

Auged 16-10-85

16 Enfield Road
WAINUIOMATA

Tuesday 20 August 1985

Mrs C Tunnington
53 Winara Avenue
WAIKANAE

Dear Chris

Firstly, don't get the enclosed out of their present order, as I will deal with them later in this letter.

Now, how are you coping on your own? Lonely I'll bet and are all those little jobs you've been saving up done, and are you looking for things to do and wishing John was back? He must be due home soon - I hope he's a lot better in himself when he comes home.

I haven't picked up the photos of Richard and Janet yet - probably this Friday. However, thought I would get these off to you in case you felt neglected and needed some more confusion and clutter to wallow in. I see I haven't replied to your letter of 14 July, though my phonecall was meant to partly make up for that. I won't be up for a while, as far as I know, so I'm going to miss the spring blossoms in your garden.

To explain how Nanny came to be corresponding with Mrs Addicott - somebody sent Mrs Addicott a newspaper clipping detailing the Prouse Reunion 21 years ago, and correspondence has grown from there. However, Nanny never knew who sent the article over to England.

After that little splurge on the 'Sin Project' I hear that the Journal's Editor was inundated with copy so now its a game of wait and see as to whether my effort warrents printing. I'll let you know.

I have just made contact with some Mowlem descendants who are keen to trace up their antecedents - better late than never. Anyway one lady, a Mrs Dorothy Mowlem of 23 Pillans Road, Tauranga, is married to a Mowlem descendant and has become quite keen - a keenness which has now rubbed off onto her husband and his cousin. Anyway, Mrs Mowlem writes, and I quote:

...In 1977 I contacted a Jean Patterson who was the daughter of Vera Patterson, daughter of Agnes and John. ^{Mowlam} According to notes Jean gave me this is what her mother had told her -

"Agnes was the first white child to be born at Wainui-o-mata. Agnes' mother was the only daughter of the Duke of Fife who eloped with either the butler or the coachman and came out to NZ"

I can't substantiate this information...

Get yourself a cuppa
& a good reading light
Wish I was with you to
talk this all over,
Nicky

So what do you think of that? From my research I would think it very possible that Agnes was the first white child born in WOM - but we mustn't forget that she was a twin so either she was the first of the two to be born, or else she was the first white girl to be born. I forgot to mention that in my reply to Mrs Moulam.

See what you can do with the Duke of Fife bit...!

Re the woodburners - Dad's was a Cavalier from the Regency range, I think. However, your builder friend could probably advise you best on that lot, if he can overlook his potbelly bias. Perhaps too he could comment on the latest doll's pram because Ken started to get a bit technical and it sounded a bit heavy to me. You will, of course, want to do a nice job, despite the vehicle not being a vintage car. Talking about vintages (well, not quite), the Daimler is ready for painting but now we are waiting for the weather to warm up a bit so that the coats of paint will go off better. There's always something.

Now, re the enclosed:

Re GEORGE PROUSE who drowned on 5 March 1858. He was, according to my calculations, the third child of William (who drowned in the Otaki River in 1878) and Harriet nee Collis. This George would have been born approx April 1856, after second born son Charles, but before daughter Harriet. After his death William and Harriet had another son, on 15 October 1859 whom they also named George. However, George seems to have had bad connotations for that family, George II also died young, on 3 September 1875, although I don't know what of.

I see I've noted all this on the bottom of the Coronor's Report anyway.

Incidentally, something I have just noticed - George II died on 3 September 1875 and his Grandfather, Richard Prouse I died on 30 September 1875. That was a bad month wasn't it?

Next up is the 'Intention to Marry' for WILLIAM PROUSE jnr, and I note that he was born 1851 (I think your notes confirm this anyway.) So William and Harriet's firstborn son was named after its father, and the secondborn after Harriet's father Charles, which seems to have been the norm. I haven't been able to track down the Sarah Ann Farmer or her family yet, but perhaps there won't be a family, just Sarah as I note she was a servant. Whether I can track down who for is another matter.

