60+ years of the Ashburton Museum and Historical Society: a brief survey

Glenn Vallender

KEY HISTORICAL FACTS

- 1865 The Colonial Museum was established by James Hector.
- 1867 The Canterbury Museum was established by Julius von Haast.
- 1870s In Ashburton, continued heritage collecting leads for a call for ability to exhibit.
- 1878 Formation of Ashburton Borough and obligations for services such as a library and a clock.
- 1881 Early call for the 'Industrial Exhibition' to become a 'Museum' to be built on Crown Reserve land.
- 1887 Call for the library to be extended as an 'Museum' by Mayor Henry Davis ends up as a glass
 cabinet set aside for object displays. Objects are donated for display.
 - Continued collecting for the next 71 years.
- 1958 Formation of the Ashburton Historical Society.
- 1995 Name change to Ashburton Museum and Historical Society reflecting increased role in Museum management rather than in collecting and narrating District history and heritage.
- 2014 Museum becomes a Department of ADC and professionally managed with the Society retaining ownership of the Collection.

The Ashburton Museum (and the later Historical Society) had its origins from the earlier Industrial Exhibitions produced by

James Hector in the 1860s

SHBURTON MUSEUM.

All persons, and particularly exhibitors at the forthcoming Exhibition, who feel disposed to ASSIST in establishing a MUSEUM in Ashburton, are respectfully informed that the Committee of Library have generously consented appropriate a room for that purpose. willing to give Specimens, Works of &c., will kindly communicate with undersigned as early as possible.

STEPHEN E. POYNTZ, 293a Hon. Sec. Industrial Exhibition.

Ashburton Guardian Vol. 2 (294) March 16, 1881

Or EVERT DESCRIPTION,

THE ASHBURTON GUARDIAN

PLACARDS AT AN HOUR'S

ADOTTON SALES.

Mr. T. Bellock, of his Rooms, East sheet
—Let 121, Threespon street, Thread i
—Translov's Interest in Lot 27, 27 declared
—Let 121, Threespon street, Thread i
—Translov's Interest in Lot 27, 27 declared
—Let 122, Land Meeby Sale.

Bayernary, Manne 28,

Mr. W. J. G. Binet, at Mr. T. Bullock's
Salercorns, Ashburran — Heusehold
Purniture, 262, 12 o'there. Furnistre, &c., 12 o'clock.

Figure 7, Arm. 1.

Matteen, Co., and Co., at their molecusies,
Anhburton—Building Bitss: 1 p. m.

Matteen, Co., and Co., at their recent,
Anhburton—Valuable Frenheld Facm,
in the Hundy district; 12 o'clock. MEETINGS, AMUSEMENTS, &v. METUTINGS, AMUSERIENTS, &C.

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THE ST STABLES. ion Library—Annual Meeting mibers, to the Library, 8 p.m. Wensonar, Arms 6. canty Council, at the County Council Chambers, at 11 o'clock. TRAVELLERS GUIDE. PRAINS LOAVE ASSESSMENT FOR CONTROL current and intermediate stations at 6 a.m., 10.30 s.m., and (Express) 5.48 ing no farther than Timere. THEART AND SOUTH At 10.15 s.m. p.m. (Express), and 8.15 p.m. All perions, and particularly ashibitors at the forthcoming Rubbition, who feel dispused to ASSIST in establishing a MUSEUM in Ashibit an are respectfully MUSEUM is Asternee, are respectively informed that the Committee of the Library have generously consented to appropriate a room for that purpose. Any willing to give Specimens, Works of Art, MANUFACTURED BY As will kindly communicate with the THE NEW ZEALAND Clothing Factory,

WANTER KNOWN — adduction BEGISTEY OFFERS to Male and Texada Servents — L. F. ANDEWER beat to these the public of Adduction and surrounding districts that he has operate of the charten and the second surrounding districts that he has operate of the charten and the second surrounding districts that he has operate of the charten provided Europhysics of the charten provided Europhysics of the charten provided Europhysics of the charten provided and previous and the charten of the charten provided to another than the charten provided to another the charten provided to another than the charten provided to another than the charten provided the charten provided the charten provided the charten provided that the charten provided the charten want of situations, are requested to apply to L. F. Annanyan, Inher Agent, Book soller, and Stationer, East street, South. CERVICE OF SONG by the Pressy, terian Chirch Choir, so MONDAY Wynn, NRIBIT, 8 o'clock. Tickets crossystems. 256a. SOMERSET LIVERY AND BAIT W. M'RAE begs to inform the public that he has taken the them Stables from Mr. Besenberg, and i Baggies and coddle horses on hire.
Lowest prices and best attention. Lorent prices and bost accuracy.

