

Duncan SINCLAIR (1846-1920)

Wellington Independent 06 Jul 1865 Firing for Provincial Government Rifle Prizes

Provincial Secretary's Office, Wellington, 29th June, 1865. The following Return of the Firing for the Provincial Government Prizes is published for general information. The successful competitors are informed that the amounts respectively due to them will be ready for payment, at the Provincial Treasury, on and after the 12th July. A. Follett Halcombe, Provincial Secretary. Hutt District: 1st - £12 – Private Duncan Sinclair, Hutt Rifle Volunteers with 41 points out of a highest score of 60. 2nd - £8 – Private John Hunt, Taita Rifle Volunteers with 40 points; 3rd - £5 – Private Thomas Harris, Taita Rifle Volunteers with 40 points. Ties fired off at 400 yards, five shots, two Targets. Hutt District at 40 points: Private John Hirst 10 points and Private Thomas Harris 6 points.

Nominal Roll Hutt Rifle Volunteers 1867 and 1868 – Archives NZ Wellington Reference Arm 41 Box 12 Items 1874/1o and 1874/1p

Privates John and Duncan Sinclair, enrolled 01 June 1863. Both attended 13 parades and each received £2 10s capitation grant.

Wellington Independent 24 Oct 1868 Upper Wainuiomata Highways District

Provincial Secretary's Office, Wellington Oct 6, 1868. It has been notified to this Office under the hand of the undermentioned Chairman, that at the annual meeting of the Ratepayers of the above District, held on the 19th September, 1868, the following Ratepayers were elected Wardens for the two years next ensuing, viz: Mr Duncan Sinclair, William A. Fitzherbert, Robert Dick, John C. Dick, John Crowther, George Allen (Chairman), also, that Mr Duncan Sinclair has been elected as Treasurer to the Board. A. Follett Halcombe, Provincial Secretary.

Nominal Roll Hutt Rifle Volunteers 1869 – Archives NZ Wellington Reference Arm 41 Box 12 Item 1874/1q

Corporal Duncan Sinclair and Private John Sinclair, enrolled 01 June 1863. Both attended 15 parades and each received £1 5s capitation grant.

Nominal Roll Hutt Rifle Volunteers 1870 – Archives NZ Wellington Reference Arm 41 Box 12 Item 1874/1r

Corporal Duncan Sinclair and Private John Sinclair, enrolled 01 June 1863. Both attended 13 parades and each received £1 5s capitation grant.

Marriages solemnised at St John's Presbyterian Church, Willis St, Wellington

16 May 1870 at the Terrace – Thomas Gray, labourer to Emma Mann. Witnesses Duncan Sinclair, Elizabeth Sinclair

1870-1871 Hutt Electoral Roll

Hugh Sinclair, Wainuiomata, Freehold, Hutt district, house and land, Section 2; Duncan Sinclair, Moness, Wainuiomata, Freehold, Glentill, Wainuiomata, sections 37 and 38, 200 acres; John Sinclair, Wainuiomata, Freehold, Wainuiomata house and land, 100 acres, section 47

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.

Capitation Roll Wainuiomata Volunteers – Archives NZ Wellington Reference AAYS 8790 ARM41/17 1877/1bc

Sergeant D. Sinclair, enrolled 01 Jun 1863 attended 11 Government inspection parades and 2 Company parades and received a Capitation Grant of £2 up to the year ended 31st March 1873. His entry is struck through and Captain George Wood, Officer commanding the Corps noted at the bottom of the roll that “D. Sinclair was transferred to Highland Corps in October [1872] and Capt Wood under impression it was a temporary transfer – retained him in his Roll... him credit for his drills in Wellington. He is shown in Highland Roll.”

Evening Post 13 Aug 1873 Notice

We, the undersigned Saw Mill Proprietors, in the province of Wellington, beg to inform our customers that, in consequence of the high price of horse feed and increase of tolls, an additional sum of one shilling per one hundred feet (100 feet) on all descriptions of timber will be charged on and after the 1st of September 1873. Wallis & Laurence; John Chew; J. & D. Sinclair; W. Booth; A. Harris

Wellington Independent 21 Feb 1874 Wellington Rifle Association

The Second Meeting of the above Association will take place at the Lower Hutt rifle range on Monday and Tuesday, 23rd and 24th instants. The firing to commence at 8 a.m. sharp. Coaches will leave Prosser’s Hotel, at 6 a.m., sharp. D. Sinclair, Hon. Sec. Wellington 20th February 1874.

Wellington Independent 28 Jan 1874

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

Wellington Independent 13 Mar 1874

The following appointments by his Excellency were gazette yesterday:- In the Wellington Highland Rifle Volunteers – Charles McKirdy to be Captain, date of commission 25 Sep 1873; Duncan Sinclair to be Sub-Lieutenant, date of commission 08 May 1873.

Evening Post 16 Apr 1874 Notice

All Volunteers interested in the Rifle Association are requested to meet at Donecker’s Hotel on Friday at 8 o’clock p.m. The Committee will meet at 7.30 p.m. D. Sinclair, Hon. Treasurer.

Wellington Independent 03 Jun 1874 Notice

Any person trespassing with dogs or guns on the properties of the undersigned will be prosecuted. John Mowlem, J. & D. Sinclair – 4th May.

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 19 Oct 1874 Birth

On October 16, at Courteney-place, the wife of D. Sinclair, of Wainuiomata, of a son.

1875-1876 Wellington Electoral Roll

Duncan Sinclair, residing at Courtenay Place, Leasehold Part of Section 216, Courtenay place

1875-1876 Hutt Electoral Roll

Duncan Sinclair, Moness, Wainuiomata, Freehold Glenhill, Wainuiomata, sections 37 and 28, 200 acres; John Sinclair, Wainuiomata, Freehold Wainuiomata house and land, section 47, 100 acres

Evening Post 03 Sep 1875 Wellington Highway District Board Elections No.5 Ward

The nomination of a warden for this Ward took place at the Wainuiomata School-room yesterday; Mr Henry Ashton presiding. Mr Richard Prouse, the retiring member, was proposed by Mr R. Dick, seconded by Mr J. Dick. Mr Duncan Sinclair was proposed by Mr J. M. Hind, and seconded by Mr G. Wood. Both candidates addressed the meeting, answering a great many questions put to them by the ratepayers present. On a show of hands being called for, four were held up for each candidate. The presiding officer giving his casting vote in favour of Mr D. Sinclair, and Mr R. Prouse demanding a poll, it was fixed to take place at the shool-house, Wainui, on Monday, 13th September, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Evening Post 23 Sep 1875

It is notified in the Provincial Government Gazette that the following persons have been elected members of the Wellington Highway Board:- Ward No.2, Mr James Taylor; Ward No.3, Mr Richard Smith; Ward No.4, Mr David Speedy; Ward No.5, Mr Duncan Sinclair; Ward No.6, Mr Thomas Mason; Ward No.7, Mr Frank Seranke; and that His Honor the Superintendent has appointed Mr Patrick Monaghan member for Ward No.1. The first meeting of the Board is to be held at the Lower Hutt, on Saturday, 2nd October, at noon.

Evening Post 16 Feb 1876

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 letter was read from J. and D. Sinclair, enclosing a cheque for £7 3s 6d, as a contribution towards the improvement of the Wainui Road.

Evening Post 18 Nov 1876 The Hutt Agricultural Society

A public meeting was held of this Society on last Thursday evening, when the rules as read were adopted. The following resolutions were carried:- "That the Governor be respectfully requested to become the patron of the society;" and "That the Hon. W. Fitzherbert be elected President of the society." The following office-bearers were elected, viz:- Vice-Presidents – Messrs Cruickshank, Upper Hutt; P. A. Buckley, Lower Hutt; James Knight, Lower Hutt; William Beetham, Taita; D. Sinclair, Wainuiomata; N. Valentine, Lower Hutt; A. Braithwaite, Lower Hutt; William Buick, Petoni; C. F. Worth, Taita; J. H. Corbett, Taita; J. Grace, sen., Wainuiomata; G. Buck, sen., Taita; J. G. F. Wilford, Hutt; W. A. Fitzherbert, Hutt; and J. Walker, Stoke's Valley. Committee – Messrs John White, D. Buick, Job Mabey, G. Hill, P. Bruce, R. T. Mellow, W. Russell, H. Russell, D. Knight, T. Caverhill, A. Pringle, D. Speedy, W. Browne, E. Hollard, and S. Mason. Treasurer – P. A. Buckley, Esq.; secretary – J. H. Corbett, Esq.,; auditor – W. S. Milne, Esq. The meeting was closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Evening Post 07 Dec 1876 Wellington Districts Highways Board

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 08 Jan 1877 Birth

On the 5th January, at Wainuiomata, the wife of D. Sinclair, of a daughter.

Evening Post 07 Mar 1877 The Hutt Show

The Hutt Agricultural, Horticultural, and Pastoral Association's Show took place to-day in a paddock belonging to the Hon. W. Fitzherbert, at the Lower Hutt... 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 05 Jun 1877 Hutt County Council – Tenders

The tender of Messrs Sinclair for supplying totara and black birch timber, delivered at any part of the county, at £1 per 100 superficial feet, was accepted.

