

WILLIAM MORRIS NEWSHAM: A PROSPECTOR AND MINER
IN THE TE AROHA DISTRICT

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Te Aroha Mining District Working Papers

No. 98

Revised on October 31, 2016

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ISSN: 2463-6266

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

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Abstract: *New Zealand-born William Morris Newsham fought against Maori without suffering any mishaps, but when aged 35 had the most perilous experience of his life. When assisting to survey a potential railway line in the King Country, he was captured by one prophet, Te Mahuki, and rescued by another, Te Kooti, after a harsh ordeal.*

After mining at Coromandel and Thames, in 1889 he settled in the Te Aroha district, taking whatever work was available. For the remainder of his life he was a small-scale miner, tributer, prospector, and operator of battery and tailings plants. Most of the 1890s was spent on the Waiorongomai field, but in the early twentieth century he explored nearby, his most notable claims being the Pick and Dish, close to the summit of Te Aroha. All his mining was done in small mining parties, sometimes backed by local small businessmen. He never ceased to search for gold, but found little of value, and achieved only a modest return from all his hard work.

BEFORE WAIORONGOMAI

William Morris (sometimes recorded as Maurice) Newsham¹ was born in New Plymouth in August 1847, the eldest son of a farmer, Tom, and his wife Mary Louise, née Lethbridge.² His early life was spent on the family farm at Omata, but when aged 16 he enlisted to fight in the Second Taranaki War, first in a rifle company before being transferred to the Taranaki Mounted Volunteers. He was under fire on five occasions.³ According to the *Te Aroha News*, he ‘had some stirring deeds to his credit’

¹ For an 1883 sketch of him, see *Auckland Weekly News*, 7 April 1883, Supplement, p. 1. For a photograph of him as a young man and one of his bride, see ‘William and Jane Newsham’, winsomegriffin.com; for photograph of him in. c. 1913, see John Newsham, ‘The Forgotten Goldfield’, *New Zealand Memories*. Issue122 (October-November 2016), pp. 24-25.

² As his birth was not registered, see Death Certificate of William Maurice Newsham, 30 January 1921, 1921/9600; Birth Certificate of Hilda Blanche Newsham, 27 June 1892, 1892/9610, BDM; *Auckland Weekly News*, 7 April 1883, Supplement, p. 3; ‘William and Jane Newsham’.

³ ‘William and Jane Newsham’.

during the war, but did not provide any details.⁴ His 1912 application for a service medal declared that he had been a member of two Taranaki volunteers units in 1863 and 1864 before serving in the Bush Rangers and then as a mounted trooper before leaving the forces in 1867. Despite spending 18 months at the front, he had never been wounded. As the local magistrate declared that he had known Newsham personally for a long time ‘and would have no hesitation in accepting as true any statement by him’, the medal was awarded.⁵

A brief summary of his life was published in April 1883 stated that he ‘led the life common to many colonists, having turned his hands at various times to farming, contracting, and surveying’. He had ‘travelled over most of the North Island ‘and a considerable part of the Australian continent, where he was engaged in the Telegraph Construction Department’;⁶ no dates were given for his time in Australia. In 1868 he went to Thames, taking out a miner’s right in October.⁷ In 1871, he was a sawmiller there, presumably working for the Hauraki Saw Mills Company at Shortland, in which he had two £100 shares.⁸ When living at Coromandel in April 1872 he was an owner of a claim there that was immediately formed into a company.⁹ Presumably he was the Newsham who won the pole vault at the Christmas Games at Thames in 1873.¹⁰ Two years later, he was warned that his shares in another company would be forfeited if the second call was not paid.¹¹

After his father died in 1874, he returned to Omata to work the family farm.¹² Then, in 1883, he was appointed as chainman for Charles Wilson

⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 10 June 1924, p. 4.

⁵ Declaration of William Morris Newsham, 27 November 1912; Declaration of F.J. Burgess, 3 February 1913, Maori War Index, MW 340, Army Department, AD 32, ANZ-W.

⁶ *Auckland Weekly News*, 7 April 1883, Supplement, p. 3.

⁷ Declaration of William Morris Newsham, 27 November 1912, Maori War Index, MW 340, Army Department, AD 32, ANZ-W; Miner’s Right no. 12871, issued 12 October 1868, Register of Miners’ Rights 1868, BACL 14358/2a, ANZ-A.

⁸ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 7 no. 38, ANZ-A.

⁹ Thames Warden’s Court, Coromandel Claims Register 1872, 1890-1898, folio 3, BACL 14396/2a, ANZ-A; *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 12 April 1872, p. 115.

¹⁰ *Thames Advertiser*, 29 December 1873, p. 3.

¹¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 13 December 1875, p. 2.

¹² ‘William and Jane Newsham’.

Hursthouse,¹³ who was surveying to determine the route of a proposed railway line from Alexandra (the future Pirongia) to Mokau and New Plymouth.¹⁴ Hursthouse, aged 42 in 1883, had been a surveyor since 1855, and in 1860 was one of the surveyors turned off the Waitara block, which provoked war in Taranaki. He participated in ‘most of the fights in which the colonial forces took part during the next four years’, receiving a commission in 1866 and becoming a captain in 1881. After joining the Public Works Department in 1876, he ‘laid out, located, and constructed many miles of railway. He was specially engaged to lay out and construct the main road along the West Coast through the Parihaka district, and in the complications at Parihaka he took a prominent part’.¹⁵ He was selected to survey the railway line, it was reported, because of ‘his long experience in bush work, his knowledge of Maori, and above all, the fact that he has always been a favourite with the Maoris’ wherever he had worked. Even in Taranaki, when he surveyed roads ‘contrary to the wishes of the Maoris’, they ‘personally liked’ him. ‘A great strapping fellow over six feet high’, he was a brother of a parliamentarian,¹⁶ Richard Hursthouse, Member for Motueka from 1876 to 1887, who would be Minister of Lands and Immigration in the one-week Atkinson Government of 1884.¹⁷

Early in March 1883, John Bryce, the Native Minister, instructed Hursthouse to travel to New Plymouth, going ‘by way of Mokau, for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the country with respect to Railway construction’, and then to return to the headwaters of the Mokau River.¹⁸ On 9 March, he engaged Newsham to assist him.¹⁹ There was no indication

¹³ For a contemporary sketch of the two surveyors, see *Auckland Weekly News*, 7 April 1883, Supplement, p. 1.

¹⁴ For background information on the surveying of the King Country and its railways, and on the controversy this created with the Maori owners, see Janet Holme, *Caught Mapping: The life and times of New Zealand’s early surveyors* (Christchurch, 2005), pp. 148-155.

¹⁵ *Auckland Weekly News*, 7 April 1883, Supplement, p. 3.

¹⁶ *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 19.

¹⁷ *New Zealand Parliamentary Record 1840-1949*, ed. G.H. Scholefield (Wellington, 1950), pp. 39, 116.

¹⁸ C.W. Hursthouse to Colonel Trimble, 22 May 1884, C.W. Hursthouse Papers, MS 408, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

¹⁹ Diary of C.W. Hursthouse, 9 March 1883, cited in Dick Craig, *Land of the Maniapoto* (Te Kuiti, 1978), p. 82.

that Newsham had any particular qualifications for this work or any close contact with Maori. Hursthouse knew that he would be the first surveyor to work in the King Country, and had ‘heard that the natives objected to survey or coming on that land’.²⁰ When he first attempted to start he was unable to obtain ‘a guide as they are all afraid of the “iwi” ’.²¹ On 12 or 13 March (later he could not recall the exact date), his party left Alexandra; it consisted of himself, Newsham, George Thomas Wilkinson, a Native Agent based at Alexandra,²² a Mr Cook, and a Mrs Morgan, a ‘half-caste’, who was willing to guide them as far as Otorohanga because no Maori would do so. Wilkinson and Cook accompanied them, ‘as friends, for one day’, as far as Kopua, half the distance, but upon reaching Otorohanga they were turned back.²³

According to Hursthouse, after that failed attempt Bryce held a meeting at Whatiwhatihoe and obtained consent for the journey from Wahanui and others.²⁴ (Reihana Te Wahanui was ‘the emerging leader of Ngati Maniapoto’).²⁵ When Hursthouse and Newsham went to talk with Rewi Maniapoto, at Kihikihi according to one historian, they also met the prophet Te Mahuki Manukura,²⁶ who asked whether he would be permitted to return to Parihaka.²⁷ Te Mahuki, a member of the Ngati Kinohaku hapu of Ngati Maniapoto, lived mainly at Te Kumi, about three miles north of Te Kuiti, which he had modelled on the settlement on Parihaka.²⁸ He had been imprisoned for his support of Te Whiti o RongoaMai of Parihaka, as were his main supporters, known as the Tekaumarua, otherwise the Sacred

²⁰ Supreme Court, Judges’ Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, p. 157, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

²¹ Diary of C.W. Hursthouse, 9 March 1883, cited in Craig, p. 82.

²² See paper on Mereia Wikiriwhi and George Thomas Wilkinson.

²³ C.W. Hursthouse to Colonel Trimble, 22 May 1884, C.W. Hursthouse Papers, MS 408, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

²⁴ C.W. Hursthouse to Colonel Trimble, 22 May 1884, C.W. Hursthouse Papers, MS 408, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

²⁵ Judith Binney, *Redemption Songs: A life of Te Kooti Arikirangi Te Turuki* (Auckland, 1995), p. 270.

²⁶ See Chris Korduke, ‘Te Mahuki’, *The Dictionary of New Zealand Biography: vol. 2: 1870-1900* (Wellington, 1993), pp. 518-519.

²⁷ Craig, p. 82.

²⁸ G.T. Wilkinson to Under-Secretary, Native Office, 11 June 1883, *AJHR*, G-1, p. 5.

Twelve or the Twelve Apostles.²⁹ According to Judith Binney, because Hursthouse was ‘the hated surveyor at Parihaka’, his followers ‘adamantly opposed Te Wahanui and Rewi’s agreement that the government survey of the Rohe Potae [King Country] for the railway could begin; they were extending Te Whiti’s struggle to their own lands’.³⁰

On 17 March, Wetere Te Rerenga³¹ told Hursthouse’s party that he would take them to Mokau.³² A chief of Ngati Mamoto, who lived at upper Mokau,³³ he was described by a one newspaper in flattering terms as

the son of Takerei, and head chief of the Mokau district, where his people, the Maniapoto, reside. He is about 47 years old, is very intelligent, and a staunch friend of the Government. He, in common with Te Kooti, is one of those who came within the pardon lately granted to those who had transgressed the law during the time of the Maori warfare.³⁴

Before leaving for the second time, on 20 March, the two Pakeha breakfasted with Wahanui.³⁵ Under the arrangement made between Ngati Maniapoto and Bryce, they were permitted to ‘go through the country unopposed’, accompanied by Wetere Te Rerenga, who with 25 other Maori was returning to Mokau.³⁶ Hursthouse later recalled Wahanui telling them that he had not sent word they were coming, ‘as the fact of our going with Te Rerenga and his people was sufficient guarantee of our safety’. He also recalled that some Maori from Otorohanga provided them refreshments and let them proceed, and that one implied there could be trouble ahead, but Wetere Te Rerenga did not think Te Mahuki would dare oppose them.³⁷ About 16 miles from Otorohanga, the party came to Te Uira, a settlement

²⁹ Binney, p. 312; *Waikato Times*, 22 March 1883, p. 2.

³⁰ Binney, p. 312.

³¹ For sketch of him, see *Auckland Weekly News*, 7 April 1883, Supplement, p. 1.

³² C.W. Hursthouse to Colonel Trimble, 22 May 1884, C.W. Hursthouse Papers, MS 408, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

³³ Interview with C.W. Hursthouse, *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 19.

³⁴ *Auckland Weekly News*, 7 April 1883, Supplement, p. 3.

³⁵ Interview with C.W. Hursthouse, *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 19.

³⁶ Supreme Court, Judges’ Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, p. 154, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A; Binney, p. 312.

³⁷ C.W. Hursthouse to Colonel Trimble, 22 May 1884, C.W. Hursthouse Papers, MS 408, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

on a small hill beside the track, where they saw ‘the Tekaumarua mustering’.³⁸ At this point Hursthouse recalled that the ground was such that ‘you could not ride faster than a walk with safety’.³⁹ He later described what happened next:

When we arrived (we were all on horseback) within 50 or 60 yds of them Te Mahuki stretched his hand towards the track & called to our party to turn aside – we did not do so – Te Rerenga sd It is light [or daylight]⁴⁰ – we continued at walking pace – when abreast of M. & people he ordered some young men & boys to run on the track in front of us & waved his hand – (I understand Maori & am licensed interpreter) – Weteres remark meant that we were doing what was right – not sneaking past but going openly in the proper way – a boy caught bridle of my horse with one hand & of Rerengas with other – (about 15 boys ran out when order given) one of prisoners came to assist the boy who was not strong enough to hold my horse - - that was Neri Wainui – he turned my horse round facing backwards – our party were jammed together & the boys squeezed between our horses. I was afraid they sd be hurt. I was then seized by legs right foot pulled out of stirrup.⁴¹

‘Some of our party, who had fern sticks told them to let go or they would whip them. Some men then came to the assistance of the boys, who were not strong enough to hold the horses’.⁴² He thought about a minute passed before these men assisted to restrain the horses.⁴³ Hursthouse and Newsham, along with Te Wetere, his brother Te Rangi, and Te Haere were dragged off their horses, and the two Pakeha were made prisoners.⁴⁴ Wahanui provided the following details to Wilkinson:

³⁸ Interview with C.W. Hursthouse, *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 19.

³⁹ C.W. Hursthouse to Colonel Trimble, 22 May 1884, C.W. Hursthouse Papers, MS 408, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

⁴⁰ These two words added later.

⁴¹ Supreme Court, Judges’ Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, p. 154, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

⁴² Interview with C.W. Hursthouse, *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 19.

⁴³ C.W. Hursthouse to Colonel Trimble, 22 May 1884, C.W. Hursthouse Papers, MS 408, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

⁴⁴ Interview with C.W. Hursthouse, *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 19.

