

# EDWARD GALLAGHER: A TE AROHA COACH PROPRIETOR

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

## EDWARD GALLAGHER: A TE AROHA COACH PROPRIETOR

**Abstract:** *Edward Gallagher, who arrived in New Zealand at the age of two in 1844, fought as a cavalryman against Maori in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty. His subsequent career was primarily based around horses, having pioneer coaching and cartage businesses in Thames, Ohinemuri, and Te Aroha. When living in Thames he invested in local mines and even did some mining. For several years he also farmed at Puriri. After moving to Te Aroha, his coaches ran to Waiorongomai and elsewhere, profitably. He also did some carting and became a farmer (at Te Aroha West). His investments in Waiorongomai and Stoney Creek mines probably brought him no profit.*

*Gallagher was very active in assisting the development of the Te Aroha district, being elected to several committees and becoming chairman of the town board and later the second mayor. His erratic and abrasive behaviour in his dealings with colleagues on these bodies was notable. In politics he was a strong supporter of the Liberal Party and of the rights of the Irish, but in practice he could be as oppressive as any Irish landlord. He was an important member of the community, but a flawed one.*

### EARLY LIFE IN NEW ZEALAND

Edward Gallagher,<sup>1</sup> commonly known as Ed or Ned,<sup>2</sup> was born in Ireland in 1842 to Edward and Margaret, née O'Reilly.<sup>3</sup> After he arrived in Auckland in 'early infancy', meaning when aged two, the family settling at Otahuhu.<sup>4</sup> In 1865, his father held the freehold of four lots in this district, valued at £600, and the 'pre-emptive freehold' for another lot, value £150.<sup>5</sup> His father, a labourer who also, in 1866, did contract ploughing, would die

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<sup>1</sup> For photograph, see *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 832.

<sup>2</sup> For example, *Thames Advertiser*, 6 May 1878, p. 3, 27 September 1882, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Notices of Intentions to Marry 1865, folio 73 no. 2316, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/10, ANZ-W; Probate of Margaret Gallagher, Probates, 1569/471, ANZ-A; *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 832; *Te Aroha News*, 28 August 1925, p. 4; Death Notice, *New Zealand Herald*, 9 March 1889, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 832; *Te Aroha News*, 2 June 1915, p. 3, 28 August 1925, p. 4.

<sup>5</sup> *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 15 June 1865, p. 127.

in 1873, aged 66;<sup>6</sup> presumably he had not made a will because of having little money to leave his family. When she died in 1889, aged 72, his mother left four acres plus houses at Otahuhu to her two daughters and three allotments to her other son, Joseph, but nothing to Edward.<sup>7</sup>

When war commenced in the Waikato, Gallagher joined the cavalry and fought in 'all the engagements' of this campaign, notably at Rangiaowhia and Orakau, before participating in the battle at Te Ranga (near Tauranga), serving continuously from July 1863 to September 1864 but never rising above the rank of trooper.<sup>8</sup> In 1889, he complained that although he had enlisted for 12 months 'on the distinct understanding that at the end of that term I would receive 100 acres of land' he had received nothing. Having been under arms for almost 13 months, he sought 'justice after 26 years have elapsed'.<sup>9</sup> Under the terms of an Act of that year, he received a £25 Remission Certificate because officials determined that he was entitled to 50 acres, half of what he sought.<sup>10</sup>

His entry in the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand* stated that he 'had much to do with horses, and has for the greater part of his lifetime been engaged in carting contracts or as a coach and livery stable proprietor'.<sup>11</sup> In January 1865, Edward Gallagher and Company (his father and himself?) tendered,

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<sup>6</sup> Death Certificate of Edward Gallagher, 2 April 1873, 1873/7489, BDM; Otahuhu Magistrate's Court, *Daily Southern Cross*, 12 October 1866, p. 5; Death Notice, *New Zealand Herald*, 4 April 1873, p. 2.

<sup>7</sup> Death Certificate of Margaret Gallagher, 1889/408, BDM; Probate of Margaret Gallagher, Probates, 1569/471, ANZ-A.

<sup>8</sup> Maori War Index, Army Department, AD32, MW 2849; Maori War Benefits, Military Pension 1057, Department of Social Security, SS 7, 10/10/2, ANZ-W; *Te Aroha News*, 2 June 1915, p. 3; *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 832; *New Zealand Gazette*, 29 May 1872, p. 350.

<sup>9</sup> Edward Gallagher to Commissioner of Crown Lands, 22 October 1889, Applications for Land Grants 1889-1892, no. 264, Lands and Survey Department, LS 66/3, ANZ-W.

<sup>10</sup> Memorandum on Applications for Land Grants 1889-1892, no. 264, ANZ-W; Register of Claims under Act of 1889, no. 196, BAAZ 5519/1a, ANZ-A; 'Naval and Military Land Claims', *AJHR*, 1892, H-36, p. 2.

<sup>11</sup> *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 832.

unsuccessfully, to cart metal to the Great South Road near Papakura.<sup>12</sup> Four months later, Gallagher gave his occupation as being a farmer.<sup>13</sup>

### AT THAMES

In August 1867 Gallagher took horses to the new Thames goldfield, and, doubtless excited by its possibilities, took out his first miner's right in early December.<sup>14</sup> An obituary stated that he established the first coaching business at Thames, and the *Cyclopedia* that later he became 'the pioneer of the coach line to Paeroa and Te Aroha'.<sup>15</sup> He earned most of his income from carting mining machinery and making roads.<sup>16</sup> His financial position was sound, judging by his being sued only once to enforce payment of a debt, this exception being to pay £18 13s 6d for work done; it was settled out of court.<sup>17</sup> In 1868, his house and allotment were valued at £50.<sup>18</sup> On two occasions he was obliged to sue mining companies for work done or goods delivered.<sup>19</sup> When Thomas Sherson, a horse dealer,<sup>20</sup> bought a horse from him for £25 10s, on credit, promising to pay within three months, but could not do so, Gallagher obtained a judgment against him, resulting in Sherson's bankruptcy in March 1873. Gallagher complained that he had been 'ill-used. He had lent Sherson a horse to assist him, and when he wished to get the price he found that all bankrupt's property was juggled away'.<sup>21</sup> In early 1876, to secure repayment of £150 plus interest, he made a

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<sup>12</sup> *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 13 January 1865, p. 6.

<sup>13</sup> Notices of Intentions to Marry 1865, folio 73 no. 2316, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/10, ANZ-W.

<sup>14</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 2 June 1915, p. 3; Thames Warden's Court, Register of Miners' Rights 1867-1868, no. 2563, BACL 14358/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>15</sup> *New Zealand Herald*, 26 August 1925, p. 12; *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 832.

<sup>16</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 2 June 1915, p. 3.

<sup>17</sup> Thames Magistrate's Court, Complaint Book 1871-1875, 166/1875, BACL 13737/1b, ANZ-A.

<sup>18</sup> *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 28 October 1868, p. 480.

<sup>19</sup> Thames Magistrate's Court, Complaint Book 1869-1871, 1890/1870, BACL 13737/1a; Complaint Book 1871-1875, 1261/1872, BACL 13737/1b; Warden's Notebook 1870-1871, entry for 19 January 1871, BACL 14457/2a, ANZ-A.

<sup>20</sup> For example, advertisement, *Daily Southern Cross*, 27 September 1861, p. 2.

<sup>21</sup> District Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 22 October 1873, pp. 3-4; Grahamstown District Court, *Daily Southern Cross*, 5 March 1873, p. 3, Thames Correspondent, 21 November 1873, p. 2.

conditional assignment to Edward McDonnell, a Thames merchant and mining investor,<sup>22</sup> of his horses, carts, furniture, and other property.<sup>23</sup>

In July 1868 he was registered as one of six owners of the Long Fellows claim at Karaka Hill; his quarter of the interests was sold one year later for £50.<sup>24</sup> In June 1869, he was one of nine owners of the Golden Mint, with a sixth of the interest.<sup>25</sup> Three months later, when it had been turned into a company, he held one-twentieth of the interests.<sup>26</sup> Also in 1869, he acquired shares in the Great Australian Company.<sup>27</sup>

In addition to investing, Gallagher did some mining himself. In March 1869, the warden recorded the evidence in his case against a miner, Richard Mills:<sup>28</sup>

Edward Gallagher sworn. About four months ago a man took me to the deft who wanted a man to work for him – Deft engaged me at £2 per week to work for him in the Black Prince claim at Waiotahi – I went to work and remained there 4 months – and when on the 11th Decr the claim was protected I worked up to the 12th and on the Saturday night when I went for money he said he had none but would see me some time else – I told him I'd summons him if he would not pay me – Deft did not pay him for the last week I worked for him nor has he paid me since.

When the claim was protected, he took tools to Mills. Mills responded that he had told him on the Saturday before 11 December that he was not required anymore, and that Gallagher, who lived on the claim, did no work on it during that week, despite asking for payment; Gallagher was non-suited.<sup>29</sup> In 1873, after being warned twice in the previous year that his 75 shares in the Flagship Golden Anchor Company would be forfeited if calls

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<sup>22</sup> See *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, pp. 865, 891.

<sup>23</sup> *Mercantile Gazette of New Zealand*, 1 April 1876, p. 3.

<sup>24</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Claims Register 1868-1869, no. 668, BACL 14397/2a; Register of Deeds 1869, entry for 22 July 1869, BACL 14417/3a, ANZ-A.

<sup>25</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Claims Register 1869, no. 1587, BACL 14397/4a, ANZ-A.

<sup>26</sup> *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 28 September 1869, p. 1198.

<sup>27</sup> *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 31 July 1869, p. 657.

<sup>28</sup> See Warden's Court, *Daily Southern Cross*, 20 November 1868, p. 5.

