

John SINCLAIR (1844-1925)

Wellington Independent 11 Oct 1866 Local and General News

Wainuiomata Road District – A meeting of the ratepayers of the Upper Wainuiomata district was held on Saturday, 29th ult., when the following persons were elected members of the Board of Wardens for the next two years:- Messrs George Allen, John Crowther, George Wood, John Sinclair, J. C. Dick and W. A. Fitzherbert, chairman.

Wellington Independent 06 Apr 1867 District Prize Firing

The Hutt Rifle Volunteers met at the Taita target on Thursday last, to compete for the above prizes. The day was very fine, with a light breeze from the N.W. Only about half of the company competed, and the subjoined is the score:- Captain Mills (20), Ensign Farmer (35), Sergeant John Cole (25), Sergeant D. Speedy (41), Corporal J. H. Speedy (43), Corporal Mason (39), Privates Acourt (33), W. Copeland (30), G. Collis (37), J. Corbett (5), J. Dick (37), Robert Dick (40), William Dick (52), Thomas Grey (39), William Grace (43), N. Grace (46), T. Grace (38), Ch. Hollard (30), Eli Hollard (26), William Hunt (24), J. McIlvride (43), Richard Prouse (42), John Sinclair (38), D. Sinclair (42), J. Rumble (26). The average score is a very good one, and Dick's, we believe, is one of the highest that has been made in New Zealand. The firing for the colonial champion prizes comes off on Monday next, at the Hutt Racecourse, provided the members from the various provinces arrive in time. The butts were erected on Thursday last. It would be desirable that the Hutt and Porirua Rifle Volunteers should be present at the presentation of the prizes, and we feel confident that they would be willing to do so, if the Government were to pay their incidental expenses.

Wellington Independent 02 May 1868 Crown Grants

Grant No.2681 John Sinclair, Wainuiomata, 105 acres

Wellington Independent 13 Apr 1869 Birth

On April 7, at Moness, Wainuiomata, the wife of Mr John Sinclair, of a daughter.

Wairarapa Standard 01 Feb 1871 The Wairarapa Railway

The 'Gazette' of 21st instant contains the following Report of an Exploration by Mr John Rochfort, with a view to finding a practicable Railway Line to Wairarapa via Wainuiomata. Wellington, 17 Jan 1871. Sir, I have the honour to inform you that agreeably with your instructions, I called on Mr Hugh Sinclair, for the purpose of examining a route to the Wairarapa discovered by his sons. Mr John Sinclair at once offered to guide me through, and I have to thank them both for the way in which they furthered my object. Commencing my description from the Hutt, this route crosses the dividing range at an elevation of 547 feet, and falls 314 feet to Mr Sinclair's house in the Wainuiomata. It then follows up the river about six miles and a half, rising 421 feet more. Here it ascends the range dividing the last-named river from the Orongorongo, an additional 751 feet. This is the lowest part of the range, and is 1,495 feet above the sea, of 1,242 feet above Mr Sinclair's house, and is the highest point of the route. To gain this elevation with a gradient of 1 in 49 would require nine miles and a half of distance, whereas there are only six miles and a half. A line would therefore have to begin to ascend three miles below Mr Sinclair's house. I omitted to say that we ascended a hill about 2,220 feet high, from whence we could see all over the line, and ascertained that there was no lower place. Mr Sinclair's route now follows down a branch of the Orongorongo in a southerly direction for about three miles, to its confluence with another stream which leads to the saddle dividing this river from the Wairongomai (N. 30° E and two miles distant). This pass is 365 feet below the other, or 1,130 feet above the sea, and might be easily reached from the Wainuiomata range by heading the first branch, and following the hills round gradually to the lower elevation. At this point an unexpected difficulty occurs; the saddle of the Orongorongo, which rises very gently on its own side, terminates abruptly on the east side of the range; and instead of meeting the source of the Wairongomai River it overlaps it, making a sudden drop of 900 feet, which there is no possible way of avoiding, as the side ranges are nearly perpendicular slips. Mr Sinclair said he had never seen this part of the range before, or he would not have put the Government to the expense of this exploration, and expressed himself quite satisfied that this route was impracticable. The sides of the Wairongomai are very rough and full of slips, and the distance down to the Lake from the saddle is about seven miles, and bears N. 43° E. About two miles from the saddle, a branch comes in on the North side, up which the range is visible which separates the Pakuratahi; its bearing is about North. We returned round by the coast from the Wairarapa, and I have no hesitation in saying that in addition to the distance by the coast road being nearly double that of the Hutt line, a railway could not be made at any reasonable cost, because of the many slips which it would be impossible to avoid, and the small streams which push forward immense shingle fans into the surf. These two questions may now fairly be considered as being set at rest; and I feel assured that the line I have chosen over the Rimutaka is the best that will be found. I append a few altitudes of Mr Sinclair's line:-

Altitudes taken by Aneroid along Mr Sinclair's route.

A. Summit level between Hutt and Wainuiomata	567 feet above the sea
B. Mr Sinclair's house	253
And Six miles and a half up Wainuimata	744
C. Summit level between Wainuiomata and the Orongorongo	1,495
D. Confluence of the two branches of Orongorongo	976
E. Watershed between Orongorongo and Wairongomai	1,130
Junction of first stream flowing into Wairongomai	250
Junction of second stream flowing into Wairongomai	205

Wellington Independent 17 Nov 1871 Advertisement – To Builders and Contractors

The Proprietor of the Wainuiomata 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. J. and D. Sinclair, Wainuiomata 28th August.

Wellington Independent 24 Nov 1871 Advertisement

Wanted, a man to Drive the Engine, &c., at the Wainuiomata Saw Mill. Apply to John Sinclair, Wainuiomata.

Wellington Independent 03 Apr 1872 Wanted

A Bullock Driver, for the Wainuiomata Saw Mill, to commence work on Friday, 5th inst. J. & D. Sinclair

Wellington Independent 06 May 1872 To Carriers

Tenders will be received by the undersigned for the carriage of say one hundred thousand feet of timber from the Wainuiomata Saw Mills to Wellington. For particulars apply to J. & D. Sinclair.

