

The Hilder-Graham Connection in Aotearoa New Zealand



Richard & Amelia Hilder
Burnie, Tasmania



Thompson & Margaret Graham
Okaihau, New Zealand

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<http://www.famnet.org.nz>

Preface

The New Zealand Hilder and Graham families are closely linked through several siblings from each family marrying.

The two New Zealand couples central to this book are two sons of Richard and Amelia Hilder of Burnie, Tasmania and two daughters of Thompson and Margaret Graham of Okaihau, Northland:

Annie Graham and Milton (Jim) Hilder married in 1911

Maggie Graham and Wenman (Bill, or Uncle Wen) Hilder married in 1913

A third couple also married in 1914 in Tasmania - George Graham and Hannah Hilder who settled in Tasmania.

Thompson Graham, the patriarch of the Graham family arrived in New Zealand in 1874 followed in 1879 by Margaret Templeton who he married in 1880.

Martin Hilder, the elder brother of Jim and Bill Hilder, was the first Hilder to arrive in New Zealand in 1905 from Tasmania.

This book focuses initially on the lives and descendants of the two New Zealand couples, followed by those of their siblings. After this we trace the story of their forebears - for the Grahams, back to County Antrim in Ireland, and for the Hilders, back to Tasmania and before that to England. Much more is known of the Hilder side of the family than the Graham side, in large part because of the avid historical tendencies of Richard Hilder, who left many written recollections (see Appendix 1).

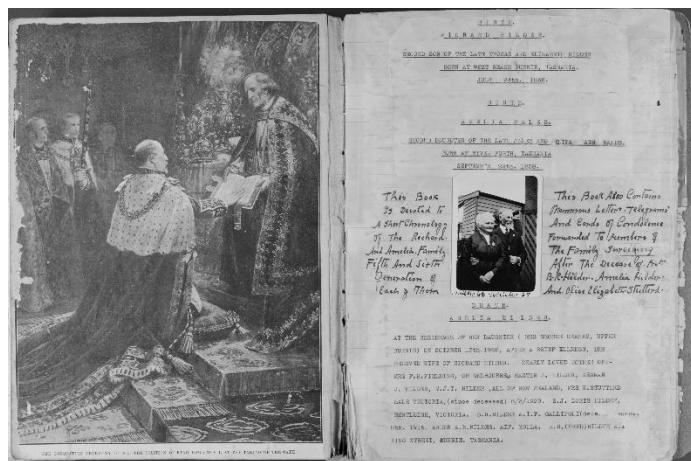
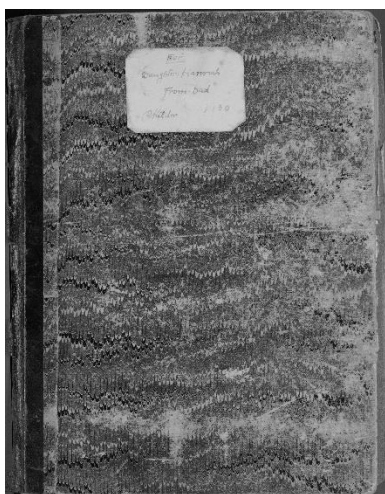
Three family memoirs provided the bulk of information on the early Hilder days:

Richard Hilder. (1933). *Chronology and Brief History of the Richard and Amelia Hilder Family*. A handwritten notebook for son Milton James Hilder, typed by Jo Hilder 1993. Other handwritten copies written for other family members (Hannah and Fred, both in 1930) that contain slight variations have also been consulted and quoted from.

Wenman J. Hilder. (1967-68). *To Our Children: Your Parents' Autobiography*. (Typewritten account). 10 Tui Crescent, Beach Haven, Auckland, N.Z.

Margaret Duder (nee Hilder). (1998) *Kaipu to Kaikohe: A Peep at the Past - The Early Years of the Hilder Family*. (Typewritten booklet)

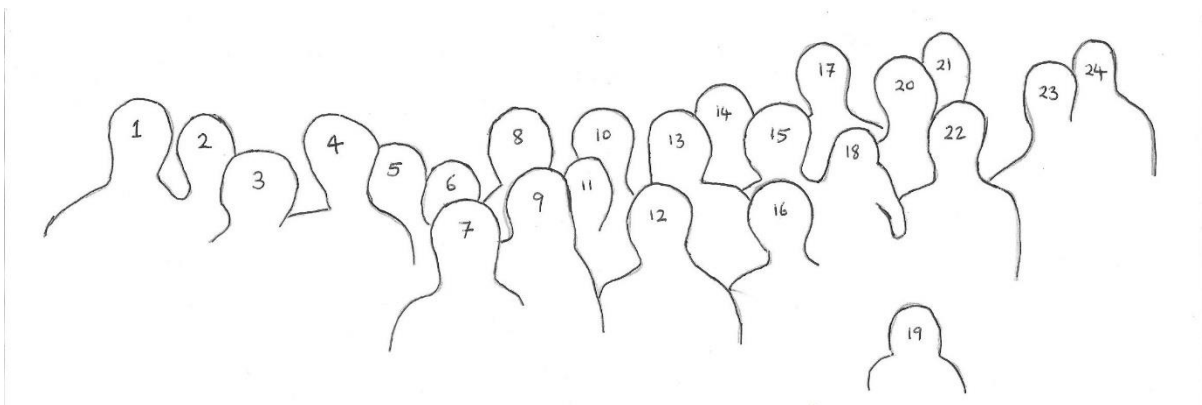
A range of other official and informal sources have been used to piece together other information and are detailed in endnotes.



Images of the cover and opening pages of Richard Hilder's family chronology written for Hannah in 1930 (displayed at Burnie Museum in 2016)

Descendants of Wenman and Milton Hilder, c 1967

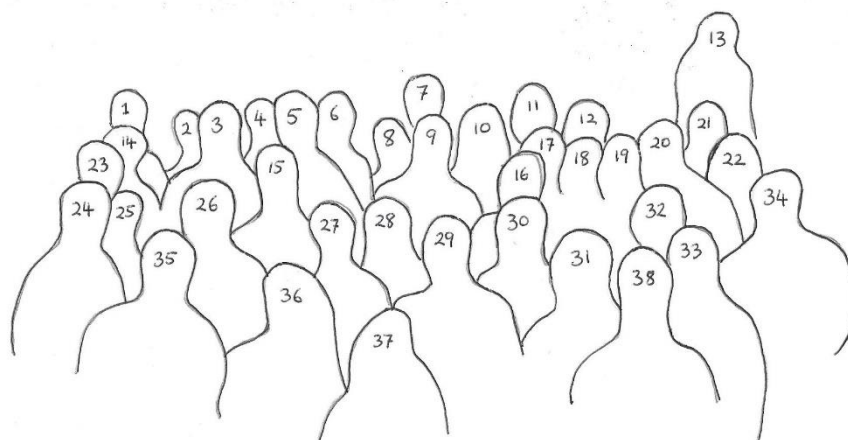
Mixed grouping of descendants of Wenman and Milton Hilder, about 1967 at Wenman Hilder's house in Auckland. The photo was probably taken on the occasion of a visit from Australia of Dot Hilder, Wenman and Milton's sister, in the centre of the photo in glasses.



- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Murray Hilder | 9. Gillian Matthews | 18. Fiona Mansell |
| 2. Colin Hilder | 10. Unknown | 19. Keith Mansell |
| 3. Rae Hilder | 11. Karen Hilder | 20. Una Matthews (nee Hilder) |
| 4. Jessie Walker (nee Hilder) | 12. David Matthews | 21. Joe Matthews |
| 5. Suzanne Hilder | 13. Dot Hilder | 22. Phyl Hilder |
| 6. Alison Hilder | 14. Unknown | 23. Wenman Hilder |
| 7. Andrea Dye (friend of Gillian's) | 15. Ruth Mansell (nee Hilder) | 24. Basil Hilder |
| 8. Lorraine Walker | 16. Christopher Hilder | |
| | 17. Alan Matthews | |

Descendants of Wenman and Milton Hilder, 2018

Mixed grouping of descendants of Wenman and Milton Hilder in 2018 at a family reunion at St Luke's Methodist Church, Northcote, Auckland.



- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Eric Hilder | 15. Pam Duder | 27. Suzanne Hilder (Kerr) |
| 2. Lynne Hilder | 16. Alison Tuionetoa (nee Hilder) | 28. Margaret Hilder |
| 3. Heather Rocco (nee Duder) | 17. Paea Fe'ao | 29. Russen Hilder |
| 4. Heather Westerkamp | 18. Edwin Fe'ao | 30. Terry Wylens |
| 5. Eric Duder | 19. Lesley Jacobs (nee Hilder) | 31. Fiona Wylens (nee Mansell) |
| 6. Karen Neumegen (nee Hilder) | 20. Neti Tuionetoa | 32. Roger Waymouth |
| 7. Dean Hyslop | 21. Jaimee-Leigh Crossweller | 33. Averil Waymouth |
| 8. Diana Hilder | 22. Judy Crossweller (nee Hilder) | 34. Michael O'Connor |
| 9. Anau Fe'ao | 23. Merryl Duder (Tou Hau) | 35. Chris Hilder |
| 10. Brie Fenton | 24. Lorraine Washbourne (nee Walker) | 36. Jo Hilder |
| 11. Bradley Fenton | 25. Sue Walker | 37. Sarah Hyslop |
| 12. Josh Hyslop | 26. Graham Walker | 38. Steven Wylens |
| 13. Dave Hilder | | |
| 14. Ilona Tattersall (nee Hilder) | | |

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Chapter 1

The New Zealand Hilder-Graham couples



Milton James Thomas Hilder (Jim)
(1890-1963)



Sarah Annie Graham (Annie)
(1885-1949)

Married 1911



Wenman John Hilder (Bill)
(1887-1971)



Margaret Elizabeth Graham (Maggie)
(1887-1962)

Married 1913

Milton James Thomas Hilder & Sarah Annie Graham (Jim & Annie)



Jim and Annie were the first Hilder-Graham couple to marry.

Jim arrived in New Zealand in 1910 at the age of 20, following his two older brothers Martin and Wenman. The son of Richard Hilder and Amelia Hales, he was born and raised on a farm in Tasmania. His grandfather, Thomas Hilder, emigrated from England in 1842.

Annie was born in New Zealand in 1885 and raised on a farm in Okaihau in Northland. She was the daughter of Thompson Graham and Margaret Templeton who emigrated separately to New Zealand from County Antrim in Northern Ireland in 1874 and 1879.

Jim and Annie married in 1911 when Annie was aged 26 and Jim aged 21. They lived together on various properties in the vicinity of Kaikohe for 38 years until Annie's death at the age of 64. They raised a family of seven: two sons and five daughters. By the time Jim died at the age of 73, he had been living in New Zealand for 53 years.

Milton James Thomas Hilder (Jim)

(1890-1963)

Milton was born at Hill Farm, near Burnie, Tasmania, on the 21st of February 1890 “during the night, with Mrs George Best, experienced midwife, attending at birth”.¹ He was the sixth child, and third son, of Richard and Amelia Hilder, and the youngest (and last) brother of the three who moved to New Zealand. Some error occurred in the registration of his birth such that his first name was officially recorded as “Minton”. This was corrected by hand by his father on a copy of his birth certificate.

Early life in Tasmania

He attended Burnie State School, according to his father, for 7 or 8 years until the age of about 14.² He was known as Mick in Tasmania.

After leaving school, he worked on his father’s farm. For a period in the latter part of 1909 during his father’s ill health (an operation for a hernia and the subsequent recovery), he had “borne the burden” of work on the farm, his two older brothers having already emigrated to New Zealand. His father described him as “a great horse lover ... [who] could manage stock very well.”³



Emigration to New Zealand

Milton emigrated to New Zealand in April 1910 at the age of 20. His father had recovered from his illness and had taken up a job with a steady salary as a land valuer in March 1910. Soon after this, Richard “gave free consent for his 3rd son, Milton J Hilder, to leave Tasmania and join his brothers in Maori Land” even though “there was no other son old enough to succeed him” (the next oldest son, Basil Richard, would have been 15 years old). He travelled with his cousin, Arthur Owen Hilder, son of Richard’s brother Robert. Their departure was recorded in the local newspaper as follows:

By the ss Oonah on Saturday evening two young men well known in the district sailed for New Zealand via Melbourne and Sydney - Mr. Owen Hilder, of West Mooreville road, and Mr Milton Hilder, third son of Mr. and Mrs Richard Hilder of Hill Farm. Three sons of the soil, born and reared at Hill Farm, have now been contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Hilder to the Land of the Maori during the past five years, the others being Martin J. Hilder, in 1905, and Wenman J. Hilder, in 1908. Mr. Martin Hilder is now a Methodist minister, stationed at Kawa-Kawa, Bay of Islands.

The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Wednesday 27 April 1910, p. 2.

A side-note: Milton sold his dog before leaving Tasmania, as referenced by his father in a letter in 1929: “I saw that Hoppy Jossen you sold the Dog to in 1910. He looks much the same now. Dick Jones had the Dog till a few years ago.”

When he arrived in New Zealand, Mick first worked as a bushman at Raetihi in the central North Island.⁴ As his daughter, Margaret tells the story, he then “visited his brother Martin Hilder who was a Methodist Home Missionary at Kawakawa. From there he travelled with his brother to visit Okaihau and met my mother,” Sarah Annie Graham.⁵



Sarah Ann Graham (Annie)

(1885-1949)

Sarah Ann Graham (known as Annie) was born in Okaihau on the 18th of April 1885. She was the third child born to Thompson and Margaret Graham, and the eldest daughter. She attended Okaihau West School with her siblings.⁶ Sarah was her maternal grandmother's name, thus continuing the traditional naming conventions.

