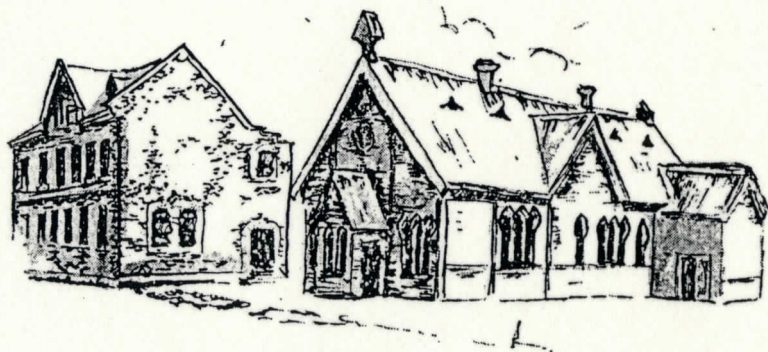


RICHMOND

Christchurch

A REGIONAL HISTORY



Written and compiled by

Geo. W. Walsh

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A REGIONAL HISTORY

In this small article I have attempted to compile some account of the history of the Richmond district. Owing to its situation, it is neither the alpha nor the omega, but just one of those areas that one passes through unconscious of boundaries.

I believe that the school is the main focal point of any district, for it is here that we spend our informative years and to which our memories return wherever we may roam in after years. Unfortunately the records of the school prior to 1925, were destroyed when a portion of the school was burned.

In spite of this, Richmond, like any other area has its history, which tells a story of people and their efforts in settling and developing the area. As the Drainage Board in the '80s almost despaired of overcoming the surface water problem, it says a great deal, as to the courage and fortitude of those early settlers who made this area the Richmond it is to-day.

Before attempting to collect the material for this regional history, I enquired in many places to ascertain if someone had previously attempted to write of Richmond. The only effort I found was some notes written by Mr H. de R. Flesher.

In this compilation, I have used some of his notes, for which I do hereby make acknowledgement.

I do regret that a fuller history could not be written, mainly because of the lack of records and perhaps like many histories, the writing of which has been left too late. To offset this in some degree I have added my reminiscences. I might lay claim to some knowledge of Richmond as I was born here in 1901 and my parents were both born here and lived in the district until their demise.

— Geo. W. Walsh

FOREWORD

I have been asked to write a foreword to this book. It scarcely needs one.

The author was born in Richmond at the beginning of this century. Both his parents lived all their lives in the district.

This book is, I believe, the first attempt to provide in a small compass a comprehensive survey of Richmond and its people since its beginnings.

As a member of an old Richmond family, I can only say I have read this book with keen interest.

It is good that there are still people who are interested enough to trace the development of a district and write about its people.

Already much information has been lost for all time. Therefore future generations should be grateful that someone has attempted to produce a record of Richmond and its inhabitants.

H. DE R. FLESHER

THE PLAN OF THE CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION

In 1847 a most comprehensive plan embodying all the principles of the Wakefield School was drawn up by the Association for "Founding the Settlement of Canterbury in New Zealand". This plan was published in March 1848.

Captain J. Thomas and another surveyor H. J. Cridland, stressed the immense tract of level land available and Captain Thomas recommended that a town sited on the Avon River, named by the Deans, would command the trade of the Canterbury Plains.

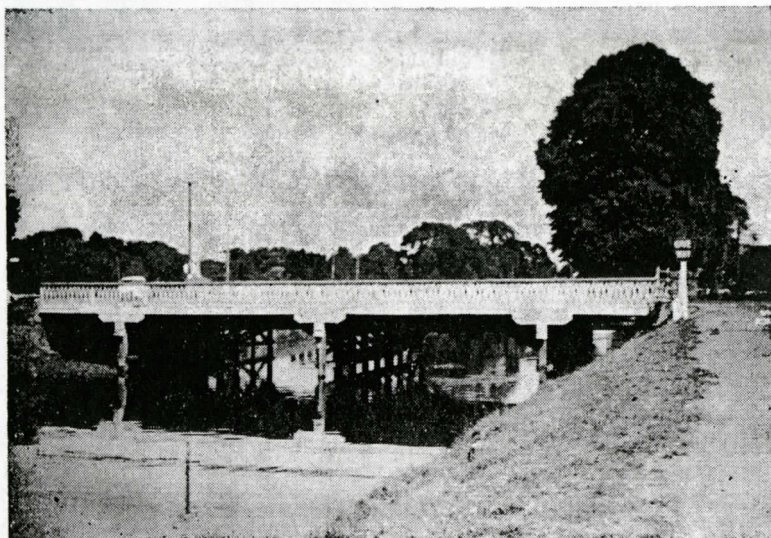
According to his early maps of the area finally selected, the land near the river on the east side was sandy and overgrown with fern and raupo, but mainly there was swamp with a few sandhills scattered here and there. One was situated where the home of the Chrystals was eventually built. Another hill where the Fleshers built, and the largest of all where the Presbyterian Church now stands in Randall Street. This hill was where Alley Howard built his cottage and headquarters of his night soil contracting business.

There was a large swamp and lagoon opposite Warwick Street where it meets Vogel Street. Here the Nicholsons had taken up some land, and when the swamp was drained, they obtained title to this area.

London Street followed the course of a creek which crossed Stanmore Road, turning north and then east parallel to the south side of Forth Street, thence down through Gowerton Place and into the swamp of its own making.

The central portion of Richmond R.S.41, was very wet land and when Stanmore Road was roughly formed, there were two large drains, one on either side of the road, to relieve surface flooding.

About where Lois Place is now, there was quite a sandy beach, and here the Maoris used to camp. Traces of Maori occupation were seen in the burnt sands and whalebones. Shells of all descriptions were also found in abundance. Mr Bassett had in his possession pieces of greenstone, found in the vicinity.



The Stanmore Road Bridge. Taken from the north side looking westwards.

THE OTAKARO RIVER

Avon:

The Avon River played a large part in determining the layout of the Church settlement; at Linwood, Avonside, there was W. G. Brittan's 20 acre farm and next Sir Thomas Tancred's area where he built a concrete house which has stood the ravages of the passing years.

J. Brittan, Perceval, Captain Westenra and Captain Wilkinson all had their homes here. They had built here because the river was a line of communication, and the attraction of river traffic.

Joseph Brittan came to New Zealand on the ship 'William Hyde'. He was a surgeon and a brother of W. G. Brittan who was in charge of the Land Office. J. Brittan was a member of the Provincial Council in 1857 and owned a block of land on the north bank of the Avon between Stanmore Road and the East Belt. His house was named 'Linwood'.

*Reference: 'Maori and Pakeha' Shrimpton
'Old Christchurch' J. Andersen*

On the Richmond side of the river, Dr Dudley had built his thatched roofed cottage with its dormer windows, and the creek which entered the Avon at this spot draining part of the great St. Albans swamp, was named Dudley's Creek.

Morrison's "Evolution of a City"

BOUNDARIES OF RICHMOND

The western boundaries are — Fitzgerald Avenue, Whitmore Street and Hills Road to the junction of Shirley Road.

The northern boundary being Shirley Road to North Parade.

The eastern boundary being North Parade to Banks Avenue, following the eastern side of Dudley Creek (Banks Avenue) to the river.

From there the southern boundary is bordered by following the river upstream to Fitzgerald Avenue.

The survey of Richmond comprised five Rural Sections numbered 33, 41, 182, 197, and 325.

R.S. 197 lay on the eastern side of North Parade straight through to the river and comprised 50 acres.

R.S. 33, the western block, followed down Whitmore Street, through to the river. This block also comprised 50 acres and was purchased by George Bowron who operated the tanneries. He lived near the corner of Heywood and Cambridge Terraces.

The central block R.S. 41 comprised 100 acres, and was purchased by one C. E. Fooks in 1853. He also held what was known as Fook's Run of some 5000 acres between Marshlands and Papanui.

Fooks who was an architect, did not do well in land speculation and ended his days following his profession in Ashburton where he died in 1907.

R.S. 325 was the Church Property Trust Block of 200 acres and this was not subdivided until 1908. A lot of this area was held under lease by a number of people.

R.S. 182 was situated in the north eastern part of Richmond surrounding the Domain.

This area of 50 acres was purchased for £150 by Charles Dudley, Bachelor of Medicine, who came from Lyttelton in 1852. In 1853 Dudley sold some of his land to one named Minchin for £400. In passing I would mention that Medway Street once bore the name of Minchin's Lane.

Minchin held this land for a number of years and then sold to Gardiner for £600.

Gardiner built the homestead named "Woodchester" where the Presbyterian Home for the aged now is. Gardiner's land was eventually owned by Bannerman, Bailey, Trent and Sharpe in that order, and finally the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees.

The value of sections in the early 60s ranged between £50 and £60 for areas of one quarter acre. In 1861 a corner section at East Belt and London Street sold for £61, and the next section in London Street sold for £50. A quarter acre section at the corner of Stanmore Road and Avalon Street was sold in 1866 for £35. A boot shop did business here over a long period.

RURAL SECTIONS

The settlers who selected the Rural Sections which comprised the area of Richmond are as follows:—

GEORGE BOWRON 1806-91

George Bowron was a bookseller in Oxford Street, London, but gave this up and sailed in the "Bangalore" for Lyttelton, arriving on the 31st August 1851. His wife named Mary Ann had borne him seven children whose ages ranged from twenty to five years.

George Bowron selected Rural Section 33 and called his farm "Heywood" as the Bowrons and Heywoods were related in some way. Bowron Bros., George and William, founded the business in Christchurch of Tanners, Curriers, Woolmerchants in the 1880s.

George Bowron, Jnr., and Samuel Heywood took up the Banner Downs, each owning 600 acres — part of the Fernside Run.

G. Bowron Snr., was appointed Registrar of Joint Stock Companies in 1867 and was Registrar of Deeds in 1861. He was also Deputy Commissioner of Stamps, but in 1868 he was succeeded by J. C. Bethune and was then granted a retiring allowance by the New Zealand Government. He was a member of St. Luke's School Committee and at one period Manager of the "Evening Mail", this was in 1866.

Bowron died at "Heywood" on the 8th February 1891 aged 85. His wife Mary Ann, having predeceased him on 5th March 1883, aged 81. They are buried in the Barbadoes Street Cemetery.

*Reference: Cyclopaedia of New Zealand No. 111
Macdonald Biographical Collection Canterbury Museum*

CHARLES E. FOOKS Block R.S. 41 at £2 per acre. Bingsland

Charles E. Fooks was born at Weymouth, Dorsetshire and was educated at Salisbury and Edmonton near London. He was articled to an Architect and Surveyor.

