

# Bloomfield House

Former Mungaroa Hotel – Te Marua

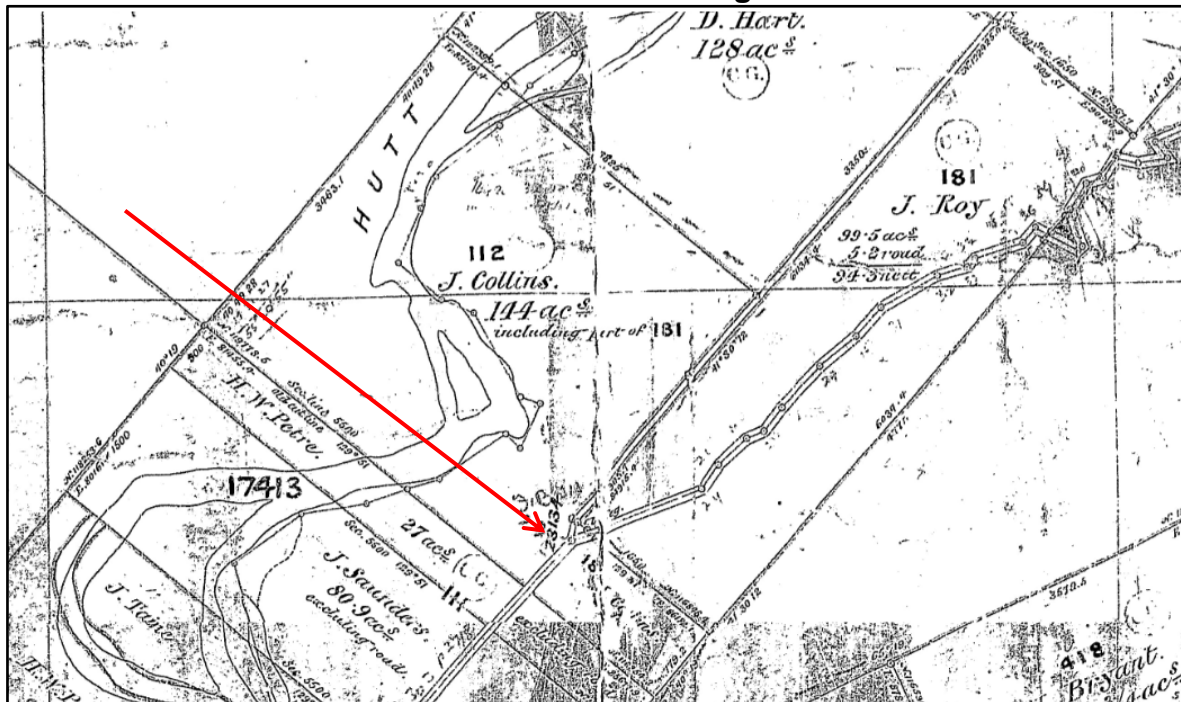
### Time line of Bloomfield House

- 1851 James Collins built the Mungaroa Hotel on Section 112
- 1879 Annie Collins widow of James former Mungaroa hotel landlady dies in Upper Hutt
- 1879 Benge brothers purchase land and hotel on section No 112
- 1880s Edward & Annie Benge rename hotel "**Bloomfield House**"
- 1880s Hotel closed now Bloomfield Tea rooms and accommodation
- 1884 Edward (Ned) & Annie's son Thomas George Benge was born in Bloomfield House
- 1918 Benge family sold section 112 & part 181 to the Bloomfield Farm Company Limited
- 1921 Bloomfield Farm Company Limited received their Certificate of Incorporation
- 1929 John Thomas Harris was the manager at Bloomfield Farm
- 1929 Amy Harris wife of John continued to operate the Tea Rooms at Bloomfield House
- 1931 Bloomfield tea rooms were burnt down in 1931 (not confirmed)
- 1932 Te Marua Golf Club opened Saturday 16 April 1932 - leased part section 121
- 1937 Job Mabey Benge former farmer of Bloomfield Farm Company Limited died
- 1945 William Ernest Albert Gill former Managing Director of Bloomfield Farm Company died
- 1955 Bloomfield Farm Company Limited wound up
- 1950s William's Hotel Kaitoke was demolished – perhaps this was Bloomfield House

Bloomfield House formerly the Mungaroa Hotel was situated on Section No 112 in Te Marua. James COLLINS was issued with the Crown Grant for Section No 112. James built the Mungaroa Hotel and received the bush licence in 1851.

All the early archives records and newspaper articles record the hotel as Mungaroa not Mangaroa.

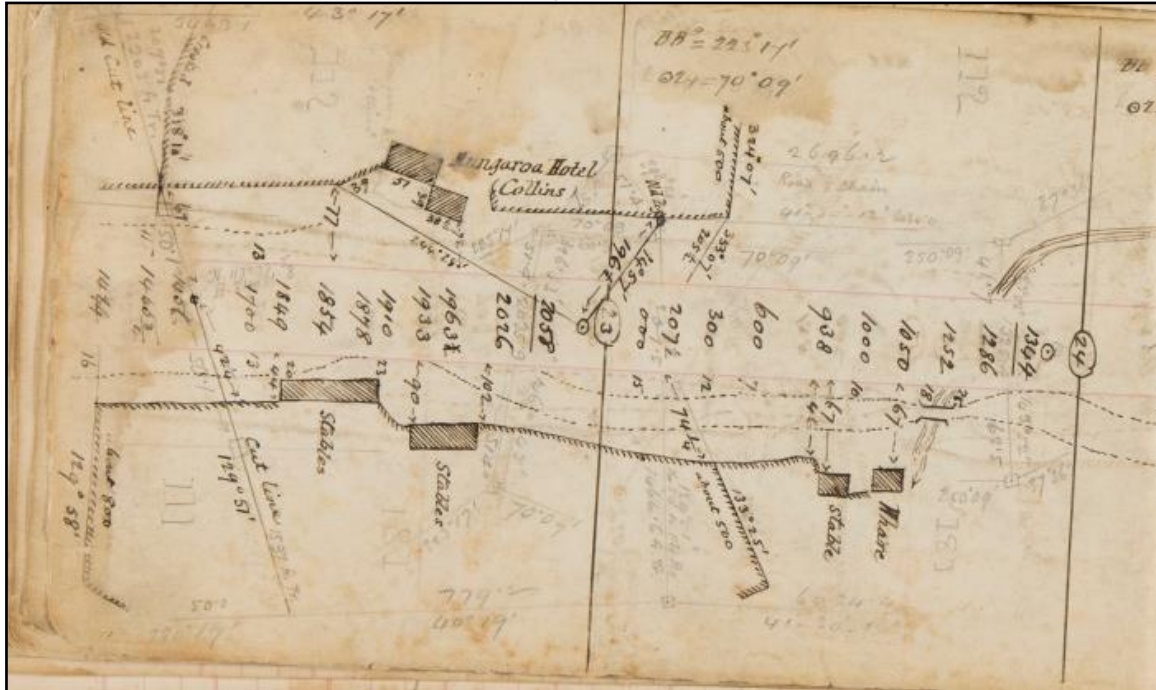
### Section 112 – SO 10986 - Mungaroa Hotel



