

McMullan and Thompson Families in 19th Century Ireland and New Zealand

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Linking the Anderson, McMullan, Pearson and
Thompson families

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Cover Image: *Gabriels Gully 1861* watercolour by J T Thomson.
From Hocken collections, Uare Taoka o Hākena, University of Otago

Introduction

These notes are a supplement to my family history book [*The McMullan Family in New Zealand 2nd Edition, 2018*](#). That book focused on recording the 19th and 20th century generations living in New Zealand, but it did refer to family origins in Ireland. Since the book’s first edition in 2014 there is a lot more information available that corrects and adds to what I knew and wrote. Gathering the information is helped by more sources being available online, by identification of family members and families through DNA testing, and by better research.

Many thanks to my cousin Allan Pearson (confirmed by DNA!) for his information and his good scholarship. Additions and corrections to this family information will no doubt continue

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Life in Ireland

We have several broad lenses for looking at the 19th century Thompson and McMullan families. There are the government records of people and land in Ireland although they are incomplete for many areas and communities. We have the passenger lists for many of the of people travelling between Britain, Victoria and New Zealand. And we have the family stories and obituaries for those who migrated, in our case to Central Otago, New Zealand. Newspaper references to people are also valuable.

Thompson family

Hugh Thompson was born around 1811, in Leitrim Townland, near Castledawson in County Derry/Londonderry. His father was James Thompson and he had a son named James. The name of Hugh's mother is not yet known but is likely to be reflected in the name of one of his daughters: Mary, Sarah and Elizabeth. He was probably born in the house where he lived and died in the countryside of Leitrim Road heading east out of Castledawson. The property was called *Killyfad*.

In 1859 Hugh Thompson is recorded in the Griffith's Irish land valuation records as renting the 'house, offices and land' located at what is now 53 Leitrim Road. He is married to *Ann (Nancy) Malone* and their children have grown up with the youngest, James, being about 16.

Thompson House at 53 Leitrim Road, County Londonderry – Leitrim Villa (Google Streetview July 2021)



McMullan family

James McMullan was born in 1801 in Culnafay, County Antrim. His father was probably also named James. The Townland is just over the county border from the Thompson family in the Townland of Leitrim, County Londonderry.

Members of the McMullan family still live and farm at 15 Culnafay Road. DNA testing confirms they are the same family as the New Zealand McMullan descendants. The McMullan cousins live on the same lush rolling land and probably in parts of the same house as our common ancestor James McMullan who was born there in Culnafay 1801.

Both families were members of the Church of Ireland (Anglican). Previous assumptions that the McMullan family might be Presbyterian were incorrect. McMullan family members are buried at the Grange of Ballyscullion church graveyard on Grange Road. In 1865 Mary Thompson and Thomas McMullan were married in Mary's parish church of Ballyscullion St Tida in the town of Bellaghy. We can speculate that they met via a church event. A family story says that Thomas wooed Mary every Sunday, presumably after walking between the two farmhouses.

McMullan House at 15 Culnafay Road, Co Antrim

(Google Streetview 2021)



Generations to common McMullan gt-gt-grandfather

Only some descendants shown

<p>James McMullan (1801-1882) md Agnes (Annie) Duffin/Duffy (1802-1881) Had 9 known children including Thomas and James McMullan Lived and farmed at 15 Culnafay Rd, Toome, Co Antrim</p>	
<p>Thomas McMullan (1842-1918) b Co Antrim Ireland, d Lawrence Otago NZ md Mary Thompson (1832 – 1920)</p>	<p>James McMullan (1829-1903) b and d Culnafay Co Antrim Ireland md Anne Campbell (1829-1894)</p>
<p>Thomas McMullan (1871-1958) b Lawrence Otago d Dunedin NZ md Beatrice Howe-Johns (1875 – 1941)</p>	<p>William McMullan (1864-1946) b and d Culnafay Co Antrim Ireland md Lizzie Booth (1869 – 1944)</p>
<p>Lawrence Gerard McMullan (1911-1977) B Lawrence Otago d Napier NZ md Agnes Randall (1916-2002)</p>	<p>William McMullan (1908-1993) b and d Culnafay Co Antrim Ireland md Elanor Brown (1914-1985)</p>
<p>Randall McMullan and Lyn Isbill (nee McMullan) Live in Auckland NZ</p>	<p>Edna McMullan and William McMullan Live and farm at 15 Culnafay Rd, Co Antrim</p>



Map of Co Londonderry (left) and Co Antrim (right) – separated by a river and lough



Thompson family farm in *Leitrim*

Ballyscullion Parish Church of St Tida in town of Bellaghy

McMullan family farm in *Culnafay*

Grange of Ballyscullion Church and McMullan family graveyard

Irish places

McMullan family home – in the *Townland of Culnafay*, County Antrim – near Grange, on the Antrim side of the river Barn feeding Lough (Lake) Beg.

Thompson family home – in the *Townland of Leitrim*, County Londonderry – near Bellaghy. Not to be confused with the county called Leitrim. Several families of Thompsons live in the same farm area of *Killyfad*.

A *Townland* in Ireland is a small geographical area of land typically containing around a dozen farms. Ireland has over 60,000 townlands in a system that pre-dates the Norman invasion. People quoted their townland as their address, and it is commonly found in historic church and civil records of birth, deaths, marriages, and property titles.

