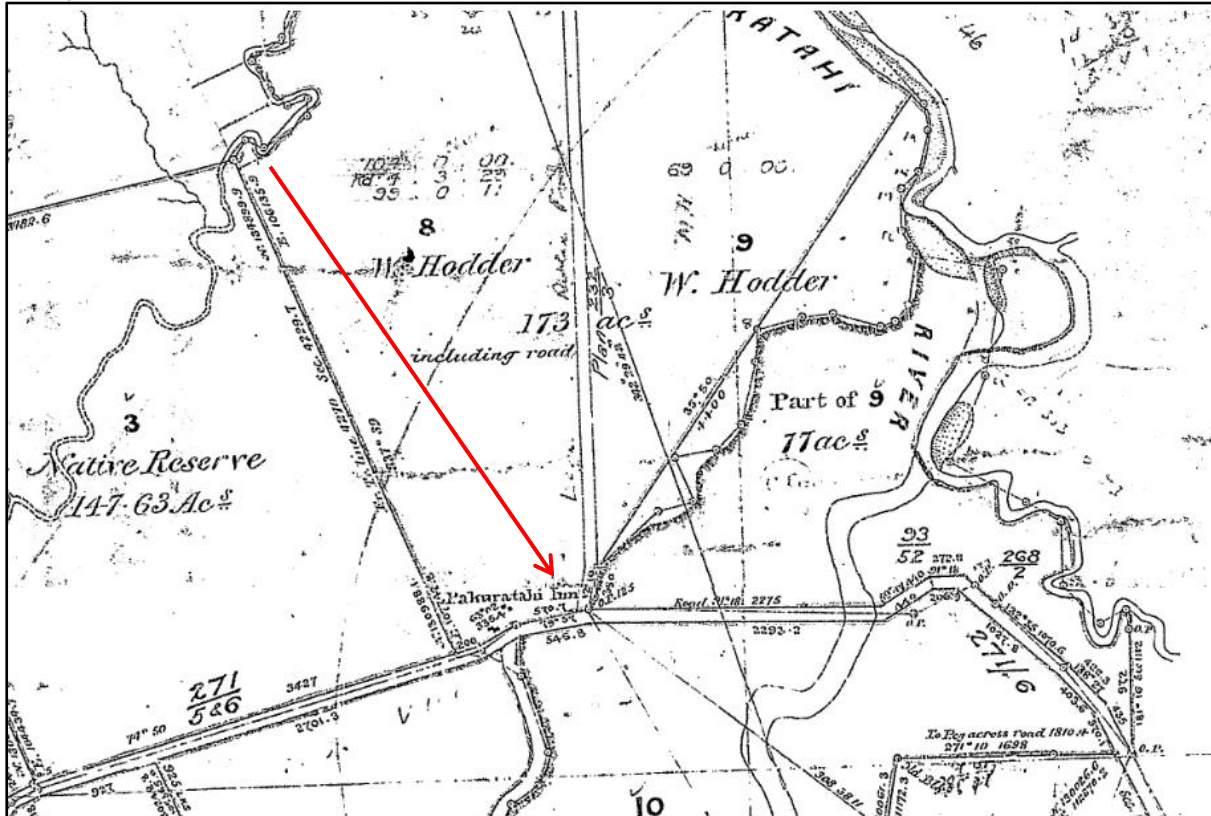


Golden Fleece Hotel – Pakuratahi

Time line	Golden Fleece Hotel owners, licences & events
1851	Walter Hodder received license for the Golder Fleece Inn
1861	Farewell dinner for Walter Hodder
1861	William Robinson Hastwell proprietor
1866	Michael Corcoran proprietor
1866	Fire destroyed Golden Fleece Hotel
1867	Golden Fleece Hotel rebuilt and open for business
1869	John Burtley Mason proprietor
1871	Thomas Wagg proprietor
1875	Walter Hodder & son Frederick Hodder proprietors
1876	Robert H Elliott proprietor
1877	George Jones proprietor
1878	Robert Henry Elliott transfer Golden Fleece Hotel license to Robert Webb
1878	Richard Webb proprietor of the Golden Fleece Hotel
1878	Application to transfer license of owner Richard Webb to J F A Montgomery [sic]
1878	James Thomas Henry Montgomery was proprietor
1880	William Valentine Jackson owner
1880	William Gilbrath proprietor of boarding house
1880	Hotel destroyed by fire

Walter Hodder purchased Section No 8 (and Section No 9) in the Pakuratahi district and built the Golden Fleece Hotel. The Hotel was once situated on the south corner of Waterworks Road (Kaitoke) and State highway 2 in the Pakuratahi district. On the 04 April 1851 Walter Hodder was given a special bush licence to operate the Golden Fleece Hotel.



(Reference 1864MapPakuratahiJGillardWN_SO_10986_1_2.jpg)

On 19 June 1851 Walter Hodder made an application for the renewal of his bush licence at Pakuratahi. The licence was prepared on 30 June 1851 and sent to Walter on 01 July 1851.

19 June 1851 Walter Hodder Memorialist praying renewal of Bush Licence Pakuratahi
To his Excellency Sir George Grey KCM Governor in Chief of the Lands of New Zealand
The Memorial of Walter Hodder of Wellington Diary Man
Herewith

That on the fourth day of April last a special licence was granted to your Memorialist for the sale of any Spirituous Liquors Wine Ale or Beer in any quantity at his House at Pakuratahi on the terms and conditions herewith expressed and that such Licence shall expire on the thirtieth day of Jun instant.

That your Memorialist is desirous for an annual of such Licence in respect of the same Premises and on the same terms and conditions wish new Licence to commence and take effect from the first day of July next and so continue in force for the space of twelve calendar months thence next ensuring

Yours Memorialist therefor humbly prays that your Excellency will be pleased to give direction for the issue to your Memorialist under the Public Seal of the Province of such new Licence accordingly - And your Memorialist will ever for pray

Walter Hodder - Wellington 05 June 1851.

I beg to recommend the Memorialist as a fit and proper person to be licensed as prayed in the foregoing Memorial

M Smith JP - D Morrison – R Martin

License prepared 30 June 1851

Sent to Memorialist 01 July 1851

(Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington R24517569 ACFP 8217 NM8 47 [42] 1851/792 Walter Hodder 19 June 1851 Memorial praying for bush licence Pakuratahi)

21 June 1852 Walter Hodder application for renewal of Bush Licence
Pakuratuhi 01 June 1852

Sir

I beg to enclose a Memorial for the renewal of my Licensed Victuallers at the Pakurtahi and have to request that you will be good enough to cause the same to be laid before His Excellency The Governor in Chief.

I have the honour to be Sir

Yours obedient Servant - Walter Hodder (signature)

Alfred Domett Esquire Colonial Secretary Wellington

Licence prepared 22 June 1852

(Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington ACFP 8217 NM8 55 [127] 1852/738 Walter Hodder 21 June 1852 application renewal of Bush licence)

21 June 1852 Walter Hodder application for renewal of Bush Licence

To His Excellency Sir George Grey KEZ Governor in Chief of the Islands of New Zealand
The Memorial of Walter Hodder of Pakuratahi Licensed Victualler

Therewith. That your Memorialist is the Holder of a Special Licence for the Sale of any Spirituous Liquors Wine Ale or Beer in any quantity at his House situated at the Pukuratahi afore said on the terms and conditions therein Expressed and that such Licence will expire on the thirtieth day of June now next. That your Memorialists is anxious for a renewal of such Licence in respect of the same premises and on the same terms and Conditions – Such new Licence to commence and take effect from the first day of July next and to continue in force from the first day of July next and to continue in force for the space of twelve Calendar Months thence next ensuring. Your Memorialists therefore humbly prays that your Excellency will be pleased to give direction for the issue to your Memorialist under the Public Seal of the Province of New Munster of such Licence accordingly and your Memorialist will ever pray.
(Walter Hodder) We the undersigned beg to recommend the Memorialist as a fit and proper Person to be Licensed. (signed by) R Barton – A Gillies Wairarapa – A Ludlam JP - Pakurtahi [sic] 16 April 1952

(Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington ACFP 8217 NM8 55 [127] 1852/738 Walter Hodder 21 June 1852 application renewal of Bush licence)

Golden Fleece Hotel - Pakuratahi



(Reference Digital NZ images National Library Hodder's Hotel Pakuratahi [sic] William Mein Smith ref A-034-020)

Wellington Independent newspaper 19 & 23 July 1861

Farewell Dinner and Ball

The undersigned being about to relinquish Business at the "Golden Fleece" Pakuratahi intends giving a Farewell Dinner and Ball on the 25th inst., to which he respectfully invites all his friends

WALTER HODDER – 18 July 1861

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 19 & 23 July 1861 page 2)

Information about Walter HODDER and his family is located at the end of this document under the section "*People connected with the Golden Fleece & Section No 8*".

1861 William Robinson HASTWELL was the proprietor (landlord) of the Golden Fleece Hotel.

Wellington Independent newspaper 21 February 1862

Notice to Contractors – Tenders will be received at the Office of the Provincial Secretary Wellington until Tuesday the 04th day of March for the erection of a Timber Bridge over the Pakuratahi River on the Wairarapa Road. Tenders to be addressed to J Woodward. Plans and Specifications may be seen at the Engineer's Office Wellington and at the House of Mr Haswell Pakuratahi. J Woodward Acting Provincial Secretary.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 21 February 1862 page 2 plus other dates)

Wairarapa Standard newspaper Tuesday 23 December 1879

In the year 1857 Mr Hastwell took up his residence at Greytown, in the cottage which had been erected the previous year opposite the Rising Sun Hotel by Mr Holdsworth, senior where his two surviving children were born and where he subsequently continued to live up to the time of his death, with the exception of a short time he held the position of landlord of the Golden Fleece Pakuratahi, about the year 1861, and during the time he was absent with his family in England, about the year 1865. It was in every respect unfortunate that he took a public house, as it was a business for which he was not adapted, and because it is to be feared he then laid the foundation of habits which proved his bane during the greater portion of the remainder of his extremely active and somewhat eventful life. Before going to the Pakuratahi he commenced running a one-

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper Tuesday 23 December 1879)

Perhaps William Robinson HASTWELL only leased the hotel from Walter HODDER.

Information about William Robinson HASTWELL and his family is located at the end of this document under the section "*People connected with the Golden Fleece & Section No 8*".

1866 Michael Corcoran was the proprietor of the Golden Fleece

Wellington Independent newspaper 27 January 1866

A Trip to the Wairarapa

The Mungaroa Inn was reached in due time. At the foot of the Mungaroa Hill, the male passengers were requested to alight and had to walk until they reached its summit. On arriving at the top of the hill, the passengers again took their seats, and the trap went merrily along until reaching Corcoran's Golden Fleece Hotel, Pakuratahi, where the horses were indulged with a short rest, previous to mounting the Rimutaka.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 27 January 1866 page 6)

On Thursday 08th February 1866 the Golden Fleece Hotel was destroyed by fire.

Evening Post newspaper Saturday 10 February 1866

On Thursday afternoon a fire broke out at the Golden Fleece Hotel, Pukrati [sic] occupied by Mr Michael Corcoran. The house, furniture and stock were destroyed and nothing left standing but the stables. It appears that at the time of the outbreak of the fire there were only Mrs Corcoran and a traveller in the house, the traveller having dined there. Ongoing to the back of the premises for a pail of water, he discovered the upper part of the hotel in flames and gave the alarm. The man servant was away at work in the bush at the time and the servant girl was also absent. The fire is supposed to have originated from a defect in a brick oven which had been heated that afternoon for the purpose of baking bread. Mr Corcoran is insured for £600 and Mr Hodder, the owner of the house, for £400.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 10 February 1866 page 2)

New Zealand Herald newspaper 20 February 1866

Fire at Pakuratahi Wellington – The Wellington Independent of the 13th ult., says – On Thursday afternoon the 8th inst., at about three o'clock a fire broke out at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi and in a very short time the whole of the building with nearly all it contained was reduced to a heap of ashes. The house belonged to Mr Hodder and was insured in the London and Liverpool for. The furniture and stock belonged to Mr Corcoran and was insured in the New Zealand Insurance Office for £600.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Herald newspaper 20 February 1866)

Wellington Independent newspaper 24 February 1866

Local and General News

The Golden Fleece – In a late issue we mentioned that the house at the Pakuratahi known as the Golden Fleece had been totally destroyed by fire and we now learn that a court of enquiry will assemble at the Upper Hutt today for the purpose of collecting evidence touching the cause of the fire.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 24 February 1866 page 5)

27 February 1866

Inquest held at the Criterion Hotel (owner James Brown) Hutt 24 February 1866 of the Premises known formerly as the Golden Fleece Pukuratahi [sic]

Upon oath of James Cruickshank, John Wilkins, John Williams, Peter Wilkins, William Gardner, Edward Morgan, James Bayliss, John Peterson, David Garrick, Henry Millward, George Leach & Charles Wyatt (crossed out was Thomas Charles Butler & Charles Rouse)

Fire at the Golden Fleece Pakuratahi originated that the said fire was purely accidental

Evidence = Michael Corcouser [sic] not on the premises so was unable to give any evidence mention his wife a man Henry Clarke and servant Ellen Cahill were left in charge also comments on bricks in kitchen chimney & Andrew Johnston a sawyer came from Mr Gillies Wairarapa gave

evidence on the progress of the fire & Bridget Corencer [sic] wife of Michael Concoran [sic] who was in the bar a long time before the fire began Mr Johnston assisted her & Mary Leach who lives in Pakuratahi a mile from the Golden Fleece she did not think the kitchen fire was safe
Witness signed = James Kilgan (Coroner) James Cruickshank (foreman) John Wilkins, John Williams, Peter Wilkie, William Gardner, Edward Morgan, James Bayliss, I Peterson, Daniel Carrick, Henry Millard, George Leach & Charles Wyeth

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACGS 16211 J1 54/cj 1866/446 Coroners Hutt 27 February 1866 inquest proceedings on Fire)

Wellington Independent newspaper 27 February 1866

Local and General News

The Golden Fleece Hotel - A court of enquiry assembled at the Upper Hutt on Saturday afternoon to take evidence as to how Mr Corcoran's hosterie at the Pakuratahi took fire. Mr Robert Hart attended on behalf of the Insurance Companies and Mr Buckley watched the case for Mr Corcoran. Dr Kilgour the coroner of the district recapitulated the whole of the evidence and left the case in the hands of the jury, who returned a verdict to the effect that the Golden Fleece Hotel was accidentally, burnt to the ground.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 27 February 1866 page 5)

Information about Michael CORCORAN and his family is located at the end of this document under the section "*People connected with the Golden Fleece & Section No 8*".

The Golden Fleece Hotel was rebuilt was open for business by 1867. Walter HODDER the owner of the Golden Fleece Hotel was the proprietor.

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 25 May 1867

Notes of a Trip to Wellington

Arrived at the "Golden Fleece" Pakuratahi about 1 pm where we had a good dinner. This hotel has just been rebuilt and in size and appearance reminds you of the Panama Hotel in Wellington

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper 25 May 1867 page 3)

Panama Hotel Wellington (appearance similar to Golden Fleece)



(Reference National Library of NZ Panama Hotel Wellington 1875 – PA2-2846)

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 28 October 1867

Notes of a Trip to Town (Wairarapa to Wellington)

Found here and also at the Tauherenikau and "Golder Fleece" Hotels cattle-buyers for the West Coast market, and was informed that the price of cattle, though it has risen considerably, has not reached its maxium.

