

LIVING IN THE BUSH AND AT QUARTZVILLE, HIGH ON THE  
HILLSIDE ABOVE WAIORONGOMAI

Philip Hart

**Te Aroha Mining District Working Papers**

**No. 117**

**2016**

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

ISSN: 2463-6266

© 2016 Philip Hart

Contact: [prhart1940@gmail.com](mailto:prhart1940@gmail.com)



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

## LIVING IN THE BUSH AND AT QUARTZVILLE, HIGH ON THE HILLSIDE ABOVE WAIORONGOMAI

**Abstract:** *To avoid a long walk to and from work, some miners lived in whare scattered in the bush but close to the upper road between Waiorongomai village and the mines, and at the small settlement of Quartzville. In addition, some companies provided a small number of shanties for single men, some of which would be re-used in the 1930s. A few huts were erected in the Tui district.*

*At Quartzville during the 1880s, several shopkeepers set up shop, receiving goods daily from Waiorongomai. There was also a post office and a small boarding house, but no licensed premises were permitted. By the end of the nineteenth century this settlement, which had housed some families as well as single men, had disappeared.*

*Living in these out-of-the-way places had several hazards, notably fires, falling trees, and a steep and slippery road that needed constant repair. Little entertainment was possible, although for a time there were sporting teams and occasional meetings. For much of the year climatic conditions must have made for unpleasant living conditions.*

### RESIDENCE SITES ON OR NEAR FERN SPUR

To avoid a long walk to and from the mines, some miners lived close to their work. Only slightly nearer from Waiorongomai were those who lived on or near Fern Spur. In December 1882, John Naughton<sup>1</sup> applied for a residence site ‘at Old Pah Waiorongomai’;<sup>2</sup> the precise site of this pa was unrecorded, but presumably was on or close to Fern Spur. Naughton’s site was adjacent to the upper road.<sup>3</sup> One unnamed person living on or near to Fern Spur ‘whose house had been injured by the tramway works’ received compensation in February 1883.<sup>4</sup> No records have survived of other miners

---

<sup>1</sup> See *Te Aroha News*, 23 February 1884, p. 7, 1 August 1885, p. 7, 12 May 1888, p. 2, 23 June 1888, p. 2, 18 August 1888, p. 2, 30 January 1889, p. 2, 9 March 1889, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folio 228, no. 407, BBAV 11505/3a, ANZ-A.

<sup>3</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Applications 1882, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>4</sup> Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 24 February 1883, p. 2.

obtaining sites in this area during that year, apart from Thomas Kirker's<sup>5</sup> site 'near Old Pah Waiorongomai' in August,<sup>6</sup> and the brothers Christopher and Robert Guy<sup>7</sup> 'near the Township of Waiorongomai' in October,<sup>8</sup> but there were other applications. In December, George Wilson, the mining inspector,<sup>9</sup> informed the warden, Harry Kenrick,<sup>10</sup> that there was 'every probability of a considerable portion of the bush land between the Buck Reef and the Waiorongomai Creek being required for Residence Sites'. Already 'several' had been applied for and 'different parties' were 'squatting' there. As the land was part of the Thames High School Endowment, he considered that the school's board of governors should survey sections and lay off roads 'so that persons desiring to occupy land would be compelled to mark off their allotments with some degree of regularity'.<sup>11</sup> The board, reluctant to spend more than absolutely necessary on surveys, agreed to obtain an estimate of the cost of laying off roads.<sup>12</sup> In November 1884, after a surveyor accompanied him to inspect the land, Wilson recommended that from 25 to 30 chains of roads and adjacent residence sites be surveyed. Eighteen sites had already been paid for and he expected more applications.<sup>13</sup> The board surveyed these roads and 30 sites.<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> See Mines Department, MD 1, 92/34, ANZ-W; *Thames Advertiser*, 5 March 1886, p. 3; *Te Aroha News*, 25 April 1888, p. 2, 23 October 1889, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 28 April 1892, p. 3; *Auckland Weekly News*, 28 January 1893, p. 18.

<sup>6</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 93/1883, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>7</sup> For Christopher Guy, see *Te Aroha News*, 26 September 1885, p. 7, 18 August 1888, p. 2; *Thames Advertiser*, 16 July 1891, p. 2; *Thames Star*, 28 June 1900, p. 2, 2 July 1900, p. 2. For Robert Guy, see Mines Department, MD 1, 92/663, ANZ-W; *Te Aroha News*, 8 August 1885, p. 7, 6 March 1889, p. 7; Te Aroha Correspondent, *Auckland Weekly News*, 6 October 1894, p. 10.

<sup>8</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Applications 1883, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>9</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>10</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>11</sup> George Wilson to Harry Kenrick, 22 December 1883, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Letterbook 1883-1900, p. 18, BBAV 11534/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>12</sup> Thames High School Board, *Thames Advertiser*, 4 March 1884, p. 2; R.A. Heald (Secretary, Thames High School Board of Governors) to George Wilson, 4 March 1884, Te Aroha Warden's Court, General Correspondence 1884, BBAV 11584/2b, ANZ-A.

<sup>13</sup> George Wilson to R.A. Heald, 11 November 1884, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Letterbook 1883-1900, pp. 49-50, BBAV 11534/1a, ANZ-A.

This decision came as demand declined because the goldfield was fading. Only three applications for sites at Fern Spur and at or near the 'Old Pah' were recorded during that year.<sup>15</sup> One of these applicants was Bridget Ryan,<sup>16</sup> not her husband, Daniel Francis Ryan,<sup>17</sup> presumably because he was bankrupt.<sup>18</sup> In 1888, after a miner applied for a half-acre section on the upper road, beyond Fern Spur but still part of the endowment, Wilson obtained the board's approval to grant sections greater than a quarter of an acre, applicants being required to survey their sites.<sup>19</sup> Early in 1889, a miner was granted half an acre 'between Fern Spur and Buck reef', further up the hillside, 'subject to non-interference with mining operations'.<sup>20</sup>

Only one company acquired a residence site on this spur. In 1900, Edwin Henry Hardy,<sup>21</sup> on behalf of the Hampton Plains Exploration Company, applied for an acre 'near Tramway head of Fern Spur, bounded towards East & South by track to Buck Reef'.<sup>22</sup> By then, few if any people were living in this area. In 1915, the mining inspector reported that all the hill sections contained within the endowment were unoccupied apart from

<sup>14</sup> R.A. Heald to George Wilson, 8 December 1884, Te Aroha Warden's Court, General Correspondence 1884, BBAV 11584/2b, ANZ-A.

<sup>15</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 15, 23, 55/1884, BBAV 11505/1a; Applications for Residence Sites 1884, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>16</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 55/1884, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>17</sup> See *Coromandel Mail*, 19 February 1881, p. 1; *Te Aroha Mail*, 10 June 1882, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 2 May 1885, p. 2; *Thames Advertiser*, 14 February 1893, p. 2; *Thames Star*, 12 July 1905, p. 1.

<sup>18</sup> 'Return of all Bankruptcies and Assignments since the coming into operation of the 'Debtors and Creditors Amendment Act, 1878': Supreme Court, Auckland, Bankruptcies, Legislative Department, LE 1, 1883/106, ANZ-W.

<sup>19</sup> Application by William Darby, 29 March 1888, with memorandum by George Wilson, 8 May 1888, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Applications 1888, BBAV 11591/1a; R.A. Heald to Mining Registrar, Te Aroha, 13 June 1888, General Correspondence 1888, BBAV 11584/3c, ANZ-A.

<sup>20</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 29/1889, BBAV 11505/1a; Applications 1889, 29/1889, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>21</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>22</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Applications 1900, 18/1900, BBAV 11582/4b, ANZ-A; plan of this site held in the Te Aroha Museum.

one at the top of the Fern Spur tramway incline, and land cleared for housing was rapidly becoming overrun with blackberry.<sup>23</sup>

### RESIDENCE SITES FURTHER UP THE UPPER ROAD

In January 1884, a Tauranga visitor described the ‘remarkably wild and beautiful’ scenery on the upper road and the ‘picturesque slab huts built by the miners’.<sup>24</sup> Eighteen people were granted residence sites between Fern Spur and Quartzville before 1900. Two were women: Mary Quinton had a site close to that of her husband, Matthew,<sup>25</sup> ‘near Upper Track Waiorongomai at second creek above fern spur’,<sup>26</sup> and Catherine Young had one on the lower road,<sup>27</sup> held on behalf of her husband, David Kerr Young.<sup>28</sup> Some were on or adjacent to claims: for example, one miner was granted a site on the ‘Wallaby Camping ground’,<sup>29</sup> and in 1885 trees blocked the upper road ‘especially at the Werahiko camp’.<sup>30</sup> Richard Burke lived on his Welcome claim whilst working it, mostly on his own, on and off between 1886 and 1898,<sup>31</sup> and another long-time miner, John Wallace,<sup>32</sup> in

---

<sup>23</sup> Matthew Paul (Inspector of Mines) to Warden, 10 April 1915, Mines Department, MD 1, 6/61, ANZ-W.

<sup>24</sup> C.H. Pening, ‘Sketches of the Te Aroha Goldfield’, *Illustrated New Zealand News*, 21 January 1884, p. 6; illustration on p. 5.

<sup>25</sup> See paper on Billy Nicholl.

<sup>26</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 43, 54/1884, BBAV 11505/1a; Applications 1884, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>27</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 34/1888, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A; Waiorongomai Correspondent, *Te Aroha News*, 2 February 1889, p. 2.

<sup>28</sup> See *Te Aroha News*, 29 November 1884, p. 2, 8 August 1885, p. 7, 5 March 1887, p. 2, 12 May 1888, p. 2, 2 June 1888, p. 2; *Thames Star*, 11 April 1905, p. 2.

<sup>29</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 12/1884, BBAV 11505/1a; Applications 1884, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>30</sup> *Waikato Times*, 24 March 1885, p. 3.

<sup>31</sup> See Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 148, BBAV 11567/1a; Register of Applications 1883-1900, 15, 29, 47/1887, 3, 37, 81/1888, 2/1889, 11/1890, 80/1895, 21/1896, 1, 76, 123/1897, 30/1898, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 7 June 1884, p. 2, 21 March 1885, p. 2, Piako County Council, 17 March 1888, p. 2, 19 May 1888, p. 2, Waiorongomai Correspondent, 11 May 1889, p. 2, Warden’s Court, 5 June 1895, p. 2, 16 November 1895, p. 2, Warden’s Court, 13 January 1898, p. 2.

1897 applied for half an acre on the Waitara.<sup>33</sup> Most of the others lived ‘near Upper Track’,<sup>34</sup> Thomas Roberts<sup>35</sup> being more precisely recorded as living at the ‘Third Creek above fern spur Waiorongomai’.<sup>36</sup> Edward Mercer’s<sup>37</sup> half acre was beside ‘Hill track Waiorongomai about 30 chains above Butler’s Spur’.<sup>38</sup>

Some companies acquired sites on or near their claims for their miners. In 1882, the Army Company was granted a site on the ‘Army Hill Track’,<sup>39</sup> two years later the Eureka Company was granted one on the Diamond Gully claim,<sup>40</sup> the Battery Company had one ‘situated at Diamond Gully’,<sup>41</sup> and the Colonist Company had one on the ‘Hill Track’, presumably on its own ground.<sup>42</sup> The plan accompanying a 1901 application for a special quartz claim included the ‘Cadman Hut’ on the claim of that name.<sup>43</sup> Sometimes companies provided more than just a hut. In 1906, Hardy’s

<sup>32</sup> See *Te Aroha News*, 4 December 1888, p. 2, 4 December 1888, p. 2, 1 May 1889, p. 2, 28 September 1895, p. 2, 12 October 1932, p. 5, 9 December 1932, p. 5, 7 December 1939, p. 5.

<sup>33</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 26/1897, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>34</sup> For example, Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 24, 28, 43, 54, 58/1884, BBAV 11505/1a; plans of these and other sites in Residence Site Applications 1884, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>35</sup> See *Te Aroha News*, 7 November 1885, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 3 August 1893, p. 2, 5 October 1893, p. 2, 2 November 1893, p. 2.

<sup>36</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 40/1884, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>37</sup> See *Te Aroha News*, Warden’s Court, 6 June 1888, p. 2, Magistrate’s Court, 18 September 1889, p. 2.

