

**Memorial of William Swainson and others for a Road to the "Wainuiomata"**  
Archives NZ Wellington Reference Agency NM [New Munster] Series 8 Item 1848/149  
Also New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 25 Mar 1848 To the Editor...

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Item 1

Henry St Hill Esq. to F. Thatcher Esq., Private Secretary, Wellington. Forwarding memorial of Mr Swainson and others for a road to the Wainuiomata, Wellington dated 23 February 1848.

Sir, I have the honor to forward at the request of Mr Swainson, the accompanying memorial to His Excellency The Governor in Chief, and shall feel obliged by your submitting the same for His Excellency's consideration. I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obedient servant, Henry St Hill.

Item 2

Mr Smith, I regret that there are not at present funds available for the purpose of completing the proposed line of road. Mr St Hill informed accordingly 26 Feb 1848. A. Domett.

Item 3

William Swainson to Alfred Domett, Colonial Secretary, Southern Division  
Hawkehead, River Hutt, 5 March 1848

Sir, With reference to the memorial mentioned in your letter to the Resident Magistrate dated 26<sup>th</sup> ulto of myself and other settlers, to His Excellency the Governor in Chief, praying that a public road be constructed into the Wainuiomata district. I am to request you will have the goodness to cause a copy of the said memorial, duly authenticated, to be transmitted to me, as ulterior proceedings are intended to be taken thereupon. Had this Document been returned to me, after having been signed by the parties it would (as a matter of proper official form) have been transmitted through you, to His Excellency the Lieut Governor, in the first instance and it has originated in this derivation from the proper channel of communication, that I am now under the necessity of making the above request. I have the Honor to be Sir, Your most obt servt, William Swaison, F.B.S.

Item 4

To His Excellency Capt Grey, Governor in Chief of the Islands of New Zealand. Wellington, 23 February 1848. The memorial of the undersigned Landowners, Settlers and others interested in the prosperity of this Settlement Respectfully sheweth:-

1. That your Excellency's predecessor, Capt Fitzroy fully sensible of the baneful effects of absenteeism, (adopted by the New Zealand Company) and desirous of benefiting such original Land purchasers (living in the Colony) as had not then selected their land – made the following proposition to them, through Col. Wakefield viz That if they would select their land on a block (to the exclusion of all absentees) He (Capt Fitzroy) would "immediately" issue a Crown Grant for the same.
2. That in consequence of this arrangement the district of Wai-nui-Omata, and of Lowry Bay, were united and extended so as to comprise nearly 4,000 acres of level available land, nearly the whole of which was then taken or selected by the resident Land purchasers, to the exclusion of all Absentees.
3. Unfortunately, however, this commencement of a better system in the allotment of Waste Lands was not prosecuted. The Crown Grant was not issued. The road that had been promised was not made (beyond a footpath). The new, or rather the nominal owners, of the soil, were then left in their original hopelessness & helplessness. Your memorialists have

considered it proper to state these facts, that your Excellency may at once perceive, not only that the districts in question are unlike all others of the Company's settlements but also that the owners of them and the settlers thereupon, have strong and peculiar claims to your Excellencies consideration.

4. We therefore earnestly solicit, that the public road, contemplated between the Hutt Bridge and the Waiwetu river, may be continued over the hills into the Wai-Nui-Omata Valley, an undertaking, which we have Mr Fitzgerald's authority for stating could be done "very easily" and at a comparatively small expence.

5. The road, were it but 4 or 5 miles in length, would lay open a district of near 4,000 acres of flat land, of the richest and most enduring soil – being either (according to Mr Swainson's observations) a "loamy clay" or a "Hazel loam" two soils which form the richest arable and pasture lands of England, the same Gentleman asserts that the forest land can be cleared for one third of the expence required in the Hutt district, the trees being so much fewer, and the underwood so much thinner, the river seldom rises above it's bank, and there are no floods.

