

GEORGE ALFRED ADLAM 15.4.1841-3.6.1930

Before I begin, I should like to clear up the matter of his date of birth. This is given as 15.4.1842 in the Cyclopedia of New Zealand, his obituary in the Taranaki Herald, and Laurence Mynott Ward's genealogy of the Adlam family. However, my remembrance is that he was 89 when he died, and this is the age that appears on his headstone. And to really clinch the matter, he appears in the English 1841 census return as aged 7 months, and in the 1851 returns as aged 10 years.

I remember my grandfather very well - he did not die until I was 11 although I saw very little of him after we moved away from Taranaki in 1926. He was a very old man with a bushy white beard and a very large red nose that looked like a bunch of cherries. There were two stories current in the family regarding the origin of this deformity - one that as a child his nose was seized by a goose, and the other that during a quarrel out in the fields his older brother Nathaniel hit him across the face with a spade, and was then so overcome by the enormity of the deed that he promptly fled the scene and was never heard of again. It seems to have been generally thought that he ran away to sea. I now know that whatever the truth of these stories he was suffering from rhinophyma. Although quite short in stature - I think about 5 ft. 6 in. (159 cm.) - he was very upright in carriage as befitted an old soldier. Surprisingly for one with his background, he neither smoked nor drank.

I cannot remember actually talking to him; all that I know of him has been told me by my father, or discovered from public records. I do remember that whenever we went to visit them in Leach St., New Plymouth there was always bottled lemonade, and biscuits from a very old-fashioned biscuit barrel for visiting grand-children. He was a keen gardener and had kerosene tins full of snails which he had collected from his vegetable plots - I always used to think he was saving them to eat! He played bowls right up to the time of his death, in a very gay blazer which my father inherited, and later was worn mostly by my sister.

He was born at 7 Penleigh Lane, Westbury, in Wiltshire to Nathaniel Adlam, an agricultural labourer and his wife Elizabeth, when his father was 37 and his mother was 33. He was probably their sixth child and there were at least three more children born to the couple after him. At a very early age he started working in the fields with the rest of his family, and by the time he was 10 he is given the occupation "agricultural labourer". Later he worked as a barge boy, leading the horses along the tow-path. The biography in the Cyclopedia of N.Z. mentions his having worked at the Cardiff ironworks for two years, but I never heard any tales of this, and indeed when he joined the Army he gave his occupation as "boatman".

Somehow during these years he conceived the idea that there must be a better way of life than tagging along at the bottom of the social scale in rural England. A fortune teller once told him that one day he would own his own land - an unheard of possibility for someone in his position. He decided that the first thing he must do was to learn to read and write, and the only way he could do this was to join the Army, where each unit had a schoolmaster on the strength for that very purpose.

So as soon as he turned 18, on 30.5.1859, he enlisted in the 43rd Light Infantry (Monmouthshire) Regiment, becoming No. 442 Private Alfred Adlam. The place of his enlistment was Trowbridge, about 5 miles (8 km.) from his home town of Westbury.

At this time the 43rd Regiment had been on foreign service since 1851, first in South Africa seeing action in the Kaffir War, and then in India, where it had been transferred after the outbreak of the Indian Mutiny, but arrived after the fighting was over. In 1859 when Pte. Adlam joined, it was stationed at Nagada; in 1860 at Minjapore and Calcutta; in 1861 Fort St. George (Madras) and in 1862-63 Barrackpore and Fort William. (Bengal)

[The 43rd Regiment was established in 1741, when it was known as Fowke's Regiment after its Colonel. After becoming Graham's Regiment, then Kennedy's Regiment in 1751 it became the 43rd Regiment of Foot, and in 1809 the 43rd Monmouthshire Light Infantry.]

Battle Honours were Quebec 1759/ Martinique 1762/ Havannah, North America 1763-64; Busco/ Fuentes d'Onor/ Ciudad Rodrigo/ Badajoz/ Salamanca/ Vittoria/ Nivelle/ Nive/ Toulouse, Peninsula; South Africa 1851-53; New Zealand 1863-66.

