

VOL. I

Issue 8

2010


 COLENZO.

## Some Colensoana sold last year

**A** SELECTION OF MATERIALS of a highly personal nature relating to William Colenso was offered for auction by Bethunes@Webbs Rare Books in September 2009.

The lot was described as, “c1880s. Brown cloth spine with typed label (‘W Colenso: Autobiography’), plain stiff boards. Title page: ‘Private. Autobiography of WC. Copied fairly & sent to England, to Latimer [son]. Octr 6, 1883.’ Next page: ‘A few scattered heads of autobiography pertaining to 20 yrs of my mid life from AD 1833 to 1853 now for the first time brought together.’ Followed by 50 numbered leaves of autobiographical material and around 60 leaves (variously paginated) of related correspondence and notes in typescript. Included are matrimonial letters (3 from WC to wife Elizabeth, 15 from Elizabeth to WC), beginning affectionately, cooling over time. First lines of discord underlined: ‘Do not come for Wi, or send for him - I cannot part with him’. ‘My Dear William’ soon becomes ‘My Dear Mr Colenso’. The whole prepared by GC Petersen (WC’s biographer) and bearing numerous annotations by him. Much of the material here reproduced was sent by WC to his second son Willie together with a tender covering letter by way of warning. WC’s handwritten copy of this enclosed (paper size 12.5 x

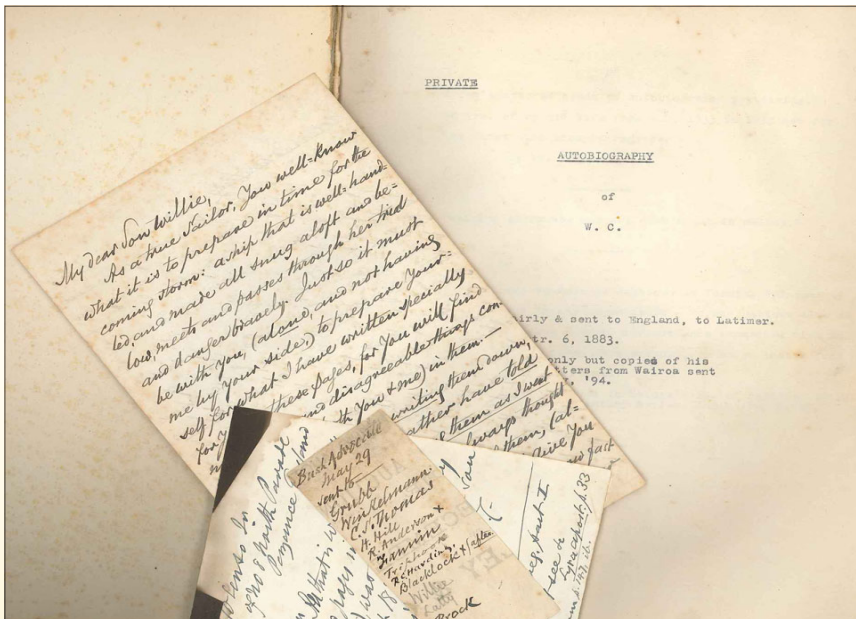
20cm, bifolium, text on 3p plus 5 lines, unsigned). Material had been sent to WC’s first son Latimer in 1883. A handwritten copy of a short letter (addressed to Willie) stating this included, initialled ‘WC’ and dated ‘Jany 1887’ (paper size 11 x 13cm, text on one side). A list of names (4 x 10cm) also enclosed, headed ‘Bush Advocate May 29 sent to -’ with names following: Grubb, Winkelmann, C S Thomas, H Hill, R Anderson, Fannin, Triphook, R C Harding, Blacklock, Willie, Latty, Brock. A pencil sketch (presumed later) laid in. Condition generally G.”

The lot fetched \$3000.

I think it likely Colenso sent the 29 May 1888 *Bush Advocate* to his friends and relations, because it contained a letter by him from Dan-nevirke titled “The Maori relic”:

*SIR,—Having seen your remarks, in your paper of the 26th inst., concerning a notched bone in your possession, as affording “a very valuable proof as a relic belonging to a time before the Maoris arrived here,” my curiosity was aroused; and so I called at your office and examined it. I may also say that I had previously seen what had appeared in the columns of the Napier Herald respecting it, copied I believe from your paper, and upon that I had rightly concluded what it really was.*

*I now find it to be a very common instrument indeed, being nothing more than a barbed bone*



made for killing pigeons, which 40 years (or more) ago I have seen both made and used in the mountain forests in the interior, on the East side of the Ruahine range, and have dined off the pigeons so taken.

