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R. D. 1
Papatoetoe
Auckland 1703
Ph. (09)-263-8428
30/11/2002

John Gummer and family,
16 Cromdale Avenue
Howick

Dear John

GUMMER FAMILY HISTORY

Following our recent phone conversation, I'm enclosing some information about the Gummer family – particularly the English background; also some photocopies of photos

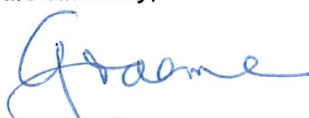
Our forbears' migration to NZ was prompted by their wish to be no longer Dissenters in the eyes of the Established Church, so they left good jobs, friends, and parents for ever, and set sail overseas for uncertain lives as pioneer farmers at Maungaturoto [the Gummerts] or as business people in Auckland [the Moginies].

My original aim was just to link ourselves to our latest "English" heritage; but Ellis Gummer in London (since deceased), a former Head Librarian at a Balliol College Oxford, though not our relation, found our background so interesting he probed it back to 1700. The French Huguenot origins of the Moginies go back even further, though less reliably.

As for our NZ history, I have focused and will write more on Thomas George Gummer and Jane Taylor Gummer [nee Moginie] and their lives from 1863 to the 1940s. I have listed their family Charles, Cyril, Eva, Alfred, Gertrude, William, Robert (Bob), and Fred. I knew all except Cyril, but by about 1973 all had passed on to the Next Place. The children of the above are listed without dates or other information, but I am not equipped to write about that generation.

I invite you to share the enclosed material with those of your family who may be interested.

Yours sincerely,



R. Graeme Gummer

JGummerHowick.doc

Some of the first generation of our Gemmer family
born in DZ. From left, Alf (?), Eva, & Gertrude
with young Bill Gemmer in the front. The photo
was taken in the late 1880's.





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4 Jane Taylor Gummer photographed in November 1908, at the age of 53. The neck of her bodice is stiffened with whale bone, and ruched silk is stitched on to her blouse.

No 1790
Dated the 31 day of March 1831

This is to certify and declare, that

John Gunner
of the Parish of St. Andrew
in the County of Middlesex
being the father of
Mary John Gunner
the daughter of
John Gunner
in the County of Middlesex
and his wife (who was
born at the house
of the said John Gunner
in the County of Middlesex
on the twenty second day of October 1819

Joseph Gunner
Mary Gunner
The Parents
abovenamed.

We certify and declare that we were present at the Birth of the Child above-mentioned; and that such Birth took place at the time and place aforesaid.

Joseph Gunner of St. Andrew's Church
Mary Gunner of St. Andrew's Church

Entered, Filed, and Registered, according to the custom in use amongst Protestant Dissenters,
at the Registry of Births kept at Dr. Williams's Library, Red-Cross Street, Cripplegate,
London, this 31 day of March 1831.

By me

John Coates

Registrar.

1819 reg
St. Andrew's Church
Middlesex

DIRECTIONS.—The above forms are to be had at the rate of One Shilling a Dozen at the Library, by application to the Registrar there (fit better post-paid), or at the Vestries of most Dissenting Churches. Fill up both Certificates carefully, 1. with the date when the Certificate is filled up and signed, at the top. 2. The child's Christian name. 3. State whether Son or Daughter. 4. The Father's name, address, and profession, or occupation. 5. The date of birth, describing the place and residence (if dead, the last residence) and the business and profession, or occupation, of the mother's father. 6. The place of birth, describing the day of the birth, putting the day of the birth in words, not in figures. 7. Then, 1st, let both parents, if either of the parents cannot write, let him or her make his or her mark, sign the certificate, and the Registrar, or some one writing over against each mark, "the mark of" and "and" in case neither of the parents can write, let two persons present at the birth sign after the own name on the line below after the 7. adding to each signature his or her relationship. 8. Let two persons present at the birth sign after the 7. adding to each signature his or her relationship. 9. If the witnesses cannot write, let them make their marks, some one writing over against each mark "the mark of" and "and" in case neither of the witnesses can write, let two persons present at the birth sign after the 7. adding to each signature his or her relationship. 10. If both parents cannot sign, let one of them do so. If both should be dead, then let the nearest relation who can write sign, as before directed, after the 7, and add to his or her signature what relation he or she is to the child. 11. It is desirable that the witnesses to the birth, or one of them (where it can be) should be relation of the child; and, where any witness is a relation, let him or her add to his or her signature what relation he or she is to the child. 12. If there are no witnesses to the birth living or to be found, the Registrar may still be made, getting the signature of the parents, or one of them, as above directed. 13. The Registrar may take place at any time, if the parties are living who can comply with the above requisites. 14. This paper, containing both certificates, must be taken to the Registrar, who will keep and sign in his book (numbering it next after the one last received and registered by him), and deliver the Second, (the one on this page), numbered and signed by him, to the parties, who can then, if they please, cut off these directions. 15. The Registrar will fill up with the following: A Certificate fully and regularly filled up will stand as follows: This is to certify and declare, that William the son of Thomas Jones, of Stoke, in the County of Stafford, was born at the house of the said Thomas Jones, No. 10, in John St., in Stoke, in the County of Stafford, on the tenth day of May, 1830. Elizabeth Jones, the Parents abovenamed. [When the Parents cannot write or sign, I cannot Jones, wife to the child.] Mary Hill, of Stoke, Spinster, next to the child, and that such Birth took place at the time and place aforesaid. James Cook, of Stoke, Surgeon. N.B. The Registrar attends every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, from Ten till Three o'clock, at the Registrar's Office, and the Registrar's Office.