The uniform was scarlet with white facings, and the Regiment was nicknamed "Wolfe's Own" for its association with General Thomas Wolfe and the capture of Quebec in 1759; or the "Light Bobs" because the 43rd was the first regiment to adopt the 140-160-pace per minute double past.

In 1881 it was amalgamated with the 52nd as the Oxfordshire Light Infantry, and today is absorbed into the Royal Green Jackets, which includes the 43rd, 52nd King's Royal Rifle Corps and Rifle Brigade, with Her Majesty the Queen as Colonel-in-chief.]

A little has come down from my grandfather about his time in India. He certainly achieved his ambition of learning to read and write. Family tradition has it that he was promoted to the rank of sergeant several times, but always ended up by being reduced to the ranks again for falling out with a superior officer - he was never one to suffer fools gladly, and the Adlam temperament was always rather fiery. He was Pte. Alfred Adlam right through his service in New Zealand. It was in India that he grew the luxurious beard which was always characteristic of him - strangely enough, it was only between the years 1853 and 1866 that British soldiers were permitted to grow beards; after that only the Pioneer Sergeant was so indulged.

My grandmother always declared that my grandfather left a "black wife and family" behind when he left India, but that was probably just slander, although she would know more about his likely habits than anyone.

One story my grandfather told was of another soldier who wanted to get out of the Army - not so easy in those days. Until 1881, enlistment in the Army was for life or until too disabled or decrepit adequately to perform one's duties; if one wished to leave earlier, one could buy one's way out, the amount paid being inversely proportional to length of service, or be discharged on medical grounds, including mental condition. This man decided he would work towards being released because of insanity; he consistently performed a number of irrational acts, one of which was that every time he saw a piece of paper blowing across the parade ground or elsewhere, he would immediately give chase to it, even if to do so meant breaking ranks when in formation. No punishment or medical treatment made any difference to him, and eventually he was in fact discharged by reason of insanity. As he was being escorted across the parade ground for the last time, a piece of paper blew across in front of him, but he ignored it. "Hey," said one of his guards, "you didn't chase that bit of paper." "No," replied the "lunatic", waving his discharge, "I've got the piece I was looking for."

Another story is about how the men in the hot Indian climate used to be taken every day to a particular spot in a local river to bathe - this was of course long before the days of bathing suits. The officers' wives complained to the Colonel that they could see the men from where they lived. So he shifted the bathing place some distance further down the stream. Then the ladies complained that they could see the men with their telescopes and field-glasses; so the colonel moved them back to the original spot.

On the 8th of October, 1863, the 43rd Regiment under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Booth embarked at Calcutta on the "Lady Jocelyn", chartered by the British Government to bring troops to New Zealand to fight against the Maoris in what were in my young days called the "Maori Wars" but are now known as the "Land Wars". The vessel made heavy weather of it at first, with head winds and a deficiency of ballast, so that the captain had to put in at Mauritius on Nov. 1st and take in ballast. After another week of head winds they made excellent time to N.Z., dropping anchor in the Waitemata on 10.12.1863. My two accounts of the voyage differ in the number of passengers on board, one giving a total of 809 and the other of 833. The latter includes a band of 25, but 1 less child, and this could account for the difference.

Upon arrival at Auckland 52 men were admitted to Auckland Hospital, and the rest marched 9 miles (16 km.) to Otahuhu. Here the regiment was split into many detachments and employed manning the redoubts along the Great South Road, but in April it was reassembled in the Bay of Plenty. Part of the regiment was stationed at Maketu, where it was involved in fighting from about the 21st to the 29th of April, and the rest joined Colonel Greer in the camp at Te Papa, Tauranga.

On the 29th of April the 43rd Regt. was involved in the affack on the Gate Pa near Tauranga, but as to whether Pte. Adlam took part in it I am now uncertain. I have always understood that he was; but a copy of claims for the New Zealand War Medal from the National Archives gives him as involved in the fighting at Maketu, Te Ranga, and 1 skirmish in Taranaki. However, the list of "Claims to N.Z. War Medal under General Order 17 of 1869" shows him as not present at Maketu on 21.4.64, but present at the Gate Pa, Te Ranga, and 2 skirmishes in the Taranaki district. This seems a more detailed account, and confirms family tradition.

