

**Inventory of Papers Relating to Surveys 1841-1846**  
Archives NZ Wellington Reference AAYZ 16022 NZC 335/1/1

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No.1 Wellington 24 Mar 1841 O. Carrington Esq., for Plymouth Company. Bot. of Waters and Smith (Shipped per 'Jewess' Moore)

45 yards Welsh Flannel	3s	£6 15s
3 pr 12/4 Blankets	40s	£6
Half dozen red twilled shirts	72s	£1 16s
1 Cask Arrack 59 gallons at	4s 6d	£13 5s 6d
Freight &c		£3
Total		£30 16s 6d

New Plymouth 26 Oct 1841 By Cash (signed) Waters & Smith

The above things were ordered by me when I first came here and found the natives rather troublesome for the want of more payment of the land (signed) F. A. Carrington.

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No.2 New Plymouth, Taranaki 14 Feb 1842 Henry King to F. A. Carrington  
Dear Sir, Have you made the exchange on the numbers of the map for one that Captain Liardet had the goodness to consent to a few days since. The Sections one behind No.6 and the other opposite it. I am, Dear Sir, Yours truly, (signed) Henry King.

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No.3 New Plymouth 06 Apr 1842 Fred. A. Carrington to George Cutfield Esq., Acting Agent  
Please to pay James Dingle the sum of ten pounds for his good conduct and exertion on the survey. My instructions authorise me to give him the above named sum.

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No.4 New Plymouth 30 May 1842 J. T. Wicksteed to F. A. Carrington  
Sir, You will please to employ the men selected for the surveying service, in the first place, in erecting one or two huts, or places where the surveyors and the men can find shelter in bad weather, at night, and when the stores can be kept in safety. For this purpose a lock up closet or room must be provided and the key put in the hands of the Surveyor having charge of that district of the rural lands. As the cost of the Huts will depend mainly upon the time taken up in erecting them, you will please to direct the surveyors to be diligent in attending to the Men. The description of buildings and the places most convenient for them are points for your decision, but the buildings ought to be such as our men can put together with help, and the chief point is to make them weather tight. I am, Sir, Your obedient servant, J. T. Wicksteed, Agent for New Plymouth.

New Plymouth 31 May 1842

The House which you have purchased at the Waitera is sufficient to accommodate all the men and when a door and lock are supplied will be perfectly safe for the reception of any stores. The tents which we have, when repaired, are all that will be required for some few months. I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, Fred. A. Carrington.

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No.5 Survey Office, New Plymouth 30 Jun 1843 Fred A. Carrington to J. T. Wicksteed  
Sir, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> inst. in which you request to be furnished with a statement of the progress of the surveys and especially of the cost per acre of the cutting of the lines, with any other information &c. In reply I am sorry to inform you that I cannot give an exact statement of what you desire owing to the character of the country and other circumstances. There are no less than five rivers which have required much labour and cutting before they could be surveyed, the largest of these it has been necessary to cut, on either side, as it was requisite to know several miles of their course before the sections could be designed. The work which has been done will therefore prove much more expensive than that which remains. I have lines now cut and sections marked out to the amount of twenty six thousand acres. The cost has been about 4s per acre including the cutting of all the streets of the

Town and cutting up the rivers. It must however be borne in mind that the Town Sections are one quarter acre, and the suburban and rural lands fifty acre blocks, the cutting of which require at least one third more labour than they would if marked out in hundred acre blocks – indeed if this was the case I think the cost would be about 2s or 2s 6d an acre. Be this as it may the expense of Surveying will appear a mere trifle when the Company begin to sell land here, and the value of the country is properly known. I will endeavour to have a plan of this settlement ready to send to Wellington with your next monthly report. I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant, (Signed) Fred. A. Carrington.

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No.6 Survey Office, New Plymouth 19 Jul 1842 Fred A. Carrington to J. T. Wicksteed, Agent. Please to pay Messrs Edgecumbe, Tucker & Putt the sum of eighty pounds for cutting lines for the Survey according to Contract.

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No.7 List dated 30 July 1842 compiled by Fred. A. Carrington, showing the numbers of different sections on the Surveyor's rural plan of the Settlement of New Plymouth, which have been twice offered for selection.

