

THOMAS FRANCIS LONG: A BUSINESSMAN WHO PROSPECTED
AT TE AROHA

Philip Hart

Te Aroha Mining District Working Papers

No. 144

2016

Historical Research Unit
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
The University of Waikato
Private Bag 3105
Hamilton, New Zealand

ISSN: 2463-6266

© 2016 Philip Hart

Contact: prhart1940@gmail.com



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

THOMAS FRANCIS LONG: A BUSINESSMAN WHO PROSPECTED AT TE AROHA

Abstract: *Born in Tasmania, Thomas Francis Long worked as a carpenter and miner before settling in Waihi in the late 1890s. Subsequently he was a miner and contractor at Karangahake and Thames before settling in Gisborne, where his various business enterprises failed, partly because of lack of capital, and he became bankrupt. In 1912 onwards he did some prospecting, partly for base metals, and during 1915 and 1916 explored the Tui portion of the Te Aroha mountain, unsuccessfully. Despite being involved in several small companies, lack of money continued to be a problem, and he became bankrupt for a second time. In 1927 he investigated Waiorongomai, with the same lack of success; it was his last venture before his death at a relatively young age. He was no more successful as a prospector than as a businessman.*

HIS FAMILY AND HIS TASMANIAN BACKGROUND

Thomas Francis Long was born in Tasmania in 1868 to Patrick, a farmer, and Maria, née Hannon.¹ After leaving school he worked as a carpenter before ‘mining for 10 years’.² In December 1892, when aged 24, he married another Catholic, Annie Margaret Murphy, one year his junior, although their death certificates would suggest the opposite.³ She was born in July 1868 to Patrick, who was recorded as being a farmer, although his death certificate described him as a labourer; her mother was Ann Young, who had been born in Northern Ireland. Both of her parents were Protestants, although she would raise her children as Catholics.⁴

Twins born at Zeehan, a mining town on the West Coast of Tasmania, died there at almost immediately after birth; three sons and two daughters

¹ Death Certificate of Thomas Francis Long, 3 May 1928, 1928/708, BDM; Hilary Monteith to Philip Hart, 27 March 2007, email..

² *New Zealand Herald*, 2 May 1923, p. 11.

³ Marriage Certificate of Thomas Francis Long, 19 December 1892, ancestry.co.uk; Death Certificates of Thomas Francis Long, 3 May 1928, 1928/708; Annie Margaret Long, 15 March 1932, 1932/1716, BDM.

⁴ Death Certificate of Annie Margaret Long, 15 March 1932, 1932/1716, BDM; Hilary Monteith to Philip Hart, 27 March 2007; Anwyn Martin to Hilary Monteith, 27 August 2013, emails.

born in New Zealand survived to adulthood, but their youngest daughter died in infancy.⁵ The children were, in order:

Thomas Patrick, born at Zeehan on 25 July 1895, who died on the same day;⁶

Horrace John, also born on that day, who died on 31 July;⁷

Francis Allen, born at Waihi in January 1899;⁸

Margarita Mary (known as Rita), born at Karangahake in 1901;⁹

Annabel Kathleen (known as Nan), born at Karangahake in January 1903;¹⁰

Thomas James, born at Thames in December 1904;¹¹

Harold Valentine, in the Gisborne area in 1907;¹²

and Eileen Mary, also born in the same area late in 1909, who died there in May 1911 at the age of 18 months.¹³

A Thomas Long was recorded as living in Strahan, near Zeehan, a mining centre on the west coast of Tasmania, in 1892, but was not listed in subsequent years.¹⁴ When he married in that December, he was mining at Zeehan, probably for zinc and other 'base' minerals.¹⁵

MINING IN HAURAKI AND MOVING TO GISBORNE

⁵ Death Certificates of Thomas Francis Long, 3 May 1928, 1928/708; Annie Margaret Long, 15 March 1932, Deaths, 1932/1716, BDM; Hilary Monteith to Philip Hart, 27 March 2007, 1 April 2007; Anwyn Martin to Philip Hart, 1 April 2007, 6 April 2007, emails.

⁶ Anwyn Martin to Philip Hart, 6 April 2007, email.

⁷ Anwyn Martin to Philip Hart, 6 April 2007, email.

⁸ Birth Certificate of Francis Allen Long, 29 January 1899, 1899/6700, BDM.

⁹ Birth Certificate of Margrita Mary Long, Births, 1901/13941, BDM [spelling as recorded].

¹⁰ Birth Certificate of Annabell Kathleen Long, 2 January 1903, 1903/12527, BDM [spelling as recorded].

¹¹ Birth Certificate of Thomas James Long, 21 December 1904, 1905/9921, BDM.

¹² Birth Certificate of Harold Valentine Long, 1907/6194, BDM.

¹³ Birth Certificate of Eileen Mary Long, 1909/9814; Death Certificate of Eileen Mary Long, 7 May 1911, 1911/3946, BDM; Death Notice, *Poverty Bay Herald*, 8 May 1911, p. 4; Hilary Monteith to Philip Hart, 1 April 2007, 8 June 2007, emails.

¹⁴ Robyn Eastley to Anwyn Martin, 27 October 2003, reprinted in Hilary Monteith to Philip Hart, 27 March 2007, email.

¹⁵ Marriage Certificate of Thomas Francis Long, 19 November 1892, ancestry.co.uk; T.F. Long to A.M. Myers (Minister of Munitions), 18 December 1915, Inspector of Mines, BBDO A902, MM49, ANZ-A; Anwyn Martin to Philip Hart, 30 March 2007, email.

