

EDWARD QUINN: A NOTABLE HAURAKI MINE MANAGER

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Abstract: *The son of a miner, Edward Quinn joined his father on the new Thames field when aged 17. As well as acquiring interests in several claims there and at Ohinemuri, his increasing skills meant he soon became a manager. Involved in the Te Aroha rush and then in the Waiorongomai and Tui portions of that field, he managed several mines there. At Tui, despite not working his own ground he would try to obtain others' unworked ground, but failed. At Karangahake he again attempted to exploit the system of holding ground for his own benefit, unsuccessfully.*

Quinn mined on almost every Hauraki field, prospected briefly in the King Country, and even became a mine manager at Reefton. In addition, for a while he ran several hotels and also took up contracts to construct roads and drain swamps. He also acquired farmland, and may have farmed it.

Notable for his involvement in the local community, he was a member of two licensing committees, the Hot Springs Domain Board at Te Aroha, the Te Aroha Town Board, and the Ohinemuri County Council. Relations with his colleagues were often fraught, as he never failed to speak his mind about others' defects. He suffered from miners' complaint for many years, possibly increasing his irascibility.

HIS FATHER

Edward Quinn,¹ commonly known as Ned,² was the son of another miner, Thomas,³ and Mary Naughton or Norton.⁴ His father, described as 'an old Californian digger', joined that rush in 1852, remaining there for five years and 'being very successful' before arriving in Auckland in 1862.⁵ After

¹ For photographs, see *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 1006; *Observer*, 31 July 1915, p. 18.

² For example, *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 4 July 1896, p. 4.

³ See Nicholas Twohill, 'Thomas Quinn: A Life Full of Experience and Travel', *Ohinemuri Regional History Journal*, no. 47 (September 2003), pp. 27-30.

⁴ Marriage Certificate of Edward Quinn, 24 July 1884, 1884/2952, BDM.

⁵ Paeroa Magistrate's Court, Old Age Pensions Minute Book 1899-1906, folio 33, ZAAP 13788/1a, ANZ-A; *Gisborne Times*, 11 January 1902, p. 2; *Auckland Weekly News*, 16 January 1902, p. 41; F.W. W[eston], 'Thames Reminiscences', *New Zealand Herald*, 2 February 1923, p. 9 [hereafter Weston].

fighting in the Waikato War, in July 1865 he was granted a license for the Swan Inn, Mechanic's Bay, Auckland.⁶ As this was unprofitable, by the following October he was bankrupt.⁷

He was one of the pioneers of the Thames goldfields, and took out the second miner's right there. He discovered the first reef in Tapu Creek, the Quinn and Cashell's.⁸ Mr Quinn experienced all the ups and downs of digging life, and was much respected at the Thames, where he was well known.⁹

Another obituary, whilst agreeing that he had the second miner's right, stated that Quinn and Cashell's claim was the second reef to be found at Tapu.¹⁰ In fact, he had the third miner's right, as his son correctly recalled in 1923.¹¹ He had been on the first steamer to the new field and had the first sluicing dam in Karaka Creek, 'for it was alluvial gold only that the Thames pioneers were looking for in the first instance'.¹² A working partner in several early claims, he was described in April 1868 as 'indefatigable' in trying to find gold.¹³

One of the original prospectors of Ohinemuri, he owned the first mine at Waitekauri.¹⁴ None of this hard work brought financial security; in 1876, for instance, despite selling land to meet debts and feed his family he was unable to pay a judgment summons for £4 13s 3d, having not 'a penny in my

⁶ *Gisborne Times*, 11 January 1902, p. 2; *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 21 July 1865, p. 163.

⁷ *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 6 October 1866, p. 281.

⁸ Here and elsewhere, recorded as Cashel's.

⁹ *Auckland Weekly News*, 16 January 1902, p. 41.

¹⁰ *Observer*, 25 January 1902, p. 4.

¹¹ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Miners' Rights 1867-1868, no. 3, BACL 14358/1a, ANZ-A; Weston.

¹² Weston ; *Observer*, 25 January 1902, p. 4.

¹³ Thames Warden's Court, Claims Register 1868, folio 183, BACL 14397/1a; Claims Register 1868-1869, no. 1126, BACL 14397/3a; Registrations, 1867-1868, nos. 14, 262, BACL 14358/1a; Warden's Notebook 1869, entry for 2 August 1869, BACL 14457/1c; Register of Agreements 1868, folio 82, BACL 14417/2a, ANZ-A; *Auckland Weekly News*, 18 April 1868, p. 13.

¹⁴ *Observer*, 25 January 1902, p. 4.

pocket'.¹⁵ Having acquired an Ohinemuri agricultural lease in 1875 at what would become Waikino, he immediately started farming it.¹⁶ He participated in the Te Aroha rush, pegging out three men's ground adjacent to the Prospectors' Claim and being an owner of the No. 1 South and a shareholder in the subsequent company.¹⁷ Like his son, he had one share in the Auckland, registered in early December 1880 but declared abandoned five months later.¹⁸

In the 1880s, he abandoned mining to farm at Tarariki Creek, near Paeroa,¹⁹ and contracted to make roads and drains.²⁰ That he continued to have financial difficulties was illustrated by his application, in 1893, for either a 'gift of land somewhere near where I am living at Paeroa' as a reward for fighting in the Auckland Militia throughout the Waikato War. Then a married man with five children, he had 'left a situation of 8/- a day to join the Army'. If a land grant was not possible, 'I will be only too glad to receive money instead'. His application was unsuccessful.²¹ He explained his financial position when applying, successfully, for the old age pension in

¹⁵ *Thames Star*, 13 April 1877, p. 2; Magistrate's Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 14 April 1877, p. 3.

¹⁶ Thames Warden's Court, Mackaytown and Thames Letterbook 1876-1896, p. 13, BACL 14458/1b; Paeroa Magistrate's Court, Plaintiff Book 1881-1896, 9/1883, BACL 13745/1a, ANZ-A; Plan of Quinn's Selection, SO 51953, LINZ, Hamilton; Ohinemuri Correspondent, *Thames Advertiser*, 30 September 1875, p. 3.

¹⁷ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Miner's Right no. 928, issued 25 November 1880, Miners' Rights Butt Book 1880, BBAV 11533/1b, ANZ-A; *Thames Star*, 29 November 1880, p. 2; *Thames Advertiser*, 18 December 1880, p. 3; *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 February 1881, p. 258.

¹⁸ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 192, BBAV 11567/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁹ *Observer*, 25 January 1902, p. 4; J.A. Cheal (Assistant Surveyor) to S. Percy Smith (Assistant Surveyor General, Auckland), 15 January 1885, Section 27, Legislative Department, LE 1, 1888/128, ANZ-W; Ohinemuri County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 14 March 1888, p. 2, 11 June 1890, p. 2, 9 July 1890, p. 2; Paeroa Warden's Court, Register of Ohinemuri Agricultural Leases 1875-1892, folio 1, ZAAP 13784/1a, ANZ-A; *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 8 August 1900, pp. 2, 3.

²⁰ For example, Ohinemuri County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 20 March 1886, p. 7, 26 February 1887, p. 2, 11 February 1888, p. 2, 5 March 1890, p. 2, 2 April 1890, p. 2.

²¹ Applications for Land Grants 1889-1892, no. 625, Lands and Survey Department, LS 66/6, ANZ-W.

1899. 'I have 48 acres of land and house – No money two cows worth £3-0-0. Horse £7. Lived last year on a few pounds I got from family and grow few potatoes for myself'. As his wife had neither money nor property, she was also granted the pension.²² The following year, he sold his farm.²³ When he died in Gisborne in 1902, aged 82, his estate was valued at under £100.²⁴ An obituary described him as 'one of the colony's most respected pioneers'.²⁵

EARLY LIFE AT THAMES

Edward Quinn, born in Galway, Ireland, in 1851, arrived in Auckland in June 1865 on the 'Balaclava' with his mother, three sisters, and two brothers, three years after his father.²⁶ His reminiscences, recorded in 1923, explained his going to Thames in September 1867 as 'the result of an adventure of boyish enterprise. As a matter of fact he ran away at the age of 16 from an apprenticeship which he was serving in Auckland to the plastering trade, to seek his fortune on the newly opened goldfield'. His father was already working his sluicing claim when Quinn arrived 'closely upon the paternal heels, but without the paternal permission. He sought and surprised his father on arrival, received pardon for his escapade, and was soon working in a family partnership'.²⁷ He took out his first miner's right on 1 November, transferring it from Karaka to Tapu, then known as Waikawau, two months later.²⁸ As he explained in 1923, as he and his father had worked 'without achieving any notable reward' at Thames, they went to Tapu and 'took to reefing, and struck a patch in what was known as

²² Paeroa Magistrate's Court, Old Age Pensions Minute Book 1899-1906, folio 33, ZAAP 13790/1a, ANZ-A; Death Certificate of Thomas Quinn, 10 January 1902, 1902/1197, BDM.

²³ *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 8 August 1900, pp. 2, 3.

²⁴ Probate of Thomas Quinn, BBAE 1569/4340, ANZ-A.

²⁵ *Gisborne Times*, 11 January 1902, p. 2.

