

## Hugh or Ewen SINCLAIR (1810-1871)

*Edinburgh Register of Marriages – OPR 685/01 0650 0097*

Edinburgh 28<sup>th</sup> March 1836 (Proclaimed 27<sup>th</sup> March 1836) Hugh Sinclair, Waiter, residing in the Waterloo Hotel, Saint Andrew's Parish, and Agnes Spiers, residing same place and parish, daughter of James Spiers, Coachman at Ballantrae, have been three times proclaimed in order to Marriage, in the Parish Church of St. Andrew's, and no objections have been offered. Married at Edinburgh 29<sup>th</sup> March 1836 by the Revd John Macalister, Minister of the Gaelic Chapel.

*Dundee Directory 1837-1838*

Hugh Sinclair, hotel, Castle street, e. and head of Seagate, s.

Advertisement: Sinclair's Hotel (Late Merchant's). Hugh Sinclair, late Waiter in the Waterloo Hotel, Edinburgh, returns his grateful thanks to the Nobility, Gentry, Commercial Gentlemen, and the Public in general, for the liberal share of patronage he has experienced since he opened the above old-established Hotel, which is situated at the head of Castle Street, and in the centre and most public part of Dundee. As the house has undergone a complete repair and alteration, and on examination will be found to be one of the most comfortable Hotels in the Kingdom, H. S. from his long experience as waiter in the principal Hotels in Scotland, and by his personal attendance and attention to the comforts of those who honour his house with their support, hopes to merit a continuance of public favour. Hot, Cold, Shower, and Vapour Baths, in Marble. Post Office and Royal Mail Coach Office on the premises – Stage Coaches to all parts of the Kingdom. Dundee, 1837.

Advertisement: New Hiring Establishment and Livery Stables, Castle Street (in connexion with Sinclair's Hotel.) R. Cruickshank respectfully begs leave to intimate, that he has removed his establishment from Aberdeen, to those Stables in Castle Street, lately occupied by Mr Merchant, which have been altogether renewed, and are now fitted up in the most complete and fashionable style; in doing which, no expense has been spared so as to render them superior to an Establishment of the kind in Scotland; He begs therefore to express his hope that, having always first-rate Post Chaises, Noddy Coaches, Gigs, and Saddle Horses, which his long experience enables him to select, and being always at home, so that he can insure the most punctual attendance and immediate attention to all orders, his new Establishment will meet with the entire approbation and be honoured with the patronage of the Public, which it shall be his constant study to merit. Livery Stables, Castle Street, Dundee, 1837. Gentlemen's Horses kept at livery on the most moderate terms. Orders left at the Coach Office, Sinclair's Hotel, will be punctually attended to.

Alexander Turnbull Library MS 89-362 Bounty Immigration Index  
- photocopy of microfilm entry held in the correspondence papers of Christobel Grace Amuri Tunnington

Name: Hugh SINCLAIR; Occupation: Hotel Keeper (in Dundee - can manage stock); Religion: Presbyterian; Age: 28 years last 5th March  
Read and Write: Yes; State of bodily health, strength and probable usefulness: Good health  
Native Place: Parish of Logierait, Perthshire, Scotland; Father: Duncan Henderson, Farmer same place; Mother: Isabel McLERNE  
Remarks: No complaints

Wife: Agnes SINCLAIR; Occupation: Cook; Religion: Presbyterian; Age: 27 years - (in) August, 1838  
Read and Write: Yes; Native Place: Ballantrae, Ayrshire, Scotland; Father: James SPENE, innkeeper, same place (could read SPEIRS)  
Mother: Margaret RODGERS; Children: Joseph Dickson SINCLAIR, 2 years on 24 Jan 1839;  
State of bodily health, strength and probable usefulness: Very Good; Remarks: Engaged by Sir J. JAMISON, Regent Vilea  
Ship: Lady Kennaway 12 Aug 1838 Volume 7

Alexander Turnbull Library MS 89-362 Bounty Immigration Index  
- photocopy of microfilm entry held in the correspondence papers of Christobel Grace Amuri Tunnington

Reel 2654

Name: Hugh SINCLAIR; Native Place: Perthshire; Occupation: Farm Overseer; Age: 28; Marital Status: Wife aged 27 and one boy. Read and Write: Both;  
Religion: Presbyterian; Remarks: Engaged by Sir J. JAMISON of Regent Vilea for £80 per year with rations; Remarks: No complaints

*Sydney Herald 13 Aug 1838 Shipping News*

The 'Lady Kennaway' arrived yesterday from Leith and the Downs, with 283 Scotch emigrants, consisting of agricultural labourers, mechanics, &c. They are composed of 106 married persons, 18 single men, 22 single women, and 139 children of various ages; amongst the males there are 38 mechanics and 33 agricultural labourers. They appear to be a superior description of emigrants, and have arrived in a very creditable state. By the 'Lady Kennaway' we learn that the 'Durham' had sailed from Leith with emigrants for Hobart Town and Sydney, and that the 'William Roger' was to leave Greenock in May, with a similar cargo for this port. The 'Lady Kennaway' spoke to 'Java' from London to Madras on the 6<sup>th</sup> July, all well. Agents for the 'Lady Kennaway', Messrs Montefiores & Co. The number of deaths on board the 'Lady Kennaway' during her passage, were seven infants, and seven were born – making the number that arrived in the colony the same as that embarked. The following is the list of trades and callings of the emigrants:- Farm servants 2, Tailors 2, Masons 12, Housemaids 13, Overseers 4, Blacksmiths 4, Joiners 7, Housecarpenters 4, Ploughmen 5, Shoemakers 2, Labourers 18, Shepherds 2, Dairy Maids 3, Smith and Farrier 1, Midwife 1, Stable boy 1, Stay-makers 2, Turner and Glazier 1, Farm overseer 1, Total – 283 consisting of married men and women, 106 Children 187, Single men 18, Single women 22, Mechanics 38, Agriculturalists 33. The whole of the emigrants are in excellent health, and on the ship being brought up, gave three hearty cheers for the prosperous termination of their voyage. One of them, who stood in the way of the chain cable while it was being paid out, was unceremoniously lifted from his feet and pitched down below, fortunately without any material injury.

*The Colonist 18 Aug 1838*

The emigrants per the 'Lady Kennaway' were landed on Wednesday last, and are now at the barracks behind Government House. Several individuals of their number have obtained employment already; intending applicants for free servants would need to lose no time in coming forward to engage such as they may wish for.

*The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser 18 Aug 1838*

The Undermentioned Emigrants with their Families who arrived in the 'Lady Kennaway', under the Supintendence of Dr Waugh, have been landed at the Immigrants Buildings, in Bent-street; and Persons desirous of Engaging their Services are requested to apply to the Superintendent at the Buildings. Agricultural Labourers 14, Blacksmiths 6, Carpenters 4, Coachmakers 1, Coach smiths 1, Cabinet makers 3, Dyer and Scourer 1, Farm overseers 4, Gardeners 4, House Servants 3, Joiners 3, Ploughmen 2, Quarryman 1, Stonemasons 9, Shoemakers 4, Sawyers 6, Shepherd 1, Tailors 3, Turner and Glazier 1, Woolsorter 1 – Total 72. Unmarried females – Childrens Maid 1, Dressmakers 3, General Servant 1, House maids 3, Midwife 1, Nursery Maids 7 – Total 16. J. Denham Pinnock, Immigration Office, August 17, 1838.

*The Colonist 5 Sep 1838 Original Correspondence – The 'Lady Kennaway'*

To the Editor of the Colonist 4 September 1838. Sir, Among the immigrants lately arrived here by the 'Lady Kennaway' from Scotland, was a family of the name of Robertson, consisting of ten persons, (the father, seven sons and two daughters). Of these five or six found suitable employment shortly after their arrival; the remaining four or five individuals, including the father and two little boys were informed on Saturday last, that rations would be issued to them no longer by the Government, and we have been assured a few days ago by the party most deeply concerned, the father of the family to which we have just alluded, that the barbarous threat has been fully carried in execution. Thus are these simple and confiding people, who left their home under the auspices, as they imagined, of Her Majesty's Government, cast off friendless and penniless for aught the Government functionaries care, to starve on a foreign shore. If this is the way in which emigrants who happen not to be fortunate enough to find eligible employment immediately on their arrival, are to be treated by our men in office, I fear we shall find it difficult in future to induce shepherds and labourers to quit their native land. Your most obedient servant, Timothy Tod

*The Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser 22 Mar 1839 Advertisement*

Hugh Sinclair late of Sinclair's Hotel Dundee. Most respectfully intimates that he has rented that House No.5 Terry's Buildings, Pitt Street, which he has opened as a Private Hotel, and assures Gentlemen and Families visiting Sydney, that they will there find all the convenience of an Hotel, combined with the comforts of a Private Lodging, and trusts that by moderation of charges, and assiduous attention, to merit a share of Public Patronage. A Good Coach House and Stable on the Premises.

*Sydney Herald 18 Nov 1839 Shipping Intelligence – Departures*

For New Zealand, same day, the schooner 'Success', Captain Catlin with sundries. Passengers, Mr Hallket, Mr Jones, Mr and Mrs Todds and two children, Mr Taylor, Mr Ray, Mr Crawford, Mr Sinclair, Mr Emsley and Mr Rankin.

