

The 58th Regiment in Auckland: Military, Social, and Cultural Influences

Disclaimer: These notes were created by a student contracted to the project. They are the original notes and have not been edited, and therefore should not be regarded as necessarily authoritative. However, they contain insights which we believe teachers will find useful along with suggestions for other sources, both primary and secondary. We thank the student for the historical skills and work that went into the construction of the file.

Curriculum relevance

The story of the 58th regiment in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland relates to several key principles in the Aotearoa New Zealand Histories curriculum. The regiment exemplifies the **foundational role of colonisation and settlement in shaping the city**, providing insight into the causes and the social and economic impacts of military settlement. Soldiers in the regiment also maintained **relationships to other groups and across borders** – including to the British Empire, to other regions of Aotearoa, and to civilian and Māori inhabitants of Auckland. By following the threads of these relationships, it is possible to situate Auckland both transnationally and nationally as a site of cultural interaction and a nexus of power. **The use and misuse of power** is also thematised in the case study of Colonel Wynyard, whose concurrently-held civil and military roles raised questions about the distribution of authority in colonial Auckland. More broadly, issues around the remembrance of the 58th regiment in Auckland demonstrate how shifting cultural dynamics continue to shape our understanding of this history.

Topic overview

Following centuries of pre-European Māori occupation, Tāmaki Makaurau was selected as the site for the new capital of the colony, Auckland. From 1841, Auckland was not only the seat of the colonial administration but the place from which military campaigns of the New Zealand Wars were directed. Fourteen imperial regiments, in addition to the Royal Engineers, Royal Marines, Field Artillery, and Royal New Zealand Fencibles, served in these wars from 1840 – 1870.¹ All entered the colony through Auckland and many returned to the city between regional deployments. This resource box focuses on the 58th regiment, which had the strongest relationship to Auckland. The regiment first arrived in 1845, after the outbreak of the Northern War led Governor FitzRoy to request military reinforcements from New South Wales. Aside from a brief period from 1846 to mid-1847, when the majority of the regiment returned to Australia, the 58th was headquartered in Auckland until its withdrawal in 1858. The regiment fought in various conflicts across the colony – including at Ōhaeawai, Ruapekapeka, and Boulcott's Farm – and was tasked with protecting the capital city in the event of an attack.

¹ Vincent O'Malley, *The New Zealand Wars Ngā Pakanga o Aotearoa* (Wellington: Bridget Williams Books, 2019), p.13.

More significantly than its military activities, the social and civic presence of the 58th regiment shaped the character of Auckland. The regiment was physically located in the midst of the city, occupying and helping to construct the Albert Barracks (around present-day Albert Park and Princes St).² Many of its soldiers worshipped at the city's first church, St Paul's, at the top of Emily Place. As a result of this geographical centrality, the 58th regiment frequently interacted with civilians. The regimental band performed in public locations like the Government House lawn and the Town Hall, soldiers played cricket against civilian teams, and the theatre at Albert Barracks was frequented by non-military patrons. Civic duties, including firefighting, were also carried out by the regiment. While popular perceptions at times characterised the imperial garrison as a threat to the moral character of the city, the 58th regiment also played a crucial role in enlivening Auckland's social scene and maintaining order in the new city. As Adam Davis argues, "the military played an important role in the social life of the capital."³

This resource box uses two members of the regiment as case studies: Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Wynyard (1802-1864) and Private Peter Brady (1812-1902). Wynyard and Brady exemplify how high and lower ranked members of the imperial forces respectively impacted the development of Auckland, albeit in different ways. By contextualising both men within family and social networks, the extent of regimental influence on the city becomes evident.