<sup>38</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Residence Site Applications 1888, 35/1888, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>39</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Residence Sites 1880-1882, folio 238, BBAV 11537/2a, ANZ-A.

<sup>40</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 20/1884, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>41</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Letterbook 1883-1900, p. 284, memorandum of 31 May 1889, BBAV 11534/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>42</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Letterbook 1883-1900, p. 295, memorandum of 21 October 1891, BBAV 11534/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>43</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Mining Applications 1901, 13/1901, BBAV 11582/4b, ANZ-A.

Mines<sup>44</sup> had several buildings 'at the mine': three small cottages and a galvanized iron mess-house in addition to a magazine building and two smithies.<sup>45</sup> No more precise location was given, but they must have been close to the Premier mine, probably where Malcolm Hardy later erected his small plant.<sup>46</sup> In 1909, when Cyclone Dido damaged the upper track and tramway, 'one of the workmen's shanties was blown to pieces'.<sup>47</sup>

In 1908, Hardy's Mines proposed to erect five or six houses on a quarter acre near McLean's level.<sup>48</sup> Edwin Hardy, who wished to use part of this land, doubted that these houses would be used because 'almost all the men' he had employed 'have lived in Waiorongomai and walked up'. They 'would have to walk 2 1/2 miles to work each morning' to work in this level. There were 'houses close to the work 240 feet up - built for our workmen but never used by them' because they preferred to walk from Waiorongomai. Three 'good wooden houses' were 'just above the tram line'.<sup>49</sup> The warden decided that he should not encroach upon what Hardy had described as 'tenements',<sup>50</sup> implying they were not very large. This was confirmed when the manager for Hardy's Mines complained, in 1918, that men would not live on this site because there were 'no houses for married men'.<sup>51</sup> During 1909, this company erected two houses at the foot of the May Queen incline.<sup>52</sup> Two years later, a reporter noted Hardy's Mines' workers living alongside the tramway past Diamond Gully, probably where the New Era tramway had met the main line, in 'a group of huts standing on the point of a spur'; a 'healthier spot ... would be hard to find'.<sup>53</sup>

---

<sup>44</sup> See paper on this company.

<sup>45</sup> Report by F.C. Brown for Hardy's Mines Ltd., 1 October 1906, p. 6, Mines Department, MD 1, 23/4/54, ANZ-W.

<sup>46</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>47</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 31 August 1909, p. 3.

<sup>48</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1908, 13/1908, BBAV 11289/19a, ANZ-A.

<sup>49</sup> Evidence by E.H. Hardy in Warden's Court, 28 July 1908, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Applications 1908, 13/1908, BBAV 11289/19a, ANZ-A.

<sup>50</sup> E.H. Hardy to Clerk, Te Aroha Warden's Court, 20 September 1908, Mining Applications 1908, 11591/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>51</sup> Evidence by Walter Greening in Warden's Court, 6 September 1918, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1918, 21/1918, BCDG 11289/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>52</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 31 August 1909, p. 3.

<sup>53</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 9 February 1911, p. 2.

Some miners lived on the hillside later in the twentieth century. In 1920, the manager of the Bonanza Company told the council that, as he would 'be having more men living at the mine', he wanted the upper track repaired so that he could 'induce a storekeeper to pack stores for them'.<sup>54</sup> Although Malcolm Hardy was the best-known miner to live near his claim in the 1930s, others did likewise. After prospecting revived in 1932, whare which had 'been deserted for 30 years' were reoccupied.<sup>55</sup> When Henry James Pease<sup>56</sup> took up his Waiorongomai claim, he intended to shift a hut from Fern Spur to camp in.<sup>57</sup> Even the old stables at the top of Butler's Spur were occupied.<sup>58</sup> By 1934, there were several huts at the very end of the tramway, one being known as the 'White Lodge'.<sup>59</sup>

### LIVING NEAR THE TUI MINES

In 1889 men working at Tui lived in whare close to the mines and had a separate cookhouse.<sup>60</sup> In 1897 a reporter noted 'a number of sections' pegged out at and around Cameron's camp, about half way up the Tui track and named after mine manager Edward Cameron.<sup>61</sup> These sections were 'being secured by miners for residence sites, and before long we may expect to see a thriving settlement on Cameron's Flat'.<sup>62</sup> Any settlement there soon vanished along with the fortunes of these mines. In the mid-1930s, prospectors employed by the Te Aroha Gold Syndicate camped on the former Peter Maxwell ground in a 'tiny' corrugated iron hut nestled 'in the shadow of a spur' 2,500 feet above sea level.<sup>63</sup>

### SOME HAZARDS OF LIVING IN THE BUSH

---

<sup>54</sup> Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 21 April 1920, p. 2.

<sup>55</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 11 April 1932, p. 5.

<sup>56</sup> See paper on prospectors and investors in the Te Aroha Mining District in the 1930s.

<sup>57</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 10 October 1932, p. 4.

<sup>58</sup> J.D. Cumming to J.F. Downey, 19 July 1932, Inspector of Mines, BBDO 18634, A902, box 60, MM 74B, ANZ-A.

<sup>59</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 14 February 1934, p. 5.

<sup>60</sup> Magistrate's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 5 October 1889, p. 2.

<sup>61</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>62</sup> *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 17 February 1897, p. 2.

<sup>63</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 9 December 1932, p. 5.

In 1883 a visitor described ‘the white tents or slab huts among the forest trees, the curling smoke from camp fires here and there ascending above the tree-tops’.<sup>64</sup> These fires were more romantic for the observer than for those living there. On one evening in May 1882 the hut occupied by men working in the Young Colonial ‘was completely destroyed by fire, the three occupants being away at the time whiling an hour in pleasant converse with their adjoining neighbours in the Premier mine’. On returning, they found

their whare completely enveloped in flames, which they were unable to approach in consequence of the stowage in the hut of some powder, dynamite, and caps kept on hand for blasting purposes. In a very few minutes, however, there was a grand display of fireworks, including rockets of burning embers, half charred rags, etc, and it can hardly be necessary to add this was preceded by three terrific explosions.

It was common practice to store explosives in whare despite, ‘as a rule’, never allowing the fire, often ‘within a few feet of these deadly explosives’, to die out’,<sup>65</sup> because of damp living conditions. The Young Colonial miners erected a new whare.<sup>66</sup> In 1889, a fire on Fern Spur threatened three houses, ‘the wind blowing the sparks repeatedly on the roofs of their houses, some of which had been composed of thatch’.<sup>67</sup> David Kerr Young’s house, ‘situated in the gully, at the first sharp turn on the Lower Hill Track’, was burnt down, although ‘several small detached rooms and sheds’ were saved. Young decided to rebuild in Waiorongomai.<sup>68</sup> In 1897 a whare near the Tui mine was destroyed, ‘together with some of the personal effects of two miners’.<sup>69</sup>

The most dramatic example of another hazard occurred in 1889:

A very narrow escape from almost certain sudden death occurred on Sunday last to Mr Richard Burke, who lives on the old Inverness ground in a whare, over which an old rata tree has been dangerously hanging for a considerable time. On Sunday, while eating his dinner, the tree gave a warning crack; Burke,

---

<sup>64</sup> ‘Battery Opening Festivities at Te Aroha’, *Observer*, 15 December 1883, p. 4.

<sup>65</sup> *Waikato Times*, 30 May 1882, p. 2.

<sup>66</sup> *Te Aroha Mail*, 10 June 1882, p. 3.

<sup>67</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 2 February 1889, p. 2.

<sup>68</sup> Waiorongomai Correspondent, *Te Aroha News*, 2 February 1889, p. 2.

<sup>69</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 3 July 1897, p. 2.

whose suspicions were at once aroused, rushed out, and only just in time, for before he had got a few yards away the tree came down, crashing through the whare and demolishing it completely.<sup>70</sup>

The weather coupled with difficulties in obtaining supplies meant some men were very isolated. In the early 1880s, Peter Segursen's<sup>71</sup> whare was all by itself near the water race on the eastern side of the Waiorongomai Stream.<sup>72</sup> By 1885 he and his mate had moved to a less isolated whare between the foot of Butler's incline and the lower road.<sup>73</sup> In 1889, Nicholas Cleary, a policeman-turned-miner,<sup>74</sup> was living 'at the top of the Tui',<sup>75</sup> a bleak and lonely place. In 1893 William John McCormick<sup>76</sup> lived at the 'Waitawheta Track',<sup>77</sup> which crossed to the far side of the range, the furthest dwelling from Waiorongomai recorded.

## QUARTZVILLE

Most people living on the hill avoided isolation by living 'up hill' at Quartzville. An earlier mining settlement with this name had existed in the Carrick Range of Otago in the 1870s.<sup>78</sup> By October 1883 it was known as 'Upper Waiorongomai or Quartzville'.<sup>79</sup> It straddled the upper road with houses and shops being erected on the Arizona, Canadian, and Wellington

---

<sup>70</sup> Waiorongomai Correspondent, *Te Aroha News*, 11 May 1889, p. 2.

<sup>71</sup> See Death Certificate of Peter Segursen, 8 March 1909, 1909/6445, BDM; *Te Aroha News*, 18 October 1884, p. 7, 13 November 1886, p. 2, 4 December 1886, p. 2; *Thames Star*, 9 October 1909, p. 2.

<sup>72</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 257, BBAV 11567/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>73</sup> Advertisement, *Te Aroha News*, 8 August 1885, p. 7.

<sup>74</sup> See *Thames Advertiser*, Te Aroha Correspondent, 3 February 1882, p. 2, 8 November 1882, p. 2, Te Aroha Correspondent, 8 October 1886, p. 3, Ohinemuri County Council, 13 October 1887, p. 2.

<sup>75</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 8 June 1889, p. 2.

<sup>76</sup> See Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1909, 126/1909, BBAV 11289/20a; Mining Applications 1912, 125/1912, BBAV 11289/22a, ANZ-A.

<sup>77</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Plaintiff Book 1880-1898, 6/1893, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>78</sup> John Hall-Jones, *Goldfields of Otago: An illustrated history* (Invercargill, 2005), p. 76.

<sup>79</sup> *Thames Star*, 23 October 1883, p. 2.

claims.<sup>80</sup> This ‘collection of miners’ huts’ had no formed tracks to residence sites not adjoining the road.<sup>81</sup> In 1888 the council accepted a tender ‘for making a track, for convenience of miners and others, connecting the tramway near the Waterfall Gully bridge with the Upper Track’,<sup>82</sup> which went through an area already containing some houses; Malcolm Hardy’s hut would later be erected there.<sup>83</sup> As elsewhere on the hillside, some families as well as single miners lived there.<sup>84</sup>

A visitor believed ‘living in such a place in winter must be very trying’ as it was ‘so heavily timbered, and so elevated that the number of dry days’ was ‘very few’.<sup>85</sup> On one day in 1884 the temperature was well below freezing point ‘in an opening in the bush near the New Find’.<sup>86</sup> The following year, heavy rain prevented many residents attending an important meeting at Waiorongomai.<sup>87</sup> A month later, a strong gale struck. ‘At the mines a number of large trees were torn up by the roots, and heavy limbs were snapped off from others, but fortunately no harm was done to person or property’.<sup>88</sup>

Some buildings accommodated several men. One, ‘Brown’s Whare’, otherwise known as Brown’s boardinghouse, was first recorded in December 1883.<sup>89</sup> When companies cut wages by a shilling a day in January 1884, directors announced that, ‘as part recompense’, they would ‘erect huts for

---

<sup>80</sup> G.H.A. Purchas, Blueprint of Waiorongomai Goldfield, January 1884, Hamilton Public Library.

<sup>81</sup> ‘Voz’, ‘A Holiday at Te Aroha’, *Auckland Weekly News*, 1 May 1886, p. 7.

<sup>82</sup> Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 12 May 1888, p. 2.

<sup>83</sup> See G.H.A. Purchas, Blueprint of Waiorongomai Goldfield, January 1884, Hamilton Public Library.

<sup>84</sup> Recollections of John O’Shea, *Te Aroha News*, 28 November 1940, p. 5; Burton Bros, ‘Waiorongomai’, Burton Brothers Collection, C. 17245, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington.

<sup>85</sup> Michael Landers, ‘A Trip to Te Aroha and Ohinemuri Districts’, *Freeman’s Journal*, 28 March 1884, p. 13.

<sup>86</sup> *Waikato Times*, 5 June 1884, p. 2.