Other place names that may be used in connection with the McMullan and Thompson families include -

- *Grange* – a village 3km SE of the Culnafay townland. On Grange Road is the Ballyscullion church (Church of Ireland) and McMullan family graves.
- *Bellaghy* – a small town with the church of St Tida (Church of Ireland) in the Parish of Ballyscullion. It was the 1865 marriage place of Thomas McMullan and Mary Thompson.
- *Ballymena* and *Randalstown, Co Antrim* – larger towns that may have been used for postal addresses.
- *Castledawson, Co Londonderry* – a town near the Thompson family, on the new (1850s) railway line.
- *Magherafelt, Co Londonderry* – a town and wider administrative district

Family Names

In the early 1800s most adults did not write, and some spoke Gaelic Irish rather than English. People were using family surnames but the exact spelling of a name was not perceived as fixed or as important as today. The first time it was spelt on paper might be by a clergyman on a certificate, by a valuer in a land register, or by a shipping clerk in a passenger list.

Although *McMullin* and *McMullen* were a spelling variants, Thomas and family in New Zealand used the *McMullan* spelling. The remaining family in Ireland, now identified by DNA matching, have also consistently used *McMullan*. Newspapers in New Zealand sometime use the variant 'McMullen'. The early *Tuapeka Times* newspaper confusingly often spells McM as M'M.

The spelling of the name *Thompson* seems relatively stable in Irish records. *Thomson* is common in Scotland.

Irish families

McMullan family in Ireland

FATHER: James MCMULLAN			
	BIRTH	1801	Culnafay Townland, Co Antrim, Ireland
	RESIDENCE	1861	Kilcurry Road., Culnafay Townland, Co Antrim, Ireland
	DEATH	1882	Muckrim, Toome, Co Antrim, Northern Ireland
MOTHER: Agnes "Annie" DUFFIN			
	BIRTH	1802	Millquarter, Toome, Co Antrim, Ireland
	DEATH	1881	Muckrim, Toome, Co Antrim, Ireland
CHILDREN			
M	Robert MCMULLAN 1824 – 1894		
M	James MCMULLAN 1829 – 1903		
F	Elizabeth MCMULLAN 1830		
M	William MCMULLAN 1831 – 1917		
M	Pooley MCMULLAN 1840 – 1916		
F	Mariah MCMULLAN 1841 – 1884		
M	Thomas MCMULLAN 1842 – 1918		
	BIRTH	ca 1842	Culnafay Townland, Grange of Ballyscallion, Co Antrim
	BAPTISM	ca 1842	Grange of Ballyscullion Parish Church, Toome, Co Antrim
	SPOUSE	Mary THOMPSON 1832-1920	
	MARRIAGE	13 May 1865	St Tida's Church, Parish Of Ballyscullion, 46 Main St, Bellarghy, Bellarghy, Magherafelt, Co Londonderry, Ireland
	MIGRATION	12 Jan 1867	Frigate ship Warrior Queen, Gravesend to Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand
	DEATH	22 Aug 1918	Gabriels Gully, Lawrence Otago NZ
	BURIAL	24 Aug 1918	- Block 5, Plot 14, Anglican – under name of McMillan, Lawrence Cemetery, NZ ⁴
M	John MCMULLAN		
M	Hugh McMullan		
M	Samuel McMullan		
F	Agnes MCMULLAN		
M	Joseph McMullan		

Note: McMullan family information from Ancestry tree of Edna McMullan

Thompson family in Ireland

FATHER: Hugh THOMPSON		
BIRTH	ca 1811	Co Londonderry, Ireland
RESIDENCE	1840	Leitrim, Bellaghy Distrcet, Co Londonderry, Ireland
RESIDENCE	1859	Killyfad farm, Leitrim, Bellaghy, Co Londonderry, Ireland
DEATH	Feb 1864	Leitrim, Bellaghy Distrcet, Co Londonderry, Ireland
MOTHER: Ann 'Nancy' MALONE		
BIRTH	ca 1818	Co Down (tbc), Ireland
DEATH	Jan 1876	'Mount Pleasant' home, Lawrence. Otago, New Zealand
CHILDREN		
F	Mary THOMPSON	
BIRTH	1832	Leitrim Townland, Bellaghy, Co Londonderry, Ireland
MIGRATION	Jan 1867	<i>Warrior Queen</i> , London - Dunedin City, Otago
SPOUSE	Thomas MCMULLAN 1842-1918	
MARRIAGE	May 1865	St Tida's Church, Parish Of Ballyscullion, Bellarghy, Co Londonderry, Ireland ⁴
DEATH	Dec 1920	Wetherstones, Lawrence Otago NZ
F	Sarah THOMPSON	
BIRTH	ca 1837	Leitrim Townland, Bellaghy, Co Londonderry, Ireland
MIGRATION	1860	<i>Merlin</i> , England - Melbourne
RESIDENCE	Mar 1863	Eaglehawk, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia
SPOUSE	Samuel ANDERSON 1840-1904	
MARRIAGE	Mar 1863	Presbyterian Manse, Eaglehawk, Victoria, Australia
MIGRATION	Apr 1863	<i>SS Alhambra</i> , Melbourne - Port Chalmers
DEATH	Jan 1901	Home, Wetherstones, Lawrence, Otago NZ
F	Elizabeth THOMPSON	
BIRTH	ca 1839	Leitrim Townland, Bellaghy, Co Londerry, Ireland
MIGRATION	Apr 1863	<i>SS Alhambra</i> , Melbourne - Port Chalmers
BURIAL	Dec 1915	Lawrence Cemetery, Block 1, Lawrence, Otago
SPOUSE	John PEARSON 1836-1903	
MARRIAGE	Jan 1860	All Saints Church, Sandhurst, Victoria, Australia
DEATH	Dec 1915	Home, Wetherstones, Lawrence Otago NZ
M	James 'Jim' THOMPSON	
BIRTH	ca 1843	Leitrim Townland, Bellaghy, Co Londonderry, Ireland
SPOUSE	Jane LIDDELL	
DEATH		Unresolved, NZ

