

NCEA AS90654

Carry out independent Historical Research (3.1)

Year 13 History: New Zealand in the 19th Century

The following is a list of ways in which a study of **Sarah Greenwood** can be connected to the curriculum.

Maori and Pakeha Relations

3. Maori and Pakeha race relations - The Greenwoods' reports on the Wairau Incident.

Economic and Political Change

1. Political Change - Nelson Province - Dr Greenwood's part in local politics.
2. The New Zealand Economy - Sarah Greenwood's comments on trade and social relationships with local Maori.
3. Changing the environment - Interpretation of Sarah Greenwood's landscapes.
4. Specific economic development - Dr Greenwood's flax mill plans.

Society and Attitudes

1. Migration - Nelson as a planned settlement. The Greenwoods as settlers.
2. Migration from Britain - Origins of the Greenwoods and their place in society.
3. Education - Dr Greenwood and Nelson College

Illustrative quotes from a selection of year 13 History topics .

Students that have viewed the exhibition may find these quotes useful when writing essays that relate to the following topics. Quotes may be used to start an essay or to illustrate points made in the text.

Maori/Pakeha Race Relations

- Sarah, in a letter to her mother dated 4th October 1843, speaks of the aftermath of the Wairau Affray.

“ We are kept in a state of comparative uneasiness (and have been so for some weeks) by frequent rumours of the hostile intentions of the natives. Some have left the place from alarm; others ridicule the idea of danger; others (perhaps the majority) are rather puzzled what to think; at all events the fortifications are being completed so as to afford a place of defence in case of alarm.”

- Sarah writes, c1844:

“ The longer we remain here the more we like the native character, and the more we feel assured of our perfect safety among them. They are exceedingly honest and sober, tho’ rather covetous, seldom intruding or wanting in propriety of conduct. Many of them are really noble-looking fellows, and the women too, tho’ less handsome, are frequently pleasing in their manners and countenance...”

- Sarah is reporting on a conversation with Arthur Wakefield, (letter to Miss Mucklow, July 1848). He is talking about Maori in the Motueka area.

“He had nowhere seen natives living so comfortably and in terms of so much confidence with white people....”

- And adds her own information:

“They grow considerable quantities of wheat, besides the old crops of maize and potatoes; they buy and sell horses but not cows and sheep yet... We have regularly paid Maori constables... and they constantly refer disputes to Danforth’s arbitration with great temper and good sense.”

- John Danforth Greenwood writes from Motueka about trade with Maori:

“ I went out, on one occasion, to catch fish but after being out all night, and sleeping on the sands by a driftwood fire, I came to the conclusion that, as long as the natives would sell fish of forty pounds weight for a shilling, I could employ myself more profitably.”

Migration - Nelson as a Planned Settlement

These two extracts are from J,D, Greenwood’s letter to Dr Millar in the UK, 7th June 1843:

- He is referring to the fact that many people who bought land in Nelson from London did not immediately immigrate to Nelson but kept their land as speculation. People who had been brought to Nelson to work for the landowners were unemployed.

“The fact is that this colony, Nelson, was founded on a delusion. No capitalists are here and therefore there is little demand for labour on the land.”

- He is discussing the ballot process. He thinks that it would be better for a settler to come with money in his pocket to buy land rather than to buy it sight unseen.

“I consider it most inadvisable for anyone actually about to colonise, to buy his land in

London. He buys one town acre, fifty suburban acres and one hundred and fifty country acres. Two are useless as speculation and the third may be. By buying an allotment in London you have no choice of locality.”

- Letter from John Danforth Greenwood to Mrs Field, Sarah’s mother, November 1843. His views on what a settler should have with him:

“I think the settler, after buying land, ought to have six hundred pounds and a wife.”

- Letter from John Danforth Greenwood to Mrs Field, Sarah’s mother, September 1844. Views on relative poverty:

“ My dear Sarah and I have found out that there is no necessary connection between heavy hearts and empty pockets. A little time ago we came to our last pound, and being without debt, and therefore in excellent credit, we decidedin Wellington. Fitzroy decided that the Nelson settlers had been wrong to push the survey ahead before Spain had considered the matter. He thought the killing of prisoners was beyond all European ideas of honour but because the settlers had initiated the conflict, no prosecution would follow.

Ref: Nelson, a Regional History by Jim McAloon, Nelson, 1997.