²⁶ Provincial Treasurer, Immigration Department Letterbook, Register of Applications for Passages 1859-1872, no. 139 ('Balaclava', arrived 29 June 1865), REPRO 1615, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Herald*, 30 June 1865, p. 3; *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 1006; Death Certificate of Edward Quinn, 25 December 1924, 1924/8845, BDM.

²⁷ Weston.

²⁸ *Auckland Weekly News*, 18 April 1868, p. 13, 6 June 1868, p. 8; Thames Warden's Court, Register of Miners' Rights 1867-1868, no. 1727, BACL 14358/1a, ANZ-A.

Quinn and Cashell's claim, from which they soon sold out to advantage'.²⁹ They found splendid gold before his father sold his interest and they returned to Thames in September 1868.³⁰ Quinn, who owned one-fifth of the interests when the claim was registered in June, sold three-quarters of his interest at the end of October 1869 for an unknown price.³¹ His father, who owned a three-quarter share, sold a half share for £150.³² With others, Thomas then re-applied for the ground, but abandoned it in May 1870.³³

Back in Thames, in October 1868 Quinn became one of the four owners of the Countess of Collingwood; each owner had one share.³⁴ In June 1869, he purchased one share in the Star of Fortune, at Waiotahi Creek, for 2s 6d.³⁵ With a partner he acquired the Sprig of Shillelagh at Karaka later that year, abandoning it the following year and then applying for a new lease.³⁶ With another partner, he applied for a claim in the Karaka Block in 1870.³⁷ The following year, he held 500 shares in the Oriental Company.³⁸ In September 1872 his 50 shares in the Mary Ann Company were liable for forfeiture if a call was not paid.³⁹ He did pay, to be warned, nine months later, that he would lose them if the fifth call remained unpaid.⁴⁰

Quinn worked in the Golden Crown 'prior to the striking of the historic run of gold which came down into it from the Manukau ground, and afterwards ran into the Caledonian'. At the time this run was discovered, Richard Harris⁴¹ was the manager of the latter.⁴²

²⁹ Weston.

³⁰ Weston; Thames Warden's Court, Register of Miners' Rights 1867-1868, no. 1727, BACL 14385/1a, ANZ-A.

³¹ Thames Warden's Court, Claims Register 1868, folio 183, BACL 14397/1a, ANZ-A.

³² Thames Warden's Court, Register of Agreements 1868, folio 82, BACL 14417/2a, ANZ-A.

³³ *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 29 October 1869, p. 1444, 18 May 1870, p. 190.

³⁴ Thames Warden's Court, Claims Register 1868-1869, no. 1157, BACL 14397/3a, ANZ-A.

³⁵ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Deeds 1869, folio 314, 14417/4a, ANZ-A.

³⁶ *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 1 September 1870, p. 346; *Thames Advertiser*, 3 September 1870, p. 4.

³⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 3 September 1870, p. 4.

³⁸ *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 18 August 1871, p. 211.

³⁹ Advertisement, *Thames Advertiser*, 20 September 1872, p. 2.

⁴⁰ Advertisement, *Thames Advertiser*, 7 June 1873, p. 2.

⁴¹ See Birth Notice, *Daily Southern Cross*, 18 April 1873, p. 2; *New Zealand Herald*, 5 October 1877, p. 3, 27 March 1888, p. 6.

⁴² See Thames Correspondent, *New Zealand Herald*, 18 June 1873, p. 3.

“Dick,” says Mr Quinn, “came into our level and, continuing our face, took out a crushing from the reef. From my experience in the Crown, I knew that the stone was at the time becoming poorer, and I told him so, but he thought otherwise. At any rate he crushed a parcel from the drive, and the result was poor, in comparison with what the Crown had been getting. The shares, which had just before been sold as high as £20, fell to £10. On my advice, Mr Harris then came back to the boundary, and started to sink a winze on the reef. After he had his windlass rigged, and everything was ready for the sinking, a change of management was made, Mr Harris being superseded by Mr William Rowe.⁴³ Had Dick been allowed to continue sinking he, and not Mr Rowe, would have had the first really rich gold in the Caledonian, for, as you know, within five feet from the floor of the level the gold set in richer than ever.”⁴⁴

By at least February 1872, when he and his partners were sued, by a miner dismissed for incompetence, for failing to fulfil a contract in the Caledonian, Quinn had left the Golden Crown to work in it.⁴⁵ He ‘saw some of the richest part of the patch taken out’ of a reef varying from three to 25 feet in width, and recalled that ‘where it was biggest it was richest. I have seen bands of gold running through it as wide as my hand – and not merely one band, but several – yellow masses that could be clearly seen from a distance of 20 feet’. He was given a contract to stope out ‘a large block of the reef’ at £8 per cubic fathom, ‘and at this work he continued for about two years, after which he was given the position of underground boss’.⁴⁶

In late 1872, when working in the Cure, he helped recover the body of a miner killed by an explosion in the Manukau.⁴⁷ The following March, with two others he won damages of £30 (they had sought £100) from a director of the Evening Star Company who had claimed to be entitled to lease a portion on tribute. They had engaged men and purchased tools, but as the company

⁴³ See *New Zealand Herald*, 21 December 1871, p. 2; *Thames Advertiser*, 8 May 1875, p. 2.

⁴⁴ Weston.

⁴⁵ *Thames Guardian and Mining Record*, 13 February 1872, p. 3, Warden’s Court, 23 February 1872, p. 3, Warden’s Court, 14 March 1872, p. 3.

⁴⁶ Weston.

⁴⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 2 November 1872, p. 3.

was being wound up it owned no ground to lease.⁴⁸ In March 1874 he was working in the Central Italy.⁴⁹

Quinn was described in 1902 as having been ‘one of the most popular mine-managers’ at Thames.⁵⁰ According to an obituary, ‘at the age of 18 he was placed in charge of a mine’,⁵¹ suggesting a date of around 1869. In 1923 he recalled becoming manager of the ‘original Queen of Beauty proprietary, before the flotation of the limited liability company’, dating this to some time between 1872 and 1874 but also to 1877, the latter clearly being incorrect.

It was at that time a very productive property, though it had been bought by the shareholders only a short time [before] for something like £8 or £10 apiece. Two large reefs being worked.... A large staff of miners was employed, and for a long period gold stampers in different batteries on the field were kept fed by the mine’s output. For years the fortunate proprietors received dividends at the rate of £100 each per week.⁵²

Next he became manager of the Bird in Hand, an appointment that can be dated to October 1874;⁵³ he was nominated by Denis Murphy, later an associate at Te Aroha.⁵⁴ ‘In working a small reef, he obtained for a time returns running as high as 500oz per month’, but did not mention that the mine ceased operations in early 1875.⁵⁵

OHINEMURI MINING IN THE 1870s

⁴⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, District Court, 5 March 1873, p. 3, 6 March 1873, p. 3; Grahamstown District Court, *Auckland Weekly News*, 8 March 1873, p. 14.

⁴⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 9 March 1874, p. 2.

⁵⁰ *Observer*, 25 January 1902, p. 19.

⁵¹ *Auckland Star*, 27 December 1924, p. 5.

⁵² Weston.

⁵³ Weston; *New Zealand Herald*, 29 December 1924, p. 8.

⁵⁴ See chapter on Denis Murphy’s life.

⁵⁵ Weston; *Thames Star*, 5 March 1875, p. 2, 1 September 1875, p. 2, 11 September 1875, p. 2, 25 September 1875, p. 2.

In October 1868, his father was a member of a committee that asked the Maori landowners to open Ohinemuri for mining.⁵⁶ Six years later, Quinn was one of those calling a meeting about taking action to open this district, and was present at the opening of this new goldfield three months later.⁵⁷ In March 1875, he was one of the owners of the Rising Sun, at Karangahake,⁵⁸ but soon became interested in Waitekauri, in May being registered as an owner of the Homeward Bound there.⁵⁹ In October, he was an owner of the Beehive, and in November of the New-found-out.⁶⁰ In 1877, mine manager Charles Henry Wilson, later of Waiorongomai,⁶¹ thanked those who had assisted him to develop the main Waitekauri mine, including, in its 'early days', Quinn.⁶² The following year, he joined the new Ohinemuri Mining Association,⁶³ which prospected several areas in that district.

Late in December 1875, he acquired his first interests in Owharoa mines, becoming a part owner of both the Alert and Mount Pleasant; the latter was forfeited for non-working two months later.⁶⁴

MINING IN THE TE AROHA DISTRICT

In mid-1880, Quinn was supervising a drainage contract in the Te Aroha district.⁶⁵ In late October, after hearing of the discovery of gold, he

⁵⁶ *Auckland Weekly News*, 24 October 1868, p. 7.

⁵⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 19 December 1874, p. 2, 4 March 1875, p. 3, 26 March 1875, p. 3.

⁵⁸ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Ohinemuri Claims 1875, no. 17, BBAV 11568/1a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Ohinemuri Claims 1875, no. 73, BBAV 11568/1a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Ohinemuri Claims 1875, nos. 90, 97, BBAV 11568/1a, ANZ-A.

⁶¹ See *Thames Advertiser*, 10 March 1876, p. 2, 7 October 1876, p. 3, 3 May 1877, p. 3, 20 October 1877, p. 2, 29 October 1877, p. 3, 31 October 1877, p. 3, 12 July 1880, p. 2, 4 March 1886, p. 3, 4 April 1889, p. 2.

⁶² *Thames Advertiser*, 31 October 1877, p. 3.