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper 28 October 1867)

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 06 January 1868

To be sold or let

The Golden Fleece Hotel Pukuratahi with the good-will, furniture, out-houses, stables and ten acres of land adjoining. The house is newly built contains every accommodation and is now doing a capital business. Amongst other advantages it being Cobb & Co.'s house for dinning and changing horses.

For further particulars apply to the undersigned

W HODDER Proprietor Pukuratahi 01 January 1868

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper 06 January 1868 page 2)

Evening Post & Wellington Independent 11-31 January & 01-19 February 1868

For Sale with immediate possession

That well-known and first-class Hotel at the Pakuratahi, known as the Golden Fleece

At present in the possession of Mr Walter Hodder

With the Hotel will be sold the stables, out-buildings and all conveniences for carrying on a first-class business.

The stock and furniture are to be taken at a valuation.

Attached to the Hotel are fifty acres of land and the purchaser will have the option of taking the lot or whatever less quantity he may think fit. The land is laid out in two well fenced paddocks, containing twenty acres; one acre of garden, the remainder is standing bush.

The Golden Fleece is a newly and substantially built hotel, doing a first-class business, with accommodation for twenty travellers and the same number of horses.

Cobb & Co change horses here and the passengers by their coaches dine daily at this hotel.

For further particulars apply to

Mr Walter Hodder, Pakuratahi

Or to Mr Francis Sidey, Wellington - 7th January 1868

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post & Wellington Independent newspaper 11 to 20 January & 01-19 February 1868)

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 13 January 1868

Local and General News

The Pukeratahi Hotel – Hodder's Golden Fleece Hotel, at the Pukeratahi is now advertised as in the market.

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper 13 January 1868)

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 13 January 1868

For Sale with immediate possession

That well-known and first-class Hotel at the Pakuratahi, known as the Golden Fleece

At present in the possession of Mr Walter Hodder

With the Hotel will be sold the stables, out-buildings and all conveniences for carrying on a first-class business.

The stock and furniture are to be taken at a valuation.

Attached to the Hotel are fifty acres of land and the purchaser will have the option of taking the lot or whatever less quantity he may think fit. The land is laid out in two well fenced paddocks, containing twenty acres; one acre of garden, the remainder is standing bush.

The Golden Fleece is a newly and substantially built hotel, doing a first-class business, with accommodation for twenty travellers and the same number of horses.

Cobb & Co change horses here and the passengers by their coaches dine daily at this hotel.

For further particulars apply to

Mr Walter Hodder, Pakuratahi 11 January 1868

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper 13 January 1868)

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 15 February 1868

Through Captain Smiths Line

In order to test the length of time required to go through Captain Smith's line of the Rimutaka, Mr T Kempton junior with a mate Mr F Hodder, started through it a few days ago and accomplished the distance in 12 hours and 10 minutes from Hodder's to the plain. The following interesting account had been furnished to us by Mr Kempton – We left the Golden Fleece Hotel, Pukeratahi at half past six in the morning and reached the saddle of Mount Wardell at 8. Made a good fire there and reached the creek at half past 8 and the Tauherenikau river at 10 where we stayed half

an hour and refreshed ourselves, after which we again started down the river. [there are further details of the trip]

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper 15 February 1868)

Wellington Independent newspaper 20 February 1868

Notice – A free dinner and ball will be given by Mr W Hodder at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi on Thursday 27 February 1868. Dinner at 6 o'clock. Walter Hodder – 19 February 1868

(Reference Papers Past website Wellington Independent newspaper 20 February 1868 page 5)

<p>N O T I C E.</p> <hr/> <p>A FREE DINNER and BALL will be given by Mr W. HODDER at the Golden Fleece Hotel, Pakuratahi, on Thursday, February 27, 1868. Dinner at 6 o'clock.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">WALTER HODDER.</p> <p>Feb. 19, 1868.</p>

(Reference Papers Past website Wellington Independent newspaper 20 February 1868 page 5)

The hotel continued to be advertised for sale in the newspaper during February 1868 to January 1869.

[1868] To provide a stopping place for travellers before they tackled the crossing of the Pakuratahi River and the climb of the Rimutaka Ranges, a hotel or accommodation house named the Golden Fleece was opened somewhere near the Kaitoke Post Office. A post office under the name of Pakuratahi was opened in the home of William F MASON on 01 January 1868 with mails handled by the Wellington-Masterton mail coach service. The coach stopped for a change of horses at the Golden Fleece Hotel.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R21726989AAMF W3327 909 box 109 a 30/449 Historical files regarding Post Offices Upper Hutt 1909-1987)

The Kaitoke Post Office opened in 1878 served the railway construction workers and later settlers. This office was in the railway station where the stationmaster was postmaster. Mails were received from Wellington by Mail. The construction and opening of the railway lessened the need for coach services and as the railway advanced the coach services were reduced and operated from the open railhead. After the railway had opened to Featherston the number of travellers stopping at the Golden Fleece at Pakuratahi decreased considerably and the hotel later closed. The post office had already closed on 30 September 1877.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R21726989AAMF W3327 909 box 109 a 30/449 Historical files regarding Post Offices Upper Hutt 1909-1987)

1869 John Bentley or Burtley MASON was the proprietor of the Golden Fleece Hotel. His father William Frederick MASON also resided in the Pakuratahi area along with his brother William Nathaniel Edward MANSON who was commonly known as Edward.

Wellington Independent newspaper 28 January 1869

Golden Fleece Hotel Pakaratahi

J B MASON having taken the above hotel begs to inform the inhabitants of Wellington and surrounding district, that it is now replete with every convenience and comfort for visitors, and trust by paying every attention to the wants of those who may favour him with a visit to gain a fair share of public patronage.

For travellers and families wishing to spend a few days in the country, this hotel will be found peculiarly adapted, as the conveniences of an hotel will be found combined with the comfort of a home. Wines and Spirits of the best quality also good stabling, and paddocks for horses

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 28 January 1869)

The newspaper article recording J B MASON and the Golden Fleece continued from January to December 1869 and January 1870.

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 15 January 1870

Fatal Accident – We regret to have to record an accident which occurred at the Pakuratahi on the 16th instant at six pm. It appears that a man of the name of Nathaniel Trench who used to work at the saw mills but who has latterly been employed on the roads fell under a loaded wagon belonging to Mr Haywood which passed over his body crushing him almost literally to death. He died from the internal injuries sustained to about eleven pm. An inquest will be held at Mr Mason's Pakuratahi Hotel on the 15th instant (this day)

(Reference Paper past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper 15 January 1870)

15 January 1870

Information's of Witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen touching the death of Nathaniel TRENCH at the dwelling house of John Burtley MASON known by the name of The Golden Fleece in the Province of Wellington in the Colony above mentioned on Saturday the fifteenth day of January one thousand eight hundred and seventy before John George Frederick WILFORD one of the Coroners for the said Colony on a Inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of Nathaniel TRENCH then and there lying dead as follows to wit:-

William Nathaniel Edward MASON [known as Edward] being sworn saith that on Thursday 13th January 1870 the deceased came to our house at the Pakuratahi about half past four o' clock in the afternoon he was about half drunk he walked pretty steadily. I took him down to his whare which is I should think about a mile and a quarter from our house on his way he called at the Golden Fleece Hotel & had a glass of something I don't know what. I left him in his whare. Haywards waggon was passing at the time and I got upon it. When we got a little way from his home I saw him lying in the road, a few minutes afterwards as I was standing on the shafts I heard somebody by the side of the waggon I looked round & deceased was lying on the ground just in front of the hind wheel the wheel at once passed over him his head was under the waggon & his feet outside. The wheel seemed to pass over him just about his hips, he was on his side I shouted to Hayward to stop the waggon which he did as quick as possible deceased did not seem to us much hurt we picked him up and put him on the top of the waggon he soon spoke complained of being sore and of his arm being broken we carried him from the waggon into Mr Mason's house and laid him on a bed. This would be about six o' clock he would not let us touch him to take his clothes off but wanted us to get a trap and take him to the Hutt I could not get a trap until 4 o'clock the next morning he said he would go down then. I went to milk, when I came back deceased seemed worse in great pain so I got a horse & went as far as the Upper Hutt where I got a person to go for the doctor when I got back he was dead. (signed) *W N E MASON*

Joseph HAYWARD being sworn saith that on Thursday afternoon I was coming along the road with my waggon which had about four & a half tons of goods in at the time as I passed the house occupied by deceased I saw him put out his head, I thought he seemed to be in liquor so I took no further notice of him. When I got a little way down the road narrow [sic] the last witness came up & got upon the shafts, he said the deceased was believed that he was in liquor soon I head Mason shout out I at once pulled up and on looking back I saw deceased lying across the wheel track. We put him on the waggon carried him to Mr Mason's house and put him on the bed. I then went to attend to the horses when I came back I wanted to undress him but he would not be undresses. I left him again and when returned deceased was asleep. I saw him again about seven o'clock he did not complain much but went to sleep again. I saw him again about ten o'clock he was then on the floor, those who had been with him had found out he was hurt in the private so at their request I lent them a waggon horse to go for the doctor, about half an hour after that he died (signed) *J HAYWARDS*

George Phillips being sworn saith that about half past nine on Thursday night E Mason came to the Golden Fleece Hotel where I am groom and asked me to go and sit up with deceased, I went, deceased seemed to me to be dying so I sent E Mason for the doctor, shortly after Manson left he died. After deceased was dead we undresses him I left as soon as E Mason's father came. (signed) *George PHILLIPS*

John Bentley MASON being sworn saith that I am landlord of the Golden Fleece Hotel. I remember the deceased Nathaniel Trench calling at my house on Thursday afternoon he called for a small glass of brandy which my wife gave him. I could tell that deceased had had a glass but he was not drunk - (signed) *J B MASON*

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R24282748 ACGS 16211 J1 93/be 1870/199 Coroner Hutt 17 January inquest proceedings on Nathaniel Trench year 1870)

An Inquisition indented taken for Our Sovereign Lady the Queen at the house of John Bentley MASON at the Pukuratahi in the Province of Wellington in the said Colony on the fifteenth day pf January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy before John George Frederick WILFORD one of the Coroners of our Sovereign Lady the Queen for the said Colony on view of the body of Nathaniel TRENCH then and there lying upon the oath of

<i>John WILKINS foreman</i>	<i>Thomas WALDIN</i>	<i>Robert HOOPER</i>
<i>George HALL</i>	<i>John BERGE</i>	<i>George wise LEACH</i>
<i>Edwin PIKE</i>	<i>William HERCOCK</i>	<i>John HARTLEY</i>
<i>David HART</i>	<i>Arthur BURLING</i>	<i>Thomas DOREEN</i>

Goof 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 Nathaniel TRENCH came to his death do upon their oaths say That: - Nathaniel TRENCH was accidently killed by falling under the wheel of a waggon on Thursday 13th January 1870 at the Pakuratahi and that no blame can be attached to anyone.

In witness whereof as well the said coroner as the said Jurors aforesaid have hereunto set and subscribed their hands and seal the day and year first above written J G F WILFORD Coroner

<i>John WILKINS foreman</i>	<i>Thomas WALDIN</i>	<i>William HERCOCK</i>
<i>Robert HOOPER</i>	<i>John HARTLEY</i>	<i>George HALL</i>
<i>David HART</i>	<i>John BERGE</i>	<i>X Arthur BURLING</i>
<i>G W LEACH</i>	<i>X Thomas DOREEN</i>	<i>Edwin PIKE</i>

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R24282748 ACGS 16211 J1 93/be 1870/199 Coroner Hutt 17 January inquest proceedings on Nathaniel Trench year 1870)

Wellington Independent Newspaper 24, 26 March 1870

To let or sell with immediate possession the well-known hotel Golden Fleece Pakuratahi doing a good and profitable business the present occupants being compelled to leave for England. For particulars apply to J B Mason on the premises or to W Hodder Featherston.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 24, 26 March 1870 page 7)

The above newspaper article continued in the above newspaper for some time and also in the Wairarapa Standard newspaper in March to April 1870.

Wellington Independent newspaper 30 April & 03, 07 May 1870

Notice

All Persons having Claims against the undersigned are requested to forward them for Payment on or before the 7th of May as I am leaving the colony

J B Mason Golden Fleece Pakuratahi.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 07 May 1870 page 7)

Wellington Independent newspaper 10 December 1870

Railway Line to Wairarapa

The line crosses the coach road twice, the first time about a mile from the Golden Fleece Hotel, which may serve as a station for the district. There is a very fine bush flat between the line and the hotel which will doubtless be rendered productive by its owners of the Mungaroa hill is about four miles from the river crossing and is nearly all level.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 10 December 1870)

Wellington Independent newspaper 31 March 1871

The Rimutaka

I now learn that it will take them weeks before the three bridges requiring to be built are erected, two of these being on this side the hill, and the other between the Golden Fleece Hotel and the Pakaratahi.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 31 March 1871)

Information about William Frederick MASON and his family is located at the end of this document under the section "*People connected with the Golden Fleece & Section No 8*".

In 1871 Thomas WAGG was the proprietor of the Golden Fleece Hotel

Wellington Independent newspaper 04 to 25 May 1871

Wanted an experienced cook for the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi - Apply to Thomas Wagg proprietor.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 04 May 1871 page 3)

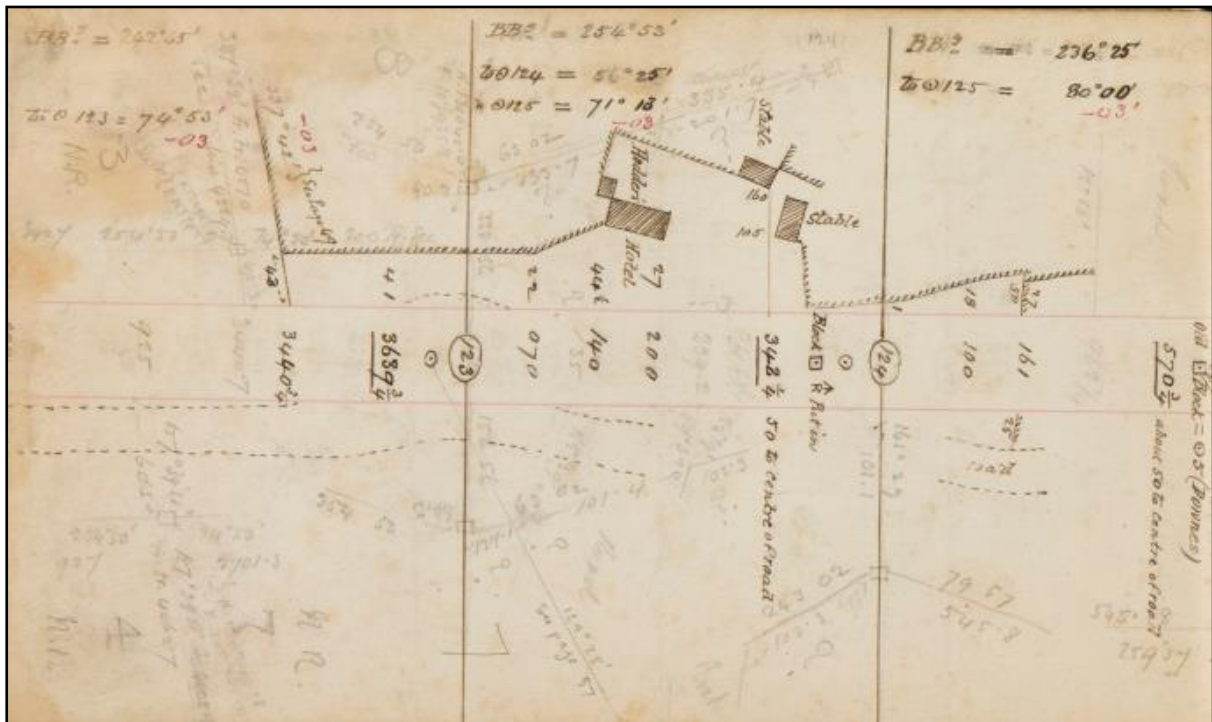
Evening Post newspaper 21 July 1871

Wellington and Wairarapa Railway

The length of the tunnel as shown is 130 chains and the length of line along the route from the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi to Featherston is 8¾ miles.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 21 July 1871)

