

91231R



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD
KIA NOHO TAKATŪ KI TŌ ĀMUA AO!

Level 2 History 2022

91231 Examine sources of an historical event that is of significance to New Zealanders

Credits: Four

RESOURCE BOOKLET

Refer to this booklet to answer the questions for History 91231.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–11 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

INTRODUCTION: Charlotte Badger and George Wilder

At first glance, Charlotte Badger and George Wilder have little in common.

Charlotte Badger was born in 1778 in Bromsgrove, a small village outside Worcester in England. Having been deported from England for theft, she became one of the first European women to live in New Zealand. She was also a pirate, or so the story goes.

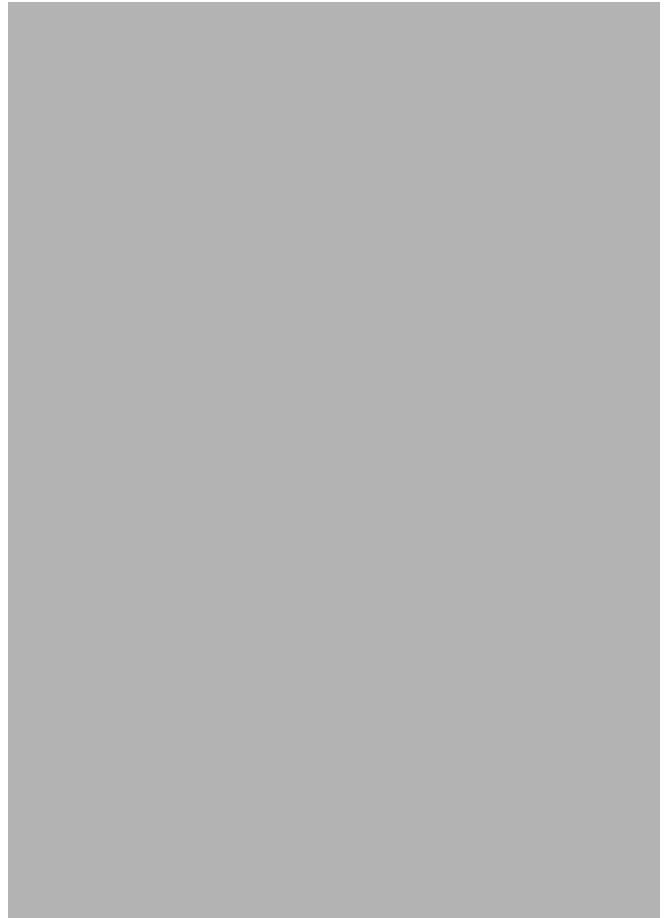
George Wilder was a well-known figure in New Zealand in the 1960s. He was both an accidental folk hero and a prison escapee – one who broke into holiday homes for food and shelter, leaving polite thank you and apology notes on his departure.

Both characters have had plays written about them and their respective adventures, sometimes taken as factual accounts instead of the entertainment they were created to be. George Wilder was also the subject of a song banned on public radio in the 1970s called 'The Wilder Boy', by the Howard Morrison Quartet.

What they have in common is that their stories started out with theft and grew to capture the imagination of a nation, becoming larger than the crimes themselves.

SOURCE A: Charlotte Badger—colonial renegade?

English convict and ship’s mutineer Charlotte Badger is heralded as New Zealand’s first “White” woman settler, who lived with a Māori chief after her arrival in the Bay of Islands in 1806. Almost nothing written about Badger has been correct. The core of her story has been hiding in plain sight in a contemporary newspaper account that has been misinterpreted by generations of historians. Colourful fictions added by two Australian storytellers further clouded the facts. A ship’s passenger list and logbook ... confirm she did not settle in New Zealand after all.



A portrait of Charlotte Badger in 1806.

Badger features in the New South Wales population musters of 1811 and 1814. ... Badger was in Windsor in 1824 and in Parramatta in 1825.

Source (adapted): Hardie, E. (2019). Was Charlotte Badger a Colonial Renegade? *Journal of New Zealand Studies* NS28 , 84, 87, 89, 91-92. <https://doi.org/10.26686/jnzs.v0iNS28.5422>

Image: Harper, M. [Poster of Charlotte Badger]. Massey University. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/programmes/black-sheep/story/2018634264/pirate-mystery-the-story-of-charlotte-badger>

[REDACTED]

Of the other woman – Charlotte Badger – and her child, nothing was known, save that in 1808 she and the child were offered a passage to Port Jackson by Captain Bunker, but declined, saying she [Badger] would rather live with the Maoris than return to New South Wales to be hanged. In May, 1826 ... a native of Oahu (Hawaii) ... informed the Captain ... that ... about ten years before (this would be about 1816) ... [he saw] a very big, stout woman with a little girl about eight years of age with her. ... who had escaped from captivity with the Maoris. No doubt this was the woman Badger, described in the official account of the mutiny of the *Venus* as “a very corpulent person”.

