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

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Abstract: *This paper gives the ages, occupations, places of residence, mining experience, and all other details that have been unearthed about all but one of the men who acquired prospecting licenses during the Depression, along with five men who prospected for others. Malcolm Hardy and those associated with him are covered in another paper. In some cases a mini-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 that in places the format has suffered from the paper having been processed by too many computers.]

CHARLES FINDLAY ALLAN

A Hawkes Bay farmer's son, Charles Findlay Allan was aged 35 in 1931.[1] Briefly a member of the Stoney Creek Prospectors' Party in 1933, he was granted 100 acres as a prospecting license in that year.[2] He was then living in Te Aroha, and unemployed.[3] With little if any

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

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

[3] C.F. Allan to J.F. Downey (Inspector of Mines), 9 February 1933, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

experience of prospecting or mining, in February he informed the mining inspector, John Francis Downey, that he and another unemployed friend, one Marsden, of whom nothing is known apart from Allan describing him as an experienced miner, wished to prospect. Although asked by James Donald Cumming to join his Stoney Creek 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'.[4] Downey told him that it was not worth prospecting at Te Aroha, where he could no possibly earn that amount from this 'surface detritus', no matter how hard or how long he worked.[5] 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.[6]

The following month, 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. 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" '.[7] His reference to the financial misery of families may have had a personal aspect, for when living in Otorohanga in 1926 he had been married and would have two

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[4] C.F. Allan to J.F. Downey, 9 February 1933, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

[5] J.F. Downey to C.F. Allan, 11 February 1933, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

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

[7] *Te Aroha News*, 15 April 1933, p. 5.

sons.[8] The same issue of the newspaper recording this speech 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'.[9] This forced him to leave Te Aroha, for although his prospecting license was granted on 8 June,[10] he must have left shortly afterwards, or possibly even before it was granted. Soon afterwards he obtained work in the Department of Labour, ending up as an inspector of factories before his death in 1963.[11]

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[8] Marriage Certificate of Charles Findlay Allan, 1926/9802; Death Certificate of Charles Findlay Allan, 23 June 1963, 1963/40113, BDM; Les Allan (son) to Philip Hart, 28 February 2005.

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

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

[11] Death Certificate of Charles Findlay Allan, 23 June 1963, 1963/40113, BDM.

THOMAS MILBURN ARMSTRONG

Thomas Milburn Armstrong was born in England, probably in the Northumberland coalfields, as indicated by an 1926 advertisement published in Auckland: 'IF THOMAS MILBURN ARMSTRONG, last heard of in Central America, believed to be back in the Colonies, will communicate with his step-brother, he will hear of news greatly to his advantage; parents' will found. – Cable John Davidson, Sleekburn Colliery, Northumberland'.[12] 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 a coal miner there.[13]

Armstrong obtained a miner's right for the Te Aroha Mining District in December 1932, and renewed it for the subsequent two years.[14] Although he did not acquire a prospecting license until April 1941, for 25 acres at Ruakaka, below the former Tui mines,[15] in early 1934 he had sent six samples for testing. Hugh Crawford, director of the Thames School of Mines, in informing him that all were valueless, mentioned that he would be visiting Te Aroha shortly to visit all parties receiving government subsidies, implying that Armstrong was a member of one of these.[16] From July 1938 to July 1939, he was a coal miner living at first Aria and then Piriaka, prospecting on behalf of a three-man syndicate: all had equal shares, the coal being sought under one partner's farm.[17] In November 1939, describing himself as a

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[12] Advertisement, *Auckland Star*, 2 March 1926, p. 1.

[13] Advertisement, *New Zealand Herald*, 20 October 1931, p. 1.

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

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

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

[17] 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.

'Prospecting Miner, of Erua', he applied for a coal prospecting license on Crown land in the Erua and National Park area.[18] His return to Te Aroha in 1941 did not result in any discoveries, and as no death certificate was issued in New Zealand he must have returned to England.

[18] Advertisement, *Evening Post*, 18 November 1939, p. 5.

WILLIAM JOHN BAIN

A labourer, William John Bain was 28 in 1931, the year he married the daughter of Francis Vardon Lilly Hennah,[19] another man who prospected at Te Aroha during the 1930s. 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.[20] This was his sole involvement with mining.

HAROLD JAMES SAMUEL BASSETT

Harold James Samuel Bassett was aged 25 in 1931.[21] 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. "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.[22]

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

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[19] Marriage Certificate of William John Bain, 6 October 1931, 1931/6587, BDM.

[20] Memorandum of 25 August 1933, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, 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.

[21] Birth Certificate of Harold James Samuel Bassett, 1906/7044, BDM.

[22] *New Zealand Herald*, 20 April 1928, p. 14.

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 week-ends 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'.[23]

In 1939, when he was living at Cambridge and describing himself in his application as a miner, he was granted a license to prospect 40 acres between the former Peter Maxwell and Tui Reduction claims with Oliver Samuel Shale.[24] 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 capapable of covering a much greater field in mineral wealth than the practical miner and am fully prepaired to undergo an examination for reference I can refer you to the manager of G.W. Wilton, Shortland st.[25]

Crawford noted in 1935 that 'Bassett and party' had left the Thames unemployment scheme to work on the Maratoto field for wages

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

[24] 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.

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

and contracts.[26] In the 1940s he was briefly associated with the Auckland Smelting Company's re-opening of the Tui mines.[27]

LUDOVIC BLACKWOOD

Ludovic Blackwood was aged 82 in 1931, when he was living in Auckland.[28] He had been an engineer and inspector of machinery;[29] after his retirement he described himself as having 'independent means'.[30] His only involvement in mining before the 1930s was as a shareholder in a Whangamata company in 1896.[31] In April 1933 he acquired a prospecting license in the Tui district, but two months later transferred it to Northern Goldfields.[32] Self-described as a 'gentleman', upon his death in 1938 he left a mere £440 14s 11d.[33]

ALFRED CLYDE PACKWOOD CLARK

Alfred Clyde Packwood Clark was 21 in 1931.[34] Three years later, when he applied for a prospecting license at Coromandel, he was an Auckland sharebroker.[35] His sole involvement with Te Aroha was in 1934, when he acquired a prospecting license from Robert Milton Scelly

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

[27] See paper on this company.

[28] 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.

[29] For example, *Otago Daily Times*, 19 January 1887, p. 5.

[30] *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.

[31] *New Zealand Gazette*, 27 August 1896, p. 1381.

[32] 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.

[33] Probate of Ludovic Blackwood, AAOM 6029, no. 63954, ANZ-W.

[34] Death Certificate of Alfred Clyde Packwood Clark, 1 September 1985, 1985/48832, BDM.

[35] Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM146D; Coromandel Warden's Court, Deposit Ledger 1933-1948, entry for 15 November 1934, BACL 13754/1a, ANZ-A.

and on the same day transferred it to Te Aroha Gold Mines Ltd.[36] No other association with mining has been traced; in later years he was a superannuation consultant.[37]

ROBERT ANDERSON COCHRANE

Robert Anderson Cochrane was aged 31 in 1931.[38] 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.[39] During the mid-1930s he lived at Te Aroha,[40] and for a time was employed by Milton & Co to prospect and take samples from the Tui district.[41] One site where he worked was referred to in 1935 as 'Cochrane's Mine'.[42] Upon his death in 1953, his estate was estimated as being under £4,000.[43]

JOHN PORTER CRAWFORD

John Porter Crawford was aged 31 in 1931.[44] During the 1930s and 1940s he was a printer in Te Aroha.[45] In April 1934, he was granted a 20-acre prospecting license at Waiorongomai, which he later

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[36] Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Registrations 1934, nos. 4318, 4319, BCDG 11288/11a, ANZ-A.

[37] Death Certificate of Alfred Clyde Packwood Clark, 1 September 1985, 1985/48832, BDM; Probate, BAZZ 1570, P3505/1985, ANZ-A.

[38] Death Certificate of Robert Anderson Cochrane, 1 November 1953, 1953/29700, BDM.

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

[40] 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.

[41] 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.

[42] *Te Aroha News*, 14 February 1936, p. 5.

[43] Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4420, no. 10010, ANZ-A.

[44] Death Certificate of John Porter Crawford, 24 February 1973, 1973/40697, BDM.

[45] *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.

converted into the Magic claim.[46] 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.[47] In March 1936, he sold it for £20 to Malcolm Hardy,[48] whose claims adjoined it lower down the hillside. His reason for dabbling in prospecting was financial, because from 1932 until 1944 he was sued 26 times to enforce payment of generally small amounts ranging from £1 to £31 17s 6d.[49] 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.[50]

HERBERT ANDREW CUMMING

Herbert Andrew Cumming was aged 26 in 1931.[51] A labourer living in Te Aroha,[52] with another man he attempted to acquire a 20-acre prospecting license in 1932, but this was refused because of being

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[46] Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 11, 32/1934, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A.

[47] Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1934, 11/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, ANZ-A.

[48] Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Registrations 1936, no. 4411, BCDG 11288/11a, ANZ-A.

[49] 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.

[50] 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.

[51] Birth Certificate of Herbert Andrew Cumming, 11 April 1905, 1905/17, BDM.

[52] 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.

close to the power station dam.[53] The following year, he was a member of the subsidized Stoney Creek Prospectors' Party, and also had a 100-acre prospecting license.[54] Downey noted he had no 'experience at mining or prospecting', illustrated by sending two quartz samples for assaying in early 1932 that revealed only a 'trace' of bullion.[55] Despite this, when the leader of this party was absent for a short time, Cumming was placed in charge.[56] In late 1933, he assisted in the unsuccessful prospecting of the old Eureka,[57] and in 1936 mined for some months, probably for Hardy.[58]

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'.[59]

JAMES DONALD CUMMING

Herbert's elder brother, James Donald Cumming, was aged 31 in 1931.[60] Born and raised at Te Aroha, he was appointed a 'postal letter carrier' for the district in 1917 and a postman for the township two

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[53] 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.

[54] 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.

[55] 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.

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

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

[58] Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 21 December 1936, p. 5.

[59] *Te Aroha News*, 21 August 1936, p. 5.

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

years later.[61] By 1922, he was a telephone exchange clerk,[62] and in the early 1930s was a clerk, although in 1933 he preferred the title 'Prospector-Clerk'.[63] He would move to Auckland in 1947,[64] and before he died there, aged 82, he was a shipping tally clerk.[65] In the mid-1930s, he was not working as a clerk, being reliant on the dole and milking cows to support his seven children.[66]

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, he accompanied two German geologists over the Te Aroha field, and from 1922 to 1930 did a small amount of prospecting. During the Depression he 'worked off and on with various groups, but with no finance, no batteries or machinery to treat 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 they were subsidized.[67] 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 in the 1930s.[68]

Officials did not share Cummings' estimate of his ability; for example, Crawford considered he had a 'good superficial knowledge of the area' but was 'not a miner'.[69] In February 1932, he was granted a

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[61] *Te Aroha News*, 18 May 1917, p. 2, 9 July 1919, p. 2.

[62] Marriage Certificate of James David Cumming, 4 October 1922, 1922/9759, BDM.

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

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

[65] Death Certificate of James David Cumming, 14 June 1982, 1982/39560, BDM.

[66] 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.

[67] See paper on mining in the Te Aroha District during the Depression years.

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

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

prospecting license over 20 acres at Stoney Creek.[70] The following year, he was granted 50 acres, being the old All Nations claim there.[71] In March he convened a meeting of all interested in prospecting and was elected secretary of the Te Aroha Prospectors' Association.[72] He called for government assistance, in particular a portable battery, insisting that with modern methods of treatment 93 per cent of the value would be saved.[73] One of the founders of the Labour Party in Te Aroha,[74] he may have thought his involvement in it would help his prospecting party (comprising himself, Charles Avis Lynch, and Norman Neilson) 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'.[75] The answer was 'No', partly because they did not have legal possession of the ground.[76]

In April 1932, Cumming and his brother each received a subsidy of £1 10s to prospect the old All Nations at Stoney Creek.[77] The unemployment supervisor at the Thames, mine manager John William Smith,[78] 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

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[70] 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.

[71] 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.

[72] *Te Aroha News*, 16 March 1932, p. 4.

[73] 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.

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

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

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

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

[78] *Thames Electoral Roll*, *1938*, p. 170.

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'.[79] 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.[80] As samples from the face and from a reef in the creek showed only a trace of bullion, when Smith told Cumming he was 'wasting his time'.[81] Because of Smith's reports, Downey refused to grant more than four weeks' additional subsidy unless values improved, only giving this extension because the slip may have interfered with their work.[82] After this extension, he ended the subsidy, both because of their small amount of work 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'.[83]

Downey rightly anticipated trouble over ending the subsidy, for Cumming was 'given to letter-writing'.[84] He thought Cumming should take up other unemployment work.[85] When Cumming claimed to have found two new reefs showing gold, Downey asked Smith to test these, for it was 'certain Cumming will wrote 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

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[79] J.W. Smith to J.F. Downey, 19 April 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

[80] J.W. Smith to J.F. Downey, 29 June 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

[81] J.W. Smith to J.F. Downey, 7 July 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

[82] J.F. Downey to J.D. Cumming, 8 July 1932; J.F. Downey to J.W. Smith, 9 July 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634. A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

[83] J.F. Downey to J.D. Cumming, 25 July 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

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

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

far as I can see, they have very little to show for twelve weeks work'.[86] Smith considered Cumming was 'a fool' to ask for the subsidy to be restored, for he had done almost no work. At Thames, prospectors who had 'further to walk than Cumming' had driven 98 feet in eight weeks,[87] compared with Cumming's two feet.

In mid-1933, Malcolm Hardy[88] employed him for about two weeks,[89] and later he was a member of the subsidized Maidos Prospecting Party, which fragmented because of personality conflicts and failure to find payable ore. By November, this party, still including Cumming, was helping Henry James Pease construct a small battery,[90] but as they could not reach a satisfactory working agreement with him, Smith advised them to accept a mining company's offer to work for wages.[91] In 1937, with Charles Avis Lynch, Cumming was granted a prospecting license for 100 acres, the old Peter Maxwell claim, where he proposed to re-open the low level to test the ore.[92] Shortly afterwards, when inviting Paddy Webb to inspect their ground, he claimed that two representatives of Australian capital had been impressed when they visited.[93] 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-

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[86] J.F. Downey to J.W. Smith, 2 August 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

[87] J.W. Smith to J.F. Downey, 6 August 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

[88] See paper on his life.

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

[90] 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.

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

[92] 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 18634. A902, M85, ANZ-A; Hugh Crawford to Mining Registrar, Te Aroha, 31 March 1937, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/9/50, ANZ-W.

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

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.[94] There was no contemporary evidence of this 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 be a porter at the Grand Hotel. As his health continued to decline, all but two house cows were sold.[95] Not till 1951 was he involved with mining again, when, with Cecil Fitness, a Hinuera dairy factory worker with no prospecting experience, he sought but failed to obtain a prospecting license over 300 acres at Tui.[96] In October, they applied for 200 acres at Waiorongomai, once again being opposed by the Auckland Smelting Company. Cumming told the warden he had not found gold, silver, or base metals but knew they were there; he also expected to find uranium, for two years previously he had tried to send samples to England. 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.[97] The warden granted the license because Cumming had been prospecting for many years, and was 'a trier and therefore should be encouraged'.[98]

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[94] J.D. Cumming to Inspector of Mines, 29 August 1952, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, box 68, folder 68D, ANZ-A.

[95] 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.

[96] 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.

[97] Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 24 October 1951, p. 5.

