

PROSPECTORS AND INVESTORS IN THE TE AROHA MINING
DISTRICT DURING THE 1930s

Philip Hart

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

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Contact: prhart1940@gmail.com



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Abstract: *This paper gives the ages, occupations, normal place of residence, mining experience, and other details that have been unearthed about all the men who acquired prospecting licenses and of five men who prospected for others during the Depression but not including Malcolm Hardy and those associated with him, covered in another paper. Sometimes a brief biography can be given, but usually the available information permits only a skeletal outline of their lives. Few had experience of mining, and in almost all cases their prospecting or investing reflected a desperate attempt to make some money at a time of considerable financial hardship. Their often-feeble attempts at prospecting or arranging for prospecting to be done produced no new discoveries and no ore of any value.*

Their lives and details of the extent of their involvement in mining are dealt with in alphabetical order.

[Note: In some places the formatting has suffered from being processed too many times by too many different computers.]

CHARLES FINDLAY ALLAN

Charles Findlay Allan was aged 35 in 1931.¹ His father, Richard Sutcliffe Allan, was a surveyor working in Dunedin in the early years of the twentieth century, had become a Hawkes Bay farmer by at least 1916 and until at least 1926, and then retiring to the outskirts of

¹ Birth Certificate of Charles Findlay Allan, 6 April 1896, 1896/14428, BDM; New Zealand Defence Force, Personnel Records of Charles Findlay Allan, AABK 18805, W5520, 7522, ANZ-W.

Hamilton.² His son Allan was living with and working for his father as a dairy farmer in 1916.³ In 1926, when living in Otorohanga, he married and would go on to have four sons; the last two died in infancy.⁴ The only time he was mentioned in the press before moving to Te Aroha, in 1930 he was convicted of negligently driving on the highway between Otorohanga and Te Awamutu and ordered to pay £10 to a person he had injured.⁵ At that time, he was farming at Kio Kio, a short distance north of Otorohanga.⁶

By 1930, he had moved to Te Aroha,⁷ perhaps attempting to find farm work. In 1933, then being unemployed,⁸ he sought work as a prospector, despite having no experience as such. In February that year, he informed the mining inspector, John Francis Downey, that he wished to prospect with an unemployed friend, one Marsden (first name unrecorded), of whom nothing is known apart from Allan describing him as being an experienced miner. Although asked by James Donald

² *Evening Star* [Dunedin], 23 June 1903, p. 2, 23 December 1908, p. 6; *Southland Times*, 10 February 1926, p. 6; *Waikato Times*, 8 December 1930, p. 4; Charles Findlay Allan file, World War One, WW1 17741, Army Department, ANZ-W [online]; Death Certificate of Richard Sutcliffe Allan, 1940/17598, BDM.

³ Charles Findlay Allan file, World War One, WW1 17741, Army Department, ANZ-W [online].

⁴ Marriage Certificate of Charles Findlay Allan, 1926/9802; Death Certificate of Charles Findlay Allan, 23 June 1963, 1963/40113; Birth Certificates of Lesley Charles Allan, 1927/3378, John Findlay Allan, 1929/17583, Richard Samuel Allan, 1931/1898, Martyn Sutcliffe Allan, 1932/7400, BDM; *New Zealand Herald*, 29 December 1930, p. 1, 8 January 1931, p. 1, 24 June 1932, p. 1; Les Allan (eldest son) to Philip Hart, 28 February 2005.

⁵ *Waikato Times*, 4 August 1930, p. 11.

⁶ Advertisements, *King Country Chronicle*, 12 June 1930, p. 8, 1 July 1930, p. 1.

⁷ *New Zealand Herald*, 29 December 1930, p. 1, 24 June 1932, p. 1.

⁸ C.F. Allan to J.F. Downey (Inspector of Mines), 9 February 1933, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

Cumming⁹ to join his Stoney Creek Prospectors' Party, they preferred to work by themselves, and Allan asked Downey if they could make ten shillings a day working 'good long days'. In the previous week, they had worked for two days near Stoney Creek, 'but owing to the difficulty of separating the very fine gold dust from the iron sand, it is impossible to say what value of gold I got'.¹⁰ Downey told him that it was not worth prospecting this district, where he could not possibly earn that amount from this 'surface detritus', no matter how hard or how long he worked.¹¹ Allan did persist, on 4 March writing to Hugh Crawford, director of the Thames School of Mines, that he was 'at present unemployed and having a Miners' Right, I have been prospecting in spare time. I have several locations where I have obtained good colours just by washing and would like to get several assays made' and asked how to arrange these.¹²

Being unemployed himself, Allan agitated for the rights of those without work. In December 1932, he wrote to the *New Zealand Herald* to attack the lack government action to help them. 'It is about time the Government got busy. Relief workers in Te Aroha with two children', his own situation, although he did not admit this, were averaging 19s per week in relief pay, and now this was to be reduced by, in his estimation, 40 per cent. 'I would like to know how a man is to be expected to pay rent, keep a family clothed and not go without food on 19s per week?' After claiming that 'the town relief worker' was treated more generously, he ended with the rhetorical question: 'Is there such a thing as British Justice in New Zealand'.¹³

⁹ His involvement is outlined later in this paper.

¹⁰ C.F. Allan to J.F. Downey, 9 February 1933, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

¹¹ J.F. Downey to C.F. Allan, 11 February 1933, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

¹² C.F. Allan to Hugh Crawford (Director, Thames School of Mines), 4 March 1933, Correspondence Inwards 1932-1933, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

¹³ Letter from C.F. Allan, *New Zealand Herald*, 9 December 1932, p. 15.

In April 1933, as the secretary of the Te Aroha Relief Workers' Association, he addressed a 'mass protest meeting', concentrating on the misery of the unemployed struggling to help their families (very relevant to his own circumstances). He concluded that 'he would not introduce the political side of the question but he would welcome any change that would help better the country and get it out of the "mess it was in"'.¹⁴ The same issue of the newspaper reporting this speech also reported his landlord taking him to court to obtain possession of his house plus back rent of £7 8s. Allan's response was that, being unemployed, he could not pay. 'He had done his best to get another house but had always been turned down when it was known he was unemployed. He had given up searching for a house now as he knew he could only get one under false pretences'. The magistrate responded that he could not let him 'remain in the house indefinitely. He would be given one month to look around and at the end of that time would have to remove'.¹⁵

This judgment forced Allan to leave Te Aroha; although his prospecting license was granted on 8 June,¹⁶ he must have left shortly afterwards, or possibly even before this date. When next mentioned in newspapers, he was a representative of the Farmers' Union at a meeting in Hamilton with the Minister of Labour. He recommended splitting up large farms to more manageable sizes, to make more land available to small farmers.¹⁷ By 1941, if not earlier, he was settled in Hamilton, where he and his wife were active in the Presbyterian Church and (in his case) scouts.¹⁸ He was then the District Placement Officer for the National Service Department, focusing on providing farmers with workers, and then became secretary of the Waikato Rehabilitation Committee for the Hamilton district, finding work for ex-

¹⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 15 April 1933, p. 5.

¹⁵ Magistrate's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 15 April 1933, p. 8.

¹⁶ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 8 June 1933, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

¹⁷ *Waikato Times*, 17 March 1939, p. 8.

¹⁸ *Waikato Times*, 14 July 1941, p. 3, 19 July 1943, p. 2, 22 July 1943, p. 4, 14 July 1945, p. 2.

servicemen, a position he held until April 1944.¹⁹ Later, he worked for the Department of Labour, his 1963 death certificate recording his occupation as inspector of factories.²⁰

¹⁹ *Waikato Independent*, 29 September 1941, p. 1; *Waikato Times*, 12 December 1942, p. 6, 9 February 1943, p. 2, 4 September 1943, p. 4, 1 May 1944, p. 2.

²⁰ Death Certificate of Charles Findlay Allan, 23 June 1963, 1963/40113, BDM.

THOMAS MILBURN ARMSTRONG

In January 1916, a Thomas Milburn Armstrong, almost certainly the same man who prospecting in New Zealand in the 1930s, enlisted in the Australian army, returning safely to Australia in August the following year. Born in Dumfries, Scotland, he was an unmarried fireman aged 33,²¹ making him 48 in 1931. It is not known when he arrived in New Zealand, but in 1926, an advertisement was published in the *Auckland Star*:

‘IF THOMAS MILBURN ARMSTRONG, last heard of in Central America, believed to be back in the Colonies, will communicate with his stepbrother, he will hear of news greatly to his advantage; parents’ will found. – Cable John Davidson, Sleekburn Colliery, Northumberland’.²²

In 1931, an advertisement in another Auckland newspaper asked him to contact, ‘urgently’, either Davidson or John Walker of the Renown Collieries at Huntly, suggesting he was working as a coal miner there at that date.²³ Presumably when in the Americas he prospected for coal or worked in coal mines; in 1937 he claimed to have had ‘extensive’ prospecting and mining experiences in both America and New Zealand.²⁴

Armstrong obtained a miner’s right for the Te Aroha Mining District in December 1932 and renewed it for the subsequent two years.²⁵ In early 1934 he had sent six samples for testing at the Thames School of Mines. Hugh Crawford, in informing him that all were valueless, mentioned that he would be visiting Te Aroha shortly to visit all the parties receiving government subsidies, implying that

²¹ Thomas Milburn Armstrong, UNSW Australia, the AIF project [online].

²² Advertisement, *Auckland Star*, 2 March 1926, p. 1.

²³ Advertisement, *New Zealand Herald*, 20 October 1931, p. 1.

²⁴ *Auckland Star*, 23 October 1937, p. 2.

²⁵ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Miner’s Right no. 32901, BBAV 11533/6h; Miner’s Rights nos. 40902, 40929, BBAV 11533/6i, ANZ-A.

Armstrong was a member of one of these.²⁶ After this discouraging result he left for the King Country.

In October 1935, his King Mining Syndicate of Te Kauri (on the main road above Kawhia Harbour) applied to register a mine in the Kawhia district; he gave his occupation as prospector.²⁷ In the following February, when living at Otorohanga, he warned trespassers to keep of the prospecting claims of King Coal and Mineral Mines.²⁸ One year later, he was prospecting for coal at Kawhia North.²⁹ In October 1937, he took a sample of oil from a bore sunk in the Aria district. In his 'voluminous correspondence' with both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Mines, he had not specified where he had made his discovery for fear of losing it: 'I know what happens to prospectors who tell where they made their finds'. In addition, he claimed to have located a 40-foot seam of coal in the same district along with 'platinum-bearing deposits north of Awakino'.³⁰ Nothing further was heard about oil, but at the start of the following year he announced plans to open two coal mines in the Aria district.³¹ From July 1938 to July 1939, he prospected for coal when living first at Aria and then Piriaka (a small settlement southeast of Taumarunui, beside the Whanganui River), and applied for a coal prospecting license at Aria in July 1938. He was prospecting as one of a three-man syndicate: all had equal shares, the coal being sought being located under one of the partner's farm.³²

²⁶ Hugh Crawford to T.M. Armstrong, 1 March 1934, Thames School of Mines, Outwards Correspondence 1932-1936, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

²⁷ Advertisement, *Waikato Times*, 9 October 1935, p. 4.

²⁸ Advertisement, *New Zealand Herald*, 3 February 1936, p. 16.

²⁹ Advertisement, *Waikato Times*, 13 March 1937, p. 3.

³⁰ *Auckland Star*, 23 October 1937, p 2.

³¹ *Dominion*, 1 February 1938, p. 6.

³² Agreement of 26 July 1938, License of 20 December 1938, Deed of 18 July 1939, Mines Department, MD-NP 1, box 1, no. 41, ANZ-W; advertisement, *Taranaki Daily News*, 22 October 1938, p. 3.

Clearly nothing came from these endeavours, for in November 1939, when describing himself as a 'Prospecting Miner, of Erua', he applied for a coal prospecting license on Crown land in the Erua and National Park [Waimarino] area.³³ Once again, he found no coal in this unlikely district. After these failures, he returned to Te Aroha, briefly, acquiring his first prospecting license in this district in April 1941 for 25 acres at Ruakaka, below the former Tui mines,³⁴ Yet again, he did not make any discoveries, hardly a surprise, and he was not recorded as prospecting in any other district after this date. As no death certificate was issued in New Zealand, he must have left New Zealand.

³³ Advertisement, *Evening Post*, 18 November 1939, p. 5.

³⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 5/1941, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A.

WILLIAM JOHN BAIN

A labourer, William John Bain was 28 in 1931, the year he married the daughter of Francis Vardon Lilly Hennah,³⁵ who also prospected at Te Aroha during the 1930s.³⁶ He was a member of the Te Aroha Prospectors' Association's party in August 1933, and under his father-in-law's supervision spent some weeks prospecting the former Eureka claim at Waiorongomai.³⁷ This was his sole known involvement with mining. The sole mention of him in the press in 1951, was when he was an acting fireman on a locomotive on the Christchurch to Picton line.³⁸ When he died in 1980, aged 77, he was living at Tirohia, near Paeroa.³⁹

HAROLD JAMES SAMUEL BASSETT

Harold James Samuel Bassett was aged 25 in 1931.⁴⁰ The only time he was mentioned in the press was in 1928, when, in his only brush with the justice system, he was arrested in Auckland:

“During the recent holidays the notion came into my head to break into a place and steal money,” said accused in a statement to the police. “I made an instrument like a pipe-tongs to break locks on doors.”

One night, accused said, he left his home in Kingsland and came into the city. He went to Albert Park above [Walter] Long's shop and sat among the trees and watched the door of the shop. He sat there for an hour and a-half, but he could not make up his mind to commit the crime, so he went home.

³⁵ Marriage Certificate of William John Bain, 6 October 1931, 1931/6587, BDM.

³⁶ His involvement is outlined below.

³⁷ Memorandum of 25 August 1933, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM74, ANZ-A; R.F. Spensley to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 19 November 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 21/1/20, Part 2, ANZ-W.

³⁸ *Marlborough Express*, 1 August 1951, p. 4.

³⁹ Death Certificate of William John Bain, 1980/39150, BDM.

⁴⁰ Birth Certificate of Harold James Samuel Bassett, 1906/7044, BDM.

“On Friday, April 13,” he stated, “I made up my mind to give it a go.” He had been caught in the shop a few minutes later.⁴¹

When asked what he was doing in the shop, he replied: ‘I’m after money; don’t tell father; be a sport. I’m in trouble over a motor car and am up against it’. Having worked as a harbour board labourer for the past four years, he had borrowed £10 from a friend to buy a car but the cost of repairing it meant he was unable to repay him, hence his need for money. ‘His intention was to get the old car going so he could earn a little money at weekends catching rabbits and selling the skins’. He had ‘intended to try and open the safe but did not have time before the policemen came into the shop’. After pleading guilty of committing ‘his first “job”’, he was given two years’ probation because, as his counsel pleaded, he ‘was little more than a youth’.⁴² He never featured in newspapers again; but his photograph was featured in the *Police Gazette*.⁴³

In 1939, when living at Cambridge and describing himself as a miner, he was granted a license to prospect 40 acres between the former Peter Maxwell and Tui Reduction claims with another prospector,⁴⁴ Oliver Samuel Shale.⁴⁵ Just possibly, he may have been the H. Bassett who wrote to Hugh Crawford in February 1933:

I have been advised to write to you concerning prospecting. I am not a miner and have had no practical experience in mines, but have a general knowledge of mineralogy, including wet and dry assay, qualitative analysis and geology, dealing with sedimentary, igneous and the metamorphic classes of rocks. I have my own equipment and am greatly anxious to join a government relief prospecting party. I do not claim to be expert in this science, but feel that I am quite capable of covering a

⁴¹ *New Zealand Herald*, 20 April 1928, p. 14.

⁴² *Auckland Star*, 19 April 1928, p. 7; *New Zealand Herald*, 1 May 1928, p. 13.

⁴³ *New Zealand Police Gazette*, 1 August 1928, Supplement, p. 54.

⁴⁴ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 15/1939, BBAV 11505/2a; Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folio 91, BBAV 11500/5a; Mining Applications 1939, 15/1939, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A.

⁴⁵ His involvement is outlined below.

much greater field in mineral wealth than the practical miner and am fully prepared to undergo an examination for reference I can refer you to the manager of G.W. Wilton, Shortland st.⁴⁶

Crawford noted in 1935 that ‘Bassett and party’ had left the Thames unemployment scheme to work on the Maratoto field for wages and contracts.⁴⁷ In the 1940s he was, briefly, associated with the Auckland Smelting Company’s re-opening of the Tui mines.⁴⁸ He would die in the Kaipara district in 1996, aged 90.⁴⁹

LUDOVIC BLACKWOOD

Ludovic Blackwood was aged 82 in 1931, when he was living in Auckland.⁵⁰ He had worked as an engineer and inspector of machinery;⁵¹ after his retirement he described himself as having ‘independent means’.⁵² His only involvement in mining before the 1930s was as a shareholder in a Whangamata company in 1896.⁵³ In April 1933 he acquired a prospecting license in the Tui district, but two

⁴⁶ H. Bassett to Hugh Crawford, 22 February 1933, Thames School of Mines, Correspondence Inwards File 1932-1933, School of Mines Archives, Thames [his spelling].

⁴⁷ Hugh Crawford to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 11 March 1935, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/14, Part 2, ANZ-W.

⁴⁸ See paper on this company.

⁴⁹ Death Certificate of Harold James Samuel Bassett, 1996/33313, BDM.

⁵⁰ Death Certificate of Ludovic Blackwood, 24 August 1938, 1938/19680, BDM; Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folio 19, BBAV 11500/5a, ANZ-A.

⁵¹ For example, *Otago Daily Times*, 19 January 1887, p. 5.

⁵² *New Zealand Gazette*, 2 February 1888, p. 214, 16 April 1891, p. 441; *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 181; Marriage Certificate of Ludovic Blackwood, 11 January 1918, 1918/929, BDM.

⁵³ *New Zealand Gazette*, 27 August 1896, p. 1381.

months later transferred it to Northern Goldfields.⁵⁴ Self-described as a ‘gentleman’, upon his death in 1938 he left a mere £440 14s 11d.⁵⁵

ALFRED CLYDE PACKWOOD CLARK

Alfred Clyde Packwood Clark was 21 in 1931.⁵⁶ Three years later, when he applied for a prospecting license at Coromandel, he was an Auckland sharebroker.⁵⁷ His sole involvement with Te Aroha was in 1934, when he acquired a prospecting license from Robert Milton Scelly⁵⁸ and on the same day transferred it to Te Aroha Gold Mines Ltd.⁵⁹ No other association with mining has been traced; in later years he was a company director and superannuation consultant.⁶⁰

ROBERT ANDERSON COCHRANE

Robert Anderson Cochrane was aged 31 in 1931.⁶¹ Then and later he was a labourer, his last years being spent working for the Public Works Department on dam construction on the Waikato River.⁶²

⁵⁴ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 13 April 1933, BBAV 11505/6b; Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folio 19, BBAV 11500/5a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁵ Death Certificate of Ludovic Blackwood, 1938/19680, BDM; Probate of Ludovic Blackwood, AAOM 6029, no. 63954, ANZ-W.

⁵⁶ Death Certificate of Alfred Clyde Packwood Clark, 1 September 1985, 1985/48832, BDM.

⁵⁷ Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM146D; Coromandel Warden’s Court, Deposit Ledger 1933-1948, entry for 15 November 1934, BACL 13754/1a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁸ His involvement is outlined below.

⁵⁹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Registrations 1934, nos. 4318, 4319, BCDG 11288/11a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁰ Legal proceedings, 1970-71, R25740496, ANZ-A [online]; Death Certificate of Alfred Clyde Packwood Clark, 1 September 1985, 1985/48832, BDM; Probate, BAZZ 1570, P3505/1985, ANZ-A.

⁶¹ Death Certificate of Robert Anderson Cochrane, 1 November 1953, 1953/29700, BDM.

⁶² *Tauranga Electoral Roll, 1935*, p. 34; Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4420, 10010/53, ANZ-A.

During 1935 he lived at Te Aroha,⁶³ and for a time was employed by Milton & Co to prospect and take samples from the Tui district.⁶⁴ One place where he worked was referred to as ‘Cochrane’s Mine’.⁶⁵ In May 1936, he was forced to apply to the courts, successfully, for £30 of unpaid wages for work done at Tui.⁶⁶ Upon his death in 1953, his estate was estimated as being under £4,000.⁶⁷

JOHN PORTER CRAWFORD

John Porter Crawford was aged 31 in 1931.⁶⁸ During the 1930s and 1940s he worked as a printer in Te Aroha.⁶⁹ In April 1934, he was granted a 20-acre prospecting license at Waiorongomai, which he later converted into the Magic claim.⁷⁰ He claimed to have ‘carried out extensive prospecting operations on the surface’ of ‘very virgin country’ with no underground workings; the thoroughness of his prospecting must be doubted, as he spent only £25 on it.⁷¹ In March 1936, he sold his ground for £20 to Malcolm Hardy,⁷² whose claims adjoined it lower down the hillside. His reason for dabbling in prospecting was to overcome his financial struggles: from 1932 until 1944 he was sued 26

⁶³ For example, Under-Secretary, Mines Department, to Director of Geological Survey, 1 August 1935, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/9/25, ANZ-W; *Te Aroha News*, 11 May 1936, p. 5.

⁶⁴ Report by ICI on ore samples sent by R.A. Cochrane, May 1935, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/9/25, ANZ-W; *Te Aroha News*, 14 February 1936, p. 5.

⁶⁵ *Te Aroha News*, 14 February 1936, p. 5.

⁶⁶ *New Zealand Herald*, 9 May 1936, p. 16.

⁶⁷ Death Certificate of Robert Anderson Cochrane, 1953/29700, BDM; Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4420, no. 10010, ANZ-A.

⁶⁸ Death Certificate of John Porter Crawford, 24 February 1973, 1973/40697, BDM.

⁶⁹ *Cleave’s Auckland Directory 1933-1934* (Auckland, 1933), p. 709; Te Aroha Jockey Club, *Sixty Years of Racing: A Diamond Jubilee 1880-1940* (Te Aroha, 1940), p. 47; Death Certificate of John Porter Crawford, 24 February 1973, 1973/40697, BDM.

⁷⁰ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 11, 32/1934, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A.

⁷¹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1934, 11/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A.

⁷² Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Registrations 1936, no. 4411, BCDG 11288/11a, ANZ-A.

times to enforce payment of generally small amounts ranging from £1 to £31 17s 6d.⁷³ In July 1936 he was threatened with 14 days imprisonment, in 1938 with 21, and in 1940 with seven unless his debts were paid in installments.⁷⁴ His finances were made very much worse in 1947, when he was fined £100 for printing tickets for a totalizator ticket lottery.⁷⁵

For a while, he was prominent in the social life of Te Aroha. In addition to being elected at least three times to the school committee,⁷⁶ in 1936 he did card tricks and conjuring at a Caledonian Society's 'Ingleside' as well as giving a recitation and participating in a 'comedy act' at a Colonial Night put on by the Orphan's Club.⁷⁷

HERBERT ANDREW CUMMING

Herbert Andrew Cumming, born in Te Aroha in 1905, was aged 26 in 1931.⁷⁸ A labourer living in Te Aroha during the 1930s,⁷⁹ with another man he attempted to acquire a 20-acre prospecting license in 1932, but this was refused because of being too close to the power

⁷³ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1930-1933, 385/1932, BCDG 11221/7a; Civil Record Book 1933-1935, 118/1935, BCDG 11221/8a; Civil Record Book 1935-1939, 11/1936, and Judgment Summonses issued on 24 April 1936 and 17 July 1936; 14, 19, 115/1937 and Judgment Summons issued on 16 December 1937; Judgment Summonses issued on 17 February 1938, 17 March 1938, 23 June 1938, BCDG 11221/8b; Civil Record Book, 1939-1949, Judgment Summonses issued 22 February 1940, 12 September 1940; 6, 12, 74, 80/1941; 11, 13, 21, 65/1942; 7, 46/1943; 41/1944 and Judgment Summons issued on 12 October 1944, BCDG 11221/9a, ANZ-A.

⁷⁴ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1935-1939, Judgment Summonses issued 17 July 1936, 23 June 1938, BCDG 11221/8b; Civil Record Book 1939-1949, Judgment Summons issued on 22 February 1940, BCDG 11221/9a, ANZ-A.

⁷⁵ *Evening Star*, 12 March 1947, p. 6.

⁷⁶ *Waikato Times*, 19 April 1934, p. 13; *Auckland Star*, 23 April 1936, p. 18.

⁷⁷ *Waikato Times*, 21 March 1936, p. 11; *Auckland Star*, 3 September 1936, p. 18.

⁷⁸ Birth Certificate of Herbert Andrew Cumming, 11 April 1905, 1905/17, BDM.

⁷⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1932, Application dated 3 March 1932, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 21 August 1936, p. 5.

station dam.⁸⁰ The following year, in addition to being a member of the subsidized Stoney Creek Prospectors' Party he had a 100-acre prospecting license.⁸¹ Downey noted he had no 'experience at mining or prospecting', illustrated by his sending two quartz samples for assaying in early 1932 that produced only a 'trace' of bullion.⁸² Despite this, when the leader of this party was absent for a short time, Cumming was placed in charge.⁸³ In late 1933, he assisted in the unsuccessful prospecting of the old Eureka mine at Waiorongomai,⁸⁴ and in 1936 mined for some months, probably for Hardy.⁸⁵

In August 1936 he was charged, along with another man, with taking a truck without its owner's permission and damaging its engine. Damages were awarded against him because the magistrate 'disbelieved a lot of the evidence given by the defendants and considered it an absolute fabrication'.⁸⁶

By the 1940s he was living in Paeroa, where he enlisted in the war, serving as a sapper before returning early either sick or

⁸⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1932, Application dated 3 March 1932, BCDG 11289/2a; Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 14 April 1932, BBAV A556/15, ANZ-A.

⁸¹ J.F. Downey to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 15 April 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W; Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 8 June 1933, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

⁸² J.F. Downey to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 1 August 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W; Thames School of Mines, Assay Book 1932-1933, entries for 3 February 1932, 14 March 1932, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

⁸³ Diary of Stoney Creek Prospectors' Party, 18 May 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁸⁴ R.F. Spensley to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 19 November 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 2, ANZ-W.

⁸⁵ Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 21 December 1936, p. 5.

⁸⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 21 August 1936, p. 5.

wounded.⁸⁷ His later life has not been traced; he would die at Whakamarama in the Bay of Plenty in 1982.⁸⁸

JAMES DONALD CUMMING

Herbert's elder brother,⁸⁹ James Donald, was aged 31 in 1931.⁹⁰ Born and raised at Te Aroha, he was appointed as a 'postal letter carrier' for the district in 1917 and a postman for the township two years later.⁹¹ By 1922, he was a telephone exchange clerk,⁹² and in the early 1930s was a clerk, although in 1933 he preferred the title 'Prospector-Clerk'.⁹³ He would move to Auckland in 1947,⁹⁴ and before dying there, aged 82, was a shipping tally clerk.⁹⁵ In the mid-1930s, he was not working as a clerk, relying on both the dole and milking cows to support his seven children.⁹⁶

Cumming was attracted to the life of a prospector, claiming in 1959 to have been prospecting since 1916, sometimes as a fully paid prospector. In about 1923, according to his own account but not confirmed by other sources, he accompanied two German geologists over the Te Aroha field, and from 1922 to 1930 did a small amount of prospecting there. During the Depression he 'worked off and on with various groups, but with no finance, no batteries or machinery to treat

⁸⁷ *Waikato Times*, 5 December 1940, p. 4, 20 October 1942, p. 2; *Hauraki Plains Gazette*, 19 September 1941, p. 4, 2 October 1946, p. 2, 8 September 1947, p. 5.

⁸⁸ Death Certificate of Herbert Andrew Cumming, 1982/29643, BDM.

⁸⁹ For full details of the parents and siblings of the Cumming brothers, google Christaupo.weebly.com under James Donald Cumming.

⁹⁰ Birth Certificate of James Donald Cumming, 17 April 1900, 1900/8960; Marriage Certificate of James Donald Cumming, 4 October 1922, 1922/9759, BDM.

⁹¹ *Te Aroha News*, 18 May 1917, p. 2, 9 July 1919, p. 2.

⁹² Marriage Certificate of James David Cumming, 4 October 1922, 1922/9759, BDM.

⁹³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1933, 19/1933, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

⁹⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Miners' Rights Register 1913-1971, BBAV 11490/1a, ANZ-A.

⁹⁵ Death Certificate of James David Cumming, 14 June 1982, 1982/39560, BDM.

⁹⁶ F.V. Hennah to Minister of Industries and Commerce, 20 September 1936; Hugh Crawford, Report for January 1937, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

the ore, the parties had to wind up'. He claimed to have worked with other subsidized prospectors for from 18 months to two years, which greatly exaggerated how long received a subsidy.⁹⁷ (The reason he gave for their prospecting ceasing, lack of capital and machinery, was far from the full story.) 'Ever since I have carried on more or less as a hobby to further my knowledge of the reefs of the area', and in 1959 took up a prospecting license over 200 acres, being as enthusiastic for the prospects of mining as he had been in the 1930s.⁹⁸

Officials did not share Cummings' estimate of his ability: for example, Crawford considered that although he had a 'good superficial knowledge of the area' he was 'not a miner'.⁹⁹ In February 1932, he was granted a prospecting license over 20 acres at Stoney Creek.¹⁰⁰ The following year, he was granted 50 acres, being the old All Nations claim in that locality.¹⁰¹ In that March he convened a meeting of all those interested in prospecting and was elected secretary of the Te Aroha Prospectors' Association.¹⁰² He called for government assistance, in particular by providing a portable battery, insisting that with modern methods of treatment 93 per cent of the value would be saved.¹⁰³ A founder member of the Labour Party in Te Aroha,¹⁰⁴ he may have thought his involvement in it would help his prospecting party

⁹⁷ See paper on mining in the Te Aroha District during the Depression years.

⁹⁸ J.D. Cumming to 'Dear Sir' [Arthur Pentland, of South Pacific Mines?], 16 July 1959, Eric Coppard Papers, Waihi.

⁹⁹ Hugh Crawford, Report for January 1937, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

¹⁰⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 18 February 1932, BBAV 11505/6b; Mining Applications 1932, 6/1932, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

¹⁰¹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1933, 19/1933, BCDG 11289/2a; Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 8 June 1933, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

¹⁰² *Te Aroha News*, 16 March 1932, p. 4.

¹⁰³ J.D. Cumming to Minister of Mines, 10 March 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W; *Te Aroha News*, 16 March 1932, p. 1.

¹⁰⁴ James Thorn to Minister of Lands, 17 October 1944, Lands and Survey Department, LS 1, 22/4673, ANZ-W.