He married at the age of 21 years and arrived in New Zealand on the ship "Steadfast" in 1851. He was in the survey office of the Canterbury Association for a time, then took up land in the Avon district, R.S. 41. He also took up the 5000 acre run between Papanui and Marshlands, but was not very successful in his land speculation.

C. E. Fook's house was situated in Hereford Street. It had two gabled front windows and stood back off the street. It was here where the Union Bank was eventually built. Next door was the home of G. D. Lockhart, the man who bought from Fooks an area of land in central Bingsland. Later Fooks built his home on River Road, Richmond, between the tennis courts and Stanmore Road.

Reference "Old Christchurch" J. Anderson

Eventually Fooks went to Ashburton where he followed his profession of architect until he was appointed Engineer of the Ashburton Borough Council. He died in 1907.

Reference Encyclopedia No. 111 Canterbury

DR CHARLES DUDLEY 1810-81

Dr Charles Dudley arrived in Lyttelton on the 13th August 1851, on board the ship "Labuau". He was on the passenger list as M.D. aged 40, wife Agnes Jane, family — Charles Edward aged 5, Agnes Marg. aged 4. He came from Stourbridge, Worcestershire, England. He was supposed to have bought Dr McCheyne's practice at Lyttelton (Lyttelton Times 25/9/1852), but there was some doubt about this, as Dr McCheyne continued to practise until his death two years later.

John Dudley of Broome Farm also came out in the "Labuau"; he was a brother of Dr Dudley. They both decided to take up some land and selected Rural Sections 182-183 in what was called Lower Avon. In this area the surgeon Gundry, also had some land.

Dudley practised at Lyttelton for five years and then moved to Kaiapoi in 1857, where he became a great public man, serving three times as Mayor and twenty times as a Councillor. He also served on many committees.

Dr Dudley was born in 1810 and was educated at Edinburgh, Paris and London. He married in 1844 a daughter of Captain Scott and he died of bronchitis on 16th September 1881.

*References: The Macdonald Biographical Collection
Encyclopedia of Canterbury New Zealand Vol. 111*

DR JOHN SEAGER GUNDRY

Dr J. S. Gundry came from Sydney Street, Brompton, England. He was a surgeon and arrived on the ship "Steadfast", bringing with him a prefabricated house. He bought land at Avonhead and it is thought that this is where he erected his house. Later, in 1857 he bought from one Lockhart the well known, three gabled cottage, which still stands today situated just above the Road Tunnel mouth in Lyttelton.

This cottage was built by Thomas Kent who had purchased the section for £17. He no sooner finished the construction of this house when he sold it to a man named White, who in turn sold to Lockhart. Lockhart held the property for five years and then sold to Gundry in 1857.

In spite of what has been said of Gundry's short stay in New Zealand, he did at least occupy the gabled house for thirteen years during which period he probably carried on his practice. His brother Samuel was well established in business in Lyttelton also. The Doctor sold his house to Captain McLellan in 1870.

During the years he had resided in Lyttelton he had purchased in Christchurch Rural Section 197 of approximately 50 acres for which he paid £150. A cottage was erected on this land some of which was sold to William Flesher. There is no evidence to show that Dr Gundry ever lived there.

*Reference: "Old Homes of Lyttelton Harbour",
Frances Cresswell
"Press" July 24th, 1971*

MORICE BING 1830-78

Morice Bing was born in Hungary in 1830 and in early manhood served as an officer in the Hungarian Army. He arrived in Australia in 1852 and after following various callings over a period of eight years he came to New Zealand and settled in Christchurch.

Sheep grazing and woolclassing engaged his attention for three years and he then took up a lease of 200 acres, being Rural Section 325 owned by the Church Property Trustees. He used this land for some years and then he sub-let in small areas.

Bing dealt in stock and was a well-known figure at the old Carlton saleyards and at Addington. He bought land north of the Avon river, near Stanmore Road subdivided into building areas ranging from 40 perches to an acre. These sections sold readily and the area became known as Bingsland.

About 1867 he gave a section of land for the building of a church and in 1869 the church, known as the United Free Methodist, was opened for services.

In June 1871 he became a naturalised citizen of New Zealand. His bride was Ann Smith of Gloucestershire, Eng-

land, and they were married in 1863. They had three sons and four daughters.

Morice Bing died on the 21st January 1878. His widow, Ann Bing, married a widower, E. Goodwin of Pigeon Bay.

Records Okains Bay Church
References: Encyclopedia No. 111 New Zealand
The MacDonald Biographical Collection, Canterbury Museum
Lyttelton Times 23/9/1863, 11/11/1868, 14/4/1869,
30/6/1871, 18/1/1866, 14/1/1910

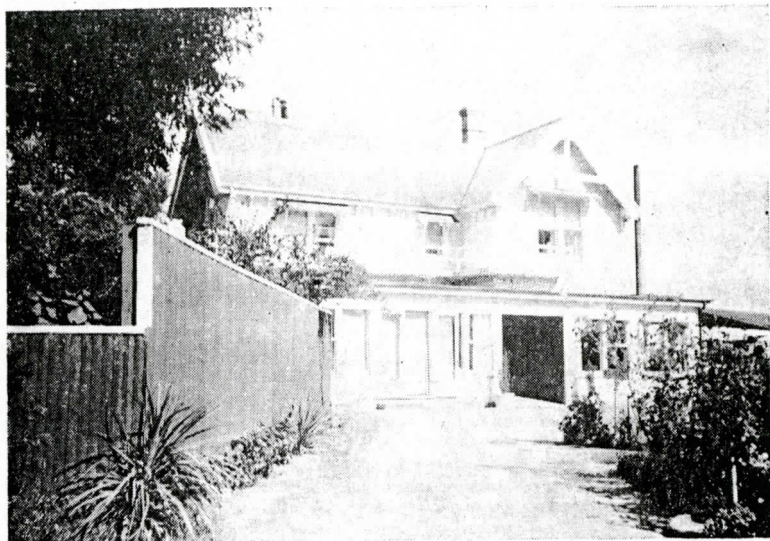
GEORGE DUNCAN LOCKHART

George Duncan Lockhart came to New Zealand in 1851. He owned a station in Australia and was a brother of the tenth baronet. His grandson became Sir Graeme Lockhart.

In 1860 G. D. Lockhart took up the Whalesback Station, (Runs 265-265A) of 35,000 acres. He was also part owner of the Hakataramea Station. During this period he bought from Charles E. Fooks a large portion of R.S. 41 being the central portion of Richmond.

In 1867 Lockhart became involved in financial difficulties and then became a stock & station agent, setting up business at his house in Cashel Street.

He died on September 13th 1890. The Lockhart Range bears his name.



H. D. Gardiner's home "Woodchester", was built in the 1890s. It is now the Presbyterian Old People's Home.

H. D. GARDINER OF RICHMOND

In 1874 Henry Dent Gardiner bought Purau as a going concern for £20,000. He was the youngest son of Edward and Elizabeth Gardiner of Belchamp, St. Pauls, Essex, where he was born in January 19th 1828.

Gardiner left England about 1853 for the Australian goldfields at Ballarat and Bendigo.

After arriving in New Zealand he purchased land in Papanui in the mid '50s, hence Gardiners Road. It was here his wife Mary Anne joined him.

In 1864 Gardiner sold Papanui to one named Miles, and he bought "Woodlands" Irwell. Late in 1875 they moved to Purau, with their large family, ten children in all. This necessitated extensions to Rhode's red stone house, which were completed in wood.

During the years 1874 to 1890, Henry Gardiner and his four sons developed Purau and a wharf was built in the Bay. In 1890 Steamer services were operating between Purau and Lyttelton. It was about this time that Gardiner divided his

estate and his sons took over, allowing him to retire to Christchurch.

At Richmond on the Dudley Creek he established a beautiful garden home surrounded by trees. This place he named Woodchester, and for some years he ran cattle on the land behind the house. This land was later presented to the City and now forms Richmond Domain.

Henry and Mary Anne Gardiner lived at Woodchester until 1909. Their descendants used to take the steam tram from the Square to Poulton's corner, and walk across the paddocks to visit their grandparents.

Henry and Mary died in January-February 1909, passing away within three weeks of each other, both aged 81 years.

Reference "Purau" (Elizabeth Ogilvie)

FORMATION

In 1858 Stanmore Road was in the process of formation. This was the first coach route to Burwood and New Brighton. In 1864 one named Lockhart owned most of the central area of Richmond and it was he who dedicated Stanmore Road. No other roads in this district were dedicated, but became public highways through usage.

In 1859 the people of Avonside and Richmond were petitioning the Provincial Council for a bridge over the Avon River at Stanmore Road. This bridge was to facilitate the movement of through-traffic from Lyttelton to the north as a direct route and also to be used by the coach services to and from New Brighton. In the beginning, these services were run by Hamil and Jimmy Newcombe.

The bridge was built in 1861, Circa, and shortly after, a man named John Mills, who was bringing his new paddle steamer up river found that the bridge blocked his way, so he promptly smashed his way through. Mills had previously built the Forresters Hotel in anticipation of catering for river traffic and he was not going to be forestalled by an obstacle in the waterway. His action brought a lot of trouble on him as public opinion went against him. (Page 71 "Old Christchurch"). J. Andersen.

In 1883, Richmond was still in the Avon Road Board's District and this board received a grant for repairs to the Stanmore Road Bridge. This would confirm that the Linwood Town Board did not accept responsibility in sharing the costs of the bridge.

A scheme for waterways connecting the Otakaro or Avon river to the Paerarekanui or Styx river and the Opawaho or Heathcote river to the Halswell was envisaged by the Canterbury Association and reserves for this purpose were set aside; but the completion of the railway tunnel in 1867 sounded the death knell of the canals. The reserve to connect the Avon to the Styx lay down Linwood Avenue, through Richmond and up the Marshlands Road.

In the 1850s a large swampy area covered much of the site of the present city. It stretched from Halswell through parts of Sydenham across Ferry Road extending into the central area and out through Bingsland and St. Albans. The 2000 acre swamp of St. Albans presented quite a problem.

Bingsland even in the 60s was still wet country owing to the lack of drainage, and in 1886 the Drainage Board had a big problem on its hands. North Richmond was mainly flax and raupo, with a few sandhills here and there. This area remained undeveloped until the turn of the century.

Outside the Town Belts the land was fenced and cultivated excepting east St. Albans and Bingsland.

Morrison's Evolution of a City

DEVELOPMENT

The southern portion of Richmond was early settled and known for some time as Bingsland. This area which skirted the Avon River was very wet; but this disadvantage was outweighed by the attraction of river traffic, and also the river's direct line of communication and access.

The Avon River was quite a busy waterway in the 60s as regular trips were run by schooners and several steamers were also navigating its course from the estuary to John Thacker's wharf which he constructed in May 1851. This

terminal was known as the "Bricks" because of the Deans unloading a quantity of bricks which were left there for some time.