<sup>87</sup> *Waikato Times*, 3 February 1885, p. 2.

<sup>88</sup> *Waikato Times*, 17 March 1885, p. 2.

<sup>89</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 224, 225/1883, BBAV 11505/1a; John Saunders’ application, 25 February 1884, Applications 1884, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 22 March 1884, p. 2 [where the name was printed as Bowen].

the men to live in' because of 'the hardship' of married men being 'obliged to support two homes in different districts'.<sup>90</sup> Six days later, the Premier and Colonist companies were granted residence sites at Quartzville.<sup>91</sup> The Arizona Company built a 'whare' adjoining the store with bunks for the mine manager and some miners.<sup>92</sup> No other companies were recorded as following suit.

The number living at Quartzville and nearby cannot be determined with any accuracy. In April 1884 it was stated that most miners lived near the main mines. 'On the Hill' lived 'at least 200 adult males in profitable and full employment, more wages earning men perhaps' than at Te Aroha and Waiorongomai combined.<sup>93</sup> In the following month 130 attended a Quartzville meeting and a 'good number' were forced to listen outside because of lack of space; it is not clear whether the 40 Waiorongomai people who participated were included in this total.<sup>94</sup> In December, the county engineer reported 'almost 40 families, besides single men, living along' the upper road;<sup>95</sup> probably many were further down it. A number of children living at Quartzville were photographed in 1884.<sup>96</sup> The census taken in March 1886, when both mines and population were in decline, recorded that 'Waiorongomai Mines' had 91 residents: 55 men and 36 women.<sup>97</sup> The electoral roll for 1887 did not list any Quartzville residents; the four men who had given this as their address in 1884 had left the district.<sup>98</sup> Some miners who acquired residence sites in 1888 were warned that these would have to be surrendered should they 'interfere with mining operations'.<sup>99</sup>

---

<sup>90</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 8 January 1884, p. 3; 11 January 1884, p. 2.

<sup>91</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 9, 10/1884, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>92</sup> E.K. Cooper to Warden, 23 June 1884, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Applications 1884, BBAV 11289/10a, ANZ-A.

<sup>93</sup> Letter from 'Silex', *Te Aroha News*, 15 March 1884, p. 7.

<sup>94</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 17 May 1884, p. 7.

<sup>95</sup> Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 18 December 1884, p. 2.

<sup>96</sup> Burton Bros, 'Waiorongomai', Burton Brothers Collection, C. 17245, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington.

<sup>97</sup> *Results of a Census of the Colony of New Zealand taken on the Night of the 28th. March, 1886* (Wellington, 1887), p. 37.

<sup>98</sup> *Waikato Electoral Roll, 1884; Tauranga Electoral Roll, 1887*.

<sup>99</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Register of Applications 1883-1900, 24, 39/1888, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A.

Residents were forced to leave when mining ceased almost totally at the end of the 1880s, some with rent owing.<sup>100</sup> Neither the census nor the electoral roll revealed anyone living there in 1891.<sup>101</sup>

As mining revived in the 1890s, Quartzville was repopulated. In 1892, William Morris Newsham, who mined in the Premier during that decade,<sup>102</sup> obtained a site on the upper track 'near New Find Mine'.<sup>103</sup> The April 1896 census was the last to record anyone living at Quartzville: 23 men and four women.<sup>104</sup> The following month, the manager of the New Zealand Exploration Company ordered 'the erection of a large camp for the men near the old Colonist workings'. As the hillside there was too steep for anything but the smallest camp, it must be assumed that this was at Quartzville. Accommodation would be provided 'for 100 men, with provision for cooking their meals, and also a large reading-room', which a correspondent felt was 'a step in the right direction' and 'in the best interests of all', for the men could 'stay in camp till the week end, and thus be saved a daily tedious climb from the flat to the top of the hill, and the company will gain in the way of having the men handy, and able to begin their work fresh'.<sup>105</sup> (He did not consider the impact on their families.) Ten 'comfortable cottages', sleeping eight men each, would be built at once, 'with concrete and brick chimneys',<sup>106</sup> an improvement on galvanized iron ones. By July, these cottages were being erected, 'besides a large reading room, a dining room, and an office'.<sup>107</sup> As the company's efforts were soon diverted into driving its low level tunnel, near the Waiorongomai settlement,<sup>108</sup> these buildings must have been removed later.

---

<sup>100</sup> For example, Te Aroha Warden's Court, *Plaint Book 1880-1898*, 26, 27, 43/1890, BBAV 11547/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>101</sup> *Results of a Census of the Colony of New Zealand taken for the night of the 15th. April 1891* (Wellington, 1892), p. 38; *Te Aroha Electoral Roll, 1891*.

<sup>102</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>103</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, *Register of Applications 1883-1900*, 28/1892, BBAV 11505/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>104</sup> *Results of a Census of the Colony of New Zealand, taken for the night of the 12th. April, 1896* (Wellington, 1897), p. 39.

<sup>105</sup> Te Aroha Correspondent, *New Zealand Herald*, 28 May 1896, p. 6.

<sup>106</sup> 'Waiorongomai Notes', *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 30 May 1896, p. 5.

<sup>107</sup> *Te Aroha Times and Waiorongomai Advocate*, 4 July 1896, p. 4.

<sup>108</sup> *Ohinemuri Gazette*, 2 September 1896, p. 3; *New Zealand Herald*, 2 October 1896, Monthly Summary, p. 1.

In June 1897, ‘the option-holders of the Great Western’ mine were ‘busily engaged hauling timber for miners’ whares, etc’,<sup>109</sup> which would have been erected at Quartzville. As this company ceased work in late 1898, any increase in population would have been very brief. A few miners may have lived there on occasions in later years, but Quartzville was never mentioned again.

## STORES

Before his marriage in 1888,<sup>110</sup> John O’Shea<sup>111</sup> lived at Quartzville:

We used to come down from the mountain every Saturday afternoon to Te Aroha, stay that night and Sunday and go back on Monday morning, with fresh food. Sometimes we would go back over the trig on Sunday night, finding our way with candles, and once I went over the mountain with a box of matches.<sup>112</sup>

As there was no need to go all that way to obtain food, he went for entertainment. In June 1882, Thomas William Carr<sup>113</sup> applied for a business site on the Arizona claim, adjoining the upper road.<sup>114</sup> He must have already established a store there, for he paid rent on the site from mid-May.<sup>115</sup> In addition to selling meat, groceries, and bread, in November it was reported that ‘Billy has started a kitchen garden in connection with the hill store’.<sup>116</sup> After Carr filed as bankrupt in March the following year,<sup>117</sup> the Hill Store, as it was known, was taken over by George Hubert Applegate<sup>118</sup> and Augustus Frederick James,<sup>119</sup> general merchants of

---

<sup>109</sup> *New Zealand Mining Standard*, 24 June 1897, p. 4.

<sup>110</sup> Marriage Certificate of John O’Shea, 20 June 1888, 1888/1117, BDM.

<sup>111</sup> See recollections of John O’Shea, *Te Aroha News*, 28 November 1940, p. 5.

<sup>112</sup> Recollections of John O’Shea, *New Zealand Herald*, 30 November 1930, p. 8.

<sup>113</sup> See paper on his life.

<sup>114</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Applications 1880-1882, folio 188, no. 195, BBAV 11505/3a; ‘Plan of Business Site Applied for by T.W. Carr’, n.d., YCBW 1711/48v, ANZ-A; Plan of Hardy’s Mines Special Quartz Claim No. 2, n.d., Te Aroha Museum.

<sup>115</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Rent Register 1881-1900, folio 173, BBAV 11501/1a, ANZ-A.

<sup>116</sup> ‘Te Aroha’, *Observer*, 18 November 1882, p. 153.

<sup>117</sup> *Thames Star*, 15 March 1883, p. 2, 16 March 1883, p. 2.

<sup>118</sup> See *Coromandel and Mercury Bay Gazette*, 26 February 1931, p. 2.

<sup>119</sup> See *Te Aroha News*, 28 January 1888, p. 2.

Waiorongomai, who announced it would be ‘carried on as before, and stocked with all mining requisites’.<sup>120</sup> The value of the store and its stock when managed by Carr was estimated at £300;<sup>121</sup> the building was purchased for £100.<sup>122</sup> In September, Applegate and James advertised that they had a ‘Branch Store UP HILL, For the convenience of Miners and Others, who can thus obtain all they require on the spot.... Goods Packed Up Hill Every Day’.<sup>123</sup>

There were rival suppliers. In the same issue, the Waiorongomai Butchery and General Provision Store advertised ‘Meat and Provisions of any Description PACKED UP HILL Three Times a Week’.<sup>124</sup> By June 1883, Applegate and James had supplied ‘a great want’ by adding a restaurant to their store, enabling travellers to ‘obtain a good meal at a moderate price’.<sup>125</sup> In the same month Thomas Wells<sup>126</sup> and John Lamb Soutter<sup>127</sup> had a branch of their Waiorongomai store there, described in December as a ‘refreshment store’.<sup>128</sup> Four months later, plans to make large additions to it were announced.<sup>129</sup> In August the following year, Applegate and James sold ‘the store stables and other buildings’ to Wells and Soutter for £200.<sup>130</sup> The new owners immediately arranged with the council to use the tramway to convey goods:

The cost hitherto entailed in packing up the hill has been very great, and the miners have in consequence had to pay dearly for their goods. But now that the storekeepers have availed themselves of the tramway, goods can be conveyed to the hill

---

<sup>120</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 9 June 1883, p. 3.

<sup>121</sup> *Thames Star*, 16 March 1883, p. 2.

<sup>122</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Assignments 1884, 15/1884, BBAV 11582/2a, ANZ-A.

<sup>123</sup> Advertisement, *Te Aroha News*, 22 September 1883, p. 4.

<sup>124</sup> Advertisement, *Te Aroha News*, 22 September 1883, p. 4.

<sup>125</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 23 June 1883, p. 2.

<sup>126</sup> See *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, vol. 2, pp. 767-768.

<sup>127</sup> For Wells and Soutter, see *Waikato Times*, 7 October 1882, p. 2, 10 October 1882, p. 2, 10 March 1883, p. 2, 8 December 1883, p. 2, 6 March, 1884, p. 2, 10 March 1885, p. 3.

<sup>128</sup> E.K. Cooper to Warden, 23 June 1884, Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Applications 1884, BBAV 11289/10a, ANZ-A; *Thames Star*, 7 December 1883, p. 2.

<sup>129</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 27 October 1883, p. 2.

<sup>130</sup> Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Certified Instruments 1884, 147/1884, BBAV 11581/5a, ANZ-A.

stores at a moderate cost, and the miners will thus experience a very material benefit.<sup>131</sup>

This reference to costs indicated that a promise made during the strike by the directors to ‘convey the necessities of life over the tramway at a merely nominal cost, thus lessening the expense of living’,<sup>132</sup> had not been carried out.

More stores commenced during that year. In August, the ‘Up-Hill Butchery’ changed hands,<sup>133</sup> and at the end of the month the *Te Aroha News* wrote that ‘residents on the hill’ would ‘shortly have no reason to complain of any lack in the supply of the necessities of life and at reasonable prices’. A butchery had been established, a bakery was ‘talked of’, and Laybourn Bros. would open a store ‘shortly’.<sup>134</sup> At the beginning of September, Robert Elliott Laybourn<sup>135</sup> and his elder brother Adam,<sup>136</sup> who already owned a general store at Waiorongomai,<sup>137</sup> duly opened ‘their new store (situated near Brown’s Boarding-house) Up-hill’. They would use the tramway to send up ‘a general assortment of groceries, etc, etc’, to be ‘sold at the lowest possible remunerative prices’. At the same time, Daniel James Frazer, a Te Aroha ironmonger,<sup>138</sup> erected a ‘branch ironmongery store adjoining the Hill Butchery’, selling mining requisites and general ironmongery.<sup>139</sup>

In mid-1886, Thomas Henry Whitmore Yate<sup>140</sup> and a Smith whose first names are unknown took over the Waiorongomai and Quartzville stores of

---

<sup>131</sup> Te Aroha Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 27 September 1884, p. 2.

<sup>132</sup> *Thames Advertiser*, 11 January 1884, p. 2.

<sup>133</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 16 August 1884, p. 7.

<sup>134</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 30 August 1884, p. 2.