*New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator 02 May 1840 Shipping Intelligence*

List of passengers in the cutter "Success," Captain Catlin, Sydney:- Mr J. C. Crawford and servant, Dr Henry Taylor, Mr R. Tod, lady, two children, and servant, Messrs W. Rea, Robert Jenkins, Thomas Jones and Henry Hesketh.

*New South Wales Registrar – Burial Entry Number 1631 Volume 2*

<http://querty.geek.nz/reference/TunningtonTaylorAlexanderSinclairMiscNotes2.pdf>

Joseph Sinclair of Sydney aged 5 years buried 13 March 1842 Parish of St. Andrews, Sydney in the County of Cumberland, New South Wales by Rev. J. McGarvie

*Nelson: A History of Early Settlement by Ruth M. Allan(1965) page30*

... James Coutts Crawford, came to Nelson to buy land... Towards the end of 1839 he sailed thence in the cutter *Success* for Port Nicholson; he disembarked at Mana Island, and walked overland... Mr Arthur Elmslie took Crawford and one Hugh Sinclair across the Strait in his open boat to his home at Onahou.

*The New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator – Wellington Jurors 1844*

Hugh Sinclair, labourer, Willis Street

*St Paul's Church, Wellington – Baptisms 1840-1852 – Alexander Turnbull Library Reference Micro MS 252 Reel 1*

Agnes Sinclair, born 19 Aug 1845, baptized 23 Feb 1848, dau of Hugh & Agnes Sinclair of Port Nicholson, Settler  
Duncan Sinclair, born 19 Aug 1845, baptized 23 Feb 1848, son of Hugh & Agnes Sinclair of Port Nicholson, Settler  
Elizabeth Sinclair, born 10 Nov 1848, baptized 13 Dec 1848, dau of Hugh & Agnes Sinclair of Port Nicholson, Settler

*Supplement to the New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 10 Feb 1847*

List of all persons qualified to serve as Jurors for the District of Port Nicholson for the year 1847  
Hugh Sinclair, Wai nui o mate, labourer

*List of Persons qualified to serve as Jurors for the District of Port Nicholson – New Munster Gazette Issue 4 dated 17 Feb 1848*

Hugh Sinclair, Lowry Bay, labourer

*List of Persons qualified to serve as Jurors for the District of Port Nicholson – New Munster Gazette Issue 2 dated 15 Feb 1849*

Hugh Sinclair, Lowry Bay, labourer

*List of Persons qualified to serve as Jurors for the District of Port Nicholson - New Munster Gazette Issue 2 dated 9 Feb 1850*

Hugh Sinclair, Lowry Bay, labourer

*List of Unclaimed letters, for the quarter ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 1850 - New Munster Gazette Issue 5 dated 12 Apr 1850*  
Hugh Sinclair

*List of Persons qualified to serve as Jurors for the District of Port Nicholson for the year 1852 – New Munster Gazette Issue 4 dated 11 Feb 1852*  
Hugh Sinclair, Wai-nui-O-mata, labourer

*Wellington Independent 20 April 1853 Election of Superintendent*

To I. E. Featherston, Esq., M.D. – Wellington 08 November 1852. Sir, - An Act conferring Constitutional Government having passed the Imperial Parliament, whereby this Settlement is constituted a separate Province, and is invested with, among other privileges, that of electing its own Superintendent, We, the Undersigned, request that you will allow yourself to be put in nomination for that office. Your untiring and disinterested exertions in behalf of your fellow-colonists; your successful endeavours to obtain compensation for those who had suffered so heavily from the untoward events that attended the foundation of the Company's Settlements; the powerful aid that you have lent to the obtaining of Representative Institutions for the colony, and the general respect which you are held by this community, point you out as the proper person to fill the post of the principal officer of government in this Settlement. We anxiously hope for the sake of the public interest, which cannot be served more efficiently than by yourself, that you will not hesitate in acceding to our wishes. We have the honor to be, Sir, Your very obedient servants,

Charles Clifford, JP; William Fitzherbert, JP; James Kelham, JP; William Barnard Rhodes, JP; William Lyon; James Smith; James Blyth; Michael Quin; C. Von Alzdorf; W. S. Loxley; Robert Waitt; John Varnham; John Gunn; George Edwards; John McBeth; J. H. Wallace; Thomas McKenzie; John Wallace; B. Hayden; Edward Roe; John Sutherland; John Yates; Gilbert Pickett; W. E. Vincent; F. A. Duncan; William Lyall; F. Atchison; William Natrass; A. Cockroft; William Taylor; Stephen Hartley; R. Armstrong; Peter Clake; W. F. Mason; John Dorset; W. M. Bannatyne & Co.; N. Levin; C. W. Schultze; James Wallace; John King; J. H. Gillard; John Barr; James Petherick; William Dorset; William Allen; E. G. Osgood; William Inglis; R. W. Patten; Henry Martin; John Walden; Joseph Torr; James Richards; George Blaker; John Hoskins; S. Poulter; J. Davidson; Samuel Lucas; George Freeman; James Vaughan; William Mason; William Wrafflin; Thomas Ashbolt; E. J. Ellerm; W. Brigham; H. Barthrop; J. Sancto; Samuel Cooper; Robert Lyall; Charles Payton; H. P. Winchester; H. B. Ellerm; George Stratton; J. Meal; B. R. Stevenson; W. Churchill; W. Tenanat; Samuel Bowler; B. M. Pereira; David Williams; Thomas Paton; George Thomas; John Hemmings; D. Williams; S. Stockbridge; Henry Ashton; William Simpson; D. Le Compt; John Pickering; Elijah Wilton; James Calder; Joseph Lambert; James Hallet; Charles Stevens; W. Finimore, Charles Bruce; George Wright; William Watts; George Stratford; John Wallace; William Read; Edward Eaton; Robert Weatherhead; H. Bragg; L. Levy; George Jeffs; James Gordon; D. Isaacs; Salvator Cemino; Thomas Richardson Snr; C. N. Wright; James Lonsdale; **[Wainuiomata men: Robert Neil; David Dick; Hugh Sinclair; William Prouse; Richard Prouse]**; James McDonnell; David Canning; W. S. Swainson; J. T. Tylee; Thomas Scott; Adam Keir; Cornelius Campion; Duncan Frazer; John Frazer; F. O. Donell; William Watt; Henry Churton, JP; George Rees, JP; Moses Campbell, JP; John Nixon, JP; John Handley; John Mills; George Taylor; Charles Sinnett; Robert Park, C.E.; James Cathro; John Gotty; J. M. Richards; John Cameron; John P. Watt; A. Green; Thomas Waters; John Day; W. J. Holder; James Alexander; John McGregor; Dan. McGregor; Thomas Edes; J. Jones; Peter Hume; J. B. Harding; George Roberts; W. Hair; W. Whybrow; John Hogg; Andrew Reid; James McDonald; James Broughton; W. Adamson; Thomas Taylor; G. McGregor; John Cameron; N. E. Beamish; C. J. Cresswell; Donald Gollan; John Hill; M. Gaskin; George Hill; Henry Phillip; Joseph Tucker; Thomas Frethy; Robert Donaldson; Sidney Hurst; William Skee; W. McDowall; William Hercus; Hart Udy; William Humphreys; J. Daysh; W. H. Hall; F. McKenzie; J.

