

## Walter Lawrence Frederick CHAMBERS (1867-1932)

*1871 Census 11 Campbell Road, Bromley St Leonard, London*

Richard CHAMBERS	Head	31yrs	Miller	b Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire
Julia CHAMBERS	Wife	31yrs		b Thorley, Hertfordshire
Howard Thos CHAMBERS	Son	6yrs		b Tottenham, Middlesex
Walter Lawrence Fred CHAMBERS	Son	3yrs		b Ware, Hertfordshire
Stanley George CHAMBERS	Son	19months		b Ware, Hertfordshire
Evelyn Mary CHAMBERS	Dau	1 month		b Bromley, Middlesex
Jane SUTTLE	Sevt	19yrs	Domestic servant [unmarried]	b Sheuly Comps, Cambridge

*1881 Census Stanley House, Derby Road, Woodford, Essex*

Richard CHAMBERS	Head	41yrs	Miller	b Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire
Julia CHAMBERS	Wife	41yrs		b Thorley Wash, Hertfordshire
Howard T. CHAMBERS	Son	16yrs		b Tottenham, Middlesex
Walter L. F. CHAMBERS	Son	13yrs		b Ware, Hertfordshire
Stanley G. CHAMBERS	Son	11yrs		b Ware, Hertfordshire
Evelyn Mary CHAMBERS	Dau	10yrs		b Bow, Middlesex
Eliza TURRELL		18yrs	General servant	b Ingerstone, Essex

*The Waikato Times 6 Feb 1886 Resident Magistrate's Court Cambridge*

Spratt v W. Chambers. Breach of Railway by-laws in jumping off the train whilst in motion. The defendant pleaded guilty. Mr Dyer, for prosecution, stated the facts of the case to be that whilst the train was approaching the Cambridge station, and when near the crossing opposite the Presbyterian Church, the defendant had jumped off, with the apparent object of saving a short distance. The train was going at the rate of about five miles an hour, and the defendant ran considerable risk of a serious accident. The railway authorities were determined to take stricter measures in such cases, since the late fatality at Newmarket. The present case was a flagrant one, and he asked the court to inflict such a penalty as would act as a caution to others similarly inclined. In answer to the court the defendant said was ignorant of the law and had not seen the notices pasted at the various stations. His Worship said that was a bad excuse, as he was an educated young man and could read. Fined 10s and cost 1 pound 6s.

*Waikato Times 11 Feb 1886 The Late Drowning Accident at Cambridge – The Inquest*

The inquest on the remains of the unfortunate young man John Turnbull, drowned in the Waikato river in Cambridge on the 31<sup>st</sup> January, was held at Gwynne's Hotel Hamilton, on, Tuesday, before Mr W. N. Searancke, coroner, and the following jury: Messrs R. Peat (chairman), T. Qualtrough, G. Jessop, S. Tucker, W. Voice and D. McIntyre. The jury, having been duly sworn viewed the body, and the following evidence was then taken, Constable Brennan representing the police:-

**John Turnbull**, sworn, deposed: I am manager for Mr Taylor at Piako. I have seen the body now lying here. I cannot recognise it, but I believe it to be my son. He was 20 years of age last October. Had always been a steady and industrious lad, and was always in good health and spirits. Last saw him alive on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January. He resided at Cambridge.

**John Power**, an engine driver, employed on the railway at Cambridge, sworn, deposed: I knew deceased, I have seen the body lying here. I cannot recognise it, but I think it is that of John Turnbull. I was in deceased's company on Friday, the 31<sup>st</sup> January. We were at Lake Te Koutou, and deceased proposed that we should go and have a swim in the river. We went down to the bathing place below Major Wilson's about 4 o'clock and I sat down on the bank while deceased undressed himself. He asked me to go in, but I said it was too warm just then. He then went into the river. About eight minutes afterwards I heard some people crying out that a man was drowning, and I looked and saw it was deceased. I stripped off to go to his assistance. When I got about fifteen yards from him I saw his hand beating the water. I swam to the place, but there was then no sign of him. He had evidently been carried away with the current. James McVeagh was trying to save deceased at the time, and two others were close behind. I have known deceased well for the last year. There was nothing unusual about him that day. He was in good health and spirits. He was not a good swimmer. The river was about three feet higher on Sunday that it was some days previously, and the current a good deal stronger. I believe deceased met with his death by accident, and from no other cause. He got out too far and the current was too strong for him to get back. When I saw deceased in the water first he was about twenty yards from the bank, but by the time I got into the water he must have been at least 40 yards out, right in the current. Young McVeagh was trying to hold deceased up when I first saw him.

**James McVeagh**, sworn, deposed: I am a solicitor's clerk, residing at Cambridge. I was bathing. I saw deceased go in higher up and swim down towards the enclosure, evidently trying to reach it, but the back current was too strong for him, and appeared to keep him in one place. I noticed that he looked rather exhausted, and I fancy he called out, "Quick, I'm drowning," or words to that effect. He went under and I plunged in to go to his assistance, singing out to those on the bank to come and help me. I swam up to him and tried to catch hold of his hair, but it was too short. Then I tried to catch him by the ear, but failed, and then I caught his arm, but he slipped away from me several times. Deceased appeared to be insensible, as he made no attempt to grasp me. His head was hanging down in the water. I called out for help several times. A lad named Walter Chambers came out to me, but he did not touch deceased, who at that time had not gone down. I believe if assistance had come to me deceased might have been held up until the boat came. Chambers swam back and I followed. Three or four of us went back again when deceased was in the middle of the current, but he had disappeared before we or the boat could reach the spot. I do not think deceased could have been saved if a buoy had been thrown to him, as he appeared to be insensible after the first time he went down. I believe deceased could only swim about a chain in length. He did not appear to be nervous in the water. My opinion is that he was not a good enough swimmer to breast the current. I cannot recognise the body, but I think it is that of Turnbull. Constable Wild deposed that at about half-past three o'clock on the previous day Constable Murray informed him that young Turnbull's body was floating down the river. He procured a canoe, towed the body ashore, and placed it in an outhouse attached to the Hamilton Hotel. The Coroner having summed up, the jury, without retiring, returned a verdict of "Accidentally Drowned."

*The Waikato Times 22 May 1888*

The musical inhabitants of Cambridge are about to sustain a heavy loss by the removal to Auckland of Mr Walter Chambers, who has received an appointment under the Education Board. Mr Chambers has a fine baritone voice, and has been a very willing assistant at many of the local concerts, and he will be greatly missed. We wish him every success in his new sphere of life.

*New Zealand Herald 06 Oct 1888 page 5*

A most successful recital of sacred music was given yesterday evening at St Alban's Church, Mount Roskill Road. There was a large attendance. The programme was an excellent one. Solos were rendered by Miss C. Mackay and Messrs Martin, G. Shirley, T. Charter, E. Hosking, and W. L. F. Chambers, whilst Miss Davis and Mr Martin sang a duet, "Love Divine, all Love Excelling," and an unaccompanied quartette, "The Chapel," was contributed by Messrs Martin, Rice, G. Harker and Charter. The choir rendered a part song, "The Morning Prayer," and also the following:- "In the Beginning was the Word," "The Radiant Morn," and "God Hath Appointed a Day." The quartette to the latter was pleasingly sung by Miss Bleazard, Mrs Pierce, and Messrs Hosking and G. Harker. A number of boys sang a hymn, "Daily, Daily, Sing the Praises." In the course of the evening Archdeacon Dudley delivered a short address.

