

Hugh or Ewen SINCLAIR (1810-1871)

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

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

New South Wales Registrar – Burial Entry Number 1631 Volume 2

<http://querty.geek.nz/reference/TunningtonTaylorAlexander/SinclairMiscNotes2.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

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 31st 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 18 Nov 1859 Notice – Provincial Secretary's Office, Wellington 7th November 1859

The following persons were, on the 29th 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.

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 13th of December. Wainui-o-mata Valley, November 27th, 1862.

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

Provincial Secretary's Office, September 7th, 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 1st 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 25th 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 18th 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 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 8s3d, 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.

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, 6th 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, 15th Feb, 1868. Sir, I have to report that since the date of my last report, (January 31st), 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 6th inst., and arrived at Mr Burling's at Lake Wairarapa on Sunday afternoon, the 9th 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, 13th 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.

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 10th, 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 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 31st 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 11th November, at Wainui-o-mata, Mr Hugh Sinclair, settler, aged 61 yrs.

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.

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.

Marriage Register St Johns Presbyterian Church, Willis St, Wellington

From transcript at 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.