On the 21st of June, the 43rd Regt. got its revenge for its bloody defeat at the Gate Pa when it was part of a force including also the 68th Regt. and the 1st Waikato Militia that attacked the Maoris at an unfinished pa at Te Ranga, about 6 miles (c. 10 km.) from Tauranga. Here, after a 2 hour bombardment, the fighting was mostly hand-to-hand. During the battle my grandfather stuck his bayonet through

a Maori's neck and was unable to withdraw it; fortunately his rifle was still loaded so he pulled the trigger and blew his opponent's head off.

On the 19th of November 1864 the 43rd Regt. arrived in New Plymouth, and it is in Taranaki that Pte. Adlam served out the rest of his military career. At that time the country between New Plymouth seems to have been completely in the hands of the insurgent Maoris, and it was dangerous for whites to venture away from the established settlements. The main route to New Plymouth from the south was along the coast to the west of Mt. Egmont; there was no road to the east.

In April 1865 Colonel Warre of the 57th Regt. was the commander in Taranaki, Lieut. Colonel F.H. Synge who succeeded Lieut. Col. Booth as C.O. of the 43rd serving under him. He established a series of redoubts along the coast, at Pukearuhe, Opunake, and Warea, the latter lying 27 miles (43 km.) south of New Plymouth, landing the troops from ships. There was also a St. Andrew's Redoubt at Oakura. James Cowan comments that these forts commanded only the country within rifle range of their parapets. A considerable number of the 43rd were stationed at Warea. There were a number of skirmishes in the area in the next year in which Pte. Adlam could have seen action:-

22.4.1865 Lt. Col. Synge, camped at Stony River, reported that 4 unarmed men from the camp chased after some strayed bullocks, and a short distance away met up with a sergeant and 5 men of the 43rd who in disobedience of orders had crossed Stony River to go pig hunting. They were all attacked by a party of 9-12 mounted Maoris. Pte. Hawkes was killed and Pte. Jury missing. (His mutilated body was later found)

13.6.1865 As a reprisal for the above, Col. Warre with detachments of the 43rd, 70th, and Taranaki Bush Rangers attacked and destroyed a number of villages inland from Warea, around Te Puru. The 43rd under Lt. Col. Colville and Major Holmes marched 12 miles (19 km.), each man carrying 60 rounds, his small axe, and 1 day's cooked rations. 100 of them attacked Kakua Pah; there were no casualties.

28.7.1865 Captain Close and 100 men of the 43rd from the Warea Redoubt were patrolling and gathering firewood a short distance inland when they were attacked by a number of natives. Capt. Close ~~was~~ and a private were killed and another soldier wounded.

2.8.1865 Lt. Col. Colville with 150 men of the 43rd and 100 of the 70th was sent to punish the Maoris responsible for the above attack. There was quite heavy fighting, but the 70th seem to have been most involved. As the forces withdrew the enemy followed them, attacking on the flank and the rear. The British lost 5 men killed and 6 wounded, all from the 70th.

22.8.1865 Lt. Col. Colville and 83 men of the 43rd left Warea at 2.15 a.m. to ambush natives at Ngakumikumi, about 3 miles (5 km.) away. There was heavy firing on both sides, and Colville himself was wounded by a shot in the thigh, which seems to have fractured the femur.

General Cameron was very happy to retire from the fray in 1865 and was replaced by Major-General Trevor Chute, who set out to make his way from Wanganui to New Plymouth via an old Maori track to the east of Mt. Egmont. This was accomplished with considerable difficulty and they were out of provisions and eating their horses when met at Matatawai, North Taranaki by a party of the 43rd and 68th with supplies. After a short stay in New Plymouth Chute set off back to Wanganui via the west coast road, taking with him 70 men of the 43rd. On 1.2.1866 they attacked the Wai-koko pah 5 or 6 miles (8 or 9 km.) from the Warea-Opunake road. No-one from the 43rd was injured.