(Reference 1864 MAP UH Mungaroa JGillardWN\_SO\_10986\_1\_1.jpg)

The red arrow marks the area where the Mungaroa Hotel was once situated on Section 112.

### 1874-1875 Mungaroa Hotel - Collins



(Reference LINZ website field book J Sircorn Jnr Upper Hutt & Pakuratahi 1874-1875 WN\_303-0032 page 28)

James COLLINS died on 09 November 1861. His widow Annie took over the hotel licence and years later with the support of her daughter and son-in-law. Annie COLLINS died on 02 March 1879 in Upper Hutt.

The hotel passed to son William COLLINS, then was sold to Ned [Edward] Benge for £2,026. He called it Bloomfield House, and had it when its licence expired  
(Reference Upper Hutt – The History by J A Kelleher page 78)

On the 23 May 1879 William Henry COLLINS sold section 112 which was the property of the Mungaroa Hotel to brothers John BENGGE, David BENGGE, Edward BENGGE and Samuel BENGGE.  
(Reference Archives NZ Wellington LINZ Room 1879 Deed volume 57 folio 476 & 478)

It was the BENGGE brothers who jointly purchased section 121 and part section 181 from the Collins estate but Edward (Ned) was the brother who settled on the former hotel property.

The Benge brothers were the sons of David and Philadelphia BENGGE who by 1864 were resident in the Te Marua district in the “Stonestead” homestead and were neighbours of the Collins family.

Edward Benge’s wife Mary Ann began to run the former hotel as tearooms and accommodation. The building became known as the Bloomfield House and Bloomfield Tearooms.

Tom [Thomas George Benge] was one of nine children born to Edward (Ned) Benge and Mary Ann nee Mabey of Taita, where Ned was born. He [Tom] was born in Bloomfield House Te Marua he recalled in conversation “The house I was born in at Te Marua on 10 February 1884 was a two storeyed place which was also a sort of hotel or boarding house once owned by a Mr Collins. It was right on the main road on the left side going north at Bloomfield as it was known then opposite “Stonestead”.  
(Reference Upper Hutt - The History by J A Kelleher page 200)

My mother ran the boarding house which was used by drovers and other travellers to and from Wairarapa. Big mobs of cattle used to come through from Featherston. We had holding yards for them. Some of them were pretty wild I remember.  
(Reference Upper Hutt - The History by J A Kelleher page 200)

## Bloomfield House circa 1880



(Reference Upper Hutt City Library website Recollect Old House Te Marua Bloomfield House coaching stop P3-9-31)

I have been unable to locate any information about Bloomfield House between 1890-1900.

Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 10 June 1911

District News - Notice to Tourists and others. As most of the Settlers have run short of food of late owing to increase in family, the following may be useful when touring or seeking work.

1. Accommodation House, 2 miles from here known as "Bloomfield House" good feed, (towards Featherston).
2. Railway-guide to Stations, at all Rly Stations, price threepence.
3. Tourist Guide at Tourist office in all cities giving price for Fishing, Shooting, Localities, Coach fares and distances through Colony, price sixpence.
4. Names of places in New Zealand and general guide to complete New Zealand Index with Directory, Wise & Co., Lambton Quay, Wellington, opposite Dominion Newspaper office, Dominion Avenue.
5. Dog Boxes attached to Railway Vans see conditions in No. 2 as above.

(Reference Papers past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 10 June 1911 page 2)

Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 18 January 1913

District News – May Morn Sports on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Bloomfield House paddocks. Particulars later.

(Reference Papers past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 18 January 1913 page 1)

Evening Post newspaper 20-27 February 1913

May Morn Sports, to be held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of February at Bloomfield Farm Upper Hutt. Blackberries in abundance on the Farm. Great Chopping and Foot Running and all sorts of Amusements. Geange's Brakes will meet morning trains and run to sports and back for 2 return.

H Hall Secretary

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 20 February 1913 page 8)

Evening Post newspaper 14 August 1913

Big Scheme – Sawmilling and Settlement – May Morn Estate at Mangaroa - From the sawmill, with its immense steel chimney stack, nearly as high as the destructor chimney in the city, a standard gauge light railway, properly sleepered and ballasted, with 40 lb steel rails, runs down the Mangaroa Valley to its junction with the valley of the Hutt River at Bloomfield House, some five miles from Upper Hutt.