According to their death certificates, Long and his wife moved to New Zealand in 1897; in 1910 he estimated the date as 1896.¹⁶ Long worked at Waihi as a miner from at least 1898 to 1900.¹⁷ By 1901, he was mining at Karangahake, and remained there until 1904, when he moved to Thames to become a contractor.¹⁸ The first detail about his involvement in New Zealand mining to be traced is when, in March 1905, he sent a sample of Coromandel ore to the Thames School of Mines for testing by the cyanide process; no result was recorded.¹⁹ In 1910 he recalled having prospected ‘at Waihi, Thames, and Coromandel. He was not successful, and went through the £700 that he had when he came to New Zealand’. He then ‘went to work on the Main Trunk line, and earned 10s a day’.²⁰ According to family recollections, in 1905 he worked ‘on the Raurimu Spiral on the Main Trunk when Frank and Tom (very young) were at primary school’.²¹ He then moved to Gisborne, where the birth of his last son was registered in 1907;²² in October 1912 he said that he ‘had been in Gisborne for about seven years’.²³

According to his July 1910 explanation of why he had been forced into bankruptcy,

I arrived in Gisborne about four years ago with £20. Soon after arrival I joined in a trawling venture. We carried on for four months, and then had to give up. The business was very unsuccessful. I came out with nothing, and had got behind-hand with my accounts. I then leased a farm at Makauri, which I held for 2 1/2 years. I found I could not make it pay, partly owing to

¹⁶ Death Certificates of Thomas Francis Long, 3 May 1928, 1928/708; Annie Margaret Long, 15 March 1932, 1932/1716, BDM; *Poverty Bay Herald*, 18 July 1910, p. 6

¹⁷ Birth Certificate of Francis Allen Long, 29 January 1899, 1899/6700, BDM; *Ohinemuri Electoral Rolls, 1899*, p. 66; *1900*, p. 55.

¹⁸ Birth Certificates of Margarita Mary Long, 1901/13941; Annabell Kathleen Long, 2 July 1903, 1903/12527; Thomas James Long, 21 December 1904, 1905/9921, BDM; *Ohinemuri Electoral Rolls, 1902*, pp. 41, 42; *1903*, p. 37; *Thames Electoral Roll, 1905*, p. 39.

¹⁹ Thames School of Mines, Experimental Plant Record Book 1896-1916, entry for 3 March 1905, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

²⁰ *Poverty Bay Herald*, 18 July 1910, p. 6.

²¹ Anwyn Martin to Philip Hart, 1 April 2007, email.

²² Birth Certificate of Harold Valentine Long, 1907/6194, BDM.

²³ *Poverty Bay Herald*, 18 July 1910, p. 6, 4 October 1912, p. 5.

my having no capital to work with, and partly owing to my wife's bad health – she is almost a chronic invalid. About the same time I entered into partnership in a flax mill. Soon afterwards the big drop in flax occurred, which made it impossible to make the business pay. We continued for about eight months, and were forced to stop work. During the eight months I received no money from the business. I then patented a weed destroyer, "Weodian," which I anticipated would be a success and place me in a good financial position.²⁴

This had been widely advertised:

LONG'S WEODIAN
LONG'S CALIFORNIAN THISTLE AND NOXIOUS WEEDS
EXTERMINATOR
IS NOW ON SALE...

Warranted Harmless to Animals...

For Ragwort, Garden Paths, etc...

THOS. F. LONG, Patentee.²⁵

First advertised in September 1909 and subsequently advertised throughout the country, it was last advertised in May 1916 as 'Long's Noxious Weed Destroyer (Weodian)', an 'Improved Patent Poison'.²⁶ As he explained to his creditors, the government promised him a bonus for his patent, but did not provide one.

I spent all my time, and also all the money I could raise in pushing the patent. I spent some time in Wellington in connection with same. I considered that if I had capital to help me in my experiments, I should have made a success of the patent, but as it was I found myself hampered on all sides from want of funds, and was being pressed by my creditors, so that I had to give up endeavouring to make a success of the patent, and obtain daily work for the support of my family. For the last six or eight months I have been working on small contracts, and day labor. I have no assets, but some furniture, and I regret that I am unable

²⁴ *Poverty Bay Herald*, 14 July 1910, p. 3.

²⁵ Advertisement, *Poverty Bay Herald*, 9 December 1909, p. 2.

²⁶ Advertisements, *Poverty Bay Herald*, 3 September 1909, p. 1; *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 31 May 1916, p. 1.

to make any offer to my creditors. I much regret being forced to file, but pressure from some of my creditors forced me to do so.²⁷

At the creditors' meeting, he outlined his occupations before arriving in Gisborne and taking up a 57-acre farm at Makauri.

He could not work the farm, because he had to look after the children while his wife was in the hospital. Subsequently he secured some flax rights about the district, and sold shares. A few bales were sent away. They continued for about eight months, and then flax dropped in price, and the enterprise had to be abandoned. He lost a considerable amount of time over the "Weodian" patent. At present he was working at a contract in Gladstone road.

Mr Clare: When you gave my son that cheque, did you not know there was no money in the bank? – Yes, but it was given for a date when it would be met. Debtor added that he had done the same thing with others.

The Assignee said he had looked over the furniture in the house, and although put down at £50, he did not think it would realize £25 at auction.

Mr Grundy (to debtor): Were you solvent when you came to Gisborne? – Debtor said he was a little in debt. He had £20 when he came to Gisborne.

Mr O'Meara: You have practically been bankrupt for the last four or five years? – I have owed money, but always had prospects of paying. Debtor added that he had been depending on the Government for a bonus in connection with the "Weodian" weed specific.

