



CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH  
NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND CENTENNIAL  
1840 - 1940

**Abberley Park**  
St. Albans, Christchurch.

Official Souvenir Programme

SATURDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 1940.





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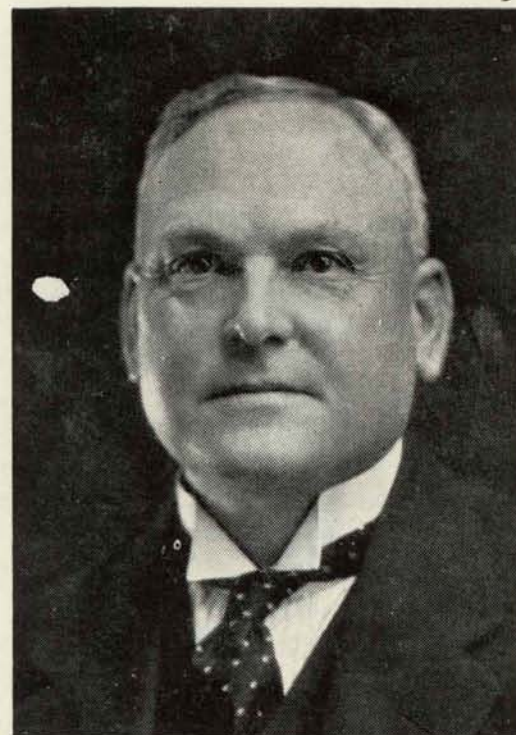
„ H. T. D. Acland  
„ J. D. Carey  
„ J. E. Jones  
„ E. Parlane  
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HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,  
Mr. R. M. Macfarlane, M.P.



Mr. J. S. NEVILLE, O.B.E.,  
Town Clerk.







COUNCILLOR MISS M. B. HOWARD, J.P.,  
Chairman Christchurch Reserves Committee.



### *Brief History of the Property.*

IN the year 1852 the Canterbury Association sold to Joseph Northland Cottrell of Sumner a block of land of 50 acres included in which was that property now known as Abberley. Some 14 months later the land was disposed of to George Gould of Christchurch; ten years later on the 17th August, 1863, George Gould sold to Thomas James Maling that portion of 4½ acres which now comprises the park.

Mr. Maling built the first residence thereon, cultivated the grounds which he laid out and planted. The property he named "Abberley" after the place of that name in Worcestershire, England, so that it may be said that the history of Abberley commenced from that date.

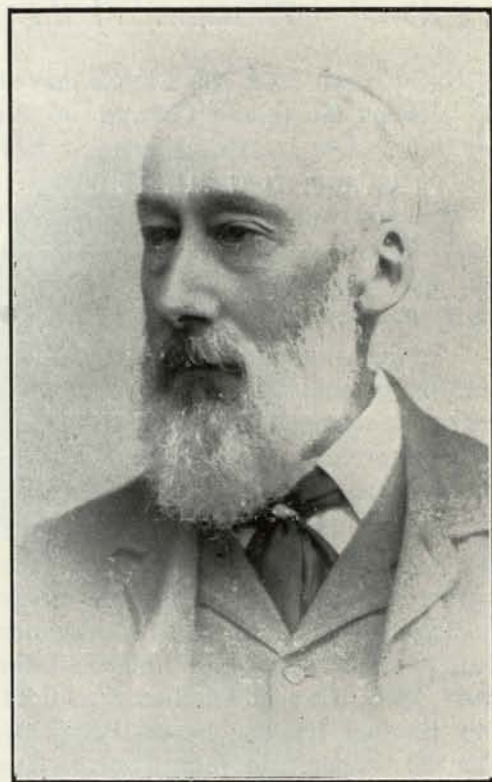
On the 19th July, 1878, the property was disposed of to Frederick William Delamain, who five years later transferred it to Edward Hatfield Brown of Mt. Thomas, and Henry Samuel Brown of Christchurch. There was a change of ownership a few months later, and on the 10th August, 1883, Thomas William Maude of Christchurch and Henry Samuel Brown became the owners. They then leased the property to John Thomas Brown for "42 years if the lessee shall so long live."

The lease was determined on the 6th August, 1896, when the property was transferred to Mrs. Martha Allen of Christchurch.

The next change of ownership was on the 27th November, 1905, when the late John Hobbs Kirk acquired the property, residing thereat until the date of his death on the 12th September, 1938.







THE LATE Mr. T. J. MALING,  
First Owner of "Abberley."



Some months later, the land known as Abberley, of 4 acres 2 roods 37.4 perches, was offered to the Christchurch City Council by the trustees as a suitable area for a park. After being favourably considered and recommended by the Reserves Committee, of which Councillor M. B. Howard was Chairman, negotiations were entered into between the Finance Committee (Councillor G. Manning being Chairman) and the trustees. Finally the Christchurch City Council agreed to purchase for the sum of £4,250, £250 to be paid at the date of possession and the balance to be paid in sums of not less than £400 per annum over a period of ten years, the unpaid portion to bear interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum.