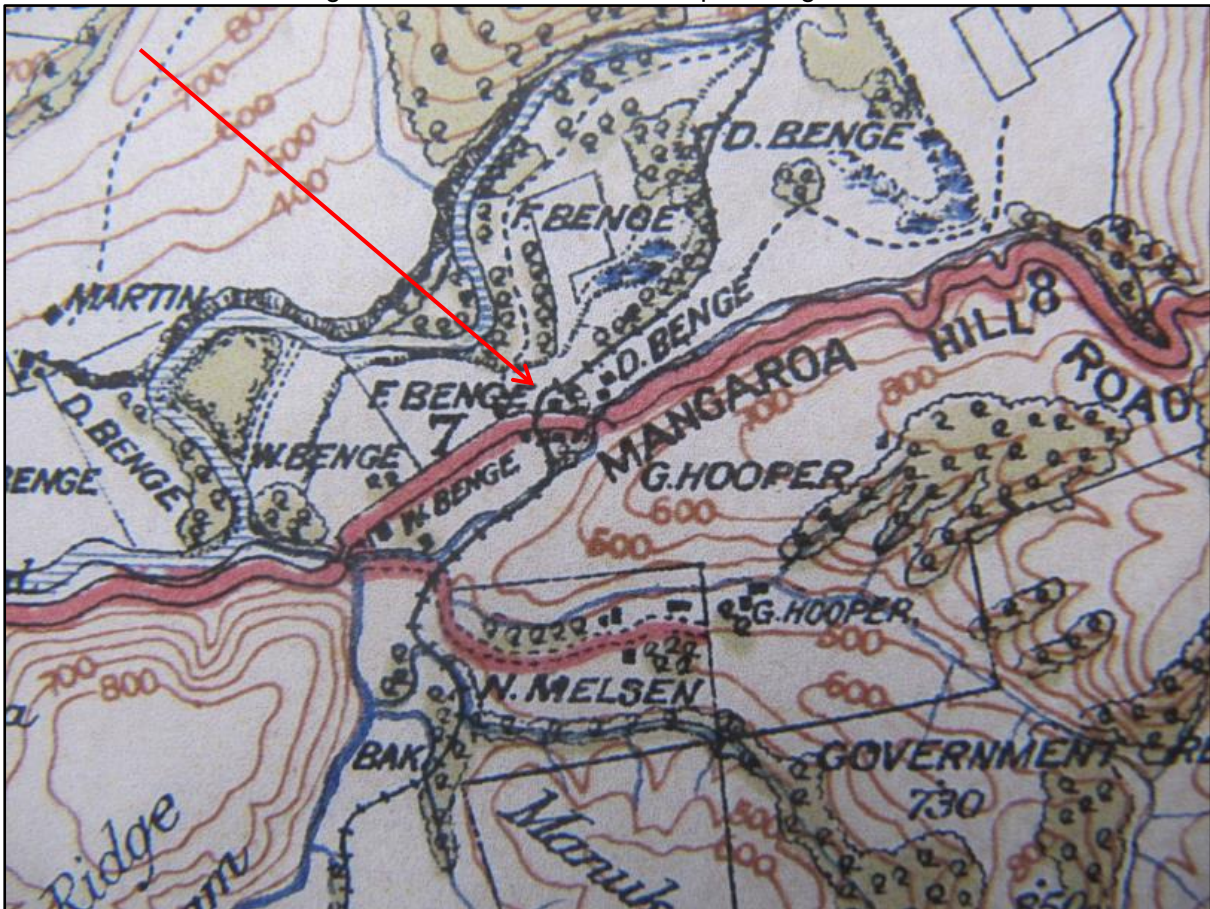
(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 14 August 1913 page 3)

Dominion newspaper 16 October 1913

Wanted a strong Working Housekeeper wages £1 no objection to child address Bloomfield House Upper Hutt

(Reference Papers Past website Dominion newspaper 16 October 1913 page 1)

**1915 Map of Manoeuvre Area**  
Neighbourhood of Trentham Camp Wellington 1915



(Reference 1915 Map of Manoeuvre Area Neighbourhood of Trentham Camp Wellington IMG\_3004)

Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 27 February 1915

Peeps into the Past – Oddfellows Rose of Sharon Lodge - The opening of the Rose of Sharon Lodge, No 4675, of the Manchester Unity, Independent Order of Oddfellows, took place on 25 April 1857 fifty eight years ago. At that time the township (such as it was then) being located in the neighbourhood of the blockhouse which is still to be seen in rear of the Trentham post-office. There were a number of "Inns" in the upper end of the Hutt Valley in those days the Coach and Horses at Silverstream, the Highland Home (afterwards named the "Railway Hotel and subsequently destroyed by fire) on the east side of Kitchen's store, the Shepherd's Inn afterwards re-named the Criterion Hotel, dismantled at a later date and known as Dalton's Hall and remodelled to serve as the Upper Hutt Coach Factory, the Mungaroa Inn now Bloomfield House, and another at the Pakuratahi (since, burnt down) on the place where Stevens manager now lives. The Shepherd's Inn was established by James Brown, senior, a Paisley man, (father of James and Andrew Brown and Mrs Alexander Martin senior, of Upper Hutt). It was at this inn

then called the Criterion Hotel that the Duke of Edinburgh stayed when he visited Upper Hutt in 1865. The minutes of the first meeting show that the opening ceremony took place at Upper Hutt at the house of Matthew Sharley sign of the Shepherd's Inn, and that GM Brother Canning installed the following officers of the new Bro Perry VG, Bro Hinds, Sec Bro Wilson RHS to V G, Bro J Condon LHS to NG Bro R B Loughton, RHS to VG Bro Crabb L, HS to VG Bro R Humber. The minutes record that the following were then initiated as members of the Rose of Sharon Lodge, having been previously proposed in the Loyal Good Intent Lodge - Walter Lee, George Harrison, George Freeman, James Wall, Thomas Simmonds and Robert Wilson. The members admitted in 1857 were Bros, Hirst, Prescott, Selby, McLaughlin, Aldred, McHardie, Hackett, Williams, Nelson, Morgan, Hercoc, Greenwood and Cruickshank. Among those admitted to membership were Richard William Pearse (full member) and Richard Barton (honorary) in 1858. In 1858, the Lodge was removed to Host McHardie's Highland Home Inn.