⁶³ *Thames Advertiser*, 24 April 1878, p. 3.

⁶⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Ohinemuri Claims 1875, nos. 111, 113, BBAV 11568/1a, ANZ-A; Warden's Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 12 February 1876, p. 3.

⁶⁵ Own Reporter, 'Tour in the Aroha, Waitoa, and Piako Districts', *Thames Advertiser*, 22 June 1880, p. 3.

went to the embryonic settlement, where on 6 November he was a witness at George Lipsey's marriage.⁶⁶ When the warden, Harry Kenrick,⁶⁷ arrived on 25 October to inspect Hone Werahiko's discovery,⁶⁸ Quinn along with other miners accompanied him to see the reef allegedly found by Charles Featherstone Mitchell.⁶⁹ After Mitchell admitted he could not find it without the assistance of Rewi Mokena,⁷⁰ Quinn 'and others sat down, and Quinn said to Mitchell, "If you were on another goldfield you would have the ears cropped off you." Mitchell appealed to the Warden for protection. Quinn and others then sat down and refused to go further'.⁷¹ When the prospectors met later that day, Quinn moved 'that it was desirable to open the country for gold mining'.⁷²

Almost immediately after opening day, he became an owner of Morgan's Claim.⁷³ Early in December, he held 780 of the 12,000 shares in the Waikato Company, and was elected a director.⁷⁴ In mid-December, he was one of the 15 owners of the Auckland, with his father; both had one share; it was declared abandoned in the following May.⁷⁵ Also in December he bought a half share in the Bonanza for £11, which was converted into 261 of the 15,000 shares in the subsequent company.⁷⁶

Quinn was involved in Waiorongomai mining for three years. In October 1883, he bought a quarter share for £15 in the Young Caledonian,

⁶⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 27 October 1880, p. 3; Marriage Certificate of George Lipsey, 6 November 1880, 1880/2738, BDM; see paper on George Lipsey.

⁶⁷ See paper on his life.

⁶⁸ See paper on his life.

⁶⁹ See papers on the Te Aroha field prior to opening day.

⁷⁰ See paper on his life.

⁷¹ Special Reporter, 'Te Aroha', *Thames Star*, 1 November 1880, p. 2.

⁷² *Thames Advertiser*, 27 October 1880, p. 3.

⁷³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Miner's Right no. 352, issued 25 November 1880, Miners' Rights Butt Book 1880, BBAV 11533/1a; Plaintiff Book 1880-1898, 1/1880, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

⁷⁴ *New Zealand Gazette*, 30 December 1880, p. 1797; *Waikato Times*, 11 December 1880, p. 2.

⁷⁵ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 192, BBAV 11567/1a, ANZ-A.

⁷⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 6 May 1887, p. 3; *New Zealand Gazette*, 20 January 1881, p. 111.

an unsuccessful claim that was abandoned early in the following year.⁷⁷ In December 1883, when he was managing the Welcome, he also became manager for the Diamond Gully Company.⁷⁸ In August 1885, he left the former to manage the Colonist, ‘an appointment that had given satisfaction’.⁷⁹ He was one of the managers who reported to the council on the working of the tramway; his subsequent application to manage it was unsuccessful.⁸⁰

At Stoney Creek, in mid-1886, he was one of a three-man party preparing to send ore from the Trenton for testing at the Waiorongomai battery.⁸¹ No other involvement in this unsuccessful part of the field was recorded.

At Tui, in 1885 he was one of the owners of the Keep It Dark, selling half his interest a year later and the remainder soon afterwards.⁸² The following year he owned the Fortune,⁸³ and in 1887 was the sole owner of the Victory and the Nelson.⁸⁴ In May 1887, in applying to the Minister of Mines for a mine manager’s certificate, he stated he was managing the ‘Champion Lode’.⁸⁵ A mine manager and owner, Clem Cornes,⁸⁶ confirmed that he had managed mines at both Tui and Waiorongomai.⁸⁷ Six weeks later, Quinn rewarded Cornes’ assistance by trying to stop his being granted protection for his claims.⁸⁸ The *Te Aroha News* published his letter verbatim, presumably mockingly:

⁷⁷ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 132, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers 1883, no. 535, BBAV 11581/4a, ANZ-A.

⁷⁸ *Thames Star*, 14 December 1883, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 15 December 1883, p. 2.

⁷⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 5 June 1885, p. 2.

⁸⁰ *Te Aroha News*, Piako County Council, 7 August 1886, p. 2, 21 August 1886, p. 2.

⁸¹ *Waikato Times*, 6 July 1886, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 10 July 1886, p. 2.

⁸² Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 193, BBAV 11500/9a, ANZ-A; Warden’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 23 July 1887, p. 3.

⁸³ *Thames Advertiser*, 5 March 1886, p. 3.

⁸⁴ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Plaintiff Book 1880-1898, 1, 2/1887, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

⁸⁵ Edward Quinn to Minister of Mines, 26 May 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 87/584, ANZ-W.

⁸⁶ See paper on Clement Augustus Cornes.

⁸⁷ Declaration of C.A. Cornes, 25 August 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 87/584, ANZ-W.

⁸⁸ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 35/1887, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A.

Te aroha
11th July 1887

To Warden Straafod Esq

Sir I the undersinged do hereby loge an objection the granting of protection of the keep it dark champion lode No 4 Mark Moon and surprise on the ground that the have not been worked according to the mining regulations

Singed Edward Quinn.

Under questioning from the warden, Henry Aldborough Stratford,⁸⁹ Quinn stated that 'his reason for objecting was because the ground had not been worked according to the regulations', by which he meant 're working ground'. Stratford handed him a copy of the regulations 'requesting him to find and point out the regulations he specially referred to in making this objection, but this he failed to do, and handed back the regulations saying he objected on the general grounds of non working'. He stated that the Mark Moon 'had only been worked 17 days since it was taken up about a year and nine months ago'. When Cornes wanted Stratford to ask Quinn if he possessed a miner's right, the newspaper used italics in reporting the subsequent exchange:

Mr Quinn said he was, but on being produced it proved to have been only *taken out the previous day*, being dated July 18th. Mr Quinn went on to state that the Surprise had been worked about three months, the No 4 Champion Lode about three months, and the Keep it Dark about six weeks, all four claims having been taken up about a year a nine months or two years ago. In reply to the Warden, Mr Quinn admitted he had held interest in one of the claims mentioned, namely, in the Keep it Dark, in which he held shares for over a year, and transferred his interest about nine months ago.

The Warden: How long was the Keep it Dark worked whilst you were a shareholder in it? Mr Quinn: About six weeks.

The Warden: And when work was stopped what did you do then, I suppose you applied to the late Warden Kenrick for protection?

Mr Quinn: No protection your Worship, the ground was left idle.

The Warden: Why left idle?

Mr Quinn: Because there were no funds wherewith to work it.

The Warden having put some further questions, asked Mr Quinn if he wished to make any further statement to support his objection; whereupon Mr Quinn commenced to spin a yarn respecting the manner in which the whole district was locked up, etc, etc; in the delivery of which the Warden cut him short by

⁸⁹ See *Te Aroha News*, 11 September 1886, p. 2, 3 March 1888, p. 2

remarking he did not want a speech from him, but would listen to anything he had got to say with reference to his objection. He was quite aware of the circumstances of the districts, and with respect to what was being done as regards the claims under consideration, before he granted them protection on the last occasion. No further evidence being forthcoming, the Warden addressing Mr Quinn said, I consider this objection comes with very bad grace from you, who, on your own admission, held an interest in the Keep it Dark ... for a year, during which time you say only six weeks' work was done on the ground, and during the balance of the time you were a shareholder the ground was left idle, without even protection being asked for; and now, because you no longer hold an interest in it, you try to turn others out of it. Nobody knows better than you do, as you stand there, that I heard all about the state of affairs as regards these claims, when protection was previously applied for. The least you could have done was to show me you were one of the "unemployed," and desiring to go and work on the ground you object to being further protected. An objection would have come better from any outsider than from you, one of the original shareholders.

After this tongue-lashing, Stratford granted all the claims three months' protection.⁹⁰ The *Te Aroha News* was informed that Quinn's statement that the Mark Moon had been worked for only 14 days was 'utterly false and calculated to mislead. The end aimed at was evidently the forfeiture of the ground'.⁹¹ 'Old Resident', who had attended the hearing, applauded Stratford's 'severe, but richly deserved rebuke'. His 'outspoken and just remarks' had

given very general satisfaction, and been commented on in the highest terms on every hand. But it is a matter of regret that the Warden did not call for any witnesses to be examined, as had he done so evidence of a very important nature would have been given. I have heard it stated on good authority by several persons, that Mr Quinn intimated very plainly that he would be willing to withdraw the objection lodged by him, for an inducement such as an interest in the ground. Let him deny it if he can. I have further heard it publicly stated that during the whole time Mr Quinn was a shareholder in the Keep it Dark ... although two calls were made to meet working expenses, he did not pay his share of the calls, and has not done so to this day. If these statements are correct, I ask, what could be more mean and contemptible than,

⁹⁰ Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 23 July 1887, p. 3.

