A Carter, a Businessman, and a Prospector with Several Things in Common

By PHILIP HART

The three men, a carter, a businessman and a prospector, who are the subject of this paper had merely a passing involvement in Te Aroha mining in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Only the prospector was involved with mining for any length of time, though he achieved little in the way of success. The men were distinctive because of their birthplaces, their ethnicity, and the ethnicity of their wives. It is commonly presumed that only Europeans, and to a lesser extent Chinese, were at this time involved in mining speculation and management. Maori were involved as prospectors and investors in mining in New Zealand and elsewhere, but these three men came from far afield and, it might be expected, would not have been welcomed by most New Zealanders at that time. What is remarkable is the extent to which they, and others like them, were accepted.

Of these three, the first, Alexander Jackson was working as a porter, ‘express driver’, and carter in 1878 and 1879. He participated, rather late, in the Te Aroha goldrush of 1880, was one of the owners of a claim, and may have worked on it for a few months. If so, this comprised the total extent of his involvement in mining.

The only involvement in Te Aroha mining of the second, William La Grenade Mitchell, was to purchase four shares in one unsuccessful Waiorongomai claim in 1883. Mitchell was an accountant, a sharebroker, an estate and commission agent, a moneylender, and an investor in several companies, in two of which he was a director. When advertising for customers, leading members of the Auckland business community vouched him for him. He also purchased land both in and close to Auckland. A collapse in the property market caused his bankruptcy in 1887. After his discharge, he speculated in land once more and became a director of one land investment company and a partner in a flax mill. That he was a respected member of the Auckland business community was indicated by his being elected secretary and then treasurer of a Masonic lodge for several years.

Mitchell unexpectedly fled the country in mid-1890 to evade his creditors. He was reported to have embezzled £2,000, much of this amount from his brother Masons. He followed the example of other Levanters, as those who fled to foreign
parts to escape their creditors were described, by fleeing to Fiji and then to San Francisco, Melbourne, Sydney, and finally, Goulburn.

**Edward Ralph Martin**, the last of the trio, was noted at a performance at Te Aroha in 1910, as being ‘an expert player on the guitar’. In subsequent decades, he called himself a professor of music, justifying this description as proving that he was ‘a professional of the art of music’, and taught ‘singing, the ukulele, the guitar’, and similar instruments in several parts of New Zealand. He composed popular songs, and for a time managed an opera company. In 1930 he stated that ‘at times’ he had ‘helped side shows, more of a pastime than anything else’, but denied having had a pie cart. In the early 1930s, in addition to prospecting he was ‘travelling around the country selling a cleaning preparation’. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, he was a herbalist who made his own medicines and treated patients in his own home for a variety of illnesses, and was suspected of illegal bookmaking. But from the late 1920s onwards, prospecting became his obsession.

In December 1927, ‘Professor E.R. Martin’ arranged for six samples of ore and sand taken from Te Aroha Mountain to be assayed. The highest value was 4s 6d, the next highest was 6d, and one had no value at all, as the quartz contained ‘fool’s gold’ rather than bullion. He was exploring an area that had been ‘well prospected without discovering anything of a payable character’. Undeterred by these results, in February, along with a sleeping partner, he applied for a prospecting license. Martin claimed to have found gold and hoped ‘to strike a payable reef’. As the area sought adjoined the scenic reserve and his prospecting might destroy the bush or interfere with the town’s water supply, his application was declined. It was both his first application for a prospecting license and the first of many examples of his incompetence being coupled with a refusal to accept advice from the competent.

Martin made sweeping claims to geological expertise, although on occasions was forced to admit that he had never trained as a geologist. In 1930, he claimed to have been educated at Edinburgh University until going to America at the age of 18 but stated he did not learn mining at the University - nor could he have learnt much of anything, if he had indeed left university at such a early age, for like others, he had attended some classes of interest but had not graduated. Rather:

Practically from university days I have been studying mining on my own account. I am not a professional mining man, and did not do any mining in America. Just before I came to New Zealand I spent a holiday in Australia looking over the country from a mining point of view.
The previous year, however, he had told the Governor General that ‘I have been 27 years a miner and prospector in the British Dominions’, and claimed to have prospected for gold in Alaska, for oil in California, and for both in New Zealand. He told others that he had ‘done considerable prospecting for gold, minerals and oil in many parts of the world’. The following year, he obtained financial backing by claiming to be ‘a qualified geologist, having been through Edinburgh University’ and having had ‘extensive mining experience in Australia and America’. He told one man that ‘he was a professor of mining and had been mining all his life and all over the world – in America, the Yukon (where he saw men dying in thousands), Australia and the South Island of New Zealand’. He had obtained ‘letters after his name’ from Edinburgh University, and ‘had made rich strikes at various times’. He had found ‘several rich strikes both in gold and oil in other countries’, and claimed to have had 50 years’ experience’, which would mean literally from his date of birth. Although he continued to claim to have university ‘degrees’, he more realistically described himself as ‘a student of Lyell’, meaning Sir Charles Lyell, the eminent Victorian geologist. In other words he was self-taught, but would not admit it, for he told another potential investor that at the university ‘he had learned mining and geology from A to Z; passed all his exams and since then had been all over the world mining’, discovering ‘gold, oil and coal in various parts of the world’. Mining ‘was in his blood’ and he could literally ‘smell gold’. He claimed to have had ‘deep level mining’ experience in two states of the USA. Within New Zealand, he claimed to have mined ‘at Thames, Coromandel and in the South Island’, and to have been ‘one of the chief miners’ at Waihi. His final claims, made in 1954, were to having worked ‘for some years in oil fields’ in America and Indonesia.