*Auckland Star 09 Aug 1889 page 1 Advertisement*

Eden and Epsom Lawn Tennis Club's Concert, St Sepulchre's Schoolroom, Tonight. Programme. Instrumental Quartette (Violin, Flute, Cello, and Piano), Haydn's Symphony No 7 – Messrs Kent, Skeet, Beale, and Macfarlane. **Song "The Roll Call" (Pinsuti) – Mr W. L. F. Chambers.** Quartette (Orpheus Glee Club) – Messrs Martin, Rookey, Hamberton, and Charter. Song "Forget, Forgive" – Miss Knight; violin obligato by Mr Eady. Duo (Piano and Cello), Allegro assai vivace. Opus 58 (Mendelssohn) – Miss Yates and Mr F. Clutsam. Recitation "Caged; or the Story of a Gaol Bird" – Mr J. J. Boak. Interval. Trio (Violin, Cello, and Piano) (Resiger), No.12 – Messrs Eady, Beale, and Macfarlane. Song "The Angels' Lullaby" (O. Barri) – Mrs Eady (with violin obligato Mr A. Eady). Song "Twas Rank and Fame" – Mr W. Martin. Piano Solo "Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata" (Presto movement) – Mrs Swears. Song "Serenade" (Gounod) – Mrs Lewis, with Cello Obligato, Mr J. A. Beale. Song "Speed On" – Mr J. Knox. "God Save the Queen." Doors open at 7.30; to begin at 8 p.m. Front seats 2s; Back Seats, 1s. Piano will be a Grand, obtained from the Berlin Piano Company.

*New Zealand Herald 23 Aug 1889 page 5 "Open Night" of the Savage Club*

... Mr W. L. F. Chambers was put down for a song, but it had to be omitted, as he had a sore throat...

*Auckland Star 07 Sep 1889 page 8*

The following ladies and gentlemen have consented to take part in the benefit concert to be given at the Choral Hall on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst., in aid of two deserving cases:- Lady Chute, Mesdames Cooper, Moss Davis, Hudson, Lewis and Perrin, Messrs Alf. Bartley, J. A. Beale, W. L. F. Chambers, S. Jackson, Kent, W. Manson, F. Montague, Stuart Maclean, J. B. Macfarlane, W. H. Skeet, and J. C. Sutherland. All the performers are rendering their services *gratis*.

*New Zealand Herald 07 Sep 1889 page 4*

As great interest is being taken in the concert to be given in the Choral Hall on the 19<sup>th</sup>; and as numerous inquiries are made regarding the names of the performers, we have pleasure in stating that the following ladies and gentlemen will take part:- Lady Chute, Mesdames Cooper, Moss Davis, Hudson, Lewis and Perrin, Messrs Alf. Bartley, J. A. Beale, W. L. F. Chambers, S. Jackson, Kent, W. Manson, F. Montague, Stuart Maclean, J. B. Macfarland, W. H. Skeet and J. C. Sutherland. The Choral Hall has been hired by a lady, as her contribution to the concert. Tickets and reserve seats can be secured at Wildman's Book Arcade.

*New Zealand Herald 07 Jun 1890 page 3 Board of Education*

The Auckland Board of Education met yesterday... The following resignations have been received:- Mr W. L. F. Chambers, assistant, Onehunga...

*The Waikato Times 26 Feb 1891 Waikato Farmers' Club (Cambridge Branch)*

The ordinary meeting of the above Club was held in the Club-room on Monday at 7.30pm. There was a good attendance of numbers, also several strangers from a distance, doubtless attracted by the announcement that Mr Robt. Dick would give an analysis of Pukerimu soil and that Mr Caverhill would be present to impart information re meat freezing. Mr G. E. Clark presided, Mr J. Fisher occupying the vice-chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed. New Members - Messrs Rd. Mears and W. L. F. Chambers were elected members of the Club....

*Waikato Times 23 Apr 1891 page 2*

Mr W. L. F. Chambers, of Cambridge, has decided to re-enter the teaching profession, as his throat appears to have sufficiently recovered to permit of his doing so. He has received an offer to take charge of the Raglan school, which he has accepted and he journeys there by Saturday's coach. His loss will be greatly felt amongst the musical circles of Cambridge, and especially at St. Andrew's Church, where he has lately officiated as choirmaster.

*Waikato Times 16 May 1891*

Mr Walter Chambers, son of Mr R. Chambers of Cambridge, who, it will be remembered, was lately appointed to the charge of the Raglan school, by the Auckland Board of Education, has resigned, having received a more lucrative appointment under the Wanganui Board. Mr Mieklejohn, M.A., who was stationed at Te Awamutu for some time in connection with the Presbyterian Church, has been appointed to the Raglan school, and relieved Mr Chambers this week.

*New Zealand Mail 6 Nov 1891 p15b Taranaki News*

Evening of the 3th[sic], concert for the benefit of Cricket Club. Mr Chambers sang "The Wedding morning", and afterwards an amusing song to the charms of "A Cup of Tea", when he played his own accompaniment.

*New Zealand Mail 8 Jan 1892 p16a Taranaki*

Report on Ngaire school picnic and later orchestral society concert. Mr Chambers sang, Master Douglas Sinclair gave recitation.

*Hawera & Normanby Star 27 Aug 1892 page 3 Advertisement*

Hawera Hospital – A Grand Vocal and Instrumental Concert will be held in the Town Hall, Hawera on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August (Night of the Canterbury-Taranaki Football Match) in aid of the funds of the proposed new hospital. Orchestra of 18 instruments, assisted by Misses Jacomb, of Patea; Mr Owen, of Wellington; Mr Chambers; Mr Hughes, Cornet Soloist. Conductor Mr J. Higham; Pianiste Miss Espagne. Programme Part 1: Grand Selection “Little Duke” (Ripley), Orchestra. Solo “True Till Death” Mr D. W. Fraser. Violin Solo “Le Rêve” (Goltermann), Mrs Nixon. **Solo “The Song of Hybrias, the Cretan” (Elliot) Mr W. L. F. Chambers.** Solo (with violin obligato) “The Children’s Home” (Cowan) Miss Jacomb. Solo “Marching” (Troté) Mr J. H. Owen. Violin Solo, Fantasia “Lucia di Lammermoor” (Bellini) Miss Cora Jacomb. Duo “Ora Pro Nobis (Piccolomini) Miss Reany and Mr Higham. Solo “Only Once More” (F. L. Moir) Mr J. Gaman. Trio (piano, violin and viola) “La Somnambula” (Bellini) Miss Espagne, Messrs Harpley and Higham – Interval of Five Minutes – Part II – Cornet Solo “Carnival de Venice” varie (Harman) Mr T. Hughes. Solo “River of Years” (Theo. Marzials), Mr Owen. Duo “The Invitation” (Glover) Misses Jacomb. Slide-Trombone Solo “Evening Star” (Wagner) Mr Higham. **Solo “The Longshoreman” (Chesham) Mr Chambers.** Violin Solo, 5<sup>th</sup> Air varie (De Beriot) Mr Harpley. Solo “Davy Jones” (Molloy) Mr Higham. Grand Valse “Heaven’s Songs” (Strauss) Orchestra. Finale “God Save the Queen!” Chorus and Orchestra. Doors open 7.30; concert commence 8 prompt. Reserved seats 4s; unreserved 3s; back seats 2s. Reserve seats may be secured at Fairs and Co.’s where box plan is on view. Tickets may be had from Messrs Fairs and Co., Hawera Drapery Co., Robbins and Pierard, J. Brunette, T. Hall, J. Boyd, W. Swinburne, G. Calvert (Eltham), J. Harpley (Normanby)

*New Zealand Mail 25 Nov 1892 p41c*

Concert in aid of St Mark’s organ fund - Mr Chambers' bass voice was heard to advantage in Lohr's well-known song, "Out on the Deep".

