



Newsletter of The Coach House Museum

June 2025

In association with Feilding & Districts Community Archive

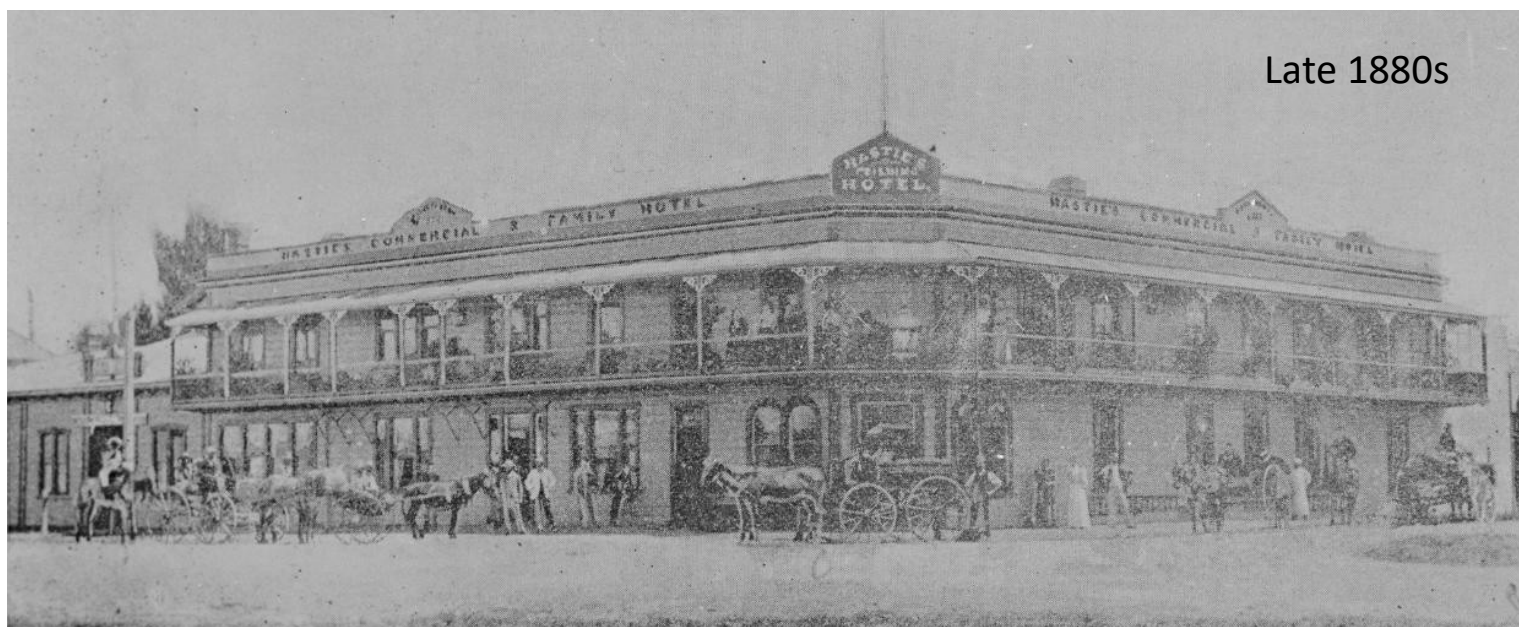
Excerpt from The Cyclopedia of New Zealand (Wellington Provincial District).

Hastie's Feilding Hotel (Mrs. Hastie, proprietress), Manchester Square and Kimbolton Road, Feilding, Telegraphic address, "Hastie, Feilding." P.O. Box 66. Bankers, Bank of Australasia. This fine hotel was established in 1875. The present proprietress has conducted it with singular success since 1880.

The premises, which are complete in every particular, are freehold. The hotel is a substantial two-story wooden structure of about fifty rooms, many of them being very large. There is a fine balcony the entire length of the two frontages. The appearance from the road is unique, for this excellent balcony is lined with rows of plants and flowering shrubs of all kinds. In spring and summer there is a blaze of colour, which is exceedingly attractive.

The accommodation has always been excellent, and important additions have recently been made. The upstairs of this new portion includes a fine sitting-room, which is beautifully furnished, and several bedrooms, besides an extra bathroom, fitted, of course, with hot and cold water.

Late 1880s





The bedrooms are all that could be desired, large, lofty, and well-ventilated. The furnishing is excellent in every respect, the beds being remarkable for their luxurious comfort. Everything is well kept and particularly clean.

