

PATRICK QUINLAN: A PUBLICAN AT TE AROHA AND
AUCKLAND

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Abstract: *Born in Panmure in 1854 to an Irish Catholic military family, Patrick Quinlan became a publican in Te Aroha at the end of 1880. He invested in a small way in mines close to the township and in a much larger way in Waiorongomai mines. After giving up his hotel in early 1885 he was a carter and contractor, but struggled to make his way financially. He was a prominent participant in the social life of the community, notably in horse racing and in helping his church. Other family members lived in Te Aroha at the same time, notably his brother-in-law, Henry William Baskiville, a butcher.*

After leaving Te Aroha in 1888, he became a very prominent and popular publican in Auckland, notable for the battles between his 'free house' and other hotels and brewers. Famous for his amiable nature, his involvement in horse racing and sport, and his charitable work, his impressive girth and 'Irishness' made him a cartoonist's dream. During the 1890s he invested in the mining boom, and in 1899 stood for parliament as an independent Liberal, very unsuccessfully.

In 1908 he gave up his last hotel to settle on a farm at Taihoa, near Morrinsville. Once again he became a prominent member of the community, especially through his involvement with the Matamata Racing Club. When he died he was fondly remembered as having been 'generous and open-handed to a fault'.

HIS PARENTS

Patrick Quinlan (almost universally known as Paddy, though he seemed to prefer Pat) was born in March 1854, at Panmure,¹ where his father, another Patrick, was a military pensioner, otherwise known as a fencible.² His father had been born at Roscrea, County Tipperary, Ireland, in 1803.³

¹ The cottage in which he was born is now in MOTAT, Auckland: Tom Ryan to Philip Hart, 15 December 2005, email.

² Birth Certificate of Patrick Quinlan, 1854/1608, BDM.

³ *The Royal New Zealand Fencibles 1847-1852* (Auckland, 1997), p. 169 [two different dates]; Death Certificate of Patrick Quinlan, 23 July 1877, 1877/1546, BDM.

It is recorded that when he was in his teens his mother died and his father remarried. Patrick did not get on with his stepmother, so he went to live with an uncle who owned a whisky distillery. Patrick grew fond of whisky and every time he got drunk he dreamt that his mother appeared at his bedside and said “Paddy your mother is watching you.” He dreamt this same dream so many times that he finally left his uncle’s home, gave up drink and enlisted with the army for a bounty of three pounds. He joined the 49th Reg. at Thurles, Tipperary in 1821 aged 18yrs. He served 22yrs 190days including 6yrs 8mths in Cape of Good Hope, 11yrs 11mths in India, 2yrs in China where he gained a medal.

Having ‘a very good character’, he attained the rank of sergeant before being discharged in 1843 (or 1846?),⁴ because of his chronic rheumatism, for which he had been hospitalized five times. Despite having sworn off the drink as a teenager, while in China he was court martialled for being drunk and was reduced in rank, being reinstated as a corporal a year later. Whilst in India, he had married Mary Quin, the adjutant’s daughter, but she, along with two of their four children, died on board ship when the family was returning to Ireland in 1844.⁵ After his discharge, he received a sergeant’s pension of 2s a day.⁶

On the same boat that brought Patrick and his children to New Zealand in February 1848⁷ were another fencible, William Head, his wife Bridget, and their only child, Mary, who had been born in 1823, also in County Tipperary. In July that year, Patrick and Mary married,⁸ and settled alongside her parents at Panmure. Patrick, his unit’s paymaster, was a carpenter and farmer.⁹ He owned several parcels of land, used mainly for grazing, and was one of three wardens elected to control wandering cattle.¹⁰

⁴ A Panmure Correspondent, *Auckland Star*, 27 July 1877, p. 2.

⁵ *Royal New Zealand Fencibles*, p. 169.

⁶ A Panmure Correspondent, *Auckland Star*, 27 July 1877, p. 2.

⁷ Advertisement, *Daily Southern Cross*, 12 February 1848, p. 4.

⁸ Marriage Certificate of Patrick Quinlan, 1848/56, BDM; *Royal New Zealand Fencibles*, p. 145.

⁹ *Royal New Zealand Fencibles*, p. 169.

¹⁰ See *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 11 January 1859, p. 2, 22 January 1862, p. 4, 1 May 1863, p. 79, 20 February 1864, p. 34, 2 February 1866, p. 18, 9 November 1866, p. 37, 9 November 1866, p. 326; Probates, BBAE 1568/723, ANZ-A.

His namesake son was present when Patrick died at the age of 74 in July 1877 from senility and exhaustion.¹¹ A Panmure correspondent extolled him as ‘a true type of a fine old Irish gentleman, good-natured, generous, and a sincere Christian’, as well as ‘one of the late Father Matthew’s oldest total abstainers’.¹² Presumably, therefore, it was one of the other Patrick Quinlans living in Auckland who was fined for being drunk in the 1860s.¹³ Another man of the same name, who was illiterate and lived for a time at Coromandel, had shares in several mines at Coromandel and Thames in the late 1860s and early 1870s.¹⁴

According to a history of the fencibles, he and Mary raised eight children; according to his death certificate, he left two sons and four daughters.¹⁵ His will, drawn up nearly two years before his death, left his house and land to his widow. His namesake was to receive his horses, cattle, carts, and agricultural implements ‘so long as he remains in the house and acts as a Father over his Sisters and maintains his mother in a proper Manner it is my will that he has the use of the house and land so long as he does so to the satisfaction of his mother and no longer’. Once Mary died, Quinlan was to be his ‘sole and personal heir’.¹⁶ The value of his estate was £643 10s, of which Quinlan initially received £238 11s 8d.¹⁷ Included in this estate was seven acres in the Eden district of Auckland, valued at £190 in 1882.¹⁸ Two weeks after her own mother’s death at the

¹¹ Death Certificate of Patrick Quinlan, 23 July 1877, 1877/1546, BDM.

¹² A Panmure Correspondent, *Auckland Star*, 27 July 1877, p. 2.

¹³ Auckland Police Court, Criminal Depositions Book 1864-1865, folio 104, BADW 5989/21a, ANZ-A; *Auckland Weekly News*, 4 January 1868, p. 4, 1 September 1883, p. 17; Auckland Hospital, Admission and Discharge Book 1870-1886, 373/1871, ZAAP 15287/2a, ANZ-A; Death Certificate of Patrick Quinlan, 30 August 1883, 1883/3688, BDM; Thames Correspondent, *New Zealand Herald*, 31 August 1883, p. 5.

¹⁴ Thames Warden’s Court, Register of Miners’ Rights 1868-1869, no. 4967, BACL 14358/3a; Register of Coromandel Claims 1868-1872, nos. 136, 263, BACL 14396/1a; Coromandel Warden’s Court, General Register of Transferred Shares 1870-1872, folios 22, 28, 32, ZAAN 1160/1a; Instruments 1870-1872 no. 607, dated 23 December 1873, AAAE 15180/8a, ANZ-A.

¹⁵ Death Certificate of Patrick Quinlan, 23 July 1877, 1877/1546, BDM.

¹⁶ Probates, BBAE 1568/723, ANZ-A.

¹⁷ Testamentary Register 1876-1882, folio 34, BBCB 4208/1, ANZ-A.

¹⁸ *A Return of the Freeholders of New Zealand ...* (Wellington, 1884), p. Q 2.

age of 97, Mary died in October 1882, aged 60, after suffering badly in her last years from rheumatism.¹⁹

Only two stories, presumably provided to the *Observer* by Quinlan, have survived about his childhood. Once, when in trouble with his teacher, he had thrown a missile, hitting him in the face. Fleeing from the teacher and the bigger boys, he saw his father coming up the road. Knowing that his father would stop him and whip him, he shouted 'I'm in a race, and I'm winning', whereupon his father let him by and he escaped.²⁰ The story did not give the final outcome of this escapade, which probably involved a whipping. A later sketch of his career mentioned that 'as a youngster he remembered digging potatoes where the swell course', the racetrack at Ellerslie, was later constructed.²¹

FIRST INVESTMENTS IN MINING

The only Thames mining company that Quinlan is known to have invested in was the Bright Smile, which produced regular demands for calls. In October 1879 a legal firm reminded him that he was required to pay a £5 call.²² The following March, he was contacted again: 'The time which you asked for having expired the Directors have requested us to inform you that they cannot wait any longer for a settlement of this matter'.²³ Six months later, he was reminded that there was 'still a balance of £7 – 13/- owing by you', which should be settled at once to avoid legal

¹⁹ Death Certificates of Bridget Head, 5 October 1882, 1882/4218; Mary Quinlan, 1882/4219, BDM; Death Notices, *Auckland Weekly News*, 14 October 1882, p. 1, 28 October 1882, p. 1; Auckland Hospital, Admission and Discharge Book 1870-1886, 399/1882, ZAAP 15287/2a, ANZ-A.

²⁰ *Observer*, 5 August 1899, p. 7.

²¹ *Observer*, 28 July 1923, p. 4.

²² Jackson and Russell to Patrick Quinlan, 6 October 1879, Letterbook no. 19, p. 141, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

²³ Jackson and Russell to Patrick Quinlan, 3 March 1880, Letterbook no. 19, p. 767, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

action.²⁴ A further two months later, he was warned that this action would take place unless the amount was paid by a specified date.²⁵ In September 1881, a balance of £2 13s was owed, and the following month he was asked to send 13s.²⁶ In February 1882, he was warned that, unless the £10 due was paid immediately, action would be taken ‘as the necessities of the Company are pressing’.²⁷

TE AROHA MINES

Quinlan, whose occupation was given as that of a grocer in 1877, was still living at Panmure in November 1880.²⁸ In the following month he acquired shares in two claims in the Tui district.²⁹ Late in December, it was reported that his newly erected Te Aroha hotel, sited nearly opposite its only competitor, the Hot Springs Hotel, would be occupied before the year was out.³⁰ His hopes for the field were reflected in his taking up 50 shares in the company that erected the battery; he unsuccessfully sought election as a director.³¹ In June 1882, he became an owner of the Bonanza, nine

²⁴ Jackson and Russell to Patrick Quinlan, 6 September 1880, Letterbook no. 20, p. 486, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

²⁵ Jackson and Russell to Patrick Quinlan, 1 November 1880, Letterbook no. 21, p. 39, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

²⁶ Jackson and Russell to Patrick Quinlan, 16 September 1881, 19 October 1881, Letterbooks no. 22, p. 860, no. 23, p. 20, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

²⁷ Jackson and Russell to Patrick Quinlan, 7 February 1882, Letterbook no. 23, p. 518, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

²⁸ Notices of Intentions to Marry 1877, folio 132, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/22, ANZ-W; Marriage Certificate of Patrick Quinlan, 1877/2312, BDM; Jackson and Russell to Patrick Quinlan, 1 November 1880, Letterbook no. 21, p. 39, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Museum.

²⁹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 166, BBAV 11567/1a, ANZ-A.

³⁰ *Thames Advertiser*, 28 December 1880, p. 3.

³¹ *New Zealand Gazette*, 28 April 1881, p. 476; *Waikato Times*, 8 February 1881, p. 2.

days before this claim was placed in the hands of a receiver.³² When a company was formed to work it, he was an interim director.³³ His only other involvement in claims close to Te Aroha was in September 1882, when he was one of five owners of one that was abandoned in the following July.³⁴

WAIORONGOMAI MINES

Quinlan took out his first miner's right on 12 October 1881.³⁵ Three days later, with his two partners, one being Hone Werahiko,³⁶ he applied to turn their English Army claim into a licensed holding, a request that was declined in December.³⁷ On 8 November, his application for the forfeiture of the Diamond Gully from Werahiko for non-working was refused, as was a similar attempt in the following month.³⁸ In the following April and May he purchased three interests totalling one share from three sellers in it for £27 10s, and later in the year sold two half shares for £30 and £50.³⁹

In early November 1881, he applied for forfeiture of the Queen of Beauty for non-working, but withdrew his plaint a month later,⁴⁰ presumably having been offered an interest, for at the beginning of the following February he was registered as an owner, with one share. Later

³² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 254, BBAV 11567/1a, ANZ-A.

³³ *Thames Advertiser*, 23 October 1882, p. 2.

³⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 267, BBAV 11567/1a, ANZ-A.

³⁵ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Miner's Right no. 1781, issued 12 October 1881, Miners' Rights Butt Book 1881, BBAV 11533/1h, ANZ-A.

³⁶ See paper on his life.

³⁷ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folio 105, BBAV 11505/3a, ANZ-A.

³⁸ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaint Book 1880-1898, 45/1881, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A; Te Aroha Warden's Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 10 November 1881, p. 3, 8 December 1881, p. 3.

³⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 4, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, nos. 57, 233, 234, 289, BBAV 11581/1a; no. 405, BBAV 11581/2a, ANZ-A.

⁴⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaint Book 1880-1898, 87/1881, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

that month, he sold a half share for £40, selling the other half in May for £20.⁴¹

On 10 November 1881, he purchased a share in the Young Colonial from one of the original prospectors of Waiorongomai, Karaka Kamura,⁴² for £30, later selling it for £100.⁴³ On 6 December, he was registered as one of the four owners, with $4\frac{3}{4}$ of the 15 shares, which he soon sold: he sold one share on 7 December for £98 15s, another in January for £19, a three-quarter share in February for £75, another share in March for £50, and the remaining one in April to his brother-in-law, Henry William Baskiville,⁴⁴ for only £20, possibly ‘mate’s rates’.⁴⁵ In February 1882, along with Thomas Gavin,⁴⁶ shareholders in this claim and the adjoining Golden Crown No. 1 deputed him to obtain machinery and develop both claims.⁴⁷ He chaired the initial meeting held in mid-1882 to form the Colonist Company, and was elected a director.⁴⁸ As he was not a shareholder when the company was registered in August,⁴⁹ he cannot have remained as a director for very long. He later purchased an interest, in August 1885 being warned that unless a call was paid his two shares would be forfeited.⁵⁰

Also on 6 December 1881, Quinlan was registered as one of the owners of the Panmure, with seven of its 15 shares. He managed to sell a quarter share before the bailiff sold all the interests at the end of August 1883,

⁴¹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 55, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, nos. 278, 345, BBAV 11581/1a, ANZ-A.

⁴² See paper on Hone Werahiko.

⁴³ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folios 2, 3, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, nos. 138, 305, BBAV 11581/1a; no. 408, BBAV 11581/2a, ANZ-A.

⁴⁴ See below.

⁴⁵ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 2, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, nos. 10, 50, 172, 287, 361, BBAV 11581/1a, ANZ-A.

⁴⁶ See paper on his life.

⁴⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 8 February 1882, p. 3.

⁴⁸ Company Files, BBAE 10286/11c, ANZ-A.

⁴⁹ *New Zealand Gazette*, 10 August 1882, p. 1101.

⁵⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 1 August 1885, p. 7.

whereupon he purchased them for £5. This unproductive claim was forfeited the following March.⁵¹

Later in December 1881, Quinlan was one of the original owners of the New Find Nos. 1 and 2, with one of the 16 shares. He sold a quarter of his interest five weeks later for £100, the remainder being transferred in March to the company, in which he was allotted 500 shares.⁵² On the same day in December, he was registered as one of the owners of the Waterfall, with one of the 15 shares. Half his interest was sold for £10 in mid-1882, the other half being transferred to the Canadian Company.⁵³ In February 1882, he held one share in the adjoining Canadian Nos. 1 and 2, selling half his interest in both for £30 before the remainder was transferred to the company in August; his total shareholding in it was 416.⁵⁴

In mid-December 1881, he was one of three owners of the Waihou, Te Aroha, and Waitoa claims, later selling two quarter-shares in the latter for £30.⁵⁵ In early April 1882, he purchased a quarter share in the Hero for £20, which was transferred to the Hero Company the following month, in which he held 200 shares.⁵⁶ Later in April he purchased a half share in the Coquette for £10; when it was transferred to the company of that name later in the year he was allotted 500 shares.⁵⁷ Also in April 1882, he

⁵¹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 47, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, no. 206, BBAV 11581/1a; Certified Instruments 1883, no. 452, BBAV 11581/4a ANZ-A.

⁵² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 30, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, nos. 11, 12, BBAV 11581/1a, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Gazette*, 23 March 1882, p. 490.

⁵³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 38, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, no. 409, BBAV 11581/2a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folios 53, 54, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, no. 413, BBAV 11581/2a, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Gazette*, 14 September 1882, p. 264.

⁵⁵ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folio 116, BBAV 11505/3a; Certified Instruments 1884, nos. 631, 632, BBAV 11581/4a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁶ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 10, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, no. 232, BBAV 11581/1a, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Gazette*, 1 June 1882, p. 800.

⁵⁷ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 8, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, no. 271, BBAV 11581/1a, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Gazette*, 16 November 1882, p. 1733.

purchased a half share in the May Queen for £10 and sold it for half that amount two months later. In August 1883, he purchased two shares in this claim for £15, selling these by late November in four transactions for a total of £76 5s.⁵⁸ Once again in April 1882, he purchased one eighth of a share in the Golden Gate for £8, selling half of this for £5 two months later, the remainder being transferred to the Waiorongomai Company in February 1883.⁵⁹ When this company applied for registration in April he was not listed as a shareholder, unless his interest was one of those held in trust 'for sundry shareholders' by the legal manager.⁶⁰ In late April 1882, he purchased a half share in the Pride of the West for £10, selling it two months later for the same amount;⁶¹ wisely, as it was an unsuccessful claim.

With Gavin, he owned the Thistle and the Union Jack, both acquired in May 1882 and surrendered the following April.⁶² Also in May 1882, he sought possession of the Young Caledonian from its owner for non-working. 'Order refused Application collusive to avoid forfeiture', the warden recorded,⁶³ indicating that Quinlan held an interest in it. In August 1883, he purchased three shares from the same man for £10, selling these over

⁵⁸ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 28, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, no. 270, BBAV 11581/1a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, no. 410, BBAV 11581/2a; Certified Instruments 1883, nos. 341, 412, 556, 625, 631, BBAV 11581/4a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 72, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, no. 288, BBAV 11581/1a; no. 407, BBAV 11581/2a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁰ *New Zealand Gazette*, 31 May 1883, p. 722.

⁶¹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 36, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers and Assignments 1882, no. 269, BBAV 11581/1a; no. 411, BBAV 11581/2a, ANZ-A.

⁶² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folios 73, 74, BBAV 11500/9a, ANZ-A.

⁶³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaintiff Book 1880-1898, 47/1882, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

the next two months for £65.⁶⁴ In June 1882, he applied for the Auckland, unsuccessfully.⁶⁵

In March 1883, his attempt to force a miner to transfer a share in the United resulted in a non-suit.⁶⁶ In September, he was allotted 250 shares in the New Welcome Company.⁶⁷ The following month, he paid £10 for five shares in the worthless Three Brothers, which was forfeited five months later.⁶⁸ After this date, he acquired no further interests in Waiorongomai mines, having made his money before the first crushings revealed that the field was not nearly as rich as had been anticipated. As these share transactions revealed, although some of these claims were marginal or worthless, he profited by quickly selling his interests.

Quinlan had the very briefest of interest in the Tui mines. In October 1885, he applied for surplus ground in the Champion Lode but then withdrew his application,⁶⁹ and never again applied for interests there or in any other part of the Te Aroha Mining District.