Mr Burke [Long's counsel] said bankrupt had spent all the money he got in pushing the "Weodian," but, not having capital, he could not supply the material.

Bankrupt offered to let the creditors have the profit accruing from the sale of the "Weodian" if they cared to take the matter up.²⁸

He was discharged two months later.²⁹ In 1911 the family was living at Whataupoko, now a suburb of Gisborne, his occupation being recorded as 'settler'.³⁰ As his financial status continued to be shaky, in 1910 he was sued for several small debts.³¹ In the following year, when denying owing £4

²⁷ *Poverty Bay Herald*, 14 July 1910, p. 3.

²⁸ *Poverty Bay Herald*, 18 July 1910, p. 6.

²⁹ Supreme Court, *Poverty Bay Herald*, 21 September 1910, p. 2.

³⁰ *Gisborne Electoral Roll, 1911*, p. 88.

³¹ *Poverty Bay Herald*, 23 June 1910, p. 4, 7 July 1910, p. 4.

1s 11d, the magistrate asked whether he had read the summons, to be told: 'Not particularly'. He was ordered to pay.³² As he did not do as ordered, in May 1912 he was threatened with five days' imprisonment if immediate payment was not made.³³

In September 1911, Long, then a land agent, and James Alexander Newman, then a Gisborne storekeeper,³⁴ sued James Benjamin Poynter, a sheep farmer at Te Karaka, 'to recover £497 10s for damages through alleged breach of contract'. They claimed that five months previously Poynter had agreed to sell them all the firewood and kahikatea timber in his bush at Ruangarehu, near Gisborne, but that in early June they were ordered to cease cutting. The defence was a denial of any contract having been signed.³⁵ Newman said that over 'about six weeks' he had cut firewood worth £15 before being stopped. He claimed £3 a week, whereas Long 'assessed his own wages' at £4.³⁶

Thomas Long ... said he was on the job in the bush for the seven weeks. He claimed £4 a week, which was the same wage as he had received before in a similar capacity.

By Mr Burnard [Poynter's counsel]: He was at present a land agent. He had had 17 years experience in the bush. Witness had been bankrupt. He had the general oversight of the operations in the bush. He cut wood as well as the four men. Most of his time was occupied in cutting roads and loading the wagons. He was about three weeks making a road so as to get the timber out economically.³⁷

After commenting that 'the evidence was contradictory, and to some extent bewildering', the judge reserved his decision.³⁸ Not till nearly two months later did he determine that

the weight of evidence is greatly on the side of the defence. I do not think that the plaintiffs could have made much out of the speculation, while there was a great risk of their losing money by it. They had expended money, but they would have had to expend

³² Magistrate's Court, *Poverty Bay Herald*, 28 September 1911, p. 5.

³³ Magistrate's Court, *Poverty Bay Herald*, 30 May 1912, p. 4.

³⁴ See *New Zealand Herald*, 19 July 1923, p. 6.

³⁵ Supreme Court, *Poverty Bay Herald*, 21 September 1911, p. 5.

³⁶ Supreme Court, *Poverty Bay Herald*, 21 September 1911, p. 6.

³⁷ Supreme Court, *Poverty Bay Herald*, 22 September 1911, p. 7.

³⁸ Supreme Court, *Poverty Bay Herald*, 23 September 1911, p. 7.

a good deal more before getting out the milling timber. Their somewhat extravagant claim suggests to my mind that they had based their calculations in purchasing on false premises,

and therefore he awarded them £80.³⁹

In October 1912 Long sued his former employer, a land agent, William Innocent Petchell, who had been bankrupted twice several decades previously,⁴⁰ for £57 13s 6d, 'being remuneration and percentages of commissions' he had earned as Petchell's 'land salesman and canvasser'.⁴¹ Evidence was given that he was to have been paid '£2 per week and 20 per cent of all commissions earned on land and house sales, also 50 per cent on all commissions earned on insurance business except on renewals'. He had worked for Petchell for 34 weeks, but had not been paid for the last four, and denied the contention that he was 'only entitled to commission on sales that he brought about', claiming 'it was understood between Petchell and himself that he was to receive commission on all sales effected by the office'. During his evidence, having stated that he had been 'paid in full' for one sale, the magistrate asked: 'Then why do you claim £1 15s'. When he asked his counsel to explain this, the magistrate interjected: 'Oh, no; you have to explain', to which he repeated that 'he had received all he was entitled to'. And he 'could not give any information' about another claim.⁴² He stated that their agreement (of 13 July 1911) had been terminated on 8 February when he gave Petchell a month's notice, but stated that it had been replaced by a verbal agreement whereby he received 40 per cent on all sales.⁴³ The defence was 'that every penny he was entitled to had been paid', and that because of 'friction' between Long and a co-worker the former 'agreed to receive 40 per cent on transactions and forego the weekly wage'. He had been paid 'more than he was entitled to', and Petchell had 'paid £8 6s to release the bailiff from plaintiff's house' and for a similar reason had given him £3.⁴⁴ The magistrate, after citing the agreement

³⁹ Supreme Court. *Poverty Bay Herald*, 18 November 1911, p. 7.

⁴⁰ See advertisement, *Otago Daily Times*, 31 July 1876, p. 5; advertisement, *Southland Times*, 20 December 1876, p. 3; *Poverty Bay Herald*, 18 February 1885, p. 2, 5 July 1885, p. 2, advertisement, 17 July 1911, p. 4.

⁴¹ *Poverty Bay Herald*, 3 October 1912, p. 4.

⁴² *Poverty Bay Herald*, 4 October 1912, p. 5.