Evening Post 22 Sep 1877

Prospectus of the Northern Loan & Building Society of Wellington. To be incorporated under the Building Societies Act 1877. Capital £100,000. In 10,000 Proprietary Shares of £10 each... Provisional Directors... Duncan Sinclair, Esq. (of Wainuiomata)...

Evening Post 13 Oct 1877

Complete List of Subscriptions received for presentation to Mr S. W. Alcorn... Wellington... Duncan Sinclair £2 2s...

Evening Post 19 Oct 1877 Prospectus

The Northern Land, Loan and Building Company, of Wellington (Limited). To be incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act. Capital £250,000. In 25,000 shares of £10 each, of which 10,000 are now offered to the public. It is proposed to call up £5 per Share, as follows, viz:- Two shillings and sixpence per share on application; two shillings and sixpence per share on allotment; and the remainder by instalments of two shillings and sixpence each, at intervals of one month. Provisional Directoris: The Hon Randall Johnson, M.L.C., Charles J. Johnston, Esq., (Messrs Johnston and Co.); J. B. Harcourt, Esq. (Messrs A. P. Stuart and Co.); **Duncan Sinclair, Esq. (of Wainuiomata)**; J. S. M. Thompson, Esq., (Messrs Thompson Shannon and Co.); Charles Tringham, Esq.; J. R. Blair, Esq. (Messrs Lyon and Blair); J. F. E. Wright, Esq., J.P.; Robert Port, Esq., Wellington; William Dawson, Esq. (Messrs Wm. Dawson and Co.); J. H. Wallace, Esq., J.P.; Alexander Johnston, Esq., M.D. Bankers – National Bank of New Zealand. Solicitors – Messrs Buller and Lewis. Managing Director – The Hon Randall Johnson, M.L.C. Secretary -. The rapid growth and increasing prosperity of the City of Wellington and its country districts during the past few years warrant the opinion that a Company formed under the Joint Stock Companies Acts, having a local directory and offering wide scope for the employment of capital, is now needed, and will meet with a large measure of success. The present company is accordingly formed, and with the following special objects, viz:- To provide a safe and profitable investment for capital. To receive money on deposit at interest. To grant loans on freeholds and other approved securities. To acquire land. And generally to afford every legitimate facility to both borrower and investor. The directors further intend to offer to the public the same facilities for the erection of buildings as are now offered by existing societies. The share list will close on Wednesday, 31st October 1877. For further information, and also for forms of application, apply to J. H. Wallace, Esq., Hunter-street, Wellington; or, to The National Bank of New Zealand, Wellington and Country Branches or Agencies.

Evening Post 20 Oct 1877

To let, cheap, a Small Farm of 80 acres land, with cottage, at Wainuiomata; conveniently situated, and suitable for market gardening. Apply to D. Sinclair.

Evening Post 31 Oct 1877

A public meeting to set on foot a subscription list in aid of the Indian Famine Relief Fund was held in the Mechanics' Institute, at the Lower Hutt, on Monday evening last, the chair being occupied by Mr William Beetham. The Rev T. Fancourt was appointed treasurer, and a subscription list opened forthwith, the sum of £29 13s 4d being subscribed in the room. A committee, consisting of Messrs Beetham, A. Collett, J. Knight, Mcllvride, Ransom, S. Sanson, P. Smith and W. R. Welch, undertook to canvass the district for subscriptions. The meeting requested the chairman to communicate with Mr Duncan Sinclair, of Wainuiomata, asking that district to join in the movement.

Evening Post 31 Oct 1877

To let, cheap, a Small Farm of 80 acres land, with cottage, at Wainuiomata; conveniently situated and suitable for market gardening. Apply to D. Sinclair.

Evening Post 03 Nov 1877

To let, that portion of the Lowry Bay estate known as the Waiwitu Flat – 25 acres more or less – of well grassed land, with cottage, fronting the East Harbour Road and adjoining the property of Dr Grace. Apply to D. Sinclair, Mr McIntyre, Wellington, Wainuiomata.

Evening Post 05 Nov 1877 Notice

All cattle, horses, &c., found trespassing on the Lowry Bay Estate from this date will be impounded. Also, all persons whose property adjoins are required to have their half of the fences repaired at once. By order of D. Sinclair, Wainuiomata.

Evening Post 20 Nov 1877

Wanted, a Man to drive the engine. Apply, at once, to J. & D. Sinclair, Wainuiomata Sawmill.

New Zealand Times 30 Nov 1877

The treasurer at the Hutt has received the sum of £25 from Wainuiomata towards the Indian Famine Relief Fund. The names of subscribers will be advertised in a supplementary list.

Evening Post 12 Dec 1877 Highways Office, Hutt

12 Dec 1877. The following persons have been appointed Assessors for the Wellington Highway District for the year 1878, in accordance with Rating Act 1876:- No.1 Ward – Mr David Braid; No.2 Ward – Mr Thomas Smith; Nos 3, 5 and 6 Ward – Joseph Brown; No.4 Ward – Duncan Sinclair. By order. Henry Ashton, Clerk W.D.H. Board.

Evening Post 15 Dec 1877

The following rangers have been appointed under "The Protection of Animals Act, 1876":- Messrs G. H. Luxford, Berhampoor; W. Bramley, Botanical Gardens, Wellington; H. Cook and W. Cook, Makara; John Alpin, Upper Kaiwara; Charles Duncan, Porirua; Henry Damant, Horokiwi Road; D. Sinclair, J. Sinclair, John Grace and Welby Jackson, Wainuiomata; Frank Fisk, Taita; T. Cotter, Silverstream; James Brown and James Cruickshank, Upper Hutt; R. Elliotte and W. Blackie, Pahautanui; G. Best, Ohariu; Andrew Maxwell, Wellington.

Evening Post 19 Jan 1878

To let, within ten minutes' walk of the Lower Hutt Railway Station, a ten-roomed House. Apply to Messrs Sinclair, Wainuiomata.

Evening Post 29 Jan 1878 Lowry Bay Estate

Mr George Roxburgh having been appointed Agent for the above Estate, all applications for lease or rental of cottages or land are to be made to him. Two furnished Cottages now to let. D. Sinclair.

Evening Post 18 Apr 1878 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 Wainui-o-mata 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 Wainui-o-mata, 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 16 May 1878

Good grazing for horses on reasonable terms. Apply on premises, Lowry Bay. D. Sinclair.

Evening Post 25 May 1878

To let, two houses at the Lower Hutt, opposite English Church. Apply to D. Sinclair, Wainui-o-mata; or Moss, Hutt Toll Gate.

Evening Post 12 Oct 1878

Wanted, an experienced Bullock Driver. Apply at once to J. & D. Sinclair, Wainuiomata.

Evening Post 28 Oct 1878 Hutt County Council

The nomination of the Hutt County Council took place today at noon, at the Lower Hutt, Mr Fitzherbert, County Engineer, being the Returning Officer. There are nine seats, and for these the following gentlemen were nominated:- ... Wainuiomata Riding (one seat) Robert Dick and Duncan Sinclair...

Evening Post 14 Nov 1878 The County Elections

The elections for the Hutt County Council, which took place yesterday in the various Ridings, resulted as follows:- ... Wainuiomata – one member R. Dick 32, D. Sinclair 13

Evening Post 19 Feb 1879 Birth

On the 18th February, at Wainuiomata, the wife of D. Sinclair, of twin daughters – all well. Father delighted.

Evening Post 27 Jul 1880

The following tenders have been received by the City Council:- Cartage of pipes for Wainui waterworks – Accepted: Charles McKirdy, 9s 7d per ton. Declined: W. F. Oakes, 13s 6d; John McLean, 18s 9d; E. Daly, £2 7s 6d; E. O'Malley, 6s to 30s; P. Scally, 6s to 25s; J. and D. Sinclair, 9s 6d to 19s 6d; J. Kelliher, 8s to 21s 6d; George Pudney, £1.

Evening Post 19 Aug 1880 Advertisement

To let, land suitable for Small Farms. Apply to D. Sinclair, Wainuiomata.

Evening Post 07 Oct 1880 Grass Seeds

On Sale – Italian, Rye, and Cocksfoot. McIntyre & Co. To Contractors and others. The undersigned is prepared to receive orders for all kinds of Sawn and Dressed Timber, for building purposes, at low rates. W. R. Waters, Hunter-street. Agent for J. & D. Sinclair, Wainuiomata.

1880-1881 Hutt Electoral Roll

Duncan Sinclair, farmer, freehold, sections 37, 38 Wainuiomata; John Sinclair, farmer, freehold, section 47 Wainuiomata

1880-1881 Te Aro Electoral Roll

Duncan Sinclair residing at Abel Smith Street, sawmiller, freehold Part section Martin square; John Sinclair, residing at Wainuiomata, sawmiller, freehold Part section Martin street.

1880-1881 Wellington Electoral Roll

Duncan Sinclair, sawmiller, Wainuiomata, freehold Part of section 216 Courtenay place

Evening Post 18 Jan 1881 Advertisement

To Let, Land suitable for Small Farms. Apply to D. Sinclair, Wainuiomata.

Evening Post 26 Oct 1881 To the Electors of the Hutt

Gentlemen, Being a candidate for the honour of representing this district in Parliament, I beg to solicit your support at the election. I will invite you to hear me state my political views in the several parts of the district at an early date, of which due notice will be given. Yours faithfully, Duncan Sinclair.