1874-1875 Hodders Hotel



(Reference LINZ website fieldbook J Sircom Jnr Upper Hutt & Pakuratahi 1874-1875 WN_303-0045 page 41)

Evening Post newspaper 23 April 1874

Licensing Court – Country Licenses – The following licenses were granted – Hutt District – Isaac Wilkins Railway Hotel Upper Hutt – Annie Collins Mangaroa Hotel Mangaroa – Thomas Wagg Pakuratahi Hotel Pakuratahi

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 23 April 1874 page 2)

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 06 January 1875

Accommodation in Public Houses

Sir – Having been obliged to stop at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi on Monday and Tuesday I will describe the accommodation I got at the above house. When I entered the door the first person I saw was Mrs W I asked her politely if she could accommodate me with a bed for the night. The women looked me up and down and then gave a grunt, something like you would receive from a pig instead of saying Yes or No. Being rather hungry I wished to know if tea would be ready soon, I suppose so, was my answer. I had to wait until seven o'clock when tea was announced as ready by Mr W who shouted to Mrs W. Misses come here and lets have tea for all are standing at the door. Mrs W bounces into the kitchen saying, I shall come when I like I'm boss not you. Mrs W Well then be boss if you like and carves yourself and throw down knife

and fork on the table which Mr W picks up and says, I dare say I can do that little job. He sits down before a large dish with a very large cover which any one would think that underneath would be a very large joint but judge my surprise when the cover was removed to behold a knuckle bone of ham enough for one naive after a hard days work but twelve had to dine off it for which we had to pay 1 s 6d per head deducting the two cups of tea would leave the ham at about 4s 6d per lb. Well we finished out tea and then retired to the parlour where had already assembled three or four drunken men singing and swearing. The evening coach arrived and some of the passengers wished to be accommodated with tea but were told the fire is out and there was no one to make any. Where were the daughter? One was courting and the other was dancing because it was her birthday, so travellers must go unaccommodated through this bit of foolishness.

There is a very all could be accommodated for instance, keep water always hot and when any one wants tea it is easily made and without trouble. Many travellers prefer a cup of tea to malt liquors after traveling it is more refreshing.

I asked Mrs W in the evening if the bed was ready, she walked away but returned in a few minutes. She then said Come on I'll show you up, which she did giving me a candle with strict orders to blow it out. I did not have much sleep all night for the drunken lot in the parlour kept singing a bit of a song new and again during the night. I was glad when morning came. I turned out early but found some already up. I looked into the parlour and the men were laying about on the floor which put me in mind of the casual wards of a London workhouse.

Such is the accommodation you receive at such a noble house known as the Golden Fleece Hotel. I think if Mr and Mrs W were to treat their customers with more civility they would be thought more of and try if they cannot find a better accommodation for travellers

Yours &c W E Chapman

Visitor to Featherston – Residing in Wellington – 02 January 1875

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper 06 January 1875)

19 January 1875

Pakuratahi to Major Heaphy Sir I wish to know if I can lease a portion of the native reserve at this place if so what are the terms I would like about six chains frontage on the opposite side of road to the Golden Fleece Hotel as shown in sketch your respectfully (signed) W Ockenden Railway inspector Pakuratahi [drawing marking the hotel saved as IMG_3136]

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R11836213 AAMK W3074 869 box 179 b 6/47/1892 1 Maori Reserved Land Pakuratahi Sections 4 and 7 Pakuratahi District Block XV Akatarawa District (This file also contains correspondence about Section 3) now 31/1893 years 1862 to 1884)

Evening Post newspaper 08 April 1875

Henry Tracey for stealing two bottles of beer from the Golden Fleece Pakuratahi was sentenced to two months imprisonment.

(Reference Paper past website Evening Post newspaper 08 April 1875)

New Zealand Times & Evening Post newspaper 28-30 April & 01-07 May 1875

Friday 7th May – Important Sale of Furniture and Stock-in-trade

At the Golden Fleece Pakuratahi

Mr R Duncan is favoured with instructions from Mr Wagg of the Pakuratahi to sell by public auction without the least reserve on Friday 07th May at the well-known Hotel The Golden Fleece The whole of the Furniture and Stock-in-trade without reserve. Sale will commence at 11 o'clock

(Reference paper past website New Zealand Times & Evening Post newspaper 28-30 April & 01-07 May 1875)

Evening Post newspaper 03 June 1875

Pakuratahi Hotel – To the Editor of the Evening Post

Sir – In your issue of last evening I perceived a letter signed F W Hodder wherein he evidently throws a slur on the former proprietor of the above named hotel. Having been a landlady of the Golden Fleece for the last five years ending the 10th of May last when possession was given to Mr Hodder, I feel that the slur is not only unjust but untrue. As a proof that the house was peaceably and well conducted in my time I may mention I had Governor Bowen, Lady Bowen and family at the house, who on leaving expressed themselves well pleased with the house and attention. I may also mention that our Superintendent the Provincial Secretary and nearly all the

leading merchants of the City of Wellington have frequently called and I may add Inspector Atchison has also been at the house many times on his journeys up and down and not one have I ever heard a complaint from.

The management and method of conducting the house in my time may be ascertained from any of the coach proprietors on the road also those who are in the habit of travelling by them

Apologising for trespassing on your valuable space

I am &c Phoebe WAGG

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 03 June 1875)

Information about Thomas WAGG and his family is located at the end of this document under the section "*People connected with the Golden Fleece & Section No 8*".

1875 Frederick W HODDER son of Walter HODDER became the proprietor.

Evening Post newspaper website 01 June 1875

The Pukaratahi Hotel – To the editor of the Evening Post

Sir – I reference to a local in this morning's times and the opposition of the police to renewal of the licence for Golden Fleece Pakuratahi allow me to say that I am the applicant for the licence but have only been in occupation of the house for a few days and am not therefore responsible for past mismanagement. It is my intention not to keep a bar only, but a good house of accommodation for travellers on the road and with that view I have already arranged for large additions to both house and stable. Twelve bedrooms and two sitting rooms are now actually in course of erection.

I am &c F W Hodder

(Reference Papers past Evening Post newspaper website 01 June 1875 page 2)

New Zealand Times newspaper 07 June 1875

An inquest was held at the Golden Fleece Hotel, Pakuratahi, on Friday last, on the body of Robert Baldin, who was drowned a few days previously. Four witnesses were examined, the only evidence possessed of any interest being that of John Sunnex, who discovered the body whilst pigeon shooting in the neighbourhood of the river bank, his attention having been drawn to it by his dog. According to the evidence of Sunnex the dog made a sudden "stand," and upon his going to see what was the matter he found the body in about 5 feet of water, jammed under a tree. Assistance being speedily procured, the body was removed to the Golden Fleece Hotel, and information conveyed to the police. The men in the employ of Messrs Farrell, Barker, Cooper, and Whiteman immediately subscribed an amount sufficient to bury the body, and indeed these men throughout, together with their employers, have acted in a manner that reflects the highest credit upon them. At the inquest the jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned."

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 07 June 1875 Page 4)

Evening Post newspaper 09 June 1875

Hutt Licensing Court

The following were opposed by the police – Ann Collins Mungaroa, Walter and Frederick Hodder Golden Fleece Pakurathi, Charles Harris Criterion Hotel Upper Hutt. All opposed cases were adjourned for fourteen days. Evidence was given of the houses being badly conducted and the adjournment was to afford opportunity of amendment

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 09 June 1875)

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 09 June 1875

At the Hutt Licensing Court to-day the following applications were opposed by the police – Annie Collins Mungaroa Hotel, Walter and Frederick Hodder Golden Fleece Pakuratahi and Charles Harris Criterion Hotel Upper Hutt. All the opposed cases were adjourned for fourteen days

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper 09 June 1875)

Evening Post newspaper 10 June 1875

The rival applications of Walter and Frederick Hodder, father and son, for the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi were opposed, first by one another on the ground that each was the rightful

owner of the property and secondly by the Inspector on the ground of mismanagement. Mr Buckley for Frederik Hodder asserted that his client had bought the property. Mr Brandon for Walter Hodder denied this as the son had not paid the money. Mr Buckley re-joined that he was ready to do so. The Commissioners decided to treat the father as the applicant. Inspector Atchison gave a very bad account of the house which had been disgracefully conducted by the former owner Wagg and was still worse in Hodder's hands. It was filthy to a degree with broken windows the accommodation was wretched the meals for coach passengers were not half cooked and of wretched quality. Travellers often were refused beds and horse fed and the house was given over entirely to drunkenness. Constable Lyster confirmed this statement. Mr Brandon said the former landlord was responsible for these defects, and not his client. The Inspector said complaints were made to him only the day before of travellers being annoyed and insulted there by drunken men. Messrs Brandon and Buckley both put in petitions numerous signed in favour of their clients and the latter displayed elaborate plans for improvements if he were licenses. Mr Commissioner Beetham said he also had heard many complaints of Waggons being pilfered while standing by the house. After a consultation - The Chairman said the Bench would adjourn the case for a fortnight but would not grant a licence unless then they were satisfied that the house would be properly conducted.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 10 June 1875 page 2)

New Zealand Times newspaper 10 June 1875

Hutt Licensing Court – Wednesday 09 June – (before J C Crawford, A Ludlam, Wm Beetham and G Beetham Licensing Commissioners). The Commissioners took their seats on the bench at noon.

Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi

Two applications for a renewal of the license for this hotel were put in by Walter Hodder and Frederick Hodder, father and son. Both were opposed by the police, on the ground that the house had been conducted in a disorderly manner. Before the applications were entered upon, a discussion arose between Mr Brandon, who appeared for the father, and Mr Buckley, who appeared for the son, as to which had the right to put in the application, a complication having arisen out of negotiations for the sale of the house to the son, which the latter had not completed to the satisfaction of the father. Mr Buckley contended that the son was the rightful applicant, as he had concluded the purchase of the property by paying portion of the purchase money. Mr Brandon denied that any such merit had ever been entered into, and that even if it had been, it was not completed. The Bench decided that as the license had been transferred to the father he was the proper person to make the application. Inspector Atchison then opposed the renewal of the license, on account of the disorderly manner in which the house had been conducted by the late occupant, Mr Wagg, who held possession up to about a month ago, when Mr Hodder took charge. The accommodation too, was nothing like what it should be, and it seemed to him that the condition of these country houses would never be much improved until the Bench insisted that the comfort and convenience of travellers along the road should be a first consideration with the landlords. Only two months ago two travellers Mr McKirdy and Mr Stewart called at this house between eight and nine o'clock in the evening, and asked for a bed, and even signified their willingness to put up with a shake-down, both of which were refused, and they were compelled to borrow lanterns and make their way down to Collins's at the Mungaroa, where they at last got a bed after some difficulty. Not long ago a gentleman connected with the telegraph office was similarly treated. He could neither get a bed for himself nor a feed for his horse, and as a last resource he had to travel over the hill to Featherston. Coach passengers also complained that they had to wade through drunken men to get to the dining room. Matters were bad enough in Mr Wagg's time, but since Mr Hodder had been in possession they had got worse. A fortnight ago he passed along the road, and found the home full of drunken men, and in a dirty, filthy condition, with windows broken here and there. He drew Mr Hodder's attention to the state of affairs, but on his return he found no change for the better had been made. The same indolent drunken class of men were hanging about the place, and the dinner put on the table displayed none of that attention which the coach passengers had a right to expect, the meat and potatoes being only half cooked. He therefore maintained that no matter what improvements were made in the house itself, the man was unfit for the position of landlord. Mr Buckley submitted plans which showed that the accommodation of the house and the stabling would shortly be greatly added to, if the Bench granted the license. The Bench adjourned the application for fourteen

days, in order that the applicant might furnish a more assuring guarantee that the house, and the management of it, would undergo material alteration.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 10 June 1875)

New Zealand Times newspaper 24 June 1875

The adjourned meeting of the Hutt Licensing Bench took place yesterday at noon, when consideration of the applications of Walter Hodder for a license for the Golden Fleece Hotel Pukuratahi, Charles Harris Criterion Hotel Upper Hutt, and Jane Collins for the Mungaroo Hotel, was resumed. Inspector Atchison was present to sustain the objections raised, and report upon the nature of the improvements effected, and Mr Buckley appeared for the applicants. The license for the Mungaroo Hotel was granted on condition that it should be transferred to Mr Mabey at the next licensing meeting, and a condition was attached to the licenses for the Criterion and the Golden Fleece, which were granted, to the effect that certain improvements must be made before next licensing day. The Bench expressed the opinion that it was disposed to deal leniently with the applicants, but a change upon the old order of things would be the sole ground for a renewal of the licenses at the next quarterly meeting, when Inspector Atchison, would, of course, report upon the conduct of the houses in the interim, Mr Buckley, on behalf of the applicants, said the reminder from the Bench would receive every attention, and gave a guarantee that there would be no ground for complaint as to the management of the houses in future.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 24 June 1875)

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 26 June 1875

Hutt Licensing Bench

At the meeting held on Wednesday, the license for the Mungaroo Hotel was granted on condition that it should be transferred to Mr Mabey at the next licensing meeting, and a condition was attached to the licenses for the Criterion and the Golden Fleece, which were granted, to the effect that certain improvements must be made before next licensing day. The Bench expressed the opinion that it was disposed to deal leniently with the applicants, but a change in the old order of things would be the sole ground for a renewal of the licenses, at the next quarterly meeting, when Inspector Atchison would, of course report on the conduct of the houses in the interim

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper 26 June 1875)

New Zealand Times newspaper 05 July 1875

An inquest was held at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi, on Friday June 4th, on the body of Robert Baldin, who was drowned a few days previously. Four witnesses were examined, the only evidence possessed of any interest being that of John Sunnex, who discovered the body whilst pigeon shooting in the neighbourhood of the river bank, his attention having been drawn to it by his dog. According to the evidence of Sunnex the dog made a sudden stand, and upon his going to see what was the matter he found the body in about 5 feet of water, jammed under a tree. Assistance being speedily procured, the body was removed to the Golden Fleece Hotel, and information conveyed to the police. The men in the employ of Messrs Farrell, Barker, Cooper, and Whiteman immediately subscribed an amount sufficient to bury the body, and indeed these men throughout, together with their employers, have acted in a manner that reflects the highest credit upon them. At the inquest the jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned."