⁹¹ *Te Aroha News*, 23 July 1887, p. 2.

for a person, having left his fellow shareholders in a mine to meet the working expenses, and still owing his calls, to turn round on his former mates, and endeavour to get their ground forfeited, on the plea that the mining regulations had not been complied with? Had Mr Quinn succeeded in his little game, would he have gone to work himself on the ground, or is he in a better position to influence capital than those who hold the ground? Was his objective the welfare of the district, or the chance of making a “rise” out of the ground, if forfeited? What has Mr Quinn ever done to advance the interests of Te Aroha, mining, or otherwise? Has he any stake at all in the district? I am not aware of any, in fact, I believe he is not even a ratepayer.⁹²

Quinn chose not to respond, and later that year left the district to spend several months prospecting in Ohinemuri.⁹³

Quinn’s biography in the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand* described him as being a ‘practical mine manager’.⁹⁴ In 1887, when he successfully applied for a certificate of competence, Dennis Gilmore MacDonnell, a prominent legal manager and investor,⁹⁵ certified that he had managed mines for ‘many years’ at Thames and Te Aroha and bore ‘a high character for competency, skill and trustworthiness’.⁹⁶ In 1892, he received a mine manager’s service certificate.⁹⁷ Later that year, he was elected to the committee of the Mine Managers’ Association, and two months later was elected one of its two vice-presidents.⁹⁸ His first class certificate was issued later without his having to sit any examinations.⁹⁹

⁹² Letter from ‘Old Resident’, *Te Aroha News*, 30 July 1887, p. 2.

⁹³ Thomas Gavin to Under-Secretary, Tourist Department, 11 January 1888 (telegram), Tourist Department, TO 1, 1891/198, ANZ-W.

⁹⁴ *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 475.

⁹⁵ See *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 464; *New Zealand Herald*, 2 November 1908, p. 4; *Thames Star*, 2 November 1908, p. 2.

⁹⁶ Declaration by D.G. MacDonnell, 23 April 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 87/584, ANZ-W; *AJHR*, 1890, C-3, p. 133.

⁹⁷ *New Zealand Gazette*, 11 February 1892, p. 298.

⁹⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 2 November 1892, p. 2, 14 January 1893, p. 2.

⁹⁹ Return of Gold Mines in Provincial District of Auckland, and Mine Managers, 1899, Legislative Department, LE 1. 1899/144, ANZ-W; *New Zealand Mines Record*, 16 August 1904, p. 44.

After Kenrick's death, Quinn was one of the Te Aroha representatives on a committee formed to choose a suitable memorial.¹⁰⁰

OHINEMURI IN THE 1880s

In December 1881, when Quinn bought a Paeroa hotel 'for a large price', the *Thames Star* predicted that his 'connection with mining matters, and his well known and amicable qualities will shortly make him a favorite landlord'.¹⁰¹ Perhaps he was, but his Imperial Hotel struggled financially, prompting several threats of legal action to obtain payment of the rent.¹⁰² As part of the service, he was the Paeroa agent for Cobb and Co's coaches.¹⁰³ There was never any criticism of his conduct of the hotel, which he sold in mid-1883.¹⁰⁴ He was aware of the perils of being a publican through having been a witness in an 1873 case against a Thames one who permitted gambling on his premises.¹⁰⁵ The following year, he and a friend had got a barmaid out of bed at 7.00 in the morning to serve them beer after falsely claiming to be travellers; after he left the premises, his friend raped the barmaid.¹⁰⁶

At Waitekauri, in 1881 Quinn became one of the six owners of the Shannon, with one of the 15 shares.¹⁰⁷ During that year he invested in two companies, Waitekauri Success and the City of Dublin.¹⁰⁸ In mid-year, with a partner he took 'the upper portion of the Waitekauri Company's ground,

¹⁰⁰ *Thames Advertiser*, 23 August 1886, p. 2.

¹⁰¹ *Thames Star*, 21 December 1881, p. 2.

¹⁰² Jackson and Russell to Edward Quinn, 6 July 1882, 20 July 1882, 20 September 1882, 6 October 1882, 9 January 1883, Letterbook no. 24, pp. 543, 638, no. 25, pp. 202, 293, 746, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Library.

¹⁰³ Advertisement, *Thames Advertiser*, 16 March 1882, p. 1.

¹⁰⁴ *Thames Advertiser*, 2 June 1883, p. 2.

¹⁰⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 8 May 1873, p. 3.

¹⁰⁶ Police Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 23 February 1874, p. 3.

¹⁰⁷ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Claims 1880-1882, no. 963, BACL 14397/13a, ANZ-A.

¹⁰⁸ *New Zealand Gazette*, 18 August 1881, p. 1088, 3 November 1881, p. 1443.

known as the Leahy claim,¹⁰⁹ on tribute'. A local correspondent considered them to be the right men to find gold.¹¹⁰

In 1882, when four miners sued him for forfeiture of the Ohinemuri, at Karangahake, Kenrick's suspicions were raised by the plaint being laid 'within a few hours after protection expired'. One plaintiff 'said he knew when laying the plaint that Quinn did not intend to work the ground. In reply to the Court he said he was under the impression that Quinn intended to abandon it, but had not promised him any interest if the case succeeded, and he believed none of his mates had done so'. Another plaintiff stated Quinn had said he 'could lay a plaint to obtain possession if he chose. He also remarked that he would like to have an interest if they succeeded', and accordingly was promised a share.

His Worship said there could be no doubt this was a collusive action. Defendant had incurred liability to forfeiture by his own neglect to work the ground, and wishing to retain some title to it, had obtained the assistance of the present complainants. This was a clear case of collusion, and he would, therefore, refuse the order prayed for. If they wished to obtain the ground defendant could abandon it in the ordinary manner and they could re-peg it, taking the risk of other parties stepping in before them.¹¹¹

With others, he owned the Paeroa, Diana, and Home Rule.¹¹² In September, he forfeited Luck's All.¹¹³ Late in the year, he invested in two Karangahake companies, the Noble and the Diana.¹¹⁴ In November, he applied for the Perseverance and the Favorite, having different partners in each claim.¹¹⁵ Their pegging out of the latter had incorporated land already pegged out by Hone Werahiko, who sued for the forfeiture of their Wheel of Fortune for non-working, 'so that it is certain to be awarded to Hone'.¹¹⁶ The

¹⁰⁹ See paper on Dan Leahy.

¹¹⁰ Ohinemuri Correspondent, *Thames Advertiser*, 11 July 1881, p. 3.

¹¹¹ Warden's Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 2 May 1882, p. 3.

¹¹² Thames Warden's Court, Register of Applications for Licensed Holdings 1881-1886, folios 81, 82, 93, BACL 14452/1a, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 15 May 1882, p. 2.

¹¹³ *Thames Star*, 28 September 1882, p. 2.

¹¹⁴ *New Zealand Gazette*, 19 October 1882, p. 1521, 14 December 1882, p. 1886.

¹¹⁵ *Thames Star*, 11 November 1882, p. 3.

¹¹⁶ Warden's Court, *Thames Star*, 1 December 1882, p. 2.

following year, Quinn acquired 500 shares of the 20,000 in the Crown Company.¹¹⁷

In October 1887, Quinn visited a new find near Whangamata, immediately starting prospecting amongst ‘some of the best prospectors on the peninsula’.¹¹⁸ He did not make any valuable discoveries. Late that year, he was prospecting at Maratoto, and by January his eight-man party had found good ore in the Arizona; a small parcel was sent to Auckland.¹¹⁹ In mid-March, in the Arizona ‘at Peel’s Creek, the southward of Maratoto proper, Quinn and party are getting good dirt.’¹²⁰ Three months later, they sold this claim to a foreign syndicate for a ‘highly satisfactory’ price, £1,750 in cash.¹²¹

In August, when he was appointed to manage the Silver Queen, the *Thames Advertiser* congratulated ‘the shareholders of having secured the services of such an experienced and energetic manager’.¹²²

WAIHI IN THE 1880s AND 1890s

Quinn followed the first prospectors to Waihi once Billy Nicholl’s discovery had been confirmed.¹²³ In June 1881, with nine others he owned the Comstock, which they forfeited in August the following year.¹²⁴ In February 1882, he became one of 15 owners of Specimen hill, forfeited seven months later.¹²⁵ In November 1888, he was appointed manager of the Silverton.¹²⁶ The following September, it was reported that he and ‘a small staff’ had ‘a fair show’ from their prospecting it, but later that year, or early

¹¹⁷ *New Zealand Gazette*, 27 December 1883, p. 1815.

¹¹⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 12 October 1887, p. 2, 17 October 1887, p. 2.

¹¹⁹ Thames Warden’s Court, Register of Claims 1886-1888, no. 1666, BACL 14397/17a, ANZ-A; *Waikato Times*, 1 December 1887, p. 2, 17 January 1888, p. 2, 7 February 1888, p. 2.

¹²⁰ *Waikato Times*, 17 March 1888, p. 2.

¹²¹ *Te Aroha News*, 16 June 1888, p. 2, 23 June 1888, p. 2, 1 August 1888, p. 2.

¹²² *Thames Advertiser*, 2 August 1888, p. 2.

¹²³ See paper on his life.

¹²⁴ Thames Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1875-1882, folio 147, BACL 14397/10a, ANZ-A.

¹²⁵ Thames Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1875-1882, folio 183, BACL 14397/10a, ANZ-A.

