

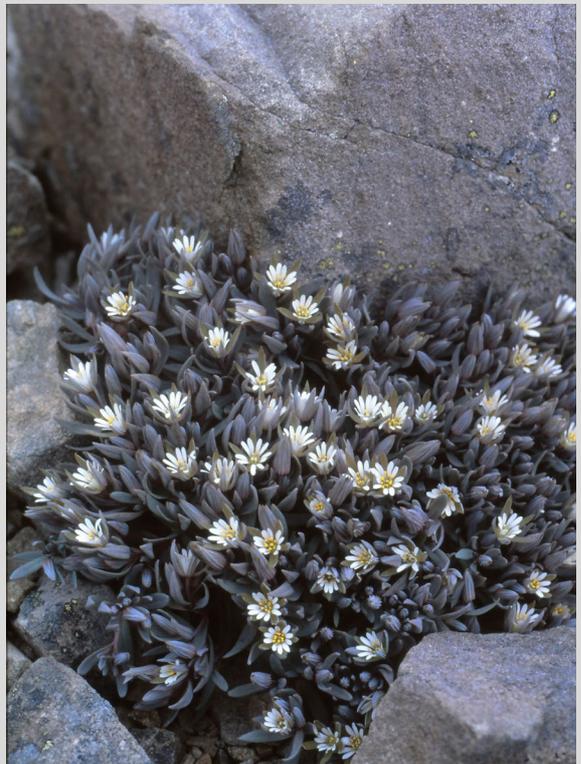
# David Rough (1815 – 1899)

David Rough was born in Kintore, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Although the year of his birth is generally given as 1815, a letter and most of his papers indicate that he was born in 1813. His father George Rough had migrated from Perth to Dundee in 1791 and started a business in High Street, where he traded for many years. David was his eleventh son! Third son George Rough Junior became provost of Dundee; David showed an early love of the sea, and when a mere lad was bound apprentice on the brig *Duke of Atholl*. After his first voyage to the Baltic he sailed mainly in Indian waters, rising to a position of command while still a young man.

He came to New Zealand via Java and Australia, landing in Paihia on 29 January 1840 with Lieutenant-Governor William Hobson, and on 6 February he was a signatory to the Treaty of Waitangi. In June that year he surveyed the Tamaki isthmus where Auckland is now centred, and it was his favourable report that led to Hobson's eventual approval of the site for the new settlement and capital of New Zealand. Early in August preparations began in the Bay of Islands for the move to the Waitemata. Rough was offered the position of harbourmaster, and was with the party of government officers, tradesmen and labourers (including wives and children) sent to take possession of the intended settlement. Early accommodation was in tents and raupo huts – in a watercolour by John Johnson (1794–1848) Captain Rough's tent is identified as the one closest to the shore. The first building erected was the timber store, and port facilities were modest: a handcart and the harbourmaster's boat were the only ways of unloading a ship.

The estimated population of 1500 in 1841 soon doubled with the influx of settlers and immigrants. In 1842–1843 there was public outrage at the arrival of 128 boys, 11–19 years old, from Parkhurst prison on the Isle of Wight. As immigration agent, Captain Rough was responsible for them. His nature was said to be kindly; he and his wife (the Hobsons' former governess, Ellen Short) adopted two children, Elizabeth and Christopher Maling, when their father was killed at Wairau in 1843. In 1844, in addition to his other duties, Captain Rough was asked to take charge of public works, to organise much-needed road construction and absorb settlers not yet in employment. In 1856 he was appointed collector of customs at Nelson, and when he retired in 1868 on a well-earned pension he had served five successive governors. He sailed to England in 1875 and died in Bournemouth in 1899, predeceased by his wife. They had no children of their own, but two nephews who came to New Zealand in 1870 continued the family name here.

David Rough travelled extensively in New Zealand and overseas and published *Narrative of a Journey through the North of New Zealand* and two books on his visits to Europe and the Orient. His memoirs "Early Days in Auckland", published in supplements to the *New Zealand Herald* in January 1896, include a brief account of the first ascent of Rangitoto by Europeans. A sketch of Auckland town that he made in 1843 is believed to be the earliest existing picture of Queen Street. He collected plants in various localities, especially in the Nelson mountains, and sent them to J D Hooker at Kew. Two alpine plants, *Stellaria roughii*, and *Lobelia roughii* are named after him.



## ***Stellaria roughii***

*Stellaria* is a world-wide genus of about 85 species. The generic name refers to the starry flowers. Two of the six New Zealand species reach the alpine zone. *Stellaria roughii*, scree chickweed, is a rather delicate, fleshy summer-green herb (i.e. dying back to underground parts in winter). In spring it sends up fine, branching stems that develop to form loose patches up to 20 cm across of erect, narrow-pointed, grey foliage. By mid-summer most branch tips sport a single flower with leaf-like sepals that tend to conceal the much shorter deeply-bilobed petals. The sepals persist and also tend to hide the dry capsules. Like most scree plants, *Stellaria roughii* blends with its surroundings. It may be found at 1000–2000 m in the South Island mountains, but its occurrence is erratic.