Evening Post 22 Oct 1881 Election Intelligence

Mr Duncan Sinclair announces that he is a candidate for the Hutt District, and will address the Hutt electors at an early date, of which due notice will be given. To the Electors of the Hutt District. Gentlemen – Being a candidate for the honour of representing this district in Parliament, I beg to solicit your support at the election. I will invite you to hear me state my political views in the several parts of the district at an early date, of which due notice will be given. Yours faithfully, Duncan Sinclair.

Evening Post 12 Jan 1883

There was a large attendance at the Homestead, Wainui-o-mata, yesterday afternoon, when Messrs T. K. Macdonald & Co. offered at auction a number of stock in the assigned estate of Messrs J. and D. Sinclair, sheep farmers and sawmill proprietors. The cattle realized from £10 to £15 per head; calves, £5; cross-bred calves, £2 10s; cross-bred milking cows, about £7 10s; sheep (mixed flock), 7s 3d, including lambs; and horses (draught), from £15 to £20 each. The standing crops were not sold, pending arrangements, we understand, with the mortgagees. Some of the stock was also reserved for the purpose of carrying on the work of the mill, but will be disposed of next month.

Evening Post 26 Feb 1883

Tomorrow 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 08 Mar 1883

A Meeting of the Wellington Highway District Road Board was held yesterday... The tender of D. Sinclair for work in Lowry Bay Road and in Moore's Valley for £13 10s and £15 5s respectively was accepted.

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 to 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.

Wairarapa Archives – Masterton School Register of Admission, Progress and Withdrawal

Entry No. 879 Hugh G. S. Sinclair born October 1872. Date of admission: July 1883. Parent: Duncan Sinclair, Wainuiomata.

Evening Post 10 Feb 1885

Mr Duncan Sinclair, late of Wainui-o-mata, has obtained letters patent in the United States and a provisional patent in Great Britain for an improved marine record preserver which he has invented. The preserver, a photograph of which we have seen, consists of a balloon-shaped vessel made of copper. Screwed into its mouth is a cylinder of brass containing a printed form, which is to be filled up with the particulars of a casualty on board ship. The preserver, which floats in the water in an upright position, a small weight being attached to the bottom, is covered with phosphorous, and is luminous at night time as it bobs up and down in the sea. Mr Sinclair has not considered it worth his while to take out a patent in New Zealand.

Evening Post 02 Mar 1885

Mr Duncan Sinclair, of Wellington, who is the successful tenderer for the construction of the Marton waterworks, is about to make a start with the work. A quantity of plant and a staff of 15 or 20 labourers will leave for Wanganui, *en route* for Marton, by the 'Stormbird' this evening.

Evening Post 07 May 1885

We hear that Mr D. Sinclair, late of Wainui-o-mata, contractor for the Marton waterworks, is making splendid progress with the work. Three days after signing the contract he was on the spot with a good body of workmen, being desirous of taking every advantage of the remaining months of fine weather. Mr Sinclair has now forty picked men and ten days at work. The works are being carried out by Mr N. Marchant, C.E., of Wellington, for the Borough Council of Marton. On several occasions Mr Sinclair has been congratulated by the people of Marton and the Press for the energy he has displayed and the straightforward and businesslike manner in which the contract is being carried out. The pipes have been ordered from Home some time ago, and by the time they arrive the other work will be well advanced. Eight months are allowed for doing the work, and if the weather proves at all favourable, Mr Sinclair expects to get it done within the contract time.

Evening Post 30 Oct 1885

We are informed that the Marton waterworks have just been completed by Mr Duncan Sinclair, the contractor, and that there is a very good supply of water in the reservoir. It is noteworthy that the water pipes only arrived by the 'Tongariro' on the 22nd ult., that they were transshipped to Wanganui by steamer, carried thence by rail to Marton, and laid within the space of 21 days. The Marton Borough Council may be congratulated upon having entrusted the work to such a business-like man as Mr Sinclair, and Mr Nicholas Marchant, the engineer of the works, also deserves credit for his able discharge of his duties. Notwithstanding that considerable delay occurred in the shipment of the pipes from London the contractor has completed the work some time before the date specified in the conditions.

Wanganui Chronicle 03 Sep 1886 North Island Main Trunk Railway

(Per United Press Association.) Wellington, September 2. The following tenders have been received for the North Island Main Trunk railway, Hunterville contract:- Accepted, Jesse Coates (Palmerston South), £14,242. Declined:- Matheson Bros (Dunedin) £16,750; Alexander and McFarlane (Wanganui) £17,184; Scally and O'Connor (Wanganui) £17,478; A. and D. Wilkie and J. Wilson (Wanganui) £18,143; M. Danagher (Wellington) £19,200; Mace and Basset (Belgrove) £20,348; Thomas Denby (Wanganui) £20,397; **Duncan Sinclair (Wellington) £20,940.**

1890 Palmerston North Electoral Roll
Duncan Sinclair, contractor, Palmerston North

1893 Palmerston North Electoral Roll
Duncan Sinclair, contractor, Palmerston North; Martha Sinclair, domestic, Palmerston North

1896 Palmerston North Electoral Roll
Duncan Sinclair, contractor; Duncan H. H. Sinclair, contractor; Hugh Gordon John Sinclair, contractor; Martha Sinclair, domestic duties – all residing in Palmerston North.

1900 Palmerston North Electoral Roll
Agnes Martha Sinclair, artist; Duncan Henry Hobbs Sinclair, contractor; Duncan Sinclair, contractor; Martha Sinclair, domestic duties;

Nominal Roll of Details for Seventh Contingent which sailed from Auckland in S.S. 'Surrey' on 1st Feb 1902 (Colonel Davies in Command)
Appendices to the Journal of the House of Representatives 1902 Section H6 p15
No. 6376 Harold Lionel Aynsley Sinclair, Clerk, Terrace End, Palmerston North – Father: Duncan Sinclair, same address

Manawatu Standard 07 Jan 1903
Mr D. Sinclair, engineer to the Pohangina County Council, returned to Palmerston yesterday after a pleasant trip to the Hot Lakes district.

Manawatu Standard 18 Apr 1903 Presentation to Mr D. Sinclair
By Telegraph, Special to Standard. Pohangina, This day. Mr Phillipotts, Chairman of the Pohangina County Council, presented Mr D. Sinclair, the retiring Engineer, with an illuminated address at the close of today's meeting on behalf of the residents. The address is the work of Mr L. J. Watkin and is beautifully done.

Manawatu Times 21 Apr 1903 Pohangina Gossip
... The last work which Mr Sinclair instituted, and is now carrying through, as engineer for the council is that of forming a better graded road up Holley's Hill, so named after the contractor who formed the first road. The former grade was one in six and a-half and one in ten, now it is a uniform grade of one in twelve. The formation is a little longer, 19 chains instead of 12 chains, but the advantage of an easy-graded uniform road will be great and will be a boon to travelers between Ashhurst and Pohangina. The old 24ft bridge at the foot of the hill has been replaced by a large concrete culvert, costing £100. It is expected that the whole work will be completed tomorrow evening.

New Zealand Mail 6 May 1903 p32a

Palmerston North. Mr and Mrs Duncan Sinclair leave Palmerston tomorrow on a visit to the Old World. They propose going to Canada and then across to England and the Continent, after which Mr Sinclair will in all probability pay a visit to Africa. During the course of their tour Mr and Mrs Sinclair will be accompanied by their son Norman.

Manawatu Times 08 May 1903 Personal

Among the passengers on the *Ventura* leaving Auckland today are Mr J. B. Clarkson, Mr and Mrs Duncan Sinclair and Mr Norman Sinclair, who booked their passages through Thos. Cook & Son, for whom Messrs Mellsop, Elliott & Co. are agents.

Manawatu Standard 08 Jul 1903 A Trip in a Mail Boat – Gleanings by the Way

Following is the continuation of Mr D. Sinclair's account of his trip from Auckland to San Francisco:- [20-26 May 1903] to ... May 22, Friday... In the evening we had a very good concert, in which Mr John Prouse, of Wellington, and other good vocalists took part, the whole being very enjoyable...

New Zealand Mail 12 Aug 1903 p55a

Palmerston North. Mr D Sinclair, late engineer to the Pohangina County Council, writing to a friend in Dannevirke from Cowley, ?inchos Creek, Alberta, Canada, says:- "We are having a real nice trip; so far good mild weather all the way, which has been very enjoyable."

New Zealand Mail 16 Mar 1904 p25b

Palmerston North. Mr and Mrs D. Sinclair, who left Palmerston North ten months ago on a visit to America and England, returned to this town on Wednesday evening. Their two sons, Duncan and Harold, are still in South Africa. Mr Harold Sinclair was married recently, and has settled in Pretoria.

New Zealand Herald 01 Dec 1908 Personal Items from London

Mr Duncan Sinclair (Palmerston North), formerly of Wellington, is on a visit to England, accompanied by Mrs Sinclair and their son, and are at present staying at Swanage, in Dorsetshire.

New Zealand Herald 08 Feb 1904 Personal Items from London

Mr Duncan Sinclair (of Manwatu, Wellington) arrived in London a few days ago with Mrs Sinclair. In Canada Mr and Mrs Sinclair were joined by their two sons, who have for some time been engaged in cattle-breeding in South Africa, and who had gone to Canada to purchase cattle for shipment to the Cape. They have already taken one shipment of 120 cattle, 57 horses, and 35 carriages to South Africa, which met with a very ready and profitable sale. They intend to pursue this enterprise with all possible energy, as it "pays" well.