Wynyard arrived in Auckland in 1845 as first colonel of the 58th regiment, before also becoming the Commander of the Troops in New Zealand. In addition to these military roles, he held civil offices as the Lieutenant-Governor of New Ulster (the area north of the Pātea River) from 1851-53, and subsequently as the Superintendent of Auckland Province (approximately the area north of Lake Taupō) from 1853. These offices gave Wynyard significant political power in Auckland; for instance, he inaugurated the city's first municipal council. Yet Wynyard's power was also a source of controversy. Prominent Aucklanders alleged that it was irresponsible for Wynyard to hold military and civil offices concurrently, and that he had only been elected to the superintendency because of his connections to military settlers. The controversy deepened when, during Governor Grey's temporary absence from the colony in late 1853-54, Wynyard was also appointed Acting Governor of New Zealand. At this moment in time, the concentration of four military and civil roles in one person reflected the entwined military and political foundations of British power in New Zealand. Contemporary concerns about the situation, moreover, exemplify early questions about appropriate and representative governance in the colony.

Arguably, Wynyard did represent the significant proportion of Aucklanders with connections to the military. He accepted the nomination for the superintendency only after receiving a petition from Aucklanders, the signatories of which included military settlers like Peter Brady. Brady had participated in the civic presence of 58th regiment before his discharge on gratuity in 1849, for instance in the regimental band. More significantly, he exemplifies how imperial soldiers continued to shape Auckland after their service ended. Brady settled in Auckland with his family, operating

² Adam Davis, *The Furthest Garrison: Imperial Regiments in New Zealand, 1840 – 1870* (Warwick: Helion and Company, 2019), p.49.

³ *ibid.*, p.105.

several businesses – including the Soldiers Home Hotel and, from 1863-75, the Howick Arms – alongside his wife Margaret (née Downey). These became centres for the local community and contributed to the growing South Auckland economy. As a representative example of the soldier-settler, Brady demonstrates how imperial regiments imported the empire into Auckland. Vincent O’Malley highlights that discharge in New Zealand was an incentive for man soldiers, many of whom desired to “remain behind as settlers.”⁴

Extending beyond the lives of these two men, both the Wynyard and Brady families remained prominent in Auckland. Their descendants married into Māori families (for instance, Peter Brady’s son William Brady married Ngata Te Hirata Keremeta of Ngāti Tūwharetoa) and these families retain a presence in Auckland.⁵ Yet Wynyard and Brady – and the wider history of imperial regiments in the city – fit uncomfortably into twenty-first century Auckland. This discomfort became evident as early as 1900, in several debates over where to display the colours of the 58th regiment. The conflicting perspectives of Māori and Pākehā, as well as different religious denominations, reflect broader tensions in the remembrance of the regiment. Through the regimental colours, the question of how to remember the New Zealand Wars and locate this past within present-day Auckland can ultimately be explored.

Sources

Case Study 1: Robert Wynyard

1. **Wynyard, R.H. *The following brief narrative, accompanied with a copious selection of documentary evidence, relating to my career and personal history in New Zealand from 1851 to 1856, has been compiled for the information of my friends and relatives at home, and as a memorial, which my children may desire to preserve, as a vindication of my public conduct, proceedings, and motives, against the unfounded statements which have been industriously circulated by political adversaries.***

A pamphlet published by Wynyard in 1856, containing a defence of his decision to accept both military and civil offices at the same time, as well as an account of his actions in these offices. The appendix includes copies of significant letters relating to Wynyard’s career. Full text is available here: <http://www.enzb.auckland.ac.nz/document/?wid=4367&page=1&action=null>

The purpose of this document (a “vindication” of Wynyard’s conduct) reflects the significant extent to which his power in colonial Auckland was contested. Nevertheless, several letters in the appendix (e.g. 2, 8, 26) also demonstrate that the British government and many Aucklanders held Wynyard in high esteem. This source can thus be used to understand different perspectives on Wynyard’s significant power in Auckland, as well as how these shifted over time. It also provides information on how Wynyard shaped the politics and economics of the city (e.g. p. 10 on the revenue of the province), although notable policy failures – such as the fact that Wynyard’s Auckland municipal

⁴ O’Malley, *The New Zealand Wars*, p.11-12.