<sup>29</sup> Thames Warden's Court, Warden's Notebook 1868-1869, entry for 8 March 1869, BACL 14457/1a, ANZ-A.

were unpaid, they were indeed forfeited.<sup>30</sup> At the same time he was warned that his ten shares in the Mary Ann Company would be forfeited for the same reason.<sup>31</sup>

In April 1873, he leased the Waiotahi Creek tramway for one year, for £25.<sup>32</sup> Five months later, he urged the Superintendent of the Auckland Province, John Williamson, to extend the tramway.<sup>33</sup> The following January, he explained to Williamson, who was visiting Thames, that he had offered to provide the labour on condition that the provincial government provided the materials and extended his lease by five years without charging rent. He now wanted eight years rent-free, estimating it would take three months to construct the extension. Williamson 'said that, according to the present rate at which the tramway was let, Mr Gallagher asked £200 for doing the work. They would consider the application'.<sup>34</sup> As his request was not acceded to, late in the year he twice urged Williamson to make the extension and so open up the upper Waiotahi.<sup>35</sup>

Once the Ohinemuri district was opened to Pakeha settlement in 1875, Gallagher leased a section in Paeroa and commenced carting timber to Mackaytown.<sup>36</sup> In May, it was reported that one of his horses 'fell down at the side of the track' to Tairua 'and died. It had been overloaded for such a road, and after doing its best, and struggling on to the last, it was compelled to give up and lay down and died'.<sup>37</sup> Late in October, he accepted a contract of £10 5s per ton to convey the Tairua Company's battery to its mine.<sup>38</sup> Despite fulfilling his task creditably, the company was not meeting payments, resulting in his being owed £150 by mid-December; because of

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<sup>30</sup> *Thames Guardian and Mining Register*, 16 August 1872, p. 2; *Thames Advertiser*, 19 December 1872, p. 2, 14 March 1873, p. 2.

<sup>31</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 20 September 1872, p. 2, 7 June 1873, p. 2.

<sup>32</sup> Auckland Provincial Government Papers, ACFM 8183, 4143/74, ANZ-W; *Thames Advertiser*, 19 July 1873, p. 3.

<sup>33</sup> Edward Gallagher to John Williamson, 19 September 1873, Auckland Provincial Government Papers, ACFM 8180, 4143/74, ANZ-W.

<sup>34</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 17 January 1874, p. 3.

<sup>35</sup> Edward Gallagher to John Williamson, 27 October 1874, 25 November 1894, Auckland Provincial Government Papers, ACFM 8180, 4143/74, ANZ-W.

<sup>36</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 1 March 1875, p. 3, 3 April 1875, p. 3.

<sup>37</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 8 May 1875, p. 3.

<sup>38</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 28 October 1875, p. 2.

this non-payment, he did not convey it within the time specified.<sup>39</sup> In March machinery was still lying in the mud on the semi-formed road, and he was still carting machinery in late April.<sup>40</sup>

At the Christmas Sports in 1873, his 'Jessie' failed to win the Cabman's Purse, but Gallagher, who was riding, won the 'tilting in the ring'.<sup>41</sup> The following January, his 'Stockings' came third (and last), and in March his 'Wild Boy' came second (also last) in a hurdle race at the St Patrick's Day Sports.<sup>42</sup>

His only recorded charitable donation during these years was made in 1874, when he gave 10s to the families of victims of a boiler disaster.<sup>43</sup>

### AT PURIRI

According to the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, 'in 1878 he acquired a farm at Puriri, and worked it for about six years'.<sup>44</sup> In fact, in late 1876 he owned a house close to the Puriri Creek.<sup>45</sup> The following April, his 65 acres there had a rateable value of £36; he also owned another ten acres in the Ohinemuri district with a rateable value of £16.<sup>46</sup> (He had also owned 96 acres in Manukau County, valued at £25 in 1882,<sup>47</sup> and his wife owned an allotment at Pupuke, Monganui County.)<sup>48</sup>

In September 1877, he sued a neighbour for damages of £35 caused by a cow 'to three acres of oats and English grass, valued at £10 per acre'. Gallagher informed the court that he leased 'very nearly three acres' from the Church Missionary Society and 'lived about a mile from the paddock. In ten or eleven places the fence was destroyed. He estimated the damage at £35. He estimated that the damage to fruit trees would be £5'. He had

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<sup>39</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 15 November 1875, p. 3, 11 December 1875, p. 3, 19 January 1876, p. 3.

<sup>40</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 11 March 1876, p. 3, 26 April 1876, p. 3.

<sup>41</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 27 December 1873, p. 3.

<sup>42</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 30 January 1874, p. 3, 18 March 1874, p. 3.

<sup>43</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 9 March 1874, p. 2.

<sup>44</sup> *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 832.

<sup>45</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 18 December 1876, p. 2.

<sup>46</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 24 April 1877, p. 3.

<sup>47</sup> *A Return of the Freeholders of New Zealand ...* (Wellington, 1884), p. G 2.

<sup>48</sup> Index of Deposited Documents, vol. 1, p. 164, Department of Lands and Deeds, Auckland, BCAT A1009, ANZ-A.

expected to obtain about ‘four and a-half tons of oaten hay’ from each acre as fodder for his cows. Under cross-examination, he denied shooting at a cow, ‘but he did at birds’, and stated that the defendant had promised to pay for any damage caused by his cow breaking into his paddock. The defendant then ‘admitted the cow got into the plaintiff’s paddock. The cow was a tame one, but could not jump a legal fence. Plaintiff’s fence was broken down in some places. It was made of ti-tree, ditch, and one part was creek’. Gallagher was awarded only £7 10s because the judge decided that ‘the cow did not do all the damage’.<sup>49</sup> In 1882, in a reversal of this conflict, he was fined because his cattle trespassed on a neighbour’s property, destroying his garden.<sup>50</sup>

In addition to farming, he tendered for road works at Puriri and nearby,<sup>51</sup> and was described as the local carrier.<sup>52</sup> In 1881, he established an ‘omnibus’ service from Thames to Hikutaia.<sup>53</sup> Three years later, he sought £9 13s 4d from the council for fascines cut on his land plus the use of his land for a road.<sup>54</sup> After farming at Puriri for six years, Gallagher moved to Te Aroha.<sup>55</sup>

#### IN BUSINESS AT TE AROHA AND WAIORONGOMAI

Over a 20-year period, Gallagher and his wife owned seven business sites and seven residence sites at Te Aroha.<sup>56</sup> He erected houses, stables, a coach house and offices on some sections, while his wife owned their six-roomed home on another one.<sup>57</sup> In 1895, his bank manager recorded that

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<sup>49</sup> District Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 7 September 1877, p. 3.

<sup>50</sup> Magistrate’s Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 3 February 1883, p. 2.

<sup>51</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 23 February 1878, p. 2, 25 November 1880, p. 3.

<sup>52</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 6 May 1878, p. 3.

<sup>53</sup> *Thames Star*, 27 October 1881, p. 2.

<sup>54</sup> *Thames Star*, 8 October 1884, p. 2.

<sup>55</sup> *New Zealand Herald*, 25 August 1925, p. 12.

<sup>56</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Rent Ledger 1881-1900, folios 163, 207, 424, 425, BBAV 11501/1a; Rent Ledger 1894-1910, folios 69, 70, 91, 92, 186-187, BBAV 11570/7a, ANZ-A; Te Aroha Town Board, Rate Book 1888 [no pagination]; Te Aroha Borough Council, Rate Book 1900-1901 [no pagination], Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha.

<sup>57</sup> Te Aroha Town Board, Rate Book 1888, Sections 4, 5, Block 2, Sections 3, 4 Block 26; Te Aroha Borough Council, Rate Book 1900-1901, Sections 4, 5 Block 12, Sections 4, 5 Block

two of his sections, good land in good positions, were worth £300; his stables were valued at £340 and his house at £500.<sup>58</sup> He also owned four business sites at Waiorongomai, the first two obtained in 1882.<sup>59</sup> Until the beginning of 1887, when he erected a house in the centre of Te Aroha, he lived at Waiorongomai.<sup>60</sup>

In September 1882 he started a coach service between the two settlements, ‘at a nominal charge’, enabling visitors to Waiorongomai to ‘easily get out and back in about four hours’.<sup>61</sup> Three months later, his tender of £40 to provide a weekly mail service between Te Aroha and Shaftesbury was accepted, as was one of £20 to carry mail daily between Te Aroha and Waiorongomai.<sup>62</sup> In July 1883, he advertised his services:

### GALLAGHER'S BUS

LEAVES the Post Office for SHAFTESBURY every TUESDAY and FRIDAY at 8 a.m., returning at 11.30 a.m., carrying Mails, Passengers, and Parcels.

#### THE BUS TO WAIORONGOMAI

(carrying Mails, Passengers, and Parcels) Leaves the Post Office Daily at the following Hours:-

8 a.m. 11 a.m. 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Leaving Waiorongomai daily at –

7 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.<sup>63</sup>

Also in that month, the roof of one of his stables was blown off in a gale.<sup>64</sup> Late in the year he ran a new ‘Bus’ on his service to Waiorongomai,<sup>65</sup> which by 1884 was being driven by Michael Cronin.<sup>66</sup> The latter, a

2, Sections 12, 13 Block 12, Section 15 Block 2, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha.

<sup>58</sup> Bank of New Zealand, Paeroa Branch, Half-Yearly Balance Books, Balance as at 30 September 1895, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

<sup>59</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folios 182, 183, BBAV 11505/3a; Rent Register 1881-1900, folios 162, 163, BBAV 11501/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>60</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 15 January 1887, p. 2.

<sup>61</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 27 September 1882, p. 3.

<sup>62</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 18 December 1882, p. 2; *New Zealand Gazette*, 3 May 1883, p. 573.

<sup>63</sup> Advertisement, *Te Aroha News*, 14 July 1883, p. 2.

<sup>64</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 28 July 1883, p. 2.

<sup>65</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 24 November 1883, p. 2.

<sup>66</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 12 July 1884, p. 2.

Waiorongomai resident,<sup>67</sup> built a new coach for him late in that year.<sup>68</sup> At the beginning of 1885, he commenced a daily service by a 'well-appointed fast coach' which left for Morrinsville from the Waiorongomai Hotel at 6.15 a.m. and from Te Aroha at three-quarters of an hour later. The *Te Aroha News* report of this development described him as 'long and favourably known'.<sup>69</sup> This service put him into direct rivalry with Thomas Bradley, whose coaching firm was based in Te Aroha,<sup>70</sup> who had previously had a monopoly.<sup>71</sup> Soon afterwards, a visitor described travelling on this route on the 'well-appointed four-horse coaches' run by both firms.<sup>72</sup> In September, Bradley also commenced running coaches between Te Aroha and Waiorongomai both morning and evening, to connect with his coach to Morrinsville.<sup>73</sup> At that time Gallagher's service to Waiorongomai had been disrupted, but was soon restored.<sup>74</sup> Later, Bradley abandoned this route.<sup>75</sup>

Late in 1886, new stables and other facilities for his 'Royal Mail Coaches' were erected in Whitaker Street, adjacent to the Hot Springs Hotel.<sup>76</sup> By 1887, his contract for a daily mail delivery between Te Aroha and Waiorongomai was £35 a year, as was the twice-weekly service to Shaftesbury, and that between the Te Aroha post office and railway station, twice daily, was £20.<sup>77</sup> These contracts were renewed for the same amounts

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<sup>67</sup> See *Te Aroha News*, 8 March 1884, p. 7, 12 April 1884, p. 2, 19 April 1884, p. 7, 12 July 1884, p. 2, 30 April 1887, p. 2, 13 April 1889, p. 2, 1 February 1898, p. 28 January 1917, p. 3, 31 December 1934, p. 1; *New Zealand Herald*, 2 January 1935, p. 12.