DON'T FORGET—" KVA," a Service of Song, taken from "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Most constaining and instruc-WANTED KNOWN That Visiting ained printed in various styles, at the " office, epposite the Bail-Fresh arrangements having been made in connection with the "AutoDirect Guzannos," taking effect from the lef of March Instant, I have no request that all Dabts owing to me as Projection of the mid-Merepuper on the 28th February elision, he paid to Mr. S. Satterman, on my behalf. All. Dobts now ascraint to the Projection of the "Glannas" will be payable to Mr. Glannas, will be payable to Mr. . H. Zovur. Duted this first day of March, 1881. READY MONEY

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The tall, short, losp, and stout, can be

ENCOURAGE LOCAL ENTER-PRISE & KEEP THE MONEY IN THE PLACE. WANTED-15,000 continues to Pur-chase 100,000 Envelopes and upwarda 1,000, 7s dd; 6,000, 6s bi per 1,000, for Cash. H. M. JONES. STATISHER AND BOOKSTLEE Hast street and Bering See WANTED-A MAN to make HOESE COVERS. Apply to Thomas Demon, Saddler, Burnett street. TOWN EDITION. The Ashburton Guardian MACOU BUT VARITAL BE PARRYLAND WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1881 Lang Georges -It is stated that Lady L28,168. This does not include amounts poid at post-offices. The Wellington cor-respondent of the Press states that the respondent of the Price states that the following are the assemble of the tax cellected up to patterlay —Centrebury, 124,618; Wellington, L19,501; Ancelland, L57,004; Ongo, L16,916; Hawke's Bay, L6,605; Neben, L3,888; South-land; L5,600; Weitaki, L5,000; Jonal, AND BOYS' CLOTHING Which can be purchased at their Reta THE PROSPECT OF ANOTHER LOAN, The Wellington Port throws out the fi Besnehes, now established all over New Zealand. The Garmouts are thoroughly should The Fit and Style are perfect.

appears certain. The public mind is England is therefore being carefully edu

will indicate the necessity for master going upon the London market to this extent,

every article that does not give antisfac- with a view to making it a test question at

Ard, in addition to all these advantages, you can purchase
A SURGLE GARMENT AT THE EXPENSION OF the Property o

FIRST publicised mentions of a 'Museum' in Ashburton

The Industrial Exhibition. — The Management Committee met last evening, his Worship the Mayor presiding. It was resolved that no one should be admitted into the exhibition until after the Go-

vernor had inspected it. The Secretary stated that he had received several exhibits for presentation to the contemplated museum, and it was resolved that the Mayor be requested to apply to the Government for a portion of a reserve at the corner of Cass and Burnett streets. for the museum. The following gentlemen were appointed a Provisional Committee. viz . Messrs Bullock, Jameson Passmore, and his Worship the Mayor, and Messrs Wood, Compton, and Mayo, were appointed a Decoration Committee. The Secretary was instructed to write to Inspector Broham, asking for an additional number of police during the days on which the Exhibition was open. It was decided to erect a close boarded fence, 6ft, 6in, high,

Ashburton Guardian Vol 2. (295) **March 17, 1881**

The Ashburton Guardian.

MAGNA EST VERITAS, ET PREVALEBIT.

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1881.

A Local Museum.

TOWN EDITION.

[Issued at 4 p.m.]

We have previously pointed out the fact that there exists an opportunity for local well-wishers to create, by united action in our midst, a source of intellectual advancement in the matter of the establishment of a local museum, and are therefore pleased to learn that those gentlemen who have shown themselves so energetic in connection with the Industrial Exhibition have it in view, following the termination of their present duties, to make an effort in this direction. We have growing up in our midst a generation, for the intellectual

Ashburton Guardian Vol. 2 (304) **March 28, 1881**

138 years ago!