When officials questioned his claims of successful prospecting, he challenged their competence. In response to a negative report by the mining inspector about his 1929 claim to have found oil, he wrote that the inspector ‘may be a thorough geologist in every sense of the word but his report on petroleum indications [in] petroliifurous rock is entirely all wrong which I can prove with authentic data composed by the highest possible authority on the origin of oil’, unnamed. He told a journalist that ‘the Inspector of Mines doesn’t know his job’, and the Dominion Analyst’s report that there was no oil was ‘bunkum’. Nearly six years later, he told one of his investors that ‘he knew more about mining than anyone in the Mines Department’, for when James Mackintosh Bell of the Geological Survey had left the country he had given Martin ‘all his maps and data regarding coal, oil and mineral deposits’. As Bell had left New
Zealand in 1911, it is inconceivable that he would have given ‘all’, or indeed any, of these documents to Martin, who was then a musician not a prospector, and none were ever produced to confirm this unlikely statement. When assays made by government experts did not produce the same good values that he claimed to have found, Martin argued that ‘an honest assay could not be obtained from the Government Mines Department’.  

To prove this allegation, Martin ‘produced a letter from a Dr Bender substantiating that statement’. Elmore William Bender, a Russian-born American, supported several of Martin’s claims to have found oil and gold. Bender claimed to have prospected for gold and oil and to have been an oil driller and mining engineer in Russia, Rumania, North and South America, Austria, South Africa, and New Guinea as well as New Zealand. He claimed to be a Doctor of Science from an unstated American university, and to be a very experienced geologist, engineer, and chemist who had been a pioneer of several oil fields. On at least one occasion he described himself to an investor as a professor.

The director of the Geological Survey found Bender’s geological reports to be ‘very sketchy and incomplete’ and ‘for the most part inaccurate’, with ‘many vague generalizations and doubtful comparisons’. Amongst conclusions ‘at variance’ with other geologists was his belief that earthquakes were caused by ‘explosions of oil gas mixed with water’. Bender believed these earthquakes revealed mineral wealth. Martin accepted this theory, once telling the Governor General that the Murchison earthquake of 1929 had been caused by the igniting of gas from underground oil lakes. That Bender had either misunderstood or knowingly falsified geological information in the interests of raising capital was pointed out to the directors of the company formed to develop an oil field at Kotuku, on the West Coast of the South Island. This company soon collapsed because Bender had chosen the wrong site to bore and lacked the experience claimed. There were suspicions that he was involved in financial fraud as well. Others who worked with Bender considered him a dishonest fraud.

Immediately after trying his luck at Te Aroha, Martin claimed he had found ‘a gold bearing reef’ near Lake Taupo, falsifying the assay results to support his claim but never working the so-called reef. In 1929, he claimed to have found oil and gas near Taumarunui, a claim challenged by a man who stated he had shown him the alleged oil. Bender confirmed that oil had been found, but officials found decaying vegetable matter and iron oxide, not oil. ‘Dr’ Bender publicly tested samples to prove that ‘a valuable oil-field’ had been found, and he and Martin challenged officials who
rejected their claims. Their attempts to force officials to gazette the area as an oil district failed, but led to a *Truth* journalist exposing Martin’s incompetence. Unfazed, Martin continued to claim a valuable discovery, and did not inform his main partner that geologists had refuted his claim.

Instead of continuing to explore for oil in this area, Martin announced, six months later, that he had found payable gold in the Tokomaru Stream, flowing from the Tararua Range between Shannon and Palmerston North. Once again his claim was false, for the rock contained neither gold nor silver, prompting *Truth* once more to attack him for finding ‘good road metal’ and deluding his new partners. Martin continued to claim good assay results, falsely. *Truth* exposed both this and how experienced miners discredited ‘Martin’s Mirage’, but Martin continued to tell the Prime Minister that he had ‘a handsome prospect’, and even ‘natural asphaltum’ which would be ‘a wonderful petroleum producer’. When three of his partners decided that he had obtained their money through falsely claiming to be a qualified geologist and experienced miner who had found ‘gold in considerable quantities’, they sued him in what Martin claimed was an attempt to take his claim. Tests of his samples revealed no gold, no silver, no petroleum, and no bitumen. The mining inspector reported that Martin had made ‘three shallow cuts’ beside the stream, with a small shaft ‘down about 10 or 11 feet’; he had ‘never seen anything more hopeless from a mining point of view’. Martin responded by claiming that the inspector, like the department, was biased against him, and urged the Prime Minister to make scientific tests (helpfully explained) to prove that oil had been found. Asked by the judge to determine whether Martin was ‘a swindler or not’, the jury found him not guilty, clearly accepting that Martin sincerely believed in his own capabilities.