Mahuki, coming forward, spoke to the effect that God had come here that day to protect the land, and then called on his party to fetch the pakehas here. The mob immediately rushed on Mr Hursthouse and his escort, who closed round them. For some considerable time they successfully kept the obstructors off. Numbers, however, prevailed, the Europeans being roughly handled between the contending parties. Wetere was fearful of Mr Hursthouse or Mr Newsham being injured (blood having already been shed, Te Haere, one of Wetere's men, having received blows in the lips and eye). Te Wetere called out "Kati ['That's enough; stop it']⁴⁵ – let this cease. We will submit; we will accompany you to the settlement to talk over the affair." The whole then proceeded to Te Uira settlement.⁴⁶

Hursthouse later said that, after being pulled off his horse, some of his party tried to rescue him, 'and in the struggle I was almost choked and a great deal pulled about'. Accordingly he decided to remain passive, because to fight back 'would only make matters worse politically'.⁴⁷ 'Wetere at once despatched a messenger to Wahanui, at Te Kopua, to acquaint that chief of their being prisoners. Wahanui expressed great concern at the news, exclaiming "This will be the death of us all"'.⁴⁸

A local correspondent wrote, when he heard the news of their capture, that preventing the surveying 'was not entirely a surprise. In fact it was expected by those acquainted with native feeling', as Maori believed Bryce was 'endeavouring to force his policy on them in the absence of Tawhiao. Some think that no apprehension need be felt as to the perfect safety of the two Pakeha'. A later report stated that Wetere had arrived at Alexandra, having escaped by pretending he was going on to Mokau. 'He says most of his party were stripped of their clothes' when defending the surveyors. 'His men seeing the determination of the attacking party broke off their stirrup leathers and irons to defend themselves and the Europeans'. He had spoken to Wahanui, who was 'very indignant at the whole affair', and had 'sent out messengers in all directions' calling on Maori to assemble and release those imprisoned, Bryce 'having put the responsibility on him' to do so. Bryce had told Wahanui 'that no doubt the affair was the work of fanatics, and as they

⁴⁵ P.M. Ryan, *The New Dictionary of Modern Maori* (Auckland, 1974), p. 18.

⁴⁶ *Auckland Weekly News*, 24 March 1883, p. 20.

⁴⁷ C.W. Hursthouse to Colonel Trimble, 22 May 1884, C.W. Hursthouse Papers, MS 408, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

⁴⁸ *Auckland Weekly News*, 24 March 1883, p. 20.

were on Ngatimaniapoto land, it was part of that tribe's business to deal with the matter'. It was believed that was no likelihood that Te Kooti's followers were involved, and there was speculation that the surveyors were captured because Mahuki's group had been refused permission by Bryce to return to Parihaka.⁴⁹

According to Binney, Hursthouse's capture 'was revenge for the destruction of Parihaka in November 1881, the Tekaumarua declaring that the Lord had finally delivered him into their hands'.⁵⁰ Hursthouse later described 'a great row going on between the two parties of natives Rerenga demanding our release to be returned to him'. Te Mahuki, who was 'very excited & exultant' and speaking 'very loudly', ordered that the captured men be taken down the hill to the Te Kumi kainga.⁵¹ As they were forced down the hill, Hursthouse being held by three men and Newsham by two, 'all the Tekaumarua' came with them, 'dancing and yelling, and singing ngeria [ngari = a fierce chant]⁵² or war songs. On their way down the hill Te Mahuki called out to his people that everything was now left to them. He said, "This is the first day on which I have no thought. This day is in your hands" '. Hursthouse understood him to mean that 'they could do what they liked with us; that our lives were in their hands'.⁵³

At Te Kumi,⁵⁴ they were taken onto the marae so that, in Te Mahuki's words, 'the women & daughters of Jerusalem may be amused'.⁵⁵ When Wetere demanded their release, 'some very strong language was used by the men on both sides, and blows were very nearly exchanged'.⁵⁶ Te Mahuki

⁴⁹ Alexandra Correspondent, *Auckland Weekly News*, 24 March 1883, p. 20.

⁵⁰ Binney, p. 312.

⁵¹ Supreme Court, Judge's Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, p. 155, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

⁵² Ryan, p. 29.

⁵³ Interview with C.W. Hursthouse, *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 19.

⁵⁴ For contemporary photographs of both Te Kumi pa and Newsham, see Dick Craig, 'Surveyor Hursthouse Prominent in Exploration of King Country', *Footsteps in History: Journal of the Te Awamutu, Otorohanga, and Te Kuiti Historical Societies*, no. 12 (May 1994), p. 6, and Craig, *The First Fifty Years: Te Kuiti Jubilee booklet* (Te Kuiti, 1960), [p. 5].

⁵⁵ Supreme Court, Judge's Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, p. 155, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

⁵⁶ C.W. Hursthouse to Colonel Trimble, 22 May 1884, C.W. Hursthouse Papers, MS 408, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

declared that Hursthouse ‘was his enemy for Surveying & he would bruise me for it’.⁵⁷ After ‘very strong language was used on both sides’, Mahuki won the argument because ‘our men were frightened that if they did anything’ he would ‘retaliate’ on the two Pakeha. Afterwards, the two surveyors were placed in a ‘cook-house built of slabs with spaces between them about two inches wide and some wider’, and ordered to sit down; their boots were removed, their hands were tied behind their backs with rope, and their feet were chained together. ‘Just as they finished doing that, a chief, Te Haere, was brought into the whare, and violently pushed in. Te Haere said to us, “I am glad they have taken me, because I shall be your companion.” Of course we were very glad to have him with us’.⁵⁸ Te Haere was not tied up, as he had been injured.⁵⁹

Te Haere, a Ngati Maniapoto rangatira, was imprisoned because Te Mahuki declared

that he had conferred with his god, and the imprisonment of the two Europeans was not sufficient to appease him. That there must be one of the natives who formed part of the escort thrown in with them. They chased one or two of the native escort, but Te Haere being an old man, they caught him, and ... tore his mouth, making an internal wound. They also pulled him about, so that he was for some time in a half-conscious state.⁶⁰

Te Haere slackened the rope because it had bound their wrists so tightly that circulation had stopped. Everything was removed from the ‘cook whare’ that could have been used to defend themselves. It ‘was about 24 to 30 feet long and 12 to 16 broad with a good thatched roof. The walls were about 6 feet high and made of stout split slabs set in the ground’, with gaps up to three inches wide between them. The door was chained and padlocked, and a fire was lit outside for their guards, who during the first night occasionally checked their bonds. A light was placed in it.⁶¹ After

⁵⁷ Supreme Court, Judge’s Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, pp. 155-156, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

⁵⁸ Interview with C.W. Hursthouse, *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 19.

⁵⁹ Supreme Court, Judge’s Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, p. 156, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

⁶⁰ Supreme Court, *Auckland Weekly News*, 14 April 1883, p. 20.

⁶¹ C.W. Hursthouse to Colonel Trimble, 22 May 1884, C.W. Hursthouse Papers, MS 408, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Library.

‘everything moveable’ was taken out, they were left with ‘two mats each, about 7 feet long and 5 feet wide, to lie upon’. When Te Haere asked for water to wash his mouth, ‘which was bleeding very much’, a bucketful was supplied.

On the first evening, they gave Te Haere ‘four small pieces of firewood to put upon the little fire that was burning’, and also returned their pipes and tobacco.⁶² Te Haere later stated that he ‘endeavoured to make a fire with bits of wood and burnt embers which he saw about’.⁶³ Hursthouse recalled that ‘we were so cold and shivering that we could not get warm again until about noon or later on the following day at which time the sun shone through the chinks on our side of the hut’.⁶⁴ They ‘had a fire part of time till 10 or 11 first night & kept alit till evg second day when water was poured over it & put out – first night cold, & second evg cold southerly wind nearly a frost. We hd to keep moving about back to back to keep ourselves warm & get blood to circulate’. They were constantly guarded and checked ‘to see that our bonds were tight’. He was unable to sleep. ‘Hands became very numb. Whole arm circulation & shoulders sore for many days after. Cd not put arms up without pain – place full of mosquitoes which bit us & we cd not remove – first night – Not so many second’.⁶⁵

On the first night, ‘Te Haere filled our pipes, lighted them, and put them in our mouths’. When they asked for water, they were told to the water bloodied by Te Haere’s wounds, and for the 41 hours they were imprisoned, from five o’clock on Tuesday afternoon until eight o’clock on Thursday morning,⁶⁶ this was all they had to drink. Hursthouse

asked them to tie our hands in front instead of behind, but they refused. I asked this to be done, so that I might lie easier and be able to brush away the mosquitoes. The mosquitoes were very troublesome, and the only way I could brush them off was by rubbing my face on the ground. We passed a most painful night. I could not lie on my back, as my hands were tied behind; nor could

⁶² Interview with C.W. Hursthouse, *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 19.

⁶³ Supreme Court, *Auckland Weekly News*, 7 April 1883, p. 9.

⁶⁴ C.W. Hursthouse to Colonel Trimble, 22 May 1884, C.W. Hursthouse Papers, MS 408, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Library.

⁶⁵ Supreme Court, Judges’ Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, pp. 156-157, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

⁶⁶ Times recorded in Supreme Court, Judges’ Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1895, p. 156, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

I lie on my side, for the pain in the arms and shoulders was excruciating. We were left all night with nothing but our shirts, trousers, socks, and hats. There was no pillow or fern to rest our heads on. Owing to our cramped position our arms and legs became very painful.⁶⁷

Hursthouse explained a delicate matter to the court: 'My hands & feet were released first night for purposes of call of nature – held by natives & bonds replaced on return to house – Were tied afresh next evg & on morning of day of release. Not otherwise removed. Only chain off feet for calls of nature'.⁶⁸

Early the following morning, money and other items were stolen from their trouser pockets, and their hats were taken.

About eight o'clock they brought in some potatoes, but as they would not untie our hands we could not eat them. At noon, some pigs' potatoes, and the leaves of the kamokamo, or marrow, boiled, were thrown down beside our heads – a handful to each. We did not eat any of it. We asked them to untie our hands that we might eat, but they took no notice.⁶⁹

He later said that the first lot of food was 'placed on some rubbish at our fronts', which they could not eat because their hands were not untied. The food provided at midday was 'some pigs food which they threw on the ground beside our heads, exactly in the manner they would throw it to a pig. We took no notice of this, but I must say I felt extremely angry as I knew it was intended for an insult'.⁷⁰ In his evidence in court, Hursthouse described the breakfast as 'some potatoes & pork in a dish – did not leave dish – put on a piece of old kit – 15 or 20 pots & 2 small p[ie]ces pork'. The second meal was 'some pigs food – small pots with skins on boiled in greasy stuff with Kumekume leaves – in dirty Maori kit – person carrying dropped a handful nr my head & same to Newsham & Te Haere'.⁷¹

⁶⁷ Interview with C.W. Hursthouse, *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 19.

⁶⁸ Supreme Court, Judges' Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, p. 156, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

⁶⁹ Interview with C.W. Hursthouse, *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 19.

⁷⁰ C.W. Hursthouse to Colonel Trimble, 22 May 1884, C.W. Hursthouse Papers, MS 408, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

⁷¹ Supreme Court, Judges' Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, p. 156, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

Late in the afternoon of the day after their capture, Te Mahuki, 'who was then close to the whare where we were, called out to his people in a loud voice, urging them to be strong and persistent; that the laws which Jehovah had made had not yet been fulfilled'.⁷² Hursthouse recalled the precise words as: 'Be brave be brave be stouthearted – O ye chosen people the laws which Jehovah has sent from heaven are not yet fulfilled'.⁷³

I then became frightened as I thought the expression probably meant that we had yet to be killed. The door of the whare was immediately opened, and the natives entered. Our pipes, tobacco, and knife were taken away. At sunset we were visited again, and made secure for the night. Both evenings, at about dusk, the people gathered round our whare and performed hakas, shouted and yelled, and spoke derisively of us.⁷⁴

During their second night of captivity, they were permitted no water, no light, and no fire. Two large watch fires burnt outside, and 'two or more' men 'constantly walked round the hut carrying a lantern, frequently they would take the candle out of the lantern and poke it through the cracks and look in to see that we were safe'. The second night was much colder, almost a frost. For about 12 hours, Te Haere was unconscious, in Hursthouse's view because of the effects of the horse ride followed by being placed in a cold stream. Their captors 'would not untie our hands even to allow us to relieve ourselves of our water'.⁷⁵

Presumably during one evening, a ceremony took place of which they were (fortunately) unaware:

Three pigs were named, each for one of the prisoners taken; they were then killed and eaten, and Te Mahuki proclaimed, in a transformation of the scriptures, "that this was the day that the Angels came down from Heaven to eat the flesh and drink the blood." It was a ritual intended to devour the mana of the captives and the mana of the missionaries' sacrament.⁷⁶

⁷² Interview with C.W. Hursthouse, *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 20.

⁷³ Supreme Court, Judge's Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, p. 157, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

⁷⁴ Interview with C.W. Hursthouse, *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 20.

⁷⁵ C.W. Hursthouse to Colonel Trimble, 22 May 1884, C.W. Hursthouse Papers, MS 408, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

⁷⁶ Binney, p. 312.

On their third morning of captivity, Hursthouse expected that they would die, as he admitted the following year:

Our captors appeared in war paint and feathers, they examined our bonds, put padlocks on our ankle chains tightened up the lashings on our wrists and refixed the door fastening. I was now sure the end was near and made up my mind that I had only a very short time more of this beautiful Earth before me, and prepared my mind as well as I could for that final scene which I was sure must come almost immediately. I did not tell Newsham what I thought because I thought that he would be much happier in ignorance and I fervently wished that I knew nothing of the habits and language of the Maoris, as then I might have been equally ignorant.⁷⁷

Hursthouse told reporters about the last period of imprisonment:

It was very cold the second night, and we tried to keep ourselves warm by swaying to and fro, back to back. About six o'clock next morning they came in with two padlocks, tightened our ankle chains, and locked them. The ropes on our wrists were also tightened. About eight o'clock we heard the Ngatimaniapoto party call out on one side of the whare that they were coming, and immediately afterwards we heard Te Kooti call out on the other side in Maori, "It is I, it is I, my children." When I heard these calls I started on my handropes, and by dint of great exertion slipped them off. When they were tying up my hands I have always tried to keep the wrists a little apart. Mr Newsham also managed to get off his ropes. I looked out between the slabs and saw the Ngatimaniapoto party close to the house, headed by Kahu and Wetere's daughter. Somebody then exclaimed, "Let us talk," but Kahu answered, "No, the talk was done yesterday," and rushing up to the door of the whare smashed it open with two blows of his fist. The men on guard assaulted him from behind, but being a very powerful man he knocked both of them off, and they did not again approach him. By the time they had entered I had, after great exertion, got the chain off my right foot. Wetere's daughter removed the chain from my left foot. The Maoris tried to get the chains off Mr Newsham, but they could not manage it, whereupon I got two stones out of a Maori oven and smashed the padlock. I then seized a piece of chain as a weapon and went outside. When I got outside I found that the Ngatimaniapoto

⁷⁷ C.W. Hursthouse to Colonel Trimble, 22 May 1884, C.W. Hursthouse Papers, MS 408, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

rescuing party had got four or five of the Te Kaumarua tied up. The rescuing party, including Te Kooti, then all shook hands with me, upon which I fairly broke down and wept. I was then very weak for want of food and overcome with anxiety. Te Kooti then took us up to Te Kuiti, about two and a half miles away, and gave us food, coats, and hats, and boots.⁷⁸

Te Kahu, a younger step-brother of Wahanui, was indeed ‘a very powerful man’: aged about 30, he weighed 20 stone.⁷⁹ Most of the Maniapoto men who had been with the surveyors when they had been captured made up the larger rescue party, Te Kooti heading a smaller party to demand their release ‘without knowing the others were come on the same errand’.⁸⁰ Despite being ‘overcome with anxiety’ when liberated, Hursthouse told reporters that ‘I felt convinced that if any of the Ngatimaniapoto chiefs heard of our capture that they would immediately send to release us, and I also was sure that Te Kooti would come if he heard of the position we were in. It is such an action as, under the circumstances, I believe a chief of rank would do’.⁸¹ But he wrote something quite different in his diary:

I thought more in that 41 hours of suspense than I have ever crammed into 41 days. My thoughts were not at all moralising, as one would expect. They were primarily of my past life and of those connected with it, and of the fearful shock it would be to those to whom I am dear when they heard of our deaths. I was sure they would be hearing of them before very long.