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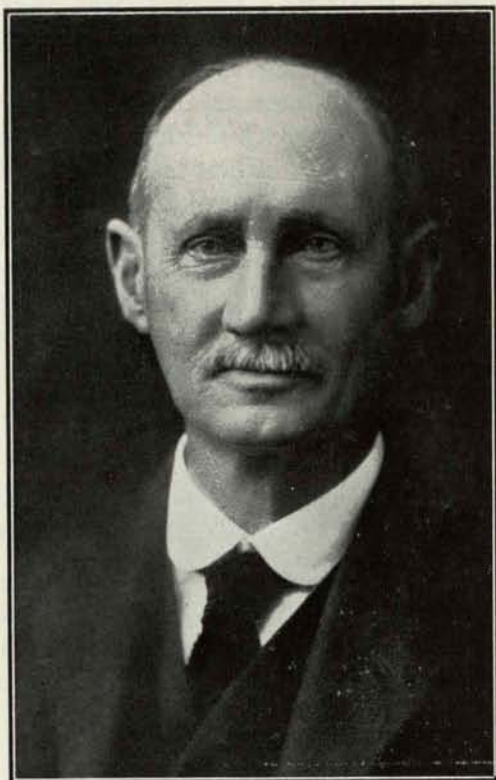
#### DEVELOPMENT OF THE GROUNDS FOR A PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATION PURPOSES.

The Council took possession on the 21st April, 1939, and the work of converting it into a suitable public park and public playground was immediately commenced. In redesigning the grounds every endeavour was made to retain, insofar as it was possible to do so, the original simple design brought into being by the past owners.

The rose garden was retained, being only slightly altered to conform to public use. Only those trees and shrubs which were in a decayed or dangerous state were removed, every effort being made to preserve all trees growing on the property, some of which no doubt were planted in 1863 when gardens were first laid out. The kitchen garden and orchards were removed and the areas occupied by them sown down in lawn and planted with ornamental trees and shrubs.







**THE LATE Mr. J. H. KIRK,**  
Last owner of "Abberley" prior to purchase by Christchurch  
City Council.



The pathways were extended and added to where considered necessary. There are now four entrances to the park, two from Abberley Crescent, one from Ranfurly Street, and one from Kinley's Lane.

During the progress of this work, 712 trees and shrubs, 5,126 herbaceous and bulbous plants, and over 6,000 annuals were planted out.

#### **CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND.**

That area at the eastern end of the property, originally the horse paddock, was cultivated and sown down in lawn grass to provide a children's sports ground and playground. It is hoped that at a later date it will be possible to provide equipment and furnishings of the latest design so that the children may enjoy healthy outdoor recreation to the utmost.

#### **BUILDINGS.**

After careful consideration the Council decided to dismantle and remove the residence, retaining one room which was later converted into a pavilion and play house. This portion was repaired, altered, and renovated, and now has a floor space of 38ft. x 18ft., with a small kitchenette attached.

It may be of interest to note that the original building erected by the late Mr. Thomas Maling in 1863 was mainly constructed of Baltic deal imported from Great Britain. Although the flooring had worn considerably, this timber was still in a sound condition when dismantled.

#### **TREES.**

Amongst the more noteworthy trees on the property are four magnificent lime trees growing on the northern lawn and a well grown English elm close to where the old residence stood.







**PROGRAMME.**

3 p.m. Speeches

COUNCILLOR M. B. HOWARD, J.P.,

Chairman Reserves Committee.

M. J. BARNETT,

Superintendent of Parks and Reserves.

3.15 p.m. Unveiling Commemorative Tablet and Official  
Opening by

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,

R. M. Macfarlane, Esq., M.P.

3.30 p.m. Inspection of Grounds.

Display of Folk Dancing on north lawn by  
the Christchurch Country Dance Club.

4 p.m. Afternoon Tea for Guests in Summer House.



The following is a list of some of the older trees  
now well established.

<b>Botanical Name.</b>	<b>Common Name.</b>
Acacia melanoxylon	Australian Blackwood
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple
Acer saccharinum	Sugar Maple
Ailanthus glandulosa	Tree of Heaven
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree
Azara microphylla	Vanilla Tree
Betula alba	Silver Birch
Cedrus Deodara	Deodar
Cryptomeria japonica	Japanese Cedar
Ilex aquifolia	Holly
Juglans regia	Walnut
Kalmia latifolia	Calico Bush
Magnolia grandiflora	Large flowered magnolia
Nothofagus Solandri	N.Z. Black Beech
Podocarpus Totara	N.Z. Totara
Quercus pedunculata	English Oak
Quercus coccinea	American Red Oak
Taxus baccata	English Yew
Thuja plicata	American Arbor-Vitae
Tilia vulgaris	European Lime
Ulmus campestris	English Elm

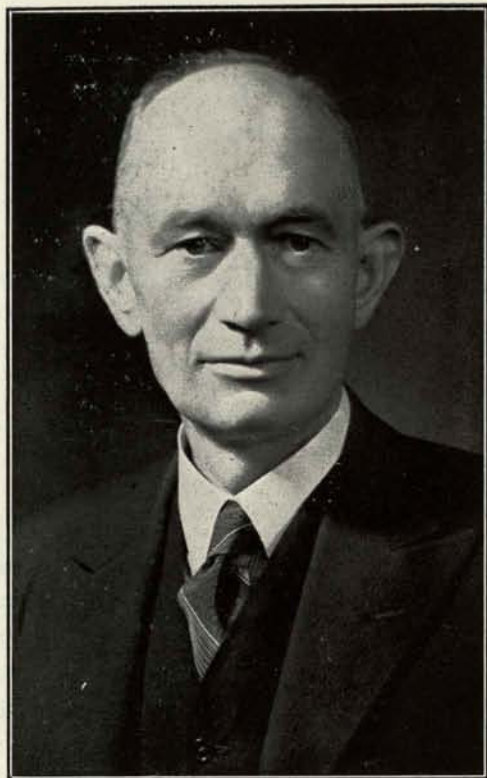




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Mr. M. J. BARNETT,  
Superintendent of Parks and Reserves.





