after a legal battle in 1885. This land was now the property of Airini Donnelly, nee Karauria, and her husband Irishman George Prior Donnelly.¹³⁷ These flat lands were not part of Sir Donald McLean's original purchase but were purchased or leased later, and not all the leases had been converted to station ownership when Douglas McLean inherited the station.¹³⁸ Airini Donnelly was one of the heirs to Karauria, a Maori chief and previous part owner who had not agreed to sell his share and Douglas had never secured it. When Douglas lent money on the security of Karauria's share to George Donnelly he thought he would gain ownership of the land. However after the land was brought under the Land Transfer Act the loan was unexpectedly repaid.¹³⁹

Donnelly only farmed part of this land, Donnelly had a great interest in racehorses and he had a racecourse built there for training his horses, employing a permanent horse trainer, jockeys and stable assistants who lived on the farm.¹⁴⁰ He cropped the rest of the land with oats for his horses.¹⁴¹ Donnelly was to lose the cropping land, which was to suffer from the same fate that affected Maraekakaho Station later, being sub-divided and sold in 1905 in advance of the Liberal Government's land settlement policy.¹⁴²

About this same time Douglas allowed Archie to lease over 500 station acres at Raukawa, 395 acres of it was cropped with wheat, barley and oats.¹⁴³ He must have always fancied that area for a farm as the paddock of that area was called Greenhill the same name as his family's farm on Tiree.¹⁴⁴ A few years later Archie could not believe his good fortune when in 1890 Douglas' deep regard for him was expressed in a manner he had not anticipated.¹⁴⁵ Douglas allowed him to buy about 3,500 acres of station land for himself. Archie was

¹³⁷ Simpson, p.167.

¹³⁸ *ibid.*, pp.161-62.

¹³⁹ Parr, pp.162, 167.

¹⁴⁰ Electoral Rolls, 1905, 11, 19, 25, 28.

¹⁴¹ C.B. Hoadley & Son, Auctioneer's plan of sale of Ngatarawa Estate.

¹⁴² Matthew Wright, *Town and Country: The History of Hastings and District*, Hastings: Hastings District Council, 2001, p.269.

¹⁴³ Letters Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 9 Apr 1891, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 852, 30 Jul 1886, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851, & Sales Account, 22 Mar 1887, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 851.

¹⁴⁴ Plan of Maraekakaho Estate, Hawke's Bay, & Electronic mail from Arthur Stewart, Hampshire, England, 12 Feb 2005.

¹⁴⁵ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 6 Nov 1890, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 852.

given the choice of land to buy, so he chose his Raukawa farm because it was an area he had always liked, partly because it was away from the main station.¹⁴⁶ He called his new property Greenhill Station.

Douglas was to sell more land but in different circumstances to Archie. Greenhill was the action of a grateful employer to a friend and respected employee, the other sales were as a result of the Liberal government's Land Settlement policies. Douglas' three years as a national politician had made him realise that if he did not sell voluntarily he would have it forced on him. So around 1908 he sold land to many of his workers, many of these originally from Tiree. Despite the need to sell Douglas did not sell to every worker or former employee who asked for land, even if they had proved they were capable farmers like James Reid, a former manager of his father's Akitio Station.¹⁴⁷

He sold land to Archie's brother Donald McLean, who besides being acting manager when Archie was away became the permanent manager after Archie bought Greenhill Station. Donald's farm was at Glencoe paddock and was called Glencoe.¹⁴⁸

To John A. Macfarlane, a Tiree man who managed the station from 1903 to 1908, he sold part of Ben Lomond paddock. Ben Lomond included Glenorchy the property of the late Captain Archibald McLean. John Macfarlane's daughter Eden told her many times that Douglas gave first refusal to all of the Tiree men.¹⁴⁹ The younger Macfarlane brothers, James and William, bought Mount Lookout nearer Raukawa. They farmed this together for a few years then divided it amicably into Glen Aros, named after a McLean of Duart castle, and Waiterenui. Waiterenui, meaning much fast water, was named after William dreamed of the resting place of the body of a Maori lost in a flood.¹⁵⁰

Sween Macphee and Allan Lockie of Edinburgh, who were in partnership bought and farmed Mason Ridge, named after the Mason Paddock on

¹⁴⁶ Interview with Sheila de Gruchy, 1 Oct 2003.

¹⁴⁷ Letters J. McKenzie to Douglas McLean, 22 Apr 1891, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1038, & James S. Reid to Douglas McLean, 14 Mar 1894, microfilm 0726-reel 56, folder 1044, Alexander Turnbull Library.

¹⁴⁸ Interview with Richard Timmer, past manager of Glencoe, 13 Nov 2004.

¹⁴⁹ Interview with Eden Robertson, daughter of John Macfarlane of Ben Lomond, 20 Feb 2002.

¹⁵⁰ Interviews with Ann Anderson, 15 Jun 2004, & William Macfarlane, 8 May 2004.

Whakapirau. This farm also included the western part of Pukati. This partnership already farmed an earlier purchase at Roy's Hill next to the Ngaruroro River.¹⁵¹

Archie also sold some of his land in 1907, a total of 1,700 acres for £27,000. The Lyons brothers, John, James and Edmund, who worked at Greenhill Station and became Archie's stepsons when he married their mother, bought 280 acres of this land from Archie at £29 per acre.¹⁵²

Not all of the properties went to Maraekakaho workers, about 1912 Douglas sold land by auction. Henry Glazebrook and his son Howard bought land at the mouth of the Valley, this included the old sheep washpool that became the name of their property. This land had been offered to William and James Macfarlane previously, but feeling that they had enough land already they declined Douglas' offer.¹⁵³ Howard farmed the Washpool while Henry Glazebrook a cartage contractor continued to live at Clive Grange.¹⁵⁴

Middle Spur land was also sold to T.W. Wilson of Wairoa who bought at auction the head of the Valley and named it Big Spur. This property was later acquired by William Richmond and called Torran. This name originated after his father's farm in Scotland, using the father's initial from Thomas and the middle name Orr then ending with 'an' to make it sound Scottish.¹⁵⁵

Land abutting Glencoe on the south was sold to George Jameson and named Aomarama, later changed to The Jameson Estate.¹⁵⁶ About 4,000 acres on the other side of the Hampden road was sold to E.C. Clarkson who called his farm Glenlyon named after the original paddock.¹⁵⁷ Not only did Douglas sell the land but he also assisted some of the buyers of the new farms with mortgages on their land.¹⁵⁸ John Macfarlane said that Douglas gave him very reasonable rates on his mortgage.¹⁵⁹ Douglas had sold land around the heart of his property which was the Valley, Maraekakaho and an area around the Cottage

¹⁵¹ Tait, vol.1, p.114.

¹⁵² *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 25 Nov 1907, & Archibald McLean family photograph.

¹⁵³ Interview with William Macfarlane, 8 May 2004.

¹⁵⁴ Interview with Derek Glazebrook, son of Howard Glazebrook of Washpool, 28 Oct 2004, & Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society records, 1915–1918, Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Archives.

¹⁵⁵ Interview with William and Rita Richmond, son and daughter-in-law of William Richmond of Torran, 17 Jun 2004.

¹⁵⁶ Jameson, Title Page, & interview with Ian Macphee, 21 Apr 2004.

¹⁵⁷ Interview with Amanda Clarkson, wife of Neil a grandson of E.C. Clarkson, 9 Sep 2003.

¹⁵⁸ Parr, pp.231, 233-4.

¹⁵⁹ Interview with Eden Robertson, 20 Feb 2002.

Douglas' attitude of selling land to his workers was well known, by the time of his death in 1929 workers understood that when he died that they had first claim on any more land sold.¹⁶⁰ However severe death duties forced his family to auction the land, but five workers managed to buy small farms in the Valley. They were Mick Donovan the studmaster, Thomas McCormack his assistant, James Hewettson a groom, Alex Campbell a station hand and W.A Macfarlane of Waiterenui.¹⁶¹

Others families, like the Simmons, who had worked on Maraekakaho for generations went on to own their own farms in other districts. In 1893 James Simmons was a station hand and William his elder brother was a shepherd, who doubled up as a shearer when needed, while Phoebe a sister worked at the Cottage for Douglas McLean. Walter Simmons a younger brother recorded his job as a bullock driver in 1902, and brother Frederick Augustus Simmons went on and worked on Glenlyon, a sub-divided farm in 1905 as a Carrier. His son Freddy Simmons was a shepherd on Ben Lomond in 1928 and later owned a farm near Dannevirke. William's son Henry who also worked at the station went on to manage a saw-mill at Poporangi before owning a farm at Mangatahi near Maraekakaho.¹⁶² While some employees benefitted by being able to purchase a farm many lost their jobs. Donald McKinnon the blacksmith who had arrived at Maraekakaho Station in 1925, found it necessary to take a roadman's job with the Hawke's Bay County Council if he wanted to stay at Maraekakaho.¹⁶³ Many men and women were content to work for Douglas without aspiring to own a farm, either because they could not afford it, did not want the worry or it was not their ambition. Many of these will only be remembered by their descendents or by those still living. But they were vital components in the station's success. One of these was Douglas' coachman William John Neal. John Neal was well known by the people of the Napier and Hastings as well as the station by his skill with the horses, his impeccably turned out brougham, buggies and not least the horses. Originally a labourer his skill with horses had earned him a better job.¹⁶⁴ Other

¹⁶⁰ Telephone conversation with Leonora McCormack, 9 Feb 2005.

¹⁶¹ C.B. Hoadley & Son, Auctioneer's plan of sale of Ngatarawa Estate.

¹⁶² Interview with Wallace Simmons, grandson of Frederick Augustus Simmons, 10 Dec 2004.

¹⁶³ Telephone conversation with Ann Macphee, 25 Nov 2004.

¹⁶⁴ Electoral Roll, 1893.



JACK NEAL & GIG



JACK NEAL & LANDAU WITH COLLAPSIBLE HOOD FOR PASSENGERS
YOUNG CLYDESDALE MARES 'RUBY' & 'DIAMOND'



NAMES ON NEXT PAGE

MEN – BACK ROW - LEFT TO RIGHT

EDMUND LYONS, DAL McGAVIN, JOHN LYONS, JAMES S. MACFARLANE

CATHERINE BRODIE, META McLEAN,

GEORGIE BRODIE

ELSIE MACLEAN, JAMES LYONS

CATRINA McLEAN

SEATED SIDE OF STEPS

LACHLAN McLEAN

CATHERINE McLEAN

(KITTY)

MARGARET McLEAN

ARCHIBALD (ARCHIE) McLEAN

ELIZABETH JANE McLEAN

SEATED ON STEPS

(CATRINA'S PARENTS) > ELIZABETH McLEAN

> D.A. McLEAN

MRS. MARION BRODIE

(SISTER OF ARCHIE)

SEATED ON LAWN –GRACE MADELINE LYONS – (INFANT ON STEPS IS) GLADYS ELIZABETH JANE LYONS
(MOTHER OF G.E.J. LYONS)



GREENHILL STATION
NOTE LOOKOUT TOWER TO WATCH FOR VISITORS

workers were like Peter Carswell, he liked the district and went and worked on the new farms.¹⁶⁵

Selling land to his managerial staff left Douglas no choice but to hire outside people as managers. Around 1894 just after the death of Donald McLean the manager of the station Henry Overton of Highfield in Canterbury wrote to Douglas, 'if you have not appointed another manager you had better offer me the billet, we would get on well together both being lovers of good strict and careful management'.¹⁶⁶ Overton had previously bought Canterbury sheep for Douglas and probably felt that they agreed on the correct methods of farming. He must have liked the long term planning and careful breeding plan that the station followed. Douglas had shown by his well thought out care for his workers, investments in farm buildings and experimenting with his stud stock that he did not mind investing heavily in the farm, and these investments were not for show but to improve farm receipts. Overton did eventually manage Maraekakaho Station, but not until about 1908 after Douglas' next manager John A. Macfarlane bought Ben Lomond. Overton was to remain manager at Maraekakaho until after World War One when Henry Gascoyne, known as Harry, took over.¹⁶⁷

Harry Gascoyne was related to Douglas, Gascoyne's father being Douglas' second cousin.¹⁶⁸ Harry was manager when Douglas died on the 7th Feb 1929. Gascoyne's was a military family, his uncle Fred working on Maraekakaho Station before fighting in the colonial wars. Harry was not recognised by his neighbours as a capable farmer, any continuing farm success resting on the abilities of the workers. He was an enigma to the people of Maraekakaho, a nice quiet man, well liked, who never mentioned his relationship with Douglas. People wondered how he became manager, and why he appeared at family gatherings. When told that he was a relation of Douglas they immediately accepted that must have been the reason he was manager, they could not think of any other.¹⁶⁹

¹⁶⁵ Electoral Roll, 1914.

¹⁶⁶ Letter Henry Overton to Douglas McLean, 18 Nov 1895, microfilm 0726-reel 56, folder1044.

¹⁶⁷ Electoral Roll, 1919.

¹⁶⁸ F.J.W. Gascoyne, *Soldiering in New Zealand*, London: T.J.S. Guilford and Co. Ltd., 1916, p.7.

¹⁶⁹ Interviews with Sheila de Gruchy and Hamilton Logan, past owner of The Cottage, 1 Oct 2003.

It was not enough for the new owners to just own land now they had to build the necessities of a farm. Archie had chosen land at Greenhill Station because it was away from Maraekakaho and the minor everyday problems of the station. He had been manager of the station for fourteen years and wanted a break from minor breakdowns, staff problems and work hold-ups that are a normal part of a manager's day, things that could be easily resolved by his overseers. However this distance caused its own problem, it was too far for occasional visitors and the weekly church trips to Maraekakaho. So Archie had a wide smooth track suitable for buggies made over Middle Spurnairn to the Valley, dramatically shortening the distance.¹⁷⁰

When Archie bought the land for Greenhill Station in 1891 he built himself a small cottage at the foot of the hill. This was soon to be unsuitable for the type of life that he enjoyed. A lover of all beautiful things Archie had Arthur Sollitt design a house to suit his preferences, beautiful but not too large.¹⁷¹ This allowed neighbours, especially the Glazebrooks, to come by horse and buggy and stay for the evening. Archie had a tower built that allowed a view of the track giving them advance knowledge of visitors. Mindful of his visitors Archie soon extended the sitting room and added a billiard room.¹⁷² (see photo) This must have been a pleasurable interlude for the Glazebrooks, especially the ladies, as their house was a simple cottage, originally for workers at the washpool.¹⁷³

James Macfarlane of Glenaros was also a man who loved socialising, and like Archie now he owned land he had the opportunity to build himself a beautiful house. He had Alfred Garnett of Hastings design a house for him, where each night billiards and poker were played and throats were lubricated by nips of Highland Nectar whisky bought from Palmerston North in five-gallon demijohns.¹⁷⁴ The expectations for station worker's to keep sober habits seemed to change when they became landowners, as many of the new owners, not all, enjoyed an odd tippie.¹⁷⁵

¹⁷⁰ Interview with Sheila de Gruchy, 1 Oct 2003.

¹⁷¹ Interviews with Sheila de Gruchy, 1 Oct 2003, & Craig Hay and Neil Barber, owners of Greenhill The Lodge, 19 Apr 2004.

¹⁷² Interview with Craig Hay and Neil Barber, 19 Apr 2004.

¹⁷³ Interview with Derek Glazebrook, 28 Oct 2004.

¹⁷⁴ Mary White, manuscript memories.

¹⁷⁵ Interview with Sheila de Gruchy, 1 Oct 2003.

