

THE GOLDSWORTHY BROTHERS (AND JAMES GRIBBLE, A
BROTHER-IN-LAW): PROMINENT HAURAKI MINERS

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Abstract: *This paper gives a basically chronological account of the lives of five prominent miners, all born into mining families. Most began their mining on the Thames field, becoming mine managers and even company directors. Some were involved with the Te Aroha rush, and all worked on the Waiorongomai field. They would mine throughout most of Hauraki into the early twentieth century, usually separately from their brothers or brother-in-law but sometimes with the latter. Because of their positions, most opposed the miners' union's desire for increased wages. Their personal finances were usually comfortable, although as this could not be guaranteed four out of the five also farmed to a greater or lesser extent. In their earlier days most were active sportsmen, but in the long term mining affected their health, one dying of miners' complaint as a direct consequence of his chosen career.*

THE GOLDSWORTHY FAMILY'S FIRST YEARS IN NEW ZEALAND

John Goldsworthy, a farmer at Matakana, a coastal district near Warkworth,¹ died in 1865, aged 55, 'after a short but painful illness'.² His death 'had been most unexpected; he had gone to see his son, who was suffering from fever, he caught the disease, and succumbed to it in a few days'.³ He was recalled as being 'one of the oldest of Auckland's settlers', having arrived with his family 'under the auspices of the New Zealand Company in 1840'.⁴ (According to an obituary of one of his daughters, they had arrived in 1839.)⁵ Born in Redruth, Cornwall, where he had been a miner, he worked with his eldest son on the copper lodes of Kawau and

¹ For a description of Matakana from 1859 onwards, see Harry Bioletti, *Warkworth Roundabout* (Warkworth, 1991), pp. 130-131.

² Death Certificate of John Goldsworthy, 9 March 1865, 1865/2752, BDM; Death Notice, *Daily Southern Cross*, 11 March 1865, p. 4.

³ *Weekly Argus*, 18 March 1865, reprinted in *Wellington Independent*, 30 March 1865, p. 3.

⁴ *Colonist*, 31 March 1865, p. 3; *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 493; *New Zealand Herald*, 2 November 1922, p. 8.

⁵ *Auckland Weekly News*, 21 November 1901, p. 36.

Great Barrier Islands, the latter belonging to this company.⁶ Few details have survived of this mining.⁷ In 1845, when he gave his occupation as a miner, he owned two wooden houses in Official Bay, Auckland, occupied by others.⁸ In 1852, with his son John, he was on the Bendigo goldfield in Victoria, Australia, spending ‘a year or two’ there before returning to farm at Mullet Point, near present-day Snells Beach.⁹

His first wife, Elizabeth Richards,¹⁰ was the mother of his children. After her death in 1855, aged 40,¹¹ he married a widow and shopkeeper, Jane James, in 1863.¹² The daughter of a Cornish miner, at the age of 20 she had married Joseph James, by whom she had a son, Joseph; after coming to New Zealand she married John when they were both aged 47. After his death, she married James Williams, dying on her son’s farm at Te Aroha West in 1895, aged 78.¹³ An obituary described her as ‘a very old resident of the Thames, and one of the first settlers of the Upper Thames’, who was ‘much respected by all who knew her’.¹⁴

⁶ Ancestry.co.uk; *Observer*, 8 June 1907, p. 4, 26 July 1919, p. 4; *New Zealand Herald*, 2 November 1922, p. 8.

⁷ For details of mining on Kawau Island and Great Barrier Island, see G.J. Williams, ‘Copper Occurrences’, in *Economic Geology of New Zealand*, ed. Williams (Melbourne, 1965), pp. 175-176; Mona Tracy, *Historic Kawau* (Christchurch, 1927), pp. 15-19; N.C. Wilson, *Memories of Mansion House, Kawau Island, New Zealand* (Auckland, 1980), pp. 109-117; H.J. Luff, *Tales from Great Barrier Island* (Auckland, 2003), pp. 18-29.

⁸ ‘Return of all the Houses, Cottages, and Warries with the name of their owners and principal occupiers (one in each case) within the district of Auckland in 1845’, Internal Affairs Department, IA 1, 1845/1939, p. 12, ANZ-W.

⁹ John Goldsworthy to Minister of Mines, 1 June 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 87/607, ANZ-W; *Observer*, 8 June 1907, p. 4.

¹⁰ Death Certificate of Henry Goldsworthy, 14 August 1918, 1918/5273, BDM.

¹¹ Death Certificate of Elizabeth Goldsworthy, 1848/1697; the year of her death was 1855, as is made clearer in the old index: 916/Auckland [1855], BDM; her last child was born in 1851.

¹² Notices of Intentions to Marry 1863, folio 42, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/8, ANZ-W; Marriage Certificate of John Goldsworthy, 25 February 1863, 1863/3829, BDM.

¹³ Notices of Intentions to Marry 1863, folio 42, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/8, ANZ-W; Death Certificate of Jane Williams, 21 June 1895, 1895/2764, BDM.

¹⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 29 June 1895, p. 2.

John left six sons (John, Richard, William, Thomas, Henry, and James), and two daughters, Mary Ann and Anna Maria.¹⁵ In 1855 his eldest daughter married a miner, **James Gribble**; her father's funeral cortege would leave from her Auckland home.¹⁶ Seven years later Anna Maria, aged 21, married 29-year-old James Miecklejohn, a shipwright at Matakana, where his family was prominent.¹⁷

Four of John's sons, John, Henry, Thomas, and William, all became prominent as prospectors, miners, and mine managers throughout the Hauraki Peninsula. In 1894 the *Sydney Bulletin* included them in its list of the great men of early Thames. 'Grand men, every one of them'.¹⁸ Upon **John's** death five years later, the *Observer* wrote that 'there were few men better known or more generally respected' on the goldfields, describing him as 'a man of sterling integrity' who left 'friends in every mining camp'.¹⁹ At Coromandel, he was recalled as 'a man of sterling worth, respected by all who knew him (and their names are legion) and revered by his intimate friends. He was above everything, "a manly man"'.²⁰ A Thames newspaper noted the 'many important and responsible' mining positions he had held, 'being invariably associated with the conduct of dividend paying mines'; he had always taken an 'active interest in the future of the industry and of the district'.²¹ **William** had 'been in all the mining centres of the Peninsula' by 1902, 'his wide and varied experience and excellent character always winning a good position for him wherever he has been'.²² In 1887 a legal manager stated that he had 'a high character as an upright and honorable

¹⁵ Death Certificate of John Goldsworthy, 9 March 1865, 1865/2752, BDM; Probate of John Goldsworthy, Probates, BBAE 1568/249, ANZ-A.

¹⁶ Marriage Certificate of Mary Ann Goldsworthy, 1855/1483, BDM; Death Notice, *New Zealand Herald*, 11 March 1865, p. 4.

¹⁷ Notices of Intentions to Marry 1862, folio 117, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/7, ANZ-W; Marriage Certificate of Anna Maria Goldsworthy, 16 December 1862, 1862/2493, BDM; Harold Mabbett, *The Rock and the Sky: The story of Rodney County* (Auckland, 1977), pp. 27-31, 98-103.

¹⁸ *Bulletin* (Sydney), n.d., cited in *Observer*, 7 April 1894, p. 5.

¹⁹ *Observer*, 8 June 1907, p. 4.

²⁰ *Coromandel County News*, 31 May 1907, p. 3.

²¹ *Thames Star*, 31 May 1907, p. 2.

²² *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 494.

man' who was 'admitted to be a thoroughly competent mine manager'.²³ One obituary described him as a 'stalwart old miner'.²⁴ An obituary noted **Thomas** as having been 'a well-known mine manager'.²⁵ **Henry** was described in 1902 as a mine manager who had held several 'important and responsible positions' during the previous two decades.²⁶

Richard, who farmed his father's land, became active in local government, and on his death in 1929 left an estate valued at under £3,500.²⁷ The family was living beside Kawau Bay in the early 1860s; Goldsworthy Bay was named after them.²⁸ He had three sons. James, born in December 1866, when his father was on Kawau Island, would be mine manager for the Try Fluke Company at Kuaotunu in 1895.²⁹ Richard Henry, born the following year, farmed in several areas before returning to his birthplace, Mullet Point, where he spent his last 40 years farming and being was prominent in local public affairs.³⁰ William John, born in 1868, became a miner.³¹

John, the eldest son, was born in Cornwall in 1837.³² He started mining when aged 15 in the Great Barrier Island and Kawau Island copper mines, working with his father, whom he accompanied to the Bendigo

²³ Declaration of D.G. MacDonnell, 25 May 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 92/659, ANZ-W.

²⁴ *Observer*, 26 July 1919, p. 4.

²⁵ *New Zealand Herald*, 2 November 1922, p. 8.

²⁶ *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 494.

²⁷ Mallett, pp. 24, 41, 61, 71, 75, 96; Probate of Richard Goldsworthy, BBAE 1570, 223/1929, ANZ-A.

²⁸ Mallett, pp. 94, 101.

²⁹ S.E. Kendall, *Births Pertaining to Early Auckland*, vol. 1 (Pukeokahu, 1997), p. 21 [born on 7 December 1866, but no birth certificate was issued]; *Thames Advertiser*, 19 July 1895, p. 2.

³⁰ Birth Certificate of Richard Henry Goldsworthy, 1867/62, BDM; *Rodney and Otamatea Times, Waitemata and Kaipara Gazette*, 7 June 1939, p. 7.

³¹ Birth Certificate of William John Goldsworthy, 1868/11499, BDM; Death Notice, *New Zealand Herald*, 9 December 1902, p. 1.

³² Death Certificate of John Goldsworthy, 31 May 1907, 1907/2935, BDM; Probate of John Goldsworthy, Probates, BBAE 1568/249, ANZ-A.

goldfield in 1852.³³ After returning, he ‘spent some time afloat, in sailing vessels of his own’.³⁴ He mined at Coromandel in 1863.³⁵

It was in his cutter, the “Wanderer,” that the bulk of the Europeans fled from Coromandel at the time of the scare caused by the Maori War, and while hostilities were being carried on he was kept busy for some time in conveying commissariat stores from Auckland to the Miranda redoubt, opposite the Thames.³⁶

In his father’s will, drawn up in 1863, he was left the cutter ‘Elizabeth Jane’.³⁷

William,³⁸ commonly known as Will,³⁹ was born on Great Barrier Island in 1844.⁴⁰ As a boy he mined on Great Barrier and Kawau Islands before prospecting at Coromandel in 1862, ‘continuing until the Maori War broke out’.⁴¹ In April 1863, he had ten of the 120 shares in the United Company.⁴²

Thomas,⁴³ the fourth son, was born in Auckland in 1849.⁴⁴ Nothing of his life is known before his arrival at the Thames goldfield.

³³ John Goldsworthy to Minister of Mines, 1 June 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 87/607, ANZ-W; *Coromandel County News*, 31 May 1907, p. 3; *New Zealand Herald*, 1 June 1907, p. 6.

³⁴ *Observer*, 8 June 1907, p. 4.

³⁵ John Goldsworthy to Minister of Mines, 1 June 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 87/607, ANZ-W.

³⁶ *Observer*, 8 June 1907, p. 4.

³⁷ Probate of John Goldsworthy, Probates, BBAE 1568/249, ANZ-A.

³⁸ For photograph taken in 1867, see *Observer*, 18 August 1917, p. 15; for a 1902 one, see *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 494; for 1916 sketch by ‘Blo’ [William Blomfield] of ‘William Goldsworthy, Ex-Miner Farmer Director & Cousin Jack’, see *Observer*, 15 April 1916, p. 17.

³⁹ *Observer*, 18 August 1917, p. 4.

⁴⁰ *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 493 [his birth was not registered].

⁴¹ *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 1, p. 493; *Observer*, 26 July 1919, p. 4; *New Zealand Herald*, 2 November 1922, p. 8.

⁴² Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 1 no. 8, ANZ-A.

⁴³ For 1867 photograph, see *Observer*, 18 August 1917, p. 15; for 1898 photograph, see *New Zealand Herald and Auckland Weekly News Exhibition Number, 1898*, p. 13.

⁴⁴ Birth Certificate of Thomas Goldsworthy, 1849/2084, BDM.

Henry, inevitably known as Harry,⁴⁵ was born in Parnell, Auckland, in 1851, and was educated in that city.⁴⁶

There were other, unrelated, Goldsworthys living in New Zealand; for instance, Abel, another Cornish miner, died of a heart attack in Auckland in 1872.⁴⁷

INVOLVEMENT IN THAMES MINING UNTIL 1879

An obituary of **John** recorded that ‘within a few weeks’ of the rush to Thames, he ‘was amongst the prospectors’.⁴⁸ His first miner’s right, no. 446, was issued on 27 September, nearly two months after the rush started; **William** had no. 447, issued on the same day.⁴⁹ They were ‘lucky in pegging out a rich claim at the head of the Shotover Creek, on the line of Hunt’s reef, which they named the Eureka’, because it ‘turned out a real “gold mine” to its owners’.⁵⁰ In November 1867, **John** was noted as being one of the owners, and at the beginning of the following April it produced 320oz from ten tons.⁵¹ In June 1868, both brothers were registered as two of the seven owners, each with 1 5/18 of the 7 1/2 shares.⁵² **William** sold a half share three weeks later.⁵³ In May 1869, **John** was allotted 3,294 and **William** was 1,647 of the 27,050 shares in the Eureka Company.⁵⁴ In mid-July, under **John**’s management splendid specimens were being found. ‘One

⁴⁵ *Observer*, 15 April 1916, p. 17; for his photograph, see *New Zealand Herald and Auckland Weekly News Exhibition Number*, 1898, p. 14.

⁴⁶ Birth Certificate of Henry Goldsworthy, 1851/1561, BDM; *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 494; Probate of John Goldsworthy, Probates, BBAE 1568/249, ANZ-A; *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 16 August 1918, p. 2.

⁴⁷ *New Zealand Herald*, 15 April 1872, p. 2, 16 April 1872, p. 2; *Thames Guardian and Mining Record*, 15 April 1872, p. 2, 16 April 1872, p. 3, 17 April 1872, p. 3; *New Zealand Gazette*, 29 May 1872, p. 353; Intestate Probate of Abel Goldsworthy, BBAE 1587/249, BBAE 1587/279, ANZ-A.

⁴⁸ *Observer*, 8 June 1907, p. 4.

⁴⁹ Thames Warden’s Court, Register of Miners’ Rights 1867-1868, nos. 446, 447, BACL 14358/1a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁰ *Observer*, 8 June 1907, p. 4.

⁵¹ *Auckland Weekly News*, 16 November 1867, p. 3, 4 April 1868, p. 3.

⁵² Thames Warden’s Court, Claims Register 1868, folio 269, BACL 14397/1a, ANZ-A.

⁵³ Thames Warden’s Court, Claims Register 1868, folio 269, BACL 14397/1a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁴ *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 19 May 1869, p. 386.

of the original shareholders', by then he held 'the heaviest interest'.⁵⁵ Manager for two years, his management was recalled favourably in 1874.⁵⁶ In May 1870, **William** was referred to as managing the 'Eureka Claim'.⁵⁷ When the Eureka Hill Company was formed in May 1871 to work this spur, **William** had 50 shares and **John** had 259.⁵⁸ Three months later, the latter failed in a bid to be elected a director.⁵⁹

Also in the Kuranui portion of the goldfield, in mid-June the two brothers were amongst the eight owners of the Columbia, both with a half share out of the six. **John** sold his interest in less than two weeks, for £125.⁶⁰ **Thomas** was also an owner, with one share, which he sold one and a half months later for £100.⁶¹ **William** did not sell his interest until a year later, for £75.⁶² On the same day as this claim was registered, **John** was registered as one of five owners of the Jubilee, holding a one-sixth interest. When the area was enlarged in October the number of owners rose to 12, and he was allotted an eighth share of the larger area. **William** had five-eighths of a share in the enlarged claim. The ground was transferred to the Kuranui Company in July 1869. **Thomas** had bought half a share in May 1869.⁶³ Also in July 1869, **John**, **Thomas**, and **William** were each allotted 34 of the 10,000 shares in the Pride of Kuranui Company.⁶⁴ In that year, **John**, **William**, and **Henry** (who had not arrived with his brothers in 1867) held shares in the Just in Time Company, also mining on Kuranui Spur.⁶⁵

⁵⁵ *Auckland Weekly News*, 17 July 1869, p. 7.

⁵⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 19 September 1870, p. 2, 8 April 1874, p. 3; John Goldsworthy to Minister of Mines, 1 June 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 87/607, ANZ-W.

⁵⁷ Jackson and Russell to William Goldsworthy, 19 May 1870, Letterbook no. 6, p. 280, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

⁵⁸ *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 27 May 1871, p. 117.

⁵⁹ *Auckland Weekly News*, 12 August 1871, p. 10.

⁶⁰ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Claims 1868, folio 306, BACL 14397/1a; Register of Deeds 1869, folio 330, BACL 14417/3a, ANZ-A.

⁶¹ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Claims 1868, folio 306, BACL 14397/1a; Register of Agreements 1868, folio 125, BACL 14417/2a, ANZ-A.

⁶² Thames Warden's Court, Register of Claims 1868, folio 306, BBAV 14397/1a; Register of Deeds 1869, folios 406-407, BACL 14417/4a, ANZ-A.

⁶³ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Claims 1868, folio 321, BACL 14397/1a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁴ *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 13 July 1869, p. 584.

⁶⁵ *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 17 June 1871, p. 151.

In 1871, **Henry** was one of six owners of the Long Tunnel, on the same spur. He sold half of his one share before the property was transferred to the company of that name, in which he had 300 shares.⁶⁶ In April 1877, **William** sold his 30 shares in the Kuranui Hill Company.⁶⁷

The Nonpareil was described, in 1907, as ‘a rich mine on the Waiotahi Creek, just above the Cambria of later days’.⁶⁸ Both **John** and **William** ‘met with considerable success’ in it.⁶⁹ In mid-October 1868, **John** purchased one share, a seventh interest; six months later he purchased a half share for £250, selling it on the following day for £400.⁷⁰ In early July, the half share he had ‘agreed to hold for my brother **William**’ in his own name was transferred into the latter’s name on the same day that **John** bought an eighth share from **Gribble** for £10. Two weeks later the ground was transferred to the Nonpareil Company; **William** was allotted 375 of the 4,200 shares, and **John** was allotted 300.⁷¹ Also in July, **William** purchased a twelfth interest in the Queen of Spain, adjoining the Nonpareil, for £170.⁷²

In late August 1870, **John** was unanimously elected a director of the Nonpareil Company and became its ‘Inspector’.⁷³ He managed it until resigning in the following August, when ‘the directors thanked him for the manner in which he had always performed the duties’.⁷⁴ With a change of management in July 1872 he was appointed working manager, operating under a ‘general inspector of works’.⁷⁵ At a shareholders’ meeting in early September, when there was a controversy over its working, one shareholder pointed out that when John started managing it the company was £700 in

⁶⁶ Thames Warden’s Court, Claims Register 1870, no. 2433, BACL 14397/5a, ANZ-A; *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 26 October 1871, p. 284.

⁶⁷ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 26 no. 148, ANZ-A.

⁶⁸ *Observer*, 8 June 1907, p. 4.

⁶⁹ *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 493.

⁷⁰ Thames Warden’s Court, Register of Claims 1868, no. 545, BACL 14397/2a; Register of Deeds 1869, folios 98-99, 141-142, BACL 14417/3a, ANZ-A.

⁷¹ Thames Warden’s Court, Register of Claims 1868, no. 545, BACL 14397/2a; Register of Deeds 1869, folios 329-330, BACL 14417/3a; Register of Deeds 1869, folio 394, BACL 14417/4a, ANZ-A; *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 11 August 1869, p. 684.

⁷² Thames Warden’s Court, Register of Deeds 1869, folio 448, BACL 14417/4a, ANZ-A.

⁷³ *Thames Advertiser*, 25 August 1870, p. 3, 16 September 1870, p. 2.

⁷⁴ *Auckland Weekly News*, 27 May 1871, p. 9, 19 August 1871, p. 15.

⁷⁵ *Auckland Weekly News*, 22 June 1872, p. 5.

debt but now had a credit balance of £450.⁷⁶ Roderick McDonald Scott, a prominent legal manager and investor,⁷⁷ who had been a director and was now its legal manager, 'took a great part of the credit to himself of having procured Mr Goldsworthy's return to the mine as manager'.⁷⁸

John's efficiency was illustrated by his catching a boy stealing quartz between five and six o'clock on a Saturday morning.⁷⁹ In July 1873, the *Thames Advertiser* was appalled by 'the exercise of arbitrary power' when he

was peremptorily ordered to send in his resignation within half an hour.... There seems to have been a total absence of such courtesy as was due to a man who had so long had charge of the company's property, and to whose care and ability they are indebted for their present passably prosperous condition. The Nonpareil was for a long time famous for the quarrels which appeared to be inseparably connected with it. At one time matters went to such an extent that there were two boards of directors and two legal managers.

Four directors were present at their latest meeting and one was absent. At 12 o'clock, a message was sent to John 'requiring his resignation within half an hour. He declined to resign except some reason was assigned'. The newspaper was informed that the chairman, John Brown, a mining agent and owner of a tailings reduction works,⁸⁰

objected to having the manager discharged without a reason being assigned, and said that if the members could show any reason, he would go in with them. They gave no reason; carried a resolution to pay the manager two weeks' salary in advance, and discharge him at once. This charge is the more singular, because the manager has the mine in what is acknowledged by skilful miners to be first-class order, and after a great deal of perseverance has opened the No. 2 reef and other lodes for steady

⁷⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 5 September 1872, p. 3.

⁷⁷ See *Observer*, 17 June 1905, p. 17.

⁷⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 25 August 1870, p. 3, 2 September 1870, p. 2, 5 September 1872, p. 3, 6 September 1872, p. 3.

⁷⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 18 November 1872, p. 2.

