

CHAPTER TEN

Clerks and Staff Solicitors

Sainsbury Logan & Williams has been fortunate to have had a disproportionate share of loyal and dedicated staff who represent the very valuable “tools of trade” and backbone of any successful firm. The individuals over the years are too numerous to mention. This Chapter chronicles a select few who call for special mention.

JOCK TWIGG (DESMOND DESPARD TWIGG)

According to Sir Owen Woodhouse, Jock Twigg joined Sainsbury Logan & Williams in 1927 as a junior clerk at the age of 17 and working extramurally, he qualified as a solicitor in 1937 and was admitted as such in 1937.¹¹⁹⁸ He would have become a partner if he had stayed.¹¹⁹⁹ When Peter Cornforth took his place as office junior and stamping and registration clerk,¹²⁰⁰ Jock Twigg initiated him in the mysteries of the Torrens Land Transfer System. Jock Twigg then moved into “accounts” because it was the partners’ policy to give their law clerks grounding in the financial side of the practice as well as the legal.

It is rumoured that Jock Twigg was at one time locked inside the strong room overnight and was only released when he was able to call to a member of the public through the window grill.¹²⁰¹ It is Hal Nash’s view that Jock Twigg was most likely locked up by Robinson and/or Gifford as a practical joke.¹²⁰² The story even goes so far as to suggest that he was handed a banana for sustenance.

From Sainsbury Logan & Williams, Jock moved to Cornford and Langley and in 1938 became a partner of that firm.¹²⁰³ He then left for a period on war service which extended from the first weeks in 1939 until final discharge in March 1946 and took him from his initial rank as a gunner in the artillery to Lieutenant Colonel when he was appointed QMG to the Second NZEF

Reception Group in England at the time the war in Europe had come to an end.

Like Bill McLeod and his wife Nell, Jock Twigg became a close friend of Sir Owen and his wife Peggy and on Friday evenings the five of them often got together for a meal, a decorous intake of wine and much singing of current songs, the whole repertoire of Gilbert and Sullivan and numerous songs in Māori. Peggy was both accompanist and chorister on these occasions.

Frank Logan in his Memoirs recalls:¹²⁰⁴

It was good to see Jock Twigg again. He returned this month full of honour after his war services in Europe and the Middle East.

It was not until Jock met Mary Day in 1958 that he married. She was a Hamiltonian with a nursing background and partly by the scheming of Doctor Sam Turner, they happened to be on the same tourist ferry which travelled around Manhattan Island. She predeceased him in 1997, the pain of which was lifted for him only by his own death in January 2000. They had two sons and a daughter.¹²⁰⁵ Jock Twigg rarely, if ever, appeared in Court. His time was fully occupied handling the conveyancing and other needs of many friends and acquaintances and various societies and he gave his time freely to support numbers of local organisations and charities including for example the many years he spent as a trustee of Te Aute College. One of his outstanding qualities was his ability to understand people and the immediate way he would share their problems and their happiness, his quiet but determined acceptance of duty and a twinkling sense of fun and good humour.

At his funeral service Sir Owen gave an example of the latter:

One sunny morning in the reading room of the Hawke’s Bay Club, Jock glanced across at two distinguished, truly venerable accountants. They were Maurice Spence and Harold Edgley who had just returned from a week’s holiday together at Taupo. “Well,” Jock said cheerfully waving the *Dominion* Newspaper, “I see you have both been in Taupo and in the headline news “Taupo Bores

1198 And then later as a barrister in 1951. See Appendix 5.

1199 Bob Logan, personal recollection.

1200 Peter Cornforth, personal recollection.

1201 Hal Nash, personal recollection.

1202 Ibid.

1203 S W Grant, page 73.

1204 Frank Logan Memoirs (unpublished), page 144, paragraph 13.

1205 Their son Peter is a current partner of Langley Twigg. Peter’s son Jamie is employed by the firm as a solicitor.

active again” or so the *Dominion* tells us today.” I was never quite as sure as Jock that they were entirely amused.¹²⁰⁶

WILLIAM NORMAN JERSEY MACKAY

Norman Mackay was born in 1870 and died in 1954 aged 84 years. He was chief accountant in 1932 and was regarded as having “partner” status. He was often asked to be an executor along with one of the partners in the Wills of major clients. Office gossip had it in those days that Sainsbury Logan’s Trust Account was the largest in New Zealand, almost all of it being invested in rural land. Accordingly, when wealthy mortgagee clients died transmissions of their interests in their mortgages were registered in the names of various combinations of the partners together with Mr Mackay, so after that time an extra sheet of deeds paper had to be sewn onto the backs of many Memoranda of Mortgage to contain the copious memorials evidencing the transfer of interests.¹²⁰⁷

There is a photograph of Norman Mackay trout fishing at Whanganui Bay in Taupo.¹²⁰⁸ He is part of a group of seven, including Francis Logan and his sons Ivan and Frank Logan.