<sup>135</sup> See *New Zealand Herald*, 18 November 1936, p. 16.

<sup>136</sup> See *New Zealand Herald*, 30 August 1928, p. 12, In Memoriam Notice, 28 August 1930, p. 1.

<sup>137</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 29 May 1886, p. 7.

<sup>138</sup> See *Te Aroha News*, 7 July 1883, p. 2, 21 August 1886, p. 2, 12 March 1887, pp. 2, 3, 16 April 1887, p. 3, 4 June 1887, p. 2, 26 November 1887, p. 2, 3 December 1887, p. 3, 14 April 1888, p. 7, 19 May 1888, pp. 2, 7, 26 May 1888, p. 2; *Auckland Weekly News*, 12 June 1886, p. 22.

<sup>139</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 13 September 1884, p. 2.

<sup>140</sup> See *Tauranga Supplementary Electoral Roll, 1887*, p. 3; *New Zealand Herald*, 25 August 1892, p. 6; Cambridge Magistrate’s Court, *Waikato Times*, 6 May 1893, p. 2.

Wells and Soutter.<sup>141</sup> As the latter retained ownership, after Yate went bankrupt they sold their Quartzville store to Duncan Edward Clerk, a Waiorongomai storekeeper,<sup>142</sup> in May 1888 for £120.<sup>143</sup> Five months later, Clerk sold it to another Waiorongomai storekeeper, William Samuel Collins,<sup>144</sup> for £300, Collins mortgaging it to Clerk.<sup>145</sup> A correspondent who visited in August wrote that provisions were 'brought up on pack horses from the stores at Waiorongomai, and delivered far into the hills over a bad track'. A two-pound loaf of bread was 'delivered on these outlandish hill tops at 3d a loaf, meat 1d - 4d per pound, and other articles of daily consumption' as cheaply as at Thames.<sup>146</sup> Two Waiorongomai butchers delivered 'up-hill daily', as did 'the Miners' Bakery' and the 'Co-operative Grocery and General Provision Store'.<sup>147</sup> With the collapse of mining at the end of the decade, Collins surrendered what was still known as 'Carr's Store' in August 1889, assigning his estate to his creditors three months later;<sup>148</sup> this was the last mention of a store on the hill.

## POSTAL SERVICES

Quartzville's isolation made good communications a necessity. In October 1883 when 'miners and other residents living in the Upper portion of Waiorongomai' were 'agitating for a branch Post-office up the hill', a storekeeper agreed 'to carry the mails from the township and act as

---

<sup>141</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 12 June 1886, p. 3.

<sup>142</sup> See advertisements, *Te Aroha News*, 28 July 1888, p. 8, 19 September 1888, p. 1.

<sup>143</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 2 May 1888, p. 7; Te Aroha Warden's Court, Wells and Soutter to Duncan Edward Clerk, 10 May 1888, Certified Instruments 1888, BBAV 11581/9a, ANZ-A.

<sup>144</sup> See *Observer*, 8 December 1883, p. 15; *Auckland Weekly News*, 19 February 1887, pp. 9-10; *Te Aroha News*, 13 February 1889, p. 1, 16 February 1889, p. 2, 20 March 1889, p. 7, 16 November 1889, p. 2; *New Zealand Herald*, 27 December 1915, p. 9.

<sup>145</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, William Samuel Collins to Duncan Edward Clerk, transfer and mortgage, 10 October 1888, Certified Instruments 1888, BBAV 11581/9a, ANZ-A.

<sup>146</sup> Te Aroha Correspondent, *Thames Advertiser*, 16 August 1888, p. 2.

<sup>147</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 13 June 1888, p. 7, 13 February 1889, pp. 1, 7.

<sup>148</sup> Te Aroha Warden's Court, Rent Register 1881-1900, folio 173, BBAV 11501/1a, ANZ-A; *Te Aroha News*, 16 November 1889, p. 2, 20 November 1889, p. 2, 27 November 1889, p. 2.

postmaster gratuitously'.<sup>149</sup> Later a 'numerously signed petition' was sent to the Thames postmaster, who agreed a post office was needed,<sup>150</sup> and it was proposed that James Soppett,<sup>151</sup> manager of Carr's Waiorongomai store,<sup>152</sup> be in charge.<sup>153</sup> Bad weather was stated to have delayed the erection of a store for the postmaster,<sup>154</sup> but these reports were premature because the postal authorities required a 'return' made of the number of letters conveyed to Quartzville. As this was made in January 1884, during the strike when few men were at work and very few letters were delivered, it was decided to postpone a post office 'indefinitely'.<sup>155</sup> The *Te Aroha News* responded that a post office was needed because married miners 'of necessity living apart from their families' were 'continually requiring to send remittances home, and to do this they must either hand the money over to any one going down to Waiorongomai or Te Aroha, or lose a day's work to obtain the order themselves'.<sup>156</sup> 'Silex' noted the rejection of a 'reasonable offer' by a storekeeper to run a branch post office for free during the first year, charging only £5 for carrying the mails:

Meanwhile, the miners are without their post office, and are put to all kinds of shifts and contrivances, obligations and apologies, to get their letters fetched and carried by private hands, and often those of strangers. To say nothing of the risk. Husbands have to send remittances to their wives, sons to their parents, and friends to friends, beside the ordinary business remittances of any community. The common way which many have to adopt, is simply to put the money in the letter, but without any chance of getting it registered on the Hill. Another plan is to lose half a day, or a day perhaps, on purpose to go down to Waiorongomai or Te Aroha to get their money order, or their letter registered. Letters from and to the Hill conveyed by private hands have often been miscarried. Several persons have actually picked them up on the public road, and either restored them to their address or to the Waiorongomai or Te Aroha post offices. Perhaps not the least

---

<sup>149</sup> *Thames Star*, 6 October 1883, p. 2.

<sup>150</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 1 March 1884, p. 2, letter from 'Silex', 14 March 1884, p. 7.

<sup>151</sup> See *Auckland Star*, 10 November 1900, p. 2; *New Zealand Herald*, 13 November 1900, p. 7.

<sup>152</sup> Magistrate's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 22 March 1884, p. 2.

<sup>153</sup> *Thames Star*, 23 October 1883, p. 2.

<sup>154</sup> *Thames Star*, 25 October 1883, p. 2.

<sup>155</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 1 March 1884, p. 2.

<sup>156</sup> Editorial, *Te Aroha News*, 15 March 1884, p. 2.

consideration or argument ... is the temptation such a state of things holds out to crime, and the uneasiness persons must inevitably feel until advices reach them that their letters have been safely received.<sup>157</sup>

A meeting 'held on the Hill at Brown's<sup>158</sup> Boarding House' unanimously resolved that a branch post office was required 'in the immediate vicinity of the mines in Diamond Gully'.<sup>159</sup> In the following month, Thomas Neillie,<sup>160</sup> whose butchery was 'situated right opposite Wells and Soutter's well-known Uphill store', was appointed sub-postmaster, and the first mail was forwarded on 12 April.<sup>161</sup> By July, the *Te Aroha News* had

received several letters from a party signing himself "A Miner" and "Perseverance" complaining that letters were "often kept about for many days before being delivered, and when at last received there is generally 2d, 4d, or 6d ... to pay on them; also that the local papers are often so kept about that two weeks' issues are sometimes delivered together."

It pointed out that the postal authorities did not deliver newspapers but agreed that £5 per annum was 'an absurd remuneration to give anyone to take charge of the mails'. The post office had been closed on 15 June because the miners had declined 'to contribute a trifle each' towards meeting its costs.<sup>162</sup> They continued to refuse to pay, this request being 'indignantly scouted by the very few who first heard that such a course was expected'. A Quartzville correspondent considered that the post office had been badly mismanaged by 'some official who keeps in the background'.<sup>163</sup> In August, a council election meeting called for its re-establishment.<sup>164</sup> At the end of that month, it was reported that 'until lately' storekeepers had been 'in the habit' of supplying postage stamps but had been stopped by

---

<sup>157</sup> Letter from 'Silex', *Te Aroha News*, 15 March 1884, p. 7.

<sup>158</sup> Mistakenly printed as 'Bowen's'.

<sup>159</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 15 March 1884, p. 2, 22 March 1884, p. 2.

<sup>160</sup> See *Te Aroha News*, 5 July 1884, p. 7, 16 August 1884, p. 7; *Auckland Weekly News*, 6 January 1899, p. 14.

<sup>161</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 8 May 1884, p. 782; *Te Aroha News*, 26 April 1884, p. 2.

<sup>162</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 5 July 1884, p. 7.

<sup>163</sup> 'A Correspondent from the Hill', *Te Aroha News*, 12 July 1884, p. 2.

<sup>164</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 23 August 1884, p. 2.

postal officials because they were not licensed, prompting further protests from Quartzville.<sup>165</sup>

On 1 October, the post office re-opened in Wells and Soutter's store.<sup>166</sup> A *Thames Star* columnist advised the 'Quartzville reefers' not to lose it again because it was 'rather inconvenient not to get their newspaper regularly. Difficulties protrude' when the office is closed',<sup>167</sup> a reference to Frederick Trude, a storekeeper,<sup>168</sup> being the postmaster.<sup>169</sup> Wells and Soutter delivered the mail thrice weekly for £15 per year.<sup>170</sup> When Albert Edwards<sup>171</sup> took over the management of their store in March 1885 he became postmaster as well.<sup>172</sup> As the ownership of the main store changed between 1886 and 1889, each new owner became the postmaster.<sup>173</sup> Because of the collapse of mining, at the end of 1889 the post office closed,<sup>174</sup> permanently.

#### DIFFICULTIES OF ACCESS

The isolation of Quartzville, about two hours by foot from Waiorongomai, meant people lived there only because of work or family reasons. In 1888, a correspondent climbed up the tramway to

near the top, where a track deviates from it and near which, commanding a magnificent view of the vast and beautiful plains below stands the future city of Quartzville. I fear, however, owing to its inaccessibility, Quartzville will have a very long infancy. On asking an old lady how she managed to get down the hill, she

---

<sup>165</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 30 August 1884, p. 2.

<sup>166</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 4 October 1884, p. 2.

<sup>167</sup> 'Nemo', 'At the Corner', *Thames Star*, 27 September 1884, p. 2.

<sup>168</sup> See *Te Aroha News*, 15 December 1883, p. 2, 31 May 1884, p. 7, 23 August 1884, p. 2, 29 November 1884, p. 2.

<sup>169</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 13 November 1884, p. 1584.

<sup>170</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 21 May 1884, p. 683.

<sup>171</sup> See 'Waiorongomai', *Observer*, 5 September 1885, p. 4; *Te Aroha News*, 5 March 1888, p. 2, 22 September 1888, p. 2, 28 April 1898, p. 3; Piako County Council, *Waikato Argus*, 23 July 1898, p. 4.

<sup>172</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 12 March 1885, p. 334; *Te Aroha News*, 21 March 1885, p. 2.

<sup>173</sup> *New Zealand Gazette*, 16 September 1886, p. 1142, 12 April 1888, p. 448, 14 June 1888, p. 683, 19 July 1888, p. 777, 13 December 1888, p. 1382.

<sup>174</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 14 December 1889, p. 2; *New Zealand Gazette*, 9 January 1890, p. 35.

replied, “sure the same way as you came up it,” and I could well believe her when she added, “she didn’t go down often.”<sup>175</sup>

As the ‘Upper Road’, soon declined to be the ‘upper track’, was the only link with the outside world apart from the tramway, on which people were forbidden to ride, its condition was of major concern. Keeping it in good repair was vital for access and to get convey goods. An example of its dangers was recorded, somewhat cryptically, in September 1883:

The big mate was up the hill the other day.... In passing over the bridge leading to Kerryman’s cutting,<sup>176</sup> his foot slipped, and over he went a distance of 28 feet or thereabouts. Fortunately he fell through the woodwork beneath, and a certain part of the mate’s earthly tabernacle stuck fast, holding him there till assistance came.<sup>177</sup>

After crushing began, the shoot from the New Find mine to the tramway became a hazard:

Numerous complaints have been made of the sudden noise occasioned of the transit of quartz through the iron shoot crossing the hill track. Several equestrians have had narrow escapes from what might have proved very serious accidents, from the horses being suddenly frightened from this cause; and whilst no one would wish to have any harassing regulations in force, still it is suggested that instead of sending down the quartz in small lots all through the day, that it would answer equally well to have large quantities sent down at one time, and a flag or other signal shown at such time, whereby travellers would be warned of what was going on.<sup>178</sup>

No heed was taken of this suggestion.

