

ed as leaving for Wellington in the barque *Hope*<sup>13</sup> which vessel arrived on the 7th<sup>14</sup>. On 22 February the brig *Victoria* arrived in Nelson with the Foxes on board.<sup>15</sup> He would appear therefore to have had a month in Wellington. He may have abandoned Mrs Fox to the social delights of Wellington while he dashed off to the Wairarapa on a Sketching trip. He is however much more likely to have been closeted with Colonel Wakefield for most of the time on urgent company business, although a journey is marginally possible. H. D. Bell and George Clarke were in the Wairarapa in February and March on land purchase negotiations but their reports make no mention of any visit in company with Fox or discussions with him. Press reports of Wairarapa activity, the letters of other visitors, the diaries of residents are all silent on the visit of Fox. If, in fact he visited the district between 1843 and 1848 only one such visit, possibly in January 1847, was practicable, when he may have sketched both Ahiaruhe and Otaraia. In February 1848 when he received his New Munster appointment he crossed briefly to Wellington, arriving on 10 February in the ketch *Supply*.<sup>16</sup> He left in the same vessel on the 17th for 'Queen Charlotte Sound'.<sup>17</sup>

The last point which seems to call for comment, is the existence of the two paintings of different dates – 1847 and 1857. Fox in common with others of his contemporaries made two or more paintings of the same scene but was inconsistent in his dating, the year of many not being noted or, when given, being naturally the year when the painting was finished. Clearly, if the pa was in a derelict condition by 1857 it could not have been sketched in that year. Again, as pointed out earlier, the style of the second is in conformity with the work of his later period. There is still a possibility that further research or the rediscovery of relevant contemporary records will clear up the circumstances of the visit. Meanwhile in enjoying the reproduction we may be grateful to Fox for his interest and skill which enabled this unique record of early Wairarapa to be made.

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#### POSTSCRIPT

The summer 1847 journey *was* marginally possible. As proofs of this article are being corrected confirmation of Fox's visit to the Wairarapa in January-February 1847, by a most fortunate conjunction of circumstances, has been received. Captain T. B. Collinson in a letter to his father dated 31 January wrote: 'Mr Fox has gone with a party a few days journey up the country to the Wairapa [sic] Valley, taking with them, meat, biscuits & other supplies for ten days'. From the general context of the letter Collinson arrived in Wellington on 21 January and met Fox at the anniversary day celebrations on the 22nd. It is probable therefore that the ten days journey was from about the end of January to early