ACQUIRING LAND AT TE AROHA

Quinlan acquired several business sites in the new settlement. In September 1881, he purchased allotment 3 of block 1, at the end of the month mortgaging it to the Bank of New Zealand. In May 1885, it was transferred to Campbell, Brown and Company, brewers of Auckland.⁷⁰ Allotments 4, 13, and 14 of the same block were acquired in March 1881 and sold to the same purchaser on the same date in 1885.⁷¹ In December

⁶⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 132, BBAV 11500/9a; Certified Instruments 1883, nos. 453, 481, 486, 487, 631, 632, BBAV/4a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁵ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folio 129, BBAV 11505/3a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁶ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaintiff Book 1880-1898, 6/1883, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁷ *New Zealand Gazette*, 20 September 1883, p. 1345.

⁶⁸ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 49, BBAV 11500/9a; Certified Instruments 1883, no. 629, BBAV/4a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaintiff Book 1880-1898, 23-24/1885, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

⁷⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folios 7-8, BBAV 11505/3a; Rent Ledger 1881-1900, folio 385, BBAV 11501/1a, ANZ-A.

⁷¹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folios 77-80, 83-84, 157, BBAV 11505/3a; Rent Ledger 1881-1900, folios 387, 391, 392, BBAV 11501/1a, ANZ-A.

1880 he was granted allotment 9 in block 2, which was forfeited seven months later; he applied for allotment 9 in block 20 but let his application lapse.⁷²

In April 1882, he was granted allotment 12 in block 1.⁷³ Because only one year's rent was paid the bailiff seized it in March 1884, but four and a half months later its new owner sold it back to him.⁷⁴ His other purchase, in August 1882, was of allotment 2 of block 4, which was forfeited after he paid rent on the section for two years.⁷⁵ During 1884, he was sued four times to force him to pay arrears of rent on six sections, being charged twice over one of these.⁷⁶ The reason for non-payment, which in some cases resulted in forfeiture, was because of financial difficulties, as explained below. By 1888, he had erected a four-roomed house and a stable on section 5 of block 4, with a rateable value of £15.⁷⁷

PUBLICAN AT TE AROHA

According to one journalist, 'the building of the British Hotel at Te Aroha was a marvel of rapid and excellent workmanship' and 'perhaps the largest and most commodious' hotel there. When a firm of builders drew up a plan and specifications in December 1880, Quinlan was told it would take 'about three weeks' to erect it. 'Instructions were then given to commence the building at once, and to push it on with all speed possible'. The firm erected 'the whole building, containing some ten rooms', fitted the doors and windows, completed most of the lining, 'and the proprietor had taken £20 over the bar in less than a fortnight. In appearance no building in the

⁷² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folios 23-24, 29-30, BBAV 11505/3a, ANZ-A.

⁷³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folio 163, BBAV 11505/3a, ANZ-A.

⁷⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Rent Ledger 1881-1900, folio 12, BBAV 11501/1a; Warrant of Distress executed on 20 March 1884; Transfer from D.J. Frazer to Patrick Quinlan, 8 August 1884, Certified Instruments 1884, BBAV 11581/5a, ANZ-A.

⁷⁵ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folio 193, BBAV 11505/3a; Rent Ledger 1881-1900, folio 182, BBAV 11501/1a, ANZ-A.

⁷⁶ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Complaint Book 1880-1898, 7, 9, 25, 36-39/1884, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

⁷⁷ Te Aroha Town Board, Rate Book 1888 [no pagination], Section 5 Block IV, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha.

township looks better, and all the parties concerned deserve great credit for the energy they displayed'.⁷⁸

This hotel, the second to be erected and opposite its predecessor, the Hot Springs Hotel,⁷⁹ was advertised as 'The Best Appointed and Commodious on the Aroha Goldfield', with 'Good Beds – Table D'Hote Daily. Extensive Stabling'.⁸⁰ Immediately after opening, this 'large' hotel with its 'first class accommodation' was 'well patronised'.⁸¹ Quinlan was referred to as a 'genial landlord'.⁸² In February 1881 he bought the 'privileges' for the publican's booth at the first race meeting for £16 as well as the Good Templar's booth, which, being for the teetotal, cost only £2, 'and catered admirably'.⁸³ In April, he contributed 'the beer required by the many headed one', meaning the crowd, for celebrating the opening of Te Aroha's battery.⁸⁴ He continued to supply beer and other refreshments at race meetings, for instance having the refreshment booth at the Piako Turf Club meeting in December 1883.⁸⁵ One year later, he paid £6 to be allowed to have the publican's booth at the local race meeting.⁸⁶

In April 1882, it was reported that Quinlan, 'determined not to be behindhand in meeting the requirements of his clients', had obtained plans from a local architect, Henry Crump,⁸⁷ for 'a very large addition to his premises' costing 'some £650'. Once completed, his hotel would contain 'some seventeen spacious bedrooms, a first-rate kitchen, and a well-finished dining room capable of seating a large number of visitors'. This would 'afford him facilities for meeting the demands made upon him by the travelling public in even a better manner than he now does, which is very well indeed'.⁸⁸ When the two-storey addition was constructed in mid-year,

⁷⁸ *Auckland Weekly News*, 15 January 1881, p. 17.

⁷⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 19 April 1882, p. 3.

⁸⁰ Advertisement, *Thames Star*, 18 January 1881, p. 3.

⁸¹ *Waikato Times*, 8 January 1881, p. 3; *Thames Star*, 13 January 1881, p. 2.

⁸² *Thames Advertiser*, 16 March 1881, p. 3.

⁸³ *Waikato Times*, 5 February 1881, p. 2; Te Aroha Correspondent, *Thames Advertiser*, 9 February 1881, p. 3.

⁸⁴ *Waikato Times*, 26 April 1881, p. 2.

⁸⁵ *Waikato Times*, 1 December 1883, p. 2.

⁸⁶ *Waikato Times*, 16 December 1884, p. 2.

⁸⁷ See paper on Thomas Lawless.

⁸⁸ 'Improvements in Te Aroha Township', *Thames Advertiser*, 19 April 1882, p. 3.

the local newspaper noted that ‘the demands upon his accommodation’ had ‘always been in excess of the provision made’.⁸⁹

In March 1884, a visitor wrote of having tinned salmon ‘at Patsy Quinlan’s well-stocked table’,⁹⁰ the only time this version of Paddy, as he was familiarly known, was recorded. In February 1885, his hotel was taken over by an Auckland publican, and in the following month Brown Campbell and Company, the Auckland brewers, purchased it at auction for £1,700.⁹¹ Three years later, he announced that he would apply for a license for an existing Waiorongomai hotel, ‘terms for the purchase thereof having been arranged’, but after applying for what he intended to call the Werahiko Hotel, he withdrew his application.⁹²

The only time when Quinlan’s conduct of his hotel resulted in legal action being taken against him was in July 1882, when he was charged with selling liquor after hours and with ‘permitting riotous, violent, and quarrelsome conduct’. Pleading not guilty to both charges, the first was dismissed because everyone drinking was a lodger, and the second resulted in a fine of £5.⁹³ The police had been called to the hotel because of a stabbing,⁹⁴ the last of three fights that evening.⁹⁵

HAVING OTHER OCCUPATIONS

Quinlan tried to earn an income in other ways. Apart from his mining investments, in April 1883 he was allotted 50 of the 5,000 shares in the Thames Newspaper and Printing Company, selling all these before March 1888.⁹⁶ In 1882 he was sued for £100 by two brothers, James Palmer Campbell⁹⁷ and Hugh Campbell,⁹⁸ who had arranged in January 1881 to

⁸⁹ *Te Aroha Mail*, 10 June 1882, p. 2.

⁹⁰ M[ichael] Landers, ‘A trip to Te Aroha and Ohinemuri Districts’, *Freeman’s Journal*, 28 March 1884, p. 13.

⁹¹ *Waikato Times*, 17 February 1885, p. 2, 23 June 1885, p. 3; *Te Aroha News*, 7 March 1885, p. 2; *Thames Advertiser*, 26 March 1885, p. 3

⁹² *Te Aroha News*, 16 May 1888, p. 2, 9 June 1888, p. 2, 13 June 1888, p. 2.

⁹³ Te Aroha Magistrate’s Court, Criminal Record Book 1881-1896, 17, 18/1882, BCDG 11220/1a, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 4 August 1882, p. 2.

⁹⁴ See chapter on Michael Dineen O’Keeffe.

⁹⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 4 August 1882, p. 2.

⁹⁶ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 38 no. 240, ANZ-A.

⁹⁷ See *New Zealand Herald*, 1 March 1926, p. 10.

sell him their 82-acre farm at Waitoa for £547. He would have possession for 12 months with the right of purchase, being required either to spent £100 on improvements or pay this amount to the plaintiffs. After Quinlan was in possession for seven months, Hugh Campbell 'directed his servant to remove some young trees'. Quinlan objected, and on his solicitor's advice 'retired from possession of the land, and claimed that he was not, and never had been, bound by the writing he had signed'. No improvements had been made, the land merely being used for his horses, and in December, wanting to get out of the agreement because the goldfield was so dull, he offered to pay £10 for the time he had been in occupation. He argued that, as both plaintiffs had not signed the agreement, it was not binding, but the judge did not agree, ordering him to pay damages of £100 and costs of £28 15s.⁹⁹

Also in 1882, he was the Te Aroha agent for Cobb and Co's coaches.¹⁰⁰ Two years later, his contract to convey 30,000 sleepers from the Te Aroha landing to Morrinsville required the use of four four-horse teams.¹⁰¹ After giving up his hotel, he was a carter and contractor.¹⁰² In February 1885, the month he left his hotel, his tender for sledging ore from one mine was declined.¹⁰³ In April, his tender to deliver metal for the road between Te Aroha and Waiorongomai was accepted.¹⁰⁴ He completed a contract to gravel this road, granted the following month, in two months.¹⁰⁵ With a local farmer, he gravelled part of the road between Te Aroha and Waitoa.¹⁰⁶ In July, his tender to cart machinery and coal from Paeroa to the new LaMonte furnace¹⁰⁷ being erected at Karangahake was accepted.¹⁰⁸ A Paeroa newspaper, referring to the state of the roads over which he had to cart 300 tons, commented that either he had 'as wonderful a patent as the LaMonte process itself, or his first week's work will put him in a fix he will

⁹⁸ See *New Zealand Herald*, 12 December 1906, p. 8, 13 December 1906, p. 6.

⁹⁹ District Court, *New Zealand Herald*, 25 April 1882, p. 3, 13 June 1882, p. 6; *Thames Advertiser*, 14 June 1882, p. 3.

¹⁰⁰ Advertisement, *Thames Advertiser*, 16 March 1882, p. 1.

¹⁰¹ *Te Aroha News*, 6 December 1884, p. 2.

¹⁰² *Tauranga Electoral Roll, 1887*, p. 20.

¹⁰³ *Te Aroha News*, 21 February 1885, p. 2.

¹⁰⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 4 April 1885, p. 2.

¹⁰⁵ Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 2 May 1885, p. 2, 25 July 1885, p. 3.

¹⁰⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 11 April 1885, p. 2.

¹⁰⁷ See paper on mining in the Tui district.

¹⁰⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 9 July 1885, p. 3.

not easily get out of.¹⁰⁹ One month later, as he was making such slow progress (not averaging even one trip a day), another carter was engaged to cart timber to the plant.¹¹⁰ A few days later, 'owing to some laxity' on Quinlan's part, his contract was cancelled and re-let to the other carter.¹¹¹ Quinlan considered he had 'a good case' for breach of contract, but although a legal suit was predicted,¹¹² none resulted.

Also in May 1885, he won a sub-contract for building the embankment across the swamp on the western side of the river to the bridge for the new railway line from Morrinsville to Te Aroha.¹¹³ The work on a temporary approach to the bridge was suspended for a while until re-started in late July.¹¹⁴ By early August, he had almost finished this, but had made 'so little progress' on the embankment that the contractor was considering cancelling the sub-contract and doing the work himself.¹¹⁵ Shortly afterwards, 'owing to some complaint with reference to the wages of men employed', Quinlan was given notice that the contractor would take over the work, but after taking legal advice, continued working.¹¹⁶ By the end of the month, the 'misunderstanding' over his not paying wages had been 'set right', the workers had been paid, and he made 'a fresh start'.¹¹⁷ By mid-October he had 'about a dozen carts and a number of men' working on the embankment.¹¹⁸ He was also carting sleepers from Hikutaia to the newly formed line to send to Morrinsville.¹¹⁹

In March 1886, he successfully tendered for conveying quartz from the Tui mines to the steamer landing, at 25s per ton.¹²⁰ He also carted ore to

¹⁰⁹ *Hauraki Tribune*, n.d., reprinted in *Te Aroha News*, 11 July 1885, p. 2.

¹¹⁰ *Thames Advertiser*, 8 August 1885, p. 3.

¹¹¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 11 August 1885, p. 3.

¹¹² Te Aroha Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 13 August 1885, p. 4; Te Aroha Correspondent, *Thames Advertiser*, 25 August 1885, p. 3.

¹¹³ *Te Aroha News*, 9 May 1885, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 9 May 1883, p. 3; *Thames Advertiser*, 1 August 1885, p. 3.

¹¹⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 25 July 1885, p. 2.

¹¹⁵ *Waikato Times*, 6 August 1885, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 15 August 1885, p. 2.

¹¹⁶ Te Aroha Correspondent, *Thames Advertiser*, 22 August 1885, p. 3, 25 August 1885, p. 3.

¹¹⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 15 August 1885, p. 2.

¹¹⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 17 October 1885, p. 2.

¹¹⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 5 September 1885, p. 2.

¹²⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 27 March 1886, p. 2.

the railway station.¹²¹ Three months later, his tender to form and gravel a road to the west of the new bridge was unsuccessful, as was his November tender to form and metal a mile of the road to Morrinsville.¹²² In April 1888 'Quinlan and Company' sought to supply 500 tons of firewood for the Waiorongomai battery, and two weeks later, with a partner, he tendered unsuccessfully to cut the first section of the water race extension.¹²³

FINANCIAL STRUGGLES

During 1883, Quinlan had trouble paying quite small debts. In February 1883, he was sued by the Thames Newspaper Company for calls amounting to £20 2s 4d, which he paid.¹²⁴ The following month, he was required to pay £70 10s 6d to a Thames cordial manufacturer for a dishonoured promissory note, and one month later a suit over another dishonoured note was settled out of court.¹²⁵ In July, in a suit over another note, for £10 15s, this amount was paid into court.¹²⁶ The following month, legal action was taken to obtain two debts, £14 and 4s, both amounts being paid into court.¹²⁷

Quinlan's problems with the firm supplying his beer, Brown Campbell and Company, did not become public. At the beginning of April, this firm sent him a letter enclosing another from the Bank of New Zealand, which was 'not in accordance with what you stated to us'. As his 'third Bill' fell due later in the month, it was 'necessary' that he either mortgage or sell his property (what was required is hard to read because of the deterioration of the letter book). 'If you do this we shall not take any proceedings against

¹²¹ *Te Aroha News*, 19 June 1886, p. 2.

¹²² *Te Aroha News*, 12 June 1886, p. 2, Waitoa Road Board, 6 November 1886, p. 2.

¹²³ *Te Aroha News*, 25 April 1888, p. 2, 12 May 1888, p. 2.

¹²⁴ Thames Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1881-1883, 18/1883, BACL 13735/1b, ANZ-A.

¹²⁵ Thames Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1881-1883, 55/1883, 90/1883, BACL 13735/1b, ANZ-A.

¹²⁶ Thames Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1883-1885, 189/1883, BACL 13735/2a, ANZ-A.

¹²⁷ *Te Aroha Magistrate's Court*, Civil Record Book 1881-1884, 117, 126/1883, BCDG 11221/1a, ANZ-A.

you'.¹²⁸ At that time, Quinlan had an overdraft with this bank and owed bills to several people, the largest being to £171 to this firm for £171.¹²⁹ An arrangement was made whereby he made monthly payments for beer purchased; in December he had to be reminded to keep paying these.¹³⁰

In January 1884, a Thames grocer sued for £59 11s 10d and in April the Bank of New Zealand sued for £17 14s 9d, both being dishonoured promissory notes; the former amount was ordered to be paid whereas the latter was settled out of court.¹³¹ In May, he felt sufficiently secure financially to provide a surety of £50 for another contractor's drainage contract.¹³² In that month, he was ordered to pay £50 for a dishonoured note, but a suit for £15 17s 9d was withdrawn, presumably because he had paid.¹³³ As a debt to a Thames merchant of £3 15s 6d was not paid as ordered, a judgment summons was issued in June, and he was ordered to pay £4 2s 6d, an increased amount due to legal fees, within two weeks or be imprisoned for 14 days.¹³⁴ As the magistrate believed he was 'doing a good business' as a publican, he considered that he could and should pay.¹³⁵ In fact, in April, by which time mining was in serious decline, Brown Campbell and Company, in response to a telegram concerning a dishonoured cheque, was 'sorry to find you have so soon departed from the arrangement you made'. His action meant that the firm 'cannot depend upon you meeting

¹²⁸ Brown Campbell and Company to Patrick Quinlan, 2 April 1883, Letterbook 1882-1884, p. 182, Brown Campbell and Company Papers, MS 51, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

¹²⁹ Brown Campbell and Company to Manager, Bank of New Zealand, 3 April 1883, Letterbook 1882-1884, p. 182A, Brown Campbell and Company Papers, MS 51, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

¹³⁰ Brown Campbell and Company to Patrick Quinlan, 3 December 1883, Letterbook 1882-1884, p. 541, Brown Campbell and Company Papers, MS 51, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

¹³¹ Thames Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1883-1885, 9, 64/1884, BACL 13735/2a, ANZ-A.

¹³² Te Aroha Block, Lands and Survey Department, LS 1/2344, ANZ-W.

¹³³ Thames Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1883-1885, 92/1884, BACL 13735/2a; Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1881-1884, 104/1884, BCDG 11221/1a, ANZ-A.

¹³⁴ Thames Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1883-1885, 101/1884, Judgment Summons dated 13 June 1884, BACL 13735/2a, ANZ-A.

¹³⁵ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 14 June 1884, p. 3.

your payments for the goods which we send you'. Just over three months previously, he had sent 'three cheques amounting to £477..5..10', due to be cashed on specified dates, and since then goods worth £164 13s had been supplied.

