

A New Society

The New Zealand Company was a commercial colonising enterprise set up in 1837 to address serious problems in England.

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Te Tau Ihu: A New Society

In 1830s England, the industrial revolution which developed machines to do work usually done by hand, and the growth of the wool industry (requiring much less farm labour), led to high unemployment. Working conditions in factories were often dire, town environments were seriously polluted, many families had to rely on charity to survive, and everyone worried about their children's futures. There was also a lot of capital to invest as a result of huge profits made from the industrial revolution.

The New Zealand Company hoped to address the issues of both excess capital and excess labour by transporting the best aspects of English society to its New Zealand settlements, Wellington and Nelson; it intended to make a profit for its shareholders at the same time. There would be two classes of settlers: investors/landowners and workers. The Company would buy large tracts of land and subdivide to sell to the investors/landowners; the investors/landowners would employ or use the services of the workers who were offered free passage to New Zealand.

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Source: Burns, P. 'Fatal Success' p.199

EMIGRATION TO NEW ZEALAND.

The Directors of the New Zealand Company, do hereby give notice that they are ready to receive Applications for a FREE PASSAGE to the

**TOWN OF WELLINGTON,
AT LAMBTON HARBOUR,
PORT NICHOLSON, COOK'S STRAITS,
NEW ZEALAND,**

From Agricultural Laborers, Shepherds, Miners, Gardeners, Brickmakers, Mechanics, Handicraftsmen, and Domestic Servants, BEING MARRIED, and not exceeding Forty years of age; also from SINGLE FEMALES, under the care of near relatives, and SINGLE MEN, accompanied by one or more ADULT SISTERS, not exceeding, in either case, the age of Thirty years. Strict inquiry will be made as to qualifications and character.

**Apply on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, to Mr. JOSEPH PHIPSON, 11, Union Passage, Birmingham,
AGENT TO THE COMPANY.**

TOWN and COUNTRY SECTIONS of LAND on sale, full particulars of which may be had on application as above.

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Sarah Greenwood

Sarah, who arrived in Nelson with her husband and seven of their eight children on 29 March 1843, explained their decision to emigrate before they left England.

“You know.... the extreme difficulty of finding employment for single men; how much more then for a numerous family? in a few years we shall have sons to place out....you will feel what a comfort it must be to reside in a country where every young person of good conduct is sure to meet with profitable and useful employment.”

(Sarah Greenwood to her grandmother Mrs Lyon
September 1842)

**Source: Ruth Allan, *A History of Early Settlement*
(1965) p103**

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[Greenwood, Mrs \(Sarah\) - Nelson Provincial
Museum \(nelsonmuseum.co.nz\)](https://www.nelsonmuseum.co.nz)



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The Greenwoods were landowners and all travelled as cabin passengers on the “Phoebe”. They moved to a 20ha (50acre) section at Motueka in August 1843; their own family provided most of the labour to develop the land.

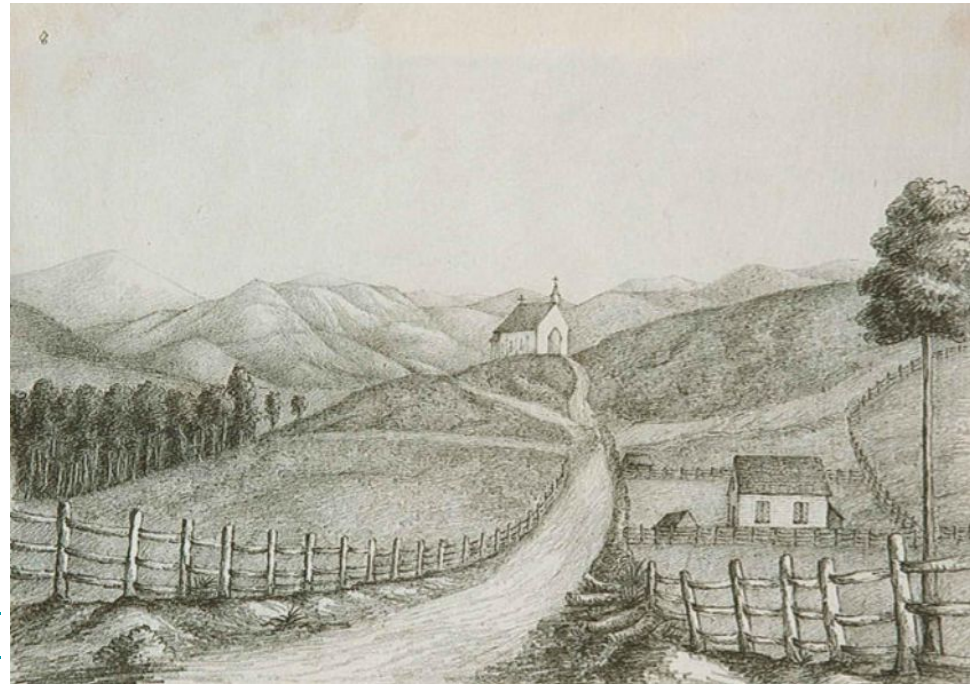
Sarah Greenwood is a celebrated early Nelson landscape artist. The NPM collection of her work is here: [Search Results - Nelson Provincial Museum](#)

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This is one of Sarah’s art works:
[Church, schoolhouse of village of Wakefield](#)
(nelsonmuseum.co.nz)



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Questions

1. Why did English people come to live in Nelson?
2. What inducements were offered?
3. Who wasn't wanted?
4. What sort of population was envisaged for the new settlements? What sort of society?