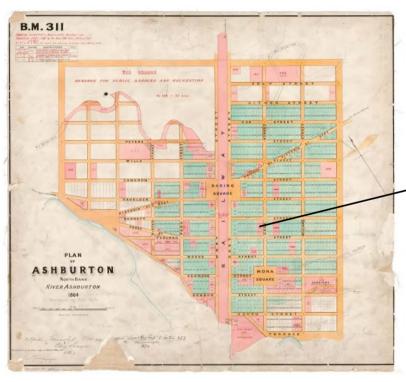
scribers held on January 6th. The question of using the large room as a temporary museum, has been raised, and many members of the Committee are in favor of such a course, but think it advisable it should be confirmed by the subscribers. In response to the opinion

Ashburton Guardian Vol 2. (308)

April 1,1881

Suggested location for the Industrial Exhibition and 'Museum' in 1881

The Black Map of 1864





ванисания Велогом Сорисы Спатенция «ме Pentag Linning.

1881 Ashburton Council & library houses a glass cabinet







THE BUILDINGS





HISTORICAL. SOCIETY IS FORMED IN ASH.

Owing to the fact that there were several counter-affractions last evening there were not as many people at the first meeting of the Ashbaiton Historical So-ciety as had been expected.

However, those present showed great interest in the proposed society, and several interesting discus-

The meeting was convened by Mrs The meeting was convened by Mrs. J. McQuilken, who briefly outlined the basis of ideas for bringing to sether articles connected with the convenience of the Ashburton Country of the Coun

abown that you have the interests of the community at heart by your at tendence to night.

The following I succeed to the content of the work which they had certified to the work which they had certified to the tendence of the tendence of

monthly bus trips to places of his-torical interest.

Several persons at lest night's meet-ing recalled that at the beginning of this century there had been a small masseum in part in the Ashburton Public Library. They also spoke of the amount of information makes could be received from people living on the country who had been as the pro-

MINUTE, 2 and in the county who had been among JOUNAL, 2 Guire the pioneer section by the Double LEDOY chair, 430 spoke on the early section of the county and county then we must respect the past."

After several others had given their reasons for the nacessity of a society Mrs McQuilken moved and Mr J B. Cullen seconded that the Ashburton Historical Society be formed.

Discussion then took place to de-cide the first steps that the society should take and it was decided to appeal to local bodies for aid in se

The election of officers resulted: President, Dr W. H. Scotter, vice-president, Dr R. Lanc, secretary, Mrs J. McQuilken: treasurer, Mr. J. B. Cullen: executive, all officers and Mesers M. S. Turton and E. W. Cole. The society will hold its next meet

(IMADELEAL MERTING)

At a meeting of new interested persons in the Community Centre nt a meeting of near intermetton persons in the community centre on joth October, 1958, it was unanimously decided that an Fis-torical Society be established in Asburton.

Mrs J. McQuillon, who convened the mooting briefly outlined the basis of ideas for bringing together articles connected with the early Mictory of the Town and Country of Achburton, and preserving them for the use of students and future citizens.

Mr G. Glassey, who was in the chedr also sycke on similar lines and quoted there words - "I' we want to assume some responsibility for the future, then we must respent the part".

Those present were - Dr W.H. Soetter, Er J.B. Gullen, Er E.W.M. Cole, Mrs R. Fearce, Dr R. Lame, Mr and Mrs Turton, Pre Bruce thardcoit, Mrs F. Johnson, Mr E.T. Griss, Mr and Mrs R.G. Alingter, Mr H.A. Rankin, Miss T.E. Butterick, Mr W.H. Milkitson,

The following worm elected -

OF OFFICERS

WENT BENEFIT P

HISTORICAL.

Dr W.H. Scotter Vice President Dr P. Lane Pressurer

It was agreed that the Executive he the above officers, plus two other members. The members elected being Massrs M.S. Turtum and E.W. Cole. It mas agreed also, that all persons present should form the Cored ttoe.

Those were received from - Mr J.M. Grigg, Sr and Mrs Jack Socia, Er and Ers Claude Andapson, Mas Lill, Ers Whilips, 15cs Cras

It was decided to bold a monthly meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month. After some discussion, it was decided that the Secretary should make to both the Ecrough and County Councils acquainting then of the formation of this society, of its aims and objects, and saling then for aid in according a room for the display of objects of historical interest.

This was pot at 5/- a year for each comber.

The matter of holding such a display was bold over for the next

The date of the next meeting was set down For 27th Movember, 1958.

CONTRACT WILS 10th asy of December

Inside cover of the Society's first **Minute Book**

George Glassey (1901 - 1979)was in the chair.

"If we want to assume some responsibility for the future, then we must respect the past".