But of the six cheques given by you amounting in all to £517..5..10 we have as yet only received payment of one for £25! As you are doing a good business it is quite clear you are paying away money outside of our business. We have therefore to plainly intimate to you that you must pay up your back indebtedness as we will not allow the amount to remain as it now is.¹³⁶

After Quinlan sent the firm a cheque for a mere £7 10s two weeks later, he was told that if he kept to his latest 'promise' his suppliers were 'satisfied but we shall look closely to you keeping up the promised payments'.¹³⁷ Just over a week later, a more strongly worded letter was sent:

As you seem only to make one arrangement after another to break them we have now to inform you that if you do not keep up your weekly payments as promised we shall require to take proceedings against you – We shall give you one week from this date to enable you to fulfil your engagements with us – and if not kept up regularly thereafter, we shall not waste time in useless correspondence.¹³⁸

Three weeks later, the firm regretted 'to find by enclosed notice', presumably from the bank, 'that the promise of punctual weekly payments has not been fulfilled'. As it could not allow this to continue, it warned that

¹³⁶ Brown Campbell and Company to Patrick Quinlan, 7 April 1884, Letterbook 1882-1884, p. 740, Brown Campbell and Company Papers, MS 51, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

¹³⁷ Brown Campbell and Company to Patrick Quinlan, 23 April 1884, Letterbook 1882-1884, p. 746, Brown Campbell and Company Papers, MS 51, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

¹³⁸ Brown Campbell and Company to Patrick Quinlan, 2 May 1884, Letterbook 1882-1884, p. 776, Brown Campbell and Company Papers, MS 51, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

another week's payment was overdue.¹³⁹ The outcome was that, in early June, his hotel was mortgaged to Brown Campbell and Company.¹⁴⁰

In July and August, more suits resulted in him paying £3 10s and £2 9s 3d into court.¹⁴¹ He and his brother were ordered to pay £8 7s 7d in the latter month.¹⁴² In September, he had to pay £4 12s into court in response to a suit by a Thames ironmonger.¹⁴³ One month later, when a judgment summons was issued against him to enforce payment of £22, he was ordered to pay £4 per month or be imprisoned for one month; he paid.¹⁴⁴

In August 1885, he responded to suits for £7 5s and £3 by paying these amounts into court, and was ordered to pay £16 1s to another plaintiff after 14 days.¹⁴⁵ In November a distress warrant forced him to pay £4 8s owed to a lawyer.¹⁴⁶ That month, he was also ordered to pay £1 6s 6d to a Paeroa blacksmith and £28 4s to a Thames storekeeper for another dishonoured cheque.¹⁴⁷ He was not sued again until April 1886, when the Thames Newspaper Company successfully sought £10.¹⁴⁸ In February 1887, £6 6s

¹³⁹ Brown Campbell and Company to Patrick Quinlan, 25 May 1884, Letterbook 1882-1884, p. 790, Brown Campbell and Company Papers, MS 51, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

¹⁴⁰ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Register of Publicans' Licenses 1882-1892, entry for British Hotel, BBAV 11493/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁴¹ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1881-1884, nos. 166, 175, BCDG 11221/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁴² Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1881-1884, no. 176, BCDG 11221/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁴³ Thames Warden's Court, Plaintiff Book 1884-1888, 345/1884, BACL 13735/13a; Civil Record Book 1883-1885, 345/1884, BACL 13735/2a, ANZ-A.

¹⁴⁴ Thames Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1883-1885, 164/1884, BACL 13735/2a; Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1881-1884, Judgment Summons dated 14 October 1884, BCDG 11221/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁴⁵ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1881-1884, 55-57/1885, BCDG 11221/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁴⁶ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1881-1884, 79/1885, BCDG 11221/1a; Home Warrant Book 1883-1928, 14/1885, BBAV 11498/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁴⁷ Paeroa Magistrate's Court, Plaintiff Book 1881-1896, 42/1885, BACL 13745/1a; Thames Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1883-1885, 265/1885, BACL 13735/2a, ANZ-A.

¹⁴⁸ Thames Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1885-1887, 79/1886, BACL 13735/2b, ANZ-A.

was sought.¹⁴⁹ In May he was ordered to pay 15s 7d.¹⁵⁰ Five months later, he was obliged to provide a bill of sale over livestock, chattels, and effects as security for a loan of £108 6s.¹⁵¹ In the last month of that year he was sued for a bad cheque for £3 5s given to a Thames butcher.¹⁵² In April 1888, he did not defend himself against a suit by a Paeroa hotelkeeper for £15 1s 6d, mainly for board.¹⁵³ Nor did he appear to defend himself six months later when a judgment summons was issued because he had failed to pay this amount. Ordered to pay the debt, now £16, within one month, or spend 30 days in Mount Eden gaol,¹⁵⁴ he paid.

After leaving Te Aroha in mid-1888, he was sued to force payment of some debts left outstanding in both Te Aroha and Paeroa. In August 1888, a distress warrant issued for £6 16s owed to a Paeroa merchant was not executed.¹⁵⁵ Four months later he paid £9 19s into court, and the following October was ordered to pay £25 9s 8d to a butcher at the rate of £1 a month.¹⁵⁶ Also in October 1889, two Paeroa merchants sued for £11 9s 6d, being for goods supplied.¹⁵⁷ As an 1894 suit for £67 lent by Thomas Gavin was withdrawn,¹⁵⁸ he must have been settled out of court.

INVOLVEMENT IN THE TE AROHA COMMUNITY

Quinlan was prominent in the community, which would have been good for business but reflected his exuberant personality rather than self-

¹⁴⁹ Paeroa Magistrate's Court, Plaintiff Book 1881-1896, 14/1887, BACL 13745/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁵⁰ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1884-1889, 5/1887, BCDG 11221/1b, ANZ-A.

¹⁵¹ *The Mercantile and Bankruptcy Gazette*, 12 November 1887, p. 353.

¹⁵² Thames Magistrate's Court, Plaintiff Book 1884-1888, 362/1887, BACL 13737/13a, ANZ-A.

¹⁵³ Paeroa Magistrate's Court, Plaintiff Book 1881-1896, 37/1888, BACL 13745/1a, ANZ-A; Paeroa Magistrate's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 25 April 1888, p. 2.

¹⁵⁴ Paeroa Magistrate's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 10 October 1888, p. 2.

¹⁵⁵ Paeroa Magistrate's Court, Home Warrant Book 1881-1928, 14/1887, BACL 13742/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁵⁶ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1884-1889, 70/1888, BCDG 11221/1b; Civil Record Book 1889-1896, 91/1889, BCDG 11221/1c, ANZ-A.

¹⁵⁷ Paeroa Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1884-1889, 56/1889, BACL 13745/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁵⁸ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Civil Record Book 1889-1896, 45/1894, BCDG 11221/1c, ANZ-A.

interest. An obituary described him as ‘always a great sportsman’ who ‘in his younger days was a good all-round athlete. He entered whole-heartedly into every project’.¹⁵⁹ For the Boxing Day Sports held at Te Aroha in 1883, he was a handicapper, a starter, a member of the committee, and collected subscriptions.¹⁶⁰ At the subsequent New Year’s Day Sports held at Waihou, he was a handicapper.¹⁶¹ In the sports day held just before Christmas in 1884 he was beaten by just one yard in the 100 yards race; his friends had ‘backed him freely, and in so doing dropped a good round sum’.¹⁶² For a 200-yard race held in early 1886, against a different opponent, the bets were £5 a-side.¹⁶³ In the Te Aroha Regatta held later that year, in the four-oared gig race, a distance of two miles, he rowed in the winning boat.¹⁶⁴

Being involved in horse racing was common amongst publicans,¹⁶⁵ but reflected his genuine enthusiasm. He assisted all Te Aroha’s race meetings, being a steward at the very first one, in February 1881.¹⁶⁶ He was noted as being ‘very liberal to the races’,¹⁶⁷ presumably a reference to his active assistance as well as providing the beer. In 1882 he was both steward and secretary for this event, in mid-year was a steward for races at Waitoa, and later was a steward for the Piako County Turf Club.¹⁶⁸ Elected to the committee of the Te Aroha Jockey Club in February 1883, later that year he was appointed one of three members of a sub-committee that altered some dangerous curves on the track.¹⁶⁹ He continued on the working committee of the club and as a steward.¹⁷⁰

Quinlan also raced horses himself. In March 1881, he was the ‘moving spirit’ in the two or three races being held each week; being ‘extremely lucky in such matters’ perhaps implied successful gambling.¹⁷¹ At the

¹⁵⁹ *Observer*, 20 March 1926, p. 4.

¹⁶⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 15 December 1883, p. 2.

¹⁶¹ *Te Aroha News*, 15 December 1883, p. 7.

¹⁶² *Te Aroha News*, 27 December 1884, p. 2.

¹⁶³ *Te Aroha News*, 20 February 1886, p. 2.

¹⁶⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 13 November 1886, p. 2.

¹⁶⁵ For example, see paper on Thomas Lawless.

¹⁶⁶ *Thames Star*, 26 January 1881, p. 3.

¹⁶⁷ ‘Te Aroha Arrows (From Our Special on the Spot)’, *Observer*, 19 February 1881, p. 236.

¹⁶⁸ *Waikato Times*, 25 February 1882, p. 2, 1 June 1882, p. 3, 31 October 1882, p. 3.

¹⁶⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 12 February 1883, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 3 November 1883, p. 2.

¹⁷⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 22 November 1884, p. 2, 16 January 1886, p. 2, 30 October 1886, p. 2.

¹⁷¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 16 March 1881, p. 3.

Thames Jockey Club Races in December 1881, his horse, named Hone Werahiko in honour of the discoverer of gold at Te Aroha and Waiorongomai, came fourth in the Novel Race.¹⁷² The following June, his Nebula won a hurdle race at Waitoa.¹⁷³ In the Waitoa Handicap and the Publican's Purse, his Cob came second both times, but in the Consolation Handicap it 'had a walk over'.¹⁷⁴ In October 1883, Cob was training for the steeplechase and his Rat for the flat races at Te Aroha; in anticipatory races, for a £5 stake, Rat won one race and lost another.¹⁷⁵ After the meeting, the local *Observer* Man wrote that 'Pat Q's lip has lowered four holes since the double defeat of the Rat. Pat will have to get a swifter animal than the Rat if he goes in for racing'.¹⁷⁶ Three years later, his Welcome Larry won the Handicap Hack Race.¹⁷⁷

Quinlan's enthusiasm for horse racing was such that on New Year's Day in 1884 he attended the race meeting at Ellerslie, in Auckland.¹⁷⁸ No doubt he placed some bets, for gambling on the result was part of his enjoyment. As was another form of gambling, for in July 1881 a Te Aroha correspondent reported that he was in Auckland

attending to what is rather ambiguously known as his Art Union; the drawer of the first prize in which is to receive ten acres of land, with a house and stable; second prize, 2 1/2 acres of land; third, 4 1/2 acres of land; fourth, a team of horses, a cart and harness complete; fifth, a horse and harness, and sixth, a spring cart and mare, the number of subscribers being 2,000 at 10s each. Where the art of the Union is to be found is nothing at all to do with anybody.¹⁷⁹

Quinlan, a competent musician, in 1882 was a member of the brass band's provisional committee.¹⁸⁰ He played the piccolo for several dances;¹⁸¹

¹⁷² *Thames Advertiser*, 28 December 1881, p. 3.

¹⁷³ *Te Aroha Mail*, 3 June 1882, reprinted in *Te Aroha News*, 3 October 1927, Supplement, p. 1.

¹⁷⁴ *Waikato Times*, 6 June 1882, p. 2.

¹⁷⁵ *Te Aroha News*, 20 October 1883, p. 2.

¹⁷⁶ 'Te Aroha', *Observer*, 27 October 1883, p. 8.

¹⁷⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 27 November 1886, p. 2.

¹⁷⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 5 January 1884, p. 2.

¹⁷⁹ Te Aroha Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 21 July 1881, p. 2.

¹⁸⁰ *Thames Advertiser*, 29 March 1882, p. 3.

at one, when he performed with his violinist brother, they played ‘in their usual good style’.¹⁸² On at least one occasion, a banquet in honour of a miner, he contributed a song.¹⁸³ He sold a ‘first-class’ violin in 1888,¹⁸⁴ but he was never noted as playing one.

An obituary described him as ‘a devout Roman Catholic’ who ‘was well-known for his generous financial support of his church’.¹⁸⁵ At Te Aroha he was on the committee formed to erect a church, and when it was consecrated, he was one of four signatories to an Address to the bishop.¹⁸⁶ When cemetery trustees were appointed, he was included to represent the Catholic residents.¹⁸⁷ Combined with his Catholicism was his Irish heritage, and every St Patrick’s Day he ‘bedecked himself in green’.¹⁸⁸

Quinlan assisted the community in other ways. When shares in the Te Aroha Public Hall and Reading Room Company were allocated in 1882, he acquired 20, and became a director.¹⁸⁹ Also in that year, he was elected to a deputation to discuss local needs with the visiting Premier.¹⁹⁰ When a banquet was held to honour Clem Cornes for his discoveries in the Tui district,¹⁹¹ he was a member of the organizing committee.¹⁹² In his last year at Te Aroha he received the second highest votes for the school committee, 26, compared with the highest result of 43.¹⁹³

OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS AT TE AROHA

¹⁸¹ *Te Aroha News*, 10 October 1885, p. 7, 21 August 1886, p. 3, 28 May 1887, p. 2, 23 October 1887, p. 2, 4 April 1888, p. 2.

¹⁸² *Te Aroha News*, 29 May 1886, p. 2.

¹⁸³ *Te Aroha News*, 12 May 1888, p. 7.

¹⁸⁴ Advertisement, *Te Aroha News*, 14 July 1888, p. 7.

¹⁸⁵ *New Zealand Herald*, 13 March 1926, p. 12.

¹⁸⁶ *Freeman’s Journal*, 21 March 1884, p. 12; *Te Aroha News*, 15 March 1884, p. 2.

¹⁸⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 20 November 1886, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 18 November 1886, p. 2; *New Zealand Gazette*, 3 March 1887, p. 303.

¹⁸⁸ *Observer*, 28 July 1923, p. 4.

¹⁸⁹ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 41 no. 259, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 4 November 1882, p. 3; *Te Aroha News*, 17 January 1885, p. 2.

¹⁹⁰ *Waikato Times*, 23 February 1882, p. 2.

¹⁹¹ See paper on Clement Augustus Cornes.

¹⁹² *Te Aroha News*, 21 April 1888, p. 2.

¹⁹³ *Te Aroha News*, 25 April 1888, p. 2.

William, his elder brother, had been born at Panmure in 1849.¹⁹⁴ In September 1881, when still living there as a ‘settler’, he filed as bankrupt: owing £215 8s 11d, the estimated value of his assets was £17.¹⁹⁵ Two months later, he may have been the Quinlan splitting singles for cottages at Shaftesbury, up-river from Waiorongomai.¹⁹⁶ In the following year he became a barman, presumably in his brother’s hotel.¹⁹⁷ When his child was born at Te Aroha, in September 1883, he recorded that he had married Ellen Fitzgerald on 24 February 1882 at Otahuhu.¹⁹⁸ In fact, they had married on that date in 1873, and already had five children.¹⁹⁹ From December 1884 to September 1885, William was licensee of the Robin Hood and Little John Hotel.²⁰⁰ As there was no record of Paddy ever playing cricket, William must have been the Quinlan who scored four runs in a match between Te Aroha and Hamilton in 1884.²⁰¹ As noted, at dances William played the violin.²⁰² After leaving the district in 1886, he returned to Panmure, where he farmed and was a horse dealer.²⁰³ He was also a

¹⁹⁴ Birth Certificate of William Quinlan, 1849/2069, BDM.

¹⁹⁵ Advertisements, *Auckland Star*, 5 September 1881, p. 3, 19 January 1884, p. 3; ‘Return of all Bankruptcies and Assignments since the coming into operation of the “Debtors and Creditors Amendment Act, 1878”’, Supreme Court, Auckland, Bankruptcies, Legislative Department, LE 1, 1883/106, ANZ-W.

¹⁹⁶ *Waikato Times*, 19 November 1881, p. 2.

¹⁹⁷ *Waikato Electoral Roll, 1882*, p. 18.

¹⁹⁸ Birth Certificate of Walter Clements Quinlan, 13 September 1883, 1883/15302, BDM.

¹⁹⁹ Notices of Intentions to Marry 1873, folio 87, no. 5076, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/18, ANZ-W; Marriage Certificate of William Quinlan, 24 February 1873, 1873/4886; Birth Certificates of William John Quinlan, 1874/15744; Mary Quinlan, 1875/1077; Joseph Quinlan, 1875/1078; John Alfred Quinlan, 1876/15569; Herbert Edward Quinlan, 1881/14580, BDM.

²⁰⁰ Te Aroha Magistrate’s Court, Register of Publican’s Licenses 1882-1892, entry for Robin Hood and Little John Hotel, BBAV 11493/1a, ANZ-A; *Waikato Times*, 12 March 1885, p. 3, 10 September 1886, p. 3.

²⁰¹ *Waikato Times*, 25 March 1884, p. 2.

²⁰² *Te Aroha News*, 10 October 1885, p. 7, 29 May 1886, p. 2, 21 August 1886, p. 3.

²⁰³ *Auckland Star*, advertisement, 30 October 1888, p. 1, advertisement, 2 December 1890, p. 8, 29 April 1903, p. 5, 8 August 1925, p. 10.

Volunteer.²⁰⁴ His son Patrick died in 1896 (aged 4) and his wife three years later (aged 46), leaving him to bring up three sons and four daughters.²⁰⁵

Although required by his father's will to act 'as a Father over his Sisters', as they all married they soon ceased to be his responsibility.²⁰⁶ Catherine was married in 1879, but when her husband, Arthur John Stone,²⁰⁷ died after one day's illness in 1896, leaving her with five children, the oldest aged 12 and the youngest only nine months, destitution forced her to appeal for charitable aid in February 1897.²⁰⁸ Quinlan probably assisted her financially until her death, aged 40, nearly four years later.²⁰⁹ In 1882, Bridget married John Stephen Porter.²¹⁰ Another sister, Frances Mary, a dressmaker who settled in Te Aroha with her brothers, in late 1884 advertised for 'a Good Assistant or Apprentice to the Dressmaking', and in August the following year advertised for another.²¹¹ Two months later, aged 33, she married a miner.²¹²

HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, HENRY WILLIAM BASKIVILLE

²⁰⁴ *Auckland Star*, 13 October 1887, p. 2, 9 May 1888, p. 4.

²⁰⁵ Death Certificates of Patrick Fitzgerald Quinlan, 16 August 1896, 1896/5506; Ellen Quinlan, 1899/3683, BDM; Death Notice, *Auckland Weekly News*, 22 August 1896, p. 1; *Auckland Star*, Death Notice, 29 July 1925, p. 1, 8 August 1925, p. 10.

²⁰⁶ Probates, BBAE 1568/723, ANZ-A; *Morrinsville Star*, 12 March 1926, p. 3.

²⁰⁷ See advertisements, *Auckland Star*, 8 September 1894, p. 8, 2 May 1895, p. 8.

²⁰⁸ Marriage Certificate of Kate Quinlan, 1879/2355; Death Certificate of Arthur John Stone, 20 September 1896, 1896/5539, BDM; *New Zealand Herald*, 22 September 1896, p. 4, Death Notice, 2 October 1896, p. 4; Auckland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, Applications for Relief 1894-1908, folio 115, no. 13284, YCAB 15245/2a, ANZ-A.

²⁰⁹ Death Certificate of Catherine Stone, 13 January 1901, 1901/438, BDM; Death Notice, *Auckland Weekly News*, 18 January 1901, p. 1.

²¹⁰ Marriage Certificate of Bridget Quinlan, 1882/1932; Death Certificate of Bridget Porter, 27 December 1909, 1909/6509, BDM.

²¹¹ Advertisements, *Te Aroha News*, 25 October 1884, p. 7, 29 August 1885, p. 7.

²¹² Notices of Intention to Marry 1885, folio 1176, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/30, ANZ-W; Marriage Certificate of Frances Mary Quinlan, 27 December 1885, 1885/3855, BDM.