In the 50s during wet weather, the track through St. Albans and out to Papanui became so bogged that traffic was diverted along the sandhills of North Richmond and up the Marshlands Road.

The northern part of Richmond was not settled to any degree until 1908 and in 1914 amalgamated with the City. On the other hand Bingsland residents were petitioning to share the amenities of the City as early as 1878.

Pages 30, 31, 32 "Evolution of a City" Morrison

DRAINAGE

The first mention of drainage outlets for Christchurch is made in the Provincial Gazette of 1858, and the first Drainage Board for the City was formed on October 12, 1875.

Of the first four drains to be built, one was just west of the East Belt and flowed towards the river draining that portion of Bingsland.

Sewerage construction was not begun in Christchurch until 1879 and the first Pumping Station was constructed at the corner of Tuam Street and Matheson's Road, being completed in 1882.

Christchurch Drainage Board's Minutes 20/1/1882

The first sewers were laid in Bingsland in 1884.

WATER SUPPLY AND RETICULATION

Water, of which there was no lack, was first taken from the river and streams. Then shallow wells were sunk, but eventually as the city grew, a more adequate supply was needed both for fire fighting and sanitation.

By the close of 1864 seven deep wells had been sunk by the City Council as part of the City water supply system. In 1909 the City Pumping Station was installed at the foot of

the hills, and reservoirs were constructed above the plains on the Cashmere Hills and water was flowing through the mains in this same year. This was the answer to the question of a pressure water supply which was first raised in 1878. This work was carried out under the supervision of A. D. Dobson, City Engineer 1901-1921.

*Reminiscences of Arthur D. Dobson
Christchurch City Council Minutes 28/11/1864
"Evolution of a City" Morrison*

STREET LIGHTING

In 1862 the first public kerosene lamp was lit at the Market Place Bridge on Whatelys Road (Victoria Street). Kerosene lamps were used for quite a period until gas lamps took their place. By 1876 there were 152 gas lamps lighting the streets of Christchurch.

Christchurch City Council Minutes 7/8/1862

As of March 1972 there were in the Municipal Electricity Department's area 18,845 lights giving a total of 100.63 million lumens. A lumen is a unit of light emitted by a source of one candlepower. The old kerosene lamp gave a light equal to 10 candlepower.

Reference: Engineers Dept. M.E.D.

ELECTRICITY

The first generator was installed by the Christchurch City Council in 1903. This generator was steam driven by the Council's destructor and quite a few consumers were supplied from this source.

The Christchurch Tramway Board installed a gas driven generator in 1905 and the Drainage Board installed its own generator in 1908, but it was not until the Lake Coleridge hydro electric works opened in May 1915 that the city and suburban streets were lit by electricity.

Reference: "Evolution of a City" Morrison page 62

SOME STREET NAMES OF RICHMOND

Street names are like signposts which point down the years to the beginnings; that is if the names are of those who took part in developing and settling the district.

Using the names of our pioneers and public minded people on the name plates of our city and town streets, is the most effective memorial, a deserving honour, and also an excellent way of recording our history.

Here in Richmond this has been done to some extent in the following street names —

Flesher Avenue: J. A. Flesher took a great interest in civic affairs and was one of the first to represent the district on the Council. He eventually served as Mayor of Christchurch.

Swanns Road: George Swann was a public spirited man, taking a great interest in many projects. He served on the school committee and was also one of the first to represent the district on the Council.

Chrystal Street: Chrystal was a well known detective and owner of the Chrystal estate.

Sorenson Place: Long standing residents and connections with the school.

Whitmore Street: Whitmore built here in the early years of the district. As pioneers they arrived on one of the first four ships.

Hills Road: Named after Hill who owned a large tract of land here.

Dudley Street: Dr Dudley, an early settler. The creek also bears his name.

Lois Place: Is a Bassett family name. Bassetts took up land here in the early days of the district.

Aldersley Street: Philip Aldersley ran a bakery business in the district for many years.

Stapletons Road: James Stapleton was one of the first to settle in the area and was a foundation member of the Stanmore Band.

Petrie Street: Petrie was a landowner and a well known builder. He served on the school committee for a long period.

Banks Avenue: Banks was a landowner and commercial grower.

Heywood Terrace: Named after the Heywood family related to the Bowrons who owned this area. His home was also named "Heywood".

Evelyn Cousins Avenue: Miss Cousins was appointed Mayoress of Christchurch.

Poulton Avenue: Poultons owned property in this area and were long term residents.

Woodchester Avenue: Named after Gardiner's estate and homestead.

Vogel Street: Sir Julius Vogel, Premier of New Zealand 1873-1875.

Pavitt Street: Named after C. Pavitt, well known resident in the early days of Richmond.

AMALGAMATION

By 1867 the Residents of Richmond were petitioning to share the advantages enjoyed by the municipality under the Christchurch City Council's control, and in 1877 the greater part of this area was incorporated in City Control — breaking away from the Avon Roads Board, and this was completed in 1890. The first two representatives for the District were J. A. Flesher and George Swann.

The example of the first suburb to acquire municipal government was not lost on other settlements around Christchurch. The St. Albans Borough Council held its first meeting in 1882.

Under the Town Districts Act of 1881, Woolston, Linwood and Sumner elected Town Boards, all of which were functioning by 1883.

Woolston and Linwood were advanced to the status of boroughs in 1893 and New Brighton in 1897.

Richmond alone chose in 1890 to amalgamate with the city; but in 1903, St. Albans, Sydenham and Linwood amalgamated, and with Richmond were created Wards.

This brought the population of Christchurch in 1903 to 42,286 and the total area of the city to 5,610 acres.

One by-law of the city at that time was "that no cyclist is to exceed the speed of nine miles per hour" (how peaceful).

*References "Old Christchurch" J. Andersen
"Evolution of a City" J. P. Morrison, page 110*

SCHOOLS

The 1877 Education Act which came into force on January 1st 1878 placed all public and primary education in New Zealand under Government departmental control, provided for the appointment of Government inspectors and set up Education Boards in the centres of large districts. There were two such boards in Canterbury for the northern and southern districts of the province. Attendance at school was made compulsory for at least half the year for all children up to thirteen years of age.

The teachers of the Canterbury Education Board schools were trained at the Normal School which had been established by the Provincial Council in 1874 and was converted to a Training College in 1877.

Many district schools already existed in the 70s among which was the Richmond school.

The Sydenham School was the first to be built and was the largest at that time. The roll was 200 in 1874 and increased to 1,500 in 1907, with classes of up to 90 pupils.

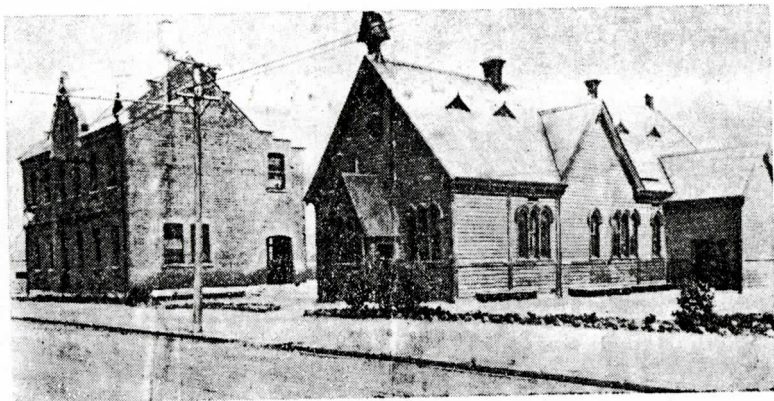
In the earliest years of the schools existence there was no free education and householders within a radius of three miles, were called upon to pay a rate of 20 shillings with an additional 5 shillings for every child between the ages of six and thirteen with a maximum rate of 40 shillings per annum.

"Evolution of a City", J. P. Morrison, page 148

1873 RICHMOND SCHOOL 1925

In the early days private tuition and Church Schools served the people's requirements as far as education was concerned; but in 1873 the Education Ordinance was passed providing for the constitution of Education Boards to control the education of children within the different areas.

The Education Boards established schools in various districts and School Committees were set up. In July 1873 the Educational Districts of East and West Christchurch were proclaimed and a meeting was held in the Oddfellows Hall, Lichfield Street, on July 30th 1873, to elect a committee for the East Christchurch District.



This photograph shows the brick building constructed in 1886 and the wooden building erected in 1874-75. Two other wooden classrooms are obscured. The plan of the brick building was used for the Sydenham school, while the plan for the wooden structure had been used at the East Christchurch school.

Six weeks later (September) the Committee decided to open three schools in the following places — Musical Hall, Cathedral Square (now part of Warners Hotel); St. John's, Latimer Square; and the Avonside Anglican Sunday school rooms.

In the event of room not being available at Avonside the Secretary was instructed to advertise for a site for a school, containing one acre or more in Stanmore Road North, also for Masters, Mistresses, and Pupil Teachers.

The Avonside schoolroom was rented for 12 months. There was a dearth of teachers at that time and the Hon. W. Rolleston, Superintendent of Canterbury, requested Lord Lyttelton to secure teachers in England. As a result Mr H. Hill B.A. was engaged in London.

Mr H. Hill and his bride spent their honeymoon at sea arriving at Lyttelton by the ship "Meropie" on November 1st 1873. Mr Hill was appointed a week after his arrival, to take charge of the temporary Avonside School. On the staff at that time were Miss Grierson and two pupil teachers, Misses Ford and Beckett.

The number of children attending the school grew so rapidly that a large tent was erected as a temporary expedient and teachers were in short supply.

The nor-westers of that time played havoc with the tent and steps were taken to erect the first portion of the Bingsland School (now Richmond).

The Board's Architect was Mr S. C. Farr and the contract was let to Mr Thomas Creig. The buildings, furniture and fencing cost £1,384/5/0, the land £341/7/6 and the well £16.

The new school was opened with Mr H. Hill as Headmaster and Mrs Hill as Mistress.

In 1876 Mr J. B. E. Taylor was appointed Headmaster, his assistants were — G. Pengelly, R. Whitham, Sarah L. Robinson and Emily Howard as Pupil Teachers. The average attendance at this time was 162.

A Headmaster's house was erected in 1876 at the corner of London Street and Stanmore Road and was demolished in 1912 circa.

During the next three years from 1876 the staff consisted of Mr Taylor (Headmaster), Mr J. Reid (Asst. Master), Miss E. Woodford (Asst. Mistress), Misses M. Young and K. Woodford as Pupil Teachers.

In 1881 the Richmond School District was constituted and the status of the school raised to that of a main school. The first School Committee was elected, Mr William Flesher being chairman.

One of the first duties of the Committee was the selection of a Headmaster and Mr C. S. Howard of the Woodend School was appointed. He retired from the teaching profession in May 1904. During Mr Howard's term of office as Headmaster the following staff were employed at the Richmond School:

Abbreviations — (A.M.) Assistant Master or Mistress; (P.T.) Pupil Teacher.

