

I claim the distinction of being the oldest member of the Club - a distinction I am sure no one wishes to challenge, but although the oldest member of the Club I am not the oldest resident of the City of Christchurch. My old friend Andrew Anderson, although younger than I am, was born here, but the first fifteen years of my life were passed elsewhere.

I was born in Nelson and arrived with my Mother and Aunt as a small boy between three and four years of age. We came to Port Levy in a little cutter called the "Supply" and were fifteen days on the voyage. We now grumble if the ferry boat is an hour late.

The official settlement of Canterbury dates from 16th ~~January~~^{December}, 1850, when the 'First Four Ships' arrived, but there were a large number of settlers here before the arrival of these ships. Auckland, Wellington, Nelson and Taranaki were all founded from eight to ten years prior to Canterbury, and a considerable number of settlers from those parts had drifted south in anticipation of the Canterbury settlement.

Quite a number of well-known names were here before the arrival of the immigrants. The original John Deans, the Gebbies and the Hanson families all came out in the same ship that carried my Father and Mother - the "Thomas Harrison" to Nelson in 1842. The Hays family were here; R. and G. Rhodes and many other well known names.