Quinlan married Mary Baskiville in 1877.²¹³ Her father, Walter, like Quinlan's an Irishman and a fencible, was granted land at Panmure.²¹⁴ Mary and her brother, Henry William, were two of the eight children of Walter and his second wife, Anne Marie McPhail.²¹⁵ After settling at Te Aroha in November 1881, Henry William acquired residence and business sites,²¹⁶ and opened the Premier Butchery.²¹⁷ In 1883, when two publicans were prosecuted for failing to pay for meat, Baskiville and Quinlan were partners in the butchery.²¹⁸ Another butcher, who purchased the business in August that year, employed Baskiville in his Waiorongomai butchery until the following August, when he advertised that he had 'DISCHARGED Mr Hy. Baskiville from my employ, and ... he is no longer connected with my business in any way'.²¹⁹ The following issue explained that this advertisement should have stated that the business had been sold to Baskiville and George William Graves.²²⁰ (Graves had bought an existing butchery at Waiorongomai in mid-1884.²²¹ Robert Mackie had quarrelled with him, as he did with so many others,²²² in this instance over slaughtering animals.)²²³ As an indication of their weak financial state, in January 1885, to secure repayment of £36, Baskiville and Graves were

²¹³ Notices of Intentions to Marry 1877, folio 132, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/22, ANZ-W; Marriage Certificate of Patrick Quinlan, 30 October 1877, 1877/2312, BDM.

²¹⁴ *Royal New Zealand Fencibles*, p. 75.

²¹⁵ Death Certificate of Henry Baskiville, 30 January 1903, 1903/8603, BDM; *Royal New Zealand Fencibles*, p. 119.

²¹⁶ Te Aroha Warden' Court, Miner's Right no. 1826, issued 30 November 1881, Miners' Rights Butt Book 1881-1882, BBAV 11533/1i; Register of Applications 1880-1882, folios 89-90, 154, 158, 165, 182, 210, 226, BBAV 11505/3a; Rent Ledger 1881-1900, folios 100, 159, 171, 172, 342, 390, BBAV 11501/1a, ANZ-A.

²¹⁷ Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 31 March 1882, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha; *Thames Advertiser*, 19 April 1882, p. 3; advertisement, *Te Aroha News*, 9 June 1883, p. 3.

²¹⁸ Te Aroha Magistrate's Court, Plaintiff Book 1881-1893, 42/1883, BCDG 11224/1a, ANZ-A.

²¹⁹ Advertisement, *Te Aroha News*, 9 August 1884, p. 7.

²²⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 16 August 1884, p. 2.

²²¹ *Te Aroha News*, 28 June 1884, p. 7.

²²² See paper on Robert and Elizabeth Mackie.

²²³ Te Aroha Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 28 May 1885, p. 2; Magistrate's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 6 June 1885, p. 2.

obliged to provide a conditional bill of sale over their ‘plant, goods, chattels, and other property’ to the earlier owners of the business.²²⁴ That June they were granted a slaughterhouse license for a section of the High School Endowment, and they acquired more land there in September 1887.²²⁵ The following month, having bought a ‘commodious and centrally situated Premises’ at Waiorongomai, they re-opened it as a butchery and ‘Co-operative Grocery and General Provisions Store’.²²⁶ A Thames newspaper described them as ‘a highly respectable firm of butchers’.²²⁷ Both men invested in Waiorongomai mines, Baskiville over a longer period than his partner.²²⁸

In January 1889, ‘showing the confidence in “good times coming”’, they over-confidently made ‘large and extensive alterations’ to their shop.²²⁹ Two months later their slaughterhouse burnt down, causing a big loss because it and its contents were uninsured.²³⁰ The following month, their partnership was dissolved because Graves left to farm at Whatawhata and then to be a butcher at Ngaruawahia; he became bankrupt in 1894.²³¹ Baskiville quickly had the slaughterhouse rebuilt, and continued to use it

²²⁴ *Mercantile and Bankruptcy Gazette of New Zealand*, 28 February 1885, p. 67.

²²⁵ *Te Aroha News*, 27 June 1885, p. 2, 10 September 1887, p. 2.

²²⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 29 October 1887, p. 3.

²²⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 6 September 1887, p. 2.

²²⁸ For Baskiville’s investments, see Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folios 2, 8, 30, BBAV 11500/9a; Register of Applications 1880-1882, folio 122, BBAV 11505/3a; Plaintiff Book 1880-1898, 1/1895, BBAV 11547/1a; Plaints 1895, 1/1895, BBAV 11572/2a, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Gazette*, 23 March 1882, p. 490, 16 November 1882, p. 1733; *Auckland Weekly News*, 26 November 1892, p. 23, 28 January 1893, p. 18; *Thames Advertiser*, 25 January 1893, p. 2; A. & G. Price to Messrs Baskiville and Party, 26 January 1893, Letterbook 1891-1893, p. 531, A. & G. Price Archives, Thames; *Waikato Times*, Piako County Council, 30 March 1893, p. 2, 14 April 1894, p. 16. For Graves’ investments, see Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folios 286, 287, 293, BBAV 11567/1a; Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 8, BBAV 11500/9a; *New Zealand Gazette*, 16 November 1882, p. 1733, 18 October 1883, p. 1518.

²²⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 16 January 1889, p. 2.

²³⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 20 March 1889, p. 2, 23 March 1889, p. 2.

²³¹ *Te Aroha News*, 13 April 1889, p. 2, 18 December 1889, p. 2; ‘Piako County Council Valuation Roll’, *Waikato Times*, 9 April 1891, p. 2; *New Zealand Gazette*, 29 November 1894, p. 1746, 23 January 1896, p. 135; *Waikato Times*, 4 December 1894, p. 5.

until 1894, when he abandoned Waiorongomai, selling all his 'live and dead stock', which included two shops and allotments and 35 acres of land containing piggeries and the slaughterhouse.²³²

Like his brother-in-law, Baskiville had attempted to earn money through contracting. In 1881, his tender to metal the main road was declined, and in 1888 he and Graves failed to obtain the tender to supply feed for the tramway horses.²³³ Three years later, his bid to supply feed was successful.²³⁴

Also like his brother-in-law, Baskiville was a Catholic, although two of his children were sent to the Wesleyan Sunday School in 1889.²³⁵ He also competed in one running race, unsuccessfully, and raced his horse in at least one local event.²³⁶ Prominent amongst those attempting to assist Waiorongomai's development, he was a member of the school committee.²³⁷

Their families were in close contact, as was illustrated by Quinlan and his wife being sponsors at the baptism of one of Baskiville's sons and by another son being named George Patrick.²³⁸ After leaving the district they kept in touch, as illustrated in 1903 by a legal firm asking Quinlan for the address of Baskiville's wife because they had some business which might be 'to her advantage'.²³⁹

After leaving Waiorongomai in 1894, for the remainder of the decade Baskiville was licensee of the Kohukohu Hotel, on the Hokianga

²³² *Te Aroha News*, 3 April 1889, p. 2, 24 April 1889, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 27 January 1891, p. 3, 8 February 1894, p. 2, 14 April 1894, pp. 8, 16.

²³³ Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 14 December 1881, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha; *Te Aroha News*, 7 July 1888, p. 2.

²³⁴ Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 3 November 1891, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha.

²³⁵ Register of Te Aroha Baptisms 1884-1949, nos. 7, 46, 78, 99, 125, Catholic Archives, Auckland; Waiorongomai Sunday School, Admission Book 1884-1889, entry for 12 January 1889, Methodist Archives, Auckland.

²³⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 29 December 1883, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 6 June 1882, p. 2.

²³⁷ For example, *Te Aroha News*, 9 January 1886, p. 2, 15 May 1886, p. 7, 15 January 1887, p. 2, 22 January 1887, p. 2, 31 March 1888, p. 2, 25 April 1888, p. 2, 7 July 1888, p. 2, 27 April 1889, p. 2, 21 August 1889, p. 2.

²³⁸ Register of Te Aroha Baptisms 1884-1949, nos. 7, 125, Catholic Archives, Auckland.

²³⁹ Jackson and Russell to Patrick Quinlan, 10 June 1903, Letterbook no. 81, p. 879, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

Harbour.²⁴⁰ From 1899 until 1902 the family lived at Kuaotunu, a mining centre on the Coromandel Peninsula, where Baskiville ran a hotel before settling in Auckland.²⁴¹ Working as a labourer to support his wife and seven children, in January 1903 he died whilst laying a drain in Upper Queen Street. He had asked for a set of timber to be removed before deepening the drain further. But when it was some of the earth fell, and he was suffocated.²⁴² He had been working on the drain for only a week, together with another man with ten years' experience in such work.²⁴³ Aged only 42, his youngest children were seven-year-old twins.²⁴⁴ His death notice mentioned that he was Quinlan's brother-in-law, and the funeral procession departed from his hotel.²⁴⁵ His estate was only £37 4s.²⁴⁶

HOTELIER IN AUCKLAND

After withdrawing his application for a hotel at Waiorongomai in mid-June 1888, in the following month Quinlan sold some of his furniture because he was leaving to take over the Edinburgh Castle Hotel, in Symonds Street, Auckland.²⁴⁷ This was the start of 20 years as an Auckland publican, during which time he 'balked large in the licensed victualling trade'.²⁴⁸ Two years after arriving, the *Observer* could refer to 'Quinlan's Hotel' without needing to explain which one it was.²⁴⁹ When he began, his finances were such that he had to provide a bill of sale over the hotel's

²⁴⁰ *Mercantile and Bankruptcy Gazette*, 4 October 1894, p. 461; Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaints 1895, 1/1895, BBAV 0011572/2a; Tapu School, Admissions Register, no. 222, YCAG 1623/1a, ANZ-A.

²⁴¹ Kuaotunu School, Register of Admissions 1891-1907, nos. 404-407, 425, 468, YCAF 5341/1a, ANZ-A; *Thames Star*, 6 June 1902, p. 3.

²⁴² *New Zealand Herald*, 31 January 1903, p. 5.

²⁴³ Inquests, Justice Department, J 46, COR 1903/136, ANZ-W.

²⁴⁴ Death Certificate of Henry Baskiville, 30 January 1903, 1903/8603, BDM.

²⁴⁵ Death Notice, *New Zealand Herald*, 31 January 1903, p. 1.

²⁴⁶ Testamentary Register 1903-1906, folio 9, BBAB 4208/5, ANZ-A.

²⁴⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 13 June 1888, p. 2, 14 July 1888, pp. 2, 7, 8 September 1888, p. 7, 12 September 1888, p. 2; advertisement, *Auckland Star*, 14 August 1888, p. 1.

²⁴⁸ *New Zealand Herald*, 13 March 1926, p. 12.

²⁴⁹ *Observer*, 11 October 1890, p. 6.

furniture and effects to a brewery as security for a loan of £500, at 8 per cent interest.²⁵⁰

After less than a year, when he applied to renew his license, the chairman of the licensing court commented that his hotel was ‘remarkably clean. He had never seen it in better condition’, but went on to warn him against ‘overtime trading’.²⁵¹ In October 1891 he was fined £2 for allowing dice to be thrown for money, this conviction being endorsed on his license.²⁵² A constable described arriving at the hotel shortly before midnight:

Witness had seen several persons leave the rear of the hotel, and he entered by the same door. Witness heard dice being thrown. He went to the door of that room, and met the licensee, Mr Quinlan. Defendant held the door with his right hand and kept it closed against them. Witness pushed the door as hard as he could and got it open about six inches. Witness saw a crowd of men inside the room. There was a dice box and dice on the table, also some silver. Witness shouted out for the door to be opened, and the crowd hearing his voice rushed the window in order to get into the yard. He estimated that there were from 18 to 20 persons in the room. When witness got in he took the names of eight men. The dice and money had been removed. Witness told defendant that it was a badly conducted house that allowed a crowd of men like that to be in the house after hours. He said he was sorry, but could not get them out.

About half-an-hour later he went across the road to the two constables and said, ‘I am sorry this has occurred. I hope you will make it as light as possible’, adding, ‘I am not going to Court to swear a lie, and if there is anything over it I will admit it’.²⁵³ But when tried he pleaded not guilty.²⁵⁴ The other constable gave evidence of ‘previous complaints about the way the house was conducted, and witness had cautioned the defendant several times; the Licensing Bench had also referred to the matter’. A small fine was imposed because it was a first offence, the magistrate adding that he ‘preferred to believe that the house had been well conducted for the last two

²⁵⁰ *Mercantile and Bankruptcy Gazette*, 18 August 1888, p. 258.

²⁵¹ Licensing Court, *Auckland Star*, 10 June 1889, p. 3.

²⁵² *Auckland Weekly News*, 17 October 1891, p. 20.

²⁵³ *Auckland Star*, 13 October 1891, p. 5.

²⁵⁴ Auckland Police Court, Criminal Record Book 1891-1892, folio 116, no. 1615, BADW 10254/15a, ANZ-A.

months at any rate'.²⁵⁵ He also 'was prepared to assume that perhaps the degree of opposition offered might have been somewhat exaggerated'.²⁵⁶ The only other time Quinlan was in court was in 1906:

A young sailor from the American warship Baltimore had a miniature battle of Manila all on his own account last night, and appeared in the Police Court in repentant mood this morning. From the evidence given it appeared that he and another sailor went into the Thistle Hotel and asked for a bed. The licensee, Mr Patrick Quinlan, who gave evidence in the case, stated that he asked his daughter whether Betts had paid for his bed. She replied that his mate had paid for a bed, but that he had not. Betts replied that he had, and becoming heated used rather angry words. His mate then, to quieten him, offered to pay for the bed, but this only added fuel to the flame, and the mate was promptly knocked down. Mr Quinlan interposed, and the vials of the sailors' wrath were poured on his head. Within a few minutes he had practically wrecked the bar. Picking up a chair he flung it at Miss Quinlan. Fortunately he missed his mark, but the chair was left legless after its collision with the wall. Then, seizing a marble-top table, he hurled it violently to the floor, smashing it into half a dozen pieces. He then took up a strategic position beside a box of bottles, and with these he repelled the enemy, throwing the bottles at anyone who approached. One smashed a picture, the next hit the licensee, who then sent for the police. Betts was still holding the fort when Constable Armstrong arrived, and, after making a dash for liberty through a window, stood at the "present" again. He was rushed and arrested.

In court, 'Betts said he didn't know anything about it, but he guessed he was guilty. The magistrate was certain on the point', and after hearing Quinlan's evidence convicted and fined him on all charges, in default seven days' hard labour.²⁵⁷

Quinlan's views on hotel management and the liquor question were explained when he stood for parliament in 1899:

I am not in favour of PROHIBITION, but still believe firmly in complying with the laws of the country, and would support all measures calculated to raise the tone of every Hotel, and that of the proprietors and owners as well. I am thoroughly convinced that the masses will never be made sober, moral or virtuous by

²⁵⁵ Police Court, *New Zealand Herald*, 14 October 1891, p. 3.

²⁵⁶ *Auckland Star*, 13 October 1891, p. 5.

²⁵⁷ *Auckland Star*, 13 June 1906, p. 4.

legislation, and any attempt to make them so, would simply be stuffing their ears with wax, and tying them to the mast – the moral principle would remain unchanged. A higher and better force must be used,

meaning education. He advocated ‘sweeping amendments in our LICENSING LAWS, and would bring all CLUBS under their influence and control, for reasons which must be obvious’.²⁵⁸

After nearly nine years, his finances were such that he was obliged to give three brewers a bill of sale over the furniture and effects as security for £1,200, at 8 per cent interest.²⁵⁹ Perhaps the state of his finances explains the meaning of the 1899 comment that ‘Pat Quinlan’s idea of settling the rent question is not to pay any rent at all’.²⁶⁰ As his hotel was a ‘free house’, for ‘many years’ he ‘carried on war against the “tied houses” of Auckland, selling his malt liquors at rates below those permitted to others by the terms of their tenure’.²⁶¹ In 1903, he advertised his freedom: ‘Free House, Free House, Free House. Edinburgh Castle Hotel, Symonds Street, Dunedin Ale, Brewed by D[aniel] Arkell,²⁶² Sold Threepence per Pint, by Pat Quinlan, the Working Man’s Friend’.²⁶³

In early December 1903, the *Observer* published the following paragraph:

The talk of the town this week has been concerning Paddy Quinlan and how he holds the Edinburgh Castle Hotel against the Seccombe Brewery Company. The Seccombe Company wants Paddy to go out but Paddy won’t go. Also, he keeps a brand of ale other than Seccombe’s on tap at a popular price, and glories in the fact. Paddy’s rent has gone up from £8 to £16, but he disputes the difference and still holds the fort.²⁶⁴

A cartoon showed Quinlan atop his hotel, waving an Irish flag, a shillelagh, and his coat, denoting his readiness to fight. In mock-Irish, either Quinlan’s normal way of speaking or the *Observer*’s way of

²⁵⁸ Advertisement, *Observer*, 2 December 1899, p. 17.

²⁵⁹ *Mercantile and Bankruptcy Gazette of New Zealand*, 8 April 1897, p. 182.

²⁶⁰ *Observer*, 2 September 1899, p. 3.

²⁶¹ *New Zealand Herald*, 13 March 1926, p. 12.

²⁶² See *Observer*, 22 September 1894, p. 19; *New Zealand Herald*, 18 December 1912, p. 8.

²⁶³ Advertisement, *Observer*, 24 October 1903, p. 9.

²⁶⁴ *Observer*, 12 December 1903, p. 17.

emphasizing his Irishness, he declared: 'If yez wants thrubble, jist thread on the tail av me coat; Oi'll show yez that a man's house is his Castle'.²⁶⁵ The dispute arose after the Great Northern Brewery Company sued him for trespass plus £20 damages because of his refusal to vacate his hotel once the lease expired. The evidence showed that during the 15 years he had held the license the rent had risen from £5 to £8 per week, and as some of the agreements were purely verbal disagreements resulted over their terms. For the past three years he had occupied the hotel without a formal lease. In May 1901, he had paid the company £402 17s 4d, and when sued for £150 in late October 1903 had paid again. For two months he had not purchased its beer, although it denied this was the reason it sought to remove him. In his evidence Quinlan stated that since he 'had commenced to take his liquor supply from other people he had received a note' from it 'asking him to see them before he gave any more orders. He did not go, however'. When he offered to pay rent, the company refused to accept it; over a week before he was sued it ordered him to leave, to be told that he would put the sheriff's officer 'out of the hotel'.²⁶⁶ When the firm asked him 'to pay £400 on a demand promissory note' it held against him and offered to arrange a loan for him from liquor firms, he refused, 'because he knew it meant he would be tied for spirits, and he objected to be bound'. He still had two years and three months remaining of his lease, and 'since 1900 he had spent over £40 on the hotel, and had also paid the annual rates. Since he commenced to take beer from other breweries he had been twice summoned by the owners of the house'.²⁶⁷ The magistrate accepted the argument that he was being evicted because of not buying the company's beer, but after Quinlan announced that he had issued a writ in the Supreme Court 'claiming specific performance against the plaintiffs in respect to the five year's lease', decided that he had no jurisdiction.²⁶⁸ The *Observer* wrote that Quinlan was 'triumphant' because of this decision: 'The case must go to another court, while Paddy is free in the interval to go on selling beer that is not the Great Northern Company's'.²⁶⁹ This temporary success meant

²⁶⁵ Cartoon, *Observer*, 12 December 1903, p. 5.