1882 — Sibella Ross (A.M.), Eliza Woodford, Kate Woodford and Marion McBratney (P.T.s). Average attendance 214

1883 — Jas. Thomas (A.M.), Miss M. Budden and M. E. Flesher (P.T.s)

1884 — C. W. Gerrard (P.T.)

1885 — Annie Howard (P.T.)

1886 — S. P. Gurney, Cecilia E. Ross (A.M.), Geo. Stenning and Miss E. Burgess (P.T.s)

It was in 1886 that the two storeyed brick schoolrooms were opened. The average attendance was 352.

1887 — Miss A. Spence and A. M. Craddock, Chas. Craddock (M.A.), Lucy Howard, Agnes Craddock and Margaret Flesher (P.T.s)

1888 — M. Gerrard (A.M.)

1889 — J. T. Hutchinson (A.M.), H. Richardson, Miss E. Osborn and Caroline Anderson (P.T.s)

1890 — Annie Craddock (A.M.), W. J. Boyce, Emily Howard (P.T.s)

1891 — Wilfred T. Chaplin and Kate E. Newton (P.T.s)

1892 — Emily E. Flesher (P.T.)

1894 — Geo. Schneider (A.M.), Alex Gray (A.M.) who fostered sport, was wounded in the Great War and died a few days after his return. He served the school for 15 years. Henry Bell, Alice Osborn, Gertrude Chapman and Lottie Gill (P.T.s)

1895 — Miss E. J. McGregor, Infant Mistress of the School.

1896 — Herbert Chapman and Ethel Sorensen (P.T.)

1897 — R. G. Coates and Edith M. Lawrence (P.T.)

1898 — Laura E. Snowball (P.T.)

1900 — Alice Osborn (M.A.), Sarah C. Howard, Florence Paull (P.T.)

1901 — C. W. Allard, Miss G. Isherwood (P.T.)

1903 — N. Pavitt (A.M.), Miss M. J. Sorensen (P.T.)

1904 — Harold Watson (A.M.), Kate Vallance (P.T.)

It was on May 31st that Mr C. S. Howard retired and Mr W. Brock of Hampstead was appointed in his place occupying this position of Headmaster until 1908 when he was appointed Inspector of Schools.

1905 — John Bowden and Jessie Hay (P.T.)

1906 — Mabel Smith (A.M.), Ivy Rapley, Olive Bailey (P.T.)

1908 — Myrtle Blank and Constance Bain (P.T.)

On September 1st John Webster McGregor, B.A. of Ashburton succeeded Mr Brock as Headmaster and remained in office until he retired in 1923.

1909 — J. E. Purchase (M.A.) appointed First Assistant Master, Mrs D. Nicholls (A.M.)

1912 — Miss J. M. Aiken (A.M.)

1915 — H. F. Penlington, First Assistant Master.

1916 — Miss H. M. Kent

1921 — T. J. C. Wilkins, First Assistant Master until 1924. Mollie Matheson, Alice Raven, Violet Montgomery and Mr H. Goodchild (P.T.)

- 1922 — Mr F. J. L. Scott (A.M.)
1923 — W. W. Roundtree appointed Headmaster from
Blenheim. Miss D. Andrews and E. Chillingworth (A.M.)
1924 — A. M. Davidson, J. Colthart, G. D. Ashton,
Miss S. M. Bampton and L. M. Kissell (P.T.)
1925 — Miss V. Butcher (A.M.)

The staff at this time comprised W. W. Roundtree, Headmaster; Mr J. Bowden, First Assistant Master; Miss E. J. McGregor, Infant Mistress; Messrs A. M. Davidson, J. Colthart, G. D. Ashton, Assistant Masters; L. M. Kissell, Pupil Teacher; Misses J. M. Aiken, H. M. Kent, D. Nicholls, E. Chillingworth, O. Butcher, D. Andrews, Assistant Mistresses; S. A. Bampton (P.T.)

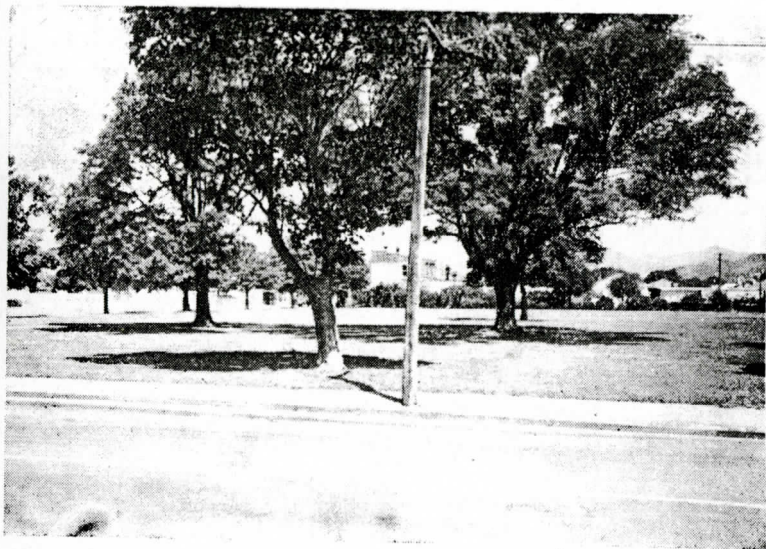
Owing to the old buildings having outlived their usefulness and with increasing traffic noise from Stanmore Road becoming such a nuisance as to interfere with classwork the Committee approached the Education Board in 1920 to petition for a new school, on a different site.

With the assistance of Mr D. G. Sullivan M.P., the Department in 1921 by virtue of its powers under "The Public Works Act" acquired a site containing about $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres in Cumberland Street (Pavitt Street). The area was insufficient for playground purposes and the Board purchased another $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres which brought the total area up to approximately 4 acres.

The foundation of the new School was laid on November 29th 1924 by Mr H. J. Bignell, Chairman of the Education Board.

In view of the fact that the old site would not be needed for educational purposes in future, at the suggestion of the then Mayor of Christchurch (Mr J. A. Flesher) an old scholar and resident of the District, the Committee convened a meeting of ratepayers to consider a scheme propounded by him for the acquisition of the old playgrounds as a Public Recreation Ground for the district. The area would be available for the scholars as well as the public generally for all forms of outdoor sports and recreation.

The proposal was enthusiastically received and approved at the meeting of ratepayers, which requested the City Council to take the necessary steps to create a special rating area for raising a loan to cover the cost of the whole work.



Part of the grounds fronting Stanmore Road where the Richmond School once stood. Where the trees flourish in the foreground once stood the headmaster's house which was erected in 1876 and demolished, circa 1912.

NOTES

In 1890 Constable Sturmer was asked by the School Committee to serve notices on parents to compel them to send their children to school more regularly.

The Caretaker's cottage was erected in 1902, and is still the Richmond School caretaker's residence. It is on record that the Caretaker reported having allowed the baths to be used for baptismal purposes at a charge of 6 pence per head.

A magic lantern was purchased for the school in 1897 and at the first exhibition, children were charged 2 pence for admission and adults 6 pence.

1873 HEADMASTERS 1923

1873	Mr H. Hill, B.A.
1876-1881	Mr J. B. E. Taylor
1881-1904	Mr C. S. Howard
1904-1908	Mr W. Brock, M.A.
1908-1923	Mr J. W. McGregor, B.A.
1923	Mr W. W. Roundtree

CHAIRMEN OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES 1881-1922

1881-1884	Mr William Flesher
1885	Mr George Swann
1886-1887	Mr E. L. Wallace
1887-1894	Mr J. Abercrombie
1894-1898	Mr W. Snowball
1898-1899	Mr H. B. Sorensen
1899-1901	Mr R. J. Paull
1901-1902	Mr J. A. Flesher
1902	Mr R. J. Paull
1903-1905	Mr H. B. Sorensen
1905-1906	Mr J. H. Hooper
1906-1910	Mr J. A. Flesher
1910-1913	Mr S. Kennedy
1913-1915	Mr J. Burgess
1915-1921	Mr H. Langford
1921	Mr J. Holiday
1921-1922	Mr J. Burgess
1922	Mr F. E. Talbot

PRESENT SCHOOL COMMITTEE 1925

F. E. Talbot, Chairman; E. C. Brown, Secretary; S. Pentecost, Treasurer; and Messrs C. Clausen, V. S. Graham, T. B. McClurg, J. Petrie, J. Stewart and A. M. Saunders.

THE NAMES OF SOME OF THE PUPILS WHO HAVE GAINED DISTINCTION:

MR LEONARD DAVIS, who attended the Richmond School circa 1904, later became well known in Christchurch as a Civil Engineer.

IRMA M. O'CONNOR, a pupil in the 90s to 1904, was a direct descendant of Edward Gibbon Wakefield. She won a scholarship in 1904.

MISS ELSIE BOYD, who was born in Rangiora in the year 1889, was a pupil of the Richmond School, attending in the period from 1896 to 1901. She married, and as Mrs Elsie White became world famous as a painter of miniatures, some of which were exhibited in the Royal Academy. Her name is listed in the "Artists' World of Who's Who".

W. A. TAYLOR, also a pupil during the 90s became the well known Maori historian and a frequent contributor to "The Plainsman". He was a keen photographer and left a wealth of pictures, contributing much to the historical records of Christchurch and Canterbury.

MR V. C. PETERS, was born on June 24th 1891. He attended the Richmond School from early 1902 to the end of 1904 as a pupil of classes 4, 5 and 6. He became a world famed musician and conductor of orchestras and choirs in many parts of the Continent, Britain and North America. In 1927 he founded the Christchurch Harmonic Choir, and he also conducted the Liedertafel for over sixteen years. Mr Peters was well known as a music teacher in our secondary schools and formed the Boys' High School choir. A highlight of his career was the conducting of a choir of a thousand voices in London's Albert Hall.

HARRY SYKES BAVERSTOCK, M.A. Dip. Ed. Born in Norwich, East Anglia 1895. Educated at a private school, Norwich. After coming to New Zealand, attended East Christchurch School 1901-2. Enrolled at Richmond School 1903 and left in 1908. Pupil at Christchurch Boys' High School, 1909-1912. Taught at Elmwood School 1913-1915. Volunteered for services in 1st World War as a private in the 13th Company, North Canterbury and West Coast Regiment. Seriously wounded in front of Flers village during the 1st Battle of the Somme. Patient for 7 months, Brockenhurst Hospital. Invalided back to New Zealand on hospital ship "Maheno" 1917. Resumed studies at Canterbury College 1918. Gained M.A. degree 1920 and Diploma of Education. Housemaster at St. Andrew's College 1919. Joined staff of Christchurch Boys' High School 1920 and retired 1952. Senior Latin master at the school. In charge B.H.S. cricket 1922-1947.