⁴³ *Poverty Bay Herald*, 4 October 1912, p. 6.

⁴⁴ *Poverty Bay Herald*, 5 October 1912, p. 3.

between Long and Petchell and the evidence produced in court, gave judgment for Petchell. Leave was given for an appeal,⁴⁵ but this did not eventuate.

RENEWED INTEREST IN MINING

In June 1912, Long wrote to the Mines Department from Gisborne applying for the resumption of private land at Preece's Point, Coromandel, for mining purposes.⁴⁶ In August the following year he sent a sample of ore to the Thames School of Mines for testing on behalf of the Nancy Company, also of Coromandel.⁴⁷ In 1914, they were living at New North Road, Morningside, Auckland, when he was a 'manufacturer', details unspecified.⁴⁸ In April 1915, he was involved in a court case:

A man named Thomas Francis Long ... and two youths, Arthur Wymer and George Wymer, were charged with having used threatening behaviour at Avondale, on March 30, and again on April 1. Long, it appeared from the evidence, in company with another man, borrowed a boat to row out to an island in the creek. The two Wymers took away the boat and left Long "marooned" on the island. Later on in the day Long, having been rescued from the island, met the two Wymers and something after the nature of a preliminary skirmish was indulged in, stones being used as missiles. The advent of some other people, however, caused both sides to beat a retreat, but on April 1 the parties met again in the road, and there was a prolonged engagement. Long suffered severely, and was subsequently confined to his bed for several days, owing to the various injuries which he received. His Worship held that all three defendants had committed a breach of the peace. Long, he added, had great provocation, the episode being entirely the fault of the two youths. Long was fined 10s, the other two defendants being fined £2 each, together with 8s 6d costs.⁴⁹

⁴⁵ *Poverty Bay Herald*, 8 October 1912, p. 7.

⁴⁶ T.F. Long to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 1 June 1912, Mines Department, Index of Inwards Correspondence 1912-1914, 12/1180, MD 2/11, ANZ-W.

⁴⁷ T.F. Long to Director, Thames School of Mines, 18 August 1913, Inwards Correspondence 1909-1917, School of Mines Archives, Thames; T.F. Long to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 20 August 1913, Mines Department, Index of Inwards Correspondence 1912-1914, 13/1687, MD 2/11, ANZ-W.

⁴⁸ *Eden Electoral Roll, 1914*, p. 92.

⁴⁹ Police Court, *New Zealand Herald*, 23 April 1915, p. 5.

(Arthur and George Wymer subsequently put their aggressive tendencies to better use by enlisting on the same day to fight in the Great War. Arthur survived the war and became a bushman; George was wounded and subsequently discharged as a deserter.)⁵⁰ In June 1915, when living at 44 George Street, Rocky Nook (meaning Morningside), Auckland, and giving his occupation as 'prospector', he sent two samples of ore from an unspecified location for testing. 'Should the result prove satisfactory I Can get any ammount of Capital to work the property. Some 12 years ago I had some assays of this ore done at the Waihi School of Mines which proved satisfactory'. As a representative of an Australian company was in Auckland but wanting to return to Australia, Long asked that it be tested, promptly, for copper, silver, lead, and gold.⁵¹ Judging by the date of when the earlier sample was tested, this ore must have come from Coromandel. The assay result has not been traced.

MINING AT TUI

In December 1915, Long wrote to the Minister of Munitions:

I have received a report and assays from Govt. Analyst re zinc and lead ore forwarded by me some 3 months ago, and whilst its value is not as high as that obtained from your Thames School of Mines and other Australian sources it is still a valuable ore, viz, zinc 30% lead 50% besides gold and silver which gives a value of at least [£]40-0-0 per ton. The quantity of ore in unlimited reefs being 40 feet wide, 4 feet of which can be bagged and shipped to Australian smelters, the balance of 36 feet of reef will need concentration, making after all quartz and waste matter is removed a high grade concentrate of say 95% of zinc, which could in turn be sent to smelter. This ore in present crude form would of course not pay for shipping until such treatment is effected. This machinery would cost roughly £2000 and if the Govt. would assist me with this amount I would sell output through them they retaining 25% of profits with 5% interest until the amount is refunded; failing this then the Government can take the whole

⁵⁰ Army Department, AABK 18805, W5557, box 116, nos. 126002, 126003, ANZ-W; Probates, BBASE 1570, P41/1977, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Herald*, 9 October 1915, p. 9; *Otago Daily Times*, 3 October 1916, p. 4.

⁵¹ Thomas Long to Director, Thames School of Mines, 22 June 1915, Inwards Correspondence 1912-1916, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

matter in hand leaving myself entirely in your hands. This metal is so badly required for munitions that I am prepared to place my own interest secondary in the matter.

I have had 17 years connection with this class of ore and can assure you it is the highest grade zinc ore in Australasia and you can establish a new and remunerative industry in New Zealand.

I will be pleased to show anyone you may appoint the discovery and all further particulars required but would respectfully suggest immediate action.

If you prefer it for £150 I could break out and send to smelter a parcel of the ore to give its full value.⁵²

After being instructed to inspect and report, the mining inspector, Matthew Paul, asked to be shown the lode.⁵³ Long explained that, 'as I am in Govrment Service and must obtain leave which I cannot do untill office opens on 4 Jan as soon as permission is obtained, I will wire you definatly.⁵⁴ (It is not known in what branch of the government service he was employed.) Paul went to Te Aroha on 8 January, and the following day they visited the find and took samples.⁵⁵ Another two days later, Paul sent six samples from the lode and the 'old tip head' to be tested by the Government Analyst in Wellington,⁵⁶ and reported on his investigation:

In accordance with instructions received visited in company with Mr Long the reported discovery which is situated north of Te Aroha township on the main range, it cannot however be said to be a new discovery as the lode from which Mr Long obtained samples runs parallel to the Tui lode was prospected and a considerable amount of work done at three different points over 20 years ago. I might also mention that it is only a short distance from the Tui Syndicate boundary who have two men employed

⁵² T.F. Long to A.M. Myers (Minister of Munitions), 18 December 1915, Inspector of Mines, BBDO A902, MM49, ANZ-A.