Wellington Independent 17 Aug 1872 Shipping

Arrived 16 August, Tararua s.s., 524 tons, Pearce, from Melbourne via Nelson. Imports in the Tararua... 1 engine, 1 boiler, 4 packages, John Sinclair

Evening Post 30 Sep 1872

We learn that Messrs J. and D. Sinclair, of Wainuiomata, have recently erected a planing, tongueing, and grooving machine at their saw mills. This elaborate piece of machinery, weighing 7 tons, has been erected by Mr Ritson, of this city. Messrs Sinclair deserve great commendation for the spirited and enterprising manner in which they are developing their business.

Wellington Independent 31 Jan 1874 Advertisement

Wanted, a Bullock Driver, Wainuiomata Saw Mills. Apply to J. and D. Sinclair

Evening Post 27 Aug 1874

Messrs Bethune and Hunter's sale of horses yesterday was much impeded by the rain, but most of the stock offered fetched good prices, ranging from £32 to £57, several being quitted at the latter figure. The stallion Young Blackleg did not bring so high a price as was anticipated, probably owing to so many of that class of horses having been in the market lately. He was sold for £60, Messrs J. and D. Sinclair, of Wainuiomata, being the purchasers. All that fine shipment of horses imported by Messrs Bethune and Hunter per s.s. Otago now has been disposed of at very satisfactory rates.

New Zealand Times 25 Sep 1874 To Stand this Season

The splendid draught Entire Horse "Young Blackleg", six years old, got by an imported horse which cost five hundred guineas in Scotland. His dam "Diamond" was got by the imported horse "Champion." Young Blackleg has proved himself a sure foalgetter, is quiet, and thoroughly staunch. Further particulars by card, at Family Hotel, Hutt; or, to the proprietors, J. & D. Sinclair.

New Zealand Times 24 Oct 1874

Wanted, a Bullock-driver for the Wainuiomata Saw-mill. Apply to J. Sinclair, at the mill; or D. Sinclair, Courtney Place, Wellington.

1875-1876 Hutt Electoral Roll

John Sinclair, Freehold, Wainuiomata house and land, Section 74, 100 acres

New Zealand Times 05 Jan 1875 Death

On the 1st inst., Isabel, the wife of J. Sinclair, at Wainuiomata, aged 29 years.

Evening Post 16 Feb 1876 Advertisement

Lost from the Wainuiomata Hill Road, a Bay Horse, branded H with) over on near shoulder, white feet and star on forehead, no shoes. Any person giving information as to its whereabouts will be rewarded on application to J. and D. Sinclair.

Evening Post 16 Nov 1876 Wellington Districts Highway Board

A special meeting of the above Board was held yesterday. There were present:- Messrs Mason (in the chair), Speedy, Smith and Dick... A letter was read from Messrs J. and D. Sinclair, enclosing a cheque for £7 3s 6d, as a contribution towards the improvement of the Wainui Road.

Evening Post 07 Dec 1876 Wellington District Highways Board

The usual monthly meeting of the Wellington District Highways Board was held at the office, Hutt, yesterday. Present Messrs Mason (chairman), Speedy, Taylor, Baylis, Dick and Smith... It was resolved that the contribution in aid of rates of J. and D. Sinclair of £4 18s towards the repairs of the Wainuiomata road be accepted with thanks, and that it be handed over to Robert Hunter, for work done in Wards 4 and 5 - £1 8s to No.4 Ward, and £3 10s to No.5 Ward.

Evening Post 07 Mar 1877 The Hutt Show

... the prizes for 4-tooth ewes were taken by J. and D. Sinclair and A. Braithwaite respectively...

Evening Post 03 May 1877 Wellington District Highways Board

The donation of £41 14s 4d, by Messrs J. and D. Sinclair, as a contribution towards making the Moore's Valley Bridge, was accepted with thanks.

Evening Post 18 Apr 1878 Resident Magistrate's Court – Obtaining goods by false pretences

Owen Cameron was charged on remand with obtaining goods and money of the value of £10 from Messrs Wilson and Richardson, drapers, of Lambton Quay, by means of a valueless cheque. Henry Frederick Davis, assistant to Messrs Wilson and Richardson, stated that on a recent date the prisoner purchased at their shop a suit of clothes and other goods of the value of £3 19s, and tendered in payment a cheque on the Bank of New Zealand for £10, signed "J. and D. Sinclair." He represented that he had been working for Messrs Sinclair, of the Wainuiomata saw-mills, and that the cheque was given to him in payment of his wages. On the faith of these representations the cheque was accepted, and the change handed to the prisoner. Mr Richardson, one of the principals of the firm said he paid the cheque into their account at the National Bank, when it was returned, with an intimation that the Colonial Bank might be tried. Mr Duncan Sinclair, of the firm of J. & D. Sinclair, of Wainuiomata, stated that the cheque produced was not signed by either himself or his brother. The prisoner had been working for them, but left about three weeks ago. His wages were generally paid by cheques. Witness's firm had no account at the Bank of New Zealand. Mr Richardson, re-called, stated that he presented the cheque at the Colonial Bank, and was informed that it was a forgery. The prisoner was then charged with obtaining goods and money from Mr George Pirie, of Tory-street, by similar false representations. The evidence was of the same nature as that in the last case, excepting that the cheque was on the Bank of Australasia. The prisoner obtained goods of the value of £4 13s 6d, receiving the balance (£5 6s 6d) in money. When paid into the bank the cheque was returned "no account." Mr Sinclair stated that the firm had no account at the Bank of Australasia, and that the signature was a forgery. George Harold Norman, teller at the Bank of Australasia, said that when the cheque was presented for payment it was returned, as Messrs Sinclair had no account at the bank. The prisoner said he had been drinking heavily for three weeks, and he did not recollect anything about the cheques. Prisoner was then fully committed for trial on both charges.