It is mentioned in the "Cyclopedia of New Zealand" that my grandfather was "slightly wounded at Warea", but I have been through the casualty lists for all the above actions (there do not seem to have been any others in the area) and there is no mention of him. I can only think that the wound was so slight that it was not worthy of mention.

During 1866, under the new "self-reliant policy" the N.Z. government became responsible for carrying on the war, and raised its own troops, so that the 10,000 Imperial troops in N.Z. gradually left for home. The 43rd embarked in April 1866, but No. 442, Pte. Adlam was not with them; with a considerable number of others he took his discharge in N.Z., after serving for 6 years and 298 days, on 29.3.1866. To buy his way out of the Army cost him £20 - the amount paid varied with length of service; over 10 years it seems to have been free; under 7, £20; 7-8 £10, 8-9 £7; and 9-10 £4. He was crossed off the Muster Rolls of the 43rd with a note "Discharged to settle in the Aust^a Colonies" - presumably Australasian.

Paying £20 -a lot of money in those days, especially when saved out of an income of 1s.1d. a day,(the 1d. being good-conduct pay)- seems to have taken all the money that Grandfather had, leaving him nothing for sustenance. He found himself out in the cold in New Plymouth with no money and nowhere to sleep. But from somewhere over the years he had acquired a fiddle and learned to play it. [After he died there was a lot of excitement in the family because somebody got the idea that his violin was a genuine Stradivarius, and until an expert appraisal could be obtained it was kept in a vault in the bank. It was found not to be so, and as to what happened to it after that I have no idea.] So he took his fiddle into a bar and played it to get some money, apparently acquiring a useful stake. Later he used to play the fiddle at dances round the Oakura district to supplement his income. One of his favourite tunes was "Another new bonnet for Mother" (When Pa backs the winner, we'll have a grand dinner, and another new bonnet for Mother.) For some reason his wife hated this song, and once when Dad was a little boy he found her in tears over the matter, so he went to his father and persuaded him to delete it from his repertoire.

Grandfather -let's call him Alfred and save some typing- soon found employment working for a Mr. George Curtis at Omata, who had storekeeping and farming interests (I have been unable to find any reference to him, although I have come across his son, Herbert Bloomar Curtis, J.P. who was a very prosperous farmer near Inglewood.) About the end of 1867 he leased 30 acres (12h.a.) at Oakura, next to the property he ultimately owned. He broke it in in his spare time while still obtaining most of his income from working for other people.

By 1869 Alfred had prospered sufficiently to get married, on the 15th of June at St. Mary's church in New Plymouth. History has left no account of their wooing, except that it was no love match on the side of his bride, Elizabeth Sefton, she being 16 to her groom's 28, and pushed into the marriage by her aunt. But there must have been few eligible bachelors at Oakura where they both lived. Indeed in the whole of Taranaki there would not be that many to choose from; in 1869 the total European population between the Patea and Mokau rivers was 4350. They were mostly centred in New Plymouth and a number of small villages, often defended by redoubts or blockhouses, the hinterland being almost completely under the control of more or less hostile Maoris. Although the power of Titokowaru was finally broken in March 1869, the settlers were still very nervous of Te Whiti in his pah at Parihaka, despite his using solely passive means of resistance till his arrest in 1881. (No less than 1600 troops were used on this expedition.) The Maoris were often truculent and demanding. Once when ploughing on a hill, Alfred saw a group of Maoris walking along the road to his farmhouse. Suspecting that as they had seen he was well away they would go to the house to intimidate his wife into giving them food, as soon as he was out of their sight he ran as fast as he could along a short cut to his home. By the time the Maoris arrived he was sitting on a chair in the kitchen. When they saw him they exclaimed "He taipo!", turned tail and fled.