⁸⁰ See advertisement, *Thames Guardian and Mining Record*, 7 October 1871, p. 1; *Thames Advertiser*, 19 September 1873, p. 2, 20 August 1878, p. 2, 28 March 1884, p. 2, 5 August 1886, p. 2; 'Thames Tittle Tattle', *Observer*, 6 August 1881, p. 536.

working and regular crushing, and it is quite evident that there must be some reason other than the manner in which the mine has been worked for the decision arrived at. We have inquired from the chairman of the board of directors, and from Mr Goldsworthy, but they are equally at a loss as to the reason for this action. Leaving courtesy out of the question, it would have been nothing more than fair to Mr Goldsworthy, whose reputation as a mine manager is at stake, that some reason should be assigned. We should not be at all astonished to learn that the shareholders would take some steps to inquire into the matter, and demand an explanation from the directors.⁸¹

When Brown repeated his opposition to his being discharged without any reason being given, the other directors explained that their sole motive was to have the mine worked more cheaply.⁸² An extraordinary meeting of shareholders was held two months later because of dissatisfaction with the manner of the dismissal. Shareholders considered John had done well, for ‘when he took office the company was considerably in debt’ but under his management ‘this debt was cleared off, and one or more dividends had been paid’. When he was dismissed, the company had a credit of £800, but £700 of this had since been spent and the company was in danger of going bankrupt. The meeting was adjourned to enable Auckland shareholders to attend.⁸³ When it resumed a month later, Brown explained why he had opposed the sacking. When John had taken over, the company was £700 in debt with a considerable amount of dead work requiring doing; he had cleared this debt, and the company, after paying £2,200 in dividends, had a credit balance of from £700 to £800. In contrast, John’s replacement had lost £50 each week, leaving a credit balance of only £128. The directors had wanted a cheaper manager, and when asked to take a salary of only £4 a week John ‘gave a short answer’. In denying this, John stated that one director ‘came to him and told him the mine was to be stopped, and recommended him to send in his resignation’. Various shareholders suggested that he had been dismissed because of old conflicts resurfacing. One director had voted to dismiss him because he would not sack workers believed to be stealing specimens. The meeting unanimously passed a vote of confidence in him.⁸⁴

⁸¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 11 July 1873, p. 2.

⁸² *Thames Advertiser*, 12 July 1873, p. 2, 22 July 1873, p. 2.

⁸³ *Thames Advertiser*, 9 September 1873, p. 3.

⁸⁴ *Thames Advertiser*, 9 October 1873, p. 3.

In 1878 John was appointed to manage the Nonpareil United, and in 1887, when he applied for a mine manager's certificate, Scott declared that he had been underground manager for the Nonpareil 'for years'.⁸⁵

In October 1871, John was elected a director of the Queen of the Thames Company, and was still held this post in mid-1874.⁸⁶ In October 1875, with other prominent investors he moved to liquidate it and sell its assets to the Queen of the May Company.⁸⁷ An obituary recalled that 'another famous Thames mine which he managed successfully for some years was the original May Queen, from which he extracted some of its richest yields'.⁸⁸ In March 1873, he had been warned that his 40 shares in the Queen of the May would be forfeited if a call of 1s was not paid.⁸⁹ In July 1874, when the directors reported that he had been appointed as manager, they noted that he was 'well known as a capable and experienced mine manager'.⁹⁰ He managed it until at least 1877, when his 'able management' was noted.⁹¹ In May that year, when he was still the manager, **Thomas** was timbering the low level when 'a quantity of stuff fell upon him, inflicting severe bruises on his left arm and upon his head. He was taken to the hospital' for treatment.⁹² For over three years, **Henry** worked with his eldest brother in this mine, and was underground manager in 'about 1880'.⁹³

In addition to these mines, **John** invested in several other claims and companies, being manager and director of several. In 1869, he acquired shares in the Una Company.⁹⁴ When he first became a director in it has not

⁸⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 16 February 1878, p. 3; Declaration of R.McD. Scott, 13 May 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 87/607, ANZ-A.

⁸⁶ *Thames Guardian and Mining Record*, 17 October 1871, p. 3; *Thames Advertiser*, 4 June 1874, p. 2.

⁸⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 13 October 1875, p. 3.

⁸⁸ *Observer*, 8 June 1907, p. 4.

⁸⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 17 March 1873, p. 2.

⁹⁰ *Auckland Weekly News*, 4 July 1874, p. 16.

⁹¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 26 September 1874, p. 2, 4 September 1876, p. 2, 10 March 1877, p. 3.

⁹² *Thames Advertiser*, 21 March 1877, p. 2.

⁹³ Declaration by John Goldsworthy, 25 January 1892, Mines Department, MD 1, 92/143, ANZ-W; *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 494.

⁹⁴ *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 16 August 1869, p. 694.

been traced, but he was re-elected in February 1872.⁹⁵ In the early 1870s, **William** was appointed to manage the Una, a position he held for several years.⁹⁶ Also in 1869, **John** had shares in the Manukau Extended, at Waiotahi Creek.⁹⁷

After managing the Homeward Bound, in July 1870 **William** was appointed to manage the Dauntless and Sink to Rise Company.⁹⁸ Five weeks later, he was given a 'great amount of credit' for sorting out its financial problems.⁹⁹ He was underground manager for 'years'.¹⁰⁰ In January 1871, it was reported as being 'vigorously worked' under **John's** management.¹⁰¹ Later that year the legal manager described his management as having been 'marked with success, his conduct [being] without blemish', and the mine 'economically and well worked'; his only ceased being manager because the company could not retain his services.¹⁰²

Two months later, they were two of the nine owners of the Marchioness of Lorne, at Wiseman's Gully; **John** had one of the six shares and **William** a half share.¹⁰³ In August 1873, with another prominent miner, **John** 'purchased privately' the Flagship Golden Anchor, at Hape Creek; having carefully examined it, they believed the leader had been lost because no survey was made.¹⁰⁴ Two months later, John alone applied for it, as the Flagship; it was forfeited in September 1874.¹⁰⁵

In October 1873, he was warned that his 96 shares in the Watchman Company would be forfeited if a call remained unpaid.¹⁰⁶ He must have

⁹⁵ *Auckland Weekly News*, 3 February 1872, p. 10.

⁹⁶ Declaration of John Gibbons, 6 April 1876, Mines Department, MD 1, 92/657, ANZ-W; *Thames Advertiser*, 31 January 1873, p. 3, 26 February 1875, p. 3.

⁹⁷ *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 26 October 1869, p. 1408.

⁹⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 19 July 1870, p. 3.

⁹⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 27 August 1870, p. 3.

¹⁰⁰ Declaration of R. McD. Scott, 13 May 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 92/657, ANZ-W.

¹⁰¹ *Auckland Weekly News*, 28 January 1871, p. 14.

¹⁰² Declaration of J.A. Hehatt, 31 August 1871, Mines Department, MD 1, 92/659, ANZ-W.

¹⁰³ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Shortland Claims 1870, no. 2439, BACL 14397/5a, ANZ-A.

¹⁰⁴ *Thames Advertiser*, 21 August 1873, p. 3.

¹⁰⁵ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1872-1875, folio 127, BACL 14397/7a, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 30 October 1873, p. 2, 23 September 1874, p. 2.

¹⁰⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 6 October 1873, p. 2.

paid it, as three months later he was elected a director.¹⁰⁷ Two and a half months later, work resumed under his management.¹⁰⁸ In September, **Thomas** had been warned that his ten shares would be forfeited if a call was not paid, a warning repeated in the following year when he did not pay another call.¹⁰⁹

In October 1873, **John** was elected a director of the Lincoln Castle Company.¹¹⁰ The following January, his 35 shares in the El Dorado Company were forfeited for non-payment of a call.¹¹¹ In May, he was warned that his 50 shares in the Red White and Blue Company would be forfeited if a call of 1s 3d was not paid.¹¹² **William** was a director of this company.¹¹³

In 1875, **John** acquired shares in the New Exchange Company.¹¹⁴ Two years later, **William** chaired the meeting that formed the New North Devon Company, mining at Moanataiari Creek, and both he and **John** were allocated 500 of its 8,000 shares.¹¹⁵ The latter, elected a director, was re-elected in the following year.¹¹⁶ In 1877, he was elected a director of the Republic Company.¹¹⁷ In May 1878, with another miner he was granted the New Zealand Independent claim at Shellbank Creek, and permitted to drive a tunnel.¹¹⁸ It was promptly floated as a company, in which he held shares and was supervisor of works.¹¹⁹ **William** was another shareholder.¹²⁰ In

¹⁰⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 20 January 1874, p. 3.

¹⁰⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 8 April 1874, p. 3.

¹⁰⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 5 September 1873, p. 2, 29 October 1874, p. 2.

¹¹⁰ *Thames Advertiser*, 22 October 1873, p. 3.

¹¹¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 9 January 1874, p. 2.

¹¹² *Thames Advertiser*, 25 May 1874, p. 2.

¹¹³ Company Files, BBAE 10286/5a, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Gazette*, 29 June 1876, p. 468.

¹¹⁴ *New Zealand Gazette*, 2 September 1875, p. 591.

¹¹⁵ Company Files, BBAE 10286/5c, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 18 August 1877, p. 3; *New Zealand Gazette*, 30 August 1877, p. 905.

¹¹⁶ *New Zealand Gazette*, 15 November 1877, p. 1109; *Thames Advertiser*, 24 August 1878, p. 3.

¹¹⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 3 May 1877, p. 2.

¹¹⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 11 May 1878, p. 2; Inspector of Mines Letterbook 1888-1892, p. 301, YBAZ 1240/1, ANZ-A.

¹¹⁹ *New Zealand Gazette*, 30 May 1878, p. 712; *Thames Advertiser*, 30 July 1878, p. 3.

¹²⁰ *New Zealand Gazette*, 30 May 1878, p. 712.

January 1879, **Henry** successfully sued the Independent Company for £20 2s owed for wages.¹²¹

In the same day in July 1869, both **William** and **Thomas** bought one-sixteenth of the interests in the New Moon, the former for £20 and the latter for £55.¹²² The following month, **William** bought one of the six shares in the Black Prince.¹²³ In September 1877, he was appointed to manage the New Morning Star.¹²⁴ As since 1875 he had mined at Waitekauri mostly, a Thames paper reminded its readers that he had had a ‘great and varied experience’.¹²⁵ In August 1878, he was warned that his 100 shares in the Perseverance would be forfeited if he did not pay the fifth call.¹²⁶ In September 1878, when the Hauraki Prospecting Association was established to prospect the wider district, he took ‘an active interest’ in its formation and was expected ‘to go at the head of the party and direct their labours’.¹²⁷ As anticipated, he was appointed as leader of one of its two parties.¹²⁸ Two months later, he reported that as little had been found to the north of Thames he was about to test the Puru Creek.¹²⁹

Thomas obtained his first miner’s right on 4 December 1867,¹³⁰ and mined at Thames until the early 1880s. In addition to the interests already noted, in 1868 he was one of the four owners of the Ancient Briton, holding a quarter of the interests, and the following year bought a sixteenth interest in the New Moon for £55.¹³¹ In 1873 he was warned that his five shares in

¹²¹ Thames Magistrate’s Court, *Plaint Book 1875-1880*, 480/1878, BACL 13737/15b, ANZ-A; Magistrate’s Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 11 January 1879, p. 3.

¹²² Thames Warden’s Court, *Thames Claims Register 1868-1869*, no. 1454, BACL 14397/3a; Register of Deeds 1869, folios 466-467, BACL 14417/3a; Register of Deeds 1869, folio 513, BACL 14417/4a, ANZ-A.

¹²³ Thames Warden’s Court, *Register of Claims 1868*, no. 603, BACL 14397/2a, ANZ-A.

¹²⁴ *Thames Advertiser*, 7 September 1877, p. 3, 25 September 1877, p. 3.

¹²⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 8 September 1877, p. 3.

¹²⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 10 August 1878, p. 2.

¹²⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 23 September 1878, p. 3.

¹²⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 11 October 1878, p. 3; *Auckland Weekly News*, 12 October 1878, p. 8.

¹²⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 28 December 1878, p. 3.

¹³⁰ Thames Warden’s Court, *Miners’ Rights Register 1868-1869*, no. 1196, BACL 14358/1a, ANZ-A.

¹³¹ Thames Warden’s Court, *Claims Register 1868-1869*, nos. 1196, 1454, BACL 14397/3a; Register of Deeds 1869, folio 513, BACL 14417/4a, ANZ-A.

the Central Italy Company would be forfeited if a call was not paid.¹³² In early 1874 he went to the Cooktown gold rush, in Queensland, but returned in July, probably because he wanted to marry a Thames girl, which he did three months after returning.¹³³

Henry was 'present at the first opening of the Thames goldfield', according to the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand* and an obituary.¹³⁴ In 1874, he was working in the Moanataiari.¹³⁵ During 1877, **William's** party tributed in part of it, and after sinking a shaft for over four months struck a good reef in September.¹³⁶ In February 1878, **Henry** was warned that his 38 shares in the Queen of Beauty Company were forfeit if a call of 1s remained unpaid.¹³⁷

In 1878, **John** unsuccessfully tendered to construct a tunnel for the county council's water race.¹³⁸

COROMANDEL MINING IN THE 1870s

John's involvement was limited to having shares in two companies in 1872, 500 in Kennedy's Bay and 1,000 in Pride of Wynyardtown.¹³⁹ **Henry**, then living at Coromandel, had the same number of shares in the former.¹⁴⁰ One of ten owners of the Pride of Wynyardtown, he held 500 shares in the subsequently formed company.¹⁴¹

In 1872, **William** was allotted 500 shares in the Provincial Company and 400 in the Turn of the Tide Company.¹⁴² In February 1875 he accepted

¹³² *Thames Advertiser*, 1 August 1873, p. 2.

¹³³ *Thames Advertiser*, 18 July 1874, p. 2, 13 October 1874, p. 2.

¹³⁴ *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 494; *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 16 August 1918, p. 2.

¹³⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 9 March 1874, p. 2.

¹³⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 13 September 1877, p. 3.

¹³⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 18 February 1878, p. 2.

¹³⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 8 November 1878, p. 3.

¹³⁹ *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 26 February 1872, p. 31, 22 April 1872, p. 122.

¹⁴⁰ *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 26 February 1872, p. 31.

¹⁴¹ Thames Warden's Court, Coromandel Claims Register 1872, 1890-1899, folio 2, BACL 14396/2a, ANZ-A; *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 22 April 1872, p. 122.

¹⁴² *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 24 April 1872, p. 126, 12 June 1872, p. 173.

the management of the Plutus, managing it until its closure.¹⁴³ By late June he had moved to the new mining district of Ohinemuri.¹⁴⁴

OHINEMURI MINING IN THE 1870s

In December 1874, **John** and **William** were amongst those calling a meeting to force the opening of Ohinemuri to mining.¹⁴⁵ Once it was opened, **William** at first mined at Tairua. In mid-1875, he was allotted 500 shares in the Troy Company, of which he was a director.¹⁴⁶ At the end of July, he applied for the True Briton, which was granted in September.¹⁴⁷ He held 500 shares in the company formed to work it and was appointed a provisional director.¹⁴⁸ This ground was forfeited in September the following year.¹⁴⁹

John invested but did not mine in Ohinemuri. At Tairua, he was allotted 500 of the 15,000 shares in the True Briton Company.¹⁵⁰ At Waitekauri, the Welcome was registered in October 1875, but **John** did not acquire his interest, a quarter share, until the following April.¹⁵¹ Also in the latter month, he held one of the three shares in Little Emma.¹⁵² He was allotted shares in the Welcome and United Kingdom companies in 1876.¹⁵³

¹⁴³ *Thames Advertiser*, 26 February 1875, p. 3; Bank of New Zealand, Coromandel Branch, Gold Dealer's Register 1874-1890, entry for 1 May 1875, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington; Declaration of F.A. White, 13 May 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 92/659, ANZ-W.

¹⁴⁴ *Thames Advertiser*, 30 June 1875, p. 3, 10 July 1875, p. 3, 29 July 1875, p. 2, 31 July 1875, p. 2.

¹⁴⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 19 December 1874, p. 2.

¹⁴⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 30 June 1875, p. 3; *New Zealand Gazette*, 29 July 1875, p. 510.

¹⁴⁷ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1875-1882, no. 77, BACL 14397/10a, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 10 July 1875, p. 3, 29 July 1875, p. 2.

¹⁴⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 31 July 1875, p. 2; *New Zealand Gazette*, 2 September 1875, p. 592.

¹⁴⁹ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1875-1882, no. 77, BACL 14397/10a, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 27 September 1876, p. 2.

¹⁵⁰ *New Zealand Gazette*, 2 September 1875, p. 592.

¹⁵¹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Ohinemuri Claims 1875, no. 84, BBAV 11568/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁵² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Ohinemuri Claims 1875, no. 5, BBAV 11568/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁵³ *New Zealand Gazette*, 27 January 1876, p. 73, 11 May 1876, p. 350.

He was a director in the former, and the following year, despite opposition, he was re-elected, the legal manager stating that he 'had forwarded the interests of the company to the best of his ability'.¹⁵⁴ He was re-elected in 1878,¹⁵⁵ the same year that he was allotted a small interest, 90 of the 15,000 shares, in the Welcome Extended Company.¹⁵⁶

At the beginning of 1876, **William** held 750 of the 13,000 shares in the Welcome Company, at Waitekauri.¹⁵⁷ In June, he was appointed its mine manager;¹⁵⁸ to a Thames newspaper his name was 'a sufficient guarantee that the work in it is well done and economically'.¹⁵⁹ He managed it for 'about fifteen months', and 'brought out the first return of the Upper Thames district, viz, 160 ounces from sixty tons of ore'.¹⁶⁰ After he resigned in November 1876, the same newspaper said that he had 'done a great deal of work for very little money' preparing for breaking out quartz; 'he has done well for the shareholders'.¹⁶¹ He was also allocated shares in two other Waitekauri companies: 350 in the United Kingdom and 1,000 of the 15,000 in the Republic.¹⁶²

In May 1875, **Henry** was one of 11 owners of the All Nations claim at Tairua.¹⁶³ In April 1876, he held one share in the Eureka claim at Waitekauri.¹⁶⁴ During that year, he acquired scrip shares in two Waitekauri companies, the United Kingdom and the Union.¹⁶⁵

TE AROHA MINING

¹⁵⁴ Company Files, BBAE 10286/4e, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 17 January 1876, p. 3, 5 March 1877, p. 3.

¹⁵⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 27 February 1878, p. 3.

¹⁵⁶ *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 October 1878, p. 1458.

¹⁵⁷ *New Zealand Gazette*, 27 January 1876, p. 73.

¹⁵⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 14 June 1876, p. 3.

¹⁵⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 15 August 1876, p. 3.

¹⁶⁰ *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 1, pp. 493-494.

¹⁶¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 14 November 1876, p. 3, 21 November 1876, p. 3.

¹⁶² *New Zealand Gazette*, 11 May 1876, p. 350, 7 September 1876, p. 634.

¹⁶³ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Claims 1875-1876, folio 42, BACL 14397/9a, ANZ-A.

¹⁶⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Ohinemuri Claims 1875, folio 124, BBAV 11568/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁶⁵ *New Zealand Gazette*, 11 May 1876, p. 350, 31 August 1876, p. 687.

‘When Te Aroha was proclaimed’, **John** ‘was early on the spot’, his miner’s right being issued on opening day.¹⁶⁶ His appointment as manager of the Bonanza at the beginning of December was ‘considered a very satisfactory one’.¹⁶⁷ This claim was on the north-east boundary of the Prospectors’ Claim, and was so popular that, ‘owing to the number of miners who pegged it out’ it was ‘technically known as the ground of “the half hundred” ’.¹⁶⁸ A company had been formed to work it, and John was

desired to commence work at once. The company has every prospect of success, and it is to be hoped that it will not be long before it is paying dividends. Three or four reefs are known to exist in the area, one being the prospectors’, a likely looking lode, and another is six feet through, showing colours of the precious metal. All are believed to contain gold.¹⁶⁹

Once John had purchased ‘mining requisites’ in early December, work was about to start, with a mining reporter anticipating good returns:

The northern continuation of the prospectors’ lode runs right through this claim, and outcrops for a distance of 50 feet down the spur, and gold has been found at every point where the reef has been treated. There is also a large body of stone outcropping a little further down the gully, from which excellent prospects have been obtained. On the whole, I think this claim has a bright future before it, and this opinion is also held by many mining speculators here, who have within the past few days been purchasing interests in the property at prices ranging from £25 to £45.¹⁷⁰

In mid-December, ‘some excitement was caused on it becoming known that rich specimens had been obtained’ from the drive 30 feet below the Prospectors’ workings, and on the same leader, from three to six inches thick, of ‘exceedingly likely appearance. This find is likely to have a

¹⁶⁶ *Observer*, 8 June 1907, p. 4; Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Miner’s Right no. 418, issued 25 November 1880, Miners’ Rights Butt Book 1880, BBAV 11533/1c, ANZ-A.

¹⁶⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 3 December 1880, p. 3, 6 December 1880, p. 3.

¹⁶⁸ Own Reporter, ‘Te Aroha Goldfield’, *Thames Advertiser*, 8 December 1880, p. 3; *Auckland Weekly News*, 11 December 1880, p. 2.

¹⁶⁹ Own Reporter, ‘Te Aroha Goldfield’, *Thames Advertiser*, 3 December 1880, p. 3.

¹⁷⁰ Own Reporter, ‘Te Aroha Goldfield’, *Thames Advertiser*, 8 December 1880, p. 3.

hardening effect on Bonanza stock'.¹⁷¹ Indeed shares were sold for up to £35 each.¹⁷² A reporter gave details of the find and of the work done under John's direction:

Some excitement was created here through the breaking out of several pounds of excellent specimen stone from the leader in the Bonanza, the claim adjoining the Prospectors'. The spot where it was obtained is situated on the edge of the spur leading to the gully, at the foot of which is situated the Hot Springs, and is distant about 20 feet from the boundary of the Prospectors', and 35 feet lower down than the upper workings of that claim. Work was started on the leader towards the end of last week, but nothing extraordinary was met with until yesterday afternoon, when the manager ... in examining the leader, broke off two or three pieces of quartz which showed first-class gold. More was soon obtained, and the manager has probably on hand 10 pounds of specimens, 3 or 4 pounds of picked stuff, and 4cwt of general dirt. The picked and specimen stone has been lodged for safe keeping in the post-office, but before it was locked up it was examined by nearly every one in the township, and those who were competent to judge pronounced it equal to any obtained from the Prospectors'. Several of the pieces had small flakes of gold adhering to them, and in all of them the precious metal was running through the stone. The leader is from four to six inches in thickness, and should it prove auriferous the whole 20 feet the company will soon be in a position to declare a dividend. The manager has two men working on it. A good barrow road has been made from the face to the blacksmith's shop on the Prospectors' claim, and the general dirt is being stacked near that building. Next week a start will be made to operate on the big lode on the opposite side of the gully. This reef has a splendid appearance, being composed of good quartz, with excellent minerals running through it, and is three feet thick. Before the opening of the field gold was seen in two or three pieces of quartz broken from it, and the shareholders anticipate that the stuff will crush well. It is also not unlikely that work will be started on a lode in the creek level, with a view to testing its value.¹⁷³

Late in January, John informed a local correspondent 'that, during his long and varied experience as a quartz miner, he had never encountered a more promising lode than that of the Bonanza, and that it would be no

¹⁷¹ *Thames Star*, 15 December 1880, p. 2.

¹⁷² *Observer*, 18 December 1880, p. 126.