New Zealand Mail 16 Mar 1904 p25b

Palmerston North. Mr and Mrs D. Sinclair, who left Palmerston North ten months ago on a visit to America and England, returned to this town on Wednesday evening. Their two sons, Duncan and Harold, are still in South Africa. Mr Harold Sinclair was married recently, and has settled in Pretoria.

Manawatu Evening Standard 16 Jun 1904

At the Broad-street Methodist Church last night, Mr Duncan Sinclair gave a lecture in aid of the Church funds. Mr Sinclair has recently returned from a visit to America and England, and last night he dealt with that portion of his route between Niagara Falls and the sea along the St. Lawrence river. Mr Sinclair's powers of observation are well known to readers of this journal, in which several interesting letters from his pen have been published. His remarks last night were equally interesting, dealing fully with the St. Lawrence waterway, the great lakes, the towns on their borders, and the Niagara Falls. Mr Sinclair also gave his impressions of New York. At the conclusion of the lecture, the chairman, the Rev J. J. Mather, expressed a hope that Mr Sinclair would give some more lectures during the winter. On Mr Cunningham's motion a vote of thanks was passed to him. During the evening songs were given by Miss Beattie and Mrs H. Mowlem.

Manawatu Standard 30 Jun 1904 Philosophical Society

A meeting of gentlemen interested in the formation of a branch of the Philosophical Society, in connection with the New Zealand Institute, was held at the Council Chambers last night. There were present – Messrs K. Wilson (chairman), W. Welch (con...), R. Gardner, D. Sinclair, Dr Martin, Brown, P. Baldwin, Vernon, Hirsch, Captain Preece, Swallow, Keeling and others. Mr Welch stated the object of the meeting and dwelt upon the scope of such an institution. He referred to various papers that had been read at meetings of different branches on scientific, physical, history, horticulture, Maori lore, and other subjects, adding that members would be at no loss for subjects for papers. He had ascertained that fully twenty-five gentlemen in town were willing to join, and Mr Hamilton, Curator of the Wellington Museum, had promised to read a paper at the first meeting. It was decided, on the motion of Mr G. Hirsch, that a branch of the Society, should be formed in Palmerston North, those present and those who had given their names to Mr Welch to be the original members. Mr Vernon spoke as to the value of the papers read at the Dunedin Society meetings, and considered the formation of the branch here would be of great good to both town and district. Messrs Hirsch, K. Wilson, Welch, Baldwin, Vernon and Dr Martin were appointed a committee to draft rules and submit them to a future meeting.

Feilding Star 27 Aug 1904

Mr Duncan Sinclair, who for a number of years held the position of Engineer to the Pohangina County Council, has been appointed Assistant Engineer to the Palmerston Borough Council.

1905-1906 Palmerston North Electoral Roll

Agnes Martha Sinclair, spinster; Alice Maud Sinclair, spinster; Duncan Sinclair, contractor; Martha Sinclair, married; Norman Herbert Sinclair, clerk – all residing at Church street east.

Manawatu Times 18 May 1905 Foundation Stone Laid

"I declare this stone truly and faithfully laid." The clear voice of a woman floated above the dripping umbrellas, which suddenly parted as a bright-faced girl came forward and presented a bouquet of rain-kissed flowers to the speaker, and the laying of the foundation stone of the Emmanuel Congregational Sunday School was finished. A large number of people gathered into the Church yard yesterday afternoon, notwithstanding the rain, to witness the ceremony, which was performed by Mrs M. A. Williams, of Wellington, through whose timely benevolence the ideals of the Congregationalists have become materialized... The architects for the building are Messrs Crichton and McKay, of Wellington, the builder Mr J. W. Blackburn while Mr **Duncan Sinclair** has been appointed Clerk of Works.

Manawatu Standard 21 Apr 1906

One of the latest donations to the embryo museum, which, under the care of the secretary of the Philosophical Society, Mr Welch, is now steadily growing, is that sent in by Mr D. Sinclair. It is the set of dies used by the late Transvaal Government for stamping its coins, and is now a most unique and interesting exhibit. As only one set was in existence the local museum has a somewhat proud distinction conferred upon it. When the dies were seized by the British authorities the designs were partially defaced by means of hammer blows to prevent the possibility of their ever being used again. Some of the dies have the engraving almost entirely obliterated, but on others it is only partly spoiled. The set is complete and of much value as a memento.

Manawatu Standard 16 Jun 1906 The Palmerston Museum – The Collection

There is no doubt that a considerable amount of interest has been aroused locally in the Museum which was formally opened here on Thursday evening last. In order to get a comprehensive idea of the exhibits which go to make up the collection, a Standard reporter this morning visited the place in company with the curator, Mr Welch, the latter very kindly pointing out all the objects of interest which were on view. As is fairly generally known now the Museum is located in the Public Library building, almost opposite the Post Office... Mr D. Sinclair has sent in a fine collection of lignites, coals, and fossils from various parts of New Zealand, and also many fine specimens of marble from America and England...

Manawatu Standard 08 Sep 1906

A fine specimen of a Maori stone axe or adze has been found by Mr D. Sinclair while cutting lines in the bush up near the Pohangina Gorge. It is rarely that such a perfect stone implement is found, it is as sharp as when in use, and measures three inches wide on the edge, 14 inches long, and weighs 6½ lbs. These stone implements being found at times by the settlers when clearing the bush shows clearly that the natives, some time previous to the advent of the white man, must have traversed the whole of the back country lying under the Ruahine ranges, which at that time was dense forest almost from the coast line. This specimen will be added to our local Museum.

Manawatu Times 09 Mar 1908 Marriage

At Palmerston North, by Rev Isaac Jolly, on March 7, John, youngest son of the late Mr T. B. Louisson, of Nelson, to Agnes Martha, second daughter of Mr Duncan Sinclair, Terrace End.

Manawatu Standard 25 Jul 1908

Mr D. Sinclair, while strolling on the beach at the mouth of the Manawatu river, obtained an ancient Maori canoe bailer, tata waka, or koitu. It seems to have been buried in the earth for a long time, but being made of totara timber it is in a fairly good state of preservation. In all probability it has been washed out of the banks of the Manawatu river, taken out to sea, and cast up on the beach. It is of no intrinsic value, except as a relic of the past days of the Maori. As such, it will be deposited in the local museum.

Manawatu Times 11 Aug 1908

The following are the latest additions to the museum:- Ancient Maori canoe bailer (taka waka or koitu), found on the beach near the mouth of the Manawatu river by Mr D. Sinclair; coral from Fanning Island; white tapa cloth; hand painted tapa cloth; Fijian mat and Samoan mat (Mr N. Waldegrave). Since the museum was opened on 14th October, 1906, to 27th July 1908, or a period of about a year and a half, 5265 visitors have signed their names on the attendance book.

Manawatu Times 21 Aug 1908

There will be a meeting of the Philosophical Society at the Opera House supper room this evening, when Mr Duncan Sinclair is to contribute a paper on "Physiology and Psychology."

Manawatu Times 22 Aug 1908

Mr M. Cohen presided over the meeting of the Philosophical Society at the Opera House supper room last evening when Mr Duncan Sinclair read an interesting paper entitled "Physiology v. Psychology." It dealt lucidly with the relative functions of the heart and brain and held that the old idea that the heart was the seat of the emotions was erroneous, these being located in the brain. Dealing with the power of man to create and develop character and his higher personality, Mr Sinclair regretted the purely secular tendency of the public school system and urged the cultivation of what he designated as the psychological attributes, and which he considered in a measure might be regarded as "the image of God" in man. If there was a desire to lessen the number in hospitals, and those mentally deranged, and to suppress drinking and gambling habits, then the brain should be trained to understand its more noble purpose "and by cultivating the psychological organs and functions conscience and reasoning power would be developed." Considerable discussion followed the reading of the paper. Capt. Hewitt was disposed to hold the heart as still the seat of the emotions. Mr B. W. Lowe claimed for the education system that while not denominational it strove to cultivate moral and altruistic qualities in the children and taught them manliness and honesty. Mr Covelle and others also spoke, and Mr Sinclair replied.

Manawatu Standard 19 Nov 1908 Philosophical Society – Annual Report

The annual report of the Philosophical Society, which is to be presented at the meeting tonight, shows that satisfactory progress has been made during the past twelve months... Papers have been read by... D. Sinclair...

Feilding Star 17 May 1909 Pohangina County Council – London's Ford Bridge – A Tender (£1900) Accepted

Waita, May 17. The Pohangina County Council, at a special meeting held on Saturday, accepted the tender of Mr T. Dillon, of Wellington, for the erection of London's Ford Bridge over the Oroua river at Kimbolton. The price is £1990 1s. There were ten tenders received, the highest being £2377. Tenders were received from Rangiora, Blenheim, Dannevirke, Woodville, Palmerston, Wellington and Masterton. The Government is paying one-half the cost, and the Pohangina County Council three-fourths and the Kiwitea County Council one-fourth of the remainder. Mr Duncan Sinclair, of Palmerston North, is the engineer for the contract.