Southie; Stephen Fagan; G. Sykes; Thompson; D. Strattan; D. Hughey; W. Tonks; G. Young; T. Crowther; C. Brown; S. Philp; W. Lumsden; James Sim; W. Packham; J. Sanders; T. J. Drake; Andrew Brown; James Mitchell; T. Floyd; W. Best; J. Mitchell; J. Robinson; G. Maxted; W. Saunders; J. Burrows, Andrew Brown; W. Shearer; W. Bromley; Henry London; Joseph Bowler; John Nicoll; William Couper; Thomas Taylor; David Howell; William Bowler Snr; G. W. Mace; James Williamson; Robert Marshall; Thomas Lockyer; James E. Watkin; John Evans; James Mitchell; William Norgrove; Samuel Vennell; Charles E. Jackway; G. H. Stuart; Eli Allen; Thomas Gilbert; George Packman; C. H. Stutfield; Charles Redman; Charles Smart; Thomas Fairbrass; Donald Ferguson; Donald Cameron; George Webb; Richard Spiers; John Clark; John Cameron; W. Norgrove, John Marks; William Neal; William Leighton; James Wilson; Thomas Murray; P. Monaghan; Smith Furness; David Wilkinson; Joseph Burne; J. H. Stevens; William Bishop; John Tompkins; William Hughes; John Tompkins Jnr; William Sexton; James Gullery; Abraham Brown; William Dew; John Cook; Thomas Minifie; C. Medhurst; Charles Wilton; Arthur Hayward; Thomas Florence; Isaac Lovelock; John Minifie; Edward Prince Snr; John Fowles; John Banks; John Plimmer; John Shallis; William Cattel; James Reid; James Mudford; James Moreen; Thomas Jackson; James Jackson; F. Bolton; David Smith; Francis Jones; John Stevens; M. Bailey; W. Meech; W. Nash; Thomas Barben; Peter Laing; J. Bryant; Joseph Clapham; William Bowler Jnr; William Flyger; Kenneth Bethune; J. J. Curtis; Thomas McWilliams; P. Buckthought; Burges Sayer; John Goldfinch; George Richardson; Joseph Hartman; George Richardson; Thomas Richardson; Robert Jenkins; George Paine; E. Marshall; H. J. Brown; James Eaton; Thomas Howell; Thomas Waters; George Waters; David Kinneburgh; Thomas Jefferies; H. W. Rotermund; George Mould; Richard Milner; Thomas Fraser of Mana; Alexander Fraser of Mana; John Gill; John Gooder; Edward Chew; J. H. Light; James Firth; Edward Daniel JP; P. Cheyne; Thomas Poad; William Hall; Joseph Hall; Robert McAudley; Octavius Smith; C. G. Crosse; John McHardie; Alexander Monk; John Sellars; William Golder; George Wilkie; Thomas Worsley; William Earp; George Gries; John Downey; William Hughes; Peter Bruce; John Daysh; Alexander Yule; Samuel Gaskin; William Scarrow; W. T. Owen; John Cadaghan; William Bowden; Daniel Peck; Samuel Western; Thomas Shirley; Robert Detchon; Alexander McLarkin; Jonathan Manning; Mrs Avery; John Higgings; A. Masters; W. M. Whitewood; H. G. Ray; William Allen; Henry Witt; George Beachen; N. Oxenham; J. McNalley; James Burcham; C. E. Luxford; Henry Stilling; George Swinton; George Buck; Thomas Mason; A. Renall, John Liverton; W. Judd; David Benge; W. Tannahill; Thomas Robertson; Richard Clifton; Francis Whiteman; George Whiteman; Peter Trotter; Henry Popham; William Jones; Alexander McCoy; Henry Shirley; Duncan Robertson; John Sheerin; Samuel Burnett; Charles Mabey; G. Spackman; William Welsh; James Manson; Abraham Harris; James Riley; James Osmond; W. Crowe; James Robertson; W. G. Andrews; James Collins; Thomas Arnold; Edgar Hill; Walter Hodder; John McKenzie; Henry Burling; W. Mein Smith JP; Thomas P. Russell; Henry Russell; William Ardey; George Morgan; John Aildebrand; Joseph Kelley; James Walker; C. B. Bidwell; C. J. Pharazyn; Angus McMaster; Hugh Morrison; J. H. Northwood; Samuel Revans; C. B. Borlase; W. H. Donald; R. Collins; John Tully; Richard Barton; Daniel Riddiford; Richard Baker; A. de B. Brandon; William Kirton; Francis Logden, MD; G. C. Monteith; C. A. Vallance; Carl Schaffer; J. C. James; William McKenzie; F. Warburton; George Crawford; George Fellingham; John Martin; Samuel Robinson; Alexander Sutherland; James Stoddart; Walter Jackson; John Anderson; William Broadbent; J. Jones; J. W. Jones; J. Ashmore; Richard Wakelin; Robert Bould; John Johnston JP; J. D. Parnell; Daniel Wright; Alexander Nutrice; Robert Donald; James Booth; John Cristie; William Holder; Henry Atkinson; A. W. Hurst; James Kelt; John Campbell; John Webster; J. B. Reading; Charles Harris; William Cornford; C. H. Piper; William Scott; Charles Mattingley; Richard Hammond; James Baggerley; William Abbott; Alfred Hewitt; J. P. Clapham; C. R. Carter; W. Luxford Jnr; John Turner; S. Maxton; Thomas Mills; Joseph Hurley; Robert S. Cheesman; E. A. Hargreaves; George Allen; John Pearce; John Toney; W. Cannon; Hugh McKenzie; William Pike; William Thomas; R. D. Wallace; Thomas York; John Cracknell; Thomas Lowry; Joseph Pudney; Jacob Jones; Robert Lucas; William Rowett; James Williamson; Edward Cahill; Thomas Chamberlayne; Charles Harris; Samuel Farrar; D. Couper.

*Cancelled Land Scrip originally issued to New Zealand Company purchasers – Archives NZ Reference ADXS 19504 LS-W14/4/4*

Scrip No	Issued to	Exercised by
13	Magnus Manson, Lower Hutt 30 Oct 1857	Hugh Sinclair 02 Nov 1857 vide Application No.1138 – 100 acres
140	Charlotte Whitehouse, Porirua 04 Sep 1857	Hugh Sinclair 02 Nov 1857 vide Application No.1138 – 75 acres
152	James Barrow, Porirua 22 Sep 1857	Hugh Sinclair 21 Nov 1857 vide Application No.1138 – 50 acres
159	William Saunders, Porirua 31 Aug 1857	Hugh Sinclair 02 Nov 1857 vide Application No.1138 – 25 acres
164	Charles Lewes, Porirua 02 Nov 1857	Hugh Sinclair 02 Nov 1857 vide Application No.1138 – 25 acres
177	Joseph Saunders 31 Aug 1857	Hugh Sinclair 02 Nov 1857 vide Application No.1138 – 25 acres
191	John Wilmshurst 31 Aug 1857	Hugh Sinclair 02 Nov 1857 vide Application No.1138 – 50 acres

Total acres = 350

1859 Jan 08 **Document:** Conveyance Hugh Sinclair to Isabella & John McIlvride – Part of Wainuiomata Section 2

*Archives NZ Wellington Reference LS-W2/9 1860/289 - R. Park, Survey Office 29 Oct 1859 to the Commissioner of Crown Lands*

Sir, In reply to your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> August regarding division line between Messrs Sinclair and Dick of the Wai-nuiomata, I have the honor to state as follows:- Crown Grant to John Fairweather for Northern part of Section No.1, Wai-nui-o-mata, shews northern boundary to be 2600 links (see tracing No.1) contents 33 acres. The deed of conveyance shews 2600 links contents 35 acres, the actual contents being by Crown Grant dimensions, 36½ acres nearly, and deducting road 100 links wide and half road at 50 links, the contents would still remain 33¾ acres. Tracing No.2 from "Selection plan of the districts of Lowry Bay, Wai-nui-o-mata, & Orongo-rongo" scale 2 inches to a mile, without date or signature shews by scale the dimensions of No.1, to be 2500 links, instead of 2600 links, but the dimensions given in figures upon the map are the same as the Crown Grant, 2600 links, with a road between parts of Nos 1 & 2, of 100 links, reducing the width to 2550 links, although deeds to D. Dick and others give width 2600 links, and shew no road – a "right of road is reserved one chain wide through any of the sections". Tracing No.3 from the New Zealand Company's working map, entitled "Plan of part of the Harbour, Wai-nui-o-mata & Orongo-rongo districts" on a scale of 10 chains to an inch, without signature or date, shews by scale, dimensions of No.1 to be 2500 links, and has a road dotted in and coloured 100 links wide which reduces the width of the greater portion of the section to 2450 links. This is the map which has always been considered the standard, it was made by Mr Tiffen the surveyor of the district, & who marked off the west boundary of No.1 & the east boundary of No.2, at 50 chains apart in 1843 or 1844 for Lansdale and others. Tracing No.4 is from "Map of Lowry Bay and part of Harbour district" shewing a selection by "James Jackson for James Lansdale & others" (no signature or date) the dimensions being by scale apparently 26 chains by 40 chains, but the section is some 2½ chains too far east as will be seen by placing tracing No.3 over it; no roads are shewn, but a right of road is reserved. In December last year when I marked off the division between Nos 1 & 2, seeing the discrepancies existing, I with the consent of the parties themselves, and the approval of the Commissioner, laid off for Section No.1, a general width of 2550 links, same as Crown Grant, and did not make the break 2600 links, at Northern End, thus giving about ¼ acre to No.2, but as before stated Crown Grant to Fairweather shews only 33 acres, yet there is actually nearly 33½ acres after deducting roads and this piece. To make up the deficiency in quantity to No.2, reduced to 94½ acres, Mr Sinclair agreed to take Crown Land to the North of No.2. In Crown Grant to D. Dick, 45

acres is the quantity stated, but dimensions give nearly 46 acres. In Crown Grant to R. Neill, contents 20 acres, while dimensions shew 20½ acres. Signed R. Park. True copy from Mr Parks letter book in Survey Office, Wellington, George F. Swainson, 22 Aug 1860.

*Wellington Independent 18 Nov 1859 Notice – Provincial Secretary's Office, Wellington 7<sup>th</sup> November 1859*

The following persons were, on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, last past, elected Wardens for the Wai-nui-o-mata Road District. Messrs J. Grace, Chairman; H. Sinclair; J. Wood; R. Prouse, jun.; W. Fitzherbert; W. Wakeham; R. Dick; R. Neill – William Fitzherbert, Provincial Secretary.

*Archives NZ Reference LS-W2/10 1861/3 Hugh Sinclair, Wellington 03 Jan 1861 to Commissioner of Crown Lands, Wellington*

Sir, Having mortgaged my sections numbers 2, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38 in the Wai-nui-omata District to Mr George Allen you will please deliver the Crown Grant or Grants for the same to him. Yours obediently, Hugh Sinclair. Witness – Hubert Wardell, J.P.