Most of the new owners of the sub-divided farms had practical family farmhouses built, designed by architects but not ostentatious. Such a house was built for William Macfarlane, Will's wife was a pragmatic lady who could not see the sense in wasting money on unnecessary things.¹⁷⁶ While the houses of the Macfarlane brothers were very different this did not carry over into other farm buildings. The practicality of sharing a woolshed even after they split Mt Lookout into two farms saw this arrangement continue for many years. The practice of sharing when first owning a farm was not uncommon as the necessity of sharing costs because of shortage of money at first went well with the attitude of helping neighbours in need. Glencoe station was in the same position and used Mason Ridge's woolshed until they could afford to build their own.¹⁷⁷

John Macfarlane the elder brother of James and William who bought Ben Lomond lived for a while in a large house near The Cottage built by the neighbour Hector W.P. Smith of Olig, then he built a splendid house on Napier Hill and also named it Ben Lomond.¹⁷⁸

T.W. Wilson's land ran along the top of Middle Spur ridge and from a small valley near the house a spring started the Paritua stream. At the bottom of the small valley methane gas bubbled out of the water and Wilson built his house near there with hopes of lighting and heating the house with it, but this did not eventuate due to the lack of sufficient gas pressure.¹⁷⁹

When some of these first sub-divided farms endeavoured to rationalise their land to improve their usage they bought and sold small areas to people who could only afford a few acres. One of these was William Graham who built his house on 300 acres cut from The Washpool. Graham wanted a 4-room house and on July 28th 1908 Curd and Whatman got the contract for £161. Graham had to assist the carpenters and cart all of the material and joinery to get this price, which he did through August and into September. Then they 'shifted camp to our new house' on September 9th. Graham already with a loan on the house did not

¹⁷⁶ Interview with William Macfarlane, 8 May 2004.

¹⁷⁷ Interview with Ian Macphee, 21 Apr 2004.

¹⁷⁸ Interview with Eden Robertson, 20 Feb 2002, & R. Paterson, *Hey Days and Dray Days, The Story of Olig Station and District 1859-1998*, Waipukurau: C.H.B. Print, circa 1998, pp.130-131.

¹⁷⁹ Interview with William and Rita Richmond, 17 Jun 2004.

have enough money left to build a woolshed for his small flock and had to take them to Fernhill for shearing.¹⁸⁰

Douglas like all successful businessmen understood that to continue being successful his employees needed to be contented. He ensured this by being involved in and contributing financially to the local school and other organisations that his workers enjoyed or participated in, like the church, The Highland Society and the Dog Trial club. He continued contributing to these organisations even after the farms were sub-divided off his land and many of his previous workers either owned or worked on them.¹⁸¹

Sir Donald McLean had established a school at Maraekakaho for the children many of whom, like Tom McCormack, grew up to work on the station. He recalled riding the seven and a half miles over the hills from the Valley every day, leaving home at 7.30 a.m. to arrive at the school at 9 o'clock. Naturally this daily routine was not allowed to happen without it being put to work. Tom became the mail courier for the Valley, picking up the mail at the post office after school.¹⁸²

The Raukawa School opened in 1923 because there were more children in that area because of the sub-divided farms, and some of the Maraekakaho school children went there because it was closer for them. Station children at the upper end of the Valley, like Tom McCormack and many children from the sub-divided farms like the Macphee and Macfarlane children attended.¹⁸³

Both schools were primary schools, educating most of the children to Standard Six level. This was the usual time to leave school in those years as children had to join the workforce. Any bright children whose families could afford it sent them to secondary school in Hastings. This was not always practicable for many families, especially for some of the owners of the sub-divided farms. Many of these were taught by governesses, however as they grew older and needed education beyond the capabilities of their governesses those who could afford it sent their children away to private boarding schools.¹⁸⁴ Eden Macfarlane daughter of John Macfarlane of Ben Lomond went to Napier Girls'

¹⁸⁰ William Graham, Diary notes, 1908, Marion Miller Files.

¹⁸¹ *Cyclopedia*, vol. 6, p.320, & Minute Book, Central Hawke's Bay Dog Trial Club, 1900-1911, William Macfarlane Files.

¹⁸² Interview with Leonora McCormack, 20 Apr 2004.

¹⁸³ Interview with Leonora McCormack, 20 Apr 2004.

¹⁸⁴ Interview with Ann Macphee, 1 Sep 2003.

High School then became a foundation student of Iona College, a Presbyterian Girls' school opened mainly for the daughters of farmers and businessmen in 1914.¹⁸⁵

Their faith was important to many of the workers and it would be thought that a mainly Scottish settlement would have a Presbyterian Church, however many of the Scottish workers like the Macfarlanes and the Macphees were Baptists.¹⁸⁶ Previously Sir Donald McLean, a religious man but not narrow minded, had recognised that though his workers were predominantly Presbyterian others had different faiths. When he had a church built at Maraekakaho he decided it was to be a Protestant church and not just Presbyterian.¹⁸⁷

There were many Roman Catholics on the station, Scottish Catholics and workers with Southern Irish names of Mick Donovan, H. Moynihan, Tom McCormack and Francis Fitzpatrick.¹⁸⁸ In later years when the church was held in the hall Catholics also held Mass there, a priest coming from Hastings. The workers of different religions got on well with each other and were respected because of their ability and not because of their religious faith.¹⁸⁹

Before 1910 the Havelock North Presbyterian minister served the church.¹⁹⁰ From 1898 this was the Reverend Alexander Whyte, who held church in the Maraekakaho Community hall every fortnight.¹⁹¹ Archie came by buggy from Greenhill Station to church every fortnight over the Spurnairn track. He expected his staff to attend but did not force them to do so. Eden Robertson remembers sitting with her father John Macfarlane in the family pew facing the McLean pew. These were not facing the minister but set at right angles to him. Outside were parked all of the buggies and traps used by the families.¹⁹² In 1910 the station built a manse on the hill at Maraekakaho near the overseer and accountant's houses for the first resident minister, the Reverend Mr

¹⁸⁵ Interview with Eden Robertson, 20 Feb 2002.

¹⁸⁶ Interviews with William Macfarlane, 8 May 2004, & Ian Macphee, 21 Apr 2004.

¹⁸⁷ McLean Letters and Journals, 10 Aug 1876, Micro-MS-0032-0224, Alexander Turnbull Library.

¹⁸⁸ Maraekakaho Station Wages estimate, 30 Jun 1888, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 852, & Electoral Roll, 1902.

¹⁸⁹ Telephone conversation with Ann Macphee, 30 Nov 2004.

¹⁹⁰ Campbell, vol 2, p.301.

¹⁹¹ Dr Sandy Whyte, handwritten reminiscences of his father, n.d., Alaister Whyte Files, Maraekakaho.

¹⁹² Interview with Eden Robertson, 20 Feb 2002.



WEDDING GUESTS AT ACCOMMODATION HOUSE,
BRIDE IS CLEMANTINE NEAL & GROOM IS ALEXANDER McBEATH
11TH APRIL 1917



WOOLSHED BUILT 1884
PRE 1891 BLADE SHEARERS & SHED WORKERS
NOTE LIFTING FRAME AT RIGHT HAND END OF WOOLSHED



LIFT WHEEL TO FRONT OF WOOLSHED

Catherwood.¹⁹³ The minister had two daughters and Eden Macfarlane of Ben Lomond was allowed to play with them but not the ordinary station children.¹⁹⁴

Many weddings were held at the church, with the functions being held at the Station Accommodation House. 77 guests attended the wedding of Clemantine Neal, one of the Neal triplets, she married Alexander McBeath of the Wellington Infantry Rifles on the 11th of April 1917. Other weddings like the labourer George Heaps marriage to Lucy Lincoln on the 26 May 1896 were held in Hastings, and the number increased as cars became more common and the roads improved.¹⁹⁵

There were a variety of entertainments and interests participated in by all the people on the station. Some were organised and others were personal. Women's skills, the basis of family life, were important to the station as they kept the men well fed and healthy. In the early days women proud of their skills entered exhibits at the Show, products that they had made at home. Fresh butter, salt and powdered butter were entered in 1889 and 1891, while in 1908 Mrs Thomas Talbot of Ngatarawa came second with her cured hams and bacon.¹⁹⁶ The women entered their bread, knitting, cakes and preserves. Knitting for their men who were soldiers was participated in during the years of World War 1.¹⁹⁷

In the Scottish community piping skills were highly regarded and a family tradition. Piping and highland dancing were very popular with the skirling pipes heard around the hills as pipers practiced.¹⁹⁸ One such person was a shepherd, Peter John MacDonald, a top piper who played his father's pipes and remembered most because of a sad event. He lost his hand in an accident while cutting firewood. He continued as a shepherd but only rarely had anything to do with piping again, and his open personality changed and he became very dour.¹⁹⁹

A celebration to the birthday of the Sovereign was held on the flats between the woolshed and the Ngaruroro River in 1884, hack races and athletic

¹⁹³ *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910.

¹⁹⁴ Interview with Eden Robertson, 20 Oct 2002.

¹⁹⁵ Interview with Ann Macphee, 30 Nov 2004, & *Hastings Standard*, 26 May 1896, p.2.

¹⁹⁶ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogues, 1877-1910, Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Archives, Hastings.

¹⁹⁷ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1917-22, 1917 Official Records.

¹⁹⁸ Interview with Alaister Whyte, grandson of the Reverend Alexander Whyte, 30 Mar 2004, & photograph of Highland Dancer.

¹⁹⁹ Interview with Ann Macphee, 1 Sep 2003.

sports were open to station and neighbours' workers.²⁰⁰ There were annual sports held at the sports ground, events contested were the tug-o-war, tossing the caber and athletic sports, while young Eden Macfarlane watched 'a lot of wonderful young men playing polo there just before World War I'. The polo did not continue during the war or after due to the deaths of many of those young men, however the other sports were still participated in.²⁰¹ Two of the young men who died in World War I were Douglas McLean McDonald and his brother Hugh the sons of Hugh McDonald the groom, The former being named after Douglas McLean by father in appreciation of Douglas' assistance in the immigration of his sweetheart Catherine McNeill to Hawke's Bay.²⁰²

Proud of the skills of what to some shepherds were their closest friend, the sheepdog, saw the formation of the Central Hawke's Bay Sheepdog Trial Club. Excerpts from an existing minute book show it to be well in existence by 1901 as Roderick McDonald, the Maraekakaho Station head shepherd was then elected a life member. This was where owners and workers competed against each other on equal footing. So important was this club in country society that many Stock and Station firms sponsored it, with many owners providing yards and paddocks for the events.²⁰³

As the station became more established other genteel sports were catered for. In 1911 Agnes Jameson, wife of George Jameson of Aomarama, recalls driving down in a horse and buggy to Maraekakaho to play tennis.²⁰⁴ She also recalls the arrival of a piano the year before allowing them to have music every evening.²⁰⁵ Singing around the piano was a very popular evening event in the homes of those that could afford a piano, Douglas procuring the written sheet music of many Highland melodies in Britain.²⁰⁶ Mrs Flora McLean remembers get-together and celebratory parties as well as the Sunday night gatherings at the

²⁰⁰ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 25 Mar 1884, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

²⁰¹ Interview with Eden Robertson, 20 Feb 2002, & Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 25 May 1884, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

²⁰² Telephone conversation with Jessie Curtis-Taylor, descendent of Hugh MacDonald, 6 Feb 2005.

²⁰³ Interview with William Macfarlane, 8 May 2004.

²⁰⁴ Jameson, p.26.

²⁰⁵ *ibid.*, p.18.

²⁰⁶ Interview with Timothy and Petra Logan, 10 Mar 2004.

Neal's house.²⁰⁷ There were quieter enjoyments, James Macfarlane of Glenaros was a card member of Wiseman's Meccano Club. Metal Meccano sets enabled enthusiasts to build a wide range of intricate objects like trains etcetera, similar to modern day products like Leggo. The not so quiet sports like the rifle club in which William Macfarlane won a gold shield in 1917 was held in the storeroom above the shearers' stands in the woolshed.²⁰⁸

Life on the station and sub-divided farms was not all building and entertainment, the farm was their interest and their work and the reason they were at Maraekakaho. The health and feeding of their animals was naturally the pivotal part of their existence.

²⁰⁷ Interview with Flora Ross, granddaughter of Jack Neal, 4 Mar 2004.

²⁰⁸ Interview with William Macfarlane, 8 May 2004.

CHAPTER THREE

STRIVING FOR FARMING EXCELLENCE

Douglas McLean was determined that his station was going to be a credit to him and his father, and he ensured this by raising the best animals that he could acquire. He knew that this also meant that he needed the best feed to ensure that his stock remained in good health, and capable stockmen to see this important part was not neglected.

Growing good nourishing grass for the animals is the most important job for a farmer. Despite the sowing of imported grass at Maraekakaho Station during his father's time Douglas still had a lot of problems before the paddocks would reach their full stocking capacity. His and Archie's first job was to continue to search for the best grass or grasses suited to the varying soils and conditions of the district, and palatable to the animals. These grasses would hopefully increase the staple length and weight of the fleece on the sheep, and keep the larger animals healthy to fulfil their functions. Supplementary fodder of root crops and cereals would need to be grown for the draught and stud animals, as they needed this to maintain their strength.

In 1876 Archie had experienced of some of the difficulties that they would have to face from the Stock and Station Agents in selecting the types of grass suitable for Maraekakaho Station, late delivery, wrongly labelled seeds and unknown types of grass. Archie seemed to have dealt with different sources for his grass seed looking for good seed and reasonable prices.¹ Some of the seed offered was not of good standard. Archie had written to Kinross and Co. Ltd for samples of Akaroa Cocksfoot seed quoted at 4¼d at the Spit, Napier. He did not like the sample offered 'The sample is not as good as I should like for the money, so I wrote that they could dispose of it as they can...thinks this is local seed not Akaroa'.²

Problems like these continued to plague Douglas and Archie the next year, and even the grass seed sown before 1877 caused them problems. It had included weed seeds, forcing Archie to have previously sowed paddocks shallow

¹ Letters Archibald McLean to Sir Donald McLean, 2 Apr 1876, 25 Apr 1876, 22 May 1876, Micro-MS-0032-799.

² Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 12 Mar 1887, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

ploughed to kill the Hawkweed by leaving the roots to wither in the hot sun. The Hawkweed, a species of *Hieracium* that was to become a South Island pest, was killing off the English grass.³

To overcome late deliveries Archie, in 1878, stored £400 of grass seed in the woolshed so he could hand sow it at the correct time of the year, which usually for Maraekakaho is late March or April after the first autumn rains. Spring sown grass usually burnt off in the hot summer and autumn. In that year he was delayed by high winds that were strong enough to blow down trees, and would blow the grass seed into heaps in the gullies.⁴

There was not one type of grass that could be sown on its own and provide year round sustenance, so blends of suitable grasses needed to be found to suit the different soils and conditions of the hills, valleys and the open flats. By 1894 the mixture preferred by the station was Perennial rye, Cocksfoot, Red Clover, Cow Grass, Alsike, (a clover) Timothy, Crested Dogs-tail and Prairie Grass. This was applied at the rate of two bushels of grass seed per acre after the paddock had been ploughed, tine harrowed and then chain-harrowed. First the fern was burnt off and the paddock disced, then a crop of rape sown. After this was eaten the grass seed was sown.⁵ The sheep by eating the rape naturally fertilised the field ready for the grass. The clovers, of different species, were to become one of the success stories for grassing Maraekakaho. This was due to the introduction of its pollinator the bumblebee. As Henry Overton the manager in 1895 wrote 'Glad the humble bees are spread over the country.'⁶ The children knowing the importance of good grass were also interested in the success of different grasses, Eileen Jameson of Aomarama asked her mother 'mother come and see the *commutata* growing'. This was *Phalaris Commutata* a species of Canary grass.⁷

Though Archie felt the need to grass the swamps they could not drain all of them at that time due to the costs involved, but they could graze them in the drier times. The selected grasses needed to be able to stand in water during wet times without dying off. The only two grasses Archie cared to grow there were

³ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 1 Feb 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

⁴ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 26 Apr 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

⁵ *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894, p.172.