Manawatu Times 28 May 1909 The Museum

So far the museum of the Philosophical Society is a small thing, but small as it is, the collection already in or in view, is large enough to fill the whole space which we understand it is proposed to allot to it in the new building – 95 x 29 feet. Let anyone cast their minds over any museum or art gallery they have seen elsewhere and then look at one of our business premises of the floor space mentioned, and they will see how totally inadequate that must be for a town which boasts of being the fifth in the Dominion. It simply means that the development of what might otherwise be a valuable collection must practically be stopped, because the better the accommodation, the greater the tendency for private individuals to deposit or give those things which they value and which are of general interest. Now that the Society has begun a movement for making itself the custodian of the historic remains of both races in the districts which centre round, the inadequacy of the provision is the more glaring. Mr **Sinclair** suggested to us the other day that the sympathy of the Maori people of the district should be obtained towards depositing treasures in the new museum, just as Mr Hamilton is working for in the National museum to be erected at Wellington. Then there are pictures, documents, relics of all sorts, in private houses which elsewhere their owners deposit in national collections and we do not want to see these go out of the district, remain hidden, or be dispersed, but such a room as is proposed would not have any hope of securing them. The Philosophical Society in this matter is pursuing no selfish end, but beginning a work of which Palmerston will presently be proud and the first essential of that work is a fire proof building with the space and accommodation to do for these things what cannot be done in their present homes.

Manawatu Times 21 Sep 1909 Unrecorded History of Wellington Province – Interesting Reminiscences

At the monthly meeting of the Philosophical Society held last night a paper entitled "A Few Unrecorded Incidents in the Early History of Wellington" was read by Mr Duncan Sinclair. Mr W. F. Durward presided and there were a fair number of members present. Mr Sinclair stated that his father arrived in Wellington in 1839 before there was any settlement there, in charge of the goods of Mr James Coutts Crawford. Mr Crawford came over for the purpose of taking up the bulk of what is now Nelson province, but before he could get his papers put through by the New South Wales Government, Captain Hobson arrived in New Zealand and the Australian Government refused to complete the deal. After going round the colony with Mr Crawford, Mr Sinclair, Senr., took a cargo to Chatham Islands, which he exchanged for pork, arriving back at Port Nicholson soon after the arrival of the first emigrant ships. The speaker gave a great many interesting anecdotes regarding life in the early days in Wellington, the whole being written in an entertaining racy style. After the reading of the paper Captain Hewitt and Messrs Elliott, Bendall and Gardner also spoke.

Manawatu Standard 21 Sep 1909

New Zealand's offer of a battleship was not the first of its kind made to the Home Government. In his lecture before the Philosophical Society last night Mr Duncan Sinclair told of one of New South Wales' early convicts, Perry, who had made a lot of money and owned at one time all the buildings on one side of Pitt Street, Sydney. He was so wealthy that he made an offer to the British Government to fit out a first-class battleship as a present to the Crown if he were allowed once more to put his foot on British soil a "free man." His offer was refused.

Manawatu Standard 21 Sep 1909 Early Wellington – Some Unrecorded Incidents

Mr Duncan Sinclair, of Terrace End, was born in Wellington in 1846, and was therefore one of the first white children born there. His father, Mr Hugh Sinclair, came to New Zealand in 1839, and having lived through the troublous times of that important period in the history of the Dominion, his experiences are well worth recording. At last night's meeting of the Philosophical Society Mr Duncan Sinclair read a paper in which a number of interesting incidents of that period, as narrated by his father, were told.

In 1836 Mr H. Sinclair landed in New South Wales, and was appointed to the staff of the Convict Governor, Sir John Jameson. The duties were to look after the stores and serve out the rations to the prisoners every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. After that the prisoners were allowed to amuse themselves, just as they pleased, for the remainder of the day, which was usually spent in the boxing ring or in snake hunting. Here were to be seen men whose countenances were stamped with marks of the blackest villainy, while others were refined, well-educated gentlemen's sons from the Home country, who for some trivial offence were sent out there to become the associates of the most hardened in crime. Mr Hugh Sinclair was engaged by Mr James Coutts Crawford to come over to New Zealand in the *Success* and assist him with the transport of his goods to the various places where he wished to take them in order to trade with the natives for land. The *Success* reached Cook Straits on the 14th November 1839, and anchored shortly after at the Island of Kapiti. They had just missed Colonel Wakefield, who, in the ship *Tory*, had sailed north from Kapiti to buy land at Wanganui and Taranaki. A few passengers came over in the *Success* from Sydney – Dr James Taylor, Archie Tod, Mr Rae, and others. They remained on the ship until she reached Port Nicholson, but Mr Crawford and his party went from Kapiti to Mana, with the object of getting to the mainland. The little vessel which took them from the one island to the other was owned by a Captain Munn.

The Island of Mana was at that time in the possession of twin brothers named Fraser, and used by them as a whaling station. Here they first saw the celebrated Chief Rangihaeata. Crawford and his party obtained a whale-boat from Fraser Bros., and went from there to the mainland, landing at a place then named Korohewa, just south of Titai Bay. They stayed for the night at an old whaler's place named Sheare. From there the party sailed up past Titai Bay and into the Porirua Harbour. Passing Taupo pa, they landed at a pa near Paremata, with the intention of obtaining guides, as they intended to walk from there over to the harbour of Waanganui-a-tera or Port Nicholson.

In the meantime they had heard that Col. Wakefield had been in the vicinity of Cook Straits for about three months and that he had bought all the land in the neighbourhood of Port Nicholson. After hiring some native guides at Paremata, they started on foot, following up the stream, the track almost keeping the bed of the creek as far as what is now known as Tawa Flat. From there the native track led up a spur of the hill and over to the Horo Kiwi district, where it came out on the hill overlooking the Korokoro. When they emerged from the bush they saw the first glimpse of the Harbour of Waanganui-a-tera (now Wellington).

Here they sat down to take a rest and view the harbour and its surroundings. To the left of them was the valley of Haereronga (now the Hutt), clothed in its thick forest of bush, with the large native pa on the end of the sandy beach, Petone. To the right of them could be seen a large number of canoes with natives on the harbour fishing. The native guides discharged their guns to arrest the attention of those who were fishing.

As they descended the hill the natives in the canoes came on shore to meet them. Their first salute was from the head fighting Chief, Wharepouri (Dark House), who was the chief of the pa at Ngaauranga. From Ngaauranga Mr Crawford's party went round to Kai-whara-whara (the food of the kia-kia). The chief of the pa there was named Te-ringa-kuri (the ear of the dog). He was well named, too, for he was a rather repulsive-looking old native of a rather low type.

In skirting round the harbour the next place was a small pa named Ti-aka-wai, and was just behind where the Wellington-Manawatu railway station is now. There was a much larger pa at Pipitea Point, and a smaller one at Kumu-toto, or what is now known as Lindsay's corner; also the pa at Te Aro. At each of these places the native guides had a long "korero" about all that was going on in Cook Straits. All the natives in the harbour wanted to know all the latest news. There was only one white man in what is now Wellington; he was living in a whare owned by one of the whalers named Richard Barrett, situated just about where Molesworth Street intersects Lambton Quay.

The greater number of the natives in the various pas were the Ngati-awa, with a few of the Ngati-toa, and Ngati-apa, and they numbered not less than 800 able-bodied men. Although Rauparaha had not pushed his conquest into the harbour of Waanganui-a-tera, yet he claimed ownership. This was given as a reason why the sale of the land to Colonel Wakefield was so easily affected, in order that white men might settle there and help to repel any invasion by the Ngatiraukawa from about Cook Straits.

Mr Sinclair related how, when first he saw the coast line in and around the harbour from Ti-aka-waito Te Aro Flat. It was difficult to say how much flat land there was between the harbour and the hills at the back, on account of it being nearly all covered in thick bush. Mention was made of the difficulty there was in walking round what was afterwards known as Clay Point to Te Aro Flat, about where the office of the Evening Post now stand. The waves washed right into a steep cliff which was at the time covered with overhanging scrub, and to get round at that point the pedestrian had to wait his opportunity as the waves receded to jump from stone to stone, in order to get past with dry feet.

Manawatu Times 16 Nov 1909 Manawatu Philosophical Society

... At the general meetings papers and addresses have been given... Mr Duncan Sinclair – "Unrecorded Incidents in the History of Wellington"...

Manawatu Standard 22 Nov 1909 Topics of the Day

On Saturday Cr R. W. Brown, chairman of the Pohangina County Council, performed the opening ceremony in connection with London's Ford bridge. The structure is the result of fifteen years' agitation by those principally concerned, and subsidy by the Government of £1000, Pohangina County £850, and the KIWITEA COUNTY £275. The bridge has been erected by Mr T. Dillon at a cost of £2125, Mr **Duncan Sinclair**, of Palmerston, acting as clerk of works. The opening of the bridge will be greatly appreciated by the settlers, and will, in addition, greatly stimulate the trade of the district.

Manawatu Standard 08 Dec 1909

A correspondent writes:- "Stones which have been deposited with the excrement of birds, usually known as 'moa stones' are to be found in many localities. In excavating soil for the approach of the bridge at London's Ford near Kimbolton a deposit of these stones was found. While the workmen were removing the soil some of the stones were thrown to waste, but Mr D. Sinclair having an idea of what they were, secured some six dozen of them, which will be placed in the local museum. These stones are all of white quartz, not a brown stone being found with them, and are about the size of marbles. They were obtained from the surface of the ground, and within a radius of two feet, the situation being on a low terrace near the Oroua river. These gizzard stones have been deposited by some reptile or large bird; it may have been the moa or the 'hokioi,' or they may be from the digestive organs of some animal like the 'tuatara,' or some other 'taniwa.' Who knows?" Mr Sinclair showed us a parcel of these "moa stones" today before depositing them in the museum, where they will form an interesting exhibit.