⁵³ Under-Secretary, Mines Department, to Matthew Paul (Inspector of Mines), 24 December 1915; Matthew Paul to T.F. Long, 29 December 1915, Inspector of Mines, BBDO A902, MM49, ANZ-A.

⁵⁴ T.F. Long to Matthew Paul, 29 December 1915, Inspector of Mines, BBDO A902, MM49, ANZ-A.

⁵⁵ Monthly Report of Inspector of Mines, Waihi, 1916, entries for 8, 9 January 1916, Mines Department, MD 16/128, ANZ-W.

⁵⁶ Matthew Paul to Government Analyst, Wellington, 10 January 1916, Inspector of Mines, BBDO A902, MM49, ANZ-A.

picking up an old level in order to ascertain whether at present prices of Zinc and lead this lode will pay to work.

The first point visited was on the western side of the range, here the lode is exposed in open cut for a length of about 30 feet. Samples were taken on the south and over a width of 3ft 6in and on the north and over a width of 3ft, This covered the width of mineralized quartz exposed, the balance being hard buck quartz apparently of no value. A special sample was also taken of what was considered the richest ore from the tip head.

This lode is again intersected on the east side near the top of the main range, a portion of the drive had collapsed but I was able to ascertain the dimensions of the lode which is 13ft 6in with no mineral showing in the quartz.

The next point is also an open cut on the eastern side of the range but several hundred feet lower down, here the hanging-wall 2ft 6in on the north from which samples were taken, also special sample from tip head.

My examination failed to disclose any lode 40 feet in width, it is true that I was unable at the different points enumerated where samples were taken to examine the footwall owing to the thick over growth, but in my opinion the zinc and lead is confined to a rib on the hangingwall and owing to the difficulties in transit, hard nature of the country, great expense of getting up material and stores and the low values contained in this ore the possibilities of mining at a profit are very remote, particularly as it has been proved that the best values in the Te Aroha district are confined to the surface, and not only does not the values die out but the lodes narrow down or split up into stringers at a depth.

The samples forwarded to the Government Analyst were taken from what I consider the richest portion of this lode.⁵⁷

Despite this lack of official enthusiasm, in mid-January 1916 Long and Walter Scott Brockway applied for the Zinc and Lead Mines Nos. 1-3, part of the Tui portion of the Te Aroha field, which was granted to Brockway two months later.⁵⁸ Brockway was an American doctor, then aged 42, who had lived in Auckland since 1905.⁵⁹ At the warden's court hearing on 7 March, John Wallace was the first to give evidence. He described himself as an 'old miner – long experience – Have good knowledge of Tui claims – worked on them some years ago', in all three claims, the former Ruakaka, Mikado, and

⁵⁷ Matthew Paul to Frank Read (Inspecting Engineer, Mines Department), 11 January 1916, Inspector of Mines, BBDO A902, MM48, ANZ-A.

⁵⁸ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1916, 2-4/1916, BBAV 11289/22a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁹ Death Certificate of Walter Scott Brockway, 1 August 1958, 1958/34965, BDM.

Mascotte.⁶⁰ Wallace was not exaggerating his experience, having spent many years mining in the Tui portion of the field.⁶¹ ‘I was engaged in pegging these old claims with Mr Long.... I pointed out the lines to Mr Long and he did the pegging’. After Wallace described the boundaries and which of the old pegs had been found, Long confirmed that he had ‘engaged Mr Wallace to locate the claims I am applying for’; having done all the pegging and posting the applications on the ground, Long had checked the pegs again three days previously.⁶²

In June, Long unsuccessfully offered £250 to the Piako County Council for the tramway rails lying unused at Waiorongomai.⁶³ The following month, Brockway applied for six months’ protection for the claims, which was granted in August. Long, as Brockway’s agent, informed the warden that, because of ‘the scarcity of parts of machinery to procure during war time’, Brockway had gone to Australia to obtain a flotation plant. ‘We intend to concentrate ore and send it away for treatment. Intend to erect plant near the mine. Require special treatment – quite new process’, unspecified, but ‘quite new’ to this district.⁶⁴ Also in August, Long applied to the Mines Department, unsuccessfully, for financial assistance to take out a parcel of zinc ore to be sent to Melbourne for treatment.⁶⁵

Another 12 months of protection was granted a year later, when a solicitor had to represent them, as neither could attend the hearing. Owing to the war, Brockway had failed ‘to obtain the necessary capital’ either locally or in Australia, but he hoped to raise funds in England. No suitable plant existed in New Zealand, and he estimated it would cost £50,000 to obtain one. He considered it was ‘impracticable on account of the present

⁶⁰ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1916, 2/1916, BBAV 11289/22a, ANZ-A.

⁶¹ See *Te Aroha News*, 4 December 1888, p. 2, 16 February 1889, p. 2, 9 March 1889, p. 2, 1 May 1889, p. 2, 11 May 1889, p. 2, 28 September 1895, p. 2, 9 December 1932, p. 5; *Thames Advertiser*, 23 March 1893, p. 2; *Auckland Weekly News*, 21 November 1896, p. 20.