⁵ See for example the blog ‘Wynyard Whakapapa’ at <https://www.wynyardwhakapapa.com>, which is created by Wynyard descendants.

council was soon disbanded under Governor Gore Brown – are omitted. The overall focus on New Zealand (as opposed to Auckland) also provides an opportunity to situate Auckland not just as an individual city, but as a centre of power for the colony.

2. Voting Paper for the Superintendent of the Province of Auckland

CHRISTIAN AND SURNAME OF CANDIDATE.	PLACE OF RESIDE.	DESCRIPTION OF CANDIDATE.
ROBERT HENRY WYNYARD,	EMILY PLACE,	LIEUT.-COLONEL COMMANDING 58 th REGT.
CHRISTIAN AND SURNAME OF ELECTOR.	PLACE OF RESIDE.	DESCRIPTION OF ELECTOR.

Signature of Elector, _____

Auckland War Memorial Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, MS-430, OCM 56.

An interesting example of ephemera, which illustrates how the 1853 election for the superintendency operated. It is notable that Wynyard is described both in his military role (Lieut.-Colonel Commanding 58th Regt.) and as an inhabitant of Emily Place in central Auckland. This hints at the dual military and civil foundations of his power.

3. "To Lieut.-Colonel Wynyard, C.B., &c, &c, &c." *Daily Southern Cross*, April 22, 1853.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/DSC18530422.2.3>, accessed July 26, 2023.

"Sir –, We, the undersigned Electors of the Province of Auckland – being deeply impressed with a conviction that the realization of the benefits which the New Constitution Act proposes to confer, must, in a large measure, depend, so far as Provincial affairs are concerned, on the election of a Superintendent in whom the people generally can repose confidence – are especially anxious that, at this critical juncture, a candidate should be before the constituency in whose behalf the sympathies of men of all classes, and all political views might be united. Such a candidate, we are satisfied, may be found in yourself, Sir, – and we scarcely hesitate to add, in yourself pre-eminently. Your long residence in this district, your constantly manifested interest in its prosperity, and your extended and well earned popularity, would of themselves have been sufficient to indicate your great fitness for the office; but when to these considerations we add the very acceptable and harmonizing manner in which you have performed the duties of the Lieutenant-Governorship of New Ulster during the last two years, we find in you a combination of qualifications such as certainly are not united in any other person, and such as we are sure would command all but universal support. We therefore, Sir, respectfully and earnestly request that you will allow yourself to be put in nomination for the office of Superintendent of the Province of Auckland.

[list of signatories including: Peter Brady, Panmure]
Auckland
19th April, 1853.”

This requisition was instrumental in persuading Wynyard to accept the nomination for Superintendent (see also Appendix 8 in The Following Brief Narrative). The rationale of Wynyard’s supporters hints at the military foundation of his power. Wynyard’s “long residence in the district” occurred because he was stationed in Auckland with the 58th regiment; and his “well earned popularity” likely refers to his prominence as the commander of the imperial forces in New Zealand. Although the petitioners make no mention of Wynyard’s military roles, it is evident that this underpinned their regard for him as a political leader. Once again, this demonstrates the entangled nature of military and civic power in colonial Auckland. The signature of Peter Brady (a soldier-settler) on the petition reinforces this point. Overall, the document lends credibility to the contemporary claim that Wynyard won the election because of his military connections, also revealing the power of soldier-settlers like Brady to influence the highest levels of Auckland politics.

4. Newspaper excerpts relating to Aucklanders’ perspectives on Wynyard as Superintendent

- a) “The Combination of Offices.” *The Daily Southern Cross*, 5 December, 1854.
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/DSC18541205.2.10.4>, accessed 28 July 2023.

