

C/- 16 Enfield Road
WAINUI-O-MATA

ordered 3 photos from Turnbull
12570 1/2 17-12-85

Monday 9 December 1985

Mrs C Tunnington
53 Winara Avenue
WAIKANAE

Dear Chris

This is your Christmas letter and I think its contents might be worth a little cheer.

I was in the Alexander Turnbull Library photographic section recently with our Wainuiomata Head Librarian, trying to identify a handful of photographs which had come into the Turnbull Collection. And guess what I found? A real gem. It's a photo of the Sinclair holdings including 'Moness' and John Sinclair's home with the Sinclair Cemetery surrounded by young trees in the distance. It is taken from the 'Rock' (the road which climbs the stoney hill above the old Sinclair land) circa 1882-83. I had no difficulty in identifying the photo - the skyline is no different from the one I have known for many years to and from school and my parent's home. Unfortunately the Mill is not in the picture, but there are several outbuildings and 'Moness', a largish two-storied home, is partly obscured behind a solid hedge. The home which I am certain is John Sinclair's is on a rise above and behind 'Moness' in the background of the photo - it almost looks split-level though I doubt it. However, in the Coronor's report on young John Hugh Sinclair the nurse mentions 'upstairs' so I would say that the house is two storied. Difficult to be sure. In the foreground is shown the Sinclair Valley (waterworks) river merging with the stream from Moores Valley below the bluff where the mill was situated, a ford plainly shows, along with yards and yards of wooden 'picket' fencing.

Incidentally, while perusing the old Electoral Rolls I found that John Sinclair listed his home as 'Glentill' and 'Glenhill' - I don't know which was correct but would guess that the printer made an error with one of them - but which one?

If you are interested in adding this photo to your collection - and I think it is worthwhile having, having ordered a copy for our Sinclair Album and one for myself, then here are the details.

The Reference to the Photo is: 140340 and one half - you must include the half detail.

You can have either sepia (for an extra \$5) or black and white, so specify which you want, and the sizes range as follows:-

6" x 8" = \$6.00
10" x 8" = \$7.00
12" x 10" = \$10.00
15" x 12" = \$15.00
20" x 15" = \$24.00

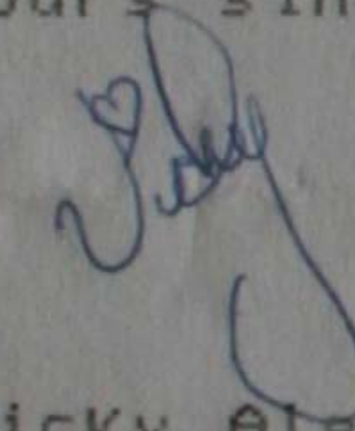
To order a copy you can write to:
The Photographic Division
Alexander Turnbull Library
PO Box 12349
Wellington

There is also another rather good photo taken from on the hill in the trees just north of the Cemetery. You are looking down the Sinclair Valley, the split rail fences are plainly visible, plus another view of 'Moness' partly obscured by the hedge, plus various outbuildings and a house which I would guess was Auntie 'Belle's' in the centre distance - unless the photo is deceptive and the house is in fact McIlvrides. The hills all around have been milled and tree trunks lie abandoned everywhere. Again, the Mill is hidden around a corner. This photo would, I guess, be from the same era as the above, ie 1882-1883. It's reference is 60128 and one half.

I have been writing a series of potted local histories for the local sausage wrapper which appears 11 times a year, and a copy of this month's article is enclosed. Hope you approve/enjoy.

I hope this year has been kind to you and that the above serves as your 'Christmas Cheer'. All the Best for the Festive Season to both you and John and looking forward to keeping in touch accordingly.

Yours sincerely



Vicky Alexander (Mrs)