Being an old soldier, Alfred was very interested in firearms, and when they became available acquired one of the new-fangled repeating rifles. He took it down to the back of the farm to try it out, getting a number of shots away as fast as he could. Hearing the fusillade, the neighbours all harnessed up their carts and buggies, and hastened into New Plymouth, convinced that war had broken out again. Alfred never let any of them know the true cause of their alarm.

My father has told me that as much later as when he was a little boy Maoris would come to the house looking for food. But by that time relations were much more amicable; there was an old fully tattooed ex-cannibal who took a great fancy to him and used to sit on their front verandah with my father on his knee.

In the year of his marriage Alfred registered his own brand "G.A.", and in January 1871 he received a grant of land. He grew grain and ran a few cows.

He seems to have missed no opportunity of making a little money. While still building up his own property, over the next few years he entered upon a number of enterprises around the district, including running a store at Pungarehu supplying the Armed Constabulary and settlers in the district. (I don't know exactly when that was- on 2.10.1866 there was an engagement there in which the British lost 3 killed and 4 wounded.) He is recorded as having a carrying business down the coast. (There is a photograph extant of his brother Jack at the reins of a large four-horse cart - were they possibly associated in this business?) He also bought butter from his neighbours and shipped it to Sydney, and later had a small dairy factory of his own. For some years he continued to pick up a little on the side by playing his fiddle at dances. I have recollections of hearing that he persisted in doing

this in spite of the fact that Elizabeth was terrified at being left alone in the house at night with her young children. And like many other Taranaki farmers he subsidised the proceeds of his farming by selling Jew's Ear fungus to Chew Chong. Gathering this from the bush was an ideal job for the children, and as late as my father's boyhood it was still expected of them.

[Chew Chong, c.1830-1920, was born in China, worked 10 years as a household servant in Singapore, and in 1855 began a stay of 11 years on the goldfields of Victoria. In 1866 he arrived in the goldfields of Otago, and later travelled through N.Z. buying up old metal for export back to China. In Taranaki he noticed that the common Jew's Ear fungus (*Auricularia polytricha*) was similar in taste to a highly prized similar fungus in China, and offered to buy it from the local settlers for 2d. a lb. (450 gms.) He opened a store in New Plymouth in 1870, and the dried fungus was eventually shipped to China via Dunedin. Between 1872 and 1882 more than 1700 tonnes were exported to a value of £78,000, and by 1904 a total of £305,995 worth. This inflow of cash into Taranaki tided over many settlers while they developed their farms. Chew Chong also established stores at Inglewood and Eltham; he bought butter from the local farmers and in 1885 sent 2 kegs of butter from Eltham to England - although he lost money on the deal, it is considered that this venture marked the beginning of N.Z.'s dairy export industry. He opened his own dairy factories at Eltham and Mangatoki, and for some years was the dominating influence in the Taranaki dairy industry.]

By 1882 Alfred owned 60 acres (24h.a.) valued at £480. By the end of the century he was farming 400 ac. (160 h.a.) with 60 cows producing 300 lbs (126 kgms.) of butter, which he manufactured in his own factory. Most of the property was freehold.

Labour on the farm after the first few years was never a problem. All his children had to work on the farm from a very early age. When they reached the age of 3 they were trained to milk 3 cows morning and evening; at the age of 4 it was 4 cows, and so on - one cow per year of age. As well as their share of the milking, the girls did all the housework; the boys assisted with the other farm chores, and after they left primary school continued working full time for their father, without pay, of course. By the time they reached their late teens, the boys looked around and saw young men of their own age working no harder on neighbouring farms, and getting paid for it. No Adlam worth his salt would ever allow himself to be sat upon, even by his own father, so one after the other, following a thundering row with the old man, they left home and found employment elsewhere, most of them eventually owning their own farms in various parts of the country. This never worried Alfred as there was always another one coming on to take the place of the one who left. In later years some of them would return home for Xmas; Alfred always took advantage of this to get them to make his hay on Xmas Day. The girls mostly stayed at home till they got married.