¹⁷³ Own Reporter, 'Te Aroha Goldfield', *Thames Advertiser*, 16 December 1880, p. 3.

surprise to him to meet with a rich shot of gold at any moment'.¹⁷⁴ Despite these words, he did not have sufficient confidence in its worth to invest in the company formed a month previously to work it.¹⁷⁵ By late January, another correspondent reported that

both the upper and lower drives are in full swing on the big reef - the top working prospecting the foot-wall side of the lode, and the lower drive, the hanging-wall side. I like the indications in the upper drive best, there being a seam of almost solid mineral, apparently a mixture of antimony and silver. The vein is almost a couple of inches thick. The indication would be looked upon in many places as the precursor of a patch of gold. I should think the lode is about six feet thick, and from the precipitous nature of the country there will be hundreds of feet of backs.¹⁷⁶

Shortly afterwards, the directors ordered work to cease for a reason not known at Te Aroha; it was rumoured to be because the shareholders' meeting in Auckland had lapsed for a want of a quorum. This was considered 'most unsatisfactory', as there were encouraging prospects and 'ample funds' in hand, and work was expected to restart 'almost immediately'.¹⁷⁷ This was not to be.

After mining near Te Aroha revived after the Waiorongomai discoveries, this ground was pegged out again.¹⁷⁸ At the beginning of July 1882, shareholders of 'the old Bonanza' accepted John's report on how best to work this ground, asked him to take charge of the mine, and authorized him 'to put on two shifts of two men each to start immediately on No. 1 reef, to cut through the reef and work on the hanging-wall side, as recommended in his report'.¹⁷⁹ He worked it in conjunction with the old Prospectors.¹⁸⁰ Within days he exhibited 'a parcel of very excellent gold-bearing stone' in a store and a hotel, but three weeks later he resigned to manage a Waiorongomai mine.¹⁸¹ This ground failed to produce the anticipated gold.

¹⁷⁴ Te Aroha Correspondent, *Auckland Weekly News*, 29 January 1881, p. 9.

¹⁷⁵ *New Zealand Gazette*, 20 January 1881, pp. 110-111.

¹⁷⁶ Own Correspondent, *Thames Star*, 27 January 1881, p. 2.

¹⁷⁷ *Waikato Times*, 5 February 1881, p. 2.

¹⁷⁸ *Thames Star*, 13 December 1881, p. 2.

¹⁷⁹ *Te Aroha Mail*, n.d., reprinted in *Thames Star*, 3 July 1882, p. 3.

¹⁸⁰ *Waikato Times*, 11 July 1882, p. 2.

¹⁸¹ *Te Aroha Mail*, 8 July 1882, reprinted in *Thames Star*, 13 July 1882, p. 2; *Thames Star*, 7 August 1882, p. 2.

At the end of November 1880, he was an owner of the Comstock.¹⁸² Early in January 1881 he was elected to the provisional directorate of the Te Aroha Quartz Crushing Company and to the committee to draw up specifications for a battery and call tenders.¹⁸³ His application, presumably on behalf of this committee, for a machine site was accepted on the condition that £15 was deposited within five days; that not being done, it was struck out.¹⁸⁴ When the company was floated, in April, he held 25 shares.¹⁸⁵ His other investments were in the Aroha and the Te Aroha No. 1 South companies.¹⁸⁶

WAIORONGOMAI MINING

In December 1881, **John** purchased a half share, being a one-thirtieth interest, in the Young Colonial for £48 15s; when it was transferred to the Colonist Company in late July 1882 he was allotted 500 shares.¹⁸⁷ In August 1885 he still held 417, but they were liable for forfeiture for non-payment of a call.¹⁸⁸

In August 1882, he applied for a residence site on the Three Fools ground on behalf of the Army Company, of which he was the manager.¹⁸⁹ Work had started with, it was believed, 'good prospects'.¹⁹⁰ In July, the drive was 'now in a much better country', with 'good progress' being made.¹⁹¹ Three months later it was again 'in a better class of country'.¹⁹² In

¹⁸² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaint Book 1880-1898, 3/1880, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

¹⁸³ *Thames Star*, 8 January 1881, p. 2.

¹⁸⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folios 59-60, BBAV 11505/3a, ANZ-A.

¹⁸⁵ *New Zealand Gazette*, 28 April 1881, p. 476.

¹⁸⁶ *New Zealand Gazette*, 30 December 1880, p. 1796, 24 February 1881, p. 258.

¹⁸⁷ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 2, BBAV 11500/9a; Transfers 1881, no. 362 [the second with this number], BBAV 11581/1a, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Gazette*, 10 August 1882, p. 1101.

¹⁸⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 1 August 1885, p. 7.

¹⁸⁹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folio 202, BBAV 11505/3a, ANZ-A; D.H. Bayldon to John Goldsworthy, 30 May 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 87/607, ANZ-W.

¹⁹⁰ *Waikato Times*, 8 August 1882, p. 2.

¹⁹¹ *Thames Star*, 13 June 1882, p. 2.

¹⁹² *Thames Star*, 4 October 1882, p. 2.

the following October he was replaced as manager by **William**, who informed the directors that two men had driven 100 feet on No. 3 reef, which was 'two feet thick in the face, from which we can get gold with the mortar, and to-day I found a nice block of gold in a large piece of blue quartz'. The ground had become softer for driving. 'The other two men and myself' were working upon a reef, which proved to be No. 3, and was four feet thick where cut; 'I can get nice prospect in the mortar'.¹⁹³ There was no visible gold.¹⁹⁴ Two months later, a mining reporter inspected the workings:

A reef four feet wide, lying in good country, and supposed to be a branch of the New Find reef, has been traced for a length of 700 feet by the manager. Its strike is about north and south, with a dip to the westward. It has been cut into at a number of places in the length mentioned, and has been found to carry a large quantity of mineral similar to that found in the New Find mine. A little gold has been seen in the stone, which, however, prospects well all along. A piece was pounded up in my presence, and on washing it in the dish, a nice prospect of coarse gold was visible. Finding that the reef at one end of the claim was dipping rapidly towards the boundary, the manager recently took up a fresh lease, to catch the underlie, naming it the Piako. A crosscut to give 30 feet of backs is in progress, and should touch the reef in a day or two. At the time of my visit the manager had just finished making a pack track to enable him to take a trial parcel of 10 tons to the tramway, en route for treatment at the mill.¹⁹⁵

Only prospecting was being done; no payable gold had been found, but some lodes contained a high percentage of silver.¹⁹⁶ By the following February several prospecting drives had been put in, and a few tons taken from the cap of the reef would be tested. Taking this quartz down to the tramway involved 'some heavy labour', for it had to be packed out on the men's backs, 'the ground being so steep and rugged as to be impassable for horses'.¹⁹⁷ This trial parcel gave 7dwt to the ton, but combined with treated tailings the return was half an ounce,¹⁹⁸ which, although better, was not payable, and work ceased.

¹⁹³ *Auckland Weekly News*, 20 October 1883, p. 9; *Waikato Times*, 23 October 1883, p. 2.

¹⁹⁴ *Waikato Times*, 23 October 1883, p. 2.

¹⁹⁵ Special Reporter, 'A Trip to Te Aroha Goldfield', *Thames Star*, 14 December 1883, p. 2.

¹⁹⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 11 December 1883, p. 3; *Te Aroha News*, 15 December 1883, p. 2.

¹⁹⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 23 February 1884, p. 2.

¹⁹⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 29 March 1884, p. 2.

In September 1882, **John** was appointed manager of the Alphabet Company, owned by the Battery Company, which owned claims A to H and Moa I and 2.¹⁹⁹ During the first 12 months, he focussed prospecting on the latter two plus D and F, and ‘certainly displayed a considerable amount of tact and mining experience in the able manner in which he has opened up the ground, considering the small amount of money that has been spent’.²⁰⁰ At the time he was appointed, ‘some good gold-bearing stone’ was obtained in driving on the Moa reef, ‘leaving no doubt as to its auriferous character’.²⁰¹ By the end of October 1882, there was about 40 or 50 feet to drive in the Moa low level before it was below where good gold had been found on the surface.²⁰²

In early June 1883, ‘the drive on the reef, from which the good prospect was got from silver ore’, was ‘still being pushed ahead, and the quartz presents the same highly mineralized character’; a second sample was being sent to Auckland for testing. He was ‘striking a winze on the reef opened near the Werahiko boundary’, and a winze was being sunk to meet this. Thirty tons of payable ore had been stacked, and ‘the quartz from the mineral reef near the tramway still presents the same indications of silver ore’.²⁰³ By then he had driven 70 feet on the Moa No. 1 reef and the winze to connect the surface with the intermediate level was down 60 feet. He had driven 100 feet on No. 3 reef in Moa No. 2, this tunnel being only about 20 feet from the tramway, and another tunnel was also being driven. Good assay values had been obtained, and it was hoped to mine low-grade ore profitably.²⁰⁴

In early July, ‘some very fine specimens’ were found in a leader in the F, which was being opened up. ‘The prospects improve, and the vein is getting stronger, and is likely to junction with another gold-bearing leader’.²⁰⁵ When 35lb was crushed, the return, expected to be 2oz, was 3oz 4 1/2dwt, possibly worth £3 3s a ton.²⁰⁶ In September, the reef had been driven on 80 feet, gold being seen the whole distance, and a tunnel at the

¹⁹⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 15 September 1883, p. 2.

²⁰⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 15 September 1883, p. 2.

²⁰¹ *Te Aroha Mail*, n.d., reprinted in *Thames Star*, 20 September 1882, p. 3.

²⁰² *Thames Advertiser*, 30 October 1882, p. 3.

²⁰³ *Waikato Times*, 5 June 1883, p. 2.

²⁰⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 9 June 1883, p. 2.

²⁰⁵ *Waikato Times*, 10 July 1883, p. 2.

²⁰⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 21 July 1883, p. 2.

creek level was in 20 feet.²⁰⁷ The following month, 6oz were obtained from a ton 'taken promiscuously from the paddock', the latter assaying as worth £3 9s 1d per ounce.²⁰⁸ By early November, John had driven a crosscut 50 feet from the creek level, and had cut the reef and driven on it both east and west for 50 feet, gold being 'seen the whole distance'. As the rise had connected with No. 1 level, 35 feet above, the ground was ready for 'stoping out. We have no doubt the quartz from the block will give a good account of itself on being crushed'.²⁰⁹

During November, a winze being sunk on the Moa No. 3 reef was down 20 feet, and the reef was two feet thick, 'the country being all that could be desired. Prospecting other portions of the ground has been vigorously carried on, with very encouraging results'.²¹⁰ In early December, 2oz of amalgam from the Moa No. 1 returned 18dwt of retorted gold.²¹¹ A sledge track was being constructed to get ten tons to the battery.²¹² A visiting mining reporter gave full details of the workings and what had been discovered by mid-December, when only three claims were being worked, 'the two Moas and the F claims':

In the Moa No. 1 claim two reefs have been worked; No. 1 is a large lode, and No. 2 strikes through it. No. 2 reef has been driven on 50ft, and a winze sunk on it 60ft. It averages about 4ft in width, showing a little gold all through. A trial of 10 tons has been taken from the junction of the two reefs, and another of 5 tons from No. 2 lode. A sleigh track 12 chains long has been made, and these two trials will shortly be forwarded to the mill. Moa No. 2: A level in this claim has been put in just above the tramway. No. 3 reef, which varies from 2 to 3 feet wide, has been driven on 140ft, showing gold and galena (or silver ore) all the way. A piece of stone from this reef was, it will be remembered, tested some months ago, and yielded at the rate of 1400oz silver and several ounces of gold per ton. The junction of a north and south reef was met with at the end of this drive, and it was driven on a few feet, gold and galena being found in the stone. A winze was sunk 20 feet on No. 3 reef, the gold and silver continuing rich downwards, but the water stopped further work, and a low level,

²⁰⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 15 September 1883, p. 2.

²⁰⁸ *Waikato Times*, 9 October 1883, p. 2, 23 October 1883, p. 2.

²⁰⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 3 November 1883, p. 2.

²¹⁰ *Waikato Times*, 6 November 1883, p. 2.

²¹¹ *Thames Star*, 5 December 1883, p. 3.

²¹² *Te Aroha News*, 8 December 1883, p. 2.

to give 100 feet of backs, is now being entered. D claim: A little gold has been obtained in a leader 1 foot thick, and a large reef has also been discovered, but no gold was seen in it. F claim: A surface level has been driven 90 feet on a leader a foot wide, in which coarse gold has been seen, and a trial ton from which gave 6oz gold. A lower level has been put in giving 40 feet of backs, and a winze sunk to it from the surface level. The leader has been driven on 120 feet here, keeping its size of a foot thick, and showing gold nearly all the way.²¹³

As the only mining was taking place in the F claim, the company was told to man the ground fully.²¹⁴ In that month, 15oz of amalgam from this claim was tested at the battery for a return of 6oz retorted gold.²¹⁵

In March 1884, a trial of 'a small lot of stuff' from the F claim proved 'that the richest stone is to be found in the smaller veins', for over five ounces per ton from two tons taken from a narrow leader.²¹⁶ The following month, the donkey engine formerly used for hauling rails up the inclines was being 'shifted along the tramway past the Inverness Hopper' to be used to haul quartz up from the F claim paddock. 'A wire will be stretched from the mine to the tram, and along this the stuff will be conveyed by means of a hauling line in boxes containing 6 or 7cwt'.²¹⁷ As the claim was 300 feet below the tramway, a ten-chain wire was needed. By early May, seven or eight tons were being hauled up to the hopper.²¹⁸ As this ore was estimated to yield 70oz from 49 trucks,²¹⁹ a Thames newspaper wanted to know the return:

The owners maintain a mysterious reticence as to the result. Applications for information on the subject are met by the statement that the claim is in private hands, and its affairs are therefore not interesting to the public, and nothing more definite than a hint that the return is highly profitable and the gold of particularly good value divulged.... If the crushing has resulted as handsomely as is represented, no possible harm can arise from the publication of the fact, as intelligence likely to benefit the

²¹³ Special Reporter, 'A Trip to Te Aroha Goldfield', *Thames Star*, 18 December 1883, p. 3.

²¹⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 8 December 1883, p. 2.

²¹⁵ *Thames Star*, 5 December 1883, p. 3.

²¹⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 22 March 1884, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 29 March 1884, pp. 2, 3.

²¹⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 19 April 1884, p. 2.

²¹⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 10 May 1884, p. 2.

²¹⁹ *Waikato Times*, 24 May 1884, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 31 May 1884, p. 2.

district, whereas an unwholesome mystery is always undesirable and likely to kindle suspicion.²²⁰

The local newspaper commented that, ‘although much unnecessary reticence’ was displayed, that the donkey engine was being repaired and operations were ‘being resumed and preparations being made for a lengthened period of work with the wire tramway’ proved that the return ‘must have been satisfactory’. However, the trial crushing of Moa ore ‘was not considered satisfactory’.²²¹ Neither was the F crushing, for in August this claim was offered by sale, and ten months later it was surrendered.²²² In May 1885, one ton from the Moa No. 1 was sent to Sydney for testing by a special process.²²³ The result was not reported, but because the company abandoned the ground, which was pegged out by silver prospectors in August,²²⁴ indicates a poor return.

In September 1883, **John** held 200 shares in the New Welcome Company.²²⁵ One of the three owners of the Chance, with a third of the shares, his interest was transferred to the Chance Company in August 1883, five months after the claim was registered; he was allotted 2,500 of the 20,000 shares.²²⁶ **Henry** had 300 shares, and was the manager.²²⁷ In September, three men were prospecting, and in the following month the two prospectors found a ‘good-looking reef’.²²⁸ In mid-October, he said that he had driven 15 feet on the Inverness reef. ‘I am getting gold out of the reef by crushing, but have not seen it in the stone yet; but the reef and country continues favourable for gold’.²²⁹ Two months later, he was ‘driving on a reef, the quartz from which, though it shows no gold, prospects well on being tested in the mortar. The drive is some 20 or 30 feet above the

²²⁰ *Thames Advertiser*, 2 June 1884, p. 2.

²²¹ *Te Aroha News*, 7 June 1884, p. 2.

²²² *Te Aroha News*, 9 August 1884, p. 7, 13 June 1885, p. 7.

²²³ *Te Aroha News*, 16 May 1885, p. 2; *Thames Advertiser*, 21 May 1885, p. 2.

²²⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 22 August 1885, p. 2, 5 September 1885, p. 2.

²²⁵ *New Zealand Gazette*, 20 September 1883, p. 1345.

²²⁶ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 139, BBAV 11500/9a, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Gazette*, 6 September 1883, p. 1266.

²²⁷ *New Zealand Gazette*, 6 September 1883, p. 1266; *Te Aroha News*, 1 September 1883, p. 2.

²²⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 1 September 1883, p. 2, 6 October 1883, p. 2.

²²⁹ *Auckland Weekly News*, 20 October 1883, p. 9.

tramway'.²³⁰ The last report of any mining, in February 1884, was of a drive heading for the Inverness reef being in 75 feet and of a winze having been sunk in the upper level.²³¹ The ground was forfeited in March 1885.²³²

For the first months of 1884, work in the Premier was erratic, with a shortage of skilled labour, uncertainty about how to develop it, and a contract to extend the upper level to the main reef being abandoned.²³³ 'The non-fulfillment of the high hopes once entertained regarding this mine was the greatest blow the field has yet received', the *Te Aroha News* commented.²³⁴ The directors had to admit that results had 'not been attended with any approach to that success which was so generally anticipated'.²³⁵ After some months of deliberation, work resumed in August under **John's** management.²³⁶ The local newspaper referred to his 'long experience and skill', which was to be utilized in prospecting on the eastern side of 'the big buck reef', previously almost untried.²³⁷ The first output, in late October, of 20 truckloads from the upper level of No. 2 reef, 'yielded rather poorly'.²³⁸ In early November, a good find was made in 'the new workings near the Buck reef', with the 'best stone ever' being extracted.²³⁹ Six truckloads produced 29oz of retorted gold, resulting in extra miners being employed 'and operations vigorously proceeded with'.²⁴⁰ This news was soon replaced by less encouraging results, for during January 'fair crushing stuff' was being extracted from the intermediate level. Gold was 'seen pretty freely in about a foot of the lode, but the remainder is too poor to be worth saving'.²⁴¹ In the year to the end of March 1885 145oz 13dwt

²³⁰ *Thames Star*, 17 December 1883, p. 2.

²³¹ *Te Aroha News*, 16 February 1884, p. 2.

²³² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 139, BBAV 11500/9a, ANZ-A.

²³³ *Te Aroha News*, 2 February 1884, p. 2, 16 February 1884, p. 2, 22 March 1884, p. 2, 16 April 1884, p. 2.

²³⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 16 April 1884, p. 2.

²³⁵ *Te Aroha News*, 10 May 1884, p. 2.

²³⁶ *Waikato Times*, 9 August 1884, p. 3.

²³⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 16 August 1884, p. 2.

²³⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 25 October 1884, p. 2, 1 November 1884, p. 2.

²³⁹ *Waikato Times*, 6 November 1884, p. 2; *Auckland Weekly News*, 15 November 1884, p. 22.

²⁴⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 15 November 1884, p. 2.

²⁴¹ *Te Aroha News*, 31 January 1885, p. 2.

retorted gold was obtained from 144 tons and ‘a parcel of tailings’ produced 76oz 6dwt retorted gold. ‘Operations have been confined to prospecting near the surface and towards the Buck Reef.’²⁴²

In late July, John received instructions to cease work ‘for the present’.²⁴³ When work resumed late in the year, under new management, the results remained unpromising.²⁴⁴

In 1884, John signed the petition seeking the leasing of the tramway.²⁴⁵ Nearly two years later, he tendered to manage it, for £3 10s a week, but his tender was declined.²⁴⁶ In July 1885, he was warned that his 100 shares in the Canadian Company would be forfeited if a call remained unpaid.²⁴⁷ In November 1885, he was charged, along with Thomas Gavin,²⁴⁸ with collusion and non-working of the Holdfast, but this plaint was withdrawn in December, when he, Gavin, and the two plaintiffs were registered as owners; he received 5 1/2 of the 15 shares.²⁴⁹ In April 1886, he was registered as the sole owner of the Union Jack, and immediately, and successfully, applied for protection. He relinquished it in the following February.²⁵⁰

In April 1887 he was ‘very favourably impressed’ with the Waitoa find,²⁵¹ which proved to be a blatant fraud.²⁵² In June 1887, when successfully applying for a mine manager’s certificate, he informed the Minister that he had managed several Waiorongomai mines ‘but during the last 12 months mining as been verry dull in this district, so that I have been

²⁴² George Wilson to Harry Kenrick, 9 April 1885, *AJHR*, 1885, C-2, p. 30.

²⁴³ *Te Aroha News*, 25 July 1885, p. 2.

²⁴⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 31 October 1885, p. 2, 7 November 1885, p. 2; *Te Aroha Correspondent*, *Thames Advertiser*, 23 November 1885, p. 3.

²⁴⁵ *Te Aroha News*, 18 October 1884, p. 7.

²⁴⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 21 August 1886, p. 2.

²⁴⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 25 July 1885, p. 7.

²⁴⁸ See paper on his life.

²⁴⁹ *Te Aroha Warden’s Court*, *Plaint Book 1880-1898*, 35/1885, BBAV 11547/1a; *Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887*, folio 201, BBAV 11500/9a, ANZ-A.

²⁵⁰ *Te Aroha Warden’s Court*, *Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888*, folio 146, BBAV 11567/1a; *Register of Applications 1883-1900*, no. 49 of 1886, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A.

²⁵¹ *Te Aroha News*, 9 April 1887, p. 2.

²⁵² See paper on this fraudulent ‘discovery’.

prospecting on my own account'.²⁵³ Later that month, Goldsworthy and party's tribute produced 1oz 14dwt from three truckloads.²⁵⁴

In February 1888, he prospected the Silver King (originally the Waitoki) with another miner, and commenced mining there a week later with **Thomas** and two others.²⁵⁵ **John** was described as one of the three principal owners.²⁵⁶ At the beginning of March, the local newspaper considered it 'likely to prove a good thing for the shareholders, and is already attracting a good deal of attention, and shares have greatly increased in value'. There was a 'well defined' reef crossing the claim, varying from six to 16 feet in width.

Wherever the reef has been cut through, the quartz broken out has, on being submitted to assay, shown gold and silver in highly payable quantities. Some of the quartz contains a considerable percentage of carbonate of copper, and it is from this class of stone the best results have been obtained.... The find is undoubtedly a very important one.²⁵⁷

Later that month, the ground had been taken over by the Te Aroha Silver and Gold Mining Company²⁵⁸ and actively prospected for several months;²⁵⁹ the two brothers must be assumed to have profited from its quick sale.

When Henry Hopper Adams²⁶⁰ attracted Australian capital in the form of the Te Aroha Silver and Gold Mining Company, John was a member of the committee that organized a banquet in his honour in April 1888.²⁶¹ In that month, assisted by eight men, he commenced prospecting the company's ground, especially the Silver King reef.²⁶² The following month,

²⁵³ John Goldsworthy to Minister of Mines, 1 June 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 87/607, ANZ-W.