Migration to Australia and New Zealand

The 1850s was the period of gold discoveries in the colony of Victoria, Australia and newspapers in all countries told stories of fortunes to be made.

Castledawson was a stop on a new railway line with connections to Belfast and onwards to Liverpool and London so it was relatively easy to think about and to organise travel to the goldfields. *Samuel Anderson's* obituary recorded that he and a number of 'schoolmates' were attracted to Victoria and sailed there in the ship *Royal Charter*.

Elizabeth Thompson migrated to Victoria in the late 1850s, perhaps travelling with friends. In January 1860 she married *John Pearson* at Sandhurst near Melbourne. John Pearson, from Cambridgeshire, England, had been in working on the Bendigo diggings since 1858. In 1861 he travelled to the gold rush at Gabriels Gully, Otago. After four months he returned to Victoria and, in 1863, travelled back to Otago with his 'young wife and son', as is recorded in his obituary.

In 1863 *Sarah Thompson* is recorded as marrying *Samuel Anderson* in Eagle Hawk, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia. Samuel Anderson is recorded as coming from Bellaghy, near the Thompson family fare. On the Australian marriage certificate they share the same address in Eagle Hawk and Samuel is recorded as being a 'miner'. There is no sign of a birth being registered in Victoria after the marriage.

The young Pearson and Anderson families were obviously in touch, perhaps both living in Bendigo, and we have a good trace of them sailing together to Port Chalmers, Dunedin on the steamer *Alhambra* in April 1863. They went to the goldfields centred on the town of Lawrence and settled at Wetherstones on the edge of Lawrence. Both men are recorded as being engaged in mining although John Pearson was later a storekeeper and farmer, while Samuel Anderson was later a farmer and carter. The younger brother of the Thompson sisters, James Thompson is also recorded as being at Wetherstones in 1864 and perhaps had migrated via Australia with one of the sisters.



Above Elizabeth Thompson in Melbourne. Perhaps a photo for her marriage in 1860 when she was aged 21. Possibly the only family photo we have of that era.

Meanwhile, in Ireland in February 1864, Hugh Thompson died at the relatively young age of 53; of an ‘abdominal tumour’. The balance of the Thompson family now lived in New Zealand and they were probably in touch with the family in Ireland. So, the remaining members of Thompson family left Leirim Road with a known destination in New Zealand. They sailed for Dunedin from London on the ship *Warrior Queen*, probably on 6th October 1866. On board were widowed Ann (Nancy) Thompson, her daughter Mary and husband Thomas McMullan, and their infant son Hugh.



The Warrior Queen

A wooden vessel, with twin decks, made of oak, sheathed in yellow metal. 988 tons.

Built in 1856 by James Briggs of Sunderland.

Accommodation for about 70 saloon passengers and second class passengers. Made nine voyages to Dunedin / Port Chalmers between 1865 and 1874.

Life in New Zealand

The Wetherstones Flat and valley runs parallel to Gabriel’s Gully and both are connected by the town of Lawrence, originally called ‘Junction’. The Wetherstones area yielded as much gold as Gabriel’s Gully and originally there were many mine workings, houses, shops, a brewery and a schoolhouse.

In early records, all three husbands of the Thompson sisters are listed as being miners. They all have land for small-scale farming but John Pearson is farming on a larger scale and also owns several properties. By 1870 the 3 families lived adjacent to one another on the edge of Lawrence at Wetherstones Flat. The old road names of *Thompson Road*, and *Anderson Road* still exist. Samuel Anderson later works as a carter, as does Thomas McMullan. In the times before motor trucks a carter was a man, with a horse and dray, who did most of the practical moving of goods that were too large to carry.

John and Elizabeth Pearson were the ‘most established’ and affluent of our three ‘Thompson families’ in Wetherstones, New Zealand. By 1870 John Pearson is recorded as buying freehold land and owning several properties. The family lived at Wetherstones Flat in a respectable-looking house called *Viewpoint*. In 1874 that house was destroyed by fire and they then moved to their property on the hill above Wetherstones Flat called *Mount Pleasant*. In 1875 they built a substantial house there and it remained the centre of their lives until into the next century; births, deaths, and marriages are recorded as occurring at *Mount Pleasant*.