Prior to marriage, according to her daughter Margaret: "Sarah Ann worked in Auckland as housemaid for Lady Lockhart whose husband was a lawyer or solicitor. During that time she attended the Salvation Army and as we grew up I can remember her singing many of the Sankey hymns as she went about her daily work. She later worked for a short time in Keri Keri."⁷



*Sarah Ann Graham (centre)
with sisters Agnes and Lily
Emma Fleet (visitor) and Margaret Graham
sisters Maud (seated) and Charlotte and brother Sam
(plus Dolly and Ida McMullen of Kawakawa)*

Marriage

Milton James and Sarah Ann married on the 27th of December 1911 at the Graham family homestead in Okaihau.⁸ They were 21 and 26 years old respectively.

Milton was now known as Jim, rather than Mick. This was apparently the Graham family's idea,⁹ and was possibly to do with the fact that the Grahams were Protestants from Northern Ireland where "Mick" was a slang term for a Catholic. Sarah Ann was also known by her second name, Annie.

Jim's father, Richard, was most likely also present at the wedding since he had been persuaded in February 1911 by his three sons in New Zealand to come and visit them for a time. He had been suffering from very poor health and was in financial difficulties, and ended up spending a year in New Zealand, from April 1911 to May 1912.

Jim and Annie each had two attendants, a sibling from each family (the Hilder bridesmaid would have been Hannah who was in New Zealand to keep house for her father).



A newspaper cutting from an unknown source detailed the wedding:

TASMANIA AND NEW ZEALAND
UNITED.

A wedding of more than ordinary interest took place at the residence of Mr Thomas Graham, Okaihau, on Wednesday, December 27th, 1911, the Rev. J. W. Parker of Hokianga, officiating. The young couple united in wedlock, were Mr Milton James Hilder, third son of Mr Richard Hilder (Methodist Home Missionary of Bay of Islands Circuit), and Mrs Hilder of Hill Farm, Burnie, Tasmania, to Miss Sarah Ann, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Thompson Graham, old residents of Okaihau. The bridegroom was attended by Mr Wenman, J. Hilder (brother), and Mr George A. P. Graham (brother of the bride), while the bridesmaids were Miss Maggie Graham (sister) and Miss Hilder (sister of bridegroom). The bride was tastefully attired in white with orange wreath and veil and looked very nice with her tall commanding figure. The bridesmaid (in white) were very pleasingly arrayed. The bride was given away by her father and the responses of the marriage ceremony were clearly given by both the young people. Mrs Cook of Waimate, officiated on the organ and the company sang together "The voice that breathed o'er Eden," previous to the married ceremony.

As showing the esteem in which the bride and her family were held, a numerous company of their friends responded to the invitation from near and far, Hokianga, Waihou, Clark's Bush, Waimate, Ohaeawai, Kawakawa, and Okaihau, being represented, and all of which heartily congratulated the young couple and their parents on the union of Tasmania and New Zealand as the birth places of the bride and bridegroom were in those countries.

After a nicely prepared wedding repast with a splendid wedding cake in the centre of the table, had been partaken of, Rev. J. W. Parker and Mr B. Hilder proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom; responded to by the bridegroom and groomsmen. The parents to the bride were referred to in happy terms by Messrs Parker and Hilder to which Mr Graham responded. The mother of the bridegroom (though absent) was not in any way forgotten. After showers of rice the party began to disperse, the young couple leaving by early morning coach on 28th, and passing through Kawakawa, Whangarei, and Dargaville, arrived on Saturday at Kaihu,

Married Life

After marrying, Jim and Annie took up a farm at Kaihu where they remained until about July 1921 according to their eldest child, Margaret Duder. The family were forced to leave the Kaihu farm due to financial difficulties and then spent several years moving from place to place with temporary farming and labouring jobs until Jim took up a permanent position as farm manager at Kaikohe where he remained until retiring in his 60s.

1911 – 1921	Kaihu
1921 – 1926	Okaihau, Helensville, Arapohue, Okaihau, Ngawha
1926 – 1950s	Kaikohe

Kaihu

They had four daughters while living at Kaihu, two born at home with the help of neighbours, and two born at the nursing home in Dargaville.¹⁰



Young Margaret feeding the chooks at Kaihu



Myrtle and Margaret

Margaret Duder described their life at Kaihu as follows:

“The farm was five miles from the saw-milling town of Kaihu, near to the coast and overlooking the Kai-Iwi Lakes. Dad worked hard breaking in the land, using three plough horses and mother coped with primitive conditions in the home. The cooking was done on a small ‘Dover’ stove, including bread for all the family. Washing was boiled up in a kerosene tin on a fireplace in the back yard and rinsed in a galvanised tub. In the summer when the tank was low in water, the washing was taken to the well down the hill a little, washed there and hung to dry on the bushes!

Dad was always good fun and sometimes when the weather turned stormy, he would return home early from work on the farm and spend some time with the family. We danced with excitement as we waited for him to change his wet clothes, when he would be free to crawl around on the kitchen floor on all fours, giving us pony rides on his back! On Sunday nights he sometimes sat by our bed and would sing songs he had learnt at Sunday School – ‘A little ship was on the sea, It was a pretty sight, It sailed along so pleasantly, And all was calm and bright.’ is one I well remember. At one time when Mum was away, he included dates in our porridge - we thought we were made and talked about it for ages!

The family income was derived in the main from milking a few cows, selling eggs and perhaps some homemade butter. Practically everything we ate was homegrown and everything we wore was homemade!

My sister and I would bring the cows in for milking in the early morning, often getting the cow up out of her bed. What fun it was to sit in the warm patch and feel the warm earth! About three times a week, when the milking was done, Dad would sledge the cream-can of cream along the gum-field track about 2 miles from the farm to the top of the hill to the road to Kaihu, where it was picked up and delivered to the Dairy Factory. How the family waited for that Dairy Company cheque to arrive! Income was supplemented a little by odd jobs that Dad was able to get from time to time.”

A brief item in the Burnie *Advocate* in Tasmania in 1919 described him as running a small farm and doing ploughing by contract.



Jim Hilder milking a cow

Itinerant years

For about five years from mid-1921 to mid-1926, the family moved around to various share-milking jobs or other labouring jobs. They spent time at Okaihau, Helensville, Arapohue, back to Okaihau, Ngawha and finally Kaikohe, where Jim progressed from farm labourer to farm manager and remained for about 30 years. During this time, three more children were born, another girl and two boys born in the Kawakawa nursing home.

Margaret described the circumstances around the move from the Kaihu farm, when she was about 9 years old, as follows:

“The financial circumstances concerning this farm at Kaihu have been obscure but recent information has revealed that the land was held under ‘Occupational License’ at a rent of £3/5 per annum. There were also some mortgages, which were probably raised to purchase the buildings on the property. In this case, Dad would have owned the buildings but did not own the land. It was during and after World War 1 when times were very hard and many walked off their farms. I suspect this may have happened to our parents. In addition schooling was a problem as it was 5 miles distant over a rough gum-bush track, which we would have had to travel on horseback.

I understand goods and chattels, like farm horses and harness, cows etc. were sold and we moved to Okaihau. We stayed for a short period at the Graham homestead and Myrtle and myself started at the half-time school across the paddock. What an experience for a couple of children from the ‘way-backs’ of Kaihu. We later moved to a rented house where Edna was born in November 1921. Dad worked at labouring jobs for farmers around the District.”

Their next move was to Helensville where “A Land Agent got Dad a house and a job in the Sawmill. Mother ‘let’ two rooms in this house to a Mrs. Backhouse and her two children, her husband was a Steward on one of the river boats.”¹¹

This too was a short stay, before the same agent arranged for share-milking work at Arapohue for a season, filling in before the Harris family took over.



Margaret, Myrtle and Jessie c 1921

The journey from Helensville to Arapohue was an interesting one, as recalled by Margaret:

“We travelled from Helensville by steamer up the Wairoa River to Dargaville and doubled back to Mititai where we disembarked. While tied up at Dargaville we went for a short walk up the street, leaving baby Edna sleeping on board. On returning and a short distance from the wharf, we noticed the vessel beginning to pull out. What consternation! Mum was almost frantic and ran down the street saying ‘My baby is on board.’ The vessel pulled in, we climbed on board and all was well!”

The next move was to “Webb’s house” a couple of miles away where Jim did labouring jobs (fencing, ploughing etc) until another move back to Okaihau to share-milk for a season on Sam Graham’s (Annie’s brother) farm in 1924. They lived further down the road from the Graham homestead in Cook Road.

“A lean-to type house was built for us on the property, with a kitchen-living area in the middle and a bedroom at either end. It was painted white and was known as the ‘White House’! We milked a herd of thirty cows on very hilly, rough, bush-felled country, with plenty of wind in the springtime. Dad milked twelve cows, Mum ten and I milked eight, all by hand and before school. Myrtle and Jessie did chores in the house and prepared lunches etc. Then we would set off on ‘Fairy’ the pony, two of us riding bare-back, while the third one walked (or ran) on the roadside to keep out of the mud. Some distance on there would be a ‘change over’ and later again another change, which meant that each of us walked a third of the way to school, which at a guess I would say was about 3 miles distant.”



Riding the horse to school

A&P Shows

The Bay of Islands Pastoral and Industrial Association’s annual shows attracted many entries of all kinds. In 1924 at least, Annie and daughter, Margaret (age 12), and some of Annie’s sisters and a brother entered the thirty-seventh annual show and won prizes in a number of categories:

- 2nd - Fresh Butter, 1lb plain roll, and 1st – loaf brown bread – Mrs J. Hilder
- 2nd - Six scones – Agnes Graham
- 2nd – Shortbread – Maud Graham
- 1st – loaf white bread (yeast), and 1st – six scones – Margaret Hilder
- 2nd - Collection Potatoes – S.J. Graham (and some other placings for potatoes and carrots)¹²

Almost 100 years later, one of Jim and Annie’s grand-daughters, Lorraine Washbourne, has continued the tradition with the A & P Shows in Kaikohe, being heavily involved in their running as of 2018, along with her husband.

Birth of the boys

After 5 girls, two boys were born to the family, Basil in 1924 and Bob in 1926. Margaret and Ruth loved to tell the tale of how, when Basil was born, Margaret (aged nearly 12) gathered her four sisters – Myrtle (age 10), Jessie (age 8), Ruth (age 5) and Edna (age 3) – into the woolshed, sat in a chair with the others in a circle and asked them: “Do we want this boy?” “No!”, they all agreed. “Let’s tell them to send it back” “Yes!” they all replied.



Bob and Basil



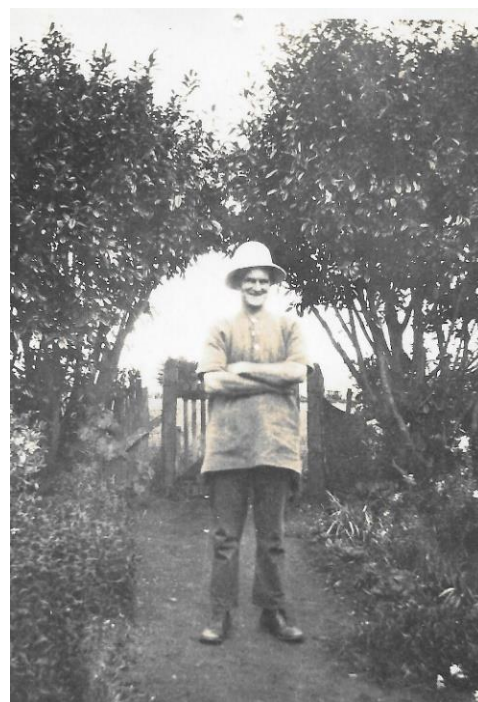
Edna and Basil

Farming and family life at Kaikohe

From about 1926, the family were settled in Kaikohe where Jim worked as a farm manager, mostly with sheep. The following two photos are from Margaret Duder’s ‘Adriana’ photo album with her captions:



‘Dad at the sheep dip’



‘A sketch of father’



Bob and Margaret on horses



Edna and Ruth



*Margaret and Bob and Lofty,
the horse at harvest time*



*Annie and daughter, Ruth,
in the field*



Basil, Edna and Bob with sheep

Nicknames

Margaret, the eldest daughter, had nicknames for all her sisters and brothers, though apparently never had one herself. Myrtle was Dimsie; Jessie was Shishka, then Feenishka, then Fee; Ruth was Lynn; Edna was Pepi and the two boys in the family were known as the two Petes: Peter the 1st (Basil) and Peter the 2nd (Bob).¹³



*Jim and Annie with 5 of their children:
L-R: Basil, Edna, Margaret, Ruth, Bob*

Religion

Richard Hilder described his son as being “of a devout turn of mind, he has endeavoured to assist in good Christian service.”¹⁴

When the family were living in very remote areas, it seems they did not attend church or Sunday School, but began to do so once they settled in Kaikohe. Annie remained Methodist and Jim had been brought up within what was known as the Primitive Methodist church, his father and eldest brother both being lay preachers. At some point after the birth of their last child (so in the late 1920s or 1930s), Jim started following a more fundamentalist type of church and required the two youngest in the family to attend the Brethren Sunday School in addition to the Presbyterian one which covered Methodists as well.

Margaret Duder, the eldest of the family, described the situation thus:

“We had never been regularly to Sunday School but were able to attend the Presbyterian here. Dad was on a regular wage, the first time in many years, and Mother was able to buy new material to make us frocks to start Sunday School!

We had linked up with the Church also, but later on, while Bob was very small, Dad picked up with a religious ‘cult’ (or some such). I understand a travelling salesperson came to the door selling books of an evangelistic nature and Mum, always eager to take advantage of anything she thought may be helpful, bought some literature. It turned out to be quite against the main line Churches and the spirit of the Church as we knew it. Dad became withdrawn, unhappy and morose. He left the Church and wanted Mum and us to do the same. This caused a great deal of unsettlement and unhappiness for many years. Dad later joined the Open Brethren and over the years mellowed a great deal.”

Basil Hilder told the story thus:

“... Dad became drawn to some religious sects that caused him to move from the Methodist Church to far more fundamentalist beliefs. He was first connected to the Russelites which I believe was the forerunner of the Jehovah’s Witnesses but later he joined an Open Brethren Assembly and my earliest recollections are of him belonging to that group.

