

53 Umara Ave.,

Waikanae.

April 29.

Richard I's Christening Day.
1792.

My dear Phyll,

You'd better go & brew a pot or two of tea, I've a lot to write, that is if I get it written - don't forget, or don't get too many interruptions. I just can't tell you the ecstasy of your phone call the night of the day you got home from Hoop. Of course you were the last person I expected to hear at other end of line. Thank you for ringing - I just can't tell you how grateful I am. And then when I rang you we had a good matter - lovely fun. Yes, I gathered you'd got a Pateran deunder up - more about that later on in letter.

Yesterday we went $\frac{1}{2}$ way to Para., on side road where a huge building has gone up as a bequest to the Coast. Antique car museum supposed to be biggest in Australasia - that's not been opened to public yet, but yesterday's N.Z. Chrysanth. Show was first event there in the Theatre - huge one, stage, or revolving stage, & there's to be an old real restored harpitzer Organ there too. The show was fantastic & the sprawling quilt chrysanth. just indescribable. Pretty P.T.O

buttonholes given away free. All sorts of stalls - crafts to cookery etc... There will be a Restaurant in time & you'll be able to look down from it to the revolving stage below. This guy Southward surely had dreams (plus the money) & he's really gone to town. Of course it's cost about 2 neighbours their views of Kapiti & there was almost a court case over it. A small handful would deprive the public of a gift like this - however they lost. Beyond this in the open country is to be a wild life ^{park} - someone else is creating this - & we're to have lions etc. So - "if I'm spared" - I might have a cat to talk to yet & a big one, & perhaps several.

Thank Thomas for his paw print - kiss on back of your envelope - dear thoughtful Boy.

I hadn't thought of J. Dixon's 2 lives as you explained to me. How completely right & also this psychic gift of hers may have been purposely ^eplanted in an R.C. - "the mischievous work of God" - for mind & soul & broadening purposes.

What a bl. fool I was ever to doubt him, had been to the Patāran - I always grew up knowing he had. It was only a remark of, I think, Jessie's, in passing & I should have questioned it there & then.

It's a very interesting ³ story about the land down
here & there's no doubt Lou & Jessie were repeating
what they'd been told & obviously believed, I
suppose naturally. I'm sure she'd be younger
than Sam & I think he is about a year older.
No doubt a chance will come for me to put
their mis-apprehension ~~on~~ ⁱⁿ right. I am surprised
how very generous they've been to me over
letting me have photo copies of things they've
got - they've let me bring documents home
& then return again & this was more than I
ever expected. Also, they've had the odd old photo
copied for me too. Fortunately, I wrote down what
Meb. told me about her trip down there, so
I looked it up. She gave the ~~date~~ year of 1912
or 1913. That little bale of flax was given to
her by "a very nice chap" - didn't say who.
As it was hers, I presume one of her girls
- "so it. I think Raine would be much more
likely to know than Phyll - it seems to
me R. helped her clear up the old place
& not the other two. That trip thro' the
caves she did must have been a hair
raiser & one part like an altar ^{or church} "Dad
always called "St Pauls". So I should
have looked up these notes I took from
her, one cool wet day in Fellinging when

she stoked up a ⁴ fire & we both had our
knees up her chimney & she told me stories.
I'm extremely glad of many notes ~~as~~ I've
made of past times, only wish I'd got
much more detail. Yes, she stayed with
Percy & Nellie. The land that Bert got & it
went to Emma (no, not sweet little Emma)
I'm sure she hasn't sold, & she still
owns it. Lou told me he owns 1 or 3
acres down there - lovely spot, & I think
that's all he got. Looks as tho' Bert
might have put it across Percy, ^{father} who's
^{Jim} put it across Rich etc. Ally told me that
"they" (I suppose Lina & Rich) wanted him to go
down there & break in a piece of land he could
have - well I've seen it, talk about rugged
jungled mountain side - it's not cleared yet &
would be useless if it were, but he said
he wasn't going to luvy himself down
there. I think they probably did suggest
this to put a brake on his rampaging
wildcat sawing period. That's just my
opinion. One last point, you say
Rich was older than Jim, making him
the eldest. I think this is wrong & Rich was
the 2nd. He certainly was ^{born} Feb 1855 (earth-
quake ~~year~~ ^{year}) then came Jennie, then John

& Jim Oct. 1853. If you still think I'm wrong
on this, say so, & I'll write to the Registrar's
Office & get it verified, I do want to write
them & get another date. What do you
know about the vast sum Jim & Rich
paid out to clear John's debts & thus save
a family scandal. Jessie told me that happened
about 1912. It must have broken poor Rich (&
I understand Jim too) both financially & in
other ways. I wonder if all that had been right-
ful had come to Rich's line what "My Son"
would have done with it. Hoarded it, I
suppose. No wonder Ima was bitter about some things & ^{people}.

I had a letter from Higgins the other day.
Most interesting enclosures. I have the burial
dates of Rich's grandparents. They were
Richard Prouse, buried June 4 1791
Dorothea " (this would be Doris Wills)

July 30th 1812. This is in the parish adjoin-
ing Aveton Gifford - called Bigbury, & by
the sea. They were long lived people.
In the same parish an Anne had
an illegitimate in 1795 & ten years later
another in 1805. Unusual set-up.

He's traced the line back a little further
still & after seven consecutive Richards
(including ally) we come to a John who

was born in 1670⁶ & his parents were John
& Gertrude. The scene has shifted from the
Lodderwell parish to the adjoining one
of Ugborough (Ugly Name) & this is in-
land & right on the edge of Dartmoor
moors. The list of people I've got for
Ugborough gives a few occupations.
There was a mason (why do some of
the family go ga-ga over stone walls, bridges
etc.?) There were husbandmen, & yeomen
so there comes in the farming & the latter
I think meaning landowner as well as
farmer. Again, very interesting, this love
of a piece of land & getting roots deep
down into it. The picture I get from all
this is a family whose fortunes of fate
dwindled & the poorer they got the nearer
the sea they moved to, for that is the
sequence of parishes they lived in.
Also I have a photocopy of the marriage
entry of the parents of Rich. (husband of Doris)
1732. It looks as tho' it's been written on skin,
may be vellum & very aged looking. She
was an Elizabeth Bouch. Another very interesting
thing that's emerging is that the line has
come down from the last child of the
family in several instances. This

should be personally comforting to you. Almost as if carried on by the "after-thought" as it were, so it goes to show how important in the scheme of things is the last one. I hope I haven't mentally blinded you with all this. I see it clearly, I suppose because I work with the data. I must write Higgins today for the further back he goes the more it intrigues me, tho' sadly the registers go back only about another hundred years, & in some cases not that.

I must go & put some warmer clothes on. It's a drear cold day & calls for a good fire this a'noon.

I do hope you are feeling well now you are home & will be interested to hear if you feel like penning paper & if you don't I'll ring you some time.

Lots of love to the girls, Thomas & self.

Luft.

P.S. My tomorrow's job is to make seyoa jam.

I've had a great haul from the trees over our back fence - by courtesy of the late two-jawed old sheep. Made Pear'singer yesterday - not clock-jawed b.