Manawatu Times 15 Mar 1910 The Museum – Latest Additions

... Mr D. Sinclair, honeysuckle root from Fitzherbert East in 1890; petrified wood from Pohangina Gorge; moa stones (or gizzard stones) from Kimbolton...

Manawatu Times 15 Mar 1910

The 1910 session of the Philosophical Society will be commenced on Thursday, when Mr W. W. Smith will contribute a paper on "The New Zealand Saddleback." Mr D. Sinclair will also contribute a paper on "Early Education Among the Maoris."

Manawatu Standard 23 Nov 1910 Events Worth Noting

The annual meeting of the Philosophical Society will be held on Thursday evening at 8 o'clock. After the business has been transacted interesting papers will be read by Messrs D. Sinclair and M. A. Elliott.

1911 Palmerston North Electoral Roll

Alice Maud Sinclair, spinster; Duncan Sinclair, contractor; Martha Sinclair, married; Norman Herbert Stanley Sinclair, manager – all residing at 311 Main Street East.

Manawatu Standard 17 Jan 1911

At the last annual meeting of the Philosophical Society Mr Duncan Sinclair suggested that botanizing excursions to different parts of the district should be held by members of the Society. Members approved of the suggestion at once, and the first of the expeditions, with Mr D. Sinclair at its head, will leave for Whariti on Monday. The party will leave by the Woodville train at 7 a.m. Members and their friends who desire to go should notify either Mr K. Wilson, secretary, or Mr Sinclair.

Manawatu Standard 24 Jan 1911

With a view of participating in botanical research, a party consisting of seven gentlemen and two ladies, members of the Palmerston Philosophical Society, made an ascent of Whariti yesterday, under the guidance of Mr Duncan Sinclair. The party left town by the 7 a.m. train, and were conveyed from Woodville in a drag up the mountain side as far as possible. Half way up from the saddle to the trig station, the party partook of lunch, after which a start was made for the top. On reaching the summit, Woodville and Ashhurst could plainly be seen, but Palmerston was obscured by the smoke from bush fires. The day was spent in searching the bush for floral treasures, and each member of the party collected as much as they could conveniently carry. Amongst the sub-alpine plants found was the silver-white pine, Kawaka (mountain cedar) olerias, red horopita, and young ratas. Notwithstanding these burdens, the descent was accomplished safely and the party returned home by evening train well satisfied with their day's outing. It is quite probable other similar trips will be arranged during the summer months.

Manawatu Standard 26 Sep 1911

At a meeting of the Manawatu Philosophical Society yesterday afternoon... thanks... to Mr Sinclair for petrified wood from Piripiri, coal from Foxton and tawa root...

Manawatu Standard 21 Dec 1911 Personal

At St Paul's church this afternoon, Mr Frederick Thomas Danvers, veterinary surgeon, a son of Mr A. T. Danvers, of Hastings, was united in matrimony to Miss Alice Maud Sinclair, third daughter of Mr Duncan Sinclair, of Terrace End. Rev G. W. J. Spence was the officiating clergyman. At the conclusion of the ceremony, in commemoration of this being the first wedding in the new church, Rev Spence presented Mrs Danvers with a Bible and a Methodist hymn book with tunes, on behalf of the trustees of the church.

Hastings Standard 21 Dec 1911

A very quiet wedding was solemnized at St Paul's Methodist Church, Palmerston North this afternoon, the contracting parties being Mr Fred T. Danvers, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A. T. Danvers, of Hastings, and Miss Alice Sinclair, daughter of Mr and Mrs Duncan Sinclair of "Te Hononga," Palmerston North. Mr and Mrs Danvers Jnr., left by an afternoon train for Napier where the honeymoon will be spent.

1914 Palmerston North Electoral Roll

Duncan Sinclair, contractor; Frances Ethel Sinclair, married; Martha Sinclair, married; Norman Herbert Stanley Sinclair, manager – all residing at 311 Main Street East.

Manawatu Standard 14 Sep 1914

The Pohangina valley has given, in its numerous shell deposits to be found in its soils, many evidences that at one time that portion of the North Island was part of the sea bed. In places the shell deposit is very thick and occasionally shell fossils are found in the rock. The latest find by Mr Duncan Sinclair, engineer to the Pohangina County Council is a complete oyster shell, both the upper and lower sections being complete and intact. Among other geological specimens discovered during the past week or two are pieces of fossilized cabbage tree, which when struck together have a distinct metallic ring. Quite recently an unfinished Maori stone implement was dug up in the Pohangina valley. The particular stone is not indigenous to the district and is similar to that found in the Nelson district. It was probably dropped by fugitive Maoris during the raids of the warlike Te Rauparaha.

Manawatu Times 28 Dec 1914 Marriage

At the Pitt Street Methodist Church, Auckland, on the 26th inst., by the Rev C. H. Laws, B.A., Norman Herbert, third son of Mr and Mrs Duncan Sinclair, Terrace End, Palmerston North, to Margaret Mary, only daughter of Thomas Henry Holden, Esq., "Austwick," Settle, Yorks, England.

Manawatu Standard 16 Mar 1915

A discovery of more than passing interest bearing on the time when New Zealand formed part of the seabed was made by Mr Duncan Sinclair at the foot of the Ruahine range at the top of Pohangina Valley. The Norsewood road is now under construction here and a good deal of blasting has taken place. Amongst a mass of debris brought down Mr Sinclair found many fossilized cockle shells. They were filled with earth and have become very hard, but the natural marking on the shells is distinctly visible and has withstood the ravages of time. A piece of rock which was dislodged during operations bore plain evidence of where long narrow mussels had imbedded themselves, leaving an indelible imprint on the rock. Other shells of the scallop species were found in an excellent state of preservation. Not long ago Mr Sinclair found fossilized oyster shells in another part of the country. The specimens are interesting relics of a long-distant period in the geological history of this country.

Manawatu Times 24 Apr 1915

The many friends of Mrs J. S. Watchorn will sincerely regret to hear of her death which occurred yesterday, after a long illness, during which she underwent three operations, the last on Tuesday of this week. All the best medical skill was unavailing to ensure recovery. The deepest sympathy will be extended to the bereaved husband and family. The deceased lady was highly esteemed by a large circle of friends in this district where she had been resident for thirty years. She was a daughter of Mrs Duncan Sinclair, and leaves two sons, Geoffrey and Nevill, and one daughter, Connie. The funeral will leave her residence, 37 Church Street East, at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Manawatu Times 30 Nov 1915

The Philosophical Society have recently received some very interesting additions to the museum. Mr Duncan Sinclair, of Pohangina, donated a number of relics, the most interesting of which is a shell embedded in a stone in the shape of a heart. It would appear that many years ago the shell was embedded in mud and as time went on this mud solidified, and the action of the water has worn the outside of the shell, leaving only the edge of the shell embedded. Mr Kenway has also sent in a chart drawn for the French Admiralty in 1784. The map is of course somewhat crude but remarkably accurate considering the limited knowledge of those times.

Manawatu Standard 30 Nov 1915 Specimens for the Museum

Mr Duncan Sinclair, Pohangina County Clerk, has gathered some more interesting exhibits for the local Museum. They are:

[1] A specimen of stone in the rough, as used by the natives in making their axes, or adzes. This exhibit was found by Mr Hugh Fraser, late of Komako, near the little school in that locality. There is no stone like it in the district and it has evidently been brought from the Nelson district, where such a class of stone was obtained by the natives for making tools. It has no doubt been carried up into the upper Pohangina by the natives, possibly by some refugees, while escaping from the hand of a more powerful tribe. This is loaned to the Museum by Mr Fraser.

[2] Specimens of petrified wood, of the bole of the cabbage tree "Cordalene-Australis" obtained by Mr D. Sinclair at the top end of No.1 Line, Awahou, Pohangina. It came out of papa formation, and from what was apparently the coast line at some earlier period, although at present fully 1000 feet above the present level of the Pohangina valley. This coast line is clearly indicated in many places by the fine seaworn shingle and shells which lie between the papa formation and the older igneous rock in the mountain range.

[3] A specimen of kauri gum, obtained in the Pohangina valley near the Opawe creek. It was obtained by one of the workmen while shoveling metal on the river bed for road repairs. This and another piece of kauri gum which was obtained recently from a papa cutting gives rise to the question, where did these come from, seeing there is no kauri in the district?

[4] A natural curio in the nature of a heart of "stone." This is a large cockle shell which has been opened out in the mud when that was in a soft state, and which after becoming solidified, has been water-born in such a manner as to make the exact form of a heart in the solid stone. This curio was obtained by Mr D. H. Sinclair from the stream-bed of the Ritaruke stream in the Waimarino district.

[5] Bivalves of the "boat shell" class. These were obtained from Upper Pohangina at the base of the Ruahine range on the Norsewood road.

Manawatu Standard 08 Mar 1916 Civic Affairs - Public Works Committee

The Public Works Committee recommended:- That Mr Sinclair be informed that his application to make a street through his land at Terrace End, Main Street, will be agreed to provided it is constructed in accordance with the Council's conditions, and a legal agreement be drawn up between Mr Buchanan and the Council with respect to the surface drainage through his land; further that if Mr Buchanan will submit a plan for a street through his property the Council will be prepared to consider it...