*(Reference Papers past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 27 February 1915 page 4)*

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## 1920s

Evening Post newspaper 06 December 1920

Wanted good Woman, Girl or Married Couple, one child not objected to, homely people. Apply Bloomfield Farm Upper Hutt

*(Reference Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 06 December 1920 page 1)*

~~For information about Amy and James HARRIS please refer to the end of this document in the section titled "People connected to the hotel and farm".~~

~~In 1921 the Bloomfield Farm Company Limited was registered as a Company and the farm manager John Harris also known as Jack held one share.~~

~~Bloomfield Farm Company Limited Certificate of Incorporation was dated 08 March 1921. The company breed various farm animals, entered stock competitions and won many prizes for their stock. The Company wound up on the 21 February 1955.~~

Over the period 1921-1955 the shareholders in the Bloomfield Farm Company Limited were - Robert AITKEN - Jeffrey Mervyn ANDREW - Catherine Cecilia BOURKE - Michael Francis BOURKE - Leo Charles CARROLL - Jack Ronald DENTON - Gordon DUNCAN - William Archibald FULLER - John Owen GILL - William Ernest Albert GILL - Winifred Elsie GILL - Jack HARRIS - Thyra Ruskin HOSKING - Brown McMahon LEYDON - Williams Stanley LOWE - Alistair Donald MACLAREN - Maurice Patrick O'CONNOR - George Coleman PHILLIPS - Thomas ROMAIN - Harold Purser POOLE - Russell Edward POPE - Agnes PRIESTMAN

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R20465244 ADSN 17631 CO-WW3445 245 1921/14 Bloomfield Farm Company Limited Upper Hutt years 1921-1955)*

In 1921 the Bloomfield Farm Company Limited was established by directors William Ernest Albert GILL, Michael Francis BOURKE and William Archibald FULLER. They were in the business of sheep-farmers, stockbreeders and stock dealers purebred. The company ceased business in 1955.

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R20465244 ADSN 17631 CO-WW3445 245 1921/14 Bloomfield Farm Company Limited Upper Hutt years 1921-1955 & R22023848 AATE box 6 21/9/32/0/6 Highways Masterton Wellington State Highway Land Claim Bloomfield Farm Company Te Marua years 1953-1954)*

## Bloomfield Farm Company Limited



(Reference Upper Hutt City Library website Recollect Bloomfield Farm Te Marua now golf course and speedway P7-1-71)

Wairarapa Age newspaper 09 June 1923

A correspondent states in the Dominion that he once spent a New Year's Eve on the very spot on which the Rimutaka mountain top hostelry had stood and since then has never doubted the ability of the wind to shift it. Next Day he writes I shifted camp to the Royal Arms a popular public house which even in Crawford's time dispensed a lavish hospitality to all hill travellers that made this Featherston hostelry a sort of headquarters both coming and going. I am not too certain of the name but I fancy the Pakuratahi inn (kept by Mrs Wagg) was called the Golden Fleece but it like the old inn which in the great Hutt River flood was washed away from its site a few chains above the railway bridge at Silverstream is now also but a memory and nearly all its old time patrons wagoners for the most part long laid to rest. Bloomfield House (erstwhile the Mungaroa Inn) still stands on route across the hill.

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Age newspaper 09 June 1923 page 5)

In 1924 as guests of Mr W E A Gill a group of golf enthusiasts got together to set out an area sufficient to play golf on. The Te Marua Golf Club was established on the property known as Bloomfield Stud Holmstein Farms. In 1926 the Club was still a private one of Mr Gill and his friends. Mr Gill agreed to a club being formed on 11 September 1931. By 1931, 9 holes had been formed. In 1948 the first contact was made to Bloomfield Farms for the purchase of the property. In 1949 the club became fully established. The club had been renting the property and it was not until 1954 that the club finally purchased the property. The club house was opened on Prize-giving Day 23 November 1968.

(Reference publication Te Marua Golf Club Inc., Golden Jubilee 1931-1981 at Upper Hutt Library)

Evening Post newspaper 24 October 1927

In addition to his father's at Pakuratahi he remembers a hotel at the Mungaroa (the building of which he says still survives as Bloomfield House now an afternoon tea institution) two at Upper Hutt and one at Taita but the Golden Fleece was of special importance as a place for changing horses.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 24 October 1927 page 10)

It was owned later by Bloomfield Farm Company, a trio of Wellington businessmen who included a brewery executive. They were as interested in Friesian cattle breeding as in finding a role for the old hotel. They did give Bloomfield House a last run as tearooms, run by a Mr and Mrs Harris. Harris was in charge of the stud. The former pub was burned down, and the property was divided up

(Reference Upper Hutt – The History by J A Kelleher page 79)

~~Mr Burke and Mr Gill of the Bloomfield Company had begun purchasing land around the Mungaroa district around 1916-1918 including section number 112 which was once the property of the late James Collins of the Mungaroa Hotel.~~

~~John Thomas HARRIS was appointed farm manager of the Bloomfield Farm. In the 1920's John's wife Amy was operating the Bloomfield Tea Rooms.~~

Evening Post newspaper 24 October 1927

A son of the late Mr Hodder of the Golden Fleece is Mr James Hodder senior, of Dalefield Wairarapa, who bears well his advancing years, and who remembers the chain of hotels in the old Hutt Valley. In addition to his father's at Pakuratahi, he remembers a hotel at the Mungaroa

(the building of which, he says, still survives as Bloomfield House, now an afternoon tea institution), two at Upper Hutt, and one at Taita, but the Golden Fleece was of special importance as a place for changing horses.

*(Reference Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 24 October 1927 page 10)*

Evening Post newspaper 26 January 1929

Wanted to Sell, Quantity Black and White Fowls and Ducks, good condition, laying, also Afternoon Tea Tables and Chairs, etc.; manager leaving. Apply J Harris, Bloomfield Farm, Upper Hutt.