Norman Mackay was President of the Hawke’s Bay Club in 1943 and had regular evenings there with Frank Logan and others, typically after each had conducted local authority business. Messrs Eddie Herrick and Frank Logan were Committee Members.¹²⁰⁹

IAN DOUGALL MACKAY

Ian Mackay was the son of W N J Mackay and a lawyer. Ian was a diabetic¹²¹⁰ and although fit and a keen tennis player, was vulnerable to illness and died after swimming at Westshore beach. Sir Owen Woodhouse and his wife Margaret (“Peggy”) were friends with Ian Mackay and his wife. Sir Owen was stationed offshore during the Second World War (as a torpedo boat skipper in the Mediterranean) and recalls the letter his wife wrote him on 27 May 1943 to say that Ian suffered a heart attack whilst out swimming at Westshore Beach and never recovered. Ian had apparently been in the middle of writing a letter himself to Sir Owen but never finished it. Ian’s widow gave the unfinished letter to Peggy to give to Sir Owen on his return home.¹²¹¹

Sir Owen recalls Ian Mackay as a “qualified solicitor and the able son of Mr Mackay, the firm accountant, who for many years handled with great efficiency the business affairs of the firm and its Trust Account. Ian himself was a model in-house solicitor, accurate, always in control of a heavy workload and

liked by everybody. He was a quiet unassuming man, married to a pleasant gentle wife named Anne. They had no children.”¹²¹²

They had purchased the house at 1 Hadfield Terrace which was later bought by Ian Logan.¹²¹³ It was designed by Finch & Westerholm, the same architects who designed the new Sainsbury Logan & Williams premises in 1931 following the earthquake.¹²¹⁴

Ian was plagued by a heart problem which kept him in New Zealand when war broke out in September 1939 and increasingly busy as some of the staff departed for one or other of the armed forces. The Mackays were older than Sir Owen and his wife but they became good friends.

Frank Logan records in his Memoirs that in November 1942 he spent a weekend with the Mackays in Lincoln Road and that Ian Mackay was taken ill at the time and it became apparent that his diabetic trouble was becoming serious.¹²¹⁵

He later records in April 1943:¹²¹⁶

Ian MacKay died suddenly of a heart attack and Eddie [Herrick] and I attended his funeral on the 29th. He had been a diabetic for years.

His death was marked by the Council of the Hawke’s Bay District Law Society as follows:¹²¹⁷

The President referred sympathetically to the sorrow and regret felt by all Members at the sudden death of Mr Ian D. Mackay and moved a vote of condolence with his wife, father and relatives, which was carried in silence, all standing.

The Hawke’s Bay District Law Society marked the death of Ian Mackay in the Annual Report in this way:¹²¹⁸

Mr Ian Dougall Mackay, a solicitor on the staff of Messrs. Sainsbury Logan & Williams, Napier, died suddenly in the year under review; he was held in high esteem and affection by his many friends and acquaintances and his death is much deplored.

ALEXANDER CHARLES CUNNINGHAM

Alexander Cunningham qualified as a solicitor in 1925. He was the third staff member to enter practice on his own account. He left Sainsbury Logan & Williams shortly after 1937. He went into sole practice in Katikati and later joined Sharp Tudhope & Co in Tauranga and became senior partner there. Sir Owen remembers Cunningham to have been fair haired, debonair and always cheerful.¹²¹⁹

1206 Sir Owen Woodhouse, personal recollection.

1207 Peter Cornforth, personal recollection.

1208 See photograph in Chapter 2 under the heading *Home Life*. W N J Mackay is first on the left. His nickname was “Mr Mokibones” which is a play on the surname and may have been coined first by Nancy Fisher, John Logan’s sister (John Logan, personal recollection).

1209 Frank Logan Memoirs (unpublished), page 117, paragraph 15 and page 123, paragraph 20.

1210 Confirmed by John Logan from his personal recollection, page 1.

1211 Sir Owen Woodhouse, personal recollection. Regrettably, the original copy of that unfinished letter had not been able to be located.

1212 Sir Owen Woodhouse, personal recollection.

1213 Ian Logan was a grandson of Francis Logan, son of Ivan Logan and a partner of the firm from 1947 to 1956. See Chapter 9 under the heading *Ian McGregor Logan*.

1214 Jan Chalmers and Annabelle Logan, personal recollection.

1215 Frank Logan Memoirs (unpublished), page 125, paragraph 14.

1216 Frank Logan Memoirs (unpublished), page 127, paragraph 13.

1217 Hawke’s Bay District Law Society Minutes, 3.6.1943.

1218 Hawke’s Bay District Law Society Annual Report, 14.3.1944.

1219 Sir Owen Woodhouse, personal recollection.

ARTHUR H ROBINSON

Arthur Robinson was designated managing clerk and generally supervised the staff (appointing clerks, typists and so on – assorted adjutant).¹²²⁰ A H Robinson had begun work for Sainsbury Logan & Williams in 1910. He was admitted as a solicitor on 30 August 1923 and barrister on 11 August 1933. In June 1933 (approximately 6 months after the new premises were occupied following the February 1931 earthquake)¹²²¹ he and T H R Gifford resigned and set up practice across the road in Tennyson Street as Gifford & Robinson. That partnership was dissolved on 1 July 1949.¹²²² On 26 September 1956, Noel Toomey began employment with A H Robinson and on 1 April 1959 became a partner, the firm being renamed Robinson & Toomey. It was not until 1983 that the firm merged with Lusk, Willis & Co and became known as Willis Toomey Robinson.

TOM GIFFORD

Tom was an older man who qualified relatively late in life (as did M R Grant who originally was a school master like Justice Alpers). Gifford acted for a large number of hotel licensees and probably took those across the road when he moved. Gossip had it that Mr M L Gleeson acted for the licensees who were not Tom's clients. They shared the local business of that kind. A H Robinson and T H Gifford left in 1933 (the year after the firm took possession of the new building in Tennyson Street) and entered partnership across the road in Tennyson Street adjacent to the practices of John Tattersall, M L Gleeson, Mason & Dunn and Bisson & Moss.¹²²³