“We have often heard the objection taken to the two offices of Superintendent and Governor being united in the same individual; for that the one might, on some occasions, come into collision with the other; and that the same person could not fairly perform these discordant offices. This objection has just received an extraordinary practical refutation, as the following case will prove. The facts, we have from an excellent source, and believe they may be implicitly relied on: –

The Resident Magistrate, Thos. Beckham, Esq., after a long service – upwards of a dozen years – requested from his honor Colonel Wynyard, as *Superintendent*, leave of absence; and to proceed to Sydney by the ‘William Denny.’ The Superintendent took the case into favorable consideration; – acquainted his Worship that he was to be superseded in his office of Commissioner of Police by another person, and that the required leave of absence would be granted. Preparations for leaving were at once begun, and had been going forward for a few hours, when to his infinite surprise, His Worship received another letter from Colonel Wynyard, in his capacity of *Governor*, stating that leave of absence could not be granted .

To complete the farce, a letter was sent – as we have been credibly informed – by His Worship, thanking His Honor Colonel Wynyard the *Superintendent*, for the leave of absence which had been so kindly granted; but expressing regret that he could not avail himself of it, as Colonel Wynyard the *Governor*, had refused the indulgence.

Yes, to such a state of child’s play – worthy only of Punch and Judy – has our Government been reduced. Colonel Wynyard, as Superintendent, gives Mr. Beckham leave of absence; but Colonel Wynyard as Governor, orders him to remain at his post.

We heard a few days ago, of even a more elaborate display of the same political thimble-ringing, arising out of a request from the Provincial Council to the Superintendent, to procure if possible, from the commander of the Forces a party of soldiers to act as a guard near the hard labor men from

the jail. This appears a simple enough request as we have stated it, but to pass it through the official juggle will be found a matter of great difficulty. Let us try: – Colonel Wynyard the Superintendent, has to be requested to ask Colonel Wynyard the Governor, to ask Colonel Wynyard, the Colonel of the 58th Regt., to ask Colonel Wynyard, the Commander of the Forces for the necessary soldiers aforesaid. And the answer ought to be equally formal and elaborate, viz: – Colonel Wynyard the Commander of the Forces requests Colonel Wynyard, the Colonel of the 58th Regt., to acquaint Colonel Wynyard, the Governor, that Colonel Wynyard the Superintendent, cannot be allowed a guard of soldiers for the hard labor men as aforesaid.

We would just ask if it be possible for absurdity to go further? or if it be any wonder that the same person when performing the duties of one office, should flatly contradict himself, when he comes to perform the duty of some of the other offices.

Is it possible for any one man's head to follow the one grain of sense through these multifarious offices? Or, in this political thimble rigging that the pea should be occasionally lost sight of altogether. Verily, the gullibility [sic] of the people of Auckland is great."

Note that the objections to Wynyard's power are practical rather than based on principle, relying on examples (the Commissioner of Police, and guards for prisoners) where conflicts between Wynyard's military and civil offices impeded the smooth governance of Auckland. The Daily Southern Cross was more often critical of Wynyard than the New Zealander (compare below), possibly because it was started by Wynyard's political opponent William Brown, but also because it prioritised the interests of land claimants over other settlers or Māori. It is also notable that this article describes Aucklanders as "gullible," seemingly conceding the fact that Wynyard did have popular support from the city's inhabitants.

- b) "Election of Superintendent. Nomination at Onehunga for the Pensioner Settlements and Southern Division." *The New Zealander*, 29 June, 1853.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZ18530629.2.7>, accessed 28 June, 2023.