1861 Jan 03    **Document:** Mortgage - Hugh Sinclair to George Allen – Wainuiomata Sections 2, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38

*Archives NZ Reference LS-W2/10 1861/27 David Lewis, NZ Company's Land Claims Commissioner to Jonas Woodward, Provincial Treasurer 01 Feb 1861*

Note: There is a plan of the land in the file.

Sir, In accordance with the enclosed Copy of an award of arbitration between the Provincial Government and Mr Hugh Sinclair, I have the honor respectfully to request you will pay to Mr Hugh Sinclair the sum of seventy five pounds sterling.

Enclosure: Award of arbitration between the Provincial Government and Mr Hugh Sinclair, in respect of portion of Section No.2 Wai-nui-o-mata district, given up by Mr Sinclair for the formation of road, and completion of the property of Mr David Dick in terms of his Crown Grant. We the undersigned hereby declare and award, that in order to complete the land granted to the above-named David Dick, and for the formation of a public road through the district, the above-named Hugh Sinclair has been and is hereby required to give up a piece of land on the Western side of his section, measuring thirty four chains in length by one chain in width, and also a piece at the northern end of the said western side measuring six chains in length by one chain in width, making together four acres or thereabouts. We also find that the section of the said Hugh Sinclair had been previously reduced by a piece having been taken off on the same (the western) side of the section, measuring thirty four chains in length by half a chain in width and containing one and three quarter acres or thereabouts. And we therefore declare and award that in consequence of his being deprived of the above described five and three quarters acres of land, that he is entitled to receive the sum of seventy five pounds sterling in lieu and as compensation for the same. J. Woodward and John Ward, Arbitrators.

Enclosure: Hugh Sinclair, Wainui O Mata Valley 18 Dec 1860

Sir, Having agreed to give up to the Board of Wardens for this district & Mr David Dick, nearly six acres of Land belonging to me in Section No.2 – so as to end further dispute about the right of road down the valley in consideration of having done so, I agree to accept the sum of seventy five pounds sterling.



Enclosure: John Grace, Wainui O Mata Valley 17 Dec 1860

Sir, I am requested on the part of the Board of Wardens for this district to represent to you, as Chief Land Commissioner for the Province of Wellington, the case of Mr Hugh Sinclair in his having given up to the Board and Mr David Dick nearly six acres of cleared land included in his Section No.2. It appears that Mr David Dick through some mistake in the Old Survey & for which Mr D. Dick has a Crown Grant of the greater part of the said six acres & no reserve for roads being made. The Board in order to settle with Mr David Dick & to avoid a Law Suit took upon themselves to make the above arrangement which was the only course left open to them, so as to secure a right of road through Mr D. Dick's land. Now the Board trust as Mr Hugh Sinclair has been so good as to allow them to settle with Mr D. Dick, in the manner above mentioned, that you will on the part of Government make him a fair & reasonable compensation which the Board think him legally entitled to & which opinion they believe agrees with Mr Parks ideas, when last out making the Survey of boundaries between the said parties.

*Archives NZ Reference LS-W2/11 1862/327 Hugh Sinclair, Wainui Omata 09 Oct 1862 to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Wellington*

Sir, In the event of Mr Henry Jackson requiring the Services of two men for the purpose of acting as Surveyors men in the Survey of my land as applied for (whether 10s or 5s) in the Wainui Omata district – I undertake to supply him immediately on his demand with two men at the usual rate of wages viz 5s per day.

*Wellington Independent 3 Jan 1862 To Road Contractors*

Tenders will be received by the Wai-nui-o-mata Board of Wardens, for the construction of 85 chains of New Road, commencing on the Main Trunk Line, in Section No.1, the property of Mr D. Dick, and running in an easterly direction into Mr Moore's Valley, the works to be finished within six months from the date of acceptance of tender. Plans and Specifications to be seen at the house of Mr Hugh Sinclair, Wai-nui-o-mata Valley. Tenders to be addressed to Mr John Grace, Chairman of the Board, up to 12 o'clock, noon, on Saturday, the 8th February next. Wai-nui-o-mata Valley, 2nd January 1862.

*Wellington Independent 19 Jul 1862 Matthew Cook's Estate*

All persons having claims against this estate, are requested to forward the amounts of their respective accounts, addressed to the Executor, Mr Hugh Sinclair, care of Mr A. de B. Brandon, Solicitor, Wellington, and all persons indebted to the said Estate are hereby required forthwith to pay, to the said Executor, their several accounts. July 18, 1862.

*Wellington Independent 23 Sep 1862 Coroner's Inquest*

An accident happened in the Wai-nui-o-mata District last month, particulars of which have only just come to our knowledge. A man named James Riddels, who came out in 1840 from Connaught, Ireland, in the ship Bengal Merchant, met with his death under the following circumstances. He had been engaged some little while doing odd jobs for Mr Hugh Sinclair, and appeared at times to be weak in his intellect. On the morning of the 11th August, he went out to work in the bush, and not returning in the afternoon, one of Mr Sinclair's children went in search of him, when the unfortunate man was found dead, having been killed by the falling of a tree. The tree he had been cutting down had evidently been caught in the fork of another, and while the deceased was engaged in clearing it, it must have fallen before he was prepared, and so crushed him. Dr Boor, the Coroner for the Hutt, held an inquest next day, when a verdict of accidental death was returned. We shall be very glad if country coroners would favor us with a note of the inquests they hold, as otherwise the circumstances sometimes do not reach us, and it is very desirable for the sake of relatives in England or elsewhere, that deaths of this character should be recorded. In this case, the deceased was at one time a land holder in Wellington, Rangitikei, and Wanganui; whether he was so at the time of his decease we do not know.

*Wellington Independent 6 Dec 1862 To Road Contractors*

To be let, the metalling and forming thirty three and a half chains of road, commencing at the Waiwetu road and ending at the foot of the Wainui-o-mata Hill road. Specifications to be seen at the house of Mr H. Sinclair, Wainui-o-mata Valley. Tenders to be addressed to Mr J. Grace, Chairman of the Board of Wardens, Wainui-o-mata Valley, up to 12 o'clock, noon, on Saturday next, the 13<sup>th</sup> of December. Wainui-o-mata Valley, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1862.

*Wellington Independent 10 Jan 1863 Subscriptions to the Lancashire Relief Fund*

From Wainuiomata District: Mr Grace £1, Mrs Grace £1, Robert Neill 5s, Charles Collins, senr. 5s, James Gorrie 5s, Richard Prouse 10s, William Prouse £1, Mr Wakeham 10s, Alfred Johnson 5s, F. R. Crowther 10s, Hugh Sinclair £2, Miss Sinclair 10s, A. G. Willoughby 5s, D. S. Maclaggan 5s, David Dick £1, John Dick jnr. 5s, John Wood 5s – total £10.

*Report of Coroner's Inquest dated 07 May 1863 – Archives NZ Wellington Reference IA 1 1863/441*

Hutt 7<sup>th</sup> May 1863 The Coroner to the Honorable Attorney General

Sir, Herewith I have the honor to transmit particulars of five inquests held by me from 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1862 to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1863. Being the only medical practitioner in the district, and called to cases of sudden death on which Inquests are held, and on which my evidence is required I have not thought it advisable to make any return of fees for medical evidence. I beg to be furnished with parchment forms of Inquests together blank warrants and summonses and I have the honor to remain Your obedient servant, Leonard Boor, Coroner, Hutt.

Information of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on the behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen touching the death of James Riddle, at the School house, Wainuiomata in the district of the Hutt, on the twelfth day of August one thousand eight hundred and sixty two before Leonard George Boor one of the Coroner of the said Colony, on an Inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of James Riddle then and there lying dead, as follows to wit:-

Agnes Sinclair, being sworn saith that I am daughter of Hugh Sinclair residing at Wainuiomata. I knew James Riddle. I was out with the cows on the evening of Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> August and I saw the body of James Riddle about a quarter mile from my fathers house, it was under a tree, the tree across. I thought he was dead. I went back home and to Mr Dick and told them. Robert Dick and others returned with me they moved the tree away. James Riddle left my fathers house in the morning to fall bush. He went alone.

Robert Dick being duly sworn saith: I am a settler in the Valley of Wainuiomata. I knew James Riddle. On the evening of Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> August between 5 and six o'clock my sister told me that James had been killed. I went with my brother William Dick into the bush and saw the body of James Riddle bent in the kneeling position with a tree across the shoulders he was quite dead but the body was not cold. I cut the tree away from the body and placed on the back. My father, David Dick was with me.

John Sinclair being sworn saith: I am a son of Hugh Sinclair and live in Wainuiomata. Last evening about ten o'clock I saw the body of James Riddle by the edge of the bush. I assisted John Wood, George Wood and my brother Duncan Sinclair to carry the body to the school house. James Riddle was in my father's employ. I last saw him alive on the morning of Monday.

*Wellington Independent 03 Oct 1863 Election of Wardens – Wai-nui-o-mata District*

Provincial Secretary's Office, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 1863. Notice is hereby given that it has been duly certified under the hand of the Chairman, that a meeting of the rate-payers of the Wai-nui-o-mata district was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst., when the following persons were duly elected to serve as Wardens. W. Fitzherbert, H. Sinclair, W. Wakeham, C. Collis, Jun., D. Dick, J. Grace, Chairman. – J. Woodward, Acting Provincial Secretary.