⁶ Letter Henry Overton to Douglas McLean, 14 Dec 1895, microfilm 0726-reel 56, folder 1044.

⁷ Jameson, p.28.

Timothy and Hybrid Clover. While he would have liked to try the Sweet Seed Grass, he said though he thought it was good he had never tried it. But for the Cocksfoot and Bent grass the swamps would be their ruin, although he did not think the Cocksfoot would survive much floodwater.⁸ This grass would not have been any good at the undrained Greenhill Station swamp, because a few years earlier there was not an inch of dry ground from end to end in that swamp.⁹ Sowing grasses in the swamps was not always the best procedure, about 50 sheep in a mob grazing in the relatively dry Mangaroa swamp in 1887 fell into mud holes and were lost. Though Archie thought these were not a great financial loss because they were old ewes he did not like the idea of losing them that way.¹⁰

Paddock size also created difficulties for the station. Keeping control of the fern in such large paddocks necessitated stocking large numbers of animals in them to stop regrowth. Nineteen of these paddocks were over 1000 acres with the largest Middle Spur being 3,485 acres.¹¹ The method of clearing paddocks of fern and rank native grass was to burn them off during dry weather then over sow with English type grass seed in early March, if the rains obliged them by being on time.¹²

There was clearly a need when possible to decrease the acreage of paddocks forcing the stock to eat the fern as well as the grass, curbing the fern's regrowth. Management faced not only the difficulty of providing extra fences for the smaller paddocks they needed sufficient numbers of stock for cleaning paddocks. Planning which paddocks to clear was sometimes disrupted by carelessness. In 1878 someone dropped a match in the dry grass burning off the fern, this necessitated the erecting of fences around the burn off to control the new fern growth by regrassing and grazing sheep on it. The fern grew as fast as the new sown grass, and if they did not stock the paddock straight away they would have to wait a couple of years until the fern was big enough to burn off successfully.¹³

⁸ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 20 Mar 1895, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 852.

⁹ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, n.d., microfilm 0726-reel 56, folder 1044.

¹⁰ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 28 Mar 1887, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

¹¹ Plan of Maraekakaho Estate, Hawke's Bay.

¹² Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 1 Feb 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

¹³ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 1 Feb 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

While timing was vital for the correct burn off it was not always possible to foresee when it was best to do this, due to the variable weather. The autumn of 1880 was so dry that Archie had feared fire in the dry grass, then a heavy downpour soon after meant that the run off from the hard baked soil had caused a rapid rise in the Maraekakaho stream, he then worried about losing bridges and fences.¹⁴

The next year a few showers in April did not temper a dreadful drought. Archie took all of the precautions he could think of, like regulating the stock by erecting extra lines of fencing. 'The precautions we have taken will nullify the worst effects of the drought. Frosts have come'.¹⁵ A month later it was still dry, he wrote the 'eccentricity of seasons was increasing expenditure... I will have to seek aid from you again'.¹⁶ In June, the start of winter, a warm drizzly rain fell after drought and 'done the country pounds and pounds worth of good', and no flooding. The light rain was just what was needed to soften the soil and stop flooding by run off from the hard soil that had been so hard in May that it had forced postponement of the Agricultural and Pastoral Society ploughing match.¹⁷

Archie could not change his seasonal burn off plans because the next year may be different. In December he was again going to burn grass and sow and harrow paddocks, then put sheep on it to keep fern down. 'We are well paid by having country well grassed and able to take more stock'.¹⁸ And so it proved, in April he wrote 'perfectly splendid weather for grass seed sowing, and the tine harrows are doing splendid work on the hill, I have got four teams of horses at work, four in each of the two tine harrows'.¹⁹

This problem of seasonal variation had to be faced each year, in April 1887 there were 'poor prospects of getting stock through the winter but feel encouragement as rain has arrived, but for nothing, not really set in.... The

¹⁴ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 26 Mar 1880, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

¹⁵ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 22 Apr 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

¹⁶ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 26 May 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

¹⁷ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 16 June 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

¹⁸ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 30 Dec 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

¹⁹ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 20 Apr 1882, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

country was bare of grass. I have been getting rid of stock in shape of culls....I have skinned out the place, believing that it would be leaving the better lot more feed to come and go upon'.²⁰ However, eleven days later he had 'sufficient rain at last and would not be sorry to see it clear up, it has been warm rain'. This was ideal rain for grass growth, but it also brought problems. 'Sabin been up and had a look at cattle ergotism'.²¹ Francis Sabin was a station hand at that time, and ergotism was a disease of Ryegrass, called the staggers by many farmers, in summer it affects the nervous system and induces a loss of control in the animal's muscles.²²

There were many intelligent workers at Maraekakaho Station. James Reid, a shepherd on Maraekakaho Station, drew Douglas' attention to the problems that over ploughing of land could cause. He said that the healthiest land was unploughed land, because it did not destroy native herbs and grasses. He asserted that ploughing destroyed shelter for young lambs and creates footrot, it is good for fattening stock but not for breeding, and that the limestone country is sensitive and can take seed by surface sowing.²³ James Reid, previously manager of Sir Donald McLean's Akitio station on the southern Hawke's Bay coast, had taught Douglas as a youth and hoped he would listen to his advice.²⁴

The main growth of grass in Maraekakaho was usually over by Spring Show Day, which was held in the third week of October. This was when farm stock numbers would be reduced. The paddocks would then be left for hay or ploughed for fodder crops.

Root vegetables like mangold wurzel, turnips, swedes and carrots were grown for the horses and cattle.²⁵ The only motive power used at Maraekakaho Station for their implements was the Clydesdale horse and oats was the main grain grown for them as they could not pull heavy loads if fed on grass alone. With Cape Barley and Rye these crops were mainly grown on the flats of

²⁰ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 30 Apr 1887, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

²¹ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 11 May 1887, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

²² Now called Rye Grass Staggers, Telephone conversation with William Macfarlane, 14 Feb 2005, & Electoral Roll, 1893.

²³ Letter James S. Reid to Douglas McLean, 26 June 1893, microfilm 0726-reel 56, folder 1044.

²⁴ Letter James S. Reid to Douglas McLean, 22 Apr 1870, Micro-MS-0032-0774, Alexander Turnbull Library.

²⁵ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, n.d., microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850, Gale, p.180, & Interview with Leonora McCormack, 2 Sep 2004.

Ngatarawa and Mangaroa. The Rye was grown partly for the station pigs and straw, as this was the best straw for thatching. This thatching was for the grain sheds that were temporary shelters that the workers erected in the grain fields. They had a pole framework with thatched roofs and three feet thick sides. These cheap and effective shelters were to save haulage and labour at a time of the year when both were at a premium. They allowed work to be done between periods of broken weather, and when the harvest was finished and threshing done the grain could be taken to the permanent storage buildings by bullock drays.²⁶ The grain and chaff were always stored separately, while the haystacks were built in the paddocks and taken to storage buildings or fed out as required.²⁷

When barley was grown the crows were black in the sky and the flock took ten minutes to pass. A station saying was 'two bushels for the station and half a bushel for the crows'. The crows in The Valley used to nest in the blue gum trees to the north of the cattle shed. These birds were such good scavengers that they were hunted, one council hunt killed 12,000 at Glencoe on the Hampden Road.²⁸

At one period about the turn of the century 1,200 acres were in different crops at one time. 600 acres in oats, barley and wheat were sown in the Windmill paddock at Ngatarawa. This was the paddock to the east of the Fernhill and Maraekakaho-Bridge Pa Roads junction.²⁹ Another 600 acres were sown in rape and turnips on the Whakapirau plateau.³⁰ Rape was grown to fatten the sheep and fat lambs just before sending them to the works. Rape was sown about late October, depending on the weather, for the lambs in early summer. English seed was preferable to New Zealand seed as it resprouted, summer rain helping the crop to last until the autumn. Mustard seed was sometimes sown with the rape seed, this helped counteract any ill effects that may occur to the sheep if the rape had not ripened sufficiently. If a crop of rape was planted for autumn feeding barley was sometimes sown with it.³¹

²⁶ *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894, p.171.

²⁷ Interview with Leonora McCormack, 2 Sep 2004.

²⁸ Interview with Leonora McCormack, 2 Sep 2004.

²⁹ Interview with Douglas Twigg, owner of the windmill paddock, 26 Aug 2003.

³⁰ Miriam McGregor, *Early Stations of Hawke's Bay*, Wellington: A.H. & A.W. Reed, 1970, p.124.

³¹ Interview with Ian Macphee, 5 Oct 2004.

In 1912 Ben Lomond a sub-divided farm sowed 100 acres of oats and barley. That year they also grew 250 acres of rape and 100 acres of turnips and swedes. This high level of supplementary feed allowed Ben Lomond to stock considerably more animals than could be pastured on their 6,000 acres.³² In the 1920's Glen Aros a smaller sub-divided farm grew 15 acres of oats and a contractor threshed this. Everyone on the farm turned out to help at harvest time. The sheaves were stooked and then the stackers built them into big haystacks. The chaff was bagged, taken in dray loads and stored in a big shed. The surplus was bagged and sold locally, Mary Macfarlane thought it sold for £5 a ton.³³

To prepare the soil for grass the basic farm implement is the plough. Other implements like the harrows follow on and work the rough ploughed soil to create a finer seedbed for sowing grass and crops. The acreage of Maraekakaho Station was so large that the cost of ploughing all of the land Archie wanted to grass was beyond the ability of Douglas to meet in 1878. The idea he proposed to Douglas was the cutting up of paddocks into 100 acre blocks, if they could get men to plough them for nothing then let them crop the land for themselves and plough it afterwards. He would like this to be done in rotation.³⁴ Archie must have meant non-station ploughmen, if the ploughing was so crucial to the station his ploughmen would have already been working long hours to cover as many acres as possible. Archie's innovative idea of getting the untouched land cleared of fern and brought into production by having it ploughed free of cost to them would allow him to have more money available for buying the extra stock needed to stop the regrowth of fern in previously prepared paddocks.

Sixteen months later the financial position must have been a little better. While Archie was still worried about the station's liabilities he paid £32-7-6 for a Read and Gray combined reaper and mower because all of the oat crops had ripened at once, although these crops must have been planted in succession. Archie obviously had not expected this to happen because he had written to

³² Gale, p.180.

³³ Mary White, manuscript memories.

³⁴ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 17 Aug 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

Douglas 'if I had known I would have asked you to purchase the implement cheaper in England'.³⁵

The weather for those years must have been ideal for farming and station profits, because in 1881 Archie pointed out why £600 - £700 for a threshing machine would be a good investment. The engine would be useful for chaff cutting and cutting firewood, and threshing for the neighbours would help pay its cost price.³⁶ This engine would have been a stationary traction engine similar to the thresher advertised three years later as being at the Agricultural and Pastoral Society Show.³⁷ By 1894 the station owned a portable engine as well as a threshing machine. Work became easier and faster when instead of moving the hay eight horses pulled this machine to the circular haystacks dotted around the paddock.³⁸ These engines would cut the chaff in the paddock, then it would be bagged and taken to the chaff room, and this was the method used at Glen Aros 30 years later.³⁹ By then the now smaller Maraekakaho station kept a smaller chaff cutter at the horse stables by the end of the station cattle shed, allowing chaff to be cut from the stored hay as required.⁴⁰

Having expert ploughmen and good horses was the foundation for a successful farm, Archie agreed with Douglas that donating a cup for the best pair of plough horses at the Agricultural and Pastoral Society competitions would excite competition. He thought it would help promote the station, as he wrote 'in competition our men [are] always to the front and our horses always admired.'⁴¹

This faith was not misplaced, as the ability of the Maraekakaho ploughmen in ploughing the steep sides of hills and valleys with an ordinary plough and not a special side hill model was remarked on by a farming reporter to the station.

Using four horses harnessed two by two meant that it was an easy job, except when they hit a ledge or a point of rock came through

³⁵ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 30 Dec 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

³⁶ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 30 Dec 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

³⁷ *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 9 Oct 1884, p.3.

³⁸ *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894, p.171.

³⁹ Mary White, manuscript memories.

⁴⁰ Interview with Leonora McCormack, 2 Sep 2004.

⁴¹ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 13 July 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

the plough floor and then something got broke. The furrow slice was also invariably turned downhill. The four horses were needed so as to have a reserve of power when encountering a patch of fern root or a steeper slope than usual. The low seated disc harrows and tine harrows were also worked on the slopes. When the reaper binder was used on the slopes the Buckeye model was preferred to the Hornsby, as the latter would go on its beam-ends unless an extra hand controlled it. However on level ground the Hornsby was less likely to choke on a full swath as the Buckeye.⁴²

During ploughing times the men, ploughs and horses stayed on location until that paddock was completed then moved to another area. The men lived in mobile whare that horses pulled to the area to be worked. Some were two roomed and others single, with the single vans having a bunk at each end.⁴³ They had large wheels at the rear and a long single central skid at the front, and were towed by the plough horses. These mobile whare were used throughout New Zealand.

The men were supplied with stores every day by wagoners and spring carters, and they took their own cows and pigs with them to each camp.⁴⁴ On rest days their wives and children would visit them, and rest days were dependent on the reliability of the weather. The ploughmen worked long hours in the spring, starting very early in the day. Station Time was set half an hour ahead of The Right Time that was normal New Zealand time.⁴⁵ This may have been to allow work to start during the calm still Hawke's Bay mornings before the strong foehn type winds stirred up the dust from the horses, and also to miss the spring showers that usually spread from the ranges in the late afternoon, no one knows the reason.⁴⁶ Long hours were worked when necessary and if the occasion demanded or when there were breakdowns, though in the 1920's the normal hours were 7.30am to 5.30 pm.⁴⁷ The station had a very pragmatic stance about work on Sundays, unless it was necessary work like ploughing, harvesting or

⁴² *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894, p.171.

⁴³ *Hawke's Bay Herald Tribune*, cutting, n.d.

⁴⁴ *Hawke's Bay Herald Tribune*, cutting, n.d.

⁴⁵ Interview with Ann Macphee, 1 Sep 2003.

⁴⁶ This conjecture is due to these weather conditions affecting contractors today.

⁴⁷ Telephone conversation with Ann Macphee, 9 Feb 2005.

shearing the Sabbath was adhered to and only the necessary chores like milking cows were done.⁴⁸

When the station was sub-divided the smaller farms did not have permanent ploughmen on the staff. Glen Aros employed a ploughman for a few months each year.⁴⁹ James Macfarlane was very professional farmer and to ensure a good contract price he had ploughing plans of paddocks drawn up at different times by R. Morgan, and H.W. Climie, both professional surveyors. These plans gave the acreage of the paddock and the total land ploughed to be ploughed for crops of grass, rape, barley and turnips.⁵⁰

Even Maraekakaho Station, now smaller in size, turned to outside help, it is more than probable that all of the sub-divided farms had some basic implements but contracted out for the larger machines, as no mention was made in magazine and newspaper articles of that time of implements or implement sheds on Greenhill Station and Ben Lomond. They and Maraekakaho Station hired contractors who had the different expensive farm machinery needed.