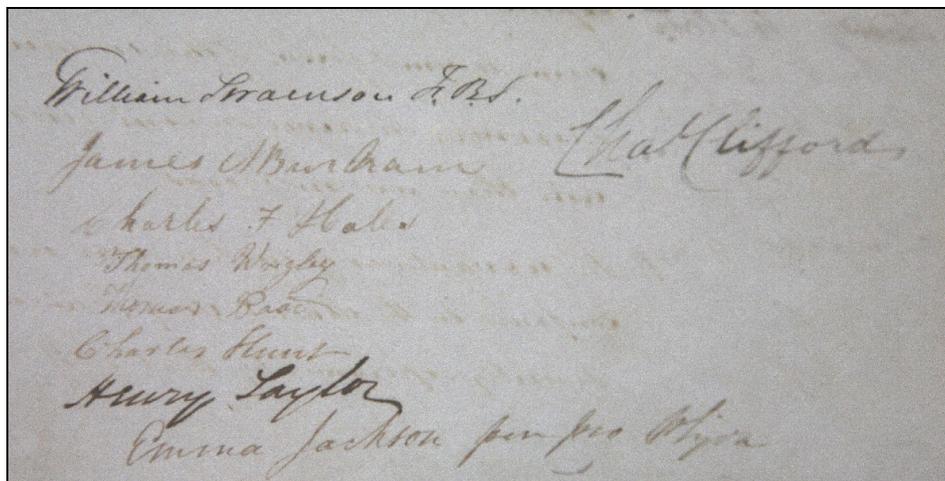
6. The advantages of such a road would not be confined to the district itself, but would be very sensibly experienced by that of the Hutt and of Port Nicholson. The Hutt Bridge would then be the central point for conveying the produce of both this laye and fertile valley into Wellington and such are their capabilities, that they are capable of producing grain more than sufficient for our home consumption for many years.

7. Should your Excellency comply with our wishes, you will be the means, also, of testing the soundness of one of the prominent features in Modern Systems of Colonization viz the presumed advantages of that concentration which unites neighbouring farms, or cultivations, over that diffusion by which such farms are isolated by the intervention of wast Absentee lands. Now the experiment can only be tried here in the Wai-Nui-Omata district since that is the only one, in all the Company's settlements, wherein the whole of the lands belong to resident Proprietors.

We beg to remain, with the Greatest respect, Your Excellencies most obedt Servants.

### Signatures

William Swainson, F.R.S., James N. Burham [Burcham], Charles F. Hales, Thomas Wrigley, Thomas Poad, Charles Hunt, Henry Taylor, Emma Jackson per pro W. Lyon, Charles Clifford