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

In 1952, Cumming contemplated sending base ore samples from Tui to Japan for testing.[99] The following year, he and Fitness were granted a prospecting license over 200 acres between Buck Rock and Army Creek, but both men had to continue 'in their normal occupations' because of lack of funds.[100] Some work was done in 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'.[101] He was never heard from again. When this license was renewed in 1956, they told the warden they had visited their claim 23 times in the past year.[102] By 1959, his partner was George Page, a retired man who had been involved in Te Aroha prospecting in the 1930s.[103] Fitness became a sheet metal worker, leaving an estate of $63,218 on his death in 1980.[104]

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.[105] 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':

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[99] J.D. Cumming to Inspector of Mines, 29 August 1952, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, box 68, folder 68d, ANZ-A.

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

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

[102] Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 19 June 1956, p. 5.

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

[104] Probates, BBAE 1570, P1603/1975, ANZ-A.

[105] Under-Secretary, Mines Department, to J.D. Cumming, 12 April 1962, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, box 57, folder 3, ANZ-A.

> 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 supply from pollution][106] 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.

This tendentious description of the ore was notable for its assertion that Macpherson's sudden death had prevented him from undertaking further explorations, when in fact he was not impressed with the reefs and did not die until 1948.[107] 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'.[108] In reality, the Mines Department considered that he

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

[107] 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.

[108] J.D. Cumming to Minister of Public Works, 15 July 1962, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, box 58 folder 4, ANZ-A.

had found nothing, and no subsidy was granted.[109] This was his last involvement in mining.

WILLIAM JOHN DEEBLE

William John Deeble was aged 65 in 1931.[110] A butcher, he was then living at Tuakau,[111] having previously followed this trade in Thames and Ponsonby.[112] A member of the Thames Borough Council from 1900 to 1901, he had resigned when he left for Auckland.[113] While at Thames he had his only recorded investment in a mining company, at Neavesville.[114] In 1932 and 1933 he was granted a 50-acre prospecting license in the Mangakino Valley,[115] on the far side of the ridge above the Tui mines. He had 50 shares in the Te Aroha Gold Syndicate,[116] and 200 in the Huia Syndicate,[117] and in October 1933 Te Aroha Gold Mines Ltd had an option to buy his licenses for 3,000 fully paid up shares.[118] 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.[119]

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[109] Minister of Mines to Minister of Public Works, 14 August 1962, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, box 58 folder 4, ANZ-A.

[110] 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.

[111] Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Mining Privileges 1913-1932, folio 227, BBAV 11500/4a, ANZ-A.

[112] *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.

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

[114] *New Zealand Gazette*, 21 September 1899, p. 1833.

[115] 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.

[116] Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 661 no. 4258, ANZ-A.

[117] Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 708 no. 4635, ANZ-A.

[118] Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 692 no. 4516, ANZ-A.

[119] Probates, BBAE 1570, P3127/1960, ANZ-A.

ERNEST GLADHILL D'ESTERRE

Ernest Gladhill D'Esterre, born in Sarzana, Italy, to an Italian mining engineer and an Englishwoman, was aged 51 in 1931.[120] He came to 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'. Employed by the *New Zealand Herald* in 1905, he moved to the *Auckland Weekly News* in 1910, which he edited from 1918 to 1934.[121] 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.[122] His articles romanticizing sheep farming, prospecting, and goldmining[123] 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'.[124] He claimed expertise, 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'.[125] 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

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[120] 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.

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

[122] *Observer*, 20 March 1909, p. 7; see also pp. 11, 16.

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

[124] *New Zealand Herald*, 18 August 1954, p. 10.

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 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'.[126]

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

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[125] 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.

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

of wonder'. He described the New Find,[127] '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,[128] and blamed the Seddon Government for its being abandoned. Edwin Henry Hardy[129] was 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 presenting 'almost as many contradictions' as those at Waiorongomai. The mountainside had its attractions to the hiker but was 'very easy to get lost' in, indicating 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 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.[130]

Not an encouraging assessment for an investor. During the 1930s he was granted three prospecting licenses at Coromandel in 1933,

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[127] See paper on this mine.

[128] See paper on the New Zealand Exploration Company and Aroha Gold Mines.

[129] See paper on his life.

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

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.[131] In 1935, he was granted one at Owharoa and another at Waihi.[132] At Waiorongomai, he obtained 50 acres adjoining Hardy's mine in 1932, transferring it to Northern Goldfields the following year.[133] In 1937 he obtained another 50-acre license nearby.[134] 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 the oil flotation treatment method which worked well at Broken Hill would be suitable for these ores.[135] In addition to his mining investments, in 1931 he had held shares in the Mount Tokatea Mineral Fertilizer Company.[136] Clearly most if not all his investments were unprofitable, for he left an estate estimated to be less than £2,000.[137]

REGINALD WALTER DEVEY

Reginald Walter Devey (registered at birth as Walter Reginald) was 30 years old in 1931,[138] and working as a blacksmith in Te Aroha.139 Between 1931 and 1933, he acquired five prospecting

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[131] 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 1, 23/1/13, Part 1, ANZ-W; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 666 no. 4303, ANZ-A.

[132] Paeroa Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1930-1936, entry for 20 February 1935, BAFV 13692/1a; Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM47B, ANZ-A.

[133] 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.

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

[135] *Te Aroha News*, 13 March 1951, p. 7.

[136] *Auckland Star*, 9 December 1925, p. 5.

[137] Probate, BBAE 1570, P2671/1954, ANZ-A.

[138] Birth Certificate of Walter Reginald Devey, 30 December 1900, 1900/4733, BDM.

[139] *Te Aroha News*, 20 July 1931, p. 5.

licenses between Waiorongomai and the top of the mountain, working with Walter Joseph Gibbs, to whom he sold his interests in at least three.[140] He prospected actively in 1932, sending five tons to be assayed at the Thames School of Mines in April which produced one ounce of bullion containing 5dwt of gold valued at £1 0s 4d per ton.[141] That September, he claimed that in prospecting since 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.[142] Downey considered him to be one of only two prospectors to have done 'any work of any consequence' and to have found anything,[143] but after that year there was no record of more prospecting.

DAVID EDWARDS

Aged 27 in 1931, David Edwards was the son of a draper who married the eldest daughter of George Lipsey and Ema Mokena.[144] He was a painter in Te Aroha.[145] 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

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[140] 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.

[141] Director, Thames School of Mines, to R.W. Devey, 21 April l932, Outwards Correspondence 1930-1932, School of Mines Archives, Thames.

[142] 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.

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

[144] Birth Certificate of David Edwards, 22 March 1904, 1904/19284, BDM.

[145] *Tauranga Electoral Roll*, *1931*, p. 48; *Thames Electoral Roll*, *1943*, p. 58.

about its water supply.[146] He and Francis James Roache were granted prospecting subsidies,[147] but found nothing.

THOMAS ARCHIBALD FELTON

Thomas Archibald Felton, an Auckland public accountant,[148] was aged 34 in 1931.[149] In 1933 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.[150] In 1937 he won the forfeiture of the Gloucester from Clive Nettleton.[151] Interim secretary of Te Aroha-Karangahake Gold Mine Ltd in 1932,[152] from 1936 onwards he assisted with testing Hardy's mine; for purchasing a small drilling plant for him he received a fifth interest in Hardy's mining property.[153] He and his wife were shareholders in Hardy's Mines, formed in 1940, but after selling their shares five years later he ceased to be its secretary.[154] Felton did not have interests in any other goldfield, his

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[146] 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.

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

[148] 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.

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

[150] 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.

[151] Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaint 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.

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

[153] 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.

[154] Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 165 no. 1208, ANZ-A.

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, and he also attempted to make money through a patented shoe heel.[155] In 1938 he was involved in housing developments in Auckland, and three years later applied for a license as a land agent.[156] When he died, in 1975, he left a valueless estate.[157]

NATHANIEL JOHN FERGUSON

Nathaniel John Ferguson was 67 in 1931.[158] During the 1880s, he had been a prominent and popular coachdriver on the Thames to Te Aroha route and a partner with Thomas Bradley[159] in a Te Aroha coaching and livery stable business.[160] In 1894 he bought a livery stable in Hamilton, and in the early twentieth century became a carter in Thames, for a time with his brother.[161] By the 1930s, he was a liftman in Auckland.[162] His sole shareholding in the 1880s was one and a half

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

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

[157] Probates, BBAE 1570, P1605/1975, ANZ-A.

[158] Birth Certificate of Nathaniel John Ferguson, 20 September 1864, 1864/1905, BDM.

[159] See *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 15 September 1897, p. 2.

[160] 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.

[161] *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.

[162] 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.

shares in the Welcome in 1883.[163] In 1896, he applied for the Aroha Consolidated, 100 acres between Te Aroha and the Tui mines, but withdrew the application.[164] Two years later, when a partner in the Loyalty Palace, only legal action to remove him from the partnership forced him to meet his financial obligations.[165] In 1905, he took a sample of Hikutaia ore to be assayed,[166] in 1909 held shares in a Coromandel company and another at Kuaotunu,[167] and in the following year held some in a mine near Thames.[168] In 1932 he had a small shareholding in a Waiomu company,[169] and in 1939 was a director of Monowai Gold Development Ltd.170 Also during the 1930s he owned five claims in the Thames-Coromandel area.171 His only involvement with Te Aroha in the 1930s was a prospecting license over 99 acres in 1935,172 on which he appears to have done no work or even visited. He was, after all, aged 71 in that year.[173] His entire estate, a mere £507 13s 10d, went to a spinster living in Haiti.[174]

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

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

[165] Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaint Book 1880-1898, 42/1898, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

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

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

[168] Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 262 no. 1507, ANZ-A.

[169] Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 574 no. 3510, ANZ-A.

[170] Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 773 no. 5078, ANZ-A.

[171] 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.

[172] Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1934-1961, 16/1935, BBAV 11505/2a, ANZ-A.

[173] Death Certificate of Nathaniel John Ferguson, 16 August 1948, 1948/30233, BDM.

[174] Probate, BBAV 1570, P1226/1948, ANZ-A.

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,[175] 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.[176] Reportedly having 'a keen knowledge of quarry matters', in 1918 he took over the Waiorongomai battery to convert it into a stone crushing plant.[177] 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 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'.[178] Gibbs took over the quarry, claimed he was working it by a better method, and made plans for its long-term development.[179]

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'.[180] 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'.[181] In 1926, Gibbs continued to claim that 'generally the metal

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[175] Death Certificate of Walter Joseph Gibbs, 8 January 1946, 1946/17542, BDM.

[176] *Te Aroha News*, 11 January 1946, p. 4.

[177] *Te Aroha News*, 4 December 1918, p. 2.

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

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

[180] *Te Aroha News*, 18 December 1923, p. 8, 20 December 1923, p. 4.

[181] *Te Aroha News*, 20 March 1924, p. 4.

was good', but the councillors disagreed and planned to close the quarry.[182] Some also wanted his dismissal, either to cut costs or because of how work was done and the disharmony he created.[183] In April 1927, the council made a final decision to close the quarry, despite Gibbs claiming that 12,000 yards of good metal remained.[184] 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.[185] 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.[186] 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 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',[187] but did indicate not everyone agreed with the praise. During 1929, there would be criticism by a councillor and the new engineer of how he had built a bridge.[188]

After his dismissal, Gibbs was appointed as consulting engineer for the Waitoa Drainage Board,[189] 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'.[190] In February 1931, he was granted a prospecting license over 45

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[182] *Te Aroha News*, 18 August 1926, p. 5.

[183] Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 22 September 1926, p. 5.

[184] *Te Aroha News*, 29 April 1927, p. 5.

[185] *Te Aroha News*, 21 September 1927, p. 4.

[186] *Te Aroha News*, 22 February 1928, p. 5.

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

[188] *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.

[189] *Te Aroha News*, 11 January 1946, p. 4.

[190] Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 18 December 1933, p. 5.

acres at Waiorongomai,[191] 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.[192] 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 prospecting' by at least two men continuously, and a quarterly report explaining the work done, the costs, and the results.[193]

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,[194] held for some years under protection by James Alexander Pond.[195] Claiming to have known these since 1917, when he visited them daily during the past 14 months Gibbs had not seen anybody at work. John William McCoy, 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.[196] McCoy informed the Mines Department that as Gibbs was 'the perpetrator of a wicked untruth' he would sue him for libel.[197]

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[191] 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.

[192] 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.

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

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

[195] See paper on his life.

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

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

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 his 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, and claimed 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'.[198] After coming to an 'amicable agreement' with Pond during the hearing, he withdrew his objection to continued protection.199 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 the previous year.[200]

Gibbs also sought to prevent Hardy obtaining his claim,[201] for he wanted the same ground added to his prospecting license.[202] Evidence given in court revealed he was employing Devey, Norman Neilson, and Charles Thomas Young to prospect for him.[203] What he never revealed was 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

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[198] Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 7 December 1931, p. 1.

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

[200] 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.

[201] See paper on Malcolm Hardy.

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

[203] Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1931, 14/1931, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

month taken at 'Gibbs Battery' gave £2 4s 7d.[204] 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.[205]

Like others, Gibbs sought 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.[206] 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.[207]

Gibbs reported in May that several leaders had been discovered but samples 'did not come up to expectations'.[208] The diary for May kept by Neilson and Young revealed that they did not concentrate on one area but normally spent a day exploring different sites: near 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'.[209] 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

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

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

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

[207] 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.

[208] W.J. Gibbs to J.F. Downey, 8 June 1931, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, S200, ANZ-A.

[209] Diary of prospecting, May 1931, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, S200, ANZ-A.

Stream'.[210] 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.[211]

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 gave from 4s 4d to £12 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.[212] The official view was that 'nothing of value' was found.[213] However Gibbs claimed, in November 1931, to have found 'very rich stone' in three places near the top of the mountain, assaying, he said, 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,[214] 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'.[215] He claimed some 'practical mining men' were backed him.[216] One may have been Charles Scott, who told the minister in December that Gibbs had spent about £271 since September 1930 in development, had paid £70 in wages in one claim, and that hundreds of samples gave promising assays at the Thames and Waihi Schools of

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[210] W.J. Gibbs to J.F. Downey, 4 July 1931, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, S200, ANZ-A.

[211] Diary of prospecting, June 1931, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, S200, ANZ-A.

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

[213] *AJHR*, 1932, C-2, p. 21.

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

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

[216] 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.

Mines.[217] Two months later, immediately after Macmillan became the minister, Gibbs informed him that 'men of substance' 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 chances, he added that he had 'always been a great supporter of the Reform Party'.[218]

Gibbs' continued to be involved with prospecting and company flotation.[219] 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 every tried to steal the ore.[220] 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 to a 1945 *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

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

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

[219] See paper on company formation in the Te Aroha Mining District during the 1930s.

[220] Interview with Ted Abraham, on site of Tui Mine, 1 November 1987.

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 was sufficient high-grade ores to make any such operations fully worth-while.[221]

The journalist did not have the wit to ask why he had not worked the payable ore himself. It should be noted that Cumming and Hardy both raised the hope that uranium might be found.[222]

In 1933, Gibbs applied for two prospecting licenses at Coromandel, one adjoining D'Esterre's.[223] In the following year he was granted two at Maratoto; they were renewed in 1935, then later protected,[224] and still later abandoned. When he died in 1946 he left an estate valued at £2,069 1s 4d.[225]

THOMAS GILLAN

Aged 56 in 1931,[226] Thomas Gillan was a mine manager with considerable experience at Thames, Neavesville, Owharoa, and Puriri.[227] He had taken time off from mining to fight in the Boer

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[221] *Te Aroha News*, 4 December 1945, p. 5.