Numbers on Plan

210-211 Bush and fern near the coast and at the N.E. ... of the Suburban districts

213-214 On Mangoraka – bush and fern near coast

259-265 In a block at the mouth of the Waiongona

277-278 A mile and quarter inland or south of the Devon line near the Mangoraka

283-294 Fern land – between the coast and Devon line

295-298 Between Waitua & Waiongona – most fern – little bush

299-310 and 331-332 Between the Waitua and Waiongona – south of Devon line. Fern land with a little bush.

362-374 On the east side of Waitua between the coast and Devon line. Fern land with a little bush.

377-380 East of Waitua south of Devon line. Fern little bush.

381-398 On the East side of the Waitua, south of the Devon line – Fernland with bush

399-403 East side of Waitua between the coast and Devon line. Fern and little bush.

404-414 East side of Waitua south of Devon line. Fernland with a little bush.

415-419 East of Waitua south of Devon line. Fernland with a little bush.

423-430 and 438-449 Between the Waitua and Waiongona – south of the Devon line. Fern bush and some timber.

455-463 East of Waitua, south of Devon line, fern and bush.

464 and 467-476 East of Waitua, south of Devon line, fern and bush.

48 Rural Sections, all Timber, between the Waiwakaiho and Sugar Loaves, are cut and marked out – only one of these have been chosen – (by Wallace)

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No.8 Survey Office, New Plymouth 15 Aug 1842 Fred A. Carrington to J. T. Wicksteed  
Sir, As I have five Assistant Surveyors and only two Theodolites for them I beg leave to call your attention to the great necessity of my being allowed a further supply of these instruments. Each of the surveyors should have one Theodolite, otherwise their services will be of little value to the Survey. The Theodolite Mr Copse brought from Port Nicholson is useless till repaired. Mr Harris, one of my Assistants, has given the Company the use of his Theodolite for more than twelve months, but it is now out of repair and cannot be used. I therefore hope that this requisition will be attended to as early as possible. I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant, Fred. A. Carrington.

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No.9 Survey Office, New Plymouth 31 Aug 1842 Fred A. Carrington to J. T. Wicksteed  
My Dear Sir, There are sixty four sections belonging to the Company between the rivers  
Waiwakaiho and Mangoraka (all Suburban). Yours very truly, Fred. A. Carrington.

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No.10. New Plymouth 08 Sep 1842 Fred A. Carrington to J. T. Wicksteed  
The Plymouth Company of New Zealand. Dr to John Borlase Baines for cutting lines for the  
Survey agreeable to the Contract dated 18<sup>th</sup> February and ending 18<sup>th</sup> May 1842. Viz.

988.07 Chains of Timber at 10s	£494 1s
823.47 Chains of Bush at 6s	£247 1s
2487.96 Chains of Fern at 2s	£248 16s
Total	£989 18s

I certify that the above work has been done for the survey executed in a satisfactory way. Fred.  
A. Carrington.

Cr. Cash £810 10s  
Rations £145 5s  
Total £955 15s

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No.11 Survey Office, New Plymouth, 30 Sep 1842 Fred A. Carrington to J. T. Wicksteed  
Sir, Messrs Bailey have cut for the Contract

1871<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> chains of Timber at 11s  
286<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> chains of Bush at 5s  
584<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> chains of Fern at 2s

On Tuesday they will recommence the Contract. I am, Sir, Your obedient servant, Fred. A.  
Carrington.

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No.12 Survey Office, New Plymouth 07 Oct 1842 Fred A. Carrington to J. T. Wicksteed  
My dear Sir, Mr Chilman has just called and requested me to let you know the numbers of the  
different sections, suburban, rural and Town, which have been altered on the plans since  
selection. I beg to inform you there have been but two suburban sections exchanged they are  
No.7 and 8 for 21 and 30, no rural sections have been altered and in regard to Town sections I  
will do what I can to give the exact number. The exchanges which have been made were done  
by desire of Captain Liardet. As far as my memory serves me I should say about six or eight  
Town sections were exchanged but as they were not actually altered on the map by myself I  
cannot give you further information till I see my brother... Yours truly, Fred. A. Carrington.

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No.13 Survey Office, New Plymouth, 13 Oct 1842 Fred A. Carrington to J. T. Wicksteed  
My dear Sir, I have staked out all the Town Sections on the East side of the river Tinui, and have  
given notice to the parties concerned that on Monday morning next at 10 o'clock a Surveyor will  
be sent by me to point out the sections. Will you therefore be so obliging as to appoint a person  
to receive those which belong to the Company. I remain, Dear Sir, Yours very truly, Fred. A.  
Carrington.