(comprising himself, Charles Avis Lynch and Norman Neilson¹⁰⁵) when in 1937 he asked the Minister of Mines, Paddy Webb, to visit their ground, the former Peter Maxwell. As no minister had inspected it, Webb would 'rise in the opinion of the local & surrounding district for a practical demonstration of your party's personal interest in matters directly influencing and having a direct bearing on our local and national progress.... We cannot accept a "No" to our request'.¹⁰⁶ The answer was 'No', partly because they did not have legal possession of this ground.¹⁰⁷

In April 1932, Cumming and his brother each received a subsidy of £1 10s to prospect the old All Nations ground at Stoney Creek.¹⁰⁸ The unemployment supervisor at the Thames, mine manager John William Smith,¹⁰⁹ after inspecting their work noted it was 'about 45 min. walk up the hill from the main Rd. They showed me some of the ore from the reef they are after, and it looks very promising looking ore. They were getting their tools ready to make a start ... and they look to be the right type of men'.¹¹⁰ Over the following two months they did very little work apart from cutting a track to a new reef they had sampled. Only two feet of driving had been done, and a big fall had blocked the mouth of their drive.¹¹¹ As samples from the face and from a reef in the creek showed only a trace of bullion, Smith told Cumming he was 'wasting his time'.¹¹² Because of Smith's reports, Downey refused to grant more than four weeks' additional subsidy unless values improved, only giving this

¹⁰⁵ Their involvement is covered later in this paper.

¹⁰⁶ J.D. Cumming to P.C. Webb, 7 May 1937, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/9/50, ANZ-W.

¹⁰⁷ P.C. Webb to J.D. Cumming, 20 May 1937, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/9/50, ANZ-W.

¹⁰⁸ J.F. Downey to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 15 April 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

¹⁰⁹ *Thames Electoral Roll, 1938*, p. 170.

¹¹⁰ J.W. Smith to J.F. Downey, 19 April 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

¹¹¹ J.W. Smith to J.F. Downey, 29 June 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

¹¹² J.W. Smith to J.F. Downey, 7 July 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

extension because the slip may have interfered with their work.¹¹³ When this extension ended, he ended the subsidy, both because of the small amount of work done and because their tunnel was unsafe, ‘especially for inexperienced men such as your party evidently are’. To prevent its collapse would require ‘quite a number of sets of timber’.¹¹⁴

Downey rightly anticipated trouble over ending the subsidy, for Cumming was ‘given to letter-writing’.¹¹⁵ He thought Cumming should take up other unemployment work.¹¹⁶ When Cumming claimed to have found two new reefs showing gold, Downey asked Smith to test these, for it was ‘certain Cumming will write to the Minister and make a great fuss’ and unless they were shown to be valueless he might get the decision overturned’. Downey had found no sign that the men had cleared a hut site and taken up material up to erect it, as claimed: ‘As far as I can see, they have very little to show for twelve weeks’ work’.¹¹⁷ Smith considered Cumming, having done almost no work, was ‘a fool’ to ask for the subsidy to be restored. At Thames, prospectors who had ‘further to walk than Cumming’ had driven 98 feet in eight weeks,¹¹⁸ compared with Cumming’s two feet.

In mid-1933, Malcolm Hardy¹¹⁹ employed him for about two weeks,¹²⁰ and later he was a member of the subsidized Maidos

¹¹³ J.F. Downey to J.D. Cumming, 8 July 1932; J.F. Downey to J.W. Smith, 9 July 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046. A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

¹¹⁴ J.F. Downey to J.D. Cumming, 25 July 1932, Inspector of Mines, 10046, BBDO A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

¹¹⁵ J.F. Downey to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 1 August 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

¹¹⁶ J.F. Downey to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 29 September 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

¹¹⁷ J.F. Downey to J.W. Smith, 2 August 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

¹¹⁸ J.W. Smith to J.F. Downey, 6 August 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

¹¹⁹ See paper on his career.

¹²⁰ A.L. Willis to Commissioner of Unemployment, 7 July 1933, Mines Department, MD 41, 11/2/18, ANZ-W.

Prospecting Party, which soon fragmented because of personality conflicts and failure to find payable ore. By November, this party, still including Cumming, was helping Henry James Pease¹²¹ construct a small battery,¹²² but as they could not reach a satisfactory working agreement with him, Smith advised them to accept a mining company's offer of wage work.¹²³ In 1937, with Charles Avis Lynch,¹²⁴ Cumming was granted a prospecting license for 100 acres, being the old Peter Maxwell claim, where he proposed to re-open its low level to test the ore.¹²⁵ Shortly afterwards, when inviting Paddy Webb to inspect their ground, he claimed that two visiting representatives of Australian capital (unnamed, and unknown) had been impressed.¹²⁶ Nothing came of this venture, although Cumming later claimed that the managing director of the Ken Shipping Line of Japan 'used to stay in our camp with Mr Norman Neilson and myself in 1930-37 period.... Just before the last war I had some Japanese up to see several of the base metal reefs and they were keen to secure shipments to treat', but waterside workers refused to load the ore.¹²⁷ There was no contemporary evidence of this alleged Japanese interest in Tui ore.

When Cumming's health broke down completely in late 1938, he spent six weeks in hospital. Once discharged, he spent six months in Auckland as a tally clerk on the wharves before returning to milk cows and to work as a porter at the Grand Hotel. As his health continued to

¹²¹ His involvement is outlined below.

¹²² J.D. Cumming to Minister of Mines, 28 November 1933; F.V. Hennah to J.F. Downey, 22 December 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

¹²³ J.W. Smith to Commissioner of Unemployment, 21 December 1933, 31 January 1934, Mines Department, MD 41, 11/2/18, ANZ-W.

¹²⁴ His involvement is outlined below.

¹²⁵ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 4/1937, BBAV 11505/2a; J.D. Cumming to E.J. Scoble, 9 May 1937; E.J. Scoble to J.D. Cumming, 13 May 1937, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046. A902, M85, ANZ-A; Hugh Crawford to Mining Registrar, Te Aroha, 31 March 1937, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/9/50, ANZ-W.

¹²⁶ J.D. Cumming to P.C. Webb, 7 May 1937, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/9/50, ANZ-W.

¹²⁷ J.D. Cumming to Inspector of Mines, 29 August 1952, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, box 68, folder 68D, ANZ-A.

decline, all but two house cows were sold.¹²⁸ Not till 1951 was he involved with mining again, when, with Cecil Fitness,¹²⁹ a Hinuera dairy factory worker with no prospecting experience, he sought but failed to obtain a prospecting license over 300 acres at Tui.¹³⁰ In October, they applied for 200 acres at Waiorongomai, once again being opposed by the Auckland Smelting Company, which planned to work this ground.¹³¹ Cumming told the warden that, although he had not found gold, silver, or base metals, he knew they were there; he also expected to find uranium, samples of which he had tried to send to England two years previously. Unnamed 'government geologists' had assured him uranium existed there, and he promised to work 'diligently as far as his finances permitted'. If granted the license, he would give up his present job with a shipping company, prospect full time for 12 months, if necessary employing others to assist.¹³² The warden granted the license because Cumming had been prospecting for many years and was 'a trier and therefore should be encouraged'.¹³³

In 1952, Cumming contemplated sending base ore samples from Tui to Japan for testing.¹³⁴ The following year, he and Fitness were granted a prospecting license over 200 acres between Buck Rock and Army Creek at Waiorongomai, but both men had to continue 'in their normal occupations' because of lack of funds.¹³⁵ Some work was done in

¹²⁸ J.D. Cumming to James Thorn, n.d. [1944]; James Thorn to Minister of Lands, 17 October 1944, Lands and Survey Department, LS 1, 22/4673, ANZ-W; see also *Te Aroha News*, 20 March 1939, p. 5.

¹²⁹ His involvement is outlined below.

¹³⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 1/1951, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 4 May 1951, p. 5.

¹³¹ See paper on this company.

¹³² Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 24 October 1951, p. 5.

¹³³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1951, 1/1951, BCDG 11289/4a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 30 November 1951, p. 5.

¹³⁴ J.D. Cumming to Inspector of Mines, 29 August 1952, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, box 68, folder 68d, ANZ-A.

¹³⁵ R.A.D. Fulton (Inspector of Health, Matamata) to J.F. Dawson (Inspector of Health, Hamilton), 1 September 1953, Health Department, YCBE 1990/524a; *Te Aroha Warden's*

later years, and an American who visited in 1954 was ‘so impressed by the possibilities’ that he acquired an interest and returned to the United States with samples he was confident would ‘interest a development company sufficiently to cause quite a bit of activity ... in the very near future’.¹³⁶ (This unnamed American was never heard of again.) When their license was renewed in 1956, they told the warden they had visited their claim 23 times in the past year.¹³⁷

By 1959, his partner was George Page,¹³⁸ a retired man who had been involved in Te Aroha prospecting in the 1930s.¹³⁹ Fitness became a sheet metal worker, leaving an estate of \$63,218 on his death in 1980.¹⁴⁰

In April 1962, the Mines Department declined Cumming’s request to repair the track to his prospecting claim. Although his area had been held ‘by renewals of the prospecting license for some ten years’, no discoveries had been reported.¹⁴¹ Despite this lack of success, three months later, prompted by news of plans to examine the country’s mineral resources, he wrote a long letter to the Minister of Public Works, signing himself as ‘Prospector’:

Now Sir, in your own electorate “Piako,” as you know is one of the greatest deposits of undeveloped minerals anywhere in the world, and through local prejudice & obstruction by the frustrating tactic of the servants of the Te Aroha Borough Council [who were attempting to protect the town’s water

Court, Mining Applications 1956, 12/1956, BCDG 11289/5a; Register of Applications 1934-1961, 8/1953, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A.

¹³⁶ C.B. Clark to Warden, 31 January 1955, Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1954, 91/1954, BCDG 11289/5a, ANZ-A.

¹³⁷ Warden’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 19 June 1956, p. 5.

¹³⁸ His involvement is outlined below.

¹³⁹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 3/1959, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A; *North Shore Electoral Roll, 1960*, p. 223.

¹⁴⁰ Probates, BBAE 1570, P1603/1975, ANZ-A.

¹⁴¹ Under-Secretary, Mines Department, to J.D. Cumming, 12 April 1962, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, box 57, folder 3, ANZ-A.

supply from pollution]¹⁴² any attempt to have these minerals developed is a greater handicap to investors of monies than they are prepared to take. For 50 years boy & man I have continued to prospect the reefs & leaders in the Waiorongomai Aroha area, & their closeness to electric power supply lines today should result in their early development for earning overseas exchange. I have taken Inspectors of Mines, the late M.P. [correctly John Francis] Downey, Noble & James Scobie [only one man, correctly Scoble] to many of these huge reefs both oxidized and sulphides, & the late director of the Thames School of Mines, Mr Crawford, & I was companion cook & help to the late Mr E.O. MacPherson, Government Geologist, on the occasion of his inspection of the area & he was not spared to return to do further investigation of many of the reefs that he was impressed by.¹⁴³

This tendentious description of the ore was notable for its assertion that Macpherson's sudden death had prevented his undertaking further explorations, when in fact Macpherson had not been impressed with the reefs and did not die until 1948.¹⁴⁴ Cumming then raised the matter of his prospecting license. A serious illness hospitalizing him for five months had prevented him doing further work, but, as his health was improving, he wanted the Public Works Department to clear the upper track. He claimed the under-secretary considered a sample assaying at £40 per ton was 'worthy of further investigation' and argued that this ore could become 'a focal point for further development'.¹⁴⁵ In reality, the Mines Department considered that he had found nothing, and no subsidy was granted.¹⁴⁶ This was to be his last involvement in mining, no doubt to the relief of all officials involved with him over the years.

¹⁴² See papers on pollution in the Te Aroha district caused by mining and Pollution and Norpac.

¹⁴³ J.D. Cumming to Minister of Public Works, 15 July 1962, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, box 5 folder 4, ANZ-A.

¹⁴⁴ See E.O. Macpherson, 'Report on Te Aroha Mining District', 14 November 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W; Death Certificate of Eric Ogilvy Macpherson, 1948/17577, BDM; see also Peggy Burton, *The New Zealand Geological Survey 1865-1965* (Wellington, 1965), pp. 53, 68.

¹⁴⁵ J.D. Cumming to Minister of Public Works, 15 July 1962, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, box 58 folder 4, ANZ-A.

¹⁴⁶ Minister of Mines to Minister of Public Works, 14 August 1962, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, box 58 folder 4, ANZ-A.

WILLIAM JOHN DEEBLE

William John Deeble was aged 65 in 1931.¹⁴⁷ A butcher, he was then living at Tuakau,¹⁴⁸ having previously followed this trade in Thames and Ponsonby.¹⁴⁹ A member of the Thames Borough Council from 1900 to 1901, he had resigned when he left for Auckland.¹⁵⁰ While at Thames he had his only recorded investment in a mining company, at Neavesville.¹⁵¹ In 1932 and 1933 he was granted a 50-acre prospecting license in the Mangakino Valley,¹⁵² on the far side of the ridge above the Tui mines. He had 50 shares in the Te Aroha Gold Syndicate,¹⁵³ and 200 in the Huia Syndicate,¹⁵⁴ and in October 1933 Te Aroha Gold Mines Ltd had an option to buy his licenses for 3,000 fully paid-up shares.¹⁵⁵ These speculations, which cannot have been of any financial benefit, were his only involvement in Te Aroha mining. In 1960 he would leave an estate estimated as less than £24,000.¹⁵⁶

ERNEST GLADHILL D'ESTERRE

Ernest Gladhill D'Esterre, born in Sarzana, Italy, to an Italian mining engineer and an English mother, was aged 51 in 1931.¹⁵⁷ He

¹⁴⁷ Marriage Certificates of William John Deeble, 21 December 1887, 1887/1009; 19 October 1898, 1898/3215; Death Certificate of William John Deeble, 28 November 1960, 1960/30998, BDM.

¹⁴⁸ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 227, BBAV 11500/4a, ANZ-A; *Franklin Times*, 7 September 1932, p. 4.

¹⁴⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, Police Court, 21 February 1893, p. 2, 23 March 1896, p. 3; *Thames Star*, 4 July 1901, p. 2; *New Zealand Police Gazette*, 20 November 1901, pp. 269-270.

¹⁵⁰ *Thames Star*, 14 September 1900, p. 1, 17 April 1901, p. 4, 19 June 1901, p. 2.

¹⁵¹ *New Zealand Gazette*, 21 September 1899, p. 1833.

¹⁵² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearings of 11 August 1932, 9 November 1933, BBAV 11505/6b; Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 227, BBAV 11500/4a, ANZ-A.

¹⁵³ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 661 no. 4258, ANZ-A.

¹⁵⁴ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 708 no. 4635, ANZ-A.

¹⁵⁵ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 692 no. 4516, ANZ-A.

¹⁵⁶ Probates, BBAE 1570, P3127/1960, ANZ-A.

¹⁵⁷ Marriage Certificate of Ernest Gladhill D'Esterre, 18 March 1931, 1931/2267; Death Certificate of Ernest Gladhill D'Esterre, 10 August 1954, 1954/24173, BDM.

had arrived in New Zealand in his early twenties and, after worked on the *Otago Daily Times*, for a few years ‘went gold mining and shepherding in the Wakatipu area before joining a Christchurch newspaper’. First employed by the *New Zealand Herald* in 1905, he moved to the *Auckland Weekly News* in 1910, which he edited from 1918 to 1934.¹⁵⁸ His journalistic style was florid, the *Observer* jesting in 1909 that ‘Chief Reporter D’Esterre’ had ‘come back from Ngauruhoe full of Dantesque ruminating, and may break into classic verse any day’, a reference to his seeing an eruption.¹⁵⁹ His articles romanticizing sheep farming, prospecting, and goldmining¹⁶⁰ were based on his own experiences, his obituary claiming that he had ‘an extensive knowledge of New Zealand goldfields, and wrote many articles on the Hauraki-Coromandel area. He was also a partner in some Coromandel claims’.¹⁶¹ Describing himself as a prospector when holding shares in Te Aroha-Karangahake Gold Mine Ltd in 1932, its prospectus called him an ‘expert mining metallurgist’.¹⁶² In 1937, he published two articles entitled ‘Hope and Despair: The Quest for Gold: Waiorongomai Valley’. The first, with the sub-heading ‘A Struggle with Nature’, began dramatically:

A valley of high hope and deep despair, of laughter and tears, is that cleft in the towering Te Aroha range that is Waiorongomai, a name that stands for romance, endeavour, endurance, success and failure. Waiorongomai played its part in New Zealand history once and may play a greater part yet, but now it is a valley of ghosts and shadows.

Here was fought out man’s age-old battle with Nature, and what a battle it was! Different, indeed, from the struggles after wealth that took place at Coromandel and Thames.

Waiorongomai was a stern, hard school. The pioneers found great hardship in that wild country, faced it with jests of their lips, and

¹⁵⁸ *New Zealand Herald*, 18 August 1954, p. 10; Guy D. Scholefield, *Newspapers in New Zealand* (Wellington, 1958), p. 86.

¹⁵⁹ *Observer*, 20 March 1909, p. 7; see also pp. 11, 16.

¹⁶⁰ For example, *Auckland Weekly News*, 20 September 1906, p. 19, 27 September 1906, p. 17, 8 November 1906, p. 17.

¹⁶¹ *New Zealand Herald*, 18 August 1954, p. 10.

¹⁶² Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 648 no. 4252, ANZ-A; Prospectus of Te Aroha-Karangahake Gold Mine Ltd., Mines Department, MD 1, 12/408, ANZ-W.

vast hopes in their brave hearts, but in all history of the search for gold in New Zealand never were seekers confronted with such baffling conditions as here. In dim past geological times, when earth's cooling crust was riven by the gigantic springs of superheated steam and water and gases, and the mists of creation hid land from sky, some queer twisting of the subterranean forces laid out a distorted, complicated and fantastic puzzle to await long centuries the arrival of mankind. Men came and sought to solve this colossal puzzle. It is not solved yet.

This overheated prose was followed by a brief history of mining, again admitting that Nature had mixed the minerals 'into highly refractory sulpho-tellurides, as to form a hopeless will-o'-the-wisp for those grim, earnest, toiling pioneer miners'. The lower levels 'held good values, certainly, but the ore was so complex that payable recovery, by the processes then known, was impossible'. Methods used elsewhere failed, 'and Waiorongomai saw its invading host gradually dwindle away'.¹⁶³

The second article, subtitled 'Early Lack of Capital', described it as 'a curious fact' that no companies 'secured more than a tithe of the working capital required', making the pioneers' achievements 'a matter of wonder'. He described the New Find,¹⁶⁴ 'the most interesting' mine, noted that the battery process saved only about half the gold, incorrectly stated that Josiah Clifton Firth had induced Aroha Gold Mines to drive its low-level tunnel,¹⁶⁵ and blamed the Seddon Government for its being abandoned. Edwin Henry Hardy¹⁶⁶ was mentioned as a successful pioneer 'who died with his boots on in the heart of the famous old field'. The Tui mines were briefly mentioned: their reefs presented 'almost as many contradictions' as those at Waiorongomai. The mountainside had its attractions to the hiker but was 'very easy to get lost' in, suggesting that he had explored it. He described the old Waiorongomai workings 'that have not been penetrated for many years. Many have fallen in'. Only a comparatively small area had been explored because 'capital was not available for

¹⁶³ E. D'Esterre, 'Hope and Despair: The Quest for Gold: Waiorongomai Valley: A Struggle with Nature', *New Zealand Herald*, 21 August 1937, p. 10.

¹⁶⁴ See paper on this mine.

¹⁶⁵ See paper on the New Zealand Exploration Company and Aroha Gold Mines.

¹⁶⁶ See paper on his life.

comprehensive prospecting at depth'. After wondering whether good ore might stretch as far as Karangahake, Waitekauri, and Te Puke, he ended with another romantic picture:

Now the music of the creek rushing down its boulder-strewn bed, and the bell-like notes of the tui's song, are the only sounds heard in Waiorongomai, but it is when the mists steal down from the great heights to veil the storied field in soft embrace, or when the rainstorms sweep across and blot out all the outside world, that I love this wild region best. Then the old, overgrown trails and pack-tracks become peopled with the shadowy, intangible shapes of that eager, happy, hopeful horde that breasted the slopes in such gladsome search, that lived and laughed and struggled and suffered, that sang and whistled and cursed and sobbed and, at long last, retreated, beaten.

Waiorongomai watched men come and watched men go. It keeps its secrets still.¹⁶⁷

Not an encouraging assessment for an investor. During the 1930s he was granted three prospecting licenses at Coromandel, in 1933, obtained another one for the Challenge Syndicate of Auckland, proposed to form a strong syndicate to drill the flats and hills in the Mahakirua area, and in 1937 acquired another license.¹⁶⁸ In 1935, he was granted one at Owharoa and another at Waihi.¹⁶⁹ At Waiorongomai, he obtained 50 acres adjoining Malcolm Hardy's mine in 1932, transferring it to Northern Goldfields the following year.¹⁷⁰ In

¹⁶⁷ E. D'Esterre, 'Hope and Despair: The Quest for Gold: Waiorongomai Valley: Early Lack of Capital', *New Zealand Herald*, 23 August 1937, p. 8.

¹⁶⁸ Coromandel Warden's Court, Applications 1928-1931, 48/32, BACL 14391/14a; Instruments 1933-1936, no. 2061, AAAE 15204/5a; Applications 1933, 23/1933, BACL 14391/16a; Instruments 1936-1944, entry for 27 August 1937, AAAE 15201/6a, ANZ-A; H.F. Shepherd to Inspector of Mines, 1 March 1933, Mines Department, MD 1A, 1181, ANZ-W; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 666 no. 4303, ANZ-A.

¹⁶⁹ Paeroa Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1930-1936, entry for 20 February 1935, BAFV 13692/1a; Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM47B, ANZ-A.

¹⁷⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 228, BBAV 11500/4a; Mining Applications 1932, 27/1932, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

1937 he obtained another 50-acre license nearby.¹⁷¹ Although there was no record of any work being done, he remained interested in the area. In 1951, three years before his death, he urged the exploitation of the mineral resources from Te Aroha to Coromandel, for prices were high and he believed that the oil flotation treatment method which worked well at Broken Hill would be suitable for these ores.¹⁷² In addition to his mining investments, in 1931 he had held shares in the Mount Tokatea Mineral Fertilizer Company.¹⁷³ Clearly most if not all his investments were unprofitable, for he left an estate estimated to be less than £2,000.¹⁷⁴

REGINALD WALTER DEVEY

Reginald Walter Devey (registered at birth as Walter Reginald) was 30 years old in 1931,¹⁷⁵ and working as a blacksmith in Te Aroha.¹⁷⁶ Between 1931 and 1933, he acquired five prospecting licenses for an area between Waiorongomai and the top of the mountain, working with Walter Joseph Gibbs,¹⁷⁷ to whom he sold his interests in at least three.¹⁷⁸ He prospected actively in 1932, sending five tons to be assayed at the Thames School of Mines in April which produced one

¹⁷¹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 9/1937, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A.

¹⁷² *Te Aroha News*, 13 March 1951, p. 7.

¹⁷³ *Auckland Star*, 9 December 1925, p. 5.

¹⁷⁴ Probate, BBAE 1570, P2671/1954, ANZ-A.

¹⁷⁵ Birth Certificate of Walter Reginald Devey, 30 December 1900, 1900/4733, BDM.

¹⁷⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 20 July 1931, p. 5.

¹⁷⁷ His involvement is detailed below.

¹⁷⁸ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearings of 20 September 1932, 3 December 1931, 18 February 1932, 20 October 1932, 16 February 1933, BBAV 11505/6b; Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folios 208, 231, BBAV 11500/4a; Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folio 9, BBAV 11500/5a; Mining Applications 1931, 16, 24/1931, BCDG 11289/2a; Mining Registrations 1932, no. 4100, BCDG 11288/10a, ANZ-A.

ounce of bullion containing 5dwt of gold valued at £1 0s 4d per ton.¹⁷⁹ That September, he claimed that in prospecting since the previous December he had discovered two reefs in his ten acres ‘within the Old Peter Maxwell Claim’. The reefs he and Gibbs had cut showed ‘a good deal of galena’ and gave ‘a small assay in gold’, and they expected to trace them into the adjacent ground he was acquiring.¹⁸⁰ Downey considered him to be one of only two prospectors to have done ‘any work of any consequence’ and to have found anything,¹⁸¹ but after that year there was no record of his doing more prospecting. He left the district, in 1940 working at Wilson’s Mill at Te Whaiti.¹⁸²

DAVID EDWARDS

Aged 27 in 1931, David Edwards was the son of a draper who had married the eldest daughter of George Lipsey and Ema Mokena.¹⁸³ He worked as a painter in Te Aroha.¹⁸⁴ In 1932 he was granted two prospecting licenses covering a total of 85 acres, and his application for a third was withdrawn because of opposition from the borough council, concerned about its water supply.¹⁸⁵ He and Francis James Roache¹⁸⁶ were granted prospecting subsidies,¹⁸⁷ but found nothing.

¹⁷⁹ Director, Thames School of Mines, to R.W. Devey, 21 April 1932, Outwards Correspondence 1930-1932, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

¹⁸⁰ R.W. Devey to J.F. Downey, 14 September 1932, Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1932, 32/1932, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

¹⁸¹ J.F. Downey to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 7 October 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

¹⁸² *Matamata Record*, 7 November 1940, p. 1.

¹⁸³ Birth Certificate of David Edwards, 22 March 1904, 1904/19284, BDM.

¹⁸⁴ *Tauranga Electoral Roll, 1931*, p. 48; *Thames Electoral Roll, 1943*, p. 58.

¹⁸⁵ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearings of 18 February 1932, 14 April 1932, 12 May 1932, BBAV 11505/6b; Mining Applications 1932, 5/1932, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

¹⁸⁶ His involvement is outlined below.

¹⁸⁷ J.F. Downey to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 15 April 1932, Mines Department, MD1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

THOMAS ARCHIBALD FELTON

Thomas Archibald Felton, an Auckland public accountant from the mid-1920s onwards,¹⁸⁸ was aged 34 in 1931.¹⁸⁹ He had first come to public notice in April 1917, when he was a humble railway porter based at Waimarino, later National Park and subsequently reverting to its original Maori name. He had appealed against being called up to fight on religious grounds, but his appeal was rejected because he had joined the Brethren church only in November 1915.¹⁹⁰ Duly sent overseas, he served mostly as a cook.¹⁹¹

In 1933, in his first involvement with mining to be recorded, he was granted a prospecting license over 100 acres between the top of the mountain and Stoney Creek, which he sold to Northern Goldfields the following year.¹⁹² In 1937 he won the forfeiture of the Gloucester from Clive Nettleton.¹⁹³ Interim secretary of Te Aroha-Karangahake Gold Mine Ltd in 1932,¹⁹⁴ from 1936 onwards he assisted with testing Malcolm Hardy's mine; for purchasing a small drilling plant for him he

¹⁸⁸ See advertisements, *Auckland Star*, 9 December 1925, p. 5, 16 June 1928, p. 6, 12 December 1930, p. 5, 28 July 1931, p. 16, 21 January 1932, p. 22.

¹⁸⁹ Birth Certificate of Thomas Archibald Felton, 1897/131, BDM; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 680 no. 4419, ANZ-A.

¹⁹⁰ *Taihape Daily Times*, 24 April 1917, p. 5.

¹⁹¹ Thomas Archibald Felton, Army Department, AABK 18805, R21002354, ANZ-W [online].

¹⁹² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, hearing of 16 February 1933, BBAV 11505/6b; Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folio 3, BBAV 11500/5a; Mining Applications 1932, 46/1932, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

¹⁹³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaintiff Book 1899-1947, hearings of 19 November 1936, 22 January 1937, BBAV 11551/1a; Register of Applications 1934-1961, 1/1937, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A.

¹⁹⁴ Prospectus of Te Aroha-Karangahake Gold Mine Ltd, Mines Department, MD 1, 12/408, ANZ-W.

received a fifth interest in Hardy's mining property.¹⁹⁵ He and his wife were shareholders in Hardy's Mines, formed in 1940,¹⁹⁶ but after selling their shares five years later he ceased to be its secretary.¹⁹⁷

Felton did not have interests in any other goldfield, his only known shareholdings being in Transport and Storage Ltd and in Industrial Assets Ltd (formerly the Waitakere Brick and Tile Company), of which he was a director and one of its largest shareholders since 1937; he also attempted to make money through a patented shoe heel.¹⁹⁸ In 1938 he was involved in housing developments in Auckland, and three years later applied for a license as a land agent.¹⁹⁹ His last involvement with mining was as a director of the Nickel Spoon Mining Company, which was prospecting in South Westland in 1971.²⁰⁰ When he died, four years later, he left a valueless estate.²⁰¹

NATHANIEL JOHN FERGUSON

Nathaniel John Ferguson was 67 in 1931.²⁰² During the 1880s, he had been a prominent and popular coach driver on the Thames to Te Aroha route and a partner with Thomas Bradley²⁰³ in a Te Aroha

¹⁹⁵ T.A. Felton to Minister of Mines, 17 October 1936; E.J. Scoble and Hugh Crawford to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 14 April 1938, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/4/54, ANZ-W.

¹⁹⁶ See paper on this company.

¹⁹⁷ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 165 no. 1208, ANZ-A.

¹⁹⁸ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 774 no. 5083, ANZ-A; *Auckland Star*, 10 November 1927, p. 4, 10 March 1932, p. 10.

¹⁹⁹ *New Zealand Herald*, 6 December 1938, p. 15, 7 December 1938, p. 13, advertisement, 11 November 1941, p. 6.

²⁰⁰ *Press*, 2 July 1971, p. 2.

²⁰¹ Probates, BBAE 1570, P1605/1975, ANZ-A.

²⁰² Birth Certificate of Nathaniel John Ferguson, 20 September 1864, 1864/1905, BDM.

²⁰³ See *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 15 September 1897, p. 2.

coaching and livery stable business.²⁰⁴ In 1894 he bought a livery stable in Hamilton, and in the early twentieth century became a carter in Thames, for a time in partnership with one of his brothers, Samuel, who carried on this business alone after 1913.²⁰⁵ By the 1930s, he was a liftman in Auckland.²⁰⁶

Ferguson's sole goldmining shareholding in the 1880s was one and a half shares in the Welcome claim at Waiorongomai in 1883.²⁰⁷ In 1896, he applied for the Aroha Consolidated, 100 acres between Te Aroha and the Tui mines, but then withdrew the application.²⁰⁸ Two years later, when he was a partner in the Loyalty Palace at Waiorongomai, legal action was required to remove him from the partnership and force him to meet his financial obligations.²⁰⁹ In 1905, he took a sample of Hikutaia ore to be assayed,²¹⁰ in 1909 held shares in a Coromandel company and another at Kuaotunu,²¹¹ and in the following year held some in a mine near Thames.²¹²

²⁰⁴ Ferguson's recollections were published in *Diamond Jubilee of the Ohinemuri County, 1995-1945: Souvenir and historical record* (Paeroa, 1945), pp. 61, 63, 65; see also *Thames Advertiser*, 15 May 1882, p. 3, 29 January 1883, p. 2, 1 January 1885, p. 2; *Auckland Weekly News*, 6 March 1886, p. 21; *Te Aroha News*, 4 August 1883, p. 2, 27 February 1886, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 16 May 1893, p. 2.

²⁰⁵ *Waikato Times*, 16 May 1893, p. 2, 11 August 1894, p. 8, 1 September 1894, p. 8; Thames School of Mines, Assay Book 1898-1907, entry for 11 October 1905, School of Mines Archives, Thames; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 237 no. 1391; box 262 no. 1507, ANZ-A; advertisements, *Thames Star*, 1 August 1906, p. 3, 31 July 1913, p. 1, 23 October 1916, p. 5.