Evening Post 27 Aug 1879 Freight from Queen's Wharf to Lowry Bay

Tenders will be received by the undersigned until Tuesday next, 2nd Sept., for the Conveyance of about 150 tons of Rails, ex ship 'Halcione', and landed on the wharf at Lowry Bay. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. W. R. Waters, Hunter-street. It will be seen from an advertisement that Mr Sinclair, of Wainuiomata, calls for tenders for the conveyance of 150 tons of steel rails, ex 'Halcione', to the wharf at Lowry Bay. We believe that it is the intention of Mr Sinclair to replace the wooden tramway at present existing between his sawmills and the bush whence the timber is obtained by a light iron railway, to be worked by horse power.

Evening Post 29 Jun 1880

The following tenders have been received by the Wellington City Council:- ... Wainuiomata Water-race: W. F. Oakes £233 15s (accepted); John Coleman £253; J. Powell £256 17s 6d; Thomas Riordan £346 8s 4d; Mahoney and Co., £378 15s; John McLean £544; C. McKirdy £662 16s 6d; J. Downes £732 16s; J. and D. Sinclair £1097

Evening Post 24 Jul 1880

The following were the tenderers for the contract in connection with the Wainuiomata waterworks:- Messrs J. McLean, J. and D. Sinclair, E. O'Malley, W. F. Oakes, G. Pudney, E. Daly, J. Kelliher, C. McKirdy and P. Scally. The lowest tenderer was Mr C. McKirdy at 9s 7d per ton all round, and his tender has accordingly been accepted.

Evening Post 15 Mar 1881

The following tenders have been received by the Corporation:- Laying 30-inch water-mains in the Wainui Valley – Accepted: Farrell and McMahon £490; Declined – W. F. Oakes £527; N. Le Nonry £550; P. Archibald £555 18s 4d; C. McKirdy £594; Scoular and Archibald £595; W. Baylis and Co. £598; J. and D. Sinclair £650 and John McGuinness £800. Laying 24-inch water-mains at the Hutt – Accepted: Scoular and Archibald £278; Declined – W. F. Oakes £294 15s; Farrell and McMahon £302 5s 8d; W. Baylis and Co. £348; J. and D. Sinclair £360; J. Morrison £364; N. Le Nonry £397; Robert Lyon £473 and John McGuinness £530 16s 4d.

Evening Post 11 May 1881 Advertisement – To Contractors

Tenders will be received till noon on Saturday the 14th inst., for the formation of 26 chains of Tram Line. Plans and specifications to be seen at the office of Messrs J. & D. Sinclair, Wainuiomata. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Evening Post 16 Jun 1881

At the Lower Hutt Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday, which was presided over by Mr E. Shaw, R.M., a civil action of W. Lawrence v. J. and D. Sinclair (sawmillers, Wainuiomata) was heard. The plaintiff sought to recover £6 10s 10d, balance of wages alleged to be due at the rate of 9s per day. He failed, however, to establish his claim, and had to submit to a nonsuit.

Evening Post 23 Jul 1881

The following tenders were received by the City Council for the construction of the Wainuiomata water-race:- Brown and Farrell £6,387 9s; W. F. Oakes £7,439 7s 6d; C. McKirdy and Co. £7,592 19s; Murdoch and Rose £7,778 8s 3d; J. and D. Sinclair £7,799 19s 1d; Robert Lyon £7,827 10s 3d; A. Whiteford £7,975 1s 8d; Robert Scott, £8,244 19s 4d; Walter Pell £8,320 10s; Joseph Saunders £8,319 13s 4d; Glendenning and Griffin £8,740; J. Lockie £8,765 3s 6d; Sinclair and Archibald £9,239 13s 6d; John Coleman £11,563 18s 6d. The first-named tender was accepted, but the tenderers being unwilling to take up the contract, the next lowest offer – that of Mr W. F. Oakes for £7,439 7s 6d – was accepted.

Evening Post 06 Apr 1882

A meeting of the Wellington District Highway Board was held yesterday... The Clerk was instructed to write to Messrs Sinclair, Wainuiomata, and request them to fill up the roadway to the level of the rails on their tramway forthwith.

Evening Post 22 Nov 1882 Advertisement

Wanted, a Man, for the circular saw. Apply to J. and D. Sinclair, Wainuiomata.

Wellington Deeds Index Volume 1 folio 129 – Town Section 129 Lots 33 and 34 – see Index Volume 16 folio 477

No. 44653 Conveyance	Jones to Sinclair and another	13 Dec 1882	see Deeds Vol 70/532
No. 45141 Conveyance	Waters to Sproule	16 Mar 1883	see Deeds Vol 76/28

Evening Post 16 Dec 1882 In the Supreme Court of New Zealand – Wellington District

In the matter of "The Debtors and Creditors Act, 1876," and of the several Acts amending the same; And in the matter of the deed of conveyance and assignment in trust for benefit of the creditors of John Sinclair and Duncan Sinclair, of Wainui-o-mata, Sawmill Proprietors – Notice is given that by deed of conveyance and assignment in trust, dated the thirteenth day of December 1882, and filed in the Supreme Court of New Zealand, at Wellington, on the sixteenth day of December 1882, and made between the above-named John Sinclair and Duncan Sinclair, carrying on business in co-partnership, under the style or firm of "J. and D. Sinclair," hereinafter referred to as "the debtors," of the first part, the said John Sinclair of the second part, the said Duncan Sinclair of the third part, Alexander Mackenzie, of the City of Wellington, Bank Manager, and William Richard Waters, of the same place, Commission Agent (hereinafter referred to as "the trustees"), of the fourth part, and the several persons, companies, corporations, and firms who are creditors of the debtors, as such co-partners as aforesaid, or as separate creditors of the debtors respectively of the fifth part, the said John Sinclair and Duncan Sinclair as parties thereto of the first, second and third parts, did and each of them did thereby grant, convey, and assure, assign, bargain, sell, transfer, and set over unto the trustees all their joint and several real and personal property, whatsoever and wheresoever, except as in the said provided upon and for the trusts in the said deed particularly mentioned. And notice is further given that a meeting of the joint and several creditors of the said John Sinclair and Duncan Sinclair will be held at the Supreme Court House, Wellington, on Thursday, the fourth day of January, 1883, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of assenting to the said deed. Dated this 16th day of December 1882. Buckley, Stafford and Fitzherbert, Solicitors for the said John Sinclair and Duncan Sinclair.