*1893 Patea Electoral Roll*

Walter Lawrence Frederick Chambers, Land Agent, Eltham

*Hawera & Normanby Star 29 Mar 1894 page 4 Advertisement*

Hawera Ladies Orchestra – First Concert – Hawera Town Hall, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1894. Conductor Mr J. Higham, Pianiste Miss Espagne. Programme Part I. Grand selection “Beggar Student” (Ripley) – Orchestra. Solo “Bedouin’s Love Song” (Pinsuti) – Mr Foster. Solo (selected) – Miss W. Cowern. **Solo “Island of Dreams” (S. Adams) – Mr W. L. F. Chambers.** Violin duo “Aire de Ballet” (S. Jacoby) Misses Harrison. Solo (selected) – Miss Knight. Vocal trio “Advent of Spring” – Mrs Fairhall, Messrs Chambers & Higham. Solo “The Better Land”... - Miss Cowern. Gavotte “Triumph” (Beebe) – Orchestra. Interval. Part II. Polka “Zingara”... Orchestra. **Solo “To Anthea” (J. L. Hatton) – Mr Chambers.** Duo “Flow Gently Diva” – Misses Cowern. Trio (violin, cello and piano) “Norma” (Ballini) – Misses Harrison, Espagne, Mrs Fairhall. Solo (selected) – Miss Knight. Valse “Ko Taku Aroha” (Higham) – Orchestra. Doors open 7.30 p.m.; commence at 8 prompt. Reserved seats, 3s; gallery, 2s; back seats, 1s. Seats reserved at Mr Nimmo Scott’s.

*Hawera & Normanby Star 07 Apr 1894 page 2 Ladies' Orchestral Concert*

... Mr W. L. F. Chambers, who is always a favorite, sang "Island of Dreams" very finely, and, encored, repeated the last verse. Later on he have Hatten's "To Anthea" a very pretty song, and had to respond to an imperative encore, when he gave "Close to the Threshold." Mr Chambers has quite mastered the art of singing well without detriment to enunciation; and his voice also gave evidence of careful training...

*The New Zealand Mail 16 Jan 1896 page 15 A correspondent writes:-*

On Tuesday 7th inst., a very pretty wedding was solemnised at Pohokura thirty miles from Stratford on the East Road. The contracting parties were Miss Katie Sinclair eldest daughter of John Sinclair, Esq., late of Wainuiomata, and Walter, third son of Mr Richard Chambers of Cambridge. The ceremony took place at the residence of the brides parents, the Rev. A. English, of the Anglican Church, officiating. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked most charming in a gown of rich ivory corded silk, with the conventional veil and orange blossoms, and was attended by her sisters, Miss Isabel and Jeanne Sinclair, in pale green nun's veiling trimmed with white silk. Mr Stanley G. Chambers, of Hawkes Bay, attended his brother as best man. After a most enjoyable breakfast, at which some very good speeches were made, the bride and bridegroom drove away amid showers of good wishes, rice and old shoes for their home near Oakura, New Plymouth. The bride wore a most stylish costume of grey, trimmed with iridescent beading and yellow silk, with cape to match and white hat trimmed with buttercups and black feathers. A great number of handsome and useful presents were received by the young couple from friends far and near.

*1896 Supplementary Taranaki Electoral Roll*

Walter Lawrence Frederic Chambers, Schoolmaster, Tataraiamaka

*Taranaki Herald 26 Nov 1898 page 2 Masonic*

For some considerable time past a number of the Freemasons resident on the coast between Opunake and Okato have felt the lack of a Lodge within convenient distance from their homes, and they recently petitioned the Grand Lodge of New Zealand to grant a warrant for the establishment of a Lodge to hold meetings at Rahotu. The petition having been endorsed by Lodge Ngamotu, and favourably considered by the Board of General Purposes at Christchurch, a warrant was duly issued for the erection of Lodge Ikaroa (Ikaroa being an old Maori place name of the Cape Egmont district), to be numbered 115 on the roll of the Grand Lodge; and the Grand Master's Precent authorizing him to conduct the consecration ceremonies was placed in the hands of the Right Worshipful H. J. Williams, who, as Grand Superintendent of the Wellington-Taranaki District, is well known and highly esteemed by the Masons all over the southern half of this island, throughout which extensive district some 26 Lodges are under his supervision. Visiting Taranaki for the double purpose of conducting the installation of Ngamotu and the opening of Ikaroa, the Grand Superintendent left town at 7 o'clock on Thursday morning, accompanied by 17 of the local brethren, and after a very pleasant drive, Rahotu was reached shortly before noon, the hour fixed for the ceremonial. The founders of the new Lodge have arranged to hold their meetings in the neat and convenient chapel recently built by the Wesleyan body, who are to be congratulated upon having such a commodious place of worship in the rising township of Rahotu. The proceedings commenced by the reception of the Deputy Grand Master and Grand and acting Grand officers, who at once assumed the positions usually occupied by the office bearers of a regularly constituted Lodge, the D.G.M. taking the chair, Bros. T. Shailer Weston (W.M. of Ngamotu), Smart (P.M. of Stratford) and Lightfoot (W.M. of Moa), acting respectively as Wardens and Pursuivant, Bro. Gillespie taking the work of Grand Secretary, while V. W. Hector Dempsey, P.G.A.S., discharged the important duties of Grand Chaplain in the absence of Rev F. G. Evans, who holds that office in Grand Lodge. The petitioning brethren having been marshalled in the centre of the building, the ceremony of consecration of the new Lodge to the Glory of God was impressively performed, and the Lodge solemnly dedicated with corn, wine, oil, and incense. The installation of the Master-Elect followed, and Past Master F. P. Corkill was duly inaugurated as first Worshipful Master of Lodge Ikaroa. Then came the investiture of the officers, viz:- Immediate Past Master, Bro. H. Kitchingman; Senior Warden, Bro. W. L. F. Chambers; Junior Warden, Bro. T. Hickman; Treasurer, Bro. Eb. Maxwell; Secretary, Bro. T. A. Bradley; Chaplain, Rev H. Mason; Senior Deacon, Bro. T. J. Smith; Junior Deacon, Bro. F. West; Inner Guard, Bro. E. Hansen. After the Deputy Grand Master and accompanying officers had retired the Lodge commenced its regular work, and two gentlemen were initiated into the mysteries of the Craft. Hearty good wishes having been tendered by the visiting brethren representing English, Irish, and Colonial Lodges, the Master invited all present to join him at dinner, and the Lodge was closed in due form. During the whole of the proceedings Bro. Kitchingman presided at the organ, and valuable service was rendered by Bro. Bartrop, who assumed the duties of Grand Director of Ceremonies at short notice and proved himself *facile princeps* in that capacity. The dinner was laid in a large room belonging to Bro. West, who had kindly placed it at the disposal of the wives and sweethearts of the members of the new Lodge. These ladies had provided a generous spread, which was thoroughly appreciated by their guests and acknowledged by a bumper toast to 'The Ladies of Rahotu.' Leaving at six o'clock town was reached at ten and the brethren dispersed with mutual good wishes, and feeling that they had a real good day.