W. H. SCOTTER, M.A., Ph.D. (London)

President of the Ashburton Historical Society

NAME CHANGE REFLECTS CHANGING ROLE





In 1995 the name of the Society was changed from Ashburton Historical Society to Ashburton Museum and Historical Society in recognition of its increasing emphasis on Museum operation.

THE PEOPLE



















1958













2019

CLIPPINGS from the ASHBURTON GUARDIAN

MUSEUM IN ASHBURTON

Main objective of society 30-11-70

Meetings were incidental to the main purpose of the soclety, which was to collect, preserve and display historical material, the president of the Ashburton Historical Society (Mr E. J. Wood) said in his annual report, presented at the society's annual meeting this week.

Only through the enthusiasm of members would the society attain its objective, that of a museum, he said.

The last year had been quite successful in that bimonthly meetings had been maintained and the finances of the society were in a sound position. Although meetings had been well attended it should be one of the aims of the members to interest the younger generation in the society's activities because it was to them that the society looked for its continued development

Officers elected were:-

Museum wants volunteers 11-8-71

A working-bee of five men started the renovating and painting of the Ashburton Historical Society's new museum in the former women's rest rooms in Tancred Street during the week-

to be done and it is not ment of a museum in Asistron known when the museum The council had sought an will open for display. This de-common from its societors on pends on volunteers for the procedure to have the working bees, said the pre-to-enabetery Ruseum Act altered sident of the Ashburton His- to set saids some of the faults.

Already a fireplace has museum in Ashburton. been taken out of the build. The relicitors strived that to been taken out of the build. The relicitors strived that to ing for a colonial oven will all would need to obtain the sp. ing for a colonial oven which would need to obtain the spill this space; a dividing wall proval of the Canterbury taken down to make one Misseum Trust Board and the workroom; the front windows and to prepare through the defrosted for future displaymenter of Parliament for Astrof "early-Ashburton" photo burion, a local fall of "early-Ashburton" photo burion, a local fall graphs, and part of the builds before approach might be to

MUSEUM FOR ASHBURTON Branch status

suggested

The Ashburton Borough Coun-cit will ask the Canterbury Museum Trust Board to receive nd.

There is still much work a departation from the Council for discussions on the establish-

sident of the Ashburton rus- to set same some or not rands torical Society (Mr. E. J. which it is levest to help main-tain the Canlerbury Moseum, Wood) vesterday, into a fund, instead, for a

A committee meeting of assistant to be observed to the society will be held nexconjunction with the Casterbury week to discuss future work Mursum. This would place he possible to the Ashburton Museum on the Canterbury ask the museum trust board to

The Council decided to write of the Canterbury Disseum Trust Board making further inquiries as suggested by the solicitors. explaining the Council's attribute to a local museum, and saking the board to receive a deputation comprising the Mayor the G. Glassey), departy-Mayor (Cr. T Lane) and Town Clerk (Mr L. A. Lane) and rown cours our S. Watson) for discussions on the establishment of a local museum.

"WONDERFUL RESPONSE" TO APPEAL FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

Dr. W. H. Scotter, who is writing a book on the history of Ashburton, has had a "wonderful response" from people in Ashburton and the county, following a recent appeal he made for historical photographs.

Dr. Scotter, who addressed He said he would be describing ing last night, told the "Guard-leading people." ian" that he now had a "couple of The periods to be dealt with hundred" old photographs.

old photographs.

graphs so far received are good torate was later restored. ones and, most important, the Dr. Scotter's book will cover names of groups in many of the adequately the first period of

Dr. Scotter said he has photo- thing" about its history.

graphs of farming, church, and general groups.

"I have a fair coverage of the county", he said.

He said his book is being divided into five parts.

"The aim is to give a picture of each period", Dr. Scotter explain-

members of the Ashburton Histor- the principal characteristics of ical Society at their annual meet- each period, and some of the

He said he would use about From 1853, the arrival of the half of these in the book which first settler, Edward Chapman; should be published by the mid- 1878, founding of borough; 1903, dle of next year. introduction of the "no liquor" "The illustrations will be first licence, following a vote taken in class", Dr. Scotter said. 1902 which established Ashburton He said that several Ashburton as a "dry" town; 1920, abolition farmers had made special trips to of the Ashburton electorate just his home in Christchurch with before the depression. The electorate became the Mid-Canterbury Dr. Scotter said the photo-electorate. The Ashburton elec-

photographs are in his possession, settlement, land purchase, the es-Also, in photographs of farm- tablishment of the Ashburton ing operations, most of the farms township, and its expansion in the and districts are named, Dr. Scot- "great land boom" of the late ter said.