West Coast Times & Hawke's Bay Herald & Press & Evening Star & Timaru Herald & Auckland Star & Poverty Bay Herald & other papers 16 Dec 1882

Messrs J. and D. Sinclair, of Wainuiomata, have assigned their estate, and it is understood their liabilities are about £11,000, while their assets are set down at £25,000.

Evening Post 04 Jan 1883 Meeting of Creditors

A meeting of Messrs John and Duncan Sinclair (of Wainui-o-mata, sawmill proprietors) creditors was held at the Supreme Court House at 2 o'clock this afternoon, and was attended by about a dozen gentlemen, Mr T. Kennedy Macdonald occupying the chair. Mr Devine, of Messrs Buckley, Stafford, and Fitzherbert, was present on behalf of the Messrs Sinclair. The liabilities, which included several mortgages, were represented to be £15,103 19s 1d, while the assets, consisting of sections of land, live stock, standing crops, sawmill plant, smiths' shops, book debts, &c, were returned at £24,460 10s. A deed, assigning the Messrs Sinclairs' real and personal property for the benefit of their creditors to Messrs Alexander McKenzie and W. R. Waters, was submitted, and without any discussion was unanimously assented to by the meeting, on the motion of Mr Cleland, seconded by Mr Cudby. The same gentlemen respectively proposed and seconded that the trustees' remuneration be fixed at the rate of 5 per cent, calculated on the gross proceeds realized. This motion was also agreed to without discussion. A question was then mooted as to whether the Messrs Sinclair wished to make any statement regarding the circumstances that had led to their adopting the present step; but it was agreed by those present that such a statement was not necessary, and the Chairman expressed his opinion that the whole of the creditors united in regretting that circumstances had proved so unfavourable to the debtors as to compel them, through no fault of their own, to assign their property for the benefit of the creditors. Mr Bell, who appeared for several of the mortgagees, intimidated the trustees that the mortgagees claimed the sawmill as a whole, and he requested the trustees not to take any immediate steps in reference to dealing with any portion of the machinery pending a settlement between the mortgagees and trustees. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Evening Post 05 Jan 1883 Advertisement

Important to Sheep Farmers, Agriculturalists, Dairymen, Carters and Others. Absolute Unreserved Sale of Pure-bred Stock &c. In the Assigned Estate of J. and D. Sinclair, Sheep Farmers and Sawmill Proprietors. At the Homestead, Wainuiomata on Thursday 11th January 1883 at 1.30 o'clock p.m. sharp. T. Kennedy Macdonald & Co. are favoured with instructions from the Trustees in the assigned estate of Messrs J. and D. Sinclair, to sell by public auction as above, the whole of the undermentioned valuable stock – **Cattle:** Pure-bred pedigree shorthorn road bull, "Merchant", No.201, bred by Mr John Grigg, Longbeach, calved 9th December 1878; Pure-bred pedigree shorthorn red and white bull "Guy Lad" bred as above, calved 27 October 1879; Pure-bred pedigree shorthorn strawberry cow "Countess o'May" with calf at side, by bull "Merchant," No.201; cost £45; Pure-bred pedigree shorthorn red cow, "Fifth Queen o'May," in calf, by bull "Merchant", No.201; cost £42 10s; Pure-bred pedigree shorthorn red cow "Third Princess o'May" cost £35. The above high-class pedigree pure-bred cows were bred by the late Mr George Hunter, M.H.R., and can be thoroughly relied on; Four pure-bred shorthorn calves out of above cows – two bulls and two heifers; Four crossbred shorthorn calves; 27 head well-bred cows – heifers and steers. **Horses:** Imported pedigree entire horse "Blackleg" – an A1 horse, a sure foalgetter, and a small fortune to his owner; 21 first-class draught horses, suitable for both light and heavy work. These horses are not to be surpassed; many of them cost from £40 to £50 each, and they are all in admirable condition. **Sheep:** Six 7/8 Cotswold rams; can be thoroughly recommended; 1300 Cotswolds, mixed flock, ewes and wethers; 300 Cotswold lambs. **Standing Crops &c:** Seven acres splendid hay, ready for cutting; three tons new hay in shed; ten acres splendid green oats, ready for cutting in a month. The above sale is really a special opportunity to select some first-class stock. Everything is guaranteed true to name and description. Intending buyers should leave by the 10.15 a.m. train to the Hutt, where they will find conveyances to take them to Wainuiomata free of charge, returning with them in time to catch the 6.20 p.m. train to Wellington. Terms cash, or approved endorsed bills at three months, bearing interest. Remember sale day – Thursday 11th January 1883 at Wainuiomata.

Evening Post 10 Jan 1883

Purchasers of prize cattle, sheep, and horses should attend the sale in the estate of Messrs J. & D. Sinclair, to be held at the homestead, Wainuiomata, to-morrow, by Messrs T. Kennedy Macdonald & Co. Purchasers leaving town by the 10.15 train will find conveyances at the Lower Hutt to take them on to Wainuiomata, returning for the 6.20 train same evening. Full details of the stock will be found in our advertising columns. The sale is absolutely unreserved, owing to the bankruptcy of the Messrs Sinclair.