The road was constantly affected by weather and traffic. In June 1884, although ‘considerable quantities’ were taken up by the tramway, there was such ‘a large traffic with pack-horses’ that it only required ‘a week or two of wet weather to render the road almost impassable’. In particular, the corduroyed sections needed repair, being ‘much broken up’ and likely to be

---

<sup>175</sup> Te Aroha Correspondent, *Thames Advertiser*, 16 August 1888, p. 2.

<sup>176</sup> Not identified.

<sup>177</sup> ‘Te Aroha’, *Observer*, 22 September 1883, p. 16.

<sup>178</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 1 March 1884, p. 2.

‘exceedingly dangerous to heavily-laden horses’.<sup>179</sup> A week later, heavy rain made portions ‘almost impassable. One or two slips have also occurred on the lower side, and have narrowed the track so much that it will be difficult for a loaded horse to pass’.<sup>180</sup> To avoid these difficulties was not to use horses, in September Wells and Soutter convinced the council to construct a pack track nearly 12 chains in length from the top of the May Queen incline to their store, enabling goods to be taken up by tramway and then this track.<sup>181</sup> In February 1886 they claimed the ‘Quartzville track’, as it was called,<sup>182</sup> was ‘in a dangerous condition’, being ‘absolutely dangerous for horses even without a load’, but if ‘made passable the bulk of our goods would go by the tramway’. The council decided that it was not as dangerous as claimed and, as storekeepers were sending few goods up by the tramway, repairs were not needed.<sup>183</sup> As this track was not repaired and there were no later reports of the tramway being used to convey goods, it must be assumed that horses packed these up.

In December 1884, the county engineer reported that £250 would have to be spent widening and improving the upper road because it was ‘almost impassable’ and in winter would be ‘quite stopped’.<sup>184</sup> Storm damage made this worse in the following March, a correspondent complaining at the council’s failure to clear windfalls. It was ‘blocked at two or three places, and especially at the Werahiko camp, where an enormous prostrate rata’ completely obstructed the track, causing ‘a large amount of inconvenience to packers and others who with their horses’ were ‘compelled to climb the steep and difficult ground above the track’.<sup>185</sup> In May, traffic was ‘completely stopped by a couple of trees sliding across the road close by the second waterfall’. Men packing goods up the hill were forced ‘to return with their loads and get them conveyed by tram to the nearest point’ and then carry them ‘on their backs’.<sup>186</sup> When the Minister of Mines rode up to the

---

<sup>179</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 14 June 1884, p. 2.

<sup>180</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 21 June 1884, p. 2.

<sup>181</sup> Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 27 September 1884, p. 3, 27 November 1884, p. 2; Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 29 November 1884, p. 7.

<sup>182</sup> Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 1 November 1884, p. 2.

<sup>183</sup> Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 13 February 1886, p. 2; Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 13 February 1886, p. 2.

<sup>184</sup> Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 18 December 1884, p. 2.

<sup>185</sup> Te Aroha Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 24 March 1885, p. 3.

<sup>186</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 9 May 1885, p. 2.

New Find mine later that month, ‘the condition of the upper track was very bad and slippery, and on reaching where the Eureka wire tramway passes overhead’, at Diamond Gully, ‘owing to the condition of the roadway just there, it was decided best to complete the distance on foot’.<sup>187</sup> At the start of July, it was ‘in a disgraceful condition’, requiring ‘immediate attention’. In many places the corduroy had become ‘greatly displaced’ and was ‘very dangerous’. The worst part was before reaching the tunnel under the Fern Spur Incline, where rain had ‘cut a deep channel on the hillside, leaving but a narrow ridge for horses to walk upon’, creating a danger of a ‘serious accident’.<sup>188</sup> Two weeks later, this place was still ‘very unsafe’: a horse carrying goods uphill had slipped off this ridge ‘into the deep cutting caused by the large volumes of water that poured over this track during the recent flood, and was with considerable difficulty rescued’.<sup>189</sup> Later that month, the engineer reported the road was ‘in a deplorable condition, through slips and trees having blown across it, making it very dangerous and preventing horses from passing along’.<sup>190</sup>

The government contributed two-thirds of the £231 17s 9d spent during 1886 in improving the section between Fern and Butler’s Spurs.<sup>191</sup> It was ‘so steep and in such a wretched condition that many portions’ were ‘almost impassable’, wrote the Inspecting Engineer of the Mines Department, Henry Andrew Gordon; this money would do away with ‘the steep grades’.<sup>192</sup> Gordon considered deviations necessary because the original road was ‘far too steep for horse-traffic’.<sup>193</sup> Throughout that year there were complaints. In February, Edmund Cookson, the tramway manager,<sup>194</sup> warned that portions were in a ‘dangerous state’. As his men were ‘constantly using it’, unless repairs were made ‘at once’ their horses might be injured.<sup>195</sup> Nothing was done immediately. Repairs were agreed to in April after Firth warned that miners would be unable to get to work

---

<sup>187</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 30 May 1885, p. 2.

<sup>188</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 4 July 1885, p. 2.

<sup>189</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 18 July 1885, p. 2.

<sup>190</sup> Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 25 July 1885, p. 3.

<sup>191</sup> *AJHR*, 1886, C-4, p. 42; 1887, C-5, p. 110.

<sup>192</sup> H.A. Gordon to Minister of Mines, 4 May 1886, *AJHR*, 1886, C-4, p. 3.

<sup>193</sup> H.A. Gordon to Minister of Mines, 5 May 1887, *AJHR*, 1887, C-5, p. 3.

<sup>194</sup> See paper on the Piako County tramway at Waiorongomai.

<sup>195</sup> Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 13 February 1886, p. 7.

during winter.<sup>196</sup> Cookson reported that some portions were ‘positively dangerous. A horse had been badly lamed in going up, and two of the bridges were quite rotten. Near the Diamond Gully claim the tracks were in a very bad state’.<sup>197</sup> Two new bridges were constructed, but in May Cookson reported five more bridges were required to make the track in ‘anything like decent order’. The dangerous section at Diamond Gully required ‘a considerable amount of work’ to make it safe, including blasting the hard rock.<sup>198</sup> By the following meeting, six bridges which had been in ‘a most dilapidated condition’ had been completely renewed, with difficulty, for many spans were from 20 to 30 feet long. Although ‘now in a fair order’, a ‘good deal more work might be done’ on the road.<sup>199</sup>

Six months later, 20 Waiorongomai residents successfully petitioned the council about its unsafe state. They cited a farmer’s horse carrying milk missing its footing and rolling over the embankment, ‘causing his owner considerable loss’.<sup>200</sup> In 1887 only the July meeting received a complaint; repairs were deferred.<sup>201</sup> In April 1888 a delegation representing 60 Waiorongomai residents sought its thorough repair because it ‘was almost impassible, and decidedly dangerous’; the council agreed to do the work.<sup>202</sup> In May, a contract was let to repair and metal it from Fern Spur to Quartzville.<sup>203</sup> The following month, 17 Waiorongomai residents asked that ‘the road from the bottom of Graham-street to the foot of the Upper Hill Track be made passable’. One farmer said this work was urgent because ‘something like twelve pack horses’ went uphill daily; the council agreed to drain it.<sup>204</sup>

In July the contractor repairing the road complained that the man supplying firewood to the battery ‘constantly’ cut it up by dragging logs and

---

<sup>196</sup> Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 17 April 1886, p. 2.

<sup>197</sup> Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 10 April 1886, p. 2.

<sup>198</sup> Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 11 May 1886, p. 3.

<sup>199</sup> Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 1 June 1886, p. 2.

<sup>200</sup> Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 25 December 1886, p. 2.

<sup>201</sup> *Waikato Times*, 5 July 1887, p. 2.

<sup>202</sup> Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 12 April 1888, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha; Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 14 April 1888, p. 2, 21 April 1888, p. 2.

<sup>203</sup> *Te Aroha News*, Piako County Council, 12 May 1888, p. 2, 23 May 1888, p. 2.

<sup>204</sup> Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 15 June 1888, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha; Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 16 June 1888, p. 2.

firewood, ‘destroying the road as soon as he had formed it’. The council decided to erect a notice at the top of Fern Spur prohibiting this until the contract was completed.<sup>205</sup> By early August, heavy rainfall had made the track ‘much worse’; it was ‘almost impassable, and positively dangerous, horses sinking almost to their knees in some parts’.<sup>206</sup> Because repairs were done badly and well behind schedule, the council finished the work by September at the contractor’s expense, greatly improving the road.<sup>207</sup>

A bushfire in early 1889 destroyed ‘one or two small bridges’, according to the engineer, or ‘several’, according to a councillor; they were replaced.<sup>208</sup> August saw the worst accident when two butchers ‘lost a valuable packhorse (together with about 1cwt of meat) which fell over the roadside into the Diamond Gully, a distance of about a hundred feet, and was killed’. The track there required ‘immediate attention’ because slips had reduced it to ‘only about four feet wide, sloping towards the gully, and altogether in a very dangerous condition indeed’.<sup>209</sup> The engineer, before checking the site, agreed that ‘it had always been a nasty place to get by’. As the track there varied from three and a half and five feet wide, one councillor wanted it railed.<sup>210</sup> The butchers claimed compensation for their loss caused by ‘the impassable state’ of the track. ‘The exact spot where we lost our horse was under the handrail erected some time back’; the danger had been caused by ‘a large quantity of the rock having fallen away’. As this was the second horse to die at this spot, the council was urged ‘to take immediate steps to get this rectified, as it may be the means of losing not only horseflesh, but human’. All using the track agreed it was ‘not fit for man or beast’.<sup>211</sup>

The council ordered repairs, but after receiving its engineer’s report resolved that it did ‘not recognize any liability’.<sup>212</sup> He had discovered the

---

<sup>205</sup> Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 13 July 1888, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha; Piako County Council, *Waikato Times*, 14 July 1888, p. 2.

<sup>206</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 8 August 1888, p. 2.

<sup>207</sup> *Te Aroha News*, Piako County Council, 11 August 1888, p. 2, 25 August 1888, p. 2, 12 September 1888, p. 2.

<sup>208</sup> Piako County Council, Minutes of Meeting of 9 March 1889, Matamata-Piako County Council Archives, Te Aroha; Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 13 March 1889, p. 2.

<sup>209</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 7 August 1889, p. 2.

<sup>210</sup> Piako County Council, *Te Aroha News*, 14 August 1889, p. 2.

<sup>211</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 14 August 1889, p. 2.

<sup>212</sup> Piako County Council, Minutes of Meetings of 10 August 1889, 14 September 1889, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha.

packhorse had fallen after being startled by another rider trying to pass from behind it where the track was not wide enough. Nevertheless, improvements, including using iron rods for a railing, were made.<sup>213</sup> Repairs continued to be required to both road and bridges during the 1890s.<sup>214</sup> In November 1895 there were ‘several bad and dangerous places’, the wet weather making the cuttings ‘very treacherous’ and causing ‘several small slips’.<sup>215</sup> Later an English visitor, inspecting the mines, ‘experienced a peculiar pleasure when I had finished my task. There were times in that ride up the mountain of Waiorongomai when I thought of making my will’. An engineer, Charles Meinisch (whom he called Minnick), employed by the New Zealand Exploration Company,<sup>216</sup> wisely ‘decided to walk down. There was one piece especially delightful and romantic’, where the road crossed above a waterfall in Diamond Gully,

a glissade over smooth rock some hundred yards in length, ending in a precipice of unnatural steepness. As an Englishman and a fool, I kept in the saddle; Minnick, the wise man, watched me with a superior, if somewhat anxious, smile. I don’t think I shut my eyes, but the sound of the pony sliding down took my appetite away, and I could not tell how I got round the corner.

At the next bad place my pony stopped and looked at me. “You are a great fool,” said he, “you don’t know how to ride. I may get through, but it is not certain; why not dismount?”

At first the beast put it as a suggestion, but when he saw Minnick walking his tone became insulting.

He stopped dead, and after some argument, which I emphasized in the usual way, I admitted that I had made a mistake. I felt magnanimous as I gave him a push and watched him slide.

He very kindly waited for me at the bottom.<sup>217</sup>

## ENTERTAINMENT

---

<sup>213</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 18 September 1889, p. 2.

