



Covers with Stories

A display by Michael Wilkinson

22nd June 2024



Postal Stationery postcards often had advertisements or notices printed on them.

- Advertising a Land Agent at Kati Kati, near Tauranga, in the 1870s
- Notification of Rateable Value to a Mr F A Bishop

JOSEPH R. SMITH,
LAND, COMMISSION & GENERAL AGENT,
WAITO KOHE,
KATI KATI.

—◆—

Agent for the Colonial Insurance Company,
Fire and Marine.

—◆—

*Loans negotiated, advances made on Goods, Stock, Produce and
Implements consigned for absolute Sale.*

—◆—

GENERAL BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

ASHLEY ROAD BOARD.

To *Mr F. A. Bishop* Owner (or occupier),
Waitohu

Take notice, that I, the Valuer appointed under the eleventh section of The Rating Act, 1882, by the Ashley Road Board have fixed the rateable value of *R.S. 32688,*
Pr 34135-34532 of which you are the owner (or occupier) at *£ 1640-0-0*

I call your attention to provisions of sub-sections 3 and 4, section 11 of Rating Act, 1882, as follows:—

(3.) Any owner or occupier objecting to the rateable value so determined on any rateable property of which he is owner or occupier may, on or before the 14th of March, leave a notice to that effect or post the same to the valuer at the office of the local body, stating the grounds of such objection.

(4.) On the third Monday in March, or on some other later day to be fixed by the Resident Magistrate for the time being having jurisdiction in the district in which the office of the local body is situate, shall hear the objection and all evidence brought forward either by the valuer or objector and either sustain or diminish the valuation, and shall enter the amount so decided upon on the valuation roll as aforesaid, and such amount so entered shall be the rateable value of such property while such roll remains in force.

Provided, that in deciding the amount of the valuation under this section, the Resident Magistrate shall, if the valuation determined on by the valuer of the local body be greater than that assessed under the said Acts in pursuance of Section 54 hereof, diminish the valuation to an amount not greater than the amount so assessed under the said Act.

John Butcher Valuer



Frederick Augustus BISHOP
was born in MAIDSTONE in
1818.

The family lived at
Somerfield House, London
Road, Maidstone – seen
here undergoing renovation
in 1990. The premises are
now the offices of a firm of
solicitors.



Eight members of the Bishop family emigrated to New Zealand on the *Charlotte Jane*, the first of the “First Four Ships” bringing some of the earliest settlers. She left Plymouth Sound on 17 September 1850 and arrived in Lyttleton in Canterbury 99 days later.

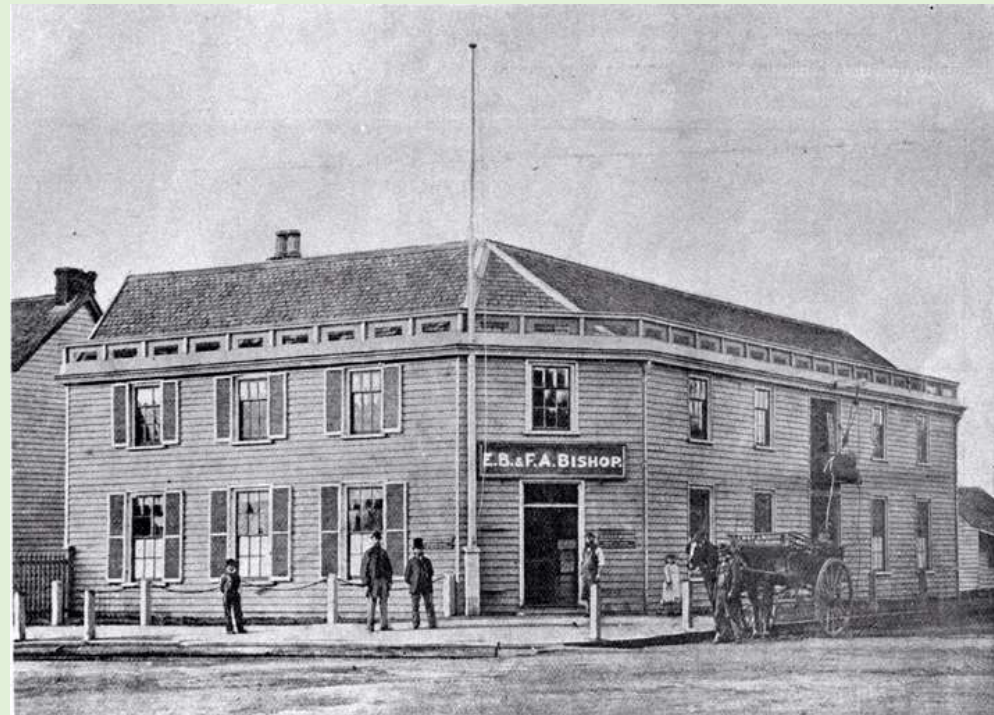


The *Charlotte Jane* - watercolour by James Edward FitzGerald : courtesy of Canterbury Museum, Christchurch