¹²⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 22 November 1888, p. 2.

the next one, work was suspended.¹²⁷ Also in 1889, he became one of the eight owners of the Eclipse, with one of the ten shares; it was sold five months later.¹²⁸

The only Waihi company he invested in during the 1890s was La Mascotte, with 2,000 of the 75,000 shares.¹²⁹ The following month, July 1896, he resigned as manager of the Waihi Extended to move to Opiitonui.¹³⁰ During 1895 and 1896, he served on the committee that formed the Waihi School of Mines.¹³¹

THE THAMES DISTRICT IN THE 1880s AND 1890s

Despite leaving the district, Quinn had retained an interest in Thames mining, in February 1888 being granted protection for the Prospectors' Claim at Karaka Creek.¹³² At Tararu, in May 1890 he was appointed to manage the Norfolk, and until the following May did a lot of prospecting for this company before being appointed the Sylvia Company's manager.¹³³ When work was suspended in February 1893, Quinn was to stay on because the stoppage was meant to be temporary whilst finances were sorted out and calls collected.¹³⁴ Two months later, as the company had sold its property, he explored the King Country for two months.¹³⁵ In early 1893, he was on a committee drawing up a scheme to test the Thames low levels.¹³⁶ In April 1895, he was appointed manager of the Royal Company's Tapu mine.¹³⁷

¹²⁷ *Thames Star*, 27 September 1889, p. 3; H.A. Gordon to Minister of Mines, 1 June 1890, *AJHR*, C-3, p. 42.

¹²⁸ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Claims 1888-1898, no. 1800, BACL 14397/18a, ANZ-A.

¹²⁹ *New Zealand Gazette*, 25 June 1896, p. 1016.

¹³⁰ *Mining Standard and Financial News*, 24 July 1896, p. 3.

¹³¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 28 November 1895, p. 3, 29 June 1896, p. 2; *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 1 July 1896, p. 2; J.B. McAra, *Gold Mining at Waihi 1878-1952* (Waihi, 1978), p. 110.

¹³² Warden's Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 10 February 1888, p. 3.

¹³³ *Thames Advertiser*, 24 May 1890, p. 2, 16 January 1891, p. 2, 8 May 1891, p. 2.

¹³⁴ *Thames Advertiser*, 8 February 1893, p. 2.

¹³⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 25 April 1893, p. 2, 3 July 1893, p. 2.

¹³⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 23 February 1893, p. 3.

¹³⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 2 April 1895, p. 2.

That Quinn was a judge for athletic sports organized by the Thames Miners' Union in 1893¹³⁸ implied that he supported this organization.

OHINEMURI IN THE 1890s

By July 1893 he had 'returned from the King Country', where he 'had very successful trials with Racka Rock',¹³⁹ an explosive presumably used in prospecting. In August 1895, he tested ore in the Lydia, in an unspecified district.¹⁴⁰ The following month, he was reported to have discovered a new reef containing 'excellent ore' on the main range between Tairua and Matatoki, in a previously unexplored belt of country in the Wires area.¹⁴¹ No more was heard of this find. In July 1896 it was reported that Quinn and Thomas Corbett, briefly a Waiorongomai miner,¹⁴² had found gold near Paeroa;¹⁴³ once again, nothing further was heard of this discovery.

In January 1894, he purchased a one-fifteenth interest in the Welcome, at Waitekauri, selling it 15 days later.¹⁴⁴ In June 1895, he was chosen from 15 applicants to manage the Waitekauri No. 4, holding this post at least into the following year.¹⁴⁵ The following year, he held 8,000 shares, in trust, out of the 120,000 shares in the Belmont Company.¹⁴⁶ Although this appointment has not been traced, one version of the song 'Waitekauri Every Time' lists him as a manager of the Grace Darling.¹⁴⁷

In 1896, he held 1,000 of the 150,000 in Kinsella's Owcharoa Freehold Company, the same number of the 60,000 issued by the Owcharoa United

¹³⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 4 March 1893, p. 2.

¹³⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 3 July 1893, p. 2.

¹⁴⁰ 'Obadiah', 'Shares and Mining', *Observer*, 31 August 1895, p. 16.

¹⁴¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 11 September 1895, p. 2.

¹⁴² See *Freeman's Journal*, 28 March 1884, p. 13; Mines Department, MD 1, 92/505, 11/514, ANZ-W.

¹⁴³ *Ohinemuri Gazette*, n.d., cited in *Thames Advertiser*, 6 July 1896, p. 2.

¹⁴⁴ Paeroa Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1887-1896, folio 74, ZAAP 13293/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁴⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 14 June 1895, p. 3; G.E. Alderton, *Auckland Goldfields Maps and Investors' Guide* (Auckland, 1896), p. 2.

¹⁴⁶ *New Zealand Gazette*, 16 July 1896, p. 1127.

¹⁴⁷ Edwin Edwards, 'Waitekauri Every Time', later version, n.d. [early twentieth century?], *Ohinemuri Regional History Journal*, vol. 5 no. 2 (October 1968), p. 37.

Company, and 6,500 of the 80,000 in the Dawn of Hope.¹⁴⁸ He also had two small investments at Komata. In February 1896, he was granted the National, which was forfeited in September 1897, and at the end of April 1896 was granted the Byron Bay Extended, which he transferred to a company one month later, receiving 1,750 of its 80,000 shares.¹⁴⁹

REEFTON, 1894-1896

At the start of 1894, Quinn was appointed to manage the Big River Company's mine at Reefton, for £300 per year.¹⁵⁰ He managed it 'for about two years'.¹⁵¹

OPITONUI MINING, 1896-c. 1908

After returning from Reefton, Quinn 'was placed in charge of the mining on the Kauri Freehold Gold Estates syndicate's property of 37,000 acres, between Mercury Bay and Whangapoua. This enterprise, which resulted in no developments of permanent importance, was his last effort in connection with the goldfields'.¹⁵² This London company appointed him as its manager in July 1896, enticing him away from managing a Waihi mine.¹⁵³ In 1897, Quinn had to supervise the Maiden, Hilda, Lanigan's, Owera, and Murphy's Hill mines, all at Opitonui, near Whangapoua, and three or four miles apart; he visited them when doing 'his rounds each day on horse-back'.¹⁵⁴

¹⁴⁸ *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 April 1896, p. 681, 13 August 1896, p. 1301, 17 September 1896, p. 1579.

¹⁴⁹ Paeroa Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1896-1900, folio 21, ZAAP 13293/2a; Register of Special Claims 1895-1896, folio 114, ZAAP 13294/1b, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Gazette*, 11 June 1896, p. 942.

¹⁵⁰ *Hauraki Tribune*, 23 January 1894, p. 5.

¹⁵¹ Weston.

¹⁵² Weston.

¹⁵³ *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 11 July 1896, p. 4; *Mining Standard and Financial News*, 24 July 1896, p. 3.

¹⁵⁴ Charles Rhodes (Secretary, Kauri Freehold Gold Estate Ltd) to Minister of Mines, 13 January 1897, Mines Department, MD 1, 96/2349, ANZ-W.

In 1896 a visiting reporter saw his well-built, white-painted verandahed Opitonui cottage, constructed for a previous mine manager.¹⁵⁵ Nearly three years later, Michael Dineen O’Keeffe, president of the Thames Miners’ Union,¹⁵⁶ considered his six-roomed cottage to be ‘by far the best private residence in the place’.¹⁵⁷ His leading position in the community was illustrated by his chairing the 1898 meeting that decided to join the Coromandel hospital board.¹⁵⁸ According to his 1923 recollections, he retired from managing the Kauri Freehold Gold Estate’s mines in 1908; according to his obituaries, it was in the following year, but in fact he had given up this position before 1902.¹⁵⁹ His work for this company ‘resulted in no developments of permanent importance’.¹⁶⁰

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Quinn continued to invest in a few companies in the early years of the century. He acquired 250 of the 75,000 shares in the New Sylvia, reworking the Tararu mine of that name, in 1905.¹⁶¹ The following year, he was allotted 800 shares in the Halcyon, at Thames.¹⁶² In 1908, when he described his occupation as ‘gentleman’, he was a vendor in the Silver Hill, at Karangahake, receiving 4,000 of its 160,000 shares, value 2s, paid up to 6d.¹⁶³ In August 1909, he had 500 2s shares, paid up to 6d, in the Point Russell Company, at Thames; by September 1910 he had sold them all.¹⁶⁴

Despite his 1923 statement that his involvement with the Kauri Freehold Gold Estates was ‘his last effort in connection with the goldfields’ and an obituary stating that in the last 15 years of his life he had retired

¹⁵⁵ ‘A Tramp, Esq’, ‘Casual Ramblings’, *Auckland Weekly News*, 26 September 1896, p. 38.

¹⁵⁶ See paper on his life.

¹⁵⁷ M.D. O’Keeffe, ‘Overland from Thames to Kuaotunu’, *Thames Advertiser*, 9 March 1899, p. 4.

¹⁵⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 9 July 1898, p. 2.

¹⁵⁹ Weston; *Auckland Star*, 27 December 1924, p. 5; *New Zealand Herald*, 29 December 1924, p. 8; *Observer*, 25 January 1902, p. 4; *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 1006.

¹⁶⁰ Weston.

¹⁶¹ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 200 no. 1202, ANZ-A.

¹⁶² Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 297, no. 1238, ANZ-A.

¹⁶³ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 224 no. 1324, ANZ-A.