Evening Post 18 Jan 1883 Advertisement 1

In the Exchange Land and Mercantile Auction Rooms Panama-street on Tuesday 6th February 1883 at 2 o'clock p.m. In the Estate of J. and D. Sinclair – Sale of the whole of the valuable landed estate by order of the Registrar of the Supreme Court of New Zealand, at Wellington, at the request of the Mortgagees, and under the provisions of the Conveyancing Ordinance Agreement Act 1860 and the Sales by Mortgages Act 1870. T. Kennedy Macdonald & Co. are favoured with instructions to sell by public auction, as above the whole of the valuable farm, timber lands and sheep-run at Wainuiomata, lately occupied by Messrs J. and D. Sinclair, as under:- All that Magnificent Block of Land situated in the Wainuiomata District, containing 4115 acres, more or less, comprising the following properties: **First** 1399 acres, being sections 27, 28 and 29, and parts of sections 26, 67, 68, 69 and 93 on the plan of the Wainuiomata District; **Secondly** 263 acres, being section 85 on the plan of the said Wainuiomata District; **Thirdly** 120 acres of unsurveyed land in the Wainuiomata District, being all the land comprised in Land Receipt entered on the Provisional Register Vol 1., Folio 660; **Fourthly** 475 acres, being sections 35, 36, 37 and 38 on the plan of the Wainuiomata District; **Fifthly** 1218 acres, being sections 72 and 73, and parts of sections 67, 68 and 69 on the plan of the Wainuiomata District; **Sixthly** 640 acres of unsurveyed pastoral land in the Wainuiomata District, being all the land comprised in land receipt entered on the Provincial Register Vol... Folio 427; And also all that block of.. in the Lowry Bay District comprising the following property **Sevently** 84 acres, being section No.19 on the plan of the Lowry Bay District. The properties fourthly, fifthly, sixthly, and seventhly are subject to a first mortgage for £1500 at 10 per cent., due on the 30th September 1883. The above property is one of the most valuable contiguous to the City of Wellington. A portion of it is cleared and laid down in English grass, sufficient to carry about 3000 sheep, while the upper portion includes a large quantity of valuable timber suitable for saw-milling purposes. The streams which supply the Wainuiomata water supply of the city run through the land. In fact, the whole of the land and streams from the dam to the Government lands granted for a watershed are included in the property. This land, being part of the watershed, is generally supposed to be the property of the City Corporation, but, strange to say, has never yet been acquired by that body. For full particulars, conditions of title, &c., apply to Messrs Izard & Bell, Solicitors, Willis-street; or the the Auctioneers.

Evening Post 18 Jan 1883 Advertisement 2

In the Exchange Land and Mercantile Auction Rooms, Panama-street on Tuesday 6th day of February 1883 at 2 o'clock p.m. In the Estate of J. and D. Sinclair, Sale by order of the Mortgagee, and under conduct of the Registrar of the Supreme Court of New Zealand at Wellington. T. Kennedy Macdonald & Co. have been favoured with instructions to sell by public auction, as above, under the provisions of the Conveyancing Ordinance Amendment Act 1860 and the Sales by Mortgagees Act 1870 all that valuable farm, situate in the Wainuiomata District, containing about 370 acres with the valuable farm house and buildings thereon and being the Sections numbered 34 and 74 and parts of the Sections numbered 2 and 26 on the plan of the Wainuiomata District. This is one of the most desirable properties near Wellington, and well worthy the attention of speculators or others requiring a comfortable farm. For further particulars apply to Messrs Brandon, Shaw and Brandon, Solicitors for the Mortgagee; or to the Auctioneers.

Evening Post 18 Jan 1883 Advertisement 3

In the Exchange Land and Mercantile Auction Rooms, Panama-street on Tuesday 6th February 1883 at 2 o'clock p.m. In the Estate of J. and D. Sinclair. Sale by order of the Mortgagee, under the conduct of the Registrar of the Supreme Court of New Zealand at Wellington. T. Kennedy Macdonald & Co. are favoured with instructions to sell by public auction, as above all that valuable block of land, being the allotment No.10 on a plan of the sub-division of sections Nos 21 and 25, in the Hutt District. Bounded on the west by the Waiwetu-road, 100 links; on the south by Market-street, 200 links; on the east by Lot No.12, 100 links; and on the north by Lot No.11, 200 links; together with the valuable dwelling-houses erected thereon. This property is situated close to the stores of Mr Robert Cleland, and is one of the most desirable in the Lower Hutt. For further particulars, conditions of sale, &c., apply to Messrs Izard & Bell, Solicitors, Willis-street; or to the Auctioneers.

Evening Post 05 Feb 1883

The land sale to be held to-morrow afternoon, at 2 o'clock, by Messrs T. Kennedy Macdonald and Co., promises to be largely attended, as the properties to be sold comprise a number of large and valuable landed estates, as well as city properties and small farms, and includes the landed estate of Messrs J. and D. Sinclair, which, owing to the bankruptcy of the proprietors, is to be sold without reserve. The full particulars of the various properties are given in our advertising columns. Altogether the catalogue is one of the most extensive and valuable that has been submitted to the public for a considerable time. After the land sale a sale of furniture will be held.

Evening Post 06 Feb 1883

Messrs T. Kennedy Macdonald and Co. offered for sale by auction this afternoon, at the Exchange Land and Mercantile Auction Rooms, Panama-street, a number of valuable properties. There was a large attendance. The sale of a farm, timber lands, and sheep-run, at Wainuiomata, in the estate of Messrs J. & D. Sinclair, provoked some spirited bidding, which was started at £2000 and run up in £500 bids to £5000, the property falling to Mr A. E. Russell, of Palmerston North. The sale of the other properties was proceeding when our reporter left.

Evening Post 07 Feb 1883 Messrs T. K. Macdonald & Co.'s Land Sale

Following are the details of the sale of property at the Exchange Land and Mercantile Auction Rooms yesterday afternoon. In respect to the Wainuiomata estate, the property, as previously stated, was knocked down at £5000, but is subject to a first mortgage of £1500, bringing the price up to £6500... Lot 4 – Wainuiomata estate of 4115 acres, and sawmill in estate of J. and D. Sinclair sold to Mr A. E. Russell for £6500. Lot 5 – Farm at Wainuiomata, containing 370 acres with homestead, and orchard, in Sinclair's estate, sold to Mr A. de B. Brandon for £1000. Lot 6 – Dwelling houses, Waiwetu-road, Lower Hutt, sold to Mr C. B. Izard for £500. The property containing 1042 acres, Wainuiomata was withdrawn at the price of £1000.