John and Elizabeth Pearson and children. At *Viewpoint* residence c1873.
Photo via Allan Pearson

Ann Thompson, mother of the sisters, lived with Elizabeth Pearson and family until Ann’s death in 1876. The monument in the Lawrence cemetery is inscribed: ‘Erected by Mrs. Pearson I.L.M.O. her mother Ann Thompson Died 8 January 1876’. In the light of the disputes that occurred later, the single dedication might be an early indicator of poor relationships between some of the sisters.

In 1877 Lawrence was connected to Dunedin by a branch railway from the Main South Line. In the rolling countryside of Central Otago the railway line surveyors needed to enter Lawrence from the east by skirting a hill and curving across land owned by the Andersons, McMullans, and Pearsons. A cutting was

also required which was deepest at the top of the curve, just next to the McMullan house.

The Three families – Andersons, McMullans, and Pearsons – and first generation of migrants lived in the Lawrence area for the remainder of the 19th century. The local newspapers report the usual range of births, deaths and marriages and we can imagine the joys and the pains associated with these occasions. Also reported are everyday events involving school lists and prizes, sports results, and advertisements for lost cattle, and property for sale and rent. Not so everyday events were houses burning down – the Pearson house in 1874 and the McMullan house in 1886.

We don't have any personal reminiscences passed down about those 19th century times in Lawrence and Wetherstones. A faint link is via Ruby McMillan, wife of Bill McMillan who was a son of Mary McMullan, daughter of Thomas and Mary McMullan. While Bill was away at World War One, Ruby lived with old Tom and Mary and, in the 1960s, was able to give the author a reasonable outline of the family tree. Anecdotes included the tale that Thomas 'wooded' Mary in Ireland and that it was 'love at first sight'. In later years in New Zealand Mary was apparently a 'staunch Anglican'.

Family friction

The newspapers also report events that indicate various interactions between the three families. John Pearson features most often in newspaper articles, often as a landlord seeking damages from tenants. Other court cases or council complaints are in connection with property boundaries including those boundaries between John Pearson's fields and the Anderson and the McMullan fields.

In the early 1882 the Council has a letter from John Pearson 'requesting the Council to have the road along his property opened and cleared of all obstruction, as there was insufficient room for dray traffic. A letter was also received from Mr Samuel Anderson, to the effect that the road-way was sufficiently wide for dray traffic, and that it was not used once a month.'

The deep railway cutting through Thomas McMullan's land (section 61) had broken the access from the house (on Section 61) to nearby Bloy Road. Numerous reports from the council engineer in 1884 to 1885 tell of several attempts to get an access road which failed essentially because surrounding landowners would not sign agreements; they were a Mr Arthur and Mr Pearson.

These access problems are probably connected to 'unpleasantness' between two Thompson sisters. The *Tuapeka Times* of 2 September 1885 reports a court case against Mary McMullan brought by Elizabeth Thompson about the use of 'abusive language' in Arbuckle's store. It says that the two sisters hadn't spoken for 10 years. One week later there is a charge against John Pearson about laying down poison alongside the properties of McMullan and Anderson.

Endings

The migrants who came from Ireland in the 1860s lived into the 20th century. Their deaths occurred as follows:

- Mary Thompson-McMullan 1920 and Thomas McMullan 1918
- Sarah Thompson-Anderson 1901 and Samuel Anderson 1904
- Elizabeth Thompson-Pearson 1915 and John Pearson 1903.

By this time, the district of Lawrence was also changing. After the ‘simple’ gold mining of the 1860s, gold extraction continued by ‘sluicing’ with high pressure water and later by a dredging process. But it couldn’t last, as noted in the following account.

Dredging gave Lawrence temporary prosperity. In 1896 the population the population was 996, and in 1901 it was 1,159, an increase of 163. The development of the industry had provided employment for a number of working men, who, though scattered throughout the district had in a number of cases made Lawrence their headquarters and settled their families in the town at this period. A number of houses were built and occupied, but since then only an occasional two or three have been erected at intervals within the last 20 years.

Lawrence had not yet fulfilled the promise of its early years; but it must be remembered that the prosperity of all gold mining centers is at its best but transient, passing down to intervals of almost utter stagnation.

From The History of Lawrence by M A Jennings, 1921 Thesis, Canterbury College

The descents of Thomas McMullan and Mary Thompson moved to Dunedin in the early 1920s, and the other families also drifted from the Lawrence area.

New Zealand places

The family fields of Wetherstones, shown on the aerial view below, are situated next to northeast corner of the town of Lawrence; on the Wetherstones Road now named Waipori Road. Family farms were accessed via Bloy Rod and some maps also mark the Thompson Road and the Anderson Road (unused)