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No.14 Survey Office, New Plymouth, 31 Oct 1842 Fred A. Carrington to J. T. Wicksteed  
Account of Timber Bush and Fern cut by Messrs Bayly's during the time which they claimed to  
complete their contract for the Survey.

188.01 chains of Timber  
217.39 chains of Bush  
1760.02 chains of Fern

I certify the above work has been done in a satisfactory manner. Fred. A. Carrington.

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No.15 Michael Copps, Assistant Surveyor, New Zealand Company to J. T. Wicksteed

Note: There are two copies of this document in the file. The second copy is easier to read and appears to be a corrected version of the first. The following transcript is taken from the first document.

Sir, According to your instructions I left this place for Mokau on Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup> [1842] and the Waitira on the following day and arrived at Mokau early on the following Saturday. I despatched one of my Maories to Waikawau for Mr Spencer who lost no time in coming to give me his assistance in making the necessary arrangements with the Natives for ascending the Mokau River in search of coal and limestone. On my arrival at the Kauri as the Pah of the Kaka Chief is called, I received the cordial reception. I had been led to anticipate from my former knowledge of that Chief who evinced the greatest readiness to forward my views and concern for the success of my journey. The Maories in their conversation with Mr Spencer respecting the intent of our journey up the River told him that there was a Stone at some distance up the Mokau which it used among other stones composing their native ovens gave an unpleasant taste to their food and eventually fell into powder. This stone I strongly suspected could be no other than Limestone which gave me great hopes of success and not without reason as will appear in the sequel.

We found the Natives at Mokau engaged planting maise &c and unwilling to leave their Pah until they had finished doing so which they told us would be in a weeks time. Thinking that too much reliance ought not to be placed in the assertion of the New Zealander; with Mr Spencer's advice we availed ourselves of a ruse in packing up our knapsacks and leaving the Pah in the direction of the Awakino River. This artifice succeeded and in the course of two hours we were on our way up the River though the Canoe it must be allowed was very inefficiently appointed leaving us dependent on the strength and willingness of four natives two being young men and two women to paddle us up the River with its rapids and its freshes.

We made good way the first day, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November, as far as Oika Potatoe grounds belonging to the Kaka Chief where we passed the night in some huts by the water side distant from the kauri about eight or ten miles as nearly as could be guessed.

The following morning (Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November) proved rainy we proceeded about a mile further to another potatoe plantation belonging to the same Chief, Takapu, where we were to supply ourselves with potatoes for the journey. There being no indications of the rain clearing off our Maoris objected to proceed further that day. On the Morrow (Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>) when we were ready to start our most able bodied native was unwilling to proceed further alleging no excuse for his desertion: we were therefore compelled in a great measure on our own exertions in making further progress up the river. Our Maories were evidently distracted; making little way and talking of nothing but returning. I was however determined to proceed until I saw no chance left of our reaching Mutukarama the place where the doubtful stone was to be seen. The current becoming more and more rapid as we ascended the River the speed of the Canoe decreased and when we found it time to prepare for night we were not perhaps more than six miles from our last resting place. The night became wet and towards morning we awoke our blankets being saturated with wet.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>. We started again making less progress than the previous day and finally rested for the night about 3 miles from our last sleeping place.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November. Today we made another effort to proceed but the same languor seemed to prevail which was increased by a deficiency of potatoes and food, our Gun now failing to produce us ducks teal shags pukekos &c which it had done in abundance previously. We proceeded about a mile when we came to the first rapid of any importance about 17 miles up the River. On the South bank of the River a seam of Coal 2 or 3 inches thick showed, itself which I traced up the river side about twenty yards where it was 3 feet in thickness after which the face of the cliff in which it is embedded became too much encumbered with trees and soil for the strata to be traced further without sufficient means for doing so. The dip of this Coal seam is

about five degrees in the direction of the course of the River and lays about 12 feet above the water. The Cliff is about two hundred feet high and almost perpendicular.