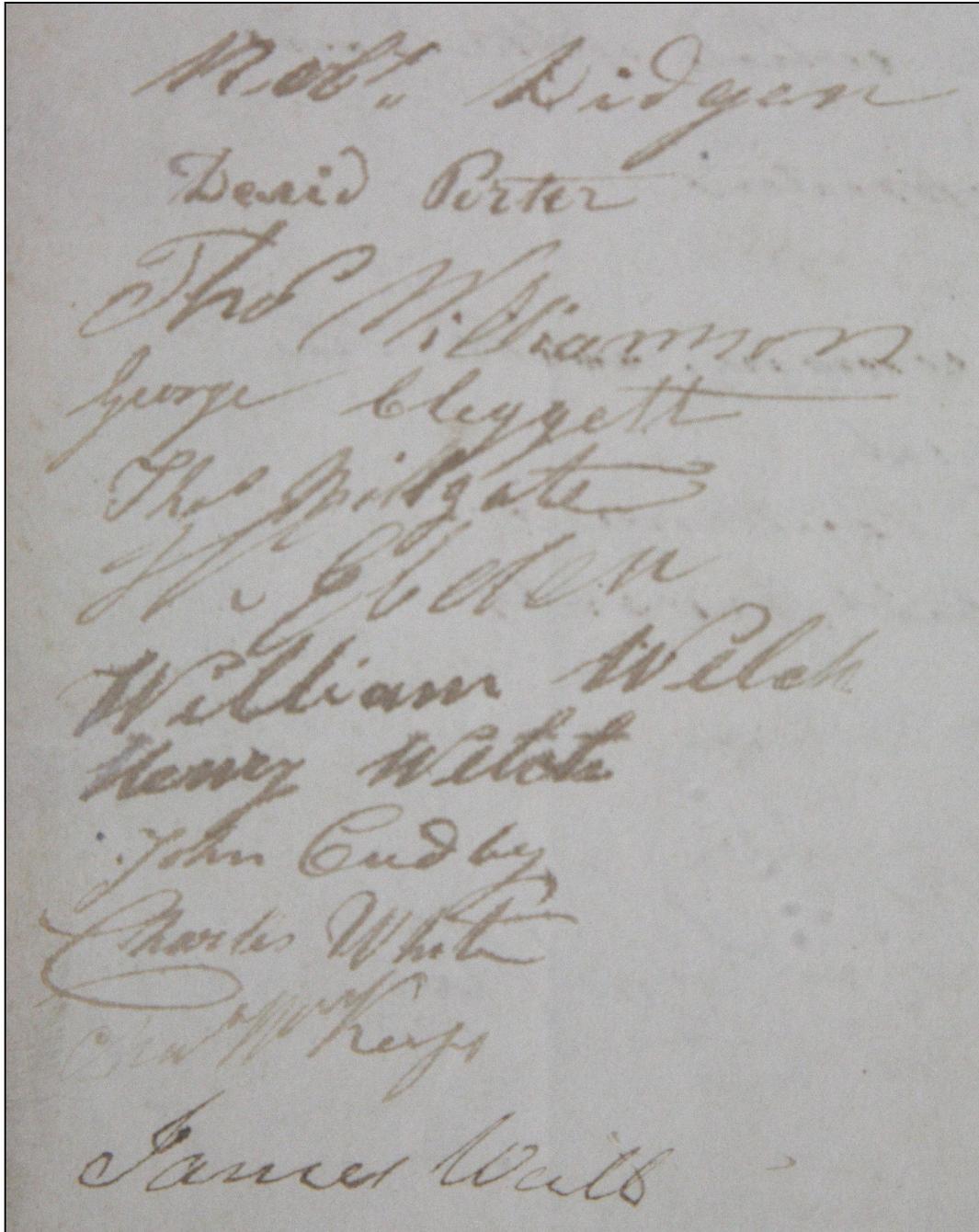
Frederick Smith  
John Smith  
George Greenfield  
James Morehouse  
Robert Lawson  
Nathaniel Poole  
Charles Wilkinson  
Arthur Hayward  
Thomas Burt  
John Dromg  
James Bleach  
Wm Golden  
W Morgan  
Henry Leake  
John Dwyer  
John Sutherland  
Peter Hunt

Signatories on the previous page:

Frederick Smith, John Smith, George Greathead, James Morehouse, Robert Lawson, Nathaniel Poole, Charles Wilkinson, Arthur Hayward, Thomas Burt, Frederick O'Donnely [O'Donel], James Bleach, William Golder, F. W. Morgan, Henry Lynch [Lepeach], John Daysh, John Sutherland, Peter Hunt.

Signatories in the next image:

Robert Didden [Ditchon or Detchon], David Porter, Thomas Williamson, George Cleggett, Thomas Milgate, W. Milgate, W. Ebden, William Welch, Henry Welch, John Cudby, Charles White, Charles W. Keys, James Watt



Robert Didden  
David Porter  
Thomas Williamson  
George Cleggett  
Thomas Milgate  
W. Ebden  
William Welch  
Henry Welch  
John Cudby  
Charles White  
Charles W. Keys  
James Watt