One of these was William Graham who farmed 300 acres of land near the Washpool. Graham relied on contracting for his main income and his daughter remembers one of his clients was Maraekakaho Station. His contracting work would take priority over any work on his small farm as his diary shows. In the few pages left of his diary he mentions that on the 25th of December 1908 he had 'finish cutting at home and bring binder round to my place, John, Dick, Grigor and self stooked for six and a half hours.'⁵¹ The notes of those days only spoke of work at home, and the days between October 4th and the 24th of December were blank and his daughter mentioned that he would most probably have been working at Maraekakaho station and other local farms at that time.⁵²

Not all of the farm machinery was exactly suitable for the specific job at hand and minor alterations and additions were normal to adapt them to the station's specific needs. While breakdown of machinery at times was expected, the majority of these problems were fixed on the station by the blacksmith or the

⁴⁸ Interview with Eden Robertson, 20 February 2002, & telephone conversation with Ann Macphee, 21 Feb 2005.

⁴⁹ Mary White, manuscript memories.

⁵⁰ Interview with Ann Anderson, 15 June 2004.

⁵¹ Graham, diary notes, interview with Marion Miller, 26 Mar 2004.

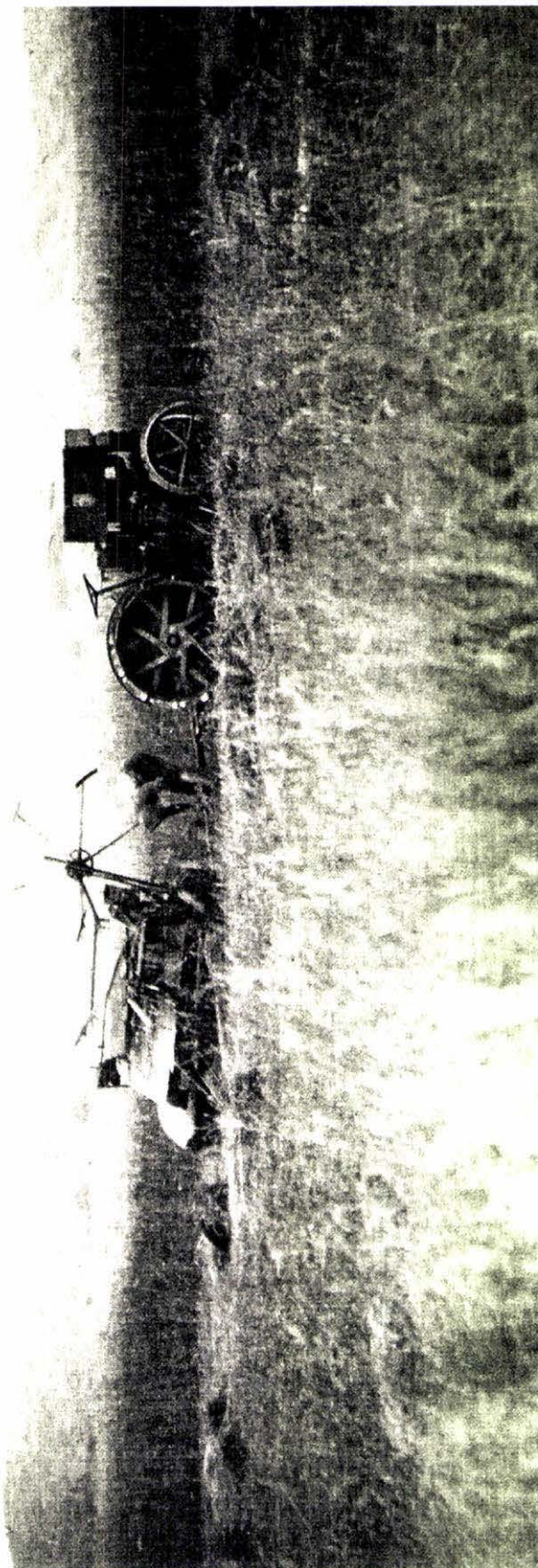
⁵² Interview with Marion Miller, 26 Mar 2004.



PLOUGHMEN WITH VISITING FAMILIES & FRIENDS IN FRONT OF MOBILE HOMES



SINGLE ROOM MOBILE HUT TODAY
BUNKS AT EACH END



WILLIAM GRAHAM'S MACHINERY FOR CUTTING HAY



THRESHING HAY IN 1927



WILLIAM GRAHAM AND MEN CUTTING CHAFF



MARAEKAKAHO STYLED GATE STILL IN USE
WITH TENSIONED WIRES AS RAILS



PLASTERED BRICK TROUGH STILL IN USE TODAY,
CROSS PIPES TO STOP CATTLE STANDING IN TROUGH.

carpenter. One of these improvements was the additional braking system on bullock drays for the steep slopes of the station hills.

A small log, a little longer than the space between the dray wheels, is connected with the axle-tree by two or three turns of chain. A short lever is twisted into the doublings of the chain, bringing the log tight against the wheels, and a short length of rope, fastened to the end of the lever and drawn taut over pulleys, enable the driver to skid the wheels if need be.⁵³

Innovative ideas like this contributed to the station's success by allowing work to continue without any accidents, or by just making work easier. The pulley allowing bales to be lifted up into the woolshed loft was vital to keeping the wool in good condition. Then there were the station gates, the frames and brace of which were morticed and tenoned while the five horizontal rails were replaced by fencing wire, tensioned by a special wire strainer patented by Sween Macphee.⁵⁴ So successful were these gates that some are still being used today.

When Douglas took over Maraekakaho Station he was fortunate that it was already famous for its quality stock. However Douglas wanted to prove to local and overseas buyers that he had the ability and the wish to continue to maintain the Station's reputation.⁵⁵ Douglas believed in advertising the quality of stock in the farmers' showroom, the Agricultural and Pastoral Society Shows. Early success when taking part in local Shows proved to customers that Maraekakaho Station animals were still achieving a high standard.⁵⁶ Newspaper advertisements also informed the existing and potential customers about other services, such as Clydesdale stallions, that could be supplied by the station.⁵⁷

Maraekakaho Station was noted for its sheep, Shorthorn cattle, Clydesdale horses and Welsh cobs. Although each brought income to the Station the wool produced was the main income for the Station at that time.⁵⁸ Other

⁵³ *The New Zealand Farmer*, May, 1894, p.171.

⁵⁴ See photograph.

⁵⁵ Notebook, 1876, note on cover, From 15th September 1874 to 6th June 1876, includes pasted articles from undated Hawke's Bay Herald, Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Archives, Hastings.

⁵⁶ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1877-1886.

⁵⁷ *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 3 Dec 1879, p.4.

⁵⁸ Parr, p.157.

types of stock were mainly kept to facilitate the production of wool. This fact influenced every facet of station life.

Merino sheep, because they were available from Australia and cost the least, were the main breed of sheep in New Zealand and Maraekakaho Station at that time. However, New Zealand conditions were not the same as Australia. The Merino, suitable for South Island high country, was not the perfect breed in the wetter conditions of the North Island.

The Lincoln or their cross breeds seemed to be the best prospect for the station as they were not so susceptible to footrot as Merinos. Footrot is a bacterial disease of the hooves of sheep and cattle that is more prevalent in damp conditions, the tissues around the hoof, especially between the toes, becoming inflamed and ulcerated rendering them lame.⁵⁹ However, Condie in 1872 had told Sir Donald that he could not see Lincolns benefitting station income, he had not been convinced Lincolns would shear as heavy a fleece and the Lincoln four year olds sold returned less than Merinos.⁶⁰

Douglas and Archie thought that while the drained fertile Valley land and the flat lands of Ngatarawa, Mangaroa, and Raukawa did not suit Merino they were ideal for lowland breeds.⁶¹ These were the European breeds and costly to import and this would have influenced Douglas to use them in a stud-crossbreeding programme instead of raising a pure bred flock.⁶² Douglas was not going to change completely to another breed due to the falling returns for wool and his already considerable investment in Merinos. Maraekakaho Station was fortunate that their Whakapirau plateau included some steep dry gullies that while not perfect suited Merinos.

Douglas took the same approach as other colonist farmers, he and his stockmen searched to create a breed of sheep without any inherent adverse health conditions. They hoped to emulate the results of English breeders like Bakewell and his Dishley Leicesters. Bakewell had proved that scientific breeding could produce the desired result.⁶³ Detailed information vital to breeding and other farming problems were available in the local newspapers and farming magazines,

⁵⁹ Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2000.

⁶⁰ McLean Letters and Journals, 3 Mar 1872, Micro-MS-0032-0224.

⁶¹ *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16.

⁶² Gale, p.209.

⁶³ P.G. Stevens, *Sheep, part 1, Sheep Husbandry*, Christchurch: Whitcombe & Tombs Limited, 1960, p.150.

as well as pamphlets from Stock and Station Agents firms and overseas magazines like the Wool Record. This information was also discussed ‘over the fence rail’ between farmers as it affected them all.⁶⁴

Crossbreeding was costly. Careful management and administration were needed to ensure that the stages of crossbreeding and the results were carefully recorded. Greater numbers of animals were required and expensive pedigree animals were needed to improve stock, while sufficient fenced and watered paddocks were needed to prevent unwanted interbreeding and mixing of different flocks.

In 1877 there was no existing type of sheep anywhere that was suitable for the wide variety of conditions existing at Maraekakaho Station. Douglas would need to invest in a wide-ranging breeding programme to find the most profitable breed, or a combination of breeds suitable for Maraekakaho’s conditions. Falling market prices showed that the market for Merino wool was either oversupplied or the wool itself did not satisfy all the buyers’ needs. One of the station’s most important requirements was to find a sheep that was suitable for light rainfall areas and would be a stable cross breeder.⁶⁵ This would widen the range of wools the station presented to the market, and hopefully improve their returns on that falling market.⁶⁶

Archie could not have been satisfied with Condie’s opinion of the Lincoln, or what is more probable, felt that Lincolns had potential for a halfbred or crossbred type suitable for Maraekakaho. Halfbreds were the progeny of the first cross between two different breeds, while Crossbreds were the progeny of two halfbreds. The station’s research and development and was costly and time consuming, any new fleece to be profitable must fulfil their customers’ requirements. Showing good business sense Douglas visited the wool markets in Britain, enquiring about the buyers’ preferences and communicated these to Archie.⁶⁷ They wanted a lustrous wool that had a wide variety of end uses and had a different length, thickness and texture to the predominant colonial Merino wool. They also preferred clean wool bales without holes and contents clearly marked, each bale holding only one type of wool.

⁶⁴ Campbell, vol.1, pp.168-9.

⁶⁵ *ibid.*, p.73.

⁶⁶ Lloyd - Prichard, Graph between pp.182-3.

⁶⁷ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 18 Jul 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

Douglas and Archie widened their experiments, by 1880 they had a variety of ram breeds for sale by auction. Those mentioned were Merino, Lincoln, Cotswold, Romney Marsh and Crossbred.⁶⁸ The station's breeding plan for their half-bred sheep was showing promise, yet they were still not certain which cross would be the best, their Merino ram/Lincoln ewe hogget cross or their Lincoln ram/Merino ewe hogget cross, both crosses proving successful at Shows.⁶⁹

The first mention of Maraekakaho Station concentrating on Lincolns as a main crossbreeding ram was in 1886 when two rams were entered in the Agricultural and Pastoral Society Show.⁷⁰ Archie's continuing experiments with Lincolns must have proved satisfactory as the station continued to use Lincoln crosses throughout Douglas's lifetime.⁷¹ This would have confirmed Maraekakaho Station's faith in the breed to farmers, and further Show entries would demonstrate the quality of Maraekakaho Lincolns available for stud duties.

This did not diminish the station's reputation for quality Merinos as in 1891 Maraekakaho Station was still seen in Hawke's Bay as a principal Merino breeder.⁷² The dry steep sided gullies of the Whakapirau plateau while not kind to imported English grasses like Cocksfoot had the native grass *Danthonia*, this grass had proved ideal for producing the finer Merino wool that the market in England valued.⁷³

Lincoln wool proved to have an advantage over Merino wool, though slightly coarser and straighter it was longer stapled clipping a much heavier fleece to each animal. The straighter wool was not so prone to catch on the rough bush or fern that existed in many of the station paddocks at that time, besides this the wool was a lustre type that was used for a wide variety of purposes.⁷⁴ This wider end use for the wool would ensure more stability for the station in what had been a fluctuating market. This aspect was most important for Maraekakaho,

⁶⁸ *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 27 Mar 1880, p.3.

⁶⁹ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1887-96, 1891 & 1892 Official Records.

⁷⁰ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1877-86.

⁷¹ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogues, 1886-1928.

⁷² Secretary's Notebook, Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society, 1891.

⁷³ P. G. Stevens, *Sheep, part 2, Sheepfarming Development and Sheep Breeds in New Zealand*, Christchurch: Whitcombe and Tombs Limited, 1961, p.19.

⁷⁴ *ibid*, p.81.

as apart from a few brief years of recovery nationally returns for wool per fleece had been dropping steadily since 1866.⁷⁵

For quite a few years after Douglas became owner of Maraekakaho Station the only means of making excess sheep economical, apart from the wool and local meat sales, was to send them to the boiling down works to produce tallow.⁷⁶ The emergence of a viable frozen meat trade following the successful voyage of the refrigerated ship 'Dunedin' in 1882 to Britain gave the New Zealand farmers another means of income, now there was no need to be reliant on wool alone. However the success of the frozen meat shipments did not mean the sudden demise of the boiling down works, the 1887 sale record for the Station notes that 4000 Merino Cull ewes were marked as 'Boiled Down'.⁷⁷

A more marketable quality meat than Merino was required for freezing, because the London market was already showing its preference for crossbred mutton.⁷⁸ Merino meat was a darker meat than Crossbred and not in such high demand in Britain. While this meat may not have been first choice overseas it was put to good use on the station. It is interesting to note that all meat killed at Maraekakaho for station consumption in 1879 –82 were Merino wethers, the numbers killed increasing each year.⁷⁹ Merino meat was not as palatable as meat from other breeds, but the station got rid of carcasses that were less profitable this was not an uncommon practice on farms. Why eat the profits?

The possibility of marketing mutton overseas led Archie to mention to Douglas that 'Nelson was prepared to go when they see the way clear' and 'we want to be about the first to buy the experiment.'⁸⁰ William Nelson, whose family was in the meat preserving and gelatine business in Britain was keen to start a meat-processing factory in Hastings.⁸¹ Despite Archie's keenness to start breeding for this market they were not ready three years later, in 1884 Nelson

⁷⁵ Lloyd - Prichard, Graph between pp.182-3.

⁷⁶ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 30 Apr 1887, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

⁷⁷ Sales Record, 1887, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1030.

⁷⁸ J. Critchell, and Raymond Josephs, *History of the Frozen Meat Trade, the Development, Methods, Preparation, Transport and Marketing*, London: Constable, 1912, p. 93.

⁷⁹ Maraekakaho Station Stock Valuation Lists, 30 Jun 1879, 30 Jun 1880, 30 Jun 1882, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1039.

