

Ans'd: 26-4-84

18 Enfield Road
WAINUI-O-MATA

Sunday 8 April 1984

Mrs Christabel Tunnington
53 Winara Avenue
WAIKANAE

Dear Chris

Firstly, thank you very much for your letter of 18 March - I was very sorry to learn that you wouldn't be coming to the Dedication, especially as you have been so involved right from the start. It does make one wonder, doesn't it?

The Day went off very well. Overcast but fine and some lovely photos, which I will regale you with in due course. We had a very good luncheon afterwards and thanks to the generosity of various members of your extended family, I had a remarkable display on most branches of the family. The McIlvride and Duncan Sinclair branches were the most comprehensive, and even descendants of the families concerned were impressed and placing orders for copies. I was off to the photographer on Monday 26 March with vast and involved orders, and they should be ready now, so no doubt I'll be back into the thick of it again shortly.

I am writing to Mrs June Wills under separate cover, thanking her for her donation. The family have been marvellous in both financial and moral support, and it is really good to know what backing we have.

The R M McIlvride branch of Tapu Point, Opua, Bay of Islands, wrote and sent by registered mail an 8" x 10" (approx) mounted photo of the family home taken from one side and some distance back so that some of the outbuildings are shown, as well as most members of the family (except Christina) posing for the photo. That is another copy photo which should be ready at the photographers now, which I am sure you will be interested to see. Similar to that one of yours taken side on, only more so.

We have also received a deluge of photostats of old photos from a Mrs T Creighton of Broadriver Farm, RD Reporoa, and we will be contacting her again requesting professional copying, at our expense. These photos include:-

- a studio pose of Peter John McIlvride (your great uncle)
- a shot front on of the house, mainly the front verandah, with Millie Bannister (whoever she was), Lizzie McIlvride, and John and Isabella McIlvride standing on same
- A view of the homestead and outbuildings and surrounding terrain from some distance North-east
- a studio portrait each of John McIlvride complete with kilt, sporran etc, and Isabella sitting amongst some greenery, both very good condition, though age doesn't flatter Isabella (it never does

us girls, does it??

- a copy of the card produced upon the death of Isabella viz-

In Loving Memory of
ISABELLA MCGREGOR McILVRIDE
The dearly beloved wife of John McIlvrive
who departed this life at Russell Terrace, Newtown,
22 December 1899
Aged 66 years

Her end was peace
Interred in the Karori Cemetery, Wellington, NZ
"He giveth his beloved sleep"

Sleep on beloved, sleep and take thy rest,
Lay down thy head upon thy Saviour's breast;
We loved thee well - but Jesus loved thee best.
Good-night! Good-night! Good-night!

Isn't that lovely? I know you will want a copy so I'll be taking care of that in due course, rest assured.

- An announcement of the birth of a son on April 16 (no year) to the wife of John McIlvrive at Wainuiomata.

- a statement dated 15 January 1855 Blackford certifying that John McIlvrive residing in the Parish of Mulhill and Isabella McGregor in this Parish have been regularly proclaimed in Order to Marriage in the Parish Church of Blackford and No Objections offered -
John Miller Registrar

This is to certify that the above mentioned parties were married by me this 19th day of January 1855 - A Donald Minister

- a bill from John McIlvrive to the City Council charging them for the havoc and inconvenience caused during their laying of the water pipe from the dam - undated.

- passengers contract ticket for the "Oliver Lang" dated for 5 June 1858

- copies of five Standard Certificates issued to John McIlvrive (Junior) during his term at Wainuiomata School by the Education Board of the District of Wgtn. Signed also by the Head teacher of the time, a couple of names which we didn't previously know of on our school records. Dated 1880, 1881, 1883, 1886, 1887.

Fascinating isn't it?

Also, during another search of Lands and Deeds, I came across the following.

Remember how I said that Hugh Sinclair deeded Part of Section No 2 Wainuiomata to Isabella for her life, and after that to her children, provided they were over 21 years etc etc? Well, -

Wainuiomata Section 2
129-300
(3-750)
20 March 1900

Conveyance - Prouse and others to McIlvride
Between Christina Prouse wife of Richard Gorrie Prouse of Levin
saumiller, Grace McKenzie wife of Alexander McGregor McKenzie of
India, Isabella Agnes Cousins wife of Alfred Ernest Cousins of
Sydney engraver, Catherine Elizabeth McIlvride of City of
Wellington spinster and Peter John McIlvride of Otaki, telegraph
lineman-vendors
and
John McIlvride of City of Wellington

Isabella McIlvride, John's wife, died 22 December 1899. The
vendors have now agreed to sell Section 2 to John for £50.

Five years later, on 30 September 1905, John McIlvride of WDM
Settler sold this Section 2, together with his own Section 73, to
James Burrow of WDM, Settler, for £475.

I'm still not sure whether £50 for 25 acres being Part Section 2
was a gift or not!

Anyway, isn't that first piece fascinating - now we know for sure
that Richard did have a G in the middle of his name, G for GORRIE
(how appropriate!) we also know that Elizabeth's proper name was
Catherine, which would lead one to believe that she was born after
1868, when the 3 week old Catherine McIlvride died and was buried
in the Sinclair Cemetery. Also, Isabella's name was Agnes! Funny
how some of the girls got two names, and some didn't.

Hope you enjoy reading that over as much as I did finding it!

Well, that's about it for this despatch. I've been ordered to bed
with my feet up for the past week or so, I'm pregnant but things
aren't going as well as they might and Sinclair Cemetery is
backlogging while I lie there twitching my toes!

All the Best Chris. We are compiling the Sinclair Cemetery Booklet
at present and you will automatically see your copy in due course.
I have also finished the first chapter in my book, on the Sinclairs
and McIlvrides of course. I know you will want to proofread and
edit, especially the McIlvride side, and you will receive it in due
course. It will be one of the longer, and most comprehensive
chapters in the book - and certainly one of the most factual and
interesting. Only hope I can get the rest of the saga done in the
six and a half months remaining. I can see things getting a little
hectic after that time!!!

Lots of love to the three of you

Vicky Alexander

Vicky