²⁰⁶ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 574 no. 3510, ANZ-A; Death Certificate of Nathaniel John Ferguson, 16 August 1948, 1948/30233, BDM; Probates, BBAE 1570, 1226/48, ANZ-A.

²⁰⁷ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 103, BBAV 11500/9a, ANZ-A.

²⁰⁸ Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1896, 39/1896, BBAV 11289/14a, ANZ-A.

²⁰⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaintiff Book 1880-1898, 42/1898, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

²¹⁰ Thames School of Mines, Assay Book 1898-1907, entry for 11 October 1905, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

²¹¹ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 242 no. 1421; box 237 no. 1391, ANZ-A.

²¹² Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 262 no. 1507, ANZ-A.

In 1932 he held a small shareholding in a Waiomu company,²¹³ and in 1939 was a director of Monowai Gold Development Ltd.²¹⁴ Also during the 1930s he owned five claims in the Thames-Coromandel area.²¹⁵ His only involvement with Te Aroha mining in the 1930s was to hold a prospecting license over 99 acres in 1935,²¹⁶ on which he appears to have done no work or even to have visited. He was, after all, aged 71 in that year.²¹⁷ When he died in 1948, his entire estate, a mere £507 13s 10d, went to a spinster living in Haiti.²¹⁸

WALTER JOSEPH GIBBS

Walter Joseph Gibbs was a very active prospector for a time, although not as successfully as he claimed. Aged 48 in 1931,²¹⁹ he was a civil engineer who, after working on road making and general engineering projects for the Public Works Department, was appointed as the Piako County Council's engineer in 1917, and remained at Te Aroha for the rest of his life.²²⁰ Reportedly having 'a keen knowledge of quarry matters', in 1918 he took over the Waiorongomai battery to convert it into a stone crushing plant.²²¹ Four years later the quarry foreman recommended abandoning it, and disagreed with Gibbs about the amount of good stone available, insisting there was no metal where Gibbs claimed. Gibbs 'denied the accuracy of this statement', but some councillors supported the foreman and were also concerned that Gibbs

²¹³ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 574 no. 3510, ANZ-A.

²¹⁴ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 773 no. 5078, ANZ-A.

²¹⁵ Thames Warden's Court, *Plaint Book 1899-1943*, 4/1940, BACL 13820/1a; Warden to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 1 November 1946, *Correspondence with Mines Department 1928-1953*, BACL 13966/1a, ANZ-A.

²¹⁶ Te Aroha Warden's Court, *Register of Applications 1934-1961*, 16/1935, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A

²¹⁷ *Death Certificate of Nathaniel John Ferguson*, 16 August 1948, 1948/30233, BDM.

²¹⁸ *Probate*, BBAV 1570, P1226/1948, ANZ-A.

²¹⁹ *Death Certificate of Walter Joseph Gibbs*, 8 January 1946, 1946/17542, BDM.

²²⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 11 January 1946, p. 4.

²²¹ *Te Aroha News*, 4 December 1918, p. 2.

had misled them about the cost of a concrete road he had constructed. Two councillors voted for his immediate dismissal, but he was granted two months 'in which to make good'.²²² Gibbs took over the quarry, claimed he was working it by a better method, and made plans for its long-term development.²²³

At the end of 1923, when his salary was increased to the level of other county engineers, three councillors described him as 'a splendid engineer', 'a tiger to work', and 'one of the best men they could get' because he did his work 'exceptionally well'.²²⁴ Three months later, when it became known that the quarry had lost £1,620 in two years, the councillor who made the last two comments told his colleagues that they 'had a first-class engineer so far as work was concerned' but 'he could not understand' a man of his experience 'carrying on without records'.²²⁵ In 1926, Gibbs continued to claim that 'generally the metal was good', but the councillors disagreed and planned to close the quarry.²²⁶ Some also wanted his dismissal, either to cut costs or because of how the work was done and the disharmony he created.²²⁷ In April 1927, the council made a final decision to close the quarry, despite Gibbs claiming that 12,000 yards of good metal remained.²²⁸ Five months later, some councillors opposed his doing extra work for other organizations, and the chairman accused him of using a county car on private business.²²⁹ In January 1928 he was dismissed on the casting vote of the chairman after he had ignored instructions on the conduct of his office work.²³⁰ The dismissal provoked a public protest meeting, and at a dinner in his honour given by council employees and contractors, attended by three councillors, he was presented with a gold watch. One

²²² *Te Aroha News*, 26 October 1922, p. 1, Piako County Council, 28 November 1922, p. 1, 30 November 1922, pp. 2, 3.

²²³ *Te Aroha News*, Piako County Council, 21 December 1922, p. 3, 22 March 1923, p. 1.

²²⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 18 December 1923, p. 8, 20 December 1923, p. 4.

²²⁵ *Te Aroha News*, 20 March 1924, p. 4.

²²⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 18 August 1926, p. 5.

²²⁷ Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 22 September 1926, p. 5.

²²⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 29 April 1927, p. 5.

²²⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 21 September 1927, p. 4.

²³⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 22 February 1928, p. 5.

contractor stated that Gibbs had been ‘very wild’ with him on one occasion, but that he appreciated his frankness. After ‘speaker after speaker’ paid tribute, ‘one man, when his turn was about due, rose from his seat and with muttered imprecations left the room. His action created a most unfavourable impression and was regarded as in very bad taste’,²³¹ but did indicate that not everyone agreed with the praise. During 1929, there would be criticism by a councillor and the new engineer of how he had constructed a bridge.²³²

After his dismissal, Gibbs was appointed as consulting engineer for the Waitoa Drainage Board,²³³ but from 1930 onwards became prominent in prospecting. In December 1933 he claimed that during the past four years ‘he had pioneered the search for gold’, having ‘first seen the possibility of richer finds in some of the virgin claims he had taken up’.²³⁴ In February 1931, he was granted a prospecting license over 45 acres at Waiorongomai,²³⁵ and the following year two more licenses, each of 100 acres, were granted, covering from the former Peter Maxwell near the top of the mountain to the Mangakino Valley.²³⁶ Downey at first saw no reason why the second license should not be permitted, but was then instructed by his department, in the interests of encouraging more prospectors, to ensure that ‘no individual or party, should be allowed to take more area than they can effectively prospect, and that certainly no applicant should be allowed to take up any large area for what might be considered speculative purposes’. Accordingly, the warden adopted Downey’s recommendation that, as 100 acres gave Gibbs ‘a good scope for prospecting’, there must be ‘vigorous’ and continuous prospecting by at least two men. He was required to provide

²³¹ *Te Aroha News*, 24 February 1928, p. 1, 7 March 1928, pp. 4, 5, 12 March 1928, p. 5.

²³² *Te Aroha News*, 28 August 1929, p. 5, 4 September 1929, p. 1, 11 September 1929, p. 5, 18 September 1929, p. 4, 30 September 1929, p. 5.

²³³ *Te Aroha News*, 11 January 1946, p. 4.

²³⁴ Warden’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 18 December 1933, p. 5.

²³⁵ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1931, 1/1931, BCDG 11289/2a; Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 12 February 1931, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

²³⁶ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1932, 1, 11/1932, BCDG 11289/2a; Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearings of 18 February 1932, 14 April 1932, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

a quarterly report explaining the work done, the costs, and the results.²³⁷

At the same time as acquiring and prospecting his ground, Gibbs attempted to convince the warden to end the protection earlier granted to the unworked Cadman and Bonanza claims,²³⁸ held for some years, under protection, by James Alexander Pond.²³⁹ Claiming to have known these since 1917, when visiting them daily during the past 14 months Gibbs had not seen anybody at work. John William McCoy,²⁴⁰ who was attempting to obtain capital to work Pond's claims, insisted he had spent £230 recently and driven 100 feet on the Goldsworthy reef, which Gibbs denied.²⁴¹ McCoy informed the Mines Department that as Gibbs was 'the perpetrator of a wicked untruth' he would sue him for libel.²⁴² In the warden's court in December, Pond's counsel condemned Gibbs for telling the minister that no work had been done. 'Such statement was untrue. It was a most objectionable and wicked action. Mr Gibbs had also supplied the Chamber of Commerce with information which was incorrect', and he demanded a copy of Gibbs' letter to the minister, for 'it was most unfair that his client should be attacked in the dark'. Gibbs repeated that no work had been done in an area he had visited 'almost daily' during the past two years, claiming he had meant to bring the letter 'but found he must have left it at home'. He also stated he had been 'promised £4000 to start to-morrow' if he 'could only get the land'.²⁴³ After coming to an 'amicable agreement' with Pond during the

²³⁷ J.F. Downey to Warden, 7 April 1932, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1932, 11/1932, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

²³⁸ See map appended to W.J. Gibbs to Minister of Mines, 10 September 1931, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/7/23, ANZ-W.

²³⁹ See paper on his life.

²⁴⁰ His involvement is outlined below.

²⁴¹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1931, 18/1931, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

²⁴² J.W. McCoy to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 16 October 1931, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/7/23, ANZ-W.

²⁴³ Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 7 December 1931, p. 1.

hearing, he withdrew his objection to continued protection.²⁴⁴ This required four men to be employed, which he told the minister in February (two months later) had not happened, repeating ‘definitely that the work was never done’ in Pond’s claims during the previous year.²⁴⁵

Gibbs also sought to prevent Hardy obtaining his claim,²⁴⁶ for he wanted the same ground added to his prospecting license.²⁴⁷ Evidence given in court revealed he was employing Devey, Norman Neilson,²⁴⁸ and Charles Thomas Young²⁴⁹ to prospect for him.²⁵⁰ What he never revealed were the erratic and often low results obtained. For example, in March 1931 assays of two samples from an unspecified area gave 6s 8d and £6 8s, one in December from the Huia gave £2 14s, and one the following month taken at ‘Gibbs Battery’ gave £2 4s 7d.²⁵¹ The only gold he ever sold to the Thames branch of the Bank of New Zealand, in January 1932, was 7oz 11dwt, valued at £17 7s 6d.²⁵²

²⁴⁴ Warden to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 15 December 1931, Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1931, 18/1931, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

²⁴⁵ Warden to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 10 September 1931; W.J. Gibbs to Minister of Mines, 10 September 1931; Warden to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 28 September 1931; G. Hedge to Minister of Mines, 5 October 1931; J.W. McCoy to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 16 October 1931; W.J. Gibbs to C.E. Macmillan, 17 November 1931; Charles Scott to Minister of Mines, 8 December 1931; W.J. Gibbs to Minister of Mines, 16 February 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/7/23, ANZ-W.

²⁴⁶ See paper on Malcolm Hardy.

²⁴⁷ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 16 July 1931, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

²⁴⁸ His involvement traced later in this paper.

²⁴⁹ His involvement traced later in this paper.

²⁵⁰ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1931, 14/1931, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

²⁵¹ Thames School of Mines, Assay Book 1927-1932, entries for 26 March 1931, 24 December 1931, 4 January 1932, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

²⁵² Bank of New Zealand, Thames Branch, Statement of Daily Gold Purchases 1916-1954, entry for 14 January 1932, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

Like others, Gibbs sought government subsidies. In March 1931 he applied for one at the standard rate of £1 19s per week to enable two men to prospect the Mangakino Valley. 'I have two men now prospecting and put in part time with them myself, in supervising and directing them. The work being carried out is mostly surface trenching'. He did not seek any assistance for himself.²⁵³ As Downey believed some important discoveries could be made and that Neilson and Young were 'miners of a good many years' experience', £31 4s was granted.²⁵⁴

Gibbs reported in May that several leaders had been discovered but samples 'did not come up to expectations'.²⁵⁵ The diary for May kept by Neilson and Young revealed that they usually took one day to explore each of several sites: near the Te Aroha trig, the headwaters of the Premier, Canadian, Diamond Gully, and Navy Creeks, the ridge between the Premier mines and the Mangakino Stream, and the 'back of [the] Mountain'.²⁵⁶ During the following month, 'some small leaders and one reef rather broken but generally about 3 feet wide' were found, but samples from another reef 'proved to be of low grade'. Devey had now joined the party, which was trying to trace a payable reef 'through the Premier Hill towards the Mangakino Stream'.²⁵⁷ The same pattern of only spending a day at a time in each area continued; one was spent investigating a new area, the head of the Waiorongomai Stream. Work was impossible on five days because of heavy rain.²⁵⁸

When their work was completed, Downey reported that they had 'covered a good deal of ground' and 'located lode matter in a number of places, carrying more or less values'. Assays produced from 4s 4d to £12

²⁵³ W.J. Gibbs to Minister of Mines, 14 March 1931, Mines Department, MD 1, 12/408, ANZ-W.

²⁵⁴ J.F. Downey to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 14 April 1931; Minister of Mines to W.J. Gibbs, 1 May 1931, Mines Department, MD 1, 12/408, ANZ-W.

²⁵⁵ W.J. Gibbs to J.F. Downey, 8 June 1931, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, S200, ANZ-A.

²⁵⁶ Diary of prospecting, May 1931, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, S200, ANZ-A.

²⁵⁷ W.J. Gibbs to J.F. Downey, 4 July 1931, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, S200, ANZ-A.

²⁵⁸ Diary of prospecting, June 1931, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, S200, ANZ-A.

10s 6d per ton, and no 'definite defined reef' had been found. They intended to carry on, and Gibbs was applying for several prospecting licenses.²⁵⁹ Whereas officials judged that 'nothing of value' had been found,²⁶⁰ Gibbs claimed, in November 1931, to have found 'very rich stone' in three places near the top of the mountain, assaying, he claimed, from £5 to £50 per ton. He asked his local Member of Parliament, Charles Edward de la Barca Macmillan, who in the following February became Minister of Mines,²⁶¹ for assistance to clear the overgrown Tui track. The country was 'very rough', and he had erected 'a small wire cage' to run ore down to it. 'I have several thousand tons in sight that assay £4 per ton and over, and discovered fresh leads every week which I have not yet had assayed'.²⁶² He claimed some unspecified 'practical mining men' were backed him.²⁶³ One may have been Charles Scott,²⁶⁴ who told the minister in December that Gibbs had spent about £271 since September 1930 in developing ground, had paid £70 in wages in one claim, and that hundreds of samples had given promising assays at the Thames and Waihi Schools of Mines.²⁶⁵ Two months later, immediately after Macmillan became the minister, Gibbs informed him that 'men of substance', unspecified, were ready to work 30 of his 125 acres and were impatient to start. They 'could put five men on at once increasing up to 15 men as we get going'. He still wanted possession of Pond's ground. To strengthen his

²⁵⁹ J.F. Downey to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 17 July 1931, Mines Department, MD 1, 12/408, ANZ-W.

²⁶⁰ *AJHR*, 1932, C-2, p. 21.

²⁶¹ *New Zealand Parliamentary Record 1840-1949*, ed. Guy H. Scholefield (Wellington, 1950), p. 49.

²⁶² W.J. Gibbs to C.E. Macmillan, 17 November 1931, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/7/23, ANZ-W.

²⁶³ W.J. Gibbs to C.E. Macmillan, 17 November 1931 [second letter written on that date], Mines Department, MD 1, 10/7/23, ANZ-W.

²⁶⁴ His involvement is detailed later in this paper.

²⁶⁵ Charles Scott to Minister of Mines, 8 December 1931, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/7/23, ANZ-W.

chances of assistance, he added that he had 'always been a great supporter of the Reform Party'.²⁶⁶

Gibbs continued to be involved with prospecting and company flotation.²⁶⁷ A 1987 recollection suggests he may have been genuinely believed the mountain contained great wealth. Ted Abraham, who sledged ore down the Tui Track for him, recalled Gibbs telling him to carry a rifle in case somebody popped out from behind a tree and demanded the gold. Abraham did as he was told, but only used it to shoot deer, pigs and goats, for nobody ever tried to steal any ore.²⁶⁸ (Perhaps the potential bandits were better informed about its value than Gibbs.) That he never abandoned his belief that profitable ore was to be found was illustrated by his contribution in 1945 to a *Te Aroha News* article holding out hopes that the mountain might contain uranium, then being sought around the world:

He had found many evidences of high-grade lead and zinc formations in addition to the auriferous belt. With the number of minerals present it was quite within the bounds of possibility that uranium might also be found. He knew from personal experience of a company which he had formed some 12 years ago that the Tui area was rich in lead and zinc sulphide, only partly worked. There were also outcrops of deposits near the borough reservoir at Ruakaka which he considered could be worked without danger to the reservoir, in the creek above the waterfall near the quarry, and again further back in the mountains towards Waikino where a vein came to light in another creek [presumably the Mangakino Stream, where in the 1930s he had not reported finding anything of value]...

Quite apart from the uranium possibilities of the area, Mr Gibbs said he would like to see interest revived in the rich mineral deposits in general and some effort made to establish workings on a proper footing. He considered that there were sufficient high-grade ores to make any such operations fully worth-while.²⁶⁹

²⁶⁶ W.J. Gibbs to Minister of Mines, 16 February 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/7/23, ANZ-W.

²⁶⁷ See paper on company formation in the Te Aroha Mining District during the 1930s.

²⁶⁸ Interview with Ted Abraham, on site of Tui Mine, 1 November 1987.

²⁶⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 4 December 1945, p. 5.

(The journalist did not have the wit to ask why he had not worked the payable ore himself. It should be noted that J.D. Cumming and Hardy also hoped that uranium might be found.²⁷⁰)

In 1933, Gibbs applied for two prospecting licenses at Coromandel, one adjoining D'Esterre's.²⁷¹ In the following year he was granted two at Maratoto; they were renewed in 1935, then later granted protection,²⁷² and then abandoned. When he died, in 1946, he left an estate valued at £2,069 1s 4d.²⁷³

THOMAS GILLAN

Aged 56 in 1931,²⁷⁴ Thomas Gillan was a mine manager with considerable experience at Thames, Neavesville, Owharoa, and Puriri.²⁷⁵ He had taken time off from mining to fight in the Boer War.²⁷⁶ The *Observer* in an August 1932 article on 'men of note' in the mining industry noted that he had formerly managed the Rising Sun at Owharoa and the Alburnia in Thames. 'He was "bred on the tailings," and is the man who recently prospected the Taupo country for gold'.²⁷⁷ In 1930, 'following a series of experiments', he 'demonstrated a scheme for the treatment of low-grade ores before professors of the Auckland University and mining experts'. Being 'highly pleased with the results', Gillan intended 'to have the process tested by the experts attached to

²⁷⁰ For Cumming, see Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 24 October 1951, p. 5; for Hardy, see *Te Aroha News*, 22 February 1946, p. 4.

²⁷¹ Coromandel Warden's Court, Applications 1933, 10, 35/1933, BACL 14391/16a, ANZ-A.

²⁷² Paeroa Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1930-1936, entries for 5 February 1934, 1 May 1934, 20 March 1935, 13 June 1935, 16 October 1936, BAFV 13692/1a, ANZ-A; *Auckland Star*, 7 February 1934, p. 13, 2 May 1934, p. 4.

²⁷³ Death Certificate of Walter James Gibbs, 8 January 1946, 1946/17542, BDM; Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4420, no. 6634, ANZ-A.

²⁷⁴ Marriage Certificate of Thomas Gillan, 21 January 1914, 1914/7368, BDM.

²⁷⁵ See Mines Department, MD 1, 10/149. 11/625, ANZ-W; *New Zealand Herald*, 5 July 1899, p. 6; *Thames Star*, 4 October 1909, p. 4, 5 December 1910, p. 2, 10 March 1913, p. 5; *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 22 March 1920, p. 2; letter from Margaret Gillan, *Ohinemuri Regional History Journal*, no. 10 (October 1968), p. 12.

²⁷⁶ *New Zealand Herald*, 25 February 1901, p. 5, 1 March 1902, p. 5.

²⁷⁷ 'Men of Note in N. Z. Mining', *Observer*, 18 August 1932, p. 13.

the New Zealand Mines Department at an early date'.²⁷⁸ Nothing further is known about this invention.

Gillan's only involvement with Waiorongomai mining was early in the 1930s. From September 1929 to October 1930, he prospected the Bonanza, Cadman, and Sceptre for McCoy, and supervising driving in these.²⁷⁹ In addition, in March 1930 he was granted a prospecting license over 100 acres at Waiorongomai.²⁸⁰ No discoveries were reported, nor from the license over 73 acres at the top of the mountain granted in September 1935.²⁸¹

From 1931 onwards he also prospected at Maratoto and Komata, being a shareholder in one company working in the former district.²⁸² During this time he was suffering from miners' complaint, his 1955 death certificate recording that he had had 'Miners' phthisis [for] at least 30 years'.²⁸³

WILLIAM GOODFELLOW

William Goodfellow, later Sir William, was 51 in 1931,²⁸⁴ when he was, reputedly, one of the richest men in New Zealand.²⁸⁵ After working in various Auckland hardware stores from the age of 17, he

²⁷⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 22 September 1930, p. 5.

²⁷⁹ Thomas Gillan, Statement of Wages, October 1930, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/7/23, ANZ-W.

²⁸⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1930, 4/1930, BCDG 11289/2a; Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 13 March 1930, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

²⁸¹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 15/1935, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A.

²⁸² Paeroa Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1930-1936, entry for 15 August 1935, BAFV 13692/1a; Register of Applications 1936-1952, entries for 12 August 1937, 18 March 1939, BAFV 13692/1b; Plaints 1922-1972, 3/1939, BAFV 11975/2a, ANZ-A; *Auckland Star*, 14 December 1931, p. 9, 17 August 1935, p. 21; *New Zealand Herald*, 7 June 1933, p. 7; *Hauraki Plains Gazette*, 13 August 1937, p. 4, 21 August 1939, p. 4.

²⁸³ Death Certificate of Thomas Gillan, 18 October 1955, 1955/26878, BDM.

²⁸⁴ Death Certificate of William Goodfellow, 5 November 1974, 1974/41725, BDM.

²⁸⁵ *Observer*, 7 April 1938, p. 7.

opened an ironmongery in Onehunga and later another in Hamilton. In 1908 he founded the Waikato Dairy Company, which in 1919 merged with other companies to form the New Zealand Co-operative Dairy Company, with himself as managing director. Other notable companies he formed were Amalgamated Dairies Ltd and Empire Dairies Ltd, both for marketing dairy products in London, and the Challenge Phosphate Company to supply fertilizer to farmers. He was a director of the South British Insurance Company, the Guardian Trust, and New Zealand Newspapers Ltd, in addition to other companies.²⁸⁶ The *Observer* described him in 1920 as a 'long, lean man, whose direct methods and faculty of instantaneous decisions has done so much to build up the butter prospects'. A 'practical man', he was busily 'dashing about the island on a seemingly endless succession of lightning business calls'.²⁸⁷ In the late 1920s and 1930s he was politically active, defending business interests against the spectre of socialism.²⁸⁸

Goodfellow first became a director of two gold mining companies at Waiomu in 1929 and 1932.²⁸⁹ In 1932 he sought the forfeiture of the Bonanza and Cadman at Waiorongomai from Pond, but then withdrew his application.²⁹⁰ The following year he was granted a prospecting license for 100 acres running from the Mangakino Valley to Tui.²⁹¹ Two months later, it was transferred to Northern Goldfields, in which he was a shareholder.²⁹² As part of a syndicate, he owned prospecting

²⁸⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 23 May 1919, p. 3; *Observer*, 17 September 1931, p. 9, 7 April 1938, p. 7; *Waikato Times*, 7 November 1974, p. 2; *New Zealand Herald*, 7 November 1974, Section 1, p. 18; Graeme Hunt, *The Rich List: Wealth and enterprise in New Zealand 1820-2000* (Auckland, 2000), pp. 131-135.

²⁸⁷ *Observer*, 9 October 1920, p. 6.

²⁸⁸ See Michael Pugh, 'Doctrinaires on the Right: The Democrats and Anti-Socialism, 1933-36', *New Zealand Journal of History*, vol. 17 no. 2 (October 1983), pp. 104, 106-107.

²⁸⁹ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 574 no. 3510; box 661 no. 4254, ANZ-A.

²⁹⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, *Plaint Book 1899-1947*, Hearing of 8 February 1932, BBAV 11551/1a, ANZ-A.

²⁹¹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, *Mining Applications 1933*, 18/1933, BCDG 11289/2a; Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 13 April 1933, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

²⁹² Te Aroha Warden's Court, *Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972*, folio 20, BBAV 11500/5a; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 680 no. 4419, ANZ-A.

licenses at Coromandel which were transferred to the same company.²⁹³ No investments in other mining areas have been traced.²⁹⁴ Thus ended his brief involvement in goldmining, a peripheral interest lasting just four years.

VIVIAN GEORGE ROBERT HAMILTON

Vivian George Robert Hamilton was aged 43 in 1931.²⁹⁵ He had been a dairy farmer in the Te Aroha district since the First World War, not having to fight by being the remaining son (both of his brothers were killed in action) and having to run the farm on his own.²⁹⁶ He claimed to have started farming 'with virtually nothing'.²⁹⁷ From the 1920s, he owned a farm at Ruakaka, at the foot of the Tui track.²⁹⁸ From May 1921 to November 1947, he was a member of the borough council, and was mayor for six years until defeated in the 1959 election.²⁹⁹

His involvement in mining was brief. In 1933 he was granted two prospecting licenses over 73 acres at Tui, covering the upper part of his farm and a portion of the hillside above it.³⁰⁰ Ted Abraham, who had no prospecting skills, briefly assisted him, but nothing of any value was discovered.³⁰¹

²⁹³ Coromandel Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1933, 200, 201/1933, BACL 14391/17a, ANZ-A; Memorandum by H.R. Bush, 8 May 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 6/4/2, Part 2, ANZ-W.

²⁹⁴ See Margaret A. Rowe, 'William Goodfellow', *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography: vol. 4: 1921-1940* (Wellington, 1998), pp. 199-200.

²⁹⁵ Marriage Certificate of Vivian George Robert Hamilton, 27 January 1914, 1914/7132, BDM.

²⁹⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 22 July 1918, p. 2, 9 August 1918, p. 2.

²⁹⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 20 November 1959, p. 5.

²⁹⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 8 April 1927, p. 5.

²⁹⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 20 November 1959, p. 5, 27 November 1959, p. 1, 8 August 1972, p. 1, 10 October 1978, p. 1.

³⁰⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1933, 7, 12/1933, BCDG 11289/2a; Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearings of 16 February 1933, 9 March 1933, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

³⁰¹ Interview with Ted Abraham, at site of Tui Mine, 1 November 1987.

WILLIAM REGINALD HAMILTON

William Reginald Hamilton was aged 31 in 1931.³⁰² Then a contractor living at Papatoetoe,³⁰³ in 1932 he acquired one prospecting license over 50 acres adjoining the Tui claims but sold it four months later.³⁰⁴ Subsequently he became a director of the Te Aroha Gold Syndicate,³⁰⁵ the last act of his brief involvement in mining.

In June 1933, when he was a labourer living in Auckland, with two others he was arrested for stealing women's clothing but was discharged because there was no evidence he had known the goods had been stolen by one of the others.³⁰⁶ Two years later, with another man he was charged with stealing 30 sheep at Puhipuhi, near Whangarei. The farmer who had lost the sheep explained that Hamilton had contracts for post-splitting and milling on the adjacent farm, and that he had found his sheep roughly butchered at Hamilton's camp. When his co-accused showed the police where the sheep had been killed, Hamilton 'did not disagree with any of' his evidence.³⁰⁷ At the trial, he pleaded guilty to having stolen eight sheep to supply meat to men 'working under contract for him in a bush-felling camp'. According to his lawyer, he 'was well known in the district as a hard worker and the owner of the sheep was willing to employ him after he had carried out the sentence of the court'. The judge responded that, although willing 'to give a man who intends to turn over a new leaf an opportunity to do so', the offence was 'particularly serious as you had a number of young Maoris under your charge in your camp. You tried to persuade others to join you in stealing the sheep, and it is to their credit that they refused

³⁰² Birth Certificate of William Reginald Hamilton, 1900/16247, BDM.

³⁰³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Registrations 1932, no. 4143, BCDG 11288/10a; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 661 no. 4259, ANZ-A.

³⁰⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 209, BBAV 11500/4a; Mining Registrations 1932, no. 4143, BCDG 11288/10a, ANZ-A.

³⁰⁵ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 661 no. 4258, ANZ-A.

³⁰⁶ *New Zealand Herald*, 22 June 1933, p. 15, 4 July 1933, p. 13.

³⁰⁷ *New Zealand Herald*, 17 June 1935, p. 11.

to assist you'. He was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment with hard labour.³⁰⁸

After being released from prison, with his brother he formed a contracting firm, Hamilton Bros, but it went bankrupt in July 1937 after they had been cutting timber for only one year. His brother had supplied a truck but Hamilton providing nothing to the partnership. He owed Robert Milton Scelly £72 7s 5d, being loans received; as an indication of his financial position, the total debt was a mere £126 10s 2d, his sole asset was a share of (possibly) £26 in his late mother's estate, and his creditors would receive only a farthing in the pound.³⁰⁹ In 1941 his wife divorced him on grounds of desertion.³¹⁰ In the following year, when working as a bush contractor at Coromandel, he was killed when his car rolled 450 feet downhill from a Tokotea bush track.³¹¹ His estate of £423 7s 8d was comprised mostly of timber rights and log hauling machinery.³¹²

DONALD HENRY HENDERSON

Donald Henry Henderson, the eldest son of a Gore solicitor, was aged 56 in 1931,³¹³ when he was living in Auckland.³¹⁴ Then working as a clerk, when he died in 1937 he was recorded as being an accountant.³¹⁵ Having served in the Boer War, his obituary stated he

³⁰⁸ *Auckland Star*, 26 July 1935, p. 8.

³⁰⁹ Bankruptcy Files, BAEA 21460, 1937/27, ANZ-A; advertisement, *New Zealand Herald*, 6 July 1937, p. 18; *Auckland Star*, 6 October 1939, p. 8.

³¹⁰ *Auckland Star*, 15 August 1941, p. 8.

³¹¹ Death Certificate of William Reginald Hamilton, 3 December 1944, 1944/30470, BDM; *Auckland Star*, 4 December 1944, p. 2.

³¹² Probates, BBAE 1570, P344/1945, ANZ-A.

³¹³ *Otago Witness*, 12 April 1900, p. 34; Death Certificate of Donald Henry Henderson, 18 October 1937, 1938/15105, BDM.

³¹⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folio 55, BBAV 11500/5a; Mining Applications 1934, 5/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A.