[222] 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.

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

[224] 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.

[225] Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4420, no. 6634, ANZ-A.

[226] Marriage Certificate of Thomas Gillan, 21 January 1914, 1914/7368, BDM.

[227] 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.

War.[228] 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'.[229] 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', he intended 'to have the process tested by the experts attached to the New Zealand Mines Department at an early date'.[230] Nothing further is known about this invention. From September 1929 to October 1930, he prospected the Bonanza, Cadman, and Sceptre for McCoy, and supervising driving in them.[231] In addition, in March 1930 he was granted a prospecting license over 100 acres at Waiorongomai.[232] No discoveries were reported, nor from the license over 73 acres at the top of the mountain granted in September 1935.[233] From 1931 onwards he had also prospected at Maratoto and Komata, being a shareholder in one company working in the former district.[234] During the 1930s he was suffering from miners' complaint, his 1955 death certificate recording that he had had 'Miners' phthisis [for] at least 30 years'.[235]

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[228] *New Zealand Herald*, 25 February 1901, p. 5, 1 March 1902, p. 5.

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

[230] *Te Aroha News*, 22 September 1930, p. 5.

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

[232] 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.

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

[234] 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.

[235] Death Certificate of William Goodfellow, 5 November 1974, 1974/41725, BDM.

WILLIAM GOODFELLOW

William Goodfellow, later Sir William, was 51 in 1931, when he was living in Auckland and was, reputedly, one of the richest men in New Zealand.[236] After working in various Auckland hardware stores from the age of 17, he opened an ironmongery first in Onehunga and later 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, for marketing dairy products in London, and the Challenge Phosphate Company to supply fertiliser 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.[237] 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'.[238] In the late 1920s and 1930s he was politically active, defending business interests against the spectre of socialism.[239]

Goodfellow first became a director of two gold mining companies at Waiomu in 1929 and 1932.[240] In 1932 he sought the forfeiture of the Bonanza and Cadman from Pond, but withdrew his application.[241] The following year he was granted a prospecting license for 100 acres

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[236] *Observer*, 7 April 1938, p. 7.

[237] *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.

[238] *Observer*, 9 October 1920, p. 6.

[239] 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.

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

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

running from the Mangakino Valley to Tui.[242] Two months later, it was transferred to Northern Goldfields, in which he was a shareholder.[243] As part of a syndicate, he owned prospecting licenses at Coromandel which were transferred to the same company.[244] No investments in other mining areas have been traced.[245] Thus ended his brief involvement in goldmining, a peripheral interest lasting just four years of a busy career.

VIVIAN GEORGE ROBERT HAMILTON

Vivian George Robert Hamilton was aged 43 in 1931.[246] He had been a local dairy farmer since the First World War, being saved from having to fight by being the remaining son, both of his brothers being killed in action, and having to run the farm on his own.[247] He claimed to have started farming 'with virtually nothing'.[248] From the 1920s, he owned a farm at Ruakaka, at the foot of the Tui track.[249] From May 1921 to November 1947, he was a member of the borough council, and was mayor for six years until defeated in 1959.[250] In 1933, he was granted two prospecting licenses, totalling 73 acres, covering the upper

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[242] 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.

[243] 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.

[244] 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.

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

[246] Marriage Certificate of Vivian George Robert Hamilton, 27 January 1914, 1914/7132, BDM.

[247] *Te Aroha News*, 22 July 1918, p. 2, 9 August 1918, p. 2.

[248] *Te Aroha News*, 20 November 1959, p. 5.

[249] *Te Aroha News*, 8 April 1927, p. 5.

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

part of his farm and a portion of the hillside above it.[251] Ted Abraham, who had no prospecting skills, briefly assisted him, but they were totally unsuccessful.[252]

WILLIAM REGINALD HAMILTON

William Reginald Hamilton was aged 31 in 1931.[253] Then a contractor living at Papatoetoe,[254] in 1932 he acquired one prospecting license over 50 acres adjoining the Tui claims, but sold it four months later.[255] Subsequently he became a director of the Te Aroha Gold Syndicate,[256] 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.[257] 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.[258] 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

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[251] 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.

[252] Interview with Ted Abraham, at site of Tui Mine, 1 November 1987.

[253] Birth Certificate of William Reginald Hamilton, 1900/16247, BDM.

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

[255] 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.

[256] Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 661 no. 4258, ANZ-A.

[257] *New Zealand Herald*, 22 June 1933, p. 15, 4 July 1933, p. 13.

[258] *New Zealand Herald*, 17 June 1935, p. 11.

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 to assist you'. He was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment, with hard labour.[259]

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 in business cutting timber for only one year, his brother providing a truck to the partnership but Hamilton providing nothing. He owed Robert Milton Scelly £72 7s 5d, comprising loans; 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 received a farthing in the pound.[260] In 1941 his wife divorced him on grounds of desertion.[261] In the following year, when a bush contractor at Coromandel, he was killed when his car rolled 450 feet downhill from a Tokotea bush track.[262] His estate of £423 7s 8d was comprised mostly of timber rights and log hauling machinery.[263]

DONALD HENRY HENDERSON

Donald Henry Henderson, the eldest son of a Gore solicitor, was 56 in 1931,[264] and living in Auckland.[265] Then a clerk, when he died in

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[259] *Auckland Star*, 26 July 1935, p. 8.

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

[261] *Auckland Star*, 15 August 1941, p. 8.

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

[263] Probates, BBAE 1570, P344/1945, ANZ-A.

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

[265] 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.

1937 he was an accountant.[266] Having served in the Boer War, his obituary stated he was 'well known in Auckland for his work among the veterans of the South African War and the King's Empire Veterans'.[267] He obtained a 50-acre prospecting license in the Tui district in 1932 and another the following year.[268] Although Henderson did not prospect himself, by the end of January 1933 he had had parcels of stone taken from one license for testing and was 'making arrangements for capital to work the area'.[269] On the other he employed two men to locate reefs, cut tracks, and take samples. While they prospected, two others drove a tunnel, which by February 1934 was in 50 feet; £338 was spent over 12 months.[270] Neither license benefited him: the first was abandoned and the second sold to Milton & Co for paid up shares.[271] When he died in 1938, his wife and three children inherited £142 1s 5d.[272]

FRANCIS VARDON LILLY HENNAH

Francis Vardon Lilly Hennah, who later dropped the Lilly, was 66 in 1931.[273] A small dairy farmer milking only 15 cows in 1933, he lived at Tirohia, near Paeroa, with his family by Raihi Te Irikowhai Tiunga, whom he had failed to marry under Pakeha law.[274] Charles

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[266] 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.

[267] *New Zealand Herald*, 20 October 1937, p. 18.

[268] 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.

[269] 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.

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

[271] 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.

[272] Probates, BBE 1570, P391/1938, ANZ-A.

[273] 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.

[274] 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.

Scott claimed he had 40 years' mining experience, including being an underground surveyor and sampler in the Talisman.[275] While Hennah certainly mined at Karangahake,[276] Scott exaggerated, as was his wont, for Hennah was farming at Wanganui in 1902 before moving to Paeroa several years later.[277] When the subsidised Stoney Creek Prospectors' Party was organized in mid-1933, as 'easily the most suitable man' to be its supervisor he received a special weekly subsidy of £2.[278]

In addition to supervising this party, he applied for 10 acres above the New Find in April l933 but withdrew this application.[279] He did obtain 100 acres in June, and, with Robert Fitzroy Spensley, another 20 acres, but in March the following year they were working on unpayable ore, the highest value being 10s.[280] A sample from the Vulcan reef assayed at the beginning of April gave 13s 9d,[281] very poor. Later that month he applied for a 20-acre prospecting license at the New Find. Although not recorded as participating in earlier mining, the only mention of him being that he had an agricultural lease at

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

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

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

[278] 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.

[279] 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.

[280] 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; Mining Applications 1934, 6/1934, BCDG 11289/3a, 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.

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

Waiorongomai in 1912,[282] he claimed an 'intimate knowledge' of the field and was sure he would get results.[283] Nothing further was recorded about his prospecting, and he must have returned to his farm almost immediately. By this time he was suffering from miners' complaint,[284] 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,[285] was aged 22 in 1931.[286] He was living in Waiorongomai in the early 1930s and working as a motor driver.[287] In June 1933 he was granted a prospecting license for 30 acres, the former New Find,[288] but there was no record of his doing any work. In September 1934 he applied for a license for 15 acres at the Diamond Gully end of the New Find, but withdrew the application the following month.[289] That ended his brief foray into mining. He later became a builder, but when he died in 1986 his estate was valueless.[290]

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[282] Thames High School Board of Governors, Minutes of Meeting of 1 July 1912, High School Archives, Thames.

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

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

[285] See paper on the Piako County tramway at Waiorongomai.

[286] 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.

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

[288] 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.

[289] 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.

[290] Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4421, 588/1986, ANZ-A.

ALFRED VICTOR AUGUSTUS HOLMES

Alfred Victor Augustus Holmes was aged 29 in 1931,[291] when he was a Te Aroha bricklayer.[292] In March 1932, an assay of a sample from his land near the Ruakaka reservoir produced a 'trace' of bullion.[293] 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.[294] An application for the former New Find was granted in May.[295] 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' in the Second World War.[296] When killed in action aged 39, his death certificate gave his occupation as a goldminer.[297]

RAYMOND ARTHUR VICTOR HOPSON

Raymond Arthur Victor Hopson was aged 33 in 1931. His occupation at that time has not been traced, but he was a dairy farmer in later years.[298] He was granted one prospecting license, in the Mangakino Valley, in February 1933, which he transferred to Gibbs two

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[291] Birth Certificate of Alfred Victor Augustus Holmes, 6 February 1902, 1902/20272, BDM.

[292] 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.

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

[294] Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 14 April l932, BBAV 11505/6b; Mining Applications 1932, 8/1932, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

[295] 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.

[296] *Te Aroha News*, 18 June 1942, p. 4.

[297] Death Certificate of Alfred Victor Augustus Holmes, 26 November 1941, 1945/35549, BDM.

[298] Death Certificate of Raymond Arthur Hopson, 3 October 1964, 1964/42155, BDM.

months later.[299] When he died in 1964, he left an estate estimated at £6,040.[300]

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.[301] Aged 41 in 1931,[302] he was a carpenter.[303] After serving in the First World War, for a time he was a labourer.[304] 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,[305] but any prospecting was fruitless. Fourteen months later Hardy was employing Jennings, who had been unemployed, to help erect the roof over his plant.[306] The only certain employment he had during the 1930s was as the local dog registrar, collecting the dog tax.[307] He died in 1958, leaving an estate valued at under £2,000.[308]

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[299] 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.

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

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

[302] Birth Certificate of Charles Ernest Jennings, 20 January 1890, 1890/1842, BDM.

[303] 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.

[304] *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.

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

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

[307] 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.

[308] Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4421, 525/1958, ANZ-A.

THOMAS HAROLD ROLAND JONES

Thomas Harold Roland Jones was 42 in 1931.[309] A battery hand at Waihi in 1915, he later mined at Waihi, Maratoto, and Te Puke.[310] He was described in 1933 as 'an old hand and knowes his work'.[311] A member of the subsidised Maidos Prospectors' Party in late 1933,[312] neither he nor any other member of this party found anything worthwhile. His years of mining gave him miners' complaint.[313]

THOMAS GLADSTONE JULIAN

Thomas Gladstone Julian was aged 31 in 1931.[314] He was managing director of the Auckland firm of J.T. Julian and Son Ltd, a private company formed by his father in 1910 and specializing in building, carpentry and joinery, and contracting.[315] Amongst other buildings his firm erected was the Auckland railway station and the St James and Majestic theatres.[316] He was also a director of several non-mining companies.[317] Like his father before him, he was a member of the Auckland City Council.[318] His company went into liquidation in November 1933, the Depression probably being the reason why its staff

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[309] Marriage Certificate of Thomas Harold Roland Jones, 1 May 1915, 1915/1432, BDM.

[310] 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.

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

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

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

[314] Death Certificate of Thomas Gladstone Julian, 25 June 1954, 1954/20832, BDM.

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

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

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

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

had been much reduced by then.[319] In 1939 he became a land agent, a career he continued until his death in 1954, when he left less than £1,000.[320]

His first involvement with mining was to acquire a prospecting license adjoining the Tui mines in June 1932, which he sold five months later.[321] 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.[322] 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.[323]

CLARENCE JAMES KENNEDY

Clarence James Kennedy was aged 27 in 1931.[324] He was living in Te Aroha in July 1933, when he formed a subsidised prospecting party, the Governors' Party, with Charles Thomas Young.[325] Within two months later they had become 'bad friends' and could not work together, Kennedy planning to prospect with an experienced miner elsewhere.[326] This did not happen, and instead, without informing Young, he applied under his own name for the prospecting license 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

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[319] *New Zealand Herald*, 16 November 1933, p. 5.

[320] 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.

[321] 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.

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

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

[324] Birth Certificate of Clarence James Kennedy, 1908/24282, BDM.

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

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

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 is his name without the other's knowledge'. Kennedy's version 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'.[327] The 45-acre prospecting license at Waiorongomai 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.[328] There was no other record of his further involvement in prospecting on the peninsula.

ROY HARRISON LEECE

Roy Harrison Leece was aged 24 in 1931, when he was a Te Aroha butcher.[329] Three years previously, in the only time he was in trouble with authority, he had been 'Admonished & discharged' for absenting himself from Hopuhopu Military Camp without leave.[330] 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.[331] Downey's comment that he had 'little reason for thinking' prospecting there was 'likely to yield any useful result'[332] was quickly to

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[327] Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 16 October 1933, p. 5.

[328] 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.

[329] Birth Certificate of Roy Harrison Leece, 14 March 1907, 1907/13924, BDM.

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

[331] 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.

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

be proved 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.[333] Leece told Smith that, following his instructions, they had driven through the mullock and struck a reef, from which they sent samples for assay.[334] Smith noted that 'he was driving the wrong way for the reef when I was there but all the same its poor'.[335] The four samples Leece took produced from 1s 2d and 2s 7d per ton.[336] In mid-May, Roache left the party,[337] and 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.[338]

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.[339] Thus ended Leece's efforts to

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[333] J.W. Smith to J.F. Downey, 19 April 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

[334] R.H. Leece to J.W. Smith, 25 April 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

[335] Memorandum by J.W. Smith, n.d. [c. 27 April 1932], written on R.H. Leece to J.W. Smith, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

[336] J.F. Downey to J.W. Smith, 29 April 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

[337] David Edwards and R.H. Leece to J.F. Downey, 17 May 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM74B, ANZ-A.

[338] J.W. Smith to J.F. Downey, 19 May 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A900, MM74B, ANZ-A.

[339] J.W. Smith to J.F. Downey, 19 April 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM74B; Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 12 May 1932, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

find gold at Te Aroha, or anywhere else. Upon his death in 1991, he left an estate valued at under £300.[340]

WILLIAM GLADSTONE LOVIE

William Gladstone Lovie, aged 32 in 1931, had been elected as one of the commissioners for New Lynn in Auckland five years previously.[341] Later a clerk and stationer at Te Aroha, he became the New Zealand Herald's correspondent there in 1935, before leaving two years later to work for a Gisborne newspaper.[342] He was prominent as the drum-major of the municipal band, which he trained for three years for the South Auckland contests, in his final year winning one of these. Active in the Returned Servicemen's Association and other local organizations, for two years he organized the Te Aroha New Year Carnival.[343] 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.[344]

In December 1932, he was granted a prospecting license over 100 acres comprising the former Eureka, but his second request for another 100 acres in the same area was withdrawn early in 1934.[345] Cumming and Charles Scott had equal shares with him, and Scott and Hennah did the prospecting,[346] suggesting that Lovie was a sleeping partner. A

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[340] Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4421, 897/1991, ANZ-A.

