



PANMURE HUNDRED
1848 – 1868



PANMURE TOWNSHIP
1848



EARLY ADMINISTRATION AREAS

Lt. Gray and his uncle seem to have been a rather straight laced pair, entrenched in their military habits and over conscious of their position. Unlike his uncle, Lt. Gray lived on site while Panmure was being built, and when the Hundred of Panmure was established he was one of the first Wardens elected. Unfortunately the young Lieutenant did not get much of an opportunity to make an impact on the village, as by May 1849 he was court martialled and awaiting dismissal from the corps.

The whole business concerning Panmure's Officers started with the zealous young Lieutenant, in his role as local Justice of the Peace, taking a very dim view of court procedures run by the Howick Resident Magistrate, Captain Smith. Gray considered Smith to have brought himself, and therefore the corps, into disrepute. Gray was also informed that Smith was embezzling government money by falsifying the pay lists, and as part owner of the Howick pub, was aiding and abetting discontent amongst the Pensioners.

The court martial however saw things differently, and according to the 'Southern Cross' newspaper, the young officer was deliberately thwarted by the Government and senior Officers, who withheld the necessary evidence which young Gray required to prove his case. The fact

that his uncle, the Major, had supported his nephew's case, meant that when the mud began to fly after the court martial, he was liberally splattered as well. The young Gray was then court martialled for bringing the corps into disrepute, found guilty and dismissed from the R.N.Z.F.

Major Gray now took over the running of the Panmure settlement and moved into the newly erected Officers house. The lower storey of which can still be seen today in Ireland Road. Major Gray replaced his nephew as a Warden of the Panmure Hundred, and also held the post of Resident Magistrate. Gray, however, didn't get on very well with his second in command, Captain Kenny of Onehunga, and made a great number of complaints about the man's lax attitude to procedure. In fact so great was their personal dislike for each other, that they had to 'speak' through another person. Gray also had strict views on drink in the Pensioner villages, and strongly disapproved of public houses being run by Pensioners – none were in Panmure during his command. He even petitioned for licensing to be stopped in Pensioner villages, but was overruled by Governor Grey on the matter. In keeping with his narrow minded attitude, those widows of Pensioners who had died at Panmure found themselves packed off to Howick. According to the terms