²⁶⁶ *New Zealand Herald*, 4 December 1903, p. 7, 5 December 1903, p. 6, 7 December 1903, p. 6; Magistrate's Court, *Auckland Weekly News*, 10 December 1903, p. 44.

²⁶⁷ *Auckland Star*, 7 December 1903, p. 3.

²⁶⁸ *Auckland Star*, 21 December 1903, p. 5.

²⁶⁹ *Observer*, 26 December 1903, p. 16.

that his advertisement about his 'free house' continued to be published unchanged.²⁷⁰

After hearing legal argument, a Supreme Court judge decided that a judge, not a jury, as Quinlan had wanted, should decide the case.²⁷¹ At the subsequent hearing, his counsel sought an adjournment 'on account of his client's illness from pleurisy following influenza'. The firm's counsel 'objected on the ground that considerable delay had already been caused by the actions of the plaintiff, who on one occasion saw fit to disappear from Auckland so that a writ could not be served on him'. After two doctors stated that he would be unfit to attend 'for at least a month, and any excitement would endanger his life', at the firm's request Quinlan was required to 'pay into Court a sum equivalent to £8 per week, the amount of rent from November 19th last till the determination of the action'.²⁷² By the end of May 1904, 'a complete settlement was agreed upon out of Court', whereby Quinlan's action was

to be dismissed without costs, and judgment to be entered for the defendant company on counter-claim for possession of the premises, no writ of possession to be issued till June 14 next. The money in Court to be paid out to the defendant company, and plaintiff to pay £8 per week from the date to which the last payment of rent had been made until possession was given up. No costs.²⁷³

The sympathetic *Observer* reported that he was 'evacuating his Edinburgh Castle with a broad smile on his countenance. The honours of the battle are with him'.²⁷⁴ Within a month of leaving this hotel, 'genial Pat Quinlan' moved into the Clarendon Hotel in Queen Street, although the formal transfers did not take place until September.²⁷⁵ Six months later, when the statue of Sir George Grey was unveiled, he obtained 'a big and unlooked-for advertisement out of the *Joyful News* picture', because both

²⁷⁰ For example, advertisement, *Observer*, 20 February 1904, p. 23.

²⁷¹ *Auckland Star*, 9 February 1904, p. 2.

²⁷² Supreme Court, *Auckland Star*, 15 February 1904, p. 5.

²⁷³ Supreme Court, *Auckland Star*, 27 May 1904, p. 2; Supreme Court, *Auckland Weekly News*, 2 June 1904, p. 43.

²⁷⁴ *Observer*, 4 June 1904, p. 7.

²⁷⁵ *Thames Star*, 2 July 1904, p. 4; *Observer*, 6 August 1904, p. 4; Licensing Committee, *Auckland Star*, 6 September 1904, p. 2.

Governor and statue were ‘quite subordinate to the big “Pat Quinlan” line in the background’.²⁷⁶

In February 1905, the Thames newspaper reported that ‘Mr Pat Quinlan, the well known and popular boniface, has taken over the Thistle Hotel, Queen Street, Auckland’.²⁷⁷ The advertising of this hotel, presumably written by Quinlan, became more flamboyant over time. At first he simply announced that he had taken it over and would ‘be pleased to see Old Friends and Welcome New Ones’.²⁷⁸ In May 1907, shortly after municipal elections in Auckland, his advertisement was much more eye-catching:

TO THE AUCKLAND CITY RATEPAYERS

PAT QUINLAN

THANKS YOU FOR RETURNING HIM TO A NEW TERM IN A
FREE HOUSE,

And

THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE GIVEN HIM

For the Following Six Reasons:

- No. 1. RATEPAYERS are pleased to see Pat in a Free house.
- No. 2. RATEPAYERS like to call on Pat and have a Glass of Dunedin Beer.
- No. 3. RATEPAYERS know that Pat sells only DUNEDIN BEER.
- No. 4. RATEPAYERS know that Pat has the only Free House in Queen-street.
- No. 5. RATEPAYERS should know that Pat Imports ALES, WINES, AND SPIRITS.
- No. 6. RATEPAYERS have Pat’s best wishes and thanks for their long-continued support.

P. QUINLAN, T.H.Q.S.A.N.Z.

THISTLE HOTEL.²⁷⁹

‘T.H.Q.S.A.N.Z.’ meant Thistle Hotel Queen Street Auckland New Zealand. Three months later, an advertisement in the *Observer* advertised another advertisement:

NOTICE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

PAT QUINLAN’S

²⁷⁶ ‘They Say’, *Observer*, 14 January 1905, p. 7.

²⁷⁷ *Thames Star*, 17 February 1904, p. 4.

²⁷⁸ Advertisement, *Observer*, 15 July 1905, p. 11.

²⁷⁹ Advertisement, *Observer*, 4 May 1907, p. 20.

INTERVIEW WITH KAFF AND
 JOCK IS APPETISING,
 MESMERISING & ADVERTISING.
 WORTH READING ON PAGE 17.²⁸⁰

This second advertisement included a fictional discussion:

THISTLE HOTEL.
 THISTLE HOTEL.
 THISTLE HOTEL.

FREE HOUSE,
 GREEN HOUSE,
 CREAM HOUSE,
 CHEAP HOUSE.

My Name is
 PAT QUINLAN

I would like the Public to know me.
 I am the First FREE HOTEL man
 that has reduced Ales, Wines and
 Spirits in the Auckland Province.

I met Kaff Kaff Kaff last Monday, and
 Kaff said: "Pat, did you receive my cheque
 For Seventy Pounds and Ninepence for that
 small order I gave you last week?" I said,
 "Yes, Kaff, and your receipt has been posted
 with Thanks." I said: "Kaff, you are fluting."²⁸¹
 "Well Pat," said Kaff, "I had a chat with
 Jock the other day, and he could no under-
 stand how you could sell Ales, Wines and
 Spirits so Cheap." "Well," I said to Kaff,
 "Look here, Kaff, are you and Jock no aware
 that I am very large importer of Ales, Wines,
 and Spirits, and that I have a FREE HOUSE
 called THE THISTLE, and I have in stock in
 bond on order and on the water to arrive as

²⁸⁰ Advertisement, *Observer*, 17 August 1907, p. 20.

²⁸¹ 'Talking incessantly': Jonathon Green, *The Cassell Dictionary of Slang* (London, 1998), p. 434; or wasting time: Tom Dalzell and Terry Victor, *The New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* (Oxford, 2006), vol. 1, p. 778.

required, £10,000 (Ten Thousand Pounds')
worth of Ales, Wines and Spirits. Now, ask
Jock, Kaff, if he wonders how and why I have
reduced my Ales, Wines and Spirits."

"Oh, I see," said Kaff, "there is no Middle
Man in your business, Pat."

"No," I said, "Kaff, the public are the
Middle Men."

"That is a very large Stock to have on
hand," said Kaff.

"It is, Kaff. But you know my business is
growing very large, and I am compelled to
order six weeks ahead."

He then listed all his prices before adding a P.S.: 'On receipt of Postal
Notes, Money Orders, or Approved Cheques, the undersigned will deliver on
trains and boats all Orders from Country Settlers, at the above prices'.²⁸²
(Kaff seems to have been an imaginary person.)

His October advertisement was equally eye-catching:

THISTLE
HOTEL. HOTEL. HOTEL.
FREE HOUSE.
FREE HOUSE,
FREE HOUSE.
OR I COULD NOT DO IT.
PAT QUINLAN'S
APOLOGY TO THE AUCKLAND PUBLIC.

GENTLEMEN,

Dear Sirs, -

I have to apologise to you for my charges being so high for the last
twenty years for Ales, Wines and Spirits.

No. 1 Apology is – I could not buy outside.

No. 2 Apology is – I was tied hand and food.

No. 3 Apology is – I could not import.

No. 4 Apology is – I could not get a Free House.

No. 5 Apology is – I am selling Cheaper now than I could buy for
during the last 20 years.

No. 6 Apology is – I will make restitution for all my high prices,
and will continue to do so by selling at my Reduced Prices.

²⁸² Advertisement, *Observer*, 17 August 1907, p. 17.

Thanking you for past favours, and in anticipation of new ones.

I remain, yours faithfully,

PAT QUINLAN,
 THISTLE HOTEL,
 QUEEN-STREET.²⁸³

His advertising must have worked, for in August the *Observer* wondered why he had ‘been so much sought after this week? “Never had so many visitors in me life before, begad” ’.²⁸⁴ He then ‘suddenly blossomed out as a full-blown poet’, the *Observer* claiming that a musician was thinking of asking him ‘to write the libretto for his next comic opera. It would be a sure draw’.²⁸⁵ Its Christmas Annual was graced by an advertisement in the form of a poem, ‘How Captain Patrick Quinlan Won His Freedom!’ His three hotels were portrayed, both poetically and with illustrations, as ships:

THE EDINBURGH CASTLE was,
 A vessel most complete,
 That traded far o’er many a bar,
 With cargo rich and sweet.
 For years Pat Quinlan had command,
 And strode the quarterdeck,
 But one fine day, ’tis sad to say,
 The skipper had a wreck.
 With subtle craft, all round the raft,
 Where Paddy stood alone,
 The sharks came nigh, with arts to try
 And claim him as his own.

It was the steamer CLARENDON,
 Picked Patrick up again,
 He took his stand in proud command,
 Alas! It was in vain.
 The CLARENDON burnt too much coal
 When steaming on her way,
 And Captain Pat soon noticed that
 The vessel didn’t pay.
 Said he, “Bedad – well I’ve been had,
 “With owners hard I groan,
 “But now, you bet, a ship I’ll get

²⁸³ Advertisement, *Observer*, 26 October 1907, p. 9.

²⁸⁴ *Observer*, 3 August 1907, p. 11.

²⁸⁵ ‘They Say’, *Observer*, 12 October 19097, p. 7.

“That I can call my own!”

Now Patrick has a vessel neat,
 The THISTLE is her name.
 She’s trim and bright in green and white,
 And well she’s known to fame.
 The vessel’s free, the skipper’s free,
 And all is free about her;
 We wonder now exactly how
 We did so long without her.
 So make a trip to Paddy’s ship,
 ’Tis welcome you will be –
 Remember that brave Captain Pat
 Sells cheap because he’s free.

After this effusion, ‘Captain Pat’ drew ‘attention to the Cargo of which the following is the Manifest’, namely the list of his liquor and prices.²⁸⁶

In December 1907, he charged J.G. Swan and Company of Whanganui, brewers, with ‘trespass and seizure’, seeking damages of £1,000. His counsel told the Supreme Court that the hotel ‘was a free house, and the reputation of the licensee was everything to him, because free houses were not acceptable to the brewers, and he could not look for any support or assistance from the brewers if trouble came upon him’. In 1906, when Quinlan ‘had considerable dealings with’ the company, ‘in order to put the accounts in order’ George Swan drew up several promissory notes whereby Quinlan agreed to pay £37 on 20 December and the same sum one month later. Confusion was created when another note, for £128 and due on 26 January, was presented at a branch of the bank not sued by Quinlan, who subsequently paid the amounts owing, as the company acknowledged, promising to withdraw proceedings.

On February 16 Messrs Swan did a most outrageous and astounding thing. From the Magistrate’s Court at Wanganui they issued execution against Quinlan for the whole amount of the first P.N., and procured a distress warrant on which the bailiff entered and took possession, remaining in the hotel until February 25, although Quinlan produced their acknowledgment of receiving the cheques. The bailiff wired to Swan and Co that a receipt had been produced, but was instructed to remain in possession until February 25, when a telegram was forwarded by Swan and Co, withdrawing the warrant. Plaintiff had suffered by the action of defendants, and therefore claimed substantial

²⁸⁶ Advertisement, *Observer*, Christmas Annual 1907, p. ix.

damages.... The defendants admitted most of the statements of plaintiff, and claimed that they had acted upon a mistake. Such a mistake was a very serious one, and substantial, almost vindictive damages, should be awarded.²⁸⁷

The bailiff gave evidence that, when he entered the hotel, Quinlan showed him the company's letter acknowledging receipt of the payments, he wired

for instructions, leaving a man in charge. In reply he received a telegram that the amount was unpaid, and a further summons had been issued for a further £37. Witness's assistant remained in possession from February 21 to February 25. On the latter day Quinlan paid the amount of the warrant and costs, stating that it had been done under protest, and the man was withdrawn. Nothing was done meanwhile, witness being satisfied that a mistake had been made. The inventory was not taken, nor was the trade of the house interfered with by arrangement with Quinlan. Witness told the latter that unless the amount was paid within five days he would seize and put a man in the bar. Quinlan said that there would be no need for that, as he would pay the money. Witness accepted the undertaking, which Quinlan fulfilled.

When Quinlan's counsel put in the Whanganui magistrate's order setting aside the judgment obtained by the company against him, the judge commented that 'this was done by the magistrate on an ex parte application without the other side being notified. To do this, when bad faith was the ground of the application, was one of the most incredible things he had ever heard of, contrary to every principle of British law, and to the administration of British Courts'.

The defense offered was a denial of any intention to injure Quinlan, 'the whole thing being due to a mistake made in the office'. After the judge stated his willingness 'to rule that there was no evidence of malice', it was claimed that as 'there was not the slightest evidence to show that plaintiff had suffered any damage', these 'should be assessed at nil'. Quinlan's solicitor 'contended that unadulterated recklessness had been shown, and no business firm should be allowed to injure a man by a series of outrageous blunders. A few pounds damages would not satisfy such an outrage, even though it were the result of a mistake'. Unimpressed, the judge 'said that so

²⁸⁷ Supreme Court, *Auckland Star*, 29 November 1907, p. 5.

far from there being any malice in the case, defendants had shown consideration to plaintiff, whose solicitor practically said, “We not only want compensation for our injuries, but we want to make money out of it”’. Despite his views, the jury assessed Quinlan’s damages at £250, and ‘the law points raised were reserved for consideration’.²⁸⁸

According to the *Observer*, ‘Pat Quinlan is a bit of a bird-fancier. For instance, he thinks there’s plenty of money in Swans’.²⁸⁹ Two weeks later, the fact that Quinlan ‘still lives’ appeared ‘to be causing considerable annoyance in certain circles’.²⁹⁰ Judgment on the points of law raised was given three months later, providing additional information and clarification:

The transactions commenced by defendants in May, 1906, advancing the plaintiff £100, the consideration being the getting of a share of his trade. Plaintiff got into arrears with his payments, both in meeting bills and on current account. In September he had met one of the defendants in Auckland, and had a settlement, giving promissory notes for the balance. These notes were dishonored, and on January 31st, a summons on the Magistrate’s Court had been issued in respect of one such note for £37. On that date plaintiff wrote to the defendants on the subject of his financial position with them, and enclosed two cheques (one post dated) in settlement of the summons. The plaintiff alleged, and the defendant denied, that this was accepted by the defendants in settlement of the judgment. The defendants subsequently obtained judgment on the note, and later a warrant of distress was issued, under which a bailiff entered on the licensed premises of the plaintiff. The plaintiff sued the defendants for damages, but, being advised that the judgment was a bar to the action, he discontinued, and obtained an ex-parte order, setting aside the judgment, and all subsequent proceedings, and then brought this action.

After the jury had assessed the damages, the case was ‘adjourned for further consideration, defendants asking for a new trial’. Mr Justice Denniston, ‘in a particularly lengthy review of the case’, considered ‘there was no case to go to the jury on the ground either of want of reasonable and probable cause, or of malice’. He did not believe Quinlan had suffered any damage, for there was no seizure, as Quinlan ‘quite properly informed his banker, and his leading creditor of the fact. His claim for £1000 damages,

²⁸⁸ Supreme Court, *Auckland Star*, 30 November 1907, p. 6.

²⁸⁹ ‘They Say’, *Observer*, 7 December 1907, p. 7.

²⁹⁰ ‘They Say’, *Observer*, 21 December 1907, p. 7.

and the lines on which his case was conducted, showed that he, as was usually the case, wanted to make money out of the transaction, outside any real damage', and accordingly he granted the defendants a non-suit,²⁹¹ meaning Quinlan would not receive the £250 awarded by the jury.

Before this final judgment, Quinlan published an even more elaborate advertisement, in the form of an annual report:

**A SENSATIONAL MEETING
OF
SHAREHOLDERS
OF
THE THISTLE HOTEL COMPANY**

A meeting of the Shareholders of the Thistle Hotel Company was held at the offices of the company, Queen-street, Auckland, on Tuesday, the 31st ult, being the last day of the year.

Those present were:-

PAT QUINLAN
(CHAIRMAN OF DIRECTORS),
W.H. QUINLAN (Director),
JOSEPH QUINLAN (Director),
GEORGE QUINLAN (Director),
CLAUDE QUINLAN (Director),
JOHN QUINLAN (Director),
AND

80,000 SHAREHOLDERS.

The Chairman, Mr Pat Quinlan, read the Report and Balance-sheet for the year just ended, which showed a very large Credit Balance, from which it was proposed to pay a Dividend of Forty per cent on 100,000 Shares. It read as follows:-

"Gentlemen, - When the present Company took over the THISTLE HOTEL, it was tied hand and foot like FIFTY-FIVE other Hotels in the city to-day; but after NINE MONTHS OF HARD BATTLING with the 'Powers that Be', it is most satisfactory to be able to state that the Company has met with such great support at the hands of the GENERAL PUBLIC that to-day the THISTLE HOTEL now stands in the unique position of ABSOLUTE FREEDOM."

The Chairman, having invited those present to speak to the report, King Billy Armstrong begged to move its adoption and a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Directors for importing DUNEDIN BEER and reducing the price of WINES AND SPIRITS, together with giving the public of this Beautiful City

²⁹¹ *Auckland Star*, 19 February 1908, p. 3.

the right to become Shareholders in the Thistle Company, and placing them on an equal footing with the Middleman, so that each and all of them could participate in the profits of the THISTLE COMPANY.

He congratulated the Chairman, Mr Pat Quinlan, for his great enterprise in making the THISTLE COMPANY FREE.

Dr Gundy, in seconding King Billy Armstrong's motion, said:

"After travelling the world ten times over in search of GOOD BEER, I have discovered it at last at the THISTLE HOTEL.

"Sir, the DUNEDIN BEER cannot be surpassed in any quarter of the globe. Wishing you every success in your great undertaking, and a Happy New Year to yourself and co-Directors, I have much pleasure in seconding the motion." (Great cheers.)

Kaff, who also spoke to the motion, said as follows:-

"Mr Chairman, when I first became a Shareholder in your progressive Company called the THISTLE, I was strongly advised by my friends not to invest in what then appeared to be a most reckless step on your part. I was told that when you lowered the prices of your Wines and Spirits, that the 'POWERS THAT BE' would EAT you RAW, and that you would not last ONE MONTH; but I am pleased to find that my advisers were BAD PROPHETS, and that the Company is here to stay. With these few remarks I have much pleasure in supporting the motion. (Great Applause.)