⁸⁰ Letter Douglas McLean to Archibald McLean, 14 Aug 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

⁸¹ R.J. Paterson, *William Nelson of Tomoana: His Legacy to Hawke's Bay*, Waipukurau: C.H.B. Print, circa 2001, p.64.

asked Douglas to forgo sending his Merino carcasses in the first shipment as 'I am anxious not to send Merinos in our first cargo', Douglas agreed to this.⁸² Nelson went further than just marketing the meat, he toured Hawke's Bay to convince farmers to stock breeds primarily for their meat, like Southdowns whose early maturing smaller carcass was more suitable for the British market.⁸³

While Maraekakaho Station did stock Southdowns this was not their preference, they started a breeding programme to see whether Merino crossed with another sheep breed other than Lincoln produced a meat preferred by British consumers. Careful planning was vital because the many years of patient work would be expensive. It was still necessary to continue marketing Merino wool and meat, as they were still the station's main income until the time arrived when the market confirmed that the wool and meat of the new crossbreeds were acceptable and profitable.

While excellent meat and wool were the most important goals, the station was also striving for healthy placid animals to ensure easy mustering and shearing, with easy birthing ewes having high percentage lamb survival. Animals with fewer health problems and fattened on any feed were the ideal result.

Even after Archie owned Greenhill Station in 1891 he continued for a time to manage the station and correspond with Douglas about animal health. Diseases like Lungworm and Worms affected the quality of the sheep and lambs thus reducing station income. Douglas sent notes on 'Worms in lambs' from a newspaper article written by a Sydney veterinary surgeon lauding a medicine that claimed only one dose for a lifetime free of the disease.⁸⁴ Archie's experience had made him highly sceptical of any claims that sheep will be bred to resist diseases, or that artificial feeding for lamb and hogget drenches would overcome diseases.⁸⁵ They were not the only farmers to worry about their animals' health, there were many reports and articles in newspapers and farming magazines about footrot, lice, lungworm, the staggers and scab all supposedly cured by magical proprietary products⁸⁶

⁸² *ibid.*, p.67.

⁸³ *ibid.*, p.67.

⁸⁴ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 20 Mar 1895, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 852.

⁸⁵ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 16 Apr 1895, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 852.

⁸⁶ *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 5 Jan 1884, p.3.

Lungworm, a problem of Lincoln breeds led to substantial losses in young sheep.⁸⁷ Despite this there was always the prospect that the hot dry climate or experimentation in crossing with another breed would eliminate this undesirable trait. Lungworm or Parasitical Bronchitis liked warm moist conditions, it killed young sheep in their first year of grazing by either suffocation or debilitation, the worm ingested from the herbage where it was deposited in the faeces of infected animals.⁸⁸

Douglas explained why he persevered with his Lincoln sheep despite the problem with Lungworm, probably weighing the cost of lungworm losses against the extra gain from the Lincoln's wool. He was very satisfied with the wool produced from his Lincoln/Merino crossbred sheep as an article in New Zealand-Aotearoa reports, 'In dealing with wool it may be said at once that Mr. McLean is strongly in favour of the Lincoln sheep, believing that this is the best type for producing a weighty fleece of bright, lustrous wool...'⁸⁹

For better meat Maraekakaho Station turned to another breed with lustrous wool, the English Leicester. Like the Lincoln it had the long clean legs and agility that helped keep them from getting mired on the Station paths and the dirt roads of those days.⁹⁰ Maraekakaho Station did not replace the Lincoln with English Leicester but experimented with both breeds. A reporter noted,

Mr. McLean believes that the English Leicester will invariably beget an extremely useful lamb with good skin, and sufficiently large in frame to become an early mutton sheep. The Maraekakaho English Leicester stud was established with some of the best ewes that could be obtained from colonial farmers, and Mr. McLean is breeding for a supply of rams for station use, having mated the ewes with pure-blood sires descended from imported animals.⁹¹

The English Leicesters at Maraekakaho Station became noted for improving 'from a short goose-rumped animal to one with the fine straight back, and long

⁸⁷ Stevens, *Sheep*, part 2, p.17.

⁸⁸ David C. Henderson, *The Veterinary Book for Farmers*, Ipswich, U.K: Farming Press, 1990, p.433.

⁸⁹ Gale, p.209.

⁹⁰ Andrew Hill Clark, *The Invasion of New Zealand by People, Plants and Animals*, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1949, p.163.

⁹¹ Gale, p.209.

hindquarter, which means more weight and a much better general appearance'. The reporter mentioned the well-set on heads, showing great quality, and a genuine Leicester fleece.⁹² The improvement of the conformation of station animals not only meant greater income from the products for the market, but greater satisfaction and pride by the station workers in producing a superior looking animal.

In 1889 Archie entered his own sheep in the Show. Bred at Greenhill farm he confirmed his breeding skills when by entering two categories of Lincolns in the Show he gained third place with his ewe hoggets under eighteen months.⁹³ This showed his trust in the Lincoln breed

The high level of stockmanship needed to carry out the extensive breeding programme that existed at Maraekakaho Station was shown over the years by their outstanding successes at the Shows when they had entered, competing against many Clydesdale and Merino breeders from all over Hawke's Bay, like J.D. Ormond of Karamu and Archdeacon Samuel Williams. With his Lincolns Douglas competed with great success with W. Perry of the Wairarapa, where the climate and land suited Lincolns better, especially in later years when Maraekakaho Lincolns were bred to suit the station climate. Douglas was not averse to buying in any stock from his competitors that were superior to his own. While Merino, Lincoln, English Leicester, Shropshire Down, Dartmoor, South Devon and different Crossbreeds were entered at the Shows in different years, Southdown, Cheviots and Romney Marsh were also known to have been on the station. Maraekakaho Station also competed in the freezer meat classes with success against W. Nelson of Tomoana who specialised in this class.⁹⁴ Douglas allowed wide experimentation to take place and the majority of breeds in New Zealand would have been tested. In the years of his ownership Douglas was improving his animals even when the station was not dominating in the Show competitions, however one fact stands out, he competed in a wider variety of breeds than any of his competitors, and was competing successfully.

Besides selling wool and mutton the station sold sheep surplus to their needs. The number and class of sheep sold varied each year, affected by good or

⁹² *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16.

⁹³ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogues, 1887-1896.

⁹⁴ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogues, 1877-1928.

bad lambing years, storms and other natural losses. In 1879 a total of 7947 sheep were sold, mainly cross-bred hoggets @ 7/-, some Merino wethers @ 6/- and ewes 8/- each. 6657 sheep were sold in 1880, Merino wethers prices stayed the same with half-bred two toothed fetching 7/- each. A total of 8733 sold in 1882 with prices not moving much. In 1888 the station received £1,375 from sheep sales, with crossbred ewes fetching 5/- twice as much as Merino ewes, while their 150 crossbred rams were worth £2 each.⁹⁵ This reflected the worth of crossbreds, valued for their meat as well as their wool.

This was an important source of income for the station, and the sales emphasised Douglas' perception of a large station's role in the farming economy. Generally these were not stud animals, but vital for smaller farms to improve their flocks. Small farmers relying on larger stations to experiment for them, and then sell them their surplus animals. By 1910 the station sold Lincoln stud animals after careful selection for quality either on the market or privately. There was no mention of buyers' names or prices received.⁹⁶

Maraekakaho Station's breeding programme enhanced their reputation and ensured they remained profitable. This was reflected in the years of 1905 and 1906 when their Show entries were phenomenal in the terms of results. Douglas continued to place great importance on this means of advertising his sheep, horses and cattle. In 1905 he entered 74 categories with 226 animals. He won 44 of these besides achieving many other award placings. The following year the Station nearly achieved the same result.⁹⁷ Getting them to the Show looking their best was not easy, some sheep walked the 20 kilometres to the showgrounds but valuable stud sheep were taken by horse drawn dray.

By 1897 many farmers in Hawke's Bay were turning to the coarser woolled Romney Marsh breed, as there was a great demand for carpet wools. However Douglas was not rushing headlong into change having built a reputation and clientele for his finer wool and mutton carcasses.⁹⁸ Satisfying his existing customers ensured and maintained station income. The station's main breeding programme was to enhance and improve the product for which they

⁹⁵ Estimate of Expenditure to 30 June 1888, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 852.

⁹⁶ *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16.

⁹⁷ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1905-10, 1905 & 1906 Official Records.

⁹⁸ Letter from Chas. Balme & Co. to Messrs. W. & J. Whitehead, 18 Sept 1889, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1038.

were already famous, any other means of diversifying their products would be of value if the returns in their main market started to fall.

Maraekakaho Station's reputation was enhanced when their wool was awarded a gold medal at the Chicago World Fair in 1892, and a diploma of honour in 1893.⁹⁹ This justified Douglas's faith in his wool especially after he had obtained a gold medal three years previously at the Paris Exhibition. Naturally Douglas after these accolades was prepared to persevere with the Lincoln / Merino cross. Then an Anglo-French Agricultural and Industrial Fair at Roubaix, probably about 1910 or 1911, followed this with more recognition when he received another diploma.¹⁰⁰

Not only did Douglas think his wool was special he marketed it as such. He was a great believer in the presentation and branding of his product by using clearly marked acceptable wool bales. Torn and dirty bales were not a good advertisement for the contents. As early as 1879 he had written, 'I think it advisable to have a totally distinct brand for the crossbred and halfbred wool' however not all of the people he spoke to in Britain agreed.¹⁰¹ Douglas was adamant that a brand was important. During his time in Britain he had kept in close contact with wool markets and knew the trust they would have in a brand for wool of reliable quality.¹⁰²

He did not want just any brand but one that was specific to his family and to his liking. 'My Lochaber axe as printed in catalogue not quite a success, it wants a crook'... [as]used by the warlike Macleans of old'. His Celtic pride, evident by the Scottishness of his Maraekakaho Station, is fully revealed in that letter written to a fellow Scot, he continues 'The Lochaber Axe may be as well known on the wool market, as the axe was on the pates of the devoted Sassenachs in days gone by'.¹⁰³ Archie wanted other specific branding for different wools, in a letter five weeks later to Douglas he wrote '[I] would like a brand for the shortest and tenderest of wool even if only in private as it may save

⁹⁹ *Dominion*, 24 Sept 1910, p.16, & Framed Certificate of the Chicago 1893 Diploma of Honour, Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust.

¹⁰⁰ Gale, p.209.

¹⁰¹ Letter Douglas McLean to Archibald McLean, 22 May 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

¹⁰² Letter Douglas McLean to Archibald McLean, 8 July 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

¹⁰³ Sassenachs – South people (English) Letter Douglas McLean to Archibald McLean, 6 Sep 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

it (wool bales) being torn open for inspection'.¹⁰⁴ This referred to an earlier incident when Douglas had mentioned that buyers were not happy with a couple of bales with three-foot holes in them giving a bad impression of rotting bales. Douglas thought hooks had made the holes¹⁰⁵

Whether they did brand this wool is not mentioned but in later years Maraekakaho Station sold their Lincoln wool under the MLN brand in Britain.¹⁰⁶ This probably meant Maraekakaho Lincoln wool. By that time the Station had four other brands identifying their different grades and types of wool. They were MCL, M probably for Merino, Single Battle Axe and Double Battle Axe. However after about 1910 the Single Battle Axe was the only brand retained.¹⁰⁷ The reason for this change was not remarked on. Just after the turn of the century even the small farm owners of Maraekakaho district were required to brand their wool, William Graham notes on the 30th April 1908 'To Waipukurau for Sheep Brand – Registered.'

The new owners of the sub-divided farms did not have Douglas' established contacts in Britain and had to sell their produce more on the open markets. In 1904 Archie at Greenhill Station was raising Southdown sheep for the meatworks, and he thought his hoggets were of sufficient quality to enter them in competitions. Evidence that he thought he was successful in improving his export meat animals enough to interest other farmers.¹⁰⁸ He bred Southdowns because though a lowland sheep they also did well on drier drought prone country like Raukawa. Even so, some problems still had to be overcome, they were poor mothers who had a low lambing average, and at that time their wool did not achieve high prices.¹⁰⁹ This accentuates that a skilled breeder like Archie, a renowned stockman, could look at the good points in a breed while trying to rectify any perceived disadvantages making the animal more marketable or suitable for their own specific needs. This did not necessarily mean that this was the breed, or breeds, that would eventually be his main flock.

¹⁰⁴ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 14 Aug 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

¹⁰⁵ Letter Douglas McLean to Archibald McLean, 8 July 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

¹⁰⁶ *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894.

¹⁰⁷ L.J. Donovan, n.d., Maraekakaho File Box 2.

¹⁰⁸ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1900-04, 1904 Official Record.

¹⁰⁹ Clark, p.216.



J. MILLS TRUCK & STATION WOOL BALES WITH SINGLE BATTLE AXE BRAND

Archie also went on to keep stud flocks of about one hundred Border Leicester and one hundred Lincoln ewes at Greenhill Station. 'These ewes were mated with pedigree sires to raise young rams for the Greenhill Station and for sale.' He sheared about 6,000 to 7,000 Lincoln and Border Leicester Crossbreds each year. The Border Leicester was slightly smaller animal than the English Leicester but the animal made up for this by being a more prolific breeder. He fattened 2,000 lambs annually that were usually sent to local freezing works with some frozen carcasses sent occasionally to London. His Greenhill Station wool was exported to London where it was well regarded and sold under the station name.¹¹⁰

Another farmer from the Maraekakaho area appears in the Show entries in 1905. John Macfarlane like Archie had been one of Maraekakaho Station's previous managers and now farmed Ben Lomond. Macfarlane as a new farm owner did not have Maraekakaho Station's reputation to help him sell specialist products, so he had to advertise his ability to produce quality animals and products. He followed Douglas' and Archie's lead and enter animals in the Show. His entries were in two categories of Border Leicester and one for fat sheep.¹¹¹ Even so these were not apparently going to be the breed that was going to be his main flock. John Macfarlane started his flocks with Lincoln rams over Merino ewes but he later changed to Romney Marsh sires bought from Parorangi Station at Feilding. About 1910 Ben Lomond had two studs of Romney Marsh sheep descended from the Parorangi flock. These were for his farm use and also for sale. In later years he sheared about 12,000 sheep each year, and 'Ben Lomond' wool was well known on the local market. He fattened between 5,000 to 6,000 lambs and about 1,000 wethers annually for the works. Like Greenhill Station, Ben Lomond sold most locally and exported to London when the market there offered better returns.¹¹²

Romney Marsh also seemed to be the preferred breed of the other new farmers to whom Douglas had sold land. Mount Lookout owners, James and William Macfarlane brothers of John, as well as Sween Macphee of Mason's

¹¹⁰ Gale, p.191.

¹¹¹ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1905-10, 1907 Official Record.

¹¹² Gale, p.179.

Ridge and Donald McLean of Glencoe kept this breed.¹¹³ Romney at this time became very popular in New Zealand as a dual-purpose sheep. Its lambs matured early and it adapted well to New Zealand conditions. It was also an outstanding grazer, night and day spreading out over the whole paddock.¹¹⁴

T.W. Wilson had sold his farm, Big Spur, to William Nelson. About 1908 Nelson sold it to William (Bill) Richmond who immediately stocked it with Southdown sheep. Richmond a self-employed stock buyer for Nelson and the Tomoana Freezing Works concentrated more on raising sheep for meat, the income from wool being secondary to him.¹¹⁵

These were the years when the size of Maraekakaho Station and Douglas's flocks and herds were steadily decreasing due to sub-division. The land where he had run his valuable flocks and herds was now feeding the animals of some of his new competitors. Even though he had sold his land to friends, decreased numbers of stock meant he had no need to enter so many animals at the Hawke's Bay Show, or was even able to pursue such a wide breeding programme. His sheep numbers at that time were down to 'nearly 20,000 sheep and 11,000 Lambs', a far cry from the 65,000 sheep in 1890.¹¹⁶

Whatever the problems of competing locally Maraekakaho was still enhancing its reputation for first class wool overseas. The previous accolades of Chicago, Roubaix and Paris were followed up in 1910 when Mr. S. B. Hollings, mentioned as the celebrated wool expert of Bradford in Britain, praised Maraekakaho's wool in the *Wool Record*, a prestigious periodical. He wrote about the length of the staple and the yield of wool per animal of five Lincoln – Merino ewes, and how Maraekakaho wool received top price at Coleman Street. He mentioned that locally it was called 'Lochaber Axe', an old Scotch battle-axe, after the trademark of Maraekakaho Station that was stencilled on their wool-packs.¹¹⁷ These remarks must surely have brought satisfaction to Douglas and all of his employees.