Sir Owen Woodhouse recalls Gifford and Robinson as being two of the in-house solicitors employed by Sainsbury Logan & Williams. But the earthquake in February 1931 which had destroyed the firm's premises may have provided an opportunity for movement of a small portion of its legal practice. Gifford and Robinson then relocated to newly erected premises across Tennyson Street and over time gathered in numerous local clients. Gifford was a blunt but jovial man who was not greatly interested in Law Society affairs. The vitality which gradually became associated with the Gifford and Robinson name was largely due to the remarkably wide-ranging interests of Robinson.¹²²⁴ He is not to be confused with E T Gifford who was one of the founders of the Hastings firm Gifford Devine & Partners.¹²²⁵

WILLIAM THOMAS PRENTICE (WIREMU PIRINIHA)

Wiri Prentice was born in 1869 at Mohaka. He was the son of Stephen Felgate Prentice and Hannah Down. His father originated from Ipswich in Surrey County. His maternal

grandmother was Mere Riripeti Whakaraurahu Raharuhi. She was of Ngati Kahangunu descent. Assuming that Mere was full blooded Māori, and she and her daughter Hannah each married a European man, Wiri was one quarter Māori. Wiri's father was born at Pentonville, London on 2 August 1842. He is thought to have immigrated with his parents to New Zealand in 1855.¹²²⁶ They arrived just three months after a massive earthquake had rocked Wellington. On arrival, Stephen Prentice went to Canterbury and then Otago seeking his fortunes gold prospecting and then sheep farming amongst other pursuits and returned to Wellington three months later. By 1861, he was living in Wairoa where he was a storekeeper, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and Postmaster. In 1867 he bought a cutter which he named "*The Grayling*" for the Napier/Wairoa trade but it sustained considerable damage and had to be sold. He married Hannah Down on 19 April 1865. Six of their eight children were born in the Wairoa area. By 1880 Stephen Prentice was a Debt Collector and Accountant in Masterton. During November 1881 he took out a lease of commercial property in Manaia and the following year (1881) their eighth child was born. "Father and the boys chipped in the wheat seed...one of the boys broke in a bullock. He had a sheepskin for a saddle and used to ride to Masterton in that state".¹²²⁷ Stephen and Hannah appear to have separated about this time. By 1892, Hannah and the children were living in Pirongia where Hannah bought the Shamrock Hotel which had a private boarding facility as part of the business. During 1896 Stephen auctioned the house, furniture and stock in trade and prepared to leave the district. Two years later on 24 July 1898 just a few weeks after applying for charitable aid, Stephen died of throat cancer and was buried in a public grave.

Wiremu married Mable Gary and became a law clerk with Sainsbury Logan & Williams. Later he became qualified and was licensed as a Māori Interpreter. He and Mable had four children.

Reputedly a descendent of Te Rauparaha,¹²²⁸ Wiri Prentice was a highly respected citizen who had his own following of clients among the local Māori community as well as a reputation dominion-wide and who spent much of his time engrossing documents such as Māori leases and documents evidencing the property transactions of the Anglican Church.

He was proficient in copperplate handwriting and personally engraved the Māori Deeds and other documents belonging to clients who addressed telegrams to him simply as "Wiri, Napier".¹²²⁹

Wiri was a Licensed Native Interpreter (First Grade) under the Licensed Interpreters Regulations pursuant to the relevant Native and Māori Affairs Acts. The qualifications for that included proficiency in Māori grammar, translation from English to Māori and from Māori to English. In addition to his

1220 Peter Cornforth, personal recollection.

1221 In which he broke some ribs as a result of a falling chimney, according to his son Dudley Robinson of Napier. A H Robinson had four boys to his first wife (Eric, Dudley, Jack and Ray) and Russell Robinson (former partner, now consultant with Willis Toomey Robinson) to his second wife.

1222 S W Grant, op. cit., Page 70.

1223 Peter Cornforth, personal recollection.

1224 Sir Owen Woodhouse, personal recollection.

1225 S W Grant, op.cit., page 77.

1226 From Stephen Prentice of Ipswich, Suffolk Co., England by Linus Joseph Dewald Jnr (Editor), First Published 2000, last revised 5 January 2010. See www.iroots.net/news/99/stephen_prentice_england_rewrite.htm

1227 Ibid.

1228 According to Peter Cornford.

1229 Speech Notes, Centennial Dinner, Sir Owen Woodhouse, (see Chapter 12 under the heading *Centenary Celebrations*).



(C11_1): This photograph was discovered in an estate collection of photos and was provided to the firm in 1994 by a Miss Monroe who was at that time living at Eversley Home in Havelock North. The photograph is unfortunately undated but is thought to have been taken around 1900. It has the names of each of the staff appearing in it pencilled top and bottom. Standing: Messrs W T Prentice, E Shaw, R T Anderson. Seated: Messrs F Tylee, G F Mosley and J T Tennent.

proficiency in Te Reo, Wiri Prentice is also distinguished for the fact that he wrote the chapter on “The Māori History of Hawke’s Bay” for the highly respected Centennial Publication *History of Hawke’s Bay* published in 1939.¹²³⁰

Susan Earp has supplied a copy of a typical Will in which Wiri is appointed one of the Executors and Trustees in the Estate of “Henare Pango Pango of Petane in the Provincial District of Hawke’s Bay Aboriginal Native of New Zealand. . .and I bequeath to each of them the sum of Twenty five pounds for their pains and trouble in the execution thereof. . .”¹²³¹

1230 *History of Hawke’s Bay*, J G Wilson (and others), AH & AW Reed, Wellington & Dunedin, 1939.

