

*The Anglican Historical Society of New Zealand*  
*Te Rōpu Hītori o te Hāhi Mīhinare ki Aotearoa*

***The Church Missionary Society Beginnings at Kerikeri in 1819***

Extracts from the Journals of Samuel Marsden and John Butler  
plus, a Select Bibliography

**Complier of these Extracts: Allan Davidson**

(AHS Newsletter 68, May 2019)

John Rawson Elder ed., *The Letters and Journals of Samuel Marsden 1765-1838, 1932.*

Samuel Marsden's second visit to New Zealand:

He left Sydney on 29 July 1819

and left New Zealand on the return journey on 9 November 1819.

Page	Date 1819	Summary
147	17 Aug	<p>'It was agreed upon that we should proceed on Tuesday morning (August 17th) to Kiddee Kiddee (Keri Keri) ... Marsden, Rev. J. Butler, Messrs. Francis and William Hall sent off with Shunghee in his war canoe for Kiddee Kiddee, where we arrived in the afternoon, and proceeded immediately to examine the country.'</p> <p>Marsden recalls surveying this land in 1815 when he 'considered this district the most promising for a new settlement of any I had met with in New Zealand, the soil being rich, the land pretty level, and free from timber, easy to work with the plough, and bounded by a fine fresh-water river, the communication by water free and open to any part of the Bay of Islands, and safe anchorage for ships of any burden within about two leagues of the settlement.'</p> <p>Encouraged by Hongi 'to take what land we wanted' – spent the night at Hongi's village.</p> <p>p.148 ... following a meal and conversation 'we read a chapter, sang a hymn, and, returning our grateful thanks to almighty God for His kind protection of us and for the safety and comfort we enjoyed in the very midst of cannibals, then laid down in peace to rest till the morning.'</p>
148	18 Aug.	<p>3am – rose with prayer and hymn:</p> <p>'After breakfast at four o'clock' they continued their survey over the river.</p> <p>'Before our departure we marked the ground where we wished our public store to be built and requested Shunghee to put up a temporary building for accommodation of the stores and the mechanics who had accompanied us from Port Jackson.'</p> <p>Returned to Rangihoua in the evening in Hongi's war canoe</p>

150	4 Nov.	'Shunghee's Grant of Land at Kedde Kedde' - describes the 13,000 acres of land granted to the CMS – includes on p.151 a facsimile of the document which has the moko of several of chiefs.
176	20 Sept.	'We began early to load the punt with boards and scantling for Kidde Kidde for erecting the house there. We hope to get one or more buildings up this week for the present accommodation of the carpenters etc.'
200	11 Oct.	Marsden undertook 26-mile journey to Keri Keri arriving about 6pm. Hongi there 'The Rev. Mr. Butler and carpenters were at Rangeehoo. I immediately laid down to rest in the only building yet completed.'
201	12 Oct.	Left Keri Keri for Rangihoua – reports on extensive cultivations prepared by Hongi's people.
204	19 Oct.	Marsden travelled to Keri Keri – journeyed inland next day
Marsden makes no reference in his journal to the date of commencement of settlement in Keri Keri by Butler and the other missionaries or Hongi's grant of land on 4 November.		

*Earliest New Zealand: The Journals and Correspondence of the Rev. John Butler*  
by John Butler.

Compiled by R. J. Barton, 1927

p.38

**Tuesday, 28th September 1819.**

Early this morning, Mr. Wm. Hall, F. Hall, Kemp, King, S. Butler and myself, with the carpenter and three other Europeans, went to Kaddi Kaddi, our new settlement, to endeavor to get on with buildings, etc., etc., and also to begin breaking up land for cultivation. We arrived about 1 o'clock noon. There were many natives waiting our arrival, among whom were several chiefs; all of them seemed very glad at our return. We got our dinner, and then Mr. Wm. Hall and the other carpenters and several natives, under the direction of Wm. Hall, set to work, some to digging of sawpits, others to sawing, etc., etc. The remainder of our party, myself and eleven natives, began to clear ground for a garden, and also to break it up with our hoes. The natives wrought exceedingly well, and by night we had a pretty good patch of ground cleared for our

purpose. In the evening, after we had refreshed ourselves, we read the Holy Scriptures, and offered up our evening sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to the God of all our mercies. There were many natives about the little house erected for a blacksmith's shop, which at present serves for a dwelling house and lodging house for all Europeans; they were very silent and attentive.

p.40

**Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1819.**

This morning, the carpenters and agriculturists returned to Kaddi Kaddi. In the evening, we held a committee, and made a report of our last month's proceedings.

**Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 1819.**

Mr. Hall and myself went to Kaddi Kaddi; were glad to find all things going on well. In the afternoon, I planted about 100 young fruit trees. I have one European planting Indian corn. I hope

we shall be able to put in five or six acres this spring.

pp.56-57

**Thursday, December 9th, 1819.**

Mr. F. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Kemp, Mr. and Mrs. Butler, and Mr. King visited Kedee Kedee, in order to afford Mrs. Kemp and Mrs. Butler an opportunity of seeing our new settlement. Our store house, being nearly enclosed with weather boards, we intend to make it a general dwelling house for the present, and remove to Kedee Kedee at once, and so makeshift, until we can better accommodate ourselves. As Mrs. Kemp and Mrs. Butler were the first European women that had ever visited this place, and, as many of the natives had never seen a European woman before, (having heard the news), they ran together from all quarters, to gratify their eyesight. We landed among a crowd of them. They thronged us very much in going from the waterside to our blacksmith's store. They shouted and danced for joy. After dinner, we took a walk to see the adjacent country, and to shew Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Kemp our plans of operations. The natives crowded about us, laughing, dancing, and singing. Where we went, they would go, in spite of any remonstrance. After a general survey, we returned to our little house, got some refreshment, and departed for Rangi Hoo, amidst the huzzas of a great number of natives. Mrs. Butler and Kemp were much pleased with the new settlement.

p.60

**Monday, December 20th, 1819.**

We have been busy all this day in loading our goods for Kedee Kedee, and in the evening, Mrs. Butler, self, Mr. and Mrs. Kemp, Mr. F. Hall, three carpenters, and their wives and families, went on board the punt, and set off for Kedee Kedee; we got about one third of the way thither, and the tide turning, we were obliged to go on shore. The natives we had to assist us, soon kindled a fire,

and we all sat around it, and got some tea and pork - Europeans on one side, and natives on the other. After our refreshment, we all joined in prayer, sang a hymn, and then laid ourselves down upon the ground to rest. It was a very fine night, and the stars shone very brilliant over our heads.

About two o'clock in the morning, ye tide turning in our favour, we went on board and addressed ourselves to our journey. In a short time, we were met by two large canoes and a hundred natives at least; both of them immediately took us in tow; we now made rapid progress and reached Kedee Kedee about six o'clock in the morning. We immediately got our goods unloaded, and then prayer and breakfast.

I gave the natives two hogs and ten buckets' potatoes, which were soon eaten. Afterwards they became impatient for their payment. As they had now done a great deal of work, we distributed thirty English hatchets, about the same quantity of axes and hoes, a quantity of knives, fishhooks, combs, plane irons, etc.

In the afternoon we began to put our things in a little order; our storehouse, which is at present a general dwelling house, is in an unfinished state; we have ground for the floor, and our cooking, etc., etc., we are obliged to perform outside among the natives. But my great desire is to be on the spot where our future operations are to be carried on. Mr. and Mrs. Kemp live in the blacksmith's shop.

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**December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1819; Christmas Day**

This morning I assembled all the chiefs of the district of Kedee Kedee and informed them that I should expect them and all their people to attend Divine Service at eleven o'clock, and that I expected they would be very quiet and orderly. They said it was very good, and, at the time appointed, they and their people were all assembled. I had a table and chair placed, and

Mr. and Mrs. Kemp, and carpenters and families on seats made of boards behind; the natives sat in a semi-circle on the ground. I placed our native brick-maker (named George), in a chair near me, to act as my interpreter (he speaks English remarkably well), and the chiefs next to him. I endeavoured to explain to George, in the plainest and easiest manner possible, the great object we had in view in coming among them. I began by saying our great object and desire was to do them good, and to make them happy, as far as we were able, in body, mind, and soul. I endeavoured to explain to them the meaning of Christmas Day, and on what account we kept it holy; and how that, a long while ago, the great God Who made us, and the sun, and moon, and stars, the earth and sea, and all things in them, and everything which they saw about them; how that He gave His only son to come down from Heaven (a place of great blessedness above the sun and stars) to make us happy; and that He was born on Christmas Day; and that the Book, which I held in my hand, contained the words which He spake when upon earth; and that it had been written for our instruction, to inform us what we must do to be happy; and that we came from a

very far country to teach them and their children the words of this Book. Moreover, I continued to say unto them that the great God and our Saviour were very angry with wicked and cruel people, but that He loves those who are gentle and kind and did good things. I further said that I hoped they would better understand me by and by, and that I should better understand their language, and then I should be more able to explain these things unto them.

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They were remarkably silent the whole time and appeared much pleased.

After morning prayer, I preached from ye Second Chapter, Gospel of St. Luke, and 11th verse: 'Unto you this day is born a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.'

After service I gave the people two pigs and five buckets potatoes. Shunghu, Tarrar, and several other chiefs dined with me. In the course of the afternoon, they quietly dispersed. Mr. Kemp's place, being the largest, in the evening we had Divine Service there, and I administered the Holy Sacrament.

### **The Kerikeri Mission – A Select Bibliography**

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#### **Primary Source:**

Marsden Online Archive, Hocken Library Dunedin. <https://marsdenarchive.otago.ac.nz>