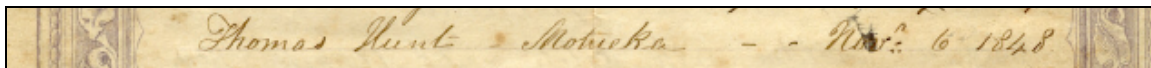


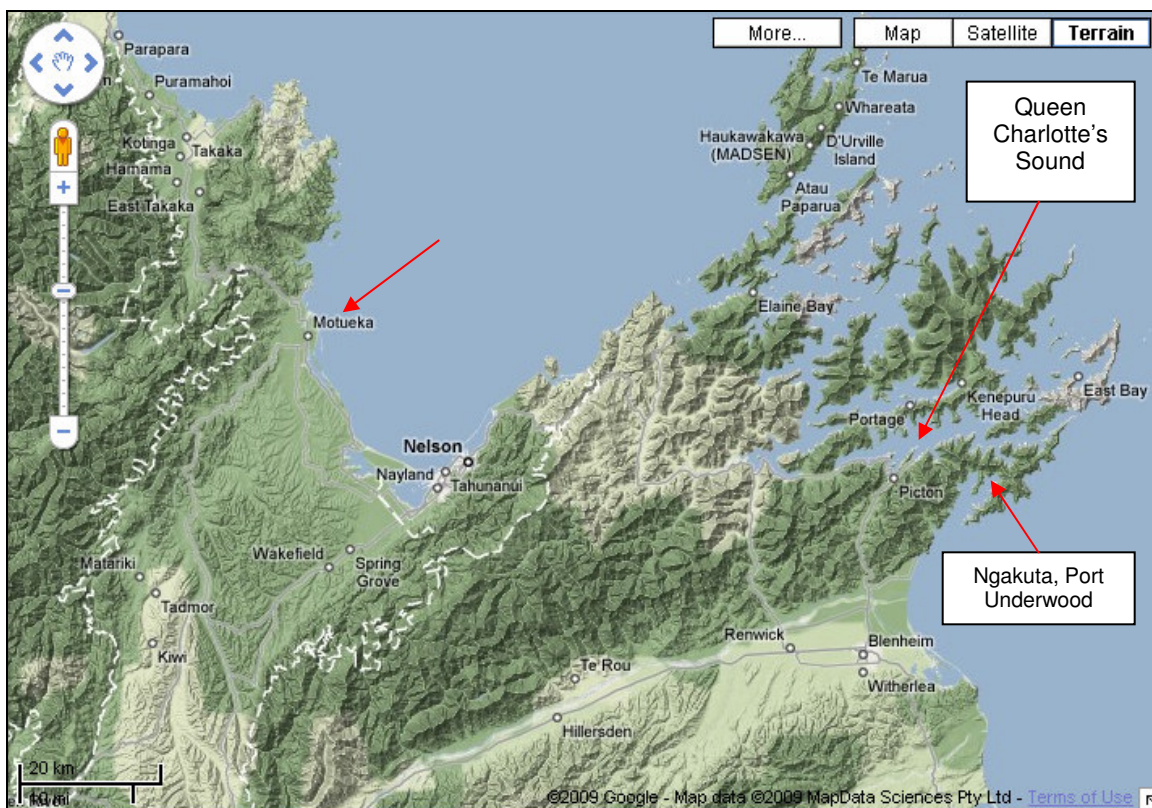
## William Jenkins and Family at Motueka 1848-1850

As a result of the earthquakes in October 1848 the Jenkins family and some local Maori moved from Ngakuta at Port Underwood to Motueka. Parts of the 'Ebenezer' chapel may have been moved at the same time and oral tradition to this effect has survived.



Birth entry for Thomas Hunt Jenkins at Motueka 6 Nov 1848 - from the Family Register

On 30 December 1848 Alfred Domett sent a circular to "*Revd William Jenkins, Port Underwood and Queen Charlotte's Sound*" requesting the collection of statistical information about the "*Natives resident in your neighbourhood.*"<sup>1</sup>



In 1910 Reverend Charles Broughton Jordan, who was stationed at Motueka, "*was given an item of information about another old chapel, the successor of the first one*" [Ngakuta] and that the year 1849 was entered in an old Circuit Schedule book. His mother also verbally informed him "*that this same 1849 church was brought over from Port Underwood to Motueka.*" Reverend Jordan asked his old schoolmate, Warena Tiwini, about this and he replied that his own father, Rupini Tiwini, was one of the "*many early Motueka Maoris*" who "*came thither from Port Underwood.*"

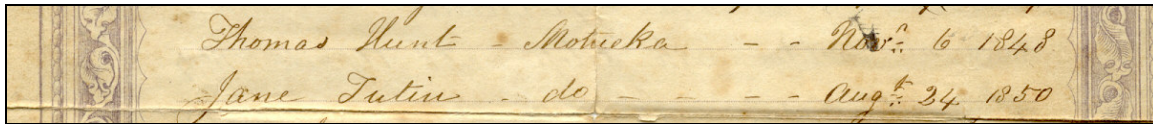
<sup>1</sup> Archives NZ Wellington Reference NM 10/9 p461-462 Outwards Correspondence, Colonial Secretary's Office, New Munster – Circular No. 48/17

It was concluded that the 'Ngakuta' chapel became the old schoolroom and that this "was a building of considerable dimensions well able to accommodate the considerable gatherings of people that assembled there on occasions of tea-meetings and such-like functions."<sup>2</sup>

The 1849 New Munster Blue Book lists two schools in Motueka. William Jenkins was the schoolmaster of the Free school that had 18 scholars. Of these 17 were boys. Benjamin Allen senior, with 18 boys and 18 girls, was the schoolmaster of the Public school.<sup>3</sup> William probably took over from Joseph Wilkinson, who was listed as the 'other' schoolmaster in the 1849-1850 Jury List.<sup>4</sup>

This probably occurred shortly after the transfer of Reverend Samuel Ironside to Nelson on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1849. Ironside "organised the erection of a church at Motueka" and "William Jenkins was put in charge of it."<sup>5</sup>

"The second Methodist chapel, built in 1849", was painted by Thomasina Vigors Jennens (nee Banfield). A mission house was also built about the same time and this was "soon occupied by William Jenkins and his family."<sup>6</sup> William "took a leading part in the erection of the first European church" at Motueka<sup>7</sup> and it was also described as "the first church for Europeans and Maoris" and was erected in Pah Street."<sup>8</sup>



Birth entry for Jane Tutin Jenkins at Motueka 24 Aug 1850 - from the Family Register

<sup>2</sup> Some Yesteryears of Motueka Methodism by the Rev C. B. Jordan, M.A., B. D. (1952) pages 4-7

<sup>3</sup> Archives NZ Wellington Reference NM 11,2 The 1849 Blue Book for New Munster - Education p126-127

<sup>4</sup> Nelson Examiner and New Zealand Chronicle 24 Feb 1849 Jury List

<sup>5</sup> Trinity Methodist Church Tua Marina 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1875-1975 by F. W. Smith p10

<sup>6</sup> And So It Began – Motueka & District Historical Association Volume 2 page 58

<sup>7</sup> Methodism in Marlborough 1840-1965 published in connection with the Centennial of Wesley Church, Blenheim April 1965

<sup>8</sup> Archives NZ Reference AAMK 869 W3074 138e 6/0/29/1 Document titled "Motueka Methodist Church" written by E.S. Wratt.