1231 Susan Earp is an amateur historian who grew up in Westshore, Napier (see Chapter 6 and the passage concerning the relocation of the temporary SLW premises to Westshore). Henare Pango Pango was Susan’s great grandfather. His Will was executed on 23 January 1914 and was drafted by Cotterill & Humphries, Solicitors, Hastings (a branch of the Napier firm by the same name which later morphed into Napier firm Carlile Dowling). Probate of his Will was granted on 24 October 1914 by the Native Land Court (as it then was). It was discovered just prior to his death that a number of beneficiaries had been overlooked (Henare’s half sister had children who were not included in any of the bequests in the Will) but his Will was not altered before his death and so a Deed of Family Arrangement was entered into (presumably to prevent a claim against the Estate, but said in the Deed that Henare was “desirous of doing justice to the parties [page 3]) which was a different distribution of land and cash to the one that had been probated. Wiri Prentice was a signatory to that Deed also. The contents were typed in both English and Māori and certified by one of Wiri’s Hastings colleagues “William

Sir Owen Woodhouse remembers Wiri Prentice because Sir Owen used to be friends with his son. They were both enrolled at Napier Boys High School with Sir Owen. They even spent time together on a Christmas camp in the Waikato in 1933. Sir Owen remembers Wiri Prentice as not being very tall in stature but well dressed, undemonstrative and liked by everyone. Although not a qualified lawyer he was a real professional. He did a lot of interpreting work (English/Māori). His view of the social security reforms introduced in the late 1930s by Michael Joseph Savage and the Labour Party was that they would have a detrimental effect on the attitude of Māori toward work.¹²³²

John Logan could remember him during his days in the office (1938–1943) as someone quite interesting. “On certain days each month there would be a stream of Māoris coming in to collect their rent checks and some of them were terribly small amounts, 2/6 that sort of thing”.¹²³³

Francis Logan had the foresight to get Wiri Prentice into the office. Francis felt, in spite of his stiff-upper-lip English background, that there was a huge space for Māori in New Zealand, government roles.¹²³⁴

Henry Stafford, Licensed Interpreter, 1st Grade, Hastings”.

1232 Sir Owen Woodhouse, personal recollection.

1233 John Logan, personal recollection.

1234 Hamilton Logan, personal recollection.

PETER CORNFORTH

Peter commenced as an office junior and stamping and registration clerk in June 1932. As mentioned above, Jock Twigg initiated him into the mysteries of the Torrens land transfer system. He left the firm in 1937. Peter was able to provide the firm with some valuable insight into the partners and staff during his time with the firm in a letter he wrote to Andrew Morrison writing from his home in Kandallah, Wellington in July 1996. Amongst them were Francis Logan, AB Campbell, IB Logan, Budge Grant, Buck Amyes (Partners), WNJ Mackay (Chief Accountant) A Scheele (Cashier), Ian Mackay, AC Cunningham, AH Robinson, TH Gifford (Solicitors) and Wiri Prentice (law clerk and Licensed Māori Interpreter). Apart from that brief biography and those few insights into the firm during a five year snapshot in time, little is known about Peter Cornford's later life.



John Logan in active service during WW2. Image source: John Logan.

T C TENNENT

Tennent was a confidential clerk to Sainsbury and Logan in the late nineteenth century, but was tragically killed in a house fire in 1897. The report of his death is recorded in the *Hawera & Normanby Star*.¹²³⁵

A fatal fire occurred this morning at Clive when a house belonging to T C Tennent was totally destroyed and Tennent burned to death. The only other occupant was an employee named Campbell who was unaware that Tennent had returned from town. Campbell was roused by the crackling of fire at 1 o'clock and found the front part of the premises enveloped in flames. The police arrived twenty minutes later and found Tennent's charred trunk among the burning embers. The head and limbs being totally gone. Tennent was one of the local committee of the flood relief, and has spent his whole time since the floods in relieving sufferers. He was a well known and highly respected settler in the district, and confidential clerk to Sainsbury and Logan, solicitors.

JOHN LOGAN

John Logan is the second son of Ivan Biggar Logan who was a partner from 1910–1946. John was sent to Hereworth as a boarder at the age of seven and then on to Wanganui Collegiate.

John recalls.¹²³⁶

I hardly knew my grandfather, Francis Logan, on account of being at boarding school and with limited time during the holidays. He died when I was only thirteen. In those days, families were not very much discussed and it wasn't until years later that I learnt what a giant of a man my grandfather had been in every way. He was the founder of a unique firm and organised all sports, particularly rugby football throughout Hawke's Bay. His presence, wherever he went, was felt by all. If I had known all this I may have been spurred on to seriously consider taking on a career

to follow in his footsteps. However, what with one thing and another, and the war intervening, it was not to be.

I left Wanganui Collegiate in 1938 and joined the firm as the filing clerk. Having been a school prefect and in the first XV, I did not altogether relish the idea of starting right at the bottom work-wise and salary-wise at 10/- per week! However, knowing I was joining a firm of great repute and friendliness made up for all else.

There were four partners at the time: my father, Ivan B Logan, simply known as "Ivan" to his colleagues, A B Campbell, known as "AB", Mr Grant known as "Budge" and G B Amyes known as "Buck".

A B was a delightful scholar who specialised in Wills and had the untidiest desk I had ever seen. Goodness knows how he ever managed to find anything. I thought at the time an untidy desk was the hallmark of a scholar. Sadly he died shortly after I joined the staff.

M.R. Grant, a somewhat serious but very likeable man. He was an ex school master and got on very well with everyone. He specialised in Building Society and court work as well as conveyancing and Harbour Board work.

GB Amyes a likeable and friendly man whose main clientele were farmers. I remember he had a client called Miss Eatwell who rang him one morning – "Good morning Mr Amyes, it's Miss Eatwell speaking." Buck, thinking it was a prank replied, "Ha ha, yes I had a jolly good breakfast too." It was red faces all round!