I now began to think seriously of returning the importunities of our Natives became urgent as all our provisions had disappeared excepting some mamaku or the upper part of the trunk of the arborescent fern with which we had provided ourselves the previous evening. Our natives told us that it would require five days more to reach Mutukaramu. I considered therefore that we could not arrive at that settlement in less than two days (allowing for exaggeration) which would be a much longer time than we could have held out on Mamaku as we must have done. We therefore commenced our return and on the following day reached the Kauri where we found the chief anxious for our return knowing as he did, our inability to reach Mutukaramu with so few natives and their inexperience in descending the rapids.

The Kaka to show the interest he felt promised to accompany us up the river in the course of a week but the weather proving unfavourable a fortnight elapsed before we again set out for Mutukaramu. Our Natives were in number the same as before consisting of the Kaka, his niece another woman and an able bodied man. Yet we found ourselves in a very different position than before as the Kaka equalled a crew in himself. We accordingly left the Kauri on the first of December passed the night at Takapu and the next afternoon reached within a mile of our former point of return. Here we had the satisfaction of observing a second seam of coal in the South bank of the River and otherwise similarly placed as the last seam described and of the same quality. It is from this seam that the specimen is taken which will be found to be of a small specific gravity, bright and clean in fracture, of a jet black and does not soil the fingers and burns with much flame. All parties continued in good spirits and paddled well so that we reached a considerable distance up the river perhaps twenty five miles when we made our arrangements for the night. Our dogs also were fortunate in securing a bush boar immediately on our landing which gave additional satisfaction to our party.

Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. At an early hour we were again afloat though we did not proceed with the same facility and speed as heretofore owing to the increased rapidity of the current. We were much disconcerted by being told by our Natives that we should be five days more in reaching Mutukaramu though they assured us that we should make the journey from the Kauri previously in two days and a half.

December 4<sup>th</sup>. Having passed up several rapids which would probably impede the navigation of the river in the dry season we came to some flat land, extending about half a mile along the northern bank of the river about thirty miles from its embosure. This plane the Kaka says extends many miles in a direction perpendicular to the course of the river. As the stream which drains this plane into the Mokau is very small it may be fairly supposed that the plane extends itself in width and may probably be drained by some of the Waikato tributaries. It is reported to consist of fern land towards the River and fine grass planes beyond. Some tabooed huts by the water side afforded us shelter tonight and we experienced the usual annoyances consequent on the absurd custom of tabooing that the New Zealander is so partial to.

Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup>. We made progress up the river passing several rapids and from the conversation of our Maories found to our gratification that we were not far from Mutukaramu. In fact a few hours paddling brought us to a place where we left our canoe and a walk of a mile brought us to that settlement which may be distant from the mouth of the river forty five miles. We found that the Pah had been left that morning by its inhabitants who had gone to a neighbouring plantation a few miles off. The Mokau at this place has excavated its bed through a plutonic rock composed of the usual sand stone of that district with fragments of shells and studded with lumps of foliated carbonate of lime the size of a man's fist. With little search a rock of good Limestone presented itself fragments of which are brought as specimens. In fracturing one specimen I traced the cast of a scallop shell which shell is at present very common on the neighbouring coast.

Feeling convinced from the character of the banks of the river at this place that Limestone abounded in that district and not having a canoe at command from the mismanagement of our natives I did not think it requisite to explore further. The Kaka being anxious to leave the Pah as soon as possible on account of the great scarcity of potatoes we commenced our return on the Morrow. The current being now in our favour we passed down the stream with considerable velocity and were able to take up our nights abode within sixteen miles of the Kauri which Pah we reached the following day.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December. It ought to be observed the Natives pointed out a spot about six miles up the river where they say coal is to be seen in the dry season. On sounding I found six feet of water over this part of the bed of the river. Our Maories pointed out also another locality where they said there is coal situated about twenty two miles up the Mokau. In describing the Mokau River it might be remarked that your coasting vessels have already entered its small harbour with the greatest safety as the Natives of the River tell me.

A Pah placed on a rocky eminence about eighty feet high no doubt serves as an excellent land mark for entering the River. The Pah is to the south of the river and close to its bar. For the first mile the River varies in width in some parts being a quarter of a mile wide half a mile from the embosure of the river stands the Pah of the Kaka with two other Pahs on the heights in the immediate vicinity and on the north bank of the river. A most picturesque Pah is seen a little higher up the River, on a small island of some elevation. As seen at low water the bed of the Mokau winds considerably for the first mile after which it runs midway between its banks scarcely any flat land is seen for this distance but in proceeding up the river 17 miles flat land presents itself along both banks: it is however of very limited extent in the direction towards the hills. In ascending the stream scarcely a level spot of land is to be seen for 7 miles after which the banks of the Mokau continue improving though the character of the country remains very hilly. At a distance of thirty eight miles or thereabout the hills become mere undulations covered with fern, bush and patches of timber.