*Taranaki Daily News 02 Oct 1900 page 2 Land Board*

The Land Board met on Monday. Present: Messrs Strauchon (Chairman), Stock, and Heslop. Land applied for since last meeting was:- ... section 4, block 11, Cape, W. L. F. Chambers, 279 acres, l.i.p. [ possibly Lease in Perpetuity ]

*Taranaki Herald 21 May 1901 page 2 Land Board*

The Board met at 11.30 a.m., on Monday. Present: The Commissioner of Crown Lands (in the chair), Hon. T. Kelly, and Messrs Stock, Heslop, and Rattenbury... The Commissioner reported that W. L. F. Chambers had failed to sign his lease of sec 4, block 11, Cape, within 30 days as provided by section 82 of the Act. Resolved that the lease be declared forfeited and the contract for sale be null and void.

*Opunake Times Friday 7 Jun 1901 Wesleyan Church Concert*

The above concert was held on Tuesday evening in the Town Hall, and although the weather was very rough there was a good attendance. The programme opened with an overture by Messrs Humphries, D. and W. McNeill, Martin and Pearce, which was played in good style. The several choruses by the children were excellently rendered and reflect great credit on Miss Penney's tuition. The tableau, with song by Miss Dora Penney, "Please give me a penny sir" was a very pretty and effective item. Mr W. Penney acquitted himself well in the song "Just as the Sun went down". Mr Hurst gave a couple of recitations and was recalled for his second effort. He also sang "The British Navy", tunefully. Miss Des Forges sang "Because I Love You" in a very pleasing manner. Mr Mildenhall gave an excellent rendering of "Queen of the Earth". The old favourite song "Romany Lass" by Mr Chambers was quite a musical treat. The pianoforte duet, played by Miss and Mr Humphries was loudly applauded. Miss Wickstead was heard to advantage in the song "For Old Times Sake". A second tableau "John Anderson My Jo" with song by Miss Penney was very much appreciated. Miss Penney also sang "The Cows are in the Clover" very charmingly. The programme concluded with a march and singing of the national anthem by the children. The accompaniments during the evening were played by Mrs Wickstead, Misses Penney and Hickman, and Mr J. Humphries.

*Opunake Times Friday 7 Jun 1901 Farewell to Dr Low*

At the Forrester's Hall on Wednesday evening over forty members and invited friends gathered together to bid farewell to the surgeon of Court Egmont, A. O. F. ... During the evening the following items were given:- Mr Chambers sang "Romany Lass" and "The Longshoreman"; Mr Staite, "No Fear", "Ya, Ya", "Arab's farewell to his steed"; Mr Des Forges, "A rolling stone gathers no moss", "The old rustic bridge"; Mr H. Briggs, a medley song, "Ta ra ra"; Mr R. Stewart (recitation) "The Man from Snowy River"; Mr Peters, "The Outlaw"; Mr Englefield, "The Powder Monkey"; Mr Tunbridge, comic; Mr Finn, "Let it be soon"; Mr Warner, "Marching through Georgia"; Mr Martin, "Just as the sun went down"; Mr Markham, "The sea is England's glory"; Mr Humphries, "Let me like a soldier fall"; Mr Christie, (recitation) "Allan Bayne"; D. Lowe, recitation; Mr J. Hickey, song; Mr King, "Down in a coal mine"; Mr Murray Fowler and Mr J. Humphries officiated at the piano. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought the proceedings to a close at half-past twelve.

*Opunake Times 2 Jul 1901 Westport Coal*

W. Chambers is now prepared to supply Westport Coal at:- Per ton, delivered, 2 pounds 17s 6d (Cash on delivery) Oats crushed - 8d per bushel.

*Opunake Times 16 Jul 1901 Westport Coal*

W. Chambers is now prepared to supply Westport Coal at:- Per ton, delivered, 2 pounds 17s 6d (Cash on delivery) Oats crushed - 3d per bushel.



*Opunake Times Friday 2 Aug 1901 Benefit Social*

The Social on Wednesday evening was well attended. The main feature of the evening, to the majority of course, was tripping the light fantastic, this was kept up until a late hour, the music being excellent. During the evening songs were sung by Messrs Chambers and Collins, and Miss Henderson. The two former are old favourites with the Opunake audience and were, as usual, in good voice. Miss Henderson is a new comer and the possessor of a fine voice with good range, her rendering of "His Majesty", showed artistical capabilities. Mr Brennan in the dual capacity returned thanks (on behalf of the committee) for the attendance of the public and the contributions from donators for the supper; also, on behalf of W. McLeod for the patronage tendered on his behalf. Praise is due to the secretary, Mr Clarke, as the "heavy end" of the work fell to his lot, and was ably assisted by Messrs Elgar, Young, Duffil, Hickey, Reid and Mesdames Clarke and Guy. The music was provided by Messrs Humphries (pianos), McNeill Bros. (violins), Pearce and McMillan (cornets); Mrs Wickstead played for the extra waltzes. Mr Elgar acted as M.C. It is expected that when all the tickets are in the receipts from the social will total within ten pounds.

*Hawera Star 15 Oct 1901 & Opunake Times 18 Oct 1901*

The other day we were afforded an opportunity of inspecting the model of a fire escape designed by Mr Walter L. F. Chambers, of Opunake. The idea is novel, and we see no reason why the invention should not be of profit to the ingenious inventor. It is proposed that the pilasters of a building shall be moveable, by means of a lever placed on each floor. On the inside of each pilaster will be an iron ladder, and on an alarm of fire, by manipulating the lever the pilaster falls out from the building a distance of two feet, and the ladder is ready for use. In the event of the alarm being given from outside, mechanism (in the ordinary course kept under lock and key) will be at the disposal of the fire brigade, who may drop the pilasters into the required position. Mr Chambers has shown his patent to practical men, who are impressed with its feasibility.

*Evening Post 19 Oct 1901 page 2 Patents*

... W. L. F. Chambers and G. Davies, Opunake, fire-escapes...

*Hawera & Normanby Star 23 Dec 1901 page 2 County Council*

... Grass Seed. W. L. F. Chambers asked for permission to cut grass seed on portions of the road between Manaia and Opunake. Referred to Waimate Road Board...

*Opunake Times Friday 27 Dec 1901 Concert*

In the evening a large audience assembled at the hall for the concert which opened with a pianoforte solo by Mr M. Fowler played in good style. Mr McDavitt followed with the popular song "Boys in blue" which caught on with the audience who joined in the chorus. Miss Bessie Penney who was in capital voice sang "Beauty Sleep" in a very pleasing manner. Mr Will Francis as usual quite brought down the house with his female impersonation "My first Wife" and had to respond to a recall when he contributed in a very humorous manner "Coming thro' the dye". Mr Cameron danced a "Sailors' Hornpipe" in very fine style to the piping of Mr McLeod and later danced the "Sword Dance" in a very artistic style. Mr W. L. F. Chambers sang "The place where the old horse died" in good style and was loudly applauded. Miss Loder danced the Highland Fling in even better style than she displayed in the competition on the sports ground, and received unstinted applause. Mrs Gilmour sang "Asthore" very sweetly. Miss N. Penny and Messrs M. Fowler and J. Humphries played the accompaniments. The farce "The Wigmakers" was then staged after an interval of ten minutes, and kept the audience in roars of laughter throughout. The room was then cleared for dancing, which was kept up with vigor for several hours. The proceeds of concert and dance total about 17 pounds 10s. On the whole the [Caledonian] Society and the management must be congratulated on the highly successful result of the day's amusement, which will no doubt encourage them to go in for an improved programme, and further improvement to the ground for next meeting.