Immediately after the trial, Martin set out to find oil in Taranaki, but gave up, despite claiming great prospects, when the government refused assistance. Instead, he again developed his Tokomaru claim, forming the Golden Double Mining Syndicate with some credulous locals. Bender provided an encouraging report, but although Bender found good values in his samples, the department did not. As Martin travelled the district selling a ‘cleansing compound’ and did little work on his claim, the farmer on whose land his family was camping took legal action in late 1933 to remove him. The subsequent court case revealed that he had been funded by at least nine people. A mining engineer deposed that ‘there was no mine at all’, merely four holes with water in the bottom, which should have taken two months to sink. As ‘there was nothing even to
justify the holes’, the work ‘was a waste of money’. Martin won the case on a technicality.\textsuperscript{80}

Over a year later, another dissatisfied partner decided to take him to court to end their partnership and obtain damages for fraudulent misrepresentation.\textsuperscript{81} Evidence proved that Martin had done little or no work, had obtained part of a derelict battery that lacked some of its main components and was never erected, and had even wanted to purchase gold from elsewhere to ‘window-dress’ the mine.\textsuperscript{82} Martin’s defence was handicapped by Bender’s refusal to attend court to defend his assays.\textsuperscript{83} The judge berated Martin for not obtaining more assays to prove his claims, and determined that, as ‘several of the allegations of fraud’ had been proved, the partnership should be dissolved and the assets sold.\textsuperscript{84}

After this debacle, Martin returned to teaching music until the mid-1940s, when, aged 65, he became a herbalist, claiming to ‘have been helping sick people since I was about 20 years of age’. He did not claim to be ‘a professional medical man’, although several patients lived in his house for weeks at a time and he made medicine and ointment. Because he claimed not to make any money from helping people, he denied he was running a business.\textsuperscript{85} His competence as a herbalist must be questioned, as some patients were not cured; one had lily leaves placed on her knees to cure them.\textsuperscript{86} Forced into bankruptcy by a dissatisfied patient, despite continuing to treat more patients and making more money than he admitted, he refused to pay any of the money he owed her. This refusal, combined with suspicions of a fraudulent bankruptcy, meant that he was never discharged.\textsuperscript{87} Amongst his assets was a reputed sapphire, acquired by Martin and a partner in the early 1930s, which turned out to be a valueless crystal.\textsuperscript{88}

Being an old age pensioner did not stop Martin making one more attempt to find oil, this time in the South Island at Glentui, north of Christchurch. In 1954, he convinced his latest partner, a civil engineer, who provided their funds, that he had worked ‘for some years in oil fields’ in America and Indonesia.\textsuperscript{89} A geologist reported that Martin was mistaken in his geology and that the oil seepages he found were lichens. There was ‘an entire absence of almost all other necessary features of a successful oilfield’.\textsuperscript{90} Typically, both partners rejected this opinion and continued with their search despite Martin’s poor health.\textsuperscript{91} Over a year later, his partner ended the partnership, but as Martin considered his discovery to be ‘far superior’ to genuine finds in Taranaki he acquired more partners.\textsuperscript{92} When forced to admit that very little work had been done, he partly blamed a ‘very extended illness’ that had led to hospitalization, stating that ‘The amount of battling I have done over that country for a long period of years… [meant
that] my health broke under the strain’. He continued to prospect and continued to claim good prospects, but tests showed that his samples were ‘typical of anaerobic decomposition of vegetable matter’. Martin carried on prospecting with ‘very high hopes’, but only found methane. Still undeterred, he then prospected in other areas, with the same result. Just after acquiring an enlarged prospecting area, Martin died, aged 82.

One feature of Martin’s prospecting was his appealing for government assistance for over 30 years. To obtain this he wrote to all the Ministers of Mines, most of the Prime Ministers, and one Governor General. He signed off his letters with phrases emphasizing his public spiritedness: ‘Sincerely, yours in the interests of the safety, and advancement, of the people of New Zealand’, ‘Sincerely yours in business’, ‘Yours in the interests of the Country’, ‘Sincerely yours in the interest of New Zealand’s progress’, ‘Sincerely yours in an endeavour to bring N.Z. mineral on the market in general’, and ‘Yours truly in business and in the interests of New Zealand’. He sought prospecting licenses for areas not opened to mining, free assays and inspections by departmental officials, the loan of machinery, and financial subsidies.

In 1960, Martin told the Minister of Mines that he had ‘no desire to create any false impressions in the community’ about his latest discovery, deploring ‘how ready and willing some people are in the instance of mining to circulate rumours that could cause quite a lot of unnecessary excitement among the mining people’. This was ironic in the light of his many exaggerated claims that had led to the formation of several syndicates, all the members of whom lacked any knowledge of mining or geology. Was he simply an enthusiastic amateur, of the ‘hatter’ variety, who persisted in futile searching in the wrong areas despite unsatisfactory tests and discouragement from experts? Or was he deliberately manipulating others for his own financial benefit?