<sup>68</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 27 December 1884, p. 2.

<sup>69</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 10 January 1885, p. 2.

<sup>70</sup> See *Thames Advertiser*, 27 February 1882, p. 3, 23 January 1883, p. 2, 2 August 1886, p. 2, 18 December 1886, p. 2, 12 October 1888, p. 2, 21 April 1893, p. 2, 16 September 1897, p. 2; *Thames Star*, 27 November 1890, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 21 January 1882, p. 2, 24 July 1886, p. 3, 15 January 1889, p. 2, 16 May 1893, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 21 July 1883, p. 3, 29 December 1883, p. 2, 31 May 1884, p. 2, 5 September 1885, p. 2; *Auckland Weekly News*, 18 September 1897, p. 30.

<sup>71</sup> *Waikato Times*, 16 October 1884, p. 2.

<sup>72</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 11 April 1885, p. 7.

<sup>73</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 26 September 1885, p. 2.

<sup>74</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 3 October 1885, p. 7.

<sup>75</sup> Te Aroha Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 22 January 1889, p. 3.

<sup>76</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 18 September 1886, p. 2; advertisement in Alfred Wright, *Te Aroha, New Zealand* (Te Aroha, 1887), p. vi.

<sup>77</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 10 February 1887, p. 235.

until 1897, when he delivered mail between the railway station and the post office 'as required' for £14.<sup>78</sup> From the beginning of 1900 until the end of 1902, his two-horse coach provided a twice-weekly postal service between Te Aroha, Waiorongomai, Shaftesbury, and Gordon.<sup>79</sup>

Although a train service between Morrinsville and Te Aroha commenced in March 1886,<sup>80</sup> his service on this route did not end, for in October the following year he arranged to take passengers to Morrinsville on those days when trains did not travel to Te Aroha.<sup>81</sup> For a time he conveyed mail between these townships on 'off-train days' for free, but when his request for £1 1s per week to continue this service was rejected he ceased carrying mail.<sup>82</sup> At the end of 1887, expecting many visitors during summer, he acquired a 'splendid new wagonette'.<sup>83</sup>

Late in January 1889, a Te Aroha correspondent reported on one impact of the declining goldfield:

Since the beginning of the year, two opposition coaches have been run between here and Waiorongomai, and those travelling the road benefited by it in a reduction of fares. From all appearances, each were being well patronized during the holiday time, but now that people are shaping down to the ordinary groove, our local whips have agreed to let matters go on as before, and now the enterprising firm of Bradley & Co.<sup>84</sup> have the full command of the Thames-Te Aroha Road, whilst Mr E. Gallagher holds the fort between this and Waiorongomai. Both firms deserve to be well patronized by the public, as the coaching accommodation here is unsurpassed in the colony for comfort and efficiency.<sup>85</sup>

In mid-1889, Gallagher bought the remains of the abandoned Te Aroha battery building for £17, reusing the timber and iron for new stables abutting the Te Aroha-Waiorongomai road, which provided 'the largest

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<sup>78</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 7 March 1889, p. 277, 26 February 1891, p. 286, 9 March 1893, p. 319, 28 January 1897, p. 284.

<sup>79</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 22 February 1900, p. 451.

<sup>80</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 2 March 1886, p. 2.

<sup>81</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 23 October 1887, p. 2.

<sup>82</sup> *Waikato Times*, 25 October 1887, p. 2.

<sup>83</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 12 November 1887, p. 2.

<sup>84</sup> See advertisement, *Te Aroha News*, 21 July 1883, p. 3; *Thames Advertiser*, 2 August 1886, p. 2, 16 September 1897, p. 2.

<sup>85</sup> Te Aroha Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 22 January 1889, p. 3.

stabling accommodation in the district'.<sup>86</sup> In 1898 a gale completely wrecked his coach house.<sup>87</sup>

When his contracts for delivering mail were renewed in 1891, a correspondent noted that he had 'faithfully' carried them out and that his service was 'deservedly popular'.<sup>88</sup> At the end of 1892, he reported 'what might have been a very serious accident' to 'the well-known coach proprietor':

Mr Gallagher's coaches meet every train on its arrival at Te Aroha, and on this occasion he was returning with one, and had just landed a number of passengers at the Hot Springs Hotel, when one of the horses became restive, and plunged forward breaking the swingle-tree. The jerk of this threw Mr Gallagher to the ground between the horses and the coach, one of the horse's feet striking his head, and two wheels of the coach passing over him. The horses then dashed with the coach to the opposite side of the street... Mr Gallagher sustained a severe shaking, but seems none the worse for the accident. It is something new for him to have an experience of this kind, as his horses are amongst the most reliable in the district.<sup>89</sup>

He suffered another very painful accident in 1895: when placing a heavy box in a coach, the horses moved and a wheel went over his foot, 'lacerating the three large toes considerably'.<sup>90</sup>

In early 1893, Bradley's coaching business was purchased by a four-man syndicate that included Gallagher, who mortgaged two Te Aroha sections to enable him to pay Bradley £455 14s 1d in three promissory notes due over six months.<sup>91</sup> At that time his overdraft was £65; 'Has Means. Sound', so his bank manager recorded.<sup>92</sup> In December 1901, he sold his

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<sup>86</sup> *Waikato Times*, 8 June 1889, p. 2; Te Aroha Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 22 August 1889, p. 2.

<sup>87</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 2 July 1898, Supplement, p. 1.

<sup>88</sup> Te Aroha Correspondent, *Auckland Weekly News*, 26 November 1891, p. 23.

<sup>89</sup> Te Aroha Correspondent, *Auckland Weekly News*, 7 January 1893, p. 21.

<sup>90</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 24 April 1895, p. 2.

<sup>91</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 21 April 1893, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 16 May 1893, p. 2; Mortgage from Edward Gallagher to M. Browne and Edward McDonnell, 15 May 1893, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Certified Instruments 1893, BBAV 11581/14a, ANZ-A.

<sup>92</sup> Bank of New Zealand, Paeroa Branch, Half-Yearly Balance Books, Balance as at 30 September 1895, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

coaching business, for which he had been 'long and favourably known'.<sup>93</sup> An indication of its profitability was that at in the following March he had £909 15s 1d in the bank.<sup>94</sup>

### CONTRACTING AND FARMING

In addition to his coaching business, Gallagher carted material for the construction of the Waiorongomai tramway.<sup>95</sup> In 1885, with Thomas Lawless,<sup>96</sup> he won contracts to make part of the road leading from Scotsman's Valley to the Waiorongomai Landing and to construct of five chains of Peter Ferguson's<sup>97</sup> New Era tramway.<sup>98</sup> The first contract was abandoned after two months,<sup>99</sup> and the second was done badly, according to Ferguson.<sup>100</sup> Their tender for another section of his tramway was declined,<sup>101</sup> and no other contracts by either man have been traced.

In 1896, because of the revival of mining he erected a large general store at Waiorongomai.<sup>102</sup> Two years later, when the settlement declined once more, he called tenders to remove it to Te Aroha and then convert it into two cottages.<sup>103</sup>

In October 1887, his tender of 5s 9d per acre for a perpetual lease of Section 13 Block IX Aroha Survey District, just over 77 acres at Te Aroha West, was accepted.<sup>104</sup> Under the deferred payment system, he leased this land for 30 years from 1 January 1888 at £22 7s per year.<sup>105</sup> In May that

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<sup>93</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 26 December 1901, p. 31; *Te Aroha News*, 29 March 1902, p. 3.

<sup>94</sup> Bank of New Zealand, Ohinemuri Branch, Half-Yearly Balance Books, Balance as at 31 March 1902, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

<sup>95</sup> 'Te Aroha Tramway: Vouchers Paid', Mines Department, MD 1, 07/1014, ANZ-W.

<sup>96</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>97</sup> See paper on Peter Ferguson and his New Era.

<sup>98</sup> *Te Aroha News*, Waitoa Road Board, 1 August 1885, p. 2, 8 August 1885, p. 7.

<sup>99</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 3 October 1885, p. 2.

<sup>100</sup> Letter from Peter Ferguson, *Te Aroha News*, 10 October 1885, p. 2.

<sup>101</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 29 August 1885, p. 2.

<sup>102</sup> *Te Aroha Times and Waiorongomai Advocate*, 4 July 1896, p. 4.

<sup>103</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 9 July 1898, p. 2.

<sup>104</sup> Crown Lands Board, *Auckland Weekly News*, 15 October 1887, p. 10; *Te Aroha News*, 15 October 1887, p. 2.

<sup>105</sup> Register of Rents of Lands held under Deferred-Payment Leases, folio 89, Lands and Survey Department, LS 23/1, ANZ-W.

year, he called tenders for about 20 chains of draining.<sup>106</sup> In September 1889, the Crown Lands Board was informed that he had complied with the conditions governing its occupation.<sup>107</sup> Also in that month, he purchased the ‘renowned warship’ known as Murphy’s punt from Denis Murphy,<sup>108</sup> to be used to convey his horses ‘to and from his farm on the west side of the river’.<sup>109</sup> Two months later, it sank; hit by a barge, it was claimed. The barge owner denied this, stating that the punt was ‘in a very leaky condition’ and that Gallagher’s ‘rope was stretched across the channel so tight that it caught and nearly pulled my rudder off’.<sup>110</sup> By December 1890, he had complied with the conditions requiring improvements to his land, and three years later was entitled to receive a Crown Grant.<sup>111</sup> Once drained, the swamp, although not ploughable, became good grazing land, valued at £383 in 1898.<sup>112</sup>

In 1908 (and possibly earlier), he leased part of the Waihou Domain.<sup>113</sup> The following year, he sued a man for the value of five bullocks he had supplied a decade previously, but the defendant cited ill health as the reason why he could not pay.<sup>114</sup>

#### INVOLVEMENT WITH WAIORONGOMAI AND STONEY CREEK MINING

Gallagher’s first involvement in Waiorongomai mining was early in October 1883, when he purchased a quarter share in the Young Caledonian for £15, a bad investment because this claim was abandoned five months

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<sup>106</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 30 May 1888, p. 7.