Bishop family settlers

- * Ellen, 30
- * Edward Brenchley, 28
- * Charles Wellington, 26
- * Frederick Augustus, 25
- * Emma Kate 23
- * Vallance, 6
- * Agnes, 4
- * Rockwood Charles, 3

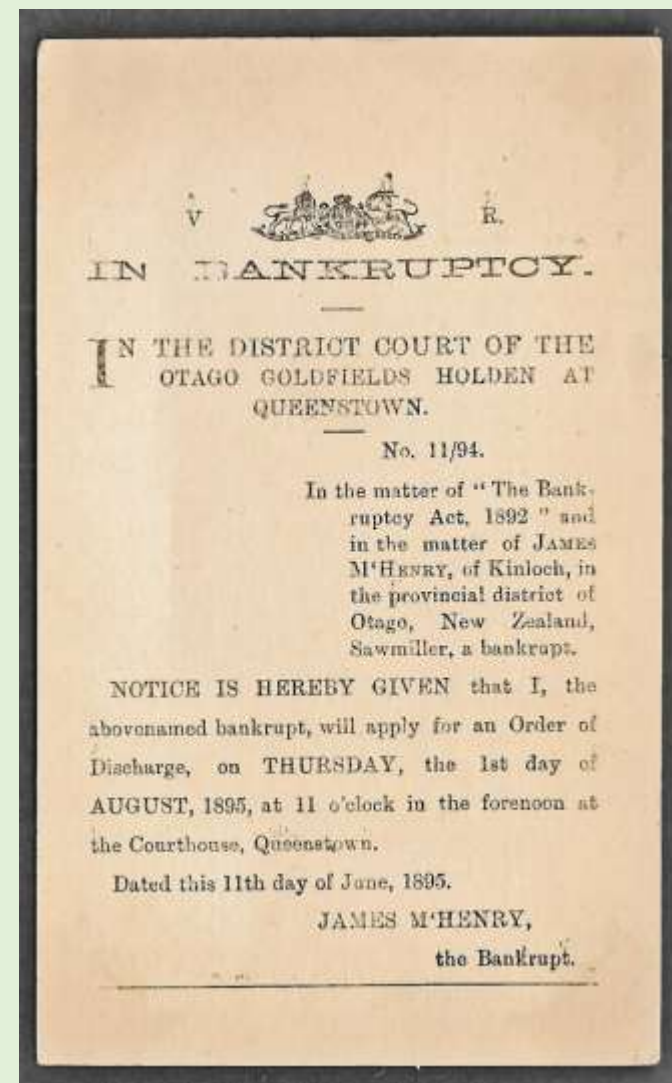
Frederick Augustus and Edward Brenchley Bishop followed in their father's footsteps and became wine merchants in Christchurch.



In 1975 memorials for the First Four Ships were unveiled in Cathedral Square, Christchurch.

