

James Frederick CAROLAN

1851, London, England

4th October 1930, Hamilton, New Zealand

Following Dr Endletsberger's departure from Matamata in 1908 or 1909, the town of approximately 1,000 residents went without a doctor until 1912, until James Frederick CAROLAN arrived to establish his penultimate practice.

RESIDENT DOCTOR.
Matamata is at last to be congratulated upon having secured the services of a medical practitioner of high medical standing and experience, who has taken up his residence in this rising and important centre in the dwelling lately occupied by Mr Frank Roche. This is an ideal place for a doctor, being close to the township and having a good area of land attached. Dr J. F. Carolan is a J.P., and is no stranger in the district. He practised his profession in the Auckland province for many years. He is a military surgeon, holding the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the New Zealand Medical Corps.

Waikato Times, 26 November 1912

Born in Lambeth, Surrey in 1851, Carolan passed his anatomy and physiology examinations for the Royal College of

Clubs play their return match.
Messrs. Alfred C. Collinson, Elgin road, Notting hill, James F. Carolan, Maida hill, and William J. Cole, of Harrow road, students of St. Mary's Hospital, have received diplomas from the Royal College of Surgeons.

Bayswater Chronicle 17 August 1872

Surgeons at age 20, receiving his diploma in 1872.

That same year he married Laura Florence Beckett. A brief partnership with James John McAndrew at 125 Three Colt Street, Limehouse, was dissolved in August 1873.¹

The couple had two children: a daughter, Ethel, who died in infancy in 1873, and a son, James Lawrence, born at Great Clacton, Essex.²

Carolan's early career was peripatetic. Laura died in 1876 and is buried at Kensal Green Cemetery. He applied unsuccessfully for a position in Bath in 1877³, and by 1878 was listed in the Medical Register as residing in Bayswater.⁴ An 1880 newspaper report places him assisting the Huddersfield Police Surgeon.

¹ Lloyds List, 02 August 1873 - James McAndrew was also a witness at their wedding.

² Essex Standard 09 April 1875. JFC was assistant to Mr Manthorp, a surgeon of Thorpe.

³ Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette - 12 July 1877

⁴ UK and Ireland, Medical Registers, 1859-1943 (1878 page 137)

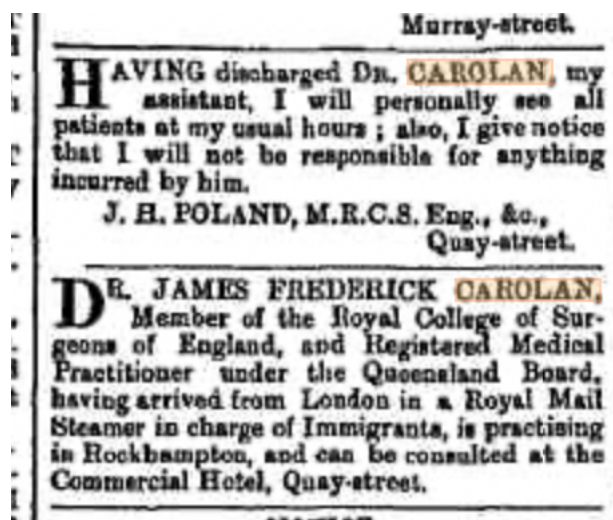
His 1902 entry in the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand* ⁵ — presumably supplied by Carolan himself — records that after practising in London for many years, ⁶ he served as surgeon for the Ocean and British India steamship companies on routes to China, the East Indies, and Queensland.



DR. J. F. CAROLAN. Hanna, photo.

Illustration from the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*

His time on ships must have been brief: in July 1883 he arrived in Queensland



The Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland, 8 September 1883

aboard the *Eldorado*, joining Dr J.H. Poland's practice in Rockhampton. ⁷ The partnership was short-lived and apparently acrimonious. (see clippings above)

By December 1883 Carolan had settled in Helensville, New Zealand, where he was elected medical officer to the NZ Railway Employees' Benefit Society. ^{8, 9} He subsequently moved to Waipu, registering on the New Zealand Medical Register on 7 December 1885, then to Warkworth in 1888 — where he was noted for his musical & singing accomplishments, as was the case wherever he

⁵ NZ Electronic Text Collection. Victoria University of Wellington

⁶ at most this was for 10 years, and was not all in London.