In 1930, the mining inspector commented that Martin knew ‘little of mineral occurrence and is living on his wits’. The following year, Martin admitted that ‘for the past year I have depended on this prospecting for a living’. Two months later, a judge described him as being ‘apparently a plausible man, also one of some intelligence’. After Martin became a bankrupt, another judge commented that his ‘wits’ enabled him ‘to manage very well for himself’. For the last 30 years of his life he obtained financial assistance from others by promising either a fortune in gold or oil or by claiming to cure a wide variety of ailments. He knew that his claims of vast experience and successful prospecting in several countries were false, and he can be shown to have falsely reported the results of his assays. A man whom Martin had
promised to teach herbalism complained of ‘his inconsistency’ and ‘absolute refusal to honour his obligations’, and described him as ‘nothing but a fraud and full of empty promises’.\(^{111}\)

There must have been an element of self-delusion in his prospecting, for otherwise why would he have chased fantasies right up until his death? He earnestly held absurd theories about how to find gold and oil. Using a compass to find the latter, when he found a hole in a paddock near Taumarunui he claimed that, because it lay ‘due north and south’, it was ‘practically certain you’ll find petroleum’.\(^{112}\) Especially because Taumarunui was ‘in a direct line’ between Gisborne and New Plymouth, where oil had been found.\(^{113}\) Claiming to be able to smell gold, when a detective gave him a sample he smelled it and ‘said it contained pure gold’,\(^{114}\) either a naïve illusion about a lump of ‘fool’s gold’ or a deliberate falsehood. Two weeks before his death, the head of the Mines Department commented that Martin was ‘a trifle eccentric’, for his prospecting was ‘based mainly on divining’.\(^{115}\) Bender, a very suspect self-proclaimed expert, supported Martin’s ridicule of assay results by officials, thus reinforcing Martin’s confidence in his own abilities. Both profited from the cupidity of others, but Martin may have been naïve as well. When he complained that the Mines Department ‘was prejudiced against him’, the judge was ‘not surprised’ to hear it, ‘because from their point of view he was a very dangerous person’,\(^{116}\) meaning that not only did he waste officials’ time but he also misled the public with his fantasies.

**Three men with three things in common**

Apart from their brief association with Te Aroha mining the three subjects of this paper experienced very different careers but had three unexpected things in common:

*First:* All were born in the Americas. Jackson was born in Panama.\(^{117}\) Mitchell was born on the island of Grenada and had fled from there in 1871 when his misappropriation of public funds was uncovered.\(^{118}\) Martin, as might be expected, gave three birthplaces: Bloomington, Illinois;\(^{119}\) Cape Nome, Alaska;\(^{120}\) and Manitoba, British Columbia, Canada.\(^{121}\) To obtain government assistance, he emphasized that he was a British subject loyal to ‘my country and King’.\(^{122}\)

*Second:* All were black, to a greater or lesser extent. Jackson was described as ‘a man of colour’ and ‘a tall, young, and good-looking blackman’.\(^{123}\) Mitchell’s father, Colonial Secretary and an appointed member of the executive and legislative councils, was descended from an illustrious mulatto, Louis La Grenade, and his mother was at least partly black.\(^{124}\) Martin, known to some as ‘Nigger’ Martin,\(^{125}\) explained his
complicated ethnic background to his doctor: ‘Mother 1/2 caste Red Indian & Father African Negro & Red Indian’.\textsuperscript{126} He had come to New Zealand in 1910 as a member of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, American blacks famous for their singing of spirituals.\textsuperscript{127}

**Figure 1**: *Fisk Jubilee Singers, photographed for their 1910 tour of New Zealand, with signatures of the members. Martin is on the bottom left.*

Martin used his colour as a weapon against officials who would not give him what he wanted. In 1929, he claimed to the minister and the Governor General that the head of the Mines Department would take no notice of his samples because of his colour. ‘Although my face is black I am none the less a british subject and a loyal one at that and this is the first time that I have known that one’s colour had anything to do with the discovery of mineral values in the british dominions’.\textsuperscript{128} When the under-secretary denied the accusation, Martin appeared to accept his denial.\textsuperscript{129} But 17 months later, Martin complained to the Prime Minister that the reason he was unable to have an interview with the Minister of Mines was ‘on the account of my colour’.\textsuperscript{130} At the same time he was telling his syndicate that departmental analysts would not admit that he had
good samples ‘because he was a coloured man’. He told the Prime Minister that departmental officials were ‘maliciously condemning me on account of my colour’, and claimed, falsely, that the Governor General had made the under-secretary ‘apologise to me once before for referring to my colour disparagingly’. In 1935, he told his latest syndicate that the department was prejudiced against him ‘on account of his colour, and that has prevented him from floating a company’. When interviewing the new under-secretary at the end of that year, he stated that he no longer considered that officials were prejudiced against him for this reason. On one occasion he declared that, being a Red Indian, he had ‘knowledge of natures way of distributing the mineral values encouched in the bowels of this earth by the Almighty God’, and ‘that Indian could probably be of some valuable use to New Zealand’.

Third: All three married white women. Within two years of marrying an Englishwoman and having a son, Jackson assaulted and then deserted her. Mitchell married a member of the ‘plantocracy’ in Grenada who was probably mostly black, as was her mother. They had eight children, but only three remained alive when she died in 1885. Four years later, he remarried an Englishwoman whose occupation was ‘Lady Help’ - had she been his housekeeper? When Mitchell fled from his creditors a year later, he left behind not only the wife who was looking after her three stepchildren but also a mistress who had borne him two children. As well, there were ‘rumours of other women with whom he has been consorting, and upon whom he has been spending money lavishly’. His mistress was white; presumably so to were the other women. However when he had fled Grenada, he did not desert his wife, for she joined him in New South Wales and lived with him until his death; they had three children.

