



Commercial Bay, Auckland, in 1840.

1, Government Store, 2, Brown & Campbell, 3, Mr. and Mrs. Azzell, 4, Mr. G. Graham of Engineers, 5, Track over to Offshore Bay, 6, Terry, 7, 8, 9, Early cottages whose names have passed away

sir john's early life in new zealand

As an early settler to New Zealand, Sir John spent his first few months living on the shores of Auckland in a canvas tent before a gale blew it down, causing Sir John to move into Acacia Cottage with William Brown and his wife, Jessie. This image shows where Acacia Cottage and Sir Johns tent were originally located, in the heart of what is now downtown Auckland City.

“The happy new year came in blowing great guns from the North East — raining cats & dogs, postponed breakfast to see if the day would clear up — tried to boil some potatoes for dinner could not succeed for the rain — commissariat at zero — no cold meat left — had to dine off some of yesterday’s cold potatoes & a drink of water. In the evening half nipped my eyes out of my head trying to boil a pannikin of water inside my tent. Only half succeeded — had a miserable cup of tea. This may be taken as a sample of the realities which accompany the supposed romance of a pioneer’s life. It was very very primitive work in those days, carrying with them a sort of dolce far niente kind of existence which was not dolce for one who would far rather have had plenty to do.”