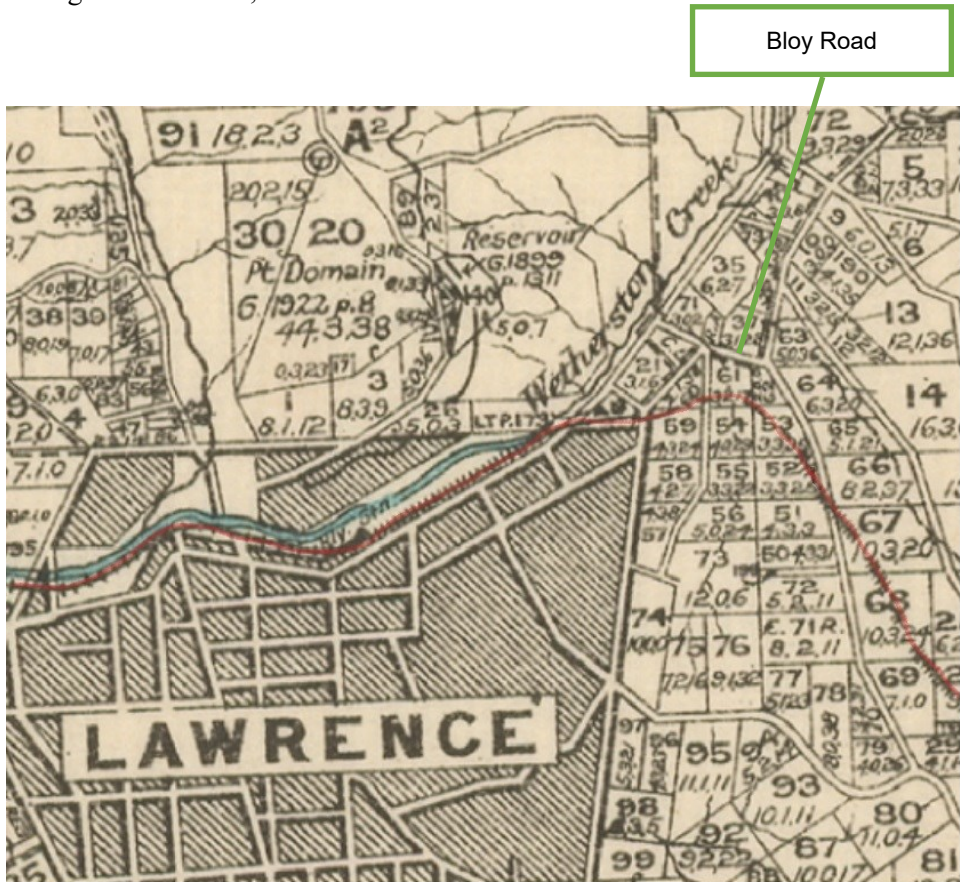
The 1877 railway curves through the middle of the view and is marked by trees and vegetation on either side of the disused track, now a rough walking pathway. At the ‘top’ of the curve the railway is in a cutting.

Modern aerial view of Wetherstones



1929 map of Lawrence Wetherstones

The 1929 map below shows the town of Lawrence and, in the top right quadrant, the fields of Wetherstones abutting the town. The map also shows the existence of a few roads which were never formed. These 'paper' roads can act as 'right of ways' for the public. Shown in red on the map is the 1877 railway which curves through the fields 59, 61 and 53.



Map of Lawrence and Wetherstones 1929.
Showing railway (in red) curving through family fields.

McMullan Family Home

Newspaper references to Thomas McMullan refer to him living at Wetherstones Flat. He applies to lease and to buy land, sometimes with a James Anderson. The 1873 Electoral Roll refers to him having an 'iron house; some other houses were noted as being 'thatched' and 'wattle and daub'.

The McMullan 'iron' house burned down in 1886 – see the newspaper extracts on a later page. A week later newspaper records a call for tenders to 'erect a four-roomed cottage'.



Remains of the McMullan house near Bloy Road

Photographed in Jan 1995 by Allan Pearson.

Newspaper extracts

Sources

The richest source of newspaper information is the *Tuapeka Times* published twice-weekly in Lawrence from 1868. The weekly paper *Otago Witness* often includes news of the Lawrence district, especially during the gold-mining era.

The early editions of these newspapers have been digitised and are freely available in searchable form via The National Library of New Zealand's website paperspast.nat.lib.govt.nz

Notes

The early *Tuapeka Times* often spells McMullan as McMullin. They also use an apostrophe ' instead of c between the two upper case Ms – perhaps they had a shortage of the typeface for the little superscript c.

'Tuapeka' is the name of the district and the electorate for the Lawrence area. The Tuapeka river near Lawrence is a tributary of the Clutha river.

Everyday life

TUAPEKA TIMES, 27 OCTOBER 1870.

£2 REWARD FOR LOST COW

LOST, a Yellow Cow with white face branded TM on near side, and AD on near rump. The above reward will be paid to anyone delivering the above to Thomas M'Mullin, Wetherstones Flat.

TUAPEKA TIMES, 30 MAY 1872

POCKET-BOOK FOUND

FOUND, in the township of Lawrence, a Pocket-book, containing a quantity of money, documents, &c. The owner can have the same, on proving the property, by applying to Samuel Anderson, or Thomas M'Mullin, Wetherstones Flat.

TUAPEKA TIMES, 10 JULY 1873

AGRICULTURAL LEASE

WARDENS' COURT, LAWRENCE. (Before E. H. Carew, Esq., Warden.)
Wednesday, 2nd July (1873). The applications of James Anderson, Thomas M'Mullin, and Robert Sutherland for agricultural leases were adjourned for one month.