²⁵⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 25 June 1887, p. 2.

²⁵⁵ *Te Aroha News*, 25 February 1888, p. 2, 3 March 1888, p. 2.

²⁵⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 24 March 1888, p. 2.

²⁵⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 3 March 1888, p. 2.

²⁵⁸ See paper on this company.

²⁵⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 31 March 1888, p. 2, 7 April 1888, p. 2, 21 April 1888, pp. 2, 4, 2 May 1888, p. 2, 5 May 1888, p. 2, 9 June 1888, p. 2, 30 June 1888, p. 2, 14 July 1888, p. 2.

²⁶⁰ See paper on his life.

²⁶¹ *Te Aroha News*, 31 March 1888, p. 2.

²⁶² *Te Aroha News*, 21 April 1888, p. 2.

when his party prospected between Buck Reef and the old Werahiko claim, 'some fine reefs' were found and gold was 'occasionally' seen, 'but nothing that deserves special notice'.²⁶³ For at least two more months he supervised the main party of experienced prospectors, finding a new reef in the former Three Fools, adjacent to the old Diamond Gully claims, that was named Goldsworthy's.²⁶⁴ In 1884, Thomas Scott,²⁶⁵ the Waiorongomai Gold Mining and Quartz Crushing Company's manager,²⁶⁶ had 'obtained an excellent show of gold in the face' when prospecting what was later known as the Bonanza reef, but 'was unable to satisfactorily test the quartz' without a connection with the tramway.²⁶⁷ During May and June 1886, the company constructed a tramway from the New Find hopper²⁶⁸ and across Diamond Gully on trestles up to 30 feet high.²⁶⁹ As the subsequent crushing was unsatisfactory, work ceased.²⁷⁰ After John found his reef, an extension of the Three Fools one, further up the hillside from the three Bonanza lodes, a contract was let to drive on it for 100 feet and his party continued surface prospecting of it 'with very encouraging results'.²⁷¹ Driving in two shifts a day commenced in December,²⁷² but valuable ore was not found, either then or later, although miners continued to be optimistic.²⁷³ The tramway across Diamond Gully and into the low level of what became the Bonanza was known in the early twentieth century as 'tramway to Goldsworthy'.²⁷⁴

²⁶³ *Waikato Times*, 15 May 1888, p. 2.

²⁶⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 12 May 1888, p. 2, 23 June 1888, p. 2.

²⁶⁵ See *Auckland Weekly News*, 9 October 1875, p. 10, 4 October 1884, p. 15; *Te Aroha News*, 1 October 1887, p. 2; *Thames Advertiser*, 12 August 1891, p. 1.

²⁶⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 3 May 1883, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 10 October 1885, p. 2; Joseph Rennan and F.A. White to Thomas Scott, 14 June 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 87/676, ANZ-W.

²⁶⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 5 June 1886, p. 2.

²⁶⁸ See paper on the New Find mine.

²⁶⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 5 June 1886, p. 2, 19 June 1886, p. 2.

²⁷⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 31 July 1886, p. 2.

²⁷¹ E.H. Hardy, 'Sketch Plan of Bonanza and Majestic Claims, Waiorongomai (N.Z.)', (1908), redrawn by South Pacific Mines, 1959, Eric Coppard Papers, Waihi; *Te Aroha News*, 23 June 1888, p. 2, 4 August 1888, p. 2.

²⁷² *Te Aroha News*, 22 December 1888, p. 2.

²⁷³ For example, *Te Aroha News*, 11 September 1933, p. 5; *AJHR*, 1935, C-2, p. 32.

²⁷⁴ E.H. Hardy, 'Sketch Plan of Bonanza and Majestic Claims, Waiorongomai (N.Z.)', (1908), redrawn by South Pacific Mines, 1959, Eric Coppard Papers, Waihi.

Also in December 1888, John was appointed ‘general mine manager’ for the Te Aroha Silver and Gold Mining Company. ‘Well known as a straight-forward man, of considerable experience’, the *Te Aroha News* believed his appointment would ‘give satisfaction locally’, and the *Waikato Times* commented that ‘his experience should prove valuable’.²⁷⁵

When mining declined, he sought contracts to make tracks and roads. In 1886, his tenders for a sledge track near Buck Rock and another at Stoney Creek were both declined.²⁷⁶ The following February, another to construct a road from the landing to Waiorongomai was also declined.²⁷⁷ One month later, his tender to clear bush in preparation for constructing a water race from Wairakau Creek was also declined;²⁷⁸ no further attempts to become a contractor were noted.

William took out his first Waiorongomai miner’s right on 4 October 1883, four days before his brothers acquired theirs.²⁷⁹ In June 1884, the Lucky Hit Company recommenced work again under his management after a six-month hiatus since **Gribble** had managed it. William’s ‘long experience in mining and ability as a manager’ was ‘well known’, according to the local newspaper.²⁸⁰ The following month, his workers were laying down a tramway and ‘making other preparations for getting out a quantity of stuff to crush’.²⁸¹ The upper drive was cleared out, and a new one was being driven on the lode from the top of the winze to be connected by a winze to the previous workings. The tramway from the low level would end at a ‘convenient spot for stacking quartz near the County line’.²⁸² He managed this mine until it ceased operations because the trial crushing in

²⁷⁵ *Te Aroha News*, 15 December 1888, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 18 December 1888, p. 2.

²⁷⁶ Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 13 February 1886, p. 2, 6 July 1886, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 13 February 1886, p. 7, Piako County Council, 10 July 1886, p. 3.

²⁷⁷ Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 26 February 1887, p. 2.

²⁷⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 5 March 1887, p. 2.

²⁷⁹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Miner’s Right no. 2048, issued 4 October 1883, Miners’ Rights Butt Book 1883, BBAV 11533/11, ANZ-A.

²⁸⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 28 June 1884, p. 2.

²⁸¹ *Waikato Times*, 5 July 1884, p. 2.

²⁸² *Te Aroha News*, 12 July 1884, p. 2.

October of ten truckloads produced only 9oz 17dwt, 'hardly payable'.²⁸³ He signed the petition in wanting the leasing the tramway.²⁸⁴

His three brothers took out miner's rights on 8 October 1883.²⁸⁵ **Thomas** also signed the petition supporting the leasing of the tramway.²⁸⁶ In June 1885, his party obtained a contract to break out 300 tramway trucks from the Colonist, at 16s 3d per truck.²⁸⁷ Four months later, it won a contract to drive 20 feet on the Colonist reef in the Canadian.²⁸⁸ In April 1888, his tender for a 500-foot crosscut in the former Waiorongomai ground was declined.²⁸⁹

In February 1888, Thomas applied for the Ruby, of seven acres, to be mined in the name of the Ruby Gold and Silver Mining Company,²⁹⁰ a company that was never formed. Although there had been an earlier Ruby claim elsewhere on the field,²⁹¹ it must be assumed that his was named after his daughter, Ruby Gertrude, born six months previously.²⁹² In April, Adams sought surplus ground from him, but lost his suit by not appearing in court.²⁹³ In June and July, Thomas sold five of the 20 shares for £150.²⁹⁴ When the three owners were charged with non-working in April 1889, he told the warden that 'there had been a difficulty in getting in calls, but he had seen some of the shareholders recently, who had promised to pay up'.

²⁸³ *Te Aroha News*, 11 October 1884, p. 2, 19 September 1885, p. 2; Declaration of F.A. White, 13 May 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 92/659, ANZ-W.

²⁸⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 18 October 1884, p. 7.

²⁸⁵ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Miner's Right nos. 2059-2061, issued 8 October 1883, Miners' Rights Butt Book 1883, BBAV 11533/11, ANZ-A.

²⁸⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 18 October 1884, p. 7.

²⁸⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 13 June 1885, p. 2.

²⁸⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 10 October 1885, p. 2.

²⁸⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 21 April 1888, p. 2.

²⁹⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Application dated 25 February 1888, Mining Applications 1888, BBAV 11289/12a, ANZ-A.

²⁹¹ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 40, BBAV 11500/9a, ANZ-A; *Thames Advertiser*, 29 April 1882, p. 2; *Te Aroha Mail*, n.d., cited in *Thames Star*, 15 August 1882, p. 3.

²⁹² Birth Certificate of Ruby Gertrude Goldsworthy, 5 September 1887, 1887/9451, BDM.

²⁹³ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Complaint Book 1880-1898, 7/1888, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

²⁹⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Thomas Goldsworthy to S.L. Hirst, 7 June 1888, Thomas Goldsworthy to E.W. Hanmer, 8 July 1888; Thomas Goldsworthy to W.T. Firth, 17 July 1888, Certified Instruments 1888, BBAV 11581/9a, ANZ-A.

When he asked for the case to be adjourned while he put some men on he was instructed to employ two.²⁹⁵ The following month, ten acres were abandoned, the owners retaining three.²⁹⁶ At the beginning of July, the mining inspector reported visiting '(Goldsworthys) Ruby L.H. no person working'.²⁹⁷ In January 1890, it was forfeited for non-working, and the following month he left for Broken Hill in Australia.²⁹⁸ After becoming 'underground boss in one of the principal mines' there, nearly a year later his family joined him.²⁹⁹

At the end of the same month he acquired his miner's right for Waiorongomai, **Henry** sold his house in Tararu Road, along with his 'superior' furniture and effects, 'comprising Horse-hair Couch, Loo and other Tables, Rimu Bedstead, Chairs, Carpets, Ornaments, Kitchen Utensils, etc'.³⁰⁰ At Waiorongomai he managed the Hit or Miss.³⁰¹ (It missed.) In 1885, his tender for driving 100 feet in the Lord Stanley was declined, as was one to construct a sledge track at Buck Rock a year later.³⁰² In 1888, he unsuccessfully tendered for driving in the Silver King.³⁰³ Late in the decade he was a shift boss for the Te Aroha Silver and Gold Mining Company.³⁰⁴

ACCIDENT RELIEF

In 1875, **John** was elected to the committee of the Thames Miners' Accident Relief Fund.³⁰⁵ Eight years later he was elected to the committee of the Te Aroha Miners' Accident Relief Fund, being re-elected the following

²⁹⁵ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaintiff Book 1880-1898, 10/1889, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A; Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 3 April 1889, p. 2.

²⁹⁶ Warden's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 29 May 1889, p. 2.

²⁹⁷ Inspector of Mines, Letterbook 1888-1892, p. 52, 2 July 1888, YBAZ 1240/1, ANZ-A.

²⁹⁸ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaintiff Book 1880-1898, 3/1890, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 12 February 1890, p. 2.

²⁹⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 11 January 1891, p. 2.

³⁰⁰ Advertisement, *Thames Star*, 30 October 1883, p. 3; *Thames Advertiser*, 31 October 1883, p. 3.

³⁰¹ *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 494.

³⁰² *Te Aroha News*, 21 February 1885, p. 2, 13 February 1886, p. 7.

³⁰³ *Te Aroha News*, 12 May 1888, p. 2.

³⁰⁴ Declaration of John Goldsworthy, 25 January 1892, Mines Department, MD 1, 92/143, ANZ-W.

³⁰⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 1 June 1875, p. 3.

year.³⁰⁶ When it was revived in 1889 as the Waiorongomai Accident Relief Fund, he failed to be elected to its committee, unlike **Thomas**, who remained a member until leaving for Broken Hill in the following year.³⁰⁷

In 1890, **Henry** called a meeting to tell it that ‘he had strained his back some time ago while lifting a heavy piece of timber, and that the injury brought on rheumatism and sciatica, and he had eventually to cease working’. After receiving one payment from the fund, the committee had declined a second one unless authorized by a meeting of members ‘or on the certificate of a doctor’; the meeting agreed to pay him again.³⁰⁸

TUI MINING

In October 1885, **John** seconded a motion at a Te Aroha meeting that a three-man committee find the best line for a track to the new discoveries.³⁰⁹ The following month, he had one of the 15 shares in the Keep It Dark, selling his interest two years later.³¹⁰

PROPERTY IN THE TE AROHA DISTRICT

In August 1882, **John** was granted a business site at Waiorongomai.³¹¹ The following year, he bought four allotments, two for £11 each and two for £4 5s each.³¹² He erected a six-roomed cottage in 1884.³¹³ In 1887, he received £100 for transferring one section, which the purchaser promptly resold for £250.³¹⁴

³⁰⁶ *Te Aroha News*, 23 June 1883, p. 2, 16 February 1884, p. 2.

³⁰⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 13 February 1889, p. 2, 12 February 1890, 26 March 1890, p. 2.

³⁰⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 26 March 1890, p. 2.

³⁰⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 24 October 1885, p. 2.

³¹⁰ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 193, BBAV 11500/9a; Certified Instruments 1888, Transfer dated 22 November 1887, BBAV 11581/9a, ANZ-A.

³¹¹ Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folio 188, BAV 11505/3a, ANZ-A.

³¹² *Thames Advertiser*, 12 November 1883, p. 3.

³¹³ *Te Aroha News*, 29 March 1884, p. 7, 26 April 1884, p. 7.

³¹⁴ High School Board, *Thames Advertiser*, 6 September 1887, p. 2.

From 1889 onwards, **Henry** lived in the bush close to the lower road; **Thomas** lived in the same area.³¹⁵ In February 1891, after **Henry** had left the district, he forfeited this property because of unpaid rent.³¹⁶

INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

The brothers were only minimally involved in the Te Aroha and Waiorongomai communities. In 1883, **John** was a member of the committee appointed to establish a public library at Te Aroha.³¹⁷ In 1889, he signed the petition opposing the formation of a borough.³¹⁸ In 1887, **Thomas** was the last to be elected to the Waiorongomai school committee, with 26 votes.³¹⁹ Two years later, **William** was noted as having attempted, unsuccessfully, to put out a fire in a slaughterhouse near Waiorongomai.³²⁰

BECOMING MINE MANAGERS AND BATTERY SUPERINTENDENTS

In 1887, after providing testimonials about having managed mines at Thames and Waiorongomai and stating that he had managed these for nearly 20 of his 26 years of mining, **John** was granted a mine manager's certificate.³²¹ In 1895, after explaining that he had been treating ores for over 20 years and had been in charge of the Try Fluke Company's mines, battery, and cyanide plant at Kuaotunu for the past four years, he was granted a certificate as a battery superintendent.³²²

William, first recommended for a mine manager's certificate in 1876, in 1892 was granted a provisional warrant and then a second-class service

³¹⁵ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 140/1888, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 2 February 1889, p. 2.

³¹⁶ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaint Book 1880-1898, 40/1891, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

³¹⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 21 July 1883, p. 2.

³¹⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 23 October 1889, p. 2.

³¹⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 30 April 1887, p. 2.

³²⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 20 March 1889, p. 2.

³²¹ John Goldsworthy to Minister of Mines, 1 June 1887, with testimonials from R.McD. Scott, F.A. White, D.H. Bayldon, Henry Gilfillan, and H. Fisk; memorandum by Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 29 June 1887, Mines Department, MD 1, 87/607, ANZ-W.

³²² John Goldsworthy to Board of Examiners, 3 December 1894; memorandum of 9 July 1895, Mines Department, MD 1, 94/1763, ANZ-W; *Te Aroha News*, 18 July 1895, p. 2.

certificate.³²³ As an example of his skills being regarded favourably, in 1901 he reported on the Barrier Reefs Company's property.³²⁴

Thomas received a provisional warrant as a mine manager when managing the Tokatea Consuls at Coromandel in the later 1890s.³²⁵ He did not upgrade this.

From September 1890 until April 1891, when it closed, **Henry** managed the Prosperity Company's mine, giving 'every satisfaction'.³²⁶ John certified that he had employed his brother as an underground shift boss in Thames and Te Aroha and had found him 'capable and trustworthy'.³²⁷ After the mining inspector certified that he had had 20 years of experience, he was granted a second-class service certificate.³²⁸ In 1905, with three other managers, he petitioned parliament for first class certificates 'on their giving proof' to the board of examiners that they had 'possessed the necessary qualifications' in 1898. The Goldfields and Mines Committee urged the government to comply with their request.³²⁹

After supervising the mine, battery, and cyanide plant at the Great Mercury at Kuaotunu for nearly two years, Henry, at the end of 1894, successfully applied for a battery superintendent's certificate. The legal manager described him as being 'excellent' and of 'good repute'.³³⁰

³²³ Declarations of J.A. Hehatt, 31 August 1871; John Gibbons, 6 April 1876; R. McD. Scott, 13 May 1887; F.A. White, 13 May 1887; D.G. Macdonell, 25 May 1887; memorandum of 5 October 1892, Mines Department, MD 1, 92/659; 'Return of Gold Mines in Provincial District of Auckland and Mine Managers', Legislative Department, LE 1, 1899/144, ANZ-W.

³²⁴ *Auckland Weekly News*, 10 May 1901, p. 23.

³²⁵ Inspectors' Reports on Applications for Warrants to act as Provisional Mine Manager, no. 132, Mines Department, MD 4, 2/47; 'Return of Gold Mines in Provincial District of Auckland and Mine Managers', 1899, Legislative Department, LE 1. 1899/144, ANZ-W.

³²⁶ Declarations of Henry Gilfillan and James Mackay, 16 December 1891, Mines Department, MD 1, 92/143, ANZ-W.

³²⁷ Declaration of John Goldsworthy, 25 January 1892, Mines Department, MD 1. 92/143, ANZ-W.

³²⁸ Declaration of George Wilson, 29 September 1891; memorandum of 13 May 1892, Mines Department, MD 1, 92/143, ANZ-W; *New Zealand Mines Record*, 16 August 1904, p. 44.

³²⁹ 'Goldfields and Mines Committee', *AJHR*, 1905, I-4, p. 2.

³³⁰ Henry Goldsworthy to Board of Examiners, 5 December 1894; Declaration of Henry Gilfillan, 26 November 1894, Mines Department, MD 1, 94/1819, ANZ-W; *Te Aroha News*, 18 July 1895, p. 2.

THAMES MINING IN THE 1880s

In January 1880, **John** unsuccessfully bid for two claims owned by the Imperial Crown Company.³³¹ Seven months later, he acquired shares in the Luck's All Company.³³² In mid-1882, he sold his 60 shares in the Southern Cross Company, and in December had 30 of the 12,000 shares in the Old Caledonian Company.³³³ During this and the following year he was managing director of the New North Devon Company.³³⁴

OHINEMURI MINING IN THE 1880s

In 1882, **John's** interests in the Waitekauri Crown Company and the Just-in-Time Company, also at Waitekauri, were registered.³³⁵ In 1887, with one of his brothers his party had a claim adjacent to the Prospectors' at Waiomu.³³⁶

In October 1887, the *Thames Advertiser* reported that 'William Goldsworthy and Richard Newdick,³³⁷ two experienced prospectors, being old identities of the Thames, have now started prospecting' at Maratoto.³³⁸ A journalist present on the opening day of this new field reported that these 'old veterans' were working on behalf of an Auckland syndicate. When given a good 'send off' by the miners, the journalist's horse

did not appreciate the compliment, and to mark his disapproval of the proceedings, let out his left - hind-leg – and caught Billy Goldsworthy a vicious kick, which put that warrior *hors de combat* – a condition he is not likely to recover from for a day or two. We were all in a great fright in case his leg had been broken by the blow, and we were greatly relieved when we got him into

³³¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 28 January 1880, p. 3.

³³² *New Zealand Gazette*, 22 July 1880, p. 1065.

³³³ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 22 no. 201, box 33 no. 199, ANZ-A.

³³⁴ Declaration of F.A. White, n.d. [May 1887], Mines Department, MD 1, 87/607, ANZ-W.

³³⁵ *New Zealand Gazette*, 19 January 1882, pp. 91, 93.

³³⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 21 October 1887, p. 2.

³³⁷ See *Auckland Star*, 29 January 1896, p. 5; *Thames Star*, 30 April 1896, p. 3, 19 July 1899, p. 2, 30 April 1902, p. 1; *New Zealand Herald*, 14 February 1923, p. 7, 5 June 1923, p. 8.

³³⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 13 October 1887, p. 2.

the whare and found that there were no bones broken; it was touch-and-go, though, and the kick was a very severe one. We left him being carefully attended by the surgeon, who was rubbing in a lotion of painkiller to keep down the swelling.

This ‘surgeon’ was the Hikutaia publican.³³⁹ Despite still living at Waiorongomai, William acquired ground there early the following year.³⁴⁰ His two claims, the Pay Rock and the Hillside, were surrendered in May 1889, even though a lode had been found in the former.³⁴¹

OHINEMURI MINING IN THE 1890s

After being a farmer and flaxmiller, **William** returned to mining,³⁴² at first at Karangahake. In mid-June 1895, the *Thames Advertiser* reported that he, ‘formerly a well-known mine manager here, has been appointed manager of the United, Talisman, and New Bonanza Companies. There were ten applications for the post’.³⁴³ He would manage the Talisman for eight years.³⁴⁴ In February 1896, in addition to managing the Ivanhoe he became the Imperial Company’s supervisor.³⁴⁵ During the boom, he invested in three companies, the Hercules at Karangahake, the Sea View at Waihi, and the Central at Waitekauri, and advised investors about other mines.³⁴⁶

³³⁹ ‘Quaintan Queer’, ‘Trip to Thames’, *Auckland Weekly News*, 19 November 1887, p. 8.

³⁴⁰ *Thames Advertiser*, 27 January 1888, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 25 February 1888, p. 2.

³⁴¹ Thames Warden’s Court, Register of Applications for Licensed Holdings and Special Claims 1887-1896, folios 27, 28, BACL 14376/1a; Register of Licensed Holdings 1887-1891, folios 87, 89, BACL 14355/1a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 17 March 1888, p. 2; Warden’s Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 10 February 1888, p. 3, 9 November 1888, p. 2; *Auckland Star*, 15 November 1898, p. 2.

³⁴² *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 494.

³⁴³ *Thames Advertiser*, 17 June 1895, p. 2.

³⁴⁴ *Thames Star*, 27 July 1904, p. 2, 21 October 1905, p. 4; *Observer*, 26 July 1919, p. 4.

³⁴⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 26 February 1896, p. 2; G.E. Alderton, *Auckland Goldfields Maps and Investors’ Guide* (Auckland, 1896), p. 2.