Proceeding a few miles further flat fern land borders the northern bank of the River. At Mutukaramu the country undulates there is much fern land and some splendid fine groves offer themselves to the admiration of the Traveller. The timber generally of this district is inferior in growth to that in the neighbourhood of Wellington. The Rata the magnificent Monarch of the New Zealand forest is here slight of his Majesty. The usual forest timber of New Zealand is observed on the bank of the Mokau the Kaikatia, Rimu and Tawa predominating and of fair growth. I observed no Totara trees though. I was told there were some: the Ti tree is seldom seen by the River side. In the wet season the Mokau has considerable depth of water just below the first rapid of importance or sixteen miles up the river. I found three or four fathoms of water the width about forty yards and rate of current about two and a half miles per hour. The tide at the distance of six or eight miles up the river causes an upward current that is only perceptible: vessels therefore might find in proceeding beyond this distance some difficulty or great labour in doing so. The Natives say they go at all times of the year to Mutukaramu passing all rapids in their canoes which I ought to remark are small. I remain, Sir, Your most obedient servant, M. Copps, Assistant Surveyor, New Zealand Company.

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No.16 Survey Office New Plymouth 24 Dec 1842 Fred A. Carrington to F. T. Wicksteed

My dear Sir, When Messrs Bayly's were last paid for cutting lines for the survey there was one line of thirty chains, timber, which was not put in the account as it was not cut in a satisfactory way – and you agreed it should be paid for... to report. I have not... is to day very anxious to have it settled will you therefore be so good as to pay him for twenty chains of Timber at 11s per chain this will be acting safely and I will give you my report – When I must go to Waitira, in part yours.... Fred. A. Carrington.

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No.17 New Plymouth 18 Jan 1843 J. B. Baines to F. A. Carrington

Sir, I saw Mr Wicksteed the other day on the subject of fulfilling my late contract for cutting lines for the Survey, when he said he would tell you to give my parties a line. I have to request that you will have the goodness to do so at your earliest convenience. The number of days which I

claim as lost time are eleven viz: 18 and 28 February, 23 March, 10 to 15 April, 17 to 18 May. I am, Sir, your obedient servant J. B. Baines.

I certify that Mr Baines is entitled to claim eleven days work to complete his contract for the Survey. Fred. A. Carrington, Survey Office 10 January 1843.

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No.18 Survey Office, New Plymouth 10 Apr 1843 Fred. A. Carrington to F. T. Wicksteed  
There is a balance due to Messrs Bayly for cutting lines for the Survey of eight chains of Timber at 11s per chain - £4 8s

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No.19 Table of distances from Wellington to Patea – Survey office, Wellington 01 Oct 1844  
Figures given are in miles and chains  
Transcript: [www.nzpictures.co.nz/pandoraresearchANZ-NZC335-1-1-19.pdf](http://www.nzpictures.co.nz/pandoraresearchANZ-NZC335-1-1-19.pdf)

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No.20 Survey Office, New Plymouth 04 Feb 1846 O. Carrington to J. T. Wicksteed  
Sir, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, in which you state that Colonel Wakefield has directed you to apply to me for "the delivery up of the house, plans of surveys, surveying instruments, and all other property in" my "possession belonging to the New Zealand Company", in pursuance of an arrangement made on my behalf with Mr Hanson in Wellington; and that you shall feel obliged by my "naming a time for fulfilling this part of the agreement." In reply I beg to state that on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> instant at 12 o'clock at noon, I shall be prepared to deliver up to you the house and all other property in my possession belonging to the New Zealand Company. May I request therefore that you will lose no time in apprizing Colonel Wakefield of the contents of this letter, I remain, Sir, your obedient servant O... Carrington.

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No.21 Note dated 05 April 1843  
Received of J. T. Wicksteed Esquire for a tracing of the Plan of the Town of New Plymouth the sum of two pounds ten shillings. Edwin Harris.

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Note at the end of the file dated 07 July 1956: Sketch of the river Mokau by the Rev R. Taylor, 1845 was removed and placed with miscellaneous maps in map cabinet.

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