TUAPEKA TIMES, 14 SEP 1887

ASSISTANCE FOR SON IN HOSPITAL

TUAPEKA HOSPITAL BOARD. The ordinary monthly meeting of the above Board was held in the County Council Chambers on Friday evening last (09 SEP 1887). There were present - Messrs Bennet (Chairman), Fraser, M'Farlane, and

M'Nab. Thomas M'Mullin wrote requesting assistance towards the maintenance of his son, whilst a patient in the Dunedin Hospital. - Letter received.

Family friction

TUAPEKA TIMES – 2 SEPTEMBER 1885

Local and General Intelligence.

At the sitting of the Resident Magistrate's Court, Lawrence, on Monday, before W, H. Revell, Esq., the following cases were disposed of :— E. Pearson v. M. M'Mullin : Mr Finlayson for informant ; Mr M'Coy for defendant. Mrs Pearson deposed that on Saturday, 22nd inst., she met her sister (the defendant) in Arbuckle's store ; that they had had no intercourse for ten years previously; but on that afternoon the defendant came up to her and made use of abusive language. She spoke so loudly and angrily that everyone could hear her. The informant also said that defendant followed her about the town, and she had to take refuge in Mr Wootton's. She asked that the defendant be bound over to keep the peace towards her. Mr M'Coy admitted that the words were used, but contended that there was no offence disclosed in the information. His Worship over-ruled the objection, and said defendant's conduct was very improper, as he happened himself to be present at the affair. Defendant would be bound over to keep the peace for twelve months— her husband in £10, and two sureties in £5 each; costs of Court, 13s; three witnesses, 5s each; and professional fee, £1 1s.

TUAPEKA TIMES, 9 SEPTEMBER 1885 (*1 week later*)

GENERAL NEWS

At the Resident Magistrate's Court, Lawrence, on Monday last, before His Worship W. H. Revell, Esq., R.M., the following cases were heard :— M'Mullin v. Pearson : Mr M'Coy for plaintiff; Mr Finlayson for defendant, who was charged under section 15 of the Police Offences Act, 1884, with laying down poison contrary to the provisions of the statute. After hearing evidence, His Worship said that defendant had laid phosphorised grain alongside of the road-line and close to a creek, the water of which was used for domestic purposes, and claimed certain exemptions under the Rabbit Nuisance Act, 1882. The defendant had land which adjoins the properties of M'Mullin and Anderson, and the poison was laid in close proximity to these properties. The evidence went to how that poisoned grain was scattered close to the road-line, and also within thirty yards of the creek.

His Worship remarked that he could not overlook the fact that the same parties were recently before him to settle a grievance, and it would seem as if immediately on leaving the Court the poisoned grain was laid by one of the parties. He could not but conclude that the grain was laid with other intentions than to destroy rabbits. The complainant had lost four ducks, which there was no doubt had died from partaking of the poisoned grain. The Act provides that no person shall lay poisoned grain in close proximity to houses without first giving due notice that they purpose doing so. In this case no notice was sent to the

parties, but a notice was put up the day after the poison was laid. Defendant would be fined in the nominal sum of 10s; costs, 11s; witnesses' expenses, 20s; and professional fee, 21s. There was another case of a similar character between the same parties set down for hearing, but it was withdrawn.

Fires

TUAPEKA TIMES 18 NOVEMBER 1874

Local Intelligence.

Between the hours of one and two o'clock on Tuesday morning, the dwellinghouse of Mr. John Pearson, farmer, Wetherstones Flat, was completely destroyed by fire. On visiting the scene a few hours after the conflagration, all that remained of a fine house was two bare chimneys, a child's iron cot, and the corrugated iron, which had covered the roof of the building, lying amongst the smouldering ashes, twisted into all shapes by the intense heat to which it had been exposed. From inquiries we made on the spot, it seems that about one o'clock, Mrs. Pearson was awakened by the barking of the dog at the back of the house, and certain sounds. There were in the house beside herself five children, two of whom were asleep in a front room with herself, and three in a back room, the one adjoining that in which the fire appeared to originate. Mr. Pearson was away at the bush for firewood. On getting up to ascertain the cause of the dog's barking, Mrs. Pearson went to the back room where the three children were asleep, and while in the act of awakening the eldest one, the flames burst through the partition from the adjoining room with great fury, leaving the occupants but scant time for escape.

Luckily, Mrs. Pearson did not lose her presence of mind, and in a few seconds she had all her live charge free from danger, although not a stitch of clothing was saved to cover them. Before any available assistance could be had from the neighbors, the building was one mass of flames, and all that was saved of the valuable furniture, of which there was a large collection, was four chairs and a sewing machine. As to the origin of the fire, it seems quite a mystery. We are informed it broke out in one of the back rooms, in which there was no fireplace, and none of the family, who retired to rest about 9 o'clock, were known to have been in it during the evening. On going along the passage to the room in which the children were sleeping, Mrs. Pearson states that she did not notice any smoke nor smell any burning. The police were early on the ground, and we have no doubt will sift the matter thoroughly. The house was insured to the extent of £500 : —£300 in the Norwich Union, and £200 in the Victoria.

TUAPEKA TIMES OCTOBER 1875,

TENDERS.