The Chairman, in rising to respond, upon the vociferous cheers and calls for a speech, said:

"Gentlemen, I stand alone in the proud position of Chairman and Managing Director of one of the most UP-TO-DATE Hotel Companies in the Dominion. I am here to-day to give an account of my stewardship, and am happy to say it is an easy task, as nothing succeeds like success. Each and all of you can return to your dear homes and intimate to your families that Pat Quinlan is FREE, and that he wishes you a Happy New Year, and will always be pleased to see you at the THISTLE HOTEL to tell you how he became A FREE MAN. I thank you again, gentlemen, for your staunch assistance in the past, and hope that in the future you will give me that support that I honestly deserve at your hands in keeping the ENEMY AT BAY, as my Company has taken root, and is here to stay, while the OTHERS are helping the OTHERS to drive our Company away.

PAT QUINLAN,
CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR
THISTLE HOTEL.²⁹²

²⁹² Advertisement, *Observer*, 11 January 1908, p. 9.

If there really was a ‘Thistle Hotel Company’, it was a private one in which all the other directors were his sons.²⁹³ Of the alleged speakers, no doctor named Gundy has been traced:²⁹⁴ a joke, now lost to history? Which William Armstrong was meant is not known, but William Richardson was a notably strident prohibitionist.²⁹⁵ Late the following month, a revised version of this advertisement was published:

**THISTLE HOTEL FREE HOUSE
COMPANY.
AN ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE THISTLE HOTEL
Co.**

Chairman of Directors:
PAT. DE QUINLAN.

Directors:
WILLIAM HENRY QUINLAN,
HOSEPH FRANCIS QUINLAN,
GEORGE FREDERICK QUINLAN,
CLAUDE PATRICK QUINLAN,
JOHN CUTHBERT QUINLAN,
AND 80,000 SHAREHOLDERS.

Sir Kaff De Wantmore, one of the 80,000 shareholders, addressed the meeting as follows:-

Mr Chairman,- Seeing that your Company has had a most successful year, I move that you and your sons, Directors, continue to sell at your Reduced Prices all Ales, Wines and Spirits.

The motion was seconded by Sir Maurice De Wantliddle. The following address was made by the Chairman:- “Gentlemen, I stand in the proud position to day of being able to continue to sell at my Prices all Ales, Wines and Spirits. Having ended a most successful year in the Free Hotel called the Thistle, and have large consignments landed and to land, purchased at bedrock prices by my Home agents, and in consideration of there being NO MIDDLEMAN in my business, and not being tied to the powers that be, I am prepared to sell as follows:-
BY ORDER.

²⁹³ *New Zealand Herald*, 13 March 1926, p. 12.

²⁹⁴ *New Zealand Gazette*, 9 January 1908, p. 65.

²⁹⁵ See *Observer*, 28 October 1899, p. 2, 21 April 1900, p. 6, 9 December 1905, p. 5, 26 October 1907, p. 4, 14 November 1908, p. 30, 13 April 1918, p. 4.

Followed by a price list.²⁹⁶ His bold words notwithstanding, his struggle to continue his free house failed, and he published his last advertisement in mid-March.²⁹⁷ By mid-May, another publican was running it, and at the beginning of the following month the license was formally transferred to him.²⁹⁸ As an obituary recalled: ‘One of the great events of his life was his fight with the brewers. He had a “free” house and sold three-penny beers, but the odds against him were too great’, and after abandoning his hotel he became a farmer.²⁹⁹

INVOLVEMENT IN THE MINING BOOM OF THE 1890s

An obituary noted that Quinlan had been ‘largely interested in mining matters on the Auckland goldfields, and also in land investments’.³⁰⁰ His improved financial position made this possible: in August 1896, when his account with the National Bank was overdrawn by £163, it was noted that he had ‘considerable means in mining etc’.³⁰¹

His first mining investment was in October 1895, when he was allocated 3,000 of the 70,000 shares in the Byron Bay Company, which mined at Komata, and of which he was a director.³⁰² The following June, he had a smaller interest in, and was a director of, the adjoining Byron Bay Extended.³⁰³ In May 1896, his 4,250 (out of 75,000) shares in the Alpine Fluke of Kuaotunu was the largest single holding.³⁰⁴ He invested in nine companies during the second half of 1896, at Waikanae, Whangamata,

²⁹⁶ Advertisement, *Observer*, 29 February 1908, p. 9.

²⁹⁷ Advertisement, *Observer*, 14 March 1908, p. 8.

²⁹⁸ Advertisement, *Observer*, 16 May 1908, p. 9; Licensing Committee, *Auckland Star*, 2 June 1908, p. 2.

²⁹⁹ *Observer*, 20 March 1926, p. 4.

³⁰⁰ *New Zealand Herald*, 13 March 1926, p. 12.

³⁰¹ National Bank, Inspector’s Report on Auckland Branch, 31 August 1896, National Bank Archives, Wellington.

³⁰² *New Zealand Gazette*, 10 October 1895, p. 1603; *List of Companies Registered with the Auckland Chamber of Mines ...* (Auckland, 1896), folio 2; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 87 no. 575, ANZ-A.

³⁰³ *New Zealand Gazette*, 11 June 1896, p. 942; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 97/634, ANZ-A.

³⁰⁴ *New Zealand Gazette*, 28 May 1896, p. 860.

Mata Creek, Puru, and Tapu, and was a director of five.³⁰⁵ He also applied for the Lord Douglas, recorded variously as being at Kirikiri and at Boat Harbour, unsuccessfully.³⁰⁶ Over a year later he again applied for it, at Boat Harbour, which was again declined because part of its ground was inside another claim.³⁰⁷

In September 1896, he took two small samples to Auckland from the Sheridan Company's mine at Tapu.³⁰⁸ Having 'secured the option of floating the property on the London market', he had 'subsequently re-sold it again' to a representative of English capital.³⁰⁹ In May 1897, with two fellow investors, he had an option on it, and after his death he was recalled as having had a 'great interest' in this mine.³¹⁰ Nearly two years later, in chairing a meeting of Auckland shareholders in the Sheridan Company he reported on attempts to obtain capital from a Napier syndicate.³¹¹

In January 1897, he was granted a claim at Waikawau and a water race in the Tairua district.³¹² Another claim in the former district was granted in late March but its registration was cancelled in early May.³¹³ His last investment in a new company was in February 1898, in the Little Jessie, a Tapu company.³¹⁴

³⁰⁵ *New Zealand Gazette*, 9 July 1896, p. 1095, 13 August 1896, p. 1301, 20 August 1896, p. 1337, 27 August 1896, p. 1382, 8 October 1896, p. 1688, 22 October 1896, p. 1780, 29 October 1896, p. 1828; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 114 no. 742; box 117 no. 757; box 124 no. 803; box 126 no. 813; box 132 no. 846, ANZ-A.

³⁰⁶ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Applications for Licensed Holdings and Special Claims 1896-1897, 592/1896, BACL 14376/2a, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 16 July 1896, p. 3.

³⁰⁷ Warden's Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 3 September 1897, p. 3.

³⁰⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 8 September 1896, p. 3; *Auckland Weekly News*, 26 September 1896, p. 19.

³⁰⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 9 September 1896, p. 3.

³¹⁰ *New Zealand Mining Standard and Financial News*, 6 May 1897, p. 6; *Auckland Star*, 12 March 1926, p. 5.

³¹¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 11 March 1899, p. 3.

³¹² Thames Warden's Court, Register of Applications for Licensed Holdings and Special Claims 1896-1897, 1091/1896, BACL 14376/2a, ANZ-A; Warden's Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 22 January 1897, p. 3, 23 January 1897, p. 4.

³¹³ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings and Special Claims 1896-1897, folio 181, BACL 14355/4a, ANZ-A.

³¹⁴ *New Zealand Gazette*, 3 February 1898, p. 222.

His experiences of living in mining districts and investing in mining, especially during the boom, led him in 1899 to call for significant changes:

I would strongly advocate more liberal laws in connection with our MINING INDUSTRIES, and would favour the erection of PUBLIC BATTERIES in every mining centre at the expense of the State, the same to be managed and controlled by the various local bodies, where miners and prospectors would be allowed to crush their own rock and so obtain for themselves the actual and total value of their labour without any deductions in any way whatever, and by this means I maintain hundreds would be induced to prosecute a more diligent search for the noble metal, and thus relieve congested occupations and trades, and also tend largely to solve the unemployed difficulty. In my opinion, the time has arrived when we must cease to look for outside aid or assistance, and so become self-reliant, depending absolutely on our own bone and muscle, pluck, and energy, for the development of our mining industries, and in this connection I would favour a Bill to make HOOLEYISM³¹⁵ – otherwise the acceptance of secret commissions by directors and officers – an indictable offence, on lines similar to recent English legislation, so that all such would be ostracised from the society of honourable men, and thereby prevented from injuring the country and people they love so well, because it is an open secret that this pernicious system obtained to a very large extent during the halcyon days of the late lamented boom, and, further, that many a fair proposition was spoiled, and poor men nearly ruined, through the rapacity and cupidity of the HALF-GUINEA PIGS³¹⁶ too often working in conjunction with the incompetent, unreliable, and sometimes unprincipled experts.³¹⁷

A PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE AUCKLAND COMMUNITY

The *Observer's* obituary described Quinlan as 'one of the best known men in Auckland' when he ran the Thistle Hotel.³¹⁸ His enthusiasm for horse racing had continued, and, as before, betting was a key part of his

³¹⁵ Hooley, a millionaire, was bankrupted in the previous year: Eric Partridge, *A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*, 8 ed., ed. Paul Beale (London, 1984), p. 567.

³¹⁶ 'Guinea-pigging' was 'acting as a company-director for the sake of the fee': Partridge, p. 511.

³¹⁷ Advertisement, *Observer*, 2 December 1899, p. 17.

³¹⁸ *Observer*, 20 March 1926, p. 4.

involvement. In 1901, it was rumoured that ‘big Edinburgh Pat’, a reference to his ownership of the Edinburgh Castle, ‘held the pasteboard’, meaning a ticket,³¹⁹ ‘that covered a very big “div” at Alexandra Park, if things had gone all right’.³²⁰ When visiting Auckland in 1923 he had ‘a prominent position on the steward’s stand at Ellerslie races’, and ‘recounted incidents of days past and gone, when he, as a horse owner “did his bit” ’.³²¹

He was aware of gambling frauds. In 1904, according to another of the *Observer*’s many references to him, his ‘little address to the football crowd at Alexandra Park ... let the cobweb-covered public into the know a bit so far as weekday football fixing is concerned’.³²² Presumably the statement that he was ‘taking no more tickets on “brothers” and “sisters” ’³²³ was a reference to fraudulent gambling.

Quinlan also bet on running races, and in 1903 was rumoured to be ‘in training for the next running match for stakes. You can never trust a substitute. It is hard to be sold’.³²⁴ Early in 1906, he claimed ‘the seventeen-stone sprint championship of Auckland’ and was ‘eager to run 100 yards against any one else who can turn the weight’.³²⁵ The following year, he and a rival publican figured in mock ‘Late Advertisements, Mostly Personal’:

CHALLENGE. – I hereby challenge Maurice O’Conner [landlord of the Waverley Hotel]³²⁶ to run me 100 yards on the Domain with bare feet and his boots on. I have this day deposited £100 with myself, being an independent party, as a stakeholder. A reply to this is required before yesterday evening at 10 a.m.... Pat Quinlan.³²⁷

³¹⁹ *Dictionary.com*; *The Free Dictionary* (online).

³²⁰ ‘They Say’, *Observer*, 9 November 1901, p. 7.

³²¹ *Observer*, 28 July 1923, p. 4.

³²² ‘They Say’, *Observer*, 16 July 1904, p. 7; see also cartoon about match-fixing and gambling, p. 13.

³²³ ‘They Say’, *Observer*, 19 November 1904, p. 7.

³²⁴ ‘They Say’, *Observer*, 31 October 1903, p. 7.

³²⁵ *Observer*, 10 February 1906, p. 7.

³²⁶ See *Observer*, 29 November 1902, p. 8, 6 March 1909, p. 5; for cartoon of his bulky form, see *Observer*, 6 February 1904, p. 4.

³²⁷ ‘Late Advertisements, Mostly Personal’, *Observer*, 13 July 1907, p. 18.

As he weighed 17 stone and had a massive girth, as illustrated by all the *Observer's* cartoons,³²⁸ whether he did compete in any races is questionable. However, he was referred to as being a runner in a poem about St Patrick's Day earlier that year.³²⁹ He also retained his interest in boat racing.³³⁰

Quinlan was a particular fan of rugby, one full page in the *Observer* being devoted to his attending an Auckland match. He is shown travelling to the game saying 'Football is my joy', but despairing after his favourite team, City, was defeated by the North Shore.³³¹ Despite his girth, he did participate in games, for in 1903 he was sketched as captain of the Seccombe brewery's team against a rival brewery's team. That he was not a very active player was implied by one sketch, 'Paddy gets a kick at last', portraying him gently prodding the ball with his boot. His large stomach absorbed a tackle when 'Reggy Masefield salutes the captain'.³³² His team played against the Maori Football Association's team the following month.³³³ Two years later, it was reported that he had 'definitely decided not to take his costume football team to the South Sea Islands. He is, however, getting a glass case built for his own costume'.³³⁴ In that year, when he was aged 50, 'the manner in which Paddy Quinlan grounded his ball last Saturday ... created quite a sensation'.³³⁵

Much of his involvement with rugby was to assist charities, as was noted in a series of sketches on prominent Aucklanders published in December 1907:

I once heard Paddy called a philanthropist in his bar at the Khyber Pass corner. "What's that you say," retorted Paddy, "I'm a Filo-what? But I'm not. I don't hold with these free-thought bounders. I'm a good Holy Roman, and if you don't believe it, ask Bishop Lenihan." Anyhow, Paddy has a heart big enough for a philanthropist's any day. Look at the graft he used to put in

³²⁸ For example, cartoons, *Observer*, 29 July 1899, p. 17, 16 December 1899, p. 12, 1 August 1903, p. 16, Christmas Annual 1904, pp. 11, 13, 18 March 1905, p. 16.

³²⁹ *Observer*, 23 March 1907, p. 23.

³³⁰ *Observer*, 7 September 1907, p. 11.

³³¹ 'Paddy Quinlan goes to Football and Doesn't Score a Win', *Observer*, 29 July 1899, p. 17.

³³² 'Sketches at the Molloy-Quinlan Football Match', *Observer*, 1 August 1903, p. 16.

³³³ *Observer*, 5 September 1903, p. 20.

³³⁴ 'They Say', *Observer*, 2 September 1905, p. 7.

³³⁵ 'They Say', *Observer*, 30 September 1905, p. 7.

working up those charity football matches. And not only working them up, because, as a final draw, he didn't hesitate to put back the clock twenty years and don the jersey, at the risk of his life.³³⁶

In 1903, for instance, the takings from several games played by his team went to the Veterans' Home.³³⁷ He organized an annual match for this purpose in subsequent years, the 1904 game being between a Rotorua Maori team and an Auckland one.³³⁸ The following year, when he was 'endeavouring to raise a football team to play the Auckland Reps on their return from Wellington, the proceeds to go towards the charities',³³⁹ he arranged elaborate festivities:

The fancy dress muff football match – with trimmings in the shape of band music and physical drill – comes off at Alexandra Park on Saturday, and the energetic organizer, genial Pat Quinlan, of the Thistle, should have the satisfaction of handing over a fat surplus to the Auckland charities. The football match, which is destined to leave a mark on the history of the province big enough for the students of the future to strike matches on, will be between the men of H.M.S. Phoebe and the Auckland reps., and as the ball will be five feet in diameter, there is likely to be frequent obscurations of the smaller members of the teams. Pat Quinlan guarantees that the ball itself will never be hidden in a scrum. There will be a musical programme by the massed Auckland bands, the German Band will contribute some of their well-known selections, and Professor Potter and his hundred Maori boys will show what can be effected by physical culture.... The gates at Alexandra Park will be opened at 12 noon. The spectators will be treated to a musical programme which will last till a little after 2 p.m., when Professor Potter and his Maori boys will give an exhibition, after which other bands will give a short musical programme. At about 3 p.m. the Veterans in uniform will arrive, and be marched on to the ground by a band, and when they are comfortably seated, the two teams in their fancy dresses will march out on to the ground, led by one of the bands. After the first spell has been played the ground will still be kept clear, while the bands play *en masse* in front of the pavilion. While this is still going on, Professor Potter, with thirty of his best pupils, will go through a performance called "Over the Vaulting Horse."

³³⁶ *Observer*, Christmas Annual 1907, p. 13.

³³⁷ *Observer*, 8 August 1903, p. 7, 28 August 1903, p. 7, 5 September 1903, p. 20.

³³⁸ *New Zealand Herald*, 27 September 1904, p. 4.

³³⁹ *Observer*, 26 August 1905, p. 7.

A Rugby game will then be played. At the conclusion of this, the bands will play *en masse* "God Save the King."³⁴⁰

A 'muff football match' meant one played clumsily or stupidly,³⁴¹ in this case deliberately so, and inevitably so with such a large ball. Afterwards, it was reported that the 'big muff football match and carnival, arranged by that genial entrepreneur Pat Quinlan, was a great success, and the Auckland charities will probably benefit to the extent of over two hundred pounds'.³⁴²

In late 1902, the *Observer* noted his assistance to the survivors of the Elingamite shipwreck. 'They ought to reserve a front seat in Paradise for Pat Quinlan as a reward for the charitable work in which he is constantly engaged. The latest is an Elingamite relief concert'.³⁴³ He advertised 'Quinlan's Concert and Dance in aid of the sufferers of the Elingamite', and managed this event.³⁴⁴ The following month, 'with the largeness of heart for which he is noted', he 'arranged to give another concert and dance at St Benedict's Hall, the dance music being provided by Quinlan's band', to aid the Jubilee Institute for the Blind.³⁴⁵ One year later, the *Observer* considered that 'all honour' was due to him 'for his lively interest in the finances' of this institute. 'Two years ago he undertook to give, with his clever concert party, an annual entertainment in aid of its funds; the first had raised £70, and the second £80 15s 6d. 'This is only one of a great number of movements that have profited in the last few years by the efforts of Mr Quinlan and his musical associates'.³⁴⁶ The following year, this event raised £104, which, with a government subsidy, meant a 'total benefit' of £230.³⁴⁷

In May 1903, his 'disinterested work for some years past in organizing benefit performances in aid of deserving persons and charitable institutions has been fittingly recognized by His Excellency the Governor, who personally attended the concert given in St Benedict's Hall in aid of the

³⁴⁰ *Observer*, 26 August 1905, p. 17.

³⁴¹ Partridge, p. 763.

³⁴² *Observer*, 2 September 1905, p. 16.

³⁴³ *Observer*, 29 November 1902, p. 11.

³⁴⁴ Advertisement, *Observer*, 22 November 1902, p. 23.

³⁴⁵ *Observer*, 6 December 1902, p. 9.

³⁴⁶ *Observer*, 16 January 1904, p. 4.

³⁴⁷ *Observer*, 21 January 1905, p. 5.