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 05 July 1875 page 2)

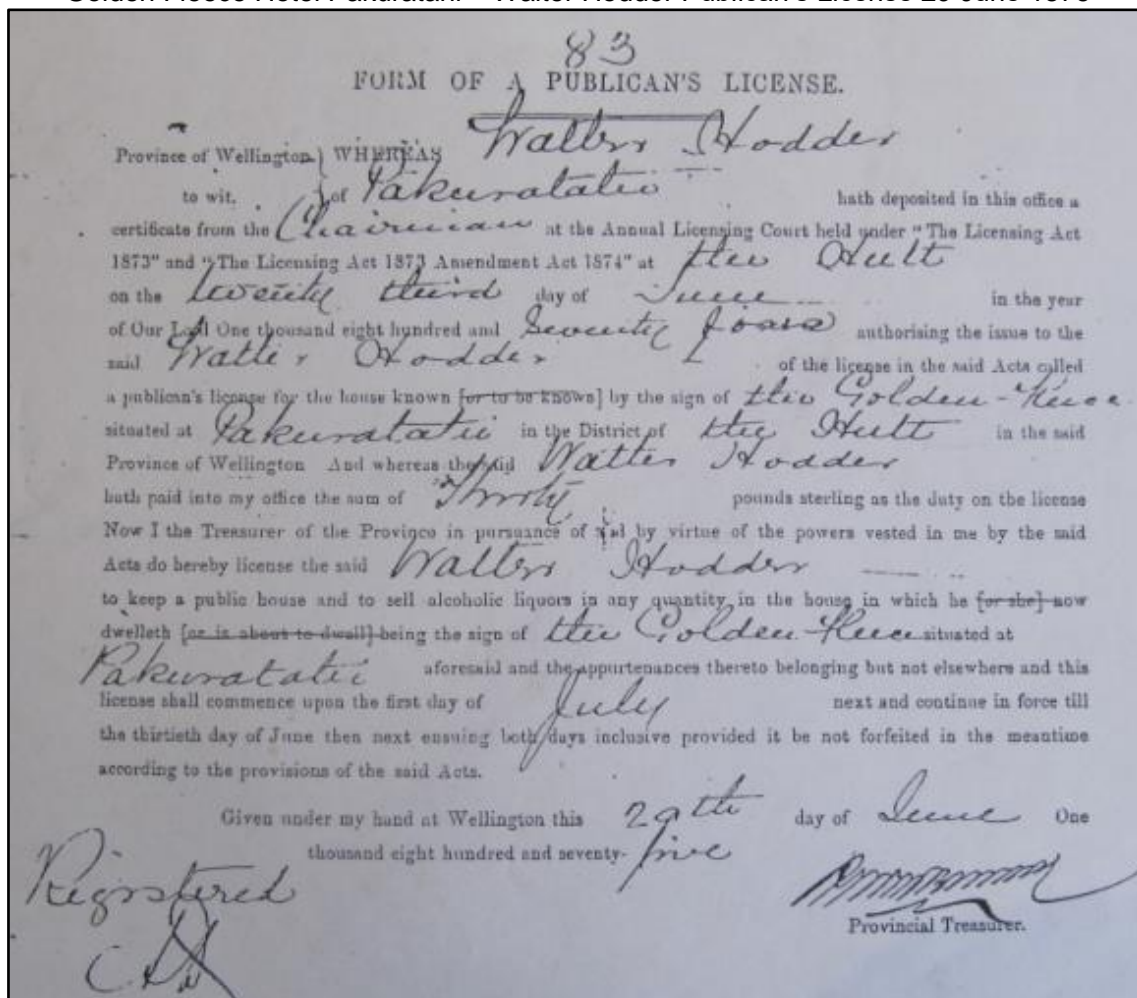
Wairarapa Standard & New Zealand Times & New Zealand Mail 15 & 17 & 24 July 1875

The Pakuratahi Contract Wellington and Masterton

The receiving depot for the contract, offices, stores, and stabling, are on the main line of road about half a mile from the Golden Fleece Hotel. The workmen are spread over the line in some eight or ten camps. About one third of them consist of new arrivals, but being men accustomed to navy work at home, are generally found equal to colonial hands. There are also a considerable proportion of sailors and diggers among the employees. The vicinity of the Golden Fleece is not considered an objection, partly because the new landlord, Mr Hodder, keeps an orderly house, and also because it prevents men to whom stimulants are a necessity going too far away from their work in quest of them.

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard & New Zealand Times & New Zealand Mail 15 & 17 & 24 July 1875)

Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi – Walter Hodder Publican's License 29 June 1875



(Reference Featherston Heritage Museum Golden Fleece Publican's Licence imaged saved as IMG_3158.JPG)

New Zealand Times & New Zealand Mail 18 & 21 August 1875

The Late Coach Accident

An inquest was held on Monday at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi, on the body of the child Louis Slade, who came by his death owing to the late coach accident. Dr Wilford (the coroner) explained the nature of the inquiry, and told the jury that if they found there had been any gross carelessness in the driving, or faultiness in the equipment of the coach, it would be their duty to return a verdict of manslaughter against the party whose negligence should be proved, supposing there had been negligence.

The jury having elected Mr Hockington foreman, proceeded to view the body. On their return. Alexander James was sworn and said - I was a passenger by the coach on Saturday night. All the way coming up we were rendered afraid of accident because the driver was driving very recklessly. He was driving very fast, and from one side of the road to the other. Coming up a rise, near the Kaitoki Hill, just beyond which the accident occurred, he was whipping the horses, and the coach was swerving. He stopped at the top of the hill, and I asked him whether he was

going to drive on he then started away at such a pace that I and others were ready to jump out, being afraid the coach would run into the bank. After we had proceeded a short distance further, the wheels on the left side of the coach struck the bank, three men, the deceased and its mother, being thrown out. The driver was one of the three men thrown out. The horses went on for a distance further, and the body of the coach was thrown off the frame. The body of the coach was smashed, and the horses ran away with the pole. I picked the child up, and it died in a few minutes. Blood was running from its head. I helped to carry the mother of the child to Mr Dicken's house which was just by. She soon came to her senses. I got on the coach at Mr Harris's. When I got on the coach I gave the driver twelve shillings fare for myself and others. The driver took it, but seemed to have great difficulty in counting the money. It was my impression that he was either very stupid or very drunk. I have ridden a good deal in stage coaches, and, in my opinion, the driving was very dangerous. I cautioned the driver. After the accident the driver seemed to be drunk. In plain words, I say I considered him drunk. As far as I know, the coach was well found and equipped. It is possible that the leading horse may have shied, but I did not see it. My impression is that the horse did not shy, though I was sitting at the back and could not see well. The wheels were in the water table for a distance of half a chain before the spot at which the accident occurred was reached. The people were thrown off owing to the sudden jolt caused by the coach-wheel coming from the water table on to the road. If the horse had merely shied there would have been time for a sober driver to get the horses on to the road before the accident had occurred.

To Jurymen - At the top of the hill he stopped, and wished a passenger to get inside, because there would be too much weight on the front of the coach. The passenger declined to go, but offered to put his luggage back to relieve the weight. The driver refused to go on until we asked him to say what he intended to do. We said if he would not take us we would get out and walk. He then started off at a furious rate. I don't think he had the break on, but he may have had. When I cautioned him he took no notice of me.

Louis Evans deposed - I was a passenger in the coach on Saturday night from the Upper Hutt, but got down before the accident occurred. I believe the coachman was the worse for drink, because he was driving at a great pace and all over the road. I spoke to him and told him he was going too quick, but he took no notice of me. I was sitting alongside of him part of the time.

To Jurymen - At Kaitoki I told last witness to look out going down the hill.

John Prentice deposed - I was a passenger on the coach on Saturday night. I rode from Cruickshank's to the Mungaroo on the outside, and I then got inside. At Mungaroo the coachman, who had been driving fast, told me to get inside, and I did so. At this time I heard a man say to the driver, "If you don't mind you'll have an upset." The driver replied "I don't care if I do." The driver was drunk. When we started from the Mungaroo there was a man and a woman inside who were talking, and the driver looked inside, and told the woman not to talk so loud. I thought from his manner he was drunk. At the Kaitoki the coach stopped, and some luggage was shifted back at the request of the driver. He would not then go on till some passengers said, "Are you going to take us on or not; if not we will walk." He then started off at a great pace hallooing and hooting. Directly afterwards I looked out of the coach and saw a man upon the ground. I sang out and said, "Stop the coach." It did not stop, and immediately afterwards I found the coach upset and myself under it, two children being under me. The night was bright moonlight. I am quite satisfied in my own mind that the man was drunk. In the afternoon I asked the driver to take me up in a coach he was driving. He said he could not because there was no room. There were no angry words between us.

To Jurymen - I did not see the driver get drunk. The wheel was never in the ditch till the time of the accident. He drove steadily up to the Kaitoki, and then drove very fast. It was a passenger who cautioned the coach, man.

Charles Jeffrey, also a passenger, gave corroborative evidence. The coach was driven very carelessly all the way, but till the time of the accident the pace was not fast, and the coach did not go into the ditch. I was looking at the horses just before the coach turned over. I looked out because it struck the bank. I saw three persons on the road. Horses shying might have been the cause of the coach running into the bank. On the roof of the coach were two boxes, a bag, and other things. Believed the man was drunk. Had never seen, the man before. A passenger told the coachman he would have an upset owing to the weight on the top of the coach.

James McCarthy, a passenger, who had alighted before the accident, considered the driver had driven wildly, believed the man was drunk, and had thought there would be an accident. The man could walk and talk, but could not handle the reins properly. When a woman got on the box the driver used improper language to her.

William Blake, who was on the box at the time of the accident, deposed, Furious driving caused the coach to go into the bank. The horses did not take fright, but the driver whipped them severely, swearing at the same time. Up to the time of the accident the coach was driven steadily. The coachman was not drunk and not sober. On the road he had three drinks. I was a little fresh. I had had five drinks during the day. I was thrown off owing to the near side wheel suddenly going into the rut. A wheel passed over my foot. The coachman was quite capable of controlling the horses. I think the woman should give her evidence, because when I got upon the box the coachman ordered me down again as there were enough people on the outside and there would be too much weight on. The woman who sat on the box pulled me by the coat, giving me the notion that she wished me to stop, and I would not get down. I pushed some boxes back and told him to drive on, and he then commenced driving furiously. It having been explained that the woman was too ill to leave her room, and there was not accommodation for the jury in her bedroom, the coroner was requested to visit her, and ascertain whether her evidence was sufficiently important to necessitate an adjournment of the inquest. On his return, the coroner read notes of what the woman said, showing that her evidence was confirmatory of what had been given before, excepting that she stated the horses had shied across the road into the ditch. The man was not drunk. When he asked her for the fare he used indecent language to her.

Charles Nelson the coachman deposed On the night of the accident I had an unusually heavy load. I was coming along steadily, but the leader slipped and put us in a rut. The sudden jerk carried the footboard away, and brought us down. I was driving slowly. I never go fast downhill. The wheel was in the gutter for about five yards, and then caught a piece of timber. I was stunned by the fall, and know nothing more about the matter. There were three horses in the coach. I was not drunk. I had had two or three drinks during the day. No one cautioned me as to the way in which I was driving, and no passenger expressed any fear of danger. I have had fifteen or sixteen years, experience of coaching in Sydney, Melbourne, and Christchurch.

To Jurymen I am not usually the driver of the coach, but the regular driver employed me because he did not feel well I call four miles an hour a steady pace. I did not go faster than usual.

The coroner summed up, and said if the jury were satisfied that the accident was caused solely by the recklessness of the driver, they must find a verdict of manslaughter against the driver, but they must be certain that the accident was owing simply to that negligence. If the shying of the horses had caused the accident, the driver was not liable. It would be seen that of those witnesses who said there had been no shying, one was at the back of the coach, and admitted that he could not see well, and the other, who was on the box, did not know what shying was. They all knew the nature of the road, and must be aware that a little swerve would put the coach in the ditch and if, as the coachman said, the footboard had given way and no one could say it had not the least shying would put the horses out of his power. The evidence proved that the man had driven satisfactorily till reaching the top of the hill, but owing to an altercation with a passenger, got into a rage, and drove down the hill rather faster than usual. If the jury had any doubt upon the subject they must give the man the benefit of the doubt.

The jury at 4.80 proceeded to consider their verdict. At half-past five they sent for the coroner, and the foreman explained that ten of the jury were in favour of a verdict of manslaughter, but the other two, although of opinion that there had been recklessness on the part of the driver, were not prepared to send him for trial, believing that the shying of the horses had something to do with the accident. The ten jurymen held that even if the horses had shied, the driver, had he been sober and going at a steady pace, would have been able to pull them up in the distance between the spot where the shying was alleged to have occurred and the scene of the accident. After some conversation,

The coroner placed three issues before them - Was negligence the sole cause of the accident? Presuming there was evidence of some negligence, was the shying the immediate cause of the accident? Was the driver careful, and the occurrence simply an accident. If they found in the affirmative to the first issue, there must be a verdict of manslaughter. In the second, a verdict of accidental death, with a rider censuring the driver; to the third, merely accidental death. The jury

must agree upon one of these points. At half-past seven the jury returned the following verdict - We find that Louis Slade was accidentally killed by being thrown from a coach near the Kaitoki hill, on the Pakuratahi Road, on Saturday August 14, 1875, that at the time of the accident the coach was being driven with some recklessness, that the evidence is not sufficient to justify the jury in giving a verdict that the accident was the immediate result of such recklessness ; that the jury are of opinion that the driver is not a fit and proper person to have charge of a coach.

The coroner at the conclusion of the inquiry called Nelson in and informed him of the narrow escape he had had, and added that he trusted it would be a warning to him to be more careful in future

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times & New Zealand Mail 18 & 21 August 1875)

New Zealand Times & New Zealand Times 24 & 28 August 1875

Resident Magistrates Court – Monday 23 August - Manslaughter

Charles Nelson was brought up on remand charged with the manslaughter of Louis Slade, by the negligent driving of a coach on Saturday the 14th of August. Mr Buckley appeared for the defence. Alex Tawse overseer for Oakes the contractor, was a passenger by the coach on the night of the accident. Prisoner was driving the coach. Witness got up at the Hutt. Before the coach got to Collins's the driver drove faster than usual, according to his idea. He stopped at the Kaitoki hill to allow three passengers to alight. After some delay he started, going down the hill at a furious pace, the coach being sometimes near the side of the road. After this the driver slackened the pace. The coach ran along the side of the water-table more than a chain before it struck the bank. He jumped off. Saw three men, a woman, and a child in the water-table. Went to a house and called for assistance. Went back and picked up the child, a boy Louis Slade. Blood was running from the child's head. Carried the child to Mrs Dickins. The child trembled but did not speak. Returned to the coach and helped to carry the woman in. The woman was insensible. Her name was Slade. We washed her head and gave what assistance we could, and went back to the scene of the accident. Saw the two men, who were not much hurt. Mr Black was one of them. The coach and horses had gone on. Saw the coach afterwards at the bottom of the incline, smashed to pieces. The horses had gone on. He got in at the Upper Hutt, and paid the fare to the driver. The driver appeared to be confused while counting the money, and counted it two or three times over. The driver appeared to be under the influence of drink. At the foot of the Mungaroa witness said to defendant he thought he was driving recklessly. The defendant said the coach was all right, it wouldn't break down. Witness told the men on the top to get inside the coach. The driver was still under the influence of drink. Witness had often travelled on that road. Never saw a coach driven at the same pace as the prisoner drove his. The reason he jumped off was because he saw it was dangerous to remain on the coach.