*Hawera & Normanby Star 17 Jan 1902 page 2 Waimate Road Board*

The Hawera County Council forwarded a letter received from W. L. F. Chambers, Opunake, asking for permission to cut cocksfoot grass growing on the main South road between Opunake and Manaia. The Chairman reported having replied to Mr Chambers that the Board would have no objection to his cutting the grass, but that if he did so it would be at his own risk.

*Opunake Times 28 Feb 1902 Visit of The Hon. Sir Joseph Ward K.C.M.G.; Enthusiastic reception.*

Wednesday last, being the occasion of the first visit of Sir Joseph Ward to Opunake, was quite a gala day in the town. His visit was made at the request of the people, who were desirous of hearing him, and they consequently tendered him an invitation and request that he would perform the ceremony of opening the new Post Office and Courthouse recently erected. The town was gaily decorated with bunting by Mr Des Forges, assisted by Messrs Swaysland and Wallace, and generally the place bore a holiday look. Many country settlers came into town for the occasion, and the school children were given a holiday and were in evidence at the opening ceremonies. The reception committee had decided on a much more effective display, but the notice of the exact time of his visit was so short that all the proposed arrangements could not be carried out. At one o'clock the Ministerial party, consisting of Sir Joseph Ward, his private secretary, Messrs E. M. Smith and F. McGuire, M.H.R.'s Ronayne, Gore, and G. W. Taylor, arrived, and were received by the reception committee and a large assemblage of the public. Mr M. J. Brennan, chairman of the reception committee, welcomed Sir Joseph Ward to the town, and called for three cheers for him, which were given with a will. The party then proceeded to the Post Office, which was gaily decorated with bunting, and the chairman introduced the business of the day.

On coming forward Sir Joseph Ward was greeted with applause, and said it afforded him very great pleasure to be present that day, the occasion being an important one in the history of the town and district. Ministers as far as was possible endeavoured to make themselves personally acquainted with all parts of the colony, the affairs of which they were called on to administer. He was highly gratified and pleased with this appearance of the magnificent country he had passed through that day, and was delighted to observe the general air of comfort and prosperity which he had noticed on all sides. The district was noted for

its rainfall, but this could only be looked on as a great blessing, when they considered the great droughts which afflicted parts of the neighbouring Australian colonies. The whole of New Zealand was in a highly prosperous state, and he was pleased to see every evidence that this district was participating in it. In regard to the postal and telegraph department with which that day's proceedings were intimately connected, it would be admitted that it was one of the most important branches of the public service. Its officers needed to be men of the utmost integrity, as the most private affairs of the community had to be entrusted to them, and he had no hesitation in saying that it enjoyed the fullest confidence of the public. The first post-office was opened in Opunake in 1870, and the first post-master was Mr Black, who received the munificent salary of 5 pounds a year. Now the staff had increased to three. He then gave a comparative statement showing the growth of the business. The Government, he said, where possible when erecting public buildings, looked to the future and consequently had erected the present office in brick and had so planned it that when necessary it could be enlarged, which he hoped the rapid progress which the district was evidently making would soon become a necessity. The member for the district, Mr E. M. Smith, had never lost an opportunity of bringing the needs of the district under the notice of the authorities, and he had just returned from England where he had been engaged in endeavouring to bring the iron and sand industry to a successful issue. If he succeeded it would mean great prosperity, not only to Taranaki, but the whole colony, and he was sure every one present, as well as himself, hoped that Mr Smith would be successful in his endeavours as he had spent the best years of his life and his indomitable energy in the undertaking. (Applause) He said he was pleased to learn that the school children had been granted a holiday as, on such occasions he always requested that favor on their behalf. Again wishing every prosperity to the district and that it might continue making rapid strides he now had much pleasure in declaring the Post Office duly opened. (Applause) Mr E. M. Smith then came forward and was warmly received. He said he would not detain them then as he intended taking the earliest opportunity of addressing them and he would reserve his remarks till then. He briefly referred to his mission home and took the opportunity of thanking Mr McGuire for having given him a pair during his absence, so that the Government should not lose the benefit of his side. (Applause) Mr F. McGuire, on stepping forward was received with enthusiasm, and said it afforded him much pleasure to be present on such an auspicious occasion, and he hoped that it would not be long until the rapid development of the town and country necessitated larger public buildings still and that it would be connected by rail with the main line near Eltham. (Applause) Cheers were then given for Sir Joseph Ward, Messrs Smith and McGuire, and the chairman. The party then proceeded to the new Court-house where, in a brief speech, Sir Joseph Ward declared it duly opened.

THE BANQUET. An adjournment was then made to Middleton's Hotel where an excellent spread was laid out by Host O'Meara, the quality of which quite upheld the reputation of the house. Mr M. J. Brennan, Chairman of Reception Committee occupied the chair. On his right were Sir Joseph Ward and Mr F. McGuire, M.H.R.; and on the left Mr E. M. Smith, M.H.R. and Mr Ronayne, General Manager of Railways. Mr Robt. Lambie occupied the vice-chair. There were also present:- Mr H. Dunbar Johnston (Judge of the Native Land Court), Mr Gore (N.Z. Railways), Mr G. W. Taylor (Mayor of Eltham); Messrs W. Armstrong, G. P. Armstrong, W. R. Barclay, C. E. Bryce, P. Cook, W. Chambers, J. Conaglen, M. Deegan, M. Finn, J. Feaver, M. Heath, D. M. Holmes, R. Lambie, A. Lusk, J. Macfie, R. Malcolm, R. Morris, E. Maxwell, J. Miller, A. H. Moore, J. McDavitt, D. McGregor, C. McHardy, J. C. O'Rorke, T. O'Connor, J. F. Phillips, G. W. Rogers, J. Ryan, F. Read, C. S. Stronge, J. Simpson, J. Stevenson, C. B. Sims, J. Stewart, G. Tindle, C. A. Trotter, J. Thacker, B. Vickery, R. Warner, G. Wallace, C. Wong, J. Young.