Initially, Dr. Scotter had diffi- In his book, Dr. Scotter will culty in obtaining photographs of trace the establishment of Ashearly Rakaia, but since then sev- burton's wheat-growing industry, eral people in Rakaia have sent and the expansion of its stock Dr. Scotter photographs. water races as the "special

MORE CLIPPINGS

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1972

"PIONEER HALL" TO OPEN SOON

"Ploneer Hall," Ashburton's museum, will open its doors to the public early next week.

For years, the Ashburton Historical Society has been collecting photographs, early records, and articles used in the daily lives of the town's ploneers, but they have on stored away because, up till Downshere has been no suitable

But months of work by society members and others in converting and painting the Havelock Street museum has provided a suitable setting in which to display the Carret for the moors has even

donated, and a local firm has provided the display cabinets, in which are being featured the links with Ashburton's carly days.

The society has in its possession a large collection of early photographs and copies of the original town lay-out of Ashbur-

Although "Pioneer Hall" may be small compared with some other museums, its collection will provide a nucleus for the museum and art gallery planned in borough development

But a start had to be made to preserve the rolles before they were lost to posterity.

The opening of "Pioneer Hall" will be a major milestone in this

But society officials have decid-ed there will be no official opening no speeches

Rather, the exhibits will be left "speak" for themselves."

The actual opening day will be advertised, an official of the soci-



RIDAY, MARCH 10, 1972

PIONEER HALL MUSE



After 12 years of walting, hoping and planning, the Ashburton Historical Socie-



Ashburton given new link with history

Documented history of the first years of colonial life in Ashburton County has been preserved in "Pioneer Hall," which will open to the public tomorrow afternoon.

museum set up by the they are contained, provide by district authors to be Ashburton Historical gamised living in Ashburton. Ing. They, and early maps Society in the former the chairman of this body that give a fascinating inwomen's rest rooms in was Mr Alexander Lean, sight into the extent and Havelock Street, given by the borough council.

the larger demestic equip-of "Pioneer Hall" are carment of the period 1850-1890, peted. Butter churns, milk dishes, photographs and early advertisements of the Staveley

cleaner-19th century style. il has a pipe to suck the dust ward Gibbon Wakefield. into the container, a large o cylindrical recentacle to tive power." This, in fact, is a bellows-like arrangement, that it approach the ment from 1856-75. He died County Council for assistance bellows-like arrangement. The user had to pump the arm up and down while traversing the cleaner across the floor.

HISTORIC MINUTAE

of the exhibits-documents ment. and photographs.

The most important of these are the minutes of the is also displayed, and infirst meeting of the Ashbur-cludes a cream jug once ton Roads Board on Febru owned by Captain Moody, ary 2, 1864-preceding the commander of the "Cutty" formation of the borough by Sark." 15 years. These minutes, and The Ashburton Library is

Pioneer Hall is a small the minute-book in which arranging a display of books

ments, and booklets are well many minute books, records, Entering the museum, visi- laid out in large glass-fronted and exhibits collected by the tors will first see some of display cabinets. The floors society.

ham was the only son of Ed- historic material,

Jerningham Wakefield ar account back to the Historirived in New Zealand in 1829 cal Society, with the suggeswhich is attached the "mo and was a member of Parlia-tion that it approach the

of the Ashburton County last year. Council, and, in addition to The former waiting room other duties, Minister of Eduof the old toilets holds most cation in the Seddon Govern-

LOCAL WRITING

Silverware from the period

whose portrait hangs in the knowledge of civilisation in those days, will add to the Other photographs, docu-interest provided by the

REQUEST TO COUNCIL At the Borough Council WAKEFIELDS, WALKER meeting on Monday evening The Wakefield family plays the Historical Society wrotetisements of the Staveley Co-operative Dairy Company's "Staveley Creamery Butter" form one of the displays.

Butter" form one of the displays.

Ferhaps one of the most Wakefield, and copies of his Pioneer Hall to a suitable. curious exhibits is a vacuum political paniphlets. Jerning- building for displaying the

> The council referred the said that the County Counci Another man prominent in had already signified its willthe museum displays, is W. ingness to assist the society. C. Walker, the first chairman at a joint committee meeting

COUNTY GRANT OF \$200 TO PIONEER HALL

The Ashburton County Councit yesterday decided to make a grant of \$200 to the Ashburton

60th Anniversary Celebrations October 2018