<sup>214</sup> Piako County Council, Minutes of Meetings of 22 January 1891, 2 August 1892, 9 May 1893, 6 February 1894, 14 February 1895, 8 August 1895, 12 September 1895, 21 February 1896, 17 April 1896, Matamata-Piako District Council Archives, Te Aroha.

<sup>215</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 16 November 1895, p. 2.

<sup>216</sup> See paper on the this company.

<sup>217</sup> Raymond Radclyffe, *Wealth and Wild Cats: Travels and researches in the gold-fields of Western Australia and New Zealand* (London, 1898), pp. 169-170.

Some attempts were made to provide facilities for socializing. In June 1882, Hugh Rea,<sup>218</sup> barman at the Hot Springs Hotel,<sup>219</sup> applied for ‘a bush license for a small hotel on the Canadian claim’, but the licensing committee refused ‘on the grounds that this sort of accommodation would be injurious to miners, and of no benefit to travellers’.<sup>220</sup> The *Te Aroha Mail* hoped that increased numbers of visitors in the warmer weather would mean a license would be granted ‘to some victualler who will provide accommodation for visitors to the claims, and for men working thereon who are not content with the ordinary convenience of bush existence’.<sup>221</sup> In December 1883 the *Te Aroha News*, which supported the cause of temperance,<sup>222</sup> in reporting a rumour of another attempt to erect a public house near the mines trusted that applications would be ‘promptly refused’, for the hillside was ‘dreadfully rough, and numerous fatal accidents would follow the establishment of a grog shanty as surely as night follows day’.<sup>223</sup> This rumour was false, for no other attempt was made to obtain a license at Quartzville.

Clerk established a library and reading room in his store in May 1888. The *Te Aroha News* believed that he intended ‘(either in connection with the general library, or apart), to establish a small branch library at his Quartzville branch store’.<sup>224</sup> After he sold it five months later,<sup>225</sup> no more was heard of a branch library.

Because of isolation and the often-dangerous state of the only access road, those living in the bush had to make their own entertainment, sometimes with unfortunate results for their neighbours:

The night be rather calm and still,  
The breeze so gently swells;

---

<sup>218</sup> See *Te Aroha News*, 27 October 1883, p. 2, 8 November 1884, p. 7, 20 December 1884, p. 7.

<sup>219</sup> *Te Aroha Mail*, 3 June 1882, p. 2.

<sup>220</sup> *Te Aroha Mail*, 10 June 1882, p. 2.

<sup>221</sup> *Te Aroha Mail*, 10 June 1882, p. 2.

<sup>222</sup> For examples of its constant publicizing of the Band of Hope, see *Te Aroha News*, 7 July 1883, p. 3, 21 July 1883, p. 2, 18 August 1883, p. 2, 1 September 1883, p. 2.

<sup>223</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 15 December 1883, p. 2.

<sup>224</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 12 May 1888, p. 2.

<sup>225</sup> *Te Aroha Warden’s Court*, Transfer by Duncan Edward Clerk, 10 October 1888, Certified Instruments 1888, BBAV 11581/9a, ANZ-A.

Forth from a whare on the hill  
 Issue horrid yells.  
 Ten thousand dogs, as many cats,  
 Three hundred Ngatikahos -  
 Dahomey's famous Tom-tom Band,  
 A band of chattering jackos  
 Would bite off all their useless tongues,  
 And get quickly out of sight  
 If they heard the song, "Buffalo Girls"  
 Sung as it was that night.<sup>226</sup>

The first mention of Quartzville miners being involved in sport was in February 1884, when 'the Waiorongomai players, assisted by the men of the mountains', won a cricket match against Te Aroha.<sup>227</sup> At the end of the year, a cricket match was held between 'the Hill' and 'the Flat'.<sup>228</sup> In October, a Quartzville football team was formed which competed with the Waiorongomai club and then joined with it to play a combined team from Te Aroha and Waitoa.<sup>229</sup> There was no explicit mention of teams from Quartzville playing in later years, but some of the men living there played in Waiorongomai teams. For example, Hamilton Verity<sup>230</sup> lived at Quartzville in 1884, having for a time 'lived the hermit' and also sharing a whare with John O'Shea.<sup>231</sup> He played for 'the Hill' against 'the Flat' in a cricket match in November that year, but the previous month was captain of the Waiorongomai football team.<sup>232</sup> The last time that a team 'representing the Hill (Quartzville)' was recorded as playing 'the Flat (Waiorongomai)', or indeed any other team, was in 1889.<sup>233</sup> At the end of this match, won by Waiorongomai, as usual both teams went to a boarding house for a meal, speeches, songs, and dances.<sup>234</sup>

One candidate in the council election of 1884 took the trouble to hold a meeting at Quartzville in August 1884.<sup>235</sup> The most spectacular event, in

---

<sup>226</sup> 'Waiorongomai', *Observer*, 2 December 1882, p. 182.

<sup>227</sup> Te Aroha Correspondent, *Waikato Times*, 28 February 1884, p. 3.

<sup>228</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 29 November 1884, p. 2.

<sup>229</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 4 October 1884, p. 2; *Waikato Times*, 7 October 1884, p. 2.

<sup>230</sup> See paper on the Waiorongomai strike of 1884.

<sup>231</sup> *Waikato Electoral Roll, 1884*, p. 22; 'Waiorongomai', *Observer*, 30 June 1883, p. 229.

<sup>232</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 11 October 1884, p. 2, 29 November 1884, p. 2.

<sup>233</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 28 August 1889, p. 2.

<sup>234</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 4 September 1889, p. 2.

<sup>235</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 23 August 1884, p. 2.

the following month, was the burning and exploding of an effigy of a politician who had criticized miners' behaviour.<sup>236</sup> Whilst this was a political act, it also provided entertainment in a settlement devoid of facilities for any leisure activities apart from reading or singing. The most salubrious social occasion was a visit from the Waiorongomai Band of Hope and Blue Ribbon Army early that year to encourage temperance, as described by a participant:

A detachment, numbering about 40, from the Blue Ribbon Army of Waiorongomai paid a visit to Quartzville ... on Friday night, May 9th. On arrival the party met other friends from Waiorongomai, and were most heartily received and welcomed by all the miners, and wended their way to the place where the meeting was to be held, viz, a building the property of Mr H[enry] Southey [a miner who later became a carpenter],<sup>237</sup> who kindly placed it at the disposal of the party. Upon entering it was a most agreeable surprise to see the place so well arranged, a good fire burning and table spread for tea, which was kindly prepared by Mr Southey and other miners. After the usual greetings, tea, cake, biscuits, bread and butter, etc, were handed round in great abundance, and proved most acceptable after the long walk. After tea the meeting opened with a hymn and prayer, Mr W[illiam] H[enry] Hawkins [a schoolteacher at Te Aroha West]<sup>238</sup> occupied the chair. The following programme was most creditably gone through:- Readings by Mr [Mark] Lovell [a telegraphist],<sup>239</sup> "reasons for total abstinence," and "an awful night, or a miner's yarn," both really good; recitations (two each) by Messrs [Edmund] Purdie [a Waiorongomai school teacher]<sup>240</sup> and Hawkins were excellent; Mr H. Soppett,<sup>241</sup> recitation, "The Flea Powder;" Mr [Charles] Gordon (miner)<sup>242</sup> rendered in grand style "Charge of the Light Brigade;" Misses Rose Neal,<sup>243</sup> Mary Hill,<sup>244</sup>

---

<sup>236</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 20 September 1884, p. 2.

<sup>237</sup> See *Te Aroha News*, 18 October 1884, p. 7; *Tauranga Electoral Roll, 1887*, p. 23.

<sup>238</sup> See paper on the temperance movement in the Te Aroha district.

<sup>239</sup> See paper on the temperance movement in the Te Aroha district.

<sup>240</sup> See *Te Aroha News*, 22 December 1883, p. 2, 24 May 1884, p. 7, 7 June 1884, p. 7, 14 June 1884, p. 2, 7 February 1885, p. 2.

<sup>241</sup> See *Te Aroha News*, 8 March 1884, p. 7, 7 June 1884, p. 7.

<sup>242</sup> See Magistrate's Court, *Te Aroha News*, 8 August 1885, p. 2.

<sup>243</sup> See *Te Aroha News*, 4 April 1885, p. 2.

<sup>244</sup> Not traced.

and [Emily] A[nna] Joy,<sup>245</sup> each gave recitations well rendered; Mr [Frederick] Trude's recitation was well delivered, and caused much amusement; songs from Mr [Thomas or William] England [battery hands]<sup>246</sup> and Mr Gordon elicited much applause. The meeting closed in the usual manner at 9 p.m.; throughout it was of a most orderly character. About 130 were present, and a good number outside. All worked hard for recruits by asking the miners to join, about 15 signed and had the "bit of blue" duly pinned on. Mr Lovell (secretary) in a few remarks thanked Mr Southey, the miners, and other friends who had so kindly assisted in the meeting. Mr Hawkins followed by returning thanks and speaking highly of the kindness of the miners, and the pleasant manner in which they had treated the visitors. Before starting homewards tea and other refreshments were again handed round, after which Mr Trude, on behalf of the miners, came forward and thanked the friends for kindly coming and entertaining them. Mr Lovell then called for three cheers for Mr Southey and the miners, which were enthusiastically given; three more for the Band of Hope by the miners, one for the tea, etc, one for the ladies, etc, and the march home began. Two and two down the track on a moonlight night was a pleasant sight. The flat was safely reached at 10.30. Thus ended one of the happiest excursions in furtherance of the temperance cause that has ever taken place in the district.<sup>247</sup>

## CONCLUSION

This festive (and improving) occasion was unique. In general, life in Quartzville and even more so in the more isolated dwellings dotted along the upper road and elsewhere on the hillside was devoid of most of the comforts enjoyed by those living on 'the Flat'. Miners and their families lived in such places only because of work requirements, not intending to remain there permanently, and when mining slumped they must have left with few regrets. In particular, the isolation and the weather conditions must have made life unpleasant for much of the year.

---

<sup>245</sup> See Birth Certificate of Robert Joy, 27 March 1884, 1884/11401; Marriage Certificate of Emily Anna Joy, 12 September 1885, 1885/2089, BDM; *Te Aroha News*, 8 December 1883, p. 2, 26 September 1885, p. 2.

<sup>246</sup> See *Te Aroha News*, 7 June 1884, p. 7, 19 July 1884, p. 2, Magistrate's Court, 4 April 1885, p. 7.

<sup>247</sup> *Te Aroha News*, 17 May 1884, p. 7.

*Appendix*

*Figure 1:* Burton Bros, 'Waiorongomai', 1884, showing three huts on the upper road at or near Quartzville, C.17238, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

*Figure 2:* 'Plan of Business Site Applied for by T[homas] W[illiam] Carr' [at Quartzville], 14 June 1882, Maps of Hauraki area Warden's Courts, YCBW 24626, A1711/48v, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.

*Figure 3:* Plan attached to application by James Hart for a Residence Site 'near Brown's Whare Upper Track', December 1883, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1883, 225/730, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.

*Figure 4:* Plan attached to application by Daniel James Frazer for Business Site at Quartzville, 28 August 1884, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1884, 47/1884, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.

*Figure 5:* Plan attached to application by Premier Gold Mining Company for Residence Site, 1884 (adjacent to Colonist Gold Mining Company's site), Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1884, 9/745, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.

*Figure 6:* Burton Bros, 'Waiorongomai' [Quartzville], 1884, C.17245, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

*Figure 7:* Plan attached to application by David Pierce Hughes for Residence Site on track linking tramway and Quartzville, 30 April 1888, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1888, 26/1888, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.

*Figure 8:* Plan attached to application by Henry William Baskiville for Residence Site between tramway and Quartzville, 11 June 1888, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1888, 39/1888, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.

*Figure 9:* Miners' bush camp near the Tui mines, 1890, Te Aroha and District Museum; used with permission.

*Figure 10:* John Samuel Hill, Miners' cottages in Waiorongomai bush, early twentieth century, Te Aroha and District Museum; used with permission.

*Figure 11:* 'A Girl Wanted', miners' cottage, possibly in Waiorongomai bush, early twentieth century, Te Aroha and District Museum; used with permission.