<sup>107</sup> Auckland Lands Board, Minute Book 1887-1891, Minutes of Meeting of 25 September 1889, p. 203, BAAZ 4019/3, ANZ-A.

<sup>108</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>109</sup> Te Aroha Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 28 September 1889, p. 2.

<sup>110</sup> Letter from R.P. Gibbons, *Te Aroha News*, 7 December 1889, p. 2.

<sup>111</sup> Auckland Lands Board, Minute Book 1887-1891, Minutes of Meetings of 11 December 1890, p. 337, 5 December 1893, p. 373, BAAZ 4019/3, ANZ-A.

<sup>112</sup> Bank of New Zealand, Ohinemuri Branch, Half-Yearly Balance Books, Balance as at 30 September 1898, Securities, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

<sup>113</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 10 December 1908, p. 2.

<sup>114</sup> Magistrate’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 29 April 1909, p. 2.

later.<sup>115</sup> Later in October, he was allotted 500 shares in the Commercial Company,<sup>116</sup> another unsuccessful venture. Two years later, he was the sole owner of the Eclipse, of eight men's ground, which he abandoned within six months.<sup>117</sup> He had employing two men to prospect for one month.<sup>118</sup> In 1889 he was a shareholder in the Colonist Company.<sup>119</sup> His only other investment in this field was during the boom of the mid-1890s. In 1895 he chaired a meeting of shareholders in the Cadman,<sup>120</sup> and the following year applied for a water race; as no plan was produced after eight months, his application was struck out.<sup>121</sup>

In addition to investing, he tried to assist the goldfield in other ways. In October 1884, he signed the petition requesting the lease of the tramway.<sup>122</sup> Two months later he was elected to a committee to prepare questions concerning its operation for the government to investigate and also to a deputation to explain the miners' concerns and needs to the Minister.<sup>123</sup> After Clem Cornes discovered gold at Tui,<sup>124</sup> Gallagher was on the committee that arranged a banquet in his honour.<sup>125</sup>

His involvement with small and unproductive claims at Stoney Creek began in May 1888, when he acquired interests in the Golden Crown.<sup>126</sup> He attended a meeting of shareholders in the following January, and three

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<sup>115</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 132, BBAV 11500/9a; Certified Instruments 1883, no. 499, BBAV 11581/4a, ANZ-A.

<sup>116</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 18 October 1883, p. 1518.

<sup>117</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 135, BBAV 11567/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>118</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Applications for Protection 1885, Application dated 19 September 1885, BBAV 11289/10a, ANZ-A.

<sup>119</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 18 May 1889, p. 2.

<sup>120</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 3 August 1895, p. 2.

<sup>121</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1896, 91/1896, BBAV 11289/14a, ANZ-A.

<sup>122</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 18 October 1884, p. 7.

<sup>123</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 28 February 1885, pp. 2, 7.

<sup>124</sup> See paper on Clement Augustus Cornes.

<sup>125</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 21 April 1888, p. 2.

<sup>126</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Applications for Special Claims 1888, Application dated 21 May 1888, BBAV 11582/3a, ANZ-A.

months later purchased 15 shares for £10.<sup>127</sup> Despite the usual local optimism, it was a failure.<sup>128</sup> In January 1890, he forfeited the Bonanza, on the Te Aroha side of the creek.<sup>129</sup> When a Stoney Creek Prospecting Syndicate was formed in 1895, he was one of the four men making up its works committee, charged with supervising the work.<sup>130</sup> He chaired one meeting of this syndicate.<sup>131</sup> Two years later, he held 7,600 of the 100,000 shares in the Inland Reefs Company,<sup>132</sup> which briefly attempted to develop an area notable for the absence of payable gold, despite local optimism.<sup>133</sup> It is unlikely that he made any money from these investments.

### HORSERACING AND OTHER SPORTS

In 1889 he was a member of the committee of the Te Aroha Jockey Club, and was a steward for its summer meeting.<sup>134</sup> During 1895 he was both committee member and steward.<sup>135</sup> Two years later, he was a steward once again.<sup>136</sup> His only involvement with rugby was to be one of the many local identities elected as a vice-president of the Te Aroha Football Club in 1890.<sup>137</sup> In 1902, he was elected one of the three vice-presidents of the new bowling club, and five months later played against the visiting Mt Eden club.<sup>138</sup>

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<sup>127</sup> *Waikato Times*, 22 January 1889, p. 3; Te Aroha Warden's Court, Transfer from James Don to Edward Gallagher, 14 March 1889, Certified Instruments 1889, BBAV 11581/9a, ANZ-A.

<sup>128</sup> Te Aroha Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 22 January 1889, p. 3; *Te Aroha News*, Warden's Court, 6 February 1889, p. 2, Warden's Court, 20 February 1889, p. 2, 24 April 1889, p. 2, 1 May 1889, p. 2, 3 August 1895, p. 2.

<sup>129</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaint Book 1880-1898, 35/1889, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>130</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 15 June 1895, p. 2.

<sup>131</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 3 August 1895, p. 2.

<sup>132</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 6 May 1897, p. 1036.

<sup>133</sup> *Auckland Star*, 20 August 1896, p. 5; *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 22 August 1896, p. 4, 27 March 1897, p. 5, 3 April 1897, p. 4; 'Werahiko', 'Our Te Aroha Letter', *New Zealand Mining Standard*, 6 March 1897, p. 5; *New Zealand Gazette*, 27 January 1898, p. 182.

<sup>134</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 23 January 1889, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 9 February 1889, p. 3.

<sup>135</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 28 January 1895, pp. 2, 3, 16 November 1895, p. 2.

<sup>136</sup> *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 4 December 1897, p. 2.

<sup>137</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 26 April 1890, p. 2.

<sup>138</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 27 November 1902, p. 33, 16 April 1903, p. 28.

## ASSISTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISTRICT

Whilst living at Waiorongomai, he was prominent in assisting its development. In August 1884 he was elected to the board of directors of the Waiorongomai Public Hall Company.<sup>139</sup> Four months later, he was elected to a committee appointed to protect Waiorongomai's interests, and in particular to oppose moves by Te Aroha residents to form a borough.<sup>140</sup> (In 1889 he would be criticized by a miner for trying to include Waiorongomai and Quartzville in the proposed borough.)<sup>141</sup> In January 1885 he was elected to the first school committee.<sup>142</sup> One year later, he was one of four residents chosen to confer with the Te Aroha Improvement Committee about how to get the high school board to make improvements.<sup>143</sup>

After moving to Te Aroha at the beginning of 1887 he was elected to its school committee, receiving 21 votes compared with the highest tally of 46.<sup>144</sup> Later that year, he was elected to the committee seeking a better system of land tenure.<sup>145</sup> In 1895, he was elected one of Te Aroha's representatives on a committee charged with erecting a hospital at Paeroa.<sup>146</sup> When a medical association was formed in 1897 to attract a doctor to set up practice, he was a member of its committee.<sup>147</sup>

In 1885, Gallagher seconded the nomination of a candidate to the licensing committee.<sup>148</sup> Three years later, he was nominated by George Lipsey<sup>149</sup> and John William Richard Guilding,<sup>150</sup> and was elected with 29 votes, ten less than the highest-polling candidate.<sup>151</sup> One year later he received the equal highest votes, 27, and was elected chairman after his

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<sup>139</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 9 August 1884, p. 2.

<sup>140</sup> *Waikato Times*, 6 December 1884, p. 2.

<sup>141</sup> Letter from 'A Miner', *Te Aroha News*, 10 July 1889, pp. 2, 7.

<sup>142</sup> *Waikato Times*, 29 January 1885, p. 2.

<sup>143</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 9 January 1886, p. 2.

<sup>144</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 30 April 1887, p. 2.

<sup>145</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 29 October 1887, p. 2.

<sup>146</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 27 November 1895, p. 2.

<sup>147</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 17 May 1897, p. 3.

<sup>148</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 14 February 1885, p. 2.

<sup>149</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>150</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>151</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 18 February 1888, p. 2, 25 February 1888, p. 3.

predecessor, Lipsey, declined reappointment in his favour.<sup>152</sup> He was re-elected in 1890 after his nomination was initially declined as invalid because, like his seconder, he was not on the ratepayers' roll.<sup>153</sup> The following year he received 45 votes, three less than the highest result.<sup>154</sup> According to an obituary, he was 'for many years' its chairman,<sup>155</sup> but the loss of the local newspaper for most of the 1890s makes precision about the number impossible.

Gallagher was appointed a trustee of the cemetery in 1889.<sup>156</sup> Thomas Lawless, who by then had left Te Aroha, had represented Catholics previously,<sup>157</sup> and it may be assumed that Gallagher, another Catholic,<sup>158</sup> was appointed to represent his church. His only active involvement in the latter was as one of three securities for a bank advance in 1896.<sup>159</sup> Gallagher resigned as a cemetery trustee in 1899.<sup>160</sup>

In 1894 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace.<sup>161</sup>

#### TE AROHA TOWN BOARD

In the second elections for the town board, held in 1888, Gallagher topped the poll, with 97 votes, and was unanimously elected its chairman.<sup>162</sup> With Lipsey, he comprised the works committee.<sup>163</sup> He immediately exerted his authority in a manner that caused contractors extending the domain lawns to complain to the domain board that, after obtaining two loads of sand, he had stopped the supply and 'peremptorily demanded payment *in advance*', despite their having been given verbal

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<sup>152</sup> *Waikato Times*, 21 February 1889, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 27 February 1889, p. 2.

<sup>153</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 6 February 1890, p. 2; *New Zealand Gazette*, 22 May 1890, p. 586.

<sup>154</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 30 May 1891, p. 2.

<sup>155</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 28 August 1925, p. 4.

<sup>156</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 19 September 1889, p. 986.

<sup>157</sup> See chapter on his life.

<sup>158</sup> See Notices of Intentions to Marry 1865, folio 73 no. 2316, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/10, ANZ-W; Death Notice, *New Zealand Herald*, 26 August 1925, p. 1

<sup>159</sup> Bank of New Zealand, Ohinemuri Branch, Half-Yearly Balance Books, Balances as at 31 March 1896, Securities, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

<sup>160</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 27 July 1899, p. 2.

<sup>161</sup> *New Zealand Herald*, 20 December 1894, p. 1926.

<sup>162</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 12 September 1888, p. 2, 19 September 1888, p. 7, 3 October 1888, p. 2.

