

"ManderTay"  
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WAINUI-O-MATA

Phone - Wgtn. 646-254

Saturday 19 June 1982

Mrs C G Tunnington  
53 Winara Avenue  
WAIKANAE

Dear Mrs Tunnington

Thank you very much for your letter of 14 June. I have a sneaking suspicion however, that our relationship is to be all one-sided - you telling and me taking notes!

Seriously though, in three short pages you asked me things I hadn't heard of and told me plenty I didn't know! Unfortunately I cannot fill in the 11 year gap in Taitai, but the next time I am at the Turnbull I will bear this query in mind when going back over the old Jury Lists etc.

I too have seen it printed that the original Richard (ie, Richard snr) came from Cornwall. How nice to have it corrected - and verified.

It might be best if you tell me what to look for in respect of the "sort of" memoirs written by John Prouse. I always feel as though I am stumbling around in the dark at the Turnbull, and usually come across something very relevant just as it is time to quit. And with a young toddler it isn't easy to put in a lot of time there.

Mrs Claude Burdan is still alive and quite well, despite having suffered a heart attack in the last couple of months. She is based still at "Willowbank", but spends time with each of her daughters. One daughter right next door is Margaret (Peggy Jones) and the other just up the road, whom I suspect you met, is Gwen Cobb, at "Fairview". I myself haven't come across the family diary, although Mrs Burdan has been very helpful in as far as she is able in the old History. A shame that it was her husband and not herself who has the old roots, as anything prior to 1921 in Mrs Burdan's case is merely heresay. I do know that some books and ledgers were lent in recent years, and were never returned, but Mrs Burdan has never hesitated to lend to me personally, so I am quite curious about the diary. The next time I am speaking to Mrs Cobb I will bring the subject up. They are very genuine people, and eager to help, as you no doubt found yourself.

The Wakehams are another mystery group. I think William Wakeham, the first, built the original house on the property now occupied by Mr T (Peter) Faulke, and previously occupied by his parents as a holiday home. They bought from a Mr Ferkin, but as yet I haven't been able to trace any further back. It all takes time, as you will no doubt understand! Sometime in the 1880's the old homestead "Northbrook" was bought by the Wakehams - probably the son Johnny, as the other children died as follows:

Mrs Tunnington

William Wakeham 1891 aged 76  
 Elizabeth Wakeham 1901 aged 86  
 children: Emma 1888 aged 29  
           William 1879 aged 24  
           Richard 1871 aged 14

The parents certainly had a hard lot. Then Johnny Wakeham and his wife Mary Ann lost their only son Edwin (Eddie) in 1894 aged 17 years and 10 months. They put "Northbrook" on the market shortly after this, viz a letter from Mr John Crowther to his daughter Mary while holidaying in Opunake in 1896

"... Johnny Wakeham has sold "Northbrook."

Unfortunately Mr Crowther makes no further comment on the sale, but as far as we are concerned the Wood family bought the old home in 1903, from the Wakehams. Either the 1896 sale fell through, or the following actually represents an intermediate owner:

7892 Crown Grant H Sinclair D1120 9-11-1867 Vol 485 Fol 234 Closed C7618  
 9580 H Sinclair to Mowlem 27-11-1868  
 9707 H Sinclair to Mowlem 9-1-1869  
 13422 H Sinclair to Mowlem Mortgage D1447 24-6-1871  
 23932 Mowlem to J & D Sinclair Reconveyance D1448 15-7-1875  
 35497 H Sinclair Copy Will D1106 4-2-1864  
 36082 Sinclair to Savill Mortgage 31-10-1879  
 38407 J & D Sinclair to Russell Mortgage 17-8-1886  
 45089 Reg of Sup Court to Russell Conveyance 4-4-1883  
 46913? Savill to Russell Release 5-10-1883

and from Vol 352 Fol 183

55852 Conveyance Russell to Wakeham 1-Je-1883

I am assuming (a dangerous thing to do with history research, as I have already found) that the last conveyance, from Russell to Wakeham was actually by solicitors or bank creditors, as the home "Northbrook" was singly owned by Duncan Sinclair, for a period, before he went bankrupt.

However, perhaps all this is already known to you, and merely rehashing of old ground.

Something else concerning the Wakehams which I have found, but which I neglected to copy the dates and transaction records, is this:

11505 Wakeham to Hart  
 20121 William Wakeham  
 59371 Wakeham to Collier  
 83919 C Collier to J Burrows Jnr  
 83920 J Burrows to C Collier  
 99982 C Collier (this would relate to turn of Century/1910 approximately)  
 etc etc

*down to present owners Faulkes*

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Mrs Tunnington

I haven't found yet, how to pinpoint the Crown Grant numbers in relation to the original section numbers, but it will come.

I am wondering whether, if it would be convenient to you, I could make one of my regular "pilgrimages" to my Mum-in-law's with my grandson, and trip back down to see you for a couple of hours. My Mum-in-law would love to have Brett to a couple of hours I know (the longer the better as far as she is concerned) and this would mean that I could devote myself wholeheartedly to our research - a very hard thing to do with a lively tot!

If this would be in order, perhaps you could let me know. It would certainly save you a lot of paperwork, and would be to our (mutual I hope) advantage, as chatting personally is far better - it leads on to other things, whereas letters can be a bit restrictive.

If you are agreeable to the above perhaps you could advise of the days which suit you best. Weekends or weekdays are quite suitable for me, and I can always ring you from Otaki to confirm.

I look forward to your comments on the above.

Yours sincerely

V G Alexander (Mrs)