Report of a speech given by R. B. Lusk in favour of Wynyard's election as superintendent (note that this is not the full article):

"We have been told to-day that 'Col. Wynyard is a Government Officer, and paid to support the Government.' This, however, is a great mistake. Col. Wynyard is a servant of his country, and he is paid *not to support the Government, but to defend you*. We have been told that the education and training of an officer must, of necessity, unfit him for a civil officer; I apprehend that those who make this objection know very little about the education and training necessary to form a first-rat [sic] officer. There is abundant evidence, from facts, of the falsity of this theory, and of the truth of another doctrine, that he who who [sic] has been trained to obedience is best fitted to govern. I ask you to whom was it that all Great Britain looked up for many years past? To whom did our gracious Queen have recourse for advice in all difficulties? Who is it that the universal British nation mourns for as the most honest, unselfish, and upright, as well as one of the most far-seeing of her politicians? – Every one is ready to reply. 'The *greatest soldier* of this, perhaps of any age.' And yet we have been told that any civilian is better than any soldier !! But, thirdly, Colonel Wynyard is not a mere soldier; he is a *tried and approved civilian*. As Lieut.-Governor of this province (undoubtedly a civil office) his character has been before us for two years: and I boldly assert that, till the question,

Who shall be Superintendent? was stirred, there was but one opinion in the province as to the manner in which he had discharged the duties of that office.”

The New Zealander provides a contrasting perspective to the Daily Southern Cross. Not only does this article foreground Wynyard’s supporters rather than his detractors, but it makes a moral and emotional argument rather than a practical one. The emotive invocations of the British ‘Home Country’ highlight how British systems of power and governance were used as a model for the colony. This article also contends that Wynyard is an ideal candidate not despite, but because of, his military leadership, which reinforces the entanglement of military and civic power in at this time. Together with the Southern Cross article, this piece can be used to demonstrate different perspectives on Wynyard’s power in Auckland, as well as the universal agreement (in both articles) that imperial forces and commanders had a significant impact on the city.

5. Wynyard Testimonial Epergne



Auckland War Memorial Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 2014.8.1.

Inscription: “Presented to Colonel ROBERT HENRY WYNYARD C.B. of Her Majesty’s 58th Regiment on his departure from New Zealand by a number of inhabitants of the City and Province of Auckland in testimony of their high appreciation and of the abilities, integrity and urbanity which has characterised his discharge of several important duties which devolved upon him during thirteen years Official residence in New Zealand from August, 1845 to October, 1858.”

This epergne (dining table centrepiece) was created in London in 1858 at the request of Robert Wynyard. The funds for this object were 300 gold sovereigns, which the inhabitants of Auckland had gifted to Wynyard when he was recalled to England earlier the same year. The epergne is thus

indirectly a product of Auckland, demonstrating how the city – through the figure of Wynyard – was taken abroad and gained a transnational significance.

The epergne is decorated in the rococo-revival style, which was popular in nineteenth-century Britain and can be identified through ornate natural motifs. Yet its specific motifs recall the native flora of Aotearoa (e.g. the silver fern). The object thus epitomises both how Wynyard approached his role in New Zealand with a British mindset, but also how the environment that he encountered in the colony left an impression on him. Also included are a soldier of the 58th regiment and Māori man, woman, and child. This Māori family reflects Wynyard's relationships with Māori and, more broadly, the impact of the 58th regiment on indigenous as well as settler occupants of the colony.

Case study 2: Peter Brady

6. Newspaper excerpts relating to Brady's role in the Howick community

- a) "Howick." *The Daily Southern Cross*, 4 October, 1866.
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/DSC18661004.2.16>, accessed 27 June, 2023.

"In the evening a meeting of the Howick township trustees took place at Mr. Peter Brady's hotel, when resolutions to the following effect were passed: – "

- b) "Christmas Festivities at Howick." *The Daily Southern Cross*, 29 December, 1864.
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/DSC18641229.2.16>, accessed 27 June, 2023.

"The quiet little village of Howick has set an example to our country settlements worthy of imitation, by inaugurating festivities of its own for this season of enjoyment ... Refreshments were supplied during the day by Mr. Peter Brady, of the Howick Arms, in a liberal style."

- c) "Howick." *The Daily Southern Cross*, 31 October, 1866,
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/DSC18661031.2.22>, accessed 27 June, 2023.

