

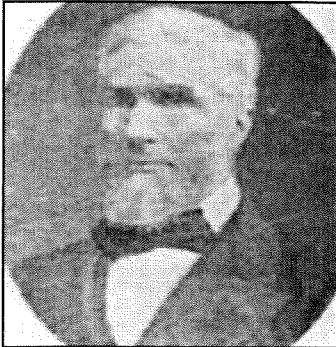


Moa Mail

The Inglewood
Development Trust

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Colonel Robert Trimble 1824-1899 (BJT)



Colonel Robert Trimble went to the United States some time in the 1840's, but was in Manchester in the early 1850's, and in Liverpool shortly afterwards as representative of the firm William Watson and Co, of New York. A short time before the American Civil War he became a partner in the firm. During the war, he supported the North, working endlessly in person and financially for the success of the cause. At the end of the war, he gave assistance to the liberated slaves and in recognition of his services received a silver medal.

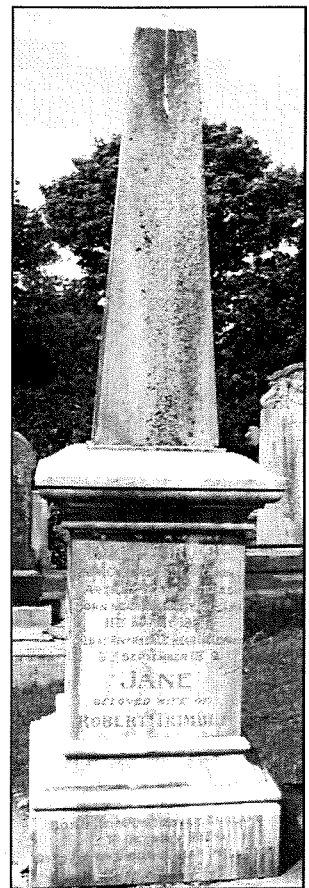
In politics, Colonel Trimble was an enthusiastic member of the Liberal Party in Liverpool, and was a persistent fighter for Free Trade, The abolition of State Churches, for a National Secular System of Education, Army Reform and for many other measures for which he believed would benefit of the country. About 1860 he joined as a gunner, a battery of artillery volunteers at Garston, near Liverpool, a second battery drilled at Hale and throwing himself enthusiastically into the volunteer movement he raised a third battery. Shortly afterwards, he was appointed a Lieutenant Colonel and raised the brigade, first known as the 15th, then the 6th Lancashire Artillery Volunteer Corps, which he successfully commanded until early in the year 1875. He was awarded the Volunteer Officer's Decoration on the institution of that order. In 1856 he married Jane, the eldest daughter of Alderman Abel Heywood of Manchester, England.

On 13 February 1875, he and his family left Liverpool on the ship Dunedin bound for New Zealand, and about that time he was promoted to the rank of Colonel. On arrival in New Zealand on 18 May 1875 Colonel Trimble took up land in Inglewood, establishing a sawmill as he cleared his 2000 acre bush property 'Riverdale', on Mountain Road between Durham and Norfolk roads on the Mountain side. He was one of the earliest settlers in that locality. He took an active part in local affairs and was the first chairman of the Taranaki County Council and of the Inglewood Town Board. Colonel Trimble was a member of the House of Representatives for the district of Grey and Bell from 1879 to 1881 and for the Taranaki constituency from 1882 to 1887. Following that he was appointed a Judge of the Native Land Court. He was also a Justice of the Peace for the colony of New Zealand and for the County Paletine of Lancaster, England.

He died at his 'Riverdale' residence on 5 September 1899 and left a family of four sons and three daughters. His wife Jane died in 1925

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Colonel Trimble's headstone
in the Inglewood Cemetery

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