



Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1733 onwards and divers historical prospecting.

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A PEEK THROUGH THE WINDOW - NO. 5

Mike Deeming writes:

The Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 in New Zealand between the Governor and six Maori leaders. It was intended to establish the legal basis for the colony with the rights of the indigenous Maoris enshrined. Over the next year numerous Maori chieftains signed the agreement, though many did not, and many were unsure of the commitments they were making. The uncertainty arose partly because the English version and the Maori translation differed, notably on the meaning of 'sovereignty' and on land ownership rights. This led to the Maori wars and a dispute that has lasted until today.



In 1858 the lawyer George Alfred Arney (1810-1883) sailed from England to New Zealand and was

appointed Chief Justice there, a position he held until 1875. He had to adjudicate on numerous claims and is now admired for the 'warm liberalism he brought to the question of social justice and equity in relation to the Maori people and the Maori Wars.'



Despite this, the uncertainties and the inequalities persisted and led in 1960 to the declaration of Waitangi Day as the national day (now a public holiday, 6th February this year) and the setting up of the Waitangi Tribunal in 1975 to address outstanding grievances.

What does this have to do with Salisbury Cathedral? Arney was born in Salisbury and is buried here in the cloister. An excellent stained glass window by A O Hemming in the St Thomas Chapel commemorates his life. It shows three biblical scenes - God giving the Ten Commandments to Moses, Moses bringing the Law to the people and Christ's Sermon on the Mount - all symbols of law and its importance in George Arney's life, and indeed, all our lives.

Arney is also commemorated in numerous street names across New Zealand.

In 2014, the Tribunal published its latest strategic plan aiming to finally resolve all outstanding issues by 2025, nearly 200 years from the original signing of the Treaty. These links between Salisbury and New Zealand and Arney's contribution delight our New Zealand visitors.