<sup>163</sup> *Waikato Times*, 15 November 1888, p. 2.

approval. They saw his demand for payment of £1 as the most ‘petty thing’ ever to have been done by a New Zealand local body. One board member, Thomas Gavin,<sup>164</sup> told about how one contractor had been treated, commented: ‘If correct, he certainly thought he had been treated very harshly’, especially as the board got the sand for free.<sup>165</sup>

The details of Gallagher’s work on the board have not been noted (and most are impossible to discover because several years of the local newspaper have been lost). In 1890 he was unpopular with some of its members because of his erratic and abrasive chairmanship, as for instance at its February meeting. After the minutes of previous meetings were read, a newly elected commissioner, storekeeper Robert Harris,<sup>166</sup> asked whether a special meeting referred to ‘was really held’. Gallagher’s response was italicized in a newspaper report: *‘I forget just now’*. Harris explained that, under the provisions of the Town Districts Act, such a meeting held with inadequate notice was illegal. When James Mills, later to be the first mayor,<sup>167</sup> moved that Gallagher’s actions to deal with ‘offensive drainage’ be approved, his motion was not seconded, and when other commissioners argued ratepayers should not pay for cleaning a private drain, Gallagher commented that the nuisance was ‘simply water from the laundry’, to which the editor added his own comment: ‘(!)’ After this matter was resolved by instructing the inspector of nuisances to deal with such matters, Gallagher acted in a way that the editor disapproved of by heading the item ‘Anxious to Get it Over’, for he ‘most abruptly declared that was all the business, and that the meeting was now closed’, prompting Harris to ask again whether the special meeting had been held:

The Chairman replied he should refuse to answer that question; Mr Harris could refer to the Minutes.

Chairman to Mr Harris: Considering you are only a new member you are taking a great deal already upon you. It would be better for you to criticize your own transactions a little and not ours (!)

Mr Harris to Chairman: Thank you sir for your courtesy.

Mr [George] Lipsey: Mr Harris may be only a new member, Mr Chairman, but *he is a member* of the Board all the same.

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<sup>164</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>165</sup> Domain Board, *Te Aroha News*, 7 November 1888, p. 2.

<sup>166</sup> See *Descriptive Handbook to the Waikato* (Hamilton, 1880), p. 30; *Te Aroha News*, 10 March 1888, p. 2.

<sup>167</sup> See paper on his life.

Some further questions being asked re nuisance, the Chairman then proposed that the Board go into Committee to discuss this drain question.

This was promptly seconded by Mr Mills.

Messrs Lipsey and Harris objected to going into Committee, as there was no good reason for so doing.

As only Messrs Lipsey and Harris objected, the Chairman then declared his proposition carried, by his own casting vote (Mr [Joseph Bailiff] Heathcote<sup>168</sup> not having voted).

Mr Harris: I ask for a show of hands for the resolution.

For the resolution the Chairman and Mr Mills held up their hands; against, Messrs Lipsey, Harris, and Heathcote; the proposal to go into Committee was therefore lost.

At Mr Harris' request The Public Health Act was then produced, and various clauses therein discussed at some length; but when it was proposed to take some further action relative to abating nuisances and for the maintenance of public health, the Chairman intimated nothing more could be done on that occasion, and said he had declared the meeting closed long since, and they were only sitting there wasting time.

That was all the business and the meeting rose.<sup>169</sup>

At the subsequent meeting, after the minutes of the previous one were read, Harris 'said he wished to make a remark with respect thereto before they were confirmed'. Gallagher's response was highlighted and commented on by the *Te Aroha News*: '*You can't make a remark on the minutes (!)*'. Harris continued, pointing out that there was no record of Gallagher's resolution that the board should go into committee nor of how commissioners voted; these omissions were rectified. Harris later moved a motion he had previously distributed seeking to rescind an earlier resolution that the board's office be the house of the secretary, Charles Ahier.<sup>170</sup> As his notice of motion had not gone through the secretary, Gallagher ruled it invalid, prompting more argument about procedure and a

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<sup>168</sup> A builder; for his involvement in the community, see *Waikato Times*, 29 December 1883, p. 2, 9 July 1889, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 17 January 1885, p. 2, 24 January 1885, p. 2, 20 November 1886, p. 2, 15 January 1887, p. 3, 7 May 1887, p. 2, 19 September 1888, p. 2, 21 November 1888, p. 2, Town Board, 12 December 1888, p. 2.

<sup>169</sup> Town Board, *Te Aroha News*, 12 February 1890, p. 2.

<sup>170</sup> See 'Te Aroha', *Observer*, 4 July 1891, p. 18; Te Aroha Correspondent, *Auckland Weekly News*, 11 November 1893, p. 23; *Thames Advertiser*, 10 January 1895, p. 2; *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 6 (Wellington, 1908), p. 115; *Taranaki Daily News*, 23 January 1919, p. 4.

notice of motion from Mills to move the office to ‘the office at Mr Gallagher’s stables’.<sup>171</sup> According to an irritated observer, Harris had wasted ‘a considerable amount of time’ on a procedural issue and then ‘collapsed, much to the disappointment of several of his friends, who had honoured the meeting with their presence’.<sup>172</sup>

The *Te Aroha News* headlined its report of the April meeting as ‘Extraordinary Proceedings’. Mills moved his motion and Gallagher seconded it. Harris, quoting Section 12 of the Town Districts Act, moved an amendment that the board must ‘provide and maintain a *public office*, as required by statute, and argued that an office should and could be rented ‘for a very small sum weekly, and certainly Mr Gallagher’s office is no more a public office than Mr Ahier’s house’. Lipsey seconded Harris’ amendment.

Chairman: You could hold the meetings of the Board in my office which you could not do in Mr Ahier’s house.

Clerk (Innocently!): It’s that office you don’t use, isn’t it Mr Chairman?

Chairman: Yes.

Mr Lipsey: I fail to see why we are not to have an office we can call our own.

Chairman: All those in favour of the proposition hold up their right hands.

Clerk: You should put the amendment first Mr Chairman.

Chairman: No the proposition.

Clerk: No, sir, the amendment first always.

Chairman: No, the proposition first. All those in favour of the proposition signify the same by holding up their right hand.

For the proposition, the Chairman and Mr Mills, against, Messrs Lipsey and Harris.

Chairman: I declare the resolution *carried by my casting vote*.

Mr Harris: I wish Mr Chairman you would see for yourself what the section I have read states with respect to this matter.

Chairman: I have read the Act and do not see that it bears on the matter at all (!)<sup>173</sup>

The following month, Lipsey, Harris, and Heathcote refused to attend board meetings in Gallagher’s ‘office’, really part of his stables partitioned off from the horse stalls.<sup>174</sup> Later in the year, when re-elected to the board,

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<sup>171</sup> Town Board, *Te Aroha News*, 12 March 1890, p. 2.

<sup>172</sup> Te Aroha Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 11 March 1890, p. 2.

<sup>173</sup> ‘Town Board: Extraordinary Proceedings’, *Te Aroha News*, 26 April 1890, p. 2.

<sup>174</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 17 May 1890, p. 2.

Gallagher was third in popularity, obtaining 51 votes compared with 60 for the most popular.<sup>175</sup>

Gallagher was not re-elected at a now-unknown date after 1890. In January 1894, when standing for a vacancy he obtained only 43 votes, compared with 76 and 56 for the successful candidates.<sup>176</sup> Yet, when he stood in September for an election for the full board, he topped the poll with 70 votes.<sup>177</sup> The board obtained a legal opinion that, as he was its poundkeeper, his election was illegal, and he was not permitted to join it.<sup>178</sup> In the following January he sought to be recognized as a member, but Gavin, its chairman, insisted he was not.<sup>179</sup> Once Gallagher resigned as poundkeeper, in March, was he elected unopposed.<sup>180</sup>

In 1895, he failed to be elected to the Waitoa Road Board, receiving the second lowest vote: 37, compared with 112 for the highest candidate.<sup>181</sup> In the following year he was the last to be elected to the town board, with 65 votes; the highest result was 81.<sup>182</sup> In 1897, a correspondent commented on his telling the board that it did not need to raise much money for roads:

The roads he said were in excellent order notwithstanding letters in the newspapers to the contrary.

For the benefit of those who are not in the “know you know,” I will endeavour to throw a little light on Com. Gallagher’s contention. In the first place that gentleman in his own august person comprises the “Works Committee.” He is also a coach proprietor who runs his vehicles chiefly between the railway station and the upper end of Whitaker Street, where he has a second establishment. It is scarcely necessary to say that the roads traversed by the said gentleman’s coaches are in excellent order, for the very good reason they receive constant attention at the hands of the “Works Committee.” Unfortunately the ratepayers who live anywhere out of the main thoroughfare have just cause to complain of neglected roads and footpaths, in many

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<sup>175</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 27 September 1890, p. 18.

<sup>176</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 23 December 1893, p. 23, 6 January 1894, p. 23.

<sup>177</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 8 September 1894, p. 22, 26 September 1894, p. 22.

<sup>178</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 28 January 1895, p. 2, 2 February 1895, p. 2, 13 February 1895, p. 2.

<sup>179</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 16 January 1895, p. 2.

<sup>180</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 20 March 1895, p. 2, 23 March 1895, p. 3, 10 April 1895, p. 2.

<sup>181</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 8 May 1895, p. 2.

<sup>182</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 26 September 1896, p. 23.

places all but impassable and certainly a disgrace to a health resort like Te Aroha.<sup>183</sup>

### TE AROHA BOROUGH COUNCIL

In 1889, Gallagher signed a petition for a borough, and after it was formed in 1898 was elected to the borough council with 113 votes, only two votes behind the highest polling candidate.<sup>184</sup> There was ‘something in the nature of a clean sweep’, with only two of the town board’s members, Gallagher and Samuel Leonard Bygrave,<sup>185</sup> being elected.<sup>186</sup> Almost immediately, its clerk (previously the clerk of the town board),<sup>187</sup> Percy Snewin,<sup>188</sup> wrote to the council:

Councillor Gallagher’s amendment that “applications be received at the same salary for my position” compels me to resign. At the request of another Councillor, he and Councillor Bygrave had to admit, I had well and honourably filled my position. I have therefore the satisfaction of knowing I can receive no blame at the hands of the ratepayers.<sup>189</sup>

Snewin’s resignation had been forced, the *Te Aroha News* explained, because of ‘fancied objectionable links’ with his timber company. Nobody had criticized his past services, for he had ‘faithfully discharged his duties as a public servant to the satisfaction of those to whom he was immediately responsible’.<sup>190</sup> A gossip writer, after noting that there had been ‘plenty of

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<sup>183</sup> Te Aroha Correspondent, *Thames Advertiser*, 26 July 1897, p. 3.