I have stated previously that Alfred did not suffer fools gladly. My father tells a story of how he and Alfred were going to New Plymouth in the buggy (a four-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle seating 5 or 6 passengers) when they saw a nearby farmer doing his ploughing. Alfred began to criticise the way it was being done, saying how wrong was everything the man was doing, and eventually became so worked up about it that Dad thought he would have a fit.

Dad also told another story throwing light on his father's character. One year he bought himself a new overcoat, and not long afterwards left it somewhere and lost it. For the next four years he did without an overcoat altogether, saying that this would have been the time it took him to wear out the one he lost.

In his middle years, with his prosperity assured, Alfred began to take an interest in public affairs. He started, as so many men in public life have, as a member of the local school committee, and for 7 years was its chairman. He became a member of the Taranaki Education Board (possibly about 1895) and the Taranaki County Council (possibly about 1897). He was definitely a member of both these bodies in 1906. For a number of years he was a member of the Taranaki Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, and in 1896 became a J.P. Later he was an executive member, and sometime vice-president of His Majesty's Veterans' Association. He was frequently asked to stand for Parliament, but always refused, feeling that his education was inadequate. However, despite the fact that he never learned to read and write until he was a grown man, he was for 30 years the Oakura correspondent of the "Taranaki Herald."

My Uncle Oswald, on about the only occasion I ever met him, told a nice story of how as a boy he saw a cartoon in a local paper captioned "Councillor Adlam hangs his own child", and depicting his father on a gallows with a rope round the neck of a small boy. The cartoon referred to a matter that Alfred had introduced to the Council and then changed his mind about; but Os took it literally and was quite sure that his father was going to hang him. For years he gave his father a very wide berth, and was always careful not to be alone with him.

[I can't resist here telling the story of how Os saved his farm in the depression days of the 1930s. At one stage he only had £50 in the world, but was in debt for much more than that, and knew that like so many others at that time he would have to walk off his farm if he could not raise some money. Having had a hot tip from a friend regarding the ability of a certain racehorse, he thought "Do or die!", went to the races and invested his £50 on the horse. His heart in his mouth, he was so nervous that he couldn't bring himself to watch the race, but paced up and down behind the stand biting his fingernails till he heard from the roar of the crowd that the horse that the horse had won, paying a handsome dividend.]

Alfred was fond of music and had quite a repertoire of songs that he used to sing, snatches of which I learned from my father as a child. The ones I remember most vividly are "Lord Lovell", the whole of which I still know by heart, (I was intrigued to find it in a large book of old ballads I came across some years ago.) and "Wilkins and Dinah" which was a popular song of the 1850s. Besides "Another new Bonnet for Mother" which I mentioned previously, there was "Mother, is the Battle Over?" and "On the Banks of Sweet Dundee" - a delightful ballad which I have never been able to find, about the Squire's niece and her plough-boy lover. There was a piano in the "best" room, but I don't know who played it.

I have heard that some time in the 1880s my grandparents visited the Pink and White Terraces - I like to think that this is so. (Ron Keam tells me that one day he may be able to prove it one way or the other.) I do know that they went to the Auckland Exhibition in the present Domain in 1913-14. (the present Winter Gardens are a relic of this.)

I have a description of Oakura in the early years of the 20th Century:-
"Oakura is a small coastal town about 8 miles to the south-west of New Plymouth on the New Plymouth-Opunake road, in the Omata Riding of Taranaki County. Oakura has a Post Office and telephone bureau, one hotel, a store, and a blacksmith's shop, and there is also a town hall in which services are held by visiting clergymen. The Oakura dairy factory is in active operation during the season...There is regular coach communication by the New Plymouth-Opunake Line." (Cyclopedia of New Zealand.)

"The Oakura Public School is one of the old-established schools of the Taranaki District. It contains one class-room, a lobby, and two porches. There is also a teacher's residence of five rooms. The number on the roll is 40 and the average attendance 35...Miss Alice Grace Bartlett, D 1, was appointed teacher of the Oakura school in the year 1905." (Ibid)

In about 1920, at the age of 79, Alfred sold his farm, and bought a small house in Leach St. New Plymouth. The sale of his farm realised enough money for him to buy the house and live very comfortably on the interest. He continued to be active till the day of his death, cultivating his garden, playing bowls, and taking an active interest in the war veterans' association. He died quite suddenly on the 3rd of June 1930; some months previously he had been warned by his doctor that this could happen unless he took things more easily, but he told no-one of this and just carried on as usual. He is buried in the cemetery at Oakura.