¹⁶⁴ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 9, no. 56, ANZ-A.

from mining,¹⁶⁵ for part of that time he continued to manage some mines, probably part-time. In 1902 he was proprietor of the Bridge Hotel, at Matawhero, a short distance inland from Gisborne.¹⁶⁶ In 1905 he took over the Ponsonby Club hotel.¹⁶⁷ During 1910, he managed the Gem of the Boom, at Broken Hills, near Tairua.¹⁶⁸ In 1913, when manager of the Waverley Reefs at Karangahake, he sent two samples for testing at the Thames School of Mines; one was valued at £228 16s 6d.¹⁶⁹ The following year, when he sued for £387 9s 9d over his costs in floating a company to work this ground, he 'reduced his claim to £100, for a plan and a report that had been prepared, but, when giving evidence, he admitted that there was nothing to show' that the vendor was required to pay for a report, and the warden 'pointed out that if this was so plaintiff's case must fail'. The defendant's solicitor 'suggested that the whole case was a trumped up case', Quinn being used 'as a tool' by a speculator who hoped the 'defendant would pay instead of fighting the case'. His solicitor successfully asked for a non-suit, 'as he could see that after Quinn's statement, it was useless going on'; Quinn was required to pay £12 in costs.¹⁷⁰

By July 1915, when mining was in serious decline, the *Observer* published a photograph captioned 'Ned Quinn and William Gray contemplate departed mining'.¹⁷¹ (Gray was an accountant and mining investor.)¹⁷²

CONTRACTOR

¹⁶⁵ Weston; *Auckland Star*, 27 December 1924, p. 5.

¹⁶⁶ *Gisborne Times*, 11 January 1902, p. 2; *Observer*, 25 January 1902, p. 4; *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 1006.

¹⁶⁷ *Auckland Star*, 5 December 1905, p. 5; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 207 no. 1238, ANZ-A.

¹⁶⁸ Report of Inspector of Mines, 15 December 1910, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/149, ANZ-W.

¹⁶⁹ Edward Quinn to Director, Thames School of Mines, 22 February 1913, Inwards Correspondence 1912-1916; Assay Book 1907-1919, entry for 24 February 1913, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

¹⁷⁰ Paeroa Correspondent, *Auckland Star*, 24 April 1914, p. 6; Paeroa Warden's Court, *Auckland Weekly News*, 30 April 1914, p. 26.

¹⁷¹ *Observer*, 31 July 1915, p. 18.

¹⁷² See *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, pp. 465-466.

One of Quinn's political opponents, the editor of the *Te Aroha News*, John Illott,¹⁷³ described him as 'a miner and road contractor working wherever he can find work suitable'.¹⁷⁴ The first contract sought was in 1877, to clear the road between Mackaytown and Owharoa.¹⁷⁵ One and a half years later, he won one to form part of the road between Paeroa and Katikati, at £2 a chain; he had to cut off most of the small hills between Mackaytown and the first bridge near Karangahake.¹⁷⁶ In 1882, with his former partner, Clem Cornes, he petitioned parliament over their 1879 contract to make a road between Paeroa and Te Aroha. 'On account of a survey party having been fired on by the Natives the Native Minister directed them to desist from further work; that the work was stopped for nearly four months at a great loss to themselves'. Despite the then minister, John Sheehan, testifying that he had stopped them working because they were working in the block where Daldy McWilliams had been shot,¹⁷⁷ and might have been shot also, their request for compensation was declined.¹⁷⁸

In June 1880, a reporter described his visit to Te Aroha:

A vast area of marshy land both above and below the landing is being drained by parties of men employed by Mr Edward Quinn, who was successful in obtaining the contract some weeks ago. Several miles of excellent drains have been cut already, and the work is making good progress. I believe the best part of the next half-year will be occupied in completing the contract.¹⁷⁹

He obtained additional labour to speed up this work, which in November was described as successful.¹⁸⁰ He sought more contracts for

¹⁷³ See papers on James Mills and on neighbourly and unneighbourly behaviour in the Te Aroha district.

¹⁷⁴ John Illott to John Ballance (Minister of Lands), 21 February 1887, Tourist Department, TO 1, 1891/198, ANZ-W.

¹⁷⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 19 September 1877, p. 3.

¹⁷⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 3 April 1879, p. 3, 10 April 1879, p. 3.

¹⁷⁷ See paper on the Daldy McWilliams 'outrage'.

¹⁷⁸ Minute Book of Public Petitions Committee, 20 June 1882, 23 June 1882, Legislative Department, LE 1, 1882/7, ANZ-W; 'Reports of Public Petitions Committee', *AJHR*, 1882, I-1, p. 6.

¹⁷⁹ Own Reporter, 'Tour in the Aroha, Waitoa, and Piako Districts', *Thames Advertiser*, 22 June 1880, p. 3.

¹⁸⁰ *Thames Star*, 2 June 1880, p. 3; *Thames Advertiser*, 2 November 1880, p. 3.

county works in 1881.¹⁸¹ In August that year, when unsuccessfully tendering for two drainage contracts in the Aroha Block, he described himself as a contractor.¹⁸²

In 1886 he tendered, unsuccessfully, to make a sledge track at Stoney Creek.¹⁸³ The following year, his tender to form roads for the Piako County Council, for £95, was accepted.¹⁸⁴ During that year, he sought more contracts in the outlying areas of the county, sometimes successfully.¹⁸⁵ In December, after failing to win any of the three contracts to make sections of a track from Waiorongomai to Tui, Denis Murphy, whom he had known in Thames, told his fellow councillors that he should have received one because the successful tenderer had won another one, and he believed if Quinn's 'contract were accepted, his work would be a pattern for the Engineer to go by'.¹⁸⁶ His tenders to form part of the road between Waiorongomai and Shaftesbury and from the Waiorongomai Landing to Kilgour Street at Waiorongomai were accepted in February.¹⁸⁷ Five months later, Shaftesbury ratepayers complained that his contract, like others contractors', had 'not been properly carried out', blaming the county engineer for not supervising adequately to ensure they were 'fully carried out in accordance with the provisions'.¹⁸⁸ In the following month, all his household furniture was sold, as he was leaving the district; the sale was 'very successful', with 'good prices being realized'.¹⁸⁹ He never sought another contract.

OWNER OF FARM LAND

In 1875, Quinn was granted a 50-acre agricultural lease on the southern side of the Tarariki Stream, on the road to Karangahake, which

¹⁸¹ *Thames Star*, 2 June 1881, p. 2.

¹⁸² Te Aroha Block, entry for 20 August 1881, Lands and Survey Department, LS 1/2344, ANZ-W; *New Zealand Gazette*, 18 August 1881, p. 1088.

¹⁸³ Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 10 July 1886, p. 3.

¹⁸⁴ Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 22 February 1887, p. 3.

¹⁸⁵ Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 30 August 1887, p. 3, 27 September 1887, p. 3.

¹⁸⁶ Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 4 December 1886, p. 2.

¹⁸⁷ *Te Aroha News*, Piako County Council, 26 February 1887, p. 2, 20 August 1887, p. 3.

¹⁸⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 30 July 1887, p. 2.

¹⁸⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 27 August 1887, pp. 2, 3, 3 September 1887, p. 2.

was transferred to his father in December 1884.¹⁹⁰ His level of skill as a farmer is unknown, but when a Te Aroha resident's cow was poisoned by tutu in 1883 he saved its life by bleeding it.¹⁹¹ Two years later, he bought eight acres, the unreserved portion of the Ohinemuri cemetery, for £4 per acre.¹⁹² After leaving Te Aroha in 1887, he erected 'a villa residence' on this land, part of 'the Pukerimu block, near the Tarariki creek',¹⁹³ and also near his father's farm. No record has survived of his farming this land.

SPORT AND HORSE RACING

Occasionally Quinn was involved in sports, as an organizer rather than a participant. In October 1886, he was the starter for a Te Aroha regatta to celebrate the Prince of Wales' birthday.¹⁹⁴ In 1893, he judged the wrestling at the Thames Miners' Union Athletic Sports, and five years later was elected a vice-president of the Opitonui Football Club.¹⁹⁵

At the Thames Jockey Club Races held during the Christmas holidays of 1881, his Snowstorm came second in both the Novel Race and the Consolation Handicap.¹⁹⁶ Three years later, his Navigator won the Miners' Purse at the Te Aroha race meeting.¹⁹⁷ In 1886, he was a member of the committee to organize race meetings for the Te Aroha Jockey Club, and was both a steward and a handicapper.¹⁹⁸ One and a half years later, his handicapping for a Paeroa race meeting produced 'very great

¹⁹⁰ Applications for Agricultural Leases, Auckland Provincial Government Papers, ACFM 8183, ANZ-W; Thames Warden's Court, Letterbook 1876-1896, p. 13, BACL 14458/1b; Paeroa Warden's Court, Register of Ohinemuri Agricultural Leases 1875-1892, folio 29, ZAAP 13784/1a; Te Aroha Warden's Court, Letterbook 1883-1900, p. 205, BBAV 11534/1a, ANZ-A; Maps, CT 67/245, SO 51954, LINZ, Hamilton.

¹⁹¹ *Te Aroha News*, 20 October 1883, p. 2.

¹⁹² *Thames Advertiser*, 28 April 1885, p. 3.

¹⁹³ *Hauraki Tribune*, 16 December 1887, p. 2; for precise location of the house, see Mary Treanor, 'Reservoir Road, Paeroa', *Ohinemuri Regional History Journal*, no. 10 (October 1968), p. 43.