Source (adapted): Becke, L. (1895, November 23). The Mutiny on the *Venus*. *Evening News*. p. 3

SOURCE C(ii): Charlotte Badger’s colourful career

Charlotte Badger, Australia’s only woman pirate, is not a figure of fiction, but a woman who actually existed in early Sydney ... Charlotte Badger entered into a partnership with the mate of the *Venus*. The two seized the ship, put the captain and crew off in a ship’s boat, boarded and stripped another vessel, and then sailed across the Tasman Sea to New Zealand.

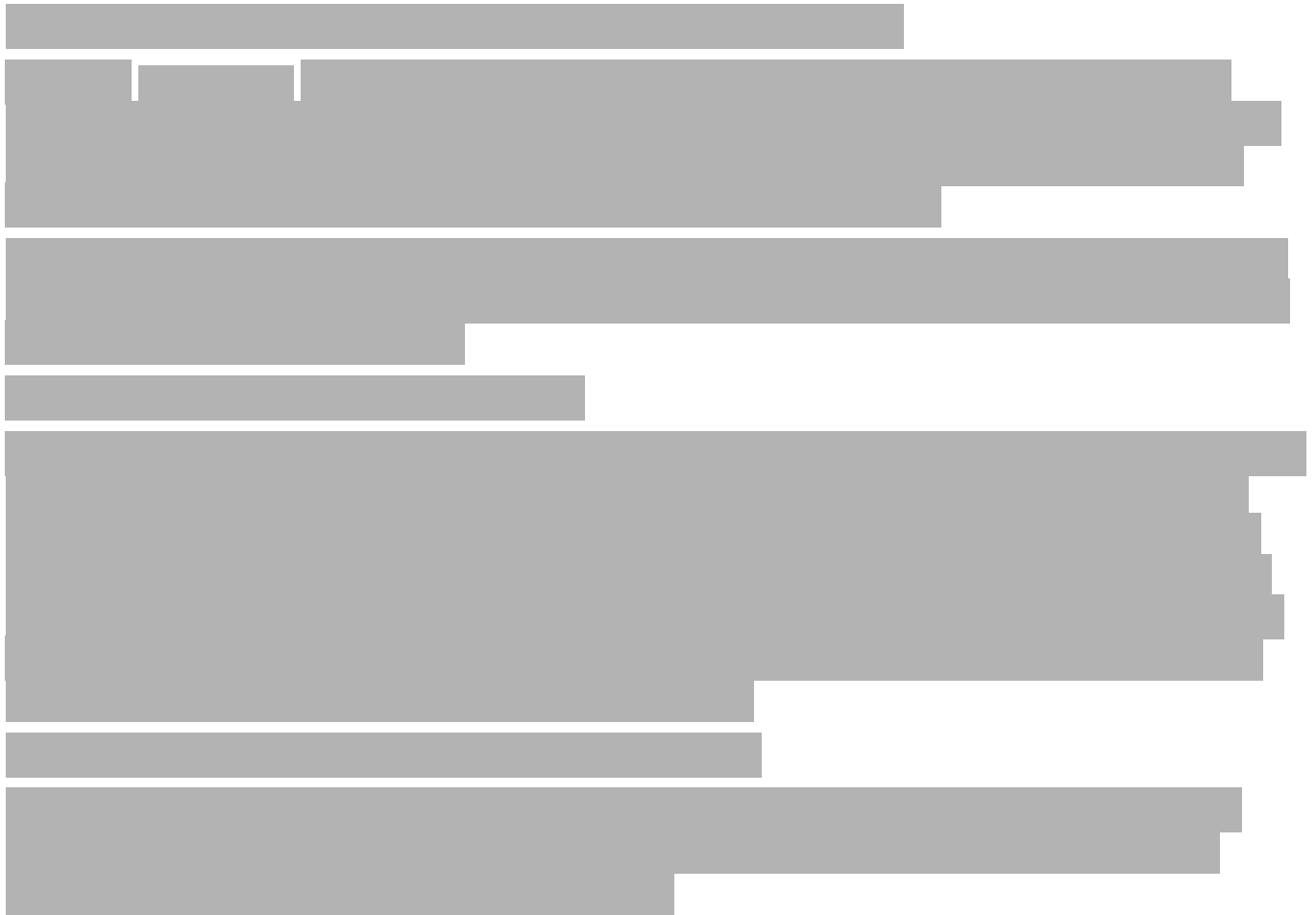
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In 1826 ... the American ship *Lafayette* called at Vavau, in the Tongan Islands [and] brought the last news of the indomitable Badger. ... Speaking a Polynesian dialect fluently – as well she might after living with Maoris for twelve years – Charlotte had related her experiences in New Zealand to the Tongans. They described her as being an enormously fat woman with a young child – poor Charlotte had evidently lost her looks after feasting all those years in Maori villages.