Manawatu Standard 20 Mar 1916 Commercial – "Stirling Terrace"

By an announcement elsewhere Mr Duncan Sinclair is offering for sale his well-known property, situated at Terrace End. The land, which comprises 10 acres, has been surveyed into 40 sections, each 66ft by 132ft. The street, when formed, will have an easy gradient and run through the centre of the property, and will be constructed to the satisfaction of the Borough Engineer. There is no land in the Borough which offers a better residential sight than terrace sections at Terrace End. Being more than 60 feet above the level of the Square a maximum of sunshine and fresh air is obtained, whilst a splendid panoramic view of the town and surrounding ranges can be obtained. The time is not far distant when this rapidly rising suburb will be connected with the city by a regular means of transit, which will put a big premium on all terrace sections. Full particulars may be obtained from all land agents, or Mr N. H. Sinclair, at Watson Bros.

Evening Post 19 Sep 1916 Letters to the Editor – City Water Supply – Orongorongo work in hand

Sir, The old adage is true – “Where ignorance is bliss, ‘tis folly to be wise.” I was not aware that the above work was in hand, but now see from the Mayor’s remarks at the council meeting that such is the case, and also indicating the points from which the connection is to be made; also that a name has been given to one of the several streams which flow towards Orongorongo in that locality. This implies that some preliminary work has been done, if only with the aneroid. Huia Creek is a very appropriate name for such a tributary, if the royal “Hetralochra-acutirastris” is yet in possession of that particular locality, which I am inclined to doubt, although there were quite a number of them there half a century ago. It is satisfactory to know that the Orongorongo Stream can be tapped so low down, and can be brought into George’s Stream. The Irishman said it was a “rocky road to Dublin” and a “long way to Tipperary.” If he were induced to have a walk over there he would say it was a “little of both” where if he saw the place for a dam he would hear of quite a number of others. From the nature of the country it will require some time to carry the scheme through, for want of access. The question of the Scotchman and the whisky might apply. When asked if he would have it hot or cold, he said: “Cold while the hot was being made ready.” It might be necessary to do the smaller tunnel while the larger scheme was in progress. Unfortunately the trend of the hills and gullies opposite George’s Stream does not naturally help to shorten the distance. Now, sir, while we are on the George’s Stream track, I will introduce your readers to a little matter which may prove of interest to visitors in that locality a bit later; it may not be very far from the line of the proposed tunnel. What might be termed a “phenomenon” or natural curiosity is a block of stone or rough rock which, by some earthquake or volcanic action, has been tilted up on end, from the side of the hill. There is quite a recess in the hillside from where it has been tilted out. This block of stone stands some feet above the standing birch trees; it can only be approached from the back or hillside. The top of this rock is flat, with room for eight or ten men to stand, while in the centre there is a loose block of stone, from two and a half to three feet through, suitable for a good seat. This peculiar rock is bleached with the weather, and at a distance resembles a small tent standing on top of the green trees. It was named by the lads J. and D. Sinclair, over 50 years ago, the “throne in the wilderness.” This phenomenon is worthy of a visit by anyone who may be in that locality, and no doubt will be visited by the young tourist with a camera, from which a good view of all the upper Orongorongo Valley can be obtained. It can be easily found by going up the central spur from where the George’s Stream forks, where this spur joined the main range. There is a rather prominent point on the spur which leads over towards the Orongorongo (from that point), looking about north-east along the main ridge, about three-quarters of a mile, and just down on the Orongorongo side a little distance can be seen this “throne in the wilderness.” Ten or 15 minutes’ walk from the junction of the ridges named will bring the visitor to this spot, where, if the day is clear, he will be rewarded with a beautiful landscape view, where the hills and valleys are clad in a many-coloured robe of foliage, where the wood pigeon may be seen as it sweeps on the wing from one hill to another, and the “wheep-wheep” of the poipoi (turangara-taugara) is heard from the valley below. As the tourist is seated on that “throne in the wilderness” and views the surrounding country, he will admit the scene is one to which beauty has lent its charms, and sublimity its grandeur. The tourist would return satisfied that this description is no romance, and that the spot is worth a good walk to see it. It is to be hoped the surveyors will locate this spot, and cut a line to it that it may be more easily found by future visitors. I am, etc. Duncan Sinclair, Palmerston North, September 15, 1916.

Manawatu Standard 08 Dec 1916 Philosophical Society

The annual meeting of the Manawatu Philosophical Society was held last evening, in the presence of a fair attendance, including some ladies... The election of office-bearers resulted: President, Mr C. T. Salmon; vice-presidents, Messrs J. W. Poynton and A. J. Colquhoun; officer in charge of the observatory, Mr C. T. Salmon; Council, Miss Ironside, M.A., and Messrs D. Sinclair, M. A. Elliott, J. L. Barnicoat, W. Park, and J. E. Vernon; secretary and treasurer, Mr K. Wilson; auditor, Mr W. E. Bendall...

2nd Division Roll of the NZ Expeditionary Force Reserve 1917
Duncan Henry Sinclair, farmer, Kerikau, 4 children (Class E)

Manawatu Times 15 Mar 1917 Local and General

The council of the Philosophical Society have been reluctantly compelled to close temporarily the Museum in consequence of alterations rendered necessary by the building of the Anzac Club. The monthly meetings will continue to be held as usual. At the meeting to be held tonight a paper that should prove most instructive will be read by Mr Duncan Sinclair, C.E., on "Pairing Relations of Matter in Vegetable and Animal Life." The library has just received, by the kindness of Archdeacon Comins, several valuable additions, including standard books of reference on divers branches of botany, and Sir George Grey's well-known work on Maori Mythology.

Manawatu Standard 13 Dec 1917

The annual report of the Manawatu Philosophical Society states that during the year valuable additions to the museum and the library have been received, including among other items a collection of fifty butterflies and moths from the Dominion Museum, contributed by Dr Thomson, a collection of minerals from the volcanic region of Rotorua by Mr D. Sinclair, and valuable books of reference by the Ven. Archdeacon Comins, late of Melanesia.

Manawatu Times 14 Dec 1917 Philosophical Society

The annual meeting of the Manawatu Philosophical Society was held yesterday afternoon. Present: Mr C. T. Salmond, president, who presided, and Miss Ironsides, and Messrs D. Buick, M.P., J. L. Barnicoat, Mr Elliott, R. Edwards, W. Park, K. Wilson, A. J. Colquhoun, R. Edwards, D. Sinclair, J. Rainforth... The election of office-bearers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:- President, Mr J. A. Colquhoun; vice-presidents, Messrs C. T. Salmon and D. Sinclair; officer in charge of the observatory, Mr J. A. Colquhoun; new members of the Council, Messrs J. Rainsforth, C. N. Clausen, A. Hannay, J. E. Vernon, W. Park, M. A. Elliott; auditor, Mr W. E. Bendall. Secretary and treasurer: Mr K. Wilson, M.A...

Manawatu Standard 22 Mar 1918 Personal

Mr and Mrs Duncan Sinclair, of Terrace End, left today on a visit to their son, who is farming at a settlement south of Taumaranui.

Manawatu Standard 04 Sep 1918 Personal

Mr and Mrs D. Sinclair, of Terrace End, leave this afternoon on an extended visit to Auckland, Rotorua, and the Bay of Plenty district.

1919 Palmerston North Electoral Roll

Duncan Sinclair, contractor; Hugh Gordon John Sinclair, county engineer; Martha Elizabeth Sinclair, married – 167 Church Street
Frances Ethel Sinclair, married – 196 Ferguson Street
Norman Herbert Stanley Sinclair, manager – 10 Alan Street

Manawatu Standard 23 Jan 1919 Personal

Mr and Mrs D. Sinclair, of Terrace End, returned to Palmerston North yesterday after an absence of five months, which was spent in the Auckland, Bay of Plenty, and Rotorua districts. An enjoyable time was experienced in the North, both being very fortunate in escaping attacks of influenza. While at Tauranga, Mr Sinclair met Mr Alex Ferguson, a former Mayor and business man of Palmerston North. Mr Ferguson has a fine residence on the harbour front at Tauranga, and spends most of his time fishing and yachting. Mr Ferguson had a pleasant chat with Mr Sinclair regarding the early days of Palmerston North and the town's subsequent progress and development.

1919 Tauranga Electoral Roll

Duncan Sinclair, civil engineer; Martha Sinclair, married – both at Mission Street, Tauranga

Manawatu Evening Standard 22 Feb 1919

While in the Bay of Plenty recently, Mr D. Sinclair collected quite a number of shells from the sea beach in that locality. These shells have been nicely arranged in their order, in suitable trays, with the names given to each specimen. Mr Sinclair has placed these in the local museum, as it may prove helpful to young people and others who take an interest in mollusk or malacology of New Zealand shells. There is also a small stone axe and pieces of obsidian used by the natives as knives before steel was introduced. These exhibits were obtained from the old native shell middens near the Mount in Tauranga.