4. “ We are kept in a state of comparative uneasiness (and have been so for some weeks) by frequent rumours of the hostile intentions of the natives. Some have left the place from alarm; others ridicule the idea of danger; others (perhaps the majority) are rather puzzled what to think; at all events the fortifications (*of Church Hill*) are being completed so as to afford a place of defence in case of alarm.”

Ref: Letter from Sarah Greenwood to her mother, 4th October 1843.

5. “On my return to this place I found the natives of this district in a most excited state. All the chiefs flocked around me to know why Pakehas were making warlike preparations, and whether they meant to kill them in payment for the white people killed at Wairau.

“I explained to them that it was not our custom to punish the innocent for the guilty - that we were as friendly to them as ever, and considered them as Brothers and Allies, and they had nothing to fear. Their confidence is gradually being restored and we have certainly nothing to fear from them at present.”

Ref: Report by Commissioner William Spain, 1843.

History - Special Study

Sarah Greenwood has left enough material to make it possible to use her life as a focus for a special study. Here is one suggested hypothesis and an example of the process. Her work can be used as a resource for many other hypotheses especially those concerning women’s lives in early Nelson.

Sarah Greenwood - “a most excellent settler’s wife.”

Invisible to The New Zealand Company's view of Nelson was the life of women in the colony. Sarah and John Greenwood were well-educated people who settled in Motueka and endured many hardships. Sarah had been taught to draw in London. Despite their difficulties, painting and drawing occupied Sarah Greenwood for most of her life in New Zealand. She says that it wasn't simply a diversion from everyday life 'sweeping and stocking mending', but the 'specific object' to which she could look to provide her happiness.

(Ref: The Promised Land, Art in Nelson from Tasman to Today, The Suter Gallery, Nelson 2000)

"Her drawings are reports in her private battle to know where she was, to make sense of her life in her new surroundings. She was not painting pretty pictures to recall lost landscapes. She was working without precedent to make marks on paper which would be, for her, a true equivalent of hill forms, of standing bush, of untidy clearings crossed by post and rail fences, lines of flax bushes and new gorse hedges. She knew the labour to build and understood the construction of the houses she lovingly detailed."

(Ref: The Summer Book, compiled by Bridget Williams and Roy Parsons, Wellington 1982)

Example of an Hypothesis:

Sarah Greenwood's record of her life, in her letters and her art works, is a valid illustration of life for settler women in the late 19th century.

Possible questions derived from the hypothesis:

- What was life like for settler women in the late 19th century?
- Are Sarah Greenwood's records helpful in examining the life of a settler woman in Nelson?
- Is it possible to find similar detail of other settler women of the time in order to make a comparison?
- Is it unusual for such records to exist for re-interpretation today?

Questions to guide research:

- Who was Sarah?
- Where did she come from (geographically and socially)?
- How did Sarah record her life?
- Which organisations held power in the life of settlers?
- What were her living conditions on arrival?
- What were her everyday tasks?
- What changes took place during her life in NZ?

- Which features of her life changed?
Domestic
Education
Husbands occupation
Recreation

These focussing questions can be adapted to compare another woman's life.

Resources:

1. "Sarah Greenwood - a most excellent settler's wife." Teacher's Resource, Nelson Provincial Museum School Service, Nelson 2001.
2. The Greenwoods by June E Neale, Nelson 1984
3. The Summer Book compiled by Bridget Williams and Roy Parsons, Wellington 1982.
4. The Promised Land, Art in Nelson from Tasman to Today, The Suter Gallery Nelson 2000.
5. Petticoat Pioneers, Barbara Harper, Wellington 1980.
6. McAloon. J, Nelson, a Regional History , Nelson 1997
7. Neale,J.E, The Greenwoods, Nelson 1984
8. Neale,J.E, Pioneer passengers, Nelson 1982
9. Williams,B and Parsons,R, The Summer Book, Wellington 1982
10. Drummond, A, Married and Gone to New Zealand, Hamilton and Auckland 1960
11. Locke, E, Journey under warning, Christchurch 1983
12. Locke, E, A land without taxes, School Pub 1979

Resources for follow-up

Websites

New Zealand Settlement, Unit Plan (contains more links)

<http://english.unitec.ac.nz/resources/units/settlement/home.html>

Where do I come from, and why?

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/workshop/invpages/inv7.htm>

My family's trunk

<http://204.98.1.2/passport/lessonplan/lessons/myfamilytrunk.html>