John Prentice labourer deposed Was a passenger on the coach driven by defendant at the time of the accident. Had a seat on the top. Was going to Kaitoki. Rode as far as the Mungaroa Hotel. He saw the driver go in and come out of the hotel. He came to him and asked for the fare. Did not notice what state he was in. Heard a man say to the driver, who was standing by the coach. "If you don't mind you will have an upset. The driver said, I do not care if I do. Witness believed him not to be sober. Thought if he were sober he would not make use of such an expression. A passenger asked him and his mate to get inside. The coach went off at any easy pace. The next stoppage was at the foot of the hill. He got out and walked up to the top, where he caught up to the coach. A woman and a child were sitting on the top. We got up again. About a mile further on a passenger got from the inside on to the box. The passenger would not get inside. The driver said there was too much weight on the horses' backs. There were two big boxes on the top. Two passengers sitting behind asked the driver to drive on. The driver used the whip and swore at the horses, and set the horses galloping. Witness was inside at the time of the accident. He looked behind and saw a man lying on the road. He hallooed at the coachman to stop. The coach struck the bank. The next thing he remembered was that he was lying under the top of the coach. It was a bright moonlight night. It was about 7.30 pm when he got on the coach at Cruickshank's. William Blake blacksmith was on the coach on Saturday week, the 14th instant. He got on the coach driven by the defendant at Taita. There were three horses in the coach. It was in the evening, about dusk. He got inside. The coach stopped at the next public-house. Went into the house and had a drink. Did not see the driver go in and have a drink. He kept his seat. At the Mungaroa got out and walked up the hill. We stopped at three public-houses after leaving Taita. Witness saw the defendant have three drinks, one of which

witness gave him. Walked going down the hill, and got up again outside. The driver asked him to get inside, as there was too much weight on the top of the coach. He was in the act of shifting his seat, when the woman pulled his coat as a hint not to shift. He did not shift his seat. He pushed the boxes farther back on the top of the coach. The coach was stopped. He sat down, and told the driver to drive on, which he did, as fast as the horses would go, the defendant whipping and urging the horses on. Witness thought the driver was driving very recklessly. He made no remark about it to the defendant. This pace continued until the accident took place, when the coach took a lurch into a rut, and witness was shot off on to his feet, his back resting against a bank, the hind wheel of the coach going over his right foot. When we got to the Mungaroa the defendant appeared to me just a little fresh.

By Mr Buckley he had five nips during the day between Taita and Mungaroa. They were all sixpenny drinks.

Mrs. Slade wife of Fred Slade, deposed I live at the Pakuratahi. Was a passenger with her son Louis Slade aged 13, by the Pakuratahi coach, on Saturday August 14. Was an inside passenger. When the coach was going uphill, gentlemen got out, and witness took an outside seat by the side of the coachman. Detained a gentleman by pulling his coat, and asked him to shift the boxes. The coachman began to whip the horses and drive them as fast as he could. The two hind horses commenced kicking. All witness remembered after was that the coach was driven across the road. Her son Louis was sitting beside her. The marks on witness's face were the result of the accident.

By Mr Bell witness had her baby at her breast at the time of the accident. The driver was holding the reins carelessly. One rein was hanging loose. The driver was using the whip and swearing at the horses at the time. Became unconscious.

By Mr Buckley : Do not know what room there was in the coach. She detained the gentleman while she took an outside seat because she felt faint. It was a pleasant night.

Constable Lyster deposed From information received, went to scene of accident. Found the coach upset, the top part detached. This was towards the bottom of the hill, at the turn in the road. There was sufficient room there for two coaches to pass each other. Went to the Golden Fleece at Pakuratahi. Saw a child, Louis Slade dead. The left side of the head was covered with blood. He was accompanied by Constable Stewart. The wound on the top of the head was about half-an-inch round. An inquest was held on the Monday following.

By Mr Buckley The verdict of the jury was that the child was that the child was killed by a coach accident, and that the driver had driven the coach recklessly, and that the coachman was not fit to have charge of a coach. The defendant was present. The coroner told him he had had a narrow escape. Witness considered the driver to be a pretty steady driver. Had seen him frequently pass his station. Considered the coach to be in pretty good order. Saw defendant pass Wilkins's public-house on the 14th. Did not think him to be drunk. The Bench committed the prisoner to take his trial at the next sitting of the Supreme Court.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times & New Zealand Times 24 & 28 August 1875)

New Zealand Times 08-29 September, 08- 28 October, 09-27 November, 01-06 December 1875
Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi

The above Hotel having undergone a thorough renovation and been refurnished throughout the Proprietor begs to inform the travelling public that he is in a position to provided accommodation equal to any house on the road and begs to solicit a share of patronage. Wines and Spirits of the best brands. A new twenty four stall Stables is just completed and vey attention will be paid to horses. Good secure paddocks for stock.

F W HODDER Proprietor

(Reference Papers past website NZ Times 08-29 September, 08- 28 October, 09-27 November, 01-06 December 1875)

Evening Post newspaper 05 November 1875

Some further particulars are to hand today in reference to the sudden death which occurred yesterday at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi. The deceased was about 40 years of age his name was John McLeod. He has no friends in the colony. He was working for about three months for Mr Oakes the railway contractor.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 05 November 1875 page 2)

James John MCLEOD died 03 November 1875 New Zealand

(Reference RGO NZ death registration 1876 folio website 1876/885 age 35 born about 1841 = Note late registration)

Evening Post newspaper 27 November 1875

Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi - The above Hotel having undergone a thorough renovation and been refurnished throughout the Proprietor begs to inform the travelling public that he is in a position to provide accommodation equal to any house on the road and begs to solicit a share of patronage. Wines and Spirits of the best brands. A new twenty four stall Stable is just completed and every attention will be paid to the horses. Good secure paddocks for stock.

F W Hodder Proprietor

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 27 November 1875 page 4)

Hutt Licensing Court middle of 1875

- Mungaroa (Mrs Collins)
- The Golden Fleece (W Hodder) Pakuratahi
- Criterion Hotel (J Martyn)
- The Railway (Isaac Wilkins) ex Highland Home (later Quinn's Post)
- Provincial Hotel opened 23 February 1876 (Joseph Ames)

Information about Frederick Walter HODDER and his family is located at the end of this document under the section "*People connected with the Golden Fleece & Section No 8*".

1876 Robert H ELLIOTT became the proprietor of the Golden Fleece Hotel

Evening Post newspaper 23 February 1876

The Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi has again changed hands. Mr Robert Elliott late of the Rising Sun Hotel, Greytown takes possession of it on the 10th of next month

(Reference Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 23 February 1876)

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 26 February 1876

Mr R H Elliotte has purchased from Mr Hodder his interest in the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakurati and takes possession of it on 10 March. This house is a capital business stand and Mr Elliotte may be congratulated on his new enterprise.

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper 26 February 1876)

Evening Post newspaper 26 May 1876

Pakuratahi Accident Fund

The quarterly meeting of the Committee of the Pakuratahi Sick and Accident Fund was held at the Golden Fleece Hotel on the 13th instant. Mc McColl occupied the chair. The Secretary read the report which was adopted. The Treasurer brought up the quarterly statement of accounts as follows.

A lengthy discussion took place on the question of Hospital charges. The present charge is £1 1s per week, and it was resolved that the committee should use their influence with the Hospital authorities to get it reduced to 15s per week so that when a patient was released from Hospital he might have the difference in the amounts to start again with. The following were elected as the executive committee – Messrs Austin, Ryan, Donald, H Farrell, J=Kendall, Hill, Ward and McColl. Mr Tawse was appointed treasurer and Mr Tindall secretary. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Elliott for his donation and for allowing his room to be used for the meeting gratis.

The usual compliment having been paid to the chairman the meeting separated.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 26 May 1876)

Evening Post newspaper 28 June to 01 July 1876

Tenders are invited until noon on Monday 3rd July for the erection of additions to the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi. Also to repairing stables and building another large new stable. Plans &c., to be seen at the Hotel. The lowest in any tender not necessarily accepted.

R H Elliott.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 28 June to 01 July 1876 page 3)

Evening Post newspaper 06 July 1876

Resident Magistrates Court - Stealing from the Person.

James Keely was charged with stealing a £5 note and a bottle of brandy from the person of William Thomson. Mr Allan appeared for the prisoner.

William Thomson - I am a carpenter, working for Mr Oakes, the prisoner also works for him, on the forenoon of Sunday I went to the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi, after dinner I got sick, and laid down on the sofa in the front room. I had a £5 note and some silver in my left waistcoat pocket, and a flask of brandy in my jacket pocket, while lying on the sofa I saw the prisoner take the brandy out of my pocket, and I felt him take some silver and put some back, I did not see the note in his hand, I told him not to take the brandy, as I was to take it home, he said it was all right, he then left the house, I followed him, and found him in a private house about 300 yards away, kept by a woman, I took with me a lad named Sargent, and on seeing us the prisoner said, Here's the brandy, I said I wanted the £5, and he replied that he hadn't got it that he did not take it off me, he pulled out three or four notes, and said he would settle it at the public house, we then went there, but he cleared out that night for Mungaroa, I followed him, and gave him in charge, the money I obtained as wages, paid to me on Sunday.

By Mr. Allan I had three drinks two brandies and a pint of beer, I had a glass of porter at dinner, when I lay down there were four or five men in the room, the prisoner said he would go to the public house, and see if he had changed the note, we both went, but I did not go inside, and he cleared out.

Alfred Sargent - I went with Thomson to the house of a woman called Gentle Annie, and found the prisoner there, I called him outside, and said, I want you to give me the £5 and bottle of brandy you took from Thomson, he gave me the bottle of brandy, which I returned to him, saying I wanted the note, he said Thomson was his mate, and it had nothing to do with me, I told him he had no business to take it, and he said he had that it was all right, as he would give it to him when he was sober, afterwards he said he had not got it, he had changed it, he showed me the change of the note, £5 15s. By Mr Allan he said he had a bottle of brandy, and had drunk it, but would give me Thomson's, which was a little flask, I gave it him, saying it was money I wanted.

Mr Allan contended that there was no evidence to connect the prisoner with the possession of Thompson's money. The Magistrate considered there was a sufficient case to warrant a committal, and the prisoner was committed, reserving his defence.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 06 July 1876)

Evening Post newspaper 10 July 1876

Robbery From the Person

James Kelly charged with stealing from William Thompson pleaded not guilty.

The circumstances under which the alleged offence was committed were detailed in evidence given on Thursday last in the Resident Magistrate's Court. The parties were fellow work men as carpenters at Pukuratahi and while at the Golden Fleece Hotel there, Thompson lay down on a sofa whereupon Kelly as he alleged abstracted a £5 note and a flask of brandy from his pocket.

The prisoner's statement was that the money was his own and that the evidence given by Sargent the witness called in support of the evidence of Thompson was contrary to fact.

The jury after a brief retirement brought in a verdict of acquittal.

(Reference Paper past website Evening Post newspaper 10 July 1876)

Evening Post newspaper 11 September 1876

An assault, an arrest, an escape, and a return to custody are reported by Constable Lyster of the Upper Hutt. The chief performer in these incidents is a man named Bacon of Masterton who had on the evening of the 8th arrived at Pakuratahi from Wellington. Mr Elliott of the Golden Fleece Hotel there on hearing cries of "Landlord" went outside and asked the man making the voice what was the matter. Instantly the man who proved to be Bacon threw a large stone at Mr Elliott, striking him in the mouth, knocking out his teeth and bruising him severely. Bacon was secured, handcuffed and kept in custody for the purpose of being brought to the police at the Upper Hutt. In the night he escaped got as far as Featherston and gave himself up to Constable Brunskill still with the handcuffs on. Constable Brunskill proceeded to Pukaratahi produced the key of the handcuffs and released Bacon when an information was laid against him for assault on which charge he will be brought to Wellington.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 11 September 1876)

Evening Post newspaper 19 September 1876

At the Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday, the case of Hodder v Elliott was heard. It was an action arising out of the recent transfer from the plaintiff to the defendant of the hotel known as the Golden Fleece, situate at the Pakuratahi, and was brought for the recovery of the sum of £43 18s 3d for goods sold and delivered, work and labour done and money paid by the plaintiff to the use of the defendant. Mr Moorhouse appeared for the plaintiff and Mr Buckley for the defendant. A set off was put in by the defendant, every item of which was allowed by the bench. After hearing the evidence of the plaintiff and defendant and their respective witnesses judgment was given for the defendant with costs.

(Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 19 September 1876 page 2)

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 05, 07, 10, October 1876

£1 Reward

Lost On Tuesday 25th September on the Rimutaka a white or cream coloured Sheep Dog answering to the name of Frank

Any person delivering the same to Mr Mountain Rising Sun Greytown or Mr Elliott Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi will receive the above reward

E J Riddiford

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper 05 October 1876)

Evening Post newspaper 23 November 1876

Robbing a Bar

William Daniel was charged with stealing 5s from the till in the bar of Elliott's Golden Fleece Hotel, Pakuratahi. George Moss the barman in the hotel, while standing in the cellar, but with his head above the floor of the bar, had seen the prisoner putting his hand through a small window and into the till. He followed him, took him into a room in the hotel, and, because he was obstropolous, tied him down until Mr Elliott returned, and until Constable Lister [Lyster] was sent for. When searched, five shillings were found on him and this amount was missed from the till. He previously appeared to have no money, his drinks having been paid for by others. The prisoner said he could, if he were allowed time, procure good character from his late employer, who lived on the other side of Napier, but the Magistrate thought the suggestion and the situation were rather remote, and that the theft had been proved. He therefore sentenced prisoner to three months hard labour. Thomas Brown, who was described as the chum of Daniel, was charged with stealing a bottle of porter from the bar of the same hotel. Mrs. Elliot had informed Moss, the barman, that the prisoner was sitting in front of the hotel with a bottle of porter in his hands, and Moss found him there playing with it, he had not bought a bottle of porter, and he was given in charge. The prisoner was remanded for a week, to enable evidence to be given as to his having taken the bottle from the bar.

(Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 23 November 1876 page 2)

New Zealand Times newspaper 20 December 1876

In Cresswell v Elliott, which was a claim for a week's wages by the plaintiff and his wife against the proprietor of the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi a verdict was given for the defendant with costs.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 20 December 1876)

Evening Post newspaper 11 June 1877

It is believed that a man named Thomas Edwards, who has been missing from Pakuratahi since Friday morning last, has committed suicide. For the past year he has been employed in the capacity of cook by Mr Elliott, of the Golden Fleece Hotel, and his employer had always regarded him as a respectable man. A few days ago he determined to take a holiday, and accordingly came to town with £48 in his pocket. He put up at an hotel in town, and remained there for three days, drinking a good deal in the meantime. At the end of the three days he had spent £37. He then returned to the Pakuratahi Hotel, and on Thursday last it was found that he was suffering from an attack of delirium tremens. Edwards was put to bed and attended to, but next morning it was discovered that he had escaped from the house during the night. The police and others have been searching for him ever since, but up to the present time no traces of him have been discovered. It is feared that he has made away with himself. [Since writing the foregoing, we

learn that Edwards has been found. A telegram from the Upper Hutt, received by the Inspector of Police from Constable Lyster is as follows, ["Edwards was discovered, alive, at nine o'clock this morning, in a thick scrub, one and a quarter miles from Pukuratahi. Further particulars when I come in."]

(Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 11 June 1877 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 13 June 1877

Constable Lyster has sent in his official report with regard to the case of the man Thomas Edwards, who was missing from the Golden Fleece Hotel, Pakuratahi, for some days last week. It appears that Edwards was walking all the time he was away in the bush, or he might have died from exposure. As soon as he was discovered on Monday morning, he was taken to Mr Elliott's hotel, where he received every attention. He is now progressing favourably.

(Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 13 June 1877 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 07 June 1878

The Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi

Is a large commodious house capable of accommodating forty persons comfortably. Is beautifully situated at the foot of the hill Rimutaka, thirty miles from the Empire city, and at present the terminus on the Wellington and Masterton Railway, offers every convenience to visitors. This establishment is under the personal superintendence of the proprietor, whose long experience offers a substantial guarantee that his patrons will be properly attended to. The inducements this hotel offers to those who wish to spend a few hours of sweet repose from the cares of a busy life, is second to none in the colony. The scenery is grand, the bush magnificent, and abounds with all the choicest ferns. The shooting (in season) is first rate - hundreds visit it. To bathers, a rare opportunity for everyone who is anxious to indulge, in a luxury that every white man considers a blessing, ablution gratis. Visitors will be able to leave Wellington in the morning and return in the evening. (See time table). A Coach will be running to meet every train, at a very moderate fare. Stable accommodation for seventy horses. Good secure paddocks. Wines, Spirits, Ales, &c., of the very best brands only. All kinds of games indulged in. Rifle and Carbine practice. R H Elliott Proprietor.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 07 June 1878 page 4)

New Zealand Times & New Zealand Mail newspaper 14 June & 16 June 1877

Hutt Licensing Court – Wednesday 13 June - Golden Fleece Hotel

Robt. H Elliott make application for a renewal of his license for the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi. It appeared that the house was generally kept clean and well conducted and the license was granted.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times & New Zealand Mail newspaper 14 June & 16 June 1877)

Evening Post newspaper 14 June 1877

Hutt Licensing Court – Renewals

The following licenses were renewed no opposition being made in regard to them – Albion Hotel J H Corbett – Golden Fleece Hotel R H Elliotte [sic] – Railway Hotel N Valentine – Railway Hotel (Upper Hutt) Isaac Wilkins – Mungaroa Hotel Thomas Wagg

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 14 June 1877)

Evening Post newspaper 21-23 June 1877

Notice

If the horse which was left here on the 3rd is not claimed and all expenses paid within one week from date he will be sold to defray expenses.

R H Elliotte – Golden Fleece Pakuratahi – 21 June 1877

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 21-23 June 1877)

Evening Post newspaper 26-29 September, 01 October 1877

Notice

The Horses, Bridles and Saddles that were left at Pakuratahi by Mr J Barber if not released and all expenses paid will be sold to defray the same

R H Elliotte – Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi -

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 26-29 September, 01 October 1877)

Evening Post newspaper 10-16 October 1877

Notice

As the Post Office at the Pakuratahi is now Closed, R H Elliotte will for the future have a Private Mail Bag and send letters daily. If the settlers would like to avail themselves of this mode of sending or receiving their letters they will be welcome to do so.

R W Elliotte – Golden Fleece Pakuratahi

(Reference Paper past website Evening Post newspaper 10-16 October 1877)

Evening Post newspaper 03-31 January & 04-18 February 1878

The Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi

Is a large commodious house capable of accommodating forty persons comfortably. Is beautifully situated at the foot of the hill, Rimutaka, thirty miles from the Empire city, and at present the terminus on the Wellington and Masterton Railway, offers every convenience to visitors. This establishment is under the personal superintendence of the proprietor, whose long experience offers a substantial guarantee that his patrons will be properly attended to. The inducements this hotel offers to those who wish to spend a few hours of sweet repose from the cares of a busy life, is second to none in the colony. The scenery is grand, the bush magnificent, and abound with all the choicest ferns. The shooting (in season) is first rate hundreds visit it. To bathers a rare opportunity for everyone who is anxious to indulge in a luxury that every white man considers a blessing ablution gratis. Visitors will be able to leave Wellington in the morning and return in the evening. (See time table). A Coach will be running to meet every train, at a very moderate fare. Stable accommodation for seventy horses. Good secure paddocks. Wines, Spirits, Ales, &c, of the very best brands only. All kinds of games indulged in. Rifle and Carbine practice.

R H ELLIOTTE Proprietor

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 03-31 January, 03-18 February 1878)

Evening Post newspaper 10-14 January 1878

For sale a Horse and Dray with two sets harness equal to new a bargain to anyone wishing to purchase. Apply to George Moss Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 10-14 January 1878)

1878 George MOSS was employed by Robert Henry ELLIOTTE the proprietor of the Golden Fleece Hotel.

Evening Post & New Zealand Times newspaper 24 & 25 January 1878

Breaking Tumblers

John Finn was charged with breaking two tumblers the property of H Elliott.

Prosecutor the landlord of the Golden Fleece Hotel said that prisoner was lodging in the house. On Friday the 18th instant he and others were hanging about the bar drinking. At last witness refused to serve him with any more beer and prisoner then smashed the two tumblers using most obscene language.

He was fined 20s and ordered to pay 4s damages or in default 48 house imprisonment.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post & New Zealand Times newspaper 24 & 25 January 1878)

Evening Post newspaper 05 February 1878

Robbery at Pakuratahi

Walter Ockenden was charged with stealing a bag of oats a case of shot, caps &c several bottles of spirits and other articles the property of the Hon G M Waterhouse of the Wairarapa.

George Harris a man in the employ of Mr Waterhouse said that on the 20th January he was in charge of a waggon filled with goods, he arrived at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi in the afternoon and left the waggon with the goods in it until the following day, covering it with a tarpaulin. Ongoing to it about 4.30 next morning he found the fore part of the tarpaulin lifted up and the rope which secured it having been untied. He missed a case but he did not know what it contained. He had been since informed that it contained shot, chains and locks a case of gin and a bag of oats were also missing. Ockendon was about the place all day but witness did not

speak to him about a week afterwards witness received information which induced him to go to prisoner who said he had the shot &c, which he had picked up on the road, the case being broken and the contents scattered on the ground.

Constable Lyster said he knew prisoner who was a carpenter living near the Pakuratahi Hotel witness went to his house on Thursday with a search warrant he found nothing afterwards he went to Kaitoke where he saw the prisoner and asked him about the missing things he said he found the case of shot &c on the road early on Sunday morning the case had been burned and he emptied the shot into a keg there were half a dozen bags of shot, two being broken he denied all knowledge of the case of gin or bag of oats.

Prisoner was remanded for a week for further evidence.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 05 February 1878)

Evening Post newspaper 19 February 1878

The Pukuratahi Robbery

Walter Ockendon was charged, on remand, with stealing a case of gin and other articles, the property of the Hon G M Waterhouse, at Pakuratahi.

George Moss, barman at the Golden Fleece Hotel, Pukuratahi, said that on 20th January a waggon belonging to Mr Waterhouse arrived at the hotel, and the driver put up there for the night, the prisoner was at the hotel several times on that day and the next, witness heard no complaints of any robbery, but on the Friday following prisoner asked him if anybody had lost a case, as he had found one; he refused to say what was in it, when witness asked him why he had not mentioned it before, he said he had forgotten all about it, when Mr Waterhouse's waggon arrived it was daylight, and several others came up soon afterwards, if a case had fallen from the first waggon one of the other carters would have been almost sure to find it.

Cross examined by Mr Allan, A man named Jackman said the driver of Mr Waterhouse's waggon told him that he had lost a case of shot, caps, locks, and chains; prisoner was drunk all that week, he was not positive about the day on which prisoner mentioned the case to him, but he did not think it was on Tuesday.

Louis Thompson, carrier at Greytown, said that the day before his arrest the prisoner offered to sell him some cart chains. On the request of Mr Gordon Allan, a further remand until Tuesday was granted.

Another Robbery at Pukuratahi

Pat Shine, Thomas Maher, Meluish L de la Taste, and Howard W Mackinder, Esq., were charged with stealing £4 from the Golden Fleece Hotel, Pukuratahi.

They were remanded until Monday, without any evidence being taken.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 19 February 1878)

Evening Post newspaper 26 February 1878

Robbery At Pakuratahi

Walter Ockenden was charged on remand with stealing a case containing shot, &c., the property of the Hon G M Waterhouse. As Harris, the principal witness in the case, was not in attendance, Mr Gordon Allan, who appeared for the defence, said he would not ask for a further adjournment if Mr Crawford considered that, apart from some statement of Harris on which he (Mr Allan) wished to cross-examine him, there was a prima faete case made out.

Mr Crawford considered that there was a prime facia case, although not a strong one, and the prisoner was therefore committed for trial, Mr Allan reserving his defence.

The Hotel Robbery At Pakuratahi

Patrick Shine and Thomas Maher were charged on remand with stealing £2 16s, the property of Henry Devonshire groom at the Golden Fleece Hotel, Pakuratahi. Henry Elliott, landlord of the hotel, deposed that early on the morning of Monday week he was aroused by a pistol-shot fired in the house, he went into the passage and there saw Maher with a revolver in his hand, Shine said a man had been trying to steal his purse, and he had put a ball through the thief as he ran downstairs, in response to a request, Shine handed the revolver to witness, when he saw that five of the barrels were loaded, and one had recently been fired, Maher was standing near Shine the whole time, in the presence of the prisoners Devonshire declared that over £2 had been taken from his pockets, and in the morning another servant complained that he had been robbed. In answer to the usual caution. Shine said he was guilty of the robbery, but Maher know nothing about it. The prisoners were then formally committed for trial at the next sitting of the Supreme

Court. As Maher was leaving the Court he turned round and exclaimed to Inspector Atchison If I wait a thousand years I'll be revenged for this.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 19 February 1878)

1878 Richard WEBB held the temporary license for the Golden Fleece Hotel

Evening Post newspaper 14 May 1878

A Temporary transfer of license of the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi from Robert Elliotte to Richard Webb was granted by Mr Crawford RM this morning

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 14 May 1878)

New Zealand Times newspaper 06 June 1878

Hutt Licensing Court – Wednesday 05 June

The license was granted – Thomas Wagg Mungaroa Hotel Upper Hutt No objections for a renewal

Richard Webb, Golden Fleece Pakuratahi. Mr Fitzgerald applied for a renewal of the license. In reply to the Bench Constable Lyster said the applicant appeared to be a man who would conduct the house properly. The license was granted

Isaac Wilkins Railway Hotel Upper Hutt No objection. Granted

This concluded the business.

(Reference Paper past website New Zealand Times newspaper 06 June 1878)

Evening Post newspaper 13 June 1878

The Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi

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R H ELLIOTTE Proprietor

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 30 June 1878)

1878 Application to transfer license from Richard Webb to W H Montgomery

Evening Post newspaper 08 July 1878

The Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi

Is a large commodious house capable of accommodating forty persons comfortably. Is beautifully situated at the foot of the hill, Rimutaka, thirty miles from the Empire city, and at present the terminus on the Wellington and Masterton Railway, offers every convenience to visitors. This establishment is under the personal superintendence of the proprietor, whose long experience offers a substantial guarantee that his patrons will be properly attended to. The inducements this hotel offers to those who wish to spend a few hours of sweet repose from the cares of a busy life, is second to none in the colony. The scenery is grand, the bush magnificent, and abound with all the choicest ferns. The shooting (in season) is first rate hundreds visit it. To bathers a rare opportunity for everyone who is anxious to indulge in a luxury that every white man considers a blessing ablution gratis. Visitors will be able to leave Wellington in the morning and return in the evening. (See time table). A Coach will be running to meet every train, at a very moderate fare. Stable accommodation for seventy horses. Good secure paddocks. Wines,

Spirits, Ales, &c, of the very best brands only. All kinds of games indulged in. Rifle and Carbine practice.

W H MONTGOMERY Proprietor

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 08 July 1878)

Wairarapa Standard 18 July 1878

Caledonian Hotel Adelaide Road Wellington

R H Elliott (Late of the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi) Proprietor

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard 18 July 1878)

New Zealand Times newspaper 30 July, August, September 1878

In the Exchange Land Mart

On Monday 12th August 1878 At 2 o'clock pm Lot 3

Valuable Hotel Property with Ten Acres Freehold Land

One mile and a half from Kaitoke Railway Station

Important to, Brewers, Hotel-keepers, Speculators, and others

T Kennedy MacDonald and Co., are favoured with instructions to sell by public auction, on the above date.

The valuable property known as the Golden Fleece Hotel, on the main road to Wairarapa, within one and a half miles from the Kaitoke Railway Station

The building contains on the ground floor bar, bar parlour, large commercial room, two dining rooms, two private rooms, and kitchen, and on the upper floor, twenty bedrooms, capable of accommodating forty persons. The outbuildings consist of coach house, dairies, pig styes, fowl houses – Also

Four large stables containing in all sixty one stalls. With the hotel will be sold ten acres of splendid land divided into paddocks. The hotel is insured for £1700 and the stables for £500. Arrangements can be made for immediate, possession of the property, stock and, furniture being taken at valuation.

Plans of the property and full details may be seen and obtained at the auctioneers' office. Mr Montgomery, the present landlord has kindly consented to show intending purchasers over the property.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 30 July, August, September 1878)

Evening Post newspaper 10 August 1878

The other lost are 320 acres freehold farm land at Pakuratahi, the Golden Fleece Hotel and 10 ½ acres of land, near Kaitoke Station, valuable allotments in Featherston and Masterton.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 10 August 1878)

Evening Post newspaper 10 August 1878

Monday 12th August 1878 at 2 o'clock pm - Lot 3 Valuable Hotel Property with Ten Acres Freehold Land - One mile and a half from Kaitoke Railway Station. Important to Brewers Hotel Keepers, Speculators, and Others. T Kennedy Macdonald & Co. are favoured with instructions to offer for sale by public auction, on the above date - The valuable property known as the Golden Fleece Hotel, on the main road to Wairarapa, within one and a half miles from the Kaitoke Railway Station. The building contains on the ground floor, bar, bar parlour, large commercial room, two dining rooms, two private rooms, and kitchen and on the upper floor twenty bedrooms, capable of accommodating forty persons. The outbuildings consist of coach house, dairies, pig sties, fowl houses. Also four large stables, containing in all sixty one stalls. With the hotel will be sold ten acres of splendid land, divided into paddocks. The hotel is insured for £1700 and the stables for £500. Arrangements can be made for immediate possession of the property, stock and furniture being taken at valuation. Plans of the property and full details may be seen and obtained at the Auctioneers office. Mr Montgomery the present landlord has kindly consented to show intending purchasers over the property.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 10 August 1878 page 4)

Wairarapa Standard 17 August & 19 September 1978

Caledonian Hotel Adelaide Road Wellington – R H Elliott (late of the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi Proprietor. Wine and spirits of the best brands accommodations unsurpassed
(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard 19 September 1978 page 4)

Evening Post newspaper 10 August & 02 October 1878

The Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi - Is a large commodious house capable of accommodating forty persons comfortably. Is beautifully situated at the foot of the hill Rimutaka, thirty miles from the Empire city, and at present the terminus on the Wellington and Masterton Railway, offers every convenience to visitors. This establishment is under the personal superintendence of the proprietor, whose long experience offers a substantial guarantee that his patrons will be properly attended to. The inducements this hotel offers to those who wish to spend a few hours of sweet repose from the cares of a busy life, is second to none in the colony. The scenery is grand, the bush magnificent, and abounds with all the choicest ferns. The shooting (in season) is first rate - hundreds visit it. To bathers, a rare opportunity for everyone who is anxious to indulge, in a luxury that every white man considers a blessing, ablution gratis. Visitors will be able to leave Wellington in the morning and return in the evening. (See time table). A Coach will be running to meet every train, at a very moderate fare. Stable accommodation for seventy horses. Good secure paddocks. Wines, Spirits, Ales, &c., of the very best brands only. All kinds of games indulged in. Rifle and Carbine practice. W H MONTGOMERY Proprietor.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 02 October 1878 page 1)

Evening Post & New Zealand Times newspaper 12 September 1878

The application for sanction to transfer the license of the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi from Mr Webb to Mr Montgomery was adjourned for fourteen days.

(Reference Papers past newspaper Evening Post newspaper 12 September 1878 page 2)

New Zealand Mail newspaper 14 September 1878

All the transfers applied for the Golden Fleece Hotel at Pakuratahi from Mr Webb to Mr Montgomery which was adjourned for a fortnight.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Mail newspaper 14 September 1878)

New Zealand Times newspaper 28 November & December 1878

Thursday 5th December, at 12 O'clock.

In The Estate of Richard Webb - By Order of the Trustee.

At the Golden Fleece Hotel, Pakuratahi - Alfred A Barnett will sell by public auction

The whole of the household furniture, stock, and effects, appertaining to the Hotel, horse, cart, and harness, cow, poultry, pigs, and sundries.