The result was that my brother and I (the two youngest) attended two Sunday Schools – the Brethren, and the Presbyterian (for the Methodists then worked closely with the Presbyterians and there was only one Sunday School). I remember we were always ready to skip the Brethren one when we could, for I for one was never comfortable with their emphasis.

My father was very critical of what was then called “modernism” which was basically a critical approach to the Bible and the Methodist Church was very suspect in his eyes as too influenced by modernism. My mother remained staunch Methodist and these were often tensions within the family – and when my sisters one by one had their long hair cut short there was a major row as it was against the Bible.”¹⁵



Ruth, c.1929

Ruth Mansell, one of the younger daughters, recalls defying her father regarding the hair issue by cutting off one of her plaits, thinking that her father would then be forced to let her cut off the other. This backfired when, apparently as punishment, he made her go to school with only half her hair cut for one day.

Annie’s health problems

Annie suffered ill health, probably as a result from having had rheumatic fever when young, since she later died from rheumatic heart disease. She seems to have had a number of hospital stays, including one in Whangarei in October 1932 (at age 47) at which time her son Basil (aged only 8) wrote her the following letter. She was also in hospital for 10 days in Kawakawa in 1937.¹⁶

Dear Mother,
 Kaikohe Oct. 16th.
 I hope you are a bit better?
 We have ten cows in, and two more to come in, and ten calves I light, the five nearly every morning. Auntie Maud gave me some more chocolate on Friday. Dad and I had half an orange in the train coming home and two of those squares of chocolate. We had a ride home from Kaikohe station in Mr. Wyatt's car. I come top in my weeke market every time but I missed on Friday. Will you please fight back.
 To Mother With love from Basil.



Annie with son Basil

Note: Mr Wyatt’s car was Kaikohe’s first taxi service (est. 1919), often taking people to and from the train station.¹⁷



Annie at age 50, 1935



*Annie with grandchildren about 1947, aged about 62
L-R: Graham Walker, Heather & John Duder, Barrie Walker*

Death of Annie Annie died on the 14th of June 1949 at the age of 64 “after failing health for several years”¹⁸ - rheumatic heart disease (Mitral stenosis for 15 years and Rheumatic endocarditis for 40 years¹⁹) which is caused by rheumatic fever. Grand-daughter Heather recalls visiting her when she was ill, and sitting on her grandmother’s bed. She was 3 when her Grandma died and had flown up from Dunedin with her mother, leaving her brother John with their father.



Gravestone at Kaikobe Cemetery, Public Lawn (Block B, Plot 62)

Jim's later life as a widower

Jim continued on the farm "till around the mid 1950s when on his retirement the new owner (Mr. Don Hudspith) gave him the use of the house for as long as he needed or wished. Several years later he pulled up roots and lived among the family",²⁰ staying with his various daughters and sons.



Milton James with his grandson, Christopher Hilder (c. 1959)

In 1960, he celebrated his 70th birthday with a gathering of the family at the home of his youngest daughter, Edna, in Tapora, near Wellsford, Northland.



L-R: Myrtle, Basil, Ruth, Bob, Margaret, Edna, Jim, Jessie



PUBLIC NOTICES

THIS is to inform my many friends that I am leaving Kaikohe after 33 years residence here, in which I have seen many changes. To those, both in business and in private life from whom I have received many kindnesses, I extend my humble thanks and wish them well in the days to come.

The Lord is good a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knoweth those that trust in Him.

Au Revoir,
JIM HILDER.

TAPORA NEWS

There was a gathering of interest at the home of Mr and Mrs Don Waymouth, of Tapora, on Saturday last, when a family reunion of Mrs Waymouth's people took place to celebrate the 70th birthday of Mrs Waymouth's father, Mr J. Hilder, formerly of Kaikohe.

The family of two sons and five daughters, with 17 grandchildren came together from as far afield as Kaikohe and Christchurch. The celebration took the form of a dinner (with interesting reminiscences) while a Thanksgiving service was also held on Sunday morning at the Tapora School.

In January 1963, Ruth was the last of his children to marry.



L-R: Basil, Jessie, Ruth, Margaret, Jim (1963)

Jim continued traveling around the country by bus, sometimes taking his grandchildren to visit other family members (he took Lorraine and Ilona to visit Thames at one point). A letter to his grandson Eric Hilder in June 1963 detailed an idea to take Eric on a trip:

I will have to come to Kaikohe sometime, and take you for a trip to see Aunty Edna and Uncle Don, Aunty Ruth and Uncle David, Aunty Margaret and Uncle Cliff, Aunty Phyl and Uncle Basil. That would be Tabora, Papakura, Opunake, and Pahiatua; quite a trip we would have.

In September 1963, he was staying with the newly married Ruth in Papakura, enjoying “Bible readings in local homes” and meeting someone at one such meeting whose mother came from Burnie, Jim’s birthplace. A letter to Margaret dated 1 October described his travel plans for what turned out to be his last journey.

I am booked to leave here, God Willing, on Thursday the 3rd Oct for Napier, and then go on through to Basil & co; so I don’t know when I may get to Pahiatua.

It was during this trip that Jim died suddenly in Dannevirke on the 6th of October from a heart attack at the age of 73. His grave is in the Pahiatua Cemetery in the Wairarapa, the funeral having been held in Pahiatua where his eldest daughter, Margaret, was living at the time.

HILDER, Milton James Thomas.
On October 6, 1963, at Dannevirke (suddenly), dearly loved husband of the late Annie Hilder and loved father of Margaret (Mrs. Duder, Pahiatua), Myrtle (Mrs. O’Conner, Christchurch), Jessie (Mrs. Walker, Kaikohe), Ruth (Mrs. Mansell, Papakura), Edna (Mrs. Waymouth, Tabora), Basil (Opunake) and Bob (Kaikohe), and a loved grandfather; in his 74th year. Joyful, joyful will the meeting be. A Service will be held at the Methodist Church, Pahiatua, Tomorrow (Wednesday), October 9, 1963, at 10.30 a.m., thereafter at the Pahiatua Lawn Cemetery. Cut flowers only, please. Anderson and Son, Dannevirke.

**Visitor To Lyke.
Dies Suddenly**
Milton James Thomas Hilder, 73-year-old retired farmer, on a visit to Dannevirke, died suddenly yesterday afternoon.
Police said today there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death.



Gravestone at Mangatainoka Pahiataua Cemetery (Block 2, Section 14, Grave 23)



Children of Jim and Annie



*The five sisters at Arapohue, c 1922
Margaret, Myrtle, Jessie, Ruth and Edna*



*The seven Hilder children at Tabora in 1960:
Myrtle, Basil, Bob, Ruth, Margaret, Edna, Jessie*

Descendants of Milton James Thomas (Jim) HILDER

Milton James Thomas (Jim) HILDER b. 21 Feb 1890, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 6 Oct 1963, Dannevirke, New Zealand

+Sarah Ann (Annie) GRAHAM b. 18 Apr 1885, Okaihau, m. 27 Dec 1911, Residence of Mr Thompson Graham, Okaihau, New Zealand, d. 14 Jun 1949, Kaikohe, Bay of Islands, New Zealand, par. Thompson GRAHAM and Margaret TEMPLETON

— Margaret Amelia HILDER b. 25 Oct 1912, Kaihu (at home), Northland, NZ, d. 9 Oct 1999, Blenheim, New Zealand
+Clifford Lambell DUDER b. 7 Dec 1908, Addington, m. 15 May 1940, Kaikohe, d. 20 Oct 1988, Blenheim, New Zealand

— Myrtle Doris HILDER b. 20 Jul 1914, Dargaville Nursing Home, Northland, NZ, d. 8 Aug 1997, Christchurch
+Basil Francis O'CONNOR b. 25 Jul 1919, Temuka, New Zealand, m. 15 May 1952, 14 Bristol St., Christchurch, d. 6 Jul 2009, Christchurch

— Charlotte Jessie (Jessie) HILDER b. 14 Jul 1916, Dargaville Nursing Home, Northland, NZ, d. 27 Jul 1998, North Haven Hospice
+Frank Clement WALKER b. 1914, m. 23 Dec 1938, Union Church, Kaikohe, N.Z., d. 13 Jun 1993, (Kaikohe Cemetery)

— Ruth Annie HILDER b. 7 Jun 1919, Kaihu (at home), Northland, NZ, d. 12 Nov 2011, Auckland, NZ
+Stanley David (known as David) MANSELL b. 10 Aug 1918, m. 26 Jan 1963, St Paul's Methodist Church, d. 24 Apr 2005, Auckland, New Zealand

— Edna Lillian HILDER b. 29 Nov 1921, at home (rented house), Okaihau, d. 6 Aug 2014, Tui House, Papakura
+William Duane (Don) WAYMOUTH b. 15 May 1921, m. 1955, d. 21 Jun 1975, (Ashes interred Wellsford Cemetery; Returned Servicemen's Ash Area, Block 1, Row A, Plot 7, Seq 1)
+Joe GLAVISH
+Charles LAMBERT b. 18 Jun 1913, United Kingdom, d. 31 Mar 2007

— Basil James HILDER b. 30 Sep 1924, Kawakawa Nursing Home, New Zealand, d. 17 Sep 2003, Western Australia
+Phyllis Joan (Phyl) TOBIN b. 21 Feb 1923, Palmerston North, m. 14 Nov 1950, Lyall Bay Methodist Church, Wellington, New Zealand, d. 11 May 2014, Gisborne, par. John Rae TOBIN and Minnie Elizabeth FISHER

— Robert Martin HILDER b. 14 Aug 1926, Kawakawa Nursing Home, New Zealand, d. 3 Feb 1991, (Kaikohe Cemetery)
+Zona Ethel PANTHER b. 18 Nov 1926, m. 26 Sep 1947, d. 12 Oct 1988, (Kaikohe Cemetery), par. Walter Leslie PANTHER and Christina Bell EDWARDS

Margaret worked doing office/book-keeping work as a young woman, for Sid Penney's service station in Kaikohe and later in Otorohanga for her uncle Martin. She married a Methodist minister, Cliff Duder, at the age of 28 and lived in parishes in Taumaranui, Roslyn (Dunedin), Roxburgh, Lyall Bay, Thames, Pahiatua, Oamaru, and Paparoa. They had three children and adopted a fourth. Margaret continued doing part time book-keeping work in Thames and Pahiatua. They retired to Wellsford, later moving to Blenheim to be near their eldest daughter, Heather. Cliff died in 1988 at the age of 79 and Margaret in 1999 at the age of 86. Their ashes are in Fairhall Cemetery, Blenheim.



Margaret with her horse, Heather



Descendants of Margaret Amelia HILDER

- Margaret Amelia HILDER b. 25 Oct 1912, Kaihu (at home), Northland, NZ, d. 9 Oct 1999, Blenheim, New Zealand**
 - +Clifford Lambell DUDER b. 7 Dec 1908, Addington, m. 15 May 1940, Kaikohe, d. 20 Oct 1988, Blenheim, New Zealand
 - John Clifford DUDER b. 28 Apr 1944, Taumarunui
 - +Nancy Lee McLURE b. 25 Oct 1946, Burlington, Vermont, USA, m. 17 Jul 1971, South Hero, Vermont, USA
 - Kathryn Margaret (Katie/Kate) DUDER b. 23 Mar 1975, Auckland, NZ
 - Jeremy Clifford Judson DUDER b. 23 Sep 1978, Auckland, NZ
 - +Megan PAULUS m. 2013, New York, New York, USA
 - Aidan James DUDER b. 16 Apr 2017, Matawan, New Jersey, USA
 - +Anne Elaine MELE b. 7 Mar 1957, Providence, Rhode Island, USA, m. 11 Oct 1997, Berdardsville, New Jersey, USA
 - Heather Mary DUDER b. 16 Feb 1946, Dunedin, NZ
 - +Giacinto (Gino) ROCCO b. 3 Aug 1944, Rovigno, Italy, m. 30 Dec 1973, Oamaru Union Parish Church, Oamaru
 - Giorgina Merryl (Gina) ROCCO b. 14 Apr 1976
 - +Glenn Andrew (Andrew) NIKKEL b. 9 Jun 1964, Canada, m. 24 Feb 2009, Vancouver, Canada
 - Luca Pietro Rocco NIKKEL b. 5 Dec 2014
 - Antonio Pietro (Tony) ROCCO b. 26 Oct 1978
 - +Tansy Louise SIMPSON b. 12 Jan 1979, m. 13 Jan 2001
 - Ivy Grace ROCCO b. 28 Mar 2008, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
 - Leo Giacinto ROCCO b. 26 Jan 2013, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
 - Eric James DUDER b. 28 Sep 1950, Roxburgh, NZ
 - +Pamela Marion FINDLAY b. 30 Apr 1952, Te Aroha, N.Z., m. 6 May 1972, Knox Presbyterian Church, Hamilton East
 - Grant James (was Duder-Findlay), now FINDLAY b. 19 Feb 1983, Turangi, NZ
 - +Patsy Nicole TURPIN b. 7 Nov 1986, m. 2 Apr 2011, Fletcher Memorial Church, Huka Falls Resort, Taupo, par. Richard TURPIN and Beverley
 - Eleanor James FINDLAY b. 12 Jul 2013, Auckland, New Zealand
 - Edward John Samuel FINDLAY b. 25 Jul 2016, Dunedin
 - Brent Craig DUDER-FINDLAY b. 7 Jul 1984, Turangi, NZ
 - +Helen REYNOLDS b. 11 Jul 1986, Milton Keynes, England, m. 17 Jul 2013, Crear Beach, West coast of Scotland, par. Andrew REYNOLDS and Heidi KLEINSCHMIDT
 - Lisa Pam DUDER-FINDLAY b. 11 Oct 1985, Clyde, Otago
 - +Benjamin Donald PEDERSEN b. 2 Aug 1985, Masterton, m. 11 Dec 2013, Rathkeale College, Masterton, par. Brett PEDERSEN and Sally
 - Parker Donald PEDERSEN b. 24 Apr 2015, Lower Hutt
 - Paxton James PEDERSEN b. 11 Apr 2016, Wellington
 - +Callum Hugh JAMES b. 30 Dec 1977, Masterton, par. David JAMES and Alison
 - Baby JAMES b. due April 2019
 - Merryl Eileen (also known as Tou Hau) DUDER b. 1953, descendant of Vaine Hau (Rarotonga) and J. Marster (Palmerston Island)

Myrtle trained as a nurse at Waikato Hospital and later worked in Marton (at a school for 'delinquent' girls) and then in Christchurch where she ran a Convalescent Home ('Myrnell') with a friend. She married Basil O'Connor when she was 37 and had one son. Myrtle died in 1997 at the age of 83 and her ashes are scattered near the banks of the Waimakariri River near Arthur's Pass (see map below). Basil died in 2009 at the age of 89 and is buried in Avonhead Cemetery.