This barbed bone was attached as a head to a very long light spear made of tawa wood, generally about 40 feet long; this was partly secured to a suitable tree in the forests, in the proper season, on which pigeons were known (and further invited by baits) to perch, and then, in using, quickly sent upward with a jerk into their bodies, of course entering from the lower part of the abdomen. Through the barbs the bird (though strong on wing and in fluttering) was secured.

The whole method of procedure (including the obtaining and the manufacture of those barbs and spears, etc., etc.) is very interesting, but much too long for your columns, even if I had the required time.

I may add, that from the appearance of the worn bit of bone (3 inches long), and particularly from its blunted barbs, I should suppose it to have been an old one, almost worn out, perhaps on that account thrown away. I have seen some newly made ones of nearly twice the size, with their barbs many, very sharp, tips reversed, and acute. No doubt the bone is human, such being very commonly used by Maoris for all such purposes—barbs for sea-fishing hooks, etc.—not having any known metal.

The old Maoris would call it a tara, or a tara-matia, or tara-wero-manu.

I note you seem to adhere to the myth of the Maoris coming to this land!—I had thought I had fully exposed that many years ago.—I am, etc.,

WILLIAM COLENSO.

Danevirke, May 28th.

# William Colenso Bicentenary

9-13 November 2011, Napier

Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery

Join us in Hawke's Bay next November to  
celebrate the life of William Colenso.

HB MAG, in association with  
the Colenso Society, is planning an exciting  
programme of activities including a two-day  
academic conference, tours, workshops and  
commemorative events.

If you or your business would like to partner,  
or sponsor this important event, or to register  
your interest contact

Eloise Taylor, Hawke's Bay Museum & Art  
Gallery 06 835 7781 or [etaylor@hbmag.co.nz](mailto:etaylor@hbmag.co.nz)

## STOP PRESS

The Royal Society Digital Journal Archive,  
from 1665 to 2010 inclusive, will be free  
to view until 30 November 2010.  
See <http://royalsocietypublishing.org/>

# Richard Veale Thomas Colenso

## and other Penzance connections & legacies

By Sarah Carter and Ann Collins

Compared to his missionary brother William, Richard Veale Thomas Colenso led a rather quiet and uneventful life. Their brothers Edwin who went to Australia and Samuel who disappeared in Canada were also more adventuresome. Richard remained at home. He was born in Penzance in 1815 and died there in 1892.



He established the business “Messrs. R. Colenso and Son, Decorators, Painters, Paper-Hangers” (illustrated in the October, 2010 newsletter) at 3 North Street, Penzance that offered “artistic workmanship” for “cottage or castle.” Richard’s life could not have been totally quiet however; he and his wife Susan Ann Edmondes (1819–1901), from Marazion, had nineteen children, although many did not survive infancy or lived only a few years. When Susan died in 1901 she was survived by four sons and three daughters of her nineteen children.

Richard Veale Thomas Colenso, brother of William, both uncle and father-in-law to Wiremu.  
(All images from the Carter archives unless otherwise identified)



By T. J. Colenso — Died June 5<sup>th</sup> 1892.  
 Richard. Veale. Thomas. Colenso. Born May 18 - 1815.  
 Susan. Ann. Colenso. my wife Born Jan 16 - 1819.  
 Susan. Ann. Colenso. daughter Born July 12 - 1837. d July 1923  
 Mary. Colenso — Born Dec 22 - 1838.  
 Sarah. Veale. Thomas. Colenso. Born July 27 - 1840 d 5. 1929  
 Fanny. Colenso. — Born April 28 - 1844  
 Ellen. Colenso. — Died May 1898  
 Born Sept 23 - 1843  
 William. Colenso. — Born July 21 - 1845  
 Richard. Veale. Thomas. Colenso. Born Sept 9 - 1847  
 Ellen. Colenso. — Died Oct 15 - 1844  
 Samuel. May. Colenso. Born June 30 - 1849  
 Olivia. Colenso. — Born Feb 2 - 1851  
 Olivia. Colenso. — Died Feb 17 - 1851  
 Olivia. Colenso. — Born Feb 27 - 1852  
 Olivia. Colenso. — Died April 10 - 1852  
 Olivia. Colenso. — Born June 28 - 1853  
 Andrew. Colenso. — Born Sept 11 - 1854  
 Andrew. Colenso. — Died Oct 11 - 1854  
 John. William. Colenso. Born Mar 1 - 1856  
 Andrew. Colenso. — Born April 11 - 1858  
 Andrew. Colenso. — Died May 11 - 1858  
 Richard. Veale. Thomas. Colenso. Died June 24 - 1858  
 Mother Died — Nov 6 - 1856  
 Richard. Veale. Thomas. Colenso. Born Oct 14 - 1859  
 Edwin. Colenso. — Born Feb 1 - 1861  
 Edwin Colenso. Died Feb 21 - 1861  
 Caroline Colenso — Born April 4 - 1862  
 Feb 17 1852  
 Richard. Veale. Thomas. Colenso. Died April 8 - 1862