[341] Marriage Certificate of William Gladstone Lovie, 23 February 1922, 1922/1191, BDM; advertisement, *Auckland Star*, 18 September 1926, p. 19.

[342] 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, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 7 April 1937, p. 4; Probates, BBAE 1570, 4112/71, ANZ-A.

[343] *Te Aroha News*, 7 April 1937, pp. 4, 5.

[344] *Te Aroha News*, 16 March 1936, p. 4.

[345] Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearings of 8 December 1932, 1 February 1934, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

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

journalist when he died in Auckland in 1971, his estate was valueless.[347]

CHARLES AVIS LYNCH

Charles Avis Lynch, a local dairy farmer, was aged 48 in 1931.[348] In 1937, with Cumming and Norman Neilson, he was granted a prospecting license for the former Peter Maxwell and an adjoining 100 acres;[349] it is likely that he milked cows whilst the others prospected. When he died in 1954 his estate was estimated to be less than £17,000.[350]

JOHN WILLIAM McCOY

John William McCoy was 59 in 1931.[351] In the early twentieth century, he was an accountant and agent, and by 1914 was a member of the Auckland Stock Exchange.[352] 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.[353] In 1921, after failing to appear in court to respond to an accusation of assaulting a taxi driver, he was fined another £5.[354]

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[347] Probates, BBAE 1570, P4112/1971, ANZ-A.

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

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

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

[351] Death Certificate of John William McCoy, 16 May 1946, 1946/20331, BDM.

[352] 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.

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

[354] Police Court, *New Zealand Herald*, 16 February 1921, p. 8.

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'.[355] 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.[356] In 1898, as a shareholder of the Kapai-Vermont at Kuaotunu he was on a committee of residents petitioning for government assistance.[357] 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.[358] During 1908 and 1909, he invested in mines at Coromandel, Kuaotunu, Tairua, Whangamata, and Thames, and assisted to form companies.[359] By early 1918 he had abandoned his prospecting license at Puhipuhi, near Whangarei.[360] 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.[361] In 1929, he was a shareholder and director of the Waiomo Sulphide Corporation,[362] and in the 1930s was a vendor and director of

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[355] 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.

[356] *Auckland Star*, 19 September 1916, p. 7; *Truth*, 25 November 1916, p. 6.

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

[358] *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 17 August 1904, p. 2.

[359] 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, 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.

[360] Advertisement, *Northern Advocate*, 8 March 1918, p. 3.

[361] 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.

[362] Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 574 no. 3510, ANZ-A.

one Waiomu company and a managing director of another.[363] 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 Whangarei Cinnabar Ltd.[364]

McCoy first became involved in Waiorongomai mining in 1929, when he arranged for prospecting on John Alexander Pond's Bonanza and Cadman claims;[365] having an option over these, he hoped to float them in Sydney.[366] This flotation did not occur, despite McCoy claiming in December 1931 that he would raise £30,000 there.[367] In March 1930 he was granted a prospecting license over the former Sceptre.[368] Four years later he employed three men to try to 'pick up some of the old workings' in Pond's former claims.[369] After this work ceased, before 1936, Neilson was employed as caretaker; McCoy was lax in paying his wages.[370] After that year, the district saw him no more.

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[363] 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.

[364] 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.

[365] See paper on his life.

[366] 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 18634, A902, MM8, ANZ-A; Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 16 September 1931, p. 5.

[367] Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 7 December 1931, p. 1.

[368] 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.

[369] F.V. Hennah to J.F. Downey, n.d. [c. 8 February 1934], Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM216A, ANZ-A.

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

WILLIAM JAMES McMILLAN

William James McMillan was 22 in 1931,[371] the year before he obtained a prospecting license over 100 acres in the Mangakino Valley, which four months later he sold to Gibbs.[372] 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.[373]

JOHN ALEXANDER McNEIL

John Alexander McNeil had 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 petition, he explained that he had a wife and ten children to support. There were originally 16 children. His eldest son was killed in France, and five other children were supporting themselves. The eldest son formerly assisted bankrupt in the handling of his boat. He was renting Waimete Island from Mr 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 also lost a contract for conveying cream for the Coromandel Dairy Company. He had since been given the contract again, but could not get a boat on the same terms as he had the Jack, having to pay £1 a week for its 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,

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[371] Birth Certificate of William James McMillan, 1909/3224, BDM.

[372] 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.

[373] 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, 8679/1936 [old index], BDM; *Evening Post*, 26 November 1941, p. 4.

which laid him up for six or seven weeks.[374] (His 'complaint' would have stopped him mining.) Aged 60 in 1931, he was described by Hugh Crawford as being 'a real good prospector'.[375] Photographs of him with his six sons prospecting at Coromandel in 1932 described him as 'a well-known figure on the fields'.[376] In 1933, he told the minister that 'as you well know I, and my family, are all prospectors at heart and have always been closely allied with the industry'.[377] Even at this age he was still actively prospecting, in 1931 at Tiki. Claiming that 'our run of gold' 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'.[378] It was more likely that investors were not interested, for assays of six samples made in February had revealed only one contained gold.[379] However, it did bring him a return: the only time during the 1930s that he sold any gold to the Thames branch of the Bank of New Zealand was in October, when 11oz 7dwt was bought for £31 18s 3d.[380] Asked in 1933 to take charge of subsidised prospectors in the Colville district, he declined because, as elsewhere in the Coromandel district, speculators had locked up all the suitable ground.[381] This locking up may have been one reason why he was anxious to accept the offer of subsidised prospecting at Te Aroha in November 1936.[382] Two of his sons assisted him and

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[374] *New Zealad Herald*, 21 February 1918, p. 7.

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

[376] *Auckland Weekly News*, 25 May 1932, pp. 38-39.

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

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

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

[380] 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.

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

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

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.[383]

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,[384] family commitments did not prevent him from living in a hut in the bush and prospecting for weeks at a time. At least in his earlier years, he relieved the boredom by drinking: in 1920 he pleaded guilty to being drunk in a Te Aroha street.[385] Downey described him as a miner 'of a good many years experience', and during 1932 he was one of the two prospectors who did 'any work of any consequence' and found anything.[386] Neilson was reputed to have found 'a few fair prospects' during his 'good few years pottering about the hills'.[387] In 1932, James Donald Cumming informed Downey's successor, 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'.[388]

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[383] 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.

[384] 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.

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

[386] 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.

[387] E. ('Butcher') Barnes to P.C. Webb, 24 July 1936, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

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

In 1931, Neilson was employed by Gibbs as a prospector, and assisted to peg out his Waiorongomai license.[389] He lived in a hut below the Peter Maxwell for over a year, Gibbs taking food up to him.[390] 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.[391] By 1933 he was, with Cumming, a member of the Maidos Prospectors' Party.[392] 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'.[393] Retained by Clive Nettleton of Waiorongomai Gold Mines Ltd as a caretaker, Neilson complained 'of not having been paid his wages'.[394] Cumming described Neilson as being 'mucked around and taken in' by McCoy. When 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.[395] 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 for him a subsidy.[396] According to Cumming, he and Neilson then found good stone in the Peter

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[389] 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.

[390] Interview with Ted Abraham, on site of Tui Mine, 1 November 1987.

[391] Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 14 April l932, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

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

[393] E. ('Butcher') Barnes to P.C. Webb, 24 July 1936, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

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

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

[396] 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.

Maxwell,[397] presumably the source of four samples assayed in October producing from five to eight and a half pennyweights of gold.[398] 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.[399] 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.[400] After their combined efforts failed to locate anything worthwhile, they were transferred to the southern side of Karangahake,[401] once more without success. In April 1937, Neilson and Lynch were granted the Peter Maxwell,[402] but no further discoveries were reported.

In 1936, Cumming claimed Neilson had much valuable information about the Tui district in his head which would be valuable one day.[403] When in his sixties, Neilson met Bert McAra, mine manager for the Auckland Smelting Company, working at Tui,[404] 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].[405] Neilson insisted that he knew a good lead and zinc reef in the Mangakino Valley:

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

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

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

[400] 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.

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

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

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

[404] See paper on this company.

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

> He said "I've come to show you." He was pretty old and doddery 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, 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.[406]

Neilson did not find the elusive bonanza, despite 20 or so years of searching, and in 1950 was living in poverty in an old cottage at Waiorongomai.[407] When he died of cancer in 1955, aged 70,[408] 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.[409]

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

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

[408] Death Certificate of Norman Neilson, 4 November 1955, 1955/27725, BDM.

[409] Probates, BBAE 1570, 2118/55, ANZ-A.

CLIVE NETTLETON

In 1931, Clive Nettleton was an Auckland sharebroker aged 63.[410] In 1911 and 1938 he invested in oil exploration companies, and in 1912 he was the broker for the Tairua Opals, Ltd.[411] From at least 1925 to early 1927 he was a land agent at Onehunga.[412]

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.[413] In His first involvement with Waiorongomai was in December 1932, when he won the forfeiture of the Cadman and Bonanza from Pond for non-working.[414] Rival claimants believed he was really holding the ground on behalf of Pond and McCoy,[415] which, if true, meant they colluded 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,[416] although repeating, just before this was granted in August, that he seemed 'no more prepared to work it bona fide than was his predecessor'.[417] In September, Nettleton sold these claims to his

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[410] 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.

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

[412] *New Zealand Herald*, 7 April 1927, p. 14.

[413] 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.

[414] Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaint 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.

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

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

[417] 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.

Waiorongomai Gold Mines Ltd.[418] 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'.[419] This reduction was renewed six months later,[420] but after that the involvement of Nettleton and 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 his attempt.[421] In mid-1935, he acquired the Gloucester, nine months later obtaining suspension of labour conditions and a reduction of rent.[422] In October 1936, when living in Fiji, Nettleton was sued, successfully, for its forfeiture because no work had been done.[423] 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.[424] These and other speculations were unprofitable, for when he died in 1942 the value of his estate was only £244 14s 9d.[425]

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[418] Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 695 no. 4544, ANZ-A.

[419] 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.

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

[421] 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.

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

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

[424] Te Aroha Correspondent, *Auckland Star*, 23 January 1937, p. 12; Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 25 January 1937, p. 5.

[425] Probates, BBAE 1570, 409/42, ANZ-A.

MAURICE O'CONNOR

Maurice O'Connor, a linotyper working in Auckland, was aged 45 in 1931.[426] He must have been encouraged to acquired interests in Waiorongomai mining 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.[427] In April 1933 he obtained another license, which was acquired by Northern Goldfields less than two months later;[428] 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.[429]

GEORGE PAGE

George Page, aged 49 in 1931, described himself as an engineer when married in 1920.[430] Despite this designation, until 1930 he was a publican at Ngaruawahia, Thames, Onehunga, and from 1926 to 1930 being joint licensee of the Grand Hotel at Te Aroha.[431] 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.[432] In 1933, when he obtained a prospecting license over 45 acres close to Stoney Creek, he was a labourer living at Te

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[426] *Auckland West Electoral Roll*, *1935*, p. 129; Death Certificate of Maurice O'Connor, 3 December 1957, 1957/34126, BDM.

[427] 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.

[428] Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Mining Privileges 1933-1972, folio 17, BBAV 11500/5a, ANZ-A.

[429] Probates, BBAE 1570, P19/1958, ANZ-A.

[430] Marriage Certificate of George Page, 26 May 1920, 1920/540, BDM.

[431] 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.

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

Aroha.[433] If he did any prospecting, he did not find anything. When he died in 1970, his estate was valueless.[434]

HENRY HAMES PEASE

Aged 66 in 1931,[435] 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.[436] After marrying in 1888, he lived at Sheffield in North Canterbury and then at 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 the family moved to Te Aroha for the sake of his wife's health.[437] He was first recorded as living there in July 1899, when he was a builder.[438] For some years he worked for the borough council.[439] 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.[440] With the help of his wife, who came from a horse-breeding family, he developed a successful dairy farm.[441] By 1927, when her failing health meant the

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[433] 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.

[434] Probates, BBAE 1570, P2274/1971, ANZ-A.

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

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

[437] *Te Aroha News*, 19 August 1936, p. 4.

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

[439] *Te Aroha News*, 21 April 1915, p. 3.

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

[441] *Te Aroha News*, 19 August 1936, p. 4.

family moved back to Te Aroha, the farm was 'doing well', a sharemilker working on it 'with his own herd on half shares'.[442]

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'.[443] His political views were made clear in 'Notes on the Starters', a guide to the election portraying it 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."[444]

The reference to 'Webb' feet implied he was not as radical as Paddy Webb, a future Minister of Mines in the first Labour Government, and the fire brigade comment referred to his being honorary secretary of the fire brigade.[445] His election platform included a new water supply system and more pay for quarry workers; he was 'in favour of the unimproved value, for there were now too many sections held by speculators, and absentees'.[446] He came bottom of the poll,[447] but was elected in 1929 with the lowest vote of the successful candidates. After the result was announced, he said he had not expected to win because of not living in Te Aroha.[448] In 1931, he was defeated by two votes,[449] but was one of the three people who filled vacancies without an election in 1933.[450] He was re-elected in 1935,

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[442] 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.

[443] *Te Aroha News*, 21 April 1915, p. 3.

[444] *Te Aroha News*, 23 April 1915, p. 2.

[445] *Te Aroha News*, 28 July 1915, p. 3.

[446] *Te Aroha News*, 24 April 1915, p. 4.

[447] *Te Aroha News*, 30 April 1915, p. 3.

[448] *Te Aroha News*, 3 May 1929, p. 5.

[449] *Te Aroha News*, 8 May 1931, p. 1.

[450] *Te Aroha News*, 28 April 1933, p. 4.

again without a contest,[451] and made chairman of the building and sanitary committee, but did not stand for re-election in 1938.[452]

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.[453] In 1931, he canvassed part of the town for food or clothing for the unemployed, and was on the local unemployment committee.[454] 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.[455]

Pease first became involved in mining in May 1932, when he acquired a prospecting license over 35 acres near the former Cadman, Success and Welcome claims.[456] 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 claim. Reportedly (and typically) he 'already had encouraging prospects'.[457] In December, he was granted the right to occupy a 'whare' at Waiorongomai.[458] 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.[459] By November 1933, he was ready to install a battery on his Maidos claim, granted in

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[451] *Te Aroha News*, 26 April 1935, p. 1.

[452] *Te Aroha News*, 21 June 1937, p. 2, 13 May 1938, p. 5.

[453] *Te Aroha News*, 26 May 1930, p. 1.

[454] *Te Aroha News*, 17 August 1931, p. 5, 18 November 1931, p. 5.

[455] *Te Aroha News*, 7 May 1937, p. 5.

[456] 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.

[457] *Te Aroha News*, 10 August 1932, p. 4.

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

[459] Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 11 April l933, 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.

December 1933.[460] 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 it, a battery site above the track, and a tail race.[461] In early 1934 the three-man Maidos Prospectors' Party began erecting this battery.[462] In March, because of 'unforeseen delays', he was granted protection for six months.[463] The value of his ore can be gauged by the fact that six months later he surrendered the Maidos, followed by the battery site and water race licenses in April 1935.[464] When he died in 1951, his estate was precisely £1,957 19s 10d.[465]

CLIFFORD ALBAN REID

Clifford Alban Reid, a Te Aroha tobacconist, was aged 27 in 1931.[466] He later became a linesman.[467] In 1932 he obtained a prospecting license over the former Mammoth Reef and Sceptre

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[460] *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.