TENDERS Wanted for building a Dwelling1 - house (labor only, or providing material and finishing), for Mr. John Pearson, of Mount Pleasant. Plans and specifications may be seen at Messrs. Herbert and Co.'s store, where tenders must be lodged on or before Thursday, 21st October. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted

TUAPEKA TIMES, 10 APRIL 1886

FIRES

About seven o'clock on Thursday evening [8 April] a fire broke out in the residence of Mr Thos. M'Mullin, at Wetherstones, and resulted in the complete destruction of the property. Mrs M'Mullin and family were away from home, and Mr M'Mullin leaving on a good fire, went to feed his horse at a stable about 40 yards off. He had not been away more than a quarter of an hour when he noticed smoke issuing from the roof, and on returning to his house found it burning furiously inside. He was unable to save anything, and before many minutes had elapsed everything had been swept away. Mr M'Mullin is unable to account for the fire, unless that it originated through a spark, or a coal falling on the floor. He estimates the damage at £160, a third of which is covered by insurance in the Standard Office.

TUAPEKA TIMES, 21 APRIL 1886

TENDERS FOR ERECTING FOUR-ROOMED COTTAGE

TENDERS will be received by the undersigned up till 7 p.m. on THURSDAY, 22nd INSTANT, for the erection of a four-roomed Cottage for Thomas M'Mullin. Plans and specifications to be seen at my office. JOHN THOMPSON, Auctioneer.

McMullan's road

TUAPEKA TIMES, 11 OCTOBER 1884

TUAPEKA COUNTY COUNCIL

M'Mullan's application for road.

The Engineer reported as follows : —With reference to Mr M'Mullan's application for a road to his property, sections 54 and 56, block II, Tuapeka East district, I have to report that, in constructing the railway, a deep cutting was made through the district road leading to Pearson's and the late Mr Hinde's properties, which had the effect of closing the road in question. Private crossings were placed at each end of the cutting for the convenience of the parties interested, in place of the portion of the road rendered impassable by the deep cutting referred to, the arrangement that was made between the parties and the Railway Department.

Sometime ago the trustees of one of the parties sold their property by auction

(sections 54, 55, and 56) to M'Mullan, and section 61 to Arthur ; but no provision was then made for an outlet over section 61 between the railway crossing and Wetherstones road, for M'Mullan's use, and Mr Arthur now objects to a road being taken over his section. I would recommend that that portion of the district road between the railway and the south corner of section 57 be closed and sold, and that a right-of-way, 25 links in width, be opened through section 61, the land to be taken in the usual way, and the cost, less the sum likely to be received from the sale of portion of road referred to (estimated at £15), be borne by M'Mullan.

TUAPEKA TIMES 16 SEPTEMBER 1885

TUAPEKA COUNTY COUNCIL.

RE M'MULLIN'S ROAD. The Engineer stated that he had seen Mr Arthur, who said that he would not allow M'Mullin to use the road through his property. He further stated that there was a verbal agreement with Mr Smaill, but that was of no avail now, as he had not received the money for the road. Mr M'Nab remarked that M'Mullin had paid £5 to the Council to have the road opened to his property, and the Council agreed to give him an outlet. He moved: "That, unless Mr Arthur agree to an arrangement within seven days, the road be taken under the provisions of the Public Works Act."—Carried.

TUAPEKA TIMES 14 NOVEMBER 1885

TUAPEKA COUNTY COUNCIL – ENGINEER'S MONTHLY REPORT.

re Road to M'Mullin's Property.— Mr Arthur will not come to any arrangement with your Council to sell a portion of his property to give access to M'Mullin's land. I would suggest, seeing there are so many roads going through Mr Pearson's property, that he be asked to give an entrance through his property across the railway to M'Mullin's property, the Council to give Pearson these road-lines in exchange for said entrance. Failing that, I would recommend that the roads through Pearson's property be opened, so that M'Mullin can get round by the town boundary into his property.

TUAPEKA TIMES 12 DECEMBER 1885

TUAPEKA COUNTY COUNCIL – CORRESPONDENCE

From Mr John Pearson, objecting to the road through sections 57, 58, 59, and 60, block II, Tuapeka East, being opened, unless a bridge is put over the railway. — Mr McNab remarked that the Council some time ago agreed to give M'Mullin access to his property, and now Pearson, who had gates leading into his property, wanted a bridge over the railway line. He moved: 'That the letter be received' Carried.

TUAPEKA TIMES 1 JUNE 1887

LATEST TELEGRAMS

From John Copland, on behalf of Thos. M'Mullin, of Wetherstones, asking the Council to return the sum of £5 which was deposited with the Council some four years ago in connection with a road to his property. — Mr M'Nab moved: " That the balance (if any) accruing to Mr M'Mullin be refunded." — Carried.

Deaths

TUAPEKA TIMES 1 FEBRUARY 1901,

DEATH.

ANDERSON. On the 26th January, 1901, at her residence, Wetherstones, after a long and painful illness, Sarah, the beloved wife of Samuel Anderson; aged 63 years. [The death certificate gives stomach cancer as the cause of death]

TUAPEKA TIMES 19 DECEMBER 1903

DEATH OF MR JOHN PEARSON.