I have included a couple of Intentions to Marry for the name Gorrie, notably that for Charles Swanson and ELLEN GORRIE because they list their dwelling place as Wainuiomata. Swanson is a big Whiteman's Valley name, but note the date - 1864, and Ellen Gorrie says she has been in WOM 5 years, and permission for her marriage is given by her father Thomas Gorrie. Could he be a brother of Janet, and the Gorrises have come out to NZ after Richard Prouse and Janet left Aussie? We know that Thomas cannot be Janet's father, because he died when he dived into that vat to save someone, according to your notes. For Ellen to have been in WOM 5 years, she could well have been living with the Richard & Janet Prouses and be helping out

there. All supposition of course.

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Intention to Marry for Hugh Minchin Bach and ISABELLA GORRIE. The previous Gorrie to get married, Ellen, was 19 yrs old as at 15 January 1864 and 21 yrs later 26 yr old Isabella can't be her daughter, but she could be her very much younger sister? Living perhaps with Ellen and her husband Charles Swanson in Whitemans Valley? Or perhaps even Thomas Gorrie took his family to Whiteman's Valley because the name Gorrie did feature there. To check out that name in Whitemans Valley could involve a whole new ball game so, although I'm curious, I'm not that curious...

Intention to Marry for Alfred Johnson and MARY JANE WAKEHAM, daughter of William Wakeham and his wife Elizabeth nee Prouse. Mary Jane notes that she has lived in WOM 12 years, which places the family's time of arrival circa 1851 - about when the Prouses came too. This Mary Jane is the same who was minding George Prouse when he drowned. George would have been her cousin.

Intention to Marry for WILLIAM THOMAS JOHNSON and Ada Jane Bulliman on 15 June 1888. I strongly suspect that William is a son of the above couple - Alfred Johnson and Mary Jane Wakeham, and the fact that he is being married at his Grandparents home, and has lived there 'years' makes me curious as to the whereabouts of his parents Alf and Mary Jane. Especially as, on the following day:

On 16 June 1888 ELIZA JOHNSON wed John William Wood, again at the house of Mr Wakeham, Wainuiomata. 24yr old Eliza would seem to be Alf and Mary Jane (nee Wakeham) Johnson's eldest, as they married in June 1863. Again, what has happened to Alf and Mary Jane? And can you imagine catering for two weddings on two consecutive days? One is bad enough.

The John William Wood mentioned is Mary (nee Prouse) Wood's brother-in-law, ie youngest brother of James Jackson Wood. Son of John Wood and Maria nee Oddy.

On checking my Electoral Rolls I find that William Thomas Johnson appears as a 'Farmer of WOM' in October 1893 by which time he would have been 26 yrs old. He appears for 1896, 1899, but disappears off the WOM Roll for 1902. The last time William Wakeham appears on the Electoral Rolls for WOM is 1893, when William Johnson appears, and William Wakeham is listed as being 'Farmer, Freehold Section 3 WOM'. For the Rolls prior to this year back to 1866/67 when the Rolls commence he is listed as Freehold Section 3 and 3/4 Section 7. William Wakeham actually died in 1891 aged 76 (the Electoral Rolls could sometimes be a bit slow in picking up deaths etc) and I wonder whether his grandson William Thomas Johnson ran the farm for his Grandparents for a time - perhaps until Elizabeth Wakeham's death in 1901.

Upon further investigation I find that Richard Prouse 1st left his daughter Elizabeth Wakeham his portion of WOM Section 3 (except the bit the Church was built on). On 10 June 1890 William and Elizabeth Wakeham sold this land, plus 23 acres of William's 33a of Section 3, plus some other parcels of land, to one Elizabeth Collier, wife of John Collier, for £300. I think that Elizabeth Collier was the

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daughter of William and Elizabeth Wakeham. William Wakeham signed the Deed, though Elizabeth signed with 'her mark'. This left William and Elizabeth Wakeham with just 10 acres of Section 3, a short distance south of the Church on the Coast Road. For William to list himself as a farmer, freehold of Section 3, I strongly suspect that either he and Elizabeth did up the old Richard Prouse II home, which was damaged in the 1855 earthquakes, or else rebuilt, as the Colliers appear to have moved into the old Wakeham home across the river. Access to that farm even today is by footbridge, no vehicular, so it would have been fairly rugged for an elderly couple in those days.