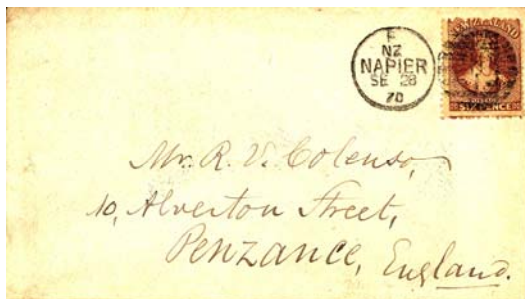
Mary died February 26 - 1863  
 Richard Veale  
 Olivia Colenso Born December 23 - 1864. d Feb 11 - 1923  
 Richard Veale

Family Bible page with entries by Richard except for those added by George Colenso Carter who obtained this in 1936 while in Penzance visiting his aunt Caroline (Carrie) Colenso, the youngest daughter of Richard and Susan. George's mother was Fanny Colenso (1842-1898) and he has added her date of death. The William who was in close touch with his Uncle William in New Zealand, as his banker and general family consultant, and who served as a mayor of Penzance, was born in 1845. Sarah Veale Thomas Colenso (1840-1929), married her cousin Wiremu, William of New Zealand's "natural" son, whose Maori mother was Ripeka Meretene. Some of Richard's children were remembered in missionary William's will, including William, Caroline and Richard.



◀ R.V.T. Colenso's daughter Fanny, who married Joseph Carter.

Wiremu Colenso married Fanny's sister Sarah



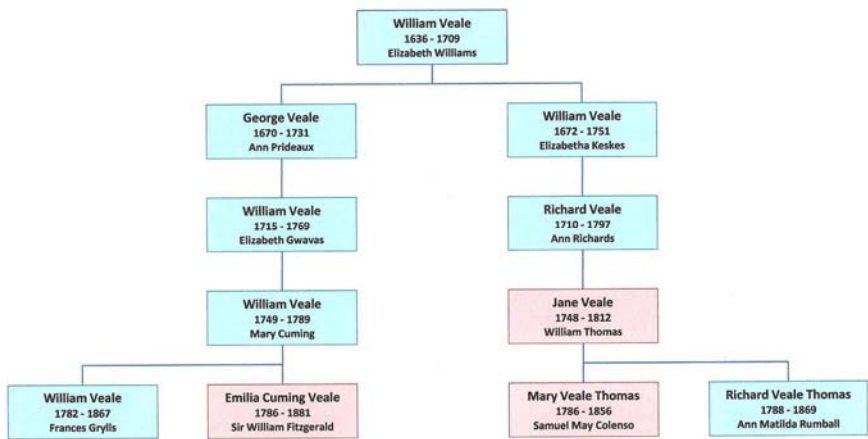
▲ Richard remained in close touch however with his brother William. A letter from William of New Zealand to his brother Richard in Penzance, 1870. Unfortunately the letter is missing.



On the back of this parchment George C. Carter wrote: "This piece of parchment was carried for a long time in the pocket of Richard Veale Thomas Colenso, my grandfather, when he was endeavouring to obtain the Trevaylor Estate, Gulval, claiming that as no male direct heir existed at death of William Veale 1867,

Rev. William Colenso of N.Z was sole male heir". This involved many rides by coach to Chancery, in London, but these efforts were ultimately unsuccessful.

Richard attempted to have his brother William recognized as heir to the Veale family estate of Trevaylor outside Gulval. The lack of success was probably due to the fact that he was trying to demonstrate a connection through a female line as well - as indicated below. William Veale's sister Emily Cuming Veale Fitzgerald was named in her brother's will and her husband was an Irish Baronet – a title awarded to his brother Alexander, a general, for services rendered to the East India Company – a man of influence.



Another interesting factor was that Richard's parchment indicated that his uncle Richard Veale Thomas died in 1819. Currently available records provide evidence that he married his first wife, a woman of property, in Manchester in 1819. He later married again in 1838, before his first wife's death and after the birth of at least two children who were given his paternal grandmother's name of Trethowen. He was still alive when William Veale died, so his claim would have been stronger than his sister's son – William Colenso.



Trevaylor Manor - now an aged care facility



Richard was of the greatest assistance to his brother however, in welcoming his brother's son Wiremu into the family circle in Penzance. It was a warm welcome indeed, as in 1880 Wiremu, (known in Penzance as "Willie") married his own cousin, Richard's daughter Sarah. Thus Richard was both uncle and father-in-law to Wiremu. Sarah was eleven years older than Wiremu, although she shaved a few years off her true age at the time of her wedding as she claimed to be thirty-five, when she was forty. There were no children from this marriage.