We regret to record the death of Mr John Pearson, one of the oldest residents in the district, which took place on "Wednesday evening at his homestead, Mount Pleasant, Lawrence. Mr Pearson's death was somewhat sudden and entirely unexpected. During the whole of the day mentioned he had been working as usual, and returned home in the evening apparently in his customary good health. Some little time after having tea he went outside to put a horse out of his oat-paddock, and on returning to the bouse, took his seat at the fire. Very soon afterwards he was seen to fall, and expired almost immediately. Dr Newell was at once sent for, and after examination certified that the cause of death was fatty degeneration of the heart.

Mr Pearson could hardly be accounted an old man, as years count now, his age being 66, he having been born in 1837 in Cambridgeshire, England. He arrived in Victoria in 1858, a period in which the heart of the world beat wildly as the news of the gold discoveries in Victoria was carried abroad. For the two following years Mr Pearson was on the Bendigo diggings, and in 1860 he married at Sandhurst the lady who has survived him. Leaving bis wife in Victoria, he set out for New Zealand and landed at Dunedin in 2861, but four months afterwards he returned to Victoria and brought his wife and son to this colony, settling at Wetherstones and engaging in mining and subsequently in storekeeping. He afterwards bought land there and commenced farming; in fact, he was one of the first, if not the first, man in the district who engaged in farming, and at this occupation he remained till his death. The deceased was a quiet, hard-working and industrious man, one of those men who goes through life losing no friendships and making no enemies. He leaves a widow and three sons and five daughters, all grown up, to mourn their loss. The funeral takes place on Sunday,

TUAPEKA TIMES 6 July 1904

OBITUARY.

MR SAMUEL ANDERSON, WETHERSTONES.

We regret to have to record the loss of another of that fast disappearing band of sturdy pioneers by the death of Mr Samuel Anderson, of Wetherstones, which occurred on Sunday morning as the result of a painful accident which happened to him about five weeks ago. Mr Anderson was a native of the town of Maghere, County Derry, Ireland, and with a number of schoolmates was attracted to Victoria by the gold discoveries in that colony, arriving there in the ship Royal Charter, a vessel which some months later, on her return voyage, was wrecked. After mining in Bendigo for a time with varying success, which appears to have been the fortune of most of those who followed this occupation. He heard of the rush that had taken place in this district and with his wife and family arrived in Wetherstones in 1862. Here he again followed mining for some years, latterly taking up ground and going in for farming and carting, which occupation he followed up till his death. About 25 years ago he met with an accident in his claim through a fall of earth from the effects of which he never entirely recovered, though of course not incapacitated from following his usual occupation.

His wife, who was a sister of Mrs Pearson, Mount Pleasant, and Mrs McMullan, Wetherstones, predeceased him about 3 years ago, as also did two of his sons some years earlier. The late Mr Anderson was a man of most kindly and obliging nature and, during his long life in the district, his neighbors and others have oftentimes benefited by his generosity. He leaves a family of one son and three daughters (all married) — viz, Mrs Cowie, Wethersones; Mrs Martin; and Mrs A. T. Avers, Dunedin, to mourn his loss. The funeral services at the house and grave were impressively conducted by the Rev. J. S. Reid.

TUAPEKA TIMES 8 DECEMBER 1915

OBITUARY

MRS ELIZABETH PEARSON, whose death occurred on Monday morning at her son-in-law's residence (Dunedin) had been a highly esteemed resident of this district for over half a century. She was born in County Down, Ireland, in 1839 and when quite a young woman she emigrated to Victoria where she was married to the late Mr John Pearson while still in her teens. In 1861 her husband was attracted to New Zealand by the gold discoveries in Gabriels Gully and after a four months' stay he returned to Victoria and brought back his young wife and son. They came direct to Wetherstones where the late Mr Pearson engaged in mining and storekeeping and later took up the land now occupied by Mr William Pearson. The late Mrs. Pearson was a woman of strong character and marked business instincts and in the many ups and downs inseparable from pioneering life, proved in every sense a true helpmeet to her husband. She was also a woman of a bright and cheerful disposition and her hospitality while mistress of "Mount Pleasant" was proverbial. Some years ago, after the death of her husband, failing health compelled her to relinquish the management of her farming property, which was taken over by her son William, and since then she has made her home with her daughters. Her husband predeceased her nine years

ago and she is survived by a family of three sons and five daughters who will have the sympathy of a wide circle of friends in their bereavement.

TUAPEKA TIMES, 24 AUG 1918

DEATH

The death of Mr Thomas McMullan, Wetherstones Road, which occurred on Thursday, as the result of an accident whereby he had his thigh broken, removes a very old and highly respected resident from our midst. The deceased, who was 79 years of age, was a native of Ronaldston, County Antrim, Ireland, and had been a resident of this district since 1865. For many years he followed gold mining as an occupation, later taking up a small area of land near the railway on which the family have since resided. He is survived by his wife and a family of three sons and one daughter.

TUAPEKA TIMES 8 December 1920

McMULLAN.— On December 5. 1920, at her residence, Wetherstones road, Mary, widow of the late Thomas McMullan; aged 88 years.

Lawrence Cemetery Update

2024

Renovation and marker for grave of Tom and Mary McMullan in cemetery at Lawrence, Central Otago