The firm operated a very large Trust Account with monies invested in businesses and large landholdings throughout Hawke's Bay so the Accountancy Department was quite large. W N J Mackay was chief accountant and a delightful Scot and a real gentleman liked by all. He specialised in investing and financing. He would never countenance swearing but was on one occasion heard to say "damn" which he quickly changed to damn-sh as if he had said "dash" which was acceptable and typified the makeup of this fine old gentleman.

Norman Mackay was followed by Albert Scheele – a tall slim man who was always friendly and easy to talk to. He was a worthy successor to Norman Mackay. The Ledger Room was headed by Roy Langley and three assistants – Messrs Mason, Lister and Miss

1235 *Hawera & Normanby Star* Volume XXXIII Issue 3538, 5 May 1897, page 2. T C Tennent was presumably related to the J T Tennent who appears in the undated photograph of the Confidential Clerks (see under *Wiri Prentice* above).

1236 John Logan, personal recollection.

Buckley.¹²³⁷ A happy and efficient team and Roy Langley was also a very good PR man making all clients feel welcome and wanted.

The legal team consisted of Ian Mackay (only son of Norman Mackay and qualified solicitor). He was quiet, pleasant and a very reliable man like his father. Ian Logan, who I have already talked about and Gibb Stewart. Like Ian, Gibb was studying for his LLB. He was a likeable and friendly man with ambitions for the future.

Harold Edgley – a partner in the accountancy firm of Retemeyer, Edgeley & Chapman – was the firm auditor. A very pleasant man whose only fault was asking me for more and more files to inspect.

Last but not least was Wiri Prentice. My grandfather was held in high esteem by the Maoris and he in turn treated them as equals and wanted to set up a legal department for their assistance and protection. Wiri Prentice was appointed to the job. He was a well educated part-Maori, liked and respected by everyone and did a great job sorting out his people's problems.

I well remember the typists – Misses Wilson Prewitt, Dineen,¹²³⁸ Ngaire [McKain]¹²³⁹ and Mrs Treadwell – always bright and fiercely loyal and protective to the partners they worked for. They looked after us well at morning and afternoon tea and put on special “dos” for birthdays.

My brief story on the staff of Sainsbury Logan & Williams ended in 1941 when I volunteered for overseas service in the RNZNVR.

I was very impressed by the friendly but dignified and efficient atmosphere in the firm and believed that, with my father at the helm and Ian coming along, it would continue to uphold the highest standards set by my grandfather i.e. the highest integrity and care towards clients before monetary reward.

I left the firm in early 1941 to go into camp in the Territorials with the 6th Field Battalion – first at Foxton and then at Waiouru. During this time I had applied under what was known as Scheme “B” to join the Royal Navy. This was an Officer Training Scheme where we travelled to the UK as civilians and went through three training schools – the first at HMS Ganges near Ipswich and the other two at King Alfred near Brighton. We did three months sea training which I did in the English Channel in coastal forces. We then attended two other schools and were duly commissioned Sub Lieutenants. At the end of all that I went on to Greenwich Naval College which was a kind of finishing school to make sure you knew not to eat peas off your knife and in general to ensure that you always acted as a true Naval Officer and gentleman. A very impressive institution full of tradition and brass.

Having got through all that I was then posted to *HMS Alvesford* a navigation training ship based in Portsmouth and operating in the Solent. It was in this ship that I first became ill. I was attended by a shore doctor who diagnosed the problem as a bilious attack. This went on for some time until the ship's Chief Petty Officer took it upon himself to hasten me into Haslar Hospital. It was all

1237 Len Lister recalls that Peg Buckley's uncle, Maurice Buckley was an important and high-ranking officer in the Pacific Islands during World War II. Personal recollection, 23.8.2010.

1238 Who occupied the office on the first floor marked “DD Twigg” on the plan appearing in Chapter 6. Len Lister, personal recollection, 23.8.2010.

1239 Len Lister, personal recollection, 23.8.2010.

a bit late because I ended up with gangrenous peritonitis. Sulphur drugs saved me together with an order from Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson (President of the Royal College of Surgeons, London) that I must be saved in case the war went on long enough to allow me to become Admiral of the Fleet. Sir Alfred was known by my family and no doubt he rang my operating surgeon in Haslar Hospital which was much appreciated.

However, everything was to no avail because I was eventually invalided out of the Navy and arrived home late 1944.

Ngaire Mackie and I were married on 26 October 1944 and she was my great friend and companion for 65½ years. We moved to Dunedin so that I could attend lectures at Otago University Law School and I also worked in two law firms. I was about halfway through my degree exams at that stage. During the 2½ years in Dunedin we produced two cute little daughters – Mary and Anne. I think this was partly caused by the rigorous South Island climate but anyway the events caused much happiness. Fourteen years later, along came Peter who was born in Rotorua – another joyous occasion and no doubt partly caused by the milder climate in the North. They all keep an eye on me and sometimes I do what I am told.

We decided to return to Napier in 1947 and I again joined the staff of Sainsbury Logan & Williams and did very much the same work as before but on a slightly higher salary. Bill McLeod had been made a partner in 1946. The firm had been looking after his practice while he was away overseas in the army. My brother Ian Logan and Gibb Stewart were both back in the office and had been made partners in 1947. As stated elsewhere, Ian subsequently had many worries at home with his wife Kay's serious illness and also the office partnership was not happy. Ian needed help and encouragement which was not forthcoming. I have no doubt that Bill McLeod was a good lawyer but his personality and temperament did not fit in with the general atmosphere built up in the office by the Logan families. I know this played a big part in Ian deciding to go to Fiji. A bad decision for the Logans because he could have had a great future in the firm and the firm would have gained much from that unique Logan touch.