WILLIAM S. BAVERSTOCK, O.B.E., F.R.S.A., born in Norwich, England, attended Richmond School from 1903-1906 in 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th standards. Won first prize in 1906 in "Studies from Nature" Drawing competition held by the Canterbury Society of Arts for Canterbury Schools. Later attended West Christchurch District High School and School of Arts, gaining two scholarships and prizes in art. Work exhibited in N.Z. Centennial Art Exhibition, 1940, and elsewhere. Some years with his father, Wm. Baverstock Senior, who was invited by the Christchurch Press Company to come to New Zealand as an expert designer and lithographer.

Secretary Canterbury Society of Arts 1943-1959. Hon. Curator Robert McDougall Art Gallery 1948-1960. The first Director McDougall Art Gallery 1960-1969. Elected Fellow Royal Society of Arts 1950; Hon. Life Member Canterbury Society of Arts 1960; Hon. Life Member Christchurch Savage Club. Member of Committee N.Z. Scenery Preservation Society; Member of Executive, Association of Friends of Canterbury Museum and Member of Committees of Children's Health Camp since 1935.

LYNDON (LYN) CHRISTIE, J.P., pupil 1913-1920. In his early days spent twelve years in Sydney where, as a musician, performed and conducted at many leading places, at one time being conductor of the Australian Broadcasting Commission's Dance Orchestra. On his return to New Zealand was a member of various Patriotic Committees as well as being Chairman of the Entertainment Committee for the last three War Loans. Chairman of St. Andrew's College Parent-Teacher Association, served on their Board of Governors, also a member of the Christchurch Technical College Board of Managers. A Christchurch City Councillor for fifteen years being Chairman of the Library, Art Gallery, Baths and Entertainment Committees. Chairman Christchurch Metropolitan Milk Board. Vice-Chairman New Zealand Library Association. Nine years member of the North Canterbury Hospital Board being Deputy Chairman and Chairman of Finance Committee. Executive and Board member of the New Zealand Travel and Holidays Association and Chairman, for five years, of the South Island Publicity Association. Fifteen years President Canterbury Branch New Zealand Musicians' Union being made a National and Canterbury Branch Life Member.

P. 2 RICHMOND SCHOOL 1906

Leonard Cotton, Richard Sunderland, Harold Kay, Fred Boaks, Thomas Bryce, Heaton Ostler, Jack Emmett, Percy Crooks, George Brown, Hubert Flesher, Frank Candy, Harold Muschamp, Maurice Bassett, Herbert Chetwin, Fred Mundy, Robert Ritchie, Charles White, William Taylor, Noble Perry, George Ell, Esmond Harper, Jack Pitcher, Leonard Armstrong, Thomas Mills, George Hill, George Walsh, Zoe Butler, Myrtle Redpath, Eva McEntee, Elsie Palk, Winnie Roper, May Appleyard, Myrtle Poore, Majorie Reaby, Bessie Perry, Dorothy Cusack, Isa Stuart, Ida Carter, Gertie Wilson, Stella Sharman, I. Whitta, Mabel Harcourt, Dorothy Whitfield.

Elsie Stratford, Phoebe Shierlaw, Elsie Goode, ——— .
Sincock, Maude Bone, Dorothy Bishop, Doris German, May
Donaldson.

Here are a few names of early residents that appear in
a "Bingsland" School Register dated 23/2/81 to 25/1/87:
Waldron, Petrie, Applyard, Bampton, Flesher, Sturmer,
Cotton, Adcock, Bryce, Stubberfield, Stapleton, Hadfield,
Needham, Muschamp, Aldersley, McBratney and Moore.

RICHMOND SCHOOL, PAVITT STREET

The opening of the new school was celebrated on
September 22nd 1925. The staff at that time comprised the
following.

Mr W. W. Roundtree, Headmaster; Mr J. Bowden, First
Assistant; Miss E. J. McGregor, Infant Mistress, Miss J. M.
Aitken, First Lady Assistant; Mr A. Davidson, Second Male
Assistant; Miss H. M. Kent, Second Lady Assistant; Mr J.
Colthart, Third Male Assistant; Miss D. Nicholls, Third Lady
Assistant; Miss V. D. Butcher, Fourth Lady Assistant; Mr
G. D. Ashton, Fourth Male Assistant; Miss E. M. Chilling-
worth, Fifth Lady Assistant; Miss D. Andrews, Sixth Lady
Assistant; Miss S. M. Bampton, Pupil Teacher; Mr L. M.
Kissel, Pupil Teacher.

On September 25th 1925, the Jubilee celebrations com-
menced with a children's concert and as the school was closed
for the occasion, sports were held and tea was served at 12
noon.

The removal of standards 2 to 6 inclusive to the new
school in Cumberland Street, now named Pavitt Street, was
carried out on October 16th 1925. The head teacher's room
and the teachers' room were not finished and there were no
shelter sheds. Some of the much needed furniture for the
teachers' room arrived in November 19th 1925.

In the Centennial year 1950, Sports were held at Lan-
caster Park in November and the day of celebration finished
with a concert.

At this time Mr E. R. Dalley was headmaster and the
school roll numbered 463 pupils.

Mr W. Roundtree and Miss H. M. Kent finished their
years of service on 21/12/28.

Today 1972 Mr R. W. Bell is headmaster and Mr W.
Falconer is chairman of the school committee.

Floreat Richmondia!

PLACES AND FACES OF THE CENTRAL AREA OF RICHMOND

Circa 1910

Stanmore Road being the centre of the area, let us commence with the shop that has faced down this road for many summers. This butchery was occupied by Ramsay and later by Claxton & Straw. The residence attached was bounded by Stapletons Road.

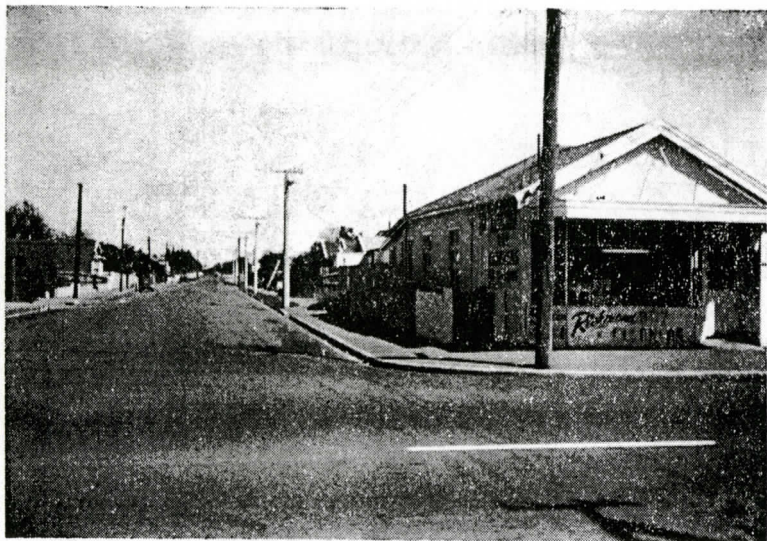
Over the way where once stood an old shop and cottage occupied by Dyer the butcher, Harris had built his two-storeyed residence and shop. This was in 1910, and C. E. Otley was the builder. The old shop was demolished and the cottage moved to the west boundary of the section. It was here that a one-armed man lived whose name as I remember was Cooper. He delivered papers, and when he died, a lot of money which he had accumulated was found within the cottage.

Harris continued in his grocery business for many years. His neatly trimmed goatee beard and spotless white apron always gave him a dignified appearance. They had one daughter Olive, who was a music teacher and later married Mr Olds.

Travelling south down Stanmore Road on the west side there were next the Hadleys and then Saunders who was a son-in-law of Hadleys. Then we come to the blacksmith, named Richards. Between Saunders and Richards a large house stood well back from the road occupied by the Anthony family. The house is still there, hidden behind the shops.

The home of the Richards family was next door, with the smithy on the south side. This was always an interesting place to the school boys of that time. Richards' children attended the local school. The site of the smithy is now occupied by the new Post Office. South of Richards was another house and then a bootmaker's shop which has stood for many years on the corner of Fowke Street, now named Avalon Street. When this street was little more than a track, a man named Leader opened a bakery here.

On the opposite corner of Fowke Street stood a row of shops. These were new and of modern design with living quarters above. They were named "Cadena Buildings" and

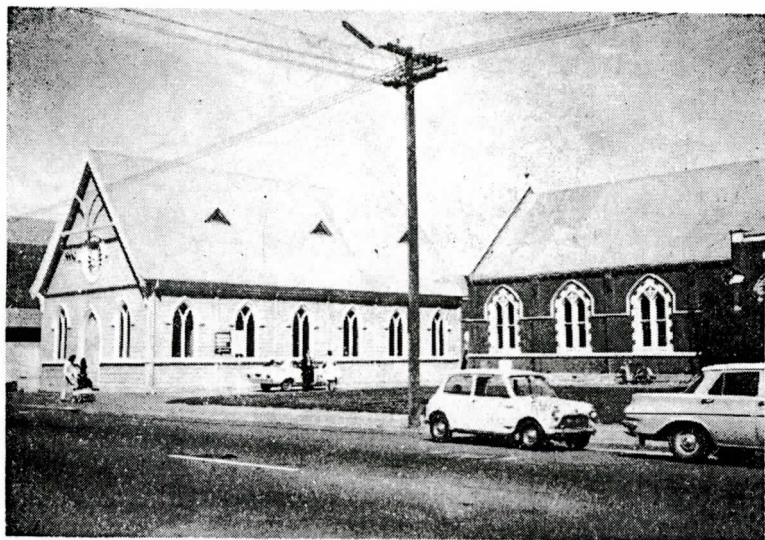


A view from Stanmore Road looking down Avalon Street.

were built in 1912 as part of the Flesher estate. The first shop was Shaw's fruit and vegetable business. He had married Madame Holgate who was a singing teacher. Next was James Hooper the tailor; this shop eventually became the Post Office. Further along was an art shop, where paintings were displayed, and well I remember looking through the window at these beautiful scenic pictures. The artist's name was Pruden, and his children attended the Richmond School. This same shop was occupied later by Farrow the butcher.

As I remember there stood a house south of these shops, which was later moved to Fowke Street, and became the home of the Reabys. Their children, Frank and Elsie, went to the Richmond School.

Now we come to the church. The first wooden church was built in 1869, on a section given by Morice Bing who leased a large tract of land in North Richmond. Early Methodist services were held in 1868, but the church was opened in 1869. This building cost £72/17/0. After ten years the church had to be rebuilt to accommodate the increasing number of worshippers. This church still stands today having recently celebrated its centenary. The brick hall or Sunday School was built in 1886.