He considered that Te Haere’s treatment meant that ‘he probably would not have lived another day in prison’.⁸²

Hursthouse recalled that ‘Te Kooti immediately took us to his place at Te Kuiti, where I was enabled through his kindness to send telegrams to the Kihikihi office’.⁸³ His first telegram to Bryce stated: ‘Te Kooti and

⁷⁸ Interview with C.W. Hursthouse, *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 20.

⁷⁹ For a description and sketch of him, see *Auckland Weekly News*, 7 April 1883, Supplement, pp. 1, 3.

⁸⁰ C.W. Hursthouse to Colonel Trimble, 22 May 1884, C.W. Hursthouse Papers, MS 408, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

⁸¹ Interview with C.W. Hursthouse, *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 20.

⁸² Diary of C.W. Hursthouse, n.d. [c. 22 March 1883], cited in Craig, p. 88.

⁸³ C.W. Hursthouse to Colonel Trimble, 22 May 1884, C.W. Hursthouse Papers, MS 408, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

Ngatimaniapoto rescued us this morning. We are all right, having nothing left but trousers and shirts'.⁸⁴ When Wilkinson reached Otorohanga on that day to confer with Ngati Maniapoto, he was informed that Wahanui had sent 60 Maori to release them, and that his brother Kahu, otherwise Rangituataka, had broken into the whare where they were chained.⁸⁵ The prisoners

were found in a dreadful state, having been treated with the greatest malignity. They were nude, having nothing on excepting an old shirt. They were stripped on being taken, and when found they were in this state, chained and locked to a post by the arms and legs, which were swollen from the brutal manner in which they were fastened and locked. The chains had to be knocked off with stones. The natives were, and are, very indignant and excited, and cried at witnessing their sufferings. They are all very weak, but are now being well cared for by Te Kooti, who has clothed them. Their own things – clothes, &c – were recovered yesterday by Te Wharo, who gave a most amusing account of how he recovered them by stripping them off the wearers....

The bullock's chain and padlock, with which he was fastened, is given to Mr Hursthouse as a souvenir.⁸⁶

In answering questions from the judge, Hursthouse said his 'bodily injuries' were 'pain from being pulled from horse' and 'being held in constrained position' with his hands tied, causing cramp and 'pain from position'. He 'was not struck bruised or wounded'. He had spent two nights and a day 'with no clothing but Crimean shirt trousers & socks – attacks of mosquitoes'.⁸⁷

Wilkinson considered that the surveyors were stopped because it was feared that the coming of the railway would mean the loss of Maori land 'and their destruction as a race'. His explanation for the 'cruelty' inflicted was that Te Mahuki's followers 'were infatuated to such a degree that they were prepared to do anything' he wanted.

⁸⁴ *Thames Star*, 24 March 1883, p. 2.

⁸⁵ 'Alexandra, Thursday 4.30 p.m.' [22 March], *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 19.

⁸⁶ 'Te Kumi, Friday' [23 March], *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 19.

⁸⁷ Supreme Court, Judge's Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, p. 158, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

Had he ordered his people to kill the prisoners I believe it would have been done; or had he given orders that they should be treated with the greatest kindness and consideration his orders would have been implicitly obeyed; and the way he acted in the position in which he was placed during that critical time shows, I think, how immeasurably inferior he is to his prototype, Te Whiti.⁸⁸

After being first penitent and then defiant, Te Mahuki and 22 of his followers rode to Alexandra, intending to go to Auckland, assaulting some Pakeha along the way. Upon arrival, he invoked 'Jehova and Te Whiti' to kill Wilkinson and Colonel William Lyon,⁸⁹ who stood in the middle of the road; immediately after this invocation failed, he and his followers were captured without resistance and sent to Auckland by special train.⁹⁰ At his trial in the Supreme Court on 5 April, Te Mahuki, asked how he pleaded to the charge of assault and occasioning actual bodily harm, responded: 'I am not able to answer that word'. The other 22 accused then said, 'I have nothing to say', 'I have no word', or, in one case, 'Nothing'.⁹¹ Hursthouse, the first witness, described the events in considerable detail,⁹² Newsham briefly confirming his evidence and identifying those involved.⁹³ Wetere Te Rerenga then gave evidence. A 'head chief' of Ngati Maniapoto, he described himself as being the 'head' of the party of 26 Maori and two Pakeha. When Te Mahuki captured the latter, he said, 'lead them off tie them up – take them & make them make a noise like beaten kaka'.⁹⁴ After three other Maori who had travelled with Hursthouse and Newsham gave corroborative details, all the accused were found guilty and sentenced to 12, nine, or six

⁸⁸ G.T. Wilkinson to Under-Secretary, Native Office, 11 June 1883, *AJHR*, 1883, G-1, p. 5.

⁸⁹ See *Auckland Star*, 18 November 1887, p. 5; *New Zealand Herald*, 19 November 1887, p. 5.

⁹⁰ *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 19; Binney, pp. 313-314.

⁹¹ Supreme Court, Judges' Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, p. 153, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

⁹² Supreme Court, Judges' Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, pp. 154-157, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

⁹³ Supreme Court, Judge's Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, p. 158, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A; *Auckland Weekly News*, 7 April 1883, p. 9.

⁹⁴ Supreme Court, Judge's Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, pp. 158-159, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

months imprisonment with hard labour.⁹⁵ The following day, they were found guilty of unlawfully wounding and causing grievous bodily harm to Te Haere, receiving the same sentences.⁹⁶ When removed from the dock, Te Mahuki ‘exclaimed in a loud voice – Hearken to my word! You are right, O Judge! Your sentence is just; but the power of God and Te Whiti will save me’.⁹⁷ As for Te Kooti, he was praised by Bryce and his health was toasted at a New Plymouth banquet honouring Newsham.⁹⁸

In 1930, after attending the funeral of Maui Pomare at Manukotihi Pa at Waitara, Hohepa Tamati gave an interview about this ‘dramatic incident’. He had been one of the party who had captured the surveyors ‘as a protest, late in the day, against the settlement of Europeans in the King Country’, under the leadership of ‘Manuhiri Mahuki, chief of the Te Kumi hapu’. His recollections implied that the captives were well fed, stated that their captors had gone to Alexandra to surrender, and that all had received one year’s imprisonment. Newsham (whom he recalled as Newcombe) was clearly of less importance in Maori eyes than Hursthouse:

“Mahuki said, when the survey party was marking out the land near Te Kuiti: “If one of these pakehas gets through it will be like a wedge in the log, and all our land will be gone; let us stop these men.”

“One day, just after dinner, the surveyors were going up the Te Uira Hill. About 100 Maoris of the Te Kumi hapu, including women and children, tackled the surveyors. There was great excitement. We captured them without much resistance. We tied them up with muka [flax fibre],⁹⁹ took them to the Te Kumi Pa, about a mile and a half on the Auckland side of Te Kuiti, near the present road, and locked them up in a whare, excepting one Maori.

“We fed them with boiled potatoes with the skins on, kumi-kumi, and eels. They were locked up one or two nights.

“Word had been sent through to the southern Maoris that Mahuki had captured Hursthouse and party, and locked them up. In about a day a big party of southern Maoris came to the spot under

⁹⁵ Supreme Court, Judge’s Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, pp. 159-160, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

⁹⁶ Supreme Court, Judge’s Notebooks, Gillies J, Criminal Cases 1882-1885, pp. 160-162, BBAE A304/256, ANZ-A.

⁹⁷ Supreme Court, *Auckland Weekly News*, 14 April 1883, p. 20.

⁹⁸ Binney, 314.

⁹⁹ Ryan, p. 27.

the leadership of Kahu. There were 200 or more and they were frightened that Mahuki would kill Hursthouse and Newcombe.

“Kahu’s men argued with Mahuki and pushed his men away from the whare, breaking off the lock with an axe. Mahuki’s men made no resistance, for they were outnumbered. Kahu took the pakehas to Alexandra where there was a European settlement.

“Mahuki and others gave themselves up in two or three days after, riding on horseback to a pakeha settlement. I didn’t go; I stayed in the pa. The others were arrested, and Mahuki got one year’s gaol, and the others similar terms.

“Mahuki could have killed the men had he wanted to, but he could see some of the people were against him.

“Hursthouse didn’t bear me any ill-will. I used to visit him in New Plymouth afterwards and we were great friends. He used to ask me to his house, and he gave me wine and made me at home. No, Hursthouse didn’t get spiteful, but he was wild at the time.

“Mahuki was about 50 at that time....

“The survey was completed, and Mahuki’s words came true: ‘The Pakeha has come through; all our land is gone’ ”.¹⁰⁰

Although only Hursthouse’s experiences and responses were recorded, Newsham’s were identical. In September 1884, when he petitioned parliament for ‘relief’, he explained that he had been

assaulted by Maoris; that his feet were chained and his hands tied, and so kept for over forty hours, without food or water fit to drink; that he was in fear of being murdered or that he would die of exposure and starvation; that after two nights and one day he was released by friendly Maoris; that he has suffered both in mind and body, and has not since recovered his previous health.

In October, the petitions committee recommended that the government consider his case.¹⁰¹ It did, and £200 was provided, to be shared between them.¹⁰²

In 1899, a Thames newspaper reported the death of ‘Mahuki, or Manukura, the Maori fanatical prophet, who in 1883 tied up Mr Hursthouse and another surveyor in the King Country’. That Newsham’s name was not given by a newspaper that was well aware that he was mining at Waiorongomai indicated that he was not seen as the major player in this

¹⁰⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 19 September 1930, p. 9.

¹⁰¹ Record Book of Public Petitions Committee, Legislative Department, LE 1, 1884/12, ANZ-W; ‘Reports of Public Petitions Committee’, *AJHR*, 1884, I-1, p. 10.

¹⁰² *Wanganui Herald*, 8 October 1884, p. 2; *New Zealand Herald*, 6 November 1884, p. 5.

drama. Te Mahuki had died in the lunatic asylum, 'where he was sent from gaol several months ago. Three years ago he was sentenced to seven years for firing buildings at Te Kuiti'.¹⁰³

After the rescue, there were not expected to be further obstruction, even though 'a remnant' of the 'obstructors' was still at large.¹⁰⁴ After the trial of their captors, the two surveyors left New Plymouth to explore the Mokau River to find 'the most practicable route' for the proposed railway to New Plymouth.¹⁰⁵ Newsham continued to work with Hursthouse in subsequent years, and late in the 1880s worked for the Public Works Department 'on the Te Kuiti railway contract'.¹⁰⁶ By then he had become interested in goldmining once more. In March 1884, when at Kawhia, he asked the Minister of Mines whether he could prospect the King Country, for he had been asked to join a prospecting party that claimed to have located gold, to be informed that, because prospecting would create 'complications', the government would not permit it.¹⁰⁷

WAIORONGOMAI MINING UNTIL 1900¹⁰⁸

In September 1887, Newsham and his brother Frederick, who was a farmer in Taranaki,¹⁰⁹ took out miners' rights for the Ohinemuri goldfield.¹¹⁰ The following September, the *Te Aroha News* reported that Hursthouse and Newsham, 'the well-known surveyors', were staying in the township.¹¹¹ By May 1889 Newsham had settled at Waiorongomai, having ceased to work on 'the Kuiti contract' of the main trunk railway.¹¹² After his

¹⁰³ *Thames Advertiser*, 2 September 1899, p. 3.

¹⁰⁴ *Auckland Weekly News*, 31 March 1883, p. 13.

¹⁰⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 5 May 1883, p. 2.

¹⁰⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 22 September 1888, p. 2, 15 May 1889, p. 2.

¹⁰⁷ W.M. Newsham to Minister of Mines, 29 March 1884; Under-Secretary, Mines Department, to W.M. Newsham, 8 April 1884, Mines Department, MD 1, 85/3, ANZ-W.

¹⁰⁸ For maps showing location of his mining claims, see paper entitled 'Introductory Notes'.

¹⁰⁹ See Birth Certificate of Frederic Ernest Newsham, 1848/698, BDM; *Hawera and Normanby Star*, 3 July 1880, p. 2, 15 September 1882, p. 2, 1 September 1908, p. 4.

¹¹⁰ Thames Warden's Court, Index of Ohinemuri Miners' Rights 1876-1892, 127, 128/1887, BACL 14441/2a, ANZ-A.

¹¹¹ *Te Aroha News*, 22 September 1888, p. 2.

¹¹² *Waikato Times*, 15 May 1889, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 15 May 1889, p. 2.

marriage in that month, he lived close to the public hall.¹¹³ To earn a living, he sought whatever work was available. In June 1890, his tender of £67 10s to construct a road in the Gordon Special Settlement¹¹⁴ was accepted.¹¹⁵ After taking up a section there he was elected treasurer of the Gordon Settlers Association,¹¹⁶ but did not become a farmer; he undertook at least one other contract there, erecting a bridge that collapsed in 1907.¹¹⁷

After the Te Aroha Silver and Gold Mining Company abandoned Waiorongomai,¹¹⁸ in July 1890 Newsham and Edward Jennings successfully tendered to operate some of the stampers at the battery to crush for the few tributers still working.¹¹⁹ Jennings was a carpenter and builder, aged 42.¹²⁰ Despite this being his main occupation, after he moved from Thames to Te Aroha, in 1884,¹²¹ he took, obituaries agreed, ‘a prominent part in mining operations’.¹²² Reputedly ‘interested in mining’ in the early days of the Thames field,¹²³ no investments in claims or companies there have been traced. He attended the opening day of the Te Aroha field, and acquired a residence site and shares in one claim.¹²⁴ In late 1886, for less than two

¹¹³ Marriage Certificate of William Morris Newsham, 8 May 1889, 1889/1071, BDM; *Te Aroha News*, 20 July 1889, p. 2.

