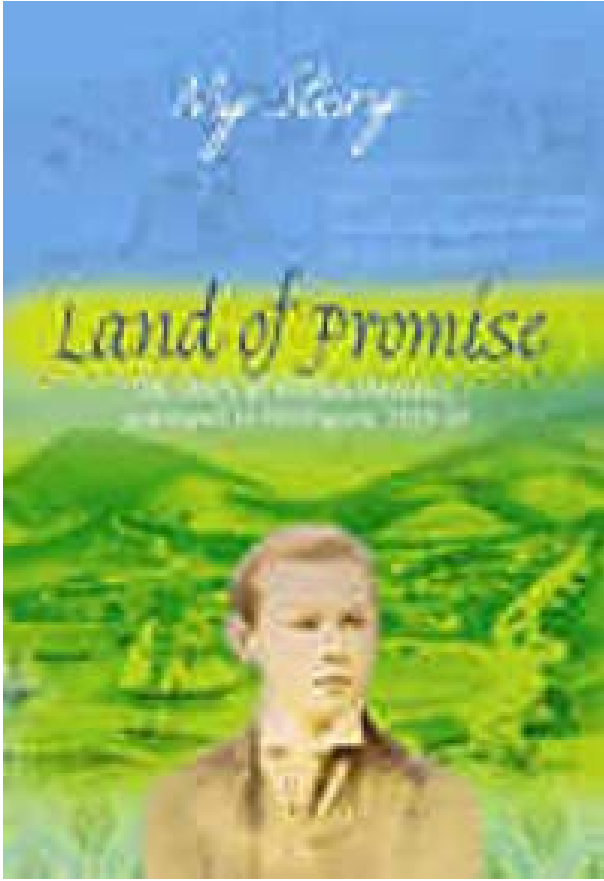


Land of Promise: The Diary of William Donahue, Gravesend to Wellington, 1839-40



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In 1840 the New Zealand Company was enticing British families to emigrate to New Zealand where (according to Company statements) they would find a land of milk and honey. Will Donahue's family endure a long and heartbreaking voyage halfway round the world to Wellington - where they find no town laid out and waiting for them, as promised. Instead they have to live in a tent and cook over an open fire, as well as having to fight for the land they'd already paid for. Life was not made any easier by the continuing lies of the Company officials, nor by the hostility of the local Maori - who did not see why they should give up their land to these intruders.