The Richmond Methodist, Stanmore Road. The wooden building was built about 1879 replacing the first church which was erected for £72/17/0 in 1869. The brick building was opened in 1886. The land was given by one Morice Bing after whom Bingsland was named.

Next to the church stands the Working Men's Club. This building erected in the 1880s, was in the first instance a Benevolent Society, and later, in the early 90s obtained a charter. In or about 1910, the club was under the management of a man named Waldron. His daughter Pearl attended the Richmond School.

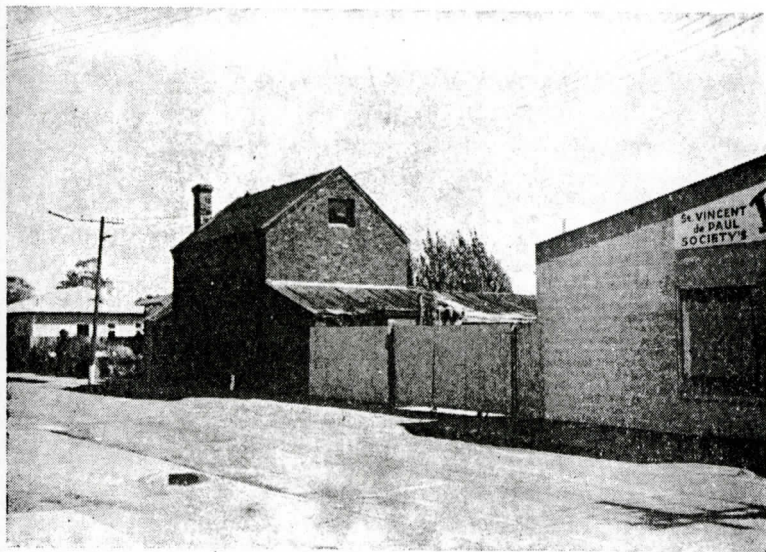
George Swann, for many years Chairman of the Richmond School committee, and one of the first Councillors from this district, was one of the founders of the club.

A stonemason lived in rooms above the club.

Crossing over London Street we find the school headmaster's house. Do you remember the pear trees? Behind the house, backing on to Cumberland Street (now Pavitt Street), was the caretaker's cottage; his name was Mr Ted Pimm. He was very sober in habit and would stand no nonsense from the children. His son Les attended the school.

Passing the school we find a boot repair shop operated by a man named Kearney. Their family home was attached to the shop, but in later years they lived in Petrie Street.

Next came the home of the Cusacks, which was destroyed by fire about 1907. It was on this site that Mrs Carter built



Phillip Aldersley's bakehouse 1972, much the same as I knew it in 1910. This bakehouse was built by Maltous before the turn of the century.

her two-storeyed brick shop and residence. Further along was Marsh's butchery and Phil Aldersley's two-storeyed home. Behind this house was the bakery which always emitted a lovely aroma. This bakery was first established by a man named Maltous.

Phil Aldersley used to deliver bread over a wide area, from Richmond to Sydenham, to Merivale, thence up to the Styx River and back home through Burwood, quite a journey when you think in terms of a horse and cart, and not a modern delivery van.

There was another bakery for a period on Mud Lane (North Avon Road). This was run by a man named White. On the corner of the little street which leads through to Cumberland Street, there was an old shop in which Harris the grocer had his business before he moved to his more commodious premises at the north end of Stanmore Road. The old shop was also shared by a tailor named Hooper. This same shop eventually was occupied by Morgan Davies, the bootmaker.

Opposite stood the shop and cottage occupied by two sisters, Misses Webb. Here they sold haberdashery, and also

school requisites, books, slates, etc., and a little further along we find the fruit and vegetable shop run by the Robinsons.

The house on the corner of Alexander Street, was the home of a well known identity named Chris McGrath. Every evening after his meal-time, he could be seen leaning over his gate smoking his pipe and gossiping with all and sundry. He was a timber-stacker for Packer & Jones and if I remember aright he used to own a racehorse which he kept at the rear of his property.

The south-west corner of Alexander Street and Stanmore Road was occupied by another old house with a blacksmith's forge in front. The smithy's name was Hughes. In those days the clang of the hammer on the anvil could be heard from a long way off, as there was little traffic noise, nor screaming radios, and the measurement of sound in decibels was unknown.

After school, groups of children were always attracted when horse-shoe making was in progress. To see the sparks showering off the anvil was as exciting as a packet of crackers, and as there was another smithy at the north end of Stanmore Road, the children of Richmond were well aware of what the occupation of a shoe-wright entailed. William Hughes attended the local school.

On the south side of Hughes, Sam Pentecost had his coach and carriage painting business, which he later carried on at North Avon Road. He was a master of his craft and many carriages including Langford & Rhind's hearses, bakers and grocers delivery carts showed to advantage his workmanship.

Moving along we come to the Police Station, where Constable Sturmer was stationed. Later he was replaced by Constable Flewellyn and then by T. Hammond (Long Tom). When Constable McLeod was appointed, his children were pupils of the Richmond School. Further down we come to Burrows the plumber who eventually took Dickson into partnership. Morrisons lived next door and Douglas and Jim attended the Richmond School.

Over Draper Street on the opposite corner lived the Johnstons who were connected in some way with the firm of Armstrongs Ltd., Drapers. A short way along Draper Street lived the Butters family and the Piries also lived hereabouts. Continuing down toward the river, we come to the home of

the Cottons, one of the early settlers of this district. Their home was situated about opposite Glade Avenue. Leonard, a descendant, was a pupil of the Richmond School.

Returning north on the east side of Stanmore Road, there were several houses, one of which was occupied by the Rossiter family. Then we come to Swann's Road corner where the Sorensen's estate was situated. A large iron gate with the name plate "Lingard" adorned the entrance to the sweeping drive leading to the large residence. H. B. Sorensen had an Auctioneering business in Lichfield Street, and he was Chairman of the School Committee 1898-1899.

The estate (now taken up for flats), like many of the homes I have mentioned has gone "the way of all flesh" and old houses. Miss Edith Sorensen who died in October 1940 sleeps in the Avonside churchyard not far removed from the resting place of our old schoolmaster John Webster MacGregor, B. 1866, D. 1946.

"On the Master's grave grows the grass Ben Bolt,
And the little running brook is now dry,
And of all the friends who were school mates then
There remain but you and I."

The shops on the corner of Swann's Road were built at a later date; but further along there were several houses and the Bone family resided here.

On the corner of Vogel Street, the Needhams had their shop, bakery and stables. This bakery was at its commencement, operated by one Barnes. This area was known as "Barnes Corner", and was the terminus and starting place for coaches and later horse trams. One coach service run by Booker used to leave here and travel through London Street trumpeting loudly for passengers while on its journey to town. The fare by coach was three pence. Booker stabled his horses and coaches in Pavitt Street where he had a yard next to the Richmond School Baths. Coaches could be hired for picnics to Stewarts Gully and North Beach at a fare of three pence for adults and one penny for children.

When the horse trams came as far as Barnes corner, the fare to town was one penny. John Brightling eventually took over this tram route and Jimmy Hays who lived to be a centenarian was a well known character, who worked on horse, steam and finally electric trams.

Crossing over Vogel Street, we come to the two-storeyed grocery shop run by the Youngs, whose daughter, Cherry, attended the local school. This shop, about opposite Bruce Street, was first set up as a grocery business by Thomas Bunting, who later established his brush-making factory. Following Bunting, McCulloch took over the shop. It was near here that Mrs Malton had her drapery store.

Parker's cycle and repair shop was next door to Young's and the strains of band music used to emanate from a phonograph, which could be seen inside the door-way of this shop.

Moving along we come to the Barnes and Larges whose neighbours were the Yeomans. I understand that here was a large family of nine children and many of them were Richmond School pupils. Next we come to the Moores (my grandparents), their cottage still stands (February 1973), while Brown's house, which stood on the corner of Warwick Street has disappeared to make way for a car park. Brown, who was an old identity of Richmond, had a tailors business on this corner. Where the supermarket is today, a music teacher and pianoforte tuner had his residence, and behind him in Warwick Street, lived Smith the carrier.

Further north was the coalyard. This business was run by a man named Davidson, but later on was taken over by Buist and Cummins.

Opposite London Street, there stood the Hadfield home which was eventually taken over by the State as a home for boys. Mr Hadfield had bought from Lockhart in the early days that block bounded by Warwick Street and Stanmore Road, comprising $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres for the sum of £450.

The houses north of Hadfields had a large depression in the frontages of their properties. This used to be a creek bed from whence the early settlers obtained their water supplies. All trace of this creek has been eradicated, excepting the dog-leg of London Street.

Above Forth Street we have another old shop backing on to the Chrystal estate. The large home on the hill where the Chrystals lived, has been rebuilt and the land subdivided. I remember when Detective Chrystal died in February 1923, and I watched the horse-drawn hearse, flanked by his stalwart sons, make its way down Stanmore Road. This was a scene which impressed itself on to my young mind. William

Livingston Chrystal aged 78 years was buried in the Avonside Churchyard.

Chrystal Street bears the family name.

Let us now take a stroll along North Avon Road. There were only two roadways leading northwards, Hills and Stapleton Roads, until we come to Barnett's corner, so named after Kerr and Barnetts who had a nursery here. Flesher's driveway led to the homestead "Avebury", and Wallace Pedlar was next westwards. He was a nurseryman, and an old resident of this part. The children went to the Richmond School.

On the north-west corner was a shop and dwelling occupied by the Broadhursts, who had a large number of children, all pupils of the Richmond School. The shop and home have recently (1971) been demolished to make way for a modern garage and lubitorium. This reminds me most forcibly of the quotation, "Postume, postume, with how fleet a foot the years slip by" for it was here in my early days, that I watched Mr Jimmy Hayes jack a horsetram back onto the rails after it became derailed whilst turning the corner.

Running eastward from this corner, was an unformed road leading to the river and across the river was the woolwash. This business I understand was established by a man named Henry Inwood who came to New Zealand in 1851. Some time after he sold out to Murgatroyd who in turn sold to Robson (a street close by bears his name). A punt was moored at the end of the lane (now North Avon Road) for the use of the woolwash employees in crossing the river. Inwood took up land at Burwood, hence Inwoods Road. He died on July 18 1882 aged 65 and was the first person to be buried in All Saints Churchyard. It was his daughter Amelia, who founded the Burwood Sunday School in 1876 and married Master Marriner Brent Rogers who died eighteen months later. There were no children of this union and Mrs Rogers later opened a shop, library and Post Office at 348 New Brighton Road. This house still stands, but she was forced to move to more commodious premises across the road, where she remained until her death. I knew Mrs Rogers as postmistress, always dressed in black, somewhat austere, yet I found her kindly and devout. Her old home has recently been demolished. She rests in the churchyard.