¹¹⁴ See paper on special settlements in the Te Aroha district.

¹¹⁵ Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 17 June 1890, p. 2.

¹¹⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 12 April 1890, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 26 August 1890, p. 2.

¹¹⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 20 August 1907, p. 2.

¹¹⁸ See paper on this company.

¹¹⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 23 July 1890, p. 2; Waiorongomai Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 7 August 1890, p. 3.

¹²⁰ For his career as a carpenter and builder, see *Thames Star*, 27 July 1883, p. 3; Advertisement, *Te Aroha News*, 6 August 1903, p. 1; *New Zealand Herald*, 25 October 1926, p. 10; *Te Aroha News*, 27 October 1926, p. 8. For his age, see Thames Baptist Church, Marriage Register 1872-1880, no. 12, Baptist Church Archives, Thames; Death Certificate of Edward Jennings, 23 October 1926, 1926/10331, BDM.

¹²¹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Miner’s Right no. 2304, issued 23 August 1884, Miners’ Rights Butt Book 1884-1885, BBAV 11533/1n, ANZ-W.

¹²² *Waikato Times*, 25 October 1926, p. 6; *New Zealand Herald*, 25 October 1926, p. 10; *Te Aroha News*, 27 October 1926, p. 8.

¹²³ *Te Aroha News*, 27 October 1926, p. 8.

¹²⁴ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Miner’s Right no. 414, issued 25 November 1880, Miners’ Rights Butt Book 1880, BBAV 11533/1c; Register of Applications 1880-1882, folios 53-54,

months he was the sole owner of a Waiorongomai claim.¹²⁵ During the 1880s and early 1890s he was an amalgamator at the battery,¹²⁶ meaning that he had the skills required for their partnership. They were friends as well as business partners, as indicated by Newsham witnessing Jennings' will in 1894.¹²⁷

The partners incurred 'considerable expense in putting everything in working order so as to be able to treat ore for the general public'.¹²⁸ When they started, Peter Ferguson¹²⁹ promised to provide 150 tons. Two other men had leased the tailings plant 'for a considerable time', going 'halves with the company in the product', which a correspondent considered was 'a good thing for both parties'.¹³⁰ Newsham and Jennings would have hoped for the same result, but it is not known how profitable their venture was. Six months after they leased it, the battery was bought from the company by Henry Hopper Adams,¹³¹ and they no longer worked it.¹³²

In August 1891, Newsham 'and party', unnamed, but probably including Jennings, were tributing in the Ferguson Syndicate's ground, and were sufficiently successful to supply five head of stampers daily.¹³³ Three months later he was carting quartz down the tramway.¹³⁴ In October, he became sole owner of one man's ground he named the **Alice**; the portion of

BBAV 11505/3a; Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 165, BBAV 11567/1a, ANZ-A.

¹²⁵ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 141, BBAV 11567/1a, ANZ-A.

¹²⁶ A. & G. Price, Letterbook 1885-1886, p. 683, A. & G. Price Archives, Thames; Birth Certificates of John Werahiko Jennings, 14 November 1887, 1888/1552; Charles Ernest Jennings, 20 January 1890, 1890/1842, BDM; *Tauranga Electoral Roll, 1887*, p. 13; *Te Aroha Electoral Roll, 1891*, p. 17; *Waikato Electoral Roll, 1893*, p. 19.

¹²⁷ Probate of Edward Jennings, Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4420/2180, ANZ-A.

¹²⁸ Waiorongomai Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 7 August 1890, p. 3.

¹²⁹ See paper on Peter Ferguson and his New Era.

¹³⁰ Te Aroha Correspondent, *Auckland Weekly News*, 26 July 1890, p. 10.

¹³¹ See paper on his life.

¹³² *Waikato Times*, 9 December 1890, p. 2; Te Aroha Correspondent, *New Zealand Herald*, 24 January 1891, p. 3.

¹³³ *Thames Advertiser*, 31 August 1891, p. 2.

¹³⁴ Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 25 November 1891, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha.

the old Inverness closest to the tramway, he surrendered it in the following March.¹³⁵

In February 1892, the *Observer* Man stated the obvious when writing that ‘Willie Newsham is always looking for quartz’.¹³⁶ Three months later, Newsham, Jennings, and William George Sheriff Jeffrey became owners of the **New Premier**, the former Premier Licensed Holding that had been part of the Ferguson Syndicate ground.¹³⁷ Of the five shares, initially Newsham had two.¹³⁸ Jeffrey had served as a policeman from 1876 to 1882, based mainly in Thames.¹³⁹ On the opening day of the Te Aroha goldfield, he was placed on one corner of the Prospectors’ Claim as part of the official party overseeing the rush and recording the names of those pegging out.¹⁴⁰ After the rush died down, he took out a miner’s right and acquired an interest in a Tui claim.¹⁴¹ After settling in Te Aroha in September 1882, he mined at Waiorongomai.¹⁴² In 1890 he worked for the Ferguson Syndicate, and had to sue for the £18 1s of wages owed to him when it ceased work.¹⁴³ When he joined Newsham’s party two years later, he was aged 38.¹⁴⁴ Early in 1895 he had a trial crushing of ore extracted from the Colonist tip, but

¹³⁵ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 323, BBAV 11567/1a, ANZ-A.

¹³⁶ ‘Waiorongomai’, *Observer*, 20 February 1892, p. 18.

¹³⁷ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 339, BBAV 11567/1a, ANZ-A.

¹³⁸ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, Hearing of 13 April 1892, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A.

¹³⁹ Armed Constabulary Force, Description Book, no. 2423, folio 683, Police Department, P 8/1, ANZ-W; *Thames Star*, 29 March 1881, p. 2.

¹⁴⁰ *Thames Advertiser*, 26 November 1880, p. 3.

¹⁴¹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Miner’s Right no. 1627, issued 20 December 1880, Miners’ Rights Butt Book 1880-1881, BBAV 11533/1g; Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 203, BBAV 11567/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁴² Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Miner’s Right no. 2243, issued 21 September 1882, Miners’ Rights Butt Book 1882, BBAV 11533/1j, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 18 October 1884, p. 7, 26 September 1885, p. 2; Notices of Intentions to Marry, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/30, folio 1216, ANZ-W; *Tauranga Electoral Roll, 1887*, p. 13; *Te Aroha Electoral Roll, 1891*, p. 17.

¹⁴³ Te Aroha Magistrate’s Court, Civil Record Book 1889-1896, 55/1890, BCDG 11221/1c, ANZ-A.

¹⁴⁴ Death Certificate of William George Sheriff Jeffrey, 3 May 1903, 1903/2672, BDM.

the result was ‘hardly good enough to warrant further trial’.¹⁴⁵ He then became one of the two prospectors employed by the Cadman Prospecting Association.¹⁴⁶ They explored old workings and trenched on the surface, but ‘with very little results, and on the whole the months operations has not been very encouraging’, his first report stated.¹⁴⁷ A month later, despite finding one large leader, nothing of value had been located.¹⁴⁸ As no further reports have been traced, probably their prospecting ceased shortly afterwards. Jeffrey died in 1903 from miner’s complaint.¹⁴⁹

They worked their claim, of five acres and containing a reef about 16 feet wide, by stoping near the surface of the outcrop.¹⁵⁰ In July 1892, Newsham asked the council to construct a six-and-a-half chains long tramline ‘from the old Premier Mine to connect with the present line’. His party would provide the rails, trucks, brake, and rope, indicating that it was an incline tramway. The council expressed interest, and accepted Newsham’s offer to hand over the line and plant if mining ceased.¹⁵¹ However, at its next meeting its clerk ‘reported that he thought there was no legal power to enable the council to spend funds on making or subsidising a private tramway’. Newsham ‘wanted assistance in building the tramway, as he was not prepared to do the work himself. He wanted about £30 or £40 worth of work done’ in forming the line. After councillors decided that they had no authority to assist, they told the miners that ‘they could of course put up the tramway themselves, but this they did not feel inclined to do, as they would be entirely responsible for maintenance, accidents, &c’.¹⁵² As no tramway was constructed, ore must have been sledged to the end of the country tramway.

¹⁴⁵ *Te Aroha News*, 23 January 1895, p. 2, 6 February 1895, p. 2.

¹⁴⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 20 February 1895, p. 2.

¹⁴⁷ W.G.S. Jeffrey to James Mills, 16 March 1895, Mines Department, MD 1, 97/1072, ANZ-W.

¹⁴⁸ W.G.S. Jeffrey to James Mills, 13 April 1895, Mines Department, MD 1, 97/1072, ANZ-W.

¹⁴⁹ Death Certificate of William George Sheriff Jeffrey, 3 May 1903, 1903/2672, BDM.

¹⁵⁰ H.W. Northcroft to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 19 May 1893, *AJHR*, 1893, C-3, Appendix, p. xv; George Wilson to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 21 May 1895, *AJHR*, 1895, A-3A, p. 14.

¹⁵¹ Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 5 July 1892, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha; Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 9 July 1892, p. 2.

¹⁵² Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 4 August 1892, p. 2.

Early in July 1892, Newsham complained that the tramway manager, William McLean,¹⁵³ not only was not working the line properly but had on several occasions had refused to carry quartz for them, ‘thus causing the Battery to stop work for several days’.¹⁵⁴ After McLean ‘explained the circumstances of Newsham’s case’, the council took no action.¹⁵⁵ Late in July, the party completed a crushing, obtaining 97oz 13dwt from 149 trucks of ore.¹⁵⁶ In early October an interim crushing produced 40oz retorted gold, and they had ‘about 15 trucks to crush before completing their parcel’. A ‘well known miner, who has been connected with this goldfield for years’, offered to take an interest in the mine and to supply the party with a ten-head stamp batter ‘to be erected on the Premier creek’,¹⁵⁷ but nothing came of this offer. In November, Jennings on behalf of ‘Newsham and party’ told the warden that ‘Battery and mine stopped owing to McLean drinking’.¹⁵⁸ Told to contact his local councillors, Jennings did as suggested.¹⁵⁹ At the beginning of December they ‘completed a crushing of 70 trucks of quartz for 40oz of gold’.¹⁶⁰ Two weeks later they sent ten tons of ore to be treated at Thames, and expected ‘a good return’.¹⁶¹ Also at the end of the year, Newsham was granted a residence site on the upper track ‘near New Find Mine’,¹⁶² meaning at or near Quartzville, and close to their mine.

In February 1893, two parcels sent for treatment at the Thames School of Mines received encouraging results.¹⁶³ According to the warden, they

¹⁵³ See paper on the Piako County tramway at Waiorongomai.

¹⁵⁴ Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 5 July 1892, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha.

¹⁵⁵ Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 4 August 1892, p. 2.

¹⁵⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 26 July 1892, p. 2.

¹⁵⁷ *Te Aroha News*, n.d., reprinted in *Thames Star*, 13 October 1892, p. 4.

¹⁵⁸ Warden to Piako County Council, 11 November 1892, Thames Warden’s Court, Letterbook 1886-1893, p. 667, BACL 14458/2b, ANZ-A.

¹⁵⁹ Warden to Edward Jennings, 11 November 1892, Thames Warden’s Court, Letterbook 1886-1893, p. 666, BACL 14458/2b, ANZ-A; Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 23 November 1892, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha.

¹⁶⁰ Waiorongomai Correspondent, *Thames Star*, 5 December 1892, p. 4.

¹⁶¹ Waiorongomai Correspondent, *Thames Star*, 15 December 1892, p. 4.

¹⁶² Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 28/1892, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁶³ Thames School of Mines, Assay Book 1890-1893, two entries for 7 February 1893; Assay Book 1891-1895, entry for 7 February 1893, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

earned 'good wages, but have a difficulty in getting their stuff crushed'.¹⁶⁴ By May they had obtained 280oz from 480 tons.¹⁶⁵ From the beginning of that month until the beginning of November, the claim was protected, because of 'not being able to crush'.¹⁶⁶ As Newsham managed the mine, it became known as Newsham's Claim.¹⁶⁷ In December the battery was 'working continuously on some 160 trucks' which promised to be payable.¹⁶⁸ Output for the 12 months until May 1894 was reported to be 107oz 10dwt from 294 tons; figures for the 12 months to July were given as 65 1/2oz from 166 tons.¹⁶⁹ By late April 1894 his party had 'finished crushing 200 truck loads of stuff' and were 'cleaning up. The first 40 truck loads did not yield by any means a payable return, but it is expected that the balance will more than make up the deficit'.¹⁷⁰ In May, they were breaking out 60 loads, and at the beginning of August, the battery was treating about 40 trucks of ore, from which 'a fair return' was anticipated.¹⁷¹ In February 1895, he sought six months' protection. His justification was that the claim, occupied in 'about April 1891', which did not agree with the date of its being granted, had been worked 'continuously' from the beginning of November 1893 until January 1895. Protection was needed because they were 'unable to make satisfactory arrangements at Battery'.¹⁷² In that month, the mine was offered to a syndicate for £200.¹⁷³ Afterwards, the syndicate in turn sold it to the New Zealand Exploration Company.¹⁷⁴ In the 12 months to July 1895

¹⁶⁴ H.W. Northcroft to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 19 May 1893, *AJHR*, 1893, C-3, Appendix, p. v.

¹⁶⁵ H.W. Northcroft to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 19 May 1893, *AJHR*, 1893, C-3, Appendix, p. xv.

¹⁶⁶ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Transfers and Assignments 1893-1895, 8/1895, BBAV 11581/14a, 11289/13a, ANZ-A.

¹⁶⁷ H.A. Gordon to Minister of Mines, 8 June 1893, *AJHR*, 1893, C-3, p. 73.

¹⁶⁸ *Te Aroha News*, n.d., reprinted in *Thames Star*, 18 December 1893, p. 3.

¹⁶⁹ George Wilson to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 7 May 1894, *AJHR*, 1894, C-3A, pp. 13, 15; H.A. Gordon to Minister of Mines, 24 July 1894, *AJHR*, 1894, C-3, p. 48.

¹⁷⁰ *Te Aroha News*, n.d., reprinted in *Thames Star*, 26 April 1894, p. 2.

¹⁷¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 21 May 1894, p. 2, 2 August 1894, p. 2.

¹⁷² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 8/1895, BBAV 11505/1a; Transfers and Assignments 1895, 8/1895, BBAV 11581/14a, ANZ-A.

¹⁷³ *Te Aroha News*, 23 February 1895, p. 2; George Wilson to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 21 May 1895, *AJHR*, 1895, C-3A, p. 14.