*(Reference Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 26 January 1929 page 1)*

Bloomfield House and Farm (where the golf course and stock cars appeared) and Stonestead (at the start of the road to the Plateau) were all owned by a single syndicate, from the mid-1920s to the early 30s with pedigree Friesians on the farm, Bloomfield House serving teas (Mrs Harris in charge) and a bull paddock round Stonestead.

*(Reference Upper Hutt - The History by J A Kelleher page 167)*

~~I can confirm that the Company rented sections on their land holdings from 1944 to 1954 to Whiteman & Sons, J Maher and the Te Marua Golf Club. They may have rented land before this date but I only located information regarding these years.~~

Evening Post newspaper 26 January 1929

Wanted to Sell Quantity Black and White Fowls and Ducks good condition laying also Afternoon Tea Tables and Chairs etc., manager leaving. Applying J Harris Bloomfield Farm Upper Hutt Tel 64.

*(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 26 January 1929 page 1)*

Evening Post newspaper 18 April 1929

Wanted Position on Stud Farm willing to take charge. J Harris late Manager Bloomfield Farm. Care Post Office Upper Hutt

*(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 18 April 1929 page 1)*

Evening Post newspaper 19 April 1929

Clearing sale at the farm Mangaroa Upper Hutt on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 1 pm – Messrs Dalegty and Co Ltd acting under instructions from the Bloomfield Farm Company Ltd will sell at above time and place.

60 Pigs all ages including 8 P.B. Berkshire Board and 12 P.B. Berkshire Sows

2 Heavy horses (broken all work)

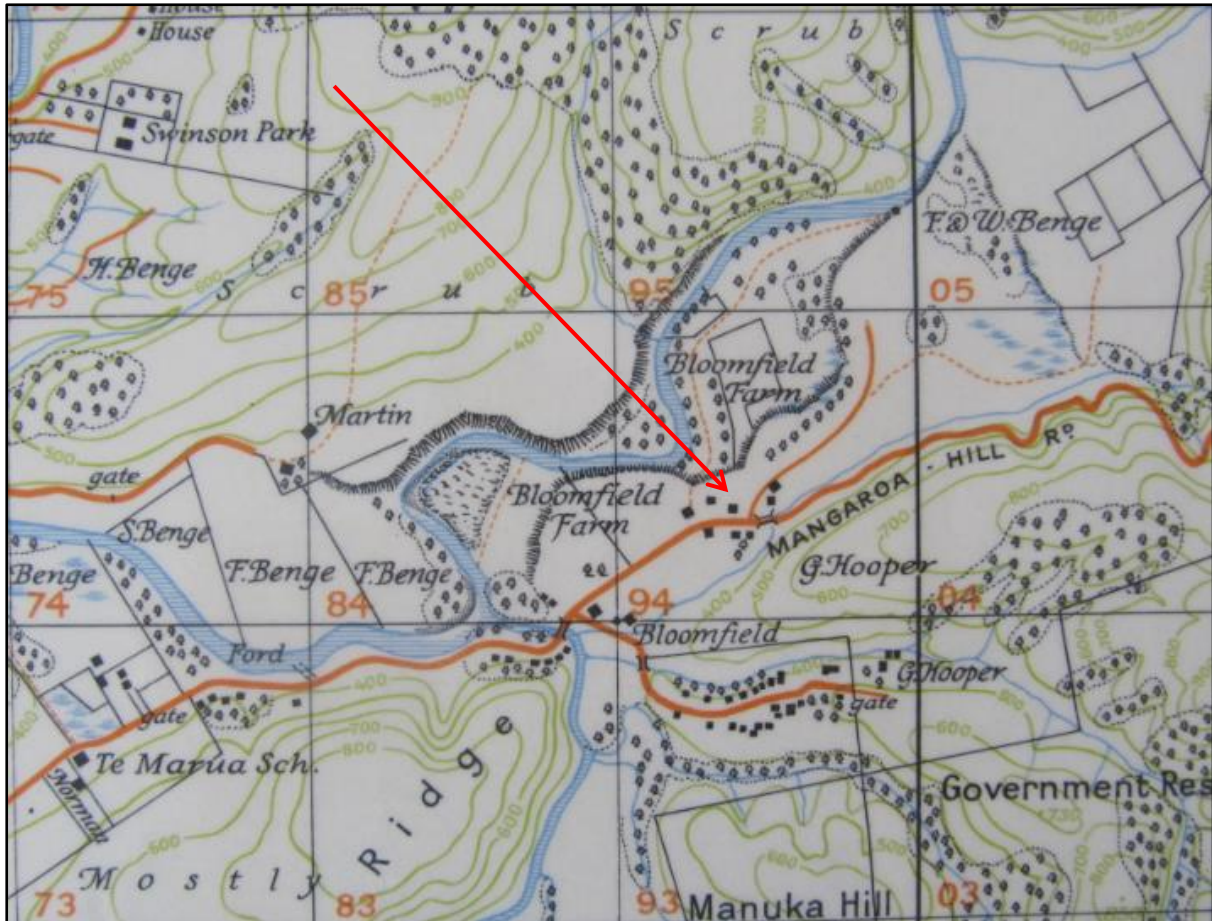
1 Trap Horse

Reaper and Binder (nearly new) D.F. Plough, Milk Wagon, 4 horse wagon, Oat crusher (power), 5 cow Unida milking plant (in first class order), 1 Dahlia separator (30 gallons), 1 Babcock tester, Cow covers, leather halters, stock medicines and numerous sundries.