⁷ I have been unable to trace the arrival of his son James Lawrence (he later preferred Laurence) in New Zealand. But he was here by 1900, a cadet at Kaipara. Went back to England in 1915 to join the UK forces, and returned in 1919. He was a ship's steward and died in 1946, unmarried.

⁸ Auckland Star, 8 December 1883

⁹ Auckland Star, 27 December 1883

I, JAMES FREDERICK CAROLAN, Member Royal College Surgeons, England, 1872, now residing at Waipu, having deposited evidence of my qualification with the Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, at Auckland, hereby give notice that I shall apply to him to be registered under "The New Zealand Medical Practitioners Act, 1869," on the 18th day of November, 1885.

JAMES FREDERICK CAROLAN.
Waipu, 12th October, 1885. 575

NZ Gazette, Nov 5th 1885, page 1301

lived, — before relocating to the Bombay district by 1890,¹⁰ where he was appointed Public Vaccinator.¹¹ In 1891 he joined the volunteers as honorary surgeon to the Waiuku Cavalry.^{12,13}

It is with regret I record the departure of Dr. James Carolan, who has left Waipu for Warkworth, *vice* Dr. Campbell. During the past three and a-half years he has been in our midst, ever willing to be of service—professionally or otherwise. In musical circles he will be very much missed; his rich tenor voice was to be heard at all our concerts; and in all public matters he took the keenest interest. Unlike many medical men, Dr. Carolan was always willing to turn out at all hours and in all weathers to minister to the wants of the sick, and no one ever yet complained of exorbitant fees—a great consideration in these hard times. While regretting his leaving this district, his many friends will rejoice that he has found a more suitable one, and can only console themselves in the reflection that what is Waipu's loss is Warkworth's gain.—[An Occasional Correspondent.]

NZ Herald, 22 October 1888

MARRIAGES.

CAROLAN—REID.—On the 6th July, at Christ's Church, Papakura Valley, by the Rev. E. J. McFarland, B.A., Incumbent of St. Peter's, Bombay, Auckland, Dr. James Fred Carolan, M.R.C.S.E., of Bombay, Hon. Surgeon Waiuku Cavalry, son of the late James Ward Carolan, Esq., H.M. Customs, London, and nephew of the late Captain Fred Wm. Wilson, R.N., to Eliza (Tibble), youngest daughter of Smollett H. Reid, Esq., of Papakura Valley, and niece of the late Rev. Alexander Reid, Principal of Three Kings' College, Auckland.

NZ Herald, 7 July 1892

In 1892 he married Eliza (Tibble) Reid; they had three sons: Frederic Richard Donald (1893), David Gordon (1898), and

COUNTRY NEWS.

PAPAKURA VALLEY.

A WEDDING is quite an event with us, and always excites considerable interest, especially amongst the feminine portion of our community. On July 6th a wedding took place, the announcement of which appears in your advertisement columns, Dr. Carolan, of Bombay, having been united in marriage at the local Church of England to a lady of this district. As the genial doctor has many friends here, a number of persons assembled to witness the ceremony. The bride had been for a number of years with Mrs. Allen, and was universally liked. In her new home (Bombay) I venture to predict that her gentle manners and kindly disposition will soon gain for her as many friends as she leaves behind.

NZ Herald, 13 July 1892

Robert Alexander Rex (1900).

¹⁰ NZ Herald, 6 August 1890

¹¹ NZ Gazette 28 August 1890 page 955

¹² Observer 21 February 1891

¹³ Auckland Star, 4 December 1891

The family moved frequently over the following years — Pukekohe (1894), Papakura (1894–95), the Bay of Islands, Rotorua (1898), and Matakoho (1899), where Carolan maintained a private hospital and was living at the time of the Cyclopaedia compilation.