¹⁷⁴ See paper on this company.

another 156oz had been obtained from 460 tons.¹⁷⁵ In total, the three partners obtained 544oz, from 1,234 tons extracted.¹⁷⁶

At the same time as Newsham was arranging for three months' protection of the New Premier while it was under offer, he obtained what was formerly the **May Queen**.¹⁷⁷ He had prospected this ground shortly before, with Jeffrey, without finding anything payable,¹⁷⁸ and found nothing of value after becoming the owner.

Late in January 1893, Newsham attended a meeting to establish a prospecting association, and became a subscriber.¹⁷⁹ Jeffrey and Jennings also attended this meeting, the latter being appointed to the five-man committee to devise a prospecting scheme.¹⁸⁰ During the year, along with Thomas Gavin,¹⁸¹ Newsham prospected the former Inverness for it, and the good payable ore in a reef they discovered prompted its speedy development as part of the **Loyalty**, adjoining Newsham's Alexandra.¹⁸² As the association owned it, both men were amongst the original owners.¹⁸³ Gavin managed the mine,¹⁸⁴ with the profitable results detailed in the chapter on his life. In February 1895 it was described as a 'brilliant success'.¹⁸⁵ Five months later, 'excellent' returns were being produced by only four miners (were the other two Jennings and Jeffrey?); they worked two shifts daily,

¹⁷⁵ H.A. Gordon to Minister of Mines, 24 July 1895, *AJHR*, 1895, C-3, p. 67.

¹⁷⁶ J.F. Downey, *Gold-Mines of the Hauraki District, New Zealand* (Wellington, 1935), p. 260.

¹⁷⁷ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Notices of Marking Out Claims, 2 February 1895, BBAV 11557/2f, ANZ-A; Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 16 March 1895, p. 2.

¹⁷⁸ W.M. Newsham to Thomas Gavin, 8 December 1894, Mines Department, MD 1, 97/1072, ANZ-W.

¹⁷⁹ *Auckland Weekly News*, 28 January 1893, p. 18; Te Aroha Warden's Court, Letterbook 1883-1900, p. 306, BBAV 11534/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁸⁰ *Thames Advertiser*, 25 January 1893, p. 2; *Auckland Weekly News*, 28 January 1893, p. 18.

¹⁸¹ See paper on his life.

¹⁸² H.A. Gordon to Minister of Mines, 24 July 1894, *AJHR*, C-3, p. 48; George Wilson to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 7 May 1894, *AJHR*, 1894, C-3A, p. 14.

¹⁸³ George Wilson to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 7 May 1894, *AJHR*, 1894, C-3A, p. 14; Te Aroha Warden's Court, application dated 19 December 1893, Applications 1893, BBAV 11591, ANZ-A.

¹⁸⁴ *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 20 February 1896, p. 7.

¹⁸⁵ Editorial, *Te Aroha News*, 23 February 1895, p. 2.

and sometimes only one. The local newspaper wanted them to employ more men on their seven men's ground and not monopolize it.¹⁸⁶

In June 1895, Newsham applied for the **Extended**, 50 acres adjoining the Loyalty Palace.¹⁸⁷ Three months later, Gavin sought to obtain surplus ground in it, but withdrew his plaint the following month.¹⁸⁸ In October, Newsham applied for the Opposition, of 100 acres, in the same area,¹⁸⁹ which never produced gold. When his application for the Extended was considered at the end of November, Newsham 'stated that it was intended to float this, in connection with the Loyalty'. They intended spending about £2,000 in driving tunnels 'and otherwise improving the value of the ground'. Gavin supported the application because English investors considered the Loyalty ground to be too small. 'The area applied for was old abandoned ground, which was repeatedly tried, but it was found necessary that capital was required to carry on operations successfully'. By erecting 'more modern machinery' and putting in low-level tunnels, they would be able to prove its value. The application was granted.¹⁹⁰ In February 1896, shortly after Newsham found rich ore returning 8 1/2oz to the ton on the boundary between the Loyalty and Alexandra, the mine was closed and protection obtained prior, hopefully, to its sale to British investors. In its two years' of working, £1,400 in dividends were paid to 'the fortunate few'.¹⁹¹

In May, he applied for the **Loyalty Extended**, 100 acres bounded on the south by his Extended, ground not mined previously. When was awarded to him early the following year, its area was reduced to 93 acres.¹⁹² Also in May 1896, he applied for the **Aroha**, 100 acres bounded on the east by his Opposition. 'The main range runs right through it', a surveyor reported. The following January, he transferred it to a leading investor.¹⁹³

¹⁸⁶ Editorial, *Te Aroha News*, 20 July 1895, p. 2.

¹⁸⁷ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Transfers and Assignments 1895, 14/1895, BBAV 11581/14a, ANZ-A.

¹⁸⁸ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaint Book 1880-1898, 22/1895, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁸⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Transfers and Assignments 1895, 40/1895, BBAV 11581/14a, ANZ-A.

¹⁹⁰ Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 30 November 1895, p. 2.

¹⁹¹ *New Zealand Herald*, 12 February 1896, p. 6.

¹⁹² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Transfers and Assignments 1896, 9/1896, BBAV 11581/15a, ANZ-A; R.S. Bush to Minister of Mines, 29 June 1897, *AJHR*, 1897, C-3, p. 98.

¹⁹³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Transfers and Assignments 1896, 11/1896, BBAV 11581/15a, ANZ-A.

At the end of 1898, he applied for the 60-acre **Sceptre**, adjoining his Alexandra, but withdrew his application three months later.¹⁹⁴

Not being taken up by British investors, by 1899 the Loyalty was let on tribute.¹⁹⁵ Early in 1900 Newsham and Gavin were once again working the Loyalty, ‘that well-known gold producing claim’, and in June obtained 14oz 4dwt.¹⁹⁶ Later that year, ore from the Loyalty Palace Newsham took to the bank in Thames produced 10oz 10dwt of melted gold;¹⁹⁷ after that, the gold gave out.

In November 1895, he applied for three men’s ground, bounded on the east by the Loyalty,¹⁹⁸ which he named the **Alexandra**, one of the names of his wife and a daughter; he and Gavin held equal interests.¹⁹⁹ In January 1896, it was noted that Newsham, ‘the well-known prospector’, had received ‘a handsome return’, from three tons obtaining 26oz, valued at £3 4s 9d an ounce, a yield equal to eight-and-a-half ounces to the ton.²⁰⁰ He was working with the assistance of Gavin, and had found this ore on the boundary of their Loyalty United.²⁰¹ The ground was ‘greatly broken up and crushed, with the ore in small leaders, which are sometimes very rich’. During January he was driving to cut a leader between two lodes.²⁰² The following month, he was ‘still working on his rich lead’, and would have ‘another parcel of stuff ready for crushing shortly’.²⁰³ In March, his ‘good find’ was reported:

¹⁹⁴ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Transfers and Assignments 1898, 9/1898, BBAV 11581/15a, ANZ-A.

¹⁹⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 22 May 1899, p. 3.

¹⁹⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 1 March 1900, p. 2; Piako County Council, Letterbook 1899-1901, p. 279, Matamata-Piako District Council, Te Aroha.

¹⁹⁷ Bank of New Zealand, Thames Branch, Gold Purchase Register 1899-1932, entry for 14 November 1900, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

¹⁹⁸ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Transfers and Assignments 1895, 82/1895, BBAV 11581/14a, ANZ-A.

¹⁹⁹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Applications for Licensed Holdings and Special Claims 1895, Application dated 23 December 1895, BBAV 11582/4a, ANZ-A.

²⁰⁰ *Te Aroha News*, n.d., reprinted in *Thames Advertiser*, 11 January 1896, p. 3; *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 18 January 1896, p. 5.

²⁰¹ *New Zealand Herald*, 12 February 1896, p. 6.

²⁰² H.A. Gordon to Minister of Mines, 17 June 1896, *AJHR*, 1896, C-3, p. 78.

²⁰³ *Auckland Weekly News*, 29 February 1896, p. 9.

The lead has been opened up fully 100ft, and shows gold freely the whole length. He is putting in a drive to cut the reef at the lower level, and is quite 60ft in. He has a crushing of surface dirt bagged ready to convey to the battery. The locality has been always regarded as a likely one for rich ore, being situated west of the New Find boundary.²⁰⁴

In July, he declared that he had worked it continuously since October 1895, but required four months' protection 'owing to the road to the Battery being in an unfit state to convey quartz'; he later withdrew this application,²⁰⁵ presumably because the road had been repaired. He was certainly able to take ore to the battery, for in late August a crushing of three tons produced 28oz of retorted gold.²⁰⁶ It was considered that more modern methods would have given a higher return.²⁰⁷ 'The stuff was taken from a six-inch leader, and was treated by the old wet process, and somewhat imperfect[ly] at that'.²⁰⁸ For the 12 months to 31 March 1897, with the assistance of another miner he extracted five tons for a return of £73 10s.²⁰⁹

In November 1898 some valuable ore yielded one ounce to the ton;²¹⁰ a newspaper reporting small parcels yielding an ounce to the pound²¹¹ may have muddled its tons and pounds. When three loads were treated in Thames the following month, 56 ounces of retorted gold were obtained, meaning each load contained approximately 19 ounces; valued at £3 7s 6d per ounce, the return was £180.²¹² According to the mining inspector, the amount of gold was 56oz 11dwt and the return was £190.²¹³ This ore was taken from a leader from eight inches to a foot thick; two earlier crushings

²⁰⁴ Auckland Correspondent, *Thames Star*, 4 March 1896, p. 2.

²⁰⁵ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Transfers and Assignments 1896, 114/1896, BBAV 11581/15a, ANZ-A.

²⁰⁶ *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 29 August 1896, p. 7.

²⁰⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 26 August 1896, p. 3.

²⁰⁸ *Auckland Weekly News*, 29 August 1896, p. 19.

²⁰⁹ R.S. Bush to Minister of Mines, 29 June 1897, *AJHR*, 1897, C-3, p. 106.

²¹⁰ *Te Aroha News*, n.d., cited in *Auckland Weekly News*, 11 November 1898, p. 22.

²¹¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 4 November 1898, p. 3.

²¹² *Thames Advertiser*, 19 December 1898, p. 4.

²¹³ James Coutts to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 29 April 1899, *AJHR*, 1899, C-3A, p. 53.

from it had produced nine and then nine-and-a-half ounces.²¹⁴ He worked on his own in the year ending 31 March 1899; from 23 tons, 84oz 8dwt was extracted, valued at £282 14s 7d.²¹⁵ Assays gave the remarkable value of 90oz to the ton, valued at £3 6s per ounce.²¹⁶ On 26 July, when still working alone in what was now one man's ground, he obtained 13oz 17dwt from two tons, worth £45 1s 3d.²¹⁷ Although in August it was stated that Newsham 'still sticks to the district, and every now and again crushes his dirt for handsome returns', as that was the last amount recorded as extracted from this claim²¹⁸ any gold obtained since then came from other mines. He applied for one acre, again as the Alexandra, in October 1900, but Edwin Henry Hardy²¹⁹ objected because the ground was now part of the Hampton.²²⁰ As Hardy won this dispute, it may have caused the squabble that led to Newsham biting Hardy's thumb.²²¹

For 12 weeks at the end of 1894, Newsham received a government subsidy of 7s 6d a week for prospecting.²²² After a few weeks' work he informed Gavin, who was in charge of the prospecting association's work, that he had trenched along the Welcome reef, cutting it in several places. He had obtained 'a little gold all along the line but could get nothing payable, the gold was principally in the small stringers or Quartz veins, but nothing in the main lode'; accordingly, he would examine other reefs.²²³ He next prospected the former May Queen for four weeks, being assisted by Jeffrey for two of these. 'I have gotten a little gold in some stringers but

²¹⁴ *Thames Advertiser*, 19 December 1898, p. 4.

²¹⁵ George Wilson to Minister of Mines, 12 May 1899, *AJHR*, 1899, C-3, pp. 70, 77; *New Zealand Mines Record*, 16 September 1899, p. 94.

²¹⁶ R.S. Bush to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 3 July 1899, *AJHR*, 1899, C-3A, p. 9.

²¹⁷ Peter Gilchrist to Minister of Mines, 23 March 1900, Mines Department, MD 1, 00/495, ANZ-W.

²¹⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 16 August 1899, p. 3; James Coutts to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 28 May 1900, *AJHR*, 1900, C-3, p. 90.

²¹⁹ See paper on his life.

²²⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Transfers and Assignments 1900, 15/1900, BBAV 11581/16a, ANZ-A.

²²¹ See paper on Edwin Henry Hardy.

²²² Memoranda dated 21 November 1894, 15 December 1894, Mines Department, MD 1, 97/1072, ANZ-W.

²²³ W.M. Newsham to Thomas Gavin, 5 October 1894, Mines Department, MD 1, 97/1072, ANZ-W.

cannot say if they are payable yet', he wrote in November, reporting a month later that nothing payable had been found.²²⁴ In November 1898 he was referred to as 'Waiorongomai's sole prospector'.²²⁵

In another example of his assisting other miners, in 1898 he helped to fight a fire that threatened to burn the Aroha Company's water race.²²⁶ In 1900, he assisted Gavin to convey timber from this abandoned race down the Fern Spur incline.²²⁷

Newsham also made attempts to obtain water power for batteries. In April 1896, he applied for 'an abandoned surveyed water-right known as Ferguson's old water-race', one mile long, and for a machine site 'known as Ferguson's old Machine Site', but withdrew his applications in June.²²⁸ Three days before withdrawing them, he applied for a six-mile-long water race from Shaftesbury to near the Waiorongomai bridge over the Waihou River, which would have provided the enormous pressure of 400 heads; after receiving three protests, he withdrew the application.²²⁹ His reason for seeking this pressure has not survived the loss of the local newspaper, but presumably must have been intended to create a rival battery. Then, in March 1897, he applied for a water race of 35 chains, in the Premier Creek, once again withdrawing this application, four months later.²³⁰

Despite receiving good returns from the Loyalty and Alexandra, Newsham did not accumulate much money, probably because of family commitments. Nor did he receive a legacy upon his father-in-law's death in 1892, for all his estate went to his widow.²³¹ In the following year he sold

²²⁴ W.M. Newsham to Thomas Gavin, 3 November 1894, 8 December 1894, Mines Department, MD 1, 97/1072, ANZ-W.

²²⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 4 November 1898, p. 3.

²²⁶ *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 12 March 1898, p. 2.

²²⁷ Piako County Council, Letterbook 1899-1901, p. 188, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha.

²²⁸ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Transfers and Assignments 1896, 12, 13/1896, BBAV 11581/15a, ANZ-A.