<sup>184</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 23 October 1889, p. 2, 12 July 1898, p. 2.

<sup>185</sup> See *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 829.

<sup>186</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 13 July 1898, p. 1.

<sup>187</sup> *Waikato Times*, 7 December 1893, p. 6; *Te Aroha News*, 30 March 1895, p. 2, 14 July 1895, p. 2, 2 June 1898, p. 3.

<sup>188</sup> See advertisement, *Te Aroha News*, 15 June 1895, p. 2; *Te Aroha Times and Waiorongomai Advocate*, 3 November 1897, p. 2; Piako County Council, *Waikato Argus*, 13 September 1898, p. 2.

<sup>189</sup> Percy Snewin to Mayor and Councillors, 14 July 1898, Te Aroha Borough Council, 1898 Correspondence File, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha.

<sup>190</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 16 July 1898, p. 2.

mud-slinging' during the elections, added: 'Our popular clerk has not escaped – very unjustly, too'.<sup>191</sup>

In November 1899, Gallagher was elected to represent the borough on the Waikato Hospital Board.<sup>192</sup> The following month, he became the second mayor, winning by 141 votes to 89.<sup>193</sup> His work as mayor has not been traced (again, incomplete newspaper records make this difficult). In April 1901, he announced that he would not seek re-election.<sup>194</sup> At that month's meeting, 'as this was the last meeting in which he would take part for some time to come', he

gave a short account of the expenditure of the Council during his term of office, and showed the marked progress of the borough, in the inauguration of the waterworks scheme, the fire brigade service, the commencement of a drainage scheme, and the improvements made in many of the streets. Several of the councillors spoke of the cordial relations that had all through existed between the Mayor and councillors.... A unanimous vote of thanks was passed to the Mayor for his untiring services, rendered cheerfully to the borough during a period of about 16 years.<sup>195</sup>

Although he never rejoined the council, he continued to show interest in its work, for instance at a public meeting held two years later seconding a successful motion to reduce the number of councillors.<sup>196</sup> Shortly afterwards, he seconded the nomination of the successful mayoral candidate.<sup>197</sup>

## THE HOT SPRINGS DOMAIN BOARD

His first recorded interest in the domain was his providing, in November 1888, an invalid's chair for use in the baths.<sup>198</sup> In the following

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<sup>191</sup> 'Te Aroha', *Observer*, 30 July 1898, p. 21.

<sup>192</sup> *Waikato Argus*, 23 November 1899, p. 3.

<sup>193</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 1 December 1899, p. 2.

<sup>194</sup> *Thames Star*, 19 April 1901, p. 4.

<sup>195</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 26 April 1901, p. 31.

<sup>196</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 12 February 1903, p. 33.

<sup>197</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 23 April 1903, p. 33.

<sup>198</sup> *Waikato Times*, 15 November 1888, p. 2.

September he joined the domain board.<sup>199</sup> When he immediately applied to use its cold water for his stables, John Ilott, another board member and editor of the *Te Aroha News*,<sup>200</sup> opposed him because supplying him with cheap water set a bad example. Ilott expected the application would be granted because Gallagher was a ‘friend’ of the majority, and was in a minority of one, his colleagues being willing to permit its use for an annual fee of £5.<sup>201</sup>

In March and November 1891, Gallagher was reappointed, but in the latter month his name was recorded as Joseph, a mistake that was corrected three weeks later.<sup>202</sup> When reappointed in August 1892 he was again named as Joseph.<sup>203</sup> James Mills, appointed at the same time and then elected chairman,<sup>204</sup> explained to the local Liberal parliamentarian, William Fraser,<sup>205</sup> that he had adjourned the next board meeting to enable Gallagher to be gazetted correctly.<sup>206</sup> By December, as the *Te Aroha News* noted, the name had still not been corrected.<sup>207</sup> Fraser telephoned the Minister of Lands, John McKenzie and then wrote to him asking for immediate action to gazette Gallagher’s name correctly to get ‘our friend Mills out of his troubles’.<sup>208</sup> Despite this prompting, his name was never corrected before the domain board was subsumed into the town board one year later.<sup>209</sup>

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<sup>199</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 28 September 1889, p. 2.

<sup>200</sup> See paper on the temperance movement in the Te Aroha district.

<sup>201</sup> John Ilott to G.F. Richardson (Minister of Lands), 25 September 1889; John Ilott to G.F. Richardson, 5 October 1889, Tourist Department, TO 1 1891/198, ANZ-W; *Te Aroha News*, 5 October 1889, p. 2.

<sup>202</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 19 March 1891, p. 365, 5 November 1891, p. 1246, 29 November 1891, p. 1329.

<sup>203</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 5 August 1892, p. 1123.

<sup>204</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 5 August 1892, p. 1123; Te Aroha Correspondent, *Auckland Weekly News*, 20 August 1892, p. 23, 10 September 1892, p. 21; James Mills to John McKenzie, 5 September 1892, Tourist Department, TO 1, 1891/198, ANZ-W.

<sup>205</sup> See paper on Harry Kenrick.

<sup>206</sup> James Mills to William Fraser, 8 January 1893, Tourist Department, TO 1, 1892/96, ANZ-W.

<sup>207</sup> *Te Aroha News*, n.d., reprinted in *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 17 December 1892, p. 6.

<sup>208</sup> William Fraser to John McKenzie (Minister of Lands), 10 January 1893, Tourist Department, TO 1, 1892/96, ANZ-W.

<sup>209</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 31 August 1893, p. 1297.

In November 1892, a petition signed by 49 residents was sent to McKenzie alleging Gallagher to be

unfit for the position he holds, the dishonorable conduct of which he was guilty having lost him the confidence & respect of this community. Some months ago a handbook of the Te Aroha Hot Springs was got up under the authority of the Board, and among the advertisements in it was one from Bradley & Co, proprietors of livery stables, Te Aroha. Mr Gallagher, [who] lets and owns the only other livery stables here, refused to advertise in the Handbook.

An application was made to the Board for a supply of these pamphlets by Mr E[dward] W[ingfield] Hanmer of Christchurch [formerly a member of the board],<sup>210</sup> for circulation in the South. Mr Gallagher, then a member of the Board, complied with Mr Hanmer's request, but before he sent the pamphlets, he erased Bradley & Co's name out of it in red ink, and substituted his own. This we can prove by copies of the pamphlets themselves in which the erasures appear in Mr Gallagher's writing; also by the evidence of the Clerk of the Board who was present and saw Mr Gallagher made the erasure.

Although the matter was brought to the Notice of the Board by Bradley & Co's solicitor, Mr Miller, of the Thames, no action was taken beyond replying that the Board were not cognisant of any erasure having been made.

We would respectfully submit that by taking so dishonorable & mean advantage of his official position as a member of the Board, Mr Gallagher has shown his unworthiness and unfitness to hold such an office of trust.

We would earnestly request that you will cause a searching enquiry into the matter to be made, & if it is proved that he has been guilty, that you will remove him from the Board.<sup>211</sup>

Gallagher, who had not received a copy, asked McKenzie to provide one with the names on it, and accused Guilding of having got up this petition, about which he felt 'very uncomfortable'. He admitted to having 'made one mistake since I have been on the board', a reference to the

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<sup>210</sup> See Te Aroha Correspondent, *Thames Advertiser*, 10 September 1881, p. 3; *Waikato Times*, 30 August 1881, p. 2, 9 October 1884, p. 2, 14 July 1885, p. 3, 6 August 1885, p. 3, 13 April 1886, p. 2, 30 July 1889, p. 2, 18 November 1890, p. 2, 10 October 1891, p. 3; *Te Aroha News*, letter from E.W. Hanmer, 5 November 1887, p. 2, 26 September 1888, p. 2, 27 July 1889, p. 2; *Auckland Weekly News*, 21 July 1894, p. 23.

<sup>211</sup> Petition to John McKenzie, n.d. [November 1892], Tourist Department, TO 1, 1891/198, ANZ-W.

controversy over the advertisement which McKenzie had been told about already, 'and the parties that it affected are perfectly satisfied with the explanation that i gave them'.<sup>212</sup>

In mid-December, three of the signatories to the petition, including Guilding, informed McKenzie that they were calling a public meeting about the dispute.<sup>213</sup> This meeting unanimously resolved that Gallagher was not a fit and proper person to be a board member, and condemned Ahier for having conspired with Gallagher to induce Mills to become a member 'to carry out certain schemes which he knew could not be accomplished otherwise', and sought Ahier's dismissal. The third and final request was that the board be elected. Gallagher attended the meeting but was not recorded as participating.<sup>214</sup>

Mills informed the local newspaper that he had supported the request of Gallagher and another member, Ahier, to fill the vacancy caused by Hanmer leaving the district.<sup>215</sup> At the December meeting of the board, Mills accused Gallagher and Ahier of failing to support him: neither 'spoke at the last meeting, nor did they back him in any way to propose any reform, as had been agreed upon'. He had only joined after a 'great deal of persuasion and pressure' by them both because they claimed not to be able to 'carry out any scheme of reform in the way of economy' without him. One member, Gavin, protested at these two bringing 'in another man for the purpose of carrying out their views as to economy over the heads of, and without the knowledge of, their colleagues', For years Ahier had sought economies but 'never has had the courage to propose it himself. He has tried to induce other members of the Board to do so', and was now trying to use Mills. Lipsey agreed it was 'a most peculiar and unheard of proceeding'. While

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<sup>212</sup> Edward Gallagher to John McKenzie, 26 November 1892, Tourist Department, TO 1, 1891/198, ANZ-W.

<sup>213</sup> John Bew, C.A. Cornes, J.W.R. Guilding to John McKenzie, 19 December 1892, Tourist Department, TO 1, 1891/198, ANZ-W.

<sup>214</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 24 December 1892, press cutting in Tourist Department, TO 1, 1892/96; John Bew, C.A. Cornes, J.W.R. Guilding, Robert Harris, S.L. Hirst to John McKenzie, 29 December 1892, with resolutions of meeting of 23 December 1892 attached, Tourist Department, TO 1, 1891/198, ANZ-W.

<sup>215</sup> *Waikato Times*, 8 November 1890, p. 4, 10 October 1891, p. 3, 3 November 1891, p. 2, 21 November 1891, p. 2; James Mills to John McKenzie, 12 January 1892, Tourist Department, TO 1, 1892/96; Charles Ahier to William Fraser (MHR), 8 August 1892, Tourist Department, TO 1, 1891/198, ANZ-W.

