

Ans. 6.8.84

16 Enfield Road
WAINUIOMATA

Wednesday 18 July 1984

Dear Chris and John

Thank you for your letter of 22 May which you didn't feel called for an answer. I have dropped the note re Jessie Sinclair, Arthur Hayward and Little Belle Sinclair etc into the Sinclair file. Another little treasure trove to be absorbed and meditated over at leisure.

Yes, I got the feeling that the house with the group in front of it (the photo this is) was built in two stages - one single story and one double.. After the weather we've had here in the last week, I'd be quite prepared to believe the house was at either Wainuiomata or Silverstream, and that that was snow on the ground!

Anyway, I've solved one of your mysteries^{re R. Prouse's whereabouts before he went to Wainui} and I hope its as exciting to you as to me. I have been scouting around in Turnbull and the General Assembly Library, and the Jury Lists and Electoral Rolls have been photocopied from the old newspapers for the first 20 odd years of our colonial history. A pity they haven't got the rest of the years done, but at least those sort out a couple of queries for us. Here goes:-

1844 Jurors List published February 14 1844

Richard PROUSE	Porirua Road	Farmer
Hugh SINCLAIR	Willis Street	Labourer

1845

Richard PROUSE	Porirua Road	Labourer
(no Sinclair mentioned)		

1847

Richard PROUSE	Porirua Road	Labourer
William PROUSE	Porirua Road	Labourer
Hugh SINCLAIR	Wainuiomata	Labourer

1848

Richard PROUSE	Porirua Road	Labourer
William PROUSE	Porirua Road	Labourer
Hugh SINCLAIR	Loury Bay (sic)	Labourer

1849

Richard PROUSE	Wainuiomata	Farmer
William PROUSE	Wainuiomata	Labourer
Hugh SINCLAIR	Loury Bay (sic)	Labourer

1850

Richard PROUSE	Wainuiomata	Farmer
William PROUSE	Wainuiomata	Labourer
Hugh SINCLAIR	Loury Bay (sic)	Labourer

1852

Richard PROUSE	Wainuiomata	Farmer
William PROUSE	Porirua Road	Labourer
Hugh SINCLAIR	Wainuiomata(sic)	Labourer

1853

Richard PROUSE sen	Wainuiomata	Farmer	freehold	Hutt District
Richard PROUSE jun	Wainuiomata	Farmer	freehold	Hutt District
William PROUSE	Wainuiomata	Farmer	freehold	Hutt District
Hugh SINCLAIR	Wainuiomata	Farmer	freehold	Hutt District

1854

Richard PROUSE	Wainuiomata	Farmer
William PROUSE	Porirua Road	Labourer
Richard PROUSE jnr	Wainuiomata	Sawyer

1857

Richard PROUSE jnr	Wainuiomata	Farmer
William PROUSE	Wainuiomata	Farmer
Hugh SINCLAIR	Wainuiomata	Farmer

(Goodness knows where Richard Prouse sen is in that lot?)

Also - from the Wellington Independant for 1858

The following are Polling Places for the Electoral District of the Hutt

blah

blah

Wai-nui-o-mata Residence of Mr Richard Prouse

The Poll will be opened at 9am and close at 4pm.
Dated 24 December 1858

And thats as far as I got before dashing for my train (shades of Tina when she came to town to collect the wages between two trains!) There are a couple more years to pick up perhaps, but I'm going to have to delve for any more.

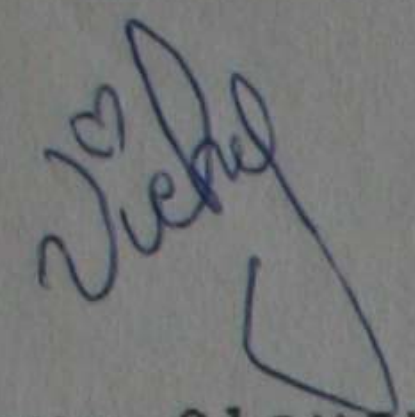
Incidently I have the negative of the very good photo of Isabella McIlvride. Shall have a copy run off for you in due course. She is in her later 'rotund' years, but the quality of the copy is excellent.

Brett is now enrolled in a private kindy 5 days a week so I don't get up North half as much as I should like - I'm looking forward to the August holidays when we will have a couple of weeks driving each other up the walls! He is loving it though, and I don't like to have him missing more than one day a week for me to go gallivanting around the country. I must say it gives me one and one half hours a day when I can sit down and write - though usually inspiration just strikes as it is time to jump on my bike and race off to meet the kindy bus! Still, I must be getting more done - before I was complaining that I had only one day a week for my research - now I've got an extra hour and a half on the other four days. I don't know when I'm well off!

I guess that's it for this issue though I'm still sleuthing away. Time is running out - I may not be preggy, but the girl who minds Brett one whole day a week hopes that she is! If so then that comfortable arrangement will come to an end in about six months, depending upon how she copes. Our forebears coped very well with upteen chores and children - this girl has all mod cons and an extremely obliging and well-behaved 2yr old whom I mind one day a week while her Mum is at work. As I said before - we don't know when we are well off, do we?

Lots of Love to the three of you. Keep the August holidays in mind in case anything exciting comes up.

With Best Wishes



Vicky Alexander

PS
The Sinclair Booklet should (SHOULD...!) be in the mail within 3 weeks. Keep on Keeping your fingers crossed!

*B, meant to do this
in double spacing + sorry about
that
How are your ears - well enough
to absorb this lot I hope*

PPS
A G Bagnall, a well-known NZ Historian of whom you have probably heard, and read, stresses in his book 'Wairarapa' that :-

Page 108
...The riding path from Pipitea to Pito-one and the Kaiwharāwharā approach to the west became the first miles of the north-western route via Porirua and the subsequent line of military posts to Pauatahanui and beyond...

Perhaps Richard Prouse found work here labouring while he was at Porirua - there evidently was plenty available for the work gangs.

Lots of Luv