³¹⁵ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1934, 5/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A; Death Certificate of Donald Henry Henderson, 18 October 1937, 1938/15105, BDM.

was 'well known in Auckland for his work among the veterans of the South African War and the King's Empire Veterans'.³¹⁶

Henderson obtained a 50-acre prospecting license in the Tui district in 1932 and another one in the following year.³¹⁷ Although he did not do any prospecting himself, at the end of January 1933 he had parcels of stone taken from one license for testing and reportedly was 'making arrangements for capital to work the area'.³¹⁸ In the other license he employed two men to locate reefs, cut tracks, and take samples. While these two men prospected, another two drove a tunnel which by February 1934 had reached 50 feet; £338 was spent over 12 months.³¹⁹ Neither license benefited him: the first was abandoned and the second sold to Milton & Co for paid up shares.³²⁰ When he died in 1938, his wife and three children inherited a mere £142 1s 5d.³²¹

FRANCIS VARDON LILLY HENNAH

Francis Vardon Lilly Hennah (who later dropped the Lilly) was aged 66 in 1931.³²² In 1927, he was a roading contractor based at Paeroa, but by 1933 he was a small dairy farmer (milking only 15 cows) at Tirohia, near Paeroa, with the children born to him by Raihi Te Irikowhai Tiunga, whom he had failed to marry under Pakeha law.³²³

³¹⁶ *New Zealand Herald*, 20 October 1937, p. 18.

³¹⁷ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 209, BBAV 11500/4a; Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folio 55, BBAV 11500/5a, ANZ-A.

³¹⁸ D.H. Henderson to Clerk, Warden's Court, Te Aroha, 20 January 1933, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1934, 8/1933, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

³¹⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1934, 5/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A.

³²⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 209, BBAV 11500/4a; Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folio 55, BBAV 11500/5a, ANZ-A.

³²¹ Probates, BBE 1570, P391/1938, ANZ-A.

³²² A.L. Willis to Commissioner of Unemployment, 26 June 1933, Mines Department, MD 41, 11/2/18, ANZ-W; Death Certificate of Francis Vardon Hennah, 12 October 1948, 1948/23217, BDM.

³²³ *Hauraki Plains Gazette*, 9 November 1927, p. 2; J.W. Smith to Commissioner of Unemployment, 21 December 1933, Mines Department, MD 41, 11/2/18, ANZ-W; for his marital status, see Birth Certificate of Nelly Hannah, 23 February 1910, 1982/126825, BDM.

Charles Scott claimed he had 40 years' mining experience, including being an underground surveyor and sampler in the Talisman.³²⁴ Whilst Hennah certainly had mined at Karangahake for some years,³²⁵ Scott exaggerated, as was his wont, for Hennah was farming at Whanganui in 1902 before moving to Paeroa several years later.³²⁶

Although not recorded as participating in mining in the Te Aroha district before the 1930s, the only mention of him being present being his holding an agricultural lease at Waiorongomai in 1912,³²⁷ in 1934 he claimed to have an 'intimate knowledge' of the field and was sure he would get results.³²⁸ When the subsidized Stoney Creek Prospectors' Party was organized in mid-1933, being 'easily the most suitable man' to be its supervisor he received a special weekly government subsidy of £2.³²⁹ In addition to supervising this party, he applied for 10 acres above the former New Find at Waiorongomai in April 1933 but then withdrew this application.³³⁰ He did obtain 100 acres in June, and, with Robert Fitzroy Spensley,³³¹ obtained another 20 acres, but in March the following year they were working on unpayable ore, the highest value

³²⁴ Charles Scott to Commissioner of Unemployment, 21 May 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

³²⁵ See editorial note re Eva Mitchell, 'Memories of Waiorongomai', *Ohinemuri Regional History Journal*, no. 17 (June 1973), p. 35.

³²⁶ Birth Certificates of William Francis Hennah, 1 April 1902, 1902/8875; Nellie Hennah, 23 February 1910, 1982/126825, BDM.

³²⁷ Thames High School Board of Governors, Minutes of Meeting of 1 July 1912, High School Archives, Thames.

³²⁸ F.V. Hennah to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 5 March 1934, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

³²⁹ A.L. Willis to Commissioner of Unemployment, 26 June 1933; Commissioner of Unemployment to A.L. Willis, 26 June 1933, Mines Department, MD 41, 11/2/18, ANZ-W; see also Under-Secretary, Mines Department, to Commissioner of Unemployment, 4 May 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

³³⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 13 April 1933, BBAV 11505/6b; Mining Applications 1933, 13/1933, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

³³¹ His involvement is outlined below.

obtained being 10s per ton.³³² A sample from the Vulcan reef assayed at the beginning of April gave 13s 9d,³³³ again very poor. Later that month he applied for a 20-acre prospecting license over the New Find.³³⁴

Nothing further was recorded about his prospecting, and he must have returned to his farm almost immediately. By this time, he was suffering from miner's complaint,³³⁵ thereby proving he had indeed mined for some years, which, combined with his age, would have made prospecting difficult.

ROBERT JOHN HILL

Robert John Hill, a son of John Samuel Hill, one of the managers of the Waiorongomai tramway,³³⁶ was aged 22 in 1931.³³⁷ He was living in Waiorongomai in the early 1930s, working as a motor driver.³³⁸ In June 1933 he was granted a prospecting license for 30 acres, comprising the former New Find and adjacent ground,³³⁹ but there was no record of his doing any work on it. In September 1934, he applied for a license for 15 acres at the Diamond Gully end of the New Find but withdrew the

³³² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 8 June 1933, BBAV 11505/6b; Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folio 59, BBAV 11500/5a, ANZ-A; J.W. Smith to Commissioner of Unemployment, 31 January 1934, 5 March 1934, 14 March 1934, Mines Department, MD 41, 11/2/18; Hugh Crawford to Commissioner of Unemployment, 24 March 1934, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

³³³ Thames School of Mines, Assay Book 1933-1934, entry for 3 April 1934, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

³³⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1934, 6/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A.

³³⁵ Miners' Phthisis Pensions: List of all pensioners, 22 December 1937, Social Security, SS, W1944, Box 8, M40, No. 3, ANZ-W.

³³⁶ See paper on the Piako County tramway at Waiorongomai.

³³⁷ Marriage Certificate of Robert John Hill, 1 March 1938, St Mark's Church, Te Aroha, Marriage Register 1935-1940, no. 7, 17.10, Anglican Diocesan Archives, Hamilton.

³³⁸ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1933, 33/1933, BCDG 11289/2a; Mining Applications 1934, 23/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A.

³³⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 8 June 1933, BBAV 11505/6b; Mining Applications 1933, 33/1933, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

application in the following month.³⁴⁰ That ended his brief foray into mining. He later became a builder; when he died in 1986 his estate was valueless.³⁴¹

ALFRED VICTOR AUGUSTUS HOLMES

Alfred Victor Augustus Holmes was aged 29 in 1931,³⁴² when he was a Te Aroha bricklayer.³⁴³ In March 1932, an assay of a sample taken from his land near the Ruakaka reservoir produced a ‘trace’ of bullion.³⁴⁴ He was sufficiently encouraged to apply, with Herbert Andrew Cumming, for a prospecting license over 20 acres, but it was declined after the council objected.³⁴⁵ An application for the former New Find was granted in May.³⁴⁶ Although he did not find any gold, he was sufficiently enthused by the experience to become a successful goldminer in the South Island for two years. After returning for a short time to assist his family, ‘the lure of mining proved irresistible and he returned to Hikutaia, from where he enlisted’ to fight in the Second World War.³⁴⁷ When killed in action in Libya, aged 39, his death certificate gave his occupation as a goldminer.³⁴⁸

³⁴⁰ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1934-1951, 23/1934, BBAV 11505/2a; Mining Applications 1934, 23/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A.

³⁴¹ Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4421, 588/1986, ANZ-A.

³⁴² Birth Certificate of Alfred Victor Augustus Holmes, 6 February 1902, 1902/20272, BDM.

³⁴³ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1932, 8/1932, BCDG 11289/2a; Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 221, BBAV 11500/4a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 18 June 1942, p. 4.

³⁴⁴ Thames School of Mines, Assay Book 1932-1933, entry for 14 March 1932, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

³⁴⁵ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 14 April 1932, BBAV 11505/6b; Mining Applications 1932, 8/1932, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

³⁴⁶ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 12 May 1932, BBAV 11505/6b; Mining Applications 1932, 19/32, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

³⁴⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 18 June 1942, p. 4.

³⁴⁸ Death Certificate of Alfred Victor Augustus Holmes, 26 November 1941, 1945/35549, BDM; New Zealand War Graves Project, online.

RAYMOND ARTHUR VICTOR HOPSON

Raymond Arthur Victor Hopson was aged 33 in 1931. His occupation at that time has not been traced, but in later years he was a dairy farmer.³⁴⁹ He was granted one prospecting license, in the Mangakino Valley, in February 1933, which he transferred to Gibbs two months later.³⁵⁰ When he died in 1964, he left an estate estimated at £6,040.³⁵¹

CHARLES ERNEST JENNINGS

Charles Ernest Jennings was the son of Edward, a carpenter and builder who for many years in the late nineteenth century was involved with Waiorongomai mining.³⁵² Aged 41 in 1931,³⁵³ he was a carpenter working for his father.³⁵⁴ After serving in the First World War, for a time he was a labourer.³⁵⁵ In June 1933 he was granted a prospecting license for ten acres bounded by licenses held by Devey and Neilson. He promised to spend £3 each week on his property,³⁵⁶ but any prospecting he undertook was fruitless. Fourteen months later Hardy employed the then-unemployed Jennings to help erect the roof over his ore treatment plant.³⁵⁷ The only known employment he had during the 1930s was as

³⁴⁹ Death Certificate of Raymond Arthur Hopson, 3 October 1964, 1964/42155, BDM.

³⁵⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 16 February 1933, BBAV 11505/6b; Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folio 4, BBAV 11500/5a, ANZ-A.

³⁵¹ Probate of Raymond Arthur Victor Hopson, ABAJ 21954, W4079, 490/64, ANZ-W.

³⁵² See *New Zealand Herald*, 25 October 1926, p. 10; *Te Aroha News*, 27 October 1926, p. 8.

³⁵³ Birth Certificate of Charles Ernest Jennings, 20 January 1890, 1890/1842, BDM.

³⁵⁴ Thames Hospital Board, Fees Register 1914-1916, entry for 29 June 1915, YCAH A431/76; Probate of Edward Jennings, Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4420/2180, ANZ-A; Death Certificate of Charles Ernest Jennings, 10 September 1958, 1958/29813, BDM.

³⁵⁵ Charles Jennings, Army Department, WW1 23390, R18053338, ANZ-W [online]; *Te Aroha News*, 12 March 1919, p. 2; Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Registrations 1928, Registration dated 5 April 1928, BCDG 11289/9a, ANZ-A.

³⁵⁶ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing dated 8 June 1933, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

³⁵⁷ Malcolm Hardy to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 21 August 1934, Mines Department, MD 1, 21/8/34, ANZ-W.

the local dog registrar, collecting the dog tax.³⁵⁸ He died in 1958, leaving an estate valued at under £2,000.³⁵⁹

THOMAS HAROLD ROLAND JONES

Thomas Harold Roland Jones was aged 42 in 1931.³⁶⁰ Recorded as being a battery hand at Waihi in 1915, he later mined at Waihi, Maratoto, and Te Puke.³⁶¹ He was described in 1933 as ‘an old hand and knows his work’.³⁶² A member of the subsidized Maidos Prospectors’ Party in late 1933,³⁶³ neither he nor any other member of this party found anything worthwhile. As well as mining, he farmed at several places in the North Island.³⁶⁴ His years of mining resulted in his suffering from miner’s complaint.³⁶⁵

THOMAS GLADSTONE JULIAN

Thomas Gladstone Julian was aged 31 in 1931.³⁶⁶ He was managing director of the Auckland firm of J.T. Julian and Son Ltd, a private company formed by his father in 1910 that specialized in

³⁵⁸ Te Aroha Borough Council, Minutes of Meeting of 29 November 1933, Minutes of Meetings 1933-1940, p. 35, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha; *Te Aroha News*, 17 November 1937, p. 4, 2 December 1938, p. 4.

³⁵⁹ Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4421, 525/1958, ANZ-A.

³⁶⁰ Marriage Certificate of Thomas Harold Roland Jones, 1 May 1915, 1915/1432, BDM.

³⁶¹ Marriage Certificate of Thomas Harold Roland Jones, 1 May 1915, 1915/1432, BDM; Interview with Harry Jones (son), at Tauwhare, 16 July 1997; *Tauranga Electoral Roll, 1931*, p. 85.

³⁶² F.V. Hennah to J.F. Downey, 8 September 1933, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM216A, ANZ-A.

³⁶³ J.D. Cumming to Minister of Mines, 28 November 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 2, ANZ-W.

³⁶⁴ Thomas Harold Rowland Jones, 10 February 1889-21 May 1971, Family Search [with photograph], online.

³⁶⁵ Interview with Harry Jones, at Tauwhare, 16 July 1997; see Death Certificate of Thomas Harold Roland Jones, 21 May 1971, 1971/33890, BDM.

³⁶⁶ Death Certificate of Thomas Gladstone Julian, 25 June 1954, 1954/20832, BDM.

building, carpentry and joinery, and contracting.³⁶⁷ Amongst other buildings his firm erected was the Auckland railway station and the St James and Majestic theatres in Auckland.³⁶⁸ He was a director of several non-mining companies.³⁶⁹ Like his father before him, he was a member of the Auckland City Council.³⁷⁰ His company went into liquidation in November 1933, the Depression probably being the reason why its staff had been much reduced by then.³⁷¹ In 1939 he became a land agent, though when he died in 1954 he was recorded as being a contractor; by then his estate was worth less than £1,000.³⁷²

His first involvement with mining was to acquire a prospecting license adjoining the Tui mines in June 1932, which he sold five months later.³⁷³ He then became a shareholder in Te Aroha-Karangahake Gold Mine Ltd, Te Aroha Gold Mines Ltd, in which he was also a director, and the Huia Syndicate.³⁷⁴ Also in 1933 and 1934, he became a director of Coromandel Goldmines Ltd and Waikoromiko Sluicing Company, which operated in the Napier area, and a shareholder in the Minerals Concentrator Company.³⁷⁵

³⁶⁷ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 253 no. 1475, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Herald*, 16 November 1933, p. 5.

³⁶⁸ *Auckland Star*, 22 October 1930, p. 8; *New Zealand Herald*, 30 June 1954, p. 10.

³⁶⁹ Advertisements, *Truth*, 16 December 1922, p. 8, 2 June 1927, p. 4; advertisement, *Auckland Star*, 30 June 1939, p. 3.

³⁷⁰ *Observer*, 5 October 1895, p. 5; *New Zealand Herald*, 30 June 1954, p. 10.

³⁷¹ *New Zealand Herald*, 16 November 1933, p. 5.

³⁷² Advertisement, *Auckland Star*, 30 June 1939, p. 3; Death Certificate of Thomas Gladstone Julian, 25 June 1954, 1954/20832, BDM; Probates, BBAE 1570, 2428/54, ANZ-A.

³⁷³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 209, BBAV 11500/4a; Mining Registrations 1932, no. 4134, BCDG 11288/10a, ANZ-A.

³⁷⁴ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 648 no. 4152; box 692 no. 4516; box 708 no. 4635, ANZ-A.

³⁷⁵ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 683 no. 4443; box 721 no. 4736; box 635 no. 4022, ANZ-A.

CLARENCE JAMES KENNEDY

Clarence James Kennedy was aged 27 in 1931.³⁷⁶ He was living in Te Aroha in July 1933, when he formed a subsidized prospecting party, the Governors' Party, with Charles Thomas Young.³⁷⁷ Within two months they had become 'bad friends' and could not work together, Kennedy planning to prospect with an experienced miner elsewhere.³⁷⁸ This did not happen, and instead, without informing Young, he applied under his own name for the prospecting license at Waiorongomai they had worked jointly. Young informed the warden that, as he 'had taken the applicant into his partnership in all good faith, he felt the slight keenly and maintained that his action was neither fair nor British. While one man was working the claim his partner went to Te Aroha and applied for it in his name without the other's knowledge'. Kennedy's version of events was that, having 'suddenly discovered that the area was unprotected', he made the application to avoid being jumped. 'The Warden said that on the grounds of fair play the section should go to both men. When the applicant discovered the claim unprotected he might have at least consulted with his mate'.³⁷⁹ This 45-acre prospecting license was, therefore, granted to them both, and they worked together driving on a reef; as it produced only a trace of gold, by March 1934 Kennedy had taken up employment with a private prospecting company.³⁸⁰ There is no other record of his further involvement in prospecting on the peninsula; his later career has not been traced.

³⁷⁶ Birth Certificate of Clarence James Kennedy, 1908/24282, BDM.

³⁷⁷ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1933, 48/1933, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

³⁷⁸ A.L. Willis to Commissioner of Unemployment, 28 September 1933, Mines Department, MD 41, 11/2/18, ANZ-W.

³⁷⁹ Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 16 October 1933, p. 5.

³⁸⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1932, Hearing of 12 October 1933, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A; J.W. Smith to Commissioner of Unemployment, 31 January 1934; A.L. Willis to Commissioner of Unemployment, 5 March 1934, Mines Department, MD 41, 11/2/18, ANZ-W.

ROY HARRISON LEECE

Roy Harrison Leece was aged 24 in 1931, when he was a Te Aroha butcher.³⁸¹ Three years previously, in the only time he was in trouble with the authorities, he had been 'Admonished & discharged' for absenting himself from Hopuhopu Military Camp without leave.³⁸² In February and April 1932, with Edwards and Roache, he was granted two prospecting licenses over a total of 85 acres of the foothills behind Mangaiti.³⁸³ Downey's comment that he had 'little reason for thinking' prospecting there was 'likely to yield any useful result'³⁸⁴ was quickly shown to be correct. John William Smith, supervisor of the unemployed scheme in Hauraki, wrote in April that he did 'not consider this worth going on with', for there was no sign of gold in their inaccessible area. Over four weeks they drove 20 feet, following a vein, and also did some surface prospecting, without any financial assistance from the Unemployment Board.³⁸⁵ Leece told Smith that, following his instructions, they had struck a reef, taking samples for assay.³⁸⁶ Smith noted that 'he was driving the wrong way for the reef when I was there but all the same it's poor'.³⁸⁷ The four samples Leece took produced from 1s 2d and 2s 7d per ton.³⁸⁸ In mid-May, when Roache left the

³⁸¹ Birth Certificate of Roy Harrison Leece, 14 March 1907, 1907/13924, BDM.

³⁸² Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1926-1930, 48/1928, BCDG 11220/5a, ANZ-A.

³⁸³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearings of 18 February 1932, 14 April 1932, BBAV 11505/6b; Mining Applications 1932, 5, 7/1932, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

³⁸⁴ J.F. Downey to Warden, note on application dated 25 February 1932, Mining Applications 1932, 7/1932, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

³⁸⁵ J.W. Smith to J.F. Downey, 19 April 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

³⁸⁶ R.H. Leece to J.W. Smith, 25 April 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

³⁸⁷ Memorandum by J.W. Smith, n.d. [c. 27 April 1932], written on R.H. Leece to J.W. Smith, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

³⁸⁸ J.F. Downey to J.W. Smith, 29 April 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

party,³⁸⁹ Smith considered 'Leece's mine a waste of time' as there was no 'chance of ever getting any value there'. As their drive had collapsed, they were prospecting on the surface.³⁹⁰

In mid-April, Leece and Edwards pegged out 40 acres on the northern side of the mountain, claiming to have 'a big reef'. Smith encouraged them to apply for it, as it was a better area, but their application was withdrawn after the council, concerned for the purity of its water supply, lodged an objection.³⁹¹ Thus ended Leece's efforts to find gold at Te Aroha, or anywhere else. He fought, briefly, in the Second World War before becoming a prisoner of war.³⁹² Upon his death in 1991, he left an estate valued at under £300.³⁹³

WILLIAM GLADSTONE LOVIE

William Gladstone Lovie was aged 32 in 1931.³⁹⁴ His father, James, was a butcher before becoming a warehouseman in Auckland, where Lovie was born.³⁹⁵ Lovie had, in his own words, an 'exceptional keenness for the Army'. After serving in the Auckland Grammar School's cadet corps and then the Territorials, he enlisted to fight in the Great War on his eighteenth birthday. After serving for one year in France, where he was promoted to the lowest non-commissioned rank of

³⁸⁹ David Edwards and R.H. Leece to J.F. Downey, 17 May 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

³⁹⁰ J.W. Smith to J.F. Downey, 19 May 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A900, MM74B, ANZ-A.

³⁹¹ J.W. Smith to J.F. Downey, 19 April 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM74B; Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 12 May 1932, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

³⁹² Roy Harrison Leece, Cenotaph Record, Digital New Zealand [online].

³⁹³ Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4421, 897/1991, ANZ-A.

³⁹⁴ Birth Certificate of William Gladstone Lovie, 1899/12455; Marriage Certificate of William Gladstone Lovie, 23 February 1922, 1922/1191, BDM.

³⁹⁵ Marriage Certificate of William Gladstone Lovie, 23 February 1922, 1922/1191, BDM; *Auckland Star*, 15 June 1878, p. 3, 21 May 1879, p. 3, 29 July 1916, p. 1; *New Zealand Herald*, 23 July 1887, p. 4, 31 July 1916, p. 4, 1 April 1922, p. 1.

Lance-Corporal, he was offered the chance to be trained for a commission in the Indian Army but, because his parents objected, he had to return to New Zealand.³⁹⁶ After spending some time in the early 1920s in Hamilton,³⁹⁷ he was working as a clerk for an Auckland auctioneer in April 1924 when he applied to join the army's permanent staff; he was appointed a Staff Sergeant in July.³⁹⁸ In the following year he was one of the instructors for the St Stephens' Native School, Parnell, cadet unit.³⁹⁹

Unlikely as it would seem in the light of his later career, he was elected in September 1926 to the New Lynn Town Board and immediately elected as its chairman, a role he held until resigning in the following July.⁴⁰⁰ With no known experience in business or local government, this was a remarkably young age to have been elected; a photograph showed his colleagues were much older.⁴⁰¹ His resignation from the town board had been preceded by his resignation in March as an instructor in the army's Auckland Regimental District. In explaining his resignation, he informed the Staff Officer in Charge that he was confined to bed and would be there for quite some time as 'the result of my activities in that sphere which you personally advised me not to

³⁹⁶ W. Gladstone Lovie to Officer in Command, Command Headquarters, Auckland, 1 April 1924, in Army Department, AABK 18805, R24264922, ANZ-W [online]; *Dominion*, 28 May 1917, p. 6; *Evening Post*, 26 December 1918, p. 2.

³⁹⁷ *New Zealand Herald*, 23 November 1920, p. 7; *Waikato Times*, 24 February 1921, p. 7; note *Waikato Times*, 2 May 1928, p. 6.

³⁹⁸ Memoranda, April and July 1924, Army Department, AABK 18805, R24264922, ANZ-W [online].

³⁹⁹ *Auckland Star*, 3 October 1925, p. 8.

⁴⁰⁰ *Auckland Star*, 16 September 1926, p. 9, 18 September 1926, p. 19, 28 September 1926, p. 16; *New Zealand Herald*, 28 July 1927, p. 15.

⁴⁰¹ *Auckland Star*, 27 April 1927, p. 10.

enter, i.e. Town Board'.⁴⁰² A doctor certified that he had had a nervous breakdown.⁴⁰³ Despite having to resign from the army, he retained his interest in it, in 1936 being appointed as a second Lieutenant of the Hauraki Regiment.⁴⁰⁴

When living in Te Aroha in the early 1930s, Lovie worked as a clerk and stationer and became the *New Zealand Herald's* correspondent there in 1935.⁴⁰⁵ In mid-1936, he became the agent for the *Waikato Times* as well, but by at least mid-1937 he had moved to Gisborne to join first an advertising agency and then the advertising staff of the *Poverty Bay Herald*.⁴⁰⁶ When asked about his skills as a journalist, the editor of the *Gisborne Herald* wrote that he had had 'very little journalistic experience', although his work as a canvasser for three local papers was satisfactory. He described Lovie as 'one of those fellows who never seemed to get anywhere', particularly because of his boozing.⁴⁰⁷

Lovie was prominent in Te Aroha's social life. The first time he was mentioned in the press was in September 1933, when he won first prize in the 'gentlemen's section' of a grand masquerade ball dressed as

⁴⁰² W.G. Lovie to Staff Officer in Charge, No. 1 Regimental District, Auckland, 5 March 1927, Army Department, AABK 18805, R24264922, ANZ-W [online].

⁴⁰³ Certificate of Dr W.H. Pettit, 8 March 8 March 1927, Army Department, AABK 18805, R24264922 [online].

⁴⁰⁴ *New Zealand Herald*, 13 July 1936, p. 10

⁴⁰⁵ Marriage Certificate of William Gladstone Lovie, 23 February 1922, 1922/1191, BDM; Te Aroha Warden's Court, Miners' Rights Butt Book 1933-1935, no. 40904, BBAV 11533/6i; Probate of William Gladstone Lovie, BBAE 1570, 4112/71, ANZ-A.

⁴⁰⁶ Advertisement, *Waikato Times*, 3 June 1936, p. 10 *Te Aroha News*, 7 April 1937, p. 4; *Poverty Bay Herald*, 4 June 1937, p. 6, 11 October 1937, p. 4, 29 March 1938, p. 6.

⁴⁰⁷ Editor, *Gisborne Herald*, cited in Director of Publicity to Minister of Defence, 15 July 1941, Army Department, AABK 18805, R24065768, ANZ-W [online].

a Persian prince.⁴⁰⁸ Three months later, he was an active member of Te Aroha's 'Play-Reading Circle'.⁴⁰⁹ As the drum-major of the municipal band, for three years he trained it for the South Auckland contests (which he helped to organize), in his final year winning one of these.⁴¹⁰ Active in the Returned Servicemen's Association and other local organizations, for two years he organized the Te Aroha New Year Carnival.⁴¹¹ He took his work as paid organizer so seriously that in 1936 he pushed the secretary of the Carnival Committee for reflecting on his financial honesty and was fined £2 for obscene language in a public street.⁴¹²

His involvement with prospecting was very minor. In December 1932, he was granted a prospecting license over 100 acres comprising the former Eureka claim at Waiorongomai, but his second request for another 100 acres in the same area was withdrawn early in 1934, when he left Te Aroha for a few months.⁴¹³ At the end of May, he wrote from Camp 91/2, State Forest Service, at Kaingaroa, applying unsuccessfully to be reappointed to the army's permanent staff as an instructor.⁴¹⁴ Cumming and Charles Scott had equal shares with him in the prospecting license, and as Scott and Hennah did the prospecting,⁴¹⁵ clearly Lovie was a sleeping partner.

⁴⁰⁸ *Waikato Times*, 11 September 1933, p. 5.

⁴⁰⁹ *Waikato Times*, 13 December 1933, p. 3.

⁴¹⁰ *Te Aroha News*, reprinted in *Waihi Daily Telegraph*, 23 March 1935, p. 2; *New Zealand Herald*, 5 September 1935, p. 15, 12 March 1936, p. 13; *Te Aroha News*, 7 April 1937, pp. 4, 5.

⁴¹¹ *Waikato Times*, 7 February 1934, p. 3; *Te Aroha News*, 7 April 1937, pp. 4, 5.

⁴¹² *Te Aroha News*, 16 March 1936, p. 4.

⁴¹³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearings of 8 December 1932, 1 February 1934, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A; *Waikato Times*, 7 February 1934, p. 3.

⁴¹⁴ W.G. Lovie to GOC, New Zealand Military Forces, 30 May 1934, Army Department, AABK 18805, R24264922, ANZ-W [online].

⁴¹⁵ R.F. Spensley to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 19 November 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 2, ANZ-W.

In the Second World War he served for two years in Egypt as a journalist and public relations officer for the army, with the rank of Captain.⁴¹⁶ He had told the army that he had been born in 1910, but, when the paperwork revealed his true age, he was sent back as being too old and his work unsatisfactory. His continued service in New Zealand was terminated because, not only was his work unsatisfactory, he was 'untidy in appearance and habits', his 'behaviour and personal appearance fell short of what was expected and required', and he drank in public. In addition, he was suffering from depression.⁴¹⁷ Recorded as being a journalist on his death in Auckland in 1971, his estate was valueless.⁴¹⁸

CHARLES AVIS LYNCH

Charles Avis Lynch, a Te Aroha dairy farmer, was aged 48 in 1931.⁴¹⁹ In 1937, with Cumming and Neilson, he was granted a prospecting license for the former Peter Maxwell ground and an adjoining 100 acres;⁴²⁰ it is likely that he milked cows while the others prospected. When he died in 1954 his estate was estimated to be less than £17,000.⁴²¹

JOHN WILLIAM MCCOY

John William McCoy was aged 59 in 1931.⁴²² In the early twentieth century, he was an accountant and agent, and by 1914 was a

⁴¹⁶ *Evening Post*, 2 May 1941, p. 6; *Evening Star*, 15 August 1941, p. 9; *Auckland Star*, 4 August 1942, p. 2.

⁴¹⁷ Memoranda of 2 November 1942, 1 June 1943, Army Department, AABK 18805, R24065768, ANZ-W [online]; *Hawke's Bay Herald-Tribune*, 19 November 1949, p. 6.

⁴¹⁸ Probates, BBAE 1570, P4112/1971, ANZ-A.

⁴¹⁹ Death Certificate of Charles Avis Lynch, 22 July 1954, 1954/23560, BDM; Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4421, 350/54, ANZ-A.

⁴²⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 4, 5/1937, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A.

⁴²¹ Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4421, 350/1954, ANZ-A.

⁴²² Death Certificate of John William McCoy, 16 May 1946, 1946/20331, BDM.

member of the Auckland Stock Exchange.⁴²³ He obtained some notoriety in Auckland by his bad temper, in 1908 striking a tram conductor in the face after refusing to pay an additional fare. His defence of being subject to ‘a quantity of very objectionable abuse’ failed when his witness was ‘unable to prove provocation’, and he was fined £5.⁴²⁴ In 1921, after failing to appear in court to respond to an accusation of assaulting a taxi driver, he was fined another £5.⁴²⁵

In 1908, he described himself as a mining engineer, and in 1936, when still living in Auckland, he told the warden he had become ‘a qualified mining engineer’.⁴²⁶ In one capacity or another, McCoy was active in mining matters for all his life, although for a brief period around 1916 was an Auckland lawyer’s managing clerk.⁴²⁷ In 1898, as a shareholder of the Kapaivermont Company at Kuaotunu he was on a committee of residents petitioning for government assistance.⁴²⁸ In 1904 he left his post as secretary of the Waitekauri Company to join the Auckland office of the New Zealand Mines Trust, an English company.⁴²⁹ During 1908 and 1909, he invested in mines at Coromandel, Kuaotunu, Tairua, Whangamata, and Thames, and assisted to form several companies.⁴³⁰ By early 1918 he had abandoned

⁴²³ Birth Certificate of John Lascelles McCoy, 3 June 1902, 1902/13330, BDM; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 223 no. 1317, box 223 no. 1318, box 243 no. 1427; Thames Warden’s Court, Plaint Book 1899-1943, 4/1914, BACL 13820/1a, ANZ-A.

⁴²⁴ Police Court, *New Zealand Herald*, 25 February 1908, p. 7; Police Court, *Auckland Star*, 25 February 1908, p. 5.

⁴²⁵ Police Court, *New Zealand Herald*, 16 February 1921, p. 8.

⁴²⁶ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1930, 5/1930, BCDG 11289/2a; Mining Applications 1936, 9, 10/1936, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Herald*, 25 February 1908, p. 7; Warden’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 21 December 1936, p. 5; Death Certificate of John William McCoy, 16 May 1946, 1946/20331, BDM.