Margaret's nickname for Myrtle was 'Dimsie'.



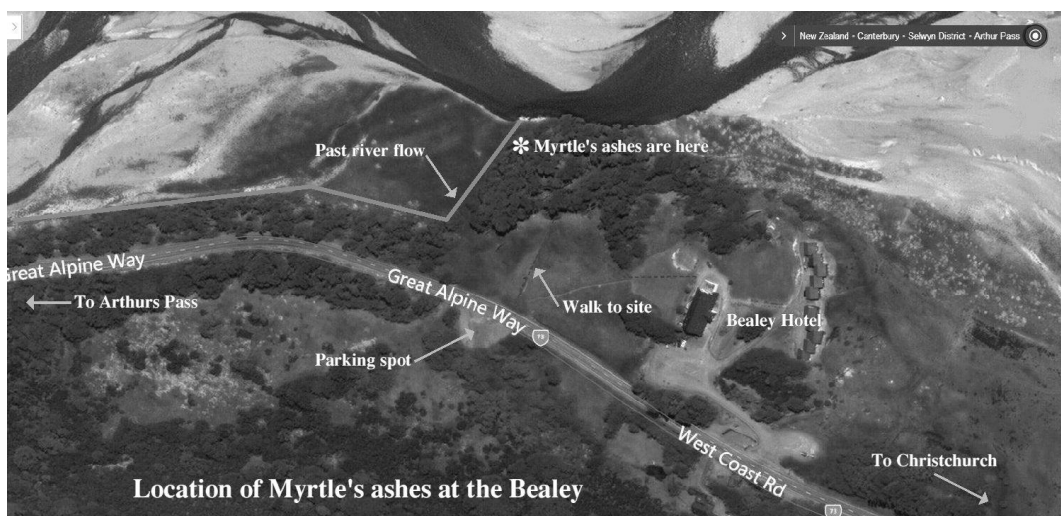
Margaret and Myrtle at Uncle Sam's

Descendants of Myrtle Doris HILDER

Myrtle Doris HILDER b. 20 Jul 1914, Dargaville Nursing Home, Northland, NZ, d. 8 Aug 1997, Christchurch

+Basil Francis O'CONNOR b. 25 Jul 1919, Temuka, New Zealand, m. 15 May 1952, 14 Bristol St., Christchurch, d. 6 Jul 2009, Christchurch

Michael O'CONNOR b. 9 Jul 1953



Location of Myrtle's ashes at the Bealey

Jessie married Frank Walker at the age of 22 and remained in Kaikohe where they had four children. Frank was a public servant with woodcraft as a hobby and he made a number of pieces from wood from the old Hilder homestead in Kaikohe. Frank died in 1993 at the age of 79 and Jessie in 1998 at the age of 82. Both are buried in Kaikohe cemetery.

Margaret's nickname for Jessie was 'Fee', which reportedly derived from the following sequence of nicknames: Shishka, then Feenishka, then Fee.



Descendants of Charlotte Jessie (Jessie) HILDER

Charlotte Jessie (Jessie) HILDER b. 14 Jul 1916, Dargaville Nursing Home, Northland, NZ, d. 27 Jul 1998, North Haven Hospice

- +Frank Clement WALKER b. 1914, m. 23 Dec 1938, Union Church, Kaikohe, N.Z., d. 13 Jun 1993, (Kaikohe Cemetery)
 - Barrie Melvyn WALKER b. 1 Nov 1940, d. 30 Apr 1981, (Kaikohe Cemetery)
 - +Anne KNIGHTLY
 - Leon WALKER b. 1972
 - +Liz
 - Christina Robin WALKER b. 1974, d. 11 Mar 2015
 - Graham Frank WALKER b. 22 Nov 1941, Ohaeawai
 - +Janice Ann (known as Sue) MARSH b. 27 Feb 1945, Taumarunui, m. Apr 1967
 - Andrew Bryce WALKER b. 22 Jun 1974, Whangarei
 - Trindi Carina WALKER b. 12 May 1977, Whangarei
 - +Jeremy Ian JONES
 - Lorraine WALKER b. 18 Sep 1948
 - +Peter WASHBOURNE
 - Carolyn WASHBOURNE b. 1971
 - Maree WASHBOURNE b. 1975
 - Heather WASHBOURNE b. 1978
 - +Daniel CANN m. 10 Sep 2016, Brisbane, Australia
 - James Ross (known as Ross) WALKER b. 17 Mar 1950
 - +Patricia (Trish) FINNERTY m. 3 Mar 1973



Jessie with Jack Corcoran

Ruth trained as a Methodist Deaconess and in 1944 received her first appointment to the Auckland Centre. From there she moved to the Bay of Islands, where, as the Young Women’s Bible Class representative, she spent eight years. Graham Walker recalls her “living in a cottage halfway down the English Bay Road in a lovely bush setting facing north, with a private track down to the beach. The Walker family spent several summer holidays there. What great memories of playing in the bush, swimming, walking the bays to Opua shops and wharf”.



After one year at Waima, she was appointed in 1955 to Seamer House, in Remuera, where she became Matron and secretary of the Deaconess Association.²¹ At age 43, she married David Mansell, a farmer, and they adopted two children. They farmed at Pukekohe and then retired to Maraetai. David died in 2005 at the age of 86 and Ruth died in 2011 at the age of 92. David is buried at Manukau Memorial Gardens as are Ruth’s ashes.

Margaret’s nickname for Ruth was ‘Lynn’.

Descendants of Ruth Annie HILDER

Ruth Annie HILDER b. 7 Jun 1919, Kaihu (at home), Northland, NZ, d. 12 Nov 2011, Auckland, NZ

+Stanley David (known as David) MANSELL b. 10 Aug 1918, m. 26 Jan 1963, St Paul's Methodist Church, d. 24 Apr 2005, Auckland, New Zealand

— Keith David MANSELL b. 6 Oct 1964

+Marie Ellen PRESCOTT

— Natalie Ann Ellen MANSELL b. 13 Apr 1988

+Nick MARSHALL

— Callum MARSHALL

+Jason WYATT

— Jayden WYATT

— Pamela Marie MANSELL b. 2 Aug 1989

+Adam HAZELWOOD m. 7 Dec 2018

+Theresa McKEE

— James David MANSELL b. 4 Jan 2005

+Shelley Lisa HULL b. 31 Aug 1973, m. 26 Nov 2011

— Fiona Ruth MANSELL b. 4 Sep 1966

+Terrence Marinus WYLENS b. 23 Jun 1959, m. 20 Feb 1993

— Steven David WYLENS b. 14 Mar 2002

— Timothy Adam WYLENS b. 19 Nov 2003



Ruth on her wedding day

Edna took over Margaret's job at Penney's service station in Kaikohe doing office/book-keeping work. She married Don Waymouth in her mid-thirties and adopted two children. They lived on a dairy farm in Tabora, near Wellsford, in Northland. After Don's death in 1975 at the age of 55, the farm was sold and she moved to Wellsford where she remarried (to Joe Glavish) and then moved to Campbell's Bay in Auckland. After splitting from Joe, she moved around various locations, house sitting for friends and eventually met and married Charles Lambert.



Edna and Charles lived in Army Bay on the Whangapararua Peninsula for a number of years, before moving to the Red Beach Retirement Village in 2004. After the death of Charles in 2007, Edna continued to live in the village until she needed to be moved to a care facility in Papakura. In 2014, at the age of 92, she fell and broke her hip, which led to a rapid decline in her health and she died in August 2014. Her ashes were taken back and scattered in the hills on the Tabora Golf Club that she and Don had helped establish.²²

Margaret's nickname for Edna was 'Pepi'.

Descendants of Edna Lillian HILDER

Edna Lillian HILDER b. 29 Nov 1921, at home (rented house), Okaihau, d. 6 Aug 2014, Tui House, Papakura

+William Duane (Don) WAYMOUTH b. 15 May 1921, m. 1955, d. 21 Jun 1975, (Ashes interred Wellsford Cemetery; Returned Servicemen's Ash Area, Block 1, Row A, Plot 7, Seq 1)

— David WAYMOUTH b. 1958

— Roger WAYMOUTH b. 1960

+Averil BOWATER

— Matthew James WAYMOUTH b. 1991

— Grace WAYMOUTH b. 1994

+Joe GLAVISH

+Charles LAMBERT b. 18 Jun 1913, United Kingdom, d. 31 Mar 2007



Edna, at Arapohue perhaps, c 1922



Edna with fsh, c 1956

Basil trained at Trinity Methodist Theological College in Auckland from 1945-1947. He served as a probationer at Lyall Bay, Wellington where he met his wife Phyl and was ordained and married in 1950. In 1952, Basil and Phyl spent a year in Europe with working for a time in Germany and Italy with ecumenical teams to rebuild structures after the war.

Basil served in parishes in Kaeo, Oxford, Opunake, Northcote (Auckland), Hastings and Tasman (Nelson) and then as hospital chaplain in Gisborne where he spent his retirement.

Basil died suddenly while on holiday in Western Australia with Phyl in 2003 at the age of 78. Phyl died in 2014 at the age of 91. Their ashes are buried in Taruheru Cemetery, Gisborne, with some also beneath a Totara tree that Basil had planted in the Okitu Bush Scenic Reserve at Wainui Beach near Gisborne and some scattered at Makorori Beach.



Margaret's nickname for Basil was 'Peter the 1st'.

Descendants of Basil James HILDER

Basil James HILDER b. 30 Sep 1924, Kawakawa Nursing Home, New Zealand, d. 17 Sep 2003, Western Australia

+Phyllis Joan (Phyl) TOBIN b. 21 Feb 1923, Palmerston North, m. 14 Nov 1950, Lyall Bay Methodist Church, Wellington, New Zealand, d. 11 May 2014, Gisborne, par. John Rae TOBIN and Minnie Elizabeth FISHER

— Karen Rae HILDER b. 11 Jan 1955, Oxford, Canterbury, New Zealand

+Roy NEUMEGEN b. 19 Mar 1954, m. 8 Dec 1979, Hastings, par. Eric Barend NEUMEGEN and Dora VALASI

— Rosalind Amy NEUMEGEN b. 30 Oct 1981, Auckland, New Zealand

+Yashwant MURTI b. 18 Jun 1981, m. 7 Oct 2002, Gisborne, New Zealand, par. Krishna MURTI and Shakuntala RAJU

— Amara Rose MURTI b. 24 Jul 2010, Palmerston North, New Zealand

— Eesha Anna MURTI b. 1 Dec 2012, Palmerston North, New Zealand

— Alexander James MURTI b. 2 Aug 2015

— Rebecca Elisabeth NEUMEGEN b. 30 Jan 1984, Auckland, NZ

+Damian CAMPBELL m. 23 Jan 2009, Christchurch, New Zealand

— Lilja Charlotte CAMPBELL b. 21 Feb 2011, Christchurch, New Zealand

— Natalie Elisabeth CAMPBELL b. 8 Jan 2014, Nelson, New Zealand

— Simon Eric James NEUMEGEN b. 22 Aug 1986, Auckland, NZ

— Amanda Rae NEUMEGEN b. 20 Jul 1989, Gisborne, New Zealand

+Brent McGURK m. 7 Feb 2014, Bremdale Gardens, Nuhaka, par. John McGURK and Linda

— Maia Rose McGURK b. 16 Feb 2016, Wairoa, New Zealand

— Leon James McGURK b. 6 Feb 2019, Gisborne, New Zealand

— Christopher James HILDER b. 18 Aug 1958, Opunake, New Zealand

+Eryn MAKINSON b. 30 Apr 1962, m. 2 Apr 1994, Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand, par. Thomas John MAKINSON and Peggy Jean (Peg) McILWRAITH

— Keria Myfanwy Joy Hilder MAKINSON b. 4 Sep 1992, Careys Bay, Port Chalmers, New Zealand

— Reuben James Sundance Makinson HILDER b. 23 Mar 1996, Careys Bay, Port Chalmers, New Zealand

— Joanne Margaret (Jo) HILDER b. 25 Apr 1963, Opunake, New Zealand

+Dean Robert HYSLOP b. 4 Jan 1962, Tongoa, New Hebrides (Now Vanuatu), m. 8 Mar 1996, Los Angeles, California, United States Of America, par. John Robert HYSLOP and Lois Jean BISHOP

— Joshua James Robert HYSLOP b. 29 Apr 2000, Oakland, California, USA

— Sarah Grace Hilder HYSLOP b. 24 Jun 2002, Wellington, New Zealand

Bob was in the air force as an 18 year old (29 Jan to 4 Oct 1945)²³. He married Zona in 1947 and worked for the Power Board in Kaikohe, before driving trucks for Jim Nisbet. Around 1957 he bought his own truck from Alec Duffy and ran his own business as R.M. Hilder, later adding another truck.

In 1962, he sold his trucking business and bought a butcher's shop in Kaitaia. After moving back to Kaikohe, he worked with his sons Eric and Murray in their trucking business, Hilder Brothers.

Bob and Zona had four children. Zona died in 1988 at the age of 61 and Bob in 1991 at the age of 64. Both are buried in Kaikohe Cemetery.

