A PILGRIM'S GUIDE

ROTORUA

BEAR FRUIT THAT WILL LAST

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THOMAS CHAPMAN WITH #00' /#4; ,#0' +*À+# 6' #*7 #(RANGIRAUAKA, SEYMOUR MILLS SPENCER & ELLEN STANLEY SPENCER

Thomas was born on June 20 1792 in Oxfordshire England. He married Anne Maria Maynard in 1822, and they both eventually arrived in Paihia as a missionary in 1830. Thomas was experienced in farming, medicine and seamanship. He is described as literate, good humoured and resolute, and later went on to found three Church Missionary Society }] v Ç /Z] d Z µU }(šZ d }(EP ‰µZ]]v šZ Kl]Z µ Œ X v Á}Œl Á]šZ šZ u]v <Œ]<Œ

u]••]}v •š š]}v• š Z}š}Œµ v Ne}witt Bšowo ih š1841. By 1845 he became When Thomas was at Kerikeri he was the mission store keeper while Anne was in charge of the girls' school there.

In 1833 they returned to Paihia, where most }(šZ šZ v missionary activity was based, and then moved to begin work in Rotorua at Te Koutu in the Te Arawa tribal area. One of the most fruitful associations of Thomas' ministry began in 1835, when he and Anne were

his in what became one of the most respected missions of the century. He married Rangirauaka of EP š] Z]Œ]‰ƒ v Á• ‰š]• Ç Chapman's leading teacher and according to Thomas was "fully acknowledged around by all" As a EP ‰µZ] ‰ Œ•}v (Œ}u šZ v}Œš Z around freely during the tribal conflicts in the Rotorua area.

After some time out in Tauranga owing to tribal conflicts, Thomas, Anne, /Z] v Z vP]Œ began work again amongst Te Arawa communities on Mokoia island in the middle of Lake Rotorua.

In mid 1840 they moved to Te Ngae amongst th
E P š] Z v P] š } Œ Œ ‰ } ‰ o } v
In 1843 they were joined by Seymour Mills Spenc
and Ellen Spencer of the Church Missionary Society,
who were originally from Connecticut.

d Z ^ ‰ v • Œ • Á } Œ l š D l š
went on to establish the first mission at Lake Tarawera, called Te Wairoa. After an interlude due to impropriety Seymour re-joined the mission and the couple worked from 1849 until about 1855 at Opotiki.

In 1851 Thomas and Anne made a permanent u] • •] } v Z } u] v D l š » v Œ š Z o
Te Arawa canoe there many centuries before.

During this period Anne continued to teach and to dispense medicine and food to all who applied for help. One evening in 1839 she prepared 600 doses for the traveller J.C. Bidwill to distribute] v d µ ‰ } X d Z } µ ‰ o } ‰ š Alexander Gray, who was the famous guide Sophie's brother.

v v] š D l š »] v í ô ñ ñ U (Œ and Á Eden are recognised as women as pallbearers, her closest companions Philip Andrews notes:

Thomas later married Mary Jane Moxon. The couple eventually moved to Saint Stephen's School { } Œ D } Œ] P] Œ o •] v W Œ v o o Á Z o • } Z o ‰ • š o] • Z ^] v š Œ v having been ordained priest in 1852.

Sometime after 1855 the Spensers returned to lake Tarawera and remained there until 1870. Seymour has helping developed the Rotomahana and Te Ariki districts with local Te Œ Á D } Œ] } u u µ v] š] • U • Á o trade in the Rotorua and Lake Tarawera area.

'Anne expected no worldly honours. Her attitude of unselfish concern for those who suffered probably gave her greater credibility to the missionary cause than any dogma could have, as the inscription on her tombstone, 'Ko Mata' (Mother), suggests.'

Mary Jane Chapman died in 1873 and Thomas died in 1876, in a hot pool on Mokoia island while visiting his old mission station there and was taken to D l š » (} Œ µ Œ] o X

Philip Andrews says of Thomas in summary:

> Z Z ‰ u v • [• } v Œ v (} Œ D } Œ] their physical welfare. He supported his wife's medical work and encouraged vaccination. He introduced sheep, horses and fruit trees to the Rotorua district.'

Ellen died at Maketu in 1882 and buried on the shor of Lake Tarawera at Kariri. Spencer died in 1898 Z } v P } š v Á • µ Œ] š D l š » X ^ Ç u } µ Œ v

Ellen's son Frederick later disinterred his father/ Z] d Z µ Z P µ v ‰ Œ ‰ Œ] remains and placed them next to Ellen's at Kariri in a Spencer family mausoleum.

in 1857, studying with Archdeacon A.N. Brown in Tauranga and then at Saint Stephen's School Auckland. At Saint Stephen's he came first in his class. He had poor health for a time which meant he Z š } Œ š µ Œ v š } D l š » U µ š À Á Z v d Z } u • Á v š š } µ l o v X / v ordained deacon by Bishop William Williams and } ‰ v ^] v š d Z } u • [Z µ Œ Z š D

/ v í ô ô î / Z] u š Z ( ] Œ • š Ohinemutu pastorate in Rotorua.

This presented a huge challenge owing to the effect of the New Zealand wars, the Hauhau movement and the Te Kooti campaign. d Z] • u v š / Z] Z š } (( ] À Ç ‰ v š what Thomas and Anne had planted in 1835. It is said that the people of Te Arawa had] • Z } ‰ X X ^ š µ Œ š } (t] ‰ µ X ^ seen something of ‘the hollowness of the š Œ] µ š š } / Z] X

Christianity of civilized men’. This story of replanting, re grafting and regeneration was extraordinary, later giving him the affirmation “The harvest of the missionary effort” in Rotorua. Saint Faith’s church was opened in 1885 by

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Á Á l v] š Œ l »] š] J
Nau mai, e tama, ka haere taua i
<] / Z] l] u } v] š š]] U
<] Z µ] Z µ] š š } µ l } Z v } Z } v P v µ]] U
Kia hopukia iho te kupu a te Atua i,
<] Á Z] š µ l] / Z µ < Œ] š] $ U
<] u µ Œ µ š Z Œ / š l µ š] v v v] J

How much I love the holy glory
That clears the narrow path!
Come my son and we will go
d } u] v] • š Œ š } Ç / Z] J
We will meet together and long remain,
We will grasp the world of the Lord
And embrace Jesus Christ.
And my sins will be forgiven!”
See a sample of his handwriting to the right: