

Plymouth to Portland, the Price family plans reunion

HAMILTON woman Lynne Price had always wanted to trace her family history.

So when she retired she began her search and has since uncovered the huge impact her descendants had on the sawmilling industry

in the south-west.

The family history started in Plymouth, England where Richard and Jane Price boarded the Oithona in 1854 bound for Portland.

Richard and Jane arrived with some of their children,

Joseph, 14, George, 10, Sarah, 8, Richard, 3, and James, 1.

William, 7, and Emma, 6, arrived a month earlier with the Lewis and Owens families from Wales and were relatives of Richard Lewis, a pioneer Western

District landowner from Rifle Downs near Digby.

After their arrival, the Price family continued to increase in size with the arrival of five more children, Charles, Hugh, Mary, Elizabeth and Fredrick.

In 1963 Richard established

Richard Price & Co, a sawmill at Milltown near Heywood, which became one of the first mills in the area to use steam power to drive a vertical saw.

Richard and his son James and grandson George operated a timber yard on the corner of French and Cox streets in Hamilton (currently Beaupaires) in 1880 as well as running the mill.

Where Hamilton Permewans stands was once the shopfront, which adjoined Richard's timber yard from 1882 to 1885.

Lynne and Hamilton man Rodger Dunn have been organising a family reunion since October and are calling on descendants from Richard and Jayne to attend.

The reunion is to be held in Portland, February 7 and will include the unveiling of a plaque at the Pioneer

Immigrants Memorial Wall at Liam.

A 'bring your own picnic' lunch will also be held at the Portland Angling Club Hall on the Portland foreshore where there will be a display of photos and memorabilia.

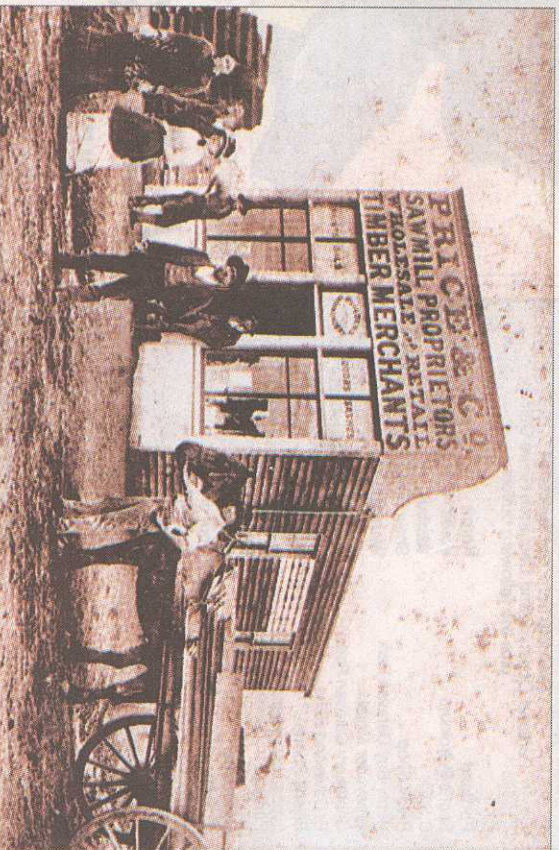
Lynne said she was excited about the day and couldn't wait to get in touch with relatives.

"It's wonderful to get the family together," she said.



A FAMILY affair – three generations stand in a line with Ted Price in front followed by his son Ewan Price and his children Marcus, Brittany and Liam.

0090106cr31



THE shopfront that became the face of Price & Co sawmill proprietors, which is at 59 Cox St that is now the face of Permewans, Hamilton.

Pic: SUPPLIED