At the age of 36, Martin married an Italian aged 21 years, who bore him two daughters. Well before the time of her death 12 years later, at an advanced stage of pregnancy, they had long been separated and the unborn child was not his. Two months before her death, a 21-year old Englishwoman bore an illegitimate daughter whose birth was registered by Martin. Although they never married, both mother and daughter adopted his surname. Martin sometimes lived with his second ‘wife’ and sometimes they lived apart; in 1947, when aged 42, she married another man. Nine years before his death, a woman said that Martin was ‘reputed to be married to’ her sister, a curious statement for which there is no evidence either way; presumably she was yet another white woman.

Postscript
As no blacks lived in the Te Aroha district, although some lived at nearby Thames, most residents had little or no contact with them. They were commonly portrayed as figures of fun in entertainments. Yet when real blacks, the Fisk Jubilee Singers, performed there and throughout New Zealand, they and their music were treated with respect. Their cordial welcome encouraged some black singers to settle in New Zealand. A member of the Mammoth Minstrels spent the last 15 years of his life in Wellington. Four members of the Fisk Jubilee Singers settled: Martin, Hamilton Hodges and his wife, and Robert Bradford Williams. Hodges was a widely respected opera singer in New Zealand for many years. Williams was also a popular singer and church choir conductor in Wellington. A lawyer, for six years he was the popular mayor of a large borough, was also a member of the Wellington Hospital Board, and twice was a candidate in national elections. His reason for settling was not just ‘the generosity of his hosts throughout New Zealand’ but his marriage to Katie Bourke, a Tasmanian, and therefore another white woman, who ‘decided his fate and place of residence’.

The lives of black people are a little known aspect of New Zealand history. Investigating this sample of three who had a fleeting involvement with Te Aroha mining has led to some unexpected discoveries, notably the degree of intermarriage at a time when this was viewed as hardly respectable. On this point, it is worth noting that, where the marriages of their children are known, they were to white New Zealanders.

---

Endnotes

1 For the Chinese, see for instance Timothy Jones, ‘Ping Que – Mining Magnate of the Northern Territory’, in *Journal of Australasian Mining History*, vol. 1, September 2003, pp. 188-198.
4 Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Miner’s Right no. 800, issued 17 December 1880, Miners’ Rights Butt-Book 1880, BBAV 11533/1f; Register of Te Aroha Claims 1880-1888, folio 197, BBAV 11567/1a, New Zealand Archives, Auckland Branch [hereafter ANZ-A]; *Waikato Times*, 16 December 1880, p. 2; 29 January 1881, p. 2; 30 June 1881, p. 3.
5 Te Aroha Warden’s Court, Register of Licensed Holdings 1881-1887, folio 59, BBAV 11500/9a; C.H. Bennett to W.L. Mitchell, 29 October 1883, Certified Instruments 1883, nos. 635-638, BBAV 11581/4a, ANZ-A.
A Carter, a Businessman, and a Prospector with Several Things in Common

