

Ans. 29-9-83.

Tuesday 13 September 1983

Dear Chris

Your letters of 12 Sept to hand & although I'm sorry you can't set a date for a visit, I quite understand your position & will look forward to seeing you when & as circumstances permit.

If your map is fairly current then turn left off the motorway at the Melling Bridge (the 2nd bridge on the left after you come over the Haywards) & take a scenic tour thru Lower Hutt - no trouble traffic-wise on a Sunday or else turn left at the 1st bridge - Kennedy Good Bridge - & follow that road without turning off left or right, thru 2 intersections ^{the} 2nd one with traffic lights, up over the Nae Nae bridge & right at the roundabout at the foot of same. You are now onto Waiwhetu Road - follow it south about 2 miles, to Whites Line intersection - the first STOP sign you come to. Turn left onto Whites Line for about

100 yds, then right into Wairui Road, which takes you over the Hill. We have a rather nice "Parklands" motel, if you insist upon "camping out" I shall look forward to you at least visiting our place, during your wander around the Valley.

Now for the good news. We now have all the death dates in the Sinclair Cemetery, bar the one you're following up for us. Incidentally, we have a McIlurick descendant OR relative of Christina, in the Valley. He doesn't seem very historically minded tho, anyway, here goes: to be added to your notes

Isabella Sinclair

died 20-2-1882 Wairui-O-Mata 79 yrs
 Natural decay, last seen by Dr Wilford on
 17-2-82. Buried 22-2-82 Rev W^{Cannell}
 Wesleyan. Born Scotland, 23 yrs in NZ
 Informant Duncan Sinclair, nephew, WSM

Agnes Sinclair

died 28 December 1878, 70 yrs of age, at work
 Haematuria for 7 weeks, a natural decay
 Fathers name - Spiers, Born Androssan,
 Ayrshire, Scotland. Been in NZ about 37 yrs
 Married when about 22 yrs in Aberfeldy, Perthshire
 Scotland to Hugh Sinclair, settler

Hugh Sinclair

died 11 November 1871

Richard Prouse IV

died 2 January 1880, woman, male, 36 hrs
 Premature birth, last seen by Dr Wilford 1 Jan
^{Parents}
 Richard Prouse, mill owner & Christina Prouse
 lat. McElrude

Buried 3 Jan 1880 x Witnesses - John
 McElrude & Richard Prouse, householders,
 Born woman, informant Richard Prouse jr
 father of child. Registered 3 Jan 1880

isn't the above great - your guess as to

year was great & it was no trouble to find him. The last one rests with you - here's hoping for the best.

Incidentally, yes the cemetery is on a hillside; it slopes slightly & the soil, or human, is rich on top, but good old WDM clay underneath - just great for digging graves in!

The idea of an old-hand undertaker probing the site is certainly worth considering & I shall try following it up. We are still clearing the site at present, a couple more Sunday mornings should finish that off then comes the concrete & hard work - & we thought we had already encountered that! We are a very small band of dedicated restorers, now that the initial enthusiasm has worn off, but we are determined to see it through, never fear. Vandalism is our biggest problem at the moment to the extent that some of our precious old

Hollies & macrocarpas defusing the plot
have been chopped down for local firewood
Publicity, I'm afraid, is a double edged
sword.

By the way, I can usually find a Baby
sitter at short notice, so don't plan your
trip to fit in with me, please.

Forgot to mention the other 2 interments
at the cemetery - Isabel (Wood) widow
of John Sutcliff & John's ^{18 months} son by his
2nd marriage, 1875 & 1881 respectively
We're getting there, aren't we?!

Well must away for domestic duties & mother-
hood calls.

All the Best & looking forward
to hearing from you soon

With love
Victoria Alexander

16 Enfield Road ()
Waverley - O - Mata