⁴²⁷ *Auckland Star*, 19 September 1916, p. 7; *Truth*, 25 November 1916, p. 6.

⁴²⁸ Coromandel Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1889-1896, folio 105, ZAAN 14057/1a, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 21 July 1898, p. 4.

⁴²⁹ *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 17 August 1904, p. 2.

⁴³⁰ Coromandel Warden’s Court, Register of Applications for Special Quartz Claims, folios 43, 47, ZAAN 1161/1a; Applications 1908, 58, 59, 85/1908, BACL 14391/2a; Thames Warden’s Court, Applications 1908, 159/1908, BACL 14350/57a; Applications 1909,

his prospecting license at Puhipuhi, near Whangarei.⁴³¹ In the mid-1920s he was both a shareholder and the secretary of the New River Gold Dredging Company in Westland, secretary of a mine at Maratoto, and a shareholder in a Coromandel mine.⁴³² In 1929, he was a shareholder and director of the Waiomo Sulphide Corporation,⁴³³ and in the 1930s was a vendor and director of one Waiomu company and managing director of another.⁴³⁴ In addition to these directorships, in 1909 he became director of one mining company at Thames and another at Whitianga, in 1910 of two at Coromandel, and in 1915 of the Whangarei Cinnabar Ltd.⁴³⁵

McCoy first became involved in Waiorongomai mining in 1929, when he arranged for prospecting on Pond's Bonanza and Cadman claims;⁴³⁶ having an option over these, he hoped to float them in Sydney.⁴³⁷ This flotation did not occur, despite McCoy claiming in

24/1909, BACL 14350/60a; Register of Applications for Licensed Holdings and Special Claims 1897-1909, 24/1907, BACL 14376/3a; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 223 no. 1317; box 223 no. 1318; box 224 no. 1323; box 224 no. 1432; box 241 no. 1417; box 243 no. 1422; box 243 no. 1427, ANZ-A.

⁴³¹ Advertisement, *Northern Advocate*, 8 March 1918, p. 3.

⁴³² Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 417 no. 2374; box 472 no. 2747; box 473 no. 2758, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Herald*, 30 May 1925, p. 7.

⁴³³ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 574 no. 3510, ANZ-A.

⁴³⁴ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 661 no. 4254; box 773 no. 5078, ANZ-A; J.F. Downey to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 6 September 1934, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/14, Part 1, ANZ-W; *New Zealand Herald*, 21 December 1933, p. 7.

⁴³⁵ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 242 no. 1422; box 243 no. 1425; box 244 no. 1432; box 322 no. 1818, ANZ-A; *Auckland Weekly News*, 24 March 1910, p. 36.

⁴³⁶ See paper on his life.

⁴³⁷ Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 16 December 1929, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha; Te Aroha Warden's Court, Applications 1930, 13/1930, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A; J.A. Pond to J.F. Downey, 9 July 1930; J.W. McCoy to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 16 October 1931; Gilchrist Son and Burns to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 19 October 1931, with enclosure, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/7/30, ANZ-W; J.W. McCoy to Inspector of Mines, 11 February 1931, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM8, ANZ-A; Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 16 September 1931, p. 5.

December 1931 that he would raise £30,000 there.⁴³⁸ In March 1930 he was granted a prospecting license over the former Sceptre.⁴³⁹ Four years later he employed three men to try to ‘pick up some of the old workings’ in Pond’s former claims.⁴⁴⁰ After this work ceased (before 1936), Neilson was employed as caretaker; McCoy was lax in paying his wages.⁴⁴¹ After that year, the district saw him no more.

WILLIAM JAMES McMILLAN

William James McMillan was aged 22 in 1931,⁴⁴² the year before he obtained a prospecting license over 100 acres in the Mangakino Valley, which four months later he sold to Gibbs.⁴⁴³ Then living at Te Aroha and describing himself as a prospector, by 1936 he was a farmer at Pukekohe West and by 1941 was a fireman in Wellington.⁴⁴⁴

JOHN ALEXANDER McNEIL

John Alexander McNeil had a great deal of prospecting and mining experience at Coromandel, although for a time he tried to make a living as a fisherman, as revealed when he went bankrupt in February 1918, owing £234 11s 11d and having only £33 10s in assets. In his bankruptcy petition, he explained that he had a wife and ten children to support (there were originally 16 children). His eldest son had been killed in France, and ‘five other children were supporting

⁴³⁸ Warden’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 7 December 1931, p. 1.

⁴³⁹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Applications 1930, 5/1930, BCDG 11289/2a; Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 13 March 1930, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

⁴⁴⁰ F.V. Hennah to J.F. Downey, n.d. [c. 8 February 1934], Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM216A, ANZ-A.

⁴⁴¹ J.D. Cumming to Minister of Mines, 7 March 1936, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/1/1, Part 2, ANZ-W.

⁴⁴² Birth Certificate of William James McMillan, 1909/3224, BDM.

⁴⁴³ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 8 December 1932, BBAV 11505/6b; Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 235, BBAV 11500/4a, ANZ-A.

⁴⁴⁴ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Miner’s Right no. 32885, issued 27 August 1932, Miners’ Rights Butt Book 1932, BBAV 11533/6g, ANZ-A; Marriage Certificate of William James McMillan, Marriages, 1936/8737, BDM; *Evening Post*, 26 November 1941, p. 4.

themselves. The eldest son formerly assisted bankrupt in the handling of his boat'. He was renting Waimete Island from D.M. Jones, 'whose auxiliary yacht Jack he had the use of until seven or eight months ago, for a nominal rent, in return for looking after the owner's other islands. The boat, however, had been totally wrecked, bankrupt losing a quantity of gear and clothing'. He had also lost a contract for conveying cream for the Coromandel Dairy Company. Although since given the contract again, he had to pay £1 a week for boat hire. 'Working expenses had also increased, and he was paying a man 12s a day. For the last two or three years he had been suffering from a complaint which prevented him doing heavy work, and he had to undergo an operation, 12 months ago, which laid him up for six or seven weeks'.⁴⁴⁵ (This unspecified 'complaint' would have stopped him doing any mining during this time.) Aged 60 in 1931, he was described by Hugh Crawford as being 'a real good prospector'.⁴⁴⁶ Photographs of him with his six sons prospecting at Coromandel in 1932 described him as 'a well-known figure on the fields'.⁴⁴⁷ In 1933, he told the Minister of Mines that 'as you well know I, and my family, are all prospectors at heart and have always been closely allied with the industry'.⁴⁴⁸ Even at his advanced age he was still actively prospecting; in 1931 he had started exploring the former Tiki field. Claiming that 'our run of gold' there was 'improving in quantity and quality', to prove his faith in his find he informed the Minister that he would not float a company because that would mean having 'to sacrifice too much of our own interest'.⁴⁴⁹ It was more likely that investors were not interested, for assays of six samples made in February had revealed only one contained gold.⁴⁵⁰ However, it did bring him a return: the only time during the 1930s that he sold any

⁴⁴⁵ *New Zealand Herald*, 21 February 1918, p. 7.

⁴⁴⁶ Hugh Crawford to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 10 November 1936, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 2, ANZ-W.

⁴⁴⁷ *Auckland Weekly News*, 25 May 1932, pp. 38-39.

⁴⁴⁸ J.A. McNeil to Minister of Mines, 4 May 1933, Mines Department, MD 1A, 23/1/13, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁴⁴⁹ J.A. McNeil to Minister of Mines, 1 July 1931, Mines Department, MD 1A, 8/50, Part 2, ANZ-W.

⁴⁵⁰ Thames School of Mines, Assay Book 1927-1932, entry for 4 February 1931, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

gold to the Thames branch of the Bank of New Zealand was in October 1931, when 11oz 7dwt was bought for £31 18s 3d.⁴⁵¹ Asked in 1933 to take charge of subsidized prospectors in the Colville district, he declined because, as elsewhere in the Coromandel district, speculators had locked up all the suitable ground.⁴⁵² This locking up may have been one reason why he was anxious to accept the offer of subsidized prospecting at Te Aroha in November 1936.⁴⁵³ Two of his sons assisted him and gave ‘good service’, but as nothing worthwhile was found they abandoned the area before the subsidy expired and returned to their more promising Coromandel claim.⁴⁵⁴

NORMAN NEILSON

Another long-time prospector, Norman Neilson, was aged 46 in 1931. A Norwegian, he had come to New Zealand when aged 20, and in 1915, when a labourer, enlisted in the New Zealand Rifle Brigade, fighting in Egypt and the Western Front before being discharged in 1918 because of varicose veins. As he never married,⁴⁵⁵ lack of family commitments meant he could live in a bush hut and prospect for weeks at a time. In his earlier years, he relieved the boredom of this life by drinking: in 1920 he pleaded guilty to being drunk in a Te Aroha street.⁴⁵⁶ Downey described him as a miner ‘of a good many years’ experience’, and during 1932 he was one of the two prospectors who did

⁴⁵¹ Bank of New Zealand, Thames Branch, Statement of Daily Gold Purchases at Thames 1916-1954, entry for 9 October 1931, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

⁴⁵² J.A. McNeil to Minister of Mines, 4 May 1933, Mines Department, MD 1A, 23/1/13, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁴⁵³ Hugh Crawford to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 10 November 1936, 30 November 1936, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 2, ANZ-W.

⁴⁵⁴ Hugh Crawford to Secretary, Employment Division, Department of Labour, 23 April 1937; Hugh Crawford to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 3 May 1937, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 2, ANZ-W.

⁴⁵⁵ New Zealand Expeditionary Force, Army Department, AABK 18805, W5549, box 71, no. 85593, ANZ-W; Death Certificate of Norman Neilson, 4 November 1955, 1955/27725, BDM.

⁴⁵⁶ Te Aroha Magistrate’s Court, Criminal Record Book 1919-1921, entry for 6 September 1920, BCDG 11220/3a, ANZ-A.

‘any work of any consequence’ and found anything.⁴⁵⁷ He was reputed to have found ‘a few fair prospects’ during his ‘good few years pottering about the hills’.⁴⁵⁸ In 1932, James Donald Cumming informed Downey’s successor as mining inspector, Edward John Scoble, that Neilson was the best guide to the Tui workings. ‘He was up in that locality for some two to two and a half years and knows the area very well’.⁴⁵⁹

In 1931, Neilson was employed by Gibbs as a prospector, and assisted to peg out Gibbs’ Waiorongomai license.⁴⁶⁰ When he lived in a hut below the Peter Maxwell for over a year, Gibbs took food up to him.⁴⁶¹ In April 1932, he was granted a prospecting license covering 35 acres of the southern part of this claim, adjoining Gibbs’ and Robert Milton Scelly’s licenses.⁴⁶² By 1933 he was, with J.D. Cumming, a member of the Maidos Prospectors’ Party.⁴⁶³ With the decline in prospecting, he was, a friend reported in 1936, ‘employed by get-rich-quick company promoters and has been left crying for his chips’.⁴⁶⁴ Retained by Clive Nettleton of Waiorongomai Gold Mines Ltd⁴⁶⁵ as a

⁴⁵⁷ J.F. Downey to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 14 April 1931, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/9/50; J.F. Downey to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 2 October 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁴⁵⁸ E. (‘Butcher’) Barnes to P.C. Webb, 24 July 1936, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁴⁵⁹ J.D. Cumming to E.J. Scoble, 24 May 1936, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, M85, ANZ-A.

⁴⁶⁰ W.J. Gibbs to Minister of Mines, 14 March 1931, Mines Department, MD 1, 12/408, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 20 July 1931, p. 5.

⁴⁶¹ Interview with Ted Abraham, on site of Tui Mine, 1 November 1987.

⁴⁶² Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 14 April 1932, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

⁴⁶³ J.D. Cumming to Minister of Mines, 28 November 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁴⁶⁴ E. (‘Butcher’) Barnes to P.C. Webb, 24 July 1936, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁴⁶⁵ His involvement is outlined below.

caretaker, Neilson complained 'of not having been paid his wages'.⁴⁶⁶ Cumming described Neilson as being 'mucked around and taken in' by McCoy. After becoming destitute because Waiorongomai Gold Mines had not paid him, he was forced to go to the Manurewa unemployment camp for single men. Once more offered work by the same company, he was forced to take it and could not prospect on his own behalf.⁴⁶⁷ Scoble discovered that payment for work done for McCoy had been 'on the very small side and also irregular'. Both Scoble and Crawford 'were impressed with his apparent extreme poverty', and, considering that a man of his experience should be prospecting at Tui, arranged a subsidy for him.⁴⁶⁸ According to Cumming, he and Neilson then found good stone in the Peter Maxwell,⁴⁶⁹ presumably the source of four samples assayed in October producing from five to eight and a half pennyweights of gold.⁴⁷⁰ Scoble reported that Neilson had found a reef with containing sulphides of silver, gold, lead, copper, and zinc; one test gave about £8 per ton, but this good ore was found in only one spot.⁴⁷¹ Crawford reported that, in addition to finding this reef, he had been cutting tracks for some months and needed assistance in this 'rough and rugged' ground; accordingly, McNeil and his two sons were subsidized to help him.⁴⁷² After their combined efforts failed to locate anything worthwhile, they were transferred to the southern portion of the Karangahake field,⁴⁷³ once more without success. In April 1937,

⁴⁶⁶ Malcolm Hardy to Minister of Mines, 14 March 1936, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/9/87, ANZ-W.

⁴⁶⁷ J.D. Cumming to Hugh Crawford, 19 August 1936, 21 August 1936, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁴⁶⁸ E.J. Scoble to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 15 August 1936; E. ('Butcher') Barnes to P.C. Webb, 24 July 1936, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁴⁶⁹ J.D. Cumming to Hugh Crawford, 19 August 1936, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁴⁷⁰ Thames School of Mines, Assay Book, May-December 1936, entry for 19 October 1936, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

⁴⁷¹ E.J. Scoble, Report on visit to Peter Maxwell claim, 3 November 1936, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/9/50, ANZ-W.

⁴⁷² Hugh Crawford to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 10 November 1936; Hugh Crawford, Report for January 1936, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁴⁷³ Hugh Crawford, Report for March 1937, Mines Department, MD 41, 11/2/18, ANZ-W.

Neilson and Lynch were granted the Peter Maxwell,⁴⁷⁴ but no further discoveries were reported.

In 1936, Cumming claimed Neilson had much valuable information about the Tui district which would be valuable one day.⁴⁷⁵ When in his sixties, Neilson met Bert McAra, mine manager for the Auckland Smelting Company, which worked at Tui,⁴⁷⁶ who knew him as an old prospector who had ‘roamed about in the bush there for many years - He was a bit of a Mad Hatter’ [a solitary digger, and slightly mad].⁴⁷⁷ Neilson insisted that he knew a good lead and zinc reef in the Mangakino Valley:

He said: “I’ve come to show you.” He was pretty old and dodderly at the time. I didn’t like the idea, so I put him off as long as I could and eventually he made so much noise I said, “All right, all right, we’ll come and get you in the jeep,” and we came and got him, and then we walked with him down the Mangakino Stream, over the hill, into the valley, took quite a long time, he couldn’t walk very fast. And he kept saying as we went around this track and it was winding around the stream like this, and I said: “Where is this reef?” “Just around the corner.” Every corner we came to, “Just around the corner.” And it was getting pretty late in the afternoon, about three o’clock in the afternoon, and I said to him, “Look, Norman,” I said, “we’re going back now.” “Not going back, not going back,” he said, “Won’t go back. Going on.” I said, “Well, you can do what you like.” I said, “We’re going back. Come back with us.” No, he wouldn’t come back. So I wasn’t going to be out there till all hours of the night if I could help it. Off we went. And the old devil didn’t come out, and I got word he hadn’t arrived at half-past two in the morning. So out I had to get and chase him, so eventually we found him, he was on an island in the middle of the creek. Had to just about carry him home....

He reckoned it was there, but he couldn’t find it, and we couldn’t find it. But a lot of these old prospectors, they get sort of vague ideas, about gold especially, being tons of it, and being possible to find it,

⁴⁷⁴ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 5/1937, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A.

⁴⁷⁵ J.D. Cumming to Hugh Crawford, 21 August 1936, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁴⁷⁶ See paper on this company.

⁴⁷⁷ Philip Ross May, *The West Coast Gold Rushes* (rev. ed., Christchurch, 1967), p. 527; the implication was of being ‘as mad as a hatter’.

but of course it's all illusion.... They'd become obsessed with the idea that there was gold to be found, you know, and of course, it's not. You might see a few specks or something like that.⁴⁷⁸

Neilson never found the elusive bonanza, despite more than 20 years of searching, and in 1950 was living in poverty in an old Waiorongomai cottage.⁴⁷⁹ When he died of cancer in 1955, aged 70,⁴⁸⁰ his estate consisted of 'Cash in Possession' £1, cash held by his solicitor £100, accrued war pension £18, and a residence site license valued at £30, making a total of £149.⁴⁸¹

CLIVE NETTLETON

In 1931, Clive Nettleton was an Auckland sharebroker aged 63.⁴⁸² In 1911 and 1938 he invested in oil exploration companies, and in 1912 he was the broker for Tairua Opals, Ltd.⁴⁸³ From at least 1925 to early 1927 he was a land agent at Onehunga.⁴⁸⁴

His first recorded investments in goldmining were in 1910, in three Coromandel companies, and he was a shareholder in two more gold mining companies in 1920.⁴⁸⁵ His first involvement with Waiorongomai was in December 1932, when he won the forfeiture of the Cadman and Bonanza from Pond for non-working.⁴⁸⁶ Rival claimants

⁴⁷⁸ Interview with J.B. McAra, Waihi, 4 August 1985, pp. 41-42 of transcript.

⁴⁷⁹ Residence Site Licenses at Waiorongomai Township, 13 April 1950, 8/857, DOSLI, Hamilton.

⁴⁸⁰ Death Certificate of Norman Neilson, 4 November 1955, 1955/27725, BDM.

⁴⁸¹ Probates, BBAE 1570, 2118/55, ANZ-A.

⁴⁸² Probates, BBAE 1570, 409/42, ANZ-A; Death Certificate of Clive Nettleton, 5 March 1942, 1942/17104, BDM; *New Zealand Herald*, 6 March 1942, p. 7.

⁴⁸³ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 212 no. 1262; box 796 no. 5246, ANZ-A; advertisement, *New Zealand Herald*, 23 September 1912, p. 4.

⁴⁸⁴ *New Zealand Herald*, 7 April 1927, p. 14.

⁴⁸⁵ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 2 no. 19; box 17 no. 96; box 248 no. 1449; box 255 no. 1483; box 376 no. 2097, ANZ-A.

⁴⁸⁶ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaintiff Book 1899-1947, Hearing of 20 October 1932, BBAV 11551/1a; Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 8 December 1932, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

believed he was really holding the ground on behalf of Pond and McCoy,⁴⁸⁷ which, if true, meant they were colluding to retain possession. In the following March he sought protection for his claims despite doing no work, prompting Downey's comment that it looked 'as though we were simply going to have a repetition of the old business' when Pond held them. As Nettleton had only held the ground briefly, Downey did not oppose protection,⁴⁸⁸ although repeating, just before this was granted in August, that he seemed 'no more prepared to work it bona fide than was his predecessor'.⁴⁸⁹ In September, Nettleton sold these claims to his Waiorongomai Gold Mines Ltd.⁴⁹⁰ In the following January, he applied, successfully, to reduce the number of men working on each claim to two because machinery was being installed to extend the low level 'to facilitate mining operations at the upper levels'.⁴⁹¹ This reduction in the number employed was renewed six months later,⁴⁹² but after that his involvement and that of his company in these claims ceased.

In 1934 and 1935 Nettleton sought to obtain the forfeiture of ground held mostly by Hardy but then abandoned this attempt.⁴⁹³ In mid-1935, he acquired the Gloucester, nine months later obtaining the suspension of labour conditions and a reduced rent.⁴⁹⁴ In October 1936,

⁴⁸⁷ William Goodfellow to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 18 July 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/9/87, ANZ-W.

⁴⁸⁸ J.F. Downey to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 19 March 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/9/87, ANZ-W.

⁴⁸⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1933, 43, 44/1933, BCDG 11289/2a; Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 19 July 1933, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

⁴⁹⁰ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 695 no. 4544, ANZ-A.

⁴⁹¹ Gilchrist Son and Burns to J.F. Downey, 30 January 1934, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM8; Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 1, 2/1934, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A.

⁴⁹² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 21, 22/1934, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A.

⁴⁹³ See Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 25-27/1934, BBAV 11505/2a; Mining Applications 1934, 2, 4-6, 25/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A.

⁴⁹⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 7, 9, 10/1936, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A.

when living in Fiji, he was sued, successfully, for its forfeiture because no work had been done.⁴⁹⁵ In forfeiting the ground, the warden stated that ‘it would be very flattering even to imply the word “speculation” to the defendant’s activities’, for ‘at most’ these were ‘designed to keep his name upon the mining register for the greatest possible length of time at the least possible expense’ in the hope of making money if discoveries were made in adjacent claims.⁴⁹⁶ These and other speculations were unprofitable, for when he died in 1942 the value of his estate was only £244 14s 9d.⁴⁹⁷

MAURICE O’CONNOR

Maurice O’Connor, a linotyper working in Auckland, was aged 45 in 1931.⁴⁹⁸ He must have been encouraged to acquired interests in Waiorongomai by D’Esterre, from whom he bought a prospecting license in September 1932 for £5, transferring it back at the same price in May the following year.⁴⁹⁹ In April 1933 he obtained another license, which was acquired by Northern Goldfields less than two months later;⁵⁰⁰ with that transaction O’Connor ceased to be a mining investor. When he died in 1957, his estate was valued as being less than £3,550.⁵⁰¹

⁴⁹⁵ Howard Nattress and T.A. Felton to Minister of Mines, 7 October 1936, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/4/54, ANZ-W.

⁴⁹⁶ Te Aroha Correspondent, *Auckland Star*, 23 January 1937, p. 12; Warden’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 25 January 1937, p. 5.

⁴⁹⁷ Probates, BBAE 1570, 409/42, ANZ-A.

⁴⁹⁸ *Auckland West Electoral Roll, 1935*, p. 129; Death Certificate of Maurice O’Connor, 3 December 1957, 1957/34126, BDM.

⁴⁹⁹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 228, BBAV 11500/4a; Mining Registrations 1932, no. 4138, BCDG 11288/10a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁰⁰ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folio 17, BBAV 11500/5a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁰¹ Probates, BBAE 1570, P19/1958, ANZ-A.

GEORGE PAGE

George Page, aged 49 in 1931, when marrying in 1920 described himself as an engineer.⁵⁰² Despite this self-designation, until 1930 he was a publican at Ngaruawahia, Thames, and Onehunga, and from 1926 to 1930 was joint licensee of the Grand Hotel at Te Aroha.⁵⁰³ Twice during these years he was in trouble with the law, the first time for selling liquor after hours and the second for selling a bottle of whisky to a prohibited person.⁵⁰⁴ In 1933, when he obtained a prospecting license over 45 acres close to Stoney Creek, he was a labourer still living at Te Aroha.⁵⁰⁵ If he did any prospecting, he did not find anything; and when he died in 1970, his estate was valueless.⁵⁰⁶

HENRY HAMES PEASE

Aged 66 in 1931,⁵⁰⁷ Henry James Pease described himself as a builder in the electoral roll published in that year and as a retired farmer when applying for a Te Aroha residence site three years later.⁵⁰⁸ After marrying in 1888, he lived at Sheffield in North Canterbury before moving to Lyttleton, where he worked on the railways for two years. He then moved to Maungatainoke, near Woodstock, where he had his own business, probably as a builder, until his family moved to

⁵⁰² Marriage Certificate of George Page, 26 May 1920, 1920/540, BDM.

⁵⁰³ Advertisement, *Thames Star*, 10 May 1920, p. 1; advertisements, *Maoriland Worker*, 12 April 1922, p. 4 and until 30 January 1924, p. 16; *New Zealand Herald*, 2 June 1925, p. 12, 7 September 1926, p. 15; advertisement, *Auckland Star*, 28 October 1926, p. 5; advertisement, *New Zealand Herald*, 8 April 1927, p. 20, 23 October 1930, p. 22; *Te Aroha News*, 5 July 1935, p. 4.

⁵⁰⁴ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1926-1930, 58-62/1927, 167/1930, BCDG 11220/6a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁰⁵ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 9 March 1933, BBAV 11505/6b; Mining Applications 1933, 9/1933, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁰⁶ Probates, BBAE 1570, P2274/1971, ANZ-A.

⁵⁰⁷ Marriage Certificate of Henry James Pease, 1888/1642; Death Certificate of Henry James Pease, 15 July 1951, 1951/17952, BDM.

⁵⁰⁸ *Tauranga Electoral Roll, 1931*, p. 127; Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1934, 12/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A.

Te Aroha for the sake of his wife's health.⁵⁰⁹ He was first recorded as living there in July 1899, when he was a builder.⁵¹⁰ For some years he worked for the borough council.⁵¹¹ After leasing and then purchasing some land, in 1920 he bought a farm at Tatuanui, near Te Aroha; he gradually improved its 'rough grass' and drained swamp with money obtained by an overdraft and the sale of his Woodville property.⁵¹² With the help of his wife, who came from a horse-breeding family, he developed a successful dairy farm.⁵¹³ By 1927, when her failing health meant the family moved back to Te Aroha township, the farm was 'doing well', a sharemilker working on it 'with his own herd on half shares'.⁵¹⁴

When standing for election to the borough council in 1915, he described himself as 'a practical man'. The *Te Aroha News*, noting that he had been a councillor at Akaroa, believed 'his practical knowledge of contract work would also serve him in good stead'.⁵¹⁵ His political views were made clear in 'Notes on the Starters', a guide to the election portrayed as a horse race:

Labor Day - (The Worker - Peas Pudding) has won a Municipal Steeplechase before, and although a bit on the big side is considered to have a chance. Although from Akaroa, he is not "webb"-footed. Now trained in Fire Brigade circles, he is considered to be quite among "the Correct Peas."⁵¹⁶

The reference to 'Webb' feet implied he was not as radical as Paddy Webb, a future Minister of Mines in the first Labour

⁵⁰⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 19 August 1936, p. 4.

⁵¹⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Miner's Right no. 260, issued 24 July 1899, BBAV 11533/3e, ANZ-A.

⁵¹¹ *Te Aroha News*, 21 April 1915, p. 3.

⁵¹² Bank of Australasia, Te Aroha Branch, Diary Ledger, folios 133-134, 531, Australia and New Zealand Bank Archives, Wellington.

⁵¹³ *Te Aroha News*, 19 August 1936, p. 4.

⁵¹⁴ Bank of Australasia, Te Aroha Branch, Diary Ledger, folio 134, entry for 15 May 1927, 531, Australia and New Zealand Bank Archives, Wellington; *Te Aroha News*, 19 August 1936, p. 4.

⁵¹⁵ *Te Aroha News*, 21 April 1915, p. 3.

⁵¹⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 23 April 1915, p. 2.

Government, and the fire brigade comment referred to his being honorary secretary of the local fire brigade.⁵¹⁷ His election platform included a new water supply system and increased pay for quarry workers; he was ‘in favour of the unimproved value, for there were now too many sections held by speculators, and absentees’.⁵¹⁸ He came bottom of the poll,⁵¹⁹ but in 1929 was elected with the lowest vote of those successful. After the result was announced, he said he had not expected to win because of not living in Te Aroha.⁵²⁰ In the 1931 election, he was defeated by two votes,⁵²¹ but was one of the three people who filled vacancies without an election in 1933.⁵²² He was re-elected in 1935, again without a contest,⁵²³ and made chairman of the building and sanitary committee, but did not stand for re-election in 1938.⁵²⁴

Pease was prominent in local affairs in other ways, in 1930 being one of those who called a meeting to establish a Band of Hope (a temperance organization), of which he was president.⁵²⁵ In 1931, he canvassed for food and clothing for the unemployed, and was on the local unemployment committee.⁵²⁶ In 1937, he formed a branch of the Five Million Club and was a member of its committee (it sought to increase New Zealand’s population to that level).⁵²⁷

Pease first became involved in mining in May 1932, when he acquired a prospecting license over 35 acres near the former Cadman,

⁵¹⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 28 July 1915, p. 3.

⁵¹⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 24 April 1915, p. 4.

⁵¹⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 30 April 1915, p. 3.

⁵²⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 3 May 1929, p. 5.

⁵²¹ *Te Aroha News*, 8 May 1931, p. 1.

⁵²² *Te Aroha News*, 28 April 1933, p. 4.

⁵²³ *Te Aroha News*, 26 April 1935, p. 1.

⁵²⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 21 June 1937, p. 2, 13 May 1938, p. 5.

⁵²⁵ *Te Aroha News*, 26 May 1930, p. 1.

⁵²⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 17 August 1931, p. 5, 18 November 1931, p. 5.

⁵²⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 7 May 1937, p. 5.

Success and Welcome claims at Waiorongomai.⁵²⁸ In August, it was reported that he intended ‘to seriously prospect his holding during the summer months’ and would ‘shift a hut now standing above the Waiorongomai Quarry at the first tramway incline’ so he could camp on his ground. Reportedly (and typically) he ‘already had encouraging prospects’.⁵²⁹ In December, he was granted the right to occupy a ‘whare’ at Waiorongomai.⁵³⁰ Four months later, with Hardy he successfully requested that unemployed men clear the upper track to their claims, Pease, at his suggestion, supervising the work at no expense to the council.⁵³¹ By November 1933, he was ready to install a battery on his Maidos claim, granted in December 1933.⁵³² After concerns were raised about tailings polluting Diamond Gully Stream, he promised to prevent this, and was granted a water race starting where the upper track crossed this stream, a battery site above the track, and a tail race.⁵³³ In early 1934 the three-man Maidos Prospectors’ Party began erecting its battery.⁵³⁴ In March, because of ‘unforeseen delays’, he was granted protection for six months.⁵³⁵ The lack of value of his ore can be gauged

⁵²⁸ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 223, BBAV 11500/4a; Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 12 May 1932, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

⁵²⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 10 August 1932, p. 4.

⁵³⁰ Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 19 December 1932, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha.

⁵³¹ Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 11 April 1933, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha; *Te Aroha News*, 15 April 1933, p. 4; J.D. Cumming to Minister of Mines, 23 October 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 21/2/4, ANZ-W.

⁵³² *Te Aroha News*, 22 November 1933, p.5; Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 15 December 1933, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

⁵³³ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 52, 60/1933, 4/1934, BBAV 11505/2a; Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folios 50, 52-54, BBAV 11500/5a; Mining Applications 1934, 4/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A; Map of H.J. Pease’s Water Right, 8 November 1933, Te Aroha Museum; Warden’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 19 March 1934, p. 5.

⁵³⁴ F.V. Hennah to J.F. Downey, 22 December 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 2; J.W. Smith to Commissioner of Unemployment, 21 December 1933, 31 January 1934, Mines Department, MD 41, 11/2/18, ANZ-W.