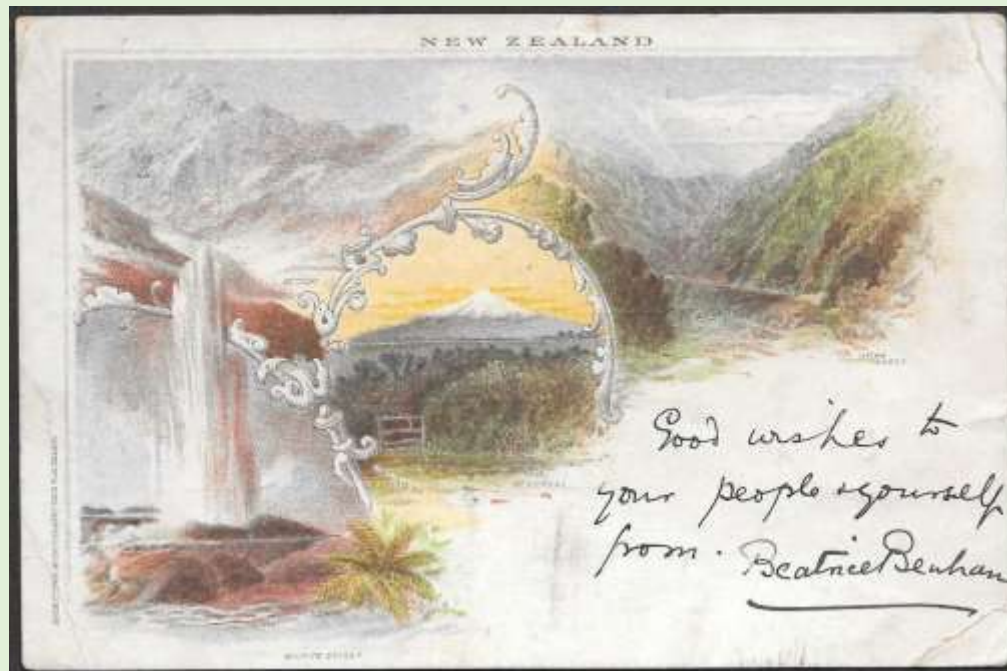


A new 1d postcard, inscribed
INLAND AND AUSTRALIAN POSTCARD,
was issued in June 1890.



In this example JAMES M'HENRY, a sawmiller of Kinloch near Queenstown, gives notice of his application for discharge of his bankruptcy. The local newspaper reported that this was granted provided family members paid some of his debts.

A 1½d postcard was also issued in December 1897.

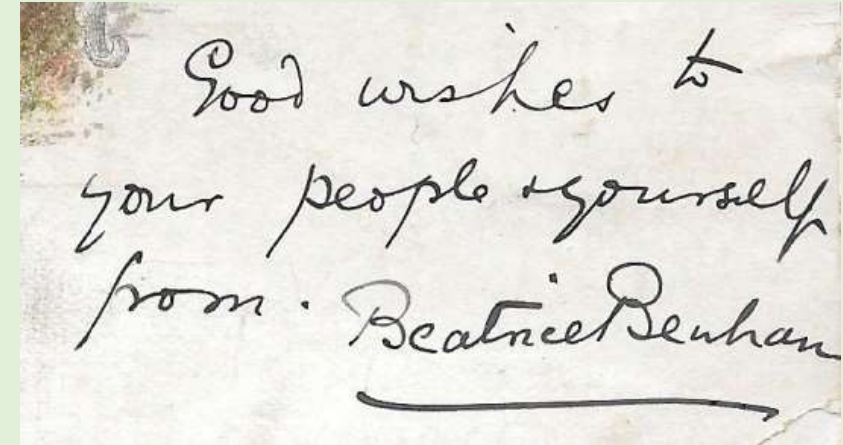


This apparently mundane card sending good wishes from a lady in Dunedin to a gentleman in Sydenham, South London, in 1898 has a fascinating story to tell.

The sender

Beatrice BENHAM was born Beatrice EADIE in 1866. She married William Blaxland BENHAM (later FRS and KBE) in 1889. He was Professor of Biology at Bedford College for Women in 1886 and lectured on comparative anatomy in Oxford in 1890.

In 1898 the Benhams sailed to New Zealand on the *Kaikoura*. William became Professor of Biology at Otago University, a post he held for 39 years.



Good wishes to
your people & yourself
from Beatrice Benham

Sadly Beatrice died
age 33 in 1909. Sir
William died in 1950,
in his 91st year.

The recipient

Harry (later Sir Harry) Kottingham NEWTON was born in Staffordshire in 1875 and baptised in Chiselhurst. He was MP for Harwich (1910-22). He became 2nd baronet of The Wood, Sydenham Hill and Kottingham House, Burton-on-Trent, in 1921. He died in Battle, East Sussex, in 1951.



