

A HISTORY OF

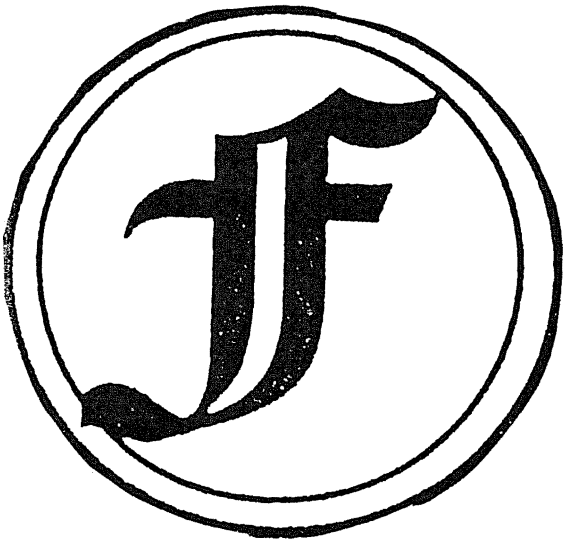
N Z FRIENDS SCHOOL
WANGANUI

1920 - 1969

PLUS EVENTS 1970 - 1997

by
Frances Menefy 1969
and
Malcolm Douglass 2003

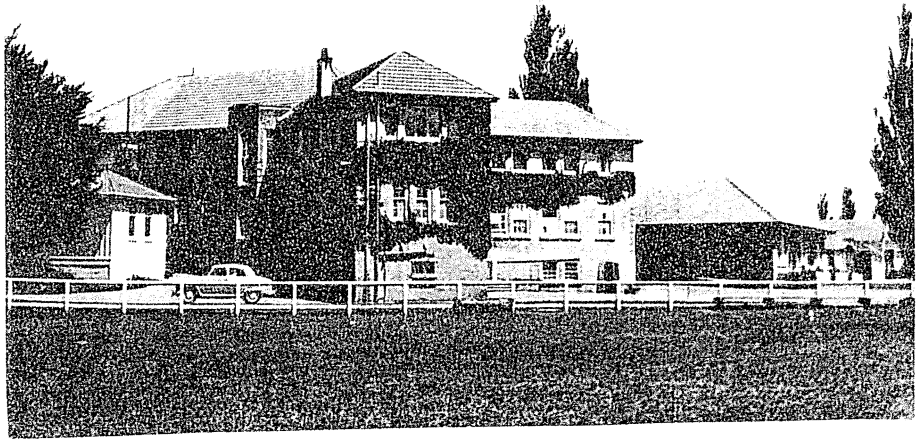
"Ye shall know the Truth
and
The Truth shall make you free."



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N Z FRIENDS SCHOOL
WANGANUI
1920 - 1969

PLUS EVENTS
THE QUAKER SETTLEMENT and REUNIONS
1970 - 1997

by
Frances Menefy 1969
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Malcolm Douglass 2003

"Ye shall know the Truth
and
The Truth shall make you free."

New Zealand Friends School Wanganui, 1920 to 1969.
(Plus Events 1970 to 1997)

Main history and original text by Frances Menefy 1969
Supplementary text 1970-1997 and illustrations arranged by
Malcolm Douglass 2003

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Foreword

This booklet covering 50 years in the life of Friends School originated from the pen of Frances Menefy and was first published for the school's jubilee in 1969. That was at the time the school closed. Twenty eight years later, at Easter 1997, a spontaneous reunion of former pupils, teachers, staff and people closely associated with the school was convened. This new edition of the book is printed in response to interest expressed at that time.

Over 350 attended for 3 days at the old school site St Johns Hill Wanganui, during Easter.1997. The reunion was enabled by the residents and friends of Wanganui Friends Settlement (Quaker Acres), now occupying the former Orchard House side of Virginia Road.

In these brief pages it is not possible to give full credit to the endeavours of everyone who enabled the establishment and running of Friends School, the inevitable winding up of the school's affairs after 1969 or the development of the Quaker Settlement at 76 Virginia Road. However the parade of people who have led, shared and followed the activities on this site is formidable and to all of these people this book is a tribute.

During the life of the school some 1450 pupils attended the school, about 100 teachers and 50 school committee members served the school. At the 1997 reunion some of the first intake, 1920, through to the last pupils, 1969, were able to be present. It was suggested at the time that this booklet could be extended with illustrations from the former school prospectus, commentary and photos so as to illustrate the full 80 years, 1917-1997,of the site's activities.

In addition to those associated with the Friends School there is now a new generation of those who, since 1970, have initiated and developed the Wanganui Friends Settlement more popularly called Quaker Acres. Some have had the privilege of participating and being involved in the development of both these Quaker community ventures.

This modest book is an acknowledgment of the contribution of New Zealand Friends School to the enjoyment and lives of its pupils, its teachers, its staff, to New Zealand education, the wider community and to the Quaker way of life in Aoteroa.

Malcolm Douglass
30.4.2003



Fig. 1 Illumination of N Z Friends School Motto by Joyce Hamilton (Lilburn) circa 1949.



Friends School Wanganui

Ernest E Unwin - January 1934

Fig. 2 New Zealand Friends School Wanganui . by Ernest E. Unwin January - 1934.

Ernest Unwin was the headmaster of Friends School Hobart. He visited Wanganui in 1934 at the invitation of NZ Quakers and as part of an Education Commission into the future strategies for the NZ Friends School. He was a very capable water colour painter and this was one of several views he left after his period here.

Illustrations

The photographs, copied from the school prospectus and a variety of other Quaker and private sources have been numbered for ease of reference. They generally appear on pages appropriate to the adjacent text.

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The photographs have been drawn from copies of the school prospectus, the Society of Friends and Quaker Acres archives, Kit Ellis, my own and other personal collections.

It has not always been possible to determine the exact dates of the photographs, or the names of all the people present. However the dates shown , eg. circa 1936 etc, indicate the view and situation of that general time period.

The limited number of original photos available of some of the best known identities has meant that the portrait photos, especially in the latter half of the book, have been enlarged from the annual school photos and other sources.

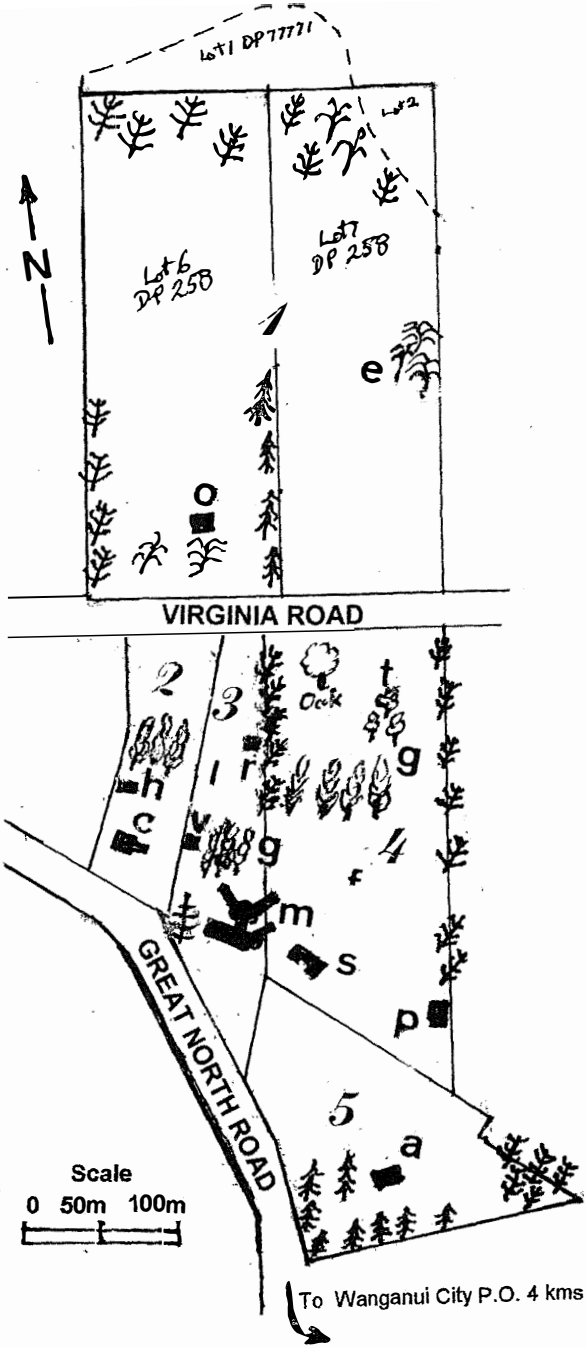
Time Chart of key dates

Friends' School

1909 - Thomas Hodgkin states the dream at Wellington conference.
1913 – Annual Meeting considers concern by John Holdsworth.
1917 – Education Committee established by NZ Friends.
1919 – Purchase of land at St Johns Hill Wanganui for School.
1920 -.School opens doors to pupils 23 February 1920.
1920 - Hugh Goldsbury Headmaster.
1921 – Montague Goldsbury Headmaster.
1923 – Frank Moreton arrives from England as Head Master.
1924 – New three classroom block completed.
1928 – Main two storey boarding block opened.
1929 – Arthur and Ethel Douglass appointed principal.
1930 - Swimming pool opened.
1931 – Wilfred Monkhouse appointed first assistant.
1934 – Education Commission held including Ernest Unwin
1936 – School operating with full role of 50 boarders.
1937 – Arthur and Ethel Douglass overseas USA and UK.
1938 – Frieze of fossils, man's evolution and events in Form 2 room.
1940 – Debentures and capital of school development paid off.
1941 - The school farm ceased the school's milk and meat supply.
1945 – Holdsworth, Virginia Road residence built for headmaster.
1946 – Howard and Marjorie Dyson join the school.
1947 – The wooden Assembly Hall with two class rooms opened.
1949 – Arthur Douglass retires, Howard Dyson becomes principal.
1952 – Cadbury Dining Hall opened.
1957 - Front of main block completed with Penn dormitory.
1962 – Staff residences Goldsbury and Douglass built.
1963 – Dysons have a terms leave of absence.
1964 - Howard and Marjory Dyson retired.
1965 – Oscar and Anne Wallis appointed headmaster.
1968 – Friends Yearly Meeting accepted the school closure.
1969 – The Jubilee was held in October.
1969 – The School closed its doors at the end of the year.

Quaker Settlement

1972 - Concept of homes and conference centre initiated.
1974 – Yearly Meeting agreed to Quaker Settlement proceeding.
1975 – Wanganui Educational Settlement Trust established.
1976 - Workshop and first houses completed.
1978 – The main block opened and ninth house completed
1981 – Sleeping accommodation for groups of 40 completed.
1997 – The Reunion of old scholars and staff held at Easter



KEY

Original Farmlet Properties

1. Backhills 17.5 Acres CT 31/49 Lots 6&7 DP258 A.C.Gloyne.
2. Cottage 2 Acres. Pt 1 DP 1525.
3. Wooden House 4 Acres CT120/245 Lot 2 DP 1525. T.Glover.
4. Playing Fields 8 Acres Lot 13 DP258
5. Ackworth 4 Acres CT 87/85 Pt Lot 1 DP 798 John Kenah

Pine trees — Macrocarpa trees

Gum trees — Poplar trees

- **a.** Ackworth House
- **c.** The Cottage
- **e.** Gum Plantation 1940.
- **f.** Playing Fields
- **g.** School gardens
- **h.** Hen Run
- **l.** Laundry Lines
- **m.** Main Block 1928.
- **o.** Orchard House
- **p.** Swimming Pool 1930
- **r.** Red farm shed
- **s.** School classrooms 1924
- **t.** Coronation trees 1937
- **v.** Cow Bails to 1941

Fig. 3 Location map, farms and buildings in 1920s/30s

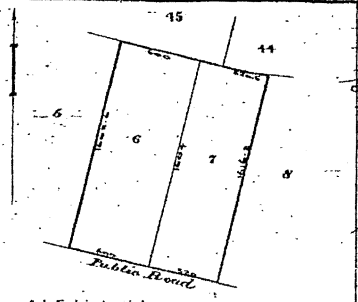
Part of Certificate of Title 31/49 for the Back Hills Farm

[CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.]

Register Book, Vol 31 Folio 49

Reference Vol. 24 Fol. 73.

Pursuant to Memorandum of Transfer No. 8637 Charles Earl Ashforth



Scale. 5 chains to an inch.

Transfer 15700 produced 5th February 1924 at 10 a.m. all the registered proprietors of John Holdsworth, John Charles White, Ernest Henry Wright, George Herbert Wardell, Egerton Robert Worsell Egerton Gill all above named and Richard Rickett Harris of Levin Orchardist. W. Richmond Registrar

Transfer 087178.1 to The Society of Friends Wanganui Educational Settlement Trust Board at Auckland - 23.12.1975 at 9.51a.m.

FOR L.R.

Mortgage 157936.1 to The Society of Friends New Zealand Trust Board - 28.9.1976 at 2.00p.m.

A.L.R.

History of Ownership.

The purchase was made by the following Quakers on 3rd August 1920.

John Holdsworth of Havelock North, farmer.
Noel Goldsbury of Rangiora accountant.
John Charles White of Dunedin indent agent.
Ernest Henry Wright of Morrinsville public accountant.
George Herbert Wardell of Omarama farmer
Egerton Gill of Auckland, opublic accountant.

The other trustee deeply involved was Alfred Goldsbury of Wanganui.
A subsequent transfer to the trustees on the 5th February 1924 included Richard Rickett Harris of Levin , orchardist. Then on the 1st July 1930 the property was transferred to the Society of Friends New Zealand Trust Board.

The next transfer was to The Society of Friends 'Wanganui Educational Settlement Trust Board' (WEST) on the 23 December 1975.
There was also the rearrangement of the boundary on the north of the back hills to embrace the planted walkway area on the 18 July 1994

The balance of the property on the south side of Virginia Road, was transferred initially to the Department of Social Welfare in 1974.
Subsequently the 10 acre Otamatea Reserve was taken over by the District Council in 1981 and the balance of the area was subdivided into 17 residential and institutional sites illustrated on Fig. 75 page 93.

1. Early Beginnings 1913 to 1923

On February 23rd 1920 the Friends School at Wanganui opened its doors to pupils.

The hopes of a number of Friends in New Zealand and in England had been fulfilled, for now provision had been made for the children of Friends to be educated and grow up together.

As early as 1913, **John Holdsworth** had brought his concern that such a school should be established before the annual meeting of the Society.

Much interest was shown by Friends who gathered there, the idea was not only welcomed but promises were made of financial help.

Next year further encouragement was given, backed by more promises of financial aid and John Holdsworth said, "We must have a school, Friends, there is no doubt about it if the Society is to grow".

Two English Quakers were present at this meeting and gave their encouragement to Friends in N.Z. to go forward with their project. A Committee was appointed to seek, amongst other things, the best locality. It reported that they felt, in times of such dreadful uncertainty (World War I) Friends should consider sending their children of 14 years and over to the Friends Hostel at Karori in Wellington, and there, under the care of Friends, receive a Secondary or University education. Further, this Committee thought it advisable to wait until "times were somewhat settled from the effects of war", before seeking a site on which to establish a school.

Meanwhile funds were becoming more firmly established not only for the future but also in order to assist parents who might wish to send their children to the Friends School in Hobart. In 1917 there were four boys from New Zealand attending this school. The Education Committee also made investigations in order to record the number of children who might attend a school, once established. They advised parents of plans for the future, and noted where help might possibly be needed. Minute 17 of General Meeting records a lively discussion on the founding of a Friends School. Searching questions were asked e.g. Do we desire Friends principles to be taught to our children by others to save ourselves trouble in our homes? May it not be a source of strength to us if we are compelled to crystalise our own opinions and teach them to our children at home?

Finally Friends recorded "New Zealand public education being free, secular and military, cannot be satisfactory to Friends Friends cannot do less than establish a school of their own. We are not standing to teach Quakerism, but principles which are fundamental truths."

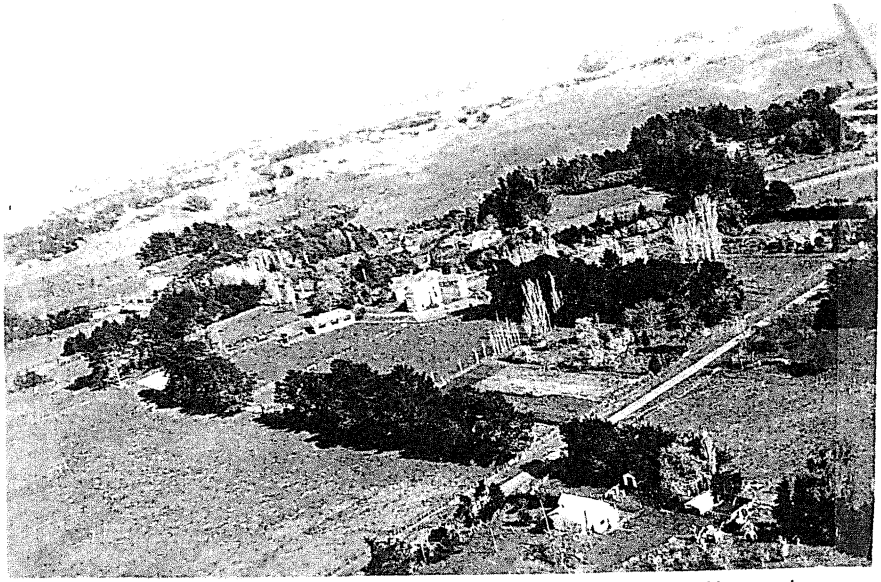


Fig. 4 The School looking west from above Virginia Road and beyond to Wanganui City, taken 1932 by Arthur Douglass passenger with Sam Gibbons as pilot.



Fig.5 The School looking east taken from the Maori Redoubt above the Great North Road circa 1937.

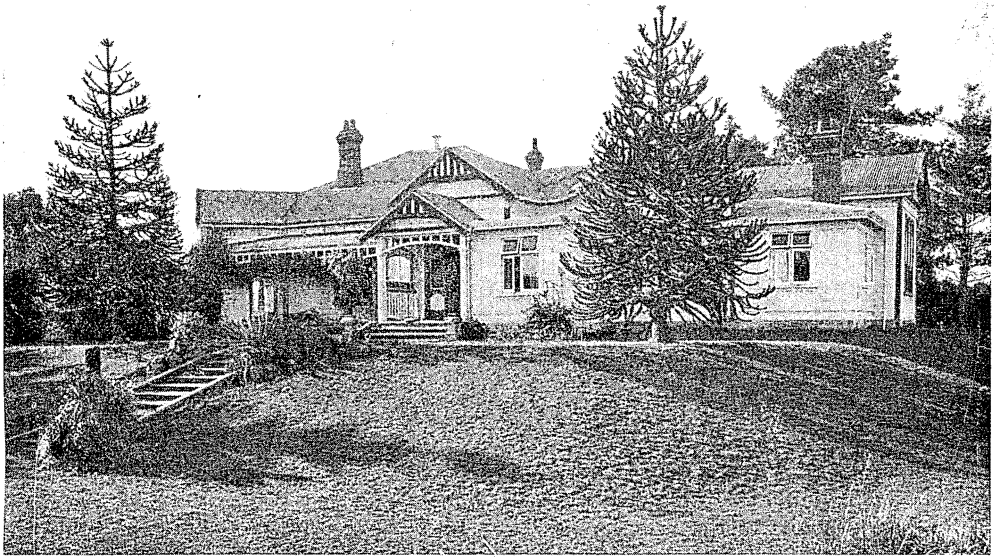


Fig 6 Wooden residence, still in use, in which N.Z.F.S. first opened in 1920. Southern aspect.



Fig.7 Main Buildings NZFS Classrooms, Living block Dining Hall 1969
Northern aspect

In 1915 **Alfred Goldsbury** travelled to England and laid the whole matter before London Yearly Meeting. He had a winning way with him and no better ambassador could have been chosen. He was, as always, listened to with interest. The Central Education Committee of London Yearly Meeting and the Australasian Committee jointly pronounced the scheme "practical and necessary", commending it to Friends generally for their support.

From this time on their support has been most generously given. The Australasian Committee continued to serve the school for many years. Until recently it was this Committee which sought out and appointed staff who came from England. They interested Friends to give personal service and in directing grants of moneys from Trusts not only in these early days but for many years to come.

An initial gift by John Holdsworth in 1913 of £2,000 had later been increased by him to £5,000 and added to from various sources until by 1919 just over £10,000 had been raised. This was half the sum deemed advisable before establishing a secondary school, and six years had passed since General Meeting had first given its blessing and encouragement.

It was at this time that Hugh (eldest son of Alfred and Margaret Goldsbury) and Annie Goldsbury — his wife — spoke to John Holdsworth of their interest in starting a Primary School. General Meeting of 1919 records:—Annie Goldsbury — has laid before this Meeting her willingness, with her husband, to attempt to fill the gap between the present and the future times when the Friends School shall come into existence. Once more the matter was brought before General Meeting and although some parents felt reluctant to take their young children away from established schools to attend one "in the making", the matter progressed so that by October 11th 1919 seven Friends gathered in **Wanganui** to inspect 5 adjacent properties which were falling vacant. The site was pleasing and by January 17th 1920, the last of these properties had been secured, comprising over thirty-four acres of land, with five houses and outbuildings, at a total cost of £12,025.