*Figure 1:* Burton Bros, 'Waiorongomai', 1884, showing three huts on the upper road at or near Quartzville, C.17238, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

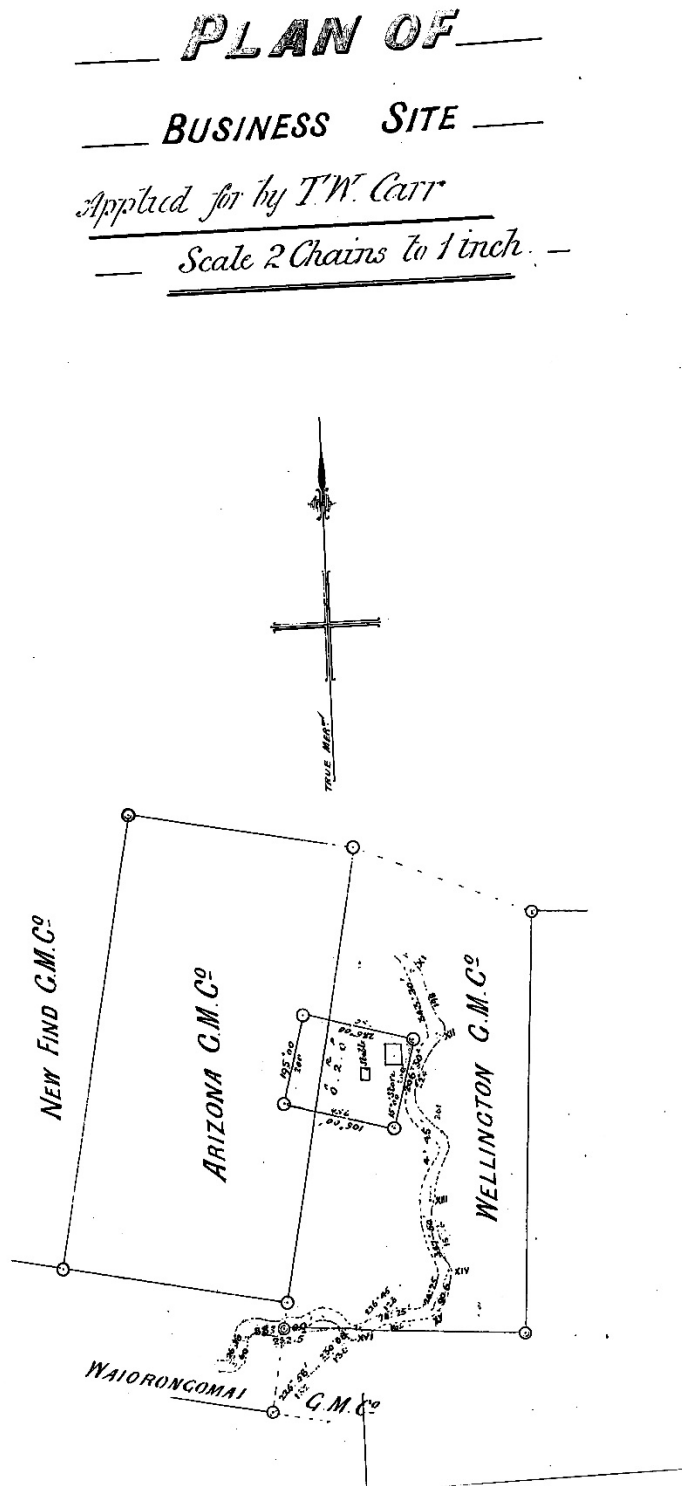
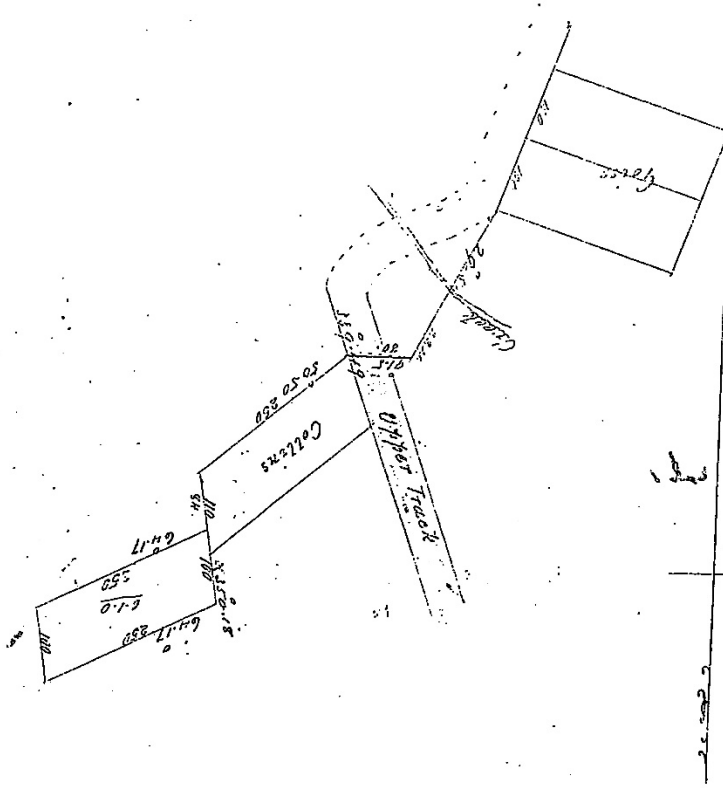


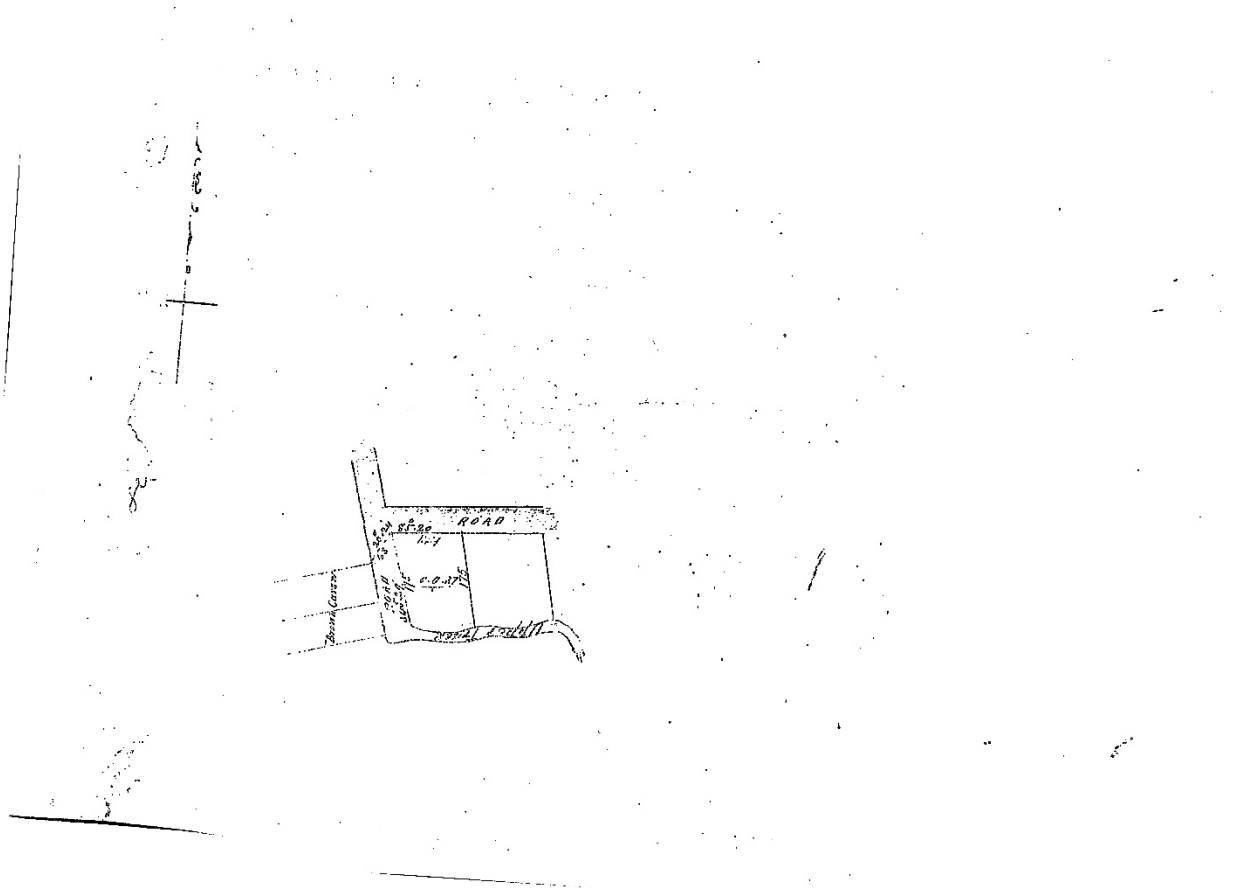
Figure 2: 'Plan of Business Site Applied for by T[homas] W[illiam] Carr' [at Quartzville], 14 June 1882, Maps of Hauraki area Warden's Courts, YCBW 24626, A1711/48v, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.



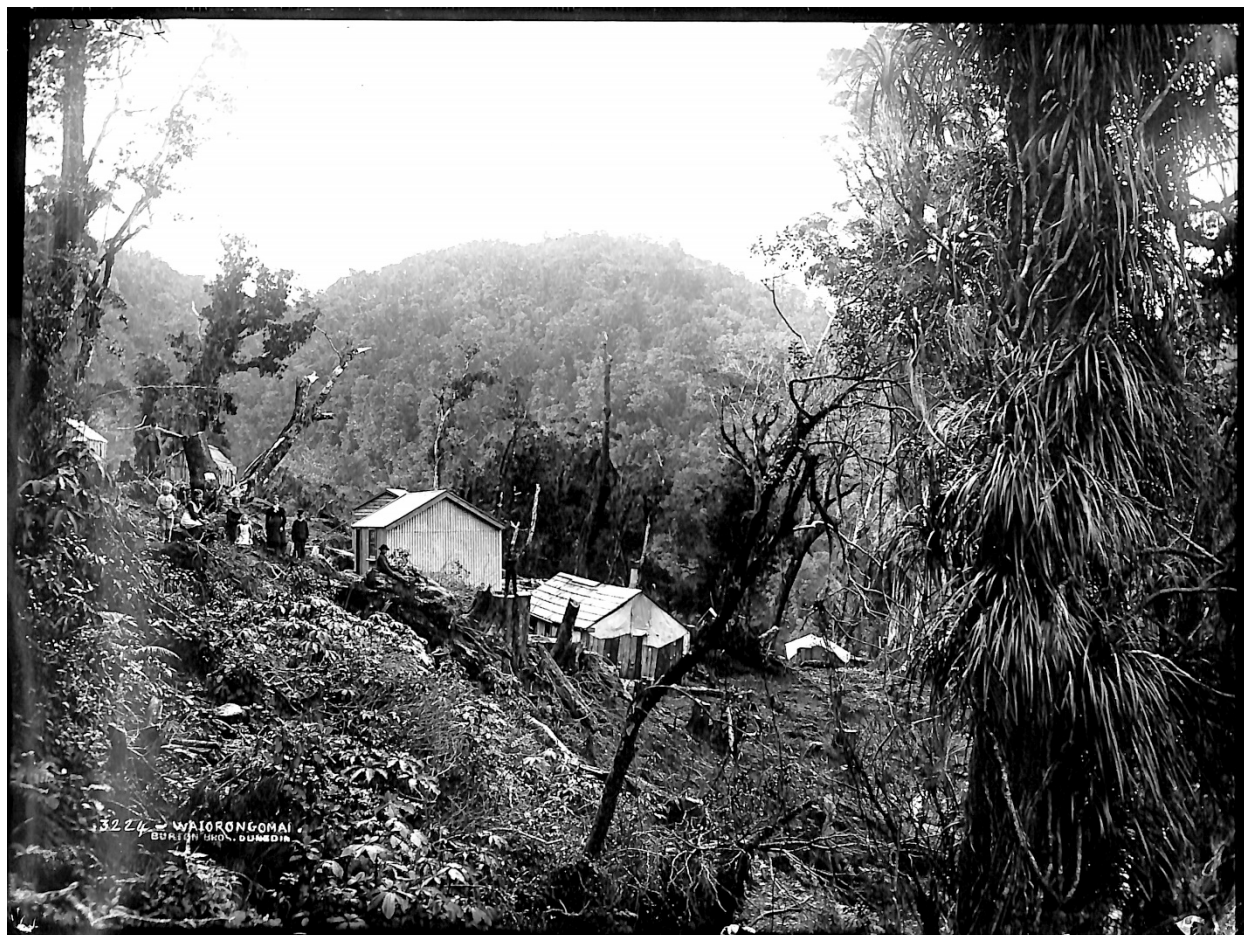
*Figure 3: Plan attached to application by James Hart for a Residence Site 'near Brown's Whare Upper Track', December 1883, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1883, 225/730, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.*