Somehow I have wandered so with apologies, let us wend

our way back down the old New Brighton Road, and here, on reaching the Golf Links Road, we arrive nearer to our home territory, as it is around here we find school associates — Tom Mills, (Monko) Rowe, Tom Bryce, and coming to the corner where the Wesleyan Church stands we think of the Emmetts of Quinns Road who contributed so largely to this church. A. W. Emmett started his well known dairy farm from small beginnings, borrowing £5 from William Flesher to buy his first cow. He carried milk around Richmond to his customers by means of a wooden yoke over his shoulders from which two cans were suspended on chains. He first leased some land from W. Flesher and eventually became a well known and prosperous dairyman. Jack, a son, went to the Richmond School. Before leaving this corner I would like to bring to mind Mr Rowe who owned a large block of land which lay along New Brighton Road east and then south to Cooper's Road, back to Banks Avenue and then north along the Parade. He ran stock and a large number of pigs, hence the sobriquet (Piggy) Rowe. The homestead still stands today and was named "Windsor". Perhaps this is how the name for the area originated.

As we look up Marshland Road, this brings to mind the Palks, Ropers, Dawbers and Cox. Fred Boaks lived somewhere hereabouts. Travelling south we come to Banks' Avenue, named after Banks who owned land to the east of Dudley's Creek, and further South, on the western side of North Parade following the winding way of the creek, we see an old cottage standing back among some trees. This was the home of Mrs Hampton, whose husband owned and drove a hansom cab. The Shirley Boys' High School occupies this site today. It was nearby that a woolwash operated on the Dudley Creek and further along was Mr George Broome's ropeworks. The Broome family lived in Tay (Tweed) Street.

Just nearby on the left is the Richmond Domain. This Domain in early days was merely a large paddock surrounded by a double row of pine trees. Further down we come to the triangle at Medway Street, which was Church Property, and the Tramway which cut across this corner paid the Church Trustees £1 per annum for the privilege, until it became a roadway.

In Mr H. Flesher's notes on early Richmond he mentions one Jones and I quote, "In 1882 Minchin sold a piece of land at the corner of Medway Street and North Parade to

one Jones. He was a jeweller and he attempted to build a hotel there. His two-storeyed house stood there until a few years ago. It was complete with cellars and everything that was necessary. For some unknown reason he never obtained a licence." My family lived in this house and in 1919 it was offered for sale at £750 with half an acre. On the opposite corner lived the Ridley family. Their son John was a Rhodes Scholar and became a noted Hydro Engineer in New Zealand.

Further on we come to the Appleyards, the McClurges and next the Bassetts. The children of these families attending the Richmond School. Arriving at Barnetts we are now back to the corner from which I have wandered.

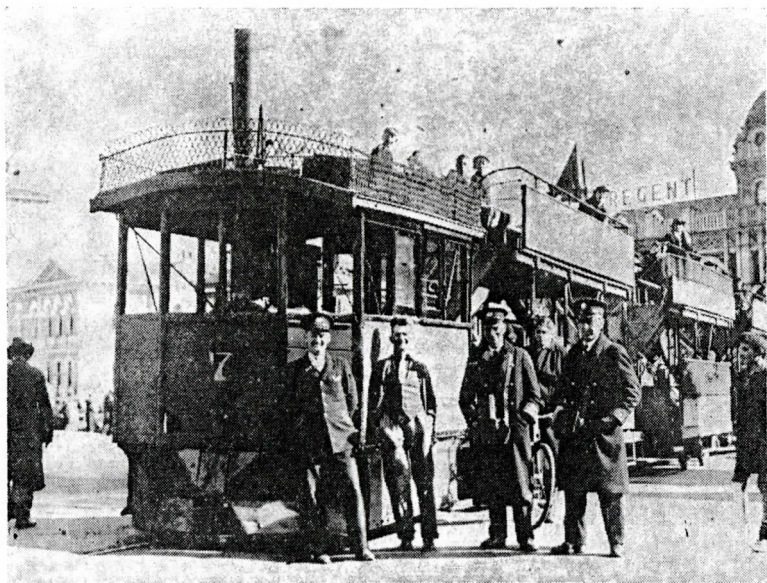
On the site of the shops which now extend east of Chrystal Street, stood three or four cottages in which some employees of Alley Howard (night soil contractor) lived. Their names as I remember them, were Cole, Vincent, Chamberlain and Heese, all following the occupation of night-cart drivers, although I do not think they did much driving, as I often saw them when I was a lad, wrapped in sacks fast asleep on top of their carts as the horses plodded their way home.

Alley Howard's cottage and his contracting yard was situated on a huge sandhill that covered quite an extensive area about where the Presbyterian Church now stands in Randall Street. You could see the old house with the rows of carts standing somewhat removed. He was a man greatly interested in the Turf, owning several good horses. The sandhill, Allenton Howard, his business and his men are now but a memory of the past.

On the opposite side of North Avon Road there were one or two cottages, between Pedlars and Tay Street corner. This was the terminus of the Richmond trams (steam at that time).

The corner section was bought and built on by a man named Tullock, later the Stuarts came to live here and Isa and Jim were Richmond School pupils.

Below Tullock's corner in Tay Street there lived Hart the contractor, who had a number of tip-drays and the horses were stabled behind the house. Then down to the corner of Forth Street, were the following residents — Lewis-Rogers, Trees, Johnston and the Potters, in that order. On the eastern side of Tay Street among other homes were the Broomes and Nurse Osborne.



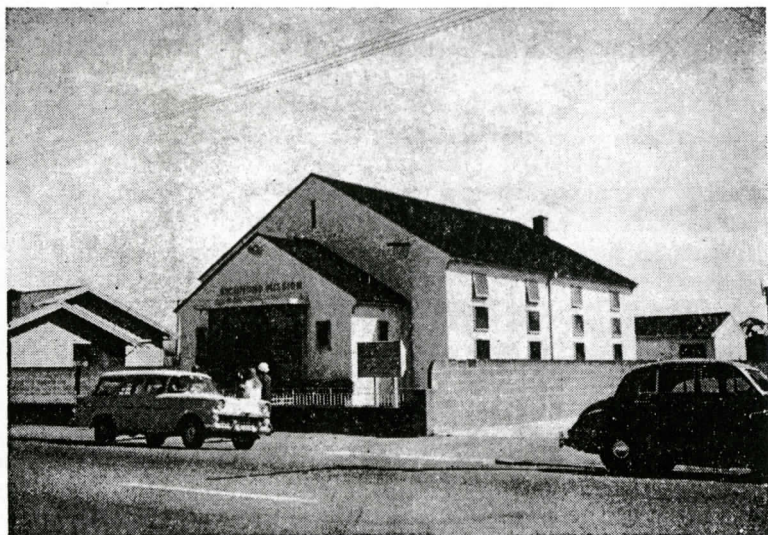
Kitson Steam Engine, which was capable of hauling 6-7 tram trailers. These engines gradually superseded the horse trams.

Now to continue west along North Avon Road the Petrie's original home stood here until 1971. There was a deep well here where the steam tram engines used to replenish their water tanks. I understand that Petrie owned all the land fronting the roadway to Stanmore Road, and he built most of the houses here. His sons Jack and George lived here all their days. George, next to the corner, where the proposed Post Office was to be built, and Jack, just around the corner in Stanmore Road. There were also the Wards and Andersons on North Avon Road, their children were pupils of the local school.

Petrie Street bears the family name.

From Chrystal Street to Stapletons Road we find the Richmond Mission which is an evangelical sect, embracing a doctrine promulgated by Mr and Mrs David Smith. Next we come to Ramsays who had a plumbing business and then Sam Pentecost the coachpainter while his neighbours were the Cussacks and then Straw the butcher.

Over Stanmore Road to the west I remember an old cottage behind which a large mulberry tree grew, and where



Richmond Mission, North Avon Road. This building in 1951 replaced the original Mission, which was Evangelical, and the Preacher, David Smith. The present-day preachers are Mr J. Mundy and Mr A. Walsh.

Mrs Butler (a kindly woman) and her children lived. She lost a son (Bert) in the 1914-18 war. On the nor-west corner of Stapleton's Road there was a large pond where Mrs Butler kept a great number of ducks, and it was just north of this corner where Mrs McBratney lived in an old house hidden among large trees. She was always neatly dressed in frilled bonnet and apron. Here we used to procure a billy full of milk for two pence.

Later, opposite Mrs McBratney lived the Mundys who were the first to build a modern T style home in 1911, and further on were the Kidds, Walshs, 1912, and the Weckesser families, while close to the creek lived Jimmy Stapleton. He was an enthusiastic member of the Stanmore Band as was Mr Cusack. The band played a great part in the early days and was in existence for a number of years.

I would make mention here of St. Saviour's Orphanage just over the creek and the good work done by Nurse Maude and Sister Rose in those far-off days. As two volumes have already been published on the life of Nurse Maude, I feel there is no need to expound further.

Passing the Butlers we see an old cottage, once occupied by the Moore family. These people were my grandparents as my mother was a Moore. Flanking the pathway from the front gate are still to be seen two massive multi-headed cabbage trees (*cordyline australis*). Many a storm have they withstood as they were planted before the turn of the century by my grandfather. My parents were married in this cottage in 1900. About 1910 a new house replaced the old cottage and the Hamers lived here. Their home has also been seen and felt the front-end of a bulldozer and flats are there today.

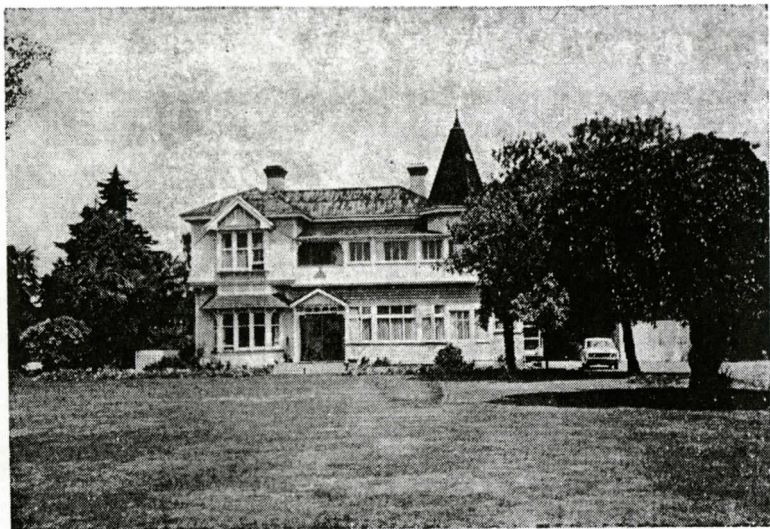
Still travelling west we pass the Jennetts home, then the Austins and so to the corner where the Guys kept a white nanny goat. Herbert used to milk this goat and one day as I watched him, he remarked that this goat was not the only one in Richmond. Both Herbert and Ruby Guy were Richmond School pupils. Their father owned a hansom cab, which was to be seen on the cab stand in the Square. There were several cab owners in Richmond, Guy, Hampton and Owens. Owens used to win prizes with his cab which bore the name "Lady Onslow". In Slater Street, there lived the Ritchie's who attended the local school.