*(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 19 April 1929 page 16)*

~~Comment – James Harris left Bloomfield Farm around 1929 but who was living there in 1930?~~

## 1929 Trentham Manoeuvre Map



(Reference 1929 Trentham Manoeuvre Map saved as IMG-2999)

~~Part of the Te Marua Golf Club is situated on the same section as the former Mungaroo Hotel. For additional details about land owners and occupiers I would have to research the Upper Hutt district Valuation records.~~

### 1930s

Evening Post newspaper 11 February 1930

Lost from Te Marua Upper Hutt Spaniel. Any person detaining same after this date will be prosecuted. Bloomfield Farm Upper Hutt. Tel 64 Upper Hutt.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 11 February 1930 page 1)

Comment – who was living at Bloomfield Farm in 1930?

Evening Post newspaper 23 December 1930

Scout News – The following troops have notified their intention of conducting a camp – (various groups not transcribed) – Trentham with Trinity at Bloomfield Farm Te Marua Upper Hutt.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 23 December 1930 page 18)

Folk lore records that the Bloomfield House formerly Mungaroo Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1931 but I have been unable to confirm this.

Question – what happened to the Bloomfield House building formerly the Mungaroo Hotel?

The Mungaroo has retired from its licensed era, and had retired even as tearooms, when it burned down in 1931.

(Reference Upper Hutt – The History by J A Kelleher page 78)



#### Evening Post newspaper 03 July 1930

A fire at Upper Hutt early yesterday morning totally destroyed a five roomed dwelling owned and occupied by Mr F Renshaw. The house burned fiercely and the occupants just had time to escape in their night attire. The building was insured for £800 and the furniture and effects for £200 both in the State Fire Office. Another fire which occurred in Upper Hutt between 11 and 12 o'clock last night, completely gutted a four roomed unoccupied house owned by Mrs Bengé. The insurance are not available

*(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 03 July 1930 page 11)*

Comment - The two fires in 1930 do not mention any connection to the Bloomfield tearooms or the former Mungaroa Hotel. The only link would be that the unoccupied house was owned by Mrs Bengé but the Bengé family only occupied Bloomfield house before they sold it years earlier.

The 1931 newspaper articles record that the tearooms destroyed by fire were situated at the top of the Remutaka Hill and not the Bloomfield tearooms in Te Marua.

#### Evening Post Newspaper 29 January 1931

Tea-Rooms Burnt – The well-known tea and refreshment rooms at the top of the Rimutaka Hill were destroyed by fire either on Tuesday night or early yesterday morning. The little wooden building will be missed by motorists. For some years it has been a popular stopping-place, in fact, it was seldom that one or more cars were not to be seen parked outside at most times of the day.

*(Reference Papers Past Website Evening Post Newspaper 29 January 1931 page 12)*

#### Evening Post Newspaper 30 January 1931

On the Summit of the road over the Rimutakas' – The well-known tea and refreshment rooms on the summit of the Rimutaka shown in the photograph were destroyed by fire late Tuesday night or early on Wednesday morning. For some years this little building has been a popular stopping place for motorists and it was seldom that one or more cars were not to be seen parked outside. [article includes an image of Rimutaka's tea and refreshment rooms] -

*(Reference Paper past website Evening Post Newspaper 30 January 1931)*

Comment - I have been unable to locate any information about Bloomfield House the former Mungaroa Hotel being destroyed by fire in 1931. Perhaps it was the building that was demolished in the photographs held on the Upper Hutt City Library Recollect website John Walker collection under the heading "William's Hotel Kaitoke".

The Te Marua Golf Club occupied the land of the Bloomfield Farm.

#### Evening Post newspaper Tuesday 19 April 1932

The official opening of the Te Marua Golf Club near Upper Hutt took place last Saturday afternoon. The links are situated in picturesque surroundings and are in good condition. At the present time only 16 holes are played but two more are being prepared.

*(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper Tuesday 19 April 1932)*

#### Evening Post newspaper 10 March 1932

Lost near Bloomfield Farm Upper Hutt 3 weeks ago Small Black English Terrier white breast much valued Tel 50-647 reward.

*(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 10 March 1932 page 1)*

#### Evening Post newspaper 07 May 1934

Two Women Perish – Fire At Bloomfield – Dannevirke This Day – a tragedy occurred at Bloomfield near To-Tree at about 8.30 last night when a well-known settler Mrs Ellen Franklin aged 76 and her lady companion Miss Smaile about 40 perished in a fire which destroyed the house occupied by them

*(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 07 May 1934 page 10)*

Comment – I wonder if the folk lore story about Te Marua Bloomfield House being destroyed by fire in 1931 became confused with the Bloomfield House being destroyed in Dannevirke two years later in 1934.

Evening Post newspaper 26 November 1936

Upper Hutt Sale – Dalgety and Company Limited held a successful clearing sale at Bloomfield Farm Upper Hutt in Tuesday. There was a large attendance of the public and a satisfactory clearance was effected at prices on a par with sales in other districts.

*(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 26 November 1936 page 7)*

Upper Hutt Weekly Review newspaper 08 January 1937

Obituary - Job B Bengé - The death occurred early on Monday morning last of Mr J B Bengé, of Ebdentown, at the age of 59. Mr Bengé, who had been ill for some time, was at Nurse Nelligan's [sic] private hospital, at Victoria Street, Upper Hutt. He was well-known in the Upper Hutt district, having lived there most of his life, and his death came as a great blow to many of his friends. Born at Taita, Lower Hutt, he was the son of the late Edward Bengé, one time saw-miller and farmer in the Hutt Valley. Up to a few years ago Mr Bengé was farming at Bloomfield Farm, at the foot of the Kaitoke Hill. Mr Bengé leaves a widow, two sons, Messrs L and K Bengé, and two daughters, Mrs Haggerty (Auckland), and Mrs J Golding (Upper Hutt). He was a brother of Mrs Harper, Mrs Burrell and Mr T Bengé, all of Upper Hutt. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon, under very adverse conditions, but notwithstanding the weather there were over 50 cars in attendance. The Rev G V Kendrick, Church of England, conducted the service, the first part in the church, and the latter at the graveside. Among those present were members of the farming and business community of Upper Hutt and surrounding district. There were many beautiful floral tributes, including some from the members of the family. The sympathy of residents is extended to the widow and family in their bereavement.