"In all his dealings, both public and private, his conduct was marked by a high sense of honour, his word was ever his bond, and when a few years ago he came to live in well earned retirement in New Plymouth, he had the consciousness of a life well spent in the service of his country and in bringing up a family with the same high principles that have been his own guide. To Mrs. Adlam and the family will be extended the sincere sympathy of a very wide circle of friends." (Obituary in the "Taranaki Herald.")

For the sake of completeness, I had better give a list of my grandfather and grandmother's children. Large families were characteristic of the Victorian era. and my grandparents were certainly no exception. They had a total of 17 children of whom 13 survived into adult life. When Laurence Mynott Ward completed his genealogy of the family in 1972, he recorded 84 grandchildren, 245 great-grandchildren, 392 great-great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great-great-grandchildren.

The original family were :-

- (1) Alfred John, d.o.b. 18.7.1870, d. 23.2.36. m. Senai Biggs. 7 children.
- (2) Frances Elizabeth (Fanny), 18.10.1871. m. Percy George. 4 children.
- (3) Ernest Albert 15.6/1873. m. Jessie Preston. 6 children.
- (4) Helena Maria 1.7.1874. m. Arthur Griffin. 11 children.
- (5) William Harry 21.2.1876. m. Lily Wood. 15 children.
- (6) Coraline Rose 11.11.1877 m. Henry Wells. 3 children.
- (7) Arthur Edward 6.7.1879 m. May Ericson. 7 children.
- (8) Frederick George 11.2.1882 m. Mary Smith 1 child.
- (9) & (10) Still-born twins, c. 1884.
- (11) Valentine Herbert 30.5.1885 m. Isabel Thompson. 9 children.
- (12) Oswald Hector 13.6.1887 m. Lea Kells. 3 children.
- (13) Ethel Margaret 24.5.1889 m. Albert Thomas West 3 children
- (14) Ruth Mary 26.5.1891 d. 18.6.1893.
- (15) Harriet Jane (Janie) 6.10.1892 m. Patrick John Manning. 3 children.
- (16) Ronald Charles 9.9.1894 m. Jennie Hardy. 2 children
- (17) Phillip b. 1895 d. aged 2 days.

Addendum

A recent visit to the Taranaki Museum and the Taranaki District Council offices has made me realise just how heavily G.A.A. was involved in community affairs. County Council meetings for example were held in New Plymouth at 11 a.m. and seem to have lasted most of the day, breaking for lunch and continuing in the afternoon. Besides the regular monthly meeting there were an inordinate number of special meetings. Then there were meetings of the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, the Education Board, and fortnightly Lodge meetings, all held in New Plymouth 10 miles (16 km.) from Oakura, in those days of poor roads and no motor transport. Presumably he rode a horse or drove a gig or buggy ; the journey would take at least an hour each way.

Some of the earliest mentions of him in official documents were in the Taranaki Gazette of 1869 when he registered his "G.A." brand; in 1871 when he received a Military Grant of Crown Land; in 1873 when he was on the electoral roll of those qualified to vote at the election of the Superintendent (in the Taranaki Provincial Government, abolished in 1876) and in 1883 when he was listed on the Electoral Roll for the New Plymouth Harbour Board as "Adlam, G.A., Farmer, Omata." with the rateable value of his property given as £49.

The Cyclopaedia of N.Z. is always quoted as indicating the public bodies of which he was a member, and the time he was a member, but it must be remembered that this account only goes up to 1906, and is neither exhaustive nor completely accurate. I have not been able to put together a complete list, though with the sources available in New Plymouth this would be possible.