7 For example, advertisements, *Te Aroha News*, 27 October 1883, p. 3; 8 December 1883, p. 1.
8 *A Return of the Freeholders of New Zealand ... October 1882*, Wellington, 1884, p. M49; *New Zealand Gazette*, 12 September 1882, p. 1303; 23 December 1886, p. 1712;
9 Auckland Supreme Court, Bankruptcy Register 1884-1927, folio 129, BAEA 11029/1a, ANZ-A; *New Zealand Herald*, 24 January 1887, p. 3; 16 August 1887, p. 3; *Mercantile and Bankruptcy Gazette*, 21 January 1888, p. 3;
10 Company Files, BADZ 5181, box 48, no. 312, ANZ-A; *Mercantile and Bankruptcy Gazette*, 23 March 1889, p. 82; 9 October 1890, p. 317; *Burgess Roll for the City of Auckland*, East Ward, 1890-1891, p. 17; *New Zealand Herald*, 1 October 1890, p. 3.
12 *New Zealand Herald*, 18 June 1890, p. 5; 19 June 1890, p. 5; *Observer*, 28 June 1890, p. 6.
13 *Observer*, 28 June 1890, p. 6; 5 July 1890, pp. 6, 7.
15 Cartoon, *Observer*, 28 June 1890, p. 16; 5 July 1890, p. 6; 20 September 1890, p. 7; 27 January 1894, p. 5; 11 August 1894, p. 3; Death Certificate of William La Grenade Mitchell, 7 July 1915, Deaths, 1915/13002, New South Wales BDM.
17 Marriage Certificate of Edward Ralph Martin, 10 September 1913, Marriages, 4820/1913; Death Certificate of Edward Ralph Martin, 17 September 1917, Deaths, 1858/1961, Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages, Wellington [hereafter BDM]; *Truth*, 17 October 1929, p. 1; *Manawatu Daily Times*, 20 March 1931, press cutting in Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, New Zealand Archives, Wellington Branch [hereafter ANZ-W].
19 Manawatu Evening Standard, 19 March 1931, p. 7
21 Details in Department of Justice, Official Assignee Files, AANR W3834, box 13, 23/50, ANZ-W.
22 Thames School of Mines, Assay Book 1927-1932, folios 27, 28, entries for 13 December 1927, 3 January 1928, 4 January 1928, School of Mines Archives, Thames.
23 Matthew Paul (Inspector of Mines) to Warden, 6 February 1928, *Te Aroha Warden’s Court*, Mining Applications 1928, 1/28, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.
24 *Te Aroha Warden’s Court*, Register of Applications 1928, Hearing dated 13 February 1928, BBAV 11505/6b; Mining Applications 1928, 1/28, BCDG 11289/2a, ANZ-A.
25 C.E. Christensen (Tourist Agent at Te Aroha) to General Manager, Tourist and Health Resorts, 6 February 1928, Mines Department, MD1, 4/14, Part 3, ANZ-W.
26 Matthew Paul to Warden, 6 February 1928; Conservator of Forests to Warden, 6 March 1928, *Te Aroha Warden’s Court*, Mining Applications 1928, 1/28, BCDG 11289/2a; Register of Applications 1928, Hearing of 13 March 1928, BBAV 11505/6b, ANZ-A.
27 A.T. Wilson (University Archivist, University of Edinburgh), e.mail to Philip Hart, 20 August 2008.
29 E.R. Martin to Governor General, 11 August 1929, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/85, ANZ-W; *Truth*, 17 October 1929, p. 1.
30 *Taumarunui Press*, 19 August 1929, press cutting in Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/85, ANZ-W.
32 *Manawatu Daily Times*, 19 March 1931, press cutting in Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
33 Affidavit of Edward Ralph Martin, 9 August 1951, Department of Justice, Official Assignee Files, AABR W3834, box 13, 23/50; *Manawatu Daily Times*, 19 March 1931, press cutting in Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
36 *Manawatu Daily Times*, 20 March 1931, press cutting in Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
38 *Manawatu Daily Times*, 19 March 1931, 6 May 1931, press cuttings in Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
39 R.A. Barr to Under-Secretary, Mines Department, 10 October 1954, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/287, ANZ-W.
40 E.R. Martin to W.A. Veitch (Minister of Mines), 3 September 1929, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/85, ANZ-W.
42 Manawatu Daily Times, 14 February 1936, press cutting in Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
45 Manawatu Daily Times, 14 February 1936, press cutting in Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
46 A.H. Kimbell to E.R. Martin, 3 July 1929, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/85; E.W. Bender to A.H. Kimbell, 29 July 1929; C.D. Lightband to Harry Atmore (Minister of Education), 10 July 1929; Prospectus of Kotuku Oil and Gold Fields Ltd, 25 October 1932; Notes of Interview between E.W. Bender and C.E. Macmillan (Minister of Mines), 19 October 1933, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/91, Part 1; Prospectus of Nelson Oil Syndicate, 20 June 1928; J.F. Downey to A.H. Kimbell, 19 August 1929, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/85, ANZ-W.
47 C.D. Lightband to Harry Atmore, 16 May 1929; E.W. Bender to Harry Atmore, 5 March 1931, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/91, Part 1, ANZ-W.
50 A.H. Kimbell to E.R. Martin, 9 January 1931, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/91, Part 1, ANZ-W.
51 C.D. Lightband to Harry Atmore, 10 July 1929, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/91, Part 1, ANZ-W.
52 John Henderson to A.H. Kimbell, 9 November 1932; A.H. Kimbell to E.E.B. Mabin, 16 November 1932; John Henderson to A. Tyndall (Under-Secretary, Mines Department), 22 February 1934, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/91, Part 1, ANZ-W.
53 A. Tyndall to C.E. Macmillan, 20 March 1934; press cutting from Grey River Argus, 12 September 1934; Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, to A. Tyndall, 15 August 1934, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/91, Part 1, ANZ-W.
54 Affidavits of Percy Stratton Boyes (liquidator), 12 March 1935, 8 July 1935, Company Files, AAOO 17999, box 280, no. 440, ANZ-W.
55 W.P. Martin to A. Simpson, 21 August 1928; A Simpson to W.A. Veitch, 23 September 1929, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/85, ANZ-W.
56 Thomas School of Mines, Assay Book 1927-1932, folios 37, 39, 41, 48, 53, 57 (1928), School of Mines Archives, Thames; Manawatu Daily Times, 20 March 1930, press cutting in Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
57 E.R. Martin to W.A. Veitch, 13 April 1929; G.H. Barrett to A.H. Kimbell, 6 May 1929; Egerton Ward to A.H. Kimbell, 6 May 1929; press cuttings from Taumarunui Press, 26 August 1929, 28 August 1929, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/85, ANZ-W; Truth, 17 October 1929, p. 1.
58 Press cuttings from Taumarunui Press, 19 August 1929, 23 August 1929, and Matiere Gazette, 23 August 1929, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/85, ANZ-W.
60 Press cuttings from Taumarunui Press, 19 August 1929, 20 September 1929; J.F. Downey to A.H. Kimbell, 19 August 1929; A.H. Kimbell, ‘Report of Interview between Mr E.R. Martin, Mr Simpson (his Solicitor), and Mr A.H. Kimbell on 31st August, 1929”, 2 September 1929; E.R. Martin to W.A. Veitch, 3 September 1929, 6 September 1929, 25 January 1930, 11 February 1930, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/85, ANZ-W.
61 E.R. Martin to W.A. Veitch, 3 September 1929, 6 September 1929; E.R. Martin to A.H. Kimbell, 15 September 1929; press cutting from Taumarunui Press, 20 September 1929; A.H. Kimbell to Under-Secretary, Lands and Survey Department, 24 September 1929; press release, 25 September 1929; Acting Director, Geological Survey, to A.H. Kimbell, 9 October 1929, 11 October 1929; A.H. Kimbell to W.A.
Veitch, 15 October 1929; A.H. Kimbell to E.R. Martin, 21 October 1929, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/85, ANZ-W.
63 E.R. Martin to W.A. Veitch, 16 December 1929, 27 December 1929, 3 January 1930; W.A. Veitch to E.R. Martin, 9 January 1930; Samuel Mercep to W.A. Veitch, 14 January 1930, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/85, ANZ-W.
64 Evening Post (Wellington), 8 July 1930, press cutting in Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
65 Press cutting from Dominion, 15 July 1930; Dominion Analyst to A.H. Kimbell, 28 August 1930, Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
67 E.R. Martin to A.J. Murdoch (Minister of Mines), 8 October 1930; Hugh Crawford (Director, Thames School of Mines) to A.H. Kimbell, 10 October 1930, with appended assay results; A.H. Kimbell to A.J. Murdoch, 10 October 1930; E.R. Martin to A.J. Murdoch, 17 October 1930, Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
68 Truth, 30 October 1930, press cutting in Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
69 E.R. Martin to G.W. Forbes (Prime Minister), 7 January 1931, n.d. [? 8 January 1931], 19 February 1931, 27 February 1931, 9 March 1931, Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-A.
70 E.R. Martin to G.W. Forbes, 23 March 1931, Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W; full details of Magistrate’s Court hearing published in Manawatu Daily Times, 19 March 1931, 20 March 1931, press cuttings in Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W; Manawatu Evening Standard, 19 March 1931, pp. 4, 7.
71 Memorandum of Thames School of Mines, 19 March 1931; Dominion Analyst to J.F. Downey, 27 March 1931, Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
73 E.R. Martin to G.W. Forbes, 10 April 1931, 11 April 1931, Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
74 Manawatu Evening Standard, 5 May 1931, p. 8, 6 May 1931, p. 11; Manawatu Daily Times, 6 May 1931, press cutting in Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
75 E.R. Martin to G.W. Forbes, 6 May 1931; J.G. Cobbe (Minister of Justice), for G.W. Forbes, to E.R. Martin, 21 May 1931; E.R. Martin to J.G. Cobbe, 23 May 1931; A.J. Murdoch to E.R. Martin, 30 May 1931, Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
76 Bertram Begley to A.H. Kimbell, 9 November 1931, Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
77 E.W. Bender to E.R. Martin, 3 September 1931 [two letters]; Bertram Begley to A.H. Kimbell, 9 November 1931; Dominion Analyst to A.H. Kimbell, 23 November 1931; A.J. Murdoch to Bertram Begley, 8 December 1931; E.R. Martin to A.J. Murdoch, 4 December 1931; A.J. Murdoch to E.R. Martin, 18 December 1931; F.R. Gyde to A.H. Kimbell, 17 July 1932, with press cutting from Manawatu Daily Times, 15 July 1932, appended, Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
78 F.M. Baumfield to A.J. Murdoch, 5 March 1933; W.R. Kelly to A.H. Kimbell, 4 September 1933; A.H. Kimbell to W.R. Kelly, 15 September 1933; Cooper Rapley and Rutherford to A.H. Kimbell, 14 November 1933, Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
80 Ibid., 27 July 1934, p. 6.
81 T.F. Relling to A. Tyndall (Under-Secretary, Mines Department), 10 October 1935, 25 October 1935, Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
82 Manawatu Evening Standard, 13 February 1936, p. 7, 14 February 1936, p. 9, 15 February 1936, p. 2; Manawatu Daily Times, 14 February 1936, 15 February 1936, press cuttings in Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
83 Manawatu Evening Standard, 14 February 1936, p. 9.
84 Ibid., p. 9, ibid., 15 February 1936, p. 2.
85 Declaration of E.R. Martin, n.d. [before 1 August 1950]; Minutes of Meeting of Creditors of E.R. Martin held … on 1 August 1950, Department of Justice, Official Assignee Files, AABR W3834, box 13, 23/50, ANZ-W.
86 ‘List of Known Patients at Martin’s’, n.d. [August 1950], Department of Justice, Official Assignee Files, AABR W3834, box 13, 23/50, ANZ-W.
87 Official Assignee to District Public Trustee, Christchurch, 19 September 1962, Department of Justice, Official Assignee Files, AABR W3834, box 13, 23/50, ANZ-W.
Philip Hart