By 1910 Maraekakaho Station had a range of sheep products to sell covering a wide range of market needs. In wool the Crossbred wools from the

¹¹³ Interviews with William Macfarlane, 8 May 2004, Ian Macphee, 21 Apr 2004, & Richard Timmer, 13 Nov 2004.

¹¹⁴ Kenneth Ponting, *Sheep of the World in Colour*, Poole: Blandford Press, 1980, pp.46-7.

¹¹⁵ Interview with William and Rita Richmond, 17 June 2004.

¹¹⁶ Gale, p.212, & Parr, p.181.

¹¹⁷ Gale, p.209.

Lincoln and English Leicester crosses with Merinos, now called the New Zealand Crossbred, were the main income earners. The differing wool, meat and skins from the pure Merinos, Lincolns, English Leicesters and all of the other breeds that the station stocked would satisfy a wide range of other customers in the market.¹¹⁸ The wide breeding programme of Maraekakaho Station ensured a market coverage that contributed to its success and stability. Many other farmers were turning to the Romney Marsh as this breed was successful in the general market, however Douglas with his long-standing customers was able to continue with the breeds that had made the Station's reputation.¹¹⁹

The frozen meat works favoured Southdown sheep for carcasses but while Maraekakaho Station bred 'Down' sheep they did not seem to favour these over the English Leicester – Merino cross for meat. Show entries record their Shropshire Down entries from 1902 until 1906, the station seeming to favour this breed instead of Southdown as they never entered any Southdown sheep in contests. They also had Romney Marsh on the Station but did not enter this breed at any Shows, probably because it did not meet their standards or produce wool or meat better than their preferred Lincolns or English Leicesters. By the turn of the century the majority of Hawke's Bay farmers raised this breed because the Romney Marsh sheep was a good mother and coped with a wide variety of conditions.¹²⁰ The station had gained renown for the wool and meat they bred from their Lincoln and Leicester/Merino crosses, and any other breed or Crossbred type would surely have to be of exceptional quality to induce change.

Continuing to seek improvements in their wool and mutton the Station kept up with breeding experiments. The station's search for perfection and better results is shown a few years later when they bought a Lincoln ram from W. Perry, one of the Wairarapa competitors who had consistently beaten him at Shows in his earlier years of Lincoln breeding.¹²¹ The station by buying good stud animals improved the quality of their Lincolns by World War I and reversed these results.¹²²

¹¹⁸ Dominion, 24 Sep 1910, p.16.

¹¹⁹ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogues, 1923-27, 1928-32, 1927 & 1928 Official Records.

¹²⁰ Clark, p.215.

¹²¹ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1905-10, 1908 Official Record.

¹²² Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogues, 1911-22.

To Douglas and Maraekakaho Station Show competitions were important, and he continued to enter competitions until the he died in 1929. Sir Douglas was knighted in Britain in 1927, for welfare work and services to the wounded of World War I.¹²³ His sympathies would have been aroused when his son Algernon was severely injured in France and was confined to a wheelchair. An obituary that the Agricultural and Pastoral Society Secretary, A.M. Retemeyer, wrote in his notebook shows the importance of Douglas and the station to animal breeding, and in particular sheep breeding in Hawke's Bay. 'The loss to the Society and farming community of his splendid exhibits of stock to our Spring Show is an irreparable one.'¹²⁴

Station profit was not the only reason for Douglas's continuance of his many varied breeding programmes, he genuinely believed that it was the responsibility of the larger land owners to pursue this path as they were the only ones who could afford the costs.¹²⁵ He knew the benefits of having large numbers of quality sheep involved, he also knew the benefit from the pooling of knowledge of the experienced stockman that he employed. This pool of expertise was irreversibly fragmented when the Station was forced to sub-divide.

Cattle on Maraekakaho Station had an important role to play in the station's economy even before the advent of meat refrigeration. Their main use was to prepare the paddocks for sheep by grazing the longer rank grass, and breaking down rougher vegetation.

There were three classes of cattle, two bred for specific purposes beef or dairy products, as well as the dual type animal bred for both purposes. While all three types were to be stocked at the station the dual type Shorthorn was preferred. Douglas favoured the red and white or roan coloured Shorthorn as it complemented the needs and economy of the station. Before refrigeration the only outlet for beef was the small local market while producing dairy products for sale at Maraekakaho was not profitable due to the dry weather, therefore a dual-purpose animal that could also raise income from another source were preferred.

¹²³ Parr, p.201.

¹²⁴ Secretary's Notebook, Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society, 1929, p.4.

¹²⁵ Gale, p.212.

Young Shorthorn bulls not suitable for stud purposes were castrated and used as draught animals. While slower than a draught horse Shorthorns could pull a heavier load, especially in wet conditions, broken ground and at river crossings where its cloven hooves gave it better traction.¹²⁶ Being a horned animal the yoke did not slip over the animal's head.¹²⁷ The Shorthorn bullocks were in high demand in the second half of the nineteenth century as draught animals for many purposes. One of their jobs was to pull drays of grain after harvest time and the surplus bullocks, castrated bulls, were sold to the timber industry that was situated in the nearby foothills of the Hawke's Bay ranges.¹²⁸

Douglas expended a considerable amount of time and money to improve the pure Shorthorn stud established in The Valley. He was not the only owner to have a Shorthorn stud, Agricultural and Pastoral Society Show records reveal that A. McHardy and Archdeacon Sam Williams of Waipawa also reared them.¹²⁹

Some of the two-year-old bulls from selected cows were sold with a certificate of tuberculin test from a registered M.R.C.V.S. (Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons), no specific veterinary surgeon employed was mentioned. This certificate applied to all bulls used in the herd.¹³⁰

The cows provided milk for their calves and the Valley workers. Half the milk was drawn from the cows in the morning for cookhouse needs, and the calves had the balance until they were six or seven months old. Up to this age they were housed at night, then they were grazed with sheep for three years this making them easier to handle later.¹³¹

In 1894 there were 1,800 Shorthorn cattle mainly reared for beef, while in 1912 there were 1600 head.¹³² After refrigeration this breed became eminently suitable for a colonial station as they had a 'great bony frame that could carry a lot of beef.'¹³³ However by the 1920's when roads and pasturage on the farm

¹²⁶ Interview with Wallace Simmons, 10 Dec 2004.

¹²⁷ Clark, p.235.

¹²⁸ *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894, p.171.

¹²⁹ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1897.

¹³⁰ *Dominion*, 24 Sept 1910, p.16.

¹³¹ *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894, p.172.

¹³² *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894, p.171, & Gale, p.212.

¹³³ Clark, p.235.



LOADING GRAIN ON OXEN CART NEAR MARAEKAKAHO STABLES

improved allowing horses to become the major draught animals there were only about 600 cows, this was still considered a large stud for that time.¹³⁴

It was uncommon for beef to be killed for any station meat, Maraekakaho Station annual records located were for mutton killed for station purposes but not for cattle.¹³⁵ Even so some beef cattle were stocked. Herefords, were exhibited in 1876 by Sir Donald McLean, though they would have still been on the station in 1877 Douglas did not exhibit them during his ownership.¹³⁶ After refrigeration beef cattle would have been another source of income, and another breed the Aberdeen Angus, the polled Scottish black beef cattle, were kept in the Valley with the Shorthorns in the latter days of Douglas's ownership.¹³⁷

The station was as particular about cattle hard feed as they were about the housing. As well as the chaff house there was a feed house. This had a big copper to boil up the barley as unboiled barley would swell up and kill the cattle. The barley was mixed with oilcake containing linseed, chaff and mangels, then molasses was added and the mixture put into bags. It was then taken to the paddocks by a horse pulled cart and fed to the cattle. Naturally some of the hard feed dropped from the sacks, and Tom McCormack's first recollection as a child was the Dawn Chorus of mainly sparrows who came to feed on the scattered cattle foodstuff.¹³⁸ Paddocks of Lucerne were specially grown for the bulls as well and fed out into the four 4 acre bull paddocks.¹³⁹ These paddocks were separated by dense Boxthorn and Barbary hedges to keep the bulls apart, and stop them fighting.¹⁴⁰ There were specialist dairy cows on the station, mostly Jerseys. They supplied the managerial staff of the station and the single men at Maraekakaho, each of the married men having their own family cow.¹⁴¹ The station cows were looked after by a dairyman, after 1908 this was George

¹³⁴ Interview with Leonora McCormack, 2 Sep 2004.

¹³⁵ Maraekakaho Station Stock Valuation Lists, 30 Jun 1879, 30 Jun 1880, 30 Jun 1882, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1039.

¹³⁶ *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 24 Oct 1876, pp.5-6, *Dominion* 24 Sep 1910, p.16, & Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogues, 1877-1929.

¹³⁷ Telephone conversation with Leonora McCormack, 9 Feb 2004.

¹³⁸ Interview with Leonora McCormack, 2 Sep 2004.

¹³⁹ *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894, p.172.

¹⁴⁰ Interview with Leonora McCormack, 2 Sep 2004.

¹⁴¹ Interview with Ann Macphee, 1 Sep 2003.

McDonnell who was married to Alyce, they had two children, Dick who later became a Roman Catholic priest and Kitty.¹⁴²

The sub-divided farms also had their dairy cows, the larger farms employing a cowman, usually a cowman gardener whose wife cooked for the staff.¹⁴³ Farmers on small farms like William Graham who farmed 300 acres, either milked themselves or a family member did it. A few pages existing of his notes show the problems and rewards that one heifer could bring.

Sept 14 Go to look at Heifer at Maraekakaho Station.

15 brought(sic) Heifer from Maraekakaho Station, paid £6 for her, also brought cow to stay with Heifer for a while, fixing place for cow bail in afternoon.

16 Rain, make place for milking cow. The rest of day trying to catch the cow, had to get the boys to help catch the cow.

17 Went to Hastings got £72-6 from Mr. England Due 17 Jan 1909. from W& K (Williams and Kettle, Stock and Station Agents) churn 13/- Strainer 3 milk pans 1 @ 2/9, 2 @ 2/3. paid for skimmer 6^d

18 Go over home for churn & milk dishes

21 Make milk safe (a small airy milk cupboard)

22 Finish milk safe

Oct 4 Heifer calved

[Oct] 15 sold 8lbs Butter @ 10^d per lb

Oct 27 younger [and] self take cow back to Maraekakaho in afternoon

Dec 2 7lb Butter @ 9^d

Dec 24 11lbs Butter @ 9^d per lb¹⁴⁴

The need for the cow was to reduce the stress on the heifer, as stress would reduce her milk flow, the loan of the cow showed how important it was for small farmers to have good personal relations with their neighbours. Work on his farm would have to be arranged around William Graham's normal contracting, and as hiring

¹⁴² Telephone conversation with Ann Macphee, 21 Feb 2005, & Electoral Roll, 1908.

¹⁴³ Mary White, manuscript memories.

¹⁴⁴ Graham, Diary notes, interview with Marion Miller, 26 Mar 2004.

tradesmen was expensive the farmer had to become very versatile tradesman. With very little spare money all the members of the families of small farms had to work hard to be able to have the necessities of life. The butter was churned and later sold by his wife and daughters to local storekeepers in exchange for groceries and similar goods. Firms like William & Kettle would expect cash on sales at first until the farmer showed he was credit worthy and allowed to buy goods on account.

After refrigeration made the sale of beef profitable overseas beef cattle like Herefords and Aberdeen Angus became more popular, Douglas still preferred his Shorthorns.¹⁴⁵ 'He found that his oxen put on flesh in the most valuable parts of the body, and that the surplus young bulls are possessed of such quality that stock-owners from far and near look to the Maraekakaho herd to supply them with stud sires'.¹⁴⁶

Archie also kept Shorthorns on Greenhill Station, establishing a stud herd just before 1912. He bought cows from Mount Herbert station near Waipukurau, and the chief bull from South Australia. The herd numbered about 80 breeding cows and heifers with great hope of increasing the numbers due to demand being greater than supply.¹⁴⁷ Greenhill was the only subdivided farm to stock Shorthorns, the three Macfarlane Bros each establishing Aberdeen Angus Studs only one of which is still in existence. The Macfarlanes', James of Glen Aros, William of Waiterenui and John of Ben Lomond preferred to raise a Scottish Breed of cattle. Their pride in their animals is evident with each animal's name having the farm name added as recognition of breeding. In 1918 W.A. Macfarlane received a letter telling him the names of 21 of his cows, from Annie of Waiterenui to Mascotta 3rd of Waiterenui.¹⁴⁸ All these stud animals had to have a certificate of verification of breeding from a Stock and Station firm or similar organisation.¹⁴⁹ Not all were totally domesticated, during drafting of calves from cows Agnes Jameson of Aomarama wrote, 'the cows are so wild all black polled Angus'.¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁵ Interview with Leonora McCormack, 2 Sept 2004.

¹⁴⁶ Gale, p.209.

¹⁴⁷ *ibid.*, p.191.

¹⁴⁸ Letter from New Zealand Aberdeen Angus Breeders' Association to W.A. Macfarlane, 25 Oct 1918, William Macfarlane Files.

¹⁴⁹ Interview with William Macfarlane, 8 May 2004.

¹⁵⁰ Jameson, p.8.

John Macfarlane of Ben Lomond went further in stocking Scottish cattle, when he raised Scottish Highland Cattle that he exhibited at a couple of Shows.¹⁵¹ Long horned and woolly they were sort after for stud purposes as meat and dairy animals on North Island high level stations.¹⁵² Even so, these were bred mainly for sentimental reasons not for economic ones. Cattle thrived in the district, the clean spring water, clean grass and low rainfall of the district proved ideal for raising beef cattle.¹⁵³ On Torran, next door to the Macfarlanes, cattle though adding to the farm's income were only kept for cleaning pasture ready for sheep, Torran concentrated on being a sheep and lamb farm.¹⁵⁴

Maraekakaho Station was very proud of their Clydesdale stud. Not only was the breed Scottish but they were also the preferred breed in New Zealand at that time, ensuring easy sales of their progeny. Douglas during trips to Britain took time to buy the best mares and stallions that he could afford. On his 1878 trip he had the help of Maraekakaho Station's retired manager Tom Condie, who helped him choose a first class Clydesdale colt.¹⁵⁵ Improving and maintaining the standard of his stud meant a continuing infusion of top class animals.

Two years later Douglas looking to improve his herd of draught horses, set out to buy another top class registered stallion. Unfortunately in the early days of shipping animals problems arose. Apparently all cattle needed to have a veterinary certificate and had to meet extra health regulations than those that applied to other animals. Douglas managed to convince the necessary officials that 'the word cattle not apply to horses'.¹⁵⁶ John Potter & Company negotiating with the officials confirmed this on the same day that the Veterinary surgeon issued a Health Certificate for the stallion, and the surgeon ensured Douglas that the horses would travel more safely on a specialist ship set up for transporting horses.¹⁵⁷ Ordinary cattle were not housed separately.

