

## **NORMAN Samuel and Harriet**

(The notes below were gathered by Peter Wakeman as he prepared to write this website's biography of **Dennett Heather**, his great-great-grandfather. Peter offers them as 'starter notes' for anyone wishing to write a fuller biography about **Samuel and Harriet Norman**.)

**Samuel Norman** purchased the Onehunga 'New Leith Inn' following the death of **Robert Forbes** in 1849, and operated it for some years before building the Onehunga '*Commercial Hotel*' in 1855-1856. In 1851 he became one of Auckland's first borough councillors, representing the Onehunga Ward. In the poll for that Ward he beat rival candidate Henry Charles Lawlor by 123 votes to 48 and secured more votes at the poll than all, but one, of the other successful candidates in any Ward, which may indicate that he was both well-known and popular. Incidentally the candidate who secured more votes than Samuel did was one **Patrick Dignan**, also a publican.

The '*Commercial Hotel*' was built pretty much right on the old beach-front at the foot of what became known as '*Normans Hill*.' Early photographs show the hotel there, with Norman's office building nearby and also '*Bellevue House*', which Norman seems to have operated as a boarding establishment. His own house was on the hill behind.

Samuel Norman died on 23 September 1867, aged fifty-five, but his widow, **Harriet**, lived until she died in 1890, aged seventy-three. Both Samuel and Harriett are buried in **Saint Peter's Cemetery**.

(**N. L. Norman**, who was apparently a descendant of Samuel Norman, was Town Clerk of Onehunga from 1940 to 1953)

Peter Wakeman, author of this website's biography of **Dennett Heather** writes: '*Both **Robert Forbes** and **Samuel Norman** are linked to my great-great-grandfather Dennett Heather. He was the owner of the land at One Tree Hill where the Forbes first intended to establish a pub, and he died in Samuel Norman's boarding-house, the funeral setting out from there to journey to Saint Peter's Cemetery.*'

**Normans Hill Road, Onehunga**, is named after **Samuel and Harriet Norman**.