In 1975 the firm celebrated its centenary at a function held at the Hawke's Bay Club. Jim Zohrab was at the helm at the time. Not one of the Ivan Logan family was invited which we regarded as a great insult to my grandfather and father and in fact the whole family. My mother never got over it. I am the only surviving member of the Ivan Logan family and I believe that whatever happened in the past, the firm will always in the future observe the principles of total honesty and integrity and care of their clients as insisted upon by my grandfather Francis Logan.

During John's time at Sainsbury Logan & Williams he remembers Rachel Wilson (a typist), Mrs Treadwell, a Miss Buckley and a young man, Mason, who was there for years. Mr Harold Edgley was the auditor.¹²⁴⁰

John continues:

I was impressed when I joined the office but I wasn't terribly impressed with the pay which was the normal 10 shillings a week...and that had to be subsidised...but I was living at home in Gladstone Road. I had a terrible struggle every morning because

1240 John Logan, personal recollection.

my father Ivan was absolutely meticulous as to arriving on time every morning and he insisted on walking in all weathers. He could easily have taken the car but he wouldn't and they walked up and down Brewster Lane and down in the morning he invariably had to go on without me. I would follow eating a slice of toast and was half running to catch up. My father walked down in the morning, back for lunch, back and forwards four times a day and he would never motor. Talking about motoring, when they set off on their fishing trips with Francis Logan to Taupo, the last thing Francis always asked his son: "Ivan have you oiled the brakes?"

Jan Chalmers recalls:¹²⁴¹

John and Ngaire went to Dunedin when they were first married and my cousin Mary was born down there and Anne was a born a year later. I think Uncle John was doing law down there and working part time as a law clerk. He didn't like law – it wasn't him at all – he was much more practical. He should have done architecture. I don't think he finished his exams. He built to begin with. He did a lot of building with his house in Seapoint Road and he built Uncle Frank and Aunt Dorothy's house in Clyde Road and I think he designed their house and designed and built lots of houses in Taupo and in Rotorua. Two houses for granny and grandpa and he designed and built his own places as well in Taupo and that's his love, that's where his strengths lay, and that's what he should have done from the word go.

John Logan recalls a funny incident that occurred at Sainsbury Logan & Williams whilst he was clerking there:¹²⁴²

In those days I had a motorbike. I used to park it in the yard [meaning the alleyway between the two buildings]...and one day I couldn't start the damn thing and I'd spent a long time over it...left it there overnight. A few days later Margaret Retemeyer (daughter of one of the accounting partners who occupied premises next door),¹²⁴³ came out to me and said "Oh Mr Logan do you remember the time when you couldn't start your motorbike?" She said, "We stuffed a potato up your exhaust."

ROY LANGLEY

Roy Langley was in charge of the ledger department in the late 1930s early 1940s. Roy was the younger brother of Victor Langley, one of the foundation partners of Langley Twigg.¹²⁴⁴ He was a very good public relations man. He always seemed to be there in the best, or just the right time when someone important was coming in, so he was regarded as the main public relations man. John Logan recalls: "Mind you I was quite keen on that sort of thing and I used to enjoy meeting people and making myself known."¹²⁴⁵

WILLIAM CHISSELL

William Chissell was a clerk in the mid 1880s. A newspaper report in the *Hawke's Bay Herald* on 19 May 1892 stated:¹²⁴⁶

1241 Jan Chalmers is John's niece. Personal recollection.

1242 John Logan, personal recollection, page 16.

1243 See Chapter 11 under the heading *Accountants*.

1244 He was also the Uncle of Audrey Langley (now Ricketts). See Chapter 8 under the heading *First Female Practitioner in Hawke's Bay*.

1245 John Logan, personal recollection.

1246 *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 19.5.1892.



(C11_3): Photograph of some of the Sainsbury Logan & Williams Staff taken on the roof outside the first floor offices in September 1946. Present (from back left) W T ("Wiri") Prentice, Gordon Mason, A J Scheele, Dagmar Prewett (Budge Grant's long time secretary and formerly one of his pupils when he was a teacher before taking on a legal career), W A McLeod, W N J Mackay, Miss Rae Wilson (front row) Len Lister, [name unknown], Ngaire Jensen, Marie Scheele, John Logan, Valerie Magill, Roy Langley and Ian Logan. (Absent: Mr Amyes, Mr Grant, Mr Ivan Logan).



(C11_4): Same photograph but note Wiri Prentice in a crouching position. It is the author's theory that this photo was taken first in time but that Wiri grew tired of crouching and is visibly happier in the second photo (above) when he swaps places with Len Lister.

The many friends of Mr William Chissell, who, about seven years ago left Napier for Sydney, will be sorry to hear that he has died there at the age of twenty nine leaving a wife and three children. He was the eldest son of Mr Chissell of Poplar House and when in Napier was for some time clerk in Messrs Sainsbury & Logan's office. Whilst there he acquired a good knowledge of shorthand and upon reaching Sydney that acquirement enabled him to obtain a situation in the New South Wales Mines Department which he entered as clerk. He gradually rose to levels at the head of the clerical staff, a position he occupied at the time his latest illness incapacitated him. He caught influenza at the end of last winter and his whole system appeared to become poisoned by it, and he was never thoroughly strong again, and ailment followed ailment, until at length a rheumatic fever set in. This caused heart trouble and ultimately death.¹²⁴⁷

1247 *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 19.5.1892.