No account of Alfred that I have come across mentions his long association with the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Union, Loyal Excelsior Lodge, No. 5371, of which he was the Grandmaster in 1883, and was certainly a member in 1896, when he is mentioned in connection with a presentation to Dr. Leatham, (perhaps when he became the Medical Superintendent of the hospital). In those days a Lodge was a medical insurance scheme besides being a social and ceremonial centre. The members paid in a certain sum each week and this entitled them and their families to free medical treatment and drugs from the lodge medical officer and pharmacist. The Excelsior Lodge met every alternate Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the house of Mr. H. Bailey, King St. New Plymouth, although there is said to have been an Oddfellows' Hall there as early as 1871. The Taranaki Museum holds a photograph of Alfred in full Lodge regalia.

One of the first local bodies with which he seems to have been associated was the District Road Board, Oakura, 15th District. Perhaps he joined this because at this time the Taranaki roads were notoriously bad (though later, in the 1920s they were considered to be the best in N.Z.). They were apparently very often just pure mud. A story is told of a man who saw a very smart hat sitting in the middle of the road. He went over and picked it up, but was surprised to find a head underneath. With a bit of a struggle he managed to extricate the victim from the mud

and when he had done so the man said, "Now could you please help me get my horse out." Then there was another wayfarer who saw a man with a whip in his hand sitting by the side of the road crying his eyes out. When he asked what the trouble was, he was told, "Me bullocks are stuck in the md." "Well," he replied, "I'm not too bad a hand with bullocks myself; can I do anything to help?" The tearful one handed him the whip and sobbed, "Hit where you see a bubble!"

A list of public bodies with which my grandfather was associated would include-

- (1) Oakura School Committee- was a member for many years, and Chairman for at least 7-listed as such in 1886.

- (2) District Road Board (15th District) Oakura- from at least 1883 for a number of years

- (3) Omata Licensing Committee-from at least 1884; Chairman 1887

- (4) Taranaki Education Board- 1888-1916.

- (5) Taranaki County Council- at least from 1888 and was still a member in 1906; but may have had breaks in his membership, e.g. he does not seem to have been a member in 1896. He seems to have taken his duties very seriously, rarely missed a meeting, and was a very active proposer and seconder of motions.

- (6) Taranaki Hospital and Charitable Aid Board- I don't know how long he was a member or when he first became one, but he is mentioned as having been appointed to represent the County Council on the Board on Mon. 2.12.1894.

- (7) In 1896 he became a J.P.

- (8) At the end of 1918 an emergency committee was set up in Oakura to give advice and institute protective measures regarding the great Influenza Epidemic. Guess who was the chairman!

- (9) He was an Executive member and some-time vice-president of His Majesty's Veterans' Association.

43rd Regiment

I recently managed to gain access to "Historical Records of the 43rd Regiment, Monmouthshire Light Infantry" by Sir Richard George Augustus Levinge, Bart., 1868, in the Turnbull Library. Actually it didn't tell me much about its history in the 1860s that I didn't know, but I was interested to find that the regiment had been under the command of Sir John Moore at Corunna, presumably assisting to "bury him darkly at dead of night"; and also that 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, and 40 privates perished when the troopship "Birkenhead" sank off the coast of Africa with the loss of 700 lives amid scenes of great heroism.

The 43rd was involved in a number of actions in India in 1859, mopping up after the Mutiny, including skirmishes at Patourie and Gopalpore as late as October; but this would be too early for Alfred to be involved.

The regiment seems to have moved around considerably in India, frequently broken up into different contingents occupying different positions - in 1852 for example they were dispersed to Calcutta, Fort William, Barrackpore, and Raneegunge.

In January 1853, headquarters and 3 other companies marched from Barrackpore to Fort William, despite the river being open for navigation, and a railway line available on either side. "This most useless and unnecessary march provoked much comment and criticism in military circles in Calcutta."

Levinge blames the Naval Brigade for the debacle at the Gate Pah, although his own sole experience of active service seems to have been the suppression of the Canadian revolt in 1837-38. (This campaign lasted a week in Upper Canada, and a month in Lower Canada, & involved several very trivial skirmishes.)