

Rewi Alley's cousin Digger dies at NP home, aged 80

DIGGER ALLEY, the well-known first cousin of Rewi Alley, has died in New Plymouth. DN 29/10/99

George Ralph (Digger) Alley died at his New Plymouth home on Tuesday, at the age of 80.

Rewi Alley lived and worked in China for 60 years. He died in December 1987, aged 90.

He lived at Moeawatea house on a Waverley back country farm he bought in partnership with Jack Stevens for £12,000 in 1920, but walked off the land six years later and travelled to China where he spent the rest of his life establishing

schools for the education of peasants.

Digger Alley was part of a 10-strong delegation which travelled to China in 1988 to attend several meetings in memory of his cousin.

On his return to New Zealand, he joined the New Zealand China Friendship Society and served as Taranaki branch president and on the society's national executive.

Digger Alley was also involved in the preservation of the Moeawatea homestead which was opened by then employment minister Phil Goff in July 1989.