

A FEW OF THE HAMILTON METHODISTS

Many of the church's congregation throughout the years included prominent members of the Hamilton community: businessmen, local body politicians, churchmen and farmers. The contributions of some of them to Hamilton are commemorated in use of their names for streets – examples being Harwood, Fow, Tidd, Treloar and Hardley. A glance through the Hamilton Methodist histories, such as Graham and Payne's *Cross Currents*, reveals many familiar names, some of which are elaborated here as illustrations of the associations St Paul's has with the wider Hamilton community.

The Harwood family, including Charles and Jane and their sons Matthew, James, Robert, Anthony and William, settled in Hamilton in about 1879 and had a large carrying business and undertook contracting work. Charles Harwood owned six acres between Rostrevor and Liverpool Streets, which he subdivided in 1910, contributing to the development of Hamilton by creating smaller residential sections during a boom time. They attended the Primitive Methodist Church, along with others in the transport business, members of the Pomeroy family – James and John Pomeroy were blacksmiths, wheelwrights and coachbuilders whose business continued through into motorised transport and car dealership.

Thomas Wills Maunder was the son of Thomas Maunder (died 1893), one or other had owned a flax mill at Kaniwhaniwha in 1890; TW Maunder owned and/or managed the Frankton Butter Box Factory in 1889. The family owned land in Tainui St, where their large villa "Punawai" was situated, and a large part of the block between Norton Rd and Seddon Rd. He was listed on the electoral rolls as a farmer at Hinuera in 1881 and storekeeper of Hamilton West in 1893 and 1896. His obituary stated he was a farmer, a sawmiller and founded a timber and hardware business in Hamilton in 1888 and was a prominent member of the Methodist Church. In 1918 he advertised 14 houses for sale in Frankton, so he was clearly an investor and entrepreneur of some importance. Maunder built the Alexandra Buildings in 1902 and a single-storey block of two shops on the east side of Victoria Street 1903-04.

The many local body politicians amongst the Methodist parishioners include John Robert Fow, mayor of Hamilton Borough Council for 18 years off and on from 1916, councillor from 1907 and still on council when he died in 1943. His wife Emily nee Hardley also came from a strong Methodist family – her father Sam Hardley ran a tin and copper smith business from a shop in Victoria Street, her brothers Sam and Jack ran Hardley Bros., while Harry Hardley had a general grocery store in Grey Street.

James Edwin Tidd, initially a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, was a trustee of the Methodist Trustees who pushed for the extension of St Paul's and who erected Wesley Chambers and earlier shops on the corner of Collingwood and Victoria Streets. He was a storeman working for E.J. Davey who later set up business with a fellow-Methodist JB Stanton as Imperial Stores. Tidd served on Hamilton Borough Council for 26 years (intermittently) from 1907 until his death. He was also on several committees and a president of the Waikato Winter Show Association. He became a founding director of Waikato Finance Ltd in 1929 and later the Hamilton Permanent Building Society. He was chairman of directors of Hamilton Hardware Ltd. The Davey family were also prominent members of the church; ET and EJ were both on council and EJ Davey was town clerk from 1907 until 1927.

James Treloar, long-time Sunday School leader, had an engineering business through which he developed and marketed the Treloar Milking Machine and other farming equipment. He was also active in many Hamilton institutions and organisations such as the Waikato Winter Show Association, Rotary Club, Hamilton Technical School Board and the YMCA. He, too, was a borough councillor, serving for four years until his death in 1945.

Thomas Beighton Booth, one of the London Street trustees who then became one of the Hamilton Methodist Trustees from 1913, established Booth and Chapman Ltd, and served on the Hamilton Borough Council 1911-13 and 1915-17. One of the Primitive Methodist trustees also selected for the combined trust board was Walter Petalasa Scott, a Hamilton builder.

William Wood Dillicar, son of Richard and Mary Ann, who settled in Hamilton in 1880, bought EJ Davey's general store and with his brother Thomas, set up Dillicar Bros, a business that became very successful. WW Dillicar was the bellringer at the Wesleyan Church in London Street for many years.

Noah Roper Cox settled in Hamilton in 1876 and established a drapery and clothing business, "London House". He served for just over a year on the first Hamilton Borough Council, 1878-79. He and his wife Annie Elizabeth were active members of the Wesleyan Church. Annie owned the land on which the Primitive Methodist Church, St Paul's, was built, Noah acquiring it after her death.