Mrs. Hastie has, during the last year or so, provided several new suites of apartments for commercial men, as distinguished from those reserved for country settlers, of whom there is always a large number in and out.

The dining-room is cheerful and well-lighted, the tables being supplied with all the necessary appointments. There is, indeed, a home-likeness about Mrs. Hastie's hotel which makes a visit extremely enjoyable. The kitchen, which communicates by a slide door, has every convenience, and is presided over by an excellent *chef*, whose cooking is superb.

One portion of the hotel was, until recently, set apart for the gentlemen's club, which occupied a splendid suite of rooms beautifully upholstered and furnished. As a commercial house Hastie's Hotel knows no superior. The rooms set apart for gentlemen who are engaged in business, are numerous and well supplied with every convenience. Flowers are to be seen everywhere; even the interior rooms are so contrived that strips of garden run in between them, imparting a fragrance everywhere noticeable.

The sample-rooms of the Feilding Hotel are said to be the best on the West Coast of the North Island. One is built of brick so as to provide the best possible security against fire.

Adjoining the hotel, Mrs. Hastie has had a large Assembly Room erected, which is available at all times for theatrical purposes, entertainments, or meetings of any description. There is an excellent stage, with scenery, dressing-rooms, and all conveniences for performances, rehearsals, banquets, etc. It is used for the purposes of practicing by the local musical societies and others.

Driving for the Cancer Society

The local Cancer Society are looking for Volunteers in the Feilding area to drive clients to their appointments.

If you think you could help,
please ring

Hayley on 06 356 5355

Commercial men and others visiting Feilding always have a good name for the Feilding Hotel and its enterprising proprietress. There are two separate billiard-rooms on the ground floor, which contain two very fine tables, one being manufactured by the well-known makers, Messrs. Alcock, and the other by Messrs. Burroughes and Watts.

At the back of the hotel are large and convenient stables. The land on which the hotel is built is about an acre in extent, and contains a large orchard, besides many beautiful ornamental and shelter trees. There are snug summer-houses and seats in the shade, where visitors may enjoy the cool, refreshing breezes as they play among the trees and flowers.

Besides the regular stream of commercial and other travelers flowing in and out, Mrs. Hastie has a permanent number of boarders, many of whom are gentlemen well and popularly known in the district, whose presence lends an additional charm both to casual patrons and to those whose visits are recurring. The Feilding Hotel was the one patronized by the late General Feilding on the occasion of his visit to the Manchester settlement in 1895.

The water-supply for the hotel is obtained by means of a fourteen-foot wind pump. The store-room is separate from the main building, and many hundreds of pounds worth of stock is regularly kept on hand. The kerosene store is also on another part

In the early morning of October 5, 1909, Hastie's Hotel (Feilding Hotel) caught fire for the second time in 5 years. Spreading quickly through the walls and ceiling, the blaze claimed the life of fireman Douglas Williamson. Other firemen were almost overcome with the smoke.



of the section; and in order that meat and other provisions used in the hotel may be kept cool, a large brick meat safe has been erected at the very back of the allotment in the garden.

Wouldn't Martha have had some stories to tell and what a grand property it had been. I have searched and searched for a photo of Martha but with no success. She really is an enigma and her biography would've been an amazing read.—Piki

Val Brannan
10-5-1947–9-5-2025

I would like to acknowledge the volunteering work Val did for the Coach House. Not only did she put together the Chronicle for the past few years but Val also helped out at reception, the Archive and organised the movie viewings enjoyed by many.



The team have been busy creating some much needed space in the Gallery by moving the Whim outside. A Whim converts horse powered motion into rotary motion. They were used in early New Zealand for things like chaff cutting and grain grinding. Here it is used by teachers to tire out our student visitors. The children love running around making the pump work but it will now be much safer for them to do so out side.

Horse power is used to operate a threshing machine at Temuka in 1861. The horses walk around a capstan, to which they are tethered. This power turns gears that run the threshing machine.



HOW TO WRITE HISTORY

Sun 22 June
1.30pm - 3.30pm

with Jill Darragh

Are you interested in writing historical romance, literature, or family memoirs? Want to learn about research, self-publishing, tips and tricks for writing or have other questions you'd like answered?

\$20.00

per person
includes
afternoon
tea + giveaways

LIMITED SPACES – TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE COACH HOUSE

All funds raised go to the Coach House Museum & Feilding & Districts Community Archive