

Auckland Province. Of particular note are four negatives showing the turning of the first sod on the Main Trunk Railway near Te Awamutu on 15 April 1885.

The most recent negatives in the collection are 564 3½" × 4½" plates dating from the 1890s. These are mostly of Auckland and the East Coast of the North Island and include several photographs of the Maori Parliament at Pakirikiri in 1894.

Although Beere's negatives have only recently come to light, his prints are well known from their frequent occurrence in nineteenth century photograph albums. They are commonly found in albums compiled by British Army officers in the 1860s, often in association with prints by the Rev. John Kinder. Although Beere was not a commercial photographer, the number of his prints to be found in libraries and museums indicates that he must have printed many copies of his photographs for members of the public, but the financial basis of his photographic activity and the channels through which it became available to the public are not yet known. Certainly he had many contacts with the military through his service as a surveyor in the Waikato and through his brother, Captain Gerald Butler Beere of the Waikato Militia, and his work was evidently popular with British officers.

Although Beere's prints are already to be found in the Library, much of the fascinating detail can only be appreciated by a careful examination of the negatives and the production of enlargements. The acquisition of these plates is of considerable significance to the Library's photograph collection and should be a source of much interest to historians in the future.

Latest Turnbull prints

Ten serving officers of the forces in New Zealand from the 1840s to the 1860s, were to become Generals: and they were all artists, to a greater or lesser degree. Carey, Collinson, Gold, Hamley, McCleverty, Page, Robley, Warre, Williams and Wynyard were the soldier-artists and one stands far above the others in his accomplished technique and the general high quality of his work. Lieutenant General Edward Arthur Williams, C.B. (1824-98), Colonel Commandant of the Royal Artillery, of a military family and widely travelled, spent 46 years in the Army and was in New Zealand between 1864 and 1866, commanding the Royal Artillery in the Waikato, Tauranga and Wanganui campaigns, in action at Rangiawhia, Hairini, Gate Pa and Nukumaru. Although relatively little of his work as a military artist survives in this country, what there is, is of such quality that one may say that General Williams was perhaps the best artist here until the arrival of Nairn and van der Velden nearly 30 years later.

For many years the only known work by Williams comprised a very fine large sketchbook in the Hocken Library, two watercolours in the Auckland City Art Gallery and six in the Alexander Turnbull Library. In 1973 the Library was fortunate to acquire four more important watercolours at auction locally, and over the last decade another eight have