88 Minutes of Meeting of Creditors of E.R. Martin held … on 1 August 1950; H.N. Robieson to Official Assignee, 8 August 1950, Department of Justice, Official Assignee Files, AABR W3834, box 13, 23/50, ANZ-W.
89 R.A. Barr to William Sullivan (Minister of Mines), 28 September 1954; R.A. Barr to P.M. Outhwaite (Under-Secretary, Mines Department), 10 October 1954, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/287, ANZ-W.
91 R.W. Barr to P.M. Outhwaite, 18 July 1957, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/287, ANZ-W.
92 E.R. Martin to Frederick Hackett (Minister of Mines), 11 February 1959; Bell Gully and Co to P.M. Outhwaite, 14 April 1959; memorandum of Frederick Hackett, 18 May 1959; E.T. Layburn and Hodgins to P.M. Outhwaite, 21 October 1959; E.R. Martin to Walter Nash (Prime Minister), 29 November 1959, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/287, ANZ-W.
93 E.R. Martin to Frederick Hackett, 21 December 1959, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/287, ANZ-W.
94 E.R. Martin to Frederick Hackett, 16 February 1960, 25 February 1960, 7 March 1960, 22 March 1960; E.R. Martin to Walter Nash, 14 March 1960; Report by Director, Dominion Laboratory, 19 May 1960, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/287, ANZ-W.
95 E.R. Martin to Frederick Hackett, 17 May 1960; Meares Williams Holmes and Booker to P.M. Outhwaite, 19 May 1960; Director, Dominion Laboratory, to P.M. Outhwaite, 5 July 1960; P.M. Outhwaite, to E.R. Martin, 19 July 1960, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/287, ANZ-W.
96 John Anderson and Co to P.M. Outhwaite, 4 August 1960; E.R. Martin to T.P. Shand (Minister of Mines), 14 March 1961, 23 March 1861, 29 March 1961, 5 April 1961, 20 June 1961, 26 June 1961; Walton and Walton to P.M. Outhwaite, 15 March 1961; Director, Dominion Laboratory, to P.M. Outhwaite, 3 May 1961; H. Scandrett to T.P. Shand, 8 June 1961, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/287, ANZ-W.
97 P.M. Outhwaite to T.P. Shand, 4 September 1961; memorandum by T.P. Shand, 6 September 1961, with maps of two licenses, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/287, ANZ-W; Death Certificate of Edward Ralph Martin, 17 September 1961, Deaths, 1858/1961, BDM.
98 E.R. Martin to Governor General, 25 June 1929, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/85, ANZ-W.
99 E.R. Martin to A.J. Murdoch, 8 October 1930; E.R. Martin to G.W. Forbes, 22 January 1931, 23 March 1931, 10 April 1931, 10 April 1931, Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
100 E.R. Martin to G.W. Forbes, n.d. [? 8 January 1931], Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
101 Ibid., 9 March 1931.
102 Ibid., 11 April 1931.
103 Ibid., 4 February 1931; E.R. Martin to T.P. Shand, 29 March 1961, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/287, ANZ-W.
105 E.R. Martin to Frederick Hackett, 16 February 1960, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/287, ANZ-W.
106 J.F. Downey to A.H. Kimbell, 25 July 1930, Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
108 Ibid., 6 May 1931, p. 11.
109 Oral Judgment of Fair J, after Hearing of 6 February 1952, Department of Justice, Official Assignee Files, AABR W3834, box 13, 23/50, ANZ-W.
110 For example, E.R. Martin to A.J. Murdoch, 8 October 1930; Hugh Crawford to A.H. Kimbell, 10 October 1930, with assay results appended; A.H. Kimbell to A.J. Murdoch, 10 October 1930; press cutting from Truth, 30 October 1930, Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
111 Frank Fisk to Official Assignee, 20 November 1950, Department of Justice, Official Assignee Files, AABR W3834, box 13, 23/50, ANZ-W.
113 E.R. Martin to W.A. Veitch, 11 November 1929, Mines Department, MD1, 5/4/85, ANZ-W.
114 Manawatu Daily Times, 20 March 1931, press cutting in Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W.
July 1915, Deaths, 13002/1915; Birth Certificate of Frank Rewi Mitchell, Births, 31094/1894; Death Certificate of Edith Harriet Mitchell, Deaths, 15412/1919, New South Wales BDM.