⁵³⁵ Warden’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 19 March 1934, p. 5.

by the fact that six months later he surrendered the Maidos, followed by abandoning the battery site and water race licenses in April 1935.⁵³⁶

When he died in 1951, his estate was precisely £1,957 19s 10d.⁵³⁷

CLIFFORD ALBAN REID

Clifford Alban Reid, a Te Aroha tobacconist, was aged 27 in 1931.⁵³⁸ In 1932 he obtained a prospecting license over the former Mammoth Reef and Sceptre Extended claims at Buck Rock, but four months afterwards transferred it to Gibbs.⁵³⁹ He later became an electric linesman, working in the Hawera district in 1940.⁵⁴⁰

THOMAS RIFLE

Thomas Rifle, the only Maori, lived at Te Aroha, although possibly sometimes across the range at Aongatete, and was aged 28 in 1931.⁵⁴¹ He was first in trouble with the law in February 1921, when he was living in the Bay of Plenty: he was fined for accompanying a prohibited person into licensed premises.⁵⁴² Admitting he had a drink problem, at his request a prohibition order was imposed on him in 1925.⁵⁴³ In the following year, having been found drunk in a Waihi

⁵³⁶ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 29/1934, 14/1935, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A.

⁵³⁷ Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4420, no. 8782, ANZ-A.

⁵³⁸ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Miner's Right no. 32892, issued 5 October 1932, Miners' Rights Butt-Book, BBAV 11533/6g ANZ-A; Death Certificate of Clifford Alban Reid, 20 November 1980, 1980/51276, BDM.

⁵³⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 8 December 1932, BBAV 11505/6b; Mining Applications 1932, 41/1932, BCDG 11289/2a; Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 234, BBAV 11500/4a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁴⁰ *Taranaki Daily News*, 24 December 1940, p. 4; Death Certificate of Clifford Alban Reid, 20 November 1980, 1980/51276, BDM.

⁵⁴¹ Magistrate's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 9 May 1927, p. 5; Waihi Hospital, Register of Patients 1924-1926, folio 32, no. 120, ZABW 4935/2c, ANZ-A.

⁵⁴² *Bay of Plenty Times*, 5 February 1921, p. 2.

⁵⁴³ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1924-1926, entry for 8 April 1925, BCDG 11220/5a, ANZ-A.

street, he was fined for breaching his own prohibition order.⁵⁴⁴ One year later, again in trouble for obtaining alcohol, on his initiative another order was imposed, which he broke three months later.⁵⁴⁵ Then, in 1930, a Katikati man, who was ‘in the habit of supplying liquor to natives’, was fined for supplying him with liquor to be consumed at the local pa; Rifle was fined for aiding this man in the commission of this offence.⁵⁴⁶

In May 1933, Charles Scott described him as ‘a superb bushman’, good at blasting, and ‘quite an acquisition’ to the Stoney Creek Prospectors’ Party.⁵⁴⁷ While working for it, Rifle found a reef that looked promising, but tests proved the contrary.⁵⁴⁸ In June, he obtained a prospecting license over 100 acres,⁵⁴⁹ about which nothing was ever heard. These couple of months comprised the full extent of his involvement in mining, and after mid-1933 he left Te Aroha.

In October the following year, he was living at Katikati, where he was a relief worker, and was charged with fighting an almost-blind Maori man, being drunk and disorderly, and using indecent language. A constable gave evidence that Rifle had pulled Hira Clark out of a buggy, resulting in bad language and a ‘rough and tumble’, leaving both men bleeding. They were both willing to take out prohibition orders, which were issued. When asked by the magistrate, Rifle claimed not to know who had started the fight (‘Clark said he did not start it, and reiterated the statement’), and after being fined ‘Rifle left the court

⁵⁴⁴ *Waihi Daily Telegraph*, 21 August 1926, p. 2.

⁵⁴⁵ Te Aroha Magistrate’s Court, Criminal Record Book 1926-1930, 40, 41, 54A, 86/1927, BCDG 11220/6a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁴⁶ *Bay of Plenty Times*, 6 March 1930, p. 3.

⁵⁴⁷ Charles Scott to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 13 May 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁵⁴⁸ Diary of Stoney Creek Prospectors’ Party, 10, 16, 18, 24 May 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁵⁴⁹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 8 June 1933, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

showing the way to the other man'.⁵⁵⁰ By 1942, he was a sharemilker at Waharoa, and appeared in the press for the last time when fined for breaking another prohibition order. When apprehended by a constable, he 'had a large parcel which he said comprised fish heads but actually was 12 quart bottles of beer. Rifle then said he had taken the wrong parcel'.⁵⁵¹

FRANCIS JAMES ROACHE

Francis James Roache was aged 27 in 1931,⁵⁵² when he was working as a plasterer in Te Aroha. In that year, the *Te Aroha News* published his photograph because he had been plastering St David's Presbyterian Church. As with all his work, the newspaper noted that he 'left little to be desired in the fine surface and finish applied'. Using 'new methods and ideas gleaned across the Tasman', he had 'obtained the best possible results'.⁵⁵³ Some of his behaviour outside work did not receive any accolades, for in 1930 he, along with his brother, was charged with assault and obscene language after accosting two young women, and in 1933 he was fined for fighting in the street after drinking.⁵⁵⁴ When he prospected with Edwards and Leece in 1932, his level of skill was indicated by a sample he sent to the Thames School of Mines turning out to be 'Decomposed Country with Iron Pyrites' of nil value.⁵⁵⁵ He then applied on behalf of the others for financial assistance, to be informed that they could not be paid for work already done.⁵⁵⁶ He ceased prospecting when his mates did.

⁵⁵⁰ *Bay of Plenty Times*, 22 October 1934, p. 3.

⁵⁵¹ *Waikato Times*, 13 March 1942, p. 2.

⁵⁵² Birth Certificate of Francis James Roache, 9 December 1904, 1905/9892, BDM.

⁵⁵³ *Te Aroha News*, 29 May 1931, p. 6.

⁵⁵⁴ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book, nos. 169-172, BCDG 11220/6b, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 5 November 1930, p. 5, 31 February 1933, p. 1.

⁵⁵⁵ Thames School of Mines, Assay Book 1927-1932, entry for 11 January 1932, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

⁵⁵⁶ F.J. Roache to J.F. Downey, 1 February 1932; J.F. Downey to F.J. Roache, 2 February 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM174, ANZ-A.

ROBERT MILTON SCELLY

Robert Milton Scelly, aged 27 in 1931, was an Auckland accountant, company promoter, and company secretary.⁵⁵⁷ In 1929 he was one of two subscribers to the new Tobacco Producers Trust Ltd: he held five of the 25,000 shares.⁵⁵⁸ In the 1930s he was both the manager of a finance company and secretary of a carburetor firm.⁵⁵⁹ His private life by 1936 was unfortunate: after marrying in 1929 and having two children, in March 1936 he ‘came home, packed his belongings and left, saying he was not coming back’, and did not return despite his wife’s request.⁵⁶⁰ After ignoring an order sought by his wife for the restitution of her conjugal rights, he was divorced.⁵⁶¹

His first traced involvement with mining was in March 1932, when he sent unemployed Aucklanders to prospect at Thames.⁵⁶² The following month he was granted a prospecting license over 100 acres near the former Peter Maxwell.⁵⁶³ In September, he asked the Mines Department to provide ‘particulars of gold won’ at Te Aroha since the 1911 geological survey.⁵⁶⁴ Not having received a reply within a month, he wrote again, impatiently: ‘I shall be pleased if you will kindly let me know whether I am entitled to receive the particulars asked for. If so,

⁵⁵⁷ Marriage Certificate of Robert Milton Scelly, 25 May 1929, 1929/10993; Death Certificate of Robert Milton Scelly, 20 September 1942, 1942/25504, BDM; Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Registrations 1932, no. 4140, BCDG 11288/10a; Mining Applications 1934, 13/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁵⁸ *Auckland Star*, 6 August 1929, p. 4.

⁵⁵⁹ Advertisement, *Auckland Star*, 30 August 1934, p. 5; *New Zealand Herald*, 2 March 1938, p. 18.

⁵⁶⁰ *New Zealand Herald*, 19 June 1936, p. 12.

⁵⁶¹ *Auckland Star*, 18 June 1936, p. 5, 10 September 1936, p. 8.

⁵⁶² J.W. Smith to J.F. Downey, 26 March 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, M68, ANZ-A.

⁵⁶³ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 14 April 1932, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

⁵⁶⁴ R.M. Scelly to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 23 September 1932, Ministry of Commerce, AATJ 6090, 18/65, ANZ-W.

kindly let me have your reply as soon as possible'.⁵⁶⁵ He received the information immediately afterwards, presumably being pacified by being told that as details had not been published for some of the war years it had been necessary to check the mining inspector's records.⁵⁶⁶ Two other licenses in the Te Aroha district were granted over the next two years, and by June 1934 he claimed to have spent about £100 there.⁵⁶⁷ He was secretary of four Te Aroha companies: Milton & Co, Huia Syndicate, Te Aroha Gold Syndicate, and Te Aroha Gold Mines. In addition, in 1936 he was secretary of Harakeke Mines Ltd and the New Success Company, both operating at Coromandel. In that year he ignored all requests from the Mines Department to provide statements of the affairs of all his six companies.⁵⁶⁸ As well, a miner owed £30, being wages for work done at Tui, took him to court to obtain payment. Scelly denied liability, but would not produce Milton and Company's books, 'in spite of repeated requests', to clarify 'the exact relationship between the company and Scelly as its secretary'. An offer by his solicitor to pay 'was subsequently repudiated by Scelly'. The magistrate ruled against him.⁵⁶⁹

In addition to his involvement with the Te Aroha district, in 1934 he became secretary of the Waikoromiko Sluicing Company, operating in the Napier area,⁵⁷⁰ and in 1935 was secretary and 'Governing Director' (indeed the sole director) of the Provincial Financial Company Ltd, in which he held 999 of the 1,000 shares, his typist owning the

⁵⁶⁵ R.M. Scelly to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 21 October 1932, Ministry of Commerce, AATJ 6090, 18/65, ANZ-W.

⁵⁶⁶ Under-Secretary, Mines Department, to R.M. Scelly, 25 October 1932, Ministry of Commerce, AATJ 6090, 18/65, ANZ-W.

⁵⁶⁷ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 8 June 1933, BBAV 11505/6b; Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folio 64, BBAV 11500/5a; Mining Applications 1934, 13/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁶⁸ Memorandum by J.M. Baxter, 1 October 1936, Mines Department, MD 1, 12/408, ANZ-W.

⁵⁶⁹ *New Zealand Herald*, 9 May 1936, p. 16.

⁵⁷⁰ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 721 no. 4736, ANZ-A.

remaining one. This money-lending firm owned a special quartz claim at Coromandel,⁵⁷¹ but any other holdings are not known.

Scelly's attempts to make money by floating companies ended in 1942, when he had a tooth extracted; having suffered from haemophilia from birth, he died from loss of blood, aged 38.⁵⁷² His probate revealed how unsuccessful he had been financially: its net value was nil.⁵⁷³

CHARLES SCOTT

Charles Scott, who turned 42 in July 1931, was the son of Edward, a Coromandel mine manager,⁵⁷⁴ which may have given him the idea that his parentage made him a mining expert. Despite posing as such, he never did any mining. After being a member of the Coromandel Rifles, he enlisted in the First World War in April 1916. When he enlisted, he was a railway clerk based in Helensville; he recorded his closest relative as being his elder sister, Rebecca.⁵⁷⁵ He served overseas for three years and 71 days, becoming a sergeant in the 'Specialist Signal Section'. After being gassed he was hospitalized for five months in 1918, and in the following year spent another five months in hospital, a victim of the Spanish Influenza.⁵⁷⁶

After returning from the war, according to family members 'he could not really work', probably because of his wartime experiences and health problems, which also might explain 'a lot of his irritable behaviour'.⁵⁷⁷ In 1919 he was living with his sister Rebecca and her

⁵⁷¹ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 715 no. 4689; Coromandel Warden's Court, Applications 1935, 71/1935, AAAE 14391/20a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁷² Death Certificate of Robert Milton Scelly, 20 September 1942, 1942/25504, BDM.

⁵⁷³ Probates, BBAE 1570, 1027/43, ANZ-A.

⁵⁷⁴ Birth Certificate of Charles Scott, 30 July 1889, 1889/7796, BDM; *New Zealand Herald*, 24 December 1902, p. 5, 16 September 1905, p. 4; *Thames Star*, 18 September 1905, p. 2.

⁵⁷⁵ Birth Certificate of Rebecca Scott, 1885/5569, BAM.

⁵⁷⁶ Charles Scott, Army Department, World War 1 records, WW1 17038, AABK 18805, ANZ-W [online].

⁵⁷⁷ Juliet Broadmore to Philip Hart, 26 March 2019, email.

husband in Auckland and working as a clerk once more.⁵⁷⁸ Perhaps he was once again working for the railway department, which sent him to Te Aroha, where in 1924 he married Kathleen Michael, youngest daughter of Robert Michael and Mary Clements;⁵⁷⁹ although an Anglican, he acceded to her wishes and was married in a Catholic ceremony.⁵⁸⁰ After marrying, he reinvented himself as a dairy farmer and milk vendor, working on his wife's land.⁵⁸¹ He turned out to be such a poor farmer that she lost this land (inherited from her mother) because 'the farm was not worked as it should have been, and she fell considerably in arrears with the rent', prompting the landlord, Eruini Taipari, to repossess it.⁵⁸² Despite this setback, Scott continued farming, this time on leased Crown land, which in 1931 resulted in one of his many rows. After he complained that the borough had blocked access to his farm by fencing off some unused and unformed streets, a committee of councillors interviewed him. At first 'no arrangement had been arrived at, Mr Scott being a difficult man to deal with',⁵⁸³ but further discussions resulted in an 'amicable agreement'. In the 1940s he was still farming this land, close to the eastern end of the township. He had nine dairy cows in 1944, milking six and planning to sell others.⁵⁸⁴

⁵⁷⁸ *Manukau Electoral Roll, 1919*, p. 65; *Manukau Supplementary Electoral Roll, 1919*, p. 31.

⁵⁷⁹ Marriage Certificate of Charles Scott, 30 January 1924, 1924/8996, BDM; see paper on their lives.

⁵⁸⁰ Charles Scott's personal records, Army Department, World War 1 records online, WW1 17038, ANZ-W; *Te Aroha News*, 31 January 1924, p. 1.

⁵⁸¹ *Te Aroha News*, Public Notice, 3 May 1924, p. 1, 15 May 1924, p. 4, 7 November 1947, p. 5; *Tauranga Electoral Roll, 1931*, p. 142; Te Aroha Warden's Court, Miner's Right no. 32875, issued 31 May 1932, Miners' Rights Butt Book 1932, BBAV 11533/6g, ANZ-A.

⁵⁸² Clendon and Volkmarre to Registrar, Native Land Court, 2 June 1933, re Aroha Block 1X Section 14E, Maori Affairs Department, Hamilton, BCAC A213/14709, ANZ-A.

⁵⁸³ Te Aroha Borough Council, Minutes of Meetings of 21 January 1931, 25 February 1931, 29 April 1931, 24 June 1931, 29 July 1931, Minute Book 1925-1933, pp. 270, 273, 281, 289, 295, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha.

⁵⁸⁴ A.W. Scott (Supervising Field Inspector) to Commissioner of Crown Lands, Auckland, 5 September 1944; Commissioner of Crown Land to Under-Secretary, Lands Department,

Scott's death certificate recorded him as being a retired journalist,⁵⁸⁵ but his only 'journalism' was to write, over a period of over 30 years, a string of forceful letters to the *Te Aroha News* on a variety of topics. His first and most concentrated burst was from 3 October until 19 December 1927, when he wrote 12 letters about drainage issues and in particular the history of Mackie's Stream;⁵⁸⁶ finally the editor, despite his protests, declined to publish more because they had 'wearied many of our readers with repetition'.⁵⁸⁷ In August 1932, after Scott insisted that the Minister of Mines should make Downey retract his 'ridiculous contrary to fact contentions' that *Te Aroha* was not worth prospecting,⁵⁸⁸ the Mines Department was informed by the local postmaster that both the mayor and the president of the Chamber of Commerce regarded him as a 'crank' who was 'continually trying to stir up trouble'. They had had 'considerable experience of him and his methods'.⁵⁸⁹ Whether he was ever a member of a political party is not known, but unlikely, as he opposed everything and everyone. In 1929, he wrote: 'I hate hypocrisy more than I hate snobs, lawyers, fat-headed politicians, partisan newspapers - and bad whiskey'.⁵⁹⁰ In November 1932, 'although differing from you politically', he thanked the minister

13 September 1944, 16 September 1944, 26 October 1947; A.E. Gibson (Field Inspector) to Under-Secretary, Lands Department, 12 November 1951, Lands and Survey Department, LS 1, 22/4673, ANZ-W; *Te Aroha News*, 7 November 1947, p. 5.

⁵⁸⁵ Death Certificate of Charles Scott, 23 March 1970, 1970/26329, BDM.

⁵⁸⁶ See paper on Robert and Elizabeth Mackie.

⁵⁸⁷ Letters from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 3 October 1927, p. 1, 17 October 1927, p. 5, 31 October 1927, p. 4, 2 November 1927, p. 4, 4 November 1927, p. 4, 7 November 1927, p. 5, 9 November 1927, p. 5, 11 November 1927, p. 5, 14 November 1927, p. 5, 2 December 1927, p. 4, 19 November 1927, p. 8.

⁵⁸⁸ Charles Scott to Minister of Mines, 9 August 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁵⁸⁹ A.L. Willis to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 17 August 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁵⁹⁰ Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 18 September 1929, p. 4.

for trying to help Te Aroha prospecting.⁵⁹¹ In both 1947 and 1953 he boasted of not being a member of any political party.⁵⁹²

Scott stood unsuccessfully for the borough council in 1929, gaining 364 votes; two candidates had lower votes, and the last one to be elected received 485. Unlike the other defeated candidates, he did not speak at the declaration of the poll.⁵⁹³ From 1944 to 1947, he was involved, along with Cumming, in a squabble with the council over his ragwort- and blackberry-infested hillside, which caused him to claim he was being victimized: 'No Crown tenant in New Zealand has worked a holding more conscientiously than I have'. The Commissioner of Crown Lands considered he was 'slightly mental'.⁵⁹⁴ This controversy probably prompted him to stand for election again in 1947, and to refuse to make any statement to the *Te Aroha News*.⁵⁹⁵ Over 100 people attending his election meeting were told he had had 'many encounters' with the council 'while fighting for the freedom of law-abiding citizens'. Belonging to no political party, he 'was no rubber-stamp yes-man. He would fight for any citizen with a grievance, would endeavour to keep amenities at a maximum and reduce rates to a minimum'. His 'highly actionable' indictment of the *Te Aroha News*, the council, and its engineer prevented the newspaper publishing his speech in full.⁵⁹⁶ Scott was the only candidate not to be elected. He gained 460 votes; the next highest obtained 792, and the highest scoring candidate 943.⁵⁹⁷

⁵⁹¹ Charles Scott to Minister of Mines, 1 November 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁵⁹² Letters from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 14 November 1947, p. 4, 6 October 1953, p. 5.

⁵⁹³ *Te Aroha News*, 3 May 1929, p. 5.

⁵⁹⁴ See in particular, Charles Scott to A. Blake, 16 October 1944; J.D. Cumming to James Thorn, 17 October 1944; Charles Scott to Town Clerk, Te Aroha, 10 March 1945; Charles Scott to Under-Secretary, Lands Department, 3 April 1945; Charles Scott to Te Aroha Borough Council, 11 December 1946; Commissioner of Crown Lands, Auckland, to Under-Secretary, Lands Department, 26 February 1947, Lands and Survey Department, LS 1, 22/4673, ANZ-W.

⁵⁹⁵ *Te Aroha News*, 7 November 1947, p. 5.

⁵⁹⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 14 November 1947, p. 4.

⁵⁹⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 21 November 1947, p. 5.

When standing again in 1953, he stressed he was ‘no rubber stamp yes man’ and would ‘fight for a citizen with a legitimate grievance’ with all his ability. ‘I have had a number of disputations with’ the council, ‘mainly fighting for the rights of individuals’.⁵⁹⁸ The 40 people at his meeting were told that he did not stand on any ticket. He demanded ‘clean, impartial administration’, for it must ‘observe the rules of justice’. He asked why he should ‘be charged as a libeller for telling of his sufferings to his fellow citizens? It should be the right of every British subject to have his rights safeguarded against bad administration’. For years he had had ‘no confidence’ in the ‘autocratic assembly’ but denied libelling anyone in 1947: ‘my submissions contained only fair criticisms’.⁵⁹⁹ This time he headed the eight unsuccessful candidates with 475 votes. The lowest vote of the successful ones was 503, and the highest 911.⁶⁰⁰

In 1956, Scott stood for mayor, again wanting such things as better footpaths, flood control, and a water supply whilst cutting rates.⁶⁰¹ In a low turnout he was defeated by 613 votes to 406.⁶⁰² He stood for both mayor and council in 1959, telling his audience of 23 that he was an independent and opposing a loan to complete the water scheme. He complained that the *Te Aroha News* had not published many of his objections, and quoted his letters to it, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, the Secretary to the Treasury, and the council, along with their replies. At the end of the meeting, he irritated the audience by refusing to take any but written questions.⁶⁰³ He obtained 37 votes for mayor, the other candidates receiving 693 and 491, and had the lowest votes for council, 264; the next lowest received 416.⁶⁰⁴ Scott blamed others for his defeat: another candidate’s letter, which had not mentioned him, was one reason, and in particular the ‘unfair report’ of his election address. He complained that the newspaper had not

⁵⁹⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 20 October 1953, p. 5.

⁵⁹⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 28 December 1953, p. 5.

⁶⁰⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 3 November 1953, p. 3.

⁶⁰¹ *Te Aroha News*, 6 November 1956, p. 5.

⁶⁰² *Te Aroha News*, 20 November 1956, p. 5.

⁶⁰³ *Te Aroha News*, 17 November 1959, p. 5.

⁶⁰⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 24 November 1959, p. 5, 27 November 1959, p. 1.

reported his statement that he was ‘an Auditor and Accountant by experience, examinations and degrees. I also stated that I was a trained mining engineer and a trained land drainage engineer’. (If he was trained in all these occupations, why did he spend his life milking a few cows?) He challenged the mayor, the chairman of the *Te Aroha News*, and all members of the outgoing council to publicly debate his accusation that they had ‘been most irregular and improper’.⁶⁰⁵ They did not oblige.

Scott’s a solution to the Depression was to replace unproductive work with developing unoccupied land. ‘Unemployment would then automatically cease. Any bright economist of this village is welcome to have a go at smashing my argument’.⁶⁰⁶ None bothered to try, and a month later he repeated his call to settle the unemployed on the land, which would continue the work of Seddon, ‘that great statesman’.⁶⁰⁷ ‘A vigorous land development policy and the development of the mineral resources of the country’ would end the Depression within 12 months.⁶⁰⁸ In writing to the Auckland press on this issue, Scott recorded himself as having a ‘F.C.I. (Eng.), etc’:

Our main economic resources are our forty million acres of unoccupied land (most of which can be made productive) and the latent mineral wealth awaiting development in our proved auriferous areas. In the early history of this country quite a lot of our economic wealth was produced from the Coromandel range, in the form of gold. With modern improvements in mining machinery for the treatment of refractory ores (most of which was neglected as unpayable in the early days), I am of the opinion that many of our proved gold-bearing areas could be profitably worked. We have the economic resources to place every man in permanent employment. The organizing rests with our legislators. Are they equal to the job?⁶⁰⁹

⁶⁰⁵ Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 1 December 1929, p. 5.

⁶⁰⁶ Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 19 August 1929, p. 5.

⁶⁰⁷ Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 18 September 1929, p. 4.

⁶⁰⁸ Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 21 March 1932, p. 4.

⁶⁰⁹ Letter from Charles Scott, *Auckland Star*, 30 April 1932, p. 8.

When leading a deputation to the Minister of Mines in the following year, he called for the Unemployment Board to subsidize prospectors instead of providing futile relief work.⁶¹⁰

Scott's expertise included, in his opinion, mining. His first letter to a Minister of Mines, written in December 1931 to support Gibbs' claims that Pond was not working his property, gave his qualifications as FCAS, FCI, FBAS, and SFAG.⁶¹¹ In March 1932, he was elected president of the new Te Aroha Prospectors' Association,⁶¹² and later that month chaired a meeting of prospectors and others interested at which he 'traced the economical depression in New Zealand from the early days and maintained that the way to prosperity lay in settling the 40 millions of acres of unoccupied land and the developing of the latent mineral wealth of the country'. He insisted that the Hauraki Peninsula contained 'untold wealth in minerals, the surface of which had only been scratched'.⁶¹³ In September he obtained 35 acres at Waiorongomai as a prospecting license,⁶¹⁴ but there is no record of his doing any work on it. In October, he was a trustee of Art Union money intended to be spent on prospecting.⁶¹⁵

An insult to his dignity led to the following letter to Macmillan (then Minister of Mines) five weeks later:

As per usual with all your communication in connection with the mining industry in Te Aroha, I have received second hand from the Mayor ... that the Te Aroha [he wrote 'Thames'] Prospecting Assn has received £500 from a recent Art Union [the correct amount was £250]. As a man qualified in mining matters, and perhaps instrumental in proving the potentialities of the Te Aroha district, permit me to

⁶¹⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 3 May 1933, p. 5.

⁶¹¹ Charles Scott to Minister of Mines, 8 December 1931, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/7/23, ANZ-W; the meaning of these initials is not known.

⁶¹² *Te Aroha News*, 16 March 1932, p. 4.

⁶¹³ *Te Aroha News*, 21 March 1932, p. 4.

⁶¹⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 14 July 1932, BBAV 11505/6b; Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 229, BBAV, 11500/4a, ANZ-A.

⁶¹⁵ Charles Scott to Minister of Mines, 25 October 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/31, ANZ-W.

courteously suggest that I am entitled to some direct communication from yourself. However, as you recently condemned the district as a payable auriferous area, and, I, as President of the Te Aroha Prospecting Assn brought under your notice irrefutable facts in connection with your condemnation, no doubt you will concur with me in that I have no honourable course to follow but to tender my resignation as President of the local Prospecting Association, which I have done.⁶¹⁶

As his constituency included Te Aroha, whose residents' demands for assistance for prospecting he was attempting to placate, Macmillan replied that no slight was intended. What had happened was that a Cabinet committee had allocated the money to Thames and nothing at this stage to Te Aroha: it was not his decision. 'Now that you have pulled out, without your assistance I hope to demonstrate that the area is auriferous'.⁶¹⁷ Scott responded that, no longer being a member of the association, he would not comment on the main text of the letter, but reminded Macmillan that in August he, Macmillan, had given four reasons for condemning Te Aroha as a mining district. Scott had given six reasons why he was wrong:

Without any hypocrisy, Mr Macmillan, I fully realize and appreciate the able way that you are administering the Mines Dept, and I quite recognize, that as you say, you will be able to prove this district as being a payable auriferous area without any assistance from me. I will continue to think, however, that during the last twelve months I have been able to prove that the Te Aroha – Waiorongomai area warranted development.

He concluded by thanking Macmillan for his courtesy when Scott was president of the association.⁶¹⁸ Scott continued to be involved with the association, three months' later drawing up its plan of work at Stoney Creek, between Te Aroha and Waiorongomai, an area selected because 'I know that the old-time miners snigged a quantity of stone'

⁶¹⁶ Charles Scott to Minister of Mines, 3 December 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/31, ANZ-W.

⁶¹⁷ Minister of Mines to Charles Scott, 6 December 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/31, ANZ-W.

⁶¹⁸ Charles Scott to Minister of Mines, 7 December 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/31, ANZ-W.

there. He would personally inspect the party's work, without payment.⁶¹⁹

That this prospecting was unsuccessful did not prevent him continuing to make blatantly incorrect statements about the quality of the local ore and his knowledge about it. In 1948, he wrote 'as a mining man' to the Minister of Mines supporting Benjamin John Dunsheath's application for the Tui mines,⁶²⁰ repeating all Dunsheath's arguments about the value of mining and why it would not create any pollution.⁶²¹ (It did.)⁶²² Three years later, he protested at the council's attempts to stop mining because of concerns about pollution. In detailing the large quantity and variety of the minerals in the mountain he commented, incorrectly, that 'the Mines Department knows the potentialities of the field nearly as well as I do'.⁶²³ A week later, he recalled the visit of the geologist E.O. Macpherson in 1932, his dating this as 1933 being as accurate as his other statements about this visit. 'He spent some considerable time with me, and our discussions were of a friendly nature. I had, prior to his arrival, submitted a comprehensive report to the Mines Department ... and Mr McPherson was aware of its contents'. (No such report is in the departmental files.) Macmillan had sent him a copy of Macpherson's report, 'but it was marked "Confidential" so unfortunately I cannot divulge his opinions, although about 95% of his submissions were similar to mine'.⁶²⁴ (Not only had there been no submissions from Scott, but Macpherson's non-confidential assessment of the ore was diametrically opposed to Scott's.)

⁶¹⁹ J.D. Cumming to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 4 April 1933; Charles Scott to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 6 May 1933, 18 June 1933, Mines Department, MD1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

⁶²⁰ See paper on Auckland Smelting Company.

⁶²¹ Charles Scott to Minister of Mines, 31 August 1948, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/27/124, ANZ-W.

⁶²² See papers on 'Pollution in the Te Aroha District Caused by Mining' and 'Pollution and Norpac'.

⁶²³ Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 3 August 1951, p. 2.

⁶²⁴ Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 10 August 1951, p. 4.

One year later, Scott rewrote history once more by stating that after the 1932 reports 'by experts' stating that Te Aroha was not worth prospecting, he had 'submitted a number of reports to the Mines Department intimating total disagreement with the experts and in the end the condemnation was lifted'. He had proved that the mountain contained gold, silver, lead, copper, zinc, sulphur, and iron and that mining would be payable, for from 90 to 95 per cent of the gold could be recovered. (He did not explain why this mining had not taken place; no such reports are in the department's files, and the condemnation had not been 'lifted' as claimed.) 'I superintended the prospecting and mining work in 1932 and 1933 on a voluntary basis, as the statement of expenditure of the Mines Department will prove'.⁶²⁵ (In fact he superintended only some prospectors for about two months of 1933, and there is no evidence he prospected his own ground.) Further embellishment of the past occurred two months later, when he claimed to have received 'a number of letters of appreciation from both the Hon. Minister of Mines and the Under Secretary regarding my reports on the mining field from the years 1930-1934'. (No doubters had the wit to ask to see these non-existent appreciative missives.) 'Although I am naturally a modest man, I am conceited enough to admit that I know the geology of the Coromandel range from Waiorongomai to Cape Colville well'.⁶²⁶

OLIVER SAMUEL SHALE

Oliver Samuel Shale, aged 49 in 1931, was the son and brother of farmers.⁶²⁷ In 1917, when living in Otago, he enlisted to fight in the war but was rejected as being medically unfit; he said he 'was willing to go, but he knew he could not stand it'. He had worked in engineering for two or three years but had had 'to leave it in 1905 because his nerves were bad, and he was subject to giddy turns. He had improved a good deal since' because of working on his brother's Otago farm, 'but he

⁶²⁵ Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 27 June 1952, p. 5.

⁶²⁶ Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 12 August 1952, p. 4.