Arrangements were made then and there to open school on February 9th 1920 with **Hugh Goldsbury** as headmaster. A threatened influenza epidemic delayed the opening for two weeks, and Hugh Goldsbury records "Meanwhile, a great deal of work had to be done, cleaning up, furnishing etc. to say nothing of alterations, including a new stove and a new copper. The arrival of the new stove was delayed so that it was not ready for use till the day after school opened. We had the help of several Friends. Alfred and Margaret Goldsbury came to stay at the school and worked valiantly."

Gifts arrived from near and far: Books from England, as well as from New Zealand Friends, a floor rug, pictures, 3 dozen chairs and other articles for school use made especially by a Hastings firm, "and many cases of fruit which has helped to swell the school stock of jam."

Twenty children, from 6½ to 16 years of age were entered on the school register. Sixteen of these were boarders, and all of these were from Quaker homes. Accommodation must have been severely limited for there seems to have been a constant flow of visitors, "Lucy F. Morland and Mary Wilson have just left", the record reads, "after a second visit to our school." At their first visit they had met in Committee with Amy Thorne, John Holdsworth, Egerton Gill, Alfred and Margaret, Hugh and Annie Goldsbury.

This meeting, like so many Committee weekends in years to come, was an important event in that first term. For the adults a dream for which they had toiled, had come true. For the children, in their first experience of boarding school life, there were new faces, Friends they had met previously, and for two, Margaret and Mary Thorne, the excitement of having their own mother there, living with them in the school.

A few weeks later we read "Philip Thorne spoke to us all this evening telling us about the General Meeting and of the thought and attention given to the fact that a school had really been opened. The vision of previous General Meetings having taken concrete form during the year."

There are records of "visitors having talks with children, a very important place in their education — the boys dug potatoes and girls picked them up — a picnic tea across the paddocks — the boys have been doing especially good work in the garden so we had a social for all the school, day scholars were invited and we called it the boys' treat — We made this afternoon Arbor Day and planted some fruit trees — We all went for a walk to the lake in the moonlight and sang songs and hymns standing by the lakeside." There is also recorded the arrival of a telescope "the gift of John Holdsworth. It is a large telescope, suitable for viewing the moon and the stars." Noel Benson visited the school and sent a gift of "Fellowship Hymn Books". In years to come there were many other gifts from the Benson family, including pictures, Quaker bonnets and cloaks and substantial bequests of money.

One of the most important visits was from the Senior Inspector of Schools for this area, who came to see the work being done "in order that our school may be registered.'

The next School Committee was held at the end of the second term. "Most of them stayed until the Tuesday and went



Fig.8 Annie and Hugh Goldsbury headmaster 1920

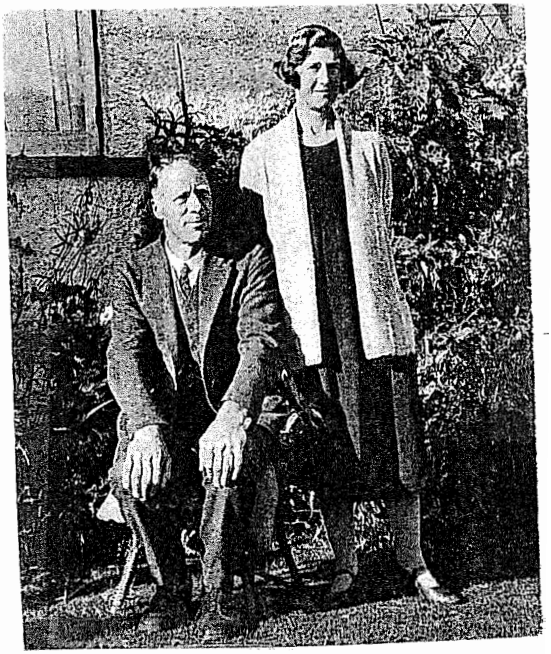


Fig.9 Lina and Montague Goldsbury headmaster 1921-1922

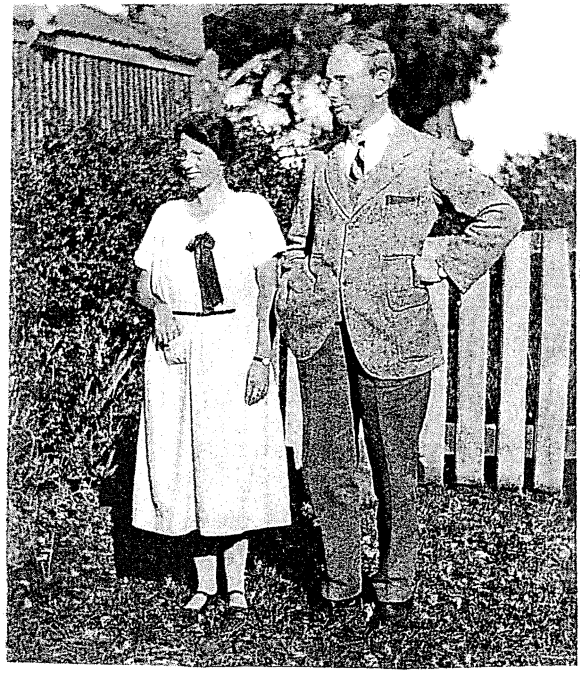


Fig.10 Agnes and Frank Moreton headmaster 1923 to 1929



Fig.11 Frank Moreton with a teacher and the 24 pupils in 1924.

home with the children" says the record. The next day's entry reads "Principals left alone in the school." This brief entry must have been made with a sigh of relief!

Term III opened with fourteen pupils as boarders and five day scholars. Two diary entries give vivid glimpses of the times. " . . . could not arrive yesterday, got here at dinner time today. As he was travelling all night in the train and had no sleep he was glad to get to bed at once." Then a few days later we read "Mrs Goldsbury and I took the children to a hill to watch for the arrival of an aeroplane from Wellington. Whilst waiting, we had a lesson upon the geography of the district between the Ruahines and Egmont and Ruapehu and Wellington. We got a splendid view of the aeroplane, which flew over our heads to alight in a paddock at Westmere", and three days later "This afternoon, with the help of my father's motor car and our school cart we took the children to the paddock 4 miles away to see the flying machine." Did any, as they gazed, envisage the day when twice their number would fly to and from the school for their term and half-term breaks, or that scholars would, in future, come from the Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Australia, and two, for a brief time from Iraq?

The end of the first year drew towards its close. Did Hugh and Annie Goldsbury and others who were responsible for the welfare of the school realise what had been accomplished? Much of this pattern of events was repeated in the years to follow. An entry records "Another Sunday spent happily in our usual manner. Alfred and Margaret Goldsbury motored from Makirikiri for morning Meeting and stayed for dinner. The afternoon taken up by a walk, a story being read to the children while we rested. Evening spent in writing letters, singing and reading aloud. We can hardly realise that we have but little more than four weeks left of this term."

By the end of the third term Hugh and Annie Goldsbury were exhausted. They had coped with the teaching of a wide age range and ability — and much of the domestic work fell upon the shoulders of Annie Goldsbury, when illness overtook those responsible. Arrangements were made for their services to terminate at the close of the year, with Hugh's brother Montague taking his place.

Twelve months had gone by, and the basis of a Quaker community had been laid.

On Jan. 11th, 1921: **Montague Goldsbury** took up his residence at the school on the day his brother Hugh left. "I am devoting", he writes "the greater part of my time to necessary out-door work, whilst my wife is very busy preparing the house to receive our coming boarders." A month later the children

re-assembled and Montague Goldsbury's main concern now centred around the classroom. It was a formidable task. As sole-charge teacher, Montague Goldsbury was faced with the teaching of 29 children in a wide range of age and ability. It must also be remembered that all activities were carried on under the roof of one large house not built or adapted in any way for use as a boarding school. General Meeting gathered in Wanganui at Easter time, the children "enjoying the company of their elders".

The crowded state of the premises during First Term 1921 emphasised the need for additional accommodation — particularly in the dining room, kitchen and bedrooms. "Although the house lends itself admirably to the work of a boarding school it is not by any means perfectly suitable" writes Montague Goldsbury, "and other additions will be needed in the future." Alas for that injunction from the General Meeting of 1918:— "Never let us attempt to use a dwelling house for a boarding school and then add patch to patch. Hobart stands as a solemn warning". Plans were set afoot for the building of three schoolrooms of brick in a separate block. The immediate undertaking of extensions to the Dining Room and Kitchen were put in hand, but, says Montague Goldsbury "It is necessary to postpone the opening of the second term for the work is not completed". (The next holidays were duly shortened to one week to make up for the school time missed). Montague Goldsbury based his education on the New Zealand syllabus and the children were ready to fit into the pattern of other schools which they might enter. There were now twentynine children on the roll, boarders in the main, coming from Quaker homes, Gilliver, Muggeridge, Pickard, Mark, were well known names on the register. "Billy Mark left for home today", we read. "We shall miss him for he helped well in all farm work and has been doing good work in the schoolroom since I was impelled to inflict slight corporal punishment a short time ago". The wide range in age and ability and the multitude of other duties involved in running a boarding establishment and an estate of 34 acres, necessitated engaging a second teacher. The Education Dept. required children to sit a "Proficiency Certificate Examination" at Std. VI level, so teaching was of necessity aimed to achieve this level. Frequent mention is made of music "the enthusiastic tuition and the progress made being one of the outstanding features of the year."

The first tennis court was laid out in the "rough paddock, but was playable and gave enjoyment." Visits were made when attractive and educational events took place. Repeated mention is made of 'being obliged to Alfred Goldsbury for assistance with his car and also of John Holdsworth who showered gifts upon

us." Cows and sheep grazed on the property, and for nearly 20 years the main supplies of meat and milk, with considerable quantities of fruit and vegetables were supplied to the household from the 34 acres. Under the direction of the Headmaster and with help from the children at milking time and week ends, Horace Walke as farmer/caretaker coped with the work of the estate.

In an ambitious plan to be even more self-supporting 132 more fruit trees were planted, though in time the land proved to be unsuitable for this venture.

In January 1923 after two years as Headmaster, Montague Goldsbury writes "My family and I are leaving tomorrow. We have been busy packing our belongings and we leave for Marton where I have been appointed First Assistant at the District High School. I leave this school with many regrets, for much has been left undone that I should like to have done, with many pleasant recollections . . . and with many wishes for its success in the future."

2. Establishment 1923 to 1929

In April 1923 **Frank and Agnes Moreton** arrived from England. They had been appointed to the School by the Australasian Committee in London. Frank Moreton, B.A. had previously been teaching in a school where the Dalton Plan was in use. This experience was valuable to him in teaching the wide range of subjects called for by a small number of pupils at Secondary School age. His musical ability did much to enrich the life of the school and also of the local community. His wife, Agnes Moreton was an Old Scholar of Sidcot School. They had no children then, but in 1928 adopted a baby girl, Barbara. Agnes Moreton had served with Friends in their relief work during World War I. Ruth Fry writes of her in "A Quaker Adventure": ". . . there ensued a maternal government in which the refugees turned to 'X' and to Agnes Rutter (now Moreton) in every problem, whether social or medical. The latter gave cooking lessons too, but found that the food allowance of 6d per diem did not admit of a great variety in menus, so the lessons were of necessity restricted!"

Economy then, was no stranger to the Moretons. They came, full of energy and expectancy, to take over and to build up their Quaker School. "We were surprised and a little disappointed on arriving at Wanganui to find only seven children", they reported, "and especially because there were only two children of Friends. We had understood that the school existed chiefly for the children of New Zealand Friends. As this is not so it

should be clearly understood that our only chance of getting pupils is to make our School outshine others . . . we have neither exceptionally attractive premises, . . . nor sufficient equipment. We hope that in time the children themselves will be our best advertisement."

Three staunch helpers had kept the remnants of the school together during the first part of 1923. Mrs. Jeanie Hair, Cook and Housekeeper for the next nine years, whilst Etta Cole and Anna Goodbody helped in almost every capacity, the schoolroom, the sickroom, and on excursions, for the remainder of that year. The numbers did not rise above 11 scholars in 1923, but nevertheless the Committee carried on with their plans for a block of schoolrooms and the Moretons were delighted to have a large hand in the arrangements of them.

The decision on having a school uniform of grey and red had been made previously and was now gradually introduced. Happy relationships with the firms involved lasted through from then to the closing of the school.

In spite of small numbers, heroic efforts were made to interest the children in sport and games of all sorts. "Nancy" Moreton, always versatile with a minimum of material, interested the girls in a variety of crafts and hand work. Frank Moreton, with the boys, fitted shelves, made cupboards and produced creditable wood work after some tools had been procured. Old Scholars of that era have memories of Sunday evenings round the fire. Frank read aloud, and played the piano whilst boys and girls knitted singlets for "Save the Children" organisation. In faith that numbers would increase, the children and staff were divided into two houses, Penn and Fox and all school activities came under this system.

There was also a basis of self-government in the Common Council held monthly. "Small as their number is, the children have already learnt a little of self government and self control. This Council should, in time, have considerable authority in the school."

Early in the following year the school rooms were in use. What a joy it must have been to move into those light sunny rooms, with their pleasing view of the playing field and farm. A small ceremony marked the occasion in April 1924. When **William Matheson**, whose grandchildren and great grand children later attended the school, performed the ceremony, it was attended by some 80 Friends and friends. There were other steps forward too. The arrival of electric light permitted "preparation" to be carried out in the new classroom block, away from the bathing and bedtime arrangements, where the only lighting was by candles and a temperamental gas plant.

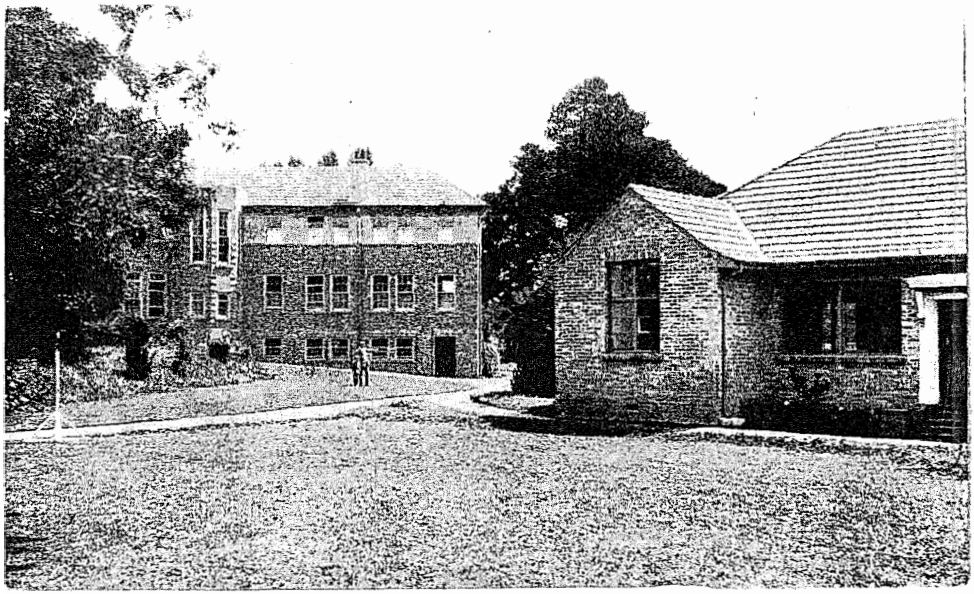


Fig.12 The view past the classrooms, built in 1924, to the new main block, opened in 1928.- circa 1936

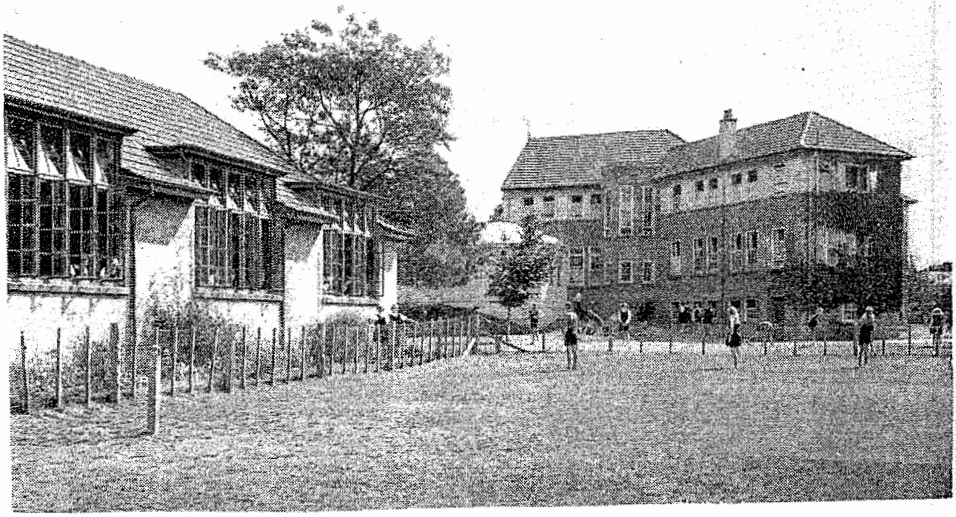


Fig. 13 View of the playing field side of the classrooms to the main block



Fig.14 The bathing parade on its way to the swimming pool – circa 1936



Fig.15 Tennis, summer sports and playing fields from the girl's dormitory.

When the gas plant was finally dispensed with Frank Moreton moved in quickly and adapted the shed in which it had been housed into a tiny science laboratory. The Committee report to General Meeting sounds misleadingly grandiose ". . . a laboratory was erected for the purpose of science teaching and a considerable part of its fitting has been done by the Principal and his pupils."

Numbers had risen to 33 for the beginning of 1925, but hopes of a good start were dashed once more, with an outbreak in New Zealand of Infantile Paralysis. The older boys and girls were sent correspondence lessons until schools reopened in April, the rest of the school year then being divided into two long terms. "It was rather a trying year for the staff," reports Frank Moreton, "since they were teaching longer hours each day, on Saturdays and often in the evenings". "This following year has been even more wearing", he continues. "The roll was once more increased to 42. Many of the children brought back with them colds and sores . . . chickenpox broke out. Our playroom was used as a bedroom . . . and all arrangements have been most difficult'

This increase in numbers, pleasing and rewarding as it must have been, created unimaginable crowding in the boarding establishment. For a time, Frank and Agnes Moreton slept on a verandah, "except when driving rain forced us into the entrance hall."

The overcrowding and general burdensomeness before the new residential block was built is described in Agnes Moreton's journal. "Manage we did during the autumn, for the weather was fair . . . but winter was no joke. Nineteen boys kept their games clothes and washed in a room some 6ft square. All girls and staff took turns at one bath. The house was dirty, untidy and overcrowded." This house, of course, was the original family residence taken over in 1920, not planned for 27 boarders (3 were sleeping at the Goldsbury's) and resident staff, but "we bear these inconveniences with cheerfulness, knowing that they will disappear when we get into our fine new building."

The contract for this was signed in 1927 for the sum of £7,043, for the erection of the two storey Dormitory Block and Common Room. An appeal for funds had been made and was generously supported with gifts and loans by English Friends. The building was opened by Professor **Noel Benson** who, with his family, showed a continued interest in the School. After his death in 1958 a substantial legacy was received from his estate. The report to General Meeting states "We have just finished a very happy term, but a term of great inconvenience, for on the day on which the children arrived a gang of men arrived too, and began to clear the site for the new wing."

The completion was considerably delayed and the opening was finally arranged for early 1928. "We were much exercised over the floors which were left pretty rough, windows dirty with putty . . . we stained the whole upstairs and down to get it done in time . . . night after night we were at it by candlelight, for the electricity was not yet in. They had two coats over all and a lavish quantity of polish and looked very well." So did the flowers and the afternoon tea for 350 people. "We had to have the whole school without a blemish. There were invitations and advertisements to make sure of, reporters and photographers . . . no small matter in this unknown and struggling school."

Both previous Headmasters and Frank Moreton also make reference to "Illness of my wife". "I suppose", he says, "teething troubles of a new school impose a great strain on the staff." He records the loyalty and co-operation of his staff. In 1929 Frances Waters (now Menefy) arrived from England. She was quickly drawn into the whole community of local Friends as well as in the life of the School. Here was scope for the young teacher to share with enthusism the recent training at Westhill College Selly Oak, and the Quaker background absorbed from associations there and from the six years as a pupil at Saffron Walden. The work in previous years of Miss Iris Eggers, Rachel Rutter (sister to Agnes Moreton) and Miss Coila McCracken in the Junior part of the School had been versatile and able. It was no light task for an inexperienced teacher to keep up this standard when facing a roomful of children with an age range of 4½—12 years. Frank Moreton still toiled nobly with a similar range of age and ability in the upper school.

At the close of 1929 the services of Frank and Agnes Moreton also terminated. "We had very dear and good friends to leave and a period of intense activity, crowned by a considerable amount of success." writes Nancy Moreton.

Ten years had passed. There had been three Headmasters, some fine buildings had been erected, the roll had increased and the School was now becoming known as a boarding school with a homely atmosphere where boys and girls, brothers and sisters, could live in healthy surroundings and be educated together.

3. Growth and Evolution 1930 to 1949

Arthur and Ethel Douglass arrived from England before the close of Term III, 1929. They were quick to assess the situation, and while they saw the possibilities they were not blind to the tasks that lay ahead and they were admirably suited to meet them.

Arthur Douglass, B.Sc. came from a Yorkshire Quaker family. He had already undertaken a major responsibility in the



Fig. 16 Arthur Douglass and Ethel Douglass co-principals 1929 to 1949.