CONCERT. The concert organised by Mr J. Humphries and members of his orchestra, in aid of the funds of the Opunake Brass Band, took place on Wednesday evening, when there was a good attendance in the Town Hall. The opening piece was a Grand March entitled "Great Inter Ocean" played in capital style by the orchestra, consisting of Messrs Martin, McNeill Bros. (violins) Pearce (cornet) and Humphries (piano). They also played a selection "L. Elisir D. Amore", a quick march, "Present Arms" and a selection from "Maritana" being deservedly applauded for each item. Song "My Dearest Heart" by Miss B. Penney, was very effectively rendered, for which she elicited rounds of applause. Mr Chambers was vociferously encored for his expressive singing of

"The Arab's Farewell to his Steed" and repeated the last verse. A cornet duet "Home to our Mountains" by Messrs Cummins and Pearce, was splendidly played. A chorus "Mary and Martha" by Messrs Middleton and Humphries, Mesdames Martin and Harrison, and Misses Harrison and Penney, was very much appreciated, the various parts being well taken. They also sang "Sweet Chiming Bells" with equally good effect. Miss N. O'Brien received unstinted applause for the rendering of "A light in the window" which was sweetly sung. "My Life for Thee" was well sung by Mr Mildenhall in his well-known style, which was duly appreciated. The Brass Band played a selection entitled "Sydney by night" and were very loudly applauded. It was explained that this piece was composed from different tunes heard by the composer during a nocturnal visit round the city of Sydney. Mr W. Francis almost convulsed the audience in his comic song "Give 'em all a Turn" and in response to an encore gave "Dear old Bobs". Miss B. Harrison was very successful in her singing of "Soldier Laddie" the appreciation of which was shown by loud applause. The song "Old Madrid" was finely given by Mrs A. Martin who was rapturously applauded. Mr E. C. Middleton gave a good rendering of "Steady boys, steady" which was well appreciated. A piano duet by Mr and Miss Humphries was played in capital style and good time. The singing of God Save the King brought the programme to a close. The accompaniments were played by Mr and Miss Humphries. Mr Armstrong, on behalf of the promoters of the concert and the band, returned thanks to the audience and the performers, Messrs Humphries and Pearce being deserving of special thanks for their spirit in organising the concert. Dancing was kept up for several hours by about 40 couples to good music, aided by light refreshment. The band should benefit to the extent of between 8 and 10 pounds.

*Opunake Times Tuesday 8 Apr 1902*

On Friday evening an accident happened opposite the English Church to Mr and Mrs Preston. Mr Preston states he was coming into Opunake from New Plymouth in his trap and was walking his horse along slowly, keeping to his own side of the road, when he was run into by some girls on horseback. His horse jumped up and bolted forward, pitching Mrs Preston out on one side and himself on the other. His horse got clear of the trap with the sudden jerk, and on looking round Mr Preston found his wife under the wheel of the trap. He desires to thank Mr and Mrs D. Carroll and Mr and Mrs Chambers for their kind assistance.

*Opunake Times Friday 11 Apr 1902 Farewell to Rev. C. Penney*

On Wednesday evening about one hundred persons assembled in the Town Hall to take part in the farewell to Rev. C. Penney, who has been appointed to the Franklyn district by the Methodist Conference. Mr J. Guy, in referring to the object of the assemblage, said that Mr Penney had been here for four years, and most people remembered the way the family entertained them when they came here by the singing of the Jubilee songs. That evening others were going to entertain the Penney Family and a programme of songs would be gone through. The following items were contributed: Duet, Miss and Mr Humphries; they also played a piece later in the evening; Messrs Englefield, Mildenhall, Chambers and Wiggins sang quartettes entitled "It is so", "Away over there" and "Who Did"; Mr Mildenhall sang "The old brigade" and "Because I love you"; Miss Penney gave "All Halloween" and afterwards sang "Dear old home" responding to an encore with "Cuckoo"; Mr Jones was encored for his song "Nellie Moore" and responded with "The whistling of the wind"; recitation "The lightning roddist" Mr Hurst; trio "Good Night" Messrs Chambers, Wiggins and Mildenhall. The accompaniments were played by Mrs Jones, Miss Nita Penney, Miss Hickman, and Mr J. Humphries...

*Opunake Home Warrant Book 1883-1912 Archives NZ Wellington Reference ABIB W3865 Box 4*

6 Aug 1902 Plaintiff: L. F. Chambers; Defendant: Hd. Shaw; Document: Witness warrant; Amount £9 13s 6d

*Taranaki Herald 20 Feb 1903 Parihaka Road Board*

Applications for the vacant clerkship was then opened as follows:- Messrs R. J. Blinkhorn, G. Pullen, H. Kitchingham, J. B. Knowles and W. L. F. Chambers. After some discussion Mr Knowles was appointed to the position.

*Taranaki Herald 11 Nov 1903 page 7 Masonic*

On Thursday last the annual meeting of Lodge "Ikaroa," 115, was held at Rahotu, when there was a large gathering of the craft from all parts of the province. Additional interest was imparted to the proceedings by the dedication of the Hall recently erected for the use of the Lodge, which has hitherto met in the Methodist Church. The Lodge opened at 4 p.m. and disposed of routine business. On resuming at 6.30 the R.W.G. Superintendent (Bro. F. P. Corkill) was announced, accompanied by Grand and Acting Grand Officers as follows:- S.G.W., Wor. Bro. W. F. Brooking (De Burgh Adams Lodge 116 I.C.); J.G.W., Wor. Bro. A. Goldwater (De Burgh Adams Lodge); Grand Chaplain, Very Wor. Bro. Rev F. G. Evans, P.G.C. (Ngamotu Lodge, 48); Grand Director of Ceremonies, Wor. Bro. J. W. Warren, P.G.D. (Stratford Lodge, 75); S.G.D., Wor. Bro. Foote (St John, 95); **J.G.D., Wor. Bro. W. L. F. Chambers (Ikaroa Lodge, 115)**; Grand Secretary, Bro. A. J. Edmunds (Ngamotu Lodge, 48). The Acting Grand Secretary having read the Commission appointing R. W. Bro. Corkill as Deputy Grand Master, the ceremony was at once proceeded with and the building solemnly dedicated to Freemasonry, Virtrue, and Universal Benevolence, according to ancient usage, with corn, wine and oil, and sweet incense. Afterwards the Deputy Grand Master declared Wor. Bro. Sydney Pelham re-installed as Worshipful Master of the Lodge, and called upon him to invest the officers for the coming year. The list of officers is as follows:- Bro. Geo. W. Rogers, Senior Warden; Bro. Henry T. S. Downs, Junior Warden; Bro. E. Maxwell (re-elected) Treasurer; Bro. Geo. P. Armstrong, Secretary; Bro. Stuart M. Englefield, Senior Deacon; Bro. William K. Francis, Junior Deacon; Bro. Thos. Brownlee, Organist; Bro. Frank E. Dobson, Inner Guard; Bro. Fred. West, Tyler (Hon); Wor. Bro. Henry Kitchingman, P.M., Director of Ceremonies; Bro. Geo. Tindle, Senior Steward; Bro. Carter, Junior Steward. After having served the Lodge for five years as Honorary Tyler, Bro. Joseph Eatock now retires from that office, with the respect and gratitude of his Brethren for his willing and self-denying labours. In the ceremony of installation the Deputy Grand Master was assisted by R. W. Bro. John Ellis, Provincial Grand Inspector of the Constitution of Ireland, and Wor. Bros. Warren, Goldwater and Brooking. Bro. Her... efficiently presided at the organ and contributed largely to the success of the musical portions of the programme, while Wor. Bro. Warren was, as always, a most capable Grand Director of Ceremonies. At the conclusion of the proceedings the customary good wishes were tendered. The brethren subsequently adjourned to the Rahotu Public Hall, where an excellent spread awaited them. Owing to the recent death of the M. W. Bro. Henry Thomson, Past Grand Master, the toast list was curtailed and the usual songs and honours, altogether omitted, but a very pleasant time was spent before the New Plymouth brethren had to leave for their long drive. A regrettable accident occurred during the afternoon, when Bro. J. W. Wilson was thrown out of his gig on the road between Rahotu and Opunake and received a severe shaking and numerous contusions. The vehicle which caused the horse to shy contained a number of the Opunake Masons who were proceeding to the Lodge, and they at once attended to Bro. Wilson and drove back to Opunake in order that he might obtain medical aid. This was fortunately available and afterwards the whole party came on to Rahotu, where Bro. Wilson was put to bed and well looked after by Miss Daley and the staff of the Rahotu Hotel. He came back to New Plymouth next day and is now making rapid recovery. Bro. Dr. Laidlaw was with him at the time of the accident and was also thrown out but happily escaped injury.