*Wellington Independent 21 Nov 1863 Resident Magistrate's Court, Wellington*

(Before H. St. Hill, Esq., R.M.) Matthew Cook v. Hugh Sinclair. This was an action to show cause why he detained certain cattle, horses &c., bequeathed to the plaintiff by his father, the late Matthew Cook. Dismissed; the Court having no jurisdiction.

*Wellington Independent 28 Nov 1863 To Road Contractors*

Tenders are invited for the Formation of One Hundred and Sixty-three Chains of the Wai-nui-o-mata Valley Road. The work is divided into Three Contracts and parties tendering may tender for one or all. No.1 Contract comprises 55 chains; No.2 Contract comprises 56 chains; No.3 Contract comprises 52 chains. Plans and specifications may be seen at the Engineer's Office, Wellington, and at the residence of Mr H. Sinclair, Wainui-o-mata, who will give all necessary information. Tenders will be received by the Board of Wardens, until noon of Saturday, Dec 12, 1863, at the School House, Wainui-o-mata. Each Tender must be accompanied by the names of two sureties, who will be required to give bond for the due performance of the work. By request of the Board of Wardens. – J. Woodward, Acting Provincial Secretary. November 27, 1863.

*Wellington Independent 26 Jul 1864*

To road contractors and sawyers. To be let by tender, the widening of four points on the Wai-nui-o-mata Hill Road. Also, the sawing of about twelve thousand feet of timber. Specifications to be seen at the house of Mr H. Sinclair, Wai-nui-o-mata Valley. Tenders to be addressed to the Chairman of the Wai-nui-o-mata Board of Wardens, and sent in not later than 11 o'clock a.m., on the 1st day of September next. Wai-nui-o-mata Valley 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1864

*Wellington Independent 07 Mar 1865 To Road Contractors*

Tenders will be received by the Wainui-o-mata Board of Wardens for the formation of two miles of new road down the Wainui-o-mata Valley, commencing at or near the Wainui-o-mata River, and extending to the South. Contractors may either tender for one mile or the whole distance. Plans and specifications to be seen at the house of Mr H. Sinclair, Wainui-o-mata Valley. Tenders to be addressed to Mr Grace, Chairman of the Board, and sent in on or before Saturday, the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. by 12 o'clock at noon. ALSO to be let by tender, the making of various portions of new road up Moor'es Valley. Specifications to be seen at the house of Mr H. Sinclair. Tenders to be addressed as above. Wainui-o-mata Valley, March 6, 1865.

*New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 8 Mar 1865 To Road Contractors*

Tenders will be received by the Wainuiomata Board of Wardens for the formation of two miles of new road down the Wainuiomata Valley, commencing at or near the Wainuiomata river and extending to the South. Contractors may either tender for one mile or the whole distance. Plans and specifications to be seen at the house of Mr H. Sinclair, Wainuiomata Valley. Tenders to be addressed to Mr Grace, Chairman of the Board, and sent in on or before Saturday, the 18th inst., by 12 o'clock, at noon. Also to be let by tender. The making of various portions of new road up Moore's Valley. Specifications to be seen at the house of Mr H. Sinclair. Tenders to be addressed as above. Wainuiomata Valley 4th March 1865.

*Evening Post 30 Aug 1865*

Public Notice, Crown Lands Office, Wellington 30th August 1865. Notice is hereby given, that the Block of Land contained within the following boundaries, viz:- North, by John Sheerin's selection of 60 acres, by D. Hughey's and E. and J. Russells' applications for 5s land in the Hutt District, and by Sections Nos. 63, 55, 37 and 35, in the Upper Mungaroa Block; East, by a line from Section No. 35, Upper Mungaroa Block, to Section No. 73, Wainuiomata District; South-west, by land purchased by H. Sinclair, and thence by a line to the eastern boundary of Section No. 3, Lowry Bay; and West, by the boundary of W. Fitzherbert's selections, and by Section No. 42, Hutt District, excepting Sections Nos. 28,29,30,31,32 and 33, Wainuiomata District - will be open for purchase and selection at this office on and after Wednesday, the 27th day of September next, under the Land Regulations of the Province of Wellington. A plan of the land is open for inspection at this office. Wm. Holmes, For the Commissioner of Crown Lands.

*Wellington Independent 21 Dec 1865 The Wai-Nui-O-Mata*

(To the Editor of the Wellington Independent) Sir, Now that the grand *korero* is over, and you may probably have more chance of a holiday, and feel inclined for a pleasant ride, jump on horse and take some of your engineering friends with you, and go to the valley of Wai-nui-o-mata. After crossing the river, keep down the main road, just finished by Mr Wood, and you will come to a little bridge. Take a look at it. Now, I know nothing of bridges, and consequently, will leave my totara, rimu, and black birch friend to speak for himself, and it strikes me he will be there many a year to do so. I must apologise for taking up your valuable time and space, but if you come you may see what can be done for less than a thousand a year. This bridge was built by Mr Hugh Sinclair, of Wainui-o-mata. I am, sir, in the words of an old blue jacket, *palman meruit ferat*. Colonist. [Mr Sinclair is one of the oldest settlers in this Province, and being a practical man, his services must be of considerable advantage to the district in which he resides – Ed. W.I.]

*Wellington Independent 13 Oct 1866 A School in Danger*

To the Editor of the Wellington Independent. Wai-nui-o-mata, Oct. 6th, 1866. Sir, - Seeing in the *Advertiser* of the 3rd of October, a letter from a Mr R. Prouse, in which he makes so direct an attack on myself as there can be no doubt as to who he means by the "Old Settler," I feel that I should be losing all self respect if I do not at once shew to you and the public how utterly foolish and misdirected are his wild hits at me. I beg to give you in figures the amounts raised for the erection of the school and teacher's house at the original cost, so that the public can judge for themselves. Six of the settlers deriving benefit from the school, each share £8 15s 8d - £52 14s; H. Sinclair for one year at same rate - £1 14s 3d. This is the amount they pay for five years - £54 8s 3d. Donations from those deriving no benefit - Mr W. Fitzherbert, £5; Mr J. Grace, £5; Mr J. Moore, £5; Mr H. Sinclair, £7 1s 5d; Mr J. McIlvride and others, £2; and in addition to this the amount paid by private scholars (about £20 more) making a total of £24 1s 5d. Board of Wardens in six years, £60; H. Sinclair, four years at £7 per annum, £28; total - £166 9s 8d. Government equivalent, £166 9s 8d; total - £332 19s 4d. Cost of buildings at first, £192 19s 4d; balance, £140. Deduct the whole amount they have paid, £54 8s 3d, leaves a balance of £85 11s 9d. This will shew that the six have no claim whatever on the buildings at the end of five years. Will Mr Prouse inform the "Old Settler" what is to be done with the surplus at the end of five years of the buildings are allowed to go to ruin, and how, with all his knowledge, he can make this to be a one-sided statement. Mr Prouse says, and here he makes an incorrect statement, "We paid for the half of the buildings." Does Mr Prouse make out that £54 8s 3d is the half of £192 19s 4d, the cost of the two buildings, because if so he had better go to school with his children and learn to figure better, and respect the master who can teach both him and them. Mr Prouse seems much hurt because the "Old Settler" will not give away his property after Mr P's fashion. "Old Settler" is sorry to have lost the confidence of such a good man, but at the same time, as Mr Prouse confesses that he has been abundantly blessed both in store and basket, "Old Settler" will be greatly obliged not to be bothered for seven pounds every year to educate this good man's family, if it is no charity. Mr Prouse says, we use every exertion in our power to educate our children, surely he forgets what persuasion was necessary from time to time by Messrs Fitzherbert, Grace, and others, to point out to him and others how blind they were to their own interests; and that they were to get education for their families for a mere nothing, before any deed was signed, or even thought of. He says, "I failed in my undertaking." How can that be, when the building has been used all along for what it was intended? The next mistake, relating to the clause in the deed, is:- He says that, "As I had got the money I told them they might whistle for it." If he does not remember, I do, that I offered them back their money, and agreed that, instead of two years, I would make it three; and at that all seemed satisfied. If Mr Prouse will take the trouble to go and look at the deed, he will find that the property is transferred over to trustees for ever, for educational purposes, and what more does he want? And whose fault will it be if the school falls to the ground? The reason the clause was inserted was, that it was well known how little education was valued, and how soon all previous attempts at raising a school had failed. He says in his letter, "About wild boars getting tame by altering the deed; I did not give my ground to tame wild boars, and for that reason they may remain wild for ought I care." He mentions the clause as one of "old settlers' tricks." I can tell him another of them, i.e., lodging and boarding his (Mr P's) children in bad weather for nights and days together, for the last four years, without charge. Is it that that grieves him? And there are other tricks of the old settler, Mr P. can have whenever he likes. And now, Mr Prouse, it can be seen why you cannot keep the desks in repair and make the teacher's house habitable, when you have to pay the enormous sum of seven pounds a-year, with my help, to educate four children. With regard to the passage in the Bible that you make use of in your letter, viz:- "The Lord has promised to withhold no good from those who walk uprightly," I do not think it so applicable in the present case as one that I will refer you to, and that is the lvi chap. Isaiah, and 9,10 and 11 verses. Take the advise of a sinner, and if you have the education of your children at heart, let sleeping dogs lay, as the old saying as it; and the next time you take to letter writing in the public prints, find out your right man to attack; and if you call your letter in the *Advertiser* your true colors, you have much reason to be proud of them. - I am, &c., Hugh Sinclair, or the Old Settler.