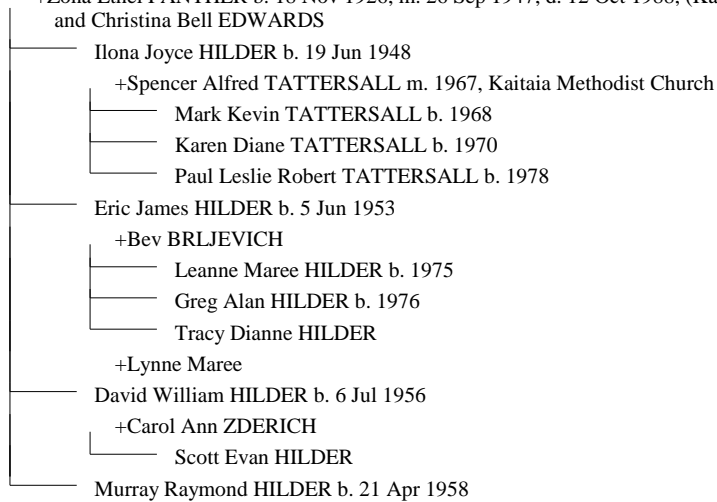
Margaret's nickname for Bob was 'Peter the 2nd'.



Descendants of Robert Martin HILDER

Robert Martin HILDER b. 14 Aug 1926, Kawakawa Nursing Home, New Zealand, d. 3 Feb 1991, (Kaikohe Cemetery)

+Zona Ethel PANTHER b. 18 Nov 1926, m. 26 Sep 1947, d. 12 Oct 1988, (Kaikohe Cemetery), par. Walter Leslie PANTHER and Christina Bell EDWARDS



Bob and Basil

Wenman John Hilder & Margaret Elizabeth Graham (Bill & Maggie)



Bill and Maggie were the second of the Hilder-Graham couples to marry.

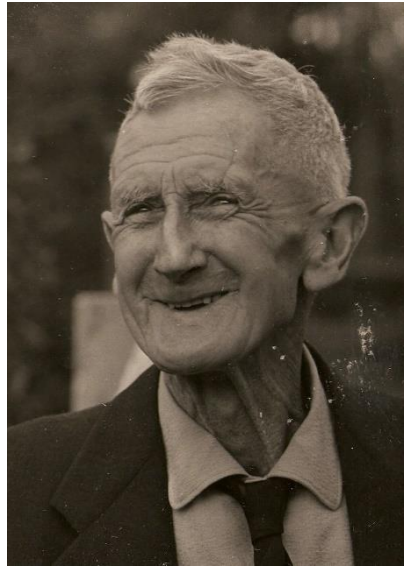
Born and raised on a farm in Tasmania, Wenman was the second Hilder brother to arrive in New Zealand in 1908 at the age of 20, following his older brother Martin.

Maggie, Annie's younger sister, was born in New Zealand in 1887 and raised on a farm in Okaihau in Northland, her parents having separately emigrated to New Zealand from County Antrim in Northern Ireland in 1874 and 1879.

Bill (as he was known in New Zealand) and Maggie married in 1913, both aged 26. They lived in Auckland as shopkeepers for most of their married life, except for several years back in Tasmania during World War I (1915-1920). They raised a family of seven: four sons and three daughters. By the time Bill died at the age of 83, he had been living in New Zealand for 63 years.

Wenman John Hilder (Bill)

(1887-1971)



Wenman was born at Hill Farm, near Burnie, Tasmania, on the 28th of November 1887 “on a very hot afternoon, with Mrs Joseph Woodcock, midwife, attending after the birth”.²⁴ He was the fifth child and second son of Richard and Amelia, and an older brother of Milton.

He attended Burnie State School, according to his father, for 7 or 8 years until the age of about 14.²⁵ After leaving school, he worked on his father’s farm until the age of 20.

Move to New Zealand

Wenman left Tasmania for New Zealand in 1908, following in his older brother Martin’s footsteps. He described his move to New Zealand in his own memoir:²⁶

“As I got older I had the urge to seek fresh fields and new pastures as at that time Tasmania was a poor place. My oldest brother, your Uncle Martin, had come to New Zealand some years before.

So in May of 1908 when I was twenty I came over here by way of Melbourne, Sydney, in the Huddart Parker passenger boat the Wimmera, to Auckland. The Wimmera was sunk by a mine off Cape Maria van Diemen during the first World War 1914-1918.”

His father, Richard described the move as follows:²⁷

In 1908 Wenman John Hilder decided to join his brother Martin in New Zealand. He had been of good service on the farm which could not pay him the current rate of wages 10/- a day of 8 hours. He was in his 21st year. So, with his parents blessing, he sailed for New Zealand.

He at first joined his brother, Martin, in New Plymouth as detailed in his memoir and a short piece in the local Burnie newspaper, published about 6 weeks after he left:

“I went to New Plymouth as my brother was there. The first job I had was working for the New Plymouth Harbour Board helping to build the new breakwater. Wages at that time were 1/1d. per hour. We worked 47 hours a week and got paid for 48.” (Wenman’s memoir)

Mr. Wenman Hilder, son of Mr. Richard Hilder, of Hill Farm, Emu Bay, who left Tasmania for New Zealand about six weeks ago, has reached Maoriland via

Melbourne and Sydney to Auckland. He is now at New Plymouth in the North Island, and at work on railway construction at New Plymouth Harbor.

His brother, Mr. Martin Hilder, is also a resident of that town, being engaged as second preacher on the Methodist circuit in the district, and associated with the Rev. J. T. Brook, chairman of the district, who is the superintendent of the circuit. Mr.

Hilder now has two sons in New Zealand, and has a hankering to go there, too, but as yet cannot see his way clear to do so.

Personal. The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, 27 June 1908, p. 6.

At some time in the next year, he "went to the King Country where work of all sorts was plentiful. That was the first place and time where I earned 20/-d. per day."

It is interesting to read his first impressions of New Zealand in a letter to his father from Ohura (a town in the King Country west of Taumaranui) which was reprinted in the local newspaper in 1909:

NEW ZEALAND
A TASMANIAN'S CRITICISM.

Mr Wenman T. Hilden, son of Mr Richard Hilden, of Hill Farm, Burnie, who is an inmate of the General Hospital, New Zealand, writes: "The land laws of New Zealand are cracked up as very liberal, but it is as hard to get land here without money as anywhere else. The Government lay up to the natives far more than to the whites, and large blocks of land are held by the Maoris, which the Government will not allow them to lease or sell, and they do practically nothing with it. It is all very well for us to talk about the Maori owner living in style, with the superior white as wages men, but it is not often the case. The Arbitration Courts here are queer things. Some time ago at Palmerstone North a butcher should under the award have supplied his employees with so much meat as well as wages, but they were all single men, and refused to take it, so the butcher sold it, and was brought up and fined for his action."

Writing from Ohurg, Mr Hilden says: "I am surprised at the things the settlers put up with here in the ways of roads, or want of roads. It is something awful; everything has to be brought in here by pack-horses thirty miles, and the way the rough houses are built and occupied is a startler. I have learned more of New Zealand's rough life in the few weeks I have than in all my year and a half experience before. This land is mostly hilly, and more adapted for sheep than for agriculture. It is held on the sixty years' tenancy, and must be occupied in the fifth year. The rental is small, but what do you think? Some of the settlers have already got their demands for rates from the New Plymouth Harbor Board. It takes two days on horseback over a rough track to get from here to New Plymouth, and is 250 miles by rail, yet the settlers are grieved for its harbor improvements. What would Tasmanian settlers think of taxes like that?"

Daily Telegraph (Launceston, Tas), Thursday 30 September 1909, page 3

According to his son Russen, Wenman's early work mates in New Zealand had never heard the name 'Wenman' and so assumed he was William, which is how he came to be known as Bill.

Margaret Elizabeth Graham (Maggie)

(1887-1962)



Margaret (Maggie) was born in October 1887 in Okaihau, the fourth child and second daughter born to Thompson Graham and Margaret (nee Templeton).

Wenman wrote in his memoir that:

“Okaihau where she was born and brought up was a very cosmopolitan place, comprised English, Irish and Scotch people. Farmers from Canada and the United States. Also a few Nova Scotians who had left their settlement of Waipu and shifted up North. Plus a few ordinary New Zealanders.

As a child she went to the various churches. She knew the old bullet scarred Anglican church at Russell as well as Bishop Pompallier’s house. Also Bishop Selwyn’s church at Waimate, and had slept in the old vicarage there which is now the church museum and is the second oldest wooden house in New Zealand.”

Marriage

In December 1911, Wenman attended the wedding of his brother Jim to Annie Graham and there met his future wife, Annie’s younger sister, Maggie.

Two years later, they married on the 31st of December 1913 at the bride’s parents’ house in Okaihau.

In Wenman’s words:

Your Uncle Jim while [up in the Bay of Islands] met your Auntie Annie, your mother’s sister. They got married at Christmas 1911 at Okaihau. I went up to the wedding and there I met your mother. I fell in love with her at once, so much so that when I came back to Auckland we were engaged to be married. She, along with her sisters Agnes and May were living and working in Auckland at that time. ... After coming back from Okaihau I stopped in Auckland and worked as a landscape gardener. We were married at Christmas 1913 in your mother’s old home at Okaihau.

The following newspaper report was typed up by Wenman in his memoir for his children, without a reference:

WEDDING AT OKAIHAU
Mr. Wenman Hilder and Miss Maggie Graham

A wedding took place at Okaihau on Wednesday, December 31, 1913, when Mr. Wenman Hilder, son of Mr. Richard Hilder, and Miss Maggie Graham, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thompson Graham of Okaihau, were married.

The ceremony took place at the residence of the bride's parents, the officiating minister being the Rev. E.H. Pain. Miss Anderson acted as organist, and played the wedding march. The bride was attired in a dress of cream taffeta, trimmed with embroidered net lace, and was adorned with a wreath of orange blossoms and a veil.

A magnificent wedding cake was presented to the bride by Mr. and Mrs. Edwards of Kaikohe. Other presents consisted of a large variety of useful and ornamental articles from the many friends of the happy couple.

Married Life

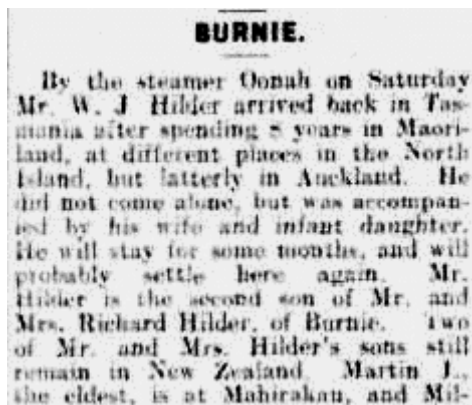
Bill and Maggie spent most of their married lives in Auckland, with a few years back in Tasmania during World War I.

In 1914 they were listed at St Helier's Bay. Less than two years after their marriage, in mid-October 1915, the couple moved to Tasmania with their baby daughter. This was shortly after the news of the death of Wenman's brother Basil at Gallipoli which was received in late September. With the other two younger brothers also enlisted and the three elder sons being based in New Zealand, Wenman presumably felt the need to go back to support his parents who otherwise had no sons with them at this time. Wenman himself had volunteered for the army in Tasmania but was deemed unfit.²⁸ Their eldest son, Stanley, was born during their time in Tasmania.

Wenman was later acknowledged in the will of his uncle Robert George Hales who died in 1936:

to my nephew Wenman Hilder son of the said Amelia Hilder One and two thirds per cent as a slight recognition of his attention to his mother while his brothers were on Active Service.

Their arrival back in Tasmania in 1915 was reported as follows:



*The North Western Advocate & the Emu Bay Times,
Tuesday 5 October 1915*

As it turns out, they did not settle back in Tasmania, contrary to the newspaper's prediction, but returned to New Zealand after the other two brothers, Arden and Fred, returned home safely.

Wenman's memoir contains the following account of his life:

"We first lived at Bay Road, St. Heliers Bay. I was at that time caretaker of the bowling green which I had helped to make previously. We later kept a shop and tea rooms called the Fairy Bower. I was agent for the Auckland Star and the New Zealand Herald.

I used to do them on a horse from Mountain Road, Remuera, to St. Heliers. They were then one penny per copy.

Olive was born while we were there and wasn't it a cold wet night.

When the 1914 war broke out my three brothers Basil, Arden and Fred, all went away to it and your mother, Olive and I packed up and went to Tasmania. We lived there for four and a half years.

My brother Basil was killed on Gallipoli, and when the other boys came back we resolved to come back to New Zealand. Stanley was born in Burnie.

We left there in I think April 1920 by way of Launceston, Sydney and Auckland. We came over in the Union Company's Maheno. She had just been reconditioned after hospital war service and we had a fast trip, three and a half days, pretty good for 47 years ago.

We then lived in Eden Terrace, Auckland, near Buchanan's Bakery. We kept a fruit shop [pictured below]. I was agent for the Auckland Star from Newton Road to Bright Street, and used to deliver 500 papers daily.

We seem to have been connected with papers most of our married life.

While living there Colin, Ivan and June were born. Colin and Ivan in a nursing home near Mt. Eden School and June was born in the Eden Terrace house."



Fruit shop on Eden Tce, Auckland



Olive, Stan, Colin and baby Ivan c. 1922



Colin, June, Ivan, Una c. 1926

In July 1924, shortly after the birth of June, the family of seven moved to a house in the new subdivision of Beach Haven at the corner of what is now Beach Haven Rd and Rangatira Rd (but was then known as Kiwi and Puriri Roads). The house had been built in 1910.²⁹ The following local newspaper article published in the early 1960s gives some details:

Forty Years in Beach Haven

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hilder of Beach Haven, have the rare distinction of having doubled the population of the district in a night. Or at least that is what their seven neighbours said about them when, in the early twenties, they came to settle in a rural country area which is today forging ahead by leaps and bounds.

The reason for that statement about them was they came with their five children and the population overnight became 14. The other settlers who were there have gone now, but Mr. and Mrs. Hilder still remain in the locality for which they have such a warm affection.

When they came to Beach Haven in 1923 all transport was by launch to Auckland. Two launches a day left from the wharf. There was no electric light; this came in 1925. Mr. and Mrs. Hilder ran the local general store for many years before retiring.