Evening Post 07 Feb 1883 Advertisement 1

On the premises Wainuiomata known as Messrs J. and D. Sinclairs'. Unreserved sale of sawmill plant, steel rails, &c on Thursday 22nd February 1883 at 1.30 o'clock p.m. T. Kennedy Macdonald & Co. are favoured with instructions from A. E. Russell, Esq., to sell by public auction as above, absolutely without the least reserve the whole of the fixed plant and machinery of the Wainuiomata Sawmill as under:- Stationary engine and boiler, vertical frame and circular saw bench with fittings, planing machine and belts, about 65 tons best steel rails, as laid down on tramway. The above are in first-class condition and thorough working order, the mill having only ceased working in consequence of the bankruptcy of Messrs J. and D. Sinclair. The sale presents a rare opportunity of acquiring a complete sawmill plant at a mere fraction of its real value.

Evening Post 07 Feb 1883 Advertisement 2

On the premises Wainuiomata on Thursday 22nd February 1883 at 1.30 o'clock p.m. In the Assigned Estate of J. and D. Sinclair. Unreserved sale of the whole of the moveable sawmill plant. T. Kennedy Macdonald & Co. are favoured with instructions from the Trustees in the Estate of Messrs J. and D. Sinclair to sell by public auction, as above, absolutely without the least reserve, the whole of the moveable plant in and about the Wainuiomata Sawmills, as under:- 50 tons steel rails lying loose, 5 tramway trucks, 1 trap and harness, 2 waggons, 2 carts, chaffcutter, corncrusher, oatcrusher, screw-press, wool-press, pair bellows, anvil vice drills and smith's tools, about one ton old iron, 2 pairs junker wheels, 8 sets harness, ropes and blocks, 3 iron blocks, 8 circular saws, crab winch, 3 screw-jacks, 5 bullock yokes bows and chains, 4 iron tanks, 150ft lead piping, plough, harrow, spades, knives, forks, picks and scythes – Also the valuable stock of sawn timber, as per specification, to be sold in lots to suit buyers. Intending buyers should leave by the 10.15 a.m. train to the Hutt, where they will find conveyances to take them to Wainuiomata free of charge, returning with them in time to catch the 6.20 p.m. train to Wellington. The above sale presents a good opportunity to sawmillers, dealers and others to pick up decided bargains.

Evening Post 07 Feb 1883 Advertisement 3

On the Premises, Wainuiomata on Thursday 22nd February 1883 at 1.30 o'clock p.m. In the Assigned Estate of J. and D. Sinclair. Special to Teamsters, Contractors and others. T. Kennedy Macdonald & Co. are favoured with instructions from the Mortgagee, holding under bill-of-sale, to sell by public auction as above, absolutely without the least reserve, the balance of the stock of Messrs J. and D. Sinclair, consisting of 14 draught horses, many of them cost £40 each, 10 head well-bred cattle, 100 Cotswold sheep, more or less. The above horses were reserved from the previous sale, as they were required for the work of the mill until it stopped a few days back. They will be found on examination to be thoroughly sound and staunch, and fit for any kind of work. No better horses are to be seen in the colony.

Evening Post 21 Feb 1883

We would remind those interested that the sale of sawmill plant, steel rails, machinery, rolling stock, and live stock, &c., in the estate of Messrs J. and D. Sinclair, will be held at Wainui-o-mata by Messrs T. Kennedy Macdonald & Co., to-morrow, at 1.30 p.m. Persons attending the sale will leave Wellington by the 10.15 train to the Hutt, where conveyances will be in readiness to take them to the Wainui-o-mata, free of charge, returning by the 6.20 p.m. train. As this is the closing of this estate, those desirous of bargains in the several lines should have a good opportunity of securing them.

Evening Post 23 Feb 1883

Messrs T. K. Macdonald & Co., offered for sale yesterday, at Wainui-o-mata, certain property in the estate of Messrs J. and D. Sinclair. The steel rails (lifted) realized £5 per ton, and (fixed down) £3 10s per ton. Various articles round the mill were sold at fair prices. Draught horses brought from £19 to £34 each, saddle horse £10, and working bullocks £12 10s per pair.

Evening Post 24 Feb 1883 Advertisement

In the Exchange Land and Mercantile Auction Rooms, Panama-street on Tuesday 27th February at 2 o'clock p.m. Unreserved sale of the Properties of J. and D. Sinclair. T. Kennedy Macdonald & Co. are favoured with instructions from the Trustees in the Estate of J. and D. Sinclair to sell by public auction, as above, absolutely without the least reserve, the following properties:- Lots 1 and 2 – those two valuable building sections being the allotments numbered 33 and 34 of the subdivision of Town Acre No.129 on the plan of the City of Wellington, and having together a frontage to Martin-street of 64 feet by a depth of 74 feet. These are two of the best Building Sites in the heart of Te Aro. Lots 3 to 8 – those six allotments in the township of Fitzherbert being the allotments numbered respectively 48 and 49 on the plan of the subdivision of Suburban Section No.80 and allotments numbered respectively 163, 164, 165 and 166 on the plan of the subdivision of Suburban Sections Nos 82 and 83. For conditions of sale and further particulars apply to Messrs Buckley Stafford and Fitzherbert, Solicitors, Lambton-quay or to the Auctioneers.

Evening Post 26 Feb 1883

To-morrow Messrs T. Kennedy Macdonald and Co. hold a sale of landed properties, at their auction rooms, Panama-street, at 2 o'clock, which includes the following properties, viz., two building allotments in Martin-street, and six sections in Fitzherberton, being sold in the estate of J. and D. Sinclair; a valuable property in Willis-street, and a five-roomed house in Ghuznee-street.

Evening Post 07 May 1883

The usual monthly meeting of the Wellington District Highway Board was held yesterday, and was attended by Messrs Mason (in the chair), Taylor, Perkins, Speedy, Wood and Jones... Mr Damant was authorized to make a valuation of the properties formerly belonging to Messrs J. and D. Sinclair, in order to apportion the rates payable by the new owners.

Evening Post 10 May 1883 Notice

Tenders required for the Conveyance of about 18 Tons Sawmill Machinery from Wharf at Lowry Bay to Waitara. Particulars may be obtained from the undersigned. Tenders to be addressed John Sinclair, Care W. R. Waters, Lambton Quay.

