

53 Wmairia Ave.,
Waikanae.

My dear Phyll,

18-5-79.

Did so enjoy your last letter, packed full of welcome information as it was. Thank you for the enclosure towards paying Higgins, but I'm sending it straight back & you can give it to J. & B. for petrol. I consider Higgins's fees more than reasonable, & I only pay him about \$20 a year for what he sends me, & I get more than my money's worth out of what he sends. ~~He~~ He charges on time & of course as it's his job, he knows exactly where to go for what I ask for. The "archives" of would be so complicated to anyone else but me, & all I send you are points of interest. So as it's an absorbing hobby for me I'm doing the paying. I appreciate your contribution, but conscience wouldn't let me use it.

I've read about $\frac{1}{2}$ the Collingwood book & find it very interesting, but would have liked a few more personal stories & a few fewer statistics if you get what I mean. That was interesting about the wharf being burnt - poor Rich. he got many knocks in life. I was most interested in
P.T.O

the book to read ^{2.} about a wharf known as
Brouses & to find it on the map (with aid of
magnifying glass). There's still one wharf
left at the inlet, but this is definitely not
the Brouses one, which was away over
on the side of the entrance. That bit of
land offered ally ~~to~~ is wild, rocky, steep
mountain side - I can't think it could be
used for anything if cleared of bush. Tho'
who knows there might be gold there, &
undoubtedly there would be coal. Now, Puyllis
stop thinking we might buy it - just
remember our ages. I'll make a pact with
you, tho'. In our next lives let's do some
exploring - will float thro' the blackberry,
jungle etc. & won't tear our ethereal gowns or
bare feet, & see just what is there.

Yes, there was a brother Tom, who died at
16. His name was Andrew Thomas 1840-1886.
I seem to think he died as a result of a kick
from a horse. Did you know there were 12
children in that family? That includes the
ones who died very young. Richd II. must have
been a rascally old bluffer - not satisfied
with that he then started on the governess!!

The version Jessie gave me of the monies
paid out by Rich. & Jim to save a
scandal, was that a certain famous

Italian singer (Madam Dolores I think) who was out here quite a bit & sang with John overseas - well John's & her relationship wasn't regular as the saying goes, & as Jessie said "she was a very expensive woman". I'd never heard this before, but think it very likely as John was pushed into a marriage he didn't seek. That, plus all the travelling they did, ~~plus~~ ^{with} the whole family ~~would~~ ^{could} account for the £32,000 that J. & R. paid out, somewhere around 1911. I'll bet that rocks you.

Let me have any more memories you may recollect of the Pataram please, or anything else that would be of archival interest to me.

It's just too hellish cold for words, & it's rained for weeks. Thank heaven we've enough firewood. Went to Para. this A.M. & I got some warm underclothes, can't keep legs & feet warm. Old aged spouse.

Ow! Our bit of domestic news is that John has been pushing to have something done about his only knee joint. It's giving him a lot of trouble, so the

idea is to have an operation on it, remove the debris that locks it at times & puts him off balance, & a general re-hack of the joint. He's booked in at Wgtn. Hosp. on the semi-urgent list, but we've no idea how long he'll have to wait. He's extremely keen to have it done. I'm not so complacent about it, considering his age & a liver condition he's got, tho' the latter hasn't deteriorated over the last couple of years. I'm dithering about staying down at a motel for a few days while it's done, to make visiting him a lot easier, but haven't decided yet. It's not the massive operation, the one on his other leg was, & he shouldn't be in Hosp. more than a couple of weeks.

I think I told you I had set up parish registers of the entries Higgins has sent me, & it's vastly easier to see who's who this way. I find that the Anne who had the 2 illegit mates ten years apart was our Rich. I's aunt, so that made them his cousins. Away back, there's a Christian name that is unusual, & it

is Wilmet. It comes into several families including the odd Brouse, I've had a few Hebrahs & now it's into the honors. The others are the ones familiar to us, that repeat century after century i.e. Grace, Elizabeth Agnes, etc. & Wms. Richds & John, continue the whole way I've gone yet.

I've just read a book on diving to locate ship wrecks in the Mediterranean. Very exciting, the one explored was 1200 years B.C. & they raised what remained of the cargo of bronzes, ^{beads} etc. I don't know why I choose to read these spine chilling books in weather like this, & am more or less in a permanent state of goose flesh.

I got a tuner to do his job on ^{the} organ yesterday - some of the keys were jamming, & he had to take the key board part away to file down the lead weighting in the keys. So when he brings that back next week, he'll tune it then.

I shall make a cuppa, & then get our dinner. Do hope you are well. You often have my thoughts thro' the night.
With lots of love. Luff. P.T.O

P.S. Hope Beryl had a happy Birthday on
16th. I meant to raise the glass to her
but missed the day, so it was on the 14th.
I'm very good at missing ~~days~~ days.

When you get this letter it will be
around the 22nd. Lina & Rich's 100th
anniversary. That's a rocking thought
isn't it?

L.