¹⁵¹ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogues, 1915, 1922.

¹⁵² Gale, p.179.

¹⁵³ Interview with William Macfarlane, 8 May 2004.

¹⁵⁴ Interview with William and Rita Richmond, 17 June 2004.

¹⁵⁵ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 13 Sept 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

¹⁵⁶ Letter Douglas McLean to John Potter & Co., n.d., microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1035.

¹⁵⁷ Letters John Potter & Co. to Douglas McLean, 17 Sept 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1035, & Alexander Galbraith to Douglas McLean, 17 Sept 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 55, folder 1035.

Douglas had paid five hundred guineas for a Scottish Clydesdale stallion that year, this was Apollo, heeding Archie's advice to choose the animal not the price.¹⁵⁸ Douglas also employed a groom who travelled to New Zealand with his new horse Apollo. Douglas placed high regard to the winning of cups at the Shows, wanting to know 'how many cups are our own absolute property' then going on to suggest offering a cup for a colt and filly of another stallion already at the station, Berlin Congress'.¹⁵⁹ This purebred imported Clydesdale stallion was also advertised for stud duties in the local newspaper and Archie kept Douglas informed frequently about the impending arrival of Apollo, his accommodation and feeding.¹⁶⁰ Archie wrote that McDonald the groom had said the horse was improving remarkably well on his feed of carrots and mangold-wurzels.¹⁶¹

Both Douglas and Archie knew that good Show results would increase the station income. Archie like Douglas had hopes of winning the Cup with the stallion, the cup for best Clydesdale stallion at the Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Show. This hope was not fulfilled, as the Berlin Congress was second to J. Heslop's 'Robin Adair'.¹⁶² This may be the reason why Archie mentions later that the mares brought to the station for service were only 33. Combined with the 24 station mares that meant a total of 57 stud duties for the stallion. Archie thought that this number was 'a bit light but was sure this will improve.'¹⁶³ The next year, 1879, Berlin Congress took first place in his class and this was only the first in a long line of successes for Maraekakaho against tough local competition at the Hawke's Bay Shows until 1928.¹⁶⁴

A reporter in 1910 recorded the station's standard practice for the Clydesdales,

¹⁵⁸ Campbell, vol 1, p.132, & Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 1 Feb 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

¹⁵⁹ Letter Douglas McLean to Archibald McLean, 27 Dec 1880, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

¹⁶⁰ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 12 Oct 1878, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

¹⁶¹ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, n.d., microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

¹⁶² Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1877-86, 1879 Official Record.

¹⁶³ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 31 Jan 1880, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

¹⁶⁴ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogues, 1878 -1928.

It is usual to reserve a few of the best colts out of selected mares for stallions, which always sell well as two year olds for Australian markets. A large number of the three-year-old geldings are required annually to keep the teams working on the station teams to a standard.... The three-year-old fillies are put to work in the teams for a year or so, then carefully selected to go into the stud. The breeding mares are not, as a rule, worked much, for the ploughing is usually upon hilly country, not altogether suitable for brood mares carrying valuable foals to work upon.¹⁶⁵

In later years the expertise that both Douglas and Archie gained in buying and raising Clydesdales was such that they were asked to judge Draught Horses at Shows.¹⁶⁶

The draught horse was very important to Maraekakaho Station, and other colonial farms as well. It was the main haulage power for the station, especially when the roads and pastures improved and bullocks were not as vital. Used singly or harnessed together they pulled the ploughs, harvesting implements, and the loads of produce to market or around the farm. Without them the farm would not function as well. Over the years the importance and strength of the stallions was advertised by the very names given to them, 'Lord Castlereagh' in 1884, while 'The Marquis of Salisbury' and 'British Lyon' were two of the Maraekakaho Station stallions in 1894.¹⁶⁷

It was not only the horses that needed to be of the highest quality, the Stud Groom had to be an expert. Douglas ensured this continuing by bringing Alex Whyte out from Scotland with some horses around about 1919. Whyte mentioned that the Maraekakaho stud was then the largest south of the equator.¹⁶⁸ His abilities were soon in evidence as the remarkable results of station Clydesdales at Agricultural and Pastoral Society Shows continued.

The business sense of Douglas and Archie was shown in 1886 when they entered a Robin Adair colt at the Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Show. This attitude of strengthening their stud by buying the best from their competitors at the Shows had been shown before in 1881 when Archie went to

¹⁶⁵ *Dominion*, 24 Sept 1910, p.16.

¹⁶⁶ Letter Manawatu-West Coast Agricultural and Pastoral Society to Douglas McLean, 24 Aug 1891, Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Letterbook, vol. 2, Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Archives.

¹⁶⁷ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1877-86, & 1884 Official Record, *The New Zealand Farmer*, May 1894, p.172.

¹⁶⁸ *Hawke's Bay Herald Tribune*, cutting, n.d.

Canterbury to buy good stock. Not only breeding stock, he purchased a gelding as well as eight mares. Six of the mares were pregnant to 'Prime Victor', which would introduce new blood and improve the Maraekakaho herd. This was at an average cost of £70 including travel, however he rated the Canterbury stock as better than the average Hawke's Bay stock.¹⁶⁹

Setbacks occurred, animals became sick or died. One of the classy Canterbury mares that Archie had expected much of when serviced by Berlin Congress, died. The Veterinary Surgeon, a Mr. Danvers, found that the mare had ingested a sheep's skull about a year previously that measured four and a half inches over the horn butts, lacerating the mare's throat and colon.¹⁷⁰

It is not surprising after the attention the Clydesdales received at Maraekakaho Station that when the sub-divided farms were set up that they also bred the horses in a smaller way. In 1911 Archie imported mares for Greenhill Station, probably to set up a small stud and entered horses with some success in the early 1920s Shows.¹⁷¹ John Macfarlane had 15 mares that were served by local stallions. These were not for show but for his farm's use as teams and general draught work.¹⁷² Sween Macphee, of Mason Ridge, as a noted ploughman and a former Agricultural Manager also had his own horses but these would have been working horses, he was not a person to enter Shows.¹⁷³ Though tractors were used to power and shift agricultural machinery it was not until 1925 that William Richmond used tractors to plough hill country at Torran, this was also the first time in Hawke's Bay. However, horses were generally used on hills right up until the end of World War Two.¹⁷⁴

The lighter horses were just as important to Maraekakaho Station as the Clydesdales. These were mainly short-legged cobs descended from the Welsh pit ponies.¹⁷⁵ Sir Donald had established the cob stud at the station with local mares

¹⁶⁹ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 22 Apr 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

¹⁷⁰ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 26 May 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

¹⁷¹ Gale, p.191.

¹⁷² *ibid.*, p.179.

¹⁷³ Interview with Ian Macphee, 21 Apr 2004.

¹⁷⁴ Interview with William and Rita Richmond, 17 June 2004.

¹⁷⁵ Interview with Wallace Simmons, 10 Dec 2004.

crossed with the Exmoor sires of Mr G.G. Carlyon of Gwavas, a neighbour of Sir Donald.¹⁷⁶

Maraekakaho Station had a celebrated Welsh Cob named Comet, which according to original writing on the back of a photograph mentions he became a household name all over Hawke's Bay.¹⁷⁷ His progeny the Comet Breed took many prizes at Shows down the years, and always with the reminder this was a Comet horse. This horse imported by Douglas about 1890 was to enhance the reputation that the station had built up with its cobs.¹⁷⁸ His progeny became eagerly sought after for their versatility. This reputation was further enhanced by the later importation of another sire, Dinarth Caesar.¹⁷⁹ Stables were built at Maraekakaho near the woolshed, with floors of Karri similar to the Clydesdale stables.¹⁸⁰ This was a large building, built mainly for the horses of the shepherds that lived in that area.¹⁸¹

In 1912 Comet progeny were still mentioned as a selling point by studs of other farms.¹⁸² They were used as harness horses as well as hacks for shepherds. Driven by ladies in buggies and ridden by children they were sure footed and could carry a heavy man over most terrain.¹⁸³ The shorter cob at fourteen hands high compared to the taller horse meant that at lambing time the constant mounting and dismounting by shepherds was not so tiring, and it was easier to lift up a sheep across its back.¹⁸⁴

Such was the reputation of these horses that a Mr Fred Swindley later wrote to Douglas wanting to buy a pony for hacking. He reminded Douglas that they had met previously on a Waikato train, as though that meeting would influence Douglas to sell one of these special ponies.¹⁸⁵

Comet's progeny were entered in many classes at Shows. In the 'Mounted Infantry Hack' class at the Shows in 1902 Cronje took first place. The

¹⁷⁶ Letter from R. A. Batley, author of a book on the Kaimanawa horses, 14 Feb 2004.

¹⁷⁷ Interview with Sheila de Gruchy, 1 Oct 2003.

¹⁷⁸ *Dominion*, 24 Sept 1910, p.16.

¹⁷⁹ Letter from R. A. Batley, 14 Feb 2004.

¹⁸⁰ Interview with Sheila de Gruchy, 1 Oct 2003.

¹⁸¹ Telephone conversation with Ann Macphee, 30 Sept 2004.

¹⁸² Gale, p.176.

¹⁸³ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogues, 1877-1929, & *Dominion* 24 Sept 1910, p.16.

¹⁸⁴ Interview with Wallace Simmons, 10 Dec 2004.

¹⁸⁵ Letter Frederick Swindley to Douglas McLean, 28 Sept 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 56, folder 1044.

fame of the breed reached Britain with Lord Kitchener visiting Maraekakaho Station in 1910 to inspect them for war ponies.¹⁸⁶ He spent a day riding around the station looking at all the animals. After the Maori disturbances on the East Coast in the 1860-70 period some of the horses were sent up to breed with the horses running wild on the Kaimanawa Plain, in case they were needed by the military.¹⁸⁷

Douglas bought other horses in Britain to improve the bloodlines of the Maraekakaho Station horses. Six mares were sent to New Zealand in 1881, and he wrote to Archie explaining each horse's pedigree and adding his thoughts. 'Number one box, sending pedigree mare (hunting mare) Boss Roch Dam by Bondholder, carried by Duke of Beaufort'... 'might throw a good useful colt' repeating in this vein for all six mares. Concluding with 'I did not get them to breed racers' but they were apparently to improve the bloodline as he mentioned they were reasonably priced and a veterinary had judged and scrutinised them.¹⁸⁸

Berlin, an imported trotter, was another horse that stood at stud at Maraekakaho Station. One of his progeny called Kentucky won the Carriage Horse class at the 1889 Show and was nominated the 'entire best calculated to improve the breed of carriage horses.'¹⁸⁹ These were the light trucks of that era and used widely for pulling four wheeled coaches and delivery wagons.¹⁹⁰ Other classes of horses, harness horses for two wheeled gigs and buggies, light weight hacks, lady's hacks and ponies, all of these types were bred at Maraekakaho Station. With 500 horses on the station at times horse breaking was a constant job and paid the station well, as some of the Welsh ponies would easily fetch £100 or more.¹⁹¹ Some successes were recorded in earlier years, however the decades either side of the end of the nineteenth century were the years of Maraekakaho Station's greatest achievements.¹⁹²

¹⁸⁶ Original writing on back of Comet photograph.

¹⁸⁷ Letter from R. A. Batley, 14 Feb 2004.

¹⁸⁸ Letter Douglas McLean to Archibald McLean, 1 Nov 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

¹⁸⁹ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1887-96, 1889 Official Record.

¹⁹⁰ Telephone conversation with Mr Hugh Thompson, past Huntmaster of the Hawke's Bay Hunt, 13 Jan 2004.

¹⁹¹ *Dominion*, 24 Sep 1910, p.16.

¹⁹² Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogues, 1887-1916.



COB STALLION 'COMET', RIDER ROWLEY THOMPSON



RODERICK MACDONALD & HIS FRIENDS



SWORD DANCER & HIS FAITHFULL ATTENDANT

Archie continued the tradition of entering the Shows, showing the quality of his draught animals as his stock improved at Greenhill Station.¹⁹³ Apparently he did not breed harness horses or hacks even though he had some useful animals in his stables.¹⁹⁴ John Lyons a shepherd at Greenhill Station entered many Show competitions from 1909 to 1926 when he won the pony best suitable for polo class, polo being a sport that many of the workers enjoyed.

John Macfarlane had a small stud of Welsh Mountain ponies with 16 purebred mares and a stallion named King Edward. Though not as famous as Comet this horse was 'a striking model of what a Welsh sire should be'. Breeding this type of horse apparently ensured a lucrative return on the capital investment outlaid.¹⁹⁵

Horses also gave the residents of the new farms a chance to enjoy themselves and display their talents to their friends. Lachlan McLean of Glencoe, Oswald Clarkson of Glenlyon, H.M. Overton manager of Maraekakaho Station and Miss Elsie Bell of Ben Lomond all entered the Turning Competition for horses, unfortunately without any luck.¹⁹⁶ Robert Scoon, a wagon driver at Maraekakaho Station, showed his skills by gaining first place in the single harness pony class.¹⁹⁷ Ted English a shepherd of Glen Aros competed over the years with success in Single Harness Horse competitions and in the Military Horse riding, and in other classes needing horse handling skills.¹⁹⁸

Older children were also able to show off the riding skills that they had gained while practicing at their farms. This was a sport that they could indulge in and train by themselves. They displayed their skills at the Show, the most important and eagerly awaited social event of their year. The children of all the farms large and small competed. Mary (Pops) White, daughter of James Macfarlane of Glen Aros, competed with great success at the Show, a superb horsewoman she continued to compete in her adult years. Not only owners' children competed, Dan McCormack son of Thomas who was a Shorthorn stockman competed and won his class before he was 15 years old. Also in that

¹⁹³ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1887-96, 1891 Official Record.

¹⁹⁴ Gale, p.191.

¹⁹⁵ *ibid*, p.180.

¹⁹⁶ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1911-16, 1911 Official Record.

¹⁹⁷ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1917-22, 1918 Official Record.

¹⁹⁸ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1917-22, 1919 & 1920 Official Records.

year of 1915 Miss Florence Lopdell from Ben Lomond won Best Girl Rider,¹⁹⁹ Florence's father was Henry who was recorded as manager of Ben Lomond in 1925.²⁰⁰

There were many other young riders mentioned over the years, Mick Donovan of the Valley and later to become head Shorthorn studmaster. Sam Roe, son of Thomas Roe the waggoner, was also successful. By 1924-5 all of the females in one family were competing. John Harris Jeffard had a farm at Ngatarawa, his wife Myrtle and his daughter Molly entered Show competitions in 1924. The following year daughters Cynthia, Mary and Phyllis joined in and the different members of the family rode in competitions for years afterwards.²⁰¹

Sheep dogs were another animal necessary to the smooth running of the station. With paddocks the size of Middle Spur at 3,485 acres, which was about the same size as the whole of the future Greenhill Station, sheepdogs were vital to allow the shepherds and their horses to round up the sheep in a reasonable time.

Archie as well as managing the station apparently helped the shepherds at times by helping work the sheep, as a letter in early 1880 reveals. Douglas had sent him two dogs from the Scottish Highlands just before Christmas. They were a dog that Archie named Scot, and a bitch. He liked Scot 'as he has good potential, even though he would have to work on him.' Archie wrote wistfully that his Gaelic was getting rusty, probably through disuse, as he used English to work Scot, but the dog understood the commands better in Gaelic.²⁰² Douglas continued to buy dogs in Britain, as he was told two years later that there were no regulations in force to prohibit importation of dogs to New Zealand, and no veterinary certificate was needed.²⁰³

A.H. Clark asserts that many of the Scottish shepherds brought their own Collie dogs with them to New Zealand, however true that is the shepherds treated their dogs as friends. Dressed up in their highland regalia in leisure time,

¹⁹⁹ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1911-16, 1915 Official Record.