In her younger years this "Miss Colenso" might have been Sarah or one of her sisters.  
Provided by the Morrab Library,  
Penzance

As Sarah's father Richard and sister Carrie were the witnesses to the wedding, they must have been aware that Sarah was trimming her age. (Sarah continued to trim her age; in the 1891 census she claimed to be forty, just a year older than her husband.) Wiremu had been a mariner in New Zealand, and at the time of his wedding he was a "lodging house proprietor" in Penzance, but he gave this up and together with

Sarah, lived off an allowance provided by William of New Zealand, who also funded (with much grumbling) the magnificent home, Glen Trewithen, still standing, pictured in the September newsletter.

Compared to the volumes of letters and massive other documents that William left, we have only one in Richard's hand, written in 1888 to his daughter Fanny (living in Bexley, near London). Richard wrote that his health was failing: "Dear Fanny my poor hands do shake so much that I am ashamed for to send it, I have given up all the writing for some time." He asked after his grandchildren, including Fanny's eldest son Joe, and wrote that his grandson Richard, (William's son), "is same age as Joe and he is off tomorrow to sea bound for four years going to Valparaiso how he will like it I cannot say." Sending young Richard to sea must have been an important Colenso family moment. It was touching when Gail Pope of the Napier Hawkes Bay Museum archives showed me (Sarah) an artifact from this same moment,





Drawn by Wiremu (Willie) Colenso. It was donated to the Hawke's Bay Museum by Rosemary Dunne (nee Colenso) of Portchester, Hants, U.K.  
Collection of Hawkes Bay Museums



Richard Henry Colenso continued in the navy, achieving the rank of Captain. This photograph was taken around 1902, when his ship visited Perth, Australia.  
Azelia Ley & Manning Collection of Photographs, State Library of Western Australia

a flag drawn by Wiremu as a gift from Uncle Willie and Aunt Sarah to their nephew Richard Henry Colenso when he began his apprenticeship as a midshipsman in the Royal Navy. It was to be inserted in front of young Richard's copy of *Norrie's Nautical Tables*.

As well as family connections William Colenso maintained a presence in his home town of Penzance for around 60 years after his death. In March 1895 he sent £1,000 to Penzance to invest, the interest to be used to help the poor of the town. With the draft he sent a covering letter, "I should like my contribution to be called the "Colenso Dole", ever open to the poor of all creeds alike. And may God, the Giver (I am only His steward) ever bless your (and your successors') faithful ministration of the same."

The following year he announced he was giving all his money and books to Penzance. The total of his donations to his home town eventually came to over £3,600. He donated several volumes to the Morrab Library and subscribed to the endowment fund. To honour such generosity the town council wrote to William offering him the Freedom of Penzance, but he died before the letter reached him.

The "Colenso Dole" was first distributed in January 1898. These alms were paid out to the poor of Penzance each New Year for 60 years. For 44 of those years RVT Colenso's son William presented the New Year's gift to the "thrifty and deserving" poor. In 1943 the sum was £115 divided amongst 118 people – one person receiving £2, forty-six £1 apiece and 134 10s each. In that year RVT's grandson, also William, gave an extra half crown to each of the recipients in memory of his father who had died in December 1942.

RVT Colenso's son William lived almost a 100 years in Penzance and his story should be told at another time, but his involvement in the Penzance Town Council, including a term as Mayor in 1901, facilitated the setting up and maintenance of the "Colenso Dole". RVT's cousin Sir Penrose Goodchild Colenso also had a cousin William Harvey Julyan who was Mayor of Penzance 1892 to 1894 and again in 1897. RVT's third great grandson, Simon Reed was Mayor between 2003 and 2005.

As well as Penzance, William gave money to Napier to distribute to the poor (mainly ex-prisoners and sailors) as well as book prizes for schools. This is called the "William Colenso Bequest" and according to the Napier City Council's minutes of March 2010 is still being distributed - \$3,200 to be given for the next three years.



*Colenso* is a free email Newsletter published irregularly by the Colenso Society. The editor invites contributions on any matter relating to the life and work of the Rev. William Colenso FLS FRS. Such contributions should be emailed to [ian.stgeorge@rnzcgp.org.nz](mailto:ian.stgeorge@rnzcgp.org.nz).