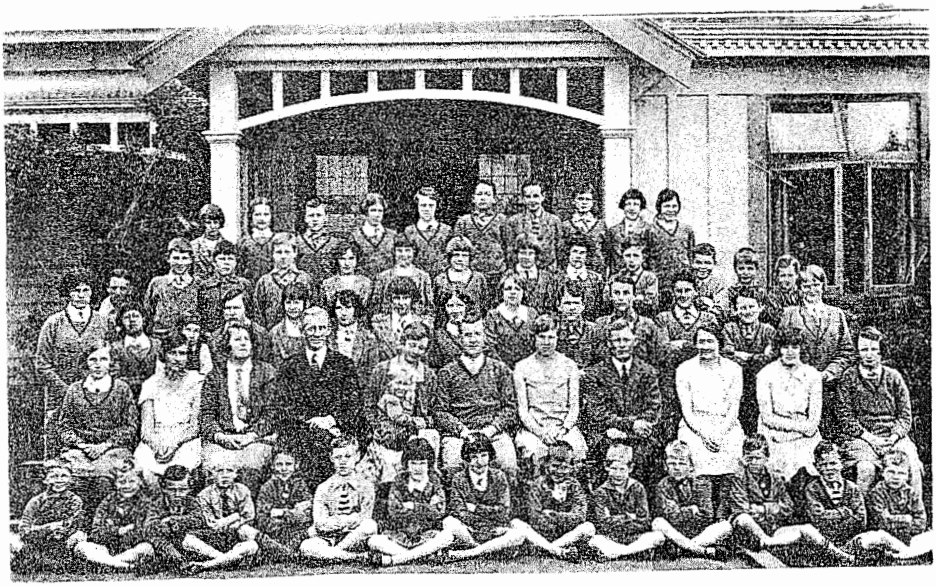


Fig.17 The school photo 1931. Teachers Wilfred Monkhouse with Ethel Douglass, Arthur Douglass, 6 other staff and 53 pupils.

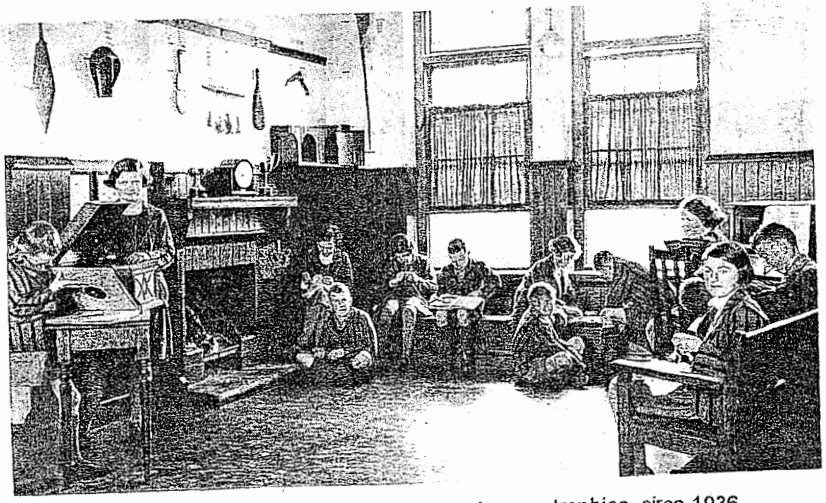


Fig. 18 The common room for reading, music and canoe trophies, circa 1936

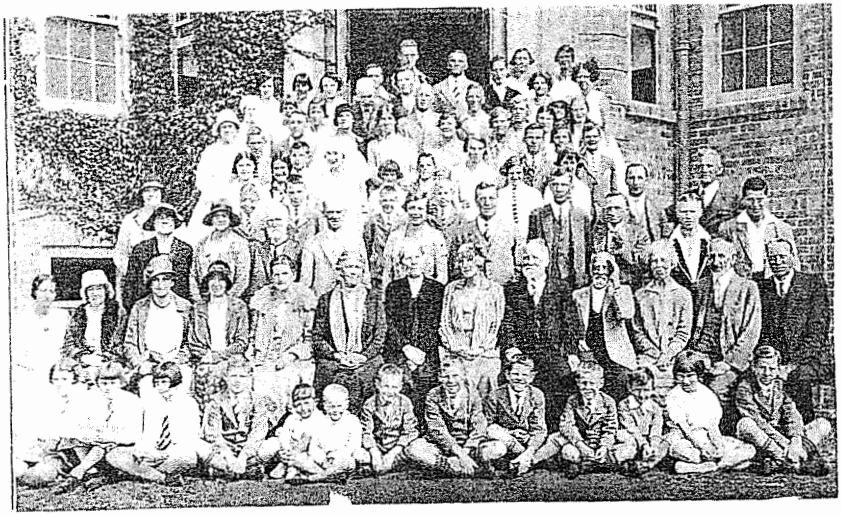


Fig. 19 Friends General Meeting 1932 including founder John Holdsworth, other Trustees, school committee members, NZ friends and their children.

organisation of a war-time hospital in Malta. He received his education at Quaker Schools, Great Ayton and Bootham and also taught at Bootham prior to taking up the appointment in Wanganui. He was always keen on sports and swimming, and for many years, until ill health prevented him, his main relaxation from school affairs was in his Thursday afternoon round of golf with a local Friend "Pat" Goldsbury, a younger brother of Hugh and Montague.

Ethel Douglass, B.A. was a convinced Friend, also with a Yorkshire background. She was appointed co-Principal with her husband but she had much to contribute to this community in addition to her scholastic ability, her teaching experience and her music, for she was a wise and gentle mother. Kenneth (6 years) and Brian (2 years) had been born in England. Two years after their arrival a third son, Malcolm, was born and being a true New Zealander, was adopted as the "baby of the year" by the St. John's Hill branch of the Plunket Society. This identification with their new country was typical of the family enthusiasm for the task in hand. Shortly after arrival, Arthur Douglass said "Officially one becomes a New Zealander after residing for 12 months. I consider myself and my family to be New Zealanders now." Never one to do things by halves, he set about to study for, and gained, his Diploma of Education (N.Z.). At the end of his first term, Arthur Douglass had an opportunity to present a report to the General Meeting of the Society and from it can be gained a picture of the situation, of the forward planning for development and also for the reduction of the mortgages already referred to. Gifts totalling £1,000 were received from Barrow and Geraldine Cadbury and their daughter Dorothy who visited N.Z. at this time. "**Barrow Cadbury** was quick to realise that the School cannot compete favourably with the Government schools so long as it carries this load", said Arthur Douglas. Five hundred pounds was allocated to a debt reduction and the Committee decided to open a "Clearance of Debt Fund."

Other gifts from English Friends were also used to cover losses, make debt repayments and effect capital improvements. Falling wool prices and the serious financial situation faced by the whole country, already in the grip of the slump, necessitated expenditure being kept at a minimum yet there was no lack of essentials. A Government scheme for relief workers made it possible to carry out improvements to the grounds. Potatoes were grown and shared amongst the families of these workers.

At General Meeting 1941, the School Committee closed its report to General Meeting by saying — "It was a source of great satisfaction to the Committee that at the end of 1940,

sufficient funds were in sight in London to defray the debentures, together with interest, that fall due on the last day of this year. Funds are in hand to discharge our liability in New Zealand on the same date. This will leave the whole of the school property unencumbered."

One feels glad that **Philip J. Thorne** was privileged to sign this statement. His links go back to before the School opened. He and his wife Amy took an interest in its affairs and gave practical help whenever possible. Amy Thorne was a member of the Committee in the early days, and their two daughters were pupils for a short period, travelling up from the South Island. Philip Thorne had acted as Clerk and when ill health caused him to resign it is recorded that he had given an ". . . unbroken period of faithful and loving service. . . His cultural and religious interests in the School were deep and wide . . . his keen business sense . . . perception, tact, comprehension and courage made him a trusted leader . . . Philip Thorne's ministry in Meeting for Worship and his evening talks to the children will long be remembered. We give thanks for the privilege of working with him."

The School lost a number of its staunchest friends between 1935 and 41. **Alfred Goldsbury**, who with his wife Margaret had spent their recent years living in a house on the property had identified himself closely with the community, serving as Clerk to the Committee for over 10 years. Scholars waited for his welcome ministry at Sunday Meeting for Worship and he never failed them. He took part in everything. His car was a tradition on early expeditions. On his 80th birthday he played a game of tennis and proudly ran a mile! He was a dearly loved father to the Community. Nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren attended the School.

William and Annie Matheson both served on the School Committee. They had been active in many fields and perhaps one of them which best served the School was the development and care of the Hostel in Wellington. Records show that this Hostel provided a steady source of financial help to the School. William Matheson's fund of stories gave him close contact with the children and Annie Matheson will be remembered best, perhaps, for her glowing personality.

Egerton Gill had been a member of the Education Committee since its establishment and acted as Clerk for six years. He was one of the Friends concerned in the purchase of the School estate ,and throughout the whole period had been in charge of the finances of the institution. He handled financial problems with wisdom and his careful and detailed work is evident over this period.



Fig.20 School committee and others enjoying refreshments 1936
From left top – William Matheson, Edward Dowsett, Mabel Holdsworth, Arthur Douglass, Egerton Gill, Wilfred and Phyllis Pearson, Montague Goldsbury, Seated – Viv Wilkinson, Joyce Burnside, Anne Matheson, Eve Wilkinson, Nora Gibbons with Ethel Douglass, Muriel Ockenden

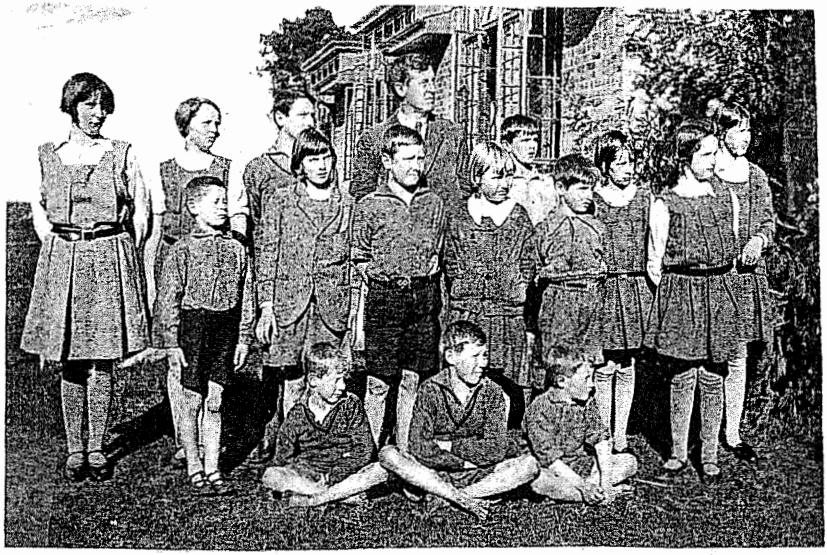


Fig. 21 Arthur Douglass with 'eyes left' for pupils of Quaker families, circa 1931

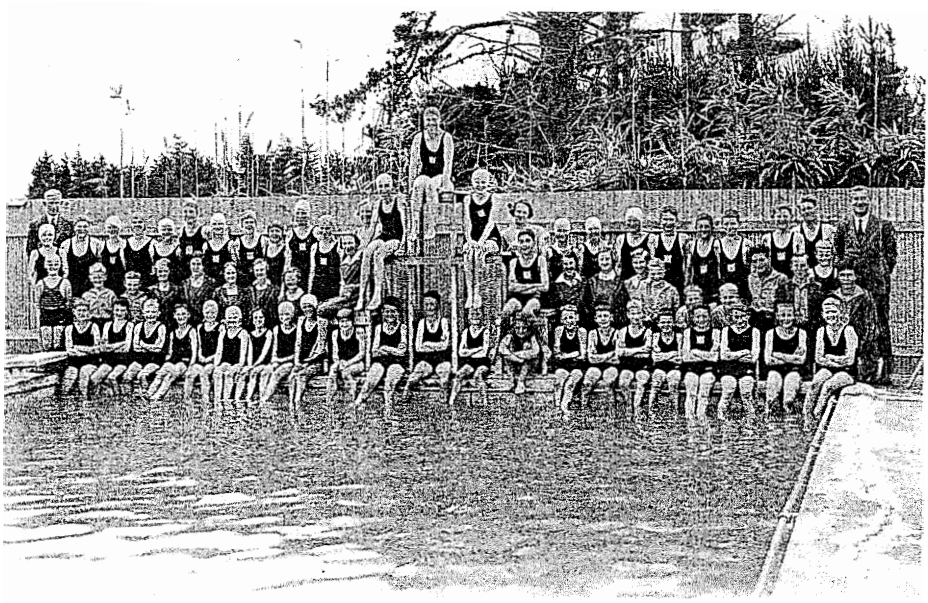


Fig. 22 The swimming pool and a photo showing those with RLSS - circa 1941



Fig. 23 Winter morning ice skating on the frosty tennis court - circa 1942

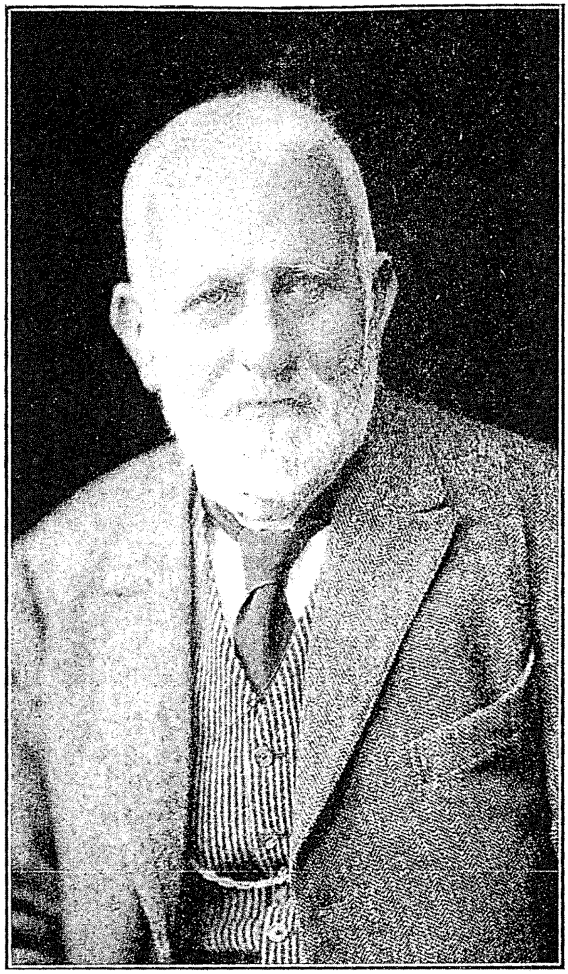


Fig.24 JOHN HOLDSWORTH
Founder
of "Swarthmoor" Havelock North, N.Z.
and of Bareppa, Falmouth, England.

John Holdsworth, always considered as the Founder of N.Z.F.S., died in 1935. "We are conscious", says the record, "of the debt we owe him for his long and cherished plan of a New Zealand Friends School; for his generous gift of money which made its establishment possible and for the time and thought devoted to it. We are grateful that his name will be remembered

as founder of the School by the establishment of a John Holdsworth Endownment Fund. We place on record our gratitude to God for his life and service." The John Holdsworth Endownment Fund was established by his brother, Charles in 1932.

These Friends, with other faithful helpers, had lived long enough to see their School "turn the corner."

The first pupils had, by now, moved on, but they formed themselves into an Old Scholars Association which gradually gained strength. The Easter Gathering at the School became an annual event, much appreciated by a small but loyal group. Several marriages took place between Old Scholars, and in almost every case the children have also attended the school.

For the scholars, life was a happy one of strenuous routine. At rising bell beds were stripped and mattresses turned; a strip wash, then dressing, shoe cleaning, learning of texts for choral speaking at Sunday evening reading, then physical education. It is no wonder that breakfast was a popular meal:— Oatmeal porridge, milk from the farm cows, oven-baked "hard" bread with butter and marmalade, and fruit.

Ethel Douglass had organised a programme of Public Work so that each child took part in some essential daily task. Such activities had always taken place, but as buildings expanded and numbers increased it was necessary to have a more formal organisation and adult supervision. The children saw these daily responsibilities as helping in the running of their school, as indeed it was. The parents too, were grateful for their children's training. Perhaps from this more than any other school activity, the children of Friends School have gained their reputation for being co-operative willing helpers in community tasks.

"Whatever the children say about it", wrote Arthur Douglass, "I can assure you that they have not been overworked. It is impossible to make them overwork. The staff . . . has undoubtedly had too much to do . . . that phase has now happily passed," and with his usual turn of wry humour adds "I myself am anxiously awaiting the introduction of the 48 hour week; in fact, myself, I should be content with a 70 hour week."

An important project was the building of the Swimming Baths. Previous Headmasters, to say nothing of staff and children, had thought with longing of the possibility of having a swimming bath on the property. Occasionally arrangements had been made for the use of the Avenue School Baths, entailing a 2½ mile walk there, and then back. At weekend expeditions were made to Westmere Lake — a similar distance, or to the beach 5 miles away. Frank and Agnes Moreton had

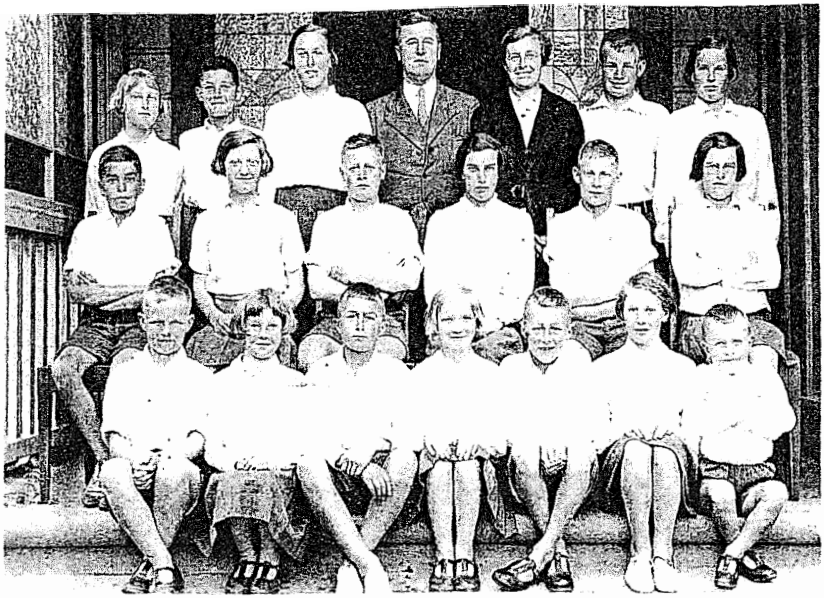


Fig. 25 Pupils of Quaker families with AD and ED - 1939
(includes - Beckerleg, Douglass, Hughes, Gilliver, Johnson, Potter, Walke, Wardell and Williams families)



Fig.26 Old Scholars Easter Reunion and who's for cricket, circa 1934

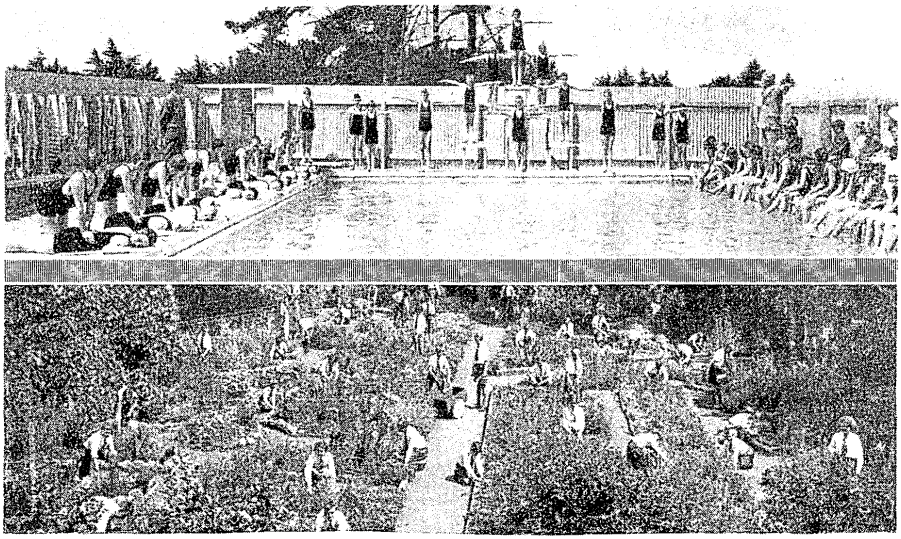


Fig. 27 Variety of out of school activities, Royal Life Saving above.
A flower garden plot for each boarder below - circa 1936



Fig. 28 AD and ED being welcomed November 1937, after their round the world travels, by Wilfred Monkhouse, staff, pupils and three over-awed sons

established a fund, for which the children worked, as they did also to prepare the site. In 1930 the Committee reported that they had accepted a tender of £430 for the construction of the swimming bath, which would be ready for use for the coming season. The firm responsible, John Jones & Son had long standing and good business relations with the school in its major construction works.

On November 19th 1930 the baths were officially opened. In all the cost had been over $600 and the years have proved that they were worth it. Mr. Rogers, Mayor of Wanganui, officially opened the baths, and it is significant in the light of future developments that a demonstration of breaststroke swimming was given by the New Zealand champion.

In 1931 Arthur Douglass reported:— "Perhaps the most outstanding event of the year has been the appointment of an assistant Master. **Wilfred Monkhouse**, New Zealand born, joined the staff in September. He is not a Friend, but has Quaker ancestry. He is an able . . . teacher, and there are few men to whom I should be more willing to hand over my own boys for instruction." He will be remembered for his methodical and devoted teaching, his dignity, his integrity, and his gentlemanly conduct.