[461] 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.

[462] 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.

[463] Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 19 March 1934, p. 5.

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

[465] Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4420, no. 8782, ANZ-A.

[466] 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.

[467] Death Certificate of Clifford Alban Reid, 20 November 1980, 1980/51276, BDM.

Extended claims at Buck Rock. Four months afterwards he transferred it to Gibbs.[468]

THOMAS RIFLE

Thomas Rifle lived at Te Aroha, although possibly also across the range at Aongatete, and was aged 28 in 1931.[469] A Maori, he had a drink problem, and in 1925, at his request, a prohibition order was imposed.[470] Two years later, again in trouble over obtaining alcohol, on his initiative another order was imposed, which he broke three months later.[471] Charles Scott described him as 'a superb bushman', good at blasting, and 'quite an acquisition' to the Stoney Creek Prospectors' Party.[472] When working with it, Rifle found a reef that looked promising, but tests proved the contrary.[473] He then obtained a prospecting license over 100 acres,[474] about which nothing was ever heard.

FRANCIS JAMES ROACHE

Francis James Roache was aged 27 in 1931,[475] when he was a local plasterer. In that year, the Te Aroha News published his photograph because he had been plastering St David's Presbyterian

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[468] 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.

[469] 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.

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

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

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

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

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

[475] Birth Certificate of Francis James Roache, 9 December 1904, 1905/9892, BDM.

Church. As with all his work, 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'.[476] Some of his off-work behaviour did not receive any accolades, for in 1930 he and his brother were charged with assault and obscene language after accosting two young women, and in 1933 he was fined for fighting in the street after drinking.[477] He prospected with Edwards and Leece, his skill indicated by a sample he sent to the Thames School of Mines turning out to be 'Decomposed Country with Iron Pyrites' of nil value.[478] He then applied on behalf of the others for assistance, to be told that they could not be paid for work already done.[479] He ceased mining when his mates did.

ROBERT MILTON SCELLY

Robert Milton Scelly, aged 27 in 1931 when he was living in Auckland, gave his occupations as accountant, company promoter, and company secretary.[480] In 1929 he was one of two subscribers to the new Tobacco Producers Trust Ltd, he with five shares and a firm with the other 24,995.[481] In the 1930s he was the manager of a finance company and secretary of a carburettor firm.[482] 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

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[476] *Te Aroha News*, 29 May 1931, p. 6.

[477] 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.

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

[479] F.J. Roache to J.F. Downey, 1 February 1932; J.F. Downey to F.J. Roache, 2 February 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM174, ANZ-A.

[480] 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.

[481] *Auckland Star*, 6 August 1929, p. 4.

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

coming back', and did not return despite his wife's request.[483] After ignoring an order sought by his wife for the restitution of conjugal rights, he was divorced.[484]

His first involvement with mining to be traced was in March 1932, when he sent unemployed Aucklanders to prospect at Thames.[485] The following month he was granted a prospecting license over 100 acres near the former Peter Maxwell.[486] In September, he asked the Mines Department to provide 'particulars of gold won' at Te Aroha since the 1911 geological survey.[487] 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, kindly let me have your reply as soon as possible'.[488] 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.[489] Two other licenses were granted over the next two years, and by June 1934 he claimed to have spent about £100.[490] He was secretary of four Te Aroha companies: Milton & Co, Huia Syndicate, Te Aroha Gold Syndicate, and Te Aroha Gold Mines. As well, in 1936 he was secretary of Harakeke Mines Ltd and New Success Company, both operating at Coromandel. In that year he ignored all requests from the Mines

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[483] *New Zealand Herald*, 19 June 1936, p. 12.

[484] *Auckland Star*, 18 June 1936, p. 5, 10 September 1936, p. 8.

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

[486] Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1921-1934, Hearing of 14 April l932, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.

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

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

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

[490] 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.

Department to provide statements of the affairs of all six companies.[491] In 1934 he became secretary of the Waikoromiko Sluicing Company, operating in the Napier area,[492] and in 1935 was secretary and 'Governing Director', indeed the sole director, of the Provincial Financial Company Ltd, of which he held 999 of the 1,000 shares, his typist owning the remaining one. This money-lending firm owned a special quartz claim at Coromandel,[493] 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.[494] His probate revealed how unsuccessful his financial manipulations had been: its net value was nil.[495]

CHARLES SCOTT

Charles Scott, who turned 42 in July 1931, was the son of a mine manager,[496] which may have given him the idea that he was a mining expert. In fact he never did any mining, after returning from the First World War becoming a dairy farmer and milk vendor at Te Aroha.[497] He was not a good farmer, his wife losing the land she had 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

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

[492] Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 721 no. 4736, ANZ-A.

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

[494] Death Certificate of Robert Milton Scelly, 20 September 1942, 1942/25504, BDM.

[495] Probates, BBAE 1570, 1027/43, ANZ-A.

[496] Birth Certificate of Charles Scott, 30 July 1889, 1889/7796; Marriage Certificate of Charles Scott, 30 January 1924, 1924/8996, BDM.

[497] *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.

landlord, Eruini Taipari, to repossess it.[498] He continued farming on leased Crown land, which in 1931 caused 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',[499] 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.[500]

Scott's death certificate recorded him as a retired journalist,[501] 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, 12 letters about drainage issues and in particular the history of Mackie's Stream;[502] finally the editor, despite his protests, declined to publish any more because they had 'wearied many of our readers with repetition'.[503] In August 1932, after Scott insisted that the minister, Macmillan, make Downey retract his 'ridiculous contrary to

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[498] 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.

[499] 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.

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

[501] Death Certificate of Charles Scott, 23 March 1970, 1970/26329, BDM.

[502] See paper on Robert and Elizabeth Mackie.

[503] 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.

fact contentions' that Te Aroha was not worth prospecting,[504] the Mines Department was informed by the local postmaster that both the mayor and the president of the Chamber of Commerce regarded Scott as a 'crank' who was 'continually trying to stir up trouble'. They had had 'considerable experience of him and his methods'.[505] Whether he was ever a member of a political party is not known, but he appears to have been the type of person who opposed everything. In 1929, he wrote, 'I hate hypocrisy more than I hate snobs, lawyers, fat-headed politicians, partisan newspapers - and bad whiskey'.[506] In November 1932, 'although differing from you politically', he thanked Macmillan for trying to help Te Aroha.[507] In 1947 and 1953 he boasted of not being a member of any political party.[508]

Scott stood unsuccessfully for the borough council in 1929, gaining 364 votes; two candidates had lower votes, and the last one elected received 485. Unlike the others who were defeated, he did not speak at the declaration of the poll.[509] 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'.[510] This controversy probably

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

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

[506] Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 18 September 1929, p. 4.

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

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

[509] *Te Aroha News*, 3 May 1929, p. 5.

[510] 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

prompted him to stand for election again in 1947, and to refuse to make any statement to the *Te Aroha News*.[511] 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.[512] Scott was the only candidate not to be elected. He gained 460 votes, the next highest obtaining 792, and the highest scoring candidate 943.[513]

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'.[514] The 40 people at his meeting were told that he did not stand on any ticket. He demanded 'clean, impartial administration', for the council 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'.[515] This time he headed the eight unsuccessful candidates with 475 votes. The lowest vote of the successful ones was 503, and the highest 911.[516]

Under-Secretary, Lands Department, 26 February 1947, Lands and Survey Department, LS 1, 22/4673, ANZ-W.

[511] *Te Aroha News*, 7 November 1947, p. 5.

[512] *Te Aroha News*, 14 November 1947, p. 4.

[513] *Te Aroha News*, 21 November 1947, p. 5.

[514] *Te Aroha News*, 20 October 1953, p. 5.

[515] *Te Aroha News*, 28 December 1953, p. 5.

[516] *Te Aroha News*, 3 November 1953, p. 3.

In 1956, Scott stood for mayor, again wanting such things as better footpaths, flood control, and water supply whilst cutting rates.[517] In a low turnout he was defeated by 613 votes to 406.[518] He stood for both mayor and council in 1959, telling his audience of 23 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, and their replies. At the end of the meeting, he irritated the audience by refusing to take any but written questions.[519] 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.[520] 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 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 all of these things, 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'.[521] 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'.[522] 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 'that great statesman' Seddon.[523] 'A vigorous land development policy and the development of the mineral

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[517] *Te Aroha News*, 6 November 1956, p. 5.

[518] *Te Aroha News*, 20 November 1956, p. 5.

[519] *Te Aroha News*, 17 November 1959, p. 5.

[520] *Te Aroha News*, 24 November 1959, p. 5, 27 November 1959, p. 1.

[521] Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 1 December 1959, p. 5.

[522] Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 19 August 1929, p. 5.

[523] Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 18 September 1929, p. 4.

resources of the country' would end the Depression within 12 months.[524] Scott also wrote to the Auckland press on the issue, describing himself as '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 organising rests with our legislators. Are they equal to the job?[525]

When leading a deputation to Macmillan in 1933, he called for the Unemployment Board to subsidize prospectors instead of futile relief work.[526]

Scott's expertise ran, in his opinion, to 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.[527] In March 1932, he was elected president of the new Te Aroha Prospectors' Association,[528] and later that month chaired a meeting of prospectors and others 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'. The Hauraki Peninsula contained 'untold wealth in minerals, the surface of which had only been

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[524] Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 21 March 1932, p. 4.

[525] Letter from Charles Scott, *Auckland Star*, 30 April 1932, p. 8.

[526] *Te Aroha News*, 3 May 1933, p. 5.

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

[528] *Te Aroha News*, 16 March 1932, p. 4.

scratched'.[529] In September he obtained 35 acres as a prospecting license,[530] and in October was a trustee of Art Union money to be spent on prospecting.[531] However, an insult to his dignity led to the following letter to Macmillan 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 Prospecting Assn has received £500 from a recent Art Union [he wrote Thames, not Te Aroha, and the 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 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.[532]

As Macmillan's constituency included Te Aroha, whose residents' demands for assistance for prospecting he was attempting to placate, he 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'.[533] Scott responded that, no longer being a member of the

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[529] *Te Aroha News*, 21 March 1932, p. 4.

[530] 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.

[531] Charles Scott to Minister of Mines, 25 October 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/31, ANZ-W.

[532] Charles Scott to Minister of Mines, 3 December 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/31, ANZ-W.

[533] Minister of Mines to Charles Scott, 6 December 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/31, ANZ-W.

association, he would not comment on the main text of the letter, but reminded Macmillan that in August he 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 realise and appreciate the able way that you are administering the Mines Dept, and I quite recognise, 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.[534] Scott continued to be involved with the association, three months later drawing up its plan of work at Stoney Creek, an area selected because 'I know that the old-time miners snigged a quantity of stone' there. He would personally inspect the party's work, without payment.[535]

That this prospecting was unsuccessful did not prevent him continuing to make blatantly incorrect statements about the quality and his knowledge of the local ore. In 1948 he wrote 'as a mining man' to the Minister of Mines supporting Benjamin John Dunsheath's application for the Tui mines,[536] repeating all Dunsheath's arguments about the value of mining and why there would be no pollution.[537] Three years later, he protested at the council attempting to stop mining because of concerns about pollution. In detailing the large quantity and variety of the minerals in the mountain he commented that 'the Mines Department knows the potentialities of the field nearly as well as I

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[534] Charles Scott to Minister of Mines, 7 December 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/31, ANZ-W.

[535] 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, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 1, ANZ-W.

[536] See paper on Auckland Smelting Company.

[537] Charles Scott to Minister of Mines, 31 August 1948, Mines Department, MD 1, 10/27/124, ANZ-W.

do'.[538] 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 it. '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'.[539] (Not only had there been no submissions from Scott, but Macpherson's non-confidential assessment of the ore was diametrically opposed to Scott's.)

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 files, and the condemnation had not been 'lifted'.) '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'.[540] (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 missives.) 'Although I am naturally a modest man, I am

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[538] Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 3 August 1951, p. 2.

[539] Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 10 August 1951, p. 4.

[540] Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 27 June 1952, p. 5.

conceited enough to admit that I know the geology of the Coromandel range from Waiorongomai to Cape Colville well'.[541]

OLIVER SAMUEL SHALE

Oliver Samuel Shale, aged 49 in 1937, was the son and brother of farmers.[542] In 1917, when living in Otago, he enlisted for the war but was rejected as 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 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'.[543] After continuing to assist his farming brothers, by December 1928 he had moved to Auckland.[544] One non-mining investment has been traced, in Industrial Assets Ltd, formerly the Waitakere Brick and Tile Company.[545]

In 1934 he was a shareholder in a Kuaotunu company and had a prospecting license over 85 acres at Maratoto four years later, which was forfeited seven months later for non-working.[546] At the end of 1939, when he was farming at Roto-o-Rangi, near Cambridge, with Bassett he acquired a 40-acre prospecting license adjoining the Tui mines.[547]

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[541] Letter from Charles Scott, *Te Aroha News*, 12 August 1952, p. 4.

[542] Marriage Certificate of Oliver Samuel Shale, 18 January 1922, 1922/3419; Death Certificate of Oliver Samuel Shale, 19 September 1969, 1969/31492, BDM.

[543] *Otago Daily Times*, 5 January 1917, p. 2.

[544] *Press*, 12 December 1928, p. 5.

[545] Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 774 no. 5083, ANZ-A.

[546] Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 1146 no. 14104; Paeroa Warden's Court, Plaints 1938, 29/1938; Plaints 1939, 3/1939, BAFV 11975/2a, ANZ-A.

[547] 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; *Waikato Electoral Roll, 1938*, p. 161.

ROBERT FITZROY SPENSLEY

In 1931, when aged 59, Robert Fitzroy Spensley was a farmer and carrier living at Swanson, near Auckland.[548] 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 its and 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.[549] 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'.[550]

Spensley claimed to have some practical knowledge of prospecting, having searched for gold 'at various periods of his life'.[551] 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 saveings were exausted, though not very successful I have gained a lot of practical experience and am still vigorously keen on continuing'.[552] In addition to working with this subsidized party, in June 1933 he was granted two prospecting licenses over a total of 150 acres.[553] Three months later he abandoned the 50-acre license, not being able to afford to spend £3 per

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[548] 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.

[549] Supreme Court, *Press*, 26 May 1910, p. 2, 27 May 1910, p. 4.

[550] *Star*, 4 December 1913, p. 5.

[551] *New Zealand Herald*, 14 March 1938, p. 10.

[552] R.F. Spensley to Minister of Mines, 8 November 1933, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/1/20, Part 2, ANZ-W.

[553] 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.[554] 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'.[555]

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.[556] Being married three times, at the ages of 23, 45, and 49,[557] Spensley must be presumed to have had some charm, but his only son, Francis Borgia Spensley, born to his second wife,[558] experienced little of this. At the time of the murder, they were living alone, Francis' stepmother having died; his own mother had died when he was four years old. 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 claimed 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 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 partly

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[554] Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1933, 47/1933, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.

[555] *New Zealand Herald*, 14 March 1938, p. 10.

[556] 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.

[557] Marriage Certificate of Robert Fitzroy Spensley, 1099/1938 [old index], BDM.