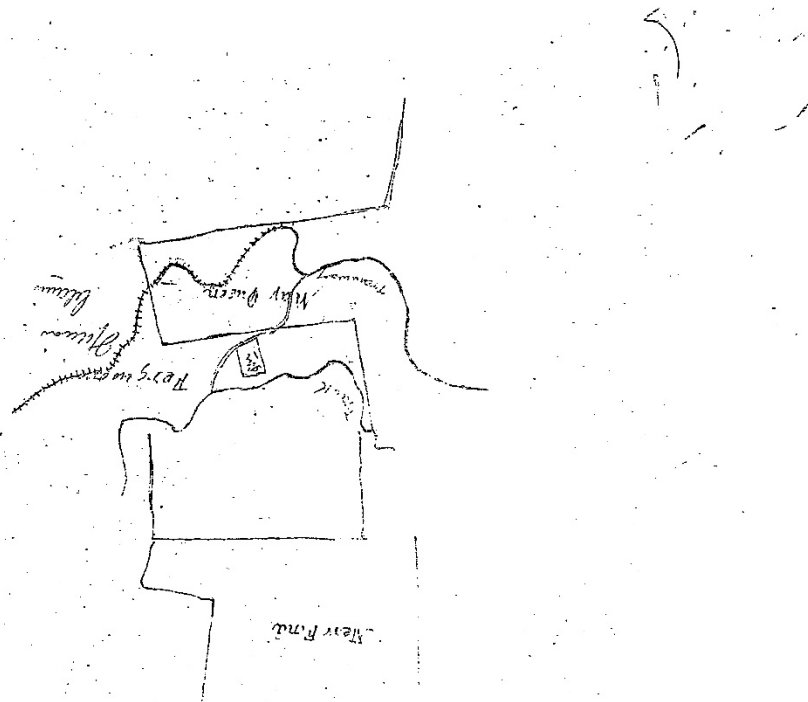
*Figure 4:* Plan attached to application by Daniel James Frazer for Business Site at Quartzville, 28 August 1884, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1884, 47/1884, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.



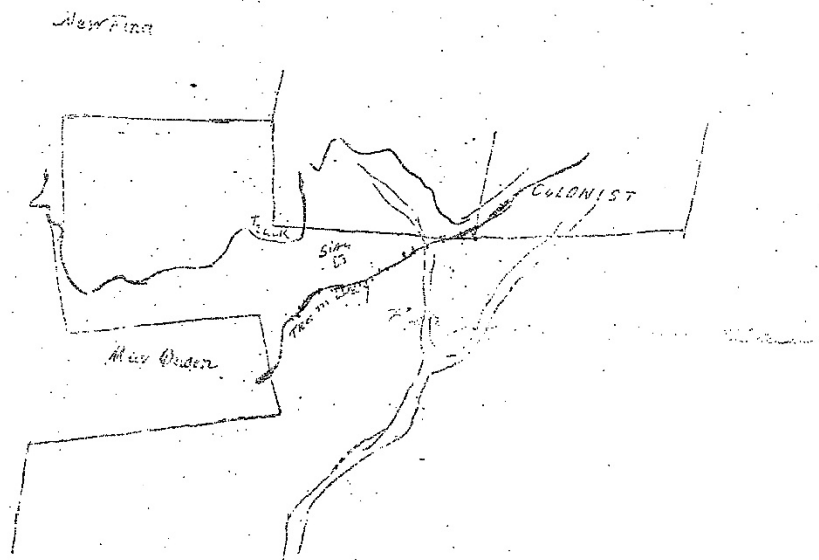
*Figure 5:* Plan attached to application by Premier Gold Mining Company for Residence Site, 1884 (adjacent to Colonist Gold Mining Company's site), Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1884, 9/745, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.



*Figure 6:* Burton Bros, 'Waiorongomai' [Quartzville], 1884, C.17245, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.



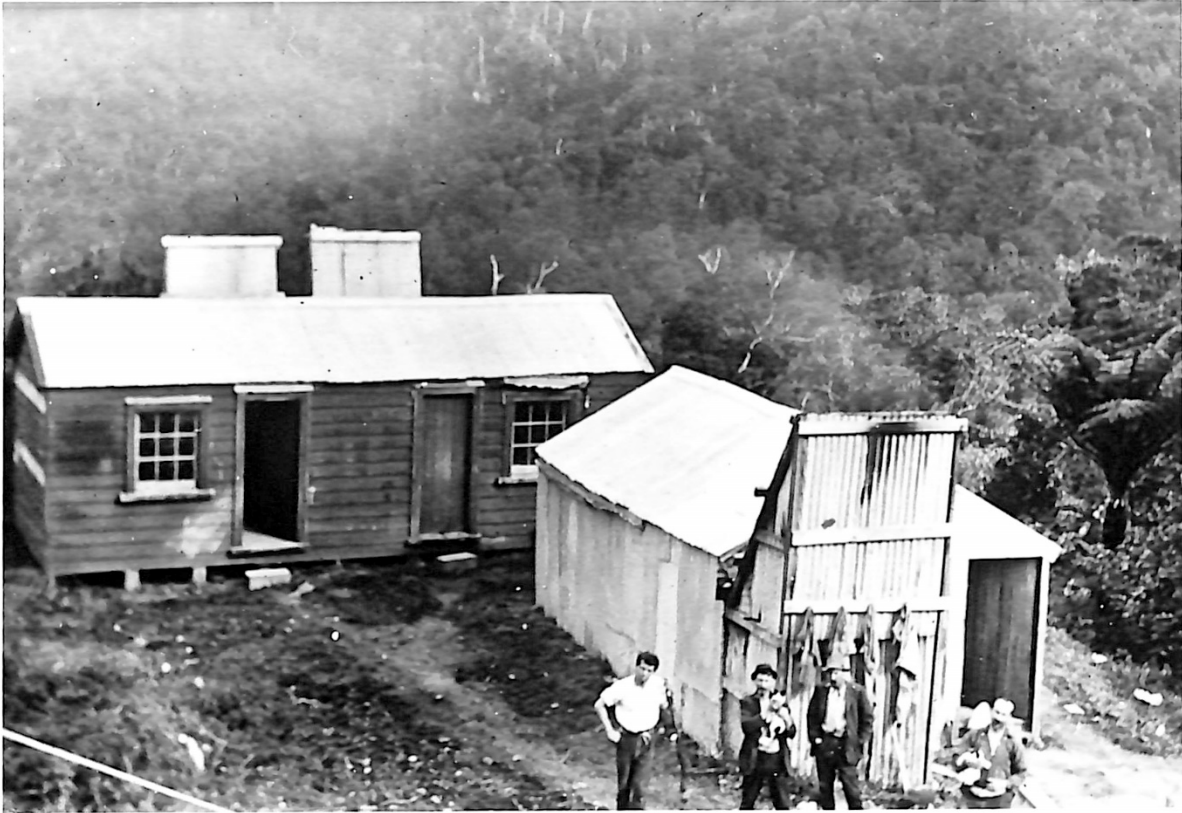
*Figure 7:* Plan attached to application by David Pierce Hughes for Residence Site on track linking tramway and Quartzville, 30 April 1888, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1888, 26/1888, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.



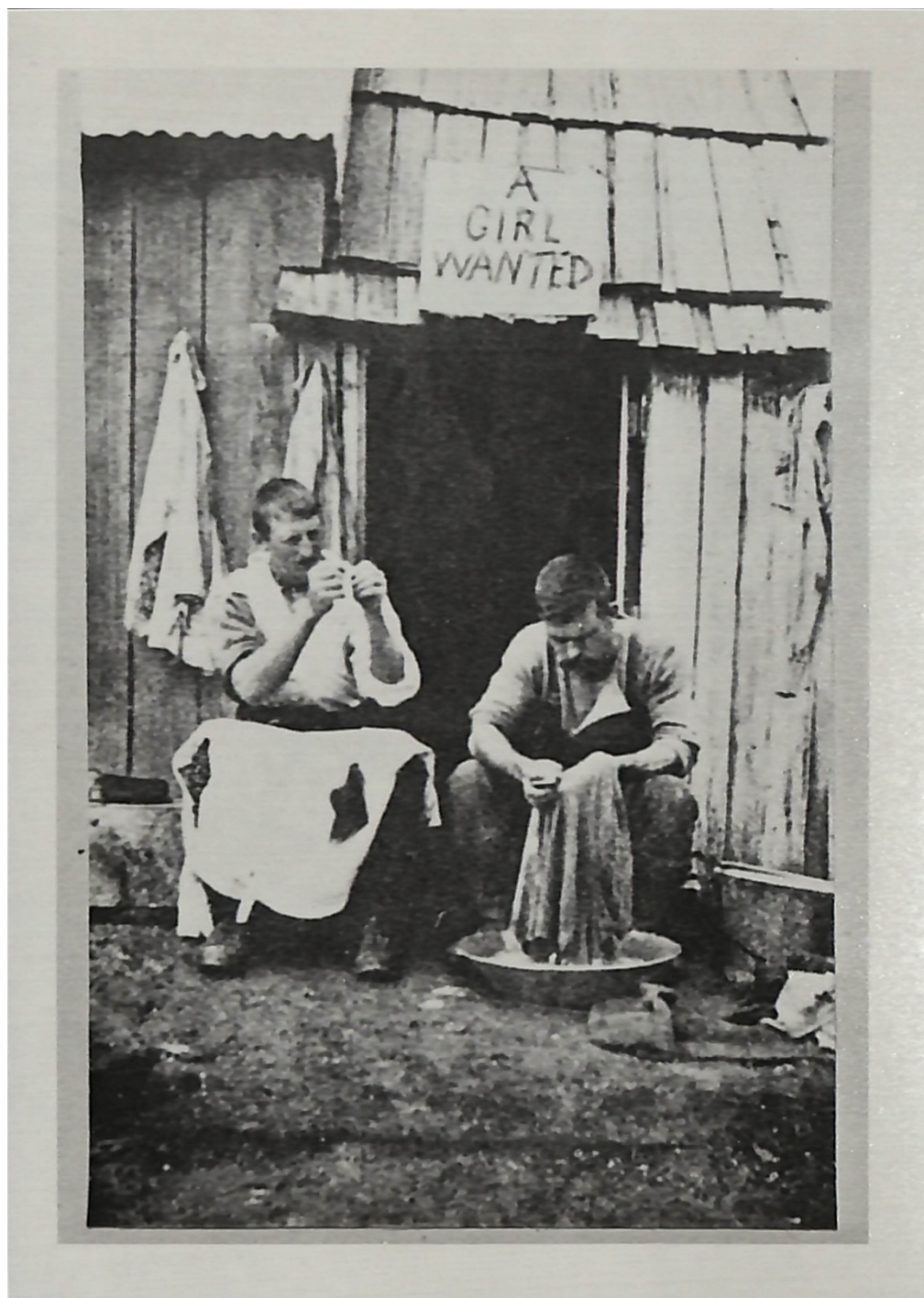
*Figure 8:* Plan attached to application by Henry William Baskiville for Residence Site between tramway and Quartzville, 11 June 1888, Te Aroha Warden's Court, Mining Applications 1888, 39/1888, BBAV 11591/1a, ANZ-A [Archives New Zealand/Te Rua Mahara o te Kawanatanga, Auckland Regional Office]; used with permission.



*Figure 9:* Miners' bush camp near the Tui mines, 1890, Te Aroha and District Museum; used with permission.



*Figure 10: John Samuel Hill, Miners' cottages in Waiorongomai bush, early twentieth century, Te Aroha and District Museum; used with permission.*



*Figure 11: 'A Girl Wanted', miners' cottage, possibly in Waiorongomai bush, early twentieth century, Te Aroha and District Museum; used with permission.*