For close on 20 years this remarkably versatile man taught Form II, encouraged swimming, games and gardening. He was responsible for planting 60 trees including the 1937 Coronation plantation presented by **Dr George Robertson** the school's doctor, by Holdsworth. This is still a fine stand of deciduous exotics. In 1940 he also planted the grove of 30 Acclimatisation Society gum trees, standing on the east side of Quaker Acres. He also made a valuable contribution creating the Aotea, Tainui and Arawa Canoe system.

The Canoe system was also designed to encourage useful and educational spare time activities. By passing 30 Tests in Maori folk lore and tradition, attaining satisfactory standards in a variety of skills and sports, doing good public work and above all maintaining the spirit of the School Motto "and ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free", the children would rise to the honoured position of Rangatira. With Arthur Douglass' enthusiasm, and Wilfred Monkhouse's skill, the Common Room walls were soon lined with replicas of Maori implements for presentation to the winning teams and canoes. With some adaption and variation, this system and the use of these trophies continued and became a tradition for the children. An unusual weather vane was designed in the form of a Maori canoe, and was made by a member of Wellington Meeting, Fred Lipscombe. Mrs T. E. Wilson of Waitotara presented three carved models of canoes, one for Aotea, one for Arawa and one for Tainui. The Rangatira tests card is included here at page 51

In these, and in many other ways under the care of Arthur and Ethel Douglass this still young school was gradually given a personality of its own. In 1934 an Education Commission was held to work out a sound general policy. Its members met under the chairmanship of Ernest Unwin, Principal of Friends School, Hobart, and were Duncan Rae, Principal of Auckland Training College, Montague Goldsbury, Clerk to the School Committee and co-Principals, Arthur and Ethel Douglass. The recommendations were accepted and put into operation as opportunity offered.

From now on attention was concentrated on the 8—14 age range, by not accepting pupils at the younger end of the school and by introducing a cultural course for those above Form II who did not plan to continue school after the leaving age of 15. By 1937 the school was full, and Staff could be brought up to normal requirements. Reports from the Inspector of Education Department showed an increasing confidence in the education provided, until in 1943 the School received "the coveted distinction of an "excellent" from the Government Inspectors.

For nine years Arthur and Ethel Douglass gave themselves completely to this School. Their house was in cramped quarters in close conjunction with the children. When numbers fell, they, with some others of the Staff had relinquished part of their salary. By 1937 the Committee were able to grant them a six month sabbatical leave. **A Mabel Holdsworth**, Clerk of the Australasian Committee for some years was visiting N.Z., and she shared many responsibilities with **Nora B Gibbons** whilst Wilfred Monkhouse became Acting-Principal.

The holiday was used largely for the purpose of furthering the School's future work by visiting educational establishments in both England and America. After his visit to the Grand Canyon and the Chicago Museum Arthur Douglass designed a wall chart which surrounded the upper part of the Classroom walls as a Frieze and entitled "Movements, Men and Events." It was in three sections, The Record of the Rocks, The Dawn of History and Movement of New Events. The work was executed by Alan C. Browne, ARCA, an English Friend who was spending some time at the School.

For many years these charts were a unique feature of the classrooms and it and was with great regret that they were finally obliterated, due to deterioration and the classrooms being re-decorated.

Perhaps Arthur Douglass was somewhat before his time when he introduced the metric system into the recording of Athletic Sports. But a unique and permanent feature of school

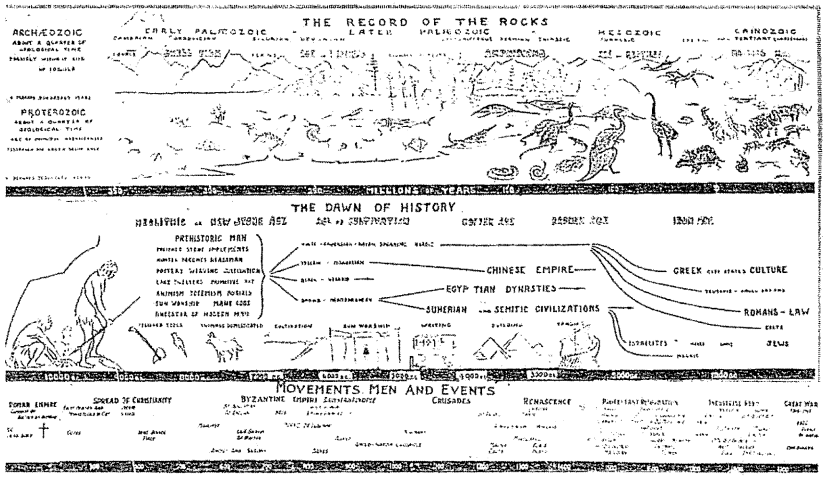


Fig. 29 The Form 2 classroom frieze of fossils, men and events – prepared by Alan Browne (ARCA.)1938

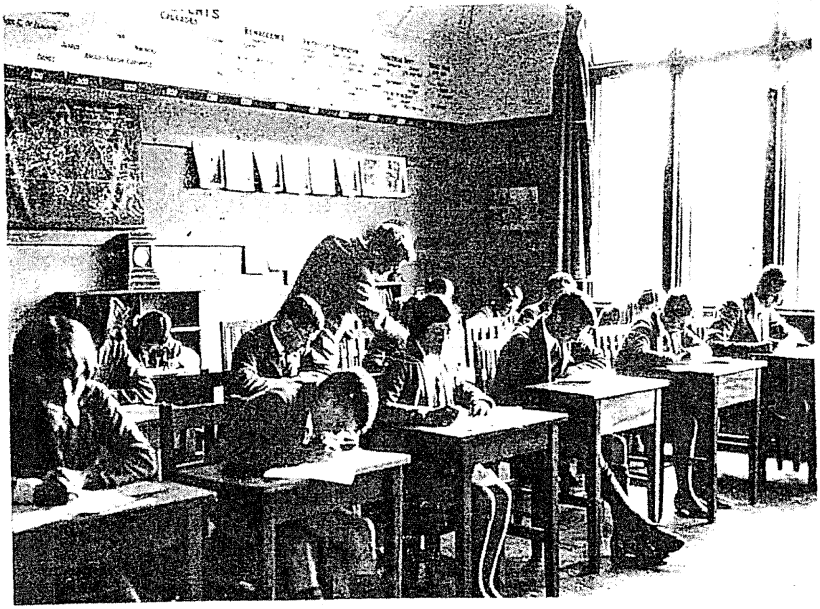


Fig. 30 Form 2 at work with ADs guidance. Normally Wilfred Monkhouse's class room - circa 1938

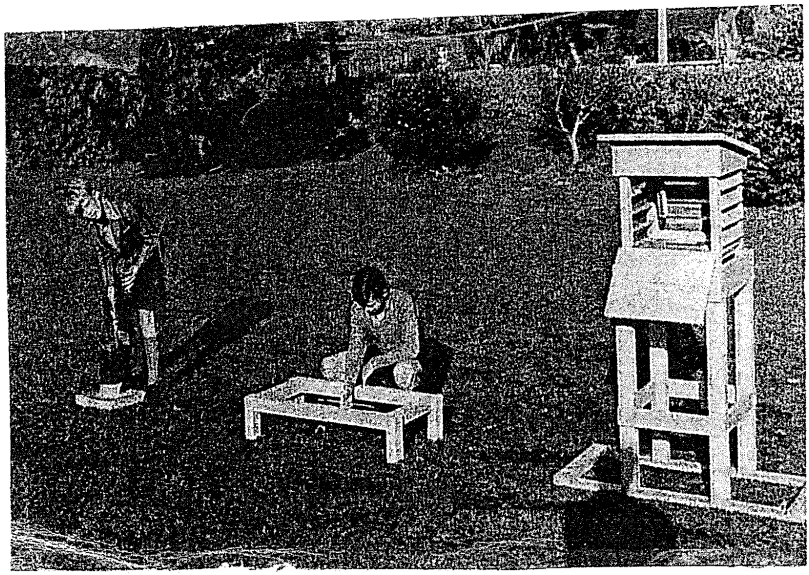


Fig. 31 Meteorological station on the front lawn leading to daily records for the Chronicle newspaper

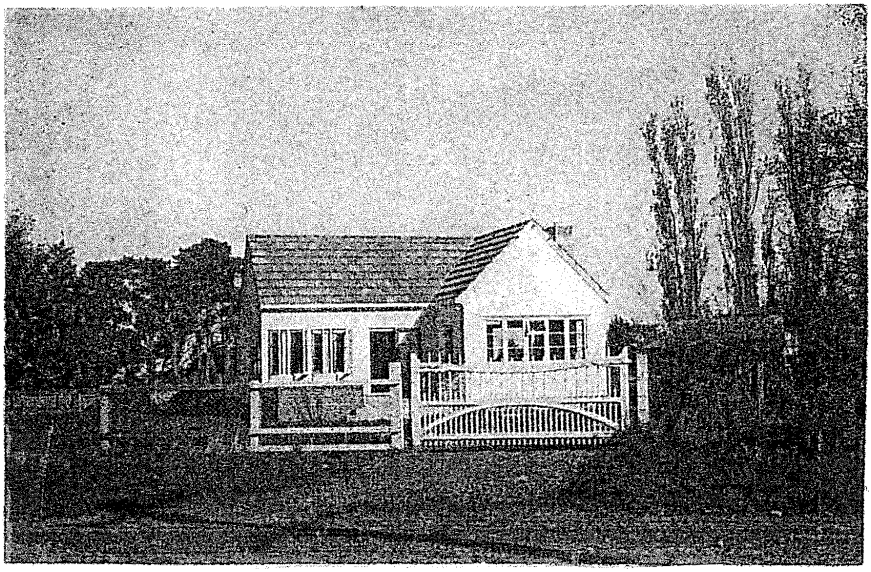


Fig. 32 Holdsworth House, Virginia Road, built for the headmaster – 1946

life was the daily recording of weather conditions by the children, who phoned their findings through to the Wanganui Chronicle. These were published daily on the main page under a heading "The Friends School reports", etc, etc. Hours of sunshine, rainfall, Max. and Min. Temperatures and ground temperature were carefully recorded, graphs were kept and the daily findings were announced at each morning Assembly. Of recent years the local authorities in the City have taken over official responsibility for the Meteorological record but older children at school have continued the practice for their own interest and education.

In 1946 a Headmaster's residence "Holdsworth" was built on the School property, facing Virginia Rd. The Douglass family now moved into their first home since their arrival in 1929. Arthur and Ethel Douglass needed to take life at a more leisurely pace, for both of them had faced periods of serious illness.

The School was supported by a strong Committee. Nora B. Gibbons, and **Edward Dowsett** had served for some years past, and kept in close touch with School affairs. **Ruby Dowsett** took over the Clerkship of the Committee and when, with Edward Dowsett, she visited England in 1947, an Extension Appeal was launched. Once more, largely through the generosity of English Friends, the buildings were extended. The appeal for an "Urgent Building Programme" raised sufficient funds for the building of two classrooms and an Assembly Hall. Some war-time restrictions still held and material was limited. However, trees on the property were felled and partly used, the rest being taken by the merchants in exchange for more seasoned products. At last, the morning Assemblies and Sunday Meetings for Worship were held away from the restriction of classroom desks and other apparatus.

Due to ill health, Arthur and Ethel Douglass decided to retire early in 1949. They moved into their home on Hillside Terrace, overlooking the Wanganui River, and though ill-health severely curtailed his activities Arthur Douglass never complained. He loved children and understood them. He was stern with wrong doers, but children knew that any effort at making good would be quickly recognised and encouraged. Many old scholars remember his reading and explanation of the book "The Story of Quakerism", to the third form in Sunday School, and have been helped by their memories. The Sunday evening Meeting has been recalled as a happy time — A.D.'s smiling face as he heard the passages of scriptures recited; his comments on these and queries as to their meaning; his interest in and love of music shown as he conducted and lead the hymns. For many years it was his custom to read stories to the older children every evening at bed-time, and these gatherings round

the fire finished the day in a happy family spirit. His boundless enthusiasm and zest for the job in hand has been remembered by both old scholars and teachers alike with happy thankfulness. His vital personality has influenced many.

As might be expected he was a great support to Wanganui Friends Meeting, and gave unstinted service in many and various organisations in the community.

After his death in June 1955 the Committee recorded:—

> "Arthur Douglass . . . was well qualified for the difficult and responsible task of taking over at a transition period when the school was just ten years founded.
>
> A true pioneer at heart his courage was undaunted even in the most difficult situations. We owe much to his exceptional executive ability and his sound judgement. During the first seven years as Headmaster he carried the school through the slump and saw it cleared of debt. Then followed World War II, but the school survived.
>
> At his retirement after 20 years of service generously given, it could well be said that the school had not only become an integral part of New Zealand Quakerism, but also of New Zealand educational life. Throughout this period Arthur Douglass had the able support of his wife Ethel."

Ethel Douglass continued her interest in school affairs, serving on the Committee for a short time. A few years later Ethel spent two years in Kenya, doing work there amongst newly settled communities, under the auspices of Friends Service Council. With strong support from parents, children and old scholars, over £200 was raised at a Bazaar one Sports Day, the money being used to buy sewing machines for the women's clubs in the villages in Kenya where Ethel Douglass was working. How reminiscent of the report from their first year at N.Z.F.S. which says: "In the show of leisure hour work the chief fixture was six dainty dresses made on the new Singer sewing machines."

A.D. (as he was affectionately called) was a great schoolmaster and in his wife he had a wonderful helpmeet and partner.

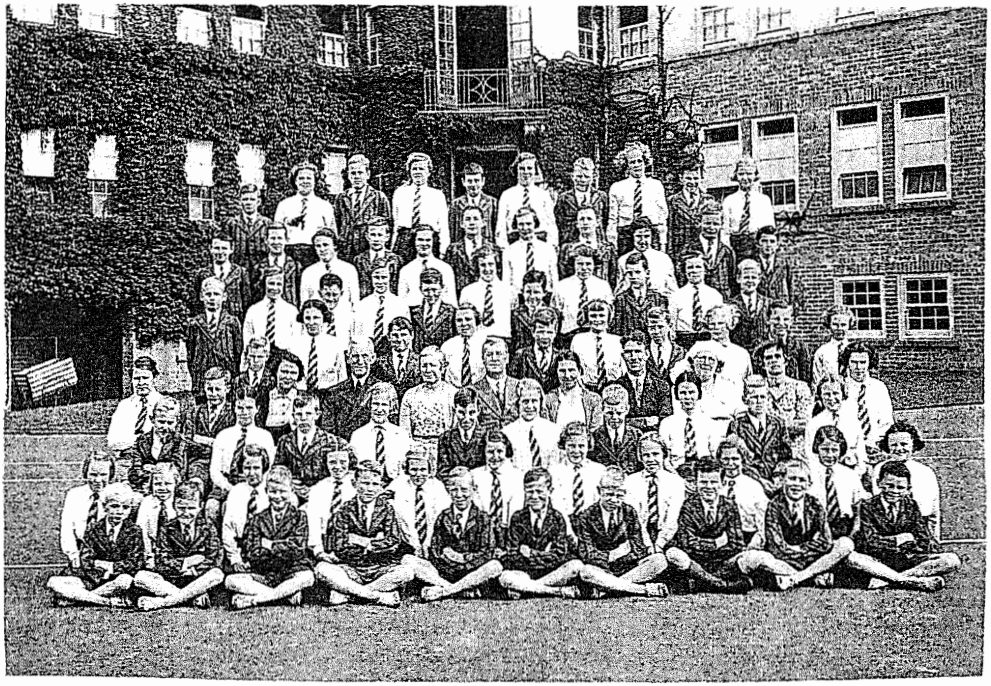


Fig. 33 School photo on the tennis court in 1941 includes 76 pupils
Teaching staff includes (l to r) - Elsie Bennett, Wilfred Monkhouse,
Ethel and Arthur Douglass, Muriel Morrison and Norman Bennett and
Also matrons Eva Wilkinson and Mona Frost.

During the war years 1939 to 1945 the staff in this photo remained very constant. There was a tremendous effort in economies, rationing and , recycling of paper (old exercise books to toilet paper) and other exercises in self sufficiency. There were air raid trenches built in the sand dune near Ackworth. Wilfred Monkhouse ran an excellent group of patriotic vegetable gardens instructing all on the skills of composting. **Eva Wilkinson** and **Mona Frost** together with **Fanny Law** ran the kitchen. During the school holidaysl the kitchen smelt of bottling fruit from the orchards and jam making. Eggs from the poultry farm, with over 60 hens cared for by Malcolm Douglass, were also prerserved in the kitchen. Initially the cows were still milked by **Charley Menefy** in the cow bails and he still slaughtered the farm's sheep under the pine trees at the old 'red shed'. With the advent of pasteurised milk and the government's school milk scheme the cow herd was disposed of in 1942. The school also ceased to rely on supplying its own meat about the same time. The original orchards planted at the school were also not sufficient to meet its needs. Thus the relative self sufficiency and dependence intended by the school farm had cease d bv the end of the war in 1945

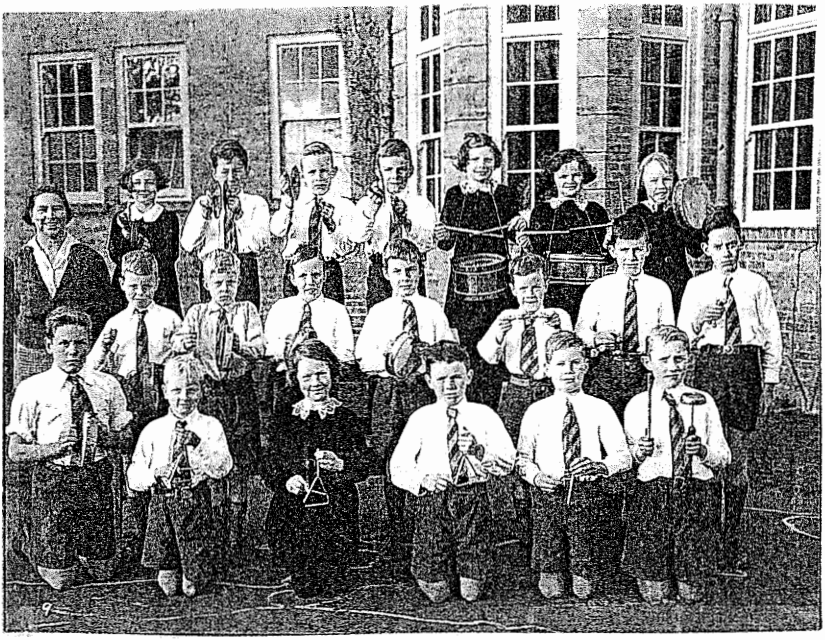


Fig. 34 Muriel Ockenden with her juniors percussion band - circa 1940



Fig. 35 Ethel Douglass with the most senior class of Form 4 – 1943

4. The School Prospectus 1937.

NEW ZEALAND FRIENDS SCHOOL WANGANUI

A BOARDING SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

1937

Principal: Arthur Douglass, B.Sc. (Eng. & N.Z.), M.R.S.T., Teachers' Diploma of the University of Manchester, for nine years Assistant Master at Bootham School, York.

Mistress of the Household: Ethel Douglass, B.A., formerly Assistant Mistress at the Girls' High School, Sunderland, England.

School Motto: "*The truth shall make you free.*"

NEW ZEALAND FRIENDS SCHOOL, WANGANUI

FOUNDATION AND MANAGEMENT.

The New Zealand Friends' School is modelled on the lines of Friends' Schools in England of over one hundred years' standing. The School was founded in 1920. It is under the management of Friends selected from all parts of the Dominion. The sons and daughters of Friends are given a slight reduction in fees, but the School is open to children of any denomination. At present the boarders include Friends 16, Anglican 13, Presbyterian 10. There is accommodation for fifty boarders.

SITUATION AND BUILDINGS.

The School Estate of 34 acres lies alongside the Main North Road, about two miles out of Wanganui. It is pleasantly situated on St. John's Hill, near Virginia Lake. The buildings are within sight and reach of the sea, and they stand over 350 feet above sea level.

There are three main blocks of buildings. The School House, at the front entrance, includes the residence of the Principal and his family, the dining-room, the library and the boys' dormitories. The class-room block contains well-ventilated and centrally-heated class-rooms. The residential block consists of girls' dormitories, common room, changing rooms, surgery, etc. The buildings are substantially built, carefully designed on modern lines and well-equipped.

AIM AND METHOD.

The building of character is the ultimate purpose of all true education. A sound training should prepare the individual to help himself and to serve his fellows. A boarding school provides ample opportunity for right development. Each child bears a share of responsibility, gradually increasing as the child matures. The child soon learns his duties and privileges in regard to his neighbours. These facts are borne in mind at the Friends' School. Each child does thirty minutes public work daily and the children are encouraged to manage their own affairs by their own elected committees.

DISCIPLINE.

The discipline in the School is strict but not harsh. The scholars soon learn self-discipline which reduces punishments to a minimum. There is no caning, in fact, corporal punishment of any type is unknown in the School.

CO-EDUCATION.

The idea of a Mixed Boarding School appears to be rather novel to the uninitiated. In actual practice it is most natural. Boys and girls, frequently brothers and sisters, grow up together in proper sex harmony. The boys may be less rough but certainly are no weaker, whereas the girls are strengthened. Sensible relations and happy life-long friendships are the rule. The whole feeling is one of homeliness.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

The Society of Friends (Quakers) has no formal creed. Friends believe that there is a Divine Spark or Inner Light in every man ready to prompt him to do good. Friends consider that the study of the Bible is amply repaid and that it is the duty and privilege of all Christians to refer to this original document of Christ's teaching. They do not hold beliefs which could in any way conflict with doctrines held by other religious denominations. A child's spiritual sense will develop naturally in a healthy atmosphere.