Evening Post 16 May 1883 Tenders for Cartage of Sawmill Plant – Wainuiomata to Railway Wharf

Tenders are invited till Noon of Saturday, the 19th instant, for the conveyance of from 19-20 tons of Sawmill Plant from Messrs J. & D. Sinclair's old Mill at Wainui-o-mata to the Railway Wharf, Wellington. Plant to be delivered within one week from the date of acceptance of tender. For further particulars apply to Mr John Sinclair, Wainui-o-mata; or Messrs T. Kennedy Macdonald & Co., Panama-street, Wellington.

Hawera and Normanby Star 20 Aug 1883 Larrikinism

To the Editor of the Star. Sir, - Allow me, through the medium of your valuable paper, to call attention to the most daring instance of wanton larrikinism I have yet heard of. Last Sunday evening I was returning along the Sole road, after having taken a horse to pasture, accompanied by a valuable sheep-dog of the Ettrick breed, my inseparable friend for many years, and which has accompanied me lately from Wellington; he was trotting quietly along, not more than ten paces ahead of me, when he was deliberately shot at before my very eyes by a young scoundrel, who narrowly escaped shooting me, as I was just in line, hidden from his sight by a large stump, and it was beginning to grow dusk. He afterwards tried to make off; but on being pursued and accosted, gave a false name, trying at the same time to make some foolish, blundering excuse for his act. I suppose I could issue a summons against the young scamp for wounding my dog (he has over twenty shot in his shoulder and side), but am unwilling to do so, as the trouble and expense would merely fall upon his parents, who, I am told, are worthy and industrious old people, the father also being hopelessly crippled through an accident; at the same time, such a scandalous action should not be passed over in silence; but I think this exposure may act as a warning to those young colonials who are far too fond of showing their extreme cleverness as sportsmen by pointing their guns at everything they happen to meet. - I am, &c., John Sinclair. Ngaire, August 15.

Evening Post 06 Sep 1883

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Wellington District Road Board was held at the Hutt yesterday. Present Messrs Taylor (in the chair), Jones, Perkins and Speedy. Mr Damant's valuation of the property lately held by Messrs J. and D. Sinclair was approved and accepted, and was transferred in the rating-book to the names of the present owners...

Evening Post 30 Mar 1891

The evidence adduced at the inquest conducted by Mr Robinson, District Coroner, at the Hospital on Saturday evening on the body of Condensa Charlotte Hill, who died in the Asylum on the previous day, went to show that the deceased was a single woman aged 45, and a governess by profession. She arrived from London by the 'Rialto' in 1878, and was committed to the Asylum soon after she reached the colony. At that time a brother of hers was teaching in the school at Wainui-o-mata, and it is also supposed that she had a brother and sister residing here. She was in an asylum before she came to New Zealand. Dr Ewart, who is in charge of the Mount View Asylum during the absence of Dr Fooks, deposed that death was due to consumption, and a verdict in accordance with his testimony was returned. Mr Carswell was foreman of the jury.

Hawera and Normanby Star 21 Jan 1893

Our Ngaire correspondent writes:- Owing to the increased attendance at our school, the Taranaki Education Board has granted an additional pupil teacher. This will be a help to the present teachers, who have had rather too much to do for some time. Another property has changed hands, at a satisfactory figure. Mr Hugh Nixon has sold his farm and stock on the Finnerty road to Mr Biggs.

Hawera and Normanby Star 02 Mar 1893

Our Ngaire correspondent writes:- We had a dance in the hall on Thursday evening – a good one, too, considering that the gale we have seen so much about came that night. The attendance was not very large, but a fair number braved the fury of the elements on that atrocious night, and were, they say, amply repaid for all the discomfort, including the drenching on the way home. Music was provided by the ladies, Mrs Sinclair kindly lending her piano. Mr Corkill acted as M.C., and gave satisfaction. The supper was first rate, also giving entire satisfaction. In fact everything gave satisfaction – except the weather.

Taranaki Herald 17 Nov 1893 Ngaire

From our own correspondent. November 15. A public picnic and social was given to-day by the Co-operative Dairy shareholders in the building and grounds of the new factory. Throughout the afternoon the grounds, which are pleasantly situated on the Finnerty Road, a short distance from the railway station, were lively with people of all ages indulging in the outdoor games or taking it easy in the shade of the bush. Refreshments, superabundant in quantity and above reproach as to quality, were served at intervals in the curing-room, quite a handsome hall in its present state without shelving. In the course of the afternoon, Mr Robbins, one of the candidates for Egmont, gave a short political address, and, taking advantage of the presence of so many ladies, confined his remarks principally to the social question in which it was expected they would take a keener interest than in the details of finance and land settlement. Towards evening a slight rain came on, and the picnickers mostly dispersed to their homes, only, however, to reassemble a little later and pass a most pleasant evening with dancing and songs. Miss Gooding presided most ably at the piano, kindly lent for the occasion by Mrs Sinclair, whilst throughout the whole affair Mr Thomas, the chairman of the Company, and in fact all connected, were indefatigable in attending to the guests. The factory is as yet incomplete, but is expected to be in working order early in December. The number of suppliers is expected to reach 40, representing a quantity of milk that will tax the capacity of the building, large as it is, to the utmost.