Elizabeth Wakeham died on or about 4 December 1901 and Probate of her Will granted; John Wakeham and Elizabeth Collier were declared Executors. On 6 August 1902 Mrs Elizabeth Collier, widow of WDM, sold all the blocks of land she and her late husband had bought from her parents in 1890, to James Burrow Jnr for £650 - 209 acres 3 perches except that piece of land on which Church stood. My records show that Elizabeth then retired to Wgtn and lived there for some years though I would probably have to trace the Karori Cemetery Records to find when she died - unless your Grandmother kept in contact?

The Wakeham entries in the WOM Cemetery List are:

William Wakeham 1891 aged 76
Elizabeth Wakeham 1901 aged 86
Children: William 1879 aged 24 (born 1855?)
Richard 1871 aged 14 (born 1857?)
Emma 1888 aged 24 (born 1864?)

Edwin (Eddie) only son of John and Mary Ann Wakeham died 16 November 1897 aged 17 years and 10 months.

My notes from the Taitai Cemetery show that:
In Loving Memory of MARY ANN, beloved wife of John WAKEHAM, died 14 June 1919 aged 70 years
Also JOHN WAKEHAM died 4 April 1931 aged 83 years (born 1848?)

If you check the years of birth for William and Elizabeth Wakeham's children, there are a few gaps, so I suspect other children exist(ed). A Mrs Wakeham died recently in LH and I shall contact her offspring after a decent interval. Chances of their not being related seem slim.

Intention to Marry for JOHN WAKEHAM (son of William Wakeham and his wife Elizabeth, nee Prouse) and Mary Ann Jackson. Mary Ann was the daughter of Edwin Jackson, 'founder of Petone' after whom its Main Street, Jackson Street, is named. Edwin Jackson later bought land in WOM from William Wakeham, ex the estate of his deceased son William, and Edwin's son Joseph Enoch Jackson built 'Fairview' on some of this land, later selling it to William Burdan - where his granddaughter Mrs Cobb now lies. And if you think that's involved ... John Wakeham and Mary Ann later owned 'Northbrook', the Moulton/Sinclair home, after buying it from the Receivers, until 1903, when they sold it to James Jackson Wood and retired to Petone.

Intention to Marry for JOHN PROUSE and HELEN HARDING for 9 October 1875. Note that Helen says she is 21yrs, a Governess and has been in

WOM 16 months, ie since April 1874. Do you know the birth dates of the child prior to William John (1878); Constance Mary (1880) and Oliver Richard (1886)? It could be interesting to compare dates. 5

Intention to Marry for James Jackson Wood and MARY PROUSE. This was just on 100 years ago this month! If the marriage was to take place at the home of Mr R Prouse, WOM, I guess it took place at 'Willowbank', because R Prouse I was dead 10 years by this time.

Intention to Marry for Alfred Ernest Cousins and your Great-Aunt, ISABELLA AGNES McILVRIDE.

Intention to Marry for Arthur Charles Bradfield and MARY McILVRIDE. Mary is the daughter of George McIlvride - she would be 29 when her widowed father remarried 9 years later in 1900.

Intention to Marry for GEORGE McILVRIDE and Mary Emma McKie, George being your Grandmother Tina's Uncle. Note his age, 61yrs, and marrying a 24yr old. Good for him! It looks as if Mary Emma McKie was working for Mrs Chapman of Hope Farm, Patone, doesn't it.

The Intention to Marry for JOHN MOWLEM and AGNES speaks for itself, although I note that John is of Wellington, and has been there three months. Agnes is coy about her age for some reason.