Friends are opposed to the methods of settling disputes by force of arms; all forms of militarism are strongly opposed by Quakers. There are no cadets in the School, though the boarders have physical drill every morning before breakfast.

All scholars attend the Morning Assembly and all boarders attend the Friends' Meeting for Worship every Sunday morning. At 6.30 on Sunday evening the School Reading is held, the scholars say texts together and there are music items. Parents and friends are welcome at any of these meetings.

HEALTH AND DIET.

The children receive proper medical attention and the record of their physical development is sent to the parents. The splendid health of the children is ensured by the bracing air, healthy surroundings, sensible uniform, hygienic buildings and the watchful care of the Nurse-Matron.

The School herd of cows provides a liberal allowance of milk. The cows are free from T.B. reaction in the Government Test.

The School Farm, Gardens and Orchard greatly facilitate the provision of plenty of wholesome food. The diet is scientifically arranged, the farm produce and the fruit ensuring full nourishment. Children are not allowed to have any food between the regular meal times.

GAMES AND HOBBIES.

Games are considered to be essential to ensure proper physical development. The School does not make a fetish of games, but regards them from the point of health and recreation. Games also help to bring out latent traits of character. The School endeavours to uphold the British tradition for good sportsmanship. Grounds are laid out at the School for Football, Hockey, Cricket, Basket-ball and Tennis. The Swimming Bath is another great asset.

Opportunities are available for voluntary work in leisure time. The importance in the training of character of such spontaneous efforts can hardly be over-rated. Instruction in handicrafts is given, the children can take up gardening, natural history or any other hobby.

The School Society holds regular meetings at which essays, music, reading and recitations are contributed. The different branches take turns in providing an entertainment for an hour on Saturday night. The scholars run a Junior Branch of the League of Nations Union. Groups of scholars periodically visit works and factories in Wanganui, also the more important shows, music recitals and lectures.

HOUSE SYSTEM.

The best side of the old Maori Traditions is used in the school organisation for social activities. The scholars are arranged in canoes—the Tainui and the Aotea. Each canoe has its chief, tohunga and rangatira. To become a rangatira a child must pass thirty tests—truth, body, senses, bush-craft, habit, etc.

COURSE OF STUDIES.

The School year begins in February and is divided into three terms. The number of scholars in any class seldom exceeds twenty; this enables the teacher to pay individual attention to each scholar.

Lower School—Preparatory (Standards I. and II.)
Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Spelling, Drawing, Singing, Handwork, Nature Study.

Middle School—Primary (Standards III., IV., and V.)
More advanced work in Lower School subjects, also Composition, Literature, Geography, History, Scripture, Folk-dancing, Agricultural Science, Physical Training.

Upper School—Secondary (Forms II., III., and IV.)
More advanced work in Middle School subjects, also Science (Physics and Chemistry), Mathematics (Algebra and Geometry) and French.

The School is in possession of an excellent microscope, telescope, gramophone, balopticon lantern, weather vane, sunshine recorder, etc. Throughout the School opportunities are afforded for suitable manual work—lockers with sets of tools in the workshop, sewing machine for girls, and so on.

SCHOOL LEAVING COURSE.

A special course, both cultural and practical, will be arranged for scholars not intending to matriculate. This non-academic course should meet the need of parents who wish to give their children the benefit of one or two years post-primary education without the limitation of external examinations.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

The work conforms to the requirements of the Education Department, the School being a Registered Private School. Scholars are prepared for the usual examinations up to the Intermediate (Senior Free Place) Examination. There were usually six or more entered for the Proficiency Examination. The 1935 report of the Education Department Inspector reads as follows:—

"New Zealand Education Department—Inspection Report.

"This School is capably managed and well organised and is in a good state of efficiency. The general standard of work continues steadily to improve.

"The liberal staffing by experienced and efficient teachers enables each pupil to receive individual attention and to develop along the lines of his individual aptitudes. In addition to the emphasis upon cultural values it is pleasing to note the efficient instruction in Swimming and Life-Saving, Gardening, Woodwork, Homecrafts, Folk Dancing, and Natural History. The sound instruction in Physical Training is reflected in the bearing and healthy appearance of the pupils.

"The general tone of the School is excellent. Control is maintained without repression or coercion and a very friendly spirit of co-operation exists between teachers and pupils. It is evident that the pupils are receiving a fine character training.

"The school buildings are in excellent order. The classrooms are roomy, airy, and well-lighted, and in addition are exceedingly neat and clean. The grounds provide a delightful setting to the School and have a trim, well cared for appearance.

"(Signed) E. CROSBY, Inspector."

The most recent report of the Education Department Inspector is printed on the date slip.

GENERAL NOTES.

Ages of boarders: About 8 to 16 years. Children are not admitted as boarders below Standard I.

Each scholar should have not more than ten shillings pocket money for the term. This will be "banked" and accounts kept by the scholar.

A fortnightly letter home is made a project in the English course. Scholars write a private letter home each week, and there is no censoring of letters written by the children.

Children are not allowed out without leave. Leave out can be obtained on application of parent or friend. Children

living within a radius of about 30 miles may be taken home for a short week-end at half-term. The Principal welcomes visits and suggestions from parents and others interested in education.

Dental treatment during the school term usually means absence from lessons and should, therefore, be given during the holidays.

Unless exemption has been arranged beforehand for special reasons, children must return to School on the appointed day. On a scholar's entrance or return to School a certificate of health and freedom from infectious contact must be signed by the parent or guardian and presented on arrival.

A term's notice must be given before the withdrawal of a scholar. Failing such notice the usual payment of a term's fee will be charged. A copy of the annual statement of accounts and balance sheet of the School Institution will be supplied to any parent on request.

When considered necessary an entrance test will be set. A limited number of bursaries are available for children of members of the Society of Friends. An open entrance scholarship is offered at intervals.

Clothes List, Entrance Form, Health Certificate, etc.. may be obtained from the Principal. It is not necessary for new Scholars to discard good clothing, but all replacements must conform to the School uniform. The Matron can arrange for uniform to be supplied after arrival at the School. All correspondence should be addressed to the Principal.

FEES FOR BOARDERS.

£22 per term, which includes board and tuition (10 per cent. reduction for two in one family).

The extras average about £2 per term and include books, stationery, laundry, handwork, doctor and hairdresser.

Weekly Boarders: £18 per term.

Private pianoforte lessons (optional): £3 3s. 0d. per term. £2 2s. 0d. for first-year pupils.

FEES FOR DAY SCHOLARS.

Morning Class for Primers: £2 2s. 0d. per term.

Full Day Under Ten: £4 4s. 0d. per term.

Ten years and over: £5 5s. 0d., including games and swimming.

School Dinner and Morning Milk: £2 2s. 0d. per term.

1936.

RESIDENT STAFF.

Principal: Arthur Douglass, B.Sc. (Eng. and N.Z.), M.R.S.T., Dip. Ed.
Mistress of the Household: Ethel Douglass, B.A.
Assistant Master: Wilfred Monkhouse, F.S.I.
Assistant Mistress: Daisy W. Pound, B.A., N.F.U.
Music Mistress: Muriel Ockenden, M.A., L.T.C.L.
Nurse-Matron: Eva Wilkinson (Hospital trained).
Housekeeper: Joyce Burnside (Diploma in Home Science).
Farmer: Wilfred Pearson.
Woodwork Instructor (visiting): James Glasgow.

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

Dr. H. D. Robertson, 47 Ingestre Street, Wanganui.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Clerk: Egerton Gill, F.P.A. (N.Z.), 24 Campbell's Buildings, High Street, Auckland.
Montague Goldsbury, Turakina.
Philip J. Thorne, Sefton, North Canterbury.
Annie Matheson, Fettes Crescent, Seatoun, Wellington.
William Matheson, Fettes Crescent, Seatoun, Wellington.
Nora B. Gibbons, 35 Brassey Road, St. John's Hill.
Edward H. Dowsett, 51 Ponsonby Road, Karori, Wellington.

The committee members welcome enquiries from people residing in their district.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

W. Noel Benson, D.Sc., B.A., F.G.S., Professor of Geology at the University of Otago.
John Howell, B.A., B.Sc. (London), formerly principal of Wellington Technical College.

WANGANUI HERALD PRINT

N.Z. FRIENDS SCHOOL

..... CANOE

CANDIDATE FOR PROMOTION .....

RANGATIRA TESTS

BODY

100 Yards in 15 sec. .....
*High Jump, 3 feet .....
*Hop, Step and Jump, 20 feet .....
Swim, 100 yards .....
*Throw, 30 yards .....
*Climb Rope .....
*Run a Mile .....
Jungle Gym .....

BRAIN

Write Clear Letter .....
Bill and Receipt .....
Read Approved Book .....
Know Rules of 2 Games .....
Remember Message 24 Hours .....
Arrange a Good Entertainment or Contest .....
Have an Approved Hobby .....

BUSH CRAFT

Name 10 Trees .....
Know 16 Points of Compass .....
Know 10 Stars .....
Plan an Encampment .....
Tie and Know Names of 6 Knots .....
Keep a Pet .....

SENSES

Sound .....
Touch .....
Scent .....
*Remain Silent for 1 Hour .....
*Spot an Ambush .....

HABIT (for 2 weeks)

Good Public Work .....
Punctuality .....
No Borrowing .....
Absolute Tidiness .....
No Black Marks .....
Keep Health Chart .....
Skip 100 Daily .....

TRIBAL TRADITIONS

Migrations and Names (3) .....
Make Maori Implement .....
Know Two Maori Myths .....
Write Composition on Maori .....
Traditional Dances (2) .....
Translate 20 Maori Words .....
Read Book About Maoris .....

**These Tests may be passed by a Rangatira.*
Thirty Tests to be completed, at least three from each group.
Promotion will be granted by a unanimous "Kapai."

Passed Truth Test for Tamariki ..... *Ariki.*

Promoted to the rank of Rangatira on .....

Certified by ..... *Tumu-whaki-anga.*



Fig. 36 New Assembly Hall 1947, Teachers (L to R) Miss Towers, Dorothy Baker, Alan Cooper, Arthur Douglass, Ethel Douglass, Howard Dyson, Wilfred Monkhouse, Pamela Wilson.
Teachers and pupils spent much time here as it was also used for singing, concerts and Sunday Quaker meetings



Fig. 37 Old scholars reunion 1945 outside the music rooms

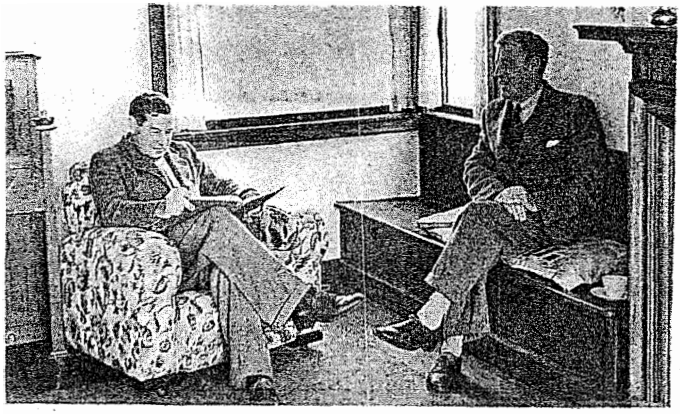


Fig. 38 Arthur Douglass and Howard Dyson exchange notes Holdsworth - 1948

5. Continued Consolidation 1949 to 1960

Howard and Marjorie Dyson, with Patricia (9 years), Marilyn (7) and Richard (5) arrived from England in 1946.

Howard Dyson's appointment had been made by the Australasian Committee at the request of the Wanganui School Committee. They had felt it wise that a young man should be appointed who might, after settling into the country and having some experience in the School, be ready to take up the position of Headmaster when need arose.

Howard J. Dyson came of Quaker stock, and after leaving Bootham School had first chosen banking as his profession. He then spent a time as a student master at Leighton Park Friends School and from there he entered Oxford University to gain his B.A. degree.

After their marriage in 1933 Howard and Marjorie Dyson went out to Ramallah Boys' School in Palestine for a year, as English Master and Matron. Both were Old Scholars of Ackworth School, to which they now returned, Howard to teach, and during the war years, to care for the youngest boys at "Flounders", a residential house attached to the school.



Fig. 39 Marjorie and Howard Dyson - Headmaster 1949 to 1964

In New Zealand, this was a time of economic prosperity, and school numbers did not create a problem. From a survey of the children of Friends there appeared to be 23 within the age-range catered for, and of these, eleven were attending the School. A number of places were filled by children from isolated farms who were previously dependent upon the Correspondence School, or where children had to undertake long journeys daily by the school bus, but scholars came from all parts of New Zealand — from Dunedin to Keri Keri, for all kinds of reasons. Busy parents were relieved to find a school with a home atmosphere and moderate fees, where brothers and sisters could be together, and the familiar "country" atmosphere was somewhat maintained by the rural setting.

On the domestic scene, staffing began to present a problem. Jobs were plentiful and it was often difficult to attract Staff to work where living quarters were somewhat cramped and an infrequent bus service only came within a mile of the premises.

Some people who emigrated from Europe were glad to serve whilst they gained a foothold in their new land. Margaret Wilson (now Knopp), Margaret Barber (now Miller) **Jos and Angela Brusse** and family were amongst these. **Kathleen Rose**, whose two boys entered the School, took a major responsibility within the School community as Housekeeper. Several who had given long and faithful service had already gone. Mrs Currie had collected her wood and stoked her copper until the advent of the washing machine. **Mona Frost** (nèe Goldsbury) had given support as Assistant Matron, helping too in the kitchen and laundry. **Eva Wilkinson** gave years of dedicated service as Matron until ill health had forced her to retire a few years previously.

First **Horace Walke** and later **Wilfred Pearson** had been school farmer and caretaker. It now became increasingly difficult to fill this position satisfactorily. Wanganui city was growing, regulations were introduced regarding home-killed meat. It was also deemed advisable that the children should drink pasteurised milk. In view of all this the Committee decided in 1940, that they would sell the school animals, buy milk and meat and lease the grazing of the land. **Charles Menefy** took over this lease and brought his family to live in the Virginia Rd., property, the former "Goldsbury" house, then known as Orchard House and now demolished. For 15 years Charles Menefy worked for the school as caretaker and gardener. The seven children attended as scholars three of them later being married in the School Hall.

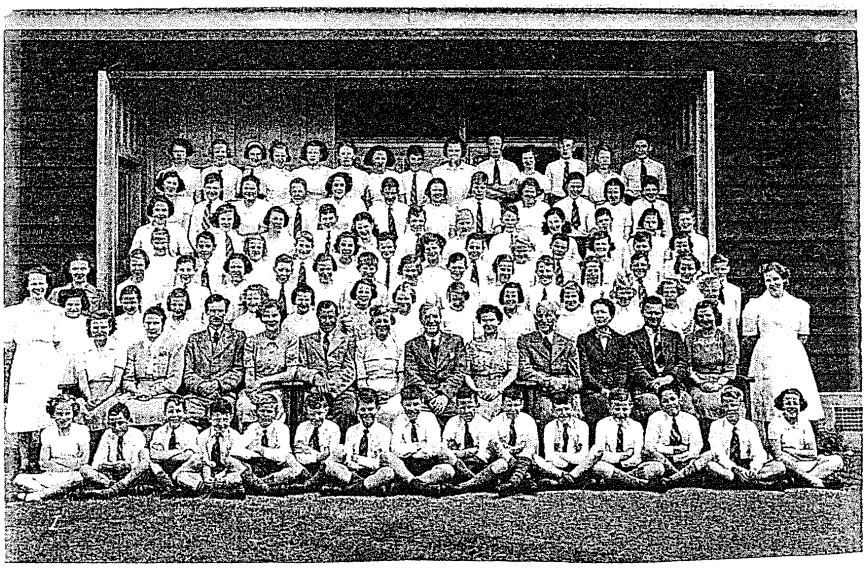


Fig. 40 Outside the new Assembly Hall a school photo in 1948 with Arthur and Ethel Douglass, Howard and Marjorie Dyson with teachers Dorothy Cooper (nee Baker), Alan Cooper, Wilfred Monkhouse, Pamela Wilson, Charles Menefy, also Mrs Lawford, Miss Towers and matron Rosamund Baker with 95 pupils



Fig. 41 A general view of the new Assembly Hall and two classrooms probably on a Sunday School Committee weekend after meeting for worship. These were times when many distinguished visitors came to the school had lunch and walked around the grounds escorted by the head master. circa 1947

The tutorial staff had also been strongly influenced by the times. Some teachers who had been conscientious objectors during the war had been placed in Detention Camps and were not for a time accepted back into employment in Government schools. The Friends School was fortunate to have the services of these men during the following years, and to have association with their families. Of these teachers, **Norman and Elsie Bennett**, **Neil Trail** and **Robert Curtis** became interested in Friends and joined the Society. **Bernard Tunnicliffe**, **William** and **Daphne Young** also taught here for two years. **Walter Excell**, whose wife Mary gave part time help, and both daughters were pupils, was a regular attender at School Meeting for Worship during his five years on the Staff.

For nearly three years Howard Dyson worked under Arthur Douglass. The School, a member of the Preparatory Schools Association of N.Z. since its formation had, with other approved schools in membership been granted recognition for work done at Form III level as being worthy of inclusion for accrediting system for University Entrance. The teaching of this Form was handed over to Howard Dyson, and the children quickly responded to his orderly and painstaking teaching. In particular the children benefited from his skills in mathematics and his oral French. Form III was nearly always a small class and was later disbanded. However, there are some French words that are indelibly engraved on the minds of a handful of New Zealanders, for "Les Trois Ours" was acted by them at an Annual Concert.

Arthur Douglass had confidently (and gladly, one would suspect) handed over the swimming and Royal Life Saving work to Howard Dyson. Here began a record of sound basic instruction and swimming successes were unsurpassed by any school of similar size and age range. The Payne Cup for Life Saving had been competed for since the inception of R.L.S. competitions in local schools. It finally became the property of Friends School, having been won by them for so many years in succession.

Rules in the bath were rigid, and respected. Basic swimming skills had to be achieved before entering deep water. Perfectionists in all they undertook, in swimming, both Howard and Marjorie Dyson excelled and together with their staff, called forth the best in those whom they taught. To swim a length breaststroke and on back, gave the privilege of becoming "deep-enders", and of using the diving board, but above all when the children had achieved this they were secure in the knowlege that they themselves had mastered another element. Swimming the length was frequently a turning point for the pupils. It gave them a confidence and courage which carried over with other spheres of their school life. There were many triumphs here, of which the staff and children can be justifiably proud. Amongst

them may be counted several first class swimmers notably a N.Z. Olympic competitor who was also an Empire Games gold medallist for breaststroke. It is ironical that, on her entry to Friends School she had at first scorned the rule requiring the need to swim breaststroke before becoming a "deepender".

Championship swimming was never the aim. The purpose was, to give confidence, to teach every child to swim, to learn water safety and R.L.S.S. work, and finally, after a careful build up through previous years came the triumph of being allowed to swim one mile in Form II year. Lasting enjoyment came from competitions with local schools, notably St. George's Preparatory School. At annual contests girls and boys competed on equal terms in athletics and in swimming, but though frequently outclassed in running, girls could hold their own in the jumping, short distance swimming, plunging and diving. On one occasion, when the swimming competition was held at Friends School, points were equal as the final race, a relay, began. It was said that the supporting cheers were heard in the town, 2½ miles away.

Another unusual event, the school picnic, had of necessity taken a new form. For many years past the whole school had boarded a river boat at Hatrick's Wharf, travelled up river for some two hours to a site where canoe games and a picnic lunch could be held. This day had usually been preceded by frenzied activity in the workshop to produce a short-lived craft to be towed alongside. There is no record of "man overboard". Withdrawal of these larger boats, which had been the only means of access for river settlers until roads were put through, necessitated changes in Friends School picnic day. Kai Iwi beach became the chosen site.

The staff were quick to see the possibilities here. A valuable and unique parent-teacher gathering took place on this occasion, just three weeks after the opening of each new school year. Parents were notified well ahead and they came from Hawke's Bay and Wellington, beyond New Plymouth and Taihape and by 9 a.m. children, with their chosen friends, were packed into cars and off to the picnic site. This was usually the first meeting between a new entrant and parents; a wonderful whole day to be spent together.

Soon after arrival came a carefully organised swim in the sea with Howard and Marjorie Dyson and R.L.S.S. award holders as look-outs. A privileged swim came for them later.

Then lunch! Children, by now ravenously hungry, restrained their appetities until the guests and the adults had been waited on by them. Plates were piled high from the long row of boxes filled with sandwiches, scones and cakes, fruit, cold sausages and tomatoes. These had been prepared by the kitchen staff

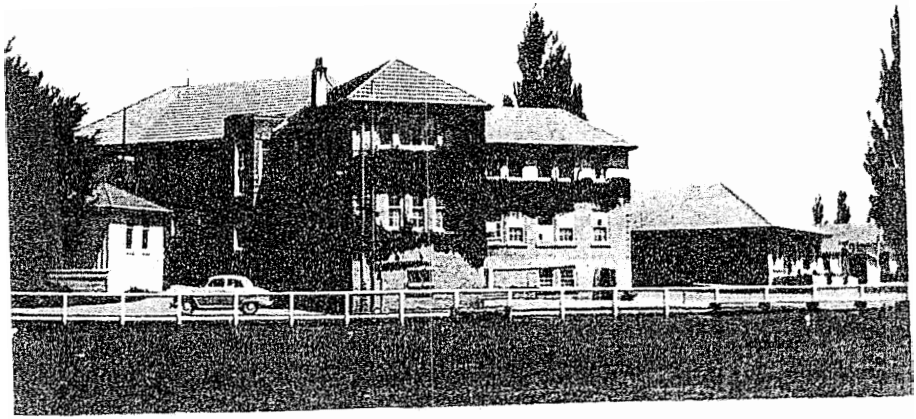


Fig. 42 View from the playing fields with the main block , covered in virginia creeper, with the new Cadbury Dining Hall opened in 1952



Fig. 43 A cheerful staff photo – circa 1955. Seated - Howard Dyson, Nora Gibbons, (a visitor), Marjorie Dyson Standing- Bill & Daphne Young, Donald Seager, Walter Excel, Bernard Tunnicliffe.