⁶² Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1916, 2/1916, BBAV 11289/22a, ANZ-A.

⁶³ Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 21 June 1916, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha.

⁶⁴ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1916, 30/1916, BBAV 11289/22a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 23 August 1916, p. 2.

⁶⁵ T.F. Long to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 9 August 1916, Mines Department, Register in Inwards Correspondence 1914-1920, 16/733, MD 2/12, ANZ-W [the file has been lost].

high freight charges and shortage of shipping space to export ore to Australia where same could be treated so that at present it is impracticable to work'. Brockway had spent a mere £55 on the mine, obtaining and testing samples.⁶⁶ He had little capital; when he died, in 1958, his estate was valued under £2,500.⁶⁷ The ground was abandoned in May 1919, Brockway explaining that, 'in as much as the War regulation restricting the New Development Works expressly prohibits the commencement of any mining works, I was unable to proceed with this enterprise'.⁶⁸ He owed two years' arrears in rent, which were remitted four years later.⁶⁹

On the first day of February 1916, Annie, acting as a dummy for her husband, had applied for the Nancy Special Claim, of 17 acres, and the Nancy Special Quartz Claim No. 2, of 50 acres. The former was the old Plutus No. 2, and the latter the Tui Reduction Special Claim.⁷⁰ As a rival prospector, Albert Augustine Adams, son of Henry Hopper Adams,⁷¹ sought the latter ground, the application was withdrawn in March, and the former application was also withdrawn a month later.⁷²

OCCUPATIONS IN LATER YEARS

In 1923, Long stated that for many years he had been 'engaged in farming, land agency, and in timber and machinery agency work'.⁷³ At the end of October 1919, Long, Ormiston, Lovie, Partick Henry and Walter Frederick Lietz (nothing is known about the latter two men) dissolved their partnership in the New Zealand Tar and Fibre Company,⁷⁴ which is not listed in the Company's Office files. The Waotu Timber Company, a private

⁶⁶ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1917, 3/1917, BCDG 11289/1a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁷ Probate of W.S. Brockway, Probates, BBAE 1570, 2173/58, ANZ-A.

⁶⁸ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1919, 9-11/1919, BCDG 11289/1a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folios 63-65, BBAV 11500/4a, ANZ-A.

⁷⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1916, 6, 7/1916, BBAV 11289/22a, ANZ-A.

⁷¹ See paper on his life.

⁷² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1916, 6, 7/1916, BBAV 11289/22a, ANZ-A.

⁷³ *New Zealand Herald*, 2 May 1923, p. 11.

⁷⁴ Advertisement, *Auckland Star*, 5 November 1919, p. 5.

one incorporated in November 1919 to mill bush at Waotu, was formed by John Nicholls Ormiston, an Auckland broker, Thomas Alexander Lovie, an Auckland accountant, Long, also described as an Auckland broker, and John Archibald Noonan, an Auckland auctioneer (who would be bankrupted in 1931),⁷⁵ all holding 500 shares each. By July 1920, Long's holding had reduced to 278 shares, although he remained a director, but by one year later he had ceased to be a shareholder. He had provided a debenture of £500 to the company in June 1920.⁷⁶ Long, Lovie, and Ormiston ran the company until October 1921, when they handed over the books to Noonan.⁷⁷ In August 1922, Long, by then a timber broker in Auckland, was sued for £37 6s 6d by Noonan and the company. This sum was claimed to be 'the amount received by the defendant from the sale of 17 shares transferred to the defendant by the plaintiffs by mistake'. After hearing the evidence of share transfers, 'the magistrate said he would have to support the contention of the defendant, that there was really no cause of action', and non-suited the plaintiffs.⁷⁸

Four months later, when Long was sued by the company for £74 6s 8d, evidence was given that Noonan had agreed with Long, Ormiston, and Company to form the Waotu Timber Company.

Noonan paid £1000 for 500 shares and the others were to subscribe £1000 for the remaining 1500 shares. He lent them £500 and guaranteed their account to the extent of £250. It was alleged that in order to find the remaining £250 which they were to subscribe they borrowed the money from a certain firm, promising to give discount of 20 per cent, being double the usual discount on orders for timber supplied. There was a further allegation that Long, Ormiston and Company purchased a boiler for £650 and resold it to the plaintiff company for £785, the difference being secret profit, or commission.

Mr Paterson, for the defender, said he thought the boiler deal was good business.

His Honor, Mr Justice Stringer, replied that morality entered a good deal into business, and he was inclined to think it was rather a piece of sharp practice.

⁷⁵ See advertisement, *Auckland Star*, 30 September 1915, p. 6; advertisement, *Observer*, 12 February 1916, p. 8; Supreme Court, Bankruptcy Files, BAEA 21460, 1931/159, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Herald*, 3 October 1931, p. 11.

⁷⁶ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 365 no. 2034, ANZ-A.

⁷⁷ Supreme Court, Auckland Action Files, BBAE 24139, box 1, no. 7664, ANZ-A.

⁷⁸ Magistrate's Court, *New Zealand Herald*, 16 August 1922, p. 6.