## When did Colenso become interested in plants?



AGNALL AND PETERSEN (1948) recorded of Colenso's boyhood in Cornwall, "Both interest and enquiry were awakened by the scenes around him, the results of which were stored in a retentive and unusually mature mind. This thirst for knowledge, aided by keen powers of observation and a faculty for reference and orderly classification, helped to fill his hours of work, leisure and study with absorbing interest. It is consequently not surprising to note that he was an active and keen member of the Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society, his particular interest being in the characteristic botany of Cornwall. At the age of eighteen he read his first paper to the Society, dealing with the trade of the Phœnecians with West Cornwall." [1] They quoted as their authority a letter from Colenso to Harding dated 26 November 1896.

WRB Oliver picked that up and in 1951 would write, "Colenso ... joined the Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society, and read his first paper to it when he was eighteen. At that time he had not had any systematic scientific training, though his bent towards natural history was already evident." [2] It's a nice story, and just about every biological sketch since then has cheerfully repeated it—recently NZETC [3]

What he actually wrote to Harding on 26 November 1896 was this: "... my first paper, written for Mechanics Institute in Penz., when I was 18–19—on St. Michaels Mount, &c., &c.—and the trade of the ancient Phœnicians to West Cornwall..." [4]. Mechanics Institutes were set up for the education of working men, and had libraries. Furthermore Colenso was 18 in 1929 and the Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society was not founded until ten years later, in 1839.

Actually what remains of his diaries and published work before leaving for New Zealand makes no reference to plants: his diaries are obsessively devout, his published paper ("*Mounts Bay...*") historical and geographical.

Colenso listed all of his books in 1834: there are 102 titles, a number of them with several volumes. The only botany book is "Alphabet of Botany" (probably James Rennie's 152-page *Alphabet of medical botany for beginners*), suggesting his interest at that time was at best as a medicinal herbalist.

An earlier biography by Hutchinson in 1931 claimed a rather later awakening of Colenso's botanical interests: "It was through a visit to the Bay of Islands in 1838 by Allan Cunningham, the celebrated botanist and explorer, that Colenso's attention *was first drawn to botany*. From the year 1841, his interest in the study of the vegetation of the northern island ranked second only to his philological and linguistic pursuits." [5] (*my italics*).

Henry Hill wrote in his obituary, however, "Coming to the country as a printer, and imbued with scientific tastes and strong religious convictions, he was not the man to remain idle during the intervals of rest from the printing press. Already his name was known to the motley crowd in the Bay of Islands as an enthusiastic collector of plants...". It has been suggested that he collected plants during the January 1838 journey with William Williams, exploring East Coast–Poverty Bay. There are 53 plants in his herbarium dated 1838, all but two of them from Bay of Islands, Kerikeri or the NW coast; two are indeed from the "interior"; there are no specimens before 1838.

In April 1838 came Allan Cunningham. Few records now exist of their activities together, but Bagnall & Petersen mention “an undated note to Colenso (from Cunningham): ‘... Have a little fire in the room, and I shall consider myself ½-breakfasted with you and may get more briskly to work among your remaining specimens....’ .” [6] Some specimens in Colenso’s herbarium at WELT are said to be labelled in Cunningham’s hand. Cunningham was the recognised authority on NZ botany, at work on his *Precursor*, to be the first published NZ Flora. There is a list (of NZ orchids) sent by Cunningham to Colenso, as if from teacher to pupil, and indeed Colenso referred to him in his letters as “my Bot. master” and signed one “Your affectionate disciple”.

Colenso’s first plant lists sent to Cunningham are botanically naïve: for instance, “Small Rumex-like thing fm Puketona; that Salsola – Chenopm. thing from Mr Wade; that procumbent thing fm. Horotutu – Chenopodm. probably. – that scented – B. of Island like thing: hd. of water, Horotutu; that large leaved blue flower plant, Tepuna.”

Allan Cunningham’s effect on Colenso’s botanical interests was always thought to have been an encouragement of an existing passion; but it seems more likely it was his influence in 1838 that provided the initial inspiration.

#### References

1. Bagnall AG and Petersen GC. 1948: “William Colenso”. Reed, Wellington. pp.
2. Oliver WRB 1951. Botanical discovery in New Zealand: the resident botanists. School Publications Branch.
3. <http://www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-OliResi-t1-body-d1-d1-d2.html>
4. Colenso to Harding 26 November 1896. Mitchell Library, Sydney.
5. Doris Hutchinson Pow 1931. William Colenso: the man and his work, 1811-1899. Thesis.
6. Bagnall & Petersen p.73

