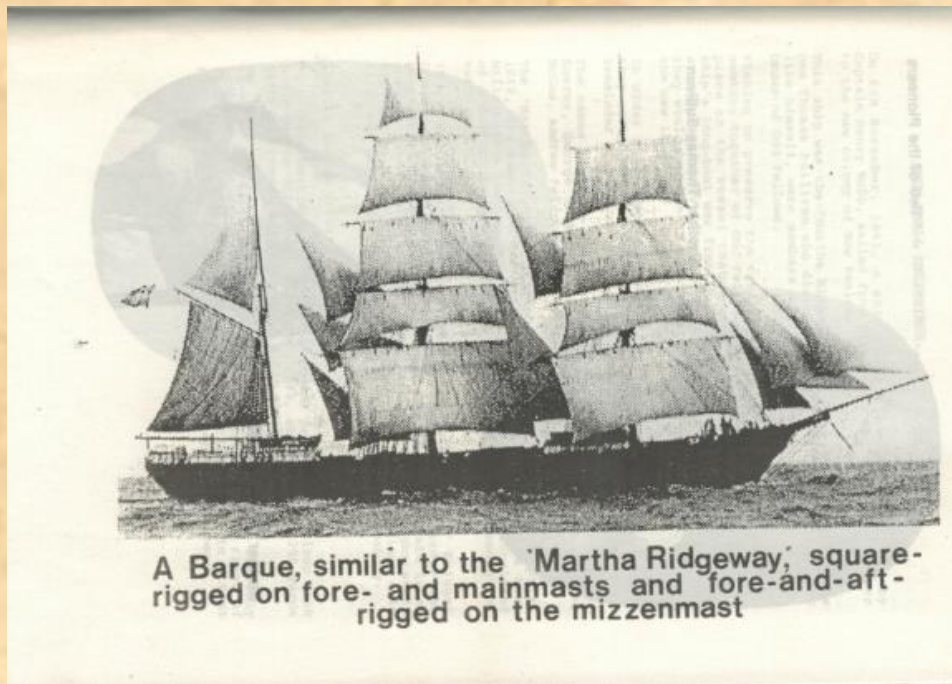


## Celebrating 175 years of Manchester Unity in New Zealand

### From small beginnings...

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 1841 the barque "Martha Ridgeway" sailed from Liverpool under the command of Captain Henry Webb. Amongst the 219 passengers on board there were found to be nine members of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Odd Fellows, UK.



The names of these nine men were Thomas Sullivan; Charles Kearns; George Greathead; Eli Cropper; John Hanley; Alexander McGee; Andrew Paterson; Joshua Sigley and Enoch Nicholl.

Wishing to hold meetings during the voyage, they chose the ships long-boat as being suitable for secrecy, and plans were made to establish a Lodge as soon as they landed in New Zealand. They each contributed one halfpenny per week for the remainder of the voyage for that purpose.

George Greathead later reported that "the Doctor on board told my wife that he thought I was a ringleader among the Chartists and if this were found to be true, I would be the first man to be hanged in New Zealand. He also told the Captain about me."

The "Martha Ridgeway" sailed into Nelson Harbour on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 1842.

***To be continued.....***

**Excerpts from the Booklet "Trials and Triumphs" -  
1842 to 2017**

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