*(Reference Papers Past website Upper Hutt Weekly Review newspaper 08 January 1937 page 2)*

Evening Post newspaper 08 May 1937

In the case in which Bloomfield Farm Company was charged with failing to clear its land of ragwort. Mr A J Mazengard entered a plea of guilty. He said that a contractor was engaged to clear the land but left off work without notifying the company which was under the impression that the work had been done.

*(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 08 May 1937 page 24)*

Evening Post newspaper 28 February 1939

Oddfellowship Manchester Unity Order - Arrangements were made for a picnic at Breaker Bay. Sister Champion reported on the Valley Lodges picnic at Bloomfield Farm and a letter is to be forwarded to the lodges concerned thanking them for their entertainment.

*(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 28 February 1939 page 5)*

Evening Post newspaper 08 June 1940

To let Furnished Cottage Plateau Te Marua el stove Apply Bloomfield second on left.

*(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 08 June 1940 page 2)*

Evening Post newspaper 11 July 1945

Obituary - Mr W E A Gill - One of Wellington's best-known businessmen, Mr William Ernest Albert Gill, died last night at the age of 70. He had been for many years a principal of the accounting firm of Rowley, Gill, Hobbs, and Glen. Mr Gill was born in Middlesboro, Yorkshire, and came to New Zealand in 1887. He joined the Union Fire and Marine Insurance Company in Auckland, and was subsequently on the staff of the Commercial Union, Standard, and Phoenix Insurance Companies. He joined the firm of Badham and Biss and managed the Northern Assurance and Canton Company under that firm for 10 years. He later joined the firm of J H G Rowley, who acted as attorneys for the Norwich Union office. In 1924 he became controlling officer for New Zealand of the Phoenix, Norwich, and Union Marine companies, being manager of the Norwich Union for many years. Mr Gill had many sporting and social interests. He was a life member of the Miramar Golf Club, the Star Boating Club, and the Wellesley Club. He served for many years on the New Zealand Golf Council, and was a member of the Wellington Racing Club. He had strong musical inclinations and was in earlier days an enthusiast of amateur theatricals. He was managing director of the Bloomfield Farm Company in the Hutt Valley, chairman of directors of the Scoullar Company, and a director of the Wellington Investment

Company. Mrs Gill predeceased him two years ago, and he is survived by two daughters, Mrs J N S Wallens of Sydney, and Mrs T R Balharry of Wellington, and one son Mr J O Gill of Hawera. (Reference Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 11 July 1945 page 8)

The Bloomfield Farm Company Limited was wound up on 21 February 1955.

## William's Hotel Kaitoke

On Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection recollect website there are five (5) photos not dated but with the heading "*Williams Hotel Kaitoke*".

(Reference UHCC Library website Recollect collection *Williams Hotel Kaitoke (possible)* 001 John Walker collection)

Question - Where was the William's Hotel in Kaitoke?

The only hotels in the Kaitoke district were the Mungaroa Hotel and Golden Fleece but their license were never held by a Mr William's. In 1892-1894 Charles Williams was the proprietor of the Railway Hotel later renamed the Trentham Hotel and finally the Quinn's Post Hotel. In 1881 there was a William's Hotel in Taita.

I can confirm that there was the "*Mungaroa Hotel*" in Te Marua. Further north at Pakuratahi now known as Kaitoke was the "*Golden Fleece Hotel*" but that was not demolished it burnt down in 1880 and was never rebuilt.

The question we ask again is where was the "*Williams Hotel*"? Was the building being demolished actually Bloomfield House which was previously the "*Mungaroa Hotel*"? Parts of the building and the background look similar.



(Reference UHCC Library website Recollect collection *Williams Hotel Kaitoke (possible)* 001 John Walker collection)



(Reference UHCC Library website Recollect collection Williams Hotel Kaitoke (possible) 005 John Walker collection)



(Reference UHCC Library website Recollect collection Williams Hotel Kaitoke (possible) 002 John Walker collection)

An early 1875 newspaper article recorded that a man named Richard Waygood was employed at Williams Hotel in the Upper Hutt district. By researching Richard's genealogy and the Coroner's report we have confirmed that the newspaper article made an error when recording "Williams Hotel".

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 19 October 1875

The Times of yesterday says – a determined case of suicide is reported from Upper Hutt. A man named Richard Waygood employed at William Hotel got up about six o'clock and after performing some necessary work retired into the taproom and with a double barrellled gun shot himself through the chest. He appears to have acted very deliberately, for it is surmised that he had a rope to the trigger and turned the piece towards his body, pulled the rope and fell mortally wounded. An inquest will be held to-day before Dr Wilford coroner. The man is well known to the police authorities but no can be assigned

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper 19 October 1875)

Evening Post newspaper 19 October 1875

An inquest was held at the Upper Hutt yesterday before Dr Wilson Coroner and a Jury on the body of Richard Waygood Hawkins who deliberately shot himself through the body at the Railway Hotel on Friday last. Several witnesses were examined who stated that the deceased was in comfortable pecuniary circumstances but has been in very low spirits lately in consequence of a love affair. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased destroyed himself while labouring under temporary insanity.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 19 October 1875)

Colony of New Zealand wit.