Ahier denied having asked Mills to join, Gallagher ‘acknowledged that he had asked Mr Mills to come on the Board, but had no definite object or scheme’.<sup>216</sup> (Despite his denials, Ahier had indeed sought the appointment of Mills by assuring the government that he was a ‘steadfast’ Liberal.<sup>217</sup> In 1888, he had nominated Gallagher for the town board, and two years later Gallagher had returned the favour by nominating him to the licensing committee.)<sup>218</sup>

Early in the following January, Mills explained to Frazer that when the board had elected a secretary in 1891, Lipsey had claimed Gallagher had no right to vote because the *New Zealand Gazette* had recorded his name as Joseph. ‘The reject Guilding’ had called the public meeting ostensibly to ask the government to make the board elective but really to ‘slate’ Gallagher and Ahier and to get Mills dismissed. Gallagher had told Mills that of the 40 people attending only 13 were ratepayers, and only three were Liberals, one being Gallagher – ‘you know what kind of Liberals the latter are’. The others ‘were big boys and strangers’ working on the railway line to Paeroa. Mills also explained that ‘when the trouble occurred between Gallagher & Bradley’ in 1891 over advertising in the domain handbook, and having discovered that some people were trying to raise the matter in parliament, he brought Gallagher and Nathaniel Ferguson,<sup>219</sup> Bradley’s partner, together ‘and the thing was explained, Mr Gallagher apologized and the thing was settled in 5 minutes over a glass of beer’. Mills claimed not to care whether he remained on the board, noting that ‘you were present in Ahier’s office when he and Gallagher prevailed upon me to allow myself to be nominated and assisted them’; he now regretted accepting because ‘I never before worked with such an invertebrate Crowd’.<sup>220</sup>

Two months later, having found out more details, Mills told McKenzie that he had discovered that Gallagher had not replaced Bradley & Co in the

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<sup>216</sup> Domain Board, *Te Aroha News*, 7 December 1892, press cutting in Tourist Department, TO 1, 1892/96, ANZ-W.

<sup>217</sup> Charles Ahier to William Fraser, 25 November 1891; R.J. Seddon to John McKenzie, 2 December 1891, Tourist Department, TO 1, 1892/96; A Barron to William Fraser, 9 August 1892, Tourist Department, TO 1, 1891/198, ANZ-W.

<sup>218</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 12 September 1888, p. 2, 26 February 1890, p. 2.

<sup>219</sup> See paper on prospectors and investors in the Te Aroha district in the 1930s.

<sup>220</sup> James Mills to William Fraser, 8 January 1893, Tourist Department, TO 1, 1892/96, ANZ-W.

booklet's advertisement with his own name but had erased their name in about 12 copies. After Gallagher explained his act 'satisfactorily' to Bradley 'the previous good understanding between the parties was resumed'. Mills further explained that there had been 'some friction' between Gallagher and Hanmer when the latter was elected to the county council in 1890. Previously, Hanmer had been a customer of Gallagher's, but 'then transferred his patronage to Bradley & Co'. When, having left the district, Hanmer sought some copies of the guide book to distribute, Gallagher changed the advertisement, 'not to injure Bradley & Co, or benefit himself, but with the view of annoying Mr Hanmer, who had on several occasions taunted Mr Gallagher with the loss he had sustained through opposing him at the election'. As the petitioners knew, Gallagher did not make the erasure (in April 1892) secretly but in the presence of the board's clerk, but they had made no complaint for eight months.<sup>221</sup> No action was taken against Gallagher, but he continued to be unpopular with some residents.<sup>222</sup>

Once the borough was formed, as borough councillors comprised the domain board,<sup>223</sup> Gallagher continued to be a member. In 1897, he squabbled with Gavin over the legality of the latter calling a meeting, claiming that Gavin had 'some hold' over the *Te Aroha News* reporters, as 'they report anything you say'.<sup>224</sup> The following year, he opposed the baths being open during church services on Sunday mornings.<sup>225</sup> He served on the board until 1901, by which time, being mayor, he was its chairman ex-officio.<sup>226</sup> At its last meeting before the borough elections, 'a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the chairman ... for the efficient way he had fulfilled the duties during his term of office'.<sup>227</sup>

## POLITICAL VIEWS

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<sup>221</sup> James Mills to John McKenzie, 25 March 1893, Tourist Department, TO 1, 1892/96, ANZ-W; *Waikato Times*, 18 November 1890, p. 2.

<sup>222</sup> C.A. Cornes, Robert Harris, John Bew to A.J. Cadman (Minister of Mines) (telegram), 10 August 1893; C.A. Cornes, Robert Harris, J.W.R. Guilding, John Bew to John McKenzie, 28 August 1893, Tourist Department, TO 1 1892/96, ANZ-W.

<sup>223</sup> Under-Secretary, Tourism Department, to Te Aroha Hot Springs Domain Board, 4 September 1893, Tourism Department, TO 1, 1892/196, ANZ-W.

<sup>224</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 26 October 1897, p. 2.

<sup>225</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 7 April 1898, p. 2.

<sup>226</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 15 March 1901, p. 31; *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 832.

<sup>227</sup> *Auckland Weekly News*, 12 April 1901, p. 26.

Gallagher was a prominent supporter of the Liberal Party.<sup>228</sup> In October 1891, at a meeting held by the local Liberal Member of Parliament, Gallagher moved the vote of thanks.<sup>229</sup> His Irish heritage had not been forgotten, for in late 1889 he was elected to a committee to collect subscriptions to aid evicted Irish tenants.<sup>230</sup> During the Boer War he was on the committee raising money for the Patriotic War Fund.<sup>231</sup>

#### AN OPPRESSIVE LANDLORD

In July 1889, the *Te Aroha News* reported ‘quite a sensation’ being caused at Waiorongomai ‘by the very summary way’ in which Gallagher sought to take possession of his house, rented to Michael Cronin, whilst the latter

was away at the mine; and during the temporary absence of Mrs Cronin, who with her baby were the sole occupants at the house on the day in question. We understand a charge of “forcibly entering” has been laid against Mr Gallagher. Rather an undignified position for the Chairman of the Te Aroha Town Board to appear in. We have no desire to pre-judge the case, but public feeling at Waiorongomai is very strong at the unmanly and underhand way in which, according to report, the proceedings were carried on.<sup>232</sup>

When the case ‘in which so much interest was evinced’ was heard, the court was crowded. Cronin sued John Brian,<sup>233</sup> Gallagher’s assistant in the affair, for £30 in damages for unlawful trespass. In his evidence, Gallagher stated that Cronin had been ‘a driver for him for several years, and during that time lived at Waiorongomai in a house belonging to witness’. On the night of 8 July, he had entered Cronin’s house ‘by getting in through the window. Was in the habit of getting in that fashion’.

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<sup>228</sup> For example, *Te Aroha News*, 12 June 1889, p. 2.

<sup>229</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 16 October 1891, p. 2.

<sup>230</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 13 November 1889, p. 7.

<sup>231</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 11 January 1900, p. 2.

<sup>232</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 13 July 1889, p. 2.

<sup>233</sup> See Magistrate’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 20 April 1889, p. 2.

Used to go through the window and into the house years ago when plaintiff and witness lived in the house together, if plaintiff was away with the key in his pocket. Did try and charge plaintiff rent, but only for the sake of trying to get him out of the house. Did not really expect to get rent from him. Remember sending a letter to plaintiff about July 6th, giving him a week's notice to leave, or pay 10s a week....

It was about eight or nine in the evening when we entered the house. Went in alone and opened the front door. The defendant was outside, asked him to come inside, and he did so. There was furniture in the house at that time. He and defendant went out again in a short time. Locked the front door (the key of which was inside), and took away the key. There was no one then in the house so far as he knew. There were blankets in the house. The blankets had been brought there by his instructions. Defendant did not do anything in the house. Sent a young man named [Nicholas] Kenny to tell Cronin to bring the key of the house as he wanted to go inside. Kenny returned stating Cronin was up the hill, and Mrs Cronin said she knew nothing about it. Considered he had ample authority to invite defendant to enter the house.

Under cross-examination, Gallagher stated that he had been told that Cronin 'had vacated the house, and went there expecting to find it vacated. Was in the habit of going in and out of the house indiscriminately'. When he employed Cronin, 'he paid him so much a week and gave him the use of the house', but when Cronin left his employment 'he gave him a fortnight within which time to leave the house'. However, Cronin remained in it, refused to pay a rent demand of £6 18s, and wrote that he was 'greatly surprised at the demand' because 'the lining and repairs to the house had cost some £10, of which Cronin had only succeeded in getting about £2 from Gallagher', although they had an agreement to share these expenses equally. In his letter, Cronin offered to pay half the ground rent and said he had ordered timber 'to build a house, and would cause Gallagher as little inconvenience as possible'. When Gallagher entered the house by opening the kitchen window he 'was surprised to find there was furniture there' and asked Brian not to 'interfere with anything'. They spent about a quarter of an hour inside, Gallagher nailing up the back door and both men removing the furniture. Afterwards, he talked with Cronin 'with a view to settling up the matter' and gave him 'a clean receipt for the rent he had demanded. No amount was stated on the receipt given', which 'stated Gallagher acquitted Cronin of the rent he had claimed from him, as he *had found out* (!) that Cronin had paid for some timber used in improving the house'. In response,

Cronin decided not to sue Gallagher, who stated he had last entered the house 'some years ago. Considered he had a right to enter the house when he chose to do so. Saw he had made a mistake in entering the house when furniture was in it'. The back door had been nailed up 'to prevent anyone going into the house. His object was to keep possession of the house against all comers'.

Nicholas Kenny, a coach driver (and a notable drunkard),<sup>234</sup> gave evidence that Mrs Cronin was at a friend's house that evening and that it 'did not look as if the Cronin's intended stopping' in their house that night. 'The first thing Gallagher did was to get a board, hammer and nails, and fasten up the back door'. Kenny had taken blankets to the house because Gallagher intended staying there all night.

Mary Jane Cronin stated that nobody 'could get into the house without using force, as all the windows were nailed down inside, and both the doors were locked'. Two men had assisted her to remove the furniture at midnight because she believed Gallagher intended to seize it. 'Gallagher never intimated to her it was his intention to take possession of the house'. She also removed Gallagher's blankets.