Long denied the charges, asserting ‘that the £250 had actually been credited to the company. The items on which 20 per cent discount were allowed were said to refer chiefly to good supplied before the company was incorporated’.⁷⁹

In giving judgment for the plaintiff His Honor commented on the fact that although a director of the Waotu Company Long secured an option over the boiler, and “with this option up his sleeve” discussed with his fellow directors the purchase of the boiler from its original owner. If he wanted to act as the vendor, said His Honor, he should have resigned from the directorate. This was a wholly unjustifiable transaction which no man of proper commercial instincts would ever have engaged in.⁸⁰

Long was required to pay £74 7s 1d and costs of £34 12s.⁸¹

In October 1921, Long and John Osborne Lineham, trading as the Albion Machinery and Engineering Works, claimed £10 in storage charges from two men who had ‘purchased a break-down machine’ but had not taken it. As the magistrate ‘could not find sufficient evidence to support plaintiffs’ claim’, they were non-suited.⁸² On 3 November, they registered themselves as the sole owners of a private company with the same name, which took over the original company. Lineham, an Auckland accountant, had 900 of the shares and Long, described as an engineer living at Rocky Nook (also in Auckland) had 1,800. Their company briefly operated as machinery and timber brokers and valuers, owning land, flax mills, and sawmills but going into liquidation at the end of 1922.⁸³ When Lineham died in 1929, leaving an estate of £4.047 15s 5d, he was a storekeeper at Kaihu, in Northland.⁸⁴

In May 1923, after being adjudged bankrupt, Long explained that he had been a partner in this firm

dealing in second-hand machinery. He had about £20 or £30 capital when the business was formed. His partner found the

⁷⁹ *Auckland Star*, 14 December 1922, p. 5.

⁸⁰ *New Zealand Herald*, 15 December 1922, p. 11.

⁸¹ Supreme Court, Auckland Action Files, BBAE 24139, box 1 no. 7664, ANZ-A.

⁸² *New Zealand Herald*, 5 October 1921, p. 5.

⁸³ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 400 no. 2245, ANZ-A.

⁸⁴ See *Auckland Star*, 26 January 1929, p. 16; Probates, AAOM 6029, no. 43942, ANZ-W.

capital. After about five years the partnership was dissolved. Later he went into another partnership, forming a company, the capital of which was £3000 in £1 shares. He believed he put into the company about £50 in cash, and a certain amount of machinery. He held about two-thirds of the shares, took two-thirds of the profits, and bore two-thirds of the losses. His partner put in £700 in cash.

In reply to a creditor bankrupt said he probably had not put one penny into the company over the cash payment of about £50 and the machinery, valued at about £200.

The company ... carried on business for two years, but was not successful owing to the slump, and went into liquidation last October.⁸⁵

In April 1923, when he was a commission agent,⁸⁶ Long was adjudged bankrupt on the petition of the Waotu Timber Company. His solicitor 'admitted the claim by the petitioners but asked for an adjournment', to enable Long 'to meet the debt', he being 'prepared to assign his assets to the creditor'. Because one creditor opposed this request, it was declined and an 'order of adjudication' was made.⁸⁷ The creditors' meeting held on 1 May was headlined: 'Man of Many Callings', because Long explained his many occupations. He owed £453 16s 3d to unsecured creditors and £44 to secured ones; his assets, including book debts estimated to produce £371 13s 4d, totalled £612 13s 4d. He explained that when Long, Ormiston and Company was liquidated

the liabilities were not very heavy and would, he thought, be about squared up when the liquidation was finished. He had never asked the liquidator the result of the liquidation. He was practically without resources at the time of the liquidation. Since then he had been working on commission for various people.

To a creditor bankrupt said he lived in a house owned by his wife. The two shares in the coal mines, included in the assets, were in the name of his wife and daughters, but he had included them in the statement because he wanted to square his liabilities as soon as possible. "The shares," said bankrupt, "are here on the table." After the dissolution of the second company he had advertised a

⁸⁵ *New Zealand Herald*, 2 May 1923, p. 11.

⁸⁶ *Auckland Star*, 19 June 1923, p. 8.

⁸⁷ Supreme Court, Bankruptcy Minute Book 1898-1924, folio 337, BBAE 5631/2b; Bankruptcy Register 1884-1927, folio 123, BAEA 11029/1a, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Herald*, 14 April 1923, p. 13, 16 April 1923, p. 7, 2 May 1923, p. 11.

special ointment. It was made from a secret prescription given to him by a doctor.

In regard to the item of "book debts" mentioned in the schedule, bankrupt said they were debts owed to the firm he first entered.

He bought those debts for £15, and he valued them at £300.

After further discussion it was agreed that bankrupt should be allowed 10 days in which to see what offer he could get for the two shares in the coal mines.⁸⁸

The second creditors' meeting, in mid-June, was told that 'he had not been able to do anything with the shares' in a Papakura coal mine syndicate, which he valued at £100 each, and that 'there were no funds in the estate'.⁸⁹

When Long applied for a discharge in May 1924, one creditor opposed this because of the judgment against him over selling the boiler to the timber company.

The official assignee said the position just mentioned had not been known to him, or he would have informed the Court.

Mr Blakey, for bankrupt, said that, in regard to the boiler, bankrupt was then a machinery broker, and had overlooked the fact that he was a director, and therefore was not permitted to make a profit out of the company.

His Honor, before whom the action as to the boiler came, said his recollection was the bankrupt had made a profit, which, as a business man, he should have known he had no right to make.

Mr Blakey said that bankrupt's firm had paid half the cost of repairing the boiler. This was not consistent with a director making a secret commission out of a company.

In refusing the application, His Honor said a new application could be made later, on condition that the opposing creditor was given notice, and that affidavits were filed in explanation of the boiler transaction.⁹⁰

In November, the judge noted that 'a discharge was previously refused on the ground that bankrupt had been guilty of what technically amounted

⁸⁸ *New Zealand Herald*, 2 May 1923, p. 11.

⁸⁹ *New Zealand Herald*, 19 June 1923, p. 8; *Auckland Star*, 19 June 1923, p. 8.

