

53 Wmaira Ave.,
Waikanae,

My dear Phyll, 28-6-79.

I've been trying to get round to writing these last 10 days but as we've had quite a few fine days I've been trying to do some catching up in the garden. Then your letter came along a few days ago, & I was very pleased to get that & hear your news.

So you're getting frosts, tho' it's been very cold here we haven't had our first one yet. I don't know whether to be glad or sorry. With potatoes a foot or more high it would do them no good, but as against that I think of all the pests & their children that will be wintering over without enough cold to knock them.

2.

Mum: I didn't know hedgehogs
went for asps - do they snout
them out of the ground & eat as they
go? The dirty little B's & expect you
to eat what's left (the tops!) Yes,
Evel garden is quite good with
leeks, parsnips etc... but like you
I wonder each year why bother,
when so many gardens are close.
There's something about those freshly
plucked ones tho that the bought
haven't got.

I'm terribly sorry to hear Thomas
isn't recovered yet & that his
eye is so bad. Those beautiful
eyes too, what a shame. I
hope by now he is quite well
again. I'm glad to hear he is
so pampered & cosseted. I hope he
doesn't decide to be a permanent
invalid because it's all so
soothing.

We were all ready to walk out
 of the house last Sunday morning but
 had to ring HOSP. first to see if
 they had a bed. They hadn't. Surgeon
 rang thro' the week, he was furious
 when he knew HOSP. hadn't rung us
 days before to say he couldn't then
 do it. There are no right knee joints
 in the country (plenty left ones) so
 until some arrive from U.K. the
 delay continues (tho' he said they
 come in about 3-5 days). John
 was really shot down with dis-
 appointment. So I took him out
 to lunch today as a consolation.
 We went to the "Country Life" Restau-
 rant down the road, & had a
 delicious lunch, quiet & pleasant
 surroundings & service. We over-
 ate of course, but it did us
 both a lot of good.
 Thanks for information about

picture playing - I was given to wondering how you got there & back. I'll bet it was cold in those orchestral wells, in winter.

You didn't tell me what colour it was the Cardigan Beryl gave you. Guess the comfort & warmth are the main consideration.

Well, I don't know what to suggest about this gold fever you've got.

Yes, to get away in the outbacks & do some panning under some rocks in a stream sounds mighty good to me too, but just where you could one go, where plenty hadn't been before. I just don't know. My yen is to build stone walls, stone chimneys etc. just go on creating in stone. I wonder what gold's still left round the Thames area - I should think it's still there if one

know where.

I've heard from Higgins again & he's got back to where the registers started. I think it's pretty amazing he's traced a direct male line back 400 years. Of course it's possible this isn't absolutely correct but there's no doubt that they were all related. In the last list they all seemed to be Johns. When I got to sorting them out I'd say the same person was mentioned at least 3 times. The story seems to start like this. There was a baby born to a woman or a Robert Krouse (1581, or 1582). There's no knowing which was his father. It seems this John married a Janall(?) in 1614. In 1620 there was a John born to these two, but the baby died, & a couple of months later she died. Two

years later 1622 a John (the one
I take to have been widowed)
married a Joanna Smyth.
Many years later they had a
child John & he married a
-Gertrude Hoyt, & that links up
to where he'd got us in his
previous letter. When I write I
shall ask him to fill up gaps
for me that I have in my
"registers" of the parishes. Also,
I shall ask him if there's any
documentation that exists to give
us further data. But I think this
is expecting rather much. If
they were land owners there's a
possibility charters exist. He sent
me a copy of several register pages
& I suppose I've spent hours trying
to decipher them. The writing is
different from ours, & Latin is used.
After a while I found I could read

quite a lot of it - but still some
of it baffles me, & I shall underline
the ones I want ^{send them back to him} & get him to trans-
late for me. There ^{is} was one entry
that had a sad wrong to it. It was
Philip (a) ^{baptized} daughter of Mary Coffin
baptized on April 1st.

Ask you, what chance did that poor
little soul have? I hope she died young.
I had a letter from Cousin Phyle
the other day, & apparently Ben. is
safely home again. I wonder if
Julie & Carol will ever come back
to stay. I rather doubt it.

I'm going to enclose a couple of
those register pages for you to have
a look at. I think it is so interesting
to see what they were like & the
obvious antiquity of the books.
I've underlined in pencil where I've
found further Prows entries. The
ones marked with a X are the

ones Higgins marked & are the ones
of the family line. When you've
finished looking at them would
you send them back to me, for I
shall send them on to him for further
enciphering. There seems to me a
Brows bride there who had the name
of Richard. I'll enclose an envelope
for you to put them in so you
don't have to rustle round for a
big enough one.

What a nuisance you feel the
need of brandy thro' the night, I
hope it gets you to sleep again &
saves you thro'. Are you on your
own at night? I wonder do you use
an electric blanket? God's cosy gift
to our ageing limbs we find.

I must stop & go to bed. Do hope
you're well & keeping warm, it
seems a very cold winter to me.

With lots of love to you all &
nursy kisses to Thomas. Love,