## Did Colenso try to stop work on the Rīmutaka road?

### **Rev. William Williams to Church Missionary Society 12 April 1848:**

“When at Wellington last I was told by Judge Chapman of a serious charge which had been preferred against Mr. Colenso—that he was reported to use all his influence to prevent the natives from working upon the government road, and that he told the natives that the payment they received was “payment for blood”; which was explained to mean that the road would open the way for the English to go and cut them off. When I reached Heretaunga I found that Mr. Colenso had received an official enquiry from the Lieut. Governor into the truth of the report. Now for the facts of the case. A profligate Englishman working as an overseer on the roads had endeavoured to obtain a child about twelve years of age to live with him, and had sent to the mother a few yards of print as a payment. The mother and father both profess christianity. The former favored the application and said her child should go, but the child refused, and said she was not a pig to be sold for a gown, and that when she wanted a husband she would have a native. The mother was still urging the point when Mr. Colenso visited the village and pressed that the print should be returned saying that it was the price of blood, involving the destruction of both soul & body of the child. This effort succeeded, and hence the indignation of the man vented itself in a gross calumny . . . .”

Porter F [ed.] 1974. *The Turanga Journals: letters and journals of William and Jane Williams*. Victoria University Press, Wellington.



# SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

of the

## Colenso Centenary Celebration



Mokai • Taoroa • Taihape

21st March, 1948



A FUNCTION ARRANGED TO COMMEMORATE  
THE FOUNDING OF A MISSION STATION AT  
TE AWARUA PA

BY

The REV. WILLIAM COLENZO  
IN FEBRUARY, 1847.

## Programme

Maori Welcome



Religious Service conducted by His Lordship  
Bishop Bennett

Assisted by

The Rev. J. R. Neild, Taihape.

The Rev. Paul Temuera, Otaki.

The Rev. M. A. Bennett, Manawatu.

The Rev. R. M. Rogers, Taihape.



A Short Resume of the Life and Work of the  
Rev. William Colenso

by Mr. G. C. Petersen, Palmerston North.



Trees to Commemorate the Occasion will be  
Planted by Bishop Bennett and by a  
Descendant of Colenso.



The programme for the celebrations to mark 100 years since Colenso's first visit, in 1848, to the Mokai Patea villages, including Te Awarua.

## Frederick Richard Rayner, caricaturist



On 4 September 1894 William Colenso wrote to his friend Robert Coupland Harding, about a call he had had from “a y(oun)g. man named Rayner, agent (?) or somethg. for the “Bulletin” p(aper)., he promised to call again: was chatty, &c., his card (which I had preserved for you) is a peculiar one—as if a slice of wood, athwart a branch, or sapling, in colour grain, & microscopic ducts: have you seen anything like it? R(ayner). asked me to allow him to take my likeness (profile!) proceeding *instantner* to do so! I refused, & rose up—stating, I could give him a small photo—this I got, & then showed him *yours* (for Inland Printer, Chi(ca)go.), *this* he admired, but left both saying he should call again in few days (he found me busy): he has not done so (down to time of my leaving on 17<sup>th</sup>.) and I heard, at Craig’s, he had taken some of our old town “Celebrities”—as George Richardson, &c—he seems to have a *special knack that way*—some exhibd. in Craig’s window:—*I felt glad I had escaped.*”

... and on 24 October 1894, again to Harding, “I sent you a copy of Rayner’s Caricatures! I may say before I had gone through the booklet myself: it was pub(lishe)d. on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>. I was in town for 2 hours only on 18<sup>th</sup> purch(ase)d. 3 copies, & came away by xii o’clock ’bus—to call on B(isho)p. Stuart’s family on the hill. On *Friday*—2 letters appeared in the Herald re Rayner’s work—1, that R. should be horsewhipped for his attack on ladies; & 1, expressing regret, &c, that Craig should have so lowered himself as to publish such a scurrilous work, &c—and, on Saturday, a statement, that Craig would sell no more, & was calling-in all copies from vendors.—I have *since* found that I am not quite so badly used—in *words*, though the caricature is vile! but *why* I should have been pilloried w(ith). Swan & Carnell, & Co. I cannot understand.” (Sadly, no October 1894 issues of the *Hawke’s Bay Herald* have survived).

This was Frederick Richard Rayner. I have a copy of *Fred Rayner’s sketch book of 50 caricatures*: “*things you see when your out without your gun*” in Napier, Hastings & Waipawa:

lithography Brown, Thomson, Wellington (no date). Craig was a Napier bookseller, and presumably he published Rayner’s book in 1894 and then recalled and destroyed many copies, so it must now be vanishingly rare. Its caricatures are rather crude and its humour rather school-boyish. The sketch in which Colenso was so justifiably disappointed is shown overleaf, along with accompanying text and ads.