⁶²⁷ Marriage Certificate of Oliver Samuel Shale, 18 January 1922, 1922/3419; Death Certificate of Oliver Samuel Shale, 19 September 1969, 1969/31492, BDM.

was not a farmer'. His brother said he had been to England 'for his health. Sometimes he did a little light work on the farm'.⁶²⁸

In 1926, he said he had been a sheep farmer for 15 years.⁶²⁹ He worked in partnership with his brothers Sydney and Charles on several farms in the South Island during the 1920s.⁶³⁰ By December 1928 he had moved to Auckland.⁶³¹ From at least 1933, he farmed at Roto-o-Rangi, near Cambridge.⁶³² One non-mining investment has been traced, in Industrial Assets Ltd, formerly the Waitakere Brick and Tile Company.⁶³³

He had minimal involvement in mining, and only as an investor. In 1934 he was a shareholder in a Kuaotunu goldmining company and had a prospecting license over 85 acres at Maratoto four years later, which was forfeited seven months later for non-working.⁶³⁴ His only involvement with Te Aroha mining was in 1939, when with Bassett he acquired a 40-acre prospecting license adjoining the Tui mines,⁶³⁵ which came to nothing.

⁶²⁸ *Otago Daily Times*, 5 January 1917, p. 2.

⁶²⁹ *Evening Star*, 8 July 1926, p. 7.

⁶³⁰ *Timaru Herald*, 7 December 1921, p. 4; *Evening Star*, 8 July 1926, pp. 7, 13; *Otago Witness*, 13 July 1926, p. 24; *Star*, 11 December 1928, p. 8.

⁶³¹ *Press*, 12 December 1928, p. 5.

⁶³² *Waikato Times*, 15 September 1933, p. 8, 31 May 1938, p. 8; *Waikato Independent*, 11 May 1935, p. 1; *Waikato Electoral Roll, 1938*, p. 161.

⁶³³ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 774 no. 5083, ANZ-A.

⁶³⁴ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 1146 no. 14104; Paeroa Warden's Court, Complaints 1938, 29/1938; Complaints 1939, 3/1939, BAFV 11975/2a, ANZ-A.

⁶³⁵ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 15/1939, BBAV 11505/2a; Mining Applications 1939, 15/1939, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A.

ROBERT FITZROY SPENSLEY

In 1931, when aged 59, Robert Fitzroy Spensley was a farmer and carrier living at Swanson, near Auckland.⁶³⁶ In 1910, when ‘a storekeeper and business man of Flaxton’, in the South Island, he acquired a block of land near Kaikoura and arranged for a dairy farmer to run cows on it and to make ‘all the necessary improvements’ on a property that was ‘in a very rough state’. After being dissatisfied with the farmer’s work, he cancelled their agreement.⁶³⁷ Two years later, when a judgment summons was issued against him for £157 6s 1d, Spensley explained that he was farming at Kaikoura, ‘owning 250 acres of land, which he valued at £20, and on which there was a mortgage of £17 an acre. He had no stock or implements and was not earning anything. He could not get rid of the farm at his valuation’. In declining to issue an order against him, the magistrate advised him ‘to get out of his farm and make a fresh start’.⁶³⁸

Spensley claimed to have some practical knowledge of prospecting, having searched for gold ‘at various periods of his life’.⁶³⁹ In 1933, when a member of the Stoney Creek Prospectors’ Party, he informed Macmillan that previously he had ‘been prospecting on & off in different parts over several years now, until my savings were exhausted, though not very successful I have gained a lot of practical experience and am still vigorously keen on continuing’.⁶⁴⁰ In addition to working with this subsidized party, in June 1933 he was granted two prospecting licenses over 150 acres.⁶⁴¹ Three months later, he abandoned his 50-acre license, not being able to afford to spend £3 per

⁶³⁶ Marriage Certificates of Robert Fitzroy Spensley, 20 March 1918, 1918/265; 10 November 1925, 1925/8787; Death Certificate of Robert Fitzroy Spensley, c. 7 February 1938, 1938/17078, BDM.

⁶³⁷ Supreme Court, *Press*, 26 May 1910, p. 2, 27 May 1910, p. 4.

⁶³⁸ *Star*, 4 December 1913, p. 5.

⁶³⁹ *New Zealand Herald*, 14 March 1938, p. 10.

⁶⁴⁰ R.F. Spensley to Minister of Mines, 8 November 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 2, ANZ-W [his spelling].

⁶⁴¹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 8 June 1933, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

week on it as required.⁶⁴² After returning to his small farm at the end of 1933, 'for short periods each year he visited the Te Aroha district to do work on a goldmining claim he had there, so as to avoid forfeiture of the claim. Generally, these visits were short'.⁶⁴³

Spensley's life ended on or about 7 February 1938 (his body was not immediately discovered), when his 18-year-old son shot him twice in the head.⁶⁴⁴ Having married three times, at the ages of 23, 45, and 49,⁶⁴⁵ Spensley must be presumed to have had some charm, but his only son, Francis Borgia Spensley, born to his second wife, Teresa Gertrude,⁶⁴⁶ experienced little of this. At the time of the murder, they were living alone, Francis' stepmother Sarah having died and Francis' mother having died when he was four years old.⁶⁴⁷ The justification for the shooting was self-defence against a father who was about to beat him yet again. His brother-in-law told the court that Francis 'did not have a proper boyhood with boys of his own age', and his counsel stated that from the age of 14 he did a man's work on the farm, unpaid, and was 'the victim of unmerciful hidings.... The boy had been brutally assaulted on the night before the shooting, and the next morning the father started again to threaten that he would hammer the life out of the boy until he told the truth'. Francis gave evidence that 'his father was usually good tempered, but if he became wild, he was very violent', beating him with a stick as thick as a thumb. He was beaten once a week, although he admitted 'that many of them I got I did deserve'. One witness, describing a visit to the house a few days before the killing, said that 'Spensley senior was very roughly dressed, and the house was in very bad disorder. The accused was crouched up in a corner of the

⁶⁴² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1933, 47/1933, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁴³ *New Zealand Herald*, 14 March 1938, p. 10.

⁶⁴⁴ Death Certificate of Robert Fitzroy Spensley, c. 7 February 1938, 1938/170178, BDM; *New Zealand Herald*, 14 March 1938, p. 10, 15 March 1938, p. 12, 14 April 1938, p. 15.

⁶⁴⁵ Marriage Certificates of Robert Fitzroy Spensley, 1896/2963, 1918/265, 1925/8787, BDM.

⁶⁴⁶ Birth Certificate of Francis Borgia [recorded as Bogia] Spensley, 4 May 1919, 1919/8901; Death Certificate of Francis St Borgia Spensley, 1979/48645, BDM.

⁶⁴⁷ Death Certificates of Sarah Spensley, 1917/3457, Teresa Gertrude Spensley, 1923/7619, BDM.

kitchen in terror as if he had had a good hiding. The poor boy looked as if he was just worn out'. This witness described the father 'as a heartless, brutal cannibal', but believed his behaviour was partly caused by severe asthma. After other witnesses gave evidence about signs of beatings and overwork, Francis was found guilty, not of murder, but of manslaughter.⁶⁴⁸

Before the sentence was announced, Francis' lawyer 'made a plea that justice be tempered with mercy. Because of his mode of life, accused was not of the usual mental capacity, and committed the dreadful act under the stress of terror of physical punishment'. The judge noted that the jury had accepted that he had acted under provocation, which caused him to lose self-control and obey the impulse of the moment', but pointed out that when Francis 'fired two shots he knew they were likely to cause his father's death, yet he fired not once but twice'. Francis 'was old enough to realize the gravity of his act, and his subsequent conduct showed no sign of remorse'. He desired 'to make the sentence as lenient as possible' and imposed the 'least sentence' available to him, four years' imprisonment'. His final comment was that this sentence did not mean Francis would 'not be able to go into an institution' where he could be treated.⁶⁴⁹

Spensley's estate revealed his lack of financial success at both farming and prospecting. His ten acres of freehold and four acres of leasehold land at Swanson had been bought by his daughter Sarah before he was killed, and she paid his debts after he died. The only assets he had were five or six cows and some money in a bank, the total value of the estate being £64 4s 5d.⁶⁵⁰

GEORGE VICTOR SPROUL

George Victor Sproul, another farmer, lived at Waihou, and was aged 25 in 1931.⁶⁵¹ As well as being granted a prospecting license over

⁶⁴⁸ Supreme Court, *New Zealand Herald*, 11 May 1938, p. 20, 12 May 1938, p. 18.

⁶⁴⁹ *Thames Star*, 25 May 1938, p. 3.

⁶⁵⁰ Probates, BBAE 1570, 1056/41, ANZ-A.

⁶⁵¹ Marriage Certificate of George Victor Sproul, 1 June 1927, 1927/4331, BDM.

100 acres in June 1933,⁶⁵² he worked with the Stoney Creek Prospectors' Party from June to November that year, leaving it because he disagreed with the way it was operating. He went on to do 'other work';⁶⁵³ there is no record of his doing any more prospecting. When he enlisted to fight in the Second World War, he was working as a lorry driver.⁶⁵⁴ On his death in 1987, his estate was valued at under \$300.⁶⁵⁵

THOMAS HERBERT STEWART

Thomas Herbert Stewart, one of the few real miners among these would-be prospectors, had commenced mining in the late 1890s.⁶⁵⁶ A Glasgow merchant's son, he was mining at Waiorongomai in the early twentieth century, in 1905 at the age of 39 marrying a miner's daughter 19 years his junior; he was aged 65 in 1931.⁶⁵⁷ His skills included carpentry; for example, in 1909 he timbered the tramway tunnel below Butler's Incline and helped to rebuild the upper track's bridge over Diamond Gully Creek.⁶⁵⁸ Also an inventor, in 1911 he reportedly constructed a far better rat trap than any then in existence, for it could catch any number at one time.⁶⁵⁹ This was not patented, but in 1914 he

⁶⁵² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 8 June 1933, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

⁶⁵³ R.F. Spensley to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 19 November 1933; F.V. Hennah to J.F. Downey, 22 December 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 2, ANZ-W.

⁶⁵⁴ Auckland War Memorial Museum, Online Cenotaph, WWII 535704.

⁶⁵⁵ Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4421, 1012/1991, ANZ-A.

⁶⁵⁶ Under-Secretary, Mines Department, to Matthew Paul, 8 November 1927, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, S 147, ANZ-A.

⁶⁵⁷ Marriage Certificate of Thomas Herbert Stewart, 23 February 1905, 1905/5755; Death Certificate of Thomas Stewart, 1 June 1944, 1944/20491, BDM; Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Registrations 1904, no. 2639, BCDG 11288/2a; New Zealand Constabulary, Charges Taken at Te Aroha Lock-Up 1903-1917, 28, 29/1912, BADB 11355/1a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁵⁸ J.S. Hill, Waiorongomai Tramway Account Book 1909-1910, entries for 7-9, 30 June 1909, John Samuel Hill Papers, MSC0116, Hamilton Public Library.

⁶⁵⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 18 April 1911, p. 2.

patented a ‘Nut for Bolt’ and in 1922 a ‘Trap for rodents’.⁶⁶⁰ The latter was ‘claimed to be far superior to the ordinary device’. Having provisionally patented it, he was ‘casting about for capital with which to secure patent rights throughout the world and place the trap on the market’.⁶⁶¹ Like so many inventions, it was heard of no more.

In 1922 the *Te Aroha News* received ‘a fine sample of new season’s honey’ from Stewart, ‘the Waiorongomai apiarist. He reports a good demand for his product’.⁶⁶² Five years later he was fined for failing to rid his apiary of the foul brood disease.⁶⁶³ By 1932, suffering from miners’ complaint, according to his wife he was unable to work: ‘We have lived on the returns from 6 cows I have had running on the roads and in the sections around my house’.⁶⁶⁴ Stewart and his wife Mary claimed to be the caretakers of Waiorongomai village, but one resident commented that their land was ‘a disgrace’ because they did not ‘do anything’ to keep it free of noxious weeds and would not give others a ‘chance to clean their own place’s up, without causing trouble all the time’. This resident had only been in the house for nine months and did ‘not wish to take any orders at all from them’.⁶⁶⁵

Neither Stewart nor his wife had been appointed as caretaker of Waiorongomai, and the mention of ‘trouble’ reflected the family’s occasionally aggressive behaviour. In 1912 Stewart was fined for drunkenness and assault.⁶⁶⁶ In 1928 he assaulted a man in a street at Te Aroha, ‘repeatedly’ calling him ‘You scabby bastard’ and ‘You bloody

⁶⁶⁰ Keryn Stevenson (Client Advisor, Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand) to Philip Hart, 30 July 1998.

⁶⁶¹ *Te Aroha News*, 26 January 1922, p. 2.

⁶⁶² *Te Aroha News*, 16 February 1922, p. 2.

⁶⁶³ Te Aroha Magistrate’s Court, Criminal Record Book 1926-1930, entries for 26 January 1927, 11 April 1927, BCDG 11220/6a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁶⁴ Mary Stewart to Minister of Mines, 18 August 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 6/61, ANZ-W.

⁶⁶⁵ S. Fisher to J.F. Downey, 25 April 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, MM206, ANZ-A.

⁶⁶⁶ Te Aroha Magistrate’s Court, Criminal Record Book 1907-1913, 66, 67/1912, BCDG 11220/2a, ANZ-A.

bastard'.⁶⁶⁷ His son Frank was in a fight in January 1931 after, on his mother's instructions, driving Harry Gray's cows off land over which the Stewart family claimed grazing rights. Frank admitted 'there was bad feeling between' the two families.⁶⁶⁸ Stewart claimed that Gray, since taking up some of the hillside in the previous July, had 'threatened to give every one here Merry hell and me in particular saying I have been here too long he would make it that hot for me I'd have to get out and he started by pounding seven of my Cows off the vacant sections that he has no claim to'. The farmers wanted to drive miners off their residence sites 'with the intention of converting Wairongaomai into a cattle run and all for the benefit of the most covotus and selfish individual ever i met'.⁶⁶⁹

In August 1932, Mary complained that a farmer had obtained 60 acres of the High School Endowment 'for his sharemilker (an Austrian) and the residents have to give up all the ground' on which they grazed their cows.⁶⁷⁰ Two months later, Joseph Begovich, the Dalmatian (not Austrian) who was this new tenant, was taking down a fence when Mary 'told him that it was her fence and that she would have it taken down. After an argument Begovich went away, returned to his house', but shortly afterwards Mrs Milabenka Begovich 'went over to the fence which, by this time, was being pulled down' by Frank Stewart, and threw stones, one of which struck Frank in the face. This brought his parents onto the scene, Mrs Begovich struck Mary in the face, and Frank fought Begovich. During this struggle, Stewart picked up a totara branch to strike Begovich; Mary tried to stop him, but by holding up her hand 'unwittingly changed its direction so that the full force fell on Mrs Begovich's head, partly stunning her', and she was taken to hospital.⁶⁷¹

⁶⁶⁷ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1926-1930, 71, 72/1928, BCDG 11220/6a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁶⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 28 January 1931, p. 5.

⁶⁶⁹ Thomas Stewart to Minister of Mines, n.d. [received c. 26 February 1931], Mines Department, MD 1, 6/61, ANZ-W [his spelling].

⁶⁷⁰ Mary Stewart to Minister of Mines, 18 August 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 6/61, ANZ-W.

⁶⁷¹ *Te Aroha News*, 30 November 1932, p. 4.

When this row ended up in court, the secretary of the high school board revealed that Stewart had never held a lease, that his residence site license (over an acre and an eighth) had expired about six years previously, and that he had been allowed to retain his house 'through the sympathy of the Board.... Complaints had often been made by other tenants about the Stewarts' behaviour'. They were 'far from ideal tenants. They had let the place go back and blackberry was growing wild. The Board had been forced to take the action of letting it over their heads to protect itself and have the land put into some sort of order'. A previous tenant had had trouble with them over boundaries, 'and before Begovich took over the place was in a sad state'. Details were given of the squabble, now explained as being caused by Frank Stewart chopping the fence down. Several witnesses spoke highly of the Begovichs but were less willing to do so about the Stewarts. A 12-year-old schoolgirl, after describing how Stewart had shattered 'a baton' on Milabenka Begovich's head, 'admitted she did not like the Stewarts as they are always trying to pick "rows" with everybody'. When Mrs Begovich started bleeding, Stewart 'had made a funny noise with his mouth and called out "raspberry" '. Her mother deposed that Stewart had struck Mrs Begovich 'three times on the top of the head and once over the ear. Mr Stewart had used filthy language which she had also heard'. The family was 'a continuous source of trouble in the community'.

Mary Stewart denied that gorse was growing on her verandah and claimed her family had cleared the blackberry. After Stewart admitted calling Begovich 'a dirty Dago', he stated there was 'not enough grass on his section to feed a goat, so grazed his cows where people of Waiorongomai had always grazed them. It was necessary to do something for a livelihood for though he had a pension it would not keep him'. He had been denied a lease because he had been wrongly accused of 'vandalism and cutting people's fences down'. After admitting using bad language after being provoked, he admitted an earlier conviction for using bad language against the pound keeper. His lawyer argued that 'the chief crime of the Stewart family was their poverty', for they felt 'they were going to be starved out and this was apt to make them resentful'. All charges against the Begovichs were dismissed, and Stewart and his wife were fined £1 and bound over to keep the peace. Stewart immediately announced he would 'go to gaol for

the rest of my life sooner than pay a penny of it. The Police Constable: Silence!’⁶⁷²

In a continuation of the squabble over the right to graze on the now-closed roads of Waiorongomai, in the following March Mary charged Begovich, who was the pound keeper, with illegally impounding her cow. After the hearing was adjourned to enable the parties to confer, an ‘amicable settlement’ was reached out of court.⁶⁷³

In November 1927, Stewart applied for assistance to drive a tunnel 300 feet to the north of the old Aroha Gold Mines low-level tunnel. Having driven 12 feet, he claimed to have found encouraging prospects.⁶⁷⁴ As Matthew Paul, the mining inspector, visited it when Stewart was away, the latter wrote to him:

Very sorry i missed you when you came out here as i would be able to show you that the leader i propose to try dont show in the big drive there is another small reef about eighteen inches wide about seventy yards lower down the gully running about east and west dipping to the south that i would like to drive on a few feet as i believe if there is any rich gold ever found in this locality it will be on the western side of the range as in Coramandel. and the Thames I seen the doctor and he said i wsnt bad enough to aply for the pension.⁶⁷⁵

This reference to a pension indicated that, despite suffering from miner’s complaint, he was not sufficiently incapacitated by it to receive one. Paul reported that the tunnel was 600 yards from Stewart’s house, in an area of low value. As nothing payable had ever been found at the base of the mountain, he did not recommend a subsidy.⁶⁷⁶ He suggested to Stewart that he first ‘endeavour to locate the rich ore’ that a

⁶⁷² *Te Aroha News*, 14 December 1932, p. 5.

⁶⁷³ *Te Aroha News*, 3 March 1933, p. 4.

⁶⁷⁴ Under-Secretary, Mines Department, to Matthew Paul, 8 November 1927, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, S147, ANZ-A.

⁶⁷⁵ Thomas Stewart to Matthew Paul, n.d. [received 18 February 1927], Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, S147, ANZ-A [his spelling].

⁶⁷⁶ Matthew Paul to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 16 November 1927, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, S147, ANZ-A.

deceased miner had told him about before applying for a subsidy.⁶⁷⁷ Stewart replied that he had already investigated this location and got only 'fine colours of gold', although he might have found platinum.⁶⁷⁸ In March 1928 he was granted a prospecting license over ten acres encompassing the Aroha Company's tunnel.⁶⁷⁹ The following year, he sent a sample to Downey, the new mining inspector, from an unspecified area because he did not know what it was: 'one person tells me it is crystallised mercury, another says it is copper'.⁶⁸⁰ In fact, it consisted mainly of iron pyrites, contained no mercury or copper, and had no commercial value.⁶⁸¹ A month later, another sample did contain eight grains of gold along with slightly more silver, but was worth only 1s 5d per ton.⁶⁸²

In 1930, this license was renewed, and in the following year the area was enlarged to 20 acres; his license was again renewed in 1933.⁶⁸³ In late February 1931, when writing to the minister about the need to keep Waiorongomai open for miners, not farmers, he stated that

i hold a prospecting licence on a ten acre block on the western side of buck reef or Mother lode and after driving on a leader for 200 feet am glad to say prospects are very encouragin and hope it will be the means of opening up a

⁶⁷⁷ Matthew Paul to Thomas Stewart, 19 November 1927, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, S147, ANZ-A.

⁶⁷⁸ Matthew Paul to Thomas Stewart, 10 January 1928, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, S147, ANZ-A.

⁶⁷⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 13 March 1928, BBAV 11505/6b; Mining Applications 1928, 7/1928 (including plan), BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁸⁰ Thomas Stewart to J.F. Downey, 15 April 1929, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, S147, ANZ-A.

⁶⁸¹ Waihi School of Mines, Assay dated 22 April 1929, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, S147, ANZ-A.

⁶⁸² Thomas Stewart to J.F. Downey, 24 May 1929; Waihi School of Mines, assay dated 12 June 1929, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 10046, A902, S147, ANZ-A.

⁶⁸³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearings of 10 July 1930, 14 April 1932, 8 June 1933, BBAV 11505/6b; Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folio 26, BBAV 11500/5a; Mining Applications 1933, 23/1933, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A; note *Te Aroha News*, 4 March 1932, p. 4.

new gold field as there has been very little prospecting done on the western side of the buck reef, I dont think there is any thing would solve the unemployment problem easier than a good gold find I intend to try and get the inspector of mines to pay a visit here as i beilive there is bonanza on the western side of buck reef as rich as either Coromandle or the Thames.⁶⁸⁴

He wrote this despite knowing that an assay of a tobacco tin containing 'Quartz Borings' had produced only 5dwt, value £1 per ton.⁶⁸⁵ He continued doing some prospecting in 1932, when, although considered to be a 'genuine' prospector, he was deemed ineligible to receive any aid under the unemployment scheme.⁶⁸⁶ His age and his health probably did not permit him to do more mining after his license was renewed in 1933, for by then he was receiving a pension because of miner's complaint.⁶⁸⁷ When he died in 1944, aged 76, his death certificate recorded that he had been suffering from miner's phthisis for 20 years.⁶⁸⁸

JOHN HERBERT HAROLD WOOD

John Herbert Harold Wood, aged 32 in 1931, was an Auckland doctor.⁶⁸⁹ His only involvement in Te Aroha mining was to obtain a prospecting license of 100 acres north-west of the Tui mines in February 1933, which he transferred to Northern Goldfields four months later.⁶⁹⁰ During the next two years, he bought shares in three

⁶⁸⁴ Thomas Stewart to Minister of Mines, n.d. [received c. 26 February 1931], Mines Department, MD 1, 6/61, ANZ-W [his spelling].

⁶⁸⁵ Thomas Scott to Director, Thames School of Mines, 16 January 1931, Correspondence: Inwards, 1928-1931; Assay Book 1927-1932, entry for 4 February 1931, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

⁶⁸⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 12 October 1932, p. 5.

⁶⁸⁷ Miners' Phthisis Pensions, List of all Pensioners, 22 December 1937, Social Security, SS, Box 8, M40, No. 3, ANZ-W.

⁶⁸⁸ Death Certificate of Thomas Stewart, 1 June 1944, 1944/20491, BDM.

⁶⁸⁹ Marriage Certificate of John Herbert Harold Wood, 2 January 1924, 1924/7917, BDM; *Parnell Electoral Roll, 1935*, p. 240.

⁶⁹⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 16 February 1933, BBAV 11505/6b; Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folio 18, BBAV 11500/5a, ANZ-A.

companies at Thames and Karangahake.⁶⁹¹ When he died of a sudden illness in 1944 in New Caledonia, where he was the Commanding Officer at Kalavere Hospital, he left an estate of £16,156 12s 8d.⁶⁹²

CHARLES THOMAS YOUNG

Charles Thomas Young was aged 57 in 1931.⁶⁹³ His father, David Kerr Young, who had mined at Waiorongomai during the 1880s,⁶⁹⁴ for some reason did not ensure that his three sons receiving an adequate education. When Thomas, as he was generally known, attended school for the first time in 1883, aged eight, the inspector recording that he 'did not know the alphabet' and his attendance was irregular.⁶⁹⁵

During the 1890s he mined at Waiorongomai, but in 1920, when mining had almost ceased, he was a labourer.⁶⁹⁶ In 1931 Downey recorded that he had 'a good many years' experience' as a miner.⁶⁹⁷ During 1929 and 1930, he was twice employed to assist with prospecting Pond's claims, and in 1931 he prospected for Gibbs.⁶⁹⁸ He obtained 45 acres adjoining two of Pond's claims in July 1932,⁶⁹⁹ and was described three months later by Smith as being one of the only two

⁶⁹¹ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 597 no. 3694, box 683 no. 4442, box 711 no. 4664, ANZ-A.

⁶⁹² New Zealand War Graves Project [online]; Knowledge Bank, Hawke's Bay Digital Archives Trust [online]; Probate of John Herbert Harold Wood, AAOM 6030, no. 12031, ANZ-W.

⁶⁹³ Birth Certificate of Charles Thomas Young, 24 October 1874, 1874/42057, BDM.

⁶⁹⁴ For his life at Waiorongomai, see *Te Aroha News*, 29 November 1884, p. 2, 8 August 1885, p. 7, 5 March 1887, p. 2, 12 May 1888, p. 2, 2 June 1888, p. 2.

⁶⁹⁵ Waiorongomai School, Class Lists for November 1883, YCAF 4135/10a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁹⁶ *Ohinemuri Electoral Rolls, 1896, Supplementary D*, p. 4, 1899, p. 125; Probates, BBAE 1569/14894, ANZ-A.

⁶⁹⁷ J.F. Downey to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 14 April 1931, Mines Department, MD 1, 12/408, ANZ-W.

⁶⁹⁸ Thomas Gillan, Details of Prospecting 1929-1930, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/7/23; W.J. Gibbs to Minister of Mines, 4 March 1931, Mines Department, MD 1, 12/408, ANZ-W; *Te Aroha News*, 20 July 1931, p. 5.

⁶⁹⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 226, BBAV 11500/4a; Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folio 46, BBAV 11500/5a, ANZ-A.

‘genuine prospectors’ on the field.⁷⁰⁰ As indicated in the mini-biography of his mate, Kennedy, he successfully protested against the latter applying for their claim under his own name. Had Young known that the license was about to run out, he would have renewed it; he had agreed to give Kennedy a share if ‘anything came of’ it.⁷⁰¹ His reward for his years of mining was miner’s complaint, from which he suffered for an unknown number of years before dying in 1938, aged 64.⁷⁰²

Young was a prominent member of the local community for much of his life, mostly for the wrong reasons. In February 1900, Alice Burchell, aged 20, bore an illegitimate son whose father was not named.⁷⁰³ One month later, her stepfather sued Young for the maintenance of her child. Then aged 26 and unmarried (as he would remain), he denied paternity, and the case was dismissed ‘for want of collaborative evidence’.⁷⁰⁴

His father was a notable drunkard,⁷⁰⁵ and Young followed his example. In November 1906, a prohibition order was taken out against him,⁷⁰⁶ and less than two years later one another was imposed at his brother’s request.⁷⁰⁷ Four months later, he was charged with being drunk during the currency of this order. The local constable deposed that ‘accused was a source of trouble to people in the town, asking them

⁷⁰⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 12 October 1932, p. 5.

⁷⁰¹ Warden’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 16 October 1933, p. 5.

⁷⁰² Miners’ Phthisis Pensions, List of all Pensioners, 22 December 1937, Social Security, SS, Box 8, M40, No. 3, ANZ-W; Death Certificate of Charles Thomas Young, 3 September 1938, 1938/22309, BDM.

⁷⁰³ Birth Certificate of Arnold George Burchell, 2 February 1900, 1900/3445, BDM.

⁷⁰⁴ Te Aroha Magistrate’s Court, Criminal Record Book 1896-1907, 16/1900, BCDG 11220/1b, ANZ-A; Magistrate’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 8 March 1900, p. 2.

⁷⁰⁵ For example, Te Aroha Magistrate’s Court, Criminal Record Book 1881-1896, 34/1890, 22/1892, BCDG 11220/1a; Criminal Record Book 1896-1907, 1/1900, BCDG 11220/1b, ANZ-A.

⁷⁰⁶ Te Aroha Magistrate’s Court, Criminal Record Book 1896-1907, 74/1906, BCDG 11220/1b, ANZ-A.

⁷⁰⁷ Te Aroha Magistrate’s Court, Criminal Record Book 1907-1913, 31/1908, BCDG 11220/2a, ANZ-A.

to obtain drink for him'. The brother who had had the second order imposed had asked the constable to give him 'a scare and complained about people supplying him with drink. After drinking his brother became ill'. Young, who had pleaded not guilty, was fined ten shillings and costs and threatened with 48 hours in the Thames gaol if this was not paid (it was).⁷⁰⁸ Four months later, he was again charged: first with being drunk and then with possessing liquor during the currency of a prohibition order. Fined £2, or in default three days imprisonment, he paid.⁷⁰⁹ Seven months later, he was charged with being in a 'helpless state of drunkenness' in a street and fined £1, or 24 hours of hard labour; once again, he paid.⁷¹⁰

In November 1910 he was accused of breaking into the Waiorongomai Hotel 'with intent to commit a crime therein'. He was acquitted 'on the grounds of insufficient evidence to prove that he was on the premises with intent to commit a crime. On the application of Constable Mackie, accused was prohibited for 12 months, with his own consent'.⁷¹¹ The next time he was charged with drunkenness was in January 1916, when he was convicted and then discharged, receiving the same sentence for being idle and disorderly.⁷¹² Charged with being drunk in October, he was once more convicted and discharged.⁷¹³ In July 1918, after arresting him for being drunk in the street, the police requested that he be put in a home for inebriates because he 'had been drinking heavily for some time past, and was wasting his substance.

⁷⁰⁸ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1907-1913, 52/1908, BCDG 11220/2a, ANZ-A; Magistrate's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 26 November 1909, p. 2.

⁷⁰⁹ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1907-1913, 12, 16/1909, BCDG 11220/2a, ANZ-A.

⁷¹⁰ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1907-1913, 54/1909, BCDG 11220/2a, ANZ-A; Police Court, *Te Aroha News*, 16 October 1909, p. 2.

⁷¹¹ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1907-1913, 69, 70/1901, BCDG 11220/2a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, Magistrate's Court, 5 November 1910, p. 2, Police Court, 12 November 1910, p. 2.

⁷¹² Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1913-1918, 2, 3/1916, BCDG 11220/2b, ANZ-A.

⁷¹³ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1913-1918, 107/1916, BCDG 11220/2b, ANZ-A.

His residence was frequented by well-known drinkers, and complaints had been made to the local police'. As he had not been charged with drunkenness for some time, Young was given one more chance, but another prohibition order was imposed.⁷¹⁴ After he breached this three months later, the new magistrate was told his predecessor had warned Young 'on the last occasion he was before the Court that if he came up again he would probably be committed to Rotoroa Island', in the Hauraki Gulf, where drunkards were treated. He was fined £2, or in default one month of hard labour.⁷¹⁵ Three months later, in March 1919, Young, the 'well-known local identity', was charged with breaching the order. 'The police report was distinctly unfavourable', and 'to give him a lesson' he was fined £10 or one month in prison.⁷¹⁶ Perhaps he learnt, for although he may well have become drunk again, he did so in private and made no more court appearances.