P C FENWICKE

P C Fenwicke was born in 1860 at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Northumberland. He came to New Zealand in 1886, encouraged by Francis Logan who came from the same part of England. He joined Sainsbury & Logan and spent three years in Napier before returning to England. He won the first New Zealand tennis tournament in 1886 and was first New Zealand champion.¹²⁴⁸

LEN LISTER

Len Lister came to work for Sainsbury Logan & Williams in 1940 and retired in 1970. He was engaged in the accounts department. He recalls the interior of the office at the time. It was not connected or opened up to Munster Chambers. That occurred later after his retirement (in the 1970s and 1980s). When entering the front door, the reception area was on the immediate left (where clients now wait). The waiting room was to the immediate right, next to a glass window which slid upwards and where accounts were paid and money was invested on contributory mortgage. Behind that was a large accounts area which was lined with a high bench (to hold the large journals and ledgers on which Len worked). He sat on a stool and worked with his back to the client window.

RAE (RACHEL WILSON)

Rachel Wilson worked for Sainsbury Logan & Williams for more than 40 years. She began before Len Lister started and left after his retirement. Rae Wilson recalls working the day of the earthquake in 1931. At 10.43am she was doing the morning tea dishes when the first quake struck.¹²⁴⁹ All she recalls is that one minute she was looking at a wall and the next minute she was staring at the street as the side of the building collapsed into what must have been Church Lane. She then looked around to her right to see the bricks of the Cathedral slowly disintegrating. Rae Wilson apparently attended Secretary School at Wanganui Collegiate (then as now an exclusive boys school).¹²⁵⁰

After a distinguished period of employment with Sainsbury Logan & Williams it is sad to reflect on the inevitable retirement of such an able and loyal servant. For Rae Wilson it was recorded in the partnership minutes in the following way:¹²⁵¹

After long discussion in which it was mooted that Miss Wilson be asked to work mornings only because of her slackness, it was decided that instead she be given a 3 months ultimatum that she must work harder in the office and if at the end of that period she has not improved she would be asked to leave. JHZ

1248 Hawke's Bay Lawn Tennis Club Official History & Souvenir Edition, page 33.

1249 Ann Eaton recalls Rae Wilson telling her about the incident and the exact location she was in, in relation to the new premises. The plans of the old premises were drawn by Robert Lamb and handed down to Guy Natusch's grandfather Lewis (Charles) Tilleard Natusch and stored in the Hawke's Bay County Council premises where regrettably they were totally destroyed by fire following the earthquake. Rae Wilson was the fond Aunt of Tony Wilson (Partner in Carlile McLean & Co from 1963 to 2008 and Peter Wilson Chartered Accountant and former partner of Ernst Young Napier and (now) Chairman of the Board of Westpac Bank.

1250 Len Lister, personal recollection, 23.8.10.

1251 Minutes of a Partners Meeting, 30.4.1969 and 6.5.1969.

[JimZohrab] & ADM [Allan McLeod] to see her... JHZ reported that he and ADM would see her when WAM [Bill McLeod] was out of the office.

Happily it was recorded some time later that "Miss Wilson... be commended for increased effort".¹²⁵²

Rae Wilson had worked for Bill McLeod for many years and when it was announced in 1973 that he was retiring from partnership to live permanently in Taupo, Rae Wilson took the occasion to retire also after more than 42 years with the firm. A leaving function was held for her at 5 o'clock on Wednesday 11 July 1973.¹²⁵³

MABEL KEIHA

Mabel Ida Hine Kauia Peakman was educated in Hastings and was employed as a typist by Sainsbury Logan & Williams commencing some time in the 1920s or 1930s. She married Kingi Areta Keiha (known as "Reta") in 1926. Reta had joined Nolan & Skeet as a law clerk in 1920 and later qualified as a Māori Interpreter (First Grade) and still later became a Lieutenant Colonel in the 28th Māori Battalion and served in Greece, Crete and then North Africa (being awarded the Military Cross for gallantry during the battles at El Alamein). Mabel and Reta had four children together.¹²⁵⁴

A J SCHEELE

Mr Scheele was the office accountant who took over from W N J Mackay. He was working for the firm at the time of the earthquake and his office was marked on the architects plan of the premises.¹²⁵⁵ His nameplate is clearly visible on the door of the office just off the reception area and to the immediate right of the stairs.¹²⁵⁶

TREVOR CARDO

Trevor Cardo has been one of the firm's longest serving employees. He holds the "distinction" of having joined the firm on 2 June 1970¹²⁵⁷ the same month as the Crewe murders in Pukekawa, but that is mentioned only to put his arrival in historical context.

The Minutes of the Partnership meeting on 25 March 1970 include a Resolution "that Mr Cardo be employed and that consequent alterations in rooms and renovations be attended to immediately."

Trevor was engaged to assist Messrs Zohrab, Tong and Allan McLeod and, after Norman Shearn's retirement,¹²⁵⁸ he took control of the Nominee Mortgages under the supervision of Jim Zohrab. At that time the Nominee Mortgage portfolio for the firm was substantial.

1252 Minutes of a Partners Meeting, 25.6.1969.

1253 Minutes of a Partners Meeting, 4.7.1973.

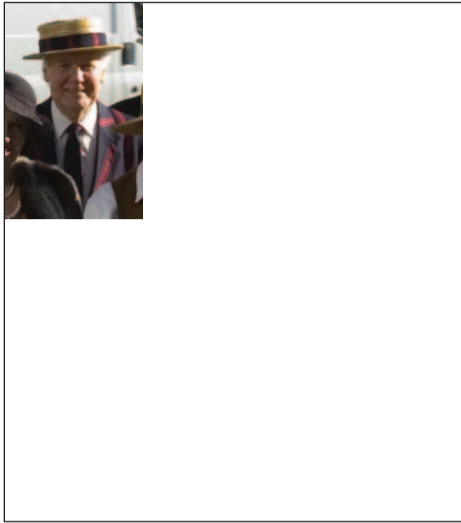
1254 www.dnzb.govt.nz/DNZB

1255 See Chapter 6 under the heading *Reconstruction Post Earthquake*.

1256 Ibid. Allan McLeod retained his nameplate and affixed that to his letterbox at his home in Kerikeri.

1257 Minutes of a Partners Meeting, 8 April 1970.

1258 Norman Shearn was a legal executive in the 1960s and 70s and for a time acted as partnership secretary and *de facto* office manager including attending partners meetings and preparing the minutes.