"On Monday afternoon last the usual monthly parade of the Howick Yeomanry Troop took place for drill and inspection ... After the drill the troop adjourned to Mr. Peter Brady's hotel, to receive their half-yearly pay, which, by their cheering, &c., seemed to give them great satisfaction."

- d) "Untitled." *Auckland Star*, 18 November, 1902,
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/AS19021118.2.33>, accessed 25 October, 2023.

"Yet another of our old veterans has passed away at the age of ninety years, come December, viz., Mr Peter Brady, of Howick, late of the 58th Regiment. The remains of the old soldier were laid in the grave in the Panmure cemetery yesterday beside his wife, the Rev. Father Hara officiating, a large cortege from Howick following- Captain Hattaway, who was present at the funeral, related that he had known Mr. Brady since 1842, that he had fought in the first war of New Zealand, through every engagement, Okaihau, Ohaeawai, Ruapekapeka, and all the fighting of Heke's war; that he and others who remained in this colony had come thirty and forty miles from the bush country to bid

farewell to the old corps, paraded at Albert barracks, where many of them kissed the colours under which they had fought and bled, and many other very interesting incidents. Mr. Brady was servant to Sir George Grey in the early days, and accompanied Sir George all through the North Island on that memorable journey when the first Europeans were allowed to visit the terraces in the Rotomahana Lake country, and the names of the party were etched in the centre of the terrace. Mr Brady had numerous children and grandchildren, and it was pleasant to see the devoted attention they showed him in his declining years.”

The first three excerpts are characteristic mentions of Brady in local newspapers; it appears that the Howick Arms was a focal point for gatherings in the Howick community. Cumulatively, these excerpts highlight how regimental families like the Bradys established themselves in Auckland beyond the period of active military service.

Peter Brady’s obituary focuses on his military service, but it is notable Brady is associated with his later place of residence in Howick rather than his origins in Ireland, and that the Northern War is described as “the first war of New Zealand” rather than as an imperial conflict. While some of the activities mentioned in the earlier excerpts – Christmas festivities and catering for yeomanry troops – were clearly imported from Britain, Brady’s identification with Howick and New Zealand highlights that soldier-settlers also developed an identity which was linked to Auckland and the colony.

7. Scrimshaw gunpowder horns, engraved by Peter Brady



Auckland War Memorial Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1949.169.

This scrimshaw horn, which was engraved by Brady, provides an interesting comparison to Wynyard’s epergne. Like the epergne, its iconography combines British aesthetic standards with representations of New Zealand. There are several Māori figures, including two in korowai cloaks and others wearing different taonga, as well as fern-like leaves and a spotted bird. Both ends display insignia, possibly belonging to the horn’s intended owner. The object thus reveals both a fascination with Māori culture and a desire to colonise New Zealand for the British. In contrast to the epergne,

however, the horn also speaks to the conflicts fought by imperial regiments in New Zealand. It has a military purpose (storing gunpowder) and there are depictions of men fighting amid the ferns. On a human scale, this reflects Brady's experience of the New Zealand Wars and the difficulty of establishing himself in the colony. More broadly, this literal and represented violence exposes the dual physical and cultural violence of imperial expansion.

Putting it all together: The 58th Regiment in Auckland

8. Newspaper excerpts relating to the general role of the 58th regiment in Auckland

a) "Military Band." *The New Zealander*, 25 April, 1846.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZ18460425.2.9>, accessed 28 June, 2023.

"The present monotony of Auckland, is much relieved, twice during the week, by the kindness of Colonel Wynyard, permitting the excellent band of his Regiment, to perform in the lawn before Government house, on the afternoons of Tuesday and Friday. The very considerate acquiescence to requests for attendance of the band; and the very prompt attention to complaints, so as to preserve the comfort and peace of the inhabitants of Auckland, from being in the least degree disturbed, has secured to Colonel Wynyard and the officers of the gallant FIVE & EIGHT, the deep respect, and sincere thanks of the whole community."

b) "Destructive fire in Auckland!" *Taranaki Herald*, 24 July, 1858.

