

veyors who were his special responsibility during the voyage. These included H. S. Tiffen, A. Whitehead and Edward Jollie. Captain Mein Smith, his predecessor, was away when the vessel arrived the following February.<sup>6</sup> Brees deferred field work until Smith's return but was not on duty until 22 February, nearly a fortnight after disembarkation.

In April he visited the Manawatu and Wanganui districts. During the winter, work continued on the Karori road which he inspected regularly. He was also active in exploring the present Ngaio Gorge-Onslow Road areas for alternative routes to the Kaiwharawhara hill track to Porirua.

In February 1843 he reported to the Principal Agent on an exploratory journey up the Pakuratahi river and over the Rimutaka Range to the Wairarapa some two miles south of Kettle's route.<sup>7</sup> Much of the year was spent in work between Wellington Harbour and the Wairarapa, including the location of the road as far as the Mungaroa valley. He estimated that a road could be made to the Wairarapa for £300. In August he completed and sent to Wakefield a detailed map of Wellington and the fringe of the Wairarapa.<sup>8</sup> His sectional subdivision of the town and country districts is the basis of the land registration subdivision for title purposes today.

In June 1844 he reported that nearly all the valleys on the eastern side had been surveyed where, in an extensive subdivision from the Wainuiomata to the head of the Orongorongo, 152 sections were cut off on paper. Most of the field work was done by Messrs Whitehead, Wills, Tully and Jollie under Brees's general direction. In January 1845 he suggested to Wakefield that before he left for England an exploration of the Wairarapa should be made to determine the quantity and quality of the land and the best site for an inland town.

Brees does not seem to have been popular with his immediate associates. Samuel Revans, a great friend of Mein Smith's described him: '... as vulgar as any labourer - it is generally said no Surveyor - it is said he has declared he will do as little work as he can, and is bad tempered and hated by all who are about him. He and the Colonel quarrel famously and the Colonel cannot bear to come in contact with the man. The Colonel now regrets the loss of Smith and speaks as favourably of him as one man can of another. Even the few who could not appreciate the difficulties Smith had to contend with, are now aware of them. - Say they always had a kind hearted industrious gentleman to deal with - and wonder how he always kept his temper ...'<sup>9</sup>

Edward Jollie in his reminiscences states that Brees was neither loved nor respected by any of the staff and '... Colonel Wakefield had also a very poor opinion of him and took every opportunity to snub him ...'<sup>10</sup>