Veterans' Home and Association. There was also a large vice-regal party', which showed its appreciation of the 'capital miscellaneous programme' by 'staying on to the end of the concert'.³⁴⁸ The following month, he held a concert and dance for a man who had lost a leg.³⁴⁹ 'Quinlan's Grand Concert' was held in November 1904 'to assist the Stranded Glassblowers home to their wives and families in the Old Country'.³⁵⁰

As these examples illustrate, the *Observer* was right to comment that he was 'a past master in the management of concerts' who 'knows "how to do it" better than all the jam tart patrons of charity',³⁵¹ a reference to the charitable efforts of the upper crust. On one occasion, when reporting another of his events, it asked why 'the organizers of the Fete that flopped' had not consulted him beforehand.³⁵²

In addition to this assistance to various charities, 'as a devout Roman Catholic, he was well-known for his generous financial support for his church'.³⁵³

Quinlan's 'amiable' behaviour was often linked to his Irish heritage, a source of amusement to some. A mock advertisement in 1907 had him challenging 'the black-hearted scoundrel who yesterday came into my bar and called me an Irishman to come back and repeat that same remark, as he is known. If he doesn't come back, I will put the police on his track to find out who he is. – Pat Quinlan'.³⁵⁴ Five months later, the *Observer*, in explaining the trouble over a promissory note he gave to Swan's brewery, described him as 'not a gentleman who can be lightly looked upon' and 'a practical exponent of the fact that an Englishman's – or Irishman's – home is his castle'. Because of a muddle, the note was not honoured, and 'the principal party ... took the extreme step of invading Patrick's sanctuary' with bailiffs.

Patrick, having an Irishman's love of independence, promptly retaliated by having the principal party up in the Supreme Court for wrongful trespass. "Bedad and begorrah and acushla!" said Pat, 'those Sassenach shpalpeens will have to pay for their

³⁴⁸ *Observer*, 30 May 1903, p. 5.

³⁴⁹ *Observer*, 27 June 1903, p. 20.

³⁵⁰ *Observer*, 5 November 1904, p. 9.

³⁵¹ *Observer*, 24 December 1904, p. 17, 5 August 1905, p. 7.

³⁵² *Observer*, 26 August 1905, p. 7.

³⁵³ *New Zealand Herald*, 13 March 1926, p. 12.

³⁵⁴ 'Late Advertisements, Mostly Personal', *Observer*, 13 July 1907, p. 18.

temerity.” And they had to pay. Pat, with virtuous indignation oozing from every pore, took his stand in the witness-box and related his woes in a manner that would have melted the most case hardened juryman to tears. Finally, Pat got damages to the tune of £250, and, since then, he has been going about with a smile on his face that is guaranteed to soften the hardest Sassenach. Pat believes in Home Rule – especially where hotels are concerned.³⁵⁵

In 1907, it was commented that he was ‘very cosmopolitan in choice of colour, decorating his house’, meaning his hotel, ‘with green, yellow, a Scotch thistle, and a Union Jack’.³⁵⁶ But on every St Patrick’s Day he ‘bedecked himself in green’.³⁵⁷

His size was often commented on. For instance, in 1898, ‘one could not see the ponies at the Agricultural Show last Saturday for Paddy Quinlan. They carried him like a cork through a barrel’.³⁵⁸ Six years later, his ‘successful attempt to get between the limbs of the grand stand sitters was a tight push’.³⁵⁹ At the end of that year, he was sketched floating in the City Baths with most of his body below the water level. When a man described him as ‘a fine figure of a man’, he responded, ‘Yes, indade, and, as Dick Seddon says, there’s more of me than appears on the surface’.³⁶⁰ Three months later, ‘The Great Wrestling Match at Alexandra Park’ showed him squashing his opponent.³⁶¹ In 1906, in a jocular article about ‘Auckland Devastated by an Earthquake: Heart-Rending Scenes’, when a tidal wave submerged the lower part of the city Quinlan ‘acted as a float, and was instrumental in saving the lives of many people’.³⁶² The same joke was re-used the following year, in a poem about the King’s Birthday Celebrations:

As no one would tread on Pat Quinlan’s coat
 (’Twas far too hot
 so they’d rather not)
 So Pat in the harbour he did a float,

³⁵⁵ *Observer*, 7 December 1907, p. 4.

³⁵⁶ ‘They Say’, *Observer*, 13 April 1907, p. 7.

³⁵⁷ *Observer*, 28 July 1923, p. 4.

³⁵⁸ *Observer*, 19 November 1898, p. 3.

³⁵⁹ ‘They Say’, *Observer*, 13 August 1904, p. 7.

³⁶⁰ Cartoon, *Observer*, Christmas Annual 1904, p. 11.

³⁶¹ Cartoon, *Observer*, 18 March 1905, p. 16.

³⁶² *Observer*, 29 September 1906, p. 18.

And the sirens they blew with a loud, loud blast,
 And so did the skippers who wanted past.
 For Pat blocked the harbour – he anchored, fast –
Stuck fast.³⁶³

His large beard featured prominently in all the sketches of him. Allegedly, in 1905 he ‘challenged Billy Richardson to a beard-shaving competition.³⁶⁴ The one who passes a policeman safely after the operation is to take the prize’.³⁶⁵

In 1906, it was reported in Paeroa, where he was ‘well-known’, that he had been killed in a tramcar accident.³⁶⁶ When this report was denied, the local newspaper wondered whether it was a practical joke.³⁶⁷ The *Observer*, commenting on this report that ‘our own and only’ Paddy Quinlan had died, wrote that ‘Patrick prides himself upon his ability to wipe out an insult with neatness and despatch. Also, he has a happy knack of getting up a benefit concert to pay for the victim’s funeral’.³⁶⁸ It claimed that he ‘went to draw his insurance money when he heard he was dead, but the company refused to cash up, on the ground of insufficient proof of decease’.³⁶⁹

A FORAY INTO POLITICS

Quinlan’s support for the Liberal Party was illustrated by his signing the address presented to Sir George Grey to celebrate his seventy-fourth birthday.³⁷⁰ His personality worked against him when he announced, in 1899, that he would stand for parliament, for the *Observer* noted that it was ‘rather a difficult matter for the public generally, and his friends in particular, to take’ his candidature ‘seriously’, for he was ‘a notorious

³⁶³ *Observer*, 16 November 1907, p. 23.

³⁶⁴ For Richardson’s luxurious beard, see photographs in *Observer*, 9 December 1905, p. 5, 14 November 1908, p. 30.

³⁶⁵ ‘They Say’, *Observer*, 2 September 1905, p. 7.

³⁶⁶ *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 14 November 1906, p. 3.

³⁶⁷ *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 14 November 1906, p. 2.

³⁶⁸ *Observer*, 24 November 1906, p. 16.

³⁶⁹ *Observer*, 24 November 1906, p. 7.

³⁷⁰ ‘Addresses Presented to Sir George Grey on his 74th Birthday, 14 April 1886, by European and Maori Residents of Auckland Province, p. 191, Grey New Zealand Papers, MS 275, Auckland Public Library.

practical joker' whose 'ready wit has saved him on more than one occasion'.³⁷¹ Undeterred, he stood for the City of Auckland electorate, which had three seats in parliament, as 'a staunch supporter of the present Government' and pledging himself 'to do the greatest good to the greatest number'.³⁷² In a later, and very detailed, advertisement, he claimed to have been requested to stand by 'a large and influential section of the Electors'. He pledged to 'accord a firm and consistent support to the existing Government, but would reserve to myself the liberty to vote for any measure (not being a party question) calculated to produce the greatest good for the greatest number'. Recognizing that a parliamentarian was 'in every sense of the word a public servant', he 'would accordingly be guided to a great extent by the voice of the people, and would therefore be inclined to support measures adopted by them even at the expense of my own political opinions'. He wanted railways to open up 'the King Country, the Far North, and other districts for early occupation', all large estates 'suitable for close settlement' should be broken up, and small blocks close to towns should be provided for workers. He wanted to modify the old age pensions scheme 'somewhat' and to impose a graduated income tax to meet its cost. His proposals to aid the mining industry were his most detailed policies (as outlined in the earlier section on the mining boom). He wanted reforestation 'with suitable trees', Imperial penny postage, and federation with the Australian colonies, 'believing firmly as I do in the principle of reciprocity, which I consider would prove of incalculable value to us as a community'.

I would favour the introduction of a Bill to bring under control what are under existing laws UNCONTROLLABLE MONOPOLIES, which presently threaten to sap and drain the energy and vitality of our colony in its youth, and to this end would favour any measure which would enable all workers to CO-OPERATE for their mutual benefit and protection.

Which presumably meant he supported trade unions. 'Speaking generally', he supported all the government's labour laws, and

any and every measure calculated to raise the character and status of the worker, in order to assist employer and employee to pull together in unison and harmony; but I would at the same

³⁷¹ *Observer*, 5 August 1899, p. 7.

³⁷² Advertisement, *Observer*, 11 November 1899, p. 3.

time set my face like a flint against all intemperate agitators, who, by their methods, set labour against capital, man against man, class against class.

He wanted 'to cheapen and simplify the transfer of property and legal work generally, and so reduce and minimise as far as possible, the present absurd and ruinous charges'. An unspecified 'alteration' of the gambling laws was sought. He 'would lay the line, and measure out even justice equally to all, without respect for colour or quality'. Education was the solution to drunkenness and immorality.

I am in favour of any and every DENOMINATION who will educate 75 scholars under one roof receiving half the present CAPITATION MONEY, and would have such schools examined by the GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS, so that those attending would participate in the same advantages as those educated in our PUBLIC SCHOOLS because I am fully persuaded that no education, however high, however polished, can be truly beneficial and enduring throughout the battle of life which is not firmly grounded on the first principles of CHRISTIAN Ethics.

Government technical schools were fundamental to becoming 'a successful manufacturing country'. He concluded with a modest flourish:

As I do not pretend for a single moment to be an orator, but simply a thinker and worker, I have laid my opinions thus plainly and fearlessly before you.

Those who believe in my views will, I trust, accord me their support; those who do not are welcome to plump for a man with better.

In closing, I beg to remind you that I am a native of New Zealand, with a large and varied experience, and am intimately acquainted with the wants and requirements of all classes, both in town and country, and so, being a native of this democratic colony, where it is the duty and privilege of every man – no matter what his position in life may be – to qualify himself for and aspire to the highest position in the State, I therefore make no apology for requesting your cordial and generous support at the coming poll.

Should you thus favour me with your confidence, I can assure you that I will do my utmost in your best interests, so that I shall be enabled at the close of my term to render you a true, faithful, and satisfactory account of my stewardship.³⁷³

³⁷³ Advertisements, *Observer*, 2 December 1899, p. 17, *New Zealand Herald*, 2 December 1899, p. 3.

A commentator described him as a ‘Liberal with Qualifications’, who in effect was ‘a straight-out Seddonite, only, the Premier has not, so far, endorsed his candidature’.³⁷⁴ Nor could Seddon endorse him against his own party’s candidates. ‘It was thought at first’ that he ‘was not sincere in his candidature’, the *Observer* commented, but he had ‘settled any doubts on this point by his nomination and by the issue of an excellent address’. He claimed to have ‘a strong following’.³⁷⁵ The *New Zealand Herald* mocked him for believing that ‘the people of Auckland are trembling in their shoes lest they should be deprived of the opportunity of conferring upon themselves the unique distinction of electing him’. It claimed not to know him, ‘and we fancy our ignorance is shared by the vast majority of the electors’.³⁷⁶ This sneer brought a response from one elector, who praised Quinlan’s ‘manly, open, straightforward, and thoroughly intelligible profession of faith’, which read ‘like the manifesto of an honest man’. Catholics should support him because he wanted state aid for their schools.³⁷⁷

Of the 11 candidates, Quinlan received the lowest number of votes.³⁷⁸ He obtained 334 votes, the next lowest candidate receiving 1,368; those elected received 6,097, 5,595, and 4,751.³⁷⁹ Before the campaign started the *Observer*, surely in jest, quoted Quinlan as expecting ‘to be returned to Parliament by the Orangeman’s vote’.³⁸⁰ Its cartoon of the electoral race as a horse race showed him left at the starting post on ‘Orangeman’.³⁸¹ It claimed that people believed that he ‘might have won his seat if the OBSERVER hadn’t christened his moke “Orangeman” ’.³⁸² As a moke is a

³⁷⁴ *Observer*, 2 December 1899, p. 16.

³⁷⁵ *Observer*, 9 December 1899, p. 3.

³⁷⁶ Editorial, *New Zealand Herald*, 2 December 1899, p. 4.

³⁷⁷ Letter from R.H. Bakewell, *New Zealand Herald*, 4 December 1899, p. 6.

³⁷⁸ For cartoons of the outcome, see *Observer*, 9 December 1899, pp. 12-13, 16 December 1899, p. 12.

³⁷⁹ *New Zealand Herald*, 12 December 1899, p. 6.

³⁸⁰ *Observer*, 21 October 1899, p. 3.

³⁸¹ Cartoon, *Observer*, 9 December 1899, pp. 12-13.

³⁸² ‘They Say’, *Observer*, 16 December 1899, p. 3.

donkey,³⁸³ clearly this was not a serious comment. Quinlan did so badly that he forfeited his deposit of £10.³⁸⁴

Only two men nominated Quinlan, a blacksmith and a gunsmith, neither of any prominence.³⁸⁵ Unlike his rivals, he made no speeches. Speeches made by others ignored him, but the *Observer* reported a 'city publican' giving him 'a bad time of it' at one meeting,³⁸⁶ presumably in a question or questions to one candidate. Three months later, there was a rumour that he might stand for a vacant Auckland seat,³⁸⁷ but this may have been another attempt at humour by the *Observer*. An apparent interest in local government was suggested by an alleged rumour in December 1906 that he would 'abandon hotel-keeping, and take up the post of chief adviser to' the mayor of Auckland. 'Duties to start on 31st February next',³⁸⁸ an impossible date implying another *Observer* jest.

FARMING AT TAIHOA, NEAR MATAMATA

In 1907, Quinlan won 221 acres in the first ballot for land at Mangawhero Settlement,³⁸⁹ later known as Taihoa,³⁹⁰ and the following year erected a homestead.³⁹¹ Which may help to explain a now-mysterious advertisement, published in March 1908, when he was in his last months as licensee of the Thistle Hotel:

URGENT TELEGRAM:

³⁸³ *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, 5 ed. (Oxford, 1964), p. 779.

³⁸⁴ *Observer*, 13 January 1900, p. 24.

³⁸⁵ *New Zealand Herald*, 30 November 1899, p. 5.

³⁸⁶ *Observer*, 16 December 1899, p. 9.

³⁸⁷ *Observer*, 24 March 1900, p. 9.

³⁸⁸ 'They Say', *Observer*, 15 December 1906, p. 7.

³⁸⁹ For details of its establishment and early days, see *Matamata Looking Back: A glimpse of Matamata and its history*, ed. Joan and David Stanley, Jean Williams, Mary Grover (Matamata, 1994), pp. 50-51.

³⁹⁰ For its change of name, which was not official until 1947, see *Taihoa School and District 75th Jubilee, 1986* (1986), p. 48.

³⁹¹ M. and R. Grover, *Matamata Yesterdays* (Matamata, 1992), p. 6, including photograph of the homestead.

PAT QUINLAN,
 THISTLE HOTEL:
 I will give you Eighteen Pounds for
 Eight Pigs on your Farm. –
 TETLEY,
 Butcher, Matamata.

REPLY:

Too low. I will take Twenty-five
 Pounds, and I will give you One
 Hogshead of Dunedin Beer in.

PAT QUINLAN.
 Thistle Hotel.³⁹²

In 1909, the council recorded that this land, Section 14 Block VII Tapapa,³⁹³ owned jointly with his eldest son, had a rateable value of £580. They owned another 565 acres of poorer land, Section 125 Block II Tapapa, rateable value £98.³⁹⁴ Part of the adjoining Section 15 was purchased by his two eldest sons and was farmed in conjunction with Section 14.³⁹⁵ In 1912, the *Observer* reported on his latest endeavour:

Pat Quinlan, who gave up the arduous job of supplying thirsts and providing bed and board at the Thistle some while ago, and took on the rural life at Matamata, dropped into this office the other day just to say that he preferred looking after cows and sheep any time to providing for the casual guest. Having been away from the city for years, he said he found it fast, especially the motor cars, and decides that the country as an abiding place can give points and a beating to the town – there is no corn here, no lucerne, no wheat to watch growing, and the dairy factory is not handy enough. He reckons the farm is a safer proposition than the pub these days, and much more healthful. Pat's opinion is that Auckland is growing, and that its growth is due to its marvellous back country, particularly the Waikato, and that Matamata deserves special mention.³⁹⁶

³⁹² Advertisement, *Observer*, 14 March 1908, p. 8.

³⁹³ For map of the original settlement, see *Taihoa School*, p. 9, where Quinlan becomes 'Quin'; for modern redrawing of it, see *Taihoa Tales: Local folk tales by local folk*, ed. F.J. Williams (Matamata, 1992), frontispiece.

³⁹⁴ Matamata County Council, Rate Book 1909, Matamata Riding, no. 175; Patetere Riding, no. 339, in private possession.

³⁹⁵ Grover, p. 6.

³⁹⁶ *Observer*, 4 May 1912, p. 4.

He sent his cream to dairy companies in Hamilton and Te Aroha.³⁹⁷ Then, in July 1916, he sold all his dairy cattle and some other animals because two of his sons were fighting in the war ‘and having seventy cows and heifers calving this season he has decided to sell all the cows and keep the heifers’.³⁹⁸ When he visited in Auckland in 1923, ‘cheerily meeting his old-time friends’, the *Observer* reported that ‘Paddy’s one time flowing beard of black is now shorn to a frosty point, for obvious reasons – being a dairy farmer he found it extremely awkward when the cow trod on his bushy encumbrance’.³⁹⁹ By his seventies, he had retired from farming.⁴⁰⁰

As might be expected, Quinlan was a prominent settler. ‘Extensive grounds, consisting of attractive gardens and tennis court, were laid out’ around the homestead, named ‘Eddingwood’, which ‘was the scene of much entertaining by the Quinlan family’.⁴⁰¹ A woman who in 1992 recalled her early life at Taihoa mentioned listening to him

playing his piccolo in the evening. He was our neighbour and the music drifted in the still air across the paddocks. He was fond of children and taught me how to hold the reins and how to place my feet in the stirrups if I met him while riding my pony into town – the only time I every used a saddle.⁴⁰²

At a 1911 meeting held to make arrangements to erect the Mangawhero Hall, Quinlan moved several motions and was elected to the hall committee.⁴⁰³ In 1916, he was described as ‘the well-known Matamata settler and former president of the Matamata A & P Association’, formed in 1911.⁴⁰⁴ ‘A keen sportsman’, he became ‘a leading light’ in and first president of the Matamata Racing Club; ‘ever optimistic, he piloted the club

³⁹⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 5 September 1911, p. 2.

³⁹⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 14 July 1916, p. 4.

³⁹⁹ *Observer*, 23 July 1923, p. 4.

⁴⁰⁰ Waihi Hospital, Register of Patients 1924-1926, folio 45, no. 320, ZABW 4935/2c, ANZ-A.

⁴⁰¹ Grover, p. 6.

⁴⁰² Eileen Handley, ‘Funerals, Piccolos and Rockets’, *Taihoa Tales*, p. 45.

⁴⁰³ Facsimile of minutes of meeting of 9 August 1911, printed in *Taihoa School*, pp. 13-14.