Land Agent's Name

Talking to the Advertiser of his memories of those early days, Mr. Hilder said Beach Haven was a land agent's name. The place was really Birkdale. Sections could be bought for from £45 to £110 with 10 per cent down payment, 10 per cent in six months, 10 per cent in 12 months and the balance in six months.³⁰

In 1925, they opened a shop (attached to the house) which became known as Hilder's store. The corner was also known as "Hilder's Corner". They also ran a post office and telephone bureau from the store.

Their youngest son, Russen, wrote:

"The Birkdale Post Office was in Hilder's Store - then the only building on Hilder's Corner until the Methodist Church was built in the late thirties - built over two Saturdays with voluntary

labour. The Post Office Phone was a party line with Greenhithe and Paremoremo the other parties. The Birkdale ring was the morse code “A” - short-long. Greenhithe was “S” - three short rings and Paremoremo (almost always called ‘Parry’) was “O” - three long rings, often three very long rings as it was at times hard to get an answer.

With private phones so rare people had to come to the Birkdale Post Office for toll calls. I still remember one family who used to regularly call at night - taking advantage of cheap rates - their relatives in Te Teko - 6J was the number I recall...

Birkdale telegrams were delivered firstly by my father, Wenman (Bill) Hilder on foot, then by my elder brothers Stan, Colin and Ivan by bicycle after school and finally by me until I left school in 1946.

... During the war many telegrams were from the Defence Department advising relatives of servicemen injured, missing or killed, though I cannot recall me ever having to deliver any such death reports - perhaps Dad (Bill Hilder) delivered these. Telegrams were the only means that people had of receiving official news of their serving families.”³¹



Bill Wood's old truck outside Hilders' store



The old Hilder house, after being moved from its original site in 1994

In 1994, the original house was moved from Hilder's corner to John Bracken Way in Beach Haven and renovated by new owners who were keen for it to stay in the area. It was moved to make way for a new commercial development. It was described in the North Shore Times (27/9/1994) as “Beach Haven's oldest home, Hilder's cottage”.

In 1947, they had sold the property “to Jack McMillan and built a house in Waipa Street, Verrans Corner, near the City Council reservoir.” Wenman wrote: “I had bought the half acre section some years before for fifty pounds. We only had Una and Russen permanently home at this time.”

In November 1953, they moved to a house at 10 Tui Crescent, Beach Haven, which was described in the early 1960s in the following terms:

In Tui Crescent, at their home, “Braebridge”, Mr. and Mrs. Hilder have an acre in trees, shrubs and little bridges leading down to the water which looks across to Whenuapai and Herald Island. This cool, pleasant spot is open to the

public and all nature lovers are welcomed.

Here Mr. Hilder retains, in a delightful sylvan way a glimpse of the sort of place Beach Haven must have been in its early strawberry and apple orchard days.³²



The house at 10 Tui Crescent



Bill and Maggie at the tennis courts



Maggie (candid camera in the street)

Death of Margaret Hilder

Wenman described the circumstances of Maggie's death as follows:

"We were getting along quite comfortably and looking forward to our Golden Wedding at Christmas of 1963, when on the evening of 7th May 1962, about 5.30 p.m., your mother became sick. She rested on the couch and a bed under our big window in the lounge and never spoke another coherent word. We thought she was asleep, but she had quietened down and just passed away, possibly about 9 p.m.

She had not been sick and I can always remember her going about doing her usual work and the things she was interested in. Also she used to dress well and made most of her own dresses. I regard your mother as a wonderful woman and I have never met or known anyone else who I could or did think so well of. As you know, till then we had been a family with no deaths, serious illnesses or accidents."

Her obituary (9 May 1962) read:

Death of Mrs Hilder

Mrs Margaret Elizabeth Hilder, one of the oldest residents in the Birkdale area, has died at 74.

Mrs Hilder was born in Okaihau, and lived in Birkdale for 38 years. The first shop to be opened on the corner of Beach Haven and Birkdale was owned by Mr and Mrs Hilder and the corner is still known as Hilders' Corner. For 23 years she ran the Post Office in conjunction with the shop.

Mrs Hilder is survived by her husband, seven children and 18 grandchildren.



Gravestone at Birkenhead/Glenfield Cemetery, Public Lawn, Row S, Plot 31

The inscription reads:

A good wife and mother who faithfully served her day and generation.

In his later years as a widower, Wenman's daughter, June, lived with him and kept house. They travelled around New Zealand and to Fiji together. In 1967 aged nearly 80 years old, Wenman returned to Australia to visit family, accompanied by June. While in Tasmania, he was reunited with his youngest brother, Fred (see page 93-4). The following article from a local newspaper was copied out by Wenman in his autobiographical book:

Tripping round Australia - at 80 years

Mr. W.J. Hilder, of Tui Crescent, Beach Haven, will celebrate his 80th birthday on Tuesday, November 28, while on a holiday tour of Australia.

Mr. Hilder and his daughter, June, left by air for Sydney last Monday.

After spending a few days in Sydney visiting relatives, they will travel by air to Adelaide where more members of the family will be visited.

This will be followed by a train journey to Melbourne where Mr. Hilder will stay with a sister and visit numerous cousins whom he has not seen for many years.

Two of the cousins are senior to Mr. Hilder in age, one of them still paints and teaches music at the age of 83 years.

Mr. Hilder and June will then fly to Tasmania, where more relatives will be seen. Burnie, Tasmania, is Mr. Hilder's birth-place, a home-town he has not seen since 1920.

They will spend a week in Burnie before returning to New Zealand through Melbourne and Sydney. They anticipate being away about three weeks.

Joined Brother

Mr. Hilder came to New Zealand in 1908 at the age of 20 to join an elder brother who had immigrated here previously. He liked it - and stayed.

He is well-known in Beach Haven for his beautifying plans.

Hilders Corner (at the Beach Haven shopping centre) and Hilders Reserve (near the Beach Haven wharf) are both named after him.

He is an active member of the local garden circle, and also a member of the North Shore Scenic Board.

Wenman Hilder – Conservationist

Wenman was an enthusiastic gardener and conservationist. He was instrumental in forming the Beach Haven Garden Circle in 1955 and a council award was established called the Hilder Memorial Cup for the best garden in the district each year.³³ He was often involved in tree-planting on Arbor Day. In 1969, he was on the North Shore Scenic Board and a park in Beach Haven is named after him:

HILDER PARK, BEACH HAVEN WHARF

NAMED after Mr. W. J. Hilder, a previous Parks Committee chairman, who had planned and worked on it. This is a beach reserve of half an acre. It was a wilderness of pine trees and Mr. Hilder landscaped and planted it out with suitable coastal shrubs. It is a pleasant, safe, swimming spot with good bathing facilities. Beautiful views of the sea with Hobsonville forming an attractive background are obtained from this area.³⁴



Plaque at Hilder's Park, 2008



Wenman Hilder planting a tree on Arbor Day 1966

His obituary in the local newspaper gives further details:

Birkenhead beautifier dies at 84

Mr Wenman John (Bill) Hilder, one of Birkenhead's best known conservationists and co-author of the "History of Birkenhead," published three years ago, has died, aged 84.

A service was held yesterday in the Kauri Park Reserve, Birkdale, where he had planted many trees and shrubs as part of a campaign

to beautify the borough.

Mr Hilder was a Birkenhead borough councillor from 1955-58 and a member of the North Shore Scenic Board and the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.

He and his late wife were the founders of the Beach Haven Beautifying and Garden Society.

Wenman died on the 12th of October 1971. He had spent his last few years from 1968 living with his daughter Una and her family in Greenhithe, becoming increasingly frail and less mobile in the last 12 months. Three weeks before he died, he moved to a rest home at his insistence.³⁵



Gravestone at Birkenhead/ Glenfield Cemetery, Public Lawn, Row T, Plot 31

Children of Wenman and Margaret



*Back row (L-R): Colin, Stan, Una, Russ, Ivan
Front row (L-R): Olive, Bill, Maggie, June*

Descendants of Wenman John (Bill) HILDER

Wenman John (Bill) HILDER b. 28 Nov 1887, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 12 Oct 1971, Auckland, NZ

+Margaret Elizabeth GRAHAM b. 23 Oct 1887, Okaihau, Bay Of Islands, m. 31 Dec 1913, Okaihau, d. 7 May 1962, (Glenfield Berm Cemetery/Birkenhead/Glenfield Cemetery), par. Thompson GRAHAM and Margaret TEMPLETON

— Olive Maud HILDER b. 29 Jun 1915, St Heliers Bay, Auckland, d. 4 Dec 1993, Hamilton, NZ

+Norman MacLeod AMOS b. 11 Sep 1894, Invercargill, m. 24 Jun 1944, Zion Hill, Methodist Church, Birkenhead, Auckland, d. 26 Jul 1962, Hamilton, New Zealand, par. Gavin AMOS and Elizabeth McLEOD

— Stanley Graham HILDER b. 19 Sep 1917, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, d. 16 Sep 1990, (Hamilton Park Cemetery)

+Marjorie Joycelynn ELDERTON b. 29 Jul 1918, Auckland, NZ, m. 19 Oct 1946, Mt Albert, Auckland, d. 17 Nov 2014, (Hamilton Park Cemetery)

— Colin Basil HILDER b. 5 Oct 1920, Eden Tce, Auckland, d. 6 Jan 1997, (North Shore Memorial Park, Albany)

+Venetia Rae HINGSTON b. 25 Jul 1921, m. 26 May 1945, St Andrew's Church, Birkenhead, d. 1 Feb 2008, (North Shore Memorial Park (Schnapper Rock), Albany)

— Ivan John HILDER b. 15 Mar 1922, Eden Tce, Auckland, d. 13 Aug 2002, Opotiki, New Zealand

+Joan NORTH b. 5 Jun 1925, m. 9 Oct 1946, d. 11 Nov 2011, Whakatane, New Zealand

— Amelia June (June) HILDER b. 16 Jun 1924, Eden Tce House In Auckland, Near Buchanans Bakery, d. 3 Mar 1978, (North Shore, Auckland)

— Una Margaret HILDER b. 13 Oct 1925, Beach Haven, Auckland

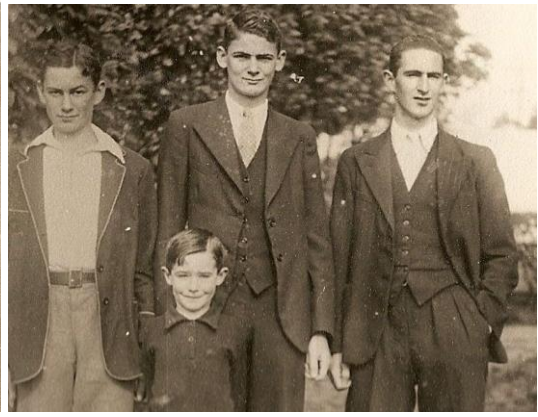
+Joe MATTHEWS b. 1922, m. 6 Feb 1948

— Russen Thompson HILDER b. 3 Mar 1930, Beach Haven, Auckland

+Diana Elizabeth MUNE b. 11 Jul 1941, Suva, Fiji, m. 9 May 1964, Suva, Fiji, par. Trevor MUNE and Ellen DONKIN



Olive, Una and June Hilder



*Ivan, Colin and Stan Hilder
with Russ in front*



L-R: Stan, Una, Colin, Olive, Ivan, Russ (1978)

Wenman included short accounts of the lives of his children in his book written in the 1960s which have been added to here.

Olive was born in Auckland and then spent her first five years in Tasmania when the family returned there during World War I. She “was the first to leave home. She started to work to learn dressmaking at a firm called Salon Celia in Victoria Street. As things were tightening up in Auckland and part time was being worked, when she was about twenty she went away to Huntly to start a dressmaking department in and for the Farmers Trading Company branch. She then left there and went to Hamilton and started a dressmaking business of her own. She kept that until she got married to Norm Amos [in 1944] who was then working for the State Forestry Department.



They first lived in Christchurch and later came to the afforestation at Taupo. They shifted from there to Wairoa on the East Coast and later came to Hamilton and bought a house where Norm died and she was left with her two boys Lindsay and Bruce.”³⁶

Norm died in 1962 at the age of 67. Olive died in 1993 at the age of 78. Norm is buried at Hamilton Park Cemetery, as are Olive’s ashes.

Descendants of Olive Maud HILDER

Olive Maud HILDER b. 29 Jun 1915, St Heliers Bay, Auckland, d. 4 Dec 1993, Hamilton, NZ

+Norman MacLeod AMOS b. 11 Sep 1894, Invercargill, m. 24 Jun 1944, Zion Hill, Methodist Church, Birkenhead, Auckland, d. 26 Jul 1962, Hamilton, New Zealand, par. Gavin AMOS and Elizabeth McLEOD

— Lindsay Norman AMOS b. 1945, d. 2009

— Bruce AMOS b. 1950

+Robyn SHAW b. 1957

— Karl AMOS b. 1979

— Justin AMOS

— Mark AMOS



Olive with her cousin George Graham

Stanley was born in Tasmania when the family were there for several years during World War I. He “was apprenticed as a woodworker to Henderson and Pollard of Auckland...After he got older and work got scarce he also packed up and went to Hamilton where work was more plentiful. He and Olive used to bach together.”³⁷



He volunteered for World War II in October 1940, “when things were going badly for us, and was taken prisoner along with many others in Greece and was a prisoner until the war ended”.³⁸ Stan’s memoir written about his war years details his journey over to Europe, leaving in November 1940, some time in Egypt, transferring on to Greece in March 1941 where by April, he had become a prisoner of war. Difficult times ensued with hard labour, poor conditions and little food – first in Greece, then Yugoslavia and Austria. After the war ended in Europe on 8th May 1945, there was a slow, difficult time making the journey back to England and finally New Zealand.³⁹

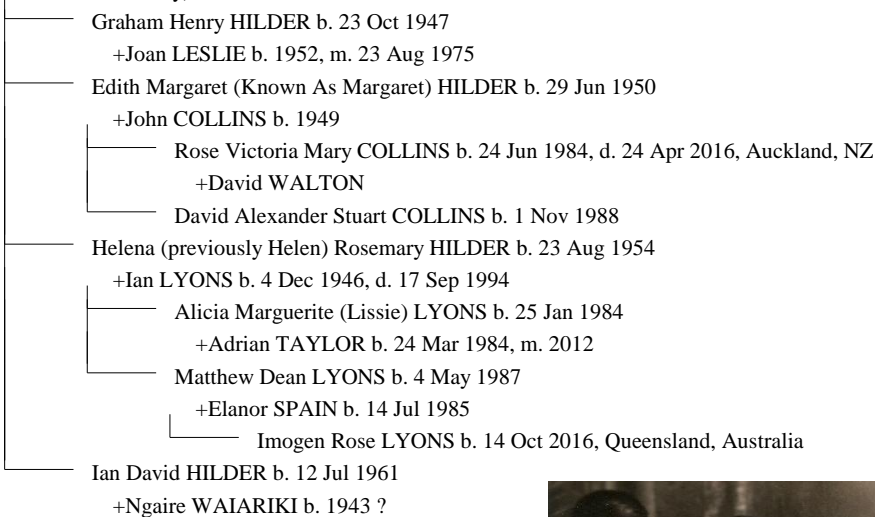
Stan married Marjorie Elderton in 1946 ten days after his brother Ivan’s wedding. The two couples spent some of their honeymoon together, meeting up in Invercargill.⁴⁰ Stan continued to work in Hamilton as a ‘wood machinist’ or cabinet-maker building furniture for firms such as Yendell’s. He also did a lot of cabinet making and made furniture for his family, including a canoe and boats.