143 Marriage Certificate of Edward Ralph Martin, 10 September 1913, Marriages, 4820/1913; Birth Certificate of Hilda May Martin, October 1914, Births, 6635/1914; Birth Certificate of Florence Martin, 9 October 1915, Births, 5855/1915, BDM.


145 Birth Certificate of Maida Valerie Cole, 13 October 1925, Births, 185/1926, BDM.

146 N.M. Martin to G.W. Forbes, 12 November 1934, Mines Department, MD1, 12/346, ANZ-W; Marriage Certificate of Maida Valerie Martin, 18 April 1945, Marriages, 5018/1945, BDM.


148 Marriage Certificate of Nellie May Cole, 6 December 1947, Marriages, 16188/1947, BDM.

149 Memorandum by Official Assignee, 18 February 1952, Department of Justice, Official Assignee Files, AABR W3834, box 13, 23/50, ANZ-W.

150 For example, Robert Clements: Thames Advertiser, 28 September 1870, p. 2, 26 September 1879, p. 3, 7 October 1870, p. 3; George Hall: Police Court, Thames Advertiser, 1 December 1873, p. 3, 5 December 1873, p. 3; Supreme Court, Auckland Weekly News, 10 January 1874, p. 11.


153 New Zealand Free Lance, 2 May 1903, p. 3.

154 For her participation in the Fisk Jubilee Singers’ 1910 tour, see Te Aroha News, 30 June 1910, p. 2.


158 For examples of his career in local government, see Evening Post, 2 May 1902, p. 6, 19 April 1906, p. 5, 26 April 1906, p. 5, 23 April 11907, p. 7, 1 May 1907, p. 7, 23 April 1913, p. 7, 1 May 1913, p. 3, 30 November 1914, p. 8; New Zealand Free Lance, 2 May 1903, p. 3, 9 April 1904, p. 6, 31 October 1908, p. 4; Dominion, 30 May 1942, p. 3; Redmer Yska, Wellington: Biography of a city, Auckland, 2006, pp. 92, 112-113.


160 Marriage Certificate of Maida Valerie Martin, 18 April 1945, Marriages, 5018/1945, BDM; Dominion, 30 May 1942, p. 3.