Gallagher had made up a very comfortable bed for himself with the blankets on her couch. Nearly all her furniture was in the house. It was packed up ready for removal. The reason she had the furniture removed ... late that night was because she thought Gallagher might be rogue enough to sell their furniture, and that was why they had packed it up ready to remove it.<sup>235</sup>

(It was later explained that she had been able to rescue her furniture with the help of neighbours when Gallagher was briefly out of the house.)<sup>236</sup> A labourer deposed to seeing Brian attempting to lift up a window but failing because it 'was nailed down. Told him not to do that, as the people's furniture was in there. Gallagher was standing by at the time, about three or four yards away, and would have heard what he said'.

Cronin explained that he had lived in the house for seven years without paying rent and that Gallagher had lived with him for about five

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<sup>234</sup> See *Thames Star*, 13 December 1886, p. 4, Police Court, 27 April 1891, p. 2, 12 December 1892, p. 2, 24 January 1900, p. 4, 9 March 1911, p. 2; Police Court, *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 28 January 1903, p. 2.

<sup>235</sup> Magistrate's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 10 August 1889, p. 2.

<sup>236</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 16 November 1889, p. 2.

years. They had agreed that Cronin should pay half the ground rent and ‘do up’ the house when he got married. Cronin was non-suited, with costs, as the evidence showed ‘that everything in connection with the entry was done by Gallagher and not by Brian’.<sup>237</sup>

Later that month, Brian sued Cronin over the ownership of a colonial oven, which he had lent to him. After Cronin claimed it was a wedding present, the magistrate non-suited Brian because Cronin had done nothing wrong. Commenting on the ‘bad blood’ between these two Irishmen, he said ‘it was folly for them to keep that sort of feeling up’.<sup>238</sup> Next, Cronin wrote to the local newspaper:

In consequence of assertions of dishonesty made against me by Mr E. Gallagher ... calculated to damage my reputation, I am reluctantly obliged to ask you to publish this letter. I emphatically deny having ever taken one farthing’s worth by theft from Mr Gallagher, or from anyone else.... I feel in duty to myself bound to protect my name, by publicly denying having ever done Mr Gallagher the least harm in any shape whatever. I was in his employment for seven years, until a few weeks ago, and worked hard and honest, late and early for him. I could enumerate hundreds of jobs which I did for him at night, when my day’s work was over, and which saved him many a pound, such as making swingletrees, house furniture, etc etc; and on one occasion built him a coach, and for all this I never received a penny extra, and never asked it. I hold no spite against Mr Gallagher, I have no desire to hurt his feelings, but I certainly will not submit to his unmanly and unwarranted accusations.<sup>239</sup>

Later that year, Gallagher’s taking up the cause of evicted Irish tenants prompted an editorial:

Really we are surprised at Mr Edward Gallagher, of all the men in the district, seeking to pose before the public as a champion of the cause of evicted tenants! The position is so truly absurd. Surely he does not suppose local residents have so soon forgotten who it was so very recently took such a prominent part in connection with taking possession of the house occupied by Mr Michael Cronin, at Waiorongomai, of which house this same Mr Gallagher was the *landlord*. Talk about evictions for non-

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<sup>237</sup> Magistrate’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 10 August 1889, p. 2.

<sup>238</sup> Magistrate’s Court, *Te Aroha News*, 21 August 1889, p. 2; *Te Aroha Correspondent*, *Waikato Times*, 22 August 1889, p. 2.

<sup>239</sup> Letter from Michael Cronin, *Te Aroha News*, 31 August 1889, pp. 2, 7.

payment of rent in Ireland! – if the circumstances we refer to had occurred in Ireland there would have been columns and columns in the newspapers.

After reprinting its original report of the ‘sensation’, it stated that ‘in his private capacity’ it would not have considered the matter ‘worthy of further notice, but when a man assumes the position of Chairman of the local governing body, and gets placed on a committee to collect funds for evicted tenants, his actions should be in keeping with the positions occupied’. It noted that, two days after Gallagher sent Cronin a week’s notice to leave, he had occupied the house after nightfall when it was empty, nailed up the back door and locked the front one, and explained that Gallagher had afterwards agreed with Cronin that there was no rent to pay. ‘And this same Cronin had been a faithful hard working servant to this man’, as shown by Cronin’s letter, which was cited; ‘Surely further comment is needless’.<sup>240</sup> Six days later, the newspaper mentioned that ‘feeling ran very high at Waiorongomai with respect to how poor Cronin had been treated’.<sup>241</sup>

Cronin, like Gallagher, had previously farmed at Puriri,<sup>242</sup> where presumably they had first met. He had driven Gallagher’s ‘bus’ between Te Aroha and Waiorongomai from at least 1884 until April 1889, and also drove coaches between Paeroa and Morrinsville.<sup>243</sup> The coach referred to in his letter had been built in 1884. ‘Although an amateur coach builder’, the *Te Aroha News* considered that he had ‘without doubt displayed considerable talent to its construction, the vehicle being most creditably turned out, for a first attempt’.<sup>244</sup> Later a farmer at Manawaru, Cronin became a prominent and respected member of the district.<sup>245</sup>

## AFTER TE AROHA

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<sup>240</sup> Editorial, *Te Aroha News*, 10 November 1889, p. 2.

<sup>241</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 16 November 1889, p. 2.

<sup>242</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 31 December 1934, p. 1.

<sup>243</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 12 July 1884, p. 2, 13 April 1889, p. 2, 31 December 1934, p. 1.

<sup>244</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 27 December 1884, p. 2.

<sup>245</sup> For example, *Te Aroha News*, 30 April 1887, p. 2, 30 April 1890, p. 2, 28 April 1898, p. 3, 22 March 1900, p. 3, 25 April 1907, p. 2, 1 February 1898, p. 2, 22 April 1918, p. 2, 31 December 1934, p. 1.

In 1904, Gallagher settled in Onehunga.<sup>246</sup> He and his wife re-visited Te Aroha twice in 1908.<sup>247</sup> His golden wedding anniversary in 1915 prompted the *Te Aroha News* to publish an account of his life, including all his civic posts.<sup>248</sup> He was still living in Onehunga in 1920, but at least five years later was living at Wiri.<sup>249</sup>

### PRIVATE LIFE, AND DEATH

In 1865, Gallagher, then aged 23, married Mary Lamph, two years his junior; she was also a Catholic of Irish parentage.<sup>250</sup> They had no children, but while at Te Aroha Gallagher was the guardian of a nephew and a niece,<sup>251</sup> and was sufficiently interested in children's welfare to join the Te Aroha and Waiorongomai school committees. For about five years during the 1880s, he had lived with Cronin in his Waiorongomai house, apparently without his wife.<sup>252</sup> Nothing else is known about his private life, apart from a poisonous comment penned by the local *Observer* Man in 1890: 'The chairman of the Town Board ought to levy a special rate on those fellows who perch on the rails of the Whitaker-street bridge and gaze at the ladies as they pass along; but what am I talking about, when the chairman sits there himself as often as anyone else'.<sup>253</sup>

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<sup>246</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 2 June 1915, p. 3.

<sup>247</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 14 May 1908, p. 2, 19 August 1908, p. 2.

<sup>248</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 2 June 1915, p. 3.

<sup>249</sup> Death Notice of Mary Gallagher, *New Zealand Herald*, 31 January 1920, p. 1; *Te Aroha News*, 28 August 1925, p. 4.

<sup>250</sup> Notices of Intentions to Marry 1865, folio 73 no. 2316, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/10, ANZ-W; Marriage Certificate of Edward Gallagher, 25 May 1865, 1865/12, BDM; *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 832; Death Certificate of Mary Gallagher, 30 January 1920, 1920/10276, BDM.

<sup>251</sup> Probate of Margaret Gallagher, Probates, 1569/471; Puriri School, Register of Admissions 1878-1901, no. 30, BAWD 1931/1a, ANZ-A; Te Aroha School, Admissions Register no. 2 (1889-1897), nos. 660, 724, Primary School Archives, Te Aroha; Birth Certificates of Margaret Ethel Linda Gallagher, 1884/15052; Edward Noble Gallagher, 1886/5880, BDM.

<sup>252</sup> Magistrate's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 10 August 1889, p. 2.

<sup>253</sup> 'Te Aroha', *Observer*, 1 March 1890, p. 14.

In January 1920, Mary died, aged 77, after having suffered from heart disease for years.<sup>254</sup> Gallagher lived until August 1925, afflicted with senile decay and dying of heart failure; his death certificate described him as a retired farmer.<sup>255</sup> He left an estate valued at £2,346 10s 5d, and appointed Cornelius Murphy, then of Wiri, and son of Denis Murphy of Te Aroha,<sup>256</sup> as his executor. Murphy's daughter received £500, as did a nephew and a great nephew, and £100 each was left to his other nephew, three nieces, and a female friend.<sup>257</sup> Perhaps his comfortable financial circumstances was the reason why his mother, whose estate had been valued at under £1,200, left him nothing in her will.<sup>258</sup> His wealth was illustrated by a recollection that he owned the first motorcar in the Waihou valley, a 'single-cylinder De Dion Bouton', purchased in 1904.<sup>259</sup> His obituaries mostly repeated the information contained in the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, and were restricted to an outline of his life, making no comments on his occasionally quarrelsome personality.<sup>260</sup>

## CONCLUSION

Gallagher was a prominent member of the Thames and Te Aroha communities through his business interests and, at the latter, his involvement in local government. His coaching business was particularly successful, providing him and his wife with a comfortable living. Undoubtedly he did his best to assist the development of the Te Aroha community, his efforts revealed an abrasive and erratic behaviour that was also illustrated by his treatment of Michael Cronin, his tenant and employee. Perhaps this was the reason why, unlike many other obituaries, his omitted any mention of his personality.

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<sup>254</sup> Death Certificate of Mary Gallagher, 30 January 1920, 1920/10276, BDM.

<sup>255</sup> Death Certificate of Edward Gallagher, 25 August 1925, 1925/3401, BDM.

<sup>256</sup> See paper on Denis Murphy.

<sup>257</sup> Probate of Edward Gallagher, Probates, BBAE 1569/18206, ANZ-A.

<sup>258</sup> Death Certificate of Margaret Gallagher, 7 March 1889, 1889/408, BDM; Probate of Margaret Gallagher, Probates, BBAE 1569/471, ANZ-A.

<sup>259</sup> Henry Rawle, *Gold Country* (Waihi, 1985), p. 5.

<sup>260</sup> *New Zealand Herald*, 25 August 1925, p. 12; *Te Aroha News*, 28 August 1925, p. 4; *Observer*, 5 September 1925, p. 4.