Stan died in 1990 aged nearly 73 and Marj died 24 years later in 2014 at the age of 96. Both are buried at Hamilton Park Cemetery.

Descendants of Stanley Graham HILDER

Stanley Graham HILDER b. 19 Sep 1917, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, d. 16 Sep 1990, (Hamilton Park Cemetery)

+Marjorie Joycelynn ELDERTON b. 29 Jul 1918, Auckland, NZ, m. 19 Oct 1946, Mt Albert, Auckland, d. 17 Nov 2014, (Hamilton Park Cemetery)



Stan as a child with his uncle Jim (on left), grandmother Amelia, and father Wenman

Colin married Venetia Rae Hingston of Birkenhead in 1945. He had volunteered for service in World War II (with his brothers Stan and Ivan) but “could not make the grade”.⁴¹ This was due to an accident he had as a warehouseman which injured his back. Instead, during the war, he worked at the munitions area at Kauri Point in Birkenhead, where he was partially blinded in one eye when ammunitions detonated.⁴²



In 1957, he was one of the executors of the will for his aunt Agnes Reed (nee Graham) and inherited her car.

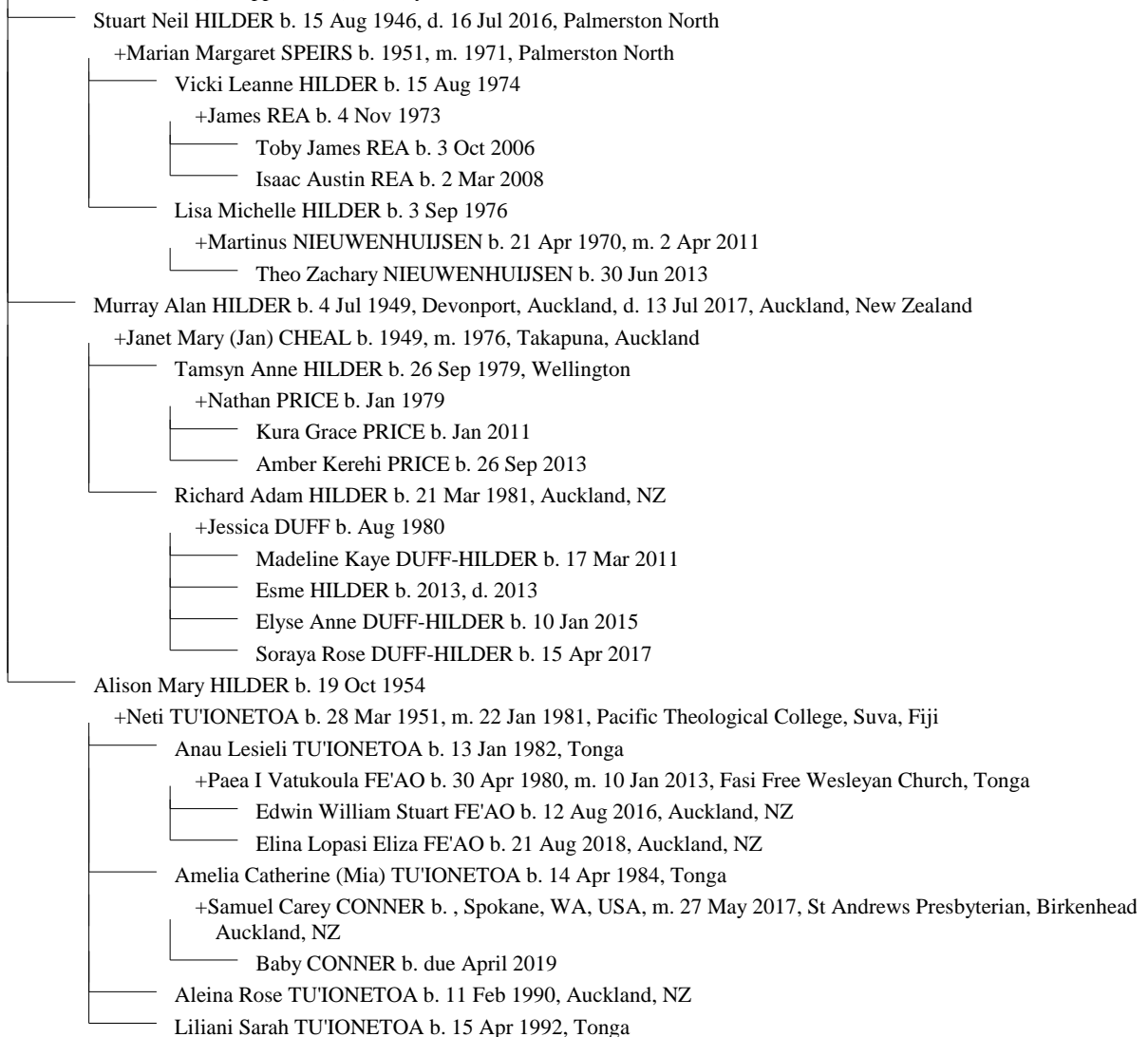
Colin worked for Henry Stevens Ltd nearly all his life, starting out as a warehouseman, and rising to become a manager and the only non-family director. At a time when imports were restricted, Stevens Brothers held import licences for china, crystal and other household items, and became a nation-wide retailer of household items and giftware.⁴³

Colin died in 1997 at the age of 76. Rae died in 2008 at the age of 86. Their ashes are at North Shore Memorial Park, Albany.

Descendants of Colin Basil HILDER

Colin Basil HILDER b. 5 Oct 1920, Eden Tce, Auckland, d. 6 Jan 1997, (North Shore Memorial Park, Albany)

+Venetia Rae HINGSTON b. 25 Jul 1921, m. 26 May 1945, St Andrew's Church, Birkenhead, d. 1 Feb 2008, (North Shore Memorial Park (Schnapper Rock), Albany)



Ivan worked as a battery manufacturer for Australasian Battery Company which at that time had its premises in Newton Gully (now all motorway).

He volunteered for service in World War II at the age of 19, with his older brothers Stan and Colin. Ivan “got away and served some time in Italy and came back safe and sound.”⁴⁴ He contracted hepatitis while in Italy and spent some time in hospital.



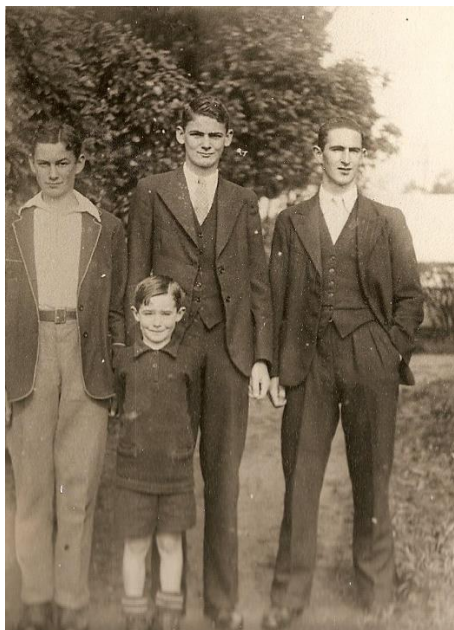
He married Joan North in 1946, ten days before his brother Stanley’s wedding. The two couples spent some of their honeymoon together, meeting up in Invercargill.⁴⁵ Ivan and Joan lived in Remuera after their marriage, in a house they bought from Joan’s mother. They had five daughters, the four eldest being born in Remuera, including the twins which caused great excitement in the whole family. The battery company moved to a new industrial estate in Henderson which was way out in the middle of nowhere in those days and necessitated Ivan buying a little car.

In 1957 Ivan and Joan moved the family to Opotiki where they had bought a house and a taxi business. Colin came to the house and used his professional expertise to help them pack; they did it all themselves, not using professionals at all except for the furniture truck to Opotiki. Valerie was born a couple of months after the move. The taxi business was a thriving one; in those days, few people owned cars and there were seven licences in Opotiki. Ivan also set up a business from home using his battery contacts and sold batteries almost until the end of his life. As time went on the taxi business became less lucrative as living standards improved and more people bought their own cars. Ivan eventually went to work as a painter and handyman for the local hospital and stayed there until he retired.

Tragically, Jenny (one of the twins) died in a car accident in 1977 at the age of 22.

Ivan died in 2002 at the age of 80 and has a plaque in the RSA section of Opotiki Cemetery where his ashes were scattered.

Joan died in 2011 at the age of 86. Her ashes were scattered at Ivan’s plaque at the Opotiki Cemetery and at their daughter Pauline’s house in Pukehina, Te Puke in their memorial garden for Jenny, Ivan and Joan.⁴⁶

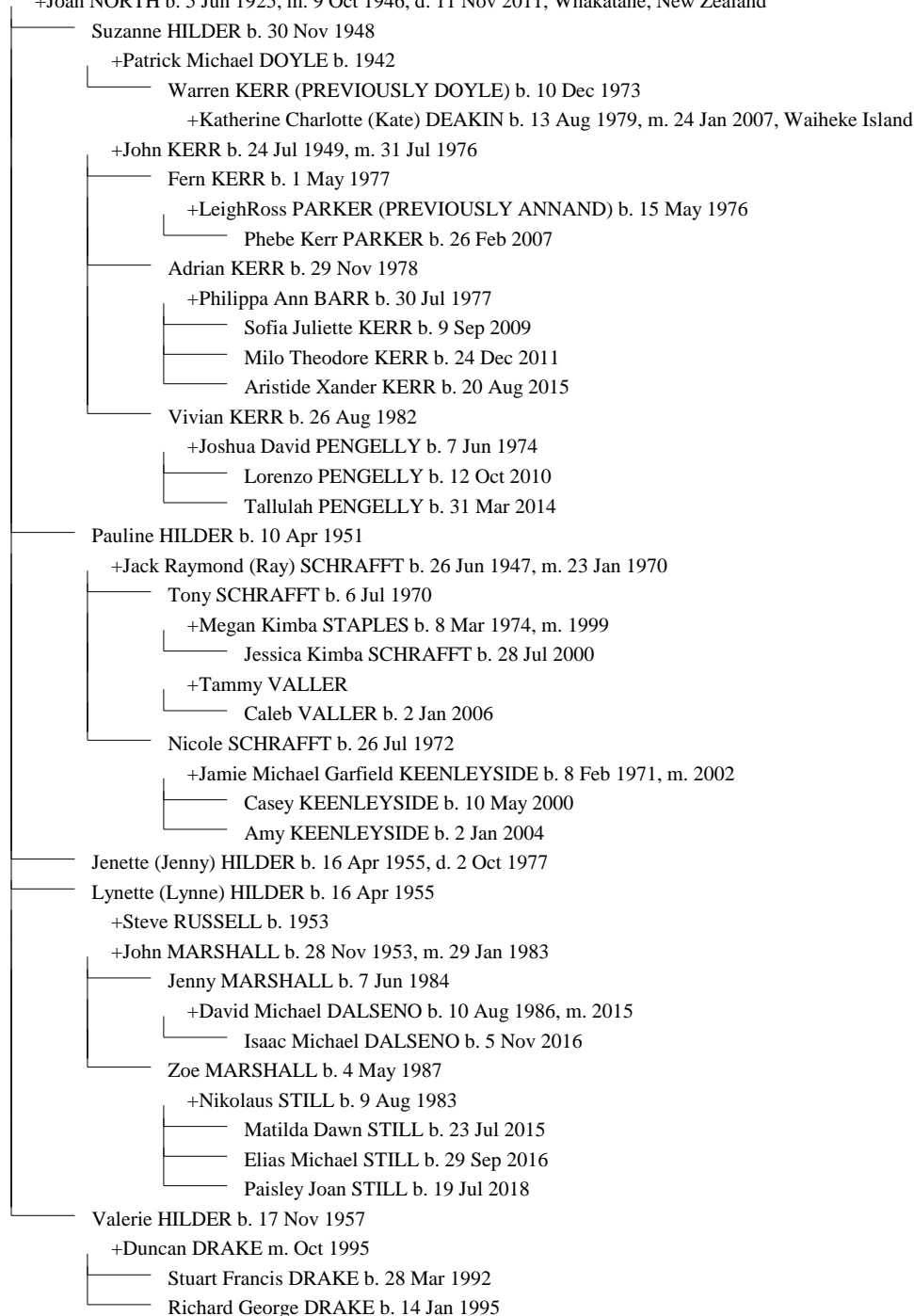


Ivan, Colin, Stan and Russen, c. 1937

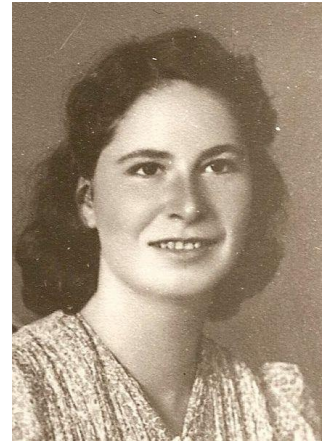
Descendants of Ivan John HILDER

Ivan John HILDER b. 15 Mar 1922, Eden Tce, Auckland, d. 13 Aug 2002, Opotiki, New Zealand

+Joan NORTH b. 5 Jun 1925, m. 9 Oct 1946, d. 11 Nov 2011, Whakatane, New Zealand



“June ... started training as a nurse at the Auckland Hospital...[and after she] finished her nurse training, went to the Solomon Islands as a nurse for the Methodist Church where she did three terms of three years.”⁴⁷ She worked at the Helena Goldie Hospital situated in Munda, Western Province of the Solomon Islands and then at Sohana Island in Papua New Guinea.⁴⁸



June never married or had children. She returned to New Zealand in 1962 when her mother died and lived with her father while working at Auckland Hospital, the Karitane Hospital in Mt Albert and then as a Plunket nurse.⁴⁹ She accompanied her father on a number of trips, including to Tasmania in November 1967 during which Wenman met up with his youngest brother, Fred.⁵⁰

In the 1970s, June was diagnosed with breast cancer and frequently stayed with her sister, Una, for convalescence. She was later diagnosed with bone cancer, and in 1977, in the absence of any hospice facilities, she moved in with Una, as did their older sister Olive who helped take care of her. Colin's wife, Rae, helped by coming every Friday to do housework.⁵¹

June died on the 3rd of March 1978 at the age of 53. Her ashes were scattered.