[558] Birth Certificate of Francis Borgia [recorded as Bogia] Spensley, 4 May 1919, 1701/1919 [old index: not traced in new one]; Death Certificate of Francis St Borgia Spensley, 1979/48645, BDM.

explained his behaviour as being caused by severe asthma. After other witnesses gave evidence about signs of beatings and overwork, the son was found guilty, not of murder, but of manslaughter.[559]

Spensley's estate revealed his lack of financial success at both farming and prospecting. His ten acres of freehold land and four acres of leasehold 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.[560]

GEORGE VICTOR SPROUL

George Victor Sproul, another farmer, lived at Waihou, and was aged 25 in 1931.[561] As well as being granted a prospecting license over 100 acres in June 1933,[562] he worked with the Stoney Creek Prospectors' Party from June to November that year, leaving because he disagreed with the way it was operating. He went on to do 'other work',[563] and there was no record of his doing any more prospecting. When he died in 1987, his estate was valued under $300.[564]

THOMAS HERBERT STEWART

Thomas Herbert Stewart, one of the few miners amongst these would-be prospectors, had commenced mining in the late 1890s.[565] 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

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[559] Supreme Court, *New Zealand Herald*, 11 May 1938, p. 20, 12 May 1938, p. 18.

[560] Probates, BBAE 1570, 1056/41, ANZ-A.

[561] Marriage Certificate of George Victor Sproul, 1 June 1927, 1927/4331, BDM.

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

[563] 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.

[564] Hamilton Probates, BCDG 4421, 1012/1991, ANZ-A.

[565] Under-Secretary, Mines Department, to Matthew Paul, 8 November 1927, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, S 147, ANZ-A.

19 years his junior; he was aged 65 in 1931.[566] 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.[567] Also an inventor, in 1911 he reportedly constructed a far better rat trap than any in existence, for it could catch any number at one time.[568] This was not patented, but in 1914 he patented a 'Nut for Bolt' and in 1922 a 'Trap for rodents'.[569] 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'.[570] 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'.[571] Five years later he was fined for failing to rid his apiary of foul brood.[572] 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'.[573] Stewart and his wife claimed to be the caretakers of Waiorongomai, but one resident commented that their land was 'a disgrace' because they did not 'do anything' to keep it free of

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[566] 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.

[567] J.S. Hill, Waiorongomai Tramway Account Book 1909-1910, entries for 7-9, 30 June 1909, John Samuel Hill Papers, MSC0116, Hamilton Public Library.

[568] *Te Aroha News*, 18 April 1911, p. 2.

[569] Keryn Stevenson (Client Advisor, Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand) to Philip Hart, 30 July 1998.

[570] *Te Aroha News*, 26 January 1922, p. 2.

[571] *Te Aroha News*, 16 February 1922, p. 2.

[572] Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1926-1930, entries for 26 January 1927, 11 April 1927, BCDG 11220/6a, ANZ-A.

[573] Mary Stewart to Minister of Mines, 18 August 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 6/61, ANZ-W.

noxious weeds and would not give others a 'chance to clean there own place's up, without causing trouble all the time.... I have only been in the house 9 months and I do not wish to take any orders at all from them'.[574] Neither Stewart nor his wife had been appointed a caretaker, and the mention of 'trouble' reflected the family's occasionally aggressive behaviour. In 1912 Stewart was fined for drunkenness and assault.[575] In 1928 he assaulted a man in a street at Te Aroha, 'repeatedly' calling him 'You scabby bastard' and 'You bloody bastard'.[576] His son Frank was involved with 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.[577] Stewart claimed that Gray, since taking up some of the hillside in the previous July, had 'threatned 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'.[578]

In August 1932 his wife 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.[579] Two months later, Joseph Begovich, the Dalmation who was this new tenant, was taking down a fence when

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[574] S. Fisher to J.F. Downey, 25 April 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, MM206, ANZ-A.

[575] Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1907-1913, 66, 67/1912, BCDG 11220/2a, ANZ-A.

[576] Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1926-1930, 71, 72/1928, BCDG 11220/6a, ANZ-A.

[577] *Te Aroha News*, 28 January 1931, p. 5.

[578] Thomas Stewart to Minister of Mines, n.d. [received c. 26 February 1931], Mines Department, MD 1, 6/61, ANZ-W.

[579] Mary Stewart to Minister of Mines, 18 August 1932, Mines Department, MD 1, 6/61, ANZ-W.

Mary Stewart '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 striking Frank in the face. This brought his parents onto the scene, Mrs Begovich struck Mary Stewart in the face, and Frank fought Begovich. During their 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.[580]

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'.

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[580] *Te Aroha News*, 30 November 1932, p. 4.

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'. He had used bad language after being provoked, and admitted an earlier conviction for using bad language against the poundkeeper. 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 both Stewarts were bound over to keep the peace and fined £1. 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!'[581]

In a continuation of the squabble over the right to graze on the now-closed roads of Waiorongomai, in the following March Mary Stewart charged Begovich, the poundkeeper, with illegally impounding her cow. After the hearing was adjourned to enable the parties to confer, an 'amicable settlement' was reached out of court.[582]

In November 1927, Stewart applied for assistance to drive a tunnel 300 feet to the north of the old Aroha Gold Mines tunnel. Having driven 12 feet, he claimed to have found encouraging prospects.[583] As Matthew Paul, the mining inspector, visited 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

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[581] *Te Aroha News*, 14 December 1932, p. 5.

[582] *Te Aroha News*, 3 March 1933, p. 4.

[583] Under-Secretary, Mines Department, to Matthew Paul, 8 November 1927, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, S147, ANZ-A.

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.[584]

The reference to the pension indicated that although suffering from miners' complaint he was not sufficiently incapacitated 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.[585] He suggested to Stewart that he 'endeavour to locate the rich ore' that a deceased miner had told him about and then apply for a subsidy.[586] Stewart replied that he had already investigated this and got only 'fine colours of gold', although he might have found platinum.[587] In March 1928 he was granted a prospecting license over ten acres encompassing the Aroha Company's drive.[588] The following year he sent a sample to Downey, now the mining inspector, from an unspecified area because he did not know what it was: 'one person tells me it is crystalised mercury, another says it is copper'.[589] It was in fact mainly iron pyrites, contained no mercury or copper, with no commercial value.[590] A month

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[584] Thomas Stewart to Matthew Paul, n.d. [received 18 February 1927], Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, S147, ANZ-A.

[585] Matthew Paul to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 16 November 1927, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, S147, ANZ-A.

[586] Matthew Paul to Thomas Stewart, 19 November 1927, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, S147, ANZ-A.

[587] Matthew Paul to Thomas Stewart, 10 January 1928, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, S147, ANZ-A.

[588] 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.

[589] Thomas Stewart to J.F. Downey, 15 April 1929, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, S147, ANZ-A.

[590] Waihi School of Mines, Assay dated 22 April 1929, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, S147, ANZ-A.

later, another sample did contain eight grains of gold along with a little more silver, but was worth only 1s 5d per ton.[591]

In 1930, this license was renewed, and in the following year the area was enlarged to 20 acres; the license was again renewed in 1933.[592] In late February 1931, when writing to the minister about the need to keep Waiorongomai 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 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.[593]

He wrote this despite knowing that an assay of a tobacco tin containing 'Quartz Borings' had produced only 5dwt, value £1 per ton.[594] 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.[595] 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

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[591] Thomas Stewart to J.F. Downey, 24 May 1929; Waihi School of Mines, assay dated 12 June 1929, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, S147, ANZ-A.

[592] 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.

[593] Thomas Stewart to Minister of Mines, n.d. [received c. 26 February 1931], Mines Department, MD 1, 6/61, ANZ-W.

[594] 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.

[595] *Te Aroha News*, 12 October 1932, p. 5.

miners' complaint.[596] When he died in 1944, aged 76, his death certificate recorded that he had suffered from miners' phthisis for 20 years.[597]

JOHN HERBERT HAROLD WOOD

John Herbert Harold Wood, aged 32 in 1931, was an Auckland doctor.[598] His only involvement in 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.[599] During the next two years, he bought shares in three companies at Thames and Karangahake.[600] When he died on active service in 1944, he left an estate of £16,156 12s 8d.[601]

CHARLES THOMAS YOUNG

Charles Thomas Young was aged 57 in 1931.[602] His father, David Kerr Young, a miner at Waiorongomai in the 1880s,[603] did not let his three sons receive an adequate education. Thomas, as he was generally known, attended school for the first time in 1883, when aged eight, the inspector recording that he 'did not know the alphabet' and his attendance was irregular.[604] During the 1890s he mined at Waiorongomai, but in 1920, when mining had almost ceased, he was a

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[596] Miners' Phthesis Pensions, List of all Pensioners, 22 December 1937, Social Security, SS, Box 8, M40, No. 3, ANZ-W.

[597] Death Certificate of Thomas Stewart, 1 June 1944, 1944/20491, BDM.

[598] Marriage Certificate of John Herbert Harold Wood, 2 January 1924, 1924/7917, BDM; *Parnell Electoral Roll*, *1935*, p. 240.

[599] 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.

[600] Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 597 no. 3694, box 683 no. 4442, box 711 no. 4664, ANZ-A.

[601] Probate of John Herbert Harold Wood, AAOM 6030, no. 12031, ANZ-W.

[602] Birth Certificate of Charles Thomas Young, 24 October 1874, 1874/42057, BDM.

[603] 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.

[604] Waiorongomai School, Class Lists for November 1883, YCAF 4135/10a, ANZ-A.

labourer.[605] In 1931 Downey noted that he had 'a good many years experience' as a miner.[606] During 1929 and 1930, he was twice employed to assist with prospecting Pond's claims, and in 1931 he prospected for Gibbs.[607] He obtained 45 acres adjoining two of Pond's claims in July 1932,[608] and was described three months later by Smith as being one of the only two 'genuine prospectors'.[609] As indicated in the mini-biography of his mate, Kennedy, he successfully protested against Kennedy applying for their claim under his name. Had he known 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.[610] His reward for years of mining was miners' complaint, from which he suffered for an unknown number of years before dying in 1938, aged 64.[611]

Young was a prominent member of the local community for much of his life, for the wrong reasons. In February 1900, Alice Burchell, aged 20, bore an illegitimate child whose father was not named.[612] 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'.[613] His father was a notable drunkard,[614] and

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[605] *Ohinemuri Electoral Rolls, 1896, Supplementary D,* p. 4; *1899*, p. 125; Probates, BBAE 1569/14894, ANZ-A.

[606] J.F. Downey to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 14 April 1931, Mines Department, MD 1, 12/408, ANZ-W.

[607] 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.

[608] 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.

[609] *Te Aroha News*, 12 October 1932, p. 5.

[610] Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 16 October 1933, p. 5.

[611] Miners' Phthesis 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.

[612] Birth Certificate of Arnold George Burchell, 2 February 1900, 1900/3445, BDM.

[613] 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.

Young followed his example. In November 1906, a prohibition order was taken out against him,[615] and less than two years later one another was imposed at a brother's request.[616] Four months later, he was charged with being drunk during the currency of an order. The local constable deposed that 'accused was a source of trouble to people in the town, asking them 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.[617] Four months later, he was again charged with being drunk and then with possessing liquor during the currency of a prohibition order, being £2 or three days imprisonment; once again it was paid.[618] Seven months later, he was charged with being in a 'helpless state of drunkenness' in a street, and fined £1 or 24 hours' hard labour; he paid.[619]

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

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[614] 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.

[615] Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1896-1907, 74/1906, BCDG 11220/1b, ANZ-A.

[616] Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1907-1913, 31/1908, BCDG 11220/2a, ANZ-A.

[617] 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.

[618] Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1907-1913, 12, 16/1909, BCDG 11220/2a, ANZ-A.

[619] 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.

consent'.[620] The next time he was charged with drunkenness was in January 1916, when he was convicted and discharged, receiving the same sentence for being idle and disorderly.[621] Charged with being drunk in October, he was once more convicted and discharged.[622] 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. 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, he was given one more chance, but another prohibition order was imposed.[623] After he breached it 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', where drunkards were treated. He was fined £2, or in default one month hard labour.[624] 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.[625] Perhaps he learnt, for although he may well have become drunk again, he did so in private, and made no more court appearances.

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[620] 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.

[621] Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1913-1918, 2, 3/1916, BCDG 11220/2b, ANZ-A.

[622] Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1913-1918, 107/1916, BCDG 11220/2b, ANZ-A.

[623] 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.

[624] 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.

[625] 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.

CONCLUSION

Most of these 50 people did not do any prospecting. Of the 25 who did prospect, mostly for a very short time, 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 especially from Coromandel. 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 miners (one a coal miner) 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 prospecting, a minimal amount in the case of Cumming, and Gibbs mostly employed others. D'Esterre had mined in the South Island, very different from 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 for much of the later 1930s. Five men, Gillan, Hennah, Jones, Stewart, and Young, suffered from miners' complaint.

Most of the sleeping partners and speculators had only a passing involvement in mining. McCoy, Nettleton, and Scelly were the most active in trying to make money by floating companies, but all of these failed. Gibbs arguably should be seen more as a speculator than a prospector, again without receiving the financial rewards he sought. Apart from one or two, notably Goodfellow, none of the speculators had access to large amounts of capital, and they provided only minimal funding for prospecting. And for both individuals and companies, the low grade of the ore was an insurmountable hurdle.

Appendix

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.

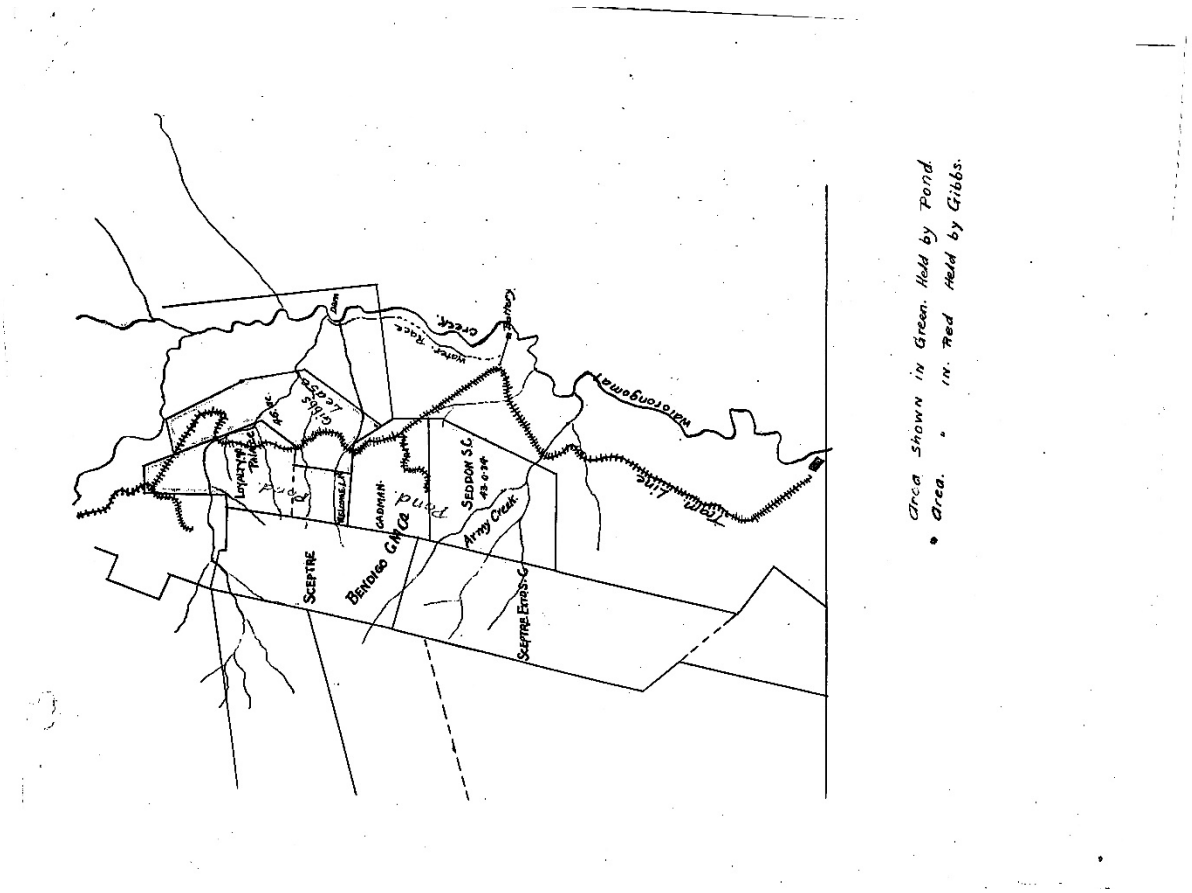
Figure 7: Plan of George Page's Prospecting Area and workings between Stoney Creek and Diamond Gully, attached to F.V. Hennah to J.F. Downey, 22 December 1933, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, MM74, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.