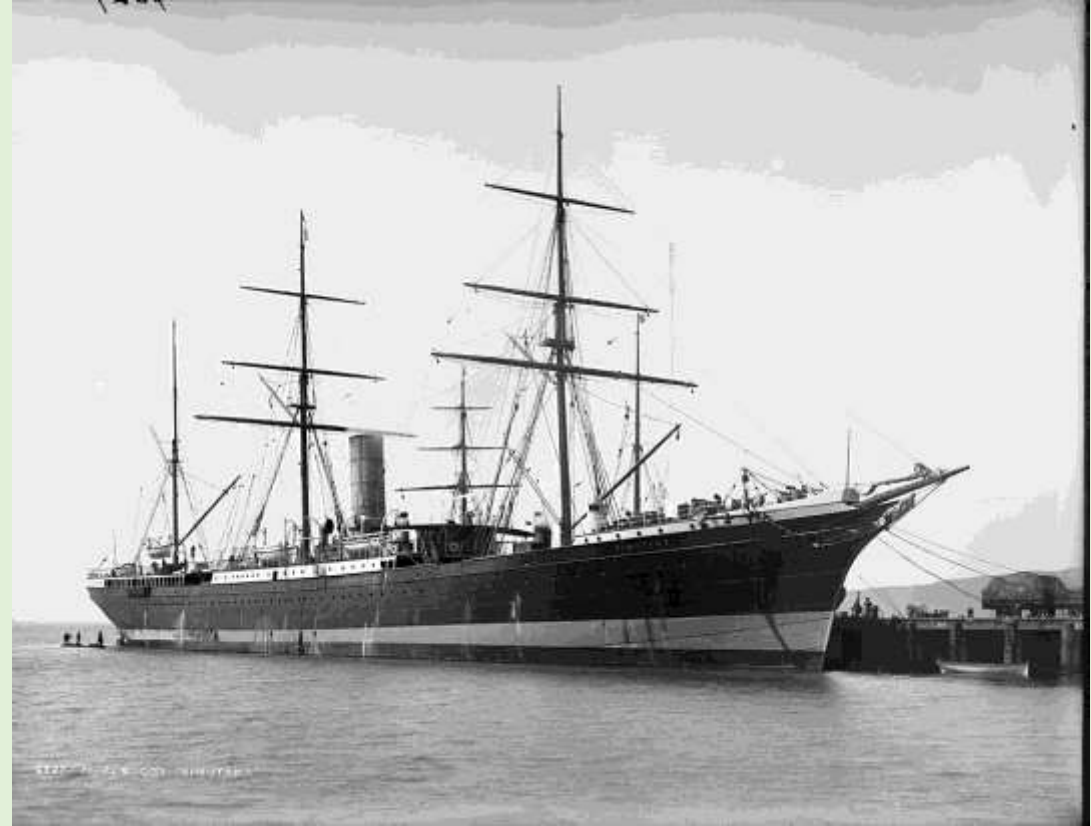
Thistlethwaite cover



The addressee

Arthur Henry Thistlethwaite

- Born 6 June 1871 in Whitby
- Sailed from Plymouth on 3 May 1890 on the RMS *Rimutaka* via Cape of Good Hope and Hobart
- Arrived Port Chalmers on 18 June 1890 - “the passage was uneventful”
- Settled in Tauranga and farmed nearby at Oropi
- Married Edith Eleanor Kensington (1882-1947) on 1 March 1904 in Tauranga
- Died in Tauranga on 22 November 1961



The New Zealand Shipping Company's
Rimutaka at Port Chalmers in 1890

The cover

- Postmark HOLCOT (near Northampton), 7 DE 34 : arrival TAURANGA 27 DE 34, OROPI 28 DE 34
- In 1939 the Reverend Clifton William Thistlethwaite, one of Arthur's brothers, was Rector at Holcot, near Northampton – so maybe he was the sender of the letter
- $3 \times 1\frac{1}{2}\text{d} = 4\frac{1}{2}\text{d}$ paid : airmail rate was 1s 3d per $\frac{1}{2}\text{oz}$: so $10\frac{1}{2}\text{d}$ unpaid : double deficiency 1s 9d



Simpson cover



The cover

- Postmark LONDON W1, 6 DE 34
- $3d + 5d = 8d$ paid : airmail rate was $1s\ 3d$ per $\frac{1}{2}oz$: so $7d$ unpaid : double deficiency $1s\ 2d$

The addressee

The *Northern Advocate* for 4 November 1941 reported that Mr F Simpson, Superintendent of the Invercargill Fire Brigade, and his colleagues were in dispute with the Chief Inspector over the servicing of fire alarms and threatened to strike.

But what do these covers have in common?

- They were both franked substantially below the airmail rate of 1s 3d per ½ oz – did the senders think their mail would go by a surface route?
- Were the recipients pleased to pay a substantial sum for their letters?
- Both covers travelled on the first regular airmail service from the UK to Australia.
- This left on 8 December 1934 and arrived in Sydney on 21 December:



- This backstamp was applied only to mail continuing to New Zealand (Stapleton/Shand 113).
 - Nearly 90 years later, they are reunited on adjacent pages of my Postage Due collection.
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