²²⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Transfers and Assignments 1896, 74/1896, BBAV 11581/15a; Register of Applications 1891-1899, Hearings of 2 October 1896, 21 January 1897, BBAV 11505/4a, ANZ-A.

²³⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1891-1899, Hearings of 13 September 1897, 10 January 1898, BBAV 11505/4a, ANZ-A.

²³¹ Probate of Thomas Finch, Probates, BBAE 1569/4693, ANZ-A.

his father's farm, possibly to meet his mining expenses.²³² In September 1895, he had £35 7s 8d in the bank, and six months later was overdrawn by £7; the bank noted that his account was always small but that he was a 'reliable' man with 'general mining interests'.²³³ A year later, his overdraft was £19: 'Expects a crushing shortly which will pay overdraft'.²³⁴ As other banking records have not survived, other details of his financial position cannot be traced, but it may be assumed to have remained much the same. Unlike many other miners, however, he was not sued to force him to pay his debts.

In 1895, Newsham made his only known investment in mining outside the Te Aroha area since 1880, in a Thames company.²³⁵ In the following year, he spent 'a few days' inspecting the range behind Katikati without finding anything of interest.²³⁶

PROSPECTING AND MINING IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

In early 1902, Newsham was working the **Cadman** with Gavin.²³⁷ In August 1904, he applied for its protection 'pending formation of Company to work ground', and then surrendered it.²³⁸ When a company was formed in the following year, as one of the six vendors he received paid-up shares.²³⁹

In April 1904, Newsham was granted the **Champion Lode Extended**, 36 acres between Tui and Te Aroha.²⁴⁰ Six months later, he applied for six months' protection 'pending testing of the ore in England', explaining that he had not worked the ground because the ore was

²³² 'William and Jane Newsham'.

²³³ Bank of New Zealand, Paeroa Branch, Half-Yearly Balance Book, 30 September 1895, Statement of Accounts; Ohinemuri Branch, Half-Yearly Balance Book, 31 March 1896, Report on Advances, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

²³⁴ Bank of New Zealand, Ohinemuri Branch, Half-Yearly Balance Book, 31 March 1897, Report on Advances, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

²³⁵ *New Zealand Gazette*, 3 October 1895, p. 1573.

²³⁶ *Bay of Plenty Times*, 22 July 1896, p. 2.

²³⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 29 March 1902, p. 3.

²³⁸ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1904, 34, 42/1904, BBAV 11289/18a, ANZ-A.

²³⁹ Return of Allotment of Shares in the Cadman Gold Mining Company, 5 July 1905, Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 132 no. 849, ANZ-A.

²⁴⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1904, 5/1904, BBAV 11289/18a, ANZ-A.

refractory and that an Auckland investor had taken an option and sent samples to England; his request was granted.²⁴¹ A further six months later, he applied for a further six months' protection to enable him to raise capital. An agent in Auckland was arranging with his contacts in England and America to try 'a recent process of smelting', and ten tons were being sent to the United States. He stated that it was useless extracting more ore until a successful treatment was found, and was granted four months.²⁴² After this, he abandoned the mine, by 1907 owing £10 10s in unpaid rent; because of his financial state, this was treated as irrecoverable.²⁴³

By 1905, with the decline of mining at Waiorongomai, Newsham had moved his family to Te Aroha.²⁴⁴ At the beginning of 1905, he was prospecting at **Waitekauri**, the first time he had prospected elsewhere. His application for government assistance was successful, and he was granted 10s weekly for three months, but as he did not take up the grant,²⁴⁵ presumably he did no more prospecting.

In March 1907, the warden wrote that Newsham had 'nothing, at present he is in the employ of the Te Aroha Borough earning 7/6 per day, employment seems of a temporary nature, he spends most of his time prospecting'.²⁴⁶ In 1908, he was allotted 2,000 shares in the **Bendigo** Company, and after trading in these for nearly two-and-a-half years sold them all.²⁴⁷

²⁴¹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1904, 34/1904, BBAV 11289/18a, ANZ-A.

²⁴² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1905, 11/1905, BBAV 11289/18a, ANZ-A.

²⁴³ County Clerk, Ohinemuri County Council, to Minister of Mines, 14 March 1907, Mines Department, MD 1, 07/296, ANZ-W.

²⁴⁴ *Ohinemuri Electoral Roll, 1902*, p. 54; *1903*, p. 47; *Te Aroha News*, 8 July 1905, p. 2, 4 February 1921, p. 2.

²⁴⁵ W.M. Newsham to Ohinemuri County Council, 18 January 1905; Under-Secretary, Mines Department, to Ohinemuri County Council, 14 February 1905, Mines Department, MD 1, 05/212, ANZ-W; *New Zealand Mines Record*, 16 February 1905, p. 305; James Coutts to Boyd Bennie, 1 August 1906, Inspector of Mines, BBDO A902, box 6, S149, ANZ-A.

²⁴⁶ Warden to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 28 March 1907, Mines Department, MD1, 07/296, ANZ-W.

²⁴⁷ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 226, no. 1332, ANZ-A.

At the end of 1908, with Elijah Brokenshire, a contractor and occasional miner,²⁴⁸ he applied for a subsidy to prospect the **Mangakino Valley**, on the eastern side of the range.²⁴⁹ The mining inspector explained that they wished to prospect

a large area of country situated between the old Premier Mine at Waiorongomai and Mangakino Creek, in order to try and locate the continuation of the reef system now being worked by the Talisman and Crown Mines with good result. It is a well known fact, that in the early days of Te Aroha gold field, reefs were found in the back country, which is believed contained sulphide ore, at that time considered worthless.... From my own knowledge of this country, I am hopeful good results will follow.²⁵⁰

Both were granted £1 a week for three months.²⁵¹ Despite being paid £39, £13 more than originally allocated,²⁵² nothing was discovered. Because of their knowledge of the area, in 1910 they were paid £3 to blaze a track into this valley.²⁵³

At the beginning of 1916, he told the warden that he had worked at **Tui** until January 1915 and had visited this area six times since.²⁵⁴ With mining at an almost total standstill in the Te Aroha district by the beginning of 1914, he was one of three men selected by the Hauraki Prospecting and Miners' Association to prospect between **Waihi and Whangamata**;²⁵⁵ no discoveries of significance were made.

²⁴⁸ For example, *Te Aroha News*, 10 April 1886, p. 2, Piako County Council, 21 October 1909, p. 2; Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 5 October 1893, p. 6, 4 November 1893, p. 7.

²⁴⁹ Elijah Brokenshire and W.M. Newsham to Ohinemuri County Council, 2 November 1908, Mines Department, MD 1, 08/1235, ANZ-W.

²⁵⁰ Matthew Paul to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 14 December 1908, Mines Department, MD 1, 08/1235, ANZ-W.

²⁵¹ Under-Secretary, Mines Department, to Ohinemuri County Council, 19 December 1908, Mines Department, MD 1, 08/1235, ANZ-W.

²⁵² Under-Secretary, Mines Department, to Ohinemuri County Council, 19 December 1908; Memorandum on 2 July 1909, Mines Department, MD 1, 08/1235, ANZ-W.

²⁵³ Piako County Council, Letterbook 1909-1912, p. 348, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha.

²⁵⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Complaints 1916, 1/1916, BBAV 11572/4a, ANZ-A.

²⁵⁵ *Te Aroha News*, 28 January 1914, p. 2.

His most notable claims were the **Pick** and **Dish**, running along the top of the range behind the mountain's peak. Early in March 1909, he applied for the Pick, of 70 acres, adjoining the Aroha (to the north-west) and the Premier (to the east) and the Premier Extended (to the north). Formerly the Ajax, it had been abandoned for many years; granted in late June to him, he occupied it a month later.²⁵⁶ In April, the warden considered the applications of Gavin and Newsham for special claims, the former for the Premier Extended and the Te Aroha and Newsham for the Dominion, also on the northwestern side. Since Gavin applied, as the survey lines had been altered his application now encroached on the Dominion by from 12 to 14 chains on one line.

It was pointed out that after Newsham had pegged off the claims for Gavin, he had been employed by another Company to peg off the "Dominion" ground. A somewhat heated passage-at-arms took place, Mr Gavin remarking that it was the most contemptible thing he had ever heard of during his connection with mining.

The hearing was adjourned to permit Newsham to have the ground surveyed; the 96 acres were granted in late July as the Dish.²⁵⁷ In early August he and Brokenshire began work 'in real earnest', the local newspaper wrote, describing him as 'a practical man, and one of the best prospectors in the district'. As this newspaper hoped to see mining revive, it considered the prospects were 'very encouraging'.²⁵⁸ Three weeks later, they reportedly obtained 'some good stone' in the Pick.²⁵⁹ Shortly afterwards 'incessant rain' forced them to stop work because it was not possible to make the necessary track.²⁶⁰ At the beginning of October, Newsham sought six months' protection for both claims.²⁶¹ When his application was heard at the end of the month, he stated that a 'considerable amount' of prospecting had been done, with gold being found in two or three places in a reef about

²⁵⁶ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1909, 17/1909, BBAV 11289/20a; Mining Applications 1911, 1/1911, BBAV 11289/21a, ANZ-A.

²⁵⁷ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1909, 149/1909, BBAV 11289/20a, ANZ-A; Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 29 April 1909, p. 2, 28 October 1909, p. 2.

²⁵⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 10 August 1909, p. 2.

²⁵⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 4 September 1909, p. 3.

²⁶⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 9 September 1909, p. 2.

²⁶¹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1909, 149/1909, BBAV 11289/20a, ANZ-A.

20 or 30 chains long.²⁶² ‘Two of us been on the Ground working for six weeks. Have made arrangement for option to be taken over this ground’ by a Waihi Company metallurgist, Edwin Gripper Banks,²⁶³ who became its superintendent from 1913 to 1927 as well as a director and later the head of the Australian Mining Trust.²⁶⁴ Banks would ‘put on three men to prospect the area. If their prospecting is successful we have arranged for the introduction of capital. These men will be kept going for the four months during which the option continues - These claims are much out of the way. No roads or tracks to it – Part of the claim is in the Waitawheta water shed’. The ground was worth developing, but as large capital was required a company had to be formed. His request for protection was granted.²⁶⁵

Because of the difficult access, the Ohinemuri County Council had been asked to make a track.²⁶⁶ A county engineer who visited in November to lay out a track from the Tui mines to the ground reported that, despite the country being ‘very rough’, Newsham and Brokenshire had an ‘excellent showing’, with ‘a fine strong body of ore’, gold ‘showing freely in the stone’. As some of the assays produced a value of £250 a ton, a Te Aroha syndicate had been formed to work the ground.²⁶⁷

In February 1910, Newsham told the warden that he had pegged out the Pick and Dish for himself and the Golden Slipper for William John Cornes, who had applied for it (of 100 acres) in the previous September, and been granted it in April 1910. Newsham was working the Pick: ‘14 months I have been up & down that hill. I used to go up every week at one time’. The same men, who owned all three claims, wanted more ground lower down the mountain. He had not spent anything like £1,000 on the Pick and Dish; the only costs stated were employing three men for four or five weeks.²⁶⁸ In early August, when he applied for six months’ protection for both claims, he

²⁶² Warden’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 28 October 1909, p. 2.

²⁶³ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1909, 149/1909, BBAV 11289/20a, ANZ-A.

²⁶⁴ J.B. McAra, *Gold Mining at Waihi, 1878-1952* (Waihi, rev. ed., 1988), pp. 141, 147, 216, 305.

²⁶⁵ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1909, 149/1909, BBAV 11289/20a, ANZ-A.

²⁶⁶ Warden’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 28 October 1909, p. 2.

²⁶⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 16 November 1909, p. 3.

²⁶⁸ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1909, 142/1909, BBAV 11289/20a, ANZ-A; Warden’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 27 January 1910, p. 3.

explained that a syndicate formed by John Benjamin Johnson and other Te Aroha businessmen ‘that took up the claim spent £200 and the people who took up the option spent another £200’. Johnson informed the warden that he and an unstated number of other residents had formed a syndicate to work the Pick and Dish claims and had spent £200 prospecting, taking advice from Edwin Gripper Banks about the value of the ore. They were encouraging Edward Bunyan Anderson to form an Auckland company. During the previous period of protection, three men had worked for four months for £200, paid for by Anderson; he had a six months’ option but had not been able to achieve anything. The reef had been driven on for 60 feet, Newsham stating that ‘We have good lot of stuff out but we cannot get it away from the claim for want of roads’. Further negotiations with potential investors were pending. The warden granted three months, starting from late October.²⁶⁹ Newsham told him that the original owners ‘intended to proceed with work’ as soon as the council formed a track to the mine, which was ‘on the summit of the range, and most difficult of access’.²⁷⁰

James Alfred Vowles, always known as Alfred, was also interested in this venture, taking up an option in December to buy the Pick, Dish, and Golden Slipper from two local businessmen, Alexander Watson Edwards, a draper,²⁷¹ and Peter Baine, on behalf of a Sydney firm. If, after checking the ground, the Sydney investors purchased it, they would pay these two vendors £1,000 in cash and 30 per cent of the shares in the company formed to work the ground.²⁷² (Baine was a carrier, a timber merchant with local cutting rights, a coal merchant, an owner of a sand pit, a roading and farming and night soil contractor, a farmer, a land agent, and a director of a company that bottled the local mineral water.²⁷³)

²⁶⁹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1910, 56/1910, BBAV 11289/20a, ANZ-A.

²⁷⁰ Te Aroha Correspondent, *New Zealand Herald*, 27 October 1910, p. 3.

²⁷¹ See paper on Ani Lipsey and Alexander Watson Edwards.

²⁷² Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1911, 1/1911, BBAV 11289/21a, ANZ-A.

²⁷³ See *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 832; advertisements, *Te Aroha News*, 9 October 1900, pp. 1, 4; Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 35/1889, BBAV 11505/1a; Mining Applications 1900, 13/1900, BBAV 11289/16a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 2 January 1889, p. 2, 11 January 1890, p. 2, 23 April 1890, p. 2, 19 July 1890, p. 2, 27 February 1895, p. 2, 13 July 1905, p. 2, 16 May 1907, p. 2, 11 April 1908, p. 2, 16 June 1908, p. 2, 10 October 1908, p. 2, 29 September 1910, p. 2; Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 4 November 1893, p. 7; *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 29 March 1899, p. 3;

Cornes was the son of Clement Augustus Cornes, a prominent miner.²⁷⁴ A life-long miner, he had participated in the Te Aroha rush at the age of 16.²⁷⁵ He took out a miner's right on opening day, and immediately marked out a claim with another young miner close to the Prospectors'.²⁷⁶ Nine days later he was registered as one of the four owners of Our Boys, all being aged under 21.²⁷⁷ After it proved a duffer, he mined for a time at Waitekauri.²⁷⁸ During the late 1880s he helped to develop his father's discovery at Tui.²⁷⁹ In 1892 he obtained a small claim at Waiorongomai, two years later tributed at Tui, and in 1897 invested in a company exploring the Mangakino Valley.²⁸⁰ By 1894 he was a mine manager in Waitekauri, with investments in mining there and elsewhere in the peninsula.²⁸¹ By the turn

Auckland Weekly News, 31 March 1899, p. 20, 10 July 1902, p. 32; Te Aroha Borough Council, Minutes of Meeting of 9 March 1903, Minute Book 1898-1911, p. 168, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha; G. McGirr to Director, Tourist Department, 8 March 1911, Tourist Department, TO 1, 10/204, ANZ-W;

²⁷⁴ See paper on his life.