Information's of Witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Land the Queen touching the death of **Richard Waygood HAWKINS** at the dwelling House of Isaac WILKINS known by the name of The Railway Hotel in the Province of Wellington in the Colony above mentioned on Monday the eighteenth day of October one thousand eight hundred and

seventy five before John G F WILFORD one of the Coroners for the said Colony on an Inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of Richard Waygood HAWKINS then and there lying dead as follows to wit:-

Thomas ROWLAND being sworn saith that I am a lodger at Wilkins Hotel deceased was employed about the hotel as General Servant. I have known deceased a fortnight, I sleep in the same bedroom with him. I never noticed anything peculiar about him, until last Wednesday night when he loaded his gun & went out into the garden about ten o'clock, I followed him & kept alongside him wondering what he was going to do, he walked around the garden and then returned to the house, placing his gun in the corner of the store house leaded, he then went to bed. On Friday night after we went to bed he began telling me how he was going to shoot Mr Brown if ever he saw him do something, or other again, he did not explain himself, this was the last time I saw deceased alive. I was much surprised to hear him talk so wildly. I have often noticed him gloomy & low spirited. On Saturday morning before I was out of bed I heard a report in the room below the bed room and after the report a grown & the smell of smoke, I came quickly down stairs & found deceased lying flat on his back on the floor, the gun lying also on the floor in front of him with a piece of rope round the trigger I noticed a bullet wound in the pit of his stomach, deceased was quite dead when I first saw him - *(signed) William Rowland*

Isaac WILKINS being sworn saith that I am landlord of the Railway Hotel Upper Hutt deceased was my servant, has been with me about six months, two years ago he was in my service about four months, deceased was a god Servant but very excitable when anything annoyed him he was apt to do many wild things I considered when excited he was not master of his actions. Two or three times on Tuesday I had to check him when having altercations with people, On Saturday morning I got up about six o'clock on coming down I saw deceased he was going to feed a horse, I went with him to the paddock to catch the horse, he took the horse into the stable a few minutes after as I was standing in front of the house, I heard a report & on going inside the saw the Servant Ellen open the door & said Dick had shot himself. I went through into the Storeroom and as I went in, I saw a narrow gap through the body & he was dead. I noticed nothing particular about him when we went to the paddock to catch the horse, he seemed to be as usual, deceased was a really quite man when nothing put him out but very clearly excited and when excited deceased to lose all command of himself, deceased was very fond of a girl. I never notices that deceased was fond of the girl Ellen – *(signed) Isaac Wilkins*

Charlotte WILKINS being sworn saith that I am landlady of the Railway Hotel Upper Hutt I never noticed the deceased shown any signs of been fond of the girl Ellen He might have been but I never noticed it Deceased was very strange in his manner at times, & when any trifle upset him he succumbed to lose all commanded of himself. I don't think deceased was always accountable for his actions. Deceased had had a quarrel with Mr Brown because Mr Brown wanted breakfast too early in the morning *(her X mark) Charlotte Wilkins - witnesses by William Burt & David Lyster*

Ellen GEANGE being sworn saith that I am general servant at Wilkins Hotel have known deceased four or five months, during the last two or three months deceased was a te totaler, for some time I have thought him rather queer, about three weeks ago he shot his dog in a rage, never noticed him lowly or low spirited, never knew deceased pay her Addacpes [sic] to her or any other girl. About half past six I was starting cooking breakfast in the kitchen deceased came to one & asked me did I like him? I answered Yes I liked everybody that liked me. Then deceased went into the next room, I shouted to him had he feed the fowls, he answered 'Not yet', from the other room and immediately after I heard a report I ran then to Mr Wilkins. When deceased came to me in the kitchen he put his arm round me & kissed me I have never been out with him on any evening *(signed) Ellen Geange*

Ellen GEANGE being sworn back saith that deceased quarrelled with Mr Brown about the breakfast, Mr Brown wanted breakfast at six o'clock in the morning, on Friday last. Mr Brown gave me a Kiss when I laid his breakfast. I foolishly told the deceased – *(signed) Ellen Geange*  
Colony of New Zealand wit – The above maned Depositions of Thomas BOWLANDS – Isaac WILKINS – Charlotte WILKINS – Ellen GEANGE written on six pages of paper numbered consecutively from one to six and by me together were taken and sworn before me at Wilkins Railway Hotel in the said Colony on the eighteenth day of October 1876 *(signed) J G F Wilford*  
*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R24347273 ACGS 16211 J1 179 bw 1875/2999 Corner Hutt 05 November 1875 Inquest proceedings on Richard Waygood Hawkins years 1875)*

18 October 1875

An Inquisition indented taken for our Sovereign Lady the Queen at the house of Isaac Wilkins at Railway Hotel Upper Hutt in the said Colony on the eighteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy five before John G F WILFORD one of the Coroners of our Sovereign Lady the Queen for the said Colony on view of the body of Richard Waygood HAWKINS then and there lying dead upon oath of William BURT foreman, Felix P Jones, George WYETH, John WHITEMAN, Swift HALL, George FRANCES, George PERKINS, James STEVENS, James BEVEN, John BUTCHER, Richard GEANGE and Charles ROUSE good and lawful men of the neighbourhood duly chosen and who being there and then duly sworn and charged to inquire for our Lady the Queen when how and by what means the said Richard Waygood HAWKINS came to his death so upon their oaths say that – Richard Waygood HAWKINS whilst labouring under a fir of temporary insanity shot himself at the Railway Hotel Upper Hutt on Saturday the sixteenth of October 1875.

In witness whereof as well the said Coroner as the said aforesaid have set and subscribed their hands and seals the day and year first above written (signatures)

*I G F WILFORD Coroner                      William BURT foreman*

*James STEVENS (his X mark) - James BEVEN (his mark) - John BUTCHER (his mark)*

*John WHITEMAN - Richard GEANGE (his mark) - Charles Rouse (his mark) - George PERKINS*

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R24347273 ACGS 16211 J1 179 bw 1875/2999 Corner Hutt 05 November 1875 Inquest proceedings on Richard Waygood Hawkins years 1875)*

Although all newspaper articles from 1872 to 1875 recorded Richard WAYGOOD the Coroner's Inquest article recorded his name as Richard Waygood HAWKINS and this was the name recorded on his death registration.

Comment - The mention of William's Hotel in the first newspaper article was later as the Railway Hotel. In 1875 Isaac Wilkins not Williams was the proprietor of the hotel which began as the Highland Home renamed Railway Hotel, then Trentham Hotel and finally named Quinn's Post Hotel.

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