Rayner had produced the similar *Fifteen lighting sketches of Dunedin celebrities, with apocryphal biographies* (Dunedin: Fergusson and Mitchell, c.1893) and later *Tena koel: Rayner’s reminiscences of peculiar pakehas in Wellington, Wanganui, Palmerston & New Plymouth* (Bock & Co., c.1895). He published a weekly, *The exhibition sketcher: a weekly paper of social news, personal portraits, kind, kurteous karicatures [i.e. courteous caricatures]*. (Christchurch: F.R. Rayner, 1906-1907) to coincide with the New Zealand International Exhibition in Christchurch. This continued as *The Sketcher* (Dunedin). He published further booklets: *The Sketcher souvenir of the Royal visit to Dunedin, June 25th, 26th, 27th, 1901: a collection of specially-taken photographs and numerous sketches*; *The Sketcher’s coronation cartoons* (Dunedin 1902); *The Sketcher souvenir: British rugby football team v. New Zealand: Dunedin, June 6th, 1908*. [Bagnall R90 - R95].

Conservative Napier was not alone in finding Rayner’s work scurrilous, however: he had to publish an apology in Dunedin, and lost a case he brought against a Member of the House of Representatives who assaulted him in the street.

My *Sketchbook*, originally owned by W. Wood, Napier High Schools headmaster, contains the handwritten note, “Spencer Gollan very offended & pulled Rayner round the Lawn at the Park Race Course by the nose”.

Rayner found a degree of success in print and on stage as a “lightning sketcher”, however, and his daughters worked on stage in UK and NZ.

New Zealand’s most famous political cartoonist, David Low wrote in his autobiography, “It was in 1907 that I had just fluffed my matriculation examination. As consolation I now had a thundering piece of luck. A spurt of local

enterprise called forth by the holding of an international exhibition at Christchurch in that year included the publication of a skittish new weekly, the *Sketcher*. Fred Rayner, the proprietor, was a caricaturist himself, the first real caricaturist I had met. In the academic sense he could not draw, but his portraits were penetrating and intimate because he had that rare thing, a sense of individual character and, even rarer, the wit and confidence to represent it freely in line without troubling about technical shortcomings. I was waiting with my brown-paper parcel of drawings of local celebrities when he opened his office. He took me on at two pounds a week. But what I gained watching him taking notes behind a newspaper in the street and working them later into caricature portraits was more precious than rubies.

"Cathedral Square was the Piccadilly Circus of Christchurch. If one stood long enough everybody in the local world passed by. It was an excellent observation ground. My maestro, with his red hair, sharp pink nose, twinkling blue eyes bespectacled and shaded by a rakishly-worn straw hat, took full advantage of it, lurking, shadowing and making secret notes. At his elbow I lurked too, fascinated.

"Haven't quite got his mouth, my boy,' he would say, screwing a critical nose at my attempt on the back of an envelope to catch some nob waiting for his tram a couple of yards away. 'That fellow's all in his mouth. Now just watch it. Watch the way it opens and shuts.' So saying he would calmly walk over and politely request the subject to direct him to the next street or to give him a light for his cigarette, while I stood by studying jaw-action.

"That kind of direct examination greatly improved my judgment of essentials. So character may reside in a boot, an ear could be the man. The difference between good work and trash in the caricature of personality became clearer. I learned to scorn the so-called likenesses taken from photographs, both the wooden or polite kind and the aimlessly distorted funny kind, and to appreciate the art that lay in the synthesis and emphasis of truth perceived in the living person.

"The *Sketcher* ended and Rayner departed, leaving me with enough local reputation to justify, almost immediately, a return to the *Spectator* now to a full-time job as its political cartoonist, no longer a reserve junior." (*Low's autobiography*, Michael Joseph, London, 1956).

From the *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 1894.

## PEOPLE'S POPULAR CONCERT.

6<sup>D</sup> GAIETY THEATRE. 1<sup>S</sup>

OPENING NIGHT—  
THURSDAY, MAY 21<sup>TH</sup>.

GRAND INAUGURAL CONCERT.

The Management have procured the Best Local Talent available of Lady and Gentlemen Artists, and a First-class Orchestra.

First Appearance of CAPT. FRED THOMAS,  
The Only Whistling Ventriloquist in the World.

First Appearance MR FRED R. RAYNER,  
Lightning Caricaturist.

788 Manager, CAPTAIN FRED THOMAS.

## THEATRE ROYAL.

### NAPIER CHRISTY MINSTRELS.

Mr Fred R. Rayner met with a tremendous reception in a sketch he gave, entitled "A Napier Serenade," with banjo accompaniment. This was full of local and topical allusions of a humorous kind, and brought down the house. An imperative recall followed the conclusion of this number. Mr Rayner responded by some sketches illustrating a short song descriptive of (imaginary) events at the Caledonian ball. This caused roars of laughter. A pretty song, "Molly and I and the Baby," was nicely sung by Mr Davidson. He was encored, but was not heard to advantage when he reappeared.