²⁷⁵ His birth was not registered; for its date, see Church of England, Thames Register of Baptisms 1868-1874, no. 173, Anglican Archives, Auckland; *Thames Advertiser*, 18 August 1880, p. 3, Warden's Court, 1 November 1881, p. 3.

²⁷⁶ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Miner's Right no. 326, issued 25 November 1880, Miners' Rights Butt Book 1880, BBAV 11533/1a, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 26 November 1880, p. 3.

²⁷⁷ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 167, BBAV 11567/1a, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 6 December 1880, p. 3; *Waikato Times*, 1 February 1881, p. 2.

²⁷⁸ *New Zealand Gazette*, 19 January 1882, p. 93.

²⁷⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 193, BBAV 11500/9a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 2 May 1888, p. 2, 4 December 1888, p. 2, 8 December 1888, p. 2, 30 January 1889, p. 2, 2 March 1889, p. 2, 13 April 1889, p. 2; *Auckland Weekly News*, 27 October 1888, p. 37.

²⁸⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 6/1892, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A; George Wilson to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 7 May 1894, *AJHR*, 1894, C-3A, p. 14; *New Zealand Gazette*, 21 January 1897, p. 186.

²⁸¹ For example, Paeroa Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1887-1896, folios 107, 191, ZAAP 13293/1a; Register of Special Claims 1895-1896, folio 29, ZAAP 13294/1b, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 19 June 1895, p. 3, 2 October 1895, p. 1, 20 December 1895, p. 4, 5 October 1896, p. 3; *New Zealand Gazette*, 6 February 1896, p. 260, 16 July 1896, p. 1125;

of the century, he was a mining contractor at Waihi.²⁸² He was still living there when, in 1910, he invested in a Waiorongomai company and acquired the Golden Slipper.²⁸³

Cornes' involvement with the latter was not for speculative purposes, for he genuinely believed its prospects were good. In December 1928, he obtained the Peter Maxwell, formerly the Pick and Dish claims, because the license holder was not working it. He told the warden that he had discovered that portion of the field, and during 1910 had spent £400 on it. 'He had known the present holder had not worked the claims since February as he had visited the mine frequently during that time'. The holder considered that 'the uncovering of a very rich ore just as the mine was closed down was evidently the incentive of the litigation', but did not blame Cornes for jumping his claim, for he had 'the firmest conviction that the mine would prove right'.²⁸⁴ The following January the mining inspector visited his 'prospect', and in March Cornes sent a sample for assay.²⁸⁵ The following month, when requesting a subsidy, he informed the minister that he planned to drive 100 feet on the reef and create a syndicate. In the past ten weeks, with another man and assisted by a subsidy from the council, he had formed a sledge road. 'I am one of the oldest prospectors in the Hauraki Goldfield having followed mining all my life. My old mate is dead and my present mate is paid wages by myself'.²⁸⁶ In May, he was granted a subsidy for driving, but was unable to use it before he died in October, aged 65.²⁸⁷

²⁸² *Thames Star*, 23 September 1901, p. 2, 24 September 1901, p. 4; *Auckland Weekly News*, 30 June 1904, p. 40; Waihi Gold Mining Company, Time Book 1906-1907, entry for four weeks ending 21 April 1906, 94/19, 1279aa, Waihi Museum; *Waihi Daily Telegraph*, 17 October 1929, p. 2.

²⁸³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Mining Privileges 1909-1913, folio 9, BBAV 11500/3a; Company Files, BADZ 1518, box 226 no. 1332, ANZ-A.

²⁸⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 12 December 1928, p. 4.

²⁸⁵ J.F. Downey to W.J. Cornes, 10 January 1929; Assay made for W.J. Cornes, 21 March 1929, Inspector of Mines, BBDO A902, MM68, ANZ-A.

²⁸⁶ W.J. Cornes to Minister of Mines, 13 April 1929, Inspector of Mines, BBDO A902, MM68, ANZ-A.

²⁸⁷ J.F. Downey to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 7 September 1932, Mines Department, MD1, 23/1/20, No. 1, ANZ-W; *AJHR*, 1930, C-2, p. 18; Death Certificate of William John Cornes, 15 October 1929, 1929/8085, BDM.

He had been prospecting the ground ‘until taken ill a few weeks’ before his death.²⁸⁸

Johnson’s membership in this syndicate was his only involvement in mining, apart from acquiring a small shareholding in a Karangahake company in 1907.²⁸⁹ He was a plumber, tinsmith, and Te Aroha’s leading ironmonger.²⁹⁰ Early in the twentieth century he acquired a farm near Te Aroha, and also acquired a flax mill.²⁹¹ Having announced his retirement from his ironmongery business in April 1910,²⁹² if he had seen mining as a way of making money he soon changed his mind, instead going into general storekeeping, flax milling, and farming.²⁹³ In 1902, his bank recorded him as a ‘prosperous man, attentive to his business’, with considerable assets.²⁹⁴ He continued to prosper in later years.²⁹⁵

Anderson, a leading Auckland sharebroker, in 1907 was elected vice-chairman of the stock exchange.²⁹⁶ In November 1910 he had his only other involvement with mining in the district, when he purchased the Bonanza and Majestic at Waiorongomai, two days later transferring them to the Waitawheta Gold Mining Company, in which he held 513 of its 5,000

²⁸⁸ *Waihi Daily Telegraph*, 17 October 1929, p. 2.

²⁸⁹ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 217 no. 1290, ANZ-A.

²⁹⁰ *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 831; advertisements, *Te Aroha News*, 9 June 1883, p. 1, 2 November 1895, p. 3, 9 October 1900, p. 4, 29 September 1908, pp. 1, 2, 3; *New Zealand Gazette*, 10 January 1895, p. 73; *Te Aroha News*, 23 February 1884, p. 7, 24 August 1889, p. 2, 10 April 1895, pp. 2, 3, 23 July 1898, p. 2, 28 October 1936, p. 10, 11 January 1940, p. 5.

²⁹¹ *Auckland Weekly News*, 9 October 1902, p. 32, 5 March 1908, p. 19; *Thames Star*, 2 September 1904, p. 1, 31 March 1905, p. 4.

²⁹² *Te Aroha News*, 7 April 1910, p. 2.

²⁹³ *Te Aroha News*, 25 March 1914, p. 2, 29 July 1914, p. 2, 27 January 1915, p. 2, 22 February 1915, p. 2, 8 January 1917, p. 2, 17 October 1917, p. 2, 11 January 1940, p. 5.

²⁹⁴ Bank of New Zealand, Ohinemuri Branch, Half-Yearly Balance Book, entries for 30 September 1902, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

²⁹⁵ Bank of New Zealand, Ohinemuri Branch, Half-Yearly Balance Books, entries for 30 September 1903, 31 March 1905; Manager’s Memorandum Book 1902-1914, p. 41; Te Aroha Branch, Manager’s Diary 1905-1919, entry for 17 July 1906, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington; Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4420/4652, ANZ-A.

²⁹⁶ *Observer*, 17 June 1905, p. 16; *Thames Star*, 10 August 1906, p. 2, 20 July 1909, p. 2, 7 March 1907, p. 2; *Auckland Weekly News*, 24 October 1907, p. 25, 16 December 1909, p. 32; *New Zealand Herald*, 7 December 1944, p. 6, 18 June 1953, p. 10.

shares.²⁹⁷ Since the end of the nineteenth century, he had invested in mining throughout the Hauraki district.²⁹⁸

Baine had been associated with Newsham from at least 1895, when he was one of the four members of the Te Aroha Prospecting Syndicate.²⁹⁹ In July 1910, he had sent one sample for testing at Thames, presumably from Newsham's ground; the result was encouraging.³⁰⁰ From 1895 onwards he had acquired claims and other mining property and shares in all parts of the district, for speculative purposes;³⁰¹ he also acquired interests in one claim and two mining companies elsewhere.³⁰² Although his financial state in 1910 is unknown, it must have been satisfactory, as shown by the absence of law suits to enforce payment of debts and his leaving an estate of over £10,000 in 1948.³⁰³

²⁹⁷ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings and Special Claims 1887-1910, folios 185, 187, BBAV 11500/8b; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 222 no. 1314, ANZ-A.

²⁹⁸ Letter from Edward Anderson, *Auckland Weekly News*, 29 December 1899, p. 19; Thames Warden's Court, Instruments 1906-1909, no. 3647, BACL 14343/13a; Mining Applications 1908, 201/1908, BACL 14350/58a; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 201 no. 1297; box 204 no. 1221; box 208 no. 1240; box 215 no. 1282; box 213 no. 1267; box 223 no. 1320; box 225 no. 1330; box 233, no. 1371; box 234 no. 1375; box 235 no. 1377; box 240 no. 1409; box 242 no. 1420; box 243 nos. 1425, 1426; box 247 no. 1445; box 249, no. 1456; box 255 no. 1483; box 386 no. 2160; ANZ-A; letter from Edward Anderson, *Thames Star*, 28 November 1908, p. 2.

²⁹⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 7 September 1895, p. 2.

³⁰⁰ Thames School of Mines, Assay Book 1907-1919, entry for 12 July 1910, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

³⁰¹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Applications for Licensed Holdings and Special Claims 1895-1899, 30/1895, 2, 35/1896, BBAV 11582/4a; Complaint Book 1880-1898, 1/1896, BBAV 11546/1a; Letterbook 1883-1900, pp. 435, 451, 480, BBAV 11534/1a; Register of Licensed Holdings and Special Claims 1887-1909, folios 61, 118, BBAV 11500/8b; Rent Ledger 1894-1910, folios 147, 159, BBAV 11570/7a, ANZ-A; Te Aroha Warden's Court, *New Zealand Herald*, 13 June 1896, p. 6; *New Zealand Gazette*, 6 May 1897, p. 1036; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 226 no. 1332, ANZ-A.

³⁰² Thames Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1888-1892, folio 19, BACL 14355/2a, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Gazette*, 10 October 1895, p. 1603; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 239 no. 1406, ANZ-A.

³⁰³ Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4420/7531, ANZ-A.

Vowles was then a mining agent living at Gisborne.³⁰⁴ This was a new career, for although his father was a Thames miner,³⁰⁵ he became a bootmaker.³⁰⁶ At the end of 1906, his assays of minerals found on Stewart Island encouraged him, on behalf of an Auckland syndicate, to apply for 200 acres to mine for tin.³⁰⁷ Four months later, he claimed that prospects were 'excellent'.³⁰⁸ After finding 'good' tin, while waiting for a syndicate to be formed to work their tin discovery, he and the other members of the prospecting party returned to Thames and prospected between there and the Tairua area, finding a new lode.³⁰⁹ The *Observer* describing his new enthusiasm in its own way:

Now he talks learnedly about outcrops, and assays, and methods of treatment, and keeps his weather eye upon the market price for tin. For there are fortunes in it at the present quotations, and he reckons he knows where one, at least, of these fortunes only waits to be uncovered. By the way, Alfred, whose experience in the south now constitutes him a mining "expert," is fitting in some spare time just now in hunting around the Thames hill for a copper lode he once knew.³¹⁰

The result of this venture has not been traced, but cannot have been profitable, for the following year, when he was an owner of a Thames claim, he was a bootmaker once more, in Gisborne, having reverted to his former trade after attempting to be a mining agent.³¹¹

Brokenshire ceased to assist Newsham in mid-1911, when he left his farm at Te Aroha West.³¹² Early the following year, he was joined by Frank

³⁰⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1911, 1/1911, BBAV 11289/21a, ANZ-A.

³⁰⁵ *Thames Star*, 1 August 1913, p. 5.

³⁰⁶ Marriage Certificates of James Alfred Vowles, 29 November 1876, 1876/2928; 16 January 1881, 1883/177, BDM; *Thames Advertiser*, 11 July 1888, p. 2, 29 December 1894, p. 2, 1 January 1895, p. 3.

³⁰⁷ *Auckland Weekly News*, 3 January 1907, p. 23.

³⁰⁸ *Thames Star*, 20 April 1907, p. 2, 24 April 1907, p. 1.

³⁰⁹ *Thames Star*, 27 April 1907, p. 2.

³¹⁰ *Observer*, 4 May 1907, p. 5.

³¹¹ Thames Warden's Court, Plaintiff Book 1899-1943, 14/1908, BACL 13820/1a, ANZ-A; Death Certificate of James Alfred Vowles, 28 September 1921, 1921/5779, BDM.

³¹² *Te Aroha News*, 17 August 1911, p. 2.

Chalton,³¹³ then aged 49, who farmed at Netherton, down-river from Te Aroha.³¹⁴ His only other involvement in mining was when he acquired 100 scrip shares in the Bendigo Company at Waiorongomai in 1910, selling them two years later.³¹⁵

Early in January 1911, Newsham applied for nine months' protection for both claims to enable him to raise capital. He declared that work on these claims, along with Cornes' Golden Slipper, was being financed by a syndicate comprising Edwards and Baine, and that an expert from a Sydney syndicate was coming to check them.³¹⁶ At the end of this month, Vowles took five samples from the lode for testing, four giving 'very encouraging prospects', it was reported. 'What surprised and pleased him was the fact of it being a free milling ore' which presented 'no difficulties in the way of treatment'. The lode averaged six feet in width and was 'in a good class of country'. According to 'practical miners', the quality of the ore in the drive was 'equal to the best that has been obtained in the district'. The local newspaper, as was its wont, considered the prospects were 'bright for revival of the good old mining days', for the Sydney firm had an option and was expected to form 'a strong company' with a capital of £40,000.³¹⁷

At the beginning of February, the newspaper cited 'a confidential source that matters are marching rapidly towards a successful and satisfactory conclusion'.³¹⁸ A month later, it reported that although the mine still had to be tested, Vowles had floated a company in Sydney.³¹⁹ Although the outcome of the visit of the representative of the Sydney investors and the results of the tests were not made public, the ore did not meet expectations. Cornes, who in January had applied for six months' protection of his Golden Slipper whilst awaiting the company's decision,

³¹³ Matthew Paul to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 24 February 1912, Inspector of Mines, BBDO A902, S113, ANZ-A; Downey, pp. 250-251.