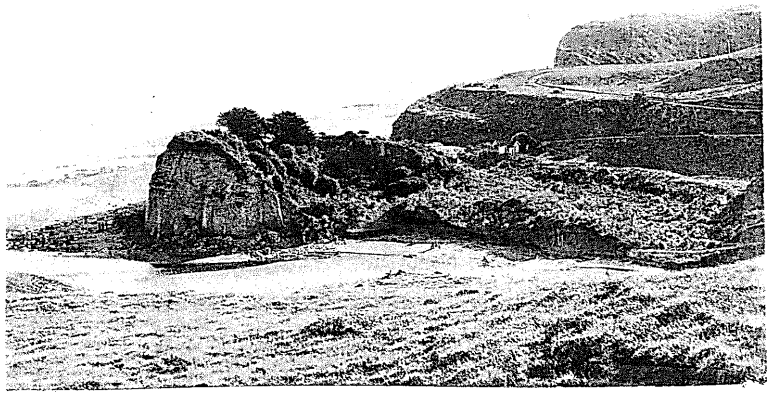


Fig. 44 Kai Iwi Beach from the hill opposite, a favourite school picnic spot.



Fig. 45 Howard Dyson with pupils on an excursion up the Whanganui River

with the help of few — much envied — senior girls. The Dysons' caravan became a feature of these events, not least for the cups of tea which were produced. It was on these occasions and in this relaxed atmosphere that parents and teachers talked together and began to build up a happy and helpful relationship. It was, in the true meaning of the phrase, the beginning of the school year.

The Extension Fund launched in 1947 had steadily mounted, chiefly from generous contributions made by English Friends. The Committee felt that the most urgent need was to relieve the cramped conditions where meals for 90 children and adults were prepared, cooked and served in an area designed for less than half that number.

It was no wonder that staff were difficult to keep. But some faithful workers bore the brunt of the task and the children were co-operative and adaptable.

In 1952 the Cadbury Dining Hall was opened by Montague Goldsbury. No one more suitable could have been found. He had seen the old Dining Room (now known as Sidcot), extended from a normal household living room to accommodate some 20 boarders, and then again later, to its present size. Meanwhile every possible scheme was tried to deal with the overflow. Two tables were served in the Common Room, necessitating the carrying of food and heavy dishes up and down steps and through several doors. Supervision was extremely difficult, so also, were the working conditions which were too cramped for modern facilities to be introduced. **Sidney Hines** (an Auckland Friend) gave valuable help in this capacity as Quantity Surveyor. Many hours of thought, planning and oversight of detail were put in by Howard Dyson. Visits were paid to view modern equipment in other institutions. Here, as in all spheres of school life, Howard and Marjorie Dyson put the emphasis upon quality and efficiency. There was no waste or extravagance.

Here are some lines from a poem written for the School Magazine at that time:—

There's a bread and meat slicer, steam-jacketed pan,
Dishwasher, food mixer precise,
Hot cupboard for plates and to keep porridge hot,
Two fridges much colder than ice.
The fathers, of course, the gadgets must try,
So to kill two birds with one brick,
We let them work the dish-washing machine,
And so washed their own cups in a tick.
So now, the new building is launched on its way,
And we're all agreed it's a winner;
What a thrill years ahead to be able to say —
"I was there for the very first dinner!"

Now, 17 years later, the Friends School Kitchen remains a show piece. Its gleaming benches and warming oven, steam and electric cookers, washing up apparatus and cool stores were all designed to lighten the work and increase efficiency. The care and pride shown by those who have worked here made the kitchen area an integral part of school life. Visitors and prospective parents were always taken here with confidence. One can but wonder how many prospective parents, with decisions still in the balance had their minds made up for them after visiting the kitchen; rows and rows of fruit, marmalade and jam in the store cupboard, large blocks of cake prepared for Sunday teas, delicious salads, fruit, and the appetising smell of cooking. Meals at Friends School certainly had a reputation. Letters from past pupils rarely failed to comment ". . .the meals here are not nearly as good as at Friends."

To **Mrs Collis**, who worked in the old kitchen too, to **Mrs Manley** who kept house for nine years, and more recently to Mrs. Cutelli, we owe much for their high standards. **Margaret Cutelli** (formerly Hedges) is an Old Scholar and her two boys were pupils. She has maintained her spirit of service and helped in many capacities beyond her normal course of duty. Many parents have given thanks for the training that their children received in household tasks. For the boys and girls of course, ever hopeful of the "tid-bit" or the bowls to clean, public work in the kitchen was always a first choice.

In 1957, the Committee was ready to develop the buildings still further. Ruby Dowsett, as Clerk of the Committee reported to General Meeting:— "We could delay no longer in completing the Main Block owing to the necessity for more bedroom accommodation for girls, and the unsatisfactory state of the present covered-in play area, which is a temporary building and not worth the cost of repairs. This extension will be two-storied, the upper floor being used as a dormitory for girls and the lower floor as a playing area. In addition, the lecture hall is proving to be quite inadequate for those occasions when the school is assembled, so it was decided to lengthen the hall by 16 feet. This will allow for a permanent stage with a depth of 12 feet, and will extend the body of the hall by approximately 10 feet. In order to comply with present day requirements three fire escapes will also be erected.

We are glad to report that the lecture hall extension is now almost finished. Architect's plans for the completion of the Main Block are under consideration, and it is hoped that this building will be ready for use at the end of this year."

And it was ready! The joy of having the addition of a third dormitory, "Penn", to the two already in use, "Fox" and "Fry" can only be realised by those who had the responsibility for 50 girl boarders. Resident and duty staff too, were able to enjoy space and comfort.



Fig. 46 Cadbury Dining Hall in full swing circa 1956.

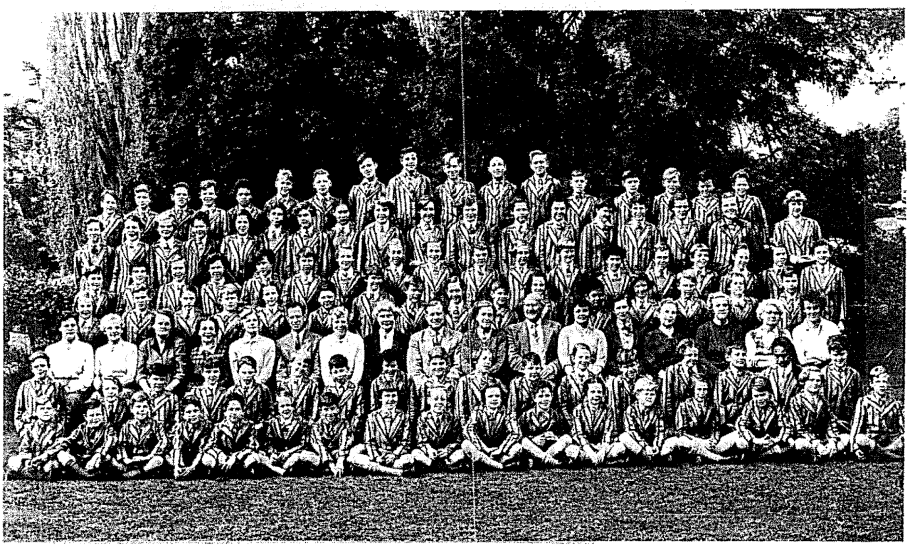


Fig. 47 School Photo 1957 with 105 pupils, teachers and staff including M. Missen, M.Excell, W.Excell, F.Menefy, M.Dyson, H.Dyson, M.Boyd, R.Seddon, N.Seddon, C.Duthie, M.Evans, I.Milne

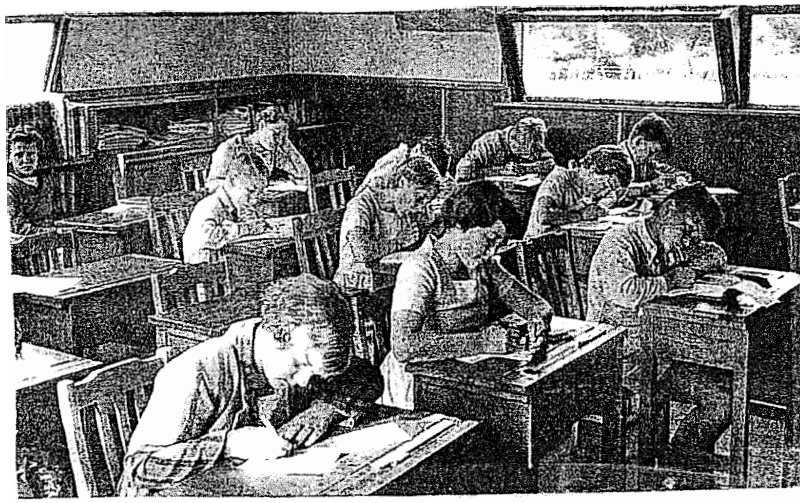


Fig. 48 Focusing on class work in one of the assembly hall class rooms – circa 1955.

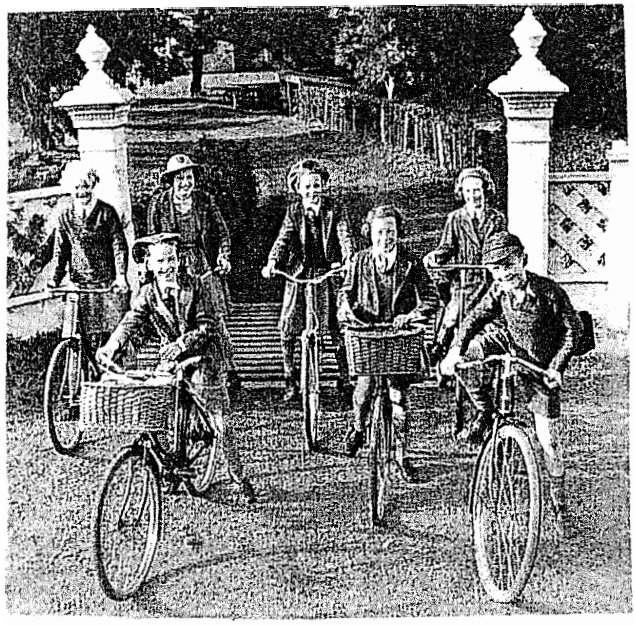


Fig. 49 Some of the 25 day pupils pedaling home from school – circa 1957

The boys still slept in the original wooden building at the front of the residence facing the North Road. Their bedrooms were duly named after various Quaker School in other countries.

Two more major buildings completed the constructions in the school. A Staff residence "Douglass House" was completed in 1964. Previously additional accommodation for Domestic Staff had been provided by building a block of two small self-contained flats and a caretaker's cottage named "Goldsbury". A legacy for the expansion of buildings was received from the estate of the first Headmaster, Hugh Goldsbury. Another legacy from a member of Staff of those first years, **Etta Cole**, provided funds for furnishing the flats. The cottage was soon to be occupied by a Quaker family recently arrived from England, **Albert Clayton** to fill the position of Caretaker and his wife, **Dorri Clayton** helped with the Matron's work then and also on a number of occasions in later years. Their two younger boys attended the School. Dorri Clayton, with a number of other members of the Staff, encouraged an interest in the Pets Club, an interest which was able to develop when the Old Scholars Association gave money towards the construction of a suitable shed. Two Old Scholars, **Donald Gilliver** and **Kitchener Ellis**, assisted in the planning and construction. This Pet Shed has been a centre of interest (and alas! sometimes of heartbreaks too) for many of the children in the ensuing years.

The Old Scholars Association has continued its interest in the School though only a few met there for the Easter Gathering. This number grew increasingly small as children no longer completed their education at N.Z.F.S. It was natural that their interest and, to a large extent, their loyalties were transferred to their Secondary School. By instituting a Life Membership fee many retained a nominal interest, calling at the School and the homes of those whom they had known in the past. The Association made small donations to the School each year and these were used for such treats as ice cream on School Picnic and Sports Day.

6. School Committee Personalities 1917-1960s.

Ruby Dowsett's report to General Meeting of 1955 contains several interesting items:

> "It is forty years", she said, "since Alfred and Margaret Goldsbury laid before London Yearly Meeting the concern of New Zealand General Meeting for the establishment of a Friends School in New Zealand, and it is thirty-five years since the School was established as a part of New Zealand educational life.'

"It was with deep regret we learnt of the death of our Friend **L. Violet Holdsworth,** who had shown so much loving concern and practical interest in our School since the commencement."

"We suggest to General Meeting that the name of the Committee be changed to "The New Zealand Friends School Committee". "

"Montague Goldsbury has notified us of his wish to retire from membership on the Education Committee. We record our thankfulness for his selfless service, and for the wisdom and experience which he has shared- so generously with us. Appointed by General Meeting in 1917 — three years before the opening of the School — to the first Education Committee, he and Lina Goldsbury were later in charge of Friends School for two years. Since then he has continued throughout the years as a valued member of this Committee. We suggest to General Meeting that, because of the special character of Montague Goldsbury's association with the School since its commencement, that he be appointed a Life Member of this Committee."

In the next few years six more members of the Committee retired, all having given valuable service for a number of years.

Dorothy Johnson, the mother of four old scholars had, for twelve years, given her interest, her service and her wide experience to the welfare of the School and to the affairs of the Committee.

Nora B. Gibbons, also appointed in 1934 was able, as a local Friend, to maintain an intimate contact with the School and its activities. Throughout the years her wide interests had a deep influence on the life and spirit of the School. The School Meeting for Worship was one of her deep concerns and many will remember her simple, vivid stories of Old Testament heroes. The home of Sam and Nora Gibbons was a quiet haven for many of the Staff and a hospitable background for visiting Friends. Staff, children and Committee Members alike learnt the strength of her friendship and gave thanks for her service.

Ethel Douglass tendered her resignation in 1957 to undertake FSC work in Kenya returning to Wanganui at the end of 1960.

Edward Dowsett asked to be relieved of his membership in 1957. He had, for 20 years, given of his wisdom and friendship to the whole community, and brought a depth of worship to Sunday Morning Meetings. It was recorded: "We shall miss his insight, and the wide vision he has brought to bear on school policy and Committee discussion."



Fig.50 Wilfred Monkhouse
Multi-talented teacher also natural history, gardens and landscaping.
1931 to 1954



Fig. 51 Philip J Thorne
(Christchurch)
School committee
1919 to 1941



Fig. 52 Dorothy Johnson
(Christchurch)
School committee
1945 to 1957



Fig. 53 Frances Menefy
Teacher 1929-31 and 1955-1966
Charles Menefy
Farm manager and caretaker
1940 to 1966.



Fig. 54 Ruby and Edward Dowsett
(Wellington)
School Committee between
1941 - 1961 and 1937 - 1957

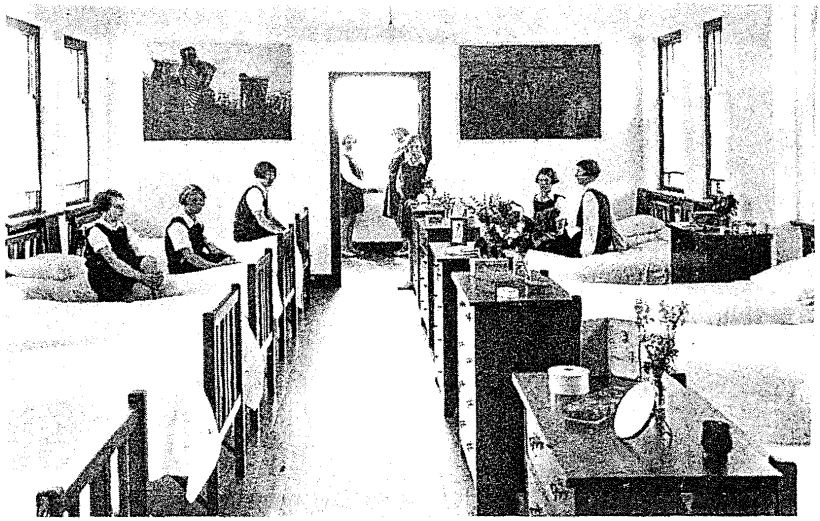


Fig. 55 The upstairs girl's dormitory 'Fox' in the main block. circa 1936



Fig. 56 An impish boy's dormitory 'Sidcot' at lights out (and silence!) - circa 1955

At this time **Ruby M. Dowsett** resigned from the Clerkship, but continued as a Committee member until 1961, completing 20 years of service. General Meetings endorsed this Minute; forwarded by the Committee:

"This meeting wishes to place on record thankfulness for the devoted service of Ruby M. Dowsett as Clerk of the School Committee for the past thirteen years. By her kindliness, tact and friendship our Friend has endeared herself alike to Committee members and to the staff and scholars of the School.

In dealing with matters relating to School business her wise guidance has strengthened the Committee at all times, and the tender and understanding spirit, which she has brought to bear on the problems and projects that have come before us, has promoted that unity in service without which we know our work would be fruitless."

After her death in 1965 the following appeared in the School Magazine as part of an appreciation of her concern

"During the years of her service, Ruby Dowsett spent time and energy making herself familiar with the running of the School and with the lives of all, both children and adults, within the community. All enjoyed the few days before Committee when she was with us, with her encouragement, sense of fun, sympathy, and obvious concern to understand situations so that the Committee could act wisely. At the opening of each term and for any special event, a letter of good wishes would come to us, showing that she had the School in her thoughts and prayers.

Since retirement from the Committee Ruby Dowsett has visited the School less frequently but the loving concern which she felt still was evident when she spoke at the farewell gathering on the retirement of Howard and Marjorie Dyson. In the School as in all life, she was convinced that what is worthwhile will continue, for this belongs to God."

Russell Gregory asked to be released after 23 years of continuous service on the committee. He had acted as Clerk on two occasions, and during the whole of this period the School had the benefit of his experience in financial matters and his clear out-spoken judgements. His interest, however, has continued throughout the years, and the three children were here as pupils. Russell Gregory has acted as Auditor since 1937 and has been most generous in making himself available to give advice and help at all times.

The School was adequately filled now, and remained so for some years. There were four classes and they benefited from a period of stability in the residential and predominately Quaker staff. Three Quaker Old Scholars who served the school in 1959 were **Bryan Gilliver** and **Merilyn Dyson** as teachers and **Lynley West** as Matron.

7. Changing Times 1960 to 1965

General Meeting 1960 requested "a study of the inter-action of the Society of Friends, its school at Wanganui, and those whom it serves". Many ideas and suggestions came forward to which the Committee gave thought. In 1961 General Meeting recorded, "This meeting re-affirms its belief in the School and in the work it is doing. It also expresses its appreciation of the devoted manner in which the Headmaster and staff are serving the School". The method of teaching was found to be orthodox but reasonably small classes made possible an intimate contact between teacher and child. One report says, "the children are quite clearly getting a balanced general education in an atmosphere of warmth and sincerity."

After one, two or three years in the School the final year in Form II under Frances Menefy was most valuable, for the children consolidated the basic skills they had learned in previous years. They were given a broad international outlook, a love of literature, accuracy of method, but most of all they felt the pervading influence of Quakerism. Each child according to his ability was expected to make the most of the opportunities offered and reports from the schools to which the children went showed appreciation of what had been done.

For several years Frances Menefy had come to fill in at the School when need arose and was appointed Form II teacher in 1955 staying until 1966. There were times during Howard Dyson's absence when she became Acting Head. This position was greatly eased by the co-operation and loyalty of permanent staff.

During 1963 Howard and Marjorie Dyson were granted a term's leave of absence. This was made possible by **John** and **Muriel Morrison** (nèe Ockenden) coming to live in the School where their training, experience and natural abilities were a great asset. To John this was a new experience, but Muriel had been on the staff before in the 1930's. Later she served on the School Committee and often, during her visits had given her help wherever this was most needed. This was a time when all realised to the full how much a community depends upon careful and detailed forethought. Howard and Marjorie Dyson had worked hard to prepare for their absence. "This term the School is managing without our head master here. Mr. and Mrs. Morrison are doing very well and so is Mrs. Menefy, but we miss Mr. and Mrs. Dyson very much", writes a child at this time and also "At the end of last term Mrs. Dyson got several

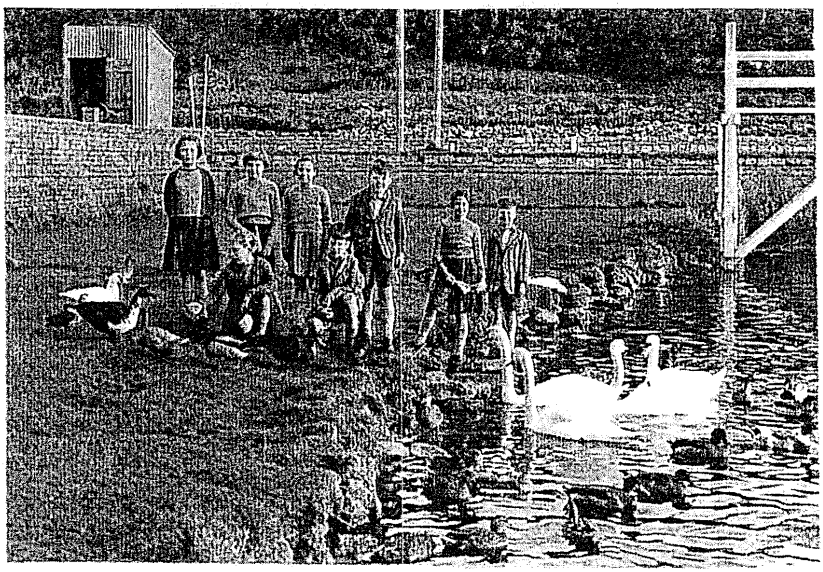


Fig.57 Virginia Lake a mecca for walks, formal and informal, over the years.