³⁴⁶ *New Zealand Gazette*, 26 September 1895, p. 1544, 3 October 1895, p. 1576, 5 December 1895, p. 1883; James Russell to J.H. Harrison, 13 September 1895, Letterbook no. 60, p. 27, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

In March 1899, he purchased the Victor Waihou before transferring it, three weeks later, to the London New Zealand Exploration Company.³⁴⁷

He also invested in the Tairua district, in July 1896 applying for the Melrose and the Broken Hills North and in the following month for the Dandy and the Melbourne, but after withdrawing his applications for two of these was granted the Broken Hill North and Melbourne.³⁴⁸ The former was surrendered in October 1897.³⁴⁹ His Broken Hill Proprietary, granted in September 1896, was sold three months later.³⁵⁰

In May 1899, **Henry** was appointed supervisor of two Karangahake mines, the Talisman Extended and Royal Mail, owned by the London and New Zealand Exploration Company.³⁵¹

COROMANDEL MINING IN THE 1890s

From 1891 until 1896, **John** managed the Try Fluke at Kuaotunu for its New Zealand owners.³⁵² When an English company bought this property in the latter year, he was re-appointed manager.³⁵³ It 'was another successful venture' under his management, an obituary recorded.³⁵⁴ In 1898, he was elected to a committee of residents organizing a petition seeking government assistance to develop the low levels.³⁵⁵ Also in that year, he was appointed to manage the Mariposa, and was a member of a syndicate developing the Lucky Maori at Whauwhau, Kuaotunu.³⁵⁶ In

³⁴⁷ Paeroa Warden's Court, Register of Special Claims 1897-1898, folio 124, ZAAP 13294/3a, ANZ-A.

³⁴⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 16 July 1896, p. 3, 23 July 1896, p. 3, 3 August 1896, p. 3, 31 August 1896, p. 3, 2 October 1896, p. 4, 30 October 1896, p. 4, 7 July 1897, p. 4.

³⁴⁹ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings and Special Claims 1896-1897, folio 68, BACL 14355/4a, ANZ-A.

³⁵⁰ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings and Special Claims 1895-1896, folio 195, BACL 14355/3a, ANZ-A.

³⁵¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 13 May 1899, p. 3.

³⁵² Mine Manager's Certificate, April 1891, 10 June 1892, H.W.T. Rowe Papers, in private possession; *Thames Advertiser*, 1 January 1891, p. 2, 2 February 1892, p. 2, 19 July 1895, p. 2; *AJHR*, 1894, C-3A, p. 15; R.A. Simpson, *This is Kuaotunu* (Thames, 1979), p. 44.

³⁵³ *Thames Advertiser*, 15 September 1896, p. 3; *Observer*, 19 September 1896, p. 13.

³⁵⁴ *Observer*, 8 June 1907, p. 4.

³⁵⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 21 July 1898, p. 4.

³⁵⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 12 October 1898, p. 4, 15 November 1898, p. 4.

December 1899, after ceasing to manage the *Mariposa* he took charge of the Kauri Freehold Gold Estates Company's mines at Opiotunui while the supervisor was in England.³⁵⁷

John invested in ten Kuaotunu companies during the boom, in one at Kennedy's Bay, and in another at Port Charles.³⁵⁸ He 'furnished a lengthy report' on one Kuaotunu property after it was floated, and was a director of four others.³⁵⁹ Two claims he acquired were quickly transferred to one of these companies; two others were held for longer, unsuccessfully.³⁶⁰ That he was a prominent member of the community was illustrated by his being selected as a member of a committee to interview the Minister of Mines about local needs.³⁶¹ He was elected to the school committee in 1898.³⁶²

William invested in two Kuaotunu companies during the boom: the A1 and the Waitaia Consolidated.³⁶³

After returning from Broken Hill, in November 1895 **Thomas** was appointed manager of the Napier.³⁶⁴ He was appointed to manage the Tokatea Consuls, behind Coromandel, in early 1897.³⁶⁵ When new owners acquired it in 1900, one of them praised 'the thorough and systematic manner in which the mine has been worked', which reflected 'the greatest credit' on him.³⁶⁶

³⁵⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 23 December 1899, p. 3.

³⁵⁸ *New Zealand Gazette*, 11 July 1895, p. 1092, 8 August 1895, p. 1239, 29 August 1895, p. 1308, 5 September 1895, p. 1413, 3 October 1895, p. 1574, 7 November 1895, p. 1771, 19 December 1895, pp. 1957, 1958, 11 June 1896, p. 941, 15 October 1896, p. 1723, 22 October 1896, p. 1779, 26 October 1896, p. 1991.

³⁵⁹ *Auckland Star*, 2 November 1895, p. 5; Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 78 no. 524, box 80 no. 535, box 96 no. 621, ANZ-A; *List of Companies Registered with the Auckland Chamber of Mines* (Auckland, 1896), p. 3.

³⁶⁰ Coromandel Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1889-1896, folios 126, 133, 135, ZAA 14057/1a; Register of Kuaotunu Special Claims 1896-1907, folio 244, ZAA 14057/1b, ANZ-A.

³⁶¹ *Auckland Weekly News*, 13 March 1892, p. 22.

³⁶² *Coromandel County News*, 2 May 1898, p. 3.

³⁶³ *New Zealand Gazette*, 3 October 1895, p. 1575, 22 October 1896, p. 1779.

³⁶⁴ *Mining Standard*, 22 November 1895, p. 3.

³⁶⁵ 'Inspectors' Reports on Applications for Warrants to act as Provisional Mine Manager', no. 132, Mines Department, MD 4, 2/47, ANZ-W.

³⁶⁶ *Thames Star*, 20 January 1900, p. 4; *Auckland Weekly News*, 26 January 1900, p. 19.

From March 1893 until November 1897, **Henry** was in charge of the Great Mercury mine, battery, and cyanide plant at Kuaotunu.³⁶⁷ In 1896, he owned the Mountain Flower for just over three weeks before transferring it to the company of that name.³⁶⁸ In 1895 and 1896, he invested in three companies working at Kuaotunu and in one at Port Charles.³⁶⁹ In 1898, he was the Southern Star Company's manager, and the following May ceased to be underground boss of the Royal Oak.³⁷⁰

THAMES MINING IN THE 1890s

William invested in a Puru company in 1896.³⁷¹

OHINEMURI MINING IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

As well as managing the Talisman at Karangahake in the early twentieth century, **William** obtained a half share in the Shotover in February 1900; this ground was surrendered in December the following year.³⁷² He was elected chairman of the school committee at least twice.³⁷³

In September 1905, having inspected the Rising Sun at Owharoa 'and thinking highly of it', he 'accepted a seat on the directorate'.³⁷⁴ He was not the only brother to be impressed with its prospects, and in December the *Observer* referred to 'the Messrs Goldsworthy' as having taken it over.³⁷⁵

³⁶⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 24 February 1894, p. 2; Henry Goldsworthy to Board of Examiners, 5 December 1894; Declaration of Henry Gilfillan, 26 November 1894, Mines Department, MD 1, 94/1819; Inspectors' Reports on Applications for Warrants to Act as Provisional Mine Managers, no. 3, Mines Department, MD 4/47, ANZ-W.

³⁶⁸ Coromandel Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1889-1896, folio 140, ZAAN 14057/1a, ANZ-A.

³⁶⁹ *New Zealand Gazette*, 3 October 1895, p. 1575, 19 December 1895, p. 1957, 27 August 1896, p. 1378, 26 November 1896, p. 1991.

³⁷⁰ Photograph, *New Zealand Herald and Auckland Weekly News Exhibition Number*, 1898, p. 14; *Thames Advertiser*, 13 May 1899, p. 3.

³⁷¹ *New Zealand Gazette*, 5 November 1896, p. 1868.

³⁷² Paeroa Warden's Court, Register of Special Claims 1887-1895, p. 70, ZAAP 13294/1a, ANZ-A.

³⁷³ *Auckland Weekly News*, 8 May 1902, p. 41.

³⁷⁴ *Observer*, 30 September 1905, p. 20.

³⁷⁵ *Observer*, 9 December 1905, p. 20.

When the battery commenced working in 1916, the *Observer* outlined the history of the mine. A director had ‘induced’ William,

who had great faith in the mine, to raise sufficient capital to continue prospecting. Mr **Tom** Goldsworthy then took charge. A prospecting tunnel from the road level was decided upon and energetically pushed forward. An accident in the tunnel incapacitated Tom Goldsworthy, who had put in faithful work, and **Harry** Goldsworthy took charge temporarily, until Tom Gillon³⁷⁶ was appointed.³⁷⁷

Its history was a little more complicated than this, with these three brothers involved at various stages. **William**, who had ‘retired from active mining’ by 1905 to farm near Waiuku, ‘induced many Waiuku residents to invest’.³⁷⁸ In October, **Henry** was appointed manager, holding this post for about two months.³⁷⁹ **William** was manager in January 1906 and ‘supervising director’ in 1907,³⁸⁰ when **Thomas**, who had settled in Owharoa in January 1906,³⁸¹ was managing it. In 1908, Thomas was allotted 500 of the 120,000 shares in the Rising Sun Company, these 3s shares being paid up to 6d because he was a vendor. By May 1910, he had acquired an extra 420. **William** was allotted 1,000 shares, paid up by the same amount for the same reason; by May 1910, he had acquired an extra 320.³⁸² In November 1911, ‘while directing operations in the replacement of a set of timbers’ in a prospecting drive, **Thomas** was ‘struck by a fall of stone which broke one of his legs between the ankle and knee’.³⁸³ Being then aged 63, he spent 143 days in Waihi hospital before his leg was healed; as compensation for his lost income, he was granted £14 17s 11d by the gold

³⁷⁶ See paper on prospectors and investors in the Te Aroha Mining District in the 1930s.

³⁷⁷ *Observer*, 15 April 1916, p. 17.

³⁷⁸ *Observer*, 19 July 1929, p. 21.

³⁷⁹ *Thames Star*, 21 October 1905, p. 4; *Thames Star*, 8 January 1906, p. 2; *Observer*, 15 April 1916, p. 17.

³⁸⁰ *Thames Star*, 22 January 1906, p. 1; *Auckland Weekly News*, 28 February 1907, p. 25; *Observer*, 8 June 1907, p. 4.

³⁸¹ Paeroa Warden’s Court, Register of Miners’ Rights 1906-1912, no. 51837, issued 30 January 1906, ZAAP 13769/1a, ANZ-A.

³⁸² Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 235 no. 1377, ANZ-A.

³⁸³ *Auckland Weekly News*, 30 November 1911, p. 36; *Observer*, 15 April 1916, p. 17, 19 July 1929, p. 21.

miners' relief fund.³⁸⁴ The following May, another broken leg meant 238 days off work and £24 15s 10d in compensation.³⁸⁵ In February 1913, a leg injury required 43 days off work, for which he received £4 9s 7d.³⁸⁶ His incapacitation ended his management, and **Henry** 'took charge temporarily'.³⁸⁷

An outline of the mine's history given in the *Observer* in April 1916, when the battery started working was accompanied by sketches of some of the prominent people in attendance. Notable was **William**, 'clothed in overalls, with any old hat', a 'cheese-cutter' described as being 'a pet'. In his speech, he 'related how he saved the situation and made the mine what it is'.³⁸⁸

In the 1922 reconstruction of the company, **Thomas** received 500 of the 150,000 shares, the 3s shares being paid up to 1s.³⁸⁹ His only other involvement in the district was in 1905, when he was appointed to manage the Wentworth, near Whangamata, under Adams' supervision.³⁹⁰

William (or his nephew?) was involved in Tairua mines. In April 1911, he sought protection for his Tairua South, 'as I have hopes ... to have it floated in Wellington. I came out to the Thames specially to pilot two Wellington speculators over to see this ground as well as some of the older mines'.³⁹¹ His hopes were not fulfilled, and in May 1912 he surrendered it.³⁹² By the following month, he had sold 10,500 shares in the Tairua Mines Company, retaining 1,000.³⁹³

³⁸⁴ Waihi Hospital, Register of Patients 1911-1914, folio 22, ZABW 4935/1b, ANZ-A; Gold Miners' Relief Fund, Register of Applicants 1912, Public Trust Office, PT 1/193, ANZ-W.

³⁸⁵ Gold Miners' Relief Fund, Register of Applicants 1912, Public Trust Office, PT 1/193, ANZ-W.

³⁸⁶ Gold Miners' Relief Fund, Register of Applicants 1913, Public Trust Office, PT 1/193, ANZ-W.

³⁸⁷ *Observer*, 15 April 1916, p. 17, 19 July 1929, p. 21.

³⁸⁸ *Observer*, 15 April 1916, p. 17, including sketches.

³⁸⁹ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 235/1377, ANZ-A.

³⁹⁰ *Thames Star*, 29 March 1905, p. 2.

³⁹¹ William Goldsworthy to E.N. Miller, 22 April 1911, Thames Warden's Court, Thames Applications 1911, 70/11, BACL 14350/62, ANZ-A.

³⁹² Thames Warden's Court, Thames Applications 1912, 61/12, BACL 14350/64, ANZ-A.

³⁹³ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 382 no. 2134, ANZ-A.

In 1902, **Henry** was mine manager of the Talisman Consolidated.³⁹⁴ After being underground manager of the Dubbo section of the Talisman, in July that year he was appointed to manage the Maratoto.³⁹⁵ In early 1906, he was managing the Auckland.³⁹⁶ In 1910, he became manager of the Crown Royal, at Karangahake.³⁹⁷

THAMES MINING IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

In December 1904, **Henry** was appointed manager of the New Eclipse, at Tararu, an appointment he held for ten months.³⁹⁸ Three years later, he had 1,000 of the 150,000 shares in the New Dart Company.³⁹⁹ In 1906, **William** was appointed to manage the Thames.⁴⁰⁰ Two years later, he was the Scandinavian Company's manager, 'opening up practically new ground' in Upper Tararu.⁴⁰¹

COROMANDEL MINING IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

After managing mines at Kuaotunu until 1899, 'his career has kept him at Opitonui and Coromandel, as manager for English companies', **John's** obituary recorded.⁴⁰² He was elected chairman of the Opitonui school committee in 1900.⁴⁰³ In March 1901, he was appointed supervisor for the Kuaotunu Syndicate, which owned the Mariposa and Kapai-Vermont.⁴⁰⁴ Two months later, **William** was recorded as being supervisor;⁴⁰⁵ a mistake for his brother, as William had no other involvement in the district? At the end of that year he was photographed

³⁹⁴ *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 494; *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 16 August 1918, p. 2.

³⁹⁵ *Thames Star*, 9 July 1902, p. 3.

³⁹⁶ *Thames Star*, 8 January 1906, p. 2, 10 January 1906, p. 2.

³⁹⁷ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 244 no. 1433, ANZ-A.

³⁹⁸ *Thames Star*, 2 December 1904, p. 2, 21 October 1905, p. 4.

³⁹⁹ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 199 no. 1200, ANZ-A.

⁴⁰⁰ *Thames Star*, 10 January 1906, p. 2.

⁴⁰¹ Thames Warden's Court, Thames Applications 1908, 188/08, BACL 14350/58a, ANZ-A.

⁴⁰² *Observer*, 8 June 1907, p. 4.

⁴⁰³ *Auckland Weekly News*, 4 May 1900, p. 16.

⁴⁰⁴ *Thames Star*, 20 March 1901, p. 3.

⁴⁰⁵ *Thames Star*, 10 May 1901, p. 4.

with some of the workers he managed in the Rangatira at Opitonui.⁴⁰⁶ In early 1903, **John** was appointed as mine manager of the Old Hauraki Company, at Coromandel, with a supervisor above him.⁴⁰⁷ When he died in 1907, he was still the manager.⁴⁰⁸ In 1904, he was appointed to manage the Royal Oak, again with a supervisor, Adams, in ultimate control.⁴⁰⁹ He was elected a director of the Coromandel Big Reefs Company in 1905, selling most of his shares within 14 months.⁴¹⁰

In July 1904, **Thomas** was appointed to manage the Royal Oak, but left this post the following March; Adams supervised his work.⁴¹¹

FOR AND AGAINST THE THAMES MINERS' UNION

In May 1901, when the Conciliation Board held a hearing at Coromandel into the union's claim for increased wages, **John** gave evidence for the employers:

The conditions of mining were the same now as they were twenty years ago. He knew mining to be more safe now than then. He had received no complaints regarding the rate of pay. He had made allowances for men working in wet places. He was in favour of contracting, it being good for both the industry and also the men. He considered there should be a clause in conditions empowering mine managers to annul contracts. He had not known of that clause being abused in the past. Discipline in mines could not be maintained without it. The forfeiture clause did not prevent men putting in a low price. He considered the increased rate of pay asked by the Union would have an injurious effect on the industry.

In reply to union advocate Michael O'Keeffe,⁴¹² he stated that he knew of contractors making '12s 9 3/4d per shift at Opitonui'. He did not consider a specified portion of a mine there as 'very dangerous' and had 'never found

⁴⁰⁶ Photograph, *Auckland Weekly News*, 12 December 1901, Supplement, p. 11.

⁴⁰⁷ *New Zealand Mines Record*, 16 April 1903, p. 395; *Thames Star*, 2 July 1903, p. 4.

⁴⁰⁸ *Coromandel County News*, 31 May 1907, p. 3; *Observer*, 8 June 1907, p. 4.

⁴⁰⁹ *Thames Star*, 27 July 1904, p. 2.

⁴¹⁰ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 199 no. 1201, ANZ-A.

⁴¹¹ *Auckland Weekly News*, 28 July 1904, p. 41, 6 April 1905, p. 26; *Thames Star*, 29 March 1905, p. 2.

⁴¹² See paper on his life.

it necessary to supply men with sulphate of iron spray to combat gelignite fumes'. His miners 'had never said 8s per day was not sufficient', and he did not consider those on contract should be paid compensation if it was terminated. 'A manager had a perfect right to discharge men whether on contract or wages'.⁴¹³

The proportion of boys, one to every five competent men, asked in the Union scale, was small enough, when it was considered that it was necessary to train boys to keep up the supply of miners. He thought it was fair that men should only receive ordinary terms when they were engaged after hours at necessary work.⁴¹⁴

Some 'interesting evidence' was noted when he was questioned by O'Keeffe:

Mr O'Keeffe: You said that, if this increase of wages were granted, the poor worker would go to the wall. Have you got any of these men in your mine out of charity? – Well, you know there are all sorts in a mine.

Do you think that contractors work too hard? – No, although it is well known that they work harder than wages men.

Are the demands of the Union not considerably less than this 12s 9d per day? – Yes I suppose so.

Have you paid this 12s 9d to contractors without any objections from your company? – Yes.

Do you think a manager should have power to dismiss a man from a contract because of strong political opinions? – No.⁴¹⁵

When the Arbitration Court held a hearing at Coromandel in September that year, he again gave evidence:

Conditions now were as good as in former years. The danger was rather less now as the regulations were enforced, and better appliances were used. During the boom wages were not increased. Men were taken on who had not any previous experience. He considered eight hours exclusive of crib time reasonable for surface men. He had known battery men work 12 hours without injuring their health. Men could keep a family respectably on 8s a day and be able to take a holiday occasionally. Prior to the dispute there were no complaints at Opitonui or Kuaotunu. He

⁴¹³ *Thames Star*, 23 May 1901, p. 4.

⁴¹⁴ *Thames Star*, 23 May 1901, p. 2.

⁴¹⁵ *Thames Star*, 24 May 1901, p. 3.

considered six hours long enough for men working in wet shafts. Had let a contract in the Maiden shaft at £8 a foot on condition that six hour shifts were worked, but the men preferred and worked eight hours.

He repeated that, without managers having power to dismiss workers,

discipline could not be maintained. It was not always expedient to give reasons for discharging men, although as a rule a reason was given. The contract system had worked satisfactorily at Opitonui. He did not consider a percentage should be retained if the contractor worked well and did not make the job pay.⁴¹⁶

In 1898, **William** was asked for his opinion about batteries working on Sundays:

He said he thought it quite unnecessary to work on Sunday, as, by careful and judicious management, this could be avoided without affecting results.

“In what way?” I asked.

“Well,” says Mr Goldsworthy, “Sunday work deteriorates the labour, the men being incapable of doing the amount of work during the week days, by working on Sundays, whereas if they had a day of rest they would be more competent to carry out the work entrusted to them. If the owners of a plant found they could not crush sufficient ore during six days to cope with the output of ore mined during the same period, and yet by working on Sunday they could do so, it is quite evident that more machinery is required to work during six days, namely, the addition of one-seventh more.”

“But then you know there is a shortage of water during the summer months?”

“Well, then, auxiliary power should be supplied. Of course, it may then be questioned as to the advisability of this course; but when the extra cost of labour on Sunday is taken into consideration, this may perhaps more than compensate for the loss of power and consumption of fuel. So I think the batteries should not work on Sunday.”

“No, I say they should not be allowed to work any more than any other industry, such as sawmills, flourmills, flaxmills, etc, and I think the Government did the right thing for all classes in placing upon their statute-book a law stopping the working of batteries on Sunday. I worked at the Thames for years, and all old Thamesites will bear me out when I say that the batteries there

⁴¹⁶ *Thames Star*, 17 September 1901, p. 3.

treated the ore won from the mines during six days a week and paid handsome dividends without Sunday labour. The same happy state of affairs can also exist here in Ohinemuri without the working of the stampers on Sunday, providing, as I said before, judicious management is manifested.”⁴¹⁷

This view may have reflected his Wesleyan faith rather than any sympathy for workers, whose interests he considered to be less important than the owners’. In 1901, he recommended to one company that, instead of employing men to cut and deliver timber, the work should be done by contracts: ‘by so doing it will be found to be a financial benefit to the company’.⁴¹⁸ Shortly afterwards, he informed the Conciliation Court that ‘there had been much loafing’ by wages men, and agreed with another manager’s view that ‘the same men who worked for wages did twice as much work when contracting’. He also commented that ‘there was a difficulty in getting good miners’. For those required to work on Sundays, time-and-a-half was adequate payment.⁴¹⁹ Wages should not be raised, as requested by the union, because this would increase costs when only three or four companies were paying dividends.⁴²⁰ Later that year he told the Arbitration Court that ‘if the minimum wage clause in contracts were to be adopted it would be against the interest of miners, and would shut out practical men. All sorts of men would get into mines on contract for the sake of the minimum wage’.⁴²¹ ‘He did not want men from the swamps in his mine. He wanted to keep practical miners employed, and practical men always asked for contracts’.⁴²²

Thomas was not involved with the union, either for or against. Although **Henry**’s views on union matters were not recorded, it must be assumed that he held very different opinions to his elder brothers. In January 1892, he was elected to its committee with 179 votes; the highest

⁴¹⁷ Paeroa Correspondent, *New Zealand Herald*, 25 January 1898, p. 6; reprinted in *Te Aroha News*, 27 January 1898, p. 2.

⁴¹⁸ *Thames Star*, 2 May 1901, p. 2.

⁴¹⁹ *Thames Star*, 24 May 1901, p. 4.

⁴²⁰ *Thames Star*, 25 May 1901, p. 3.

⁴²¹ *Thames Star*, 21 September 1901, p. 1.