³¹⁴ Birth Certificate of Annie Dulcena Chalton, 29 December 1893, 1894/4368; Death Certificate of Frank Chalton, 5 May 1948, 1948/26450, BDM; *A Return of the Freeholders of New Zealand...* (Wellington, 1884), p. C 27; 'A Tourist', *Auckland Weekly News*, 4 January 1890, p. 7; 'Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers (Report of Commission Appointed to Inquire into Silting of)', *AJHR*, 1910, C-14, p. 188.

³¹⁵ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 226 no. 1332, ANZ-A.

³¹⁶ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1911, 1/1911, BBAV 11289/21a, ANZ-A.

³¹⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 28 January 1911, p. 2.

³¹⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 4 February 1911, p. 2.

³¹⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 4 March 1911, p. 2.

withdrew his application on 21 April because it had declined to purchase his claim.³²⁰ At the end of June, he surrendered it.³²¹ Also on 21 April, Newsham was permitted to work the Dish with two men for six months, and at the end of June he surrendered the Pick.³²² In November the following year he surrendered the Dish.³²³

In October 1913, he asked the minister to authorize continuing the track from the Tui mines for another 50 or 60 chains to the Pick and Dish to enable him to sledge down sufficient quartz to get a proper testing.³²⁴ Paul considered that the track 'would open up a large area of country worth prospecting, but could not say it was urgent'.³²⁵ Two days later, he added that 'some highly payable assay values were obtained' in 1912, but 'owing to the rough nature of the country and the consequent expense of getting stores etc work was abandoned during the winter'.³²⁶ As later explained by Matthew Paul, the mining inspector, their picked samples 'proved most erratic in value', mostly containing high values in lead, zinc, and copper. As mining engineers of high repute all 'reported unfavourably', they abandoned the ground.³²⁷

In late February 1912, Paul reported that he and Chalton proposed to prospect the 'Waitawheta fall of the Te Aroha range', meaning the Mangakino Valley, now accessible because of tracks constructed by the council and the Kauri Timber Company. 'Both these men are experienced

³²⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1911, 2/1911, BBAV 11289/21a, ANZ-A.

³²¹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1911, 42/1911, BBAV 11289/21a, ANZ-A.

³²² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1911, 1, 41/1911, BBAV 11289/21a, ANZ-A.

³²³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1912, 122/1912, BBAV 11289/21a, ANZ-A.

³²⁴ W.M. Newsham to Minister of Mines, 16 October 1913, Mines Department, MD 1, 15/1185, ANZ-W.

³²⁵ Matthew Paul to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 3 November 1913, Mines Department, MD 1, 15/1185, ANZ-W.

³²⁶ Matthew Paul to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 5 November 1913, Mines Department, MD 1, 15/1185, ANZ-W.

³²⁷ Matthew Paul to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 28 March 1928, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/9/50, ANZ-W.

prospectors', Paul wrote in supporting their bid to obtain a subsidy,³²⁸ an exaggeration in the case of Chalton. Granted £26, they commenced prospecting early in March.³²⁹ In late October, when seeking another subsidy, Newsham told Paul that they had been prospecting since then 'but with no luck. We shifted nearer to Te Aroha two weeks ago', and had better prospects; he sent two samples for testing.³³⁰ Granted another £26 on 10 December, they continued prospecting the Mangakino Valley for the first three months of 1913 but only found refractory reefs.³³¹ Paul summarized the outcome of the two subsidies: 'Surface prospecting ore in reefs located low value'.³³²

In November 1912, Newsham was granted a prospecting license for 12 months for the adjacent Premier Extended, 94 acres on the top of the range.³³³ The following month, he was granted the former Aroha, 98 acres behind Te Aroha township, as the Golden Slipper.³³⁴ The following May, he was granted six months' protection because it was being floated as an English company; an expert was coming from Australia to inspect, and an option had been given to an agent in London.³³⁵ The expert cannot have been impressed, for in December 1913 Newsham surrendered this ground.³³⁶

³²⁸ Matthew Paul to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 24 February 1912, Inspector of Mines, BBDO A902, S113, ANZ-A.

³²⁹ Prospecting Subsidy: Te Aroha No. 1, Inspector of Mines, BBDO A902, M89; W.M. Newsham to Matthew Paul, 6 March 1912, BBDO A902, S113, ANZ-A.

³³⁰ W.M. Newsham to Matthew Paul, 27 October 1912, Inspector of Mines, BBDO A902, S113, ANZ-A; Ohinemuri County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 8 November 1912, p. 2.

³³¹ Prospecting Subsidy: Te Aroha No. 2, Inspector of Mines, BBDO A902, MM89, S 113, ANZ-A.

³³² Prospecting Subsidy: Te Aroha No. 1, Te Aroha No. 2, Inspector of Mines, BBDO A902, MM 89, ANZ-A.

³³³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1912, 96/1912, BBAV 11289/21a, ANZ-A.

³³⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1912, 123/1912, BBAV 11289/21a, ANZ-A.

³³⁵ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1913, 14/1913, BBAV 11289/22a, ANZ-A.

³³⁶ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1913, 42/1913, BBAV 11289/22a, ANZ-A.

Many years later, the local newspaper dated as 1914 the year that ‘a small local syndicate’ sent Newsham and Chalton to prospect the ‘area through which the Tunakohoa Stream flowed’, to the north-west of Te Aroha township. After six months they found a reef, its value unstated. ‘The Syndicate’s funds running out and other things occupying the attention of the promoters’, the two prospectors ‘decided to carry on on their own account’ before Chalton ‘dropped out’.³³⁷

In December 1913, Johnson applied for the Dish, of nearly 19 acres, which was granted in the following month.³³⁸ After he surrendered it in May 1916, Newsham was granted it in October.³³⁹ Because he paid the rent for only one year, by 1927 he owed £24 4s 6d, which the minister decided to remit.³⁴⁰ Although the miner who took over the ground after Newsham abandoned it said he had done no work,³⁴¹ in 1932, when the local newspaper was attempting to encourage government subsidies for prospecting, it claimed he had continued working, successfully:

This dogged old prospector had sufficient faith to remain on the job for some years and during that time discovered some fabulously rich leaders. Tales were told of how he used to carry down stone in lots of 20lb and 30lb once a week. When he had accumulated a good quantity he would ship it to Australia, his returns yielding him as much as £115 per cwt. A few years ago he died ... taking with him the secret of the locality of his rich strikes. At least some of Mr Newsham’s reefs have now been discovered and traces of his old cuttings, drives, shafts, etc, are still distinctly visible on ground held by the Te Aroha Gold Syndicate.³⁴²

There is no evidence indicating ‘fabulous’ wealth was discovered; and certainly none of his successors found anything of value in his ‘old cuttings,

³³⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 9 December 1932, p. 5.

³³⁸ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1913, 44/1913, BBAV 11289/22a; Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 19, BBAV 11500/4a, ANZ-A.

³³⁹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1916, 20, 21/1916, BBAV 11289/22a, ANZ-A.

³⁴⁰ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 79, BBAV 11500/4a, ANZ-A.

³⁴¹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Declaration by G.E. Hyde, January 1928, Mining Registrations 1926-1930, 1/1928, BCDG 11288/9a, ANZ-A.

³⁴² *Te Aroha News*, 9 December 1932, p. 5.

drives, shafts, etc'.³⁴³ Eight years previously, the newspaper had given a different account of his success: 'He was one of the last of the old band to give up searching for a paying reef in the Te Aroha hills', owning 'several mines, but the cost of treatment ... was not compensated for by returns to a sufficient extent to work them thoroughly'.³⁴⁴ Another newspaper wrote that he 'was for a long time' seeking a payable reef, but did not record him finding one.³⁴⁵

FAMILY LIFE

In May 1889, at Alexandra (later Pirongia), Newsham married Jane Alexandra Finch, the first Pakeha girl to have been born there,³⁴⁶ as her middle name implied. She was 23, and her husband 40.³⁴⁷ After the Church of England service, there was 'a very pleasant party' at her parents' hotel. 'The bride being so well known throughout the district from her musical and theatrical abilities, which were at all times cheerfully at the service of any good cause, has made herself a host of friends, who, of course, took great interest in her marriage'. Newsham was 'also well and favourably known throughout the district'. The service took place at her parent's home, 'a large number of the bride's relations being present'; Hursthouse, now the district engineer, was the best man.

After breakfast the happy couple drove off amidst showers of rice and old slippers to their future home, with the good wishes of all here for their happiness and prosperity. The evening party enjoyed themselves immensely with dancing, charades, singing, and other games, the fun being kept up without cessation.... All declared it to be as pleasant a party as ever assembled here. The refreshments provided by the host and hostess, it need hardly be noticed, were plentiful and heartily enjoyed. The health of the happy couple was duly toasted, not forgetting Mr and Mrs Finch.

³⁴³ See paper on mining in the Te Aroha district during the Depression years.

³⁴⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 10 June 1924, p. 4.

³⁴⁵ *Observer*, 14 June 1924, p. 4.

³⁴⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 10 June 1924, p. 4.

³⁴⁷ Birth Certificate of Jane Alexandra Finch, 7 January 1866, 1866/11778; Marriage Certificate of William Morris Newsham, 8 May 1889, 1889/1071; Death Certificate of William Maurice Newsham, 30 January 1921, 1921/9600, BDM.

The company parted at an early hour, after having thoroughly enjoyed themselves.³⁴⁸

Jane was the daughter of Thomas and Jane, who had jointly run the Alexandra Hotel since 1870; after her husband's death in 1892 Jane continued in charge until leaving the district in 1906.³⁴⁹ Formerly a soldier in England, he had served in the Second Waikato Regiment.³⁵⁰ His hotel brought in sufficient income for him to own land valued in 1882 at £364.³⁵¹ His only involvement with mining was in January 1881, as an owner of the unsuccessful Alexandra claim at Te Aroha.³⁵²

Their first child, Jane Lethbridge, was born at Alexandra 11 months after the wedding.³⁵³ Hilda Blanche was born in 1892, Tom in 1894, Mabel in 1897, and William in 1900; all were baptized as Anglicans.³⁵⁴ By 1905, if not earlier, Jane was running the Ivanhoe boarding house in Te Aroha, from necessity rather than desire because of the state of the family finances.³⁵⁵ In March 1907, when her husband had no settled employment, she 'just' managed to make it pay.³⁵⁶ In the following year it was

³⁴⁸ Alexandra Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 15 May 1889, p. 2.

³⁴⁹ *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 12 August 1870, p. 330; Death Certificate of Thomas Finch, 3 August 1892, 1892/6137, BDM; *Mercantile and Bankruptcy Gazette*, 18 October 1894, p. 486; *Observer*, 17 November 1906, p. 5.

³⁵⁰ Land Claims, 1882, no. 178, Lands and Survey Department, LS 65/1; Nominal and Descriptive Roll, Second Regiment, Waikato Militia, Regimental No. 1128, and Variations of Service, microfilm.

³⁵¹ *A Return of the Freeholders of New Zealand*, p. F 14.

³⁵² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 210, BBAV 11567/1a, ANZ-A.

³⁵³ Birth Certificate of Jane Lethbridge Newsham, 15 April 1890, 1890/5894, BDM.

³⁵⁴ Birth Certificates of Hilda Blanche Newsham, 27 June 1892, 1892/9610; Tom Newsham, 27 October 1894, 1894/12509; Mabel Newsham, 7 June 1897, 1897/8520; William Newsham, 6 March 1900, 1900/8975, BDM; Church of England, Register of Baptisms in Hamilton East District 1879-1908, nos. 299, 391, 546, 620, Anglican Diocesan Archives, Hamilton.

³⁵⁵ *Te Aroha News*, 8 July 1905, p. 2; Newsham, p. 24.

³⁵⁶ Warden to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 28 March 1907, Mines Department, MD 1, 07/296, ANZ-W.

extensively expanded and improved,³⁵⁷ and in 1921 it was stated that she had run it ‘with considerable success for a number of years’.³⁵⁸

NEWSHAM IN THE COMMUNITY

Newsham did not take a leading role in community affairs. When at Waiorongomai in 1889 he signed a petition opposing the establishment of a Te Aroha borough that would include this settlement, and ten years later was elected to the school committee,³⁵⁹ but no other involvement was recorded. His obituary stated that he was not interested in public life, his only interest apart from prospecting being to enjoy ‘a roll up on the bowling greens on many occasions’.³⁶⁰ The family was ‘very highly esteemed in Te Aroha’.³⁶¹

DEATHS

In his last years, Newsham ‘led a very quiet life, although the gold fever at times stirred him and he wandered over the hills and gullies prospecting’. Fifteen months before his death, his ‘failing health’ forced his wife to sell her interest in her boarding house, and in his last month he was hospitalized ‘suffering from a serious complaint’.³⁶² This was cancer of the rectum, which took two years to kill him; he died on 30 January 1921, aged 73.³⁶³

Jane outlived him by only three years, dying suddenly in Parnell, where she was living; her last ten years had been dominated by chronic ill health.³⁶⁴ Despite leaving five children, neither made a will, suggesting that their estates were very modest.

³⁵⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 15 September 1908, p. 2.

³⁵⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 4 February 1921, p. 2.

³⁵⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 23 October 1889, p. 2; *Auckland Weekly News*, 5 May 1899, p. 36.

³⁶⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 4 February 1921, p. 2.

³⁶¹ *Te Aroha News*, 10 June 1924, p. 4.

³⁶² *Te Aroha News*, 4 February 1921, p. 2; Thames Hospital Board, Old Age Pension Instalments Book 1910-1925, folios 129, 133, YCAH A431/44, ANZ-A.

³⁶³ Death Certificate of William Maurice Newsham, 30 January 1921, 1921/9600, BDM.

³⁶⁴ Death Certificate of Jane Alexandra Newsham, 27 May 1924, 1924/10515, BDM; *Te Aroha News*, 31 May 1924, p. 1.

CONCLUSION

Newsham was an example of a prospector who never gave up, was reputed to have made great discoveries, but in fact spent the last years of his prospecting life working on often-inaccessible ground of little value. His most exciting experience, one that could have led to an unpleasant death, was when he was a young surveyor, resulting in his being saved by Te Kooti.

Appendix

Figure 1: C.P., 'The Captives and Their Rescuers', Auckland Weekly News, 7 April 1883, Supplement, p. 1. [1. Hursthouse. 2. Newsham. 3. Wetere Te Rerenga. 4. Te Kahu]