



HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND  
POUHERE TAONGA

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### The brief life of William Bean Junior

Life was hard for people in early New Zealand – and no more so than for the Bean family who helped establish the fledgling Kerikeri Mission Station in 1819.

“William Bean was a carpenter who had arrived in New Zealand with his wife Elizabeth and three-year-old son William,” says Heritage New Zealand’s Northland Manager, Bill Edwards.

“William senior occupies a special place in New Zealand’s history as the builder of Kemp House – New Zealand’s oldest surviving building.”

Kemp House – also known as the Kerikeri Mission House – was completed in 1822, though its construction was not an easy time for the missionaries who had settled there.

On July 12 1820, William and his wife Elizabeth lost their three-year-old son William junior, who appears to have died from intestinal worms. Because there was no church-yard at the time, the couple laid their son to rest in the garden in the grounds of the Kerikeri Mission Station.

Rev John Butler led the service, and later recorded his thoughts and feelings in his journal:

*“This afternoon I buried Mr Bean’s child in my garden. All the Europeans attended, and walked in regular order, as this tender lamb was the first Xian that it hath pleased our Holy Father to take to Himself and shield in His bosom from our little flock of Kiddeekiddee [Kerikeri].*

*“The afflicted parents indulged in grief, and seemed wholly absorbed in it for a time. We spent the evening together in prayer and praise, and the weeping family was not a little comforted thereby.”*

William Bean junior was the first Pakeha to die and be buried in Kerikeri.

“It’s hard to imagine what the family endured as they buried their son in what must have felt like a very foreign country,” says Bill.

“Life was hard for settlers – and the story of the Bean family epitomises some of this hardship.”

These and other stories are told in an exciting new app for Android and Apple smartphones and tablets entitled *Path to Nationhood*. Produced by Heritage New Zealand, the suite of six

Northland app-based tours are available free to download, and are a must-have for visitors to Northland, as well as locals.

Written and researched by former Heritage New Zealand staff member Stuart Park, with Professor Manuka Henare and his team at the University of Auckland School of Business providing a Maori cultural and historical perspective, the tours incorporate audio using actors like Tui Ruwhiu and Michael Hurst. Sound effects also help bring the stories to life.

Once downloaded the tours can be enjoyed anywhere – irrespective of whether there is wi-fi or a cellular connection – making it the perfect virtual tour guide.

Feedback from people who have already enjoyed some of the app tours has been overwhelmingly positive according to Bill.

“The tours make this incredible period of our history come alive, and tell these stories in an engaging and accessible way. Many of the stories centre around some of our fantastic Heritage Destinations in Northland, so people can actually visit places where many of these people lived, and events took place.

“It’s fair to say that the app tours give people an opportunity to see history through new eyes,” he says.

For a free download of the *Path to Nationhood* suite of Northland tours visit [heritage.org.nz/apps](https://heritage.org.nz/apps) or search for Heritage Trails through your online app store.