

Governor's Bay.



The name is probably connected with Governor Sir George Grey. He and Lady Grey spent a few days with Mr and Mrs Deans at Riccarton in 1849, and he was at Lyttelton to welcome the Colonists on their arrival on December 16th, 1850. As his vessel was lying at anchor farther up the harbour towards the Bay, the place no doubt took its name from that circumstance.

Before the first four ships arrived there were settlers at the head of the Bay (Teddington)—Messrs

Lyttelton were easier of access than those lying beyond the Port Hills.

The Bay must have been very beautiful at that time, with native bush in all the gullies. Giant trees were there, as can be seen from the one bare trunk which still shows out against the hillside, above the Bay.

Years before, it had been a Maori settlement. We read that Ohinetahi Pa, defended with a palisade



Lyttelton Heads, looking from Governor's Bay.

Manson and Gebbie, having settled there some years earlier. Mr Hodgson, who arrived in Lyttelton in August, 1851, took up land at the end of the Bay (now Allandale), and there were a few other settlers in that part.

Governor's Bay had, relatively, more importance before the Lyttelton tunnel was made, than it has now. Places that could be reached by water from

of split tree trunks, and with ditch and parapet, stood there. After the place had been captured from the Ngati Mamoe by Te Rangi-Whakaputa, his son, Manuwhiri, occupied it with a party of Ngai Tahu. This chief, Manuwhiri, had many sons, but only one daughter, and he named the Pa after his solitary daughter: "Ohinetahi" ("The place of the one daughter"). This name was adopted by the late Mr T. H. Potts for his stone house at Governor's Bay.

Governor's Bay, 1871.

There is little history of the early days at the Bay available. Settlers were too busy working to get their farms in order, their houses built, and their land fenced, to do much writing. We find that a bridle track was finished as far as Dyer's Bay (that part of Governor's Bay north of the wharf) by December, 1856. During that year £180 were spent on the road from Lyttelton to Rapaki. Total on whole road to Gebbie's Flat by June, 1864 was £2,865. A great deal of the work was prison labour, and many contracts were paid for in land.

The sum of £100 was voted for a jetty in 1859, and £100 were spent during 1862.

Before there was a post office, Peter Fox was the mailman from Lyttelton to Gebbie's Valley. He came on horseback, twice a week, delivering mails into letter boxes and collecting letters on the return

journey. He was also a cattle drover on the way back.

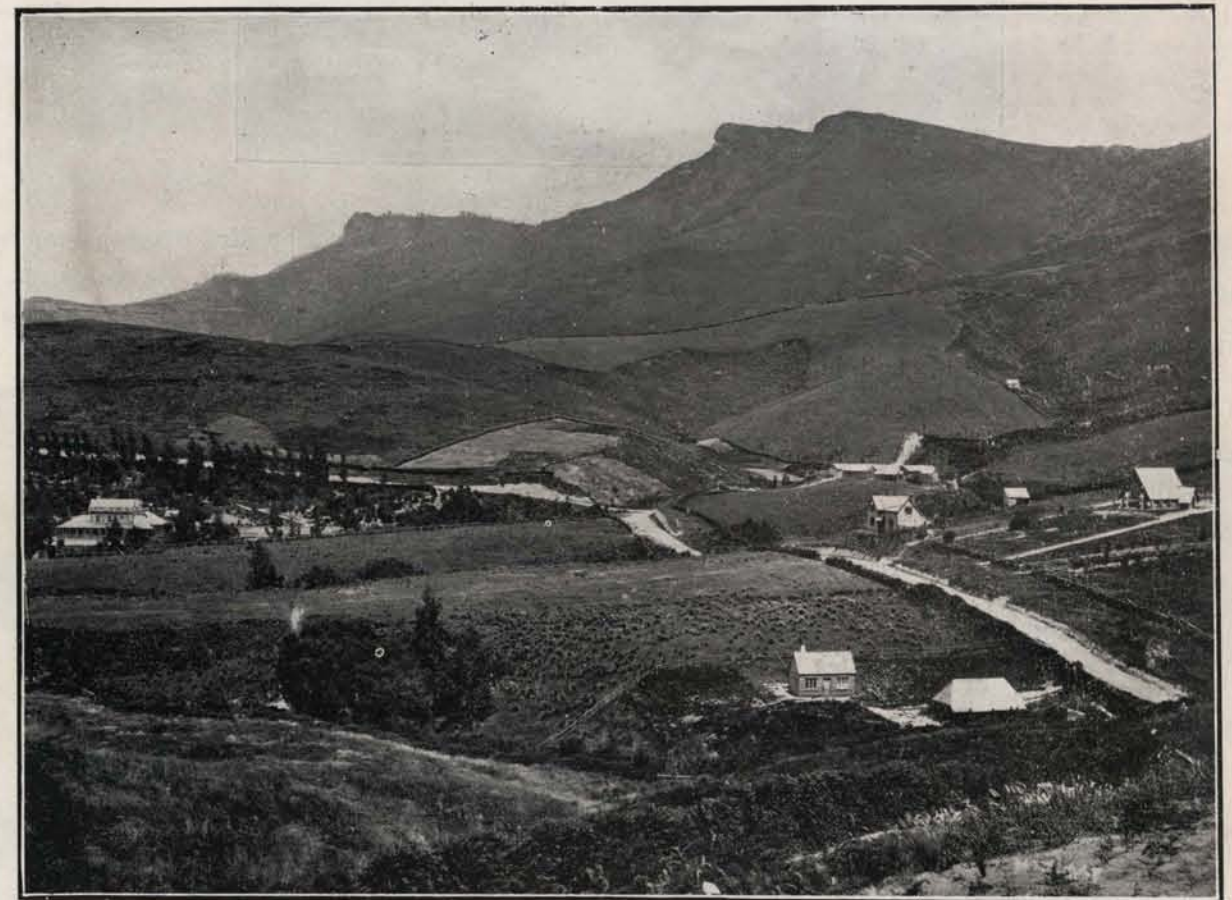
The Governor's Bay Post Office, formerly known as Ohinetahi, was opened in 1867, the name being changed in 1884.

The school was opened in 1868.

There was a blacksmith living opposite to the Church where he had a smithy.

There were three hotels in the Bay at one time, one, the old part of the present hotel, one at the foot of Dyer's Pass, called the Traveller's Rest, and one on Mr. Tapley's land near the beach—this was burned down and never rebuilt.

Names of some of the old settlers in and near Governor's Bay: Manson, Gebbie, Dyer, Parsons, Gray, Beechy, Dodds, Thompson, Moorhouse, Potts, Hodgson, Vigers, Hall, Allan, Small, Oram, Cowlin, Tapley, Clarkson, Bloor, Ashton, Trounce, Jennings, Fitton, Bamford, Pope, Miles, Calvert, McMains, McCreedy, Wallis.



Mr Potts

Vicarage (Rev. B. W. Harvey)

Mr Wallis

Mr Trounce

Photo kindly supplied by Mrs Garlick

Blacksmith's Shop