⁴⁰⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 17 July 1916, p. 21 ; Joan Stanley, *Matamata: Growth of a town 1885-1985* (Matamata, 1985), p. 21.

through its initial trials' to its later 'more prosperous totalisator days'.⁴⁰⁵ Having 'entered heart and soul' into this position, he and Joseph Price⁴⁰⁶ 'were instrumental in guiding the club through hard times and ultimately securing a totalisator permit'.⁴⁰⁷ In 1923 he was referred to as 'the ever popular president' of the club, who was 'proud of his good work in procuring a permit' for it to race at Ellerslie.⁴⁰⁸

FAMILY

In 1877, at the age of 23, Quinlan married Mary Baskiville in a Catholic ceremony at Howick; a farmer's daughter, she was one year older.⁴⁰⁹ Her father, Walter, a fencible, had been one of the first settlers at Panmure, where she was born in 1853. Their marriage was the result of 'a schooldays' friendship'.⁴¹⁰ Anna Mary, their first child, was born in 1878.⁴¹¹ Walter Patrick, whose first name was that of his maternal grandfather, was born in 1880, but died aged two after fighting bronchitis for two weeks.⁴¹² All their children born at Te Aroha arrived with remarkable regularity at similar times of the year. Henry William in April 1882, Joseph Francis in March 1884, Agnes Evelyn Maud in March 1886, and George Ambrose in April 1888.⁴¹³ The children's attendance at the Te Aroha school was erratic at best, presumably because of illness.⁴¹⁴ Claude Patrick would be born in

⁴⁰⁵ *Observer*, 28 July 1923, p. 4, 20 March 1926, p. 4; *Te Aroha News*, 15 March 1924, p. 4; *New Zealand Herald*, 13 March 1926, p. 12.

⁴⁰⁶ See Stanley, pp. 25, 28, 102-103.

⁴⁰⁷ *Morrinsville Star*, 12 March 1926, p. 3.

⁴⁰⁸ *Truth*, 24 March 1923, p. 9, 9 June 1923, p. 11.

⁴⁰⁹ Notices of Intentions to Marry 1877, folio 132, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/22, ANZ-W; Marriage Certificate of Patrick Quinlan, 30 October 1877, 1877/2312, BDM.

⁴¹⁰ *Matamata Record*, 20 September 1923, p. 2.

⁴¹¹ Birth Certificate of Anna Mary Quinlan, 1878/18153, BDM.

⁴¹² Birth Certificate of Walter Patrick Quinlan, 1880/7831; Death Certificate of Walter Quinlan, 6 August 1882, 1882/3422, BDM.

⁴¹³ Birth Certificates of Henry William Quinlan, 28 April 1882, 1882/5967; Joseph Francis Quinlan, 23 March 1884, 1884/11609; Agnes Evelyn Maud Quinlan, 14 March 1886, 1886/5903; George Ambrose Quinlan, 30 April 1888, 1888/12168, BDM.

⁴¹⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 21 February 1885, p. 2, 4 July 1885, p. 2, 13 March 1886, p. 7.

1890, John Cuthbert in 1892, and Kathleen in 1893.⁴¹⁵ George was to die during the First World War as a member of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, a loss that ‘devastated’ his father.⁴¹⁶

DEATHS

In September 1923, Mary, who had been suffering from a bad heart for an unrecorded length of time, died, aged 69, within half an hour of cardiac arrest.⁴¹⁷ She ‘was out in the grounds surrounding the house when she suddenly sank to the ground and expired almost immediately’, just being able to say ‘a few words to her partner of 46 years’ standing’.⁴¹⁸ Two months previously, when Quinlan visited old friends in Auckland, they had found him to be ‘evergreen’, but after her death he was in poor health.⁴¹⁹ His brother William died in August 1925.⁴²⁰ Early in January 1926, aged 71, Quinlan was admitted to Waihi hospital suffering from myocarditis, an inflammation of the muscular wall of the heart.⁴²¹ He had gone to live with one of his daughters, but not long after moving there ‘a breakdown occurred’.⁴²² He died in hospital three months later from this complaint, having just turned 72; his final illness lasted six months.⁴²³ As neither he nor his wife left wills, his financial state is unknown, but descendants understand that he ‘died poor’.⁴²⁴

RECOLLECTED FAVOURABLY

⁴¹⁵ Birth Certificates of Claude Patrick Quinlan, 1890/5519; John Cuthbert Quinlan, 1892/5166; Kathleen Quinton, 1893/16721, BDM; *Observer*, 20 March 1926, p. 4.

⁴¹⁶ Death Certificate of George Ambrose Quinlan, 1918/79221, BDM; *New Zealand Herald*, 13 March 1926, p. 12; Tom Ryan, ‘Paddy Quinlan – some rough notes’, 15 December 2005.

⁴¹⁷ Death Certificate of Mary Quinlan, 16 September 1923, 1923/8058, BDM.

⁴¹⁸ *Matamata Record*, 17 September 1923, p. 3, 20 September 1923, p. 2.

⁴¹⁹ *Observer*, 28 July 1923, p. 4; *Morrinsville Star*, 12 March 1926, p. 3.

⁴²⁰ Death Certificate of William Quinlan, 1925/3232, BDM; *Auckland Star*, 8 August 1925, p. 10.

⁴²¹ Waihi Hospital, Register of Patients 1924-1926, folio 45, no. 320, ZABW 4935/2c, ANZ-A; *Black’s Medical Dictionary*, 36 ed., ed. C.W.H. Havard (London, 1990), p. 470.

⁴²² *Matamata Record*, 11 March 1926, p. 4.

⁴²³ Death Certificate of Patrick Quinlan, 10 March 1926, 1926/11762, BDM.

⁴²⁴ Ryan, ‘Paddy Quinlan’.

Mary Quinlan's death, the Matamata newspaper recorded, 'removed a kindly soul who, with her husband and family, was respected throughout the province'. As host and hostess of the British Hotel at Te Aroha 'they became known far and wide. Their kindnesses in their place are spoken of by many old-timers to this day'. When Quinlan became a farmer, his wife gave him 'every assistance in the making of what is now one of the best homes in the district.... Open house was the order of the day at the Quinlan homestead at Taihoa and no good cause was turned down. A good wife and mother and a sterling friend – that was the late Mrs Quinlan'. An 'exceptionally large' attendance at her funeral and the many 'floral emblems were a striking tribute'.⁴²⁵

Despite Quinlan's health fading in his last years, 'he kept his genial disposition until the last', according to the Matamata newspaper. It believed 'the whole of the people of Matamata and a large circle of friends in the Auckland province' would 'regret to learn of' his death, for he was

a remarkable man in many ways. He had a great heart, was courageous in everything he tackled and was a firm friend. Once he became interested in a project he entered heart and soul into it.... He was optimistic – perhaps too much so – but enthusiasm radiated from him. He was also quick to grasp opportunities....

He will be remembered by many for his action in "fighting the brewers." While in Auckland he was constantly the friend of the poor and his charitable actions earned him esteem throughout the province.

Some 17 years ago Mr Quinlan took up a block of land at Taihoa, near Matamata, and from the moment he took possession he commenced to make his presence felt in the district. Mr Quinlan was a deeply-religious man and his work for the church – he was a strong Roman Catholic – is renowned.⁴²⁶

His 'wide popularity' was 'well exemplified' by the large attendance at his funeral despite the 'very large school picnic at Rorotua'. The 'large and representative' attendance included many children.⁴²⁷ The *Observer*, which had written so much about him during his later years in Auckland, wrote an obituary that both summarized his life and assessed his personality:

⁴²⁵ *Matamata Record*, 20 September 1923, p. 2.

⁴²⁶ *Matamata Record*, 11 March 1926, p. 4; reprinted in *Morrinsville Star*, 12 March 1926, p. 3.

⁴²⁷ *Matamata Record*, 15 March 1926, p. 4.

A more or less turbulent spirit is now at rest. Paddy Quinlan was an Irishman, tall and dark and one of the most handsome men who ever trod the streets of Auckland, aye, and one of the bravest, even if he was quick tempered and had the true Irishman's love for a fight. Paddy was generous and open-handed to a fault and he was foremost in assisting in all charitable works, particularly if there was a bit of sport about an effort to raise money.⁴²⁸

CONCLUSION

Quinlan was, undoubtedly, a real 'character', and one of the most colourful people to live at Te Aroha and Auckland. He was justly very popular, both for his personality and his work for charity. A great self-publicist, he ensured that his hotels were well known, and his boosting of his football teams and other activities made him one of the most prominent men in Auckland. He was beloved of the *Observer* for his girth, his personality, and his genuinely kind nature.

Appendix

Figure 1: 'Blo' [William Blomfield], 'Paddy Quinlan goes to Football and Doesn't Score a Win', *Observer*, 29 July 1899, p. 17.

Figure 2: 'Sketches at the Molloy-Quinlan Football Match', *Observer*, 1 August 1903, p. 16.

Figure 3: 'Is It a Tied House?', *Observer*, 12 December 1903, p. 5.

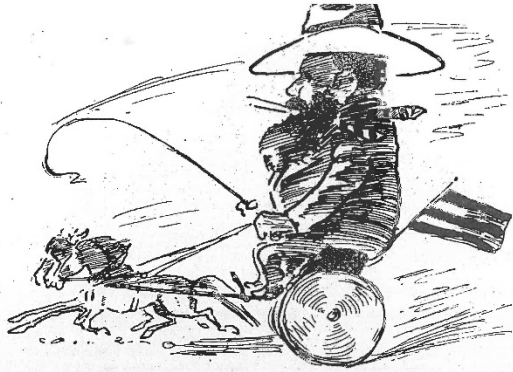
Figure 4: 'Blo', 'At the City Baths', *Observer*, Christmas Annual 1904, p. 11.

Figure 5: 'Q is for Quinlan, most charitable Paddy,
In striped football "togs," begad he's a laddie',
in 'Blo', 'Our Christmas Pictorial Alphabet', *Observer*, Christmas Annual 1904, p. 13.

⁴²⁸ *Observer*, 20 March 1926, p. 4.

*Figure 6: 'Blo', 'The Great Wrestling Match at Alexandra Park',
Observer, 18 March 1905, p. 16.*

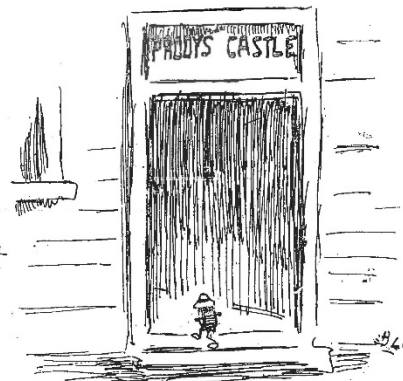
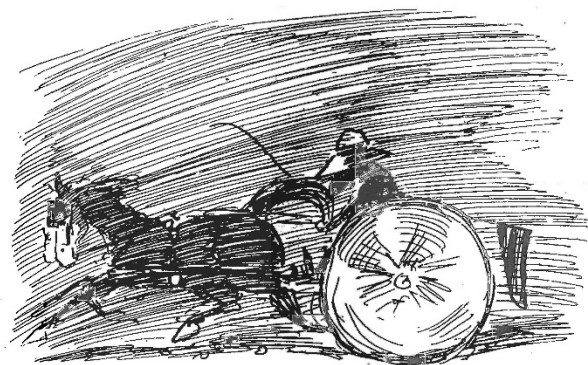
*Figure 7: 'How Captain Patrick Quinlan Won His Freedom!'
[advertisement], Observer, Christmas Annual 1907, p. ix.*



'Football is my joy,' says Paddy, 'and City is the most joyful of all. Get up, my beauties; we must not miss a good stand seat. Ah! that's good. City opens up well. North Shore's days are numbered.'



'Hurrah! Fagh-a-ballagh! Erin-go-bragh! A try for City, and Creagh kicked a goal. (Half time.) You'd better go home, Shore, while you can. What's that? A goal for the Shore? What are you doing, City? Rally around, or you'll only just beat them.'



'All over, and the Shore have won, and I've wasted a good afternoon on that silly game football. Bah! Home again. While I live I'll never encourage football. It's a brutal game, eh? Oh! for Parliament and brains.'

PADDY QUINLAN GOES TO FOOTBALL AND DOESN'T SCORE A WIN.

Figure 1: 'Blo' [William Blomfield], 'Paddy Quinlan goes to Football and Doesn't Score a Win', *Observer*, 29 July 1899, p. 17.



SKETCHES AT THE MOLLOY-QUINLAN FOOTBALL MATCH.

Figure 2: 'Sketches at the Molloy-Quinlan Football Match', *Observer*, 1 August 1903, p. 16.



Figure 3: 'Is It a Tied House?', *Observer*, 12 December 1903, p. 5.



AT THE CITY BATHS.

John Wisdom (springing off): You're a fine figure of a man, Paddy.

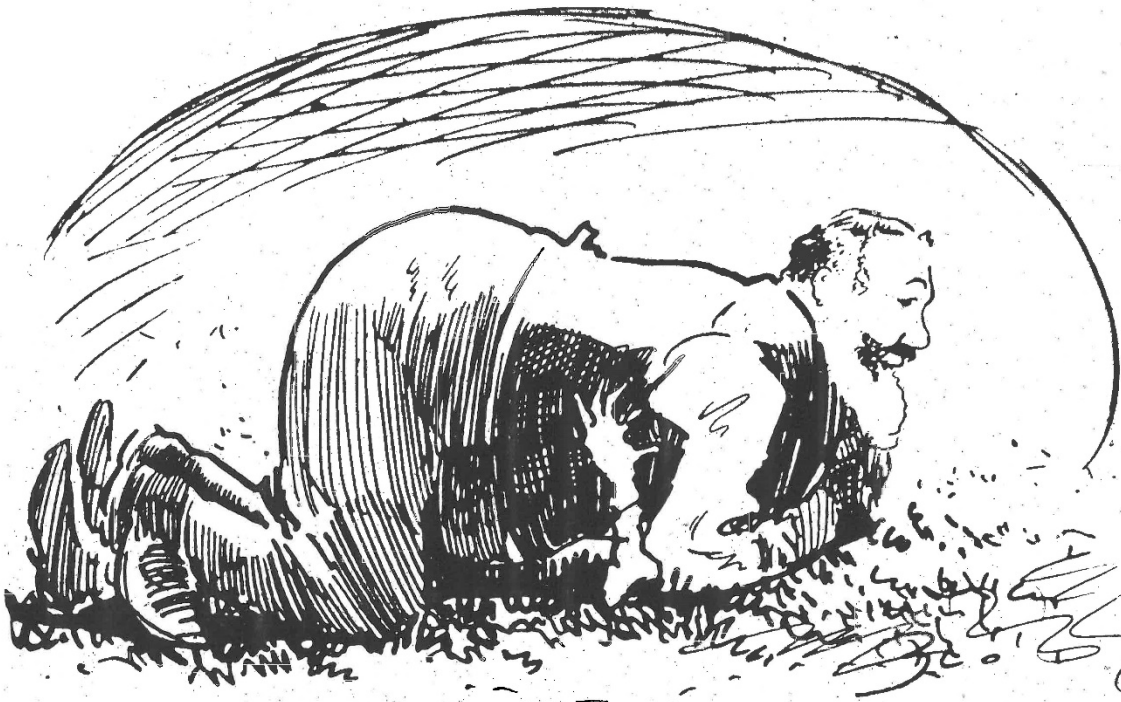
Paddy Quinlan (doing the float): Yes, indade, and, as Dick Seddon says, there's more of me than appears on the surface.

Figure 4: 'Blo', 'At the City Baths', *Observer*, Christmas Annual 1904, p. 11.



Q is for Quinlan, most charitable
 Paddy,
 In striped football "togs," begad he's
 a laddie.

*Figure 5: 'Q is for Quinlan, most charitable Paddy,
 In striped football "togs," begad he's a laddie',
 in 'Blo', 'Our Christmas Pictorial Alphabet', Observer, Christmas Annual 1904,
 p. 13.*



*THE GREAT WRESTLING MATCH AT ALEXANDRA PARK.
 Paddy Quinlan v. the Walking Bike Advertisement.
 Paddy gets a fall in his favour. The advertisement is being pasted to the
 grass.*

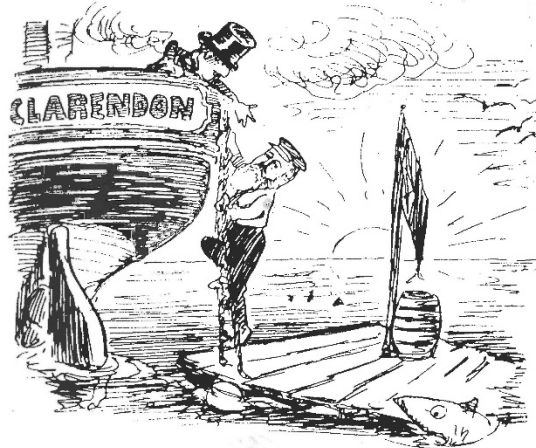
Figure 6: 'Blo', 'The Great Wrestling Match at Alexandra Park', *Observer*, 18 March 1905, p. 16.

HOW Captain Patrick Quinlan Won His Freedom!



THE EDINBURGH CASTLE was,
A vessel most complete,
That traded far o'er many a bar,
With cargo rich and sweet.
For years Pat Quinlan had command,
And strode the quarterdeck,
But one fine day, 'tis sad to say,
The skipper had a wreck.
With subtle craft, all round the raft,
Where Paddy stood alone,
The sharks came nigh, with arts to try
And claim him as their own.

It was the steamer CLARENDON
Picked Patrick up again,
He took his stand in proud command,
Ahis! it was in vain.
The CLARENDON burnt too much coal
When steaming on her way,
And Captain Pat soon noticed that
The vessel didn't pay.
Said he, "Bedad - well I've been bad,
"With owners hard I groan,
"But now, you bet, a ship I'll get
"That I can call my own!"



Now Patrick has a vessel neat,
The TRINITY is her name,
She's trim and bright in green and white,
And well she's known to fame.
The vessel's free, the skipper's free,
And all is free about her;
We wonder now exactly how
We did so long without her.
So make a trip to Paddy's ship,
'Tis welcome you will be—
Remember that brave Captain Pat
Sells cheap because he's free.



Now Captain Pat. wishes to draw your
attention to the Cargo of which the
following is the Manifest:—

HENNESSY'S THREE STAR, 7s 6D
ONE STAR, 5s 9D
BOOMERANG, 4s 6D
J. D.K.Z. GIN, 4s
OLD TOM, 4s 6D
DRY GIN, 3s 9D
SILVER STAR GIN, 3s 9D

WOLFE'S SCHNAPPS, 4s 6D
BEUCKER'S SCHNAPPS, 4s
CRAWFORD'S WHISKY, 5s
USHER'S 4s 6D
BUCHANAN'S 4s 6D
ROBERTSON'S 5s
BLACK & WHITE, 5s 6D

GAELIC, 4s 6D
JAMIESON'S IRISH WHISKY, 5s
CRAIG'S CLUB, 4s
D.C.L., 4s 9D
WATSON'S, 4s 6D
PROVOST, 3s 9D
TAYLOR'S THREE STAR, 3s 9D

Figure 7: 'How Captain Patrick Quinlan Won His Freedom!' [advertisement], *Observer*, Christmas Annual 1907, p. ix.