Fig. 58 Happy pupils out for a city walk, view from the Durie Hill tower.

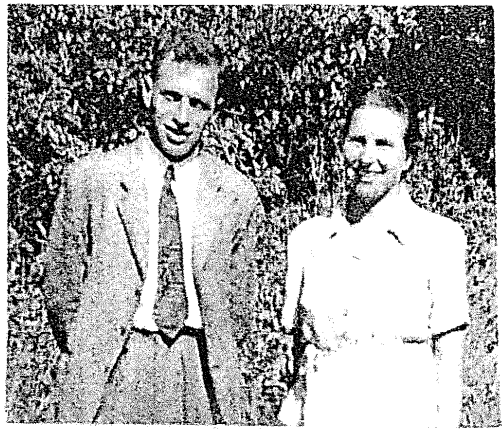


Fig. 59 John and Muriel (nee Ockenden) Morrison acting Principals 1963



Fig. 60 Madge Boyd Office Secretary 1931 to 1969.



Fig. 61 Frances Menefy
Teacher and many other roles.
1929 - 1931 and 1955 – 1966
1979-81 Secretary of WEST.



Fig. 62 Richard and Nancy Seddon teachers 1955 to 1966.

pairs of children ready and trained them for the Royal Life Saving Shield competition to be held against other schools in their absence".

The School was particularly fortunate in having at this time, the services of **Richard Seddon** M.A. and his wife, **Nancy Seddon** For eleven years they taught their respective classes, but their influence reached far beyond the classroom. They identified themselves with the whole community, consolidating decisions made by School Council, opening their home at weekends and sometimes during holidays to the insecure or lonely child. Though not always on duty Richard and Nancy Seddon frequently came to greet the children when school opened and to farewell them at the end of term. Nancy Seddon's warm personal contacts with the new entrants and their parents was one of her most valuable contributions to school life. The homesick child and anxious parents received sympathetic understanding, and security was soon established. Over the last few years and for a while after leaving, Nancy Seddon ran a Girl Guide Company on Saturday afternoons often after a morning accompanying two or three basketball teams to their competitive games. Richard Seddon too, gave a great deal of his time and energy to the School Choir, to various clubs, and each Saturday, to the teams he had coached in soccer and in cricket. Compared with most other schools, the number of children available for these teams was small, yet there were several occasions when Friends School boys and girls were chosen to enter the Rep. trial teams for Wanganui District. Many of the Staff during this period were natural athletes and they passed on their skills in the daily games period that followed afternoon lessons.

At the School Concert, Form I play was always a highlight. Dick Seddon frequently wrote his own class play. The scenery and "props" were a source of curiousity and mystery for weeks ahead. When finally the audience waited in suspense, they were reasonably sure of a surprise. A crash! . . . a bang! . . . . smoke! — anything could happen — and it frequently did.

These school concerts became a focal point for the winter term each year. Held imediately prior to the half term exeat they were a climax to six weeks of preparation. Art and Craft periods, speech training, and some English periods were used, and hours of free time also. During the final week Staff did their best to keep normal classes in progress, but this became out of the question by mid-week. On Wednesday the Nuns and children from the up-river school of Jerusalem came to stay. They arrived during the afternoon in Land-Rovers and mud-splashed cars, the nuns having driven over 30-40 miles of dangerous roads, sometimes needing their shovels to clear slips,

and wheel-chains to avoid skids. For the visiting children, predominately Maori, it was a new experience to sleep and eat, wash and play and answer to bells as in a community such as Friends School. They enjoyed our plays on that Wednesday evening, perhaps the happiest of the performances, for it was the dress rehearsal and the children were able to see for the first time, the plays performed by the other classes. Next morning the visitors from Jerusalem entertained the School, then shared in classes a while before returning. After a period of years a pattern had been set as follows:— The whole School opened the concert with songs, Std. III plays were make-believe, St. IV a set play. Form I, often a self-made play with topical references, and Form II aimed high and successfully with such productions "Where Love and God is", "St. Joan", and "The Merchant of Venice". Local parents and Friends filled the Hall on Thursday evening and on Friday came the climax when the parents of boarders arrived. Afterwards, cloaks and crowns, wigs and whiskers were quickly discarded and packed away whilst parents had their supper and a chat before driving home.

During these years **Marjorie Dyson** filled in the gaps in almost every department. Several times she took the position of matron. She was responsible for much of the art and for the girls' craft work. The mosaic panels in the Assembly Hall, the Maori costumes in the property cupboard, the stage curtains and colourful bedroom blankets are evidence of her artistic influence and ability. Soon after taking over responsibility in 1959, summer uniforms were introduced for both boys and girls. The girls also enjoyed the freedom of "rompers" for games times.

But it is in the less easily defined roles that Marjorie Dyson gave her most valuable contribution to this community. Except during a period of illness and for a short time in 1953 after the birth of Julia, Marjorie Dyson gave most of her time and energy to school affairs. "Holdsworth" was a gracious home where visitors were entertained, Old Scholars warmly welcomed, and above all, a home where the children could go for help with their craft work, for comfort in their troubles and just for fun! On 'duty' weekends, this atmosphere was often transferred to the cosiness of the School Sewing Room in winter, or the sunny steps in summer.

At the weekends and on Wednesday afternoons the boys accomplished much valuable Public Work. With the assistance of **Sam Gibbons** and others, tree stumps were excavated and burnt, playing areas levelled, cycle sheds built, the banks of the swimming baths cleared and re-grassed, and preparations made for tree-planting. These are some of the activities which not only

benefited the estate materially, but created a sense of community responsibility and pride. It was a high privilege to be appointed a mower-boy and to train some one to follow next year. Similarly, to go each day to the Swimming Baths, skim off the leaves from the surface and use a suction cleaner on the bottom of the baths. In this atmosphere it was rare for the community property to be abused. The promise of hot showers, or in the summer, that longed-for swim, soon saw tools assembled and jobs passed.

On Saturday evenings came the Social (arranged in turn by each Canoe), entertainment by visitors and through winter months, the showing of 16mm films hired for the evening.

Choral speaking of Texts and the singing of hymns continued as from earlier days in Sunday Evening Reading. This was an intimate time when the Headmaster read Quaker and other stories. Then there followed a leisurely, friendly bedtime; children and staff tired but relaxed after the activities of a full and busy weekend.

It is not possible to record in detail all the developments and activities during 20 years of service, but under the devoted care of Howard and Marjorie Dyson the School consolidated financially and in other aspects too.

Times were changing. The education in Government Primary Schools was continually under revision, with new methods being introduced and considerable spending on teaching aids and material. The Government subsidy of £ for £ on 'gifts' money was open also to Private Schools, and thanks to generous gifts from grateful parents, a local Trust fund and other sources, the School was able to procure some up-to-date equipment and replenish the library.

The two upper forms were full and at times children were refused entrance at F.I level. Entrants for the lower classes tended more and more to be children in special circumstances who were in need of a stable background. Records show that the regular living, good food and plenty of exercise had a remarkably good effect on the health of the children. "Weighing and Measuring" was always one of the first and last activities each term.

Those who had been in close contact with Howard Dyson realised that he had for some time suffered pain and general discomfort from arthritis in his hip, and this in turn caused increasing lameness. After his term of sabbatical leave, in 1964, he was advised to undergo a major operation. There followed a time of grave anxiety for all, and in particular for Marjorie Dyson. In Howard's absence she undertook the main responsib-

ility for the running of the School and in expressing his appreciation to the staff for their help at this time Howard Dyson said how much he and the school had depended upon her courage and support.

Recovery from the operation had been slow. The relief hoped for was only partial and further hospitalisation was imminent. Regretfully, Howard Dyson tendered his resignation to the Committee, and this took effect at the end of 1964.

Howard Dyson had spoken to the Committee of his hopes, ambitions and aspirations for this School. The farewell gathering on December 12th., 1964, was a sad occasion, yet all there realised that much had, indeed, already been accomplished and the widely representative attendance was, in itself, evidence of this.

The Cadbury Dining Hall was filled to overflowing. Presentations were made on behalf of Present Scholars, Old Scholars, Rotary and N.Z. Royal Life Saving Society, N.Z. Yearly Meeting and personal friends of the headmaster and his wife. Perhaps it was the staff, many of whom had had long associations, who



Fig. 63 Peter Newby farewells Howard and Marjory Dyson in 1964
Headmaster 1949 - 1964



Fig. 64 School Committee weekend Committee and Staff - circa 1960
Kenneth Douglass, Laurence Addis Smith, Russell Gregory.
Howard Dyson, Jean Skelsey, Richard Seddon
Seated - Marjorie Dyson, Nancy Seddon, Maria Heine,
Ruby Dowsett, Vivian Young, Muriel Morrison,
Front- Frances Menefy, Sadie Haymen, Roberta Highton



Fig. 65 Annette and Oscar Wallis headmaster from 1965 to 1969



Fig. 66 School photo 1968 with Oscar and Annette Wallis and teachers including Len Edwards, Doris Clayton, J Bockett, Betty Kennedy, Betty & Alan Gilderdale together with other staff and 60 pupils



Fig. 67 School Committee group at the Jubilee and closure of school 1969. Kitchener Ellis, Frances Menefy, Kenneth Douglass, George McNeillage, (behind David Stone, Joe Short), Peggy Jennings, Kenneth Staynes, Elwyn Walke, Joan Gilliver, Neil Johnson, Ngaire Newby, Lawrence Goldsbury, Russell Gregory

felt the impending changes most deeply. There had been a unity here, built upon a recognition of Howard and Marjorie Dyson's belief that each and every member of a community is important and has a contribution to make. Term always began with a gathering of the entire staff when all joined in a time of worship and of thinking together of the tasks ahead. To this staff and to the pupils whom they served Howard and Marjorie Dyson gave of their best.

8. The Final Years 1965 to 1969

In October 1965 **Oscar and Annette Wallis,** with their six children, arrived from England. Oscar Wallis had been appointed following Howard Dyson's retirement, but due to existing commitments had been unable to leave England earlier. In the interval of two and a half terms Frances Menefy once more took up the responsibility of being the Acting-Head.

Oscar and Annette Wallis had been members of the Society since childhood. Oscar attended Ackworth School, where he had been taught by Howard Dyson. Annette (nee Catchpool) is an Old Scholar of Sidcot School. Both are members of well-known Quaker families.

At Yearly Meeting in 1965 the Committee reported:—

> "It has been decided to make some alteration in the running of the school. Oscar Wallis will be responsible head and will carry full teaching duties. A position of secretary-bursar was established and in this way we sought to relieve the headmaster from general administration duties. We are grateful that Clive and Joan Packer-Doust have felt a concern for this work."

Unfortunately these plans were not fully realised. However **Clive and Joan Packer – Doust** came to live in Douglass House for two years, and from there Joan made a valuable contribution to the aesthetic environment of the school. Clive Packer-Doust who had previously been working with the Students in Wellington Hostels took over responsibility for the office work and assisted in the unfamiliar world of young children, and their needs.

The changes within the School and an economic recess in New Zealand had resulted in a serious drop in the numbers of children enrolled. A free place scholarship was widely advertised throughout the Wanganui Education Board district. It was an interesting coincidence that the father of the child to whom the place was awarded was himself an old scholar of an English Friends School. The winner justified her award

during the next four years for she kept a high standard of work and took a leading role in school life. This was the last full class to enter the school in St. III. Later some new entrants were drawn in by advertising, but they were not sufficient.

There were many staff changes in the next two years. Richard and Nancy Seddon resigned to take up other posts in the city, Clive Packer-Doust ended his services at the school early in 1967 after assisting staff and children to settle in. For three years Mrs. Larsen had been Matron, coming into the School each day to carry out her duties. She had taken a personal interest in the lives of the children and watched carefully over their health, but it seemed wiser to engage a resident Matron. This proved difficult until **Betty Fowler** offered her services. The School was most fortunate to find a Matron who combined nursing skills with a concern for the well-being of the whole community, and who in addition, is a well concerned Friend. **Frances Menefy** had retired at the end of 1966, the occasion being marked by a large farewell gathering and presentations. Yearly Meeting adopted a Minute of the School Committee which reads, in part:—

> "Many children who have passed through the School have benefited from her exceptional ability and the vitality which she had to give to her activities. This committee is specially thankful for the heavy responsibilities and extra work which our Friend undertook in recent years during periods of staff difficulties. We recall the words of Edward Dowsett, 'Frances Menefy has given to the School not only years of faithful service, but rare gifts of the spirit'. On this occasion we have remembered too the service given to the School by Charles Menefy during his period on the staff and the interest shown by the whole Menefy family in the welfare of the School."

For the next two years Oscar Wallis was fortunate in having four highly qualified and experienced teachers on his staff. **Alan and Betty Gilderdale**, with their children, were Friends who had come from England. They were both gifted in their own particular fields of Art and English respectively. **Phipps and Betty Kennedy** were New Zealanders, almost due for retirement, who had behind them many years of experience in Primary School teaching. With a roll of 60 pupils, these four teachers found opportunity to do valuable work within their spheres of interest.

The School Secretary, **Mrs Madge Boyd** had taken increasing responsibility for the office work since the retirement of Howard Dyson and now she was in almost complete charge

of this side of school life. Her association had been a long one, for she had first come to assist Arthur Douglass with some clerical work in 1931 and apart from brief intervals had been helping since that time. Hundreds and hundreds of cheques must have been written out by her for food, bills, wages, maintenance and other costs. How many large and small items she must have recorded in the right columns added up and carefully balanced for auditing by Russell Gregory, and how frequently has the addition of these columns been interrupted by a knock at the Office door, or by the ring of the telephone bell. Nearly 1500 pupils have passed through the School and the faces of many of them and of their parents are familiar to "Madge" Boyd. The School is indeed fortunate to have had so many years of continuous and faithful service on the business side and for it to be continued through to the closing down.

Through the New Zealand Friends School some of the aims and principles of the Society were made known to the community at large. Amongst those Friends in New Zealand who gave themselves to this concern must be mentioned the Clerks and other members of the School Committee, all of whom have borne a heavy share of responsibility. **Alfred Grubb** had followed Ruby Dowsett as Clerk. His visits were a joy to the children for he always had postage stamps to share or was ready for a bird-watching expedition. In 1963 he handed over to **George McNeillage** who, in 1968 went with Oscar Wallis and Lawrence Goldsbury to meet the Minister of Education to see if any relief or advice could be forthcoming from that department, but none was offered.

Kenneth Staynes has led the Committee through the decisions of these last two years, stressing always that care and consideration be given to all involved in the closing of the School.

Oscar Wallis who was responsible for teaching the older children during this final year, had found great satisfaction in the close personal contacts made possible in this small group. During their four years in the country Oscar and Annette Wallis, with their children, had joined in all the activities of Friends, and had, in particular, made a valuable contribution to the life of Wanganui Meeting.

For those children who remained this was a happy year. Every effort was made to continue the normal pattern of school life. Inter-school competitions continued. A public recognition of the closing of the School came at the end of the Choral Festival when the School assembled on the stage whilst the combined choirs farewelled them by singing "Now is the Hour".

9 The nature of the school and its closure.

The school made a unique contribution to education in New Zealand Aotearoa and to the personal lives of those who worked in or were pupils at the school over its 50 years. As shown in the prospectus, see Part 4 of this book, there are several distinctive features which were essential to the school.

- As a co-educational boarding school it was a great success.
- Its corporate discipline based on trust and service free from any corporal punishment was an outstanding model.
- A prime objective of high academic quality of syllabus and performance.
- The teaching of science from Standard 4 onward.
- The general use of metric measure, including measurement of all sports events in metres, was quite unique in the 1930s.
- The facility to meet the needs of children from difficult family situations.
- The importance of community and community service had a high focus.
- While encouraging the Quaker precepts of truth and seeking the 'inner light in every man' there was no strong evangelical or sectarian message.

However these invaluable qualities do not of themselves generate a large school role.

As shown in the graphs of Fig 68 the school role has varied greatly over its fifty year life. Its financial fortunes have been equally fickle. Commencing in 1920 with only 20 pupils this grew steadily to 55 by 1930 at the start of the 'slump' when it fell to 40. From 1933 to 1944 there was steady growth to over 100. Then, sadly, the two top Forms 3 and 4 were dropped in 1944. While by the mid 1950s growth lifted to over 110 after 1957 matters trended down to the final years of 1968 with only 60 pupils and 1969 of 30.Even in the schools prime over the 1940s and 50s financial matters were not ideal. For only ten years out of fourteen over the 1945 to 1960 period was the institution account in credit and after 1963 the trend showed an ongoing loss situation.

Some of the reasons the school could not rise above its financial horizon were:-

- the loss of the upper Forms 3 and 4 to other schools for UEE accrediting
- the escalating costs of staffing a seven day week boarding establishment
- the costs of teaching aids and new syllabus requirements in the 1950s
- the restricted nature of government subsidy for independent schools
- the Committee's reluctance to increase fees to keep pace with demands
- the school's location remote from metropolitan centres of population
- the economic recess in N Z resulting in lower rolls for boarding schools
- the problems arising from not being able to maintain or increase the intake of pupils to provide a larger more economic operating base.

All these factors contributed in some measure to the schools closure. No single factor or issue on its own brought the termination.

The financial position became so critical in the mid 1960s that the Comittee reported to Yearly Meeting in May 1968 — "During the year we have reduced expenditure to a minimum and we have taken the staff into our confidence in this regard. Only essential repairs and maintenance work has been undertaken and the committee has tried to economise wherever possible."

Salaries and other costs continued to rise. It was necessary to increase fees. The report continues "Despite all efforts, the School continues to operate at a loss, mainly because we are unable to enrol the maximum number of children which the School can accommodate. As we now foresee no improvement we recommend to Yearly Meeting that the School be closed, but to keep faith with the pupils, parents and staff, this should be done at the end of 1969." Yearly Meeting 1968 gave deep and serious thought to the future of the School.

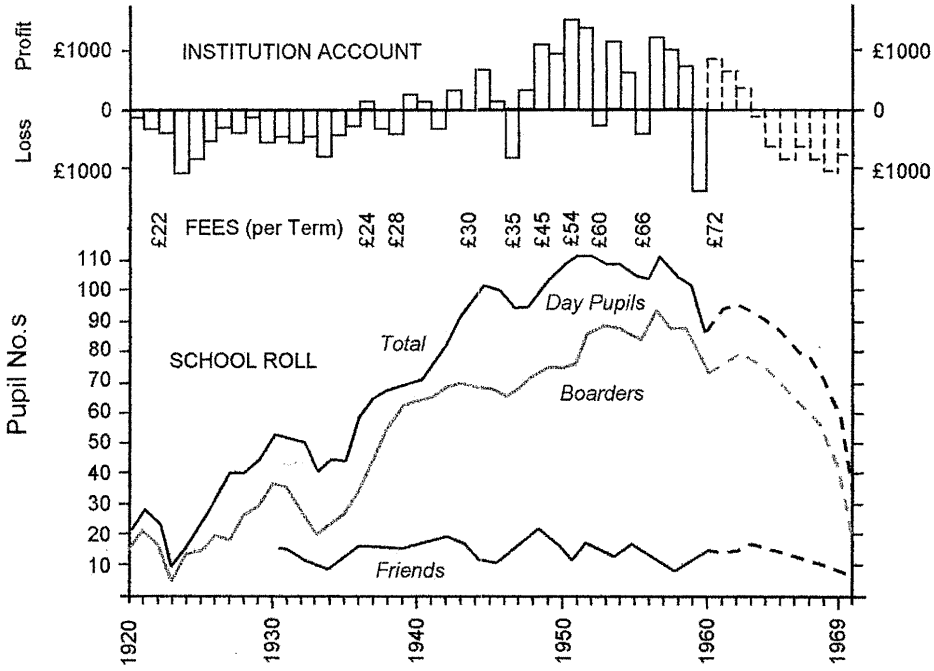


Fig 68 Graph of School Roll 1920-1969

(Graph based on committee reports 1920-1960.Last 10 years (dotted) derived from school photos and yearly meeting reports)

In considering these matters at yearly meeting New Zealand Friends were mindful of the support and care given over the years by London Yearly Meeting. The continued interest and concern of English Friends has been shown by letters, large grants of money from trusts, including those from the Cadbury's, and many visits of English Friends over the years. However in 1964 when New Zealand became a Yearly Meeting in its own right, under the terms of the Trust Deed the power to make all decisions and give directions with regard to Friends School , Wanganui were transferred to N.Z. Yearly Meeting.

Edward Dowsett led the discussion to a quiet place by putting before Friends the importance of knowing when to take up a concern, and also, of knowing when it is the right time to lay this concern down.