*Wellington Independent 30 May 1867 Local and General News*

Waste Land Board – A meeting of the Waste Land Board took place at the Crown Lands Office on Tuesday afternoon. There were present Messrs Fitzherbert (chairman), Ludlam, and Hickson... An application of Mr H. Sinclair for 1000 acres of non-agricultural land at Wainui-o-mata was considered. After hearing the evidence of the chief District Surveyor on the subject, the Board decided that the block in question consisted of non-agricultural land.

*Evening Post 15 Oct 1867*

Mr G. H. Vennell held a land sale today at the stores of Mr Edward Pearce, and disposed of the following property. A block of land in the Wainuiomata District, containing 300 acres, to Mr Sinclair for 700 pounds. An acre on Tinakori Road, with dwelling-house thereon, fenced in, was purchased by Mr Sinclair for 525 pounds; and Mr Cattle bought 1808 acres in the Rangitumu Block, Wairarapa, at the rate of 5s 6d per acre.

*Wellington Independent 07 Nov 1867 Land Sale*

On Tuesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> ult., Mr G. H. Vennell held an extensive land sale at the stores of Mr Edward Pearce. There was a very good attendance of buyers, and several valuable lots were submitted to public competition. The first lot was a block of land containing 300 acres, more or less, being sections Nos. 28, 29 and 30 in the Wainui-o-mata district, which, after some spirited bidding, became the property of Mr Hugh Sinclair for £700...

*Archives NZ Archway Reference - General Inwards Correspondence to the Superintendent Wellington 1867*

Reference: ACIA 16195 WP3/22 Letter 1867/596 William Alfred Fitzherbert and others, Wainuiomata - 21 December 1867 - Reporting that the Upper Wainuiomata Road Board has examined the work done by Mr Hugh Sinclair and recommending that the balance of Mr Sinclair's account be paid. Enclosed reckoning of labour and costs for road works referred to.

*Evening Post 15 Feb 1868*

Mr Charles O'Neill, C.E., returned on Wednesday from an exploration of a line for the Wairarapa railway by the Wainuiomata. It having been reported to the committee that a line by this route would be easier, shorter, and less expensive than by any other route, they immediately gave instructions to have the same examined and reported upon, and we consider that the committee acted wisely in taking the steps, for certainly it is satisfactory to know that they are most anxious that the best line shall be chosen between Wellington and the Wairarapa Districts. As Mr O'Neill is busy preparing plans and sections of the line just explored, his report will not be laid before the committee for a day or two, but we have gathered that although some parts of the line will be comparatively easy, other parts will be very expensive. The report, however, will show the details of the whole line. Mr O'Neill was accompanied by Mr Sinclair, an old settler in the Wainuiomata, and who kindly volunteered to pioneer the way. The party left Mr Sinclair's house on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> inst., and got to Mr Burling's at Lake Wairarapa on Sunday evening, where they were very hospitably received by Mr Burling. On Monday the distance from Mr Burling's to Featherston was measured for the purpose of completing the whole length. We think the committee will now come to a decision about the route, and at once proceed with the surveys of the whole line, for the season is fast passing on, and the sooner we have the plans ready to send home the sooner will we have the capital raised, we therefore trust the committee will not lose a day in getting in the subscriptions for the survey, as the people look to them to be in earnest in the matter.

*Wellington Independent 18 Feb 1868 Wellington, Hutt and Wairarapa Railway*

Exploration of line by Wainui-o-mata. The following report by Mr Charles O'Neill, M.H.R., on the Wainui-o-mata line, was read yesterday to the Railway Committee:- Engineer's Office, Wellington, 15<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1868. Sir, I have to report that since the date of my last report, (January 31<sup>st</sup>), I have explored the country from the Wainui-o-mata Valley to Lake Wairarapa. The track taken by me is shewn by a red line on the accompanying sketch map which I have prepared, and on which are marked heights and distance at various points. I chained from the Wainuiomata to Featherston. Mr Sinclair one of the oldest settlers in the province kindly volunteered to pioneer the way. I therefore, accompanied by him and a party of men, left his house at Wainuiomata, on Thursday, the 6<sup>th</sup> inst., and arrived at Mr Burling's at Lake Wairarapa on Sunday afternoon, the 9<sup>th</sup> instant, where the party were hospitably received. On Monday we measured the distance from Burling's to Featherston. On leaving Sinclair's, we followed a track up the valley of the Wainuiomata for six miles to point marked A on plan. We then turned to the right and ascended the range, keeping on a leading spur, and got on the main ridge, which is about 1900 feet above the sea; followed the main ridge and struck off to the Orongorongo creek, which, at the point we crossed, was at an elevation of 1550 feet – from the Orongorongo, we followed a sidling eastward, to the saddle at the source of the Orongorongo, this saddle is 1950 feet above the sea. Close to this point on Friday night we camped, and the rain fell in torrents the whole night. On Saturday morning it was still wet, and the bush loaded with water. We proceeded in a north-easterly direction generally. Keeping the ridge as much as possible, until we pitched camp on the side of the range along the Wairongamai river, at an elevation of 2500 feet. On Sunday morning we proceeded to the saddle which divides the Wairongamai from the Pakuratahi, the elevation of the saddle marked B on plan is about 2200 feet, we then ascended the hill to the north of saddle B, at a point 2800 feet high – and from which there was a splendid and extensive view of the country all around – including Wellington city. From this point (Mount Sinclair) we descended to the Pickeru creek and thence to Burling's. On the following day we proceeded to Featherston. The distance from point A at the Wainuiomata to saddle B is five and a half miles, and from saddle B to Burling's, two and five-eighths miles, from Burling's to Featherston, eleven and seven-eighths miles. The distance by road from Wellington to Sinclair's is sixteen miles, making the whole distance by the route, from Wellington to Featherston forty-two miles. The altitudes given are the result of a single set of observations with the aneroid barometer, and are only to be taken as an approximation.

During the time I was exploring this route, I saw Mr Gale, C.E., engaged taking sections of the Lowry Bay range, near the present road, for the purpose of tunnelling, if necessary. By reference to the accompanying section a tunnel is shewn thirty chains long, but the gradient is too steep. Mr Gale informed me that to have a better gradient, a much larger tunnel would be required and some heavy cuttings would be necessary – hence to get through this front range the line would be costly. From Sinclair's, a line of railway could be easily formed up the Wainuiomata Valley, but the ascent is steep from the creek to the first ridge; from that point the work would be comparatively easy to saddle B, which stands at such an elevation that it would be difficult to continue a line down to the lake, and I could not see or hear of any easy opening along the lake that would lead to the saddle; still Mr Sinclair informs me that a good gradient might be got by following round some of the intervening hills between the saddle and the lake at about six miles northwards. The timber along the route is composed of rimu, rata, white pine, birch, hinau, and totara, &c. The totaras are small, and are found chiefly on the tops of the ranges. I understand that the most of the large tract of country between the Wainuiomata and Lake Wairarapa is still "unsold land." I append to this report a letter which Dr Hector kindly favored me with, giving various altitudes along the main road from Wellington to Featherston. I have pleasure in expressing my obligation to Mr Sinclair for the able assistance he afforded me. – I have, &c, Charles O'Neill, Geological Survey office, Wellington, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 1868...

*Wellington Independent 29 Feb 1868 For Sale*

Twenty prime fat bullocks in lots to suit butchers. Can be seen on any day by applying to H. Sinclair, Wainuiomata.

*Evening Post 29 Feb 1869 Local and General – Hutt Rifle Volunteers*

The above corps paraded on the racecourse, Lower Hutt, on Monday, the 17<sup>th</sup> inst., at 9 o'clock a.m., for the inspection of Lieut-Colonel Reader, who expressed himself pleased with the appearance of the members and the good order of their arms and accoutrements. Immediately after the inspection was over, the members of the company residing in the Lower Hutt, commenced the preliminary competitive firing for representatives. The morning was very unpropitious, a cold south wind blowing, with occasional squalls of rain. The weather, however, cleared up about 2 o'clock, and the firing was finished at half past five p.m. The scores were very indifferent, the highest being 50, made by Mr Duncan Sinclair. Distances 400, 500 and 600 yards, seven shots at each range. On Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup>, the Wainuiomata section of the Company (numbering 14) fired on their own ground. The day was delightfully fine, and the scoring was very satisfactory, nine of the members making 42 points and upwards. The two highest being Mr J. McIlvride, 56, and Mr W. Grace, 53. At the conclusion of the firing the party adjourned to the hospitable abode of Mr Hugh Sinclair, and partook of the good things he had provided for his visitors. Among the company present were Lieut-Col. Reader, Captains Cleland and Mills. Lieutenant Fitzherbert, Ensign Farmer, Dr Wilford, Messrs Grace, and other members of the corps. At the conclusion of the repast Colonel Reader proposed the health of their host, and adverted in a happy manner to the very sumptuous way in which they had been entertained, and we need scarcely add that it was drank in bumpers. Mr Sinclair, in returning thanks, said the oftener they came to see him the better he should like it. The rest of the day was spent in firing for sweepstakes, and as the sun dipped behind the western hills, the party dispersed homewards, and some, at least, will remember a pleasant day passed in the pretty valley of the Wainuiomata.