Also on the same date, after the above sale, on the ground Pakuratahi, In the Estate of R H Elliott,

By order of the Trustee, a mare and foal, chestnut entire, and black gelding.

Terms cash at the fall of the hammer.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 28 November & December 1878)

Evening Post newspaper 28 November & 04 December 1878

Thursday 5th December at 12 o'clock

In the Estate of Richard Webb by order of the Trustee at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi. Alfred A Barneet will sell by Public auction – The whole of the Household, Furniture, Stock and Effects Appertaining to the Hotel, Horse, Cart and Harness, Cow, Poultry, Pigs and Sundries.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 04 December 1878 page 3)

Evening Post newspaper 14 December 1878

Wanted four men to split posts, rails and firewood.

Apply to T Marshall coal and wood yard Adelaide Road or Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 14 December 1878)

1878 George JONES was the proprietor of the Golden Fleece Hotel

Evening Post newspaper 23 December 1878

Wanted Known – Christmas and New Year – Returned Tickets issued at single fares (4s 6d) from Wellington to Kaiotke Railway Station, one miles from the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi where Picnic Parties can be supplied with hit water &c. Plenty of fruit and cream good grass paddocks for sports.

George Jones Proprietor

(Reference Paper past website Evening Post newspaper 23 December 1878)

Evening Post newspaper 23 December 1878 & 21 January 1879

Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi

George Jones having leased the above Hotel begs to inform the Citizens of Wellington likewise Travellers that favour him with their patronage that they will meet with everything to promote the comfort and enjoyment of Country life. The Wines and Spirits are all of the choicest brands.

Staple's XXXX Ale on Draught. 60 Stall Stables and well-grassed secure Paddocks.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 23 December 1878 & 21 January 1879)

New Zealand Times newspaper 09 May 1879

W V. Jackson v T K Macdonald

This was an action to recover possession of a certain document, being a report or valuation with respect to certain property at the Pukuratahi, or in lieu thereof the sum of £30. Mr Ollivier for plaintiff, Mr Edwards for defendant. The plaintiff's case was that before leaving for England some year or two ago he appointed his attorney and defendant in that capacity, discounted promissory notes of one Roxburgh to the amount of £3200, to enable Roxburgh to purchase the Golden Fleece Hotel, Pakuratahi, and the land on which it stands, defendant taking a mortgage on property as security. Ten months prior the same property had changed hands at the sum of £3150, but the valuation of Mr Beere, made before the notes were discounted, set the value down at £6850, and this valuation was given to Jackson to satisfy him that his attorney had acted in good faith in advancing so large a sum on the security of the hotel and lands. The property was put up to auction several times, and ultimately brought £1400. When instructions to sell were given, Jackson, who in the meantime had returned from England and resumed control of his affairs, lent Macdonald the valuation in order that he might get information from it on which to draw up advertisements. He had never returned this document, though repeated applications were made to him for it. Plaintiff said the document had a special value, inasmuch as it contained information which might be useful to him if he at any future time wished to take proceedings against his attorney for not having exercised due care. The defendant's evidence was not gone into, but when the Court adjourned Mr Edwards was stating that he should prove the document had not been lent by Jackson, but by Roxburgh, and therefore defendant was not liable to plaintiff. The case will be proceeded with further on Monday

(Reference Paper past website New Zealand Times newspaper 09 May 1879)

Evening Post newspaper 15 May 1879

Notice

I hereby give notice that all accounts owing to me must be paid on or before 15th May or legal proceedings will be taken for the recovery of the same. Likewise all accounts owed by me will be paid in full if rendered to.

H JONES Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi (late of Courtney Place)

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 15 May 1879)

Evening Post newspaper 19 June 1879

The annual meeting of the Hutt Licensing Court was held yesterday when the following licenses were renewed – W Bishop Provincial Hotel Upper Hutt – Henry Border Criterion Hotel Upper Hutt – Isaac Wilkins Railway Hotel Upper Hutt – The application of George Jones for a renewal of the lease the Pakuratahi Hotel was refused owing to the fact that the application was not sent in at the proper time.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 19 June 1879 page 2)

New Zealand Times newspaper 19 June 1879

Refused

George Jones lessee of the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi stated that it was not his fault that his application was not sent in within the prescribed time. He had done all he could. It was not for himself that he wanted the license but for his tenant. He handed in a document to the Bench signed by a number of residents in the district asking that the house might be licensed.

The Sergeant of Police said that he had told Jones that the house was unfit to have a license.

The applicant said it did not make it a bit of difference to him whether the house was licensed or not because he was going to remove from it.

In answer to the applicant the Bench said that the ground on which the license is refused is that the applicant had been sent in too late. If at the next Licensing Court the police complain of the unfitness of the house evidence would be taken. The hotel would have to be shut up at the end of the present month.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 19 June 1879)

New Zealand Times newspaper 09 August 1879

Meetings of Creditors.

A meeting of creditors of Irons and Ferguson, auctioneers, Masterton, was held on Wednesday, Mr Levin in the chair. A deed of assignment of the estate to Mr Sellar was, after some discussion, agreed to. The examination of Mr George Roxburgh was continued at the Supreme Court yesterday by Messrs Fitzherbert and Carroll. The debtor deposed to have given two bills of £300 each for the Golden Fleece Hotel at Pakuratahi to Mr Webb, in favour for the stock and furniture, and a guarantee had been given that he would not be called upon to pay the bills. He had ordered supplies for the hotel from various merchants, giving Mr Montgomery's bill and letters of guarantee for payment of said bill. In one instance Mr Isaacs had supplied goods without his guarantee, and Isaacs sued Montgomery for the amount. He paid no bills, as they never matured. From May to September Mr Montgomery brought him the takings of the hotel every week. The total amount received was £45 against that there was £200 disbursements actually paid, the balance was transferred to the account current of the Golden Fleece estate. He had received £250 commission for floating the Nydia Bay Saw Mill Company.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 09 August 1879)

New Zealand Times newspaper 11 September 1879

Hutt Licensing Court – Wednesday 10 September

Golden Fleece Hotel

Mr Jones applied for a license for the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi but an objection to the granting of the license was made by the Police as the premises were in such a dilapidated condition. The application was ultimately adjourned for a fortnight to enable the owner of the premises to make some proposition as to necessary repairs and alterations.

(Reference Paper past website New Zealand Times newspaper 11 September 1879)

Evening Post newspaper 21 November 1879

District Court This Day

Carroll, Trustee of Robert Elliott v Hastwell

A jury of four composed of Messrs J McLean, W Fraser, B Donovan and William Luke were empanelled to try this case, which is an action to recover the sum of £200, alleged to be due for stabling accommodation from the defendant, a coach proprietor, to Robert Elliott, now a bankrupt but formerly landlord of the Rising Sun Hotel Greytown and the Golden Fleece Hotel at Pakuratahi.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 21 November 1879 page 3)

New Zealand Times newspaper 22 November 1879

His Honor Mr Judge Mansford held a sitting at the District Court yesterday, when the case of Carroll (trustee of Robert Elliott) v Hastwell was dealt with before a jury of four.

Mr Ollivier instructed by Messrs Buller and Lewis, appeared for plaintiff and Mr Stafford, instructed by Messrs Buckley and Fitzherbert, for defendant. The action was one for the recovery of £200, alleged to be due for stabling from defendant Mr Elliot, who is now a bankrupt, was formerly landlord of the Rising Sun Hotel, Greytown, and the Golden Fleece, Pakuratahi. The

principal portion of the debt was stated to have been incurred while Elliott had the latter hotel. The case lasted all day, judgment being ultimately given for defendant.

(Reference paper past website New Zealand Times newspaper 22 November 1879)

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 23 December 1879

In the year 1857 Mr Hastwell took up his residence at Greytown, in the cottage which had been erected the previous year opposite the Rising Sun Hotel by Mr Holdsworth, senior where his two surviving children were born and where he subsequently continued to live up to the time of his death, with the exception of a short time he held the position of landlord of the Golden Fleece Pakuratahi, about the year 1861, and during the time he was absent with his family in England, about the year 1865. It was in every respect unfortunate that he took a public house, as it was a business for which he was not adapted, and because it is to be feared he then laid the foundation of habits which proved his bane during the greater portion of the remainder of his extremely active and somewhat eventful life.

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper Tuesday 23 December 1879)

The building was the property of Mr W V Jackson, of this city, and let to Mr Gilruth. The house, which was a very large one, had been closed as a hotel for some time past. A small building was burnt down a number of years ago, and the comfortable hotel which took its place was destroyed in the same way in 1866.

(Reference source unknown)

Evening Post newspaper 03 March 1880

Pakuratahi Hotel and Stables destroyed by Fire

[By Telegraph from own correspondent]

Kaitoke This Day

The old Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi, together with the extensive stabling, was burnt to the ground at 5 o'clock last evening. Mr Gilruth cannot account for the fire. It appears that he and his brother were some distance from the house when they saw smoke issuing from the roof. They immediately did all they could with the assistance of the hands on the farm and neighbours, but were unable to get the fire under. The property is owned by Mr W V Jackson of Wellington and for some time has not been used as an hotel. A new arrival Mr Gilruth had recently taken a lease of the place and intended going in for stock breeding. The buildings were insured for £1200-£1000 in the Colonial Insurance Company, and £200 in the Royal. They were originally insured for £2000, but had been reduced to £1200 in order to lessen expenses of premium. Mr Gilruth loses about £300 worth of furniture, which was not insured.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 03 March 1880 page 2)

Wairarapa Standard newspaper 04 March 1880

The old Golden Fleece Hotel together with the extensive stabling was burnt to the ground at 5 o'clock last evening

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper 04 March 1880)

Wairarapa Daily Times newspaper 04 March 1880

The Golden Fleece Hotel with stables was burnt to the ground last night at 5 o'clock. The buildings and property were owned by W V Jackson and insured for £1200. Gilruth the occupier loses £300 worth of furniture.

(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Daily Times newspaper 04 March 1880)

New Zealand Times newspaper 04 March 1880

The Golden Fleece Hotel has again been destroyed by fire. It appears that about 5 o'clock on Tuesday evening Mr Gilruth, the occupier, who was busy with his brother at some distance from the hotel, noticed large quantities of smoke issuing from the roof, and ongoing to it found that the flames had obtained such a hold on the upper portion of the building that it became at once apparent that all attempts to save it would only prove hopeless. Only a portion of the furniture was got out. The extensive stables also caught fire, and were burnt to the ground. Nothing whatever is known as to the origin of the fire. The building was the property of Mr W V Jackson, of this city, and was, together with adjoining land, let to Mr Gilruth, who intends to go in for stock breeding in the locality. The house, which was a very large one, had been closed as an hotel for

some time past, the traffic along the road having fallen off to such an extent since the opening of the railway over the Rimutaka that it was found to be a loss. This is the third time that a fire has occurred there. A small building was burnt down a number of years ago, and the comfortable hotel which took its place was destroyed in the same way in 1866. The insurances on the present occasion were Royal £200 and Colonial £1000. There was a further policy of £750, but it had been allowed to lapse in order to save expense. The furniture was valued at £300, and had not been insured by Mr Gilruth

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 04 March 1880)

Evening Post newspaper 04 March 1880

Mr Allen of the Colonial Insurance Company has informed us that £250 is the amount held by that company in the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi yesterday destroyed by fire, the remaining £750 being reinsured. An agent of the Colonial Company has been out to the scene of the fire and it is probable an inquest will be held.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 04 March 1880 page 2)

New Zealand Times newspaper 05 March 1880

Mr Allen of the Colonial Insurance Company has informed us that £250 is the amount held by that company in the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi destroyed by fire on Wednesday last, the remaining £750 being reinsured.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 05 March 1880)

New Zealand Times newspaper 06 March 1880

Wellington Highway Board District – Objection to Valuation

W V Jackson, Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi £80

Mr Jackson explained that his reason for asking for a reduction was that the hotel had not been licensed for some time past. He also stated that since the assessment has been made the place had been burnt down

His honour reduced the assessment to £50

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 06 March 1880)

Evening Post newspaper 12 March 1880

An inquest was held at Bishop's Hotel at the Upper Hutt yesterday before Dr Wilford Coroner the object being to ascertain if possible the cause of the late fire at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi. At the conclusion of the evidence which threw no light whatsoever on the origin of the disaster the jury returned an open verdict.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 12 March 1880 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 12 March 1880

An inquest was held at Bishop's Hotel at the Upper Hutt yesterday before Dr Wilson Coroner the object being to ascertain if possible the cause of the late fire at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi. At the conclusion of the evident which threw no light whatsoever on the origin of the disaster the jury returned an open verdict.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 12 March 1880)

17 March 1880 Coroner's report on fire at Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi Upper Hutt

An Inquest indent taken from our Sovereign Lady the Queen at the house of Walter Bishop Provincial Hotel Upper Hutt in the said Colony on the Eleventh day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty before John G F Wilford one of the corners of our Sovereign Lady the Queen for the said Colony fire at Golden Fleece Hotel Pukuritahi upon the oath of *Isaac Wilkins foreman, George Hall, James Martin, Alexander Cruickshank, William Corbett, Charles Kippel, William Collins, William Jones, Martin Scully, Samuel Smith, William Harrison and James Stevens* 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 fire at Golden Fleece Hotel originated do upon their oaths say that *The Golden Fleece Hotel Pukuritahi was destroyed by fire on Tuesday March 2nd 1880 but how the fire originated there is not sufficient evidence to show.*

In witness whereof as well the said Coroner as the said Jurors aforesaid have hereunto set and subscribed their hands and seals the day

J G F Wilford coroner - Isaac Wilkins foreman – William Collins – George Hall – William Jones – Jas Martin – Martin Scully – A Cruickshank – Sam Smith – William Corbett – William Harrison – Charles Kippel – James Stevens his X mark - Witnesses – David Lyster – Arthur Warren
and

The above named deposition of William Valentine Jackson - William Nord Gibraith – Edward Morgan – John Gibraith – James Hamlin Farr – Catherine Blanford – Louis Marshall – George Cooper written on twelve pages of paper numbered consecutively from one to twelve and by me affixed together were taken and sworn before me at the Upper Hutt in the said Colony on the eleventh day of March 1880 J G F Wilford Coroner

And

Information of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen touching the death of fire at Golden Fleece Hotel Pukaratahi at the dwelling house of Walter Bishop known by the name of The Provincial Hotel in the Province of Wellington in the Colony above mentioned on Thursday the eleventh day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighty before John G F Wilford one of the Coroners for the said Colony on an Inquisition then and there taken on fire at the Golden Fleece Hotel Pukuratahi as follows to wit.