LS-W 68-7

Report 665

Details how Richard 1st came by Section 3 WOM. Section 3 is where he built the Church.

LS-W 68/8

Report 737

This is a record from the NZ Land Company files which shows how Richard 2nd and William Prouse got some of their WOM land. It must be Richard 2nd as he and William were engaged in land transactions down the Coast Road, while Richard 1st seems to have stuck to his portion of Section 3 where the Church was built. Of course, with the Church being built in 1863, either Richard 1st lived on the same property, (there were 42 acres to choose from). Or he moved down the Coast to one of his son's properties. I can't trace any record of him owning other land down the Coast and he was 72 when the Church was built so he wasn't young then. Perhaps the rattling of his house in the 1855 earthquake was instrumental in him buying land out of the Valley - he did live out of WOM in his later years, didn't he?

LS-W 68/12

Report 1289

This shows how Richard Prouse II came by Section 10 WOM, as does the next page.

Report 1294

I think that 'Willowbank' was built on Section 10. Most records say that 'Willowbank' was built circa 1860's, and Annie Elizabeth Prouse

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who married William Burdan always maintained that she was born in 'Willowbank', so that would mean the house existed by 15 April 1863. Family legend says that the Prouse family were living up at 'Stoney Ridge' (just south of where the old Church stands now.) If Richard III was born during or after the 1855 earthquakes, and Janet moved to the calfshed because of the instability of the house, did they shore up that house and stay in it until they built 'Willowbank' further down the Coast some X years later? It would seem to me that Richard and Janet lived on their one third of Section 3, on Stoney Ridge, next but one to Richard 1st (where the Church now stands), until they established 'Willowbank' further down the Coast. Feasible?

LS-W 68/12
Report 1295

This details how Richard Prouse II owned 33a, one third of Section 3 WDM, along with his brother William (one third) and his father Richard I's 42a. Richard II's third was further south on the Coast Road on an area known as Stoney Ridge. On 4 May 1858 he sold his portion to William Wakeham (his brother-in-law) and I guess 'Willowbank' was being established by this time, so the Prouses were moving further south along the Coast Road and had no further use for the 33a of Section 3 whereas William Wakeham lived adjacent and could well add the 33 acres to his holdings. It would seem feasible that after the 1855 earthquakes, by 3 years later the family had another home established on a bigger block of land.

LS-W 68-12
Report 1296

Confirms WILLIAM PROUSE being entitled to his third of Section 3, between his father and his brother.

Finally, a quote from the CYCLOPAEDIA OF NZ re the PROUSE BROTHERS although you will note that they refer to Richard Prouse I as being the father of the three brothers. Or, alternatively, they say that Richard Prouse II arrived on the 'Duke of Roxburgh' in 1840. Something wrong there somewhere.

Well Chris, I think that's about enough to keep you going for a little while. I've been away from Archives for a couple of weeks while I mind my babysitter's little girl, while the babysitter and her husband trip off to Aussie for a 10-day holiday. However things should be back to normal at the end of this week by which time I will have caught up with all my correspondence and be ready for another dose of research note typing.

I realise I have given you wads to wade through, but it is really good getting all my thoughts and notes down on paper because it enables me to think my way through some of the mysteries of last century - ie the Wakehams above. I think I've ironed out a bit about them now, thanks to your longsuffering patience.

All the Best, give my best regards to John and I know you will fuss over him all the more when he comes home, just to make him feel missed. I wonder whether he is in Ward 1 where old Mr Apperley of Waitarere Beach is periodically. Mr Apperley wed (his first

marriage) Mavis Burdan whose mother was Annie Elizabeth Burdan nee Prouse. Mavis inherited the farm known as 'The Den' which many years earlier was owned by William Prouse and his wife Harriet nee Collis, before they sold up in preparation for their move north - before William drowned that is. 7

There I go, confusing you again and drowning you in a paper war. Let me know if you have heard anything interesting from Mr Higgans.

Best wishes and all

Vicky
Vicky Alexander