*Taranaki Herald 28 Jan 1904*

A reminder is given of the concert to be held at Warea on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. A really excellent musical programme has been provided several of the numbers being by request. It is a long time since the Warea people have heard their two old favourites, Mr Walter Chambers and Miss Daisy Taylor, while specially delightful items will be those contributed by Mr Frank Cornwall, the well-known violinist. One of Miss Taylor's numbers will be Ardit's famous "Il Bacio." In short, all music-lovers will, on that evening, have a thorough treat. Should the evening be wet, the concert will be held on the following Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

*New Zealand Mail 15 Feb 1905 p28d*

Opunake. Footpaths of town receiving top-dressing of fine metal. Work being done by Mr Chambers and the Town Board's foreman.

*Opunake Times 4 Sep 1906 Coal, Coal*

Taupiri House Coal, Single Stack 5s 6d delivered; Walter L. F. Chambers Wharfinger & General Carrier; Agent: New Zealand Express Co. Ltd.

*Opunake Times 4 Sep 1906 Church of England Concert*

On Monday evening a good programme was submitted to a fair and appreciative audience in the Town Hall. Mr J. Humphries opened the programme with a spirited pianoforte selection. Miss Johns sang "Asleep in the deep" with good effect and Mr Lonergan followed with a good rendering of "Davy Jones Locker". Miss Parkes sang "Flight of Ages" very effectively, and was equally successful in "Sing me to sleep". "To the front" was sung with good expression by Mr Gray. Mrs O'Meara contributed "Gondola Dreams" in her well known pleasing manner, and was followed by Mr Chambers, who sang "Galilee" (with cello obligato by Mr W. Markham) in splendid style. He also gave "The Scout" with good effect. Mr Mildenhall was recalled for his fine singing of "Old Madrid" and repeated a verse. Miss Brown sang "Till death" in a sympathetic manner. Mr Gordon was encored for "The Mighty Deep" and responded with "Queen of the earth". The same performer also supplied the humerous part of the programme by giving a musical sketch, being an imitation of Melba Spurr's style. He kept the audience in laughter the whole of the time. On being encored he created further merriment by telling a funny story. The accompaniments were played by Mrs Feaver, Miss Hickman, and Mr Humphries. The National Anthem terminated the concert. Dancing was then merrily indulged in for a few hours. Mr Humphries supplying good and lively music, assisted by Miss Hickman and Mr C. Feaver. Mr S. Forsyth acted as M.C. The ladies supplied cordial drinks and refreshments. The committee express their thanks to the performers for their valued services. The receipts will amount to about 11 pounds.

*Opunake Times 18 Sep 1906*

A farewell social was tendered to Mr and Mrs B. Ramsey (who are going to Hamilton) in the Town Hall last evening when there were between 30 and 40 couples present, who had an enjoyable evening at dancing, cards and singing. Vocal items were given by Mrs Ramsey, Messrs Gordon, Gray, McDavitt, Mildenhall and Chambers. Dance music was supplied by Miss Humphries, Messrs Humphries, McNeill, Duncan, W. Markham, Gordon and C. Feaver. Mr J. Goldie was M.C. and Miss Hicks acted as secretary. The singing of 'Auld Lang Syne' terminated the evening.

*Opunake Times 16 Jul 1907 Egmont County Council - accounts passed for payment*  
W. Chambers £2 3s.

*Opunake Times 17 Jan 1908*

The Church of England Sunday School picnic took place on Wednesday on the property of Mr J. Feaver, jun., Opuia road. The day was beautifully fine, and consequently every child that could away availed itself of the opportunity of a drive. Mr Chambers' drag left at ten o'clock and made several trips with passengers, including a large number of parents. Two spreads were given the kiddies of abundance of food. Games and wandering about in the bush interested them until it was time to go home, when, with weary steps and sunburnt faces they wended their way to the waiting vehicles. As they entered the town they made their voices heard, declaring that it was the best picnic they had been to, which is sufficient gratification for the teachers and others who organised the annual treat.

*Opunake Times – have searched up to 3 Mar 1908*

*Hawera & Normanby Star 29 Apr 1908 page 5 Opunake*

The following committee was elected: Rev J. McArthur, Messrs G. Looney, T. Humphries, J. Garcia, C. A. Trotter, D. Markham, W. L. F. Chambers

*Taranaki Herald 06 Nov 1909 page 3 Masonic*

The annual meeting of the Lodge Ikaroa, No.115, was held in the Masonic Hall at Rahotu on Thursday evening, when there was a record gathering of members of the craft from all parts of the district. The installation ceremonies were conducted by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, who was assisted by visiting P.M.'s and members of the lodge. The officers for the year were as follows:- W.M. Bro. J. Young; Senior Warden, Bro. C. Sorrensen; Junior Warden, Wor. Bro., W. L. F. Chambers, P.M.; Treasurer, Wor. Bro. T. Hickman, P.M.; Secretary, Wor. Bro. W. K. Francis, P.M.; J.D., Bro. E. L. Thorpe; D.C., Wor. Bro. W. L. F. Chambers, P.M.; I.G., Bro. A. Clarke; Tyler (hon.), Bro. F. West; Steward, Bro. T. Penwarden. The presenting officer was Wor. Bro. G. W. Rogers, the retiring master. The main portion of the ceremony of installation were taken by the Right Wor. Bro. F. P. Corkill, Prov. Grand Master, and Wor. Bros. G. W. Rogers, I.P.M., N. K. McDairmid, P.M., S. J. Candish, P.M., R. J. Surrey, P.M., and L. C. Sladden, P.M. At the close of the installation an adjournment was made to the public hall, where an excellent repast was provided by the licensee of the Rahotu Hotel, Mr A. Hood, whose efforts as caterer were highly appreciated by the large gathering.

*Taranaki Daily News 18 Nov 1911 page 4 Local and General*

At Opunake on Tuesday evening the brethren of Lodge Ikaroa met for the purpose of their annual installation and investiture of officers. R. W. Bro. T. C. Fookes (Provincial Grand Master) conducted the ceremony of installing W. Bro. W. L. F. Chambers as W.M., and the latter then invested his officers as follows:- I.P.M., W. Bro. C. Sorrensen; S.W., Bro. E. L. Thorpe; J. W., Bro. A. Clarke; treasurer and D.C., W. Bro. G. W. Rogers; secretary and organist, Bro. K. L. Cannell; S.D., Bro. D. Penwarden; J.D., Bro. C. Hurst; I.G., Bro. T. Parsons; S., Bro. W. J. Todd; chaplain, Bro. Rev. H. W. Klingender; Tyler, Bro. D. A. Mullen. There were visitors present from New Plymouth, Stratford, Eltham and Stratford. After the ceremony a repast was partaken of, the usual toast list and musical programme gone through.