(C11_4a)

Trevor is remembered for his popularity amongst staff and has to be one of the finest impromptu speakers to have ever graced the firm. In true diplomatic style, he would not let the occasion of someone's leaving or retirement pass without giving a thoughtful few words on behalf of the staff. Trevor has always been extraordinarily modest and unassuming and is one of life's real gentlemen.

ANN EATON



(C11_4b) Image source: Sainsbury Logan & Williams Archive.

Ann Eaton came to the firm in 1965 as a young typist. The Partnership Minutes record that she was paid a salary of 10 shillings per week.¹²⁵⁹

Ann had the audacity in 1966 to ask for extended leave to enable her to travel to Australia and as a mark of her value to the firm was granted leave on the condition that she return as soon as practicable. The Partnership Minutes of 14 September 1966 record "JHZ reported that as Miss Sweeney had given notice of her intention to holiday in Australia he had hired Miss Ritchie at £15 per week until Christmas. Hours 9am–5.30pm (salary

¹²⁵⁹ Partnership Minutes, 22.9.1965 but her worth to the firm was quickly rewarded by a series of increases in her weekly pay.

(C11_4c) Ann Sweeney stepping off the footpath in 1970 as captured by the *Daily Telegraph*.

is a secret)." Perhaps as a pang of conscience, at the very next Partners Meeting on 12 October 1966 it was recorded:¹²⁶⁰

...from the 1st salary date after Anne [sic] returns the following salaries will be adjusted

i) Anne [sic] to £15 p.w...

That meeting also approved the purchase of six typists chairs at a total cost of £11.19.0.

She had a break from Sainsbury Logan & Williams for a time. She had been required to work for two very busy partners – Jim Zohrab and Peter Tong and the work became too much. So, Ann had a stint with the Ministry of Works in Napier and recalls being permitted to read novels when there was no typing to be done except that she was only allowed to do so if she held the novel under the desk. Shortly afterwards Ann was approached by Jim Zohrab and invited back to work for the firm. The strategy to get her back included financial reward, a new typewriter and a promise that Peter Tong would get his own secretary!

Ann Eaton also worked alongside the likes of Norman Shearn and Rae Wilson. Rae Wilson's amazing story in and around the 1931 earthquake was retold to Ann and Len Lister.¹²⁶¹

Leaving aside the brief absence to work for the Ministry of Works, Ann has worked continuously for this firm for 46 years. A qualified shorthand typist and now a Legal Executive, Ann has worked for most of the Senior Partners including Jim Zohrab, Allan McLeod, Peter Tong, Stephen Greer and now works for the author.

¹²⁶⁰ Partner's Meeting Minutes, 12.10.1966.

¹²⁶¹ See earlier in this Chapter under the heading *Rae Wilson*.

HOWARD BOTT



(C11_5): Howard Bott (Practice Manager) in true 1930s pose.

Howard Bott joined the firm in 1997. This was a bold move for Sainsbury Logan & Williams having never had a “Practice Manager” despite other firms having created that position many years ago. Howard was recruited from Gisborne where he worked for Crisp, Caley & Co. He made a lifestyle choice to come to Hawke’s Bay with his family. The firm decided to fly him down to Napier for the interview in a small chartered plane. The author’s earliest memory of Howard Bott was observing

him unfold his long arms and legs from the cockpit of a single engine Piper Tomahawk at Hawke’s Bay Airport. In fact, Howard is lucky to be with us at all. A mad keen cyclist, and before he joined the firm, he was involved in a horrific accident while cycling one Sunday afternoon in Gisborne. He recalls following two stock trucks up a long steep incline and turning right across the path of an oncoming car. He remembers very little about the accident but underwent eight hours of surgery. Ironically, he was not supposed to ever walk again. Not only did he gain the ability to walk but he took up cycling again and then went on to regularly beat the author and other members of the firm on the running leg of most of the competitive triathlons the firm competed in. Known for his road-rage when behind the wheel of a van, Howard’s participation in group events for the firm is legendary.

DONALD MCLEAN

Donald McLean worked as a staff solicitor in the commercial department for a time in the late 1980s. He is reputedly the only staff solicitor who has ever been accused by a client of preventing them from saving her father’s life when the father died on the telephone whilst talking to Donald. The client’s daughter complained that she could not ring the ambulance service because the phone was engaged.



(C11_7): Staff scattered around the bannister below the cupola, Art Deco Weekend 2008.



(C11_6): Amber Davies (Solicitor) on the runner board.



(C11_8): Amber Davies (Solicitor) kicking up her heels in fine Charleston style.



(C11_9): Karen Green and Cindy Carpenter, Art Deco Weekend 2009.



(C11_10): Mira Weichtbrodt, Jackie Hurst, Sarah Gale, Sally McGregor, Cindy Carpenter and Toni Torr, Art Deco Weekend 2009.



(C11_11): Lara Blomfield, Sarah Gale, Jackie Hurst, Sally McGregor, Cindy Carpenter and Toni Torr.



(C11_12): Magnus Macfarlane, Jackie Hurst, Ann Eaton (back), Sarah Gale, Karen Green, Andrew Wares, Cindy Carpenter and Toni Torr.