Now before we leave North Avon Road, I would like to write a little of what I know of the Flesher family. James Flesher must have played a prominent part in the establishment of the Methodist Church as his name appears on the foundation stone of the brick wall thus — James Flesher, May 4th 1886.

It was J. A. Flesher who played such a prominent part in civic affairs of not only Christchurch, but also of New Brighton. He held the high office of Mayor of Christchurch 1923-24 and also of the borough of New Brighton where he held office 1912-13 and 1915-17.

The original estate, Rural Section 197 was bounded from River Road, south and west, and Rural Section 41.

It was purchased for £150 from the Canterbury Association in 1851 by one John Seager Gundry (Press July 24th 1971). Gundry eventually returned to England and through an agent sold some 25 acres up to Medway Street to William Flesher for £500 in 1871. On Flesher's death in 1889, his widow and son James inherited and after James died in 1930, it passed to Hubert de R. Flesher, who in 1945 sold some eight acres including the homestead "Avebury" to the Crown.



Avebury dates from 1885 Circa. It was designed by James Glanville for William Flesher. The tower was an addition in 1907.

In 1951 this property was transferred to the Mayor, Councillors and Citizens of Christchurch for recreational purposes, the house becoming a Youth Hostel. It was about this time that a drive through from the river to North Avon Road was formed, and named Evelyn Cousins Avenue; a number of State houses were also erected.

The house "Avebury" dates from 1885, circa, when it was designed for James Flesher by James Glanville, architect and building surveyor, and who was also Mayor of New Brighton 1908-10.

Many fine trees which were planted in those early days still spread their cooling shade in the heat of summer days. The remainder of this block R.S. 197 was held by Pepprell and Wilkins and later was bought by the Bassett family. In passing I would mention here that it was Mr William Bassett who taught so many children to swim when the Richmond School baths were constructed in 1892. Both William Bassett (1871-1947) and his wife Margaret (1871-1946) are buried in the Avonside Churchyard.

Slater Street, Stapletons Road, Leitch (Petrie) Street and Chrystal Street were formed in part and later extended through as North Richmond was rather slow in developing, being

rather swampy with sandhills here and there. This was church property.

Hills Road was formed (that is metalled) as far as Shirley Road before the turn of the century, to give access to all that land which lay to the west of Canal Reserve (Marshland Road), and therefore quite a few homes had been built here. St. Stephens Church was quite prominent here in the early days. One well known family was the Perrys, both Bessie and Noble attending the local school as did the Harcourts who lived hereabouts.

From here as we journey south towards the Belt (Fitzgerald Avenue) we come to Whitmore's home on the left. These people came out in one of the first four ships. Next was the two-storeyed shop which at one time was operated by a Mrs Perishon. Then came the Bone's home and the Hartigan's with Glass the fish and rabbit merchant, a little further along.

On the corner of London Street and North Avon Road was Phillips, Grain and Produce, Bakehouse and General Store. Frank, Florence and Rose attended the Richmond School. On the opposite corner stood the original Mundy home which withstood the storms of a hundred years before it was demolished in 1968 to make way for modern flats. Some members of the Mundy family were first day pupils of the Richmond School.

Still moving south from London Street the Carpenters lived in a nice two-storeyed home and a short distance from here there is Sunderland's bakery. There was quite a number of old houses along the East Belt which makes it appear that this area was occupied in the very early days of the settlement.

In 1901 my parents and brother Roland lived in a cottage next to the bakehouse, and it was here that I was born. The bakery is still operated under the name of Sunland Bread, but the Sunderlands seemed to have been dogged by misfortune. Sunderland who established the business, was killed whilst driving his baker's cart. His horse apparently stumbled and Sunderland was thrown to the roadway. His son, Dick, took his father's place, but he also died at an early age. He was a fine chap and was in my class at school.

Before we pass over Alexander Street, let us remember some of the folk who lived there. There was Charlie Peters

who was regarded as an eccentric person as his behaviour was at times the source of much amusement. The children, Byam, Rose and Alma were taught at the Richmond School. The Young family live on the left side and further down we had the Huggins and the Bishops, the Bucketts, Sincocks and Donaldsons. All these children attended the Richmond School.

Now we have arrived at the river, and if we were to study the part it played in the formation of the Canterbury Settlement quite a romantic story is unfolded.

The southern boundary of Richmond from the East Belt to Stanmore Road was really wet country, in fact at one time it was known as "Daisy Meadows" while another portion where the boat sheds are, was called "Ellengowan", where this name originated I do not know. It was along here that the Partridges had their dairy farm. Later on, they moved to Burwood and the land bordering the river was subdivided.

Near the Swann's Road bridge, we find the homes of the Christie's, Bassetts and Lascelles families, while across the river were the Ostlers. Where Ostler built his row of houses, a man named Robinson used to graze his dairy herd. He lived near the corner of Swann's and River Roads and used a punt to ferry the milk across the river.

Coming back to London Street, we find the Muschamps who lived behind the Working Men's Club. There were two other families named Muschamp, one living in Warwick Street while the other family lived in James Street. I remember watching with some astonishment Mr Muschamp sawing stone in the yard alongside his home behind the Club. It would appear that this was Oamaru stone with which he built his home in Forth Street. This house was six-roomed with no wooden partitions. It stands today as a memorial to a man who knew his job as a stonemason. In later years the Pitchers lived next to the old home of the Muschamps.

It was near here, opposite the Headmaster's house in London Street there stood a large furniture factory and timber racks. This factory was operated by one Findlayson. In 1905 this business was destroyed by fire. It was, at that time, the largest fire in Christchurch north of the Belt and continued to burn for two days before being finally extinguished. It was said that a great proportion of the population of Christchurch came to see this spectacular blaze. Findlayson sold the land to the Working Men's Club and moved to Timaru.

While we are near Forth Street, let us recall to mind some of the people who lived here, circa, 1910.

A man named Shaw lived in the two-storeyed brick house next to Muschamps and some time later the Pitcher family moved here — do you remember their donkey?

Fothergill the tram conductor, who was nearly killed in a tram accident, lived on this side, while on the south side moving in an easterly direction from Stanmore Road lived Harris, a brother of the grocer of that name. Further along we come to the home of the Smiths of the Richmond Mission, both Roy and Carl attended the Richmond School. Next were the Walshs with McNab the tram driver as their neighbour. A few houses along lived the Wards, cousins of the Wards of North Avon Road and in the next house were the McCarthys, with Reddells occupying the corner house. The Gaze family and the Rasmussons lived opposite here in Vogel Stret.

Going back to London Street, there were Abernethy's Dairy once owned and operated by Mrs and Mrs McConkie who had land at Burwood, then the Schofields with Bells living on the corner of Perth Street and Shierlaw's shop opposite. On the other side of London Street there was Langford and Rhinds the undertakers and also some folk may remember Laurence Barcock, the ginger-beer man. Close by was Dingle the butcher, while in Perth Street we knew the Fletchers and the Poores near to the Wylies, all these names were well known at the Richmond School. Another well known figure was Charlie Mahomet (Ice cream Charlie). When he returned at night from his stand in the Square, it was sometimes possible to procure a billy full of ice cream for two pence. Mahomet could not hold it overnight as there were no refrigerators in those days. Another family of Perth Street were the Ellwoods.

In Cumberland Street (now Pavitt Street), we find genial Morgan Davies with his family and the Morris's lived opposite the baths. On walking around the Bromley Cemetery I see many of the names I have mentioned.

One character of Richmond, was that enormous man with his tremendous girth. I rather pitied him as I watched with amazement as he drew a cycle beneath him, then straightened it up and trundled himself along until he had gained equilibrium, his girth suspended over each side of the bar of his cycle. I always watched this procedure with apprehension as I waited expectantly for his cycle to collapse. He was a

slaughterman and it was said that he could consume a whole leg of mutton for a meal. His name, Mick Gallagher.

Retracing our steps to Fowke Street we see the old Druids Hall, wherein the Richmond Mission once conducted its services until 1912. Further along we come to the home of the Ravens, then the Stratfords and next Mrs Blake who I think was the grandmother of the Ells. Archie and George went to the Richmond School. The Sheppards moved here later on. On the south side was Lawrence who was a nurseryman, he was also the early days lamplighter. These lamps burned kerosene at first, but later were converted to gas. The fish-tail burners of the gas lamps did not give a very good light, but this was improved with the introduction of mantles.

In Vogel Street we see the home of the Greens, then the Bells and the Crooks family. Further along were the Moores and the Ross family, while rounding the corner were the Smiths, Burgesses, Barbers and Taylors in that order. Coming back there were the McEntees, the Gallaghers and the Williams. Richardsons lived on the corner of Warwick Street and the Kay family lived opposite. These families all had connections with the Richmond School, some up to three generations. Passing the Kays' residence, Marsh the butcher lived next. His shop was situated in Stanmore Road.

Among the many characters who frequented the streets of old Richmond in those far off days was the Anglican priest. He was the Rev. W. A. Pascoe who was Vicar of Avonside from 1880-1912 and prior to this Minister of All Saints Church, Burwood. This priest, a tall thin man, rode a tall cycle, and his long silken ginger beard, divided by the wind and flowing over each shoulder, caused folk to take a second glance at this black-garbed apparition.

There was another well known genial personality who walked the streets of Richmond, with his head always tilted to one side, reminding me of a thrush looking sideways at a worm. He was the Rev. Otto Fitzgerald who was vicar of Avonside from 1912-33 and a son of a Superintendent of Canterbury. He died in 1947 and is buried in the Churchyard, Avonside.

No doubt some will remember (Ricketty) Russell who was M.H.R. for the district and lived in a large wooden house, just south of the bridge.

When the Richmond District was included in the Stanmore Electorate, it was Dan Reese who beat Ruddenclau in the elections, held in 1884.

Richmond had a very successful cricket club and tennis was started in the early part of 1885. In those days a tennis racket cost twelve shillings and six pence.

It was Thomas Carlyle who wrote "No man completely fulfils his destiny unless he comes back at long last to the scenes of his childhood," and although I have in the foregoing pages, roamed the scenes of my childhood, experienced the nostalgic emotions, the tug of old associations, yet I know not what of destiny.

The old Bingsland that was, is not the Richmond that is — nothing remains static, and although change may be slow, yet it is relentless, and the old Richmond I have written about, and the folk that belonged, will gradually evanesce.

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