Manawatu Standard 02 Apr 1919 Advertisement

Mounsey & Co., Auctioneers and Land Agents... Huge, Extensive and Attractive Unreserved Clearing Sale of Upright Grand Piano, by Erart, London, specially imported; Superior Household Furniture and Effects at the well-known residence on the Terrace, Terrace End... who have been favoured with instructions from Duncan Sinclair, Esq., who is leaving for Tauranga, to sell as above. Absolutely without reserve at his residence "Te Hononga", Terrace End.

Manawatu Standard 29 Apr 1919 Personal

Mr and Mrs D. Sinclair, of Terrace End, are leaving by the Auckland express tomorrow afternoon. For health reasons their home will be in Tauranga for some time.

Manawatu Standard 01 May 1919 Personal

At the meeting of the Philosophical Society's Council on Monday it was decided to hold a special meeting at the Museum tomorrow. The following additions to the Museum were exhibited: Presented by Mr D. Sinclair, plan of the Wainuiomata in 1854 (signed by Sir F. D. Bell)...

Manawatu Times 11 Feb 1920 Personal Paragraphs

Mr Duncan Sinclair, for many years County engineer and clerk to the Pohangina County Council, is now residing in Tauranga where he spends much of his leisure in the enjoyments of the bowling green.

Manawatu Standard 17 Nov 1920 Philosophical Society Annual Report

... Following is a list of exhibits received during the year:- ... piece of elm (Mr D. Sinclair)...

Manawatu Times 21 Dec 1920 Obituary

Very general regret will be felt at the announcement of the death of Mr Duncan Sinclair, who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at Tauranga yesterday in his 74th year. When Mr Norman Sinclair visited the North a fortnight ago his father appeared to be in his usual robust health, and the telegram which bore the news of his demise came as a staggering surprise. The late Mr Sinclair was a New Zealand native. His father came to New Zealand in 1838, and he was born at Lowry Bay, Wellington, his twin sister being Mrs Mowlem, the wife of Captain Mowlem, of Palmerston North. For some years the late Mr Sinclair was a well-known and popular figure at Wainuiomata and Wellington, his farm surrounding the site of the reservoir which supplies Wellington. There he went in for stud cattle breeding and sawmilling; indeed he was one of the pioneer millers of the North Island. It is interesting to note also that as the result of his careful investigations in the vicinity he discovered that the Orongorongo river could be tapped as an auxiliary to the Wainuiomata, and when the Wellington City Council contemplated enlarging the water system many years afterwards it gladly availed itself of the pioneer investigator's assistance in formulating an extension scheme. After leaving Wainuiomata Mr Sinclair came North and went in for contracting on a large scale. He constructed the Marton waterworks, the Apiti bridge, and several other important works. Eventually he came to reside in Palmerston, and became engineer to the Pohangina Council, which he served faithfully and well for twelve years (with a world tour intervening), and then handed over the reins to his son. His keen interest in public affairs was exhibited in many ways and amongst his other acts of public service was his retention for some time of a seat on the Palmerston North Borough Council. Eventually he selected Tauranga as the ideal spot for a residence in his old age and thither he removed a year or so ago, living in quiet retirement with his garden for a hobby. The deceased leaves four sons and three daughters: Messrs Hugh and Norman (Palmerston North), Duncan (Tauranga), Harold (Auckland), and Mesdames Jack Louisson (Tauranga), D'Anvers (Te Puke), and W. Grace (Wellington).

Evening Post 23 Dec 1920 Manawatu

Mr Duncan Sinclair, who passed away suddenly at Tauranga on Monday, was for many years a resident of the Manawatu district. He was born at Lowry Bay, Wellington, 74 years ago, and was for some years engaged in contracting and sawmilling. Later he was appointed engineer to the Pohangina County Council, which position he held for 12 years, resigning two years ago. He was at times a member of various local bodies and was a lay reader in the Broad-street Methodist Church Circuit. The late Mr Sinclair is survived by four sons and three daughters – Messrs Hugh and Norman (Palmerston North), Duncan (Tauranga) and Harold (Auckland), Mrs J. Louisson (Tauranga), Mrs D'Anvers (Te Puke) and Mrs W. Grace (Wellington).

Bay of Plenty Times 30 Dec 1920 An Interesting Career – The late Mr Duncan Sinclair

With the death of Mr Duncan Sinclair at his residence on the Camp last week there passed away one of the few remaining links with the early history of Wellington and the Dominion. His parents arrived in Wellington in 1838, and shortly afterwards took up land at Wainui o Mata, the present locality of Wellington's main water supply. It was here that the deceased gentleman was born, and spent his early life in farming and sawmilling. He owned and sold to the Wellington City Council the site of the present reservoirs, to which he also gave access through a mile and a half of his land. The sawmill which the late Mr Sinclair ran at Wainui o Mata was one of the first in the North Island and was at that time the largest. Possessed of a foresight which was strongly characteristic of his many undertakings he early recognised the value of steel rails in the working of his mill. These he imported from England and simultaneously obtained from Hobart a steam engine which he named the "Pio Pio." The task of getting the engine from Wellington to the mill was a most formidable one – to all but its enterprising owner. By almost everyone it was declared impossible, the latter portion of the sixteen mile journey being over a very steep hill. The task was, however, safely accomplished with the aid of twelve bullocks and six horses. In 1871 Mr Sinclair was married at Wellington by the Rev. Jas. Patterson to Miss Mowlem sister of the late Captain John Mowlem (one of the pioneer skippers of the Shaw Savill and Albion Company's clippers) of Palmerston North. Captain Mowlem married Mr Sinclair's twin sister. The deceased gentleman's first move from Wainui was to Lowry Bay – just across the hill and on the shores of Wellington harbour. This estate – consisting of some 584 acres – he purchased from the Government which had previously acquired it as a residence for Sir George Grey. After a short time there he moved north and went in for contracting on a large scale making Palmerston North his headquarters. Amongst the works which were constructed under his supervision were the Marton waterworks and the Apiti bridge, besides several other important undertakings. Subsequently, Mr Sinclair was appointed engineer to the Pohangina County Council, and while in this position he undertook a world tour, and was enabled to apply the knowledge gained by his extensive travel to the Council's benefit during the twelve years he was associated with that body. He was succeeded as engineer by his son, Mr Hugh Sinclair. The deceased gentleman took a keen and intelligent interest in all matters of public moment, and for some time he occupied a seat on the Palmerston North Borough Council. A keen student of nature, he was an authority on New Zealand flora, and had, besides, a remarkable knowledge of many other branches of natural history. It is interesting to note that one native plant, discovered by Mr Sinclair, bears his name. In this connection he was a valued member of the defunct Manawatu Beautifying Society, his remarkable knowledge being always available in the interests of the town. He rendered yeoman service in building up the local museum, many gifts he made having been found by him in exploring little known places when engaged in valuing timber lands (a good deal of which he did for the Government) or in his many journeys over the high lands of the Pohangina County. On many occasions Mr Sinclair had found around Apiti fossilised remains of sea life. A staunch Wesleyan, he was a prominent member and lay reader of the Broad Street Methodist Church for 25 years, and regularly preached in the churches of Bunnythorpe, Ashhurst and other district townships. For many years too, he was a member of the Terrace End School Committee. In all respects he was one of nature's gentlemen, and his quiet and unassuming character earned for him the affection and goodwill of all whom he met. As already stated Mr Sinclair came here to reside some two years ago. He is survived by his widow, four sons and three daughters: Messrs Hugh and Norman (Palmerston North) Duncan (Tauranga) and Harold (Auckland) and Mesdames Louisson (Tauranga), D'Anvers (Papamoa) and W. Grace (Wellington).

Bay of Plenty Times 31 Dec 1920

In connection with the death of the late Mr Duncan Sinclair an in memoriam service is to be conducted in the Methodist Church on Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. In Mr Sinclair Methodism has lost not only a fine preacher, but one who for many years was distinguished in her councils, and whose name was known in many parts of New Zealand. For twenty five years Mr Sinclair was a foremost preacher and trustee in Palmerston North. Since coming to Tauranga he has been a member of the local Church and recently accepted trusteeship.

Evening Post 27 Sep 1935 Death

On September 23, 1935, at a private hospital, Palmerston North, Martha, relict of the late Duncan Sinclair; in her 94th year.

Evening Post 27 Sep 1935 Obituary – Mrs Duncan Sinclair

The death is announced of an old identity of Palmerston North, Mrs Duncan Sinclair, at the age of 94. Mrs Sinclair was born at Swanage, Dorset, in 1842, and was the sister of Captain John and Messrs J. and F. Mowlem. The family left in 1854 for Australia, and their father took part in the erection of the Melbourne Post Office, and also in the historic Pentridge prison. Captain Mowlem was master of the ship 'Electra', which traded between England and New Zealand. In 1870 Mrs Sinclair came to Wellington with her parents, and was married, the ceremony being performed by the late Rev James Patterson. They took up their residence at Wainui-o-mata, and in 1882 Mr Sinclair purchased the Lowry Bay estate, where they resided till they left for Palmerston North in 1885. Mrs Sinclair was predeceased by her husband and two daughters, Mesdames Watchorn and _ . Danvers, also two sons, Messrs Duncan and Leonard Sinclair. Those remaining are three sons, Messrs Hugh, Norman and Harold Sinclair, and two daughters, Mesdames J. Louisson and C. A. Bierre, all of Palmerston North, also 22 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Both Mr and Mrs Sinclair were good church workers, and Mrs Sinclair will be much missed by fellow-workers and by many friends.