In September 1900 he was gazetted as Surgeon-Captain in the New Zealand Volunteer Medical Staff.¹⁴ The family later moved to Birkenhead, where he was gazetted a Justice of the Peace,¹⁵ and in August 1904 was promoted to Surgeon-Major.¹⁶

He suffered appendicitis that September, requiring surgery, but recovered fully. In January 1906 he handed his practice to Dr Player and moved to Avondale, continuing his roles as Justice of the Peace and in the Volunteers. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, NZ Medical Corps, in 1910.¹⁷

In 1912 the Carolans moved to Matamata, where within a couple of years they purchased land (Section 14, Block VIII) and established both a home and a private nursing home, Kapai Whare. This proved to be Carolan's longest residence — twelve years — and his penultimate practice. He was the sole doctor in Matamata during the 1918 influenza epidemic, during which both he and his wife fell ill.

Dr & Mrs Carolan subsequently moved to Hamilton, where he practised briefly

¹⁴ NZ Herald, 5 September 1900

¹⁵ Auckland Star, 14 March 1903

¹⁶ Auckland Star, 18 August 1904

¹⁷ NZ Herald, 14 September 1910

Mr. Wm. Farrell is erecting a private residence on Mrs. Carolan's property in Tainui St., Matamata. When completed Dr. Carolan will remove there and his present residence will be devoted entirely for hospital purposes.

Matamata Record, 9 May 1918



Dr Carolan's house much later in its life, just prior to demolition. MAH 0000.56.1

FARMERS' AUCTIONEERING COMPANY.

SALE OF FURNITURE.

TUESDAY, MAY 20, at 12 noon.

Favoured with instructions from Mrs. J. F. Carolan, who is leaving the district, we will sell

AT MOORE-JONES' SAMPLE ROOMS,

The Whole of her Valuable Furnishings, including—

2 Rimu Sideboards with mirrors; 6-piece Leather Rimu Suite; Solid Oak Extension Table; Rimu Fire-guard; Table; Carpet, 12 by 9; Hall-stand, rimu; Roller Top Writing Desk; Double Iron Bedstead; 3 Duchess Chests; Double Wire-wove Mattress; Small Chest of Drawers; Linoleum; Single Iron Bedstead; Wire-wove Mattress; Single Silverdown Mattress; Single Rimu Bedstead and Wire-wove Mattress; 2 Washstands and Bedroom Ware (2 sets); Chair, rimu, smoker; 8 Kitchen Chairs; 2 Kitchen Tables; Three-quarter Iron Bedstead; Flax and Kapok Mattresses; Linoleums; Crockery; Wheelbarrow; Churn; and Sundries too numerous to mention.

before his death in 1930.

James Carolan has an extensive military record owing to his participation in the territorial army. It can be found at NZ Archives.

Of particular note is an episode concerning Maurice Guy Philpott (jeweller in Matamata, who married Annie Cummings, sister of Mildred and John Edward) which I summarise. here.

1. **The Philpott Case:**

Dr Carolan submitted a BR 166 form in December claiming medical treatment for a patient, M.G. Philpott (service number 12/3125), citing a GSW Thigh Amputation as the reason.

2. **Investigation Triggered:**

The author investigated rather than automatically approving, because the disability was surgical rather than medical. His inquiry revealed that Philpott's artificial limb was already satisfactory.

3. **Claim Withdrawn:** *When questioned, Dr Carolan responded (15 March 1922) that Philpott required no treatment at all, and asked for the application to be cancelled — suggesting the original claim was unwarranted.*

4. **Suspected Exploitation:**

The author had previously discussed with the recipient his suspicion that the Defence Department was being exploited through Dr Carolan's patient list, and had been monitoring the situation since Dr Carolan was placed on Part-Time Duty.

5. **Dr Carolan's**

Background: *He was too old for active service but had a long history as a Volunteer and Territorial Officer, and had attended his military patients for a long time — making it difficult to reassign those patients to other doctors.*

6. **Other Local**

Practitioners: *Two other doctors (Muir and Lawrenson) practiced in Matamata but had no active service history, limiting options for redirecting military patients.*

The overall concern is one of potential fraudulent or negligent claiming of medical treatment fees for military patients.

