**Information on David Nield**

**SEQUEL TO A MUTINY**

**EARLY ADVENTISM ON PITCAIRN ISLAND**

By Milton Hook c. 2007

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“The tragedy dealt a severe blow to the entire community. Fisher Young had been their church elder and school-teacher, accepting the leadership role when Adams left in 1917. Seventy-six-year-old James Russell McCoy was too old to take command again and a vacuum developed in the spiritual guidance of the church members.

This predicament became critical in late 1923 when **David Nield**, who had married Rosalind Young in 1907, visited Pitcairn. **Nield was known as a pastor of the Church of God** and not sympathetic to the Adventist cause. He held such beliefs as a Wednesday crucifixion of Christ, the continuing necessity to celebrate the Passover, and the Edenic date-line theory which made Sunday the Sabbath in the southern hemisphere. He challenged the Pitcairners to give up Adventism and accept his teachings as his wife had done. Instead, the islanders refused and despatched an urgent request to Australia for a resident Adventist missionary. Their plea brought an immediate reaction. Pastor Robert Hare and his wife, Henrietta, were appointed to Pitcairn and arrived in late

March 1924. Their ship arrived soon after Rosalind (Young) Nield had passed away. Her husband, after the funeral on the island, left on the same ship which brought the Hares...

From its low ebb the fervour on Pitcairn soared to a high peak during those eight months of 1924. News then came to hand that **Nield had died in New Zealand** and the Hares left Pitcairn on October 23.” (pp.16-17)