⁴²² *Thames Star*, 21 September 1901, p. 2.

scoring candidate had received 243.⁴²³ In another election in August he did not stand.⁴²⁴

SCHOOLS OF MINES

In 1897, **Henry** was one of the presidents of the Kuaotunu school.⁴²⁵ Four years later, **William** was elected to the committee of the Karangahake one.⁴²⁶

AUCKLAND CHAMBER OF MINES

This body, established during the mining boom of the mid-1890s, included **John**, **William**, and **Henry** amongst its members.⁴²⁷

FINANCIAL SECURITY

John had a comfortable financial position after the Thames rush. The credit balance of his account in the Bank of New Zealand rose from £50 in April 1868 to £800 on 14 August 1869, when this amount was transferred into a fixed deposit. A month and a half later, his private account had a credit balance of £196 12s.⁴²⁸ This rose to £424 13s 8d in November before being closed in March 1870.⁴²⁹ In addition to his many investments in mining claims and companies, in 1873 he acquired 50 shares in the Thames Gas Company, which he retained into the twentieth century.⁴³⁰ He acquired

⁴²³ *Thames Advertiser*, 12 January 1892, p. 3, 23 January 1892, p. 3.

⁴²⁴ *Thames Advertiser*, 24 February 1892, p. 3.

⁴²⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 20 September 1897, p. 2.

⁴²⁶ *Thames Star*, 25 July 1901, p. 2.

⁴²⁷ *List of Companies Registered with the Auckland Chamber of Mines* (Auckland, 1896), p. 6.

⁴²⁸ Bank of New Zealand, Shortland Branch, Individual Accounts Ledger 1868, folios 153, 568; Individual Accounts Ledger October 1868-March 1869, folios 206, 211; Individual Accounts Ledger April-September 1869, folio 184, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

⁴²⁹ Bank of New Zealand, Shortland Branch, Individual Accounts Ledger 1869-1871, folio 202, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

⁴³⁰ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 15 no. 83, ANZ-A.

freehold property at Thames that was valued at £100 in 1882.⁴³¹ In 1879, he sold 50 acres at Te Awamutu which he had owned with another Thames man.⁴³² During the 1880s he received interest payments from farmers who had mortgaged their land to him.⁴³³ In 1896, he had £892 on fixed deposit for 12 months in the Ohinemuri branch of the Bank of New Zealand.⁴³⁴ The following year, he placed £927 17s 8d on fixed deposit.⁴³⁵ His will left his lands and property to his widow, who also received four times the amount of the residual estate than their children; they were not seriously deprived, as his estate was worth £8,986 9s 1d.⁴³⁶

William acquired 50 shares in the Thames Gas Company in 1873, selling them all within seven years.⁴³⁷ In 1879, when he sold his five-roomed cottage and allotment in Thames, a newspaper noted that not only did it have gas and water laid on but was ‘one of the most substantially-built houses on the Thames, the materials being all heart of kauri’; the asking price was £200.⁴³⁸ In 1882, his 240 acres of freehold farmland was valued at £1,320.⁴³⁹ From the 1870s until at least the 1890s, his financial position was so strong that he lent money on mortgages to land speculators.⁴⁴⁰ He also advised investors on the value of land.⁴⁴¹ When he died in 1919, his estate was worth £6,825 13s 10d.⁴⁴²

⁴³¹ *A Return of the Freeholders of New Zealand* (Wellington, 1884), p. G 29.

⁴³² *Thames Advertiser*, 1 January 1879, p. 2.

⁴³³ Jackson and Russell to John Goldsworthy, 14 December 1883, 16 February 1885, 19 March 1886, 6 April 1887, 26 April 1887, Letterbook 1883-1884, p. 714, Letterbook 1884-1885, p. 745, Letterbook 1885-1886, p. 727, Letterbook 1887, pp. 45, 138, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Library.

⁴³⁴ Bank of New Zealand, Balance Books, Half-Yearly Balance as at 30 September 1896, Fixed Deposits for 12 Months at 3 1/2%, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

⁴³⁵ Bank of New Zealand, Balance Books, Half-Yearly Balance as at 30 September 1897, Fixed Deposits, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

⁴³⁶ Probate of John Goldsworthy, BBAE 1569/6262; Testamentary Register 1906-1908, folio 93, BBCB 4208/6, ANZ-A.

⁴³⁷ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 15 no. 83, ANZ-A.

⁴³⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 18 October 1879, p. 2.

⁴³⁹ *A Return of the Freeholders of New Zealand ... 1882* (Wellington, 1884), p. G 29.

⁴⁴⁰ Jackson and Russell to William Goldsworthy, 29 May 1870, Letterbook no. 6, p. 280; 8 December 1873, 11 December 1873, Letterbook no. 10, pp. 523, 538; 27 August 1880, Letterbook no. 20, p. 437; 14 December 1882, Letterbook no. 25, p. 664; 17 October 1883, Letterbook no. 27, p. 485; 19 March 1890, Letterbook no. 42, p. 219; 2 December 1891,

Thomas left an estate valued in 1922 at under £2,500.⁴⁴³ **Henry's** will, made four years before his death, left his Paeroa house to his widow and gave all his children equal shares in the remainder of his estate, which was valued at £1,245 12s 7d.⁴⁴⁴

SPORT, MAINLY ROWING

In November 1871, **William** was on the 'working committee' for the Thames regatta.⁴⁴⁵ Two months later, **Henry** was a member of the Thames Naval Brigade Boating Club crew that participated in the Auckland regatta.⁴⁴⁶ One of them was secretary of this club.⁴⁴⁷ **John** and **William** were members of the committee to organize the Thames regatta in late 1872, **William** chairing a meeting of the club in December.⁴⁴⁸ They were both members of the regatta organizing committee in the following year.⁴⁴⁹ In this regatta, **Henry** and **Thomas** defeated the Newdick brothers, Richard and Alfred, in a pair-oared boat race.⁴⁵⁰ The Newdicks were also prominent miners.⁴⁵¹ **William** also won a pair-oared race with one of his

Letterbook no. 47, p. 399; 20 May 1895, Letterbook no. 58, p. 726; 30 October 1896, Letterbook no. 64, p. 881; 29 October 1897, Letterbook no. 65, p. 574, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum; Bank of New Zealand, Ohinemuri Branch, Balance Books, Half-Yearly Balance as at 31 March 1896, Securities, Bank of New Zealand Archives, Wellington.

⁴⁴¹ James Russell to William Goldsworthy, 4 September 1895, Letterbook no. 59; 19 October 1895, Letterbook no. 60, p. 319, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

⁴⁴² Testamentary Register 1919, folio 379, BBCB 4208/15, ANZ-A.

⁴⁴³ Probate of Thomas Goldsworthy, Probates, BBAE 1569/16079, ANZ-A.

⁴⁴⁴ Probate of Henry Goldsworthy, Probates, BBAE 1569/12360; Testamentary Register 1917-1918, folio 597, BBCB 5208/11, ANZ-A.

⁴⁴⁵ *New Zealand Herald*, 15 November 1871, p. 3.

⁴⁴⁶ *Auckland Weekly News*, 27 January 1872, p. 4.

⁴⁴⁷ *Auckland Weekly News*, 24 February 1872, p. 4.

⁴⁴⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 13 November 1872, p. 3, 4 December 1872, p. 2.

⁴⁴⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 5 December 1873, p. 2, 6 December 1873, p. 2.

⁴⁵⁰ *Thames Advertiser*, 30 December 1873, p. 2, 31 December 1873, p. 2.

⁴⁵¹ For both brothers, see F.W. W[eston], 'Old Thames Memories', *New Zealand Herald*, 14 February 1923, p. 7. For Alfred, see *Te Aroha News*, 18 January 1929, p. 5; *Thames Star*, 5 May 1930, p. 5; *New Zealand Herald*, 5 May 1930, p. 10; *Observer*, 8 May 1930, p. 4.

brothers, and **Henry** won the amateur scullers' race and was stroke in the Thames Naval Brigade's four-oared gig.⁴⁵²

In the Auckland regatta in January 1874 the four-oared gig race was won by the Thames team, with **Henry** as stroke and **John** one of the other rowers.⁴⁵³ In the subsequent regatta **Henry** was stroke once more, carrying a weight of 10 stone 13 pounds; **Thomas**, at 11 stone 5 pounds, was a member of the Thames Naval Brigade crew.⁴⁵⁴

In January 1877, the Thames champion crew, Henry and Thomas, Thomas Gavin, and Alfred Newdick, competed in whaleboat racing in the Nelson and Thames regattas.⁴⁵⁵ The following year, **John** was elected to the committee of management of a new rowing club.⁴⁵⁶

Henry rowed in the Auckland regatta in January 1880.⁴⁵⁷ In 1885, when he was a member of the Hauraki crew of the Thames Rowing Club, the *Thames Advertiser* wrote that he had 'the best racing record in the colony', having 'started in 29 races, either singly or as a member of crews, and has only been beaten four times'.⁴⁵⁸ In the Te Aroha regatta of November 1886, Henry's team, which included **Thomas**, was unsuccessful in the four-oared gig race, but **Henry** won the three-quarter mile sculling race.⁴⁵⁹

William played for Waiorongomai in a rugby match against Quartzville in 1889, while **Thomas** played for the opposing team.⁴⁶⁰ Thomas' continued interest in this game was reflected in his being one (of 32) vice-presidents of the Wanderers' Football Club at Coromandel in 1898.⁴⁶¹

VOLUNTEERS

⁴⁵² *Thames Advertiser*, 30 December 1873, p. 3.

⁴⁵³ *Thames Advertiser*, 30 January 1874, p. 3.

⁴⁵⁴ *Thames Advertiser*, 29 January 1895, p. 3.

⁴⁵⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 5 January 1877, p. 3.

⁴⁵⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 28 February 1878, p. 3.

⁴⁵⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 19 January 1880, p. 2.

⁴⁵⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 30 January 1885, p. 2.

⁴⁵⁹ *Te Aroha News*, 13 November 1886, p. 2.

⁴⁶⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 28 August 1889, p. 2.

⁴⁶¹ *Coromandel County News*, 13 April 1898, p. 3.

In 1875, **William** was elected an honorary member of the Thames Naval Brigade.⁴⁶² He enrolled in the Thames Scottish Rifles in June 1881.⁴⁶³ Later that year, **Thomas**, a seaman in the Thames Naval Brigade, with other Volunteers went to Parihaka in Taranaki to arrest Te Whiti and his followers.⁴⁶⁴ He served in this corps for about 17 years, receiving land scrip as a reward, and in 1913 applied for long service and good conduct medals, unsuccessfully because these were only available to members of the permanent forces.⁴⁶⁵

RELIGION

All the brothers were Wesleyans, but did not play leading roles in the church. In January 1887, **John** declined an invitation to join the committee of the Waiorongomai Congregation.⁴⁶⁶ In March that year, the wives of **John**, **Thomas**, and **Henry** helped supervise the food provided for the anniversary celebration of the Waiorongomai Sunday School.⁴⁶⁷ In 1889, after investigating the cost of erecting a Wesleyan church there, John was appointed to the committee investigating how to build it.⁴⁶⁸

William assisted with the Waiorongomai Sunday School.⁴⁶⁹ An obituary noted that he was ‘an adherent of the Methodist Church’, and in his will he left £25 to both its home and foreign missions.⁴⁷⁰ He was also a Freemason.⁴⁷¹ **Thomas**, a member of the Waiorongomai Congregation,⁴⁷²

⁴⁶² *Thames Advertiser*, 1 October 1875, p. 2.

⁴⁶³ Thames Scottish Rifles No. 1 Coy, Nominal Roll, as at February 1882, Army Department, ARM 41, 1882/1ac, ANZ-W.

⁴⁶⁴ *Thames Advertiser*, 31 October 1881, p. 3.

⁴⁶⁵ Maori War Index, Army Department, AD 32, MW 786, ANZ-W.

⁴⁶⁶ Waiorongomai Congregation, Minutes of Meetings 1886-1889, Meetings of 12 January 1887, 24 January 1887, Methodist Archives, Auckland.

⁴⁶⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 19 March 1887, p. 2.

⁴⁶⁸ *Te Aroha News*, 22 May 1889, p. 2.

⁴⁶⁹ Waiorongomai Sunday School, Admission Book 1884-1889, entry for 7 September 1884, Methodist Archives, Auckland.

⁴⁷⁰ *Observer*, 26 July 1919, p. 4; Probate of William Goldsworthy, Probates, BBAE 1569/13435, ANZ-A.

⁴⁷¹ *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 494.

⁴⁷² Waiorongomai Congregation, Minutes of Meetings 1886-1889, Meeting of 12 January 1887, Methodist Archives, Auckland.

was not recorded as playing an active role. **Henry** was married in the Wesleyan church in Thames, his children were baptized in this faith, and his namesake was enrolled the Wesleyan Sunday School at Te Aroha.⁴⁷³ In 1911, he told a hospital that he was a member of the Church of England, but his funeral, held seven years later, was a Methodist one.⁴⁷⁴

POLITICS

In 1875, **John** supported the election of the mayor of Thames to the Provincial Council, and the following year backed a miner standing for parliament.⁴⁷⁵ In 1902, he chaired an Opiotoni meeting held by the local Liberal Member of Parliament.⁴⁷⁶

An obituary stated that **William** ‘took an interest in all activities for the social advance of the people’.⁴⁷⁷ The only time a political preference was indicated was in 1877, when he was one of the ‘Sons of Old Colonists’ who signed a welcome to Sir George Grey when the latter visited Thames.⁴⁷⁸

FARMING

As an illustration of **John** having animals to provide food for his family, in 1875 he was fined 1s for allowing a goat to wander in a Thames street.⁴⁷⁹ In the following decade, with others he leased Lot 22 of the Thames High School Endowment, 64 acres, with an annual rental of £15 10s.⁴⁸⁰ In 1885, when mining was declining, he recorded his occupation as being a farmer.⁴⁸¹ In that year, when he complained to the council ‘that since the Wairakau run had been fenced in he had been closed in entirely’

⁴⁷³ *Thames Advertiser*, 13 March 1874, p. 2; Wesleyan Church, Upper Thames Circuit, Baptismal Register 1881-1929, nos. 70, 98; Waiorongomai Sunday School, Admission Book 1884-1889, before 3 January 1886, Methodist Archives, Auckland.

⁴⁷⁴ Waihi Hospital, Register of Patients 1911-1914, folio 19, ZABW 4935/1b, ANZ-A; Death Certificate of Henry Goldsworthy, 14 August 1918, 1918/5273, BDM.

⁴⁷⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 1 April 1875, p. 3, 3 January 1876, p. 2.

⁴⁷⁶ *Thames Star*, 31 March 1902, p. 4.

⁴⁷⁷ *Observer*, 26 July 1919, p. 4.

⁴⁷⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 31 December 1877, p. 3.

⁴⁷⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 29 May 1875, p. 3.

⁴⁸⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 20 March 1889, p. 7.

⁴⁸¹ Birth Certificate of Eva May Goldsworthy, 10 July 1885, 1885/10211, BDM.

and ‘could only get out by going through’ a neighbour’s property, the council agreed to construct a culvert to provide access.⁴⁸² A fire burnt the bush in the hills near his property in 1889, but did not affect his farm.⁴⁸³ In the early twentieth century he was failing to pay the rent on his 32 acres.⁴⁸⁴

According to his entry in the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, after mining at Waitekauri in the mid-1870s **William** ‘decided to retire from mining pursuits, and so settled upon his estate at Mauku, in the Waikato district’.⁴⁸⁵ Mauku was not in fact in the Waikato district, being near Waiuku in the Manukau County, where he owned 240 acres of freehold land.⁴⁸⁶ His farm was called ‘Wellwood’.⁴⁸⁷ Even when he was mining his wife remained on the farm, two of his children being born there.⁴⁸⁸ The family lived on the farm for 30 years before William retired from farming and moved to Pukekohe.⁴⁸⁹ He had some local prominence, being elected chairman of the Mauku Roads Board in 1894.⁴⁹⁰

During the flax boom of 1890,⁴⁹¹ he

invested in a mill, and for two years went extensively into this branch of trade, but without any great success. The mining spirit being still strong within him, he could not content himself with a quiet, retired life, and therefore decided to again enter the fields and seek for the precious metal. Previously to doing so, however, he visited Australia, going through the principal mines.

Upon his return, he became manager of the Talisman, his newly married son James Benjamin taking over the farm.⁴⁹²

⁴⁸² Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 14 March 1885, p. 2.

⁴⁸³ *Te Aroha News*, 26 January 1889, p. 2.

⁴⁸⁴ Piako County Council, Letterbook 1899-1901, p. 502; Letterbook 1902-1903, p. 368, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha.

⁴⁸⁵ *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 494.

⁴⁸⁶ *A Return of the Freeholders of New Zealand* (Wellington, 1884), p. G 29; *New Zealand Gazette*, 7 January 1904, p. 89.

⁴⁸⁷ For example, Jackson and Russell to William Goldsworthy, 14 December 1882, Letterbook no. 25, p. 664, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

⁴⁸⁸ Birth Notices, *Auckland Weekly News*, 7 July 1883, p. 1, 27 August 1887, p. 1.

⁴⁸⁹ *New Zealand Herald*, 17 May 1927, p. 10.

⁴⁹⁰ *Auckland Weekly News*, 24 March 1894, p. 17.

⁴⁹¹ *Mercantile and Bankruptcy Gazette*, 22 March 1890, p. 83.

Henry, who owned cows to provide milk for his family, was charged in 1891 with having a cow at large in Thames.⁴⁹³ In 1911, when living at Paeroa, he gave his occupation as farmer; he was probably assisting one of his sons on the latter's land.⁴⁹⁴ Although described as a miner on his death certificate, his probate called him a farmer.⁴⁹⁵

FAMILY LIFE

In February 1863, when aged 22 and a boatman, **John** was married in Auckland to Marion Beath Garrick, a dressmaker aged 17, who had been born in Sydney.⁴⁹⁶ An obituary recorded that she was 'the first white woman resident of Eureka Hill' at Thames.⁴⁹⁷ In all, they had five sons and seven daughters; that all outlived them was sufficiently unusual to be considered worth recording.⁴⁹⁸ Their first child, John, was born in August 1864.⁴⁹⁹ Marion was born in 1866.⁵⁰⁰ William was born in 1868, Elizabeth Alice in 1873, Clara Garrick in December 1875, Lucy Ethel in March 1878, Henry Duncan in August 1880, and Sylvia May in January 1883, all at Thames.⁵⁰¹

⁴⁹² *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 494; Marriage Certificate of James Benjamin Goldsworthy, 1897/2693, BDM; *Auckland Weekly News*, 1 January 1898, p. 18.

⁴⁹³ Thames Magistrate's Court, Criminal Record Book 1889-1893, 182/1891, BACL 13736/2a, ANZ-A; Police Court, *Thames Advertiser*, 2 June 1891, p. 2.

⁴⁹⁴ Waihi Hospital, Register of Patients 1911-1914, folio 19, ZABW 4935/1b, ANZ-A; Death Certificate of Francis Edward Goldsworthy, 28 November 1913, 1913/8244, BDM.

⁴⁹⁵ Death Certificate of Henry Goldsworthy, 14 August 1918, 1918/5273, BDM; Probate of Henry Goldsworthy, Probates, BBAE 1569/12360, ANZ-A.

⁴⁹⁶ Notices of Intentions to Marry 1863, p. 51, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/8, ANZ-W; Marriage Certificate of John Goldsworthy, 25 February 1863, 1863/3829; Death Certificate of Marion Goldsworthy, 11 November 1918, 1918/8843, BDM.

⁴⁹⁷ *New Zealand Herald*, 14 November 1918, p. 6.

⁴⁹⁸ Death Certificate of Marion Goldsworthy, 11 November 1918, 1918/8843, BDM; *New Zealand Herald*, 14 November 1918, p. 6.

⁴⁹⁹ Birth Certificate of John Goldsworthy, 1864/24747, BDM; '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.

⁵⁰⁰ Birth Certificate of Marion Goldsworthy, 1866/26765, BDM.

⁵⁰¹ Birth Certificates of William Goldsworthy, 3 November 1868, 1868/15818; Elizabeth Alice Goldsworthy, 1873/37537; Clara Garrick Goldsworthy, 1 December 1875, 1875/650;

Two children were born at Waiorongomai: Eva May, in July 1885, and James Frederick, in March 1889.⁵⁰² One other son and daughter were not registered.

His eldest son, known as John Jr., the father of yet another John,⁵⁰³ was a storekeeper and then a butcher at Quartzville and Waiorongomai before becoming a miner.⁵⁰⁴ He followed his father to Kuaotunu, where, in 1892, he tried to kill himself, possibly because of inhaling dynamite fumes; his father 'was reluctantly obliged to get help and remove him to the police station', from whence he was taken to the asylum.⁵⁰⁵ He recovered, and was working in the Try Fluke under his father's management in 1895.⁵⁰⁶ Two years later, he was appointed manager of the Gladys, also at Kuaotunu.⁵⁰⁷

William also became a mine manager after studying at the Coromandel School of Mines; he suffered from miner's complaint for 'several years' before his death.⁵⁰⁸

William was married in January 1869, when aged 24, to Sarah Ann McGeachie, aged 22, a farmer's daughter living at Papatoetoe.⁵⁰⁹ She had been born at Warkworth, the second daughter of John, 'one of the earliest of the pioneer settlers', who had recently moved there from Mahurangi,⁵¹⁰ near the Goldsworthy farm, presumably where they had first met. In January 1874, James Benjamin was born.⁵¹¹ Elizabeth Eleanor was born in

Lucy Ethel Goldsworthy, 9 March 1878, 1878/7962; Henry Duncan Goldsworthy, 13 August 1880, 1880/9255; Sylvia May Goldsworthy, 5 January 1883, 1883/2097, BDM.

⁵⁰² Birth Certificates of Eva May Goldsworthy, 10 July 1885, 1885/10211; James Frederick Goldsworthy, 15 March 1889, 1889/18857, BDM.

⁵⁰³ Birth Certificate of John Goldsworthy, 30 September 1886, 1886/19453, BDM.

⁵⁰⁴ *Te Aroha News*, 13 September 1884, p. 2, 31 January 1885, p. 2, 4 April 1888, p. 2.

⁵⁰⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 2 February 1892, p. 2; *Auckland Weekly News*, 6 February 1892, p. 17; Avondale Asylum, Register of Admissions 1885-1896, no. 1753, YCAA 1021/2; Casebook 1853-1892, folio 685, YCAA 1048/5, ANZ-A.

⁵⁰⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 19 July 1895, p. 2.

⁵⁰⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 22 February 1897, p. 3.

⁵⁰⁸ *Thames Star*, 20 July 1905, p. 4; Death Certificate of William Goldsworthy, 28 November 1940, 1940/17626, BDM.

⁵⁰⁹ Notices of Intentions to Marry 1869, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/14, folio 56, ANZ-W; Marriage Certificate of William Goldsworthy, 1869/4920, BDM.

⁵¹⁰ *Auckland Weekly News*, 13 February 1969, p. 8; *New Zealand Herald*, 17 May 1927, p. 10.

⁵¹¹ Birth Certificate of James Benjamin Goldsworthy, 5 January 1874, 1874/16726, BDM.

