

! Kereru Bend,
Tawa. 9-7-94

Dear Beryl,

I'm rather belatedly conscious that I'd not properly acknowledged your letter of 24 March, enclosing your family genealogy. I'd put it aside till the original one from Kerry Taylor came back from Bas. I must remind him.

I've been interested in the original family, because old John Jude Taylor, for a moment, flashed across the history of Wairoa. I'm not sure I've told you of the events about Te Kooti's raid on Mahaka, but there is also another rather more tragic story, but not so closely related.

J. J. Taylor was in the 65th Regiment, which was stationed for some months in Napier, then they went off to fighting Taranaki way. In 1883 he was discharged and came back to Napier to marry Ellen Morrison. Her mother's maiden name was Lavin. One of her family, probably a son, took up land near Mahaka, where he farmed, with his wife and a couple of children. (See note p. 4)

When Te Kooti raided Mahaka and emptied the local store - and its liquor, the Maori attacked the local people. Lavin

2/ and his wife found their two birds had been tossed on baynets & killed, and Lavin, faced with a similar fate shot his wife and himself. They were found like that on the hillside, the birds by the stream where they played.

If I've not told you about JJ's effort to save Maicao, I'll do it another time. It's all recorded in at least 3 books.

So this is why I'm less interested in men family history unless they've left footprints on the sands of time.

Apart from Harry Taylor, there is another very keen recorder of the Taylor history - Caroline Rhodes, who has even dug around in Britain following up the Jude name, and she has gathered a good deal. I've sent her photocopies of what I have - which are copied from records in the National archives. These show old JJ's original application to run the Clyde Hotel, records of meetings there, pages of the log-book of the Volunteer troop etc. I have these on microfilm as well as paper prints made therefrom.

So if you'd like to see the material that Carolyn has sent me, I'd be glad to post up to you. Probably June would be interested too.

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I'd not intended to start another page, but ^{it} occurs to me that the John Lavin story may be of interest.

In the Turnbull Library are two or three water colours of Lavin's place at Mohaka. They are illustrated in the sale catalogue of Library prints and cards, so I'll send this up for you to see. If I can get another, I'll tell you to keep this - if you wish.

Actually the originals were offered for the Library when we were in London one time, and I was rather excited to recognize the region and the name.

Did Brandpa Taylor give Trevor a copy of his book on NZ Naval history? or his little pamphlet on the Ahuriri Lagoon?

He used to write a lot of articles for the Evening Post in his later years. He lived in Aitken St, a couple of hundred yards from Rampton Quay, so he was a regular user of the Turnbull's pleasant atmosphere and wonderful resources.

Have I inflicted this one on you? Pascal, the French writer, once ended a letter like this: I'm sorry this letter is so long, I hadn't time to write a shorter one.

Love to James as to yourself, Clyde

4/ afterthoughts. ① I've had the likely theory that it would have been at the suggestion of John Lawin, that JJ took up the Hotel at Wairoa.

② J. G. was buried in the cemetery at Wairoa. I have a photo of the gravestone. The pious inscription is legible still.

③ We have stayed in the Clyde Hotel a couple of times. I think I gave the proprietor a copy of J. G.'s original application for the licence.

④ In 1871 Tom Morrison, my father's uncle, with two partners, bought the Hawke's Bay Telegraph, and this is how he ^{TDT} first got into journalism - much later of course.

⑤ I am sending photo-copies of your family tree etc. to Kevyn Taylor who did the more complete compilation - and how!

⑥ Audrey Allan (Gnz' cousin) has just returned my copy of "Let's talk strine." If you've not met it, I'd send (or bring) it up to you.