Source (adapted): Alexander, R. (1937, October 26). Australia’s Only Woman Pirate, Charlotte Badger’s Colourful Career. *The Sydney Morning Herald*. p. 21



“Here in New Zealand, we seem to enjoy our legends a trifle more real – Sir Ed Hillary, von Tempsky, Hone Heke, George Wilder. In the early 1960s, we were hungry for someone to relate to, someone who wasn’t an All Black. He was a loner, a petty thief, a gentleman rogue. Should you follow the swallow on his daily rounds, do you run with the foxes or hunt with the hounds? In some way, we are all, at times, on the run.”

Source (adapted): Papaspiropoulos, A. (2019, May 17). Looking for George Wilder: New Zealand’s Renegade Folk Hero. *North & South*. <https://web.archive.org/web/20190516185806/https://www.noted.co.nz/life/life-in-nz/george-wilder-looking-for-new-zealands-renegade-folk-hero/>

Image: Fairfax NZ. [Photograph]. The Dominion Post. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/8688866/Prison-escaper-Wilder-caught-heart-of-nation>

SOURCE E(i): The Ballad of Jimmy Costello

The play *The Ballad of Jimmy Costello* was inspired by a true story [George Wilder's life]. In the 1960s, New Zealanders began cheering on a car thief-prison-escaper and inadvertently promoted a small-town Kiwi boy from petty criminal to multi-prison escapee to national folk icon...

... *The Ballad of Jimmy Costello* is a “rollicking tiki tour of Kiwi kultcha” (*The Dominion Post*) and nearly every incident in this wild and witty adventure story is really true.

Source (adapted): Theatre Tours International. (1997). *The Ballad of Jimmy Costello* (NZ). [Review of *The Ballad of Jimmy Costello*]. Theatre Tours International. <https://www.theatretoursinternational.com/PastShows/PSJC.html>

SOURCE E(ii): The wild New Zealand boy

Radio New Zealand's (RNZ) William Ray came across the story of how a popular song about George Wilder by the Howard Morrison Quartet was banned on public radio.

“I still haven't got to the bottom of it, but I have two theories: the first is that the song was initially released in between his first and second escapes, and, because that third escape was a lot more serious, it might be that the powers that be at RNZ thought that the crime was pretty tough stuff compared to what he'd been involved with previously, and we shouldn't be celebrating this guy.”

Source (adapted): Mulligan, J. (2021, April 8). *Finding out why a song about George Wilder was banned* [interview]. Radio New Zealand. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/2018790749/finding-out-why-a-song-about-george-wilder-was-banned>

SOURCE F: Escape artist

*William Ray is a producer for RNZ's Series and Podcasts unit, and Tim Balme is a New Zealand actor and screenwriter. In the process of writing his play *The Ballad of Jimmy Costello*, Balme became the closest thing we have to a George Wilder expert. This is an audio podcast transcript of William Ray and Tim Balme discussing the story of George Wilder.*

TIM BALME I did want to tell George Wilder's story as a pure biography ... I reached out to him to see if he was okay with it and he wasn't. He didn't tell me that directly, he got a very clear message sent through some friends of his ... it was at that point that I went 'okay, I'm not going to tell the George Wilder story', but on the other hand, I told a story that was very much like his story.

WILLIAM RAY Tim Balme's play was called *The Ballad of Jimmy Costello* and, like he said, it's heavily based on George Wilder's life.

TIM BALME

[REDACTED]

...

WILLIAM RAY

[REDACTED]

TIM BALME

[REDACTED]

WILLIAM RAY

[REDACTED]

TIM BALME

[REDACTED]

WILLIAM RAY

[Redacted]

TIM BALME

[Redacted]

WILLIAM RAY

[Redacted]

TIM BALME

His task was to disappear and the more he tried to disappear, the more people wrote songs, and that's what happens with folklore, isn't it? People elevate small facts into big fictions.

Source (adapted): Ray, W. (2021, May 10). Escape artist: the story of George Wilder [Audio podcast episode]. In *Black Sheep*. RNZ. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/programmes/black-sheep/story/2018794417/escape-artist-the-story-of-george-wilder>