⁹⁰ Supreme Court, *New Zealand Herald*, 31 May 1924, p. 10.

to fraudulent conduct with his business', but as he had 'in effect' been 'suspended' since his then, he could be discharged.⁹¹

In June 1925, Long sued R. Griffiths and others 'to recover £25, alleged to be due as commission'. It had been agreed to pay him '5 per cent commission on money raised either from mortgage or from shares sold in connection with a timber company'. A man had been 'willing to lend the money, subject to an inspection of the timber', but as the report was unfavourable, the money was not lent; nevertheless, it was argued that, 'having arranged for the money to be lent', Long was entitled to his commission, an argument the magistrate rejected.⁹²

INVOLVED IN MINING ONCE MORE

In September and October 1927, Long sought free assays at the Thames School of Mines, but his applications were declined because he was not on its list of 'bona fide prospectors'.⁹³ He did provide, as requested, information about glass sands in New Zealand.⁹⁴ Long told the director of the school that he regretted that it made assays only for gold and silver.

The writer can assure you of my own personal knowledge that the other minerals in this country are of vastly more importance than Gold and Silver, and suggest that you endeavour to place them on your free list.

The sample is from Waiorongomai, and is about 4 feet with true foot and hanging wall, and I wish to know its value per ton and its prospects of market.

Surely a government that claims they wish to encourage prospecting will not hesitate to prove it when opportunity occurs. Should this be outside your power to do, kindly let me know and I will communicate with the Minister, and if necessary place it

⁹¹ Supreme Court, Bankruptcy Register 1884-1927, folio 123, BAEA 11029/1a, ANZ-A; Supreme Court, *Auckland Star*, 28 November 1924, p. 8; Supreme Court, *New Zealand Herald*, 29 November 1924, p. 14.

⁹² *Auckland Star*, 26 June 1925, p. 8.

⁹³ Director, Thames School of Mines, to T.F. Long, 27 September 1927, 12 October 1927, Outwards Correspondence 1926-1928, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

⁹⁴ Director, Thames School of Mines, to T.F. Long, 12 October 1927, Outwards Correspondence 1926-1928, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

before the house [of Representatives]. Not only for my own point of interest but every other prospector.⁹⁵

In response, the director informed the Mines Department that, as Long owned a typewriter and had a Post Office box, he could afford to pay for tests; the school could not afford to do free tests ‘for persons who are not competent to take true representative samples’. This criticism was prompted by Long having sent only one piece of stibnite, about half a pound in weight, which would produce an unreliable result.⁹⁶ Stibnite, a sulphide, was a hydrothermal ore mineral, and potentially valuable.⁹⁷ One month later, the director wrote that, when he refused to do the assay because the fee was only ten shillings, Long asked for his ore back so that he could send it to the Mines Department. Whilst the school had sometimes done free assays for men who were poor and genuine prospectors, he considered that Long was ‘well able to afford it and the assay if done on the one piece of ore forwarded is not a true indication of the value of the reef’. The ore came from Te Aroha, where another prospector was seeking to have 35 assays done for free, and the director wondered if this other man ‘might be in the back ground’; as to do their assays for free would be expensive, he had refused.⁹⁸ (There was no basis for his suspicion that the other prospector was involved.) The test, done in December by the Dominion Analyst in Wellington, showed that the ore contained 85.15 per cent of stibnite, equal to 46.94 per cent metallic antimony, but no gold or silver.⁹⁹

DEATH

⁹⁵ T.F. Long to Director, Thames School of Mines, 19 October 1927, Outwards Correspondence 1926-1928, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

⁹⁶ Director, Thames School of Mines, to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 21 October 1927, Outwards Correspondence 1926-1928, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

⁹⁷ *Encyclopedia of Geology*, ed. R.C. Selley, L.R.M. Cocks, I.R. Plimer (Oxford, 2005), vol. 3, pp. 575, 630.

⁹⁸ Director, Thames School of Mines, to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 19 November 1927, Outwards Correspondence 1926-1928, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

⁹⁹ Dominion Analyst to T.F. Long, 22 December 1927, Inspector of Mines, BBDO A902, MM1A, ANZ-A.

The following year, Long died, aged only 58, of heart disease and debility. His death certificate described him as a 'timber worker'.¹⁰⁰ His widow outlived him by nearly five years, dying in March 1932 aged 63; 'a patient sufferer at rest', her death notice recorded.¹⁰¹ As neither left a will, the value of their estates cannot be determined, and their insignificance was illustrated by neither having an obituary. Annie was recalled in the family as being a good mimic of her mother's Irish accent and as having 'a really good (operatic quality) singing voice'.¹⁰²

CONCLUSION

Long was a typical example of a 'sanguine' prospector, as such men were commonly described. Confident, or at least optimistic, about the value of their finds, when seeking private and public funds to develop them they met official caution justified by tests proving that, despite all their hard work and high hopes, they were not going to make a fortune from their discovery. As one newspaper had noted, he was 'a man of many callings', struggling to provide for his family and sick wife in whatever way was possible, sometimes questionable ones. He was typical in having a multitude of occupations, mining off and on whenever other jobs proved unprofitable or he thought he was on to a 'good thing', but none of his enterprises succeeded in the way he had hoped.

¹⁰⁰ Death Certificate of Thomas Francis Long, 3 May 1928, 1928/708, BDM.

¹⁰¹ Death Certificate of Annie Margaret Long, 15 March 1932, 1932/1716, BDM; Death Notice, *Auckland Star*, 15 March 1932, p. 1.

¹⁰² Anwyn Martin to Philip Hart, 7 April 2007, email.