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.

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.



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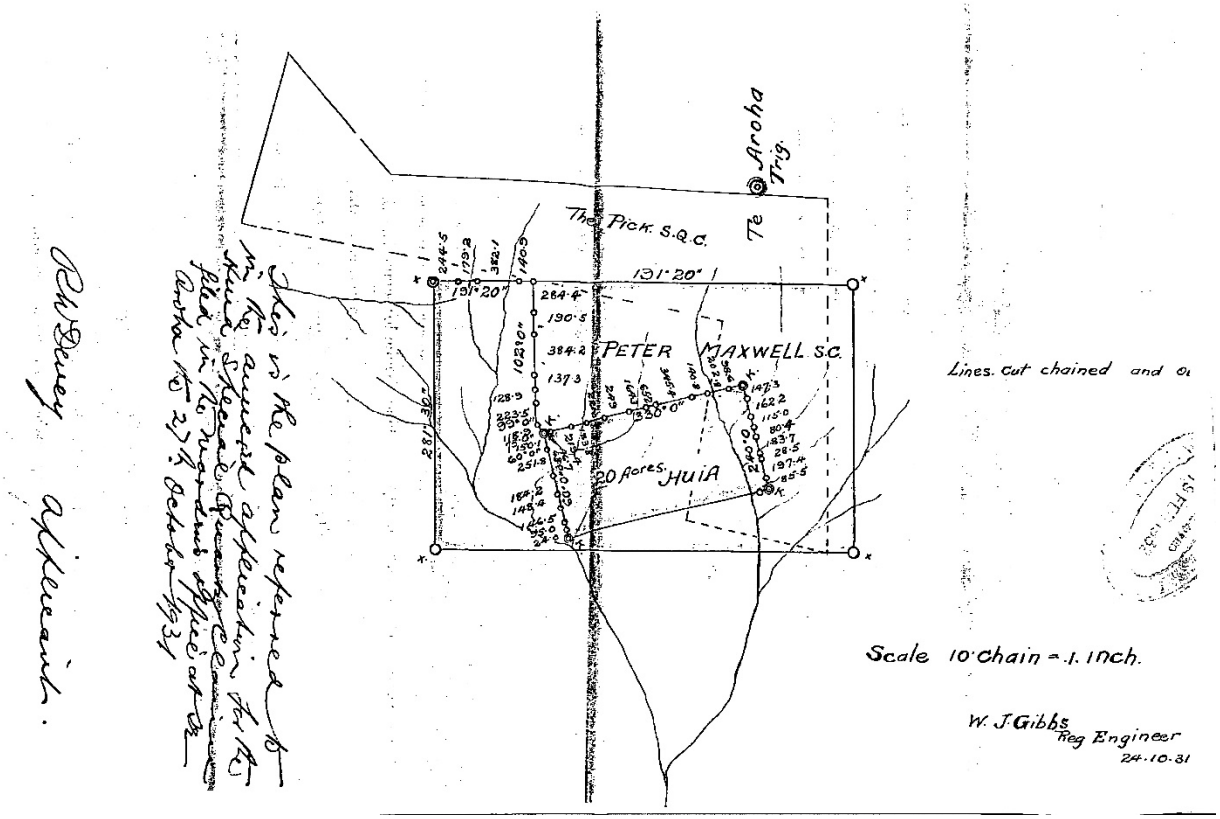

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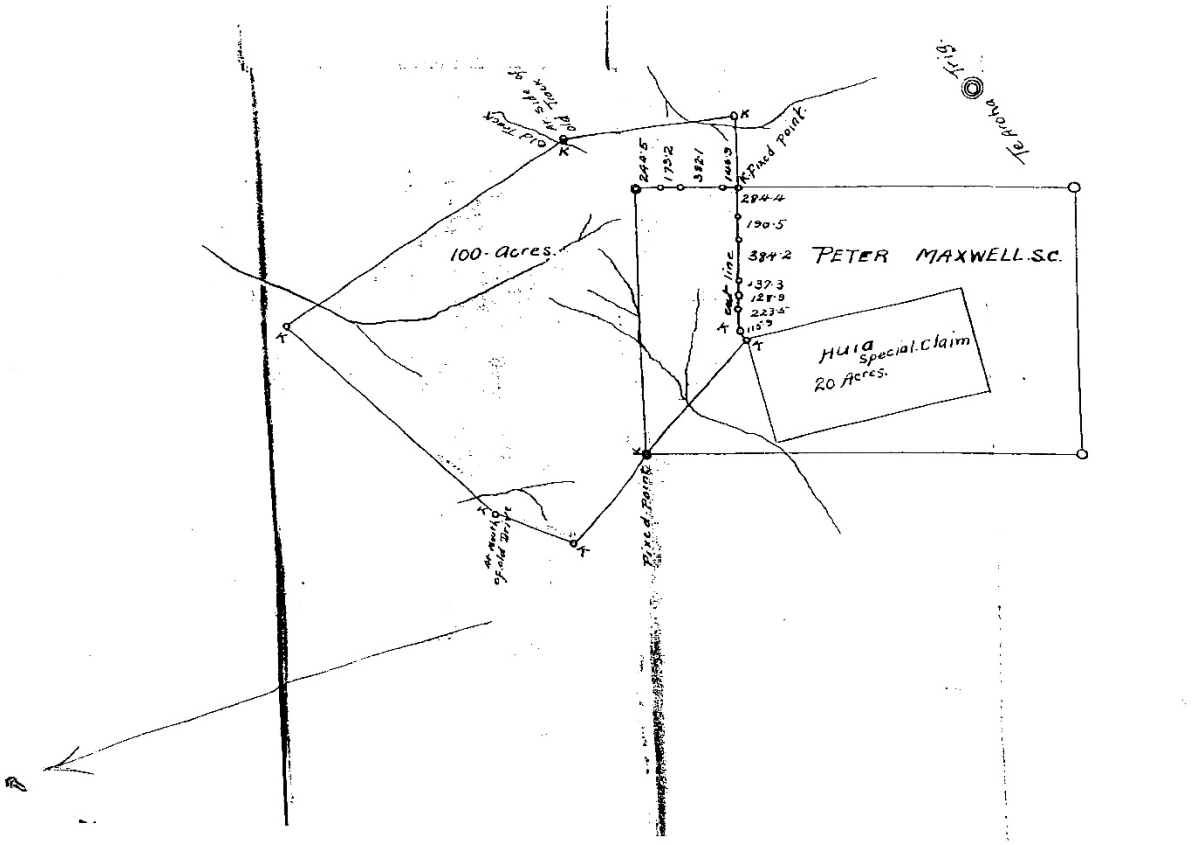

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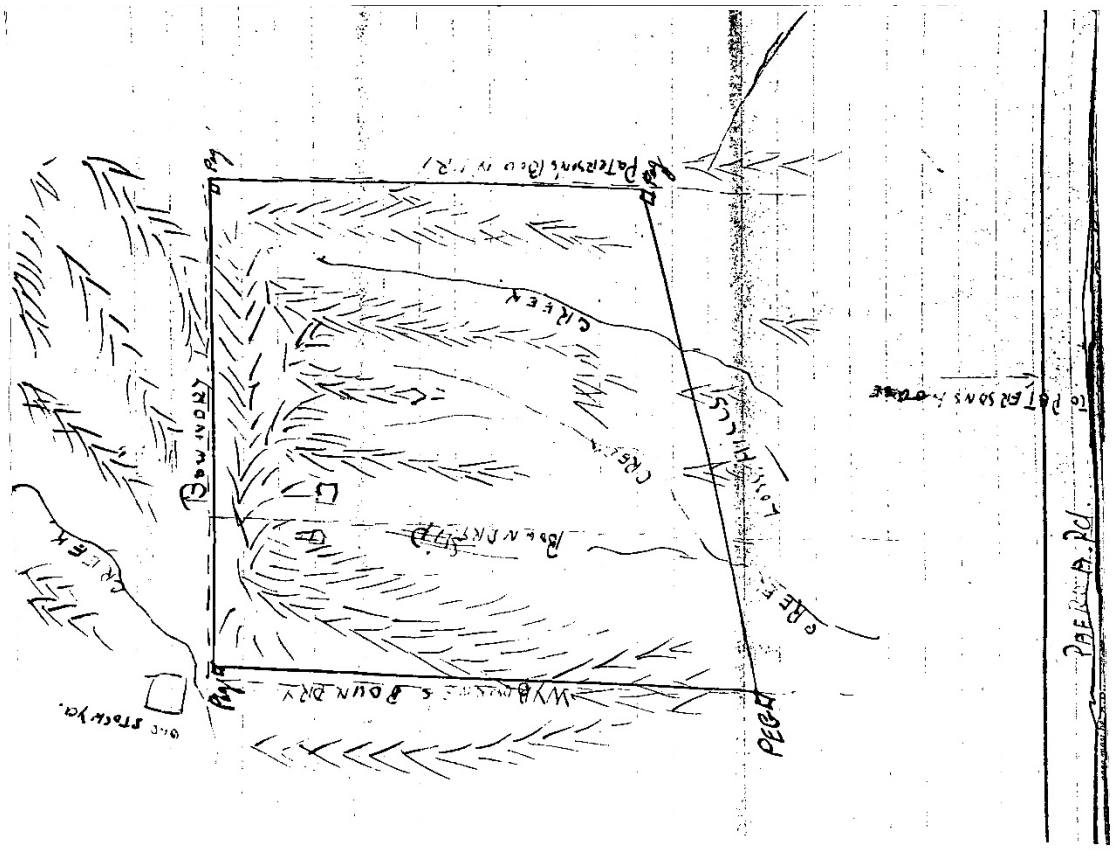

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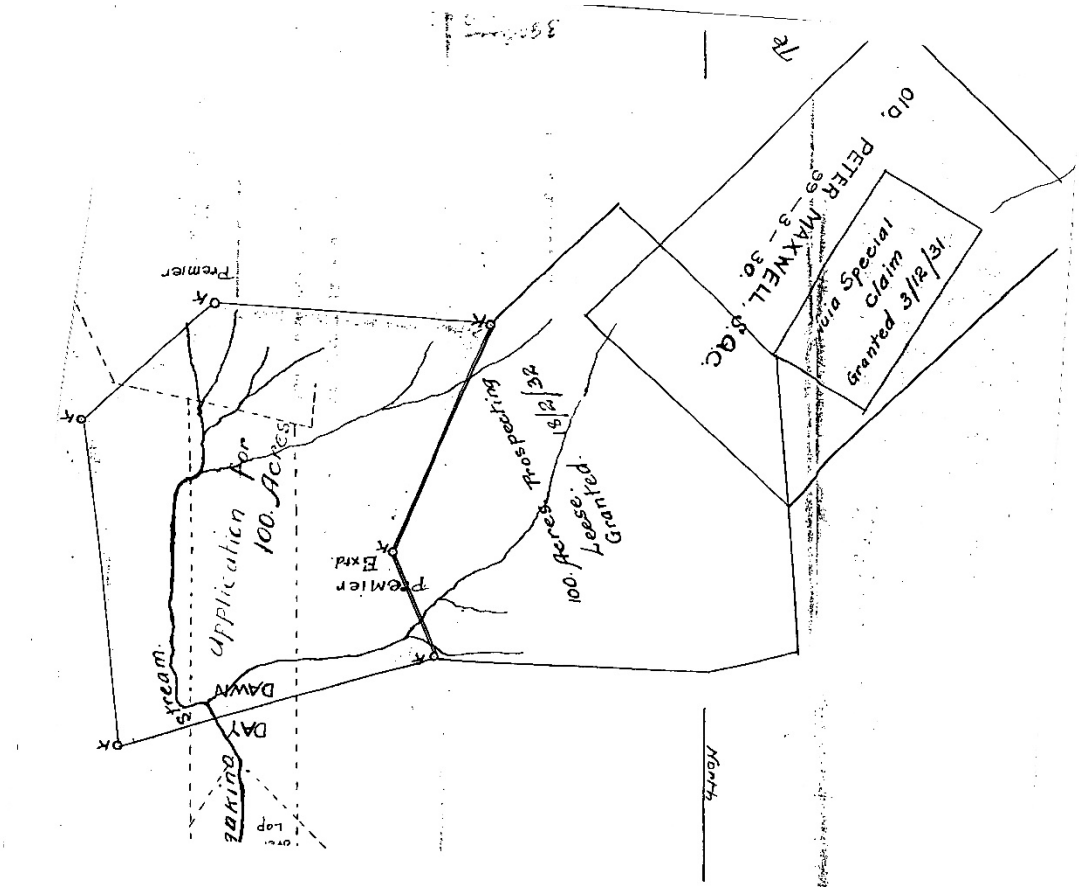

