

Christopher Louis Maling (1841 – 1916)

Christopher Louis Maling was born at Penrith, Cumberland, England, the second child of Thomas Awdos Maling, an agricultural labourer, and his wife Mary. He was nine months old when the family left for New Zealand on the *Martha Ridgeway* in November 1841, and seven months later, on 7 April 1842 they arrived in Nelson. The next year Thomas Maling, then chief constable at Nelson, was among 22 settlers and four Māori killed in a land dispute now known as the Wairau Affray. Left orphans when their mother died in about 1846, Christopher and his sister Elizabeth were taken by Bishop Selwyn to Auckland, and adopted by Captain David Rough and his wife, who had no children of their own. There, Christopher attended school. Captain Rough, the first harbourmaster of Auckland, had visited Nelson in 1848 with Governor George Grey, and in 1856, when he was appointed collector of customs in Nelson, the family moved south.

At the age of about 15, Christopher Maling joined the provincial survey. An early task was to help lay out the town of Collingwood when gold digging began in the area in 1857. For the next ten years or so he explored and surveyed extensively in the northern part of the South Island, assisting such people as Henry Lewis, Ferdinand von Hochstetter, Alfred Domett and John Blacket. In the valley of the upper Clarence in 1859 he noted the low saddle, now called Lewis Pass, leading westward. In February 1860 he was granted leave of absence to accompany William Travers on his exploration of the Waiau headwaters. In 1862 Travers sent a letter to Sir William Hooker with a specimen of a fern Maling had discovered in the Golden Bay area. It was new to Hooker, and he described and named it *Trichomanes malingii* (now *Hymenophyllum malingii*) after the young surveyor.

Maling left Nelson to survey in Southland and in the Waikato. He then served as a scout in the Whanganui-Taranaki area during the land wars, and for his "most valuable and efficient services as Sergeant of the Corps of Guides on many occasions", and especially his daring actions at Tauranga-ika in February 1869, was awarded the New Zealand Cross. This is now in the royal collection at Windsor Castle.

After hostilities ceased, Maling was involved in the survey and construction of telegraph lines in both North and South Islands. He then left New Zealand, going first to Japan, and then to South Africa where he was engaged in telegraph construction and military intelligence. He prospected in South America and for a long time was a planter in Florida.

He died in England on 18 December 1916 at the age of 74, survived by his wife Hilda. They had no children. However, Christopher Maling had a son from a relationship with Pua Raharihi, also known as Kirikaiahi Raharihi and as Pua Renata. She kept knowledge of the child's existence from Maling for fear he would take him to England. Their son Raharihi Pururu (better known to his people as Ruhi Pururu) became a prominent leader of Te Arawa, and was awarded the Order of the British Empire for his services to both Māori and European. He died at Rotorua in 1957, at the age of 86.



Hymenophyllum malingii

Many trees and rocks in moist areas throughout the country are covered with filmy ferns with thin, often translucent fronds (Greek *Hymenophyllum* 'membranous leaf'). They withstand dry periods by curling up tightly and reviving when moistened again. Most of the 21 species found in New Zealand are endemic. *Hymenophyllum malingii* has long, thin creeping rhizomes, and unusual tubular pinnae that are densely covered with hairs, grey above and reddish-brown below. The indusium flaps are also densely hairy. An uncommon fern in montane to subalpine forest in the North and South Islands, it is usually epiphytic on dead or dying trunks of kaikawaka (*Libocedrus bidwillii*), and occasionally on other forest trees, moss-covered rocks and cliff faces.