Finally, a Minute was accepted by that Yearly Meeting, part of which reads:

"This Yearly Meeting recognises that the time has come to lay down this particular concern of Friends for providing a co-educational residential boarding school for primary pupils. We have confidence in the wisdom of the School Committee to deal with the many problems which will have to be faced, having an awareness of the human relationships involved. We pray that they will be guided to bring about the termination of this concern when they feel that the time is right to do so, but not later than the end of 1969.

"It is not possible to estimate the influence which this school has had on the lives of the children, staff and parents, Old Scholars, tradesmen and firms, and the wide contacts it has made in the city of Wanganui since the school was founded in 1920. That this piece of Quaker work in its present form is soon to cease has inevitably brought feelings of sadness, particularly to those who have had close contacts over a long period. Friends have expressed their conviction that these values are lasting and we must be aware that this step need not be an end but must remain aware of needs and be open to God's guidance in our efforts to fulfil these."

In view of the heavy financial losses which were being sustained it seemed wisest to close at the end of 1968. However it was the wish of those responsible to keep faith with pupils, parents and staff and to this end it was decided to continue through to the end of 1969 with an estimated roll of 30 pupils.











Fig. 69 - JUBILEE GROUPS 1920 to 1969
Weekend of 22-23 November 1969.

10. The Jubilee 1969

The Old Scholars Committee, in cooperation with the School Committee, planned the jubilee celebration on the 22 nd and 23 rd November 1969. A limited number of the old scholars were accomodated at the school on Saturday night and others stayed at homes and motels near at hand.

Commencing at 2.30 pm on a drizzly Saturday afternoon the roll call of over 150 old scholars included a good representation from all the five decades of the schools existence, as shown in Figs 67. At the function held in the Cadbury Dining Hall speeches were made on behalf of the school by Oscar Wallis, by Kenneth Staynes, Clerk of the School Committee, and by Friends and Old Scholars.

Tea was in a marquee, on the lawn near the class rooms shared with staff, committee members, present and past pupils. Then the present pupils presented an original school play. Sunday morning provided the opportunity for a shared meeting for worship and these were followed by personal farewells.

Friends and old scholars who had followed School matters closely had realised the inevitability of the decision to close, but the impact locally and amongst former scholars and parents was one of dismay. The school had become an integral part of the community, respected and seemingly permanent.

Old Scholars at the Jubilee were saddened by the imminent closure of the school However they were also made aware of the changing economic circumstances of the 1960s and the range of issues affecting the ongoing viability of the school. As outlined in this books previous section.(Part 9.).

Francis Menefy's book on the History of NZFS 1920 to 1969 was published for the occasion. (That publication is repeated here as the text in parts 1 to 8 of this book). The History set out for all present at the Jubilee the history and highlights of the school. It also outlined the identities and their contribution as trustees, committee members and staff. More importantly it reflected the contributions the school and old scholars have made, through their lives, to the community both in Wanganui and across the whole of New Zealand.

11. Disposal of the School Site 1970 to 1997

After the school closed in 1969 the Society of Friends was confronted with the task of finding a suitable use, or uses, for the 18 acres between the Great North Road and Virginia Road on which the school buildings were sited. Michael Payne and Elwyn Walke were appointed to the School property Committee to assist in this difficult project. The balance of the land (the school farm or 'back hills') comprising 17 ½ acres, on the north of Virginia Road, was set aside for later consideration. Friends throughout New Zealand were considering the best use that could be made of the property. Proposals for a large conference centre or a retirement centre for Friends. These and many other possibilities were considered and, for good practical and economic reasons were rejected.

Initially in 1972 the Department of Social Welfare leased the site as a shool for state wards (boys 8-13).and renamed it Holdsworth School. The lease arrangements continued for about 2 years before the department purchased the whole site.

- During this period the old swimming pool, with its supporting bamboo banks built in 1930, was removed. In 1975 the brick and tile main building, dating from 1928, was deemed an earthquake risk and it was demolished. There after following gazette notice in 1981 the department subdivided the site and it was sold in a series of separate parcels.
- The original wooden house facing the Great North Road was sold with 1 ½ acres and for use as a residential care facility for the elderly – named 'Virginia Lodge'.
- The school flats 'Douglass' on the site of the old 'Cottage' also facing Great North Road were also sold with ¾ acre, for a similar facility called 'Aranmore'.
- The Cadbury Dining Block in its site of just over ½ acre, is now a Christadelphian Church.
- The brick and tile class room, opened in 1924, and. the former playing fields now make up the 10 acre Otamatea Reserve. A Council public reserve with the classrooms occupied by the 'Friendship Force' together with the 'Dog Obedience Club'
- The wooden assembly hall and class room block, was relocated out to the rural area betiond Westmere as community hall at Brunswick
- The headmasters house 'Holdsworth' remains with that name and along with the staff residence of 'Goldsbury House' and the older 'Ackworth' are all now houses in private ownership.

The disposal exercise for the old school site between the Great North Road and Virginia road was completed by 1984. The present location of houses and the Otamatea Reserve are illustrated on the 1999 aerial photo of Fig. 75. on page 93 of this book.

12. The Quaker Settlement 1973 to 1997

During the 1960s the 'back hills' farm was let for grazing. Any decision on its future was put on hold while a number of proposals were developed and considered by ther Quaker Yearly Meeting. During 1972-73 Kathleen and Terry Douglass , of Lower Hutt, formulated the idea of establishimng a Quaker community on the land. This would involve a few friends to build their homes on the land and so form a support group for a small study and conference centre. This would then be available to church, community and voluntary groups from all over New Zealand, as well as for Friends.

Yearly meeting in 1974 agreed to the establishment of the Friends Settlement (also known as the Quaker Settlement or Quaker Acres) and initially 4 acres, of the 17 acres on the east side of Virginia Road, began its life as a Quaker Settlement in 1974. A trust was established, the Wanganui Educational Settlement Trust (WEST) to hold the land and be responsible for the management of the settlement.

The objects of the Friends Settlement Wanganui continue as originally set out at the start and included:--

- To form a community of Friends as a source of inspiration.
- To build a centre and provide services for shared study.
- To be caretakers in common of the land and buildings.
- To share and do as many things together as possible.
- To share tools and equipment in a practical manner.
- To care for each other's needs physically.
- To free each other for work in the local community.
- To develop new lifestyles, living simply and economically.
- To develop a community of equals.
- To make decisions through consensus.

The trust Deed is unique and was developed by Philip Macdiarmid (husband of Phoebe nee Suckling) and it provides for all the land and buildings to be owned by the Trust (WEST) , with Settlers being issued 'licenses to occupy'.

Initially four founding couples Olive and Philip Smithellls (who had lived briefly in Ackworth in the 1930s before going to Dunedin) Jos and Angela Brusse (who had worked at Friends School in the 1940s before going to Christchurch) Francis and Roger Henry (of Cambridge) and the moving force of Kathleen and Terry Douglass (of Lower Hutt) all threw in their lot, sold there homes and built houses at Quaker Acres.

Michael Payne was engaged as architect to design and oversee the construction of the Settlement. The first building was a large communal workshop started in 1976. Within a year there were 5 houses commenced and in January 1977 a "work camp" was held to level the land and prepare the boxing and foundations for the main room, the kitchen and the toilet block, which in turn were opened in 1978. By that time 9 houses were accommodating families of the community, including one for Elsie and Norman Bennett (who taught at Friends School in the 1940s), and also Lea and Michael Wiltshire, while the ninth house was for Frances Menefy returning to a much changed 'Orchard House' site (12 years after retiring from the Friends school teaching staff). Michael and Merilyn Payne also now occupy a house at the settlement 76 Virginia Road.

With the completion of the conference residential accommodation in 1981 Quaker Acres could accommodate up to 40 people for live-in seminars and conferences. The development of the central seminar centre was made possible by donations from Friends , grants from the school sales and voluntary efforts of settlers and others. The Quiet Room, completed in 2000, was assisted from funds raised by the 1997 FSOS reunion.

The Settlement is a varied group, of between 30 and 40 having a full age range of families, couples and single members. Their needs and tastes are diverse. They meet once a week for a shared meal and have a daily meeting for worship. It is a very real and lively community. It is a gathering and welcoming place. It was ideal for the 1997 reunion.



Fig. 70 Quaker Acres the gathering place, 76 Virginia Road



Fig.71 Photo of the those present from the first ten years - 1920 to 1930
Including - John Etherington, Peggy Jennings (nee Gibbons),
Guy Palliser, Richard Jackson, Owen Jackson and Colin Bristol.

The intermediate years were equally well represented with those joining the School in each ten year period resulting in photos of

1930 to 1940 about 30 old scholars
1940 to 1950 about 50 old scholars
1950 to 1960 about 70 old scholars



Fig. 72 The last ten years of old scholars with 64 present - 1960 to 1969

13. Easter Reunion 1997

Leading up to 1996 there had been several old scholars and others associated with NZFS Wanganui who expressed a desire to again meet and renew friendships and catch up on developments at Quaker Acres and the old school site. It seemed timely, so a spontaneous voluntary committee was formed comprising Michael Corrigan of Wellington, Ngaire Lepper (nee Brown)of Tauranga, Pheobe MacDiarmid (nee Suckling) of Thames, Linley and Claire Gregory of Auckland, Michael and Merilyn (nee Dyson) Payne of Wanganui. The committee was led by Michael Corrigan as chairman, who had lived at the school 1948-1950 when his mother was on the staff. Michael Payne a pupil 1946-1948, an architect and a trustee of the school estate, with wife Merylin, are now resident members of Quaker Acres. Linley and Claire as old scholars also followed their father, Russell Gregory's, interest he having been on the school committee as accountant and auditor over a period of 23 years.

As the old scholars approached showed a general breadth of support for the reunion this Committee announced in 1996, the intention to hold the reunion at Quaker Acres during Easter 1997.

The programme began on the evening of Friday the 28 March 1997 at the Quaker Settlement. On Saturday morning, after the old school bell had been rung, by Peggy Jennings and John Etherington, the welcome took place and the roll call reintroducing an assembly of over 350 old scholars, staff and their families commenced. At the welcome many thoughtful and reflective comments were made by Michael Payne, Michael Corrigan, Oscar Wallis, Marjory Dyson and Malcolm Douglass.



Fig 73 John Etherington and Peggy Jennings Ring the bell for the Reunion roll call.

We were reminded of the strengths of the school and its environment of trust, sharing, how to live in a cooperative way, these being inherent in its 50 years of service. The school had been a path finder in many areas of teaching. With no corporal punishment, a co-educational boarding school, positions filled by job sharing partners and its style of governance were all unique in its day.

These attributes preceded and may have even led the way to Government's current 'Tomorrows Schools' policies. The teaching of science in a primary school, the AD emphasis on metric measurement, the interest in natural sciences led by Wilfred Monkhouse, the life saving pursued enthusiastically by Howard and Marjory Dyson, the fostering of artistic and musical endeavours were all priority issues not forgotten in later life. A theme that the school was caring for pupil's mental, physical and spiritual growth was common to many.

The Group photos, Fig 71 and Fig 72, after Saturday lunch were taken on the playing fields in front of the old class rooms. All were in a jolly frame of mind as they grouped with their class mates under a bright autumn sun. These were followed by a sentimental walk around Virginia Lake before repairing to the Racecourse for the reunion dinner. This unlikely venue enabled further reminiscences, stories and speeches which were enjoyed by all.

Sunday, of course, had a well attended Meeting for Worship. Over 200 crowded in and around the settlement main room. One interesting comment from a pupil of 1969 was that she could forgive the school for its closure as she 'now saw it was not an end but rather a continuation with the seed being dispersed and growing wherever it settled'.

After lunch a whole host of 'mini Founders Day' excursions headed off to Kai Iwi Beach, Westmere Lake, Durie Hill Tower, and, of course the most popular was the paddle steamer trip on the 'm.v. Otonui' up the Wanganui River to the Waireka Estate. Then on Monday the farewells.

For those who were accomodated at Quaker Acres it was a particularly happy time. For some, due to age or situation, this may have been their last opportunity to catch up with the past and the present spirit of NZFS. Many old scholars came with their children, children who in another time may have been pupils. All present caught again the 'flavour of the place' and a first hand experience of the qualities that contributed to NZ Friends School Wanganui.

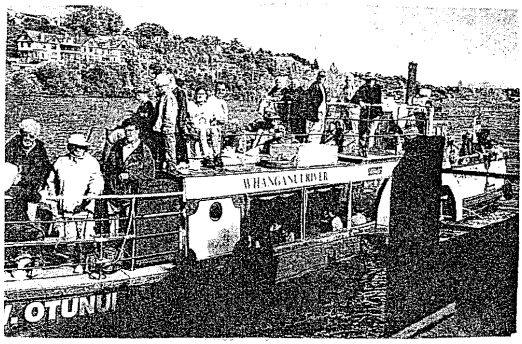


Fig. 74 Old Scholars aboard the river boat 'mv OTUNUI' 30 March 1997

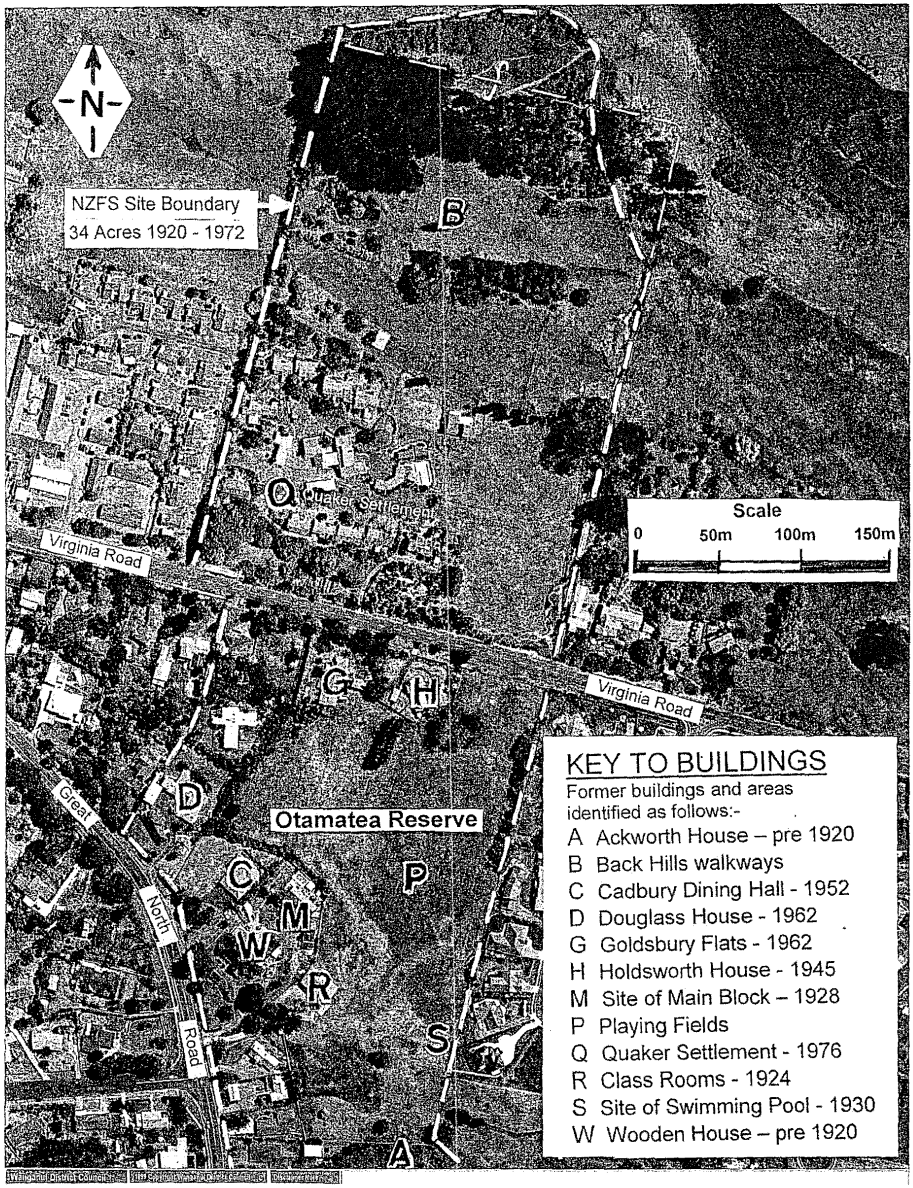


Fig. 75 1999 Aerial Photo of Former NZ Friends' School Site

14. School Committee Members and Staff

Some members of **School Committee** who gave valuable service and have not previously been mentioned elsewhere are:—

Elizabeth B. Rutter.
Alfred M. Brown.
John M. Howell.
Annie B. Pudney.
Ernest Wright.
John Ash.
Bertha Harle.
John C. White.
Augustus G. Waller.
John Rigg.
Theodore West.
Hannah Ash.
Dorothy Pumphrey.
John Barkla.
William Gilliver.
Ada Gilliver.
Elizabeth J. Pudney.
L. Violet Holdsworth.
Ella Priestley.
Ruth Brailsford.
James Matheson.
Beatrice Matheson.
William T. Newby.
Jean Skelsey.
Laurence Addis-Smith.
Roberta Highton.
Maria Heine.
Robert Curtis.
Joan Gilliver (Mark) Old Scholar.
Kitchener Ellis Old Scholar.
Kenneth Douglas Old Scholar.
Elwyn Walke Old Scholar.
Candida Heine Old Scholar.
Peggy Jennings (Gibbons) Old Scholar.
Neil Johnson.
Joe Short.
Ngaire Newby.
David Stone.

Some members of **Staff** who gave valuable service and have not been mentioned elsewhere are:—

Jane St. Ruth.
Joyce Burnside.
Marion Stenberg.
W. George Patterson.
William Smart.
Pamela Wilson.
Jean Old.
Frances Wood.
Grace Newbold.
Gordon King.
Margaret Fitzgerald.
Mrs Porter.
Mary Thorne.
James Glasgow.
Joseph Greenwood.
Mrs Gardener.
Frances Law.
Brenda Frost.
Elsie Loveridge.
Nell Lueder.
Isobel Garai.
Winifred Gedge.
Mrs A. R. Craig.
Helen Young.
Alice McKenzie.
J. D. Ferguson.
Ailsa Willacy.
Phyllis Pike.
Elsie Curtis.
Irene Moorhead.
Arthur Hughes.
Elizabeth Rowlands
Mrs Corrigan
Diana Irving.
Mrs Trownson.
Alan & Dorothy Cooper nèe Baker).
Hazel Alty.
Beryl Davies.
Donald Seager.
Marjorie Missen.
Esther Kellick.
Mrs Arbon.
Doris White.
Mrs Hemmingson.
Mrs Pridham.
Huia Neilson.
Nancy Beck.
Margaret Mackay.
Vivian Young.
Miss Evans.
Miss Bartrum.
Susan Mills.
Mrs Wartik.
Victor & Joan Hayman.
Mrs Middleton.
Mr & Mrs Palmer.
Douglas Smith.
Jean Penty.
Isabel Reid.
Mrs Mattock.
Ada Herd.
Mrs Milne.
Miss Greaves
Mr &Mrs Blackshaw
James Glasgow.
Mrs C. Duthie.
Christine Hoyland.
Sadie Hayman.
Kenneth Herd.
Helen Cameron.
Mr and Mrs Brand.
Helen & David Graham.
Amiria Waitai.
Nell Gamman.
Hilda Healey.
Olive Popham.
Frances Anderson.
Ruby Anso.
Phyllis Pike.
Miss V. M. Sussmilch.
Audrey Williamson.
Mrs Scott.
Mrs A. Croasdale.
Mrs Bockett.
Mrs Lamont.
Mrs Gilbertson.
Gavin Ritchie.
Mrs Eileen Braddock
Bryce Mason.
Robin Benson.
Tessa Faux.
Len & Madge Edwards.
Joy Pratt.
Noeline Churton.
Mrs K. Stuthridge.
Mrs Watson
Mrs Maureen Ward
Daisy W Pound.

15. Sources of original material

Author's note Frances Menefy. 1969

The history of the Friends School Wanganui is closely bound with the lives of many concerned Friends and with others who, as members of staff gave devoted service for the sake of the children. It is not possible to mention all who come into this category. This short history may serve to bring back happy memories of those with whom we were associated in the years when our lives were closely linked with the school community.
`ontact has been made with most of the people mentioned in this History, or with membrs of their families. I am indebted to Howard Dyson for many suggestions and to him goes the responsibility for comments relating to my own time at the school.

Frances Menefy *October 1969.*

Sources of Material

Minutes of School Committee Meetings.
Reports of General and Yearly Meetings.
A History of early years by Robert L. Pudney.
Diaries kept by :- Hugh Goldsbury.
Montague Goldsbury.
Frank Moreton.
The School Chronicle compiled by pupils.
The School Magazine.

Author's Note Malcolm Douglass, 2003

During the preparation of this book I was conscious of the need to extend Frances Menefy's work and make it a more comprehensive history of the school. There may not be another opportunity for a definitive history of the NZFS to be written. This has doubled the length of the book.The later four sections 9 to 13 covering the period 1970 to 1997 are drawn from papers provided by members of the settlement on the establishment of Quaker Acres, by Michael Payne regarding the disposal of the site, papers from Ethel and Ken Douglass and observations at the 1997 Reunion. I have written these sections in discussion with many others and I hope they fairly recognise those involved and summarise the situation correctly
I regret the six year delay, since 1997, in publication. In a labour of such personal interest it has been difficult to call halt. I hope all who read it enjoy it as much as I have done.

Malcolm Douglass ***April 2003***