CONCLUSION

Most of these 50 people did not do any prospecting, despite being shareholders. Of the 25 who did prospect, mostly very briefly, eight were aged in their twenties, four in their thirties, while the remainder were older. Twenty-two lived at Te Aroha or Waiorongomai, and one, Sproul, nearby. Hennah lived at Tirohia, and McNeil and his two sons came from Coromandel to investigate this field. Their occupations were very varied: four labourers, four farmers, one each of carpenter, painter, printer, clerk, blacksmith, engineer, butcher, bricklayer, plasterer, and two unknowns. There were only three who were working as miners just before prospecting in the Te Aroha district (one was a coal miner, which would not have given him appropriate skills) and one mine manager. James Donald Cumming, Gibbs, D'Esterre, and Scott were self-proclaimed experts, but only the first three of these had done any

⁷¹⁴ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1913-1918, entry for 13 July 1918, BCDG 11220/3a, ANZ-A; Magistrate's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 15 July 1918, p. 2.

⁷¹⁵ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1913-1918, entries for 15 November 1918, 6 December 1918, BCDG 11220/2b, ANZ-A; Magistrate's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 9 December 1918, p. 2.

⁷¹⁶ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1919-1921, entries for 7 March 1919, 4 April 1919, BCDG 11220/3a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 10 March 1919, p. 2.

prospecting: a minimal amount by Cumming, and Gibbs mostly employed others to prospect. D'Esterre had mined in the South Island, which would not have helped him trace the very different Te Aroha ore. Eight were experienced miners: Gillan, Hennah, Jones, McNeil, Neilson, Spensley, Stewart and Young, and of these all but Hennah, Stewart and Young continued to be involved in mining after 1933. Cumming played at being a prospector after that date as well, and Holmes became a full-time miner during much of the later 1930s. Five of them, Gillan, Hennah, Jones, Stewart, and Young, suffered from miner's complaint as a consequence of long years of gold mining, which would have handicapped their doing much prospecting.

Most of the sleeping partners and speculators had only a fleeting involvement in mining. McCoy, Nettleton, and Scelly were the most active in trying to make money by floating gold mining companies, but all of these were unsuccessful. Gibbs arguably should be seen more as a speculator than a prospector. Apart from one or two, notably Goodfellow, none of these speculators had access to significant amounts of capital, and they provided only minimal funds for prospecting this unpromising district.

For both individuals and companies, the low grade of the local ore was an insurmountable hurdle: there was no good ore left to discover, despite the claims of interested parties.

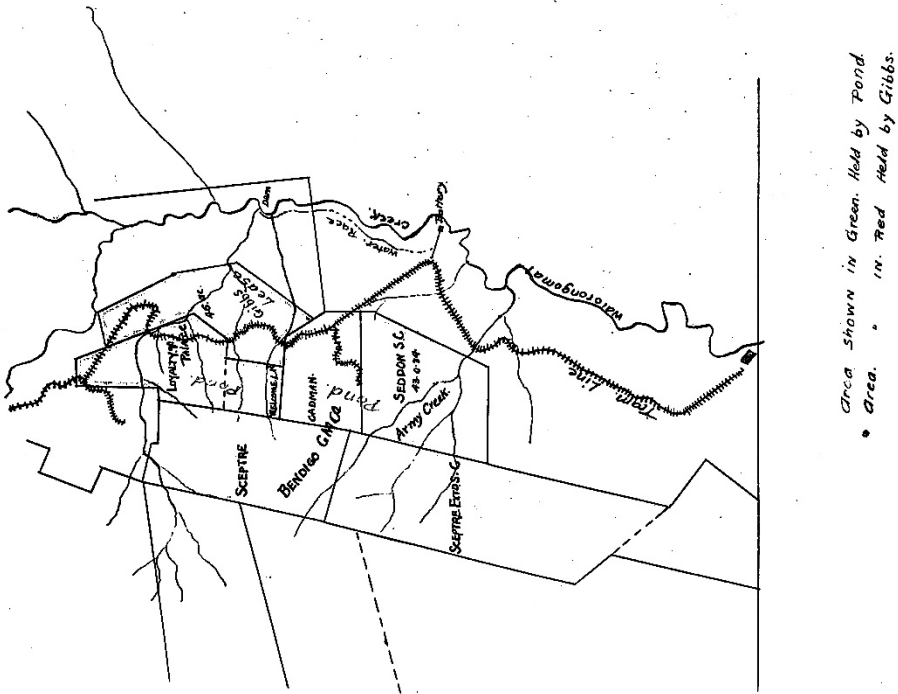


Figure 1: Plan showing ground held by Walter Joseph Gibbs and John Alexander Pond, September 1931, attached to Walter Joseph Gibbs to Minister of Mines, 10 September 1931, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/7/23, ANZ-W [Archives New Zealand The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua]; used with permission.

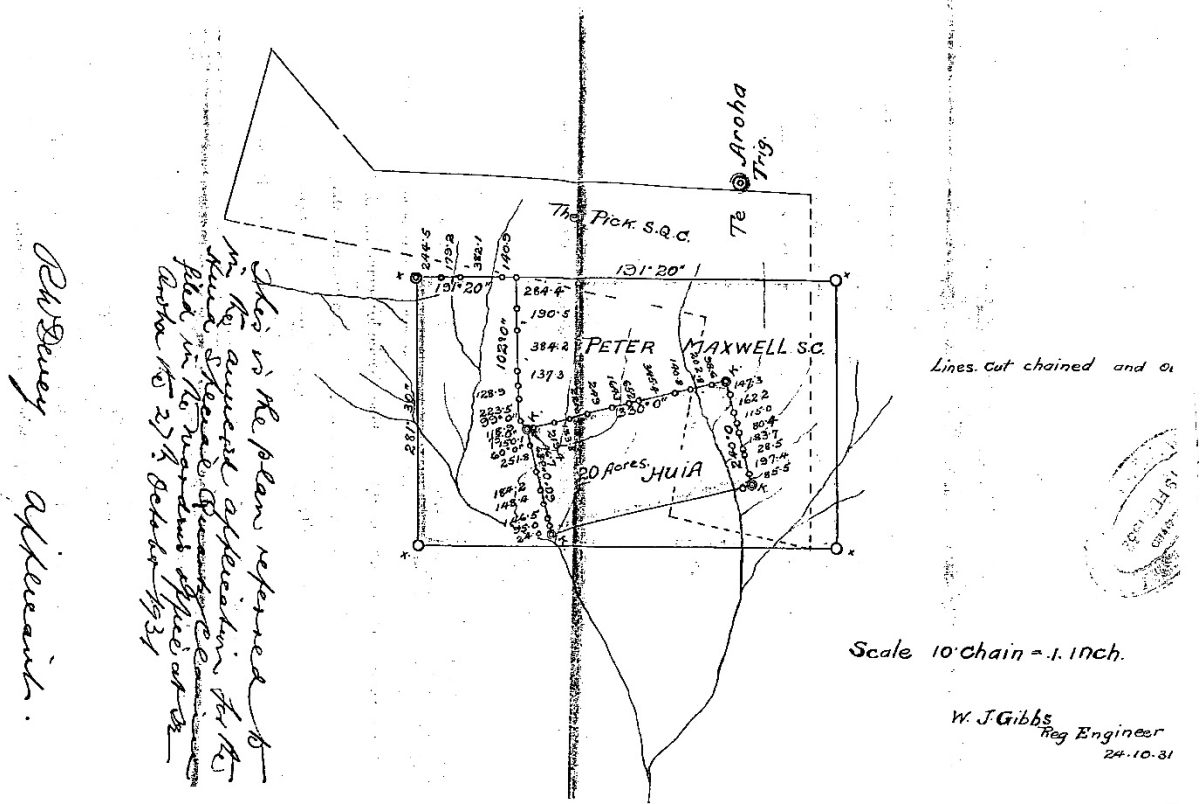


Figure 2: Plan drawn by Walter Joseph Gibbs, 24 October 1931, attached to application by Reginald Walter Devey for Huia Special Quartz Claim, 27 October 1931, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1931, 17/1931, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.

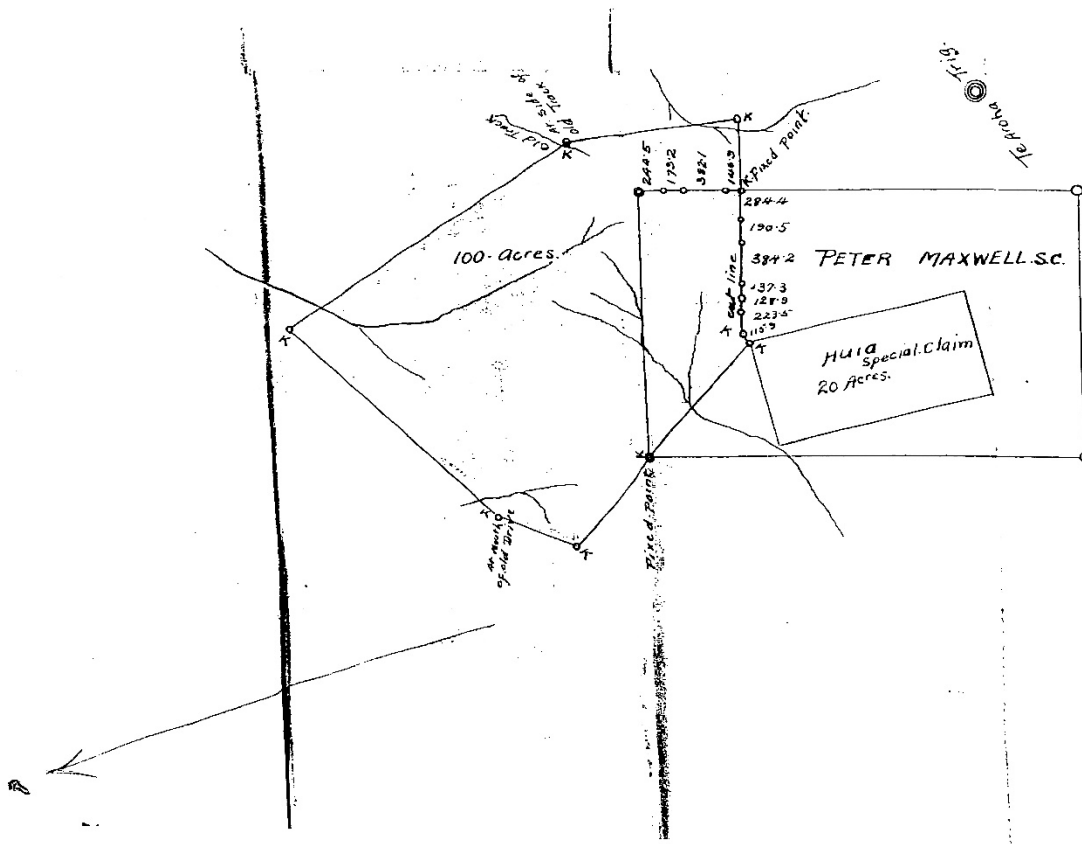


Figure 3: Plan of Prospecting License applied for by Walter Joseph Gibbs, 4 January 1932, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1932, 2/1932, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.

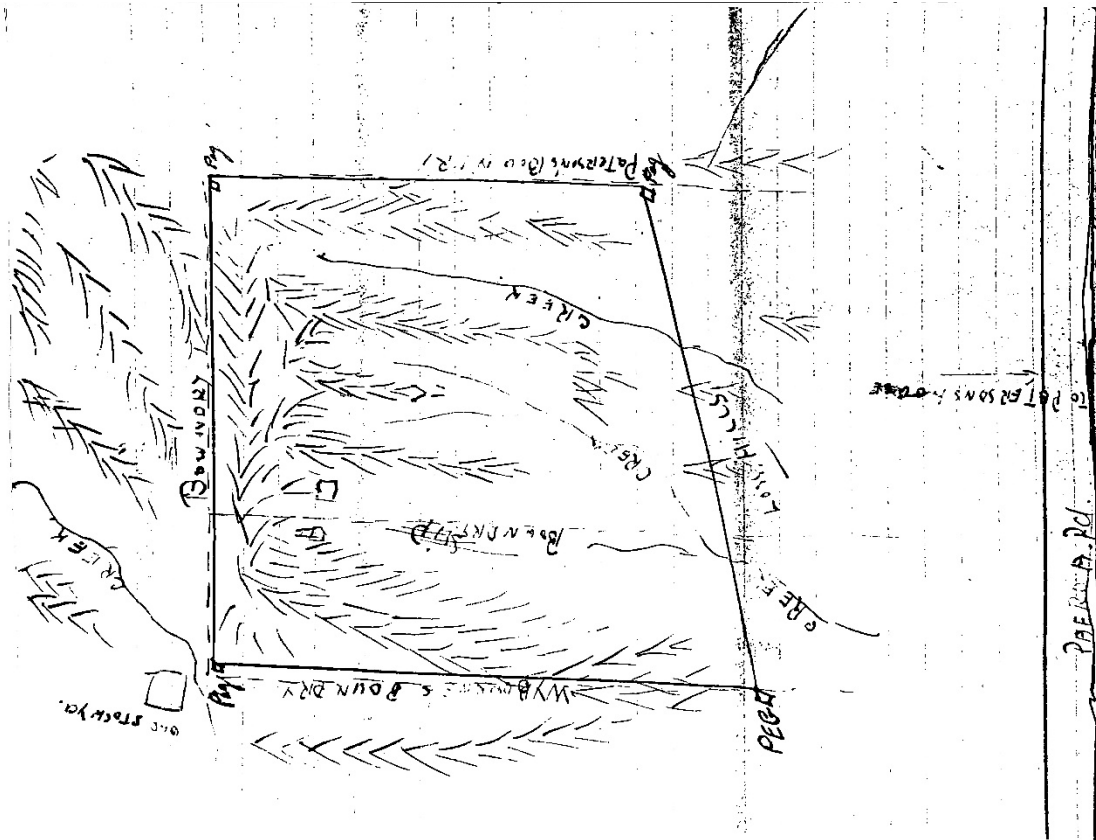


Figure 4: Plan of Prospecting License applied for by David Edwards, Roy Harrison Leece, and Francis James Roache, 28 January 1932, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1932, 5/1932, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.

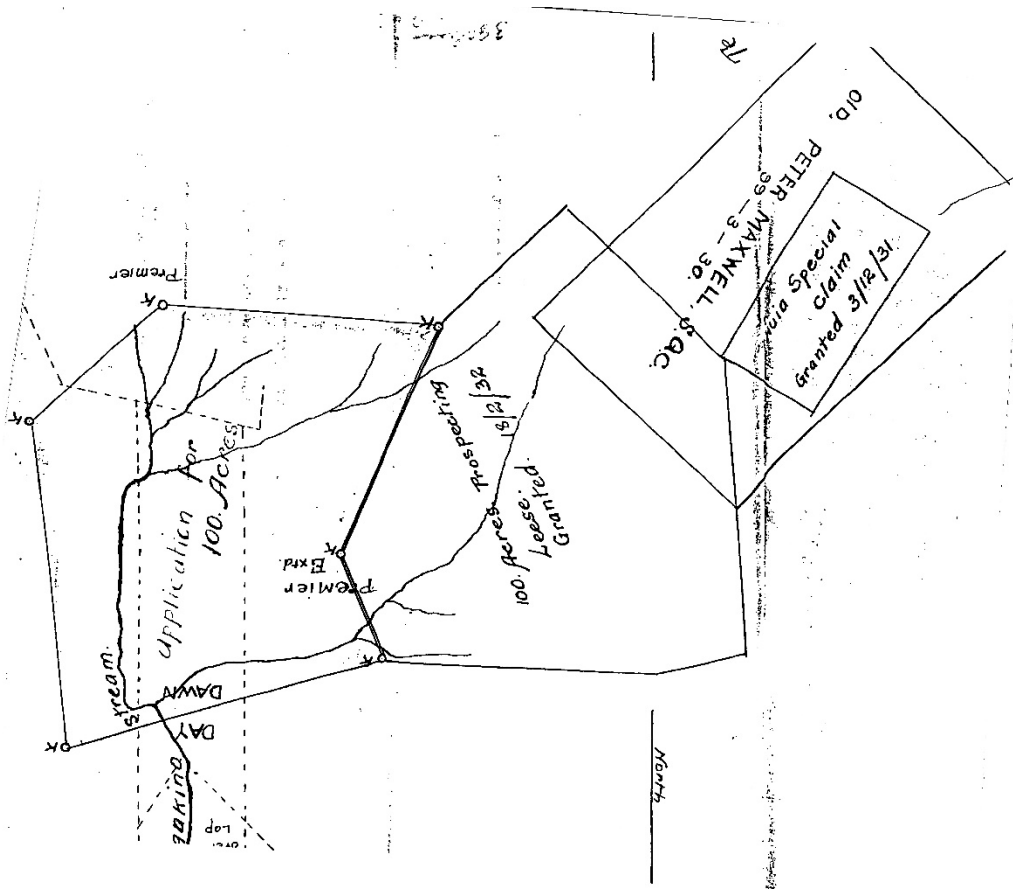


Figure 5: Plan of Prospecting License for 100 acres applied for by Walter Joseph Gibbs, 11 March 1932, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1932, 11/1932, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.

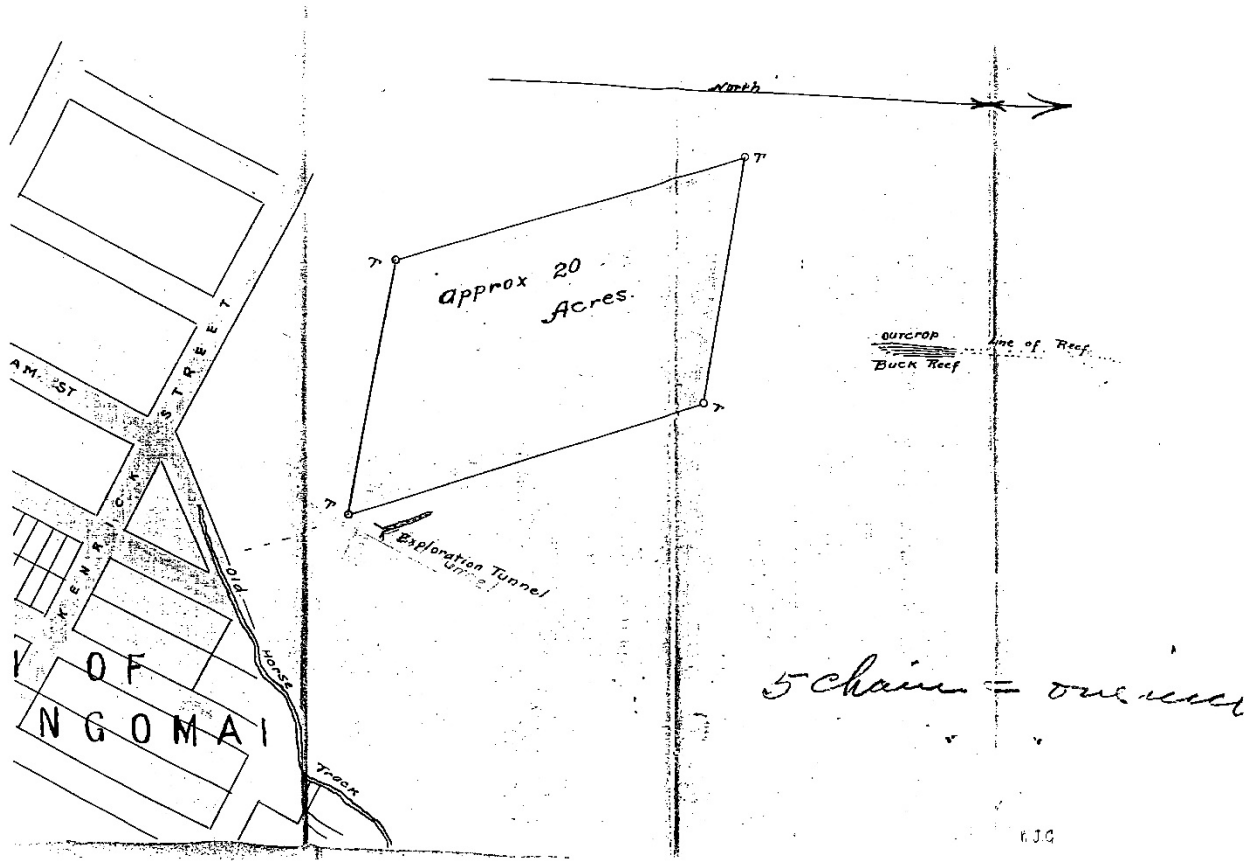


Figure 6: Plan of Prospecting License applied for by Thomas Stewart, 13 April 1933, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1933, 26/1933, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.

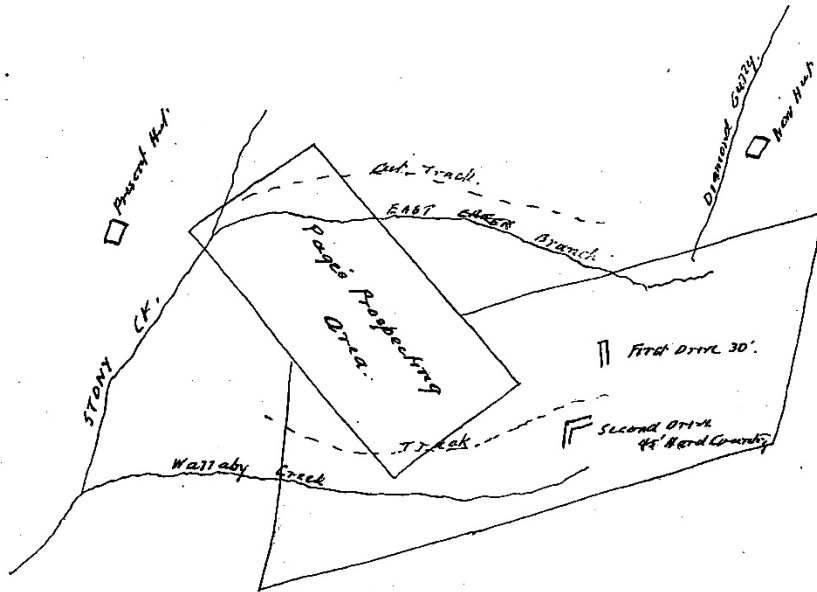


Figure 7: Plan of George Page's Prospecting Area and workings between Stoney Creek and Diamond Gully, attached to F.V. Hennah to J.F. Downey, 22 December 1933, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, MM74, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.

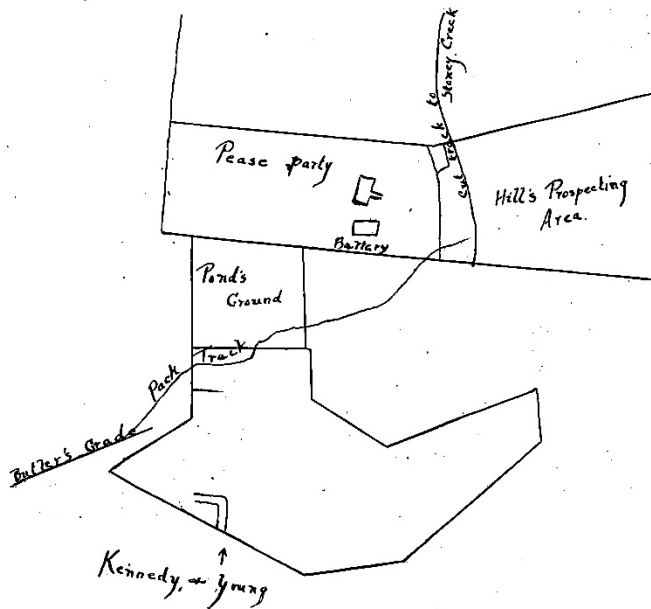


Figure 8: Plan of ground held by Henry James Pease, Robert John Hill, James Alexander Pond, and Clarence James Kennedy and Charles Thomas Young, attached to F.V. Hennah to J.W. Downey, 23 December 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 2, ANZ-W [Archives New Zealand The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua]; used with permission.

PLAN LODGED WITH APPLICATION FOR TAIL RACE
BY HENRY JAMES PEASE

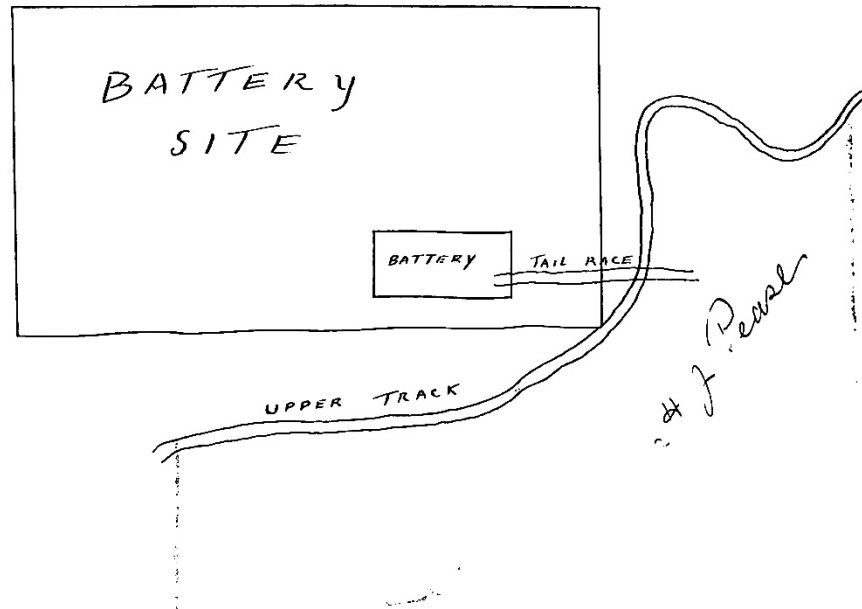


Figure 9: 'Plan Lodged with Application for Tail Race by Henry James Pease', 10 February 1934, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1934, 3/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.

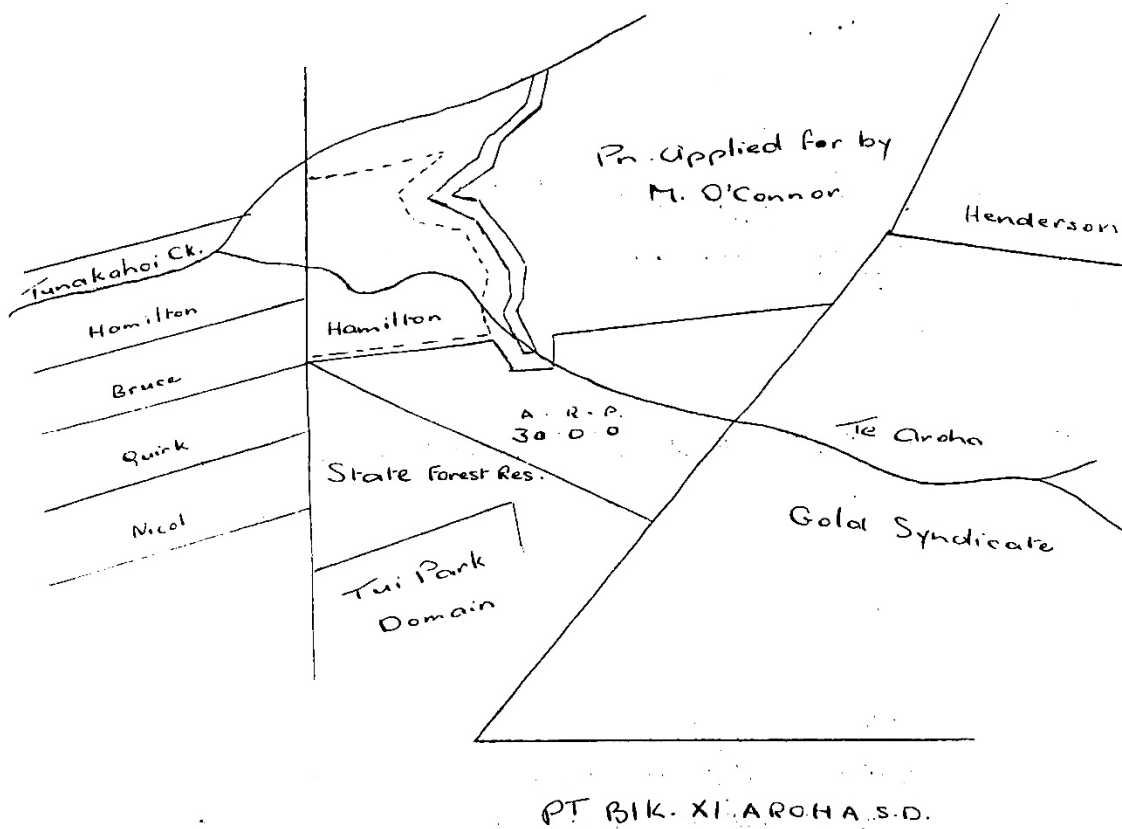


Figure 10: Plan of 30-acre Prospecting License applied for by Robert Milton Scelly, 8 June 1934, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1934, 13/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.

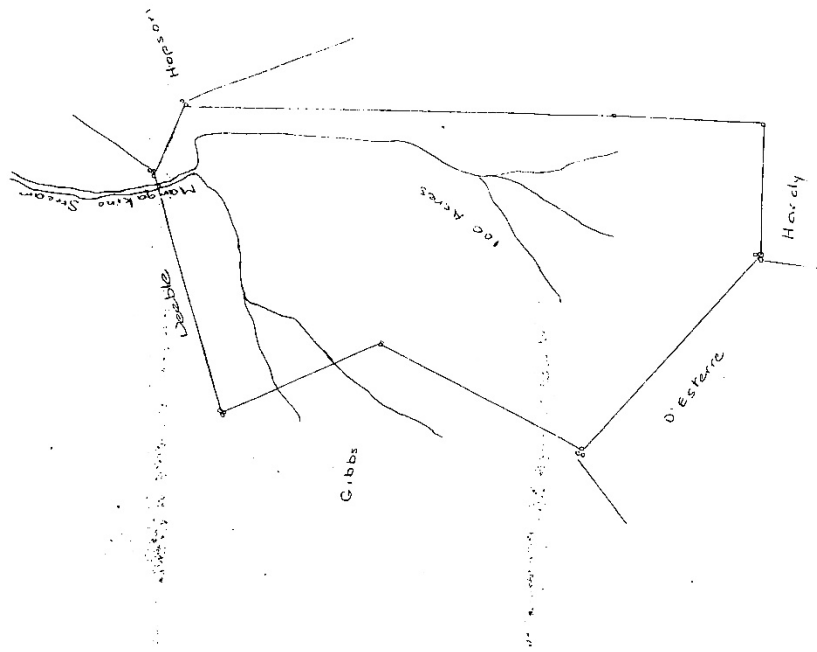


Figure 11: Plan of 100-acre Prospecting License applied for by the Huia Syndicate, 9 June 1934, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1934, 16/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.