William Valentine Jackson – I am the owner of the property land & building at the Pukuratahi the scene of the late fire. I sold the property to W H Gilbreith as attorney for Peter Gilbreith the price fixed was ten pounds per acre, the acreage we estimated at 280 more or less a summary was to be made to determine the exact amount, I gave up possession on Saturday February 21st 1880. The money was paid as a deposit but the purchaser agreed to pay 500 on the first of July 1880 and the balance as it suited him during the kind years from the time of his taking possession of the Hotel & Stables in case insured in September 1879 for £1200 previous to that they had been insured for £2000 for the previous shall years. The reduction in the insurance was to save expenses as I was not making much use of the place. There was a clause in my agreement with Gilbreith that the building should be kept insured for not less than £1200. According to a clause in my agreement Gilbreith can call upon me to except dwellings to the extent of £1200 the amount of the insurance money signed W V Jackson.

and

William Wood Gilbrath being sworn saith that I am the lessee of the property at the Pukuratahi the scene of the late fire. I as attorney for my father I took possession on the 1st of March I had occupied the house from February 21st. The house was burnt down on the second of March. I had some of my furniture in the house including chairs beds &c., The value of the furniture burnt in the house I estimate at fifty pounds besides that I lost twenty pounds in money, ball ounces of gold dust and jewellery & clothing all together I consider my cost between two & three hundred pounds, I have no insurance and my goods I had intending insuring that morning. The furniture was in difficult no overs in the house. At the time the fire broke out I was away in the back trying to shoot some rabbits out starting home I saw smoke coming through the shingles I gave my gun to my brother who was with me. I ran up to the house he followed. I got two buckets of water and entering the house I going up the stairs I found the roof over the stair case ceiling well alight I applied the water but it was useless. I then tried to get into my bedroom the handle of the door was quite not stepping back to burst in the door the fire from the roof he fell to fall upon me I flew cleaned out. I could not say from the appearance of the fire whether it had originated inside the house or outside. I think it must have been an hour or an hour and half from the time I went out with the gun to my seeing the fire. Nobody was left in the house when my brother & I left to go to the bush the only fire was in the kitchen which was some distance away from where the fire started. There were stumps burning at the back of the house about one hundred & fifty yards from the house the wind was shifting sometimes blowing from the burning stumps to the house. Had the fire have been smouldering at the time we left the house we noticed not accessibly have seen it as we were in a different part of the house.

By lecturer Warren I don't recollect which door I left by when I went out with my brother my brother locked the back door when we went out I am not sure whether I locked a door or not I bathed in the river that day I remember Mr Ivan's presenting a bill to me a day or two before the fire I told him I had no change till I went to town I was about half way between the bridge and the house when I met Mr Cooper [sic] had five or six chairs besides a sitting chair & a reclining chair also a sofa these were saved that half of these things in the east part of the house were saved

don't know what my brother saved from the rooms. Mr Servants had left a few days before the fire. I was to give £2700 for the property a little more or less according to the arrange testable the value of the land at & per acre I consider the building to be the Hotel part of the house if I could get a hotel license I intending asking a year next I expect Mr Jackson to get the Insurance money and to rebuild the premises. According to my agreement with Mr Jackson I bought to have paid a quarter next in advance but he agreed to give me time. I have been told by several people that the building could be put up -- & myself don't know the value of Colonial Insurance signed Wm W Gilbraith
and

Edward Morgan being sworn saith that I am a builder I know the premises burnt down at the Pakuratahi may back I should value these at from £1800 to £2000 and think it would cost more than that to rebuild them signed Edward Morgan
and

John Gibreth being sworn saith that I was with my brother the day the Hotel was burnt down. We were near the Pukuratahi bridge where we first saw smoke issuing from the roof I ran to the house and at once went up to my bedroom and threw my things out of the window I saw no fire when I went into my bedroom I threw everything out of the window and then got out myself. My bedroom is separated from my brothers by another door before going out I bolted the back door. My brother left the house after me he was not above two minutes in the house after me. I think the front door was left unlocked. We shot no rabbits that day & I think we bathed. We left the house somewhere about nine o'clock signed I Gilbruth
and

James Hamlin Farr being sworn saith that I was in the Gilbreiths employ at the time of the fire I was working in the bush and between two and three o'clock in the afternoon went up to the house to feed some growing parquetted I was rearing I went into the back kitchen I entered by the back door I don't think anybody was in the house at the time I went in I did not go into any other part of the house the brothers Gilbrath I had seen in the bush before I came up to the house I was about twenty minutes away from the bush about ten minutes in the house whilst I was in the house two children of a neighbour (Mr Manbray [sic] perhaps Marshall) came in I took them out with me and saw them go home. The wind was not in the shift direction to convey sparks from the stumps running at the back to the house in fact there was little or no wind at all I have not the slightest idea how the fire could have originated. It would take about five minutes to walk from where we were working to the house & about eight to the Bridge I lost a good deal of my things in clothing a watch The furniture I saw consisted of boxes, chairs, table, small sofa, file & c., I could not say the value of the furniture I am not confident [sic] in value buildings signed Jas Hamlin Farr
and

Catherine Blanford being sworn saith that I live at the Pukeritahi near the scene of the late fire. On that afternoon of the fire on going to my door and looking up the road I noticed a large body of smoke coming out of the chimney in the hotel I watched it about a quarter of an hour and then it began to come through the roof and especially near the chimney soon the roof was all alight and I noticed my daughter and the two Gilbraths getting out the furniture. I particularly noticed thick black smoke coming out of the chimney before it broke through the roof signed Catherine Blacford her X mark witnesses David Tyates – Arthur Warren
and

Louisa Marshall being sworn saith that I live at the Pukuratahi my house is on the opposite side of the road to the hotel burnt down. I was in my house about half past four on the afternoon of the fire where John Gilbrath came over & told me the house was on fire on going out into the road the fire burst out through the roof the lower part of the house apparently not being affected. Mr Gilbrath and his brother were being getting out the furniture I don't know whether everything was got out or not Two of my children came in the house at the time the man Farr came to feed the parquetted he sent them home I was sure they were not over at the house after that I saw nothing about the house after seeing Mr Gilbrath about past two I should think nearly all the furniture was saved signed Louisa Marshall her X mark witnesses David Yates & R Warren
and

George Cooper being sworn saith that I was down at the Pukeritahi bridge on the afternoon of the second I saw the brothers Gilbrath coming from having a bathe between two & three I saw

them again about twenty minutes past four coming from the direction of the house when I first saw them they were coming along the side of the stable down to what is called the mill flat I did not speak to them as they did not come near enough to me. I was about four o'clock when I saw them near the stable they might have been coming from the ground signed George Cooper
(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACGS 16211 J1 262 av 1880/1148 Coroner Upper Hutt date 17 March 1880 subject inquest proceedings on fire at Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi)

Evening Post newspaper 08 April 1880

Resident Magistrates Court – Civil Case - Jones v Gilbraith

£5 11s 11d the plaintiff is a storekeeper at Pakuratahi and the defendant at the time the debt was contracted has the Golden Fleece Hotel then used as a lodging house. After hearing the evidence the Bench disallowed 4s and gave judgement for the remainder of the claim.

(Reference Paper past website Evening Post newspaper 08 April 1880)

New Zealand Times newspaper 08 May 1880

Resident Magistrates Court – Thursday 08 April - Jones v Gilbraith

£5 11s 11d goods supplied to plaintiff a storekeeper at Pakuratahi to defendant who kept lodging house at the house afterwards known as the Golden Fleece Hotel. Defendant contended that some of the goods were ordered without his authority and after hearing the evidence the Bench gave judgement 7s 11d and costs.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 08 May 1880)

Evening Post newspaper 13 May 1880

Frightful Accident - A Wellington tradesman falls over a Cliff at Pakuratahi

A serious accident, the full extent of which at the present moment it is impossible to foretell, befell Mr G Jones, fruiterer and poulterer, of Wellington and Masterton, while driving his horse and cart over the Rimutaka yesterday evening. Mr Jones was taking a load of oysters and fancy goods to Featherston. He had reached Pakuratahi, and was not far from the Spot on which stood the old Golden Fleece Hotel, when on approaching a dangerous part of the road his horse shied at the lightning. Jumping down from the cart he ran to the horse's head to lead him past the danger, which consists of a perpendicular fall of about 30ft. The horse was so restive that Jones could not hold him without being forced backward. In this way they approached the precipice. Although Jones knew the ground well it is probable he did not think he was so close to the brink. At any rate he kept at the horse's head until a step too far sent him headlong over the cliff. A short time after the accident occurred, Mr Marshall, a settler residing close by, went out to get some water. While doing so he thought he heard someone cooey, and, investigating the sounds, he came across the horse and cart. Mr Jones was afterwards found in a crushed condition, and bleeding profusely, lying at the foot of the precipice. He was quite insensible when discovered, but regained consciousness. He was looked after very kindly by Messrs Marshall, Martin, and Cooper, and the station-master at Kaitoke, who bestowed upon him all the necessary care, and this morning sent him to town by the mid-day train. He was immediately taken up to the Hospital, where his wounds have been properly dressed. His principal injury was to his right side, which appears to have been penetrated by a stake or sharp piece of rock, on which he must have fallen. According to the last accounts he is still in a precarious condition.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 13 May 1880)

Note I have been unable to locate any additional information about the Golden Fleece Hotel after the fire in 1880. The hotel was never rebuilt and its history ended in 1880.

Evening Post newspaper Thursday 30 April 1931

Ye Wayside Inn - Vanished Hotels - Water Replaces Whisky

Recent and old-time flooding in the Hutt Valley was the subject of an interview recently in "The Evening Post" with Mr A J McCurdy who incidentally called to mind that the site of the old Barley Mow Hotel Silverstream, is now monopolised by the Hutt River. And that observation prompted other memories. Mr McCurdy, stated that in the old days of Wellington - Wairarapa traffic, via Hutt Valley, the chain of hotels in the valley, from north to south, was:-

Golden Fleece, Mrs Wagg, on rise where the main road runs down to the Pakuratahi River. On right hand side of road, looking south. The site can still be traced, through cellar pit and remains

of foundations. The hotel is mentioned by the Greytown pioneers, who mention it as the last hotel before crossing Rimutaka divide in 1853.

Mungaroa Hotel, Mrs Collens, near where the Mungaroa tributary of the Hutt crosses the main road.

Upper Hutt Eighty Years Ago

Shepherd's Rest, James Brown (senr.), Upper Hutt. Mr McCurdy remarked that Mr James Brown was late father of the late Mr George Brown, of Upper Hutt, Hutt county councillor. Mr Brown and his hotel and Upper Hutt are also mentioned in the Greytown records of 1853. The hotel was situated in Upper Hutt on the left hand side of the road, looking south, and the site is now occupied by Mr. Cotter's plumbing premises. The hotel was afterwards known as the Criterion Hotel

Highland Home, S McHardy, on main road at Wallaceville near the site of the "Old Blockhouse". The "Old Blockhouse", with its loop holes, is still standing, and a signboard on the main road directs sightseers to this relic of Maori War scares.

Barley Mow, Mr Wyeth (senr.), the site of which one-time hotel is surveyed, consciously or unconsciously, by every railway passenger who looks upriver as the train swings over Silverstream railway bridge. This hotel used to be on the left hand side of the road looking south, and the river used to flow west of the hotel and the road. In its eastward swing the river has taken the place of both hotel and road, and the latter was moved eastward to its present location. Moving the road, said Mr McCurdy, simply meant laying out a deviation through the paddocks to the east, and it was done so quickly that they discovered years afterward that the road site at this point had, never been properly conveyed.

Traveller's Rest, Mr___, Taita, left side of main road looking south. After that, the Lower Hutt hotels awaited the thirsty coach traveller

A Victorious River.

"If anyone wishes to locate the Barley Mow site more exactly, added Mr McCurdy, all he has to do is to look up river as he crosses Silverstream railway, bridge, and he will see, a few yards upstream, one little willow tree close to the river channel, but west of it, and quite distinct from the row of willows east of it. This willow springs from an old stump that used to flourish as a tree in the yard of the Barley Mow. The willow was east of the Hutt River until the river decided otherwise. It will be seen that on the western side there is still a channel in which the Hutt flows when in flood. That channel crosses the toe of a moraine or fan of material carried down from the western hills. On this fan used to be a whare, it has gone where a Hutt flood took it. Another whare, further east, was also carried away by flood.

It may also be of interest to know that the above mentioned Highland Home Hotel, Wallaceville, was afterwards called the Railway Hotel. The railway was being built at the time and it was thought that Wallaceville would be the principal station. But the late Hutt county, councillor, George Brown, gave the Department of Railways 28 acres of land at Upper Hutt adjacent to the Rhodes estate, and Upper Hutt became the principal station. Land for railway purposes at Silverstream was given by Mr Todd, and that fact helped to secure a station there.

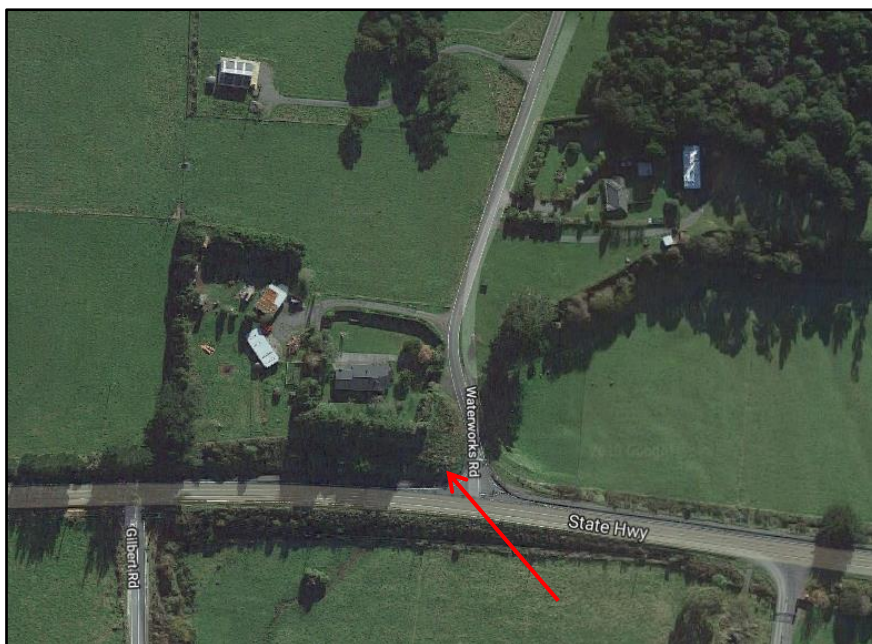
Canoeing In Upper Hutt

"Talking about big floods in the past, would it surprise you to know that on one occasion the Maoris of Maori Bank (no Maoris there now) came to the Upper Hutt sale yards site in a canoe.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 30 April 1931 page 9)

Section No 8 – Pakuratahi

Refer to document on website (address in top left corner) click on "*Upper Hutt Historical Projects*" then select and click on document title "*UH LND Section 08 Pakuratahi*".



(Reference 2019 Google maps corner Waterworks Road & State highway 2)

Miscellaneous unrelated Golden Fleece Hotel Information

There was a Golden Fleece Hotel in Christchurch

(Reference Papers Past website Lyttleton Times newspaper 19 April 1851)

On Monday 20 September pursuant to advertisement a meeting of settlers was held at the Golden Fleece (Mr Ferrers) Hotel. On the motion of Mr J B Ferguson second by Mr Joseph Rhodes the chair was taken by Mr Rhodes seconded by Captain Newman.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 09 October 1858)

After further research I can confirm that the Golden Fleece Hotel above was situated in Napier.

Napier Race Club – On Tuesday 28th September a meeting was held at the Golden Fleece Hotel for the purpose of considering the property of establishing a Race Club for the District of Napier

(Reference Paper past website Wellington Independent newspaper 30 October 1858)

Murder at Invercargill – The Southland News of Saturday thus refers to the charge of wilful murder against Mr D B McConnell of Invercargill. “A coroner’s inquest was held at the Golder Fleece Hotel on the body of Mrs Farrer or Armstrong who was found dead in a whare situated in the upper end of Spey Street on Wednesday morning.

(Reference Paper past website Evening Post newspaper 28 November 1865)

There was a Golden Fleece Hotel in Nelson

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 07 February 1867)

At the Thames Gold mines there was a mine tunnel named the Golder Fleece.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 17 December 1869)

Wellington Independent newspaper 15 August 1872

Greymouth Wednesday - The first crushing from the Golden Fleece Company’s claim at Reefton gave 2500 ounces of amalgam from about 400 ton of stone.

(Reference Paper past website Wellington Independent newspaper 15 August 1872)