Hawera and Normanby Star 21 December 1893 School Examinations - Ngaire

This school was examined on November 20th and 21st, and the report has been received. The result is as follows:-

Standard VII – Ellen Brown, 1 presented, 1 passed; Standard VI – William Godkin, Arthur Thomas, Ruth Amooore, Louisa Beedie, Frances Brown, Ellen Godkin, Flora McGregor, Ethel Sparks – 8 presented, 8 passed; Standard V – Thomas Robson, **Douglas Sinclair**, Joseph Thomas, Jean Beedie, Jessie Coleman, Dora MacDonald, **Jean Sinclair**, Elizabeth Ruff, Linna Sanders – 15 presented, 1 excepted, 5 failed, 9 passed; Standard IV – Fred Fowles, Henry Kenny, John Manley, John McCarthy, John Ruff, Harry Smith, James Thompson, Amy Amooore, Maggie Beedie, Alexa Brown, Christine Burgess, Annie Mills, Nellie Treweek – 18 presented, 1 absent, 2 excepted, 2 failed, 13 passed; Standard III – Peter Burgess, Albert Fowles, Arthur Patterson, Alice Treweek, Eva Amooore, Rebecca Coleman, Emily Ruff, May Sanders, Emily Thomas, Bella Chapman – 17 presented, 1 absent, 6 failed, 10 passed; Standard II – William Aldridge, Martin Aldridge, Archie Robson, Alfred Thompson, Bertha Gredig, Mary Kemp, Lizzie Simpson, Gertrude Sanders, Myrtle Smith – 15 presented, 2 absent, 4 failed, 9 passed; Standard I – James Brown, Arnold Gledhill, Reginald Munro, Arthur Bosley, Peter Patterson, James McGregor, Arthur Kemp, George Treweek, Michael Burgess, Percy Richardson, Norman Rice, Arthur Manley, Willie Chapman, Lily Seabright, Lilian Amooore, Elsie Smith, Ethel Simpson, Jessie Sparkes, Gertrude Ruff, Hilda Biggs – 22 presented, 2 failed, 20 passed; The inspector expressed himself as quite satisfied with the work, especially considering the many interruptions to work during the year. There were weak points in most of the classes, but these are accounted for by the fact that there was not time for a final revision of the whole work, the school having been closed for a time and re-opened just a week before the examination. The preparatory classes were found in a forward state of preparation, most of the subjects being well prepared.

Hawera and Normanby Star 28 February 1894

We have lost one of our old settlers in Mr John Sinclair who has taken his family down the East Road, where he will carry on farming on a considerable scale. While wishing Mr and Mrs Sinclair the best of luck in their new home, we cannot but regret their departure. Ever since the foundation of our township Mr and Mrs Sinclair have taken a prominent part in those entertainments, etc., which have made the name of Ngaire famous throughout Taranaki."

1896 Egmont Electoral Roll

John Sinclair, settler; Louisa Coendoz Sinclair, wife – Strathmore

Hawera & Normanby Star 27 Jun 1896 The East Road – Meeting at Strathmore

A meeting of settlers in connection with the proposed metaling of the East Road was held on Wednesday, 24th June, about sixty ratepayers being present... A letter from Mr Cowern was read, in which he consented to the inclusion of his property, although he held it to be the duty of the Government to metal the road. Also letters were received from Messrs Sinclair and McCluggage in favor of the proposal, the latter forwarding a petition from about 60 Whangamomona special settlers in favor of the proposal...

Taranaki Herald 08 Jul 1897 Stratford News

I learn from Mr Sinclair, an old Ngaire resident now living at Pohokura, that the Ohura (nee East) Road is wonderfully good for the time of the year, it being still open for wheels to the Whangamomona saddle. Part of the road has been made with sand from the old ocean-bed, and stands traffic very well.

Hawera & Normanby Star 08 Mar 1899 Our Back Country [No.6]

... The old Pohokura block, 16,255 acres, was purchased from the natives in early days by the late Mr T. Bayly... 900 acres on this eastern road frontage is the property of Messrs J. Sinclair and J. Hill, 300 acres in grass... The pioneer of this part of the district was Mr Johnson, now of Hunter road, Eltham, who held Mr Fogwell's 3000 acre block – he had land cleared and sheep on it in 1892. Mr J. Sinclair felled 300 acres a year or so later...

Taranaki Herald 13 Oct 1899 The Auckland-Taranaki Connection by a Settler - III

[Pohokura]... A 900 acre block belonging to Messrs J. Sinclair and J. Hill has a frontage to the main road a mile or so beyond Mr Riddell's homestead, but it is surrounded at the back and to the north by Mr Riddell's land...

1900 Egmont Electoral Roll

John Sinclair, farmer, Pohokura; Louisa Coendoz Sinclair, wife, Strathmore

1900-1904 Wises Post Office Directories – Pohokura

John Sinclair, farmer; Percy K. Worthington, farmer

1905-1906 Egmont Electoral Roll

Louisa Coendoz Sinclair, Waitara, wife

1907 Wises Post Office Directory – Waitara

Percy Knight Worthington, farmer

1908 Hawke's Bay Electoral Roll

Tom Douglas Sinclair, machinist; Gertrude Marsella Sinclair, married – St Aubyn Street, Hastings

1911 Hawke's Bay Electoral Roll

John Sinclair, carpenter; Louise Coendoz Sinclair, married – Alexandra Street, Hastings
Tom Douglas Sinclair, mechanic; Gertrude Marcella Sinclair, married – 307 Alexandra Street, Hastings

1914 Hawke's Bay Electoral Roll

John Sinclair, carpenter; Louise Coendoz Sinclair, married – Ellison Road, Hastings
Tom Douglas Sinclair, machinist; Gertrude Marcella Sinclair, married – Ellison Road, Hastings

1919 Tauranga Electoral Roll

John Sinclair, farmer; Louise Coendoz Sinclair, married – Cameron Road, Tauranga
Tom Douglas Sinclair, car driver; Gertrude Marsella Sinclair, married – Whitaker Street, Te Aroha

Bay of Plenty Times 26 Jun 1925 Obituary - Mr John Sinclair

The death occurred here yesterday of Mr John Sinclair, at the age of eighty-one years. Deceased was born in Wellington and was a son of Mr Hugh Sinclair, who came from Australia in a ketch to make arrangements for the first immigrants who landed in Wellington. The late Mr John Sinclair lived at Lower Hutt for many years and was associated with his family in farming and sawmilling operations. Later he moved to Stratford, and about ten years ago came to Tauranga, where he had since resided. He was held in high esteem by all who knew him. He is survived by his widow and one son and three daughters. The son is Mr Douglas Sinclair (Te Aroha) and the daughters are Mrs Walter Chambers (Opunake), Mrs Walter Peek (Taumaranui) and Mrs Percy Worthington (Helensville). The funeral took place this afternoon, the service at the graveside being conducted by the Rev J. W. Smyth.