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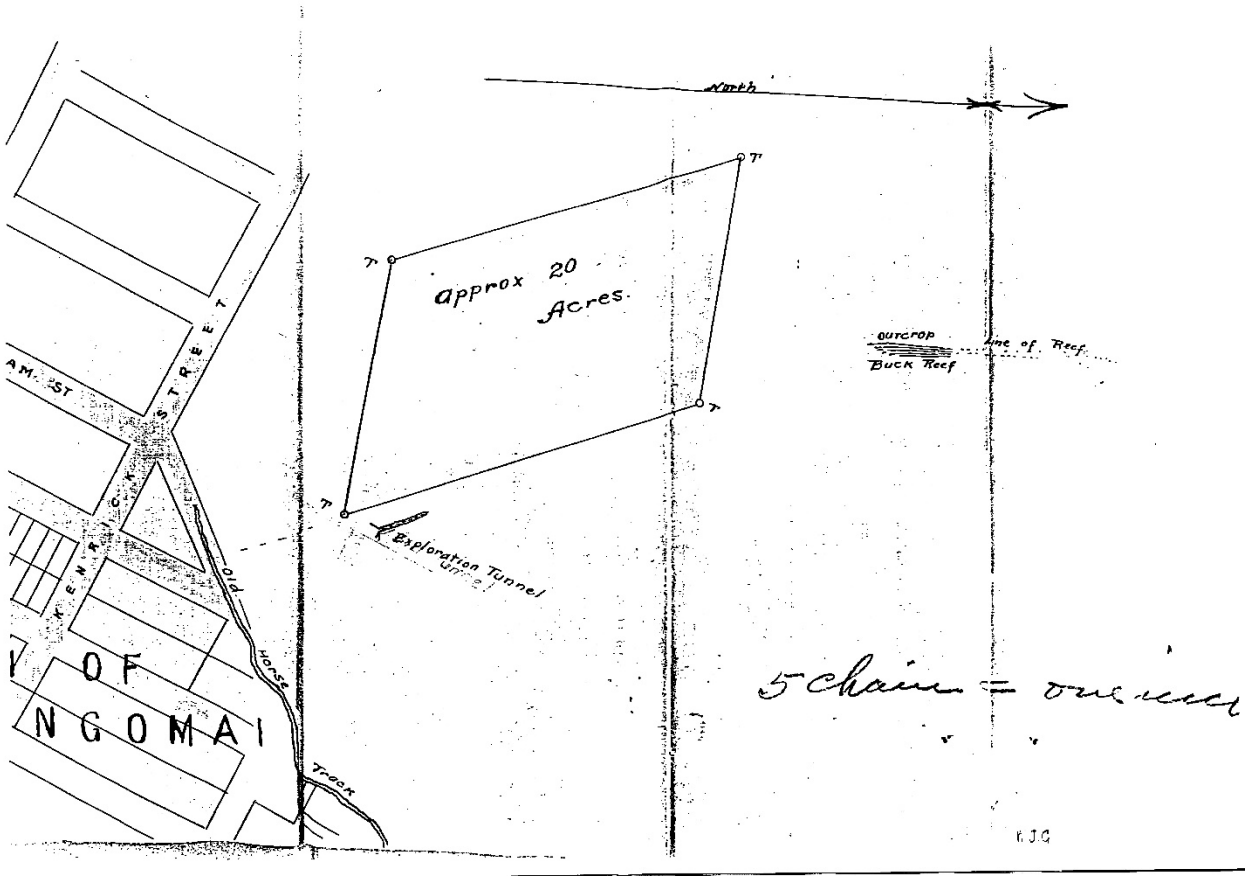

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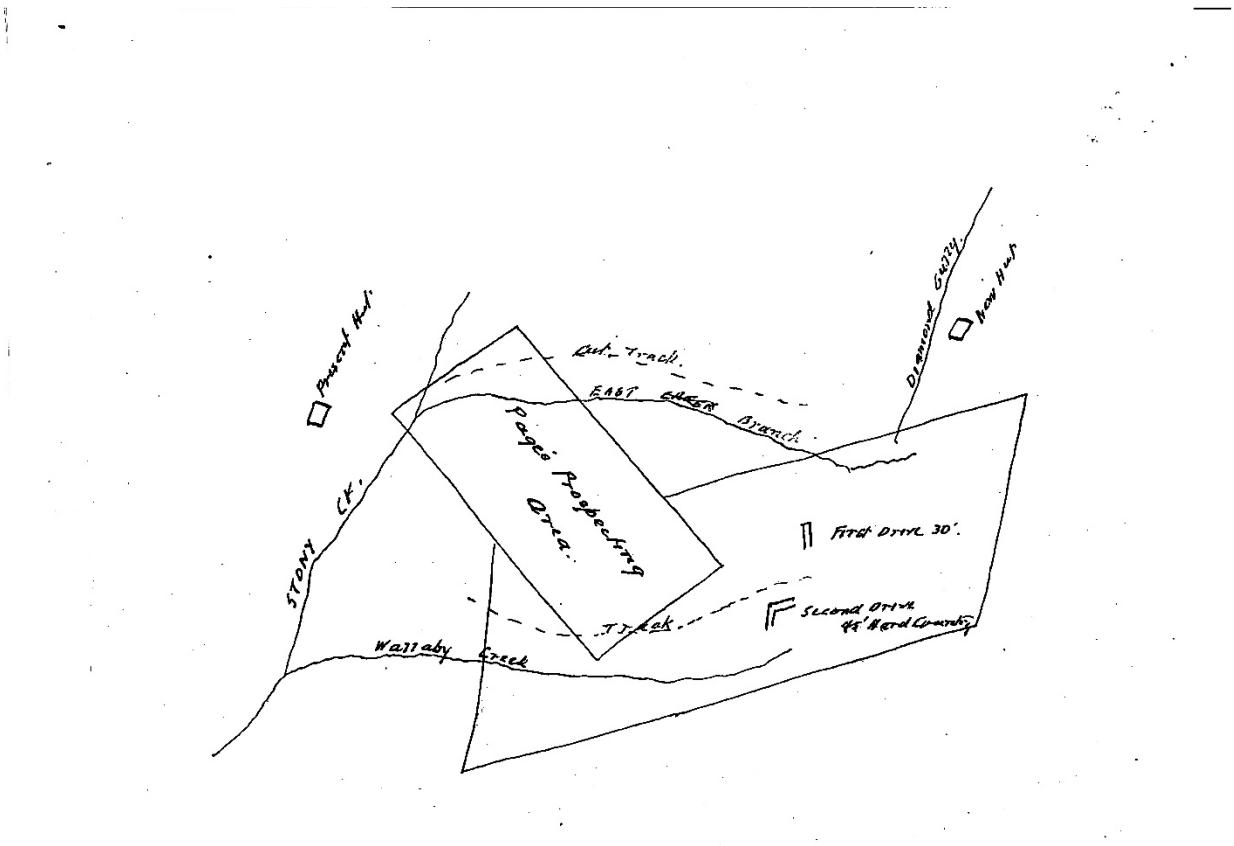

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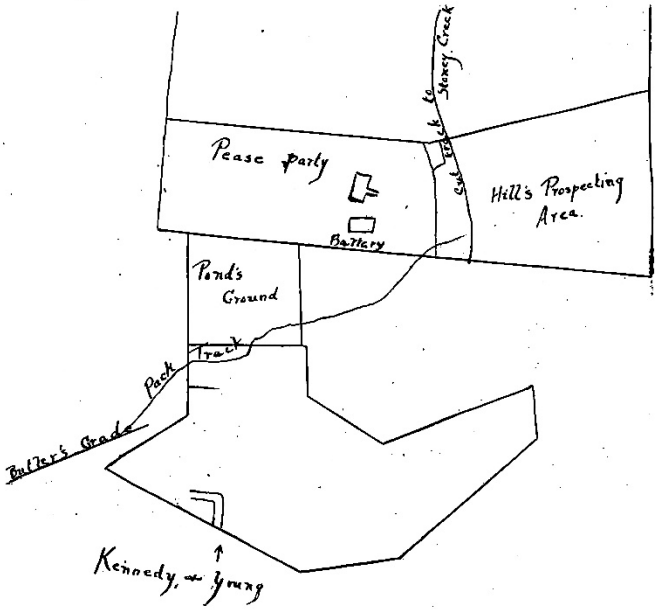

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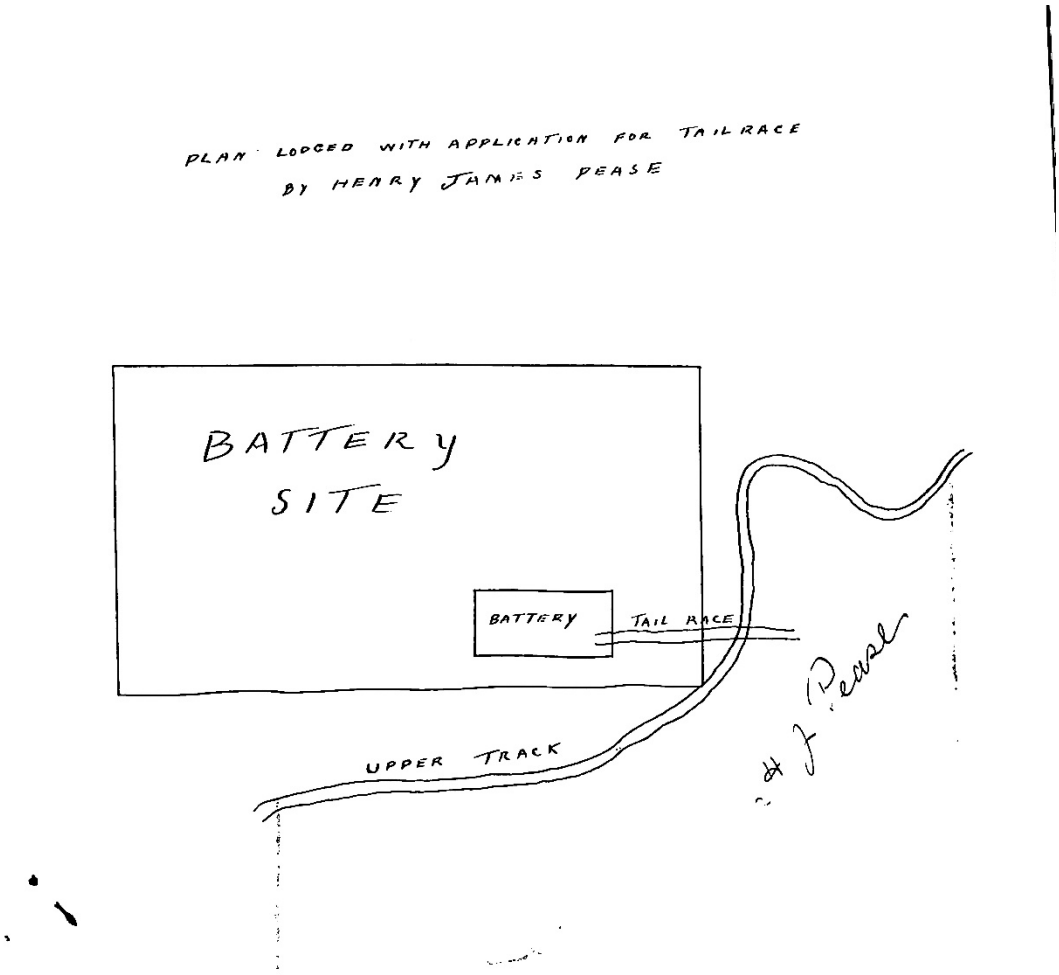

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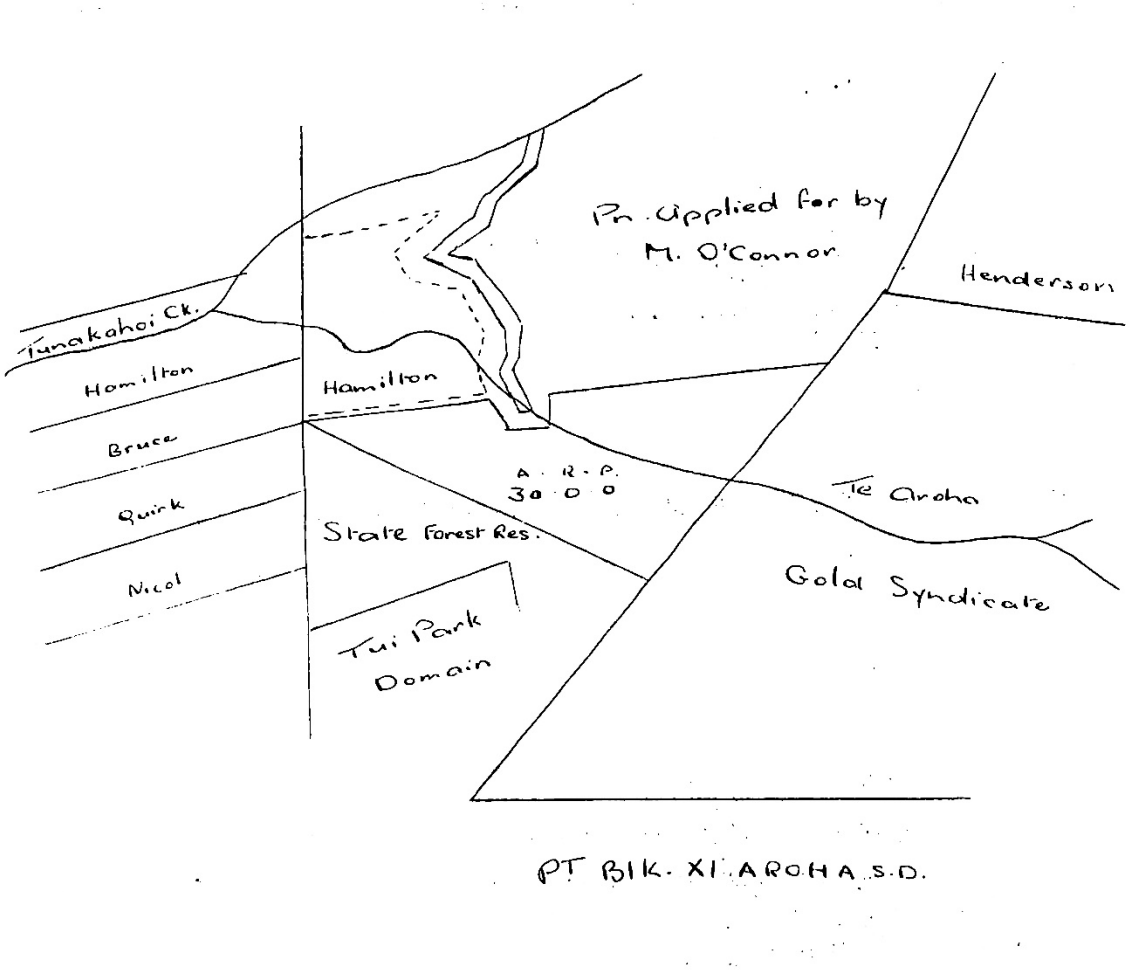

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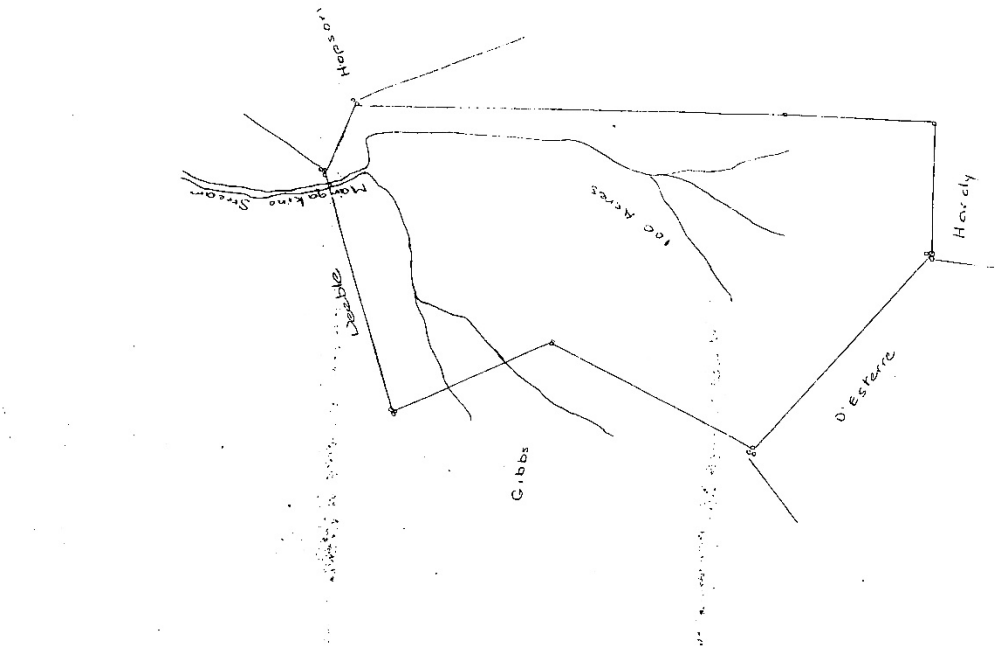

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