¹⁹⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 23 October 1886, p. 2.

¹⁹⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 4 March 1893, p. 2; *Coromandel County News*, 15 May 1898, p. 3.

¹⁹⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 28 December 1881, p. 3.

¹⁹⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 27 December 1884, p. 7.

¹⁹⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 16 January 1886, p. 2, 6 February 1886, p. 7, 30 October 1886, p. 2.

satisfaction'.¹⁹⁹ He fulfilled this role again for the Ohinemuri Jockey Club the following year.²⁰⁰ In 1892, he was on the committee of the Thames Jockey Club.²⁰¹

INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AT TE AROHA

In 1886, Quinn was elected unopposed to the Te Aroha licensing committee.²⁰² He was stated to hold 'moderate views'.²⁰³ His attitude to the use and misuse of alcohol may have been influenced by his father's conviction for drunkenness in 1870.²⁰⁴ When a woman applied for a license to run the Club Hotel, after saying that 'personally he objected to a single woman holding a license', he moved to accept her application because it was supported by the police and the hotel's owner.²⁰⁵ The following year he was re-elected with 33 votes, the top scoring candidate receiving two more.²⁰⁶

In January 1886, he filled a vacancy on the Hot Springs Domain Board.²⁰⁷ He soon clashed with other members over using the walls of the bathhouses for advertising, which he favoured.²⁰⁸ In late 1887, when he left the district to live near Paeroa, he offered his resignation; although the board declined to accept it, the government, replaced him with John Ilott, editor of the *Te Aroha News*.²⁰⁹ On learning of this decision, the chairman, Thomas Gavin,²¹⁰ commented that the members regretted 'exceedingly' that his 'valuable services' had 'been dispensed with', and asked to know the

¹⁹⁹ *Waikato Times*, 17 March 1888, p. 2.

²⁰⁰ *Waikato Times*, 24 January 1889, p. 3.

²⁰¹ *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 27 August 1892, p. 4.

²⁰² *Te Aroha News*, 20 February 1886, p. 2.

²⁰³ *Waikato Times*, 16 February 1886, p. 2.

²⁰⁴ Police Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 12 July 1870, p. 3.

²⁰⁵ *Waikato Times*, 8 June 1886, p. 3.

²⁰⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 5 March 1887, p. 3.

²⁰⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 2 January 1886, p. 2; *New Zealand Gazette*, 21 January 1886, p. 58.

²⁰⁸ John Ilott to John Ballance, 21 February 1887, Tourist Department, TO 1, 1891/198, ANZ-W.

²⁰⁹ *Aroha Gazette*, 14 December 1888, press cutting in Tourist Department, TO 1, 1891/198, ANZ-W.

²¹⁰ See paper on his life.

reason.²¹¹ When Gavin was told he was removed because of leaving the district, he explained that Quinn was away prospecting and had left only temporarily, and asked who had complained about him, and about what.²¹² No reply was received, but, as Quinn had left permanently, the protests ended.

Quinn was always involved in local issues, for example chairing Denis Murphy's 1884 Quartzville meeting during the county council election.²¹³ Although he would have preferred Te Aroha to have become a borough, in 1887, in the first election for the town board, he was nominated as a 'working man's candidate'.²¹⁴ Although unable to address an election meeting because of attending a domain board meeting, he received the second highest vote, 138; the highest scoring candidate received 151.²¹⁵

At the board's first meeting he was elected chairman. When he and another member, a carpenter, warned that 'their work often took them away from the township during the week, but that they generally returned on Saturday evenings', it was agreed to hold meetings then.²¹⁶ Eight months later, the other members complained that neither had attended board meetings since July. 'Some discussion took place relative to the action of those members who had thus thrown the whole work and responsibility of the board upon three members; which was most unfair'. As Quinn had left the district without requesting leave of absence, they resolved that he be asked 'if he is prepared to resume his duties'.²¹⁷ He responded by resigning because of working elsewhere.²¹⁸ The *Te Aroha News* was critical of his performance, claiming that 'by a bit of smartness he got himself appointed chairman pro tem at the first meeting', and then 'attended the meetings so long as the board had a considerable sum of money to expend, and contracts were to be let'. He then went to another district, missing three meetings,

²¹¹ Thomas Gavin (Chairman, Hot Springs Domain Board) to Under-Secretary, Tourist Department, 7 January 1888 (telegram), Tourist Department, TO 1, 1891/198, ANZ-W.

²¹² Under-Secretary, Tourist Department, to Thomas Gavin, 7 January 1888 (telegram); Thomas Gavin to Under-Secretary, Tourist Department, 7 January 1888, 11 January 1888 (telegrams), Tourist Department, TO 1, 1891/198, ANZ-W.

²¹³ *Te Aroha News*, 23 August 1884, p. 2.

²¹⁴ *Waikato Times*, 22 February 1887, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 12 March 1887, p. 2.

²¹⁵ *Waikato Times*, 8 March 1887, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 12 March 1887, p. 3.

²¹⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 19 March 1887, p. 2.

²¹⁷ Town Board, *Te Aroha News*, 5 November 1887, p. 2.

²¹⁸ *Waikato Times*, 17 November 1887, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 19 November 1887, p. 2.

and would have sought to retain his seat had not the board complained. 'We have excellent reasons for believing the Bye-Laws, made during the time he did fill the position of chairman', would 'be found to be altogether illegal'.²¹⁹ (They were not challenged.)

INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN OHINEMURI

From an early age, Quinn had taken an interest in local government issues in Ohinemuri. In 1876, he attended a Mackaytown meeting protesting at being included in the Thames County Council.²²⁰ In 1881 he seconded the nomination of a mine manager seeking election to it.²²¹ In November 1887, he topped the poll for the Karangahake Riding of the new Ohinemuri County Council, receiving 34 votes.²²² The *Te Aroha News*, when criticizing his performance on the town board, claimed that he was boasting that he would become chairman of the council, and predicted that choosing him would be an 'unfortunate start' for it and members would regret choosing him.²²³ In response, an Ohinemuri correspondent described him as 'a highly respected resident of both Ohinemuri and Te Aroha' who 'was actually requested to become a candidate for the chair in the interests of the goldfields riding which he represents, but he flatly declined saying that he had neither the time not the inclination for the position. The action of the *News* has been rather adversely criticized'.²²⁴ In Te Aroha, a 'well-attended public meeting' was convened because of this 'unjustifiable attack', chaired by James Mills,²²⁵ who had clashed with Ilott. Alfred Henry Whitehouse,²²⁶ who had also been in dispute with Ilott,

stated that at the request of a very large number of residents, who had felt deeply indignant at the malicious statements with reference to Mr Quinn that had occasionally appeared in the *News*, more especially in last Saturday's issue, he had called the meeting, and at the same time had notified the person

²¹⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 19 November 1887, p. 2.

²²⁰ *Thames Advertiser*, 14 October 1876, p. 3.

²²¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 5 November 1881, p. 3.

²²² *Te Aroha News*, 19 November 1887, p. 3.

²²³ *Te Aroha News*, 19 November 1887, p. 2.

²²⁴ Ohinemuri Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 24 November 1887, p. 2.

²²⁵ See paper on his life.

²²⁶ See paper on his life.

responsible for the articles complained of, of the object of the meeting and requested his attendance, but he felt deep regret that Mr Ilott had thought fit to remain away.

His resolution, passed unanimously, regretted 'the unjust and uncalled attack', and thanked Quinn for his efforts to help Te Aroha and regretted 'that circumstances over which he had no control should have called him from our district'.²²⁷ Ilott did not report this meeting.

Quinn served three years on the Ohinemuri council.²²⁸ His involvement has not been traced in detail, but some of his more belligerent comments have been noted. At its first meeting, in the light of its finances the finance committee recommended reducing travelling expenses for those coming from more than three miles away. Quinn 'said he had no intention when he came out as a candidate for election of working for nothing; other Crs might do as they would, but he intended if he lost time to get paid for it'.²²⁹ The *Te Aroha News* highlighted his attempt to prevent the council placing any advertisements in it; as the contract to do so had been accepted, Quinn stated he 'had purposed moving that the resolution accepting the offer' of publishing advertisements 'to be rescinded, but saw he could not do so'. He 'then made a general attack on council for letting the said contract, and in fact got quite excited over the matter, making use of very strong expressions emphasizing his remarks with violent gestures, etc, and generally acted in a most uncalled for manner'. The other councillors, pleased at having a much cheaper rate for their advertising, variously considered his remarks 'quite out of order', 'altogether out of order', and 'most uncalled for and offensive', as the arrangement was 'fair and above board'. Quinn had 'made remarks such as should not be uttered', apparently 'animated by private animosity to' Ilott, who concluded his report by stating that councillors 'generally showed their disapproval of Mr Quinn's very uncalled for remarks and the dictatorial manner he sought to assume'.²³⁰ The *Hauraki Tribune*, which, although declining to publish the advertisements on the same terms but not admitting to this, stated that Quinn 'was quite right in calling the whole transaction a piece of jobbery'.²³¹

²²⁷ Te Aroha Correspondent, *Thames Star*, 24 November 1887, p. 3.

²²⁸ *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 1006.

²²⁹ Ohinemuri County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 10 December 1887, p. 2.