*Wellington Independent 02 Feb 1869 To Roadmen*

Thirty chains (more or less) of Road in the Wainuiomata Valley to be formed, including Seven Chains of Rock, according to specification. Contractors to apply to Mr Haslem, or to H. Sinclair, who will show the work on the ground. Tenders to be sent to Mr Hugh Sinclair, Wainuiomata, by 12 o'clock on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup>, 1869.

*Daily Southern Cross 31 May 1869*

Dr Hector, who visited the Wainuiomata Valley, Wellington, on Saturday, May 22, informs the 'Independent' that Messrs Sinclair and Grace have succeeded in discovering what they believe to be the reef which is the source of the specimens which have from time to time been picked from the bed of the stream and sent to the Museum for analysis, one of which yielded notable traces of gold. The reef is of blue quartz, full of mundic, and weathering to a rusty rotten quartz that looks promising. It has been found on the slope of the hill in such a position as to preclude the idea of it being only a loose block.

*Evening Post 5 Jun 1869*

The same journal says [the Independent], with reference to the late discovery of detached quartz boulders in the Wainuiomata Valley, that, since then, a main reef has been discovered in the vicinity of Orongorongo. A number of specimens have been brought into town and given to Dr Hector, for analysis. The result has not yet been ascertained. The Doctor and some friends, accompanied by J. C. Crawford, Esq., will proceed to the valley to day to inspect the locality. We may say that this reef is not in the immediate vicinity of that previously tested. This is in the Orongorongo Valley, well up in the mountain gorge, while the other was near Mr Sinclair's residence.



*Evening Post 18 Aug 1869 p3 The United Tradesman's Gold Mining Company (Registered)*

I, the undersigned William James, hereby make application to register the United Tradesman's Gold Mining Company (Registered) under the provisions of the Mining Companies Limited Liability Act, 1865; and I do solemnly and sincerely declare that the following statement is to the best of my belief and knowledge true in every particular, namely:-

1. The name and style of the company is the "United Tradesman's Gold Mining Company (Registered)".
2. The place of intended operations is at Wainuiomata, in the Province of Wellington.
3. The nominal capital of the company is 180 pounds, in 18 eighteen shares of ten pounds each.
4. The amount paid up is thirty nine pounds.
5. The name of the Manager is William James.
6. The office of the company is at Lambton Quay, in the City of Wellington.
7. The names and several residences of the shareholders, and the number of shares held by each at this date, are as follows:=-

Residents of Wellington holding 1 share: Edwin Hillard Crease, William James, George Denton, William McLean, Thomas John Mountain, James Barlow, James Barber, Benjamin Poulson, Thomas Whitehouse, Charles E. W. Willeston, James M. Batham, John Richards, George Hall, Thomas Spencer, George Cook, George Maslim.

Resident of Wainuiomata holding 1 share: Hugh Sinclair

Dated 18 Aug 1869. Witness to signature W. M. Bannatyne, Justice of the Peace

*New Zealand Gazette 1869 p451 The Perseverance Gold Mining Company, Registered.*

I, the undersigned George Bennett, hereby make application to register "The Perseverance Gold Mining Company, Registered," under the provisions of "The Mining Companies Limited Liability Act, 1865;" and I do solemnly and sincerely declare that the following statement is, to the best of my belief and knowledge, true in every particular, namely:-

1. The name and style of the Company is "The Perseverance Gold Mining Company, Registered."
2. The place of intended operations is in the Wainuiomata District, in the Province of Wellington.
3. The nominal capital of the Company is 800 pounds, in eighty shares of ten pounds each.
4. The amount already paid up is 44 pounds 10s.
5. The name of the manager is George Bennett, of the City of Wellington, Turner.
6. The office of the Company is in Old Custom-House Street, City of Wellington, at Mr Chas. Seagar's.
7. The names and several residences of the shareholders, and the number of shares held by each at this date, are as follows:-

Residents of Wellington holding 1 share: George Bennett, William Clark, George Dixon, Edward Dixon, Joe Dixon, William Kirk, Henry Quarterman, Thomas Ralph, George Richardson, Charles Seagar, Edward Seagar, James Smith, William Tustin, Samuel Waters, Patrick Alphonso Buckley

Resident of Wainuiomata holding 1 share: Hugh Sinclair

The Manager in trust for the Company holds 64 shares. Dated this twenty-seventh day of August, 1869. George Bennett, Manager. Witness to signature - R. J. Duncan, Justice of the Peace. 284.

*Evening Post 29 Aug 1870*

The dwellers in that secluded region, the Wai-nui-o-mata Valley, have of late begun to display signs of unwonted activity: a large saw-mill has been erected, and, timber being plentiful, is expected to do well; a flax-mill on an extensive scale is also in existence, and of course the produce of both is expected to find its way over the hills into the Hutt, and so on to Wellington, but how this is to be accomplished with the road in its present state is a mystery. There is, we believe, a road board for the district, which levies pretty heavy rates, but what they do with the money is not apparent. The road over the hill is in a wretched condition – ruts and puddles in all directions – and no attempt made to throw the water off it, as might easily be done. A very small amount judiciously expended would keep it in repair. On the flat in which the flax-mill is situated, matters are worse. The approach to the mill is by something which at a distance resembles a road, but on a closer inspection it proves to be a bog confined with narrow limits on either side impassable for vehicles, and not safe for horses. Two equestrians lately attempted to visit the works, but after floundering about for an hour, were forced to retrace their steps; and esteemed themselves fortunate to reach the comparatively firm ground of the road over the hill. We would advise our friends in the lonely valley to mend their ways as soon as possible, if they entertain any intention of coming out of their obscurity to mix in the trade of the Province.

*Evening Post 22 Nov 1870*

To Timber Carriers and Others. Tenders will be received up to noon of the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, for the carriage of timber from the Wainuiomata Steam Saw Mills to Wellington. For full particulars apply at the mill. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

*Evening Post 25 Jan 1871*

Hutt Market, Wednesday, 1st February. Mr James Smith has been instructed by Mr Hugh Sinclair and others to sell, at the new Stock Yards of Mr N. Valentine, 40 head prime fat cattle, 10 working bullocks with yokes, bows and chains complete, 157 fat sheep, 10,000 feet sawn timber, horses and sundry cattle. Sale of timber at 12 o'clock sharp, stock immediately after luncheon at 2 o'clock. Butchers and Graziers will consult their interests by attending this important sale.

*Wellington Independent 06 Feb 1871 Local and General News*

Upper Wainuiomata – The following persons have been elected a Board of Wardens for the Upper Wainuiomata Highway District:- Messrs W. Fitzherbert (chairman), H. Sinclair, G. Allan, R. Dick, D. Sinclair, John Mowlem.

*Wellington Independent 25 Feb 1871 Upper Wainuiomata Highway District*

Provincial Secretary's Office, Wellington, Jan 30, 1871. Notice has been given to this Office that at a meeting of ratepayers of the Upper Wainuiomata Road District, held on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1870, at the school-room, the following persons were elected as Wardens, viz:- Mr W. Fitzherbert, Chairman; Mr H. Sinclair; Mr G. Allan; Mr R. Dick; Mr D. Sinclair; Mr John Mowlem. – A. Follett Halcombe, Provincial Secretary.

*Wellington Independent 29 Aug 1871 To Builders and Contractors*

The Proprietor of the Wai-nui-o-Mata Steam Saw Mill is ready to receive orders for any quantity of Rimu, Hinau, or Red Pine, plain or figured, of the best quality in the colony. Heart of Birch suitable for railway sleepers, bridge planking, piles, &c., any quantity and size, up to two feet square, and 60 feet long. The undersigned wishes to draw attention to the fact that for any of the above purposes the heart of Birch is the best wood in New Zealand, being far preferable to Totara; the wear and tear it will stand either in or out of the earth or water being enormous. The undersigned has in his possession wood of that description that has been in water and exposed to the weather for 28 years, which is as good as ever. The good qualities of this timber seem to be little known by our engineers. Hugh Sinclair. Wai-nui-o-Mata, 28th August.

*Evening Post 11 Nov 1871*

Our readers will regret to hear that Mr Hugh Sinclair, of Wainui-o-mata, has met with an accident which resulted in his death. We are obliged to the police for a copy of a telegram received by them on the subject. It is as follows:- "Hugh Sinclair, of Wainui-o-mata, found dead on the road this morning ; fell from his horse." A constable started this morning from the Hutt, to enquire into the sad affair, and, we understand, an inquest will be held.

*Wellington Independent 13 Nov 1871 Local and General News*

The Late Mr Sinclair. – One of two lamentable deaths we have to chronicle to-day, is that of Mr Hugh Sinclair, of the Wainuiomata. A telegram was received by the police on Saturday announcing that the deceased gentleman was found dead on the road to his residence, evidently having been killed by a fall from his horse. Many of the old settlers in the town, with whom Mr Sinclair had had dealings and conversations only a few hours before, received the intelligence with feelings of deep regret.

*Wellington Independent 14 Nov 1871 Death*

On the 11<sup>th</sup> November, at Wainui-o-mata, Mr Hugh Sinclair, settler, aged 61yrs.

*Wellington Independent 14 Nov 1871 Local and General News*

The late Mr Hugh Sinclair – We have already recorded the sudden death of an old and well-known settler, Mr Hugh Sinclair, of Wainuiomata. Mr Sinclair was in town on business on Friday last, and on proceeding from the Hutt to his own residence on the same night, during the dreadful southeaster that raged at the time with unprecedented violence, must have got off his horse while within a mile of his own house, and, being benumbed with cold and wet, was unable either to walk or mount again, and had laid down to rest under some scrub, where he probably fell asleep from exhaustion, and perished with cold, as there were no marks on his person indicating a fall from his horse, which was quietly feeding by his side, with the bridle fastened to the hair of the mane. Mr Sinclair's death will be regretted by a large circle of friends, as he was a very old and well-known settler; in fact, with one or two exceptions, the oldest in the neighborhood of Wellington, having arrived here with J. C. Crawford, Esq., R.M., in a small coaster from Sydney in 1839, two months before the arrival of the Aurora, January 1840; and at the time of his death having completed to within three days, a residence of 32 years of uninterrupted energy and exertion as a settler in the province of Wellington, from which he was only absent during a seven months' stay in Chatham Islands during that period.

*Wellington Independent 14 Nov 1871 Inquest - Hugh Sinclair*

An inquest was held at Wainuiomata on Monday last, before Dr Wilford and a respectable jury, upon view of the body of Hugh Sinclair, an old and much respected settler of the Valley. Dr Norris had been summoned from town, to make an examination of the body, as there was considerable doubt as to what could have caused the death of deceased, it being evident that deceased had not fallen from his horse, as was at first supposed, from his being found some little distance from the road, lying in a perfectly natural position, without so much as a scratch or bruise about him, or even dirt from the road upon his clothes, leading those who found him to suppose that, feeling unwell, he had descended from his horse and lain himself down in a sheltered spot for a time, where he had expired. The evidence brought before the jury substantiated this supposition, more especially the medical evidence, and in accordance therewith the jury brought in a verdict of "Died from congestion of the brain." Deceased had been subject for the last year or two to attacks of giddiness, and seldom went from home alone. His loss will be severely felt in the Wainuiomata Valley.

*Evening Post 15 Nov 1871*

An inquest was held yesterday on the body of Hugh Sinclair, who was found dead on the Hutt road, whilst attempting to reach his home. It was clearly proved that death had been occasioned by congestion of the brain, and a verdict to that effect was returned. The remains, in accordance with the previously expressed wish of deceased, were interred on his own ground at the Hutt, where other relatives of his have also been previously buried. Whether or not it is advisable to have a private burial ground attached to every homestead may at least be questionable.

*Daily Southern Cross 20 Nov 1871: Southern Telegrams*

November 14: Mr Hugh Sinclair, of Wainuiomata, found dead. Supposed to have perished from cold.

*Evening Post 15 Feb 1872 Marriage*

On the 15th inst., by the Rev. James Paterson, Duncan, second son of the late Hugh Sinclair, of Wainuiomata, to Martha, only daughter of Henry Hibbs Mowlem, of Carlton, Melbourne.

*Evening Post 7 May 1872*

The following persons are objected to as not being entitled to have their names retained on the list of voters for the Electoral District of Hutt  
Hugh Sinclair, place of abode Wainuiomata; nature of supposed qualification – freehold; ground of objection – dead; name and place of abode of objector – Blake Butler, Lower Hutt

*Evening Post 28 Dec 1878 Death of Mrs Agnes Sinclair*

The old settlers and their wives who came to Wellington thirty-eight years ago seem to be gradually passing away. We have to record the departure of another, in the person of Mrs Agnes Sinclair, widow of the late Hugh Sinclair, of Wainuiomata, and mother of J. and D. Sinclair, sawmill proprietors of that place. Those who have been to Wainuiomata, and have known the family, will feel that the hand of death has removed from them one whose kindness and general hospitality was a marked feature in that home. She leaves a family of four children and nine grandchildren. Her children were born in Wellington, the youngest of whom is fully 30 years of age. They have never been separated far or for any length of time, as all four were present to say farewell to their much loved parent, being surrounded by her children and friends. Her end, like her life, was one of peace. The cause of death was a general break-up of the system, caused by being suddenly laid up with a broken leg, which was the result of a fall about eighteen months since. Her late husband was among the first settlers in Wellington, having come over from Sydney along with Mr J. C. Crawford, the ex-magistrate, and Dr Taylor, landing here on 14th November, 1839.

Death Notice: On the 28<sup>th</sup> December, Agnes Sinclair, widow of the late Hugh Sinclair, of Wainui-o-mata, aged 70 years.

Funeral Notice: The Friends of the late Mrs Sinclair, are respectfully requested to attend her Funeral, which will leave her late home, Moness, Wainui-o-mata, for the place of interment, at 1 o'clock, on Monday, the 30<sup>th</sup> instant. C. W. Keys, Undertaker.

*Marriage Register St Johns Presbyterian Church, Willis St, Wellington*

From transcript at [www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz](http://www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz)

Date: 24 Jan 1882; Place: Revd James Paterson;

Bridegroom: William Alexander, 45yrs, Contractor, born Kippen, Stirlingshire; Usual and present residence: Masterton; Son of John Alexander, farmer and Catherine Alexander (nee McOwat?)

Bride: Elizabeth Sinclair, 33yrs, born Wellington; Usual residence: Wellington; Present residence: Palmerston; Dau of Hugh Sinclair, Farmer, and Agnes Sinclair (nee Spiers)

*Evening Post 28 Mar 1899*

The Rimutaka Deviation - how the present route came to be selected, the other proposed routes, the Wainuiomata route impracticable.

The Wainuiomata Route Tested

... a report from the surveyor to the Minister, dated 17th Jan 1871 states that "agreeably with your instructions, I called on Mr Hugh Sinclair for the purposes of examining a route to the Wairarapa discovered by his sons."

...

On the Sinclairs going over the route (in 1871) with Mr Rochfort, it was found at one part of the Wairongomai River that the ranges presented the problem of a sudden drop of 900ft, which there was no way of avoiding. Mr Sinclair said that he had never seen that part of the range before, or he would not have put the Government to the expense of exploring the route, and expressed himself as quite satisfied that it was impracticable. The altitudes recorded by Mr Rochfort on the Wainuiomata route were the following:- Summit level between Hutt and Wainuiomata, 567ft above the sea; Mr Sinclair's house, 253ft; six miles and a half up Wainuiomata, 744ft; summit level between Wainuiomata and the Orongorongo, 1485ft; confluence of the two branches of the Orongorongo, 976ft; watershed between the Orongorongo and Wairongomai, 1130ft; and at the junctions of the first and second streams flowing into the Wairongomai, 250ft and 205ft respectively. From these figures it will be seen that a line via Wainuiomata must solve the engineering problem of climbs of 1495ft and 1130ft, not counting the minor grades of 976ft and 567ft. The present summit tunnel has a height of 1144ft. Another fatal objection to the Wainui route is that it winds its way laboriously over mountain and dale (mostly mountain) away to the south towards the sea, making the journey many miles longer, instead of shorter.

*Dominion 05 Aug 1913 An Early Wellington Reminiscence*

“As one enters the grounds of the new Parliamentary Buildings in Wellington from the corner of Bowen Street and Lambton Quay,” writes a correspondent, “there are preserved two trees (elms, I think). They stand not far apart on the left side of the walk as one approaches the site of the new buildings. It may not be known to the present generation, or to those who are engaged in the work of improving the grounds, that where these two trees are growing is the site of the home of the first white man who lived in Wellington, or Wa-a-nga-nui-a-te-ra, as the harbour was named by the Natives at that time. Here, in a manuka whare, with a roof thatched with toitoi, lived one Richard Barret, or ‘Dicky’ Barrett as he was familiarly known at the time. He was a whaler, who was living there in his whare on November 20, 1839, when a party consisting of the late James Coutts Crawford, of Miramar, the late Hugh Sinclair, of Wainui-o-mata, and their guide and interpreter, Tom Wilson, from Kapiti, made their first visit to the place on the above date. They had reached this spot from Kapiti by Mana, and on to the mainland at Korohiwa, just south of Titahi Bay, thence round to Paremata (as it is now named) on the Porirua Harbour. From there by a Native track over the hills to the Korokoro, thence round the harbour from Petone, Ngahauranga, Kai-whara-whara, Te-aka-wai, Pipitea, and on to Te Aro, returning to Mana by the same route. “Such an historical site might well be marked by a marble slab, or other monument of a lasting nature, suitably inscribed, and possibly by the figure of a whaler in the act of throwing the harpoon. Something like the following would be an appropriate inscription to record the fact:-  
“Richard Barrett, a whaler, was the first white man who lived in Wellington. His house was on this spot. He was visited on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 1839 by James Coutts Crawford, late of Miramar, Hugh Sinclair, late of Wainui-o-mata, with their guide and interpreter (Tom Wilson), of Kapiti. This harbour was named by the Natives at the time Wa-a-nga-nui-a-te-ra.”