May 1878; she would be the only child to die during their lifetime, at the age of 17.⁵¹² In July 1883, Walter Stanley was born, and in August 1887 Amy Elvira.⁵¹³

Thomas was married in October 1874 to Annie Kay; he was 25, and she was 17.⁵¹⁴ Their first child, Ethel May, was born in November the following year.⁵¹⁵ Clarence Thomas was born in December 1877, Percy Reginald in June 1880, and Hilda Heloise in May 1882.⁵¹⁶ Ruby Gertrude was born at Waiorongomai in September 1887, and Alma Clarice was born two years later.⁵¹⁷ All their sons died during Thomas' lifetime, but their daughters outlived him.⁵¹⁸ Percy, aged one, died from scarletina in June 1881; he was ill for only two days, dying after convulsing for four hours.⁵¹⁹ Two days later, three-year-old Clarence died of the same disease, having suffered for eight days.⁵²⁰ Their youngest son, Leslie Ballance Thomas, who had been born in Broken Hill, New South Wales, in July 1892, died fighting in the First World War in May 1918, less than a year after he had been married.⁵²¹

⁵¹² Birth Certificate of Elizabeth Eleanor Goldsworthy, 15 May 1878, 1878/11663; Death Certificate of Elizabeth Eleanor Goldsworthy, 8 September 1895, 1895/762, BDM; Death Notice, *Auckland Weekly News*, 21 September 1895, p. 1.

⁵¹³ Birth Certificates of Walter Stanley Goldsworthy, 20 June 1883, 1883/10279; Amy Elvira Goldsworthy, 8 August 1887, 1887/5132, BDM.

⁵¹⁴ Notices of Intentions to Marry 1874, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/19, folio 195, ANZ-W; Marriage Certificate of Thomas Goldsworthy, 8 October 1874, 1874/13471, BDM.

⁵¹⁵ Birth Certificate of Ethel May Goldsworthy, 18 November 1875, 1875/13440, BDM.

⁵¹⁶ Birth Certificates of Clarence Thomas Goldsworthy, 2 December 1877, 1878/593; Percy Reginald Goldsworthy, 17 June 1880, 1880/9155; Hilda Heloise, 25 May 1882, 1882/10058, BDM.

⁵¹⁷ Birth Certificates of Ruby Gertrude Goldsworthy, 5 September 1887, 1887/9451; Alma Clarice Goldsworthy, 1889/18866, BDM.

⁵¹⁸ Death Notice, *New Zealand Herald*, 2 November 1922, p. 8.

⁵¹⁹ Death Certificate of Percy Reginald Goldsworthy, 20 June 1881, 1881/2213, BDM.

⁵²⁰ Death Certificate of Clarence Thomas Goldsworthy, 22 June 1881, 1881/2214, BDM.

⁵²¹ Death Certificate of Leslie Ballance Thomas Goldsworthy, 1918/28373, BDM; Army Department, AABK 18805, W5539, 32/45627, ANZ-W; Death Notice, *New Zealand Herald*, 2 November 1922, p. 8.

In March 1874, when aged 22, **Henry** married Elizabeth Rowe, aged 18, an Australian miner's daughter.⁵²² Almost exactly nine months later, their first child, Albert Henry, was born.⁵²³ Francis Edward was born in October 1877, Elizabeth Emmeline in August 1879, and Florence in August 1881, all at Tararu, Thames.⁵²⁴ Two children were born at Waiorongomai: Hester Maud in November 1884 and Lilian Mercedes in December 1886.⁵²⁵ In October 1890, Ernest Victor was born at Thames.⁵²⁶ William Harold was born in 1896 and Mabel in 1898.⁵²⁷ In 1900, when Henry was 49 and Elizabeth was 44, their last child, Gladys Mildred, was born at Karangahake.⁵²⁸ One other son was born,⁵²⁹ but has not been traced. In 1913, Francis Edward, a farmer, was 'accidentally drowned in Waihou River', aged 36.⁵³⁰

HEALTH IN THEIR FINAL YEARS, AND DEATHS

It was reported that **John** enjoyed good health until shortly before his death in 1907, aged 70.⁵³¹ 'Until the last few months he was robust and well', the Coromandel newspaper stated, but when his health became 'indifferent' shortly before his death he was admitted to hospital.⁵³² His death certificate recorded that for his last 20 years he had a valvular

⁵²² Notices of Intentions to Marry 1874, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/19, folio 182, ANZ-W; Marriage Certificate of Henry Goldsworthy, 12 March 1874, 1874/6139; Death Certificate of Elizabeth Goldsworthy, 18 September 1931, 1931/7467, BDM.

⁵²³ Birth Certificate of Albert Henry Goldsworthy, 7 December 1874, 1875/5607, BDM.

⁵²⁴ Birth Certificates of Francis Edward Goldsworthy, 20 October 1877, 1877/6845; Elizabeth Emmeline Goldsworthy, 23 August 1879, 1879/16396; Florence Goldsworthy, 1 August 1881, 1881/6198, BDM.

⁵²⁵ Birth Certificates of Hester Maud Goldsworthy, 17 November 1884, 1885/1358; Lilian Mercedes Goldsworthy, 14 December 1886, 1886/19273, BDM.

⁵²⁶ Birth Certificate of Ernest Victor Goldsworthy, 26 October 1890, 1890/13377, BDM.

⁵²⁷ Birth Certificates of William Harold Goldsworthy, 1896/4210; Mabel Goldsworthy, 1898/1294, BDM.

⁵²⁸ Birth Certificate of Gladys Mildred Goldsworthy, 23 June 1900, 1900/5983, BDM.

⁵²⁹ *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, p. 494.

⁵³⁰ Death Certificate of Francis Edward Goldsworthy, 28 November 1913, 1913/8244, BDM.

⁵³¹ *New Zealand Herald*, 1 June 1907, p. 6.

⁵³² *Coromandel County News*, 31 May 1907, p. 3.

disease of the heart; his final heart failure lasted three weeks.⁵³³ His widow survived him by over 11 years before dying in the influenza epidemic of 1918, aged 75.⁵³⁴

William died in July 1919 aged 75, after a 'brief illness', at his home on Pukehohe Hill, named 'Eureka' in memory of his glory days as a miner.⁵³⁵ Although his final illness was a three-day bout of pneumonia, he had suffered from chronic bronchitis and cardiac disease,⁵³⁶ the former a possible consequence of his mining days. Sarah Ann died in May 1927, at the home of her surviving daughter.⁵³⁷

Annie Goldsworthy died before **Thomas**, in 1909, aged only 52.⁵³⁸ He lived for another 13 years, dying in 1922 aged 74. Like his eldest brother, for the last three months of his life he suffered from valvular disease of the heart, his final heart attack lasting two weeks.⁵³⁹

In October 1911, at the age of 60 **Henry** spent nearly two weeks in hospital suffering from cystitis, which was cured.⁵⁴⁰ He died, suddenly, in August 1918, aged 67, when on a train taking him to Thames hospital for treatment for miners' complaint, which he had had for 'years'.⁵⁴¹ His death certificate, however, recorded that he had had this for only 12 months, but had suffered from heart failure over the previous six.⁵⁴² Because of having miners' complaint, his widow received a miners' phthisis pension.⁵⁴³ She would die of heart failure and other health problems in 1931.⁵⁴⁴

JAMES GRIBBLE

⁵³³ Death Certificate of John Goldsworthy, 31 May 1907, 1907/2935, BDM.

⁵³⁴ Death Certificate of Marion Goldsworthy, 11 November 1918, 1918/8843, BDM.

⁵³⁵ Death Notice, *New Zealand Herald*, 14 July 1919, p. 1.

⁵³⁶ Death Certificate of William Goldsworthy, 12 July 1919, 1919/10703, BDM.

⁵³⁷ *New Zealand Herald*, 17 May 1927, p. 10.

⁵³⁸ Death Notice, *New Zealand Herald*, 21 July 1909, p. 1; *Te Aroha News*, 22 July 1909, p. 2.

⁵³⁹ Death Certificate of Thomas Goldsworthy, 31 October 1922, 1922/8128, BDM.

⁵⁴⁰ Waihi Hospital, Register of Patients 1911-1914, folio 19, ZABW 4935/1b, ANZ-A.

⁵⁴¹ *Waihi Daily Telegraph*, 15 August 1918, p. 2.

⁵⁴² Death Certificate of Henry Goldsworthy, 14 August 1918, 1918/5273, BDM.

⁵⁴³ Miners' Phthisis Pensions, 1919, Social Security Department, SS W1844, box 8, M40, no. 2, ANZ-W.

⁵⁴⁴ Birth Certificate of Richard Thomas Henry Gribble, 25 September 1876, 1876/17461, BDM.

In September 1855, Mary Ann Goldsworthy, aged 17, married James Gribble, aged 26, a farmer living at Cabbage Tree Swamp, near Matakana; they had both been born in Cornwall.⁵⁴⁵ He was born in 1828 to William, a miner, and Elizabeth Dunne.⁵⁴⁶ In 1880, when offering to test samples for prospectors, he stated that his ‘earliest associations in the old country’ were ‘connected with mining’ and that he ‘had large experiences throughout the colonies in mining for many different minerals’.⁵⁴⁷ In 1886, he recorded the date of his arrival in New Zealand as 1848, and an obituary had it as two years earlier; in fact he had arrived in Auckland from Sydney in August 1849.⁵⁴⁸ He mined for copper on Kawau Island and Great Barrier Island before going to the Ballarat gold rush.⁵⁴⁹ In the early 1860s he mined at Coromandel, like his brother-in-law William Goldsworthy having ten of the 120 shares in the United Company in April 1863.⁵⁵⁰ Two years later, he was a shareholder in the Union Reef.⁵⁵¹ In 1873, the *Thames Advertiser* extolled his competence:

We can safely say that very few mine managers can boast of the practical experience of Mr Gribble, he having passed through all the various minutiae of mining and underground surveying in Cornwall, and having been connected with mining at the Kawau and Coromandel, and in Sydney, Adelaide, and Victoria.⁵⁵²

⁵⁴⁵ Notices of Intentions to Marry for District of Auckland, 1855, no. 92, qMS NZR-G, 16/92, Alexander Turnbull Library; Marriage Certificate of James Gribble and Mary Ann Goldsworthy, 11 September 1855, 1855/1483; Death Certificate of Mary Ann Gribble, 12 November 1901, 1901/5781, BDM; *Thames Star*, 30 June 1881, p. 2.

⁵⁴⁶ Death Certificate of James Gribble, 1 September 1886, 1886/179, BDM.

⁵⁴⁷ *Waikato Times*, 6 July 1880, p. 2.

⁵⁴⁸ ‘Addresses Presented to Sir George Grey on his 75th Birthday, 14 April 1886, by European and Maori Residents of Auckland Province’, Grey New Zealand Papers, MS 275, Auckland Public Library; *Waikato Times*, 4 September 1886, p. 2; *Daily Southern Cross*, 31 August 1849, p. 2.

⁵⁴⁹ *Waikato Times*, 4 September 1886, p. 2.

⁵⁵⁰ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 1 no. 8, ANZ-A.

⁵⁵¹ Company Files BADZ 5181, box 3 no. 21, ANZ-A.

⁵⁵² *Thames Advertiser*, 17 October 1873, p. 2.

His brother Henry, a miner in Victoria, died in a mining accident in 1866 aged 35, when his other brother, Charles, was living in Melbourne.⁵⁵³ Samuel Gribble, another prominent mine manager in nineteenth century Thames, was not related.⁵⁵⁴

Gribble took out his first miner's right at Thames in mid-October 1867.⁵⁵⁵ In 1869, he managed the Victoria Company's battery.⁵⁵⁶ One of the leading mine managers, on the same day in June 1868 he was offered the position of mine manager for both the Moanataiari and Long Drive companies; he chose the former, managing it until December 1871.⁵⁵⁷ When he became manager, the property 'consisted of seven men's ground, and before he resigned it was increased by his exertions to a large area'.⁵⁵⁸ For instance, in December 1870, with an Auckland investor, he obtained an additional lease.⁵⁵⁹ When he took over 'the mine was in anything but good working order', but under his control it was 'well opened up, and the new manager will find several thousand feet of driving done'; returns had 'shown a decided increase'.⁵⁶⁰

During Mr Gribble's management a thorough practical system of mining was carried out, which was acknowledged by practical men who had means of judging, to be equal to any mine in the colonies. During the three years and a half of his management about 21,000oz of gold were produced, paying out of that a large

⁵⁵³ M.J. Kelly, *Births, Marriages, and Deaths from the New Zealand Herald, 1866* (Auckland, 1992), p. 47.

⁵⁵⁴ See *Thames Advertiser*, 4 December 1897, p. 4.

⁵⁵⁵ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Miners' Rights 1867-1868, no. 1219, BACL 14358/1a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁵⁶ *Auckland Weekly News*, 10 April 1869, p. 19; advertisement, *Daily Southern Cross*, 19 August 1869, p. 6.

⁵⁵⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 17 October 1873, p. 2; *Thames Guardian and Mining Record*, 18 December 1871, p. 3; for a different starting date, see his statement in Thames Warden's Court, Warden's and Magistrate's Notebook 1869, Hearing of 15 November 1869, BACL 14457/1d, ANZ-A.

⁵⁵⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 17 October 1873, p. 2.

⁵⁵⁹ Thames Warden's Court, Warden's and Magistrate's Notebook 1870-1871, Hearing of 5 January 1871, BACL 14457/2a, ANZ-A; *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 6 December 1870, p. 438.

⁵⁶⁰ *Daily Southern Cross*, 16 January 1872, p. 3.

amount of dividends, besides expenses, and opening up the mine.⁵⁶¹

In the last six months of his employment by this company he was in charge of the battery as well as the mine.⁵⁶² Upon retiring, he was given an address and a 'very handsome service of plate and a suitably engraved silver salver by the workmen', amongst whom he was 'deservedly held in very high estimation'.⁵⁶³

In October 1873, he was replaced as manager of the Alburnia Company, to the regret of the *Thames Advertiser*, who understood that the cause was 'just what may lead to the dismissal of any mine manager whose yield of gold may decrease through circumstances over which he has no control'. When he had become manager, he had

found the company in a low state of funds. His first work, however, was to open up communication with the battery and mine by putting in a cross-cut at a cost of about £1,500. Out of a portion of this block a large quantity of gold was obtained, and after paying all expenses, £3,000 was divided amongst shareholders. This was done in about 10 months. On proceeding to take out the other portion of the block it was found not to pay, when all hands were discharged, and Mr Gribble, as we have stated, superseded.⁵⁶⁴

Just over a month later, his replacement resigned. Amongst Thames shareholders there was 'a very strong feeling in favour of the re-appointment of Gribble, 'under whom the mine has been opened up, and who worked it for several years to the entire body of shareholders'. There was insufficient time to send this view to the directors' meeting in Auckland, which selected another person as manager.⁵⁶⁵

Over four days in early July 1868, he purchased two and a half shares in the True Briton, at Moanataiari, which were transferred to the Thames Company two months later.⁵⁶⁶ Also in July, he was registered as one of

⁵⁶¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 17 October 1873, p. 2.

⁵⁶² *Auckland Weekly News*, 13 January 1872, p. 16.

⁵⁶³ *Auckland Weekly News*, 6 January 1872, p. 15.

⁵⁶⁴ *Thames Advertiser*, 17 October 1873, p. 2.

⁵⁶⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 9 December 1873, p. 3.

⁵⁶⁶ Thames Warden's Court, Claims Register 1868-1869, no. 383, BACL 14397/2a, ANZ-A.

three owners in the Garry Owen, with two of the five shares.⁵⁶⁷ The following month, he bought one of the ten shares in the Grand Junction for £250; he held 11 when a company of that name was established in December.⁵⁶⁸ In August, he bought one and one-sixth of the six shares in the Otago, at Moanataiari Creek, for £100, and the following year was allotted 1,200 of the Otago Company's 7,200 shares.⁵⁶⁹ Appointed a director of the latter in September 1869, he resigned in the following February.⁵⁷⁰

In 1868 and 1869 he invested in two companies, the Homeward Bound and the Bachelors.⁵⁷¹ In July 1869, he bought one and three-quarter shares in the New Moon for £180, selling the three-quarters three days later for £130.⁵⁷² Also in that month he sold an eighth share of the seven shares in the Nonpareil for £10, and the following month was allotted 112 of the 4,200 shares in the Nonpareil Company.⁵⁷³ Also in August he bought one of the six shares in the Black Prince, at Waiotahi Creek.⁵⁷⁴ In October he applied for a lease of this ground, successfully, but the following April it was cancelled for non-working.⁵⁷⁵

In May 1870, he was one of eight owners of the City of Chester, at Kuranui, with one of the seven shares.⁵⁷⁶ In August, he was one of six

⁵⁶⁷ Thames Warden's Court, Claims Register 1868-1869, no. 586, BACL 14397/2a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁶⁸ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Agreements 1868, folios 168, 497, BACL 14417/2a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁶⁹ Thames Warden's Court, Claims Register 1868-1869, no. 695, BACL 14397/2a; Register of Agreements 1868, folio 216, BACL 14417/2a, ANZ-A; *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 30 July 1869, p. 648.

⁵⁷⁰ *Auckland Weekly News*, 4 September 1869, p. 5, 26 February 1870, p. 15.

⁵⁷¹ *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 24 June 1868, p. 297, 11 August 1869, pp. 681, 682, 31 December 1869, p. 1807.

⁵⁷² Thames Warden's Court, Claims Register 1868-1869, no. 1454, BACL 14397/3a; Register of Deeds 1869, folios 466-467, 591-516, BACL 14417/3a; Register of Deeds 1869, folios 466-467, BACL 14417/4a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁷³ Thames Warden's Court, Claims Register 1868-1869, no. 545, BACL 14397/2a; Register of Deeds 1869, folios 329-330, BACL 14417/3a, ANZ-A; *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 11 August 1869, p. 684.

⁵⁷⁴ Thames Warden's Court, Claims Register 1868-1869, no. 603, BACL 14397/2a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁷⁵ *Auckland Provincial Government Gazette*, 4 October 1869, p. 1268, 30 April 1870, p. 163.

⁵⁷⁶ Thames Warden's Court, Shortland Claims Register 1870, no. 2180, BACL 14397/5a, ANZ-A.

owners of the Wombat, at Hape Creek, all holding equal shares; four of the others were held by Samuel Gribble and his sons: Samuel, Samuel M., Malachi, and John.⁵⁷⁷

In October 1872, he bought the ground formerly held by the Just in Time Company for £5.⁵⁷⁸ In July 1873, he applied for the A1 at Collarbone Creek, which he and others had worked five years previously.⁵⁷⁹ Granted in September, it was transferred to the City of York Company six months later.⁵⁸⁰ After selling 'his excellent Freehold Properties' at Thames (and Auckland) and resigning from the Waitohi school committee because he was to leave the district, in July 1874, three months after announcing his departure, he was appointed the City of York Company's manager.⁵⁸¹ For a time he supervised contractors unpaid until the directors voted him a 'nominal salary'.⁵⁸²

In August 1874, he was warned that his 54 shares in the Lincoln Castle Company would be forfeited if a 1s call was not paid.⁵⁸³ In 1875, along with his brothers-in-law John and William Goldsworthy, he invested in the True Briton Company, mining at Tairua,⁵⁸⁴ his only investment in Ohinemuri. Two years later, he held six shares in the Kuranui Hill Company.⁵⁸⁵ In 1880, with two others, one being Samuel Gribble, he was an owner, with equal shares, in the Moonta at Te Papa Creek; it was abandoned by the end of the year.⁵⁸⁶ Another abandoned at the same time, after he and another miner had owned it for six months, was the Van Tromp at Karaka Creek.⁵⁸⁷

⁵⁷⁷ Thames Warden's Court, Shortland Claims Register 1870, no. 2267, BACL 14397/5a, ANZ-A; *Thames Star*, 3 December 1897, p. 2.

⁵⁷⁸ *Thames Advertiser*, 31 October 1872, p. 3.

⁵⁷⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 24 July 1873, p. 3, 13 September 1873, p. 3.

⁵⁸⁰ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1872-1875, folio 108, BACL 14397/7a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁸¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 10 October 1873, p. 2, 24 April 1874, p. 2, 14 July 1874, p. 3.

⁵⁸² *Thames Advertiser*, 13 January 1875, p. 3.

⁵⁸³ *Thames Advertiser*, 18 August 1874, p. 2.

⁵⁸⁴ *New Zealand Gazette*, 2 September 1875, p. 592.

⁵⁸⁵ Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 26 no. 148, ANZ-A.

⁵⁸⁶ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Grahamstown Claims 1878-1880, no. 736, BACL 14397/12a, ANZ-A.

⁵⁸⁷ Thames Warden's Court, Register of Grahamstown Claims 1878-1880, no. 819, BACL 14397/12a, ANZ-A.

In early 1874, Gribble purchased land at Te Rapa, near Hamilton, and announced he was leaving the Thames district.⁵⁸⁸ His 500 freehold acres in the Waipa County were valued at £2,000 in 1882; in addition he owned 100 acres in Eden County valued at £3,500 and property in Auckland worth £1,110.⁵⁸⁹ He ran sheep and dairy cows.⁵⁹⁰ His local prominence was reflected in his becoming one of two trustees of the Hamilton Highway District in 1880 and later being elected a director of the Rukuhia Cheese and Bacon Factory Company.⁵⁹¹

Despite becoming a farmer, he retained an interest in mining, and in July 1880 the *Waikato Times* announced his willingness to report on any stone or strata.⁵⁹² He advertised his services as a 'Practical Mine Manager, etc. Mr Gribble will be glad to Report (gratis) upon any Samples of Stones, Minerals, etc, submitted to him, which may be left at the Waikato Times Office'.⁵⁹³ In September a settler who had found a small leader at Kaniwhaniwha, on the slopes of Pirongia, sought his advice. Described by the *Waikato Times* as 'a practical miner and a mine manager of long experience', he spoke 'very highly' of one piece of quartz,⁵⁹⁴ but no goldfield was discovered.

Gribble visited Te Aroha in early November, intending to stay for only a few days.⁵⁹⁵ After deciding the stone was 'first-class', he decided to remain there 'until the opening day, in expectation of something good turning up'.⁵⁹⁶ He told a correspondent, who considered that 'no better authority can be found', that he was 'highly pleased with what he has seen in the short time he has been here'.⁵⁹⁷ He had made a 'close inspection' of the

⁵⁸⁸ Jackson and Russell to James Gribble, 18 April 1874, 16 May 1874, Letterbook no. 11, pp. 225, 339; Letterbook no. 25, p. 830, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum; *Thames Advertiser*, 24 April 1874, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 30 November 1882, p. 3; Probate of James Gribble, Probates, BBAE 1568/1584, ANZ-A.

⁵⁸⁹ *A Return of the Freeholders of New Zealand* (Wellington, 1884), p. G 50.

⁵⁹⁰ *Waikato Times*, 30 January 1891, p. 4.

⁵⁹¹ *Waikato Times*, 1 May 1880, p. 3, 3 February 1883, p. 3, 4 June 1885, p. 2.

