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CENTENNIAL PASSED

LAW FIRMS LONG RECORD

THREE GENERATIONS IN NEW PLYMOUTH

Three generations of a well-known New Plymouth family have a record that must be unique in that they have carried on a business as legal practitioners in the town for more than 100 years.

The present head of the firm is Mr. Arthur Russell Standish and he follows his father, the late Mr. Arthur Standish, and his grandfather, the late Mr. Thomas Standish, in the practice of the profession which was established in New Plymouth in 1843.

Mr. Thomas Standish, a solicitor of Pontefract, Yorkshire, England, was a passenger by the ship Phoebe which arrived in Nelson in March, 1843. He was mentioned in the ship's list as a passenger for New Plymouth and he came here from Nelson and was resident in New Plymouth in May, 1843. In statistical records relating to that period it is stated there were three solicitors then residing in New Plymouth and Mr. Thomas Standish was one of them. In the following year it is recorded that Mr. Standish was appointed clerk of the court in August, 1844. That, it is considered, would have been only a part-time occupation. It is assumed that he commenced the practice of his profession soon after his arrival in New Plymouth and would be in business in June of 1843.

SON FOLLOWS FATHER.

Arthur Standish, who was then six years of age, arrived in New Plymouth with his mother and two brothers, Frank and George, in August, 1843. They arrived in Wellington by the ship Tyne and came on to New Plymouth by the Government brig Victoria. Mr. Arthur Standish studied for the law and was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand by the Chief Justice, Sir Alfred Arney, on October 8, 1861, together with Mr. William Russell. Soon after the New Plymouth firm was known under the style of Thomas Standish and Son. Mr. Thomas Standish died on May 31, 1863, and the practice was carried on by his son until June, 1903.

Mr. Arthur Russell Standish was admitted as a solicitor in March, 1903, when he joined his father's business and has been in practice in New Plymouth ever since that time. Mr. Arthur Standish, sen., died on June 21, 1915.

The first of the partners in the present firm was Mr. T. P. Anderson who joined Mr. Standish in 1916. In 1934 Mr. R. J. Brokenshire, who had been with the firm for some years, was taken into partnership. He is now on overseas service in the Pacific. Mr. R. G. Howell, another member of the staff for many years, was also given a partnership share in the business in 1938, but the firm name still remains that of Standish, Anderson and Brokenshire.

T.H. 13/07/1943