*Taranaki Daily News 17 Nov 1915 page 6 Opunake Fires*

At Opunake yesterday a coroner's enquiry was held into the circumstances surrounding the recent fire at Opunake, when, on the night of October 6, an outbreak occurred in the residence owned by Frederick James Butterworth, and as a result the residence, together with the adjoining one, owned by W. Cubbon, was totally destroyed, the contents of the former and the greater part of those of the latter also being burnt. Considerable local interest was taken in the proceedings, as there have been numerous fires in the district of late years, many of which have originated mysteriously. The court house was accordingly crowded throughout the enquiry, which was held before Mr G. W. Rogers, J.P., Acting Coroner, and the following jury: Messrs W. L. F. Chambers (foreman), W. J. Todd, M. Dugan, S. Parkes, C. Sorrensen, and S. Feaver... At 3 p.m. the jury retired, returning ten minutes later with a verdict that there was no evidence to show how the fire occurred.

*Opunake Times 06 Feb 1920 Wedding*

A pretty wedding took place at St Barnabas' Church, Opunake, on February 4<sup>th</sup>, when Miss Margery Chambers, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs W. L. F. Chambers, was married to Mr Arthur Joseph McEldowney, son of Mr John McEldowney, of Wellington. The Rev C. Palmer officiated. The bride who was given away by her father, looked charming in a hand-embroidered dress of cream crepe anglais. The veil of beautiful lace was a heirloom lent by Mrs S. Feaver. It had first been worn at Napoleonic courts. A shower bouquet of white roses, English clematis, Hyacinth caudicous was carried. The bridesmaids, Miss Isabel Chambers, and Miss Eileen McEldowney, wore periwinkle blue crepe-de-chene dresses and large picture hats of burnt straw trimmed with yellow daisies and blue ribbon, and carried bouquets of blue agapanthus, montretias, and tiger-lilies. The best man was Mr Donald Scott and the groomsman Mr Lawrence Chambers. The church was prettily decorated by friends of the bride. The bouquets were made and presented by Mr B. A. Layard, of Pungarehu. After the ceremony Mrs Chambers entertained the guests at afternoon tea at her home, Te Namu Road.

*Opunake Times 13 Feb 1920 Marriage*

On February 4<sup>th</sup> at St Barnabas Church, Opunake by the Rev C. Palmer, M.A., Margery, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs W. L. F. Chambers of Opunake, and grand daughter of Mr John Sinclair of Tauranga, formerly of Wainui-o-mata, to Arthur Joseph, only son of Mr John McEldowney of Wellington.

*The Eltham Argus 3 Jul 1922 Marriage*

A pretty wedding took place in All Saints Church, Eltham, on 27<sup>th</sup> June, the Rev. H. J. L. Goldthorpe officiating, when Miss Eunice Jenkins only daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Jenkins, of Eltham, was married to Mr Lawrence D. Chambers, elder son of Mr W. L. F. Chambers of Opunake. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a dress of white satin with lace panels and wore a beautiful embroidered veil with a wreath of orange blossoms. She carried a shower bouquet of white roses and primulas. The bride was attended by Miss Isabel Chambers and Miss Leila Jenkins, niece of the bride. The former wore a frock of china blue crepe de chinc, with a waist wreath of bronze flowers and a brown picture hat. She carried a bouquet of abutilons, autumn leaves and berries. Miss Leila Jenkins wore a sweet little pale pink silk hand-embroidered dress and a black tulle hat with pink and blue ribbons and carried a basket of pink flowers and asparagus. Mr R. S. Chambers, brother of the bridegroom, acted as best man. Miss Madden presided at the organ. After the ceremony the bride's parents entertained numerous guests at their residence in Derby Street. At the breakfast the usual toasts were honoured. The numerous presents and telegrams testified to the popularity of the young couple. Later Mr and Mrs L. D. Chambers left for the South Island where the honeymoon is to be spent, the bride travelling in a brown coat and skirt and a brown and gold hat.



*Taranaki Herald 23 Jun 1932 Death Notice and Obituary*

At his residence, Te Namu Road, Opunake, on June 22, 1932, Walter Lawrence Frederick beloved wife of Catherine Elizabeth Chambers, in his 65th year.

Obituary: Walter Lawrence Frederick Chambers

The death took place at Opunake on Wednesday of Mr W. L. F. Chambers, Te Namu Road. Mr Chambers, who was aged 64 years was born in England and came to New Zealand as a youth of 17, settling in Auckland. Later as a schoolmaster he opened the Mangatoki School, subsequently teaching at Tataraimaka and Warea. In 1900 he removed to Opunake, where he took up the position of agent for the Northern Steamship Company, and cartage contractor in connection with the shipping operations at the old Opunake jetty. He held that position until the war, when owing to the mines along the coast shipping to Opunake was stopped. Mr Chambers then took up farming at Te Namu, where he had resided ever since, being well known and highly esteemed in the district. For the past 30 years he had been a lay reader at St. Barnabas Church, Opunake and had also held the position of choirmaster for a number of years. He was a foundation member and past master of the Ikaroa Masonic Lodge, and for several years had been a member of the Opunake Power Board. Mr Chambers is survived by his widow, two sons Messrs L. Chambers (Te Namu) and R. Chambers (Blenheim) and two daughters, Mrs A. L. McEldowney (Christchurch) and Miss Belle Chambers (Opunake).

*1840-1940 Centennial of New Zealand; Opunake & County of Egmont Celebrations April 7th to 10th, 1940*

It was then considered that a much larger area than the town could be served and the Power Board was formed in 1921, the first members being Messrs C. A. Trotter (chairman), J. P. Burton, M. O'Brien, F. Carter, W. L. F. Chambers, H. Young, whilst Mr A. O'Brien was appointed Secretary and Mr Webb, Engineer, whilst the services of Messrs Templin & Toogood were retained.

*Northern Advocate 9 Oct 1957*

On 8 October 1957 Catherine Elizabeth Chambers died at her daughter's residence at Weir Crescent, Onerahi aged 88 years. A service will be held in Christ Church 10.15am [Thursday 10 October] leaving afterwards for Onerahi Cemetery.

*The Clearing: A History of Opunake by Kate Mickelson (1989)*

Walter Lawrence Frederick Chambers came to New Zealand as a young man and spent some time as a schoolteacher in Auckland. He later established the Mangatoki School, and then went to Warea. At the beginning of the century he was a contractor to the Opunake Jetty Company - supervising the landing and despatching of cargo, and its distribution around the district. He was also the agent for the Northern Shipping Company. He was one of the founders of the Ikaroa (Masonic) Lodge, he served a term on the Opunake Town Board, he was a member of the School Committee, and was a member of the Opunake Electric Power Board from its inception, and Secretary of the Farmers' Union. Mr Chambers was a staunch Anglican and served as choirmaster, and as a member of the church vestry. His magnificent bass singing voice meant that he was much in demand for local concerts etc. Mr Chambers died on 22 June 1932 at his Te Namu farm, in his 65<sup>th</sup> year. He left a widow and a family of four, Mrs McEldowney, Belle (later Mrs Sawyer), Laurie (Opunake) and Richard (Blenheim).