⁵⁹² *Waikato Times*, 6 July 1880, p. 2.

⁵⁹³ Advertisement, *Waikato Times*, 4 September 1880, p. 1.

⁵⁹⁴ *Waikato Times*, 21 September 1880, p. 2.

⁵⁹⁵ *Waikato Times*, 9 November 1880, p. 2; *Thames Star*, 10 November 1880, p. 2.

⁵⁹⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 13 November 1880, p. 3; *Thames Star*, 13 November 1880, p. 2.

⁵⁹⁷ Te Aroha Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 11 November 1880, p. 2.

Prospectors' Claim and considered it to be good, in parts, but warned against a rush until the ground was developed further. 'This is the opinion of one of the most experienced miners in the district, and as such bears considerable weight'.⁵⁹⁸ He prospected nearby, and discovered lower down on the eastern side of the spur containing the Prospectors' Claim 'a body of quartz about three feet thick, which, he believes, will prove remunerative for working'. A week before the field was opened, he sent 200 pounds of this lode to Thames, where it produced a return of half an ounce to the ton; he expected the size of the ore body would this value payable.⁵⁹⁹ He had driven 25 feet to hit this reef and trenched across the surface to test the main lode.⁶⁰⁰

On opening day, in representing a Waikato Association he organized the pegging out of their preferred ground, with five men at each peg to deter competitors.⁶⁰¹ Although they successfully pegged out 15 men's ground, 'someone else had got wind of his discovery, and pegged off about six men's ground right in the centre of his claim'.⁶⁰² By the end of November, his party discovered that 'half a dozen parties have pegged upon their ground, and they are now arranging to fight some and to amalgamate with others. It is said that Gribble could show gold if all the disputes were over'.⁶⁰³ On 2 December, he was registered as one of three owners of the United, situated about 1,000 feet below the Prospectors' and bounded to the north by the Te Aroha No. 1 South.⁶⁰⁴ Appointed as manager,⁶⁰⁵ he applied for a 100-chain water race to power an 'overshot wheel battery', Gribble considering the

⁵⁹⁸ Special Reporter, *Thames Advertiser*, 15 November 1880, p. 3.

⁵⁹⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 26 November 1880, p. 3; *Thames Star*, 26 November 1880, p. 2.

⁶⁰⁰ *Thames Star*, 27 November 1880, p. 2; Own Reporter, *Thames Advertiser*, 10 December 1880, p. 3.

⁶⁰¹ *Thames Advertiser*, 25 November 1880, p. 3.

⁶⁰² Te Aroha Warden's Court, Miner's Right no. 301, issued 25 November 1880, Miners' Rights Butt Book 1880, BBAV 11533/1a, ANZ-A; *Thames Star*, 26 November 1880, p. 2.

⁶⁰³ *Thames Star*, 1 December 1880, p. 2.

⁶⁰⁴ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 156, BBAV 11567/1a; Register of Applications 1880-1882, folio 102, BBAV 11505/3a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁰⁵ *Thames Star*, 17 December 1880, p. 2.

prospects of the field warrant the introduction of motive power'.⁶⁰⁶ This water right was granted in early January.⁶⁰⁷

In early December, the dispute over the ownership having been settled, work 'stated in earnest'.

The tunnel in which the reef is showing has been discontinued, and one to strike the lode at a lower depth [is] in course of construction. The country through which it is going is easy for driving, but the work cannot be pushed ahead as rapidly as Mr Gribble could wish, owing to the scarcity of trucks and barrows and material for timbering up. The new drive is in the hill a distance of 15 feet or thereabouts, and it is expected that in about 35 feet more driving, the reef will be intersected. The claim was visited the other day by Mr J[ohn] B[lair] Whyte, M.H.R., of Hamilton, one of the principal shareholders, who expressed his satisfaction at the prospects of the company and the manner in which Mr Gribble was conducting operations.⁶⁰⁸

(There is no evidence that Whyte was well informed on mining matters.) Shortly afterwards, the same reporter provided details of this 'legitimately worked' claim:

The first claim met with after leaving the Aroha No. 1 South ... was the United, comprising an area of five acres, of which Mr Jas. Gribble is the manager. The tunnel started by that gentleman prior to the opening of the field, has been discontinued, and another level is being opened up some thirty feet lower down the spur. Judging from its size and the systematic manner in which it is being timbered up, the manager has evidently a double object in view, viz, that of thoroughly prospecting his own ground and of providing in the near future a main level for all the claims in the immediate neighbourhood, including the Te Aroha Nos. 1 and 2, and, in all probability, the Prospectors'. Besides the work of pushing on this main tunnel, there are two prospecting drives in full swing, one of which is being driven to intersect a lode which crops out about 25 feet further up the hill, and which has a kindly appearance. Owing to the absence of Mr Gribble, I was unable to ascertain whether it was auriferous or not. The other drive is being driven towards the south-western boundary with a view of

⁶⁰⁶ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folios 3-4, BBAV 11505/3a, ANZ-A; *Thames Star*, 1 December 1880, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 8 January 1881, p. 3.

⁶⁰⁷ *Waikato Times*, 8 January 1881, p. 3.

⁶⁰⁸ Own Reporter, *Thames Advertiser*, 6 December 1880, p. 3.

testing the ground in that direction. The main reef, which was cut in a trench by Mr Gribble, about three weeks ago, is said to be highly auriferous, and will be intersected in the main level in 20 feet more driving. Although it is somewhat broken where exposed at present, it will no doubt be found better defined at lower levels. On the whole, the work that is being prosecuted in this mine reflects great credit on the manager.⁶⁰⁹

When, almost immediately after his visit, work was suspended, the *Te Aroha Miner* explained that ‘the great bulk of the shareholders reside in Hamilton and Auckland, and of those who are here, no one has been authorised to transact any of the arrangements proposed’. A meeting of shareholders would be held in Hamilton and another in Auckland was likely.⁶¹⁰ A correspondent noted that the tools had ‘been stowed away in one of the drives, and the men paid off. I believe the reason of this action is that the shareholders, who are nearly all Waikato gentlemen, desire to have the company placed on a different basis at present, and wish this matter to be settled at once’. As it was expected to be a month before work resumed, Gribble had returned to Hamilton.⁶¹¹ After the meeting of shareholders held there resolved to keep working, he restarted operations, intending to drive two low levels to cut the lode from which the test had been taken.⁶¹² Not much work was done before the Christmas holiday, for only four men were employed. As the low level tunnel was ‘in loose ground, necessitating the use of timber’, only slow progress was being made. ‘Very few feet have been driven in the upper tunnels since my last visit’.⁶¹³

Gribble had intended prospecting near Te Aroha over the summer,⁶¹⁴ but there were no reports of his doing so. Once work resumed after the holiday, it was discovered that the reef being driven on was decreasing in size to two feet. The main drive, in 30 or 40 feet, was striking damp ground, an indication that the reef was near; it was in the same strata as that found in the Prospectors’.⁶¹⁵

In mid-January, a local correspondent revisited the mine:

⁶⁰⁹ Own Reporter, *Thames Advertiser*, 10 December 1880, p. 3.

⁶¹⁰ *Te Aroha Miner*, n.d., reprinted in *Waikato Times*, 16 December 1880, p. 2.

⁶¹¹ Te Aroha Correspondent, *Thames Advertiser*, 13 December 1880, p. 3.

⁶¹² *Te Aroha Miner*, n.d., reprinted in *Thames Star*, 17 December 1880, p. 2.

⁶¹³ Te Aroha Correspondent, *Thames Advertiser*, 23 December 1880, p. 3.

⁶¹⁴ *Te Aroha Miner*, n.d., reprinted in *Waikato Times*, 9 December 1880, p. 2.

⁶¹⁵ *Waikato Times*, 8 January 1881, p. 3.

The lower drive ... is in a considerable distance through nice country, and the lode which was cut in the intermediate tunnel some weeks ago is expected to be intersected in a day or two, the face of the drive being almost immediately underneath it. This tunnel is, without doubt, the best timbered-up drive in the district, and its construction reflects credit on the indefatigable manager.... No change has taken place in the prospecting drive since my last visit. Nothing further has been done towards a settlement of the dispute between the Auckland and Waikato shareholders, and, in consequence, the development of this promising claim is being much retarded.⁶¹⁶

Within a week, 'the dispute which has been so long pending between the Waikato and Auckland shareholders' was 'amicably settled. A legal company is now being formed'.⁶¹⁷ This never happened, and the claim was certified as abandoned at the beginning of the May and forfeited later in the year.⁶¹⁸ Another party tested the ground in 1883,⁶¹⁹ but Gribble never returned to it.

In late December 1880, he was one of three owners of a Tui claim, the Homeward Bound, which would be forfeited in the following March.⁶²⁰ In early February 1881, he failed to be elected a director of the Te Aroha Quartz Crushing Company, and did not hold any shares when it was registered in April.⁶²¹

In March 1882, Gribble was appointed as the first manager of the Martha mine and battery at Waihi.⁶²² (As he was described as someone who

⁶¹⁶ Te Aroha Correspondent, *Thames Advertiser*, 20 January 1881, p. 3.

⁶¹⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 28 January 1881, p. 3.

⁶¹⁸ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 156, BBAV 11567/1a, ANZ-A; *Thames Star*, 18 August 1881, p. 3.

⁶¹⁹ *Waikato Times*, 27 March 1883, p. 2; Harry Kenrick to Under-Secretary, Gold Fields, 19 April 1883, *AJHR*, H-5, p. 16.

⁶²⁰ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 201, BBAV 11567/1a, ANZ-A.

⁶²¹ *Waikato Times*, 8 February 1881, p. 2; *New Zealand Gazette*, 28 April 1881, p. 476.

⁶²² W.S.C. Nicholl, 'The Discovery that Led to the Development of Waihi Goldfield', *Ohinemuri Regional History Journal*, no. 11 (May 1869), p. 8; *Freeman's Journal*, 24 March 1882, p. 8; J.B. McAra, *Gold Mining at Waihi 1878-1952*, rev. ed. (Waihi, 1988), p. 305.

had earlier successfully managed several Thames mines,⁶²³ this was not his namesake, another miner who lived at Thames and was the second son of Samuel.)⁶²⁴ The discoverer of the Martha lode, Billy Nicholl,⁶²⁵ described Gribble's brief management: 'I handed him the keys and a start was made to crush. He ran the battery for five weeks and cleaned up with 111oz of gold, but considered the battery was almost useless as it had no power to drive the stamps at a speed to crush the ore properly. So he resigned and I was made manager'.⁶²⁶

Not till May 1883 did Gribble become involved in the Waiorongomai field, when he was appointed to manage the All Nations; the only work recorded was surface trenching and commencing a crosscut lower down the spur.⁶²⁷ The following month, he was commended when three young ladies visited the mines and received 'kind attention' from him in the form of having 'a nice cup of tea ready for them'.⁶²⁸ He was allotted 2,000 of the 20,000 shares in the All Nations Company.⁶²⁹

He was appointed manager of the Lucky Hit, in August,⁶³⁰ a mine with apparently rather more potential.⁶³¹ It was proposed to erect a hopper beside the tramway, 60 feet below the present level, and to drive another level from it to cut the No. 2 and No. 3 reefs.⁶³² A crushing of five tons made in August produced 18oz retorted gold, worth £3 7s 3d per ounce.⁶³³ Two months later, good payable quartz was being broken out from Nos. 1 and 2 reefs: 'the stone from each of these reefs shows good gold every breaking-

⁶²³ *Thames Advertiser*, 27 May 1882, p. 3.

⁶²⁴ See Birth Certificate of Evelyn Maud Gribble, 3 May 1878, 1878/7977, BDM; *Thames Advertiser*, 11 June 1877, p. 2, 1 December 1882, p. 3, 11 April 1888, p. 2, 26 July 1888, p. 3, 17 May 1889, p. 2, 4 March 1891, p. 2, 30 November 1894, p. 3; Warden's Court, *Thames Star*, 12 December 1889, p. 2; *Auckland Weekly News*, 16 May 1896, p. 10.

⁶²⁵ See paper on his life.

⁶²⁶ Nicholl, pp. 8-9.

⁶²⁷ *Thames Advertiser*, 2 June 1883, p. 3.

⁶²⁸ *Observer*, 2 June 1883, p. 172.

⁶²⁹ *New Zealand Gazette*, 6 September 1883, p. 1266.

⁶³⁰ *Thames Star*, 16 August 1883, p. 2; *Te Aroha News*, 25 August 1883, p. 2, 8 December 1883, p. 2.

⁶³¹ *Thames Star*, 20 April 1883, p. 2, 16 August 1883, p. 2, 18 August 1883, p. 2.

⁶³² *Thames Advertiser*, 17 July 1883, p. 2.

⁶³³ *Waikato Times*, 21 August 1883, p. 2; *Thames Advertiser*, 24 August 1883, p. 2.

down'.⁶³⁴ The following month, these two reefs were 'turning out first-class crushing dirt. Coarse gold is freely seen every breaking down'.⁶³⁵ In December, a newspaper warned that although a trial crushing had produced about 30oz to the ton there was 'not much 30oz stone showing at present'; however, there was a 'good payable reef', and a 'large body of stone which may be easily worked'.⁶³⁶ By then, it was apparent that the upper level contained the best ore, and an 'excellent sledge track' had 'been made from the drive to the tramway'.⁶³⁷ A visiting reporter visited in mid-December:

The manager of this company's property, bounding the Waiorongomai northward, had a trial parcel of 10 tons of dirt on the road to the mill at the time of my visit. This was taken from what is known as No. 1 reef at the top level. It has been driven on 40ft here, averaging a foot in width for that distance, and showing gold freely throughout in both the honeycomb and solid quartz. The junction of No. 2 reef is expected to be met with in this drive, but it has not been picked up yet. At the low level on No. 1 reef, from which a trial parcel was crushed at the Thames and gave over 4oz per load, the reef has been driven on for some distance, and though rather small in the southern face, has shown gold freely the whole distance. A rise has been put up to the surface here, and a small block northward, about 10 feet long, stoped out, the precious metal being met with all through the reef. There is a good paddock of quartz here ready for crushing. No. 2 reef, which strikes nearly east and west, as been driven on westward, and a surface stope is now being taken along it to discover the point at which it junctions with No. 2; 20 tons of dirt are on hand from here, and, judging by the gold seen in breaking, it should yield well. A crosscut is in progress near the southern boundary to intersect the Waiorongomai main reef, which prospects well a few yards distant; 30 feet of driving should see it in hand.⁶³⁸

When this parcel, of nine tons, produced the poor result of 6oz 9dwt melted gold everyone was 'greatly astonished' with the discrepancy with the earlier test, as the second sample had showed more gold. Both crushings

⁶³⁴ *Auckland Weekly News*, 20 October 1883, p. 9.

⁶³⁵ *Auckland Weekly News*, 17 November 1883, p. 9.

⁶³⁶ *Thames Advertiser*, 11 December 1883, p. 3.

⁶³⁷ *Te Aroha News*, 8 December 1883, p. 2.

⁶³⁸ Special Reporter, 'A Trip to Te Aroha Goldfield', *Thames Star*, 14 December 1883, p. 2.

were taken from the same reef, the second from closer to the surface.⁶³⁹ After this 'very unsatisfactory' trial, work was abandoned until William Goldsworthy took over management six months later.⁶⁴⁰ This ground later became known as the Galena,⁶⁴¹ and then part of the successful Loyalty Palace.⁶⁴²

Gribble's managing of these two mines was his last involvement in mining. With his health fading, he settled on his land at Kingsland, then 'near Auckland'.⁶⁴³

Like his brothers-in-law, Gribble was a Wesleyan. In 1875, he collected money for erecting a church in Thames, and three years assisted the Tararu Road Wesleyan Sunday School.⁶⁴⁴ At a Wesleyan concert, he gave a recitation and his wife sang.⁶⁴⁵ In 1881, he chaired a Hamilton meeting for Wesleyan home missions, and helped to lay the corner blocks of the church; his wife contributed to the building fund.⁶⁴⁶ Two years later, he was a trustee of the Te Aroha church.⁶⁴⁷ On her death, his widow was recalled as 'an esteemed member of the Wesleyan Church, and it was noted that one daughter had married a clergyman.'⁶⁴⁸ In politics, he supported the Liberal Party.⁶⁴⁹

When Gribble died in 1886, six daughters and five sons were still living.⁶⁵⁰ Their first child, Mary Ann, was born in 1856.⁶⁵¹ Emily Jane was born in 1860 but died the following year; another daughter with the same name was born two years later.⁶⁵² William John was born in 1861.⁶⁵³ In

⁶³⁹ *Thames Advertiser*, 24 December 1883, p. 2.

⁶⁴⁰ *Te Aroha News*, 29 December 1883, p. 2, 28 June 1884, p. 2.

⁶⁴¹ *Te Aroha News*, 3 October 1885, p. 2.

⁶⁴² See paper on Thomas Gavin.

⁶⁴³ *Waikato Times*, 4 September 1886, p. 2.

⁶⁴⁴ *Thames Advertiser*, 25 October 1875, p. 2, 12 June 1878, p. 3.

⁶⁴⁵ *Thames Advertiser*, 7 November 1878, p. 2.

⁶⁴⁶ *Waikato Times*, 15 October 1881, p. 2, 18 October 1881, p. 2, 20 October 1881, p. 2.

⁶⁴⁷ Te Aroha Warden's Court, Applications 1883, Application dated 30 October 1883, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A.

⁶⁴⁸ *New Zealand Herald*, 15 November 1901, p. 5.

⁶⁴⁹ *Thames Star*, 8 September 1880, p. 2.

⁶⁵⁰ Death Certificate of James Gribble, 1 September 1886, 1886/179, BDM.

⁶⁵¹ Birth Certificate of Mary Ann [recorded as Anne] Gribble, 1856/3391, BDM.

⁶⁵² Birth Certificates of Emily Jane Gribble, 1860/4861, 1863/7828; Death Certificate of Emily Jane Gribble, 1861/1072, BDM.

January 1865, Martha Grace was born, but died 14 months later.⁶⁵⁴ Arthur James was born in Auckland in June 1866, but died six months later.⁶⁵⁵ The following year Anna Maria was born, and Martha was born in 1869.⁶⁵⁶ In August 1870, James was born at Thames, dying on the same day of ‘natural causes’.⁶⁵⁷ Another James was born there in July 1871.⁶⁵⁸ Arthur Charles was born in 1873.⁶⁵⁹ Thomas Henry was born there in April 1875, but died three months later of acute bronchitis.⁶⁶⁰ Four children were born at or near Hamilton: Richard Thomas Henry, in September 1876; Edith Mabel May, in December 1878; Joseph Ernest Samuel, in July 1881; and Harold Percival Claude, in February 1884;⁶⁶¹ the latter died when aged one.⁶⁶²

In 1874, Mary Ann, then aged 18, married Samuel Luther Hirst, an amalgamator aged 23,⁶⁶³ who went on to be a prosperous businessman.⁶⁶⁴

During his last years, Gribble lived ‘on his property at Kingsland’, near Auckland, ‘suffering from asthma’ and ‘in feeble health for some months’ before his death.⁶⁶⁵ He died, in September 1886, aged 58, from a

⁶⁵³ Birth Certificate of William John Gribble, 1861/5064, BDM.

⁶⁵⁴ Birth Certificate of Martha Grace Gribble, January 1865, 1865/25267; Death Certificate of Martha Grace Gribble, 6 March 1866, 1866/855, BDM.

⁶⁵⁵ Birth Certificate of Arthur James Gribble, 4 June 1866, 1866/25988; Death Certificate of Arthur James Gribble, 28 December 1866, 1866/854, BDM.

⁶⁵⁶ Birth Certificates of Anna Maria Gribble, 1867/13347; Martha Gribble, 1869/13053, BDM.

⁶⁵⁷ Birth Certificate of James Gribble, 15 August 1870, 1870/17661; Death Certificate of James Gribble, 15 August 1870, 1870/971, BDM.

⁶⁵⁸ Birth Certificate of James Gribble, 22 July 1871, 1871/18320, BDM.

⁶⁵⁹ Birth Certificate of Arthur Charles Gribble, 1873/29383, BDM.

⁶⁶⁰ Birth Certificate of Thomas Henry Gribble, 1875/7728; Death Certificate of Thomas Henry Gribble, 18 July 1875, 1875/4281, BDM.

⁶⁶¹ Birth Certificates of Richard Thomas Henry Gribble, 25 September 1876, 1876/17461; Edith Mabel May Gribble, 31 December 1878, 1879/9851; Joseph Ernest Samuel Gribble, 31 July 1881, 1881/15753; Harold Percival Claude Gribble, 1 February 1884, 1884/1351, BDM.

⁶⁶² Death Certificate of Harold Percival Claud Gribble, 1885/679, BDM.

⁶⁶³ Notices of Intentions to Marry 1874, Births Deaths and Marriages, BDM 20/19, folio 197, ANZ-W; Marriage Certificate of Mary Ann Gribble, 30 December 1874, 1874/11908, BDM.

⁶⁶⁴ See paper on miners’ financial struggles at Te Aroha.

⁶⁶⁵ *Waikato Times*, 4 September 1886, p. 2.

combination of bronchitis, heart disease, liver disease, and gastric catarrh.⁶⁶⁶ His brother-in-law William Goldsworthy and one of his sons were executors and received the residue of the estate, which included his farm and freehold land and two shops (mortgaged) in Eden Terrace, Auckland.⁶⁶⁷ He left a substantial estate of £8,161 13s 3d.⁶⁶⁸

His widow died at their home in November 1901, aged 63, after suffering from heart disease for six years.⁶⁶⁹ A Te Aroha resident informed a Thames newspaper that she 'was well-known and highly spoken of by all who knew her'.⁶⁷⁰

CONCLUSION

This blow-by-blow chronological account of the lives of these five miners illustrated the hard work involved, and how well regarded miners were appointed as managers on many fields. It also illustrated how they had to move from job to job as mines they were working in were found to be unprofitable and moved on to others showing promise; as the latter usually proved not to be as good as expected, this cycle was repeated over and over again. Combining mining with some farming was necessary to make ends meet, in their cases successfully, as all were financially comfortable at the time of their deaths.

⁶⁶⁶ Death Certificate of James Gribble, 1 September 1886, 1886/179, BDM.

⁶⁶⁷ Probate of James Gribble, Probates, BBAE 1568/1584, ANZ-A.

⁶⁶⁸ Testamentary Register 1886-1892, folio 5, BBCB 4208/16, ANZ-A; Jackson and Russell to W.J. Gribble, 24 February 1887, Letterbook no. 33, p. 537, Jackson and Russell Papers, MS 360, Library of the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum.

⁶⁶⁹ Death Certificate of Mary Ann Gribble, 12 November 1901, 1901/5781, BDM; *Auckland Star*, 14 November 1901, p. 8.

⁶⁷⁰ *Thames Star*, 15 November 1901, p. 2.