# 30 YEARS' TESTIMONY.

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# GOWING'S

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# LINCTUS.

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FROM THE REV. W. COLENZO, F.R.S.

MR. H. OWEN.

Napier, April 8, 1891.

Dear Sir,— You wish to know my opinion of “Gowing’s Cough Linctus,” a medicine now prepared and sold by you as his successor, I having been long in the habit of using it, and this I willingly give, and that, I may say, for a twofold reason :—(1) From the proof I have of its usefulness; and (2) from my old and long acquaintance with the late Mr. Gowing, its inventor. I consider it to be a valuable and safe medicine, of great service in Coughs, Colds, Bronchial Affections, and Irritation and Dryness of the Throat. I still frequently use it, both simple and mixed with water, and for this purpose always carry a bottle with me when I visit the Bush District to sojourn there.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

W. COLENZO.

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**GOWING'S LINCTUS** is now manufactured solely by the Proprietor  
from the original formula.

See that each bottle bears the name and address—

## H. OWEN, NAPIER.

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**Sold in Bottles—1s 6d, 2s 6d, and 4s 6d.**

**Reverend W. Colenso.**

ONE of the most deeply read and learned men of the day. He arrived in New Zealand about half a century ago as a Missionary of the Church of England, and his life work has become historical. He soon mastered the Maori language and published the first book in M.L., with his own hands setting up the type, printing, and binding the books. Copies are still extant, and the work could not be excelled to day. He was one of the witnesses who signed the treaty of Waitangi and his reminiscences of that momentous event are extremely interesting. While the war was still being waged he travelled around the country unmolested by the Maoris who loved and revered him for his good and kindly nature and splendid work. To day, though his age is over the allotted span of three score years and ten, his interest is as keen as ever. Botany has all through his life been his study and delight, and he is undoubtedly the greatest living authority on all matters connected with the science in Australasia. In touch with every Scientific Society in the world his contributions are valuable and receive the most exhaustive attention. The residence now occupied by the reverend gentleman is one of the oldest land marks in Hawkes Bay, and a chat while strolling through the well-kept grounds with its owner is indeed a treat that one can never forget.







eter Dunn, Mahia, emailed, “Colenso’s very good friend (tongue in cheek) Bishop Pompallier had his church or whare in the front of my garden. It seems Pompallier’s vessel moored at the foot of my place, and they rowed ashore, and with the permission of a local Māori chief set up camp in my front garden. They planted a medicinal iris supposed to settle upset stomachs; it has spread all over the place now. The whare site is just on the seaward side of the flax on right hand side of the photo.”



ike Lusk, Taradale, sent this photograph of Lake Colenso in the Ruahine.



*I HOPE YOU WILL  
COME AND CELEBRATE  
MY 200TH BIRTHDAY AT THE  
COLENZO CONFERENCE  
IN NAPIER ON 9-13  
NOVEMBER 2011.*





## *Olearia colensoi*

Kūmarahou, Kūmararaunui, Tūpare, Leatherwood  
Photos Tony Gates

JD Hooker described this from plants collected by Colenso from Mt Hikurangi. Not so, actually, Mt Hikurangi was not visited by Colenso, who wrote to WJ Hooker on 20 May 1844: “Among the plants sent are a few from the Alpine and snowy summit of Mount Hikurangi, near the E. Cape, which I would were better: I could not go thither myself, so sent an intelligent Native, who, after several days absence, brought those now sent, and 2

birds, just enough to make one sigh for more; and the dearest lot I ever obtained, costing me nearly £4! – I still live in hopes of one day visiting that Mountain.” There is a specimen in Herb. Colenso at Te Papa, annotated “*Olearia Colensoi* Hook. f. [TFC: Mount Hikurangi 1844] 23956”.



**D**ianne Bardsley at the New Zealand Dictionary Centre, Victoria University has gained a \$7000 summer research scholarship which enables her to employ an Honours student to begin work on a database of Colenso's lexis. The work, which begins on November 15, involves the compiling of a database and a systematic word search of Colenso's letters and publications. A study of Colenso's lexis is significant in that he generated new terms for a range of botanical items, his writings included a range of genre and register, and he was an early speaker of te reo Maori.

## Colenso's collections

compiled  
by Ian St George  
412 pages + searchable CD  
\$35 includes postage in NZ  
(enquire about cost of overseas postage)

Reviewed at [http://  
blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2009/03/26/colensos-  
collections/](http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2009/03/26/colensos-collections/)

Advertised at [http://www.nativeorchids.co.nz/  
Publications.htm](http://www.nativeorchids.co.nz/Publications.htm)

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