²³⁰ Ohinemuri County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 10 December 1887, p. 2.

²³¹ Editorial, *Hauraki Tribune*, 16 December 1887, p. 2.

At the subsequent meeting, Quinn's amendment to appoint a foreman of works rather than an engineer and suggestion about how to pay the latter was not seconded. When discussing the need to sue those who had not paid their rates, a fellow councillor, John Hoey Moore,²³² who had opposed his behaviour over the *Te Aroha News*, interjected:

Cr Moore: There is one person's name on the list, who would not like to be summoned.

Cr Quinn: Who is that?

Cr Moore: Cr Edward Quinn, for 6s 3d.

Cr Quinn said he never received a notice. The clerk said it had been duly sent to Cr Quinn.²³³

Three months later, for an unknown reason Quinn resigned his appointment as chairman and returning officer for a Karangahake meeting held to discuss a county loan.²³⁴

In November 1888, 'A Sufferer' claimed Quinn was quite wrong in his statements about a road planned for Waitoa, which he opposed making; he 'must be either greatly mistaken with regard to the locality of the road, or intentionally stated that which is not true'.²³⁵ At a council meeting two months later, Quinn again opposed accepting a tender for it. When he claimed another councillor's views were inconsistent, the latter responded that Quinn 'had misrepresented him in the same way several times before' about a Karangahake contract, and in explained his position yet again complained that it was 'very unfair' of Quinn to keep misrepresenting him. 'He hoped Cr Quinn would not repeat his misstatements on this question any more'; two fellow councillors agreed.²³⁶ As another example of his bluntness, at the last meeting for 1889 he described the track between Maratoto and Waitekauri as a 'put up job', badly made.²³⁷

In addition to being a councillor, in February 1888 he topped the poll for the Ohinemuri Licensing Committee, with 70 votes.²³⁸ Two months later, when the chairman resigned, he was elected to replace him.²³⁹

²³² See *Thames Advertiser*, 1 June 1893, p. 2; *Auckland Weekly News*, 3 June 1893, p. 10.

²³³ Ohinemuri County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 14 January 1888, p. 2.

²³⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 18 April 1888, p. 2.

²³⁵ Letter from 'A Sufferer', *Te Aroha News*, 10 November 1888, p. 2.

²³⁶ Ohinemuri County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 16 January 1889, p. 2.

²³⁷ Ohinemuri County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 11 December 1889, p. 2.

²³⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 18 February 1888, p. 3.

NATIONAL POLITICS

In 1879, Quinn was elected to the committee of the Paeroa Liberal Association,²⁴⁰ and remained a supporter of this party for all his life. In 1886 he signed an address presented to Sir George Grey to mark his seventy-fourth birthday.²⁴¹ At an election meeting four years later he moved a vote of support for the Liberal candidate.²⁴²

PRIVATE LIFE

In 1884, when aged 32, Quinn married Marion Casserley Martin, aged 24, in Auckland's Catholic cathedral. A farmer's daughter, she had been born in County Roscommon, Ireland.²⁴³ They were to have four sons and three daughters; one of the latter died before Quinn.²⁴⁴ Their first two daughters, Mary Gertrude and Kathleen Agnes, were born in Te Aroha, in October 1885 and January 1887.²⁴⁵ Edmund John was born almost exactly two years later, at Paeroa, also the birthplace of Annie Martina, born in April 1890.²⁴⁶ Henry Edward Patrick was born in 1892 at Thames,²⁴⁷ and

²³⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 25 April 1888, p. 2.

²⁴⁰ *Thames Advertiser*, 30 October 1879, p. 3.

²⁴¹ 'Addresses Presented to Sir George Grey on his 74th Birthday, 14 April 1886, by European and Maori Residents of Auckland Province', p. 191, Grey New Zealand Manuscripts, MS 275, Auckland Public Library.

²⁴² *Thames Star*, 17 November 1890, p. 4.

²⁴³ Marriage Certificate of Edward Quinn, 24 July 1884, 1884/2952, BDM; *Auckland Weekly News*, 2 August 1884, p. 1.

²⁴⁴ *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 1006; *New Zealand Herald*, 29 December 1924, p. 8.

²⁴⁵ Birth Certificates of Mary Gertrude Quinn, 14 October 1885, 1885/17931; Kathleen Agnes Quinn, 21 January 1887, 1887/15031, BDM.

²⁴⁶ Birth Certificates of Edmund John Quinn, 27 January 1889, 1889/17537; Annie Martina Quinn, 2 April 1890, 1890/5868, BDM.

²⁴⁷ Birth Certificate of Henry Edward Quinn, 29 February 1892, 1892/1189, BDM; Baptism Register, no. 346, Henry Edward Patrick Quinn, Catholic Church Archives, Thames.

their last children, born there when Quinn was 44, were twins Thomas Richard and Sylvester James.²⁴⁸

When Quinn's father died in 1902, he left three sons and five daughters.²⁴⁹ In that year, his second son, another Thomas, born in 1870, was underground manager of a Western Australian mine.²⁵⁰ He had earlier won fame for his athletic ability, but also for larrikinism and vandalism.²⁵¹ Possibly he was the Thomas Quinn, a Karangahake miner, who was admitted to Thames hospital in 1900 suffering from influenza and alcoholism, or the Thomas Quinn, a Waihi miner, who attempted suicide in 1903.²⁵² John Richard, born in 1872, was a publican at Gisborne in 1902.²⁵³ Also living in Gisborne in the twentieth century were Marion's brothers, one a cordial manufacturer and the other a hotelkeeper.²⁵⁴ Two of Quinn's five sisters married miners and the others a sawyer, a hotelkeeper, and a carpenter.²⁵⁵

DEATHS

Quinn was in good health until late in his life, the only accident recorded being two broken ribs in a coach crash near Owharoa in 1889.²⁵⁶ 'Owing to ill-health', he 'spent the last 15 years in retirement'; he was

²⁴⁸ Birth Certificates of Thomas Richard Quinn, 24 February 1896, 1896/16195; Sylvester James Quinn, 24 February 1896, 1896/16196, BDM.

²⁴⁹ *Auckland Weekly News*, 16 January 1902, p. 41.

²⁵⁰ Birth Certificate of Thomas Quinn, 6 March 1870, 1870/17043, BDM; *Observer*, 25 January 1902, p. 4.

²⁵¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 14 April 1896, p. 2, 27 July 1896, p. 2; *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 25 July 1896, p. 4.

²⁵² Thames Hospital, Admissions Register 1884-1902, folio 110, YCAH 14075/1a, ANZ-A; *Auckland Weekly News*, 7 May 1903, p. 39.

²⁵³ Birth Certificate of John Quinn, 2 August 1872, 1872/18233, BDM; *Observer*, 25 January 1902, p. 4.

²⁵⁴ Probate of Marion Casserley Quinn, Probates, BBAE 1570, 442/29, ANZ-A.

²⁵⁵ Marriage Certificates of Norah Evangelist Quinn, 25 December 1888, 1888/2772; Annie Josephine Quinn, 20 June 1891, 1891/310; Catherine Mary Quinn, 5 April 1893, 1893/480, BDM; *Te Aroha News*, 12 April 1890, p. 2; *Gisborne Times*, 11 January 1902, p. 2; Nicholas Twohill [a descendant of Quinn's father] to Philip Hart, 19 December 1910, email.

²⁵⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 16 January 1889, p. 2.

granted a pension because of having miners' complaint.²⁵⁷ During his years of retirement 'he never wearied of relating reminiscences of his most eventful life'.²⁵⁸ When he died at his Auckland home, of a heart attack rather than miners' complaint, on Christmas Day 1924, aged 75, he was noted as being 'the oldest Auckland mine manager'.²⁵⁹

His widow died less than five years later, in July 1929, also of heart failure, aged 74 according to her death certificate, thereby shaving five years off her age.²⁶⁰ Unlike her husband, she left a will, leaving £1,059 1s 5d to her daughters.²⁶¹

CONCLUSION

Quinn's life was another example of how miners took whatever job was available, meaning he worked on almost every goldfield in Hauraki, sometimes only briefly. He also prospected in the King Country and for a time was a mine manager at Reefton. Like so many others, occasionally he combined mining with other occupations, in his case being a publican and a contractor. And like many others, he was exposed as pushing the boundaries of legality in his efforts to acquire or to retain mining ground. He played a particularly active role in local government, often making enemies because of his determined, sometimes aggressive, defence of his views. His long years of mining meant he suffered from miners' complaint in his old age, which may have adversely affected his temperament.

²⁵⁷ *Auckland Star*, 27 December 1924, p. 5; Miners' Phthisis Pensions, 1919, Social Security Department, W1884, box 8, M40 No. 2, ANZ-W; Death Certificate of Edward Quinn, 25 December 1924, 1924/8845, BDM.

²⁵⁸ *Auckland Star*, 27 December 1924, p. 5.

²⁵⁹ Death Certificate of Edward Quinn, 25 December 1924, 1924/8845, BDM; *New Zealand Herald*, 26 December 1924, p. 1; *Auckland Star*, 27 December 1924, p. 5.

²⁶⁰ Death Certificate of Marion Casserley Quinn, 7 July 1929, 1929/3871, BDM.

²⁶¹ Probate of Marion Casserley Quinn, Probates, BBAE 1570, 442/29, ANZ-A.