

Ans. 20-7-83

PS Will definitely drop in the next time I have a couple of minutes - meanwhile keep researching that McIlvrde baby and anything else of import. Best wishes to you Both

"Muddylea"!!!  
16 Enfield Road  
WAINUI-O-MATA

Wednesday 22 June 1983

Dear Chris

I have been into Lands and Deeds most weeks, one day per, and I was hoping to hold off writing again until I had followed up a few more of the Sinclair holdings. However, a reply is long overdue so I thought I had better keep you in touch.

I was intrigued to find reference to Hugh Sinclair's Will - one of my next Ports of Call will be to research Wills etc - and another reference to Wainui-O-Mata Section No 2 which Hugh Sinclair bought with mortgage money from George Allen, boatbuilder. On 8 August 1859 Hugh Sinclair, farmer, conveyed (which means, roughly, gave or sold, depending upon whether money changed hands) 25 acres of Section No 2 to Mrs Isabella McIlvrde, his niece and wife of Mr John McIlvrde (saddler) in consideration of the love and affection which Hugh Sinclair beareth towards the said Isabella, 25 acres of No 2 for her life and her sole separate and independant property and after her death to John McIlvrde and then to all their children unless all die under age 21, whereupon it would revert to the heirs of Hugh Sinclair"

How's that for Womens Liberation 100 years ago - Hugh was a bit ahead of his time wasn't he? I wonder how your Great Grandfather John felt about the land being given to his wife alone? The land in question is actually the portion on which the McIlvrides built their home and your Grandmother grew up. I have drawn a rough sketch of the piece in question. Great Grandfather John actually had Section 79 for himself at one time, but I haven't got around to following up that transaction. Hugh obviously put them on their feet to start off with I would say.

Hospital lost my Mum-in-laws notes, and there has been an awful furore over that - they have gone back to scratch, at no end of inconvenience to Mum and Dad, having to trip down on wasted journeys, and we are just holding our breath at the moment, waiting to see what is in the wind.

I wrote, in my capacity as Secretary to the local Historical Society, to the Forestry, acknowledging our intentions in regard to the Sinclair Plot - and have heard not a word since. Talk about Govt Departments! I shall be following up with a query letter but, meanwhile, no action. H Slingsby has removed himself and wife to Stewart Island, which is a breath of fresh air to all concerned!!!

Your suggestions for dates for Christina's 6½ month baby fit in very well with the known dates I have for the Sinclair Cemetary, and I should feel very certain it was Christina & Richard Prouse's child, not another Prouse baby, as next to it is a plot marked McIlvrde - can you tie that up with anyone for me?

I'm looking forward to seeing your dolls - I'm very fond of the old ones myself - lucky you. Photographing old residents possessions wasn't something I had thought of - I'll be off on another tangent at this rate. I am enjoying this work but I wish I could devote 5 days a week to it. Wouldn't it be lovely?

Joey

PTO