For the person seriously researching James Frederick Carolan there are quite a number of other references to him at NZ Archives. www.Archives.govt.nz. Some of which are linked at the end of this document.

OBITUARY

DR. J. F. CAROLAN.

SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER.

By the death at Hamilton on Saturday of Dr. James Frederick Carolan, at the age of 79, the senior medical officer in New Zealand has been removed.

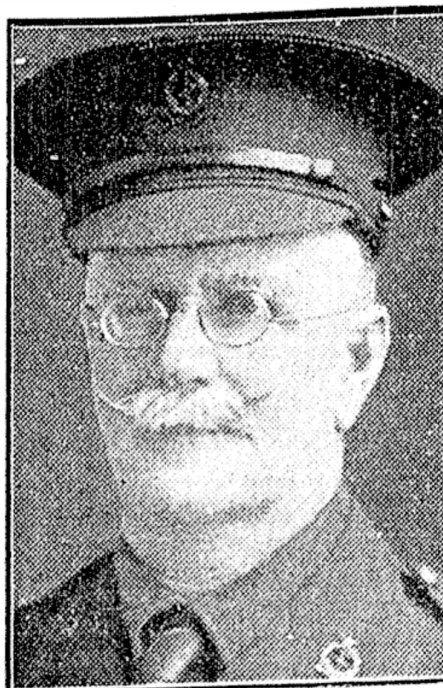
Born in Surrey, England, of Irish parentage, the late Dr. Carolan was educated at the Royal Naval School, Portsmouth, and St. Mary's Hospital, London. He qualified as a medical practitioner at the Royal College of Surgeons in 1872, and came to New Zealand in 1885.

Dr. Carolan practiced in various parts of Auckland city and province, and was for 12 years at Matamata, coming to Hamilton six years ago, and living here in retirement.

He had always taken a keen interest in military affairs, and his first appointment was as surgeon-captain to the Waiuku Cavalry in 1890. He was also with the Otamatea Mounted Rifles and the Seddon Horse Rifles, and finally retired from the New Zealand Medical Corps with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and was awarded the Victorian Decoration.

The late Dr. Carolan was also honorary medical officer to the King's Empire Veterans. During the war he was examining officer for recruits at Matamata, and was later a member of the Pensions Board. Since 1903 he had been a member of the Justices of the Peace Association, and was a past-master of the Prince of Wales Masonic Lodge, Auckland. Until a few days before his death Dr. Carolan was in full possession of his faculties and frequently indulged his passion for pianoforte music.

He is survived by his widow and four sons, Mr J. L. Carolan (Wellington), Mr G. Carolan (Waharoa), and Messrs F. and R. Carolan (Hamilton).



WELL-KNOWN SURGEON'S DEATH

Dr. J. F. Carolan, of Hamilton, a prominent medical practitioner in the Auckland Province for many years, whose death has occurred in his 80th year.

—Schmidt Studios.

NZ Herald, 7 October 1930

APPENDIX

A number of interesting looking items exist at NZ National Archives.

From: Dr. Carolan, Rotorua Date: 7
October 1898 Subject: For
appointment as medical officer at
Rotorua

From: Dr Carolan, Waipu Date: 29
September 1886 Subject: That Mr
Gnelling be appointed a Coroner

From: Officer commanding, Auckland
Date: 17 January 1891 Subject:
Appointment of Hon Surgeon
Carolan, Waiuku Cavalry

From: Dr Carolan, Matakohu Date: 28
March 1899 Subject: For appointment
as Native Medical Officer Otamatea
District

Territorial Force - James Frederick
Carolan, V.D., M.D. - Lieutenant-
Colonel, Retired List/New Zealand
Medical Corps

From: Dr. Carolan, Kawakawa Date: 11
June 1898 Subject: That he be
appointed Medical Officer for the
Russell District, Waikare etc at a
salary of £50 per annum

