

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kim Peter's encouragement for a historical component for the 125th anniversary of Lincoln Baptist Church set me off on a very enjoyable journey into Baptist Church History and the history of some of the earliest European settlers in the Lincoln district of Canterbury, New Zealand. That journey started in 2001 when I had but a few weeks to make sense of 125 years of the church. Now after 140 years I have gathered a lot more material, especially photographs, but also firsthand accounts of what happened. I have put these together in 'A History'. I do not claim it is the last word as I am regularly discovering other things that I did not previously know or had forgotten. Also, I have written this from an Anglican evangelical cultural perspective, although we have been members of the church since 1980, benefitting from the 'open' membership clause of the church's constitution. So the church has been observed from something of an outsider's perspective and seen 'warts and all'. Although quite a lot of this research benefitted from my academic position at Lincoln University, looking back I am surprised how much.

My first acknowledgment must be to Lincoln University for the encouragement to research, which has come naturally to me since I was about 11. Lincoln University gave me good basic research resources – encouragement, a good library, access to the internet, the chance to travel. In 2004 I received an anonymous email about a conference at the University of Avignon in France about the history and commerce in wine. This provided an opportunity to showcase my work on the history of wine in Canterbury, but it also provided a chance to visit my recently widowed father in Kent, across the Channel. While there we also had chance to visit the Lewes area in neighbouring Sussex, the home of the Pannett family who were critical to developments at Lincoln. I did a strange trade with John Lay, my manager, at that point. I agreed to examine ECON 211 Land Economics, my original Cambridge degree subject, if he helped fund my trip to the conference where I would present a paper. Some of the research for that eventually became a case study of land development in the Lincoln area in the nineteenth century for ECON 211 focused on the Pannetts' farms, which Cedric Croft asked me to explain to the class in later years. Henry Pannett's land eventually became the main part of Lincoln's extensive campus.

I must also thank Bryan Pannett of Wellington who gave me full access to his Pannett family history. From my farming knowledge I was able to make sense of agricultural matters he did not understand. We had many profitable exchanges. Then I must also thank the many archivists and librarians who have contributed to this research, in particular those of the George Forbes Library, Lincoln University, especially Shiona McCartin for help with interloans; also the staff of the Document Centre, Canterbury Museum; Baptist Union Archives, Carey College, Auckland; the Sussex Record Office, Lewes; and of the New Zealand Centre, Christchurch Public Library.

Neville Moar, a friend and fellow local historian of over 35 years, unfortunately died before this work came close to completion, but his *Fitzgerald's Town* was an inspiration. He encouraged me in what can be a lonely field. I must also acknowledge Lincoln & Districts' Historical Society for their photographic archive of early Lincoln and its people.

Another valuable source was the Richards family of Ohio, U.S.A., descendants of the Reverend Edward Richards and Mary Pannett Richards, who furnished me with a copy of their ancestor's memories of growing up in the Lincoln area in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. That is one of the few firsthand accounts of family and Baptist church life in that period. Similarly, Alec Woodward recalled his family's involvement with the church, the Foote family, and he provided previously unseen interwar photographs.

Alistair and Alison Mackenzie shared with me their memories of their call to Lincoln and how what they were looking for and what Lincoln wanted were so clearly matched they believed it was God's plan for them. They also lent me their documentary and photographic resources for the period 1980-1989, 'The Mackenzie Years' and gave me further encouragement.

Finally, I want to thank Rita, my wife, who accompanied and fed me throughout this research journey, and who has experienced with me the ups and downs of normal Baptist church life in New Zealand over the last 36 years. Our joint memories of this time have been triangulated with other sources to ensure that this account is not just a Tipples' view of what happened.

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25 September 2016.