June in the Solomon Islands



“Una got married to Joe Matthews of Rangitara Road [Beach Haven, in 1948] and went on a small farm in Lancaster Road”⁵² in Beach Haven where they stayed for about 5 years growing strawberries and other produce. They continued growing strawberries commercially as well as flowers in Albany and then Greenhithe until 1969, after which Joe became green keeper at the North Shore Golf Club until retirement in 1983. During this time, Wenman came to live with them for the last 3 years of his life. Later, the family cared for June who was diagnosed with and died from cancer.



They then had a small kiwifruit, tangelo orchard at Omokoroa, on the outskirts of Tauranga, then moved to a larger avocado orchard in Athenree, Waihi Beach in 1989. About 10 years later, they moved to a much smaller orchard in Katikati, before relocating to a smaller place in Katikati township.

Una and Joe have four children, and 23 grandchildren. As of 2018, they have 47 great-grandchildren and are still living independently in their home in Katikati, enthusiastically gardening – Una’s garden won “garden of the week” in 2016.⁵³



*‘Birkdale cousins, 1933’
Ivan, June, Una and Russen Hilder, (Maggie in background)
from Margaret Duder’s ‘Adriana’ photo album*

Descendants of Una Margaret HILDER

Una Margaret HILDER b. 13 Oct 1925, Beach Haven, Auckland

+Joe MATTHEWS b. 1922, m. 6 Feb 1948

Cecily MATTHEWS b. 1949

+John William TANNER b. 1941, d. 23 Oct 2005

Cherry TANNER b. 1971, d. 1971

Nelson TANNER b. 1971

+Sylvia m. 2012

Vaughan TANNER b. 1973

Lloyd TANNER b. 1976

+Sharon WIGG

Finlay TANNER b. 1995

Kane TANNER b. 1998

Anna TANNER b. 2003

Reuben TANNER b. 1978

+Natasha m. 1999

Paige TANNER b. 2000

Ethan TANNER b. 2002

Jeremy TANNER b. 2004

Sarah TANNER b. 2005

Stephanie TANNER b. 1982

+Peter McLAREN

Brooke McLAREN b. 2005

Danielle McLAREN b. 2009

Alexandra McLAREN b. 2013 or 2014

Neomai TANNER b. 1984

Gilbert TANNER b. 1985

+Kelsey

Tiana TANNER b. 2007

Isaac TANNER b. 2015

Alan MATTHEWS b. 1951

+Dei ISILAHITA b. 1954

Neil MATTHEWS b. 1978

Calvin MATTHEWS b. 1980

+Sonya WALKER

Hudson MATTHEWS b. 2013

Cayden MATTHEWS b. 2015

Nicholas MATTHEWS b. 1984, d. 2005

Scott MATTHEWS b. 1986

+Kristie PEPPAS

Jayden MATTHEWS b. 2012

Daelle MATTHEWS b. 2014

Nicari MATTHEWS b. 2016

Tio MATTHEWS b. 2017

Gillian MATTHEWS b. 1955

+Dawson BOYD b. 1955

Jethro BOYD b. 1975, d. 1996

Shanan BOYD b. 1976

+Cheryl MOORE

Amber BOYD b. 1996

Saul BOYD b. 1999

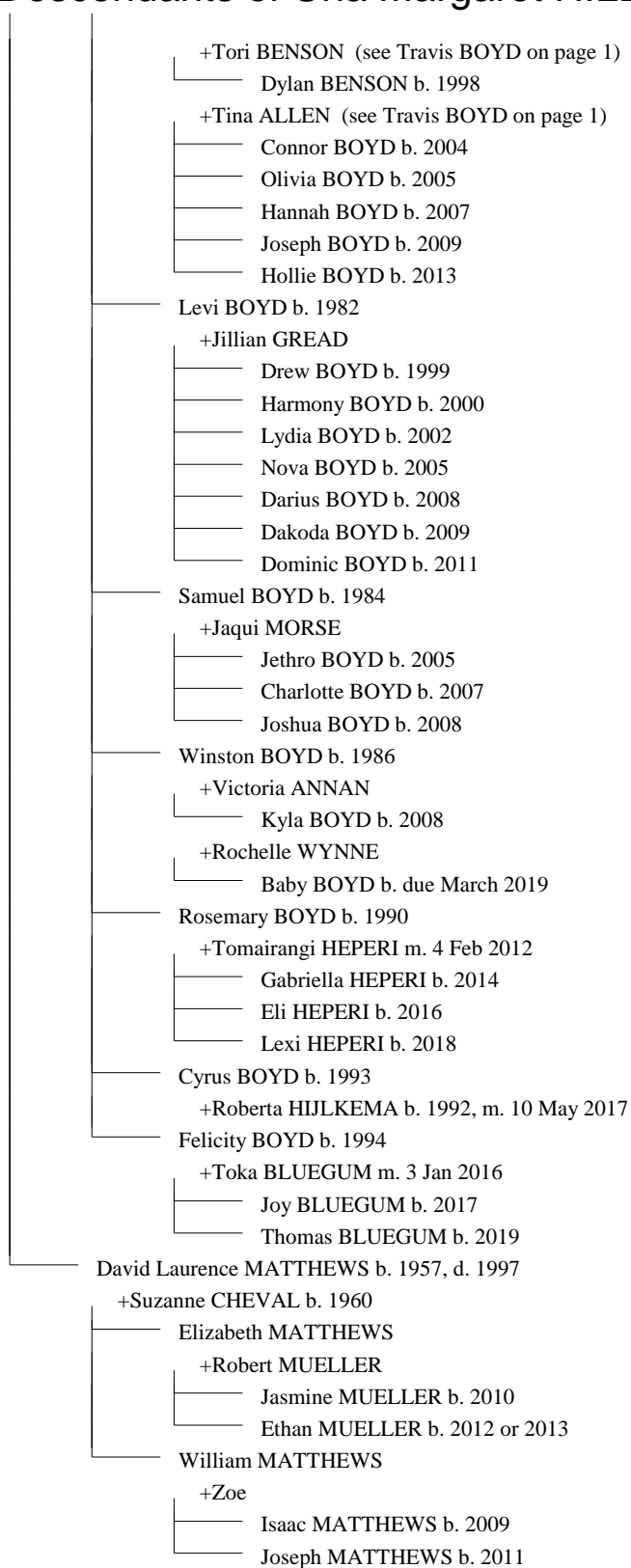
Summer BOYD b. 2001

Caleb BOYD b. 2008

Levi BOYD b. 2010

Travis BOYD b. 1978

Descendants of Una Margaret HILDER





Russen trained as an Aircraft maintenance engineer with Tasman Empire Airways (TEAL, now Air New Zealand) at Hobsonville and Mechanics Bay before going to New Plymouth where he serviced top dressing aircraft and took flying lessons. This was followed by a short stay at Dannevirke before going to Mt Maunganui about mid 1954 where he ran a one man aircraft servicing business and obtained his commercial Pilots Licence.

In 1959 Russen went to Fiji as an engineer/pilot initially for a small (bankrupt) company and later worked with Fiji Airways until 1967. Russen married Diana Mune in 1964 in Fiji and their three children were born there. He helped to start a small charter airline flying to all South Pacific countries on land and water until rejoining Air Pacific (Fiji Airways) until the family returned to Auckland in 1981.

As of 2018 Russen and Diana are living at Whangaparaoa.

Descendants of Russen Thompson HILDER

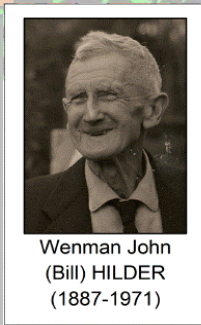
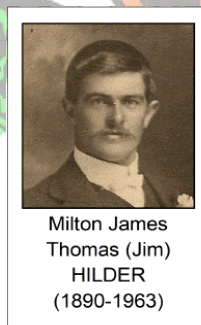
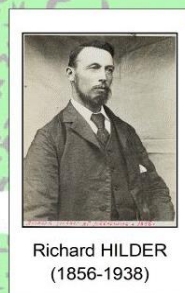
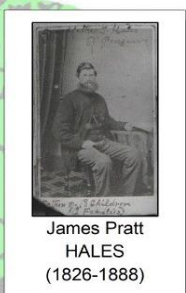
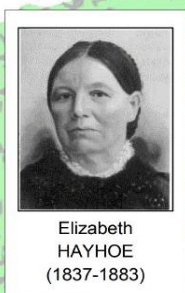
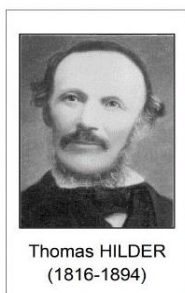
Russen Thompson HILDER b. 3 Mar 1930, Beach Haven, Auckland

- +Diana Elizabeth MUNE b. 11 Jul 1941, Suva, Fiji, m. 9 May 1964, Suva, Fiji, par. Trevor MUNE and Ellen DONKIN
 - Judy Karen HILDER b. 1 Feb 1966, Suva, Fiji
 - +Craig CROSWELLER b. 1964
 - Jaimee-Leigh CROSWELLER b. 17 Jul 1992
 - Brie'ellen CROSWELLER b. 7 Nov 1998, Auckland, New Zealand
 - +Bradley Mathew FENTON b. 3 Jun 1998, m. 13 Jan 2018, Windsor Park Baptist Church, Auckland
 - Cullen Brandon CROSWELLER b. 14 Jan 2004, Auckland, New Zealand
 - Lesley Jean HILDER b. 1 Feb 1966, Fiji
 - +Stephen Dale EMM
 - +Grant JACOBS
 - +Paul MANTON m. 1993
 - Jake Alan Bryce MANTON b. 28 Sep 1996, Auckland, New Zealand
 - +Bianca KOBERL
 - Avery MANTON b. 2 Sep 2015
 - Kurt Muller Coetzee MANTON b. 2 Oct 1999
 - Neil Russen HILDER b. 20 Mar 1975, Suva, Fiji
 - +Monique PEARCE
 - Joshua Neil HILDER b. 20 Jan 2006, Auckland, New Zealand
 - Marcus William HILDER b. 26 Jun 2008, Auckland, New Zealand



Chapter 2

The Hilder Family and Ancestry



The Hilder Siblings

Milton and Wenman came from a family of ten children born to Richard Hilder and Amelia Hales, both of whom were born and lived in Tasmania. They had 8 siblings although a younger brother was killed at Gallipoli at the age of 20.

Martin, the eldest son, was the first to move to New Zealand in 1905 ahead of his two younger brothers, Wenman and Milton. The other siblings remained in Australia, in Tasmania and Victoria.

Descendants of Richard HILDER

Richard HILDER b. 24 Jul 1856, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 19 Feb 1938, Spencer Hospital, Wynyard, Tasmania

+Amelia HALES b. 30 Sep 1858, Port Sorell, Tasmania, Australia, m. 26 Dec 1878, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia, d. 13 Oct 1928, Upper Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, par. James Pratt HALES and Eliza Ann RUSSEN

Marion Eliza (May) HILDER b. 18 Sep 1879, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 19 Feb 1954, Wrixon Ave, East Brighton

+Frank Hedley FIELDING b. 1877, m. 1 May 1901, Methodist Church, Burnie, Tasmania, d. 1961, Cheltnam, Victoria, Australia, par. James FIELDING and Anne CLARK

Martin Joseph HILDER b. 29 Oct 1881, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 7 Mar 1956, (Waikumete, Auckland, NZ)

+Hilda MEAD b. 16 Aug 1877, Lambeth, Surrey, England, m. 12 Apr 1909, Methodist Church, Kilbirnie, Wellington, NZ, d. 22 Sep 1935, Auckland, New Zealand, par. Frederick MEAD and Edith FEATHERSTONE

+Dora JOHNSON b. 1885, m. 17 Nov 1937, St Andrew's Anglican Church, Cambridge, NZ, d. 19 Jun 1967, (Hamilton Park Cemetery)

Olive Elizabeth HILDER b. 25 Jul 1883, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 6 Mar 1929, Sale, Gippsland, Australia

+Walter STUTTERD b. 7 Oct 1845, Banbury, Oxfordshire, UK, m. 17 Nov 1904, home of Walter Stutterd, d. 19 Sep 1923, Dandenong, Victoria