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/TH18580724.2.18>, accessed 28 June, 2023.

"The Fire bugles were sounded almost simultaneously with the Fire Bell, and close as we ourselves were to the spot, we found the Colonel [Wynyard], Officers, and men of the 58th hastening down hill – the Volunteer Fire Brigades under the command of Superintendent Asher, taking their posts ... A large force of the 58th Regt., under the personal orders of Colonel Wynyard, were soon on the spot with the military engine."

These are two examples of the integral roles which the 58th regiment played in Auckland. Both articles highlight interactions between soldiers and the civilian population, including how the garrison of the 58th at Albert Barracks (close to both Government House and the fire on Shortland St) placed the regiment in a central location to respond to local crises. In both cases, it is also striking that the collective efforts of the regiment are directly credited to Wynyard - this is a testament to his popularity with the inhabitants of Auckland.

9. Diary of Major Cyprian Bridge, 1845-46

Auckland Museum MS-35, 65/30.

Photographed here:

<http://media.api.aucklandmuseum.com/id/media/p/1403ab5b8e6ad8dba8425511a4650e81eaacd5e?rendering=original.pdf>.

Transcript here:

<http://media.api.aucklandmuseum.com/id/media/p/bc70e64f87d90dcc8ee49c038d2c1feb2e969ef5?rendering=original.pdf>

Major (later Colonel) Cyprian Bridge was a member of the 58th regiment whose diary provides insight into soldiers' views of and reception in Auckland. Key excerpts include:

- 22 April 1845 "we were anxiously expected – as the town of Auckland was threatened to be attacked by a cheif of the name of Kowitte [sic] –"
- 17 July 1845 "[I was] fondly expecting my return to Auckland"
- 1 August 1845 "The Lieu. returned from the shipping this evening & brought me the joyful news of the arrival of my dear wife from Auckland in the Gov^t brig "Victoria" *This highlights how regimental wives and families were stationed in Auckland while soldiers were deployed – it was not only the men of the regiment who had a presence in the city. A later entry notes that Mrs Bridge stayed with Mrs Grey at Government House.*
- 13 January 1846 "I obtained a month's leave to proceed to Auckland to join my dear wife who is expecting her confinement daily." *Bridges' son was born four days later in Auckland – this is an example of regimental families becoming established in the city.*
- 2 December 1846 "A ball was given by the ladies of Auckland to the officers of the 58th Regt on their departure from the colony. It was very well got up & attended & dancing kept up till the hour fixed for embarkation, when the 58th bugler sounded the assembly & officers call in the ballroom, the ladies pelted him out of the supper room with tartlets - The Reg^t made a splendid embarkation at half past 5 am. I hope to take their final leave of NZland - Dinner with the Governor today." *An example of the interactions between non-military Aucklanders and the 58th regiment, demonstrating that Aucklanders felt the regiment to be an integral part of the city and made an effort to integrate with the soldiers.*

10. Colours of the 58th (Rutlandshire) Regiment



Auckland War Memorial Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, 1932.337.2,
<https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/discover/collections/record/21478?k=58%20regiment%20colours#gallery>.

The flag speaks to the transnational history of the 58th regiment. The Union Jack in the upper left corner and St George's Cross reflect origins in the United Kingdom, while embroidered golden scrolls mark battle honours at Maida, Vittoria, Nivelles, Salamanca, the Pyrenees, and Orthes. This places the regiment (with its military and non-military colonisation and settlement of Auckland) into the wider context of British imperial expansion. After the 58th regiment was withdrawn from New Zealand, Lieutenant Colonel Cyprian Bridge donated the colours to the inhabitants of Auckland in 1860. The colours are thus also a physical manifestation of the mark which imperial forces left on the city after the end of their active military presence here.

