

his later life conclude with the enigmatic observation that 'Years afterwards Mr Drake was drowned in one of the streams between Collingwood and Takaka'.¹⁰

Artistically it cannot be claimed that Drake's drawings are remarkable. Like most surveyors in the pre-photography era he would have been trained to record his observations in the field in a sketchbook or, in this case, probably on a block of cream wove paper, since the sheets are all the same size and show no signs of having been disbound from a sketchbook. Furthermore, the paper size is 174 × 259 mm—slightly larger than most sketchbooks. His work is that of a competent amateur, with a sound grasp of perspective, and a concern for making a faithful record, giving these drawings an historical rather than aesthetic significance.

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As a postscript, this account began with Charles Heaphy and will end with him.

One of Drake's travelling companions depicted in these drawings was William Bishop. Bishop was about Drake's age and had arrived in Nelson two months after him, on 10 April 1842, as a New Zealand Company cabin passenger on board the *London*. By 1844 he owned land in the Maitai Valley and had probably completed building his house there, so it is quite possible that the exploring party left from his home in the early hours of 10 January 1844. This charming house is depicted in a watercolour by Heaphy (Figure 4), handed down in the family to Bishop's grand-daughter, Miss Helen Nicholls of Waipukurau. By an odd coincidence, on the same day that it was discovered that William Bishop was one of the travellers shown in J. C. Drake's drawings, Miss Nicholls wrote to the Library offering to donate her watercolour of her grandparents in the garden of their home in the Maitai Valley, along with a second work by Heaphy, a portrait of her grandmother, Anna Bishop (née Fife). The offer was accepted with delight and the watercolours have now become a valued addition to the Library's major collection of Heaphy's work.

Figure 4 (opposite) *Charles Heaphy* [The home of Mr & Mrs William Bishop, Maitai Valley. 1844?] (detail) watercolour 17.3 × 25.8cm. Picture Coll. A144/11