²⁰⁰ Electoral Roll, 1925.

²⁰¹ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1923-27.

²⁰² Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 18 Jan 1880, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

²⁰³ Letter Walter Kennaway to Douglas McLean, 31 Jan 1882, microfilm-0726-reel 55, folder 1035.

photographs of Roderick McDonald and an unknown dancer show their dogs sitting patiently near them, watching.

Some of the men so enjoyed working and training their dogs that they entered the dog trials at the Show, that dogs were allowed to show their ability at the Show stresses the importance that rural society places on their dogs in the economics of farming. John Macfarlane entered Laddie in 1887 and 1888 while his brother William entered in 1898.²⁰⁴ The imported Scott, now with two t's, must have achieved the potential that Archie had remarked on as he was able to display his abilities at the Show in 1883.²⁰⁵ Archie's appraisal of Scot was that of an expert as he was asked to judge at the next year's trials.²⁰⁶

The Macfarlane brothers, James and William, were ardent dog trialists as when they had their own farms they still remained in the Central Hawke's Bay Sheep Dog Trial Club. The minute book for the Club at the start of the twentieth century shows that these two men and Roderick McDonald were members, with the latter being made a life member in 1903. Douglas. A. McLean of Greenhill Station entered his 'Scot' in the Club in 1901, it seems this was a favourite name for dogs of Scottish shepherds. Another entrant showing his skills with his Collie dog was Ted English the horseman and shepherd at Glen Aros station.²⁰⁷ The club though centred on sheepdogs also had social occasions like dances and club meetings with refreshments, these allowed the women to take part and were all part of the club agenda. Douglas interested in all things to do with the station and district was the President of the club and donated to it for many years.²⁰⁸

Poultry and pigs were also significant at Maraekakaho Station and they showed it by entering them at the Shows. In the early years Archie entered Spanish and Poland fowls for the station, this was probably to support the early Shows by widening the range of exhibits and giving more interest for visitors, as he did not do this in later years. Maraekakaho Station entered Game fowl, Spanish Game breeds and Golden Pencilled Hamburgs as well as Polands.²⁰⁹

²⁰⁴ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogues 1887-96, 1897 & 1904 Official Records.

²⁰⁵ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1877-86, 1883 Official Record.

²⁰⁶ *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 10 Oct 1884, p.2.

²⁰⁷ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1911-16, 1911 Official Record.

²⁰⁸ Telephone conversation with William Macfarlane, 14 Feb 2005.

²⁰⁹ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1877-86, 1879 & 1881 Official Records.

One of the station workers was Wee Roderick McDonald son of the head shepherd, he was very fond of ducks and took every chance to display his best birds at the Show.²¹⁰ A big man he was called wee not because of his lack of size but to distinguish him from his father.

Many Tamworths and Berkshire pigs were kept on the station.²¹¹ Thomas Meade the dairy and the piggery man looked after them from 1905 for the management staff. Pigs were also kept by all of the workers' families, and the outstations. When the ploughmen set up their temporary ploughing camps they took pigs along with them as well.²¹² They were kept for a change of diet for special occasions and because they cleaned up the household waste.

Then a Fox Terrier and a Greyhound were exhibited, these would have belonged to the rabbitier.²¹³ This was the time when rabbits were becoming a potential menace. Shepherds had killed seven young rabbits, and wanting to keep their numbers down Archie wrote to Douglas asking for a couple of pure terriers to help catch them. Apparently terriers were scarce in the district in 1881, and Archie would need this breed of dogs to catch rabbits among the rough scrub.²¹⁴ Two years previously he had written to Douglas saying he was taking all steps to prevent rabbits expanding, and that with Mason he had killed nine of them on Carlion's boundary but could not find more.²¹⁵ Their neighbour was on the south-western boundary of Maraekakaho Station.²¹⁶ It was in the south of the province in 1883 that there was talk of extending the rabbit fence to stop or slow down the spread of rabbits to the north.²¹⁷ These methods were apparently not enough as a Mr Charles Evan Jones was living as the resident rabbitier on the station in 1893.²¹⁸ Rabbitiers were to remain part of the station workforce with

²¹⁰ Interview with Ann Macphee, 30 Sept 2004.

²¹¹ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogues, 1877-86, 1923-27, 1885 & 1926 Official Records.

²¹² Telephone conversation with Ian Macphee, 1 Apr 2004, & *Hawke's Bay Herald Tribune*, cutting, n.d.

²¹³ Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society Catalogue, 1877-86, 1885 Official Record.

²¹⁴ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 2 Nov 1881, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 851.

²¹⁵ Letter Archibald McLean to Douglas McLean, 30 Dec 1879, microfilm 0726-reel 25, folder 850.

²¹⁶ Plan of Maraekakaho Estate, Hawke's Bay.

²¹⁷ *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 25 & 31 Aug 1883.

²¹⁸ Electoral Roll, 1893.

Norman Mackay being a station hand and the rabbitier until Paddy Muir, who was the station rabbitier from 1919 until the station was finally split up.²¹⁹

The sub-divided farms shared a rabbitier, as they were not big enough to fully employ their own. Bunny Lambert visited Glen Aros for about two weeks with his pack of about 12 dogs. These were a mixture of breeds, with fast dogs like greyhounds or lurchers to run the rabbit down, bloodhounds for tracking and terriers to climb under logs or to dig the rabbits out of their burrows. At times a frustrating job as the young Mary Macfarlane was impressed by Bunny's vocabulary of swear words.²²⁰

Mrs Agnes Jameson of Aomarama also enjoyed the arrival of the rabbitier. She was pleased when he arrived, 'we hope for a change in menu' from the everlasting mutton. However she was disappointed the next day, 'no rabbits, good from a sheep farmer's point of view but we are disappointed that there would not be curried rabbit'.²²¹ All rural people after the never-ending meals of mutton would say 'amen' to her observation.

Douglas McLean had invested heavily in good stock, buildings and employed capable stockmen and farmers, this paid dividends with the station running as a very successful business providing a very enjoyable lifestyle for his family and employment for many people. However this did not stop its fragmentation, powered by the political agenda of the Liberal Party and the death duties of later government saw the station reduced in size.

²¹⁹ Interview with Robin Greenfield, descendent of Roderick MacDonald, 16 Oct 2004, Electoral Rolls, 1919-31, & telephone conversation with Ann Macphee, 30 Sept 2004.

²²⁰ Mary White, manuscript memories.

²²¹ Jameson, p.27.

CONCLUSION

This thesis has looked at the reasons why Maraekakaho Station was a successful business, and why it seemed to fragment without reason. Today the station has disappeared altogether and this thesis was to try and bring some understanding to the events that had made it successful in its early years and what had started its decline, and the era during Douglas McLean's lifetime when these events occurred seemed to be an era worth researching.

As a business-person who had dealt with many successful farmers I was looking for the common reason for a farming business' success, a command hierarchy with knowledgeable competent people in each area of farming, as well as the firm but compassionate attitude towards each other. In my interviews with people who had lived and worked on the station I found this had existed at Maraekakaho Station, and it was revealed in many of the letters and records dealing with the station. I was also trying to understand what the writers of the letters and records thought of as important to the running of the station. Why they pursued certain avenues in farming and their attitude to each other and how those attitudes affected the success of their business enterprise?

I looked at three themes that are vital in all pastoral farming, firstly the work done to farm within the geographical limits of the district, Secondly the farm community, their work, their buildings and work places. The third theme was the animals, and the work needed to produce healthy breeds suited to Maraekakaho.

Douglas McLean inherited a partly developed station that still had a lot of work and investment needed to make it thriving business. The first chapter explained how Maraekakaho Station utilised the regions' advantages and changed some of its disadvantages, then farmed within the station's geographical limits until a successful business was established. The two important elements of pastoral farming are water and grass and the measures that were undertaken on the station to utilise both of these to the station's advantage are mentioned.

The next chapter shows how Douglas with the help of Archie's ideas and farming skills and Kentish McLean's financial management created an infrastructure that allowed a large workforce to be employed, these people and their skills were important to farm such a large fertile area like Maraekakaho.

The personnel structure of Maraekakaho Station mirrored that of a successful modern business. Douglas McLean was the controlling chairman with time to think about the general direction of the business, control the finances, visit the markets and make advantageous contacts. His knowledge of law and his understanding of accountancy allowed him to maintain a professional guiding hand in these vital areas.

Archie was the Chief Executive Officer and friend, who put his and Douglas' ideas into practice. He was the connection between Douglas, the management staff and the workers. Having a resident accountant in W.K. McLean, and then Allan Lockie, meant professional stewardship of finances. The most important aspect of their working relationship was the respect they had for each other, started when Sir Donald owned the station. They worried about each other and respected each other's talents, and most of all worked towards a common goal of establishing an efficient farm. However one aspect overrode all others, there was no doubt in their minds who was the owner.

The animals and their breeding are covered in chapter three, what breeds of animals were thought the most suitable for Maraekakaho and the success of the station's experiments. Douglas' advertised his stock by entering Show competitions, knowing this was a focal point for his customers local and overseas. Success at the Shows was a very important and significant part of his marketing strategy, and also provided the spur for his staff and employees to strive hard to reach and maintain a high standard. They did not win all of their entries, but with foresight they bought progeny to improve their breeds from their competitors who had stock superior to their own. The staff studied the markets, found its needs and produced goods that the market required. Once they had found their market niche they retained it while expanding into other markets and products. They kept experimenting and improving their goods, advertising them locally and in their overseas markets, and branding them to make them distinguishable.

They utilised the natural benefits of the station and adjusted their pastoral farming to suit. Douglas invested heavily in the land, animals and comforts of his workers and benefitted from this. He and Archie planned the path that the station pursued of raising animals that would produce goods to a high standard. Workers

were respected and treated well, housed well and thought was given to their leisure hours. While most of the workers were Scots positions were earned on ability, and the loyal hard working workforce returned this respect. One element that was obvious in researching this thesis was the co-operation and community solidarity that existed between all of the personnel of the station and their descendents.

Douglas' work off the station, kept the station management in touch with both the local and national political situations, allowing Douglas to pre-empt government interference in the disposal of his property. Forced to reduce his land holdings he elected to benefit many of his skilled and loyal staff but not indiscriminately. They took advantage of his benevolence and founded efficient farms many of which are still in their families today.

By the time that the station was sub-divided the climate and land of Maraekakaho was understood, and this knowledge helped the new farmers to be successful on their new farms. These new farmers farmed slightly differently from Maraekakaho Station, as they had to satisfy new market requirements and adapt themselves to the distinct differences of their particular land. They were able to specialise in their areas of interest, some preferred to create stud farms rather than general farming their land. Others concentrated on growing animal for their meat with wool being secondary, while others reared dual animals. Each farmer utilising their land to the best of their farming ability and covering all aspects of the market. They did not over capitalise in their farms preferring to contract out work to specialist farm workers while adjusting their life styles to what they perceived to be their new status in society.

They all recognised the great opportunity that Douglas had given them and it is not forgotten. Their respect for the McLeans still continues, and is seen in the older Maraekakaho residents regard for the descendents of Sir Douglas McLean.

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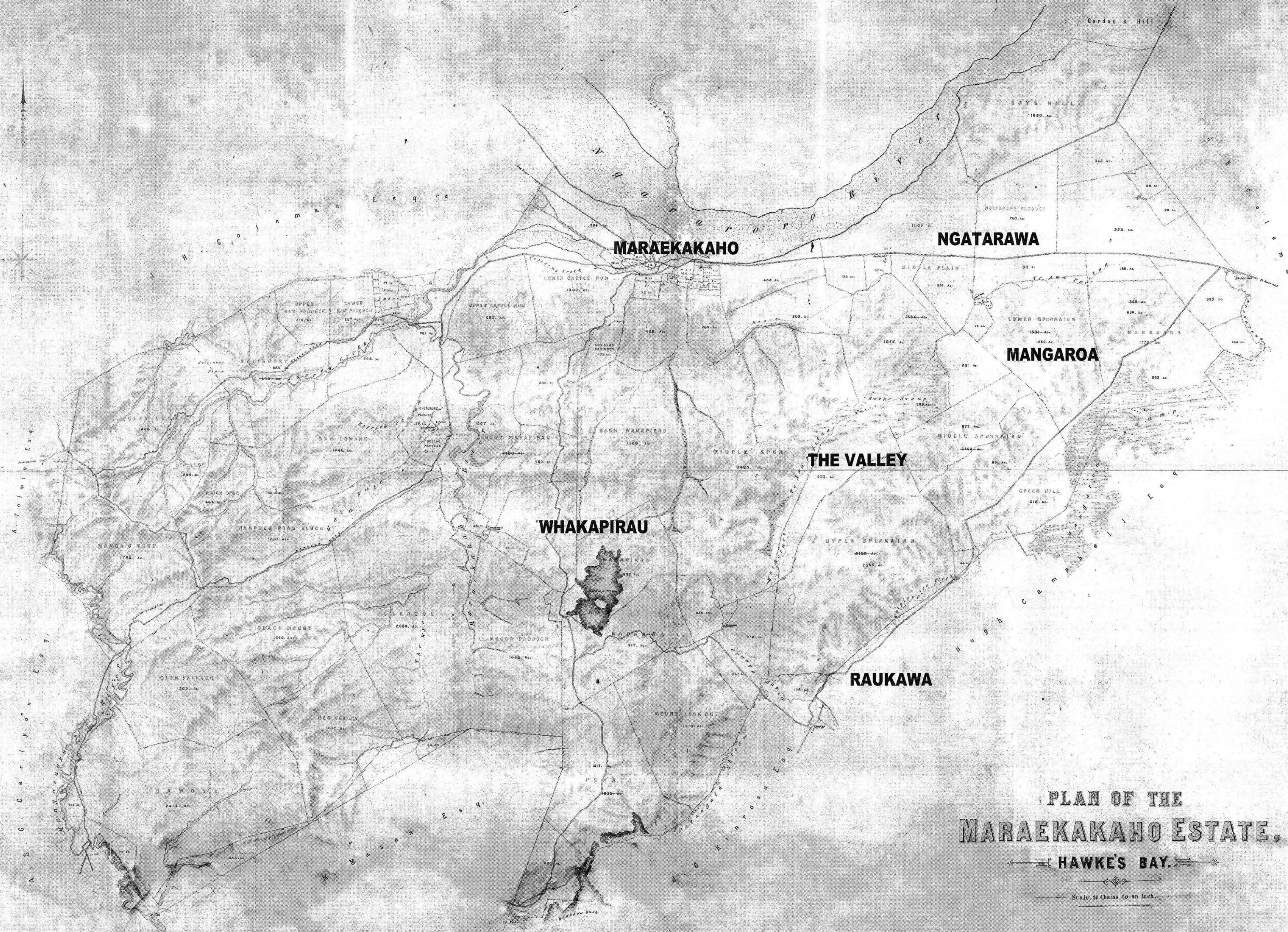
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MARAEKAKAHO

NGATARAWA

MANGAROA

THE VALLEY

WHAKAPIRAU

RAUKAWA

PLAN OF THE
MARAEKAKAHO ESTATE,
HAWKE'S BAY.

Scale, 50 Chains to an Inch.