The colours were placed in St Paul's Church (where the regiment had worshipped) before being relocated to Government House. The relocation was most likely carried out c.1861 on the orders of Bishop Selwyn, who believed that "the feelings of the Maoris would be hurt if the colours used against them in war were prominent in a place of peace."⁶ Although some reports dispute that the colours had ever been in St Paul's, Selwyn's concern highlights early questions around the collective memory of the 58th regiment, including an awareness that its role in shaping Auckland had been detrimental to Māori. The placement of the colours in Government House, followed by a period in the Auckland Supreme Court, relegated the regiment to Auckland's imperial and political history while downplaying its cultural impact on the city.

This narrative of regimental history was again rewritten in 1902. The colours were relocated to the Auckland Public Library, to reflect the fact that "the majority of the citizens of Auckland... are connected with and interested in the regiment."⁷ A request by St Paul's to display the colours was denied because Catholic Aucklanders had just as strong connections as Anglicans, but would be unable to access the colours in an Anglican space. At the turn of the twentieth century, the 58th regiment were repositioned almost as the shared ancestors of Pākehā Aucklanders. The regimental colours remained in the library until 1932, when they entered the collection at Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira. The frequently renegotiated location of the colours thus reflects the shifting remembrance of the New Zealand Wars— although never forgotten, they struggled to find their place in Auckland's history.

Key sites related to the history of the 58th Regiment in Auckland

⁶ "The Colours of H.M. 58th Regiment," *New Zealand Herald*, May 15, 1902, <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZH19020515.2.13>, accessed July 26 2023.

⁷ "The Colours of H.M. 58th Regiment," *New Zealand Herald*, May 15, 1902.

1. Albert Barracks



Image: Unknown Photographer, “Albert Military Barracks and 58th regiment parade,” c. 1850s, Auckland Museum Collections, Auckland War Memorial Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira, https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/collection/object/am_library-photography-32689

This was the most significant location associated with the 58th regiment in Auckland. The regiment assisted in the construction of the barracks and were housed there until they were withdrawn in 1858. The barracks were a permeable space, with parades like this one and cricket matches on the lawn in the foreground being accessible to the public. The extant section of the Albert Barracks wall still maintains this sense of permeability and integration – rather than delineating separate spaces, it is in the centre of the University of Auckland campus.

2. The Howick Arms



Image: Alan La Roche, “The Howick Arms Hotel,” c. 2000, Howick Historical Village NZMuseums collection, Howick Historical Village, <https://ehive.com/collections/3000/objects/1201916>, accessed 29 July, 2023.

Virtual tour created by the Howick Historical Village is available at:
<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=qoUtJccrUrm>

The Howick Arms, originally established in 1848 by the Fencible settler Owen Lynch, was operated by Peter Brady from 1863-75. Brady lived there with his wife Margaret and possibly several of his children, while the second room operated as a hotel. A reconstruction of the Howick Arms (using a comparable original Fencible cottage from Onehunga) forms part of the Howick Historical Village today. This building provides insight into how Peter and Margaret Brady established themselves in the colony, including the need for some women in regimental families to work simultaneously in the household and in business ventures. Architecturally, the building also strikes a middle ground between British architectural ideals (pitched roofs) and concessions to the environment of New Zealand (timber was more readily available than stone), which reflects how colonists both shaped and were shaped by the land they encountered.

3. Stone Cottage, Panmure



Image: Photographer unknown, “Stone Cottage Pride of Place in Panmure,” 2022, <https://ouraukland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/news/2022/06/stone-cottage-pride-of-place-in-panmure/>

This c. 1854-57 stone cottage is another living museum in Auckland, which has been relocated to Panmure from its original site in Mt Wellington. It was owned by Peter Brady in the years before he moved to Howick. The architecture – the pitched roofs and stone material – is distinctly British, reflecting how the imperial ‘Home’ was reconstructed through the physical house in New Zealand. The reconstructed interior also provides insight into the domestic life of regimental families like the Bradys.