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The German Settlers

Concerned that they might not find sufficient landowners and workers in England, the New Zealand Company appointed an agent in Hamburg, Germany, to attract people who wished to emigrate to New Zealand. Two ships brought most of the German immigrants: the “St Pauli” which arrived on 14 June 1843 with 17 cabin passengers and 123 in steerage, and the “Skiold” which arrived 1 September 1844 with 6 cabin passengers and 135 in steerage – 66 adults and 69 children. They established St Paulidorf in the Moutere and Ranzau at Waimea.



[Ranzau School, Hope, 1938 - Nelson Provincial Museum \(nelsonmuseum.co.nz\)](https://nelsonmuseum.co.nz)



[Moutere Hotel - Nelson Provincial Museum \(nelsonmuseum.co.nz\)](https://nelsonmuseum.co.nz)

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Left England and Germany		Cabin	Steerage	Total
1841	----	150	1,582	1,732
1842	----	185	1,368	1,553
1843	----	6?	10?	16?
1844	----	6	135	141
1847-50	----	151	571	722
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		498	3,656	4,164
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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Source: Ruth Allan, *A History of Early Settlement* (1965) p104

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Questions

1. What was the difference between a cabin passenger and a steerage passenger?
How would their experience on board differ?
2. Approximately what percentage of immigrants were people of means?
3. What do you think the landowners were hoping for in emigrating to New Zealand?
4. What do you think the workers were hoping for in emigrating to New Zealand?
5. What is the difference between an emigrant and an immigrant?
6. A lot of the German family names from the 1840s are still common in Nelson-Tasman.
How many can you think of?

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Activities

Write:

A letter to a friend in England explaining why you are taking your young family to New Zealand.

A piece of formal writing entitled “The Industrial Revolution”. Make sure you list the sources you have used.

Draw:

Most of the New Zealand Company ships left from Gravesend in the UK. Draw a map to show where Gravesend is in relation to London, and a map of Germany showing Hamburg.

A picture of the life an immigrant might hope for in New Zealand.

Research:

What can you find out about the Greenwood family? Write up to 500 words. Please list your sources.

Debate:

Imagine you are a farming family in England in 1845.

Stage a debate to reflect the arguments within families to decide whether to emigrate to New Zealand or not.

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Resources

[New Zealand Company \(theprow.org.nz\)](https://theprow.org.nz)

[Nelson's Early Settlement \(theprow.org.nz\)](https://theprow.org.nz)

[Sarah and John Danforth Greenwood \(theprow.org.nz\)](https://theprow.org.nz)

[German Settlement in Tasman Nelson New Zealand \(theprow.org.nz\)](https://theprow.org.nz)

[Victorian Era Couple Live Like It's The 19th Century | Extraordinary People | New York Post - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

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Port Nelson with Arrow Rock, William Hort Levin
1867

[File:Port Nelson with Arrow Rock.jpg - Wikimedia Commons](#)



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Social Science/ANZH Curriculum Progress Outcome Links

Understand	Know	Do
<p>Colonisation and settlement have been central to Aotearoa New Zealand's histories for the past 200 years.</p> <p>People hold different perspectives on the world depending on their values, traditions, and experiences.</p> <p>People participate in communities by acting on their beliefs and through the roles they hold.</p>	<p><u><i>By the end of Year 10</i></u> The suitability of places for living in is influenced by natural and cultural factors. The ways in which people and communities enhance or damage suitability is influenced by the resources they have available to them and by their values and perspectives.</p> <p>Settlers transformed and later cared for the natural world and renamed places and features to reflect their own cultural origins.</p> <p>Through innovation and enterprise, individuals, communities, and societies create new opportunities. These opportunities can enrich or damage lives, challenge views about needs and wants, and impact on sustainability.</p>	<p><u><i>By the end of Year 10</i></u> Consider whether my sources are valid and reliable, identify gaps in them, and reflect on limitations and biases in representing the people and groups involved.</p> <p>Make informed ethical judgements about people's actions in the past, basing them on historical evidence and giving careful consideration to...the attitudes and values of the times, and my own attitudes and values.</p>

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Te Tau Ihu: A New Society

Reference List

Content created by Hilary Mitchell
based on text taken from *'Te Tau Ihu o te Waka Vol 1'*
(Huia Publishers 2004, written by Maui John Mitchell and Hilary Mitchell)

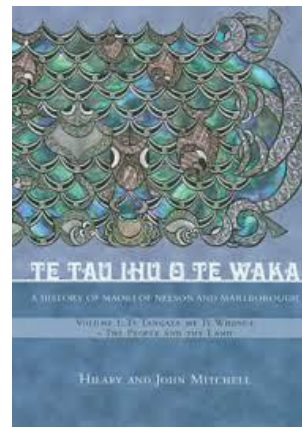
Recommended Readings:

Ruth M. Allan
'Nelson - A History of Early Settlement'
(AH & AW Reed, 1965)

Patricia Burns
'Fatal Success - A History of the New Zealand Company'
(Heinemann Reed, 1989)

Max D. Lash
'Nelson Notables'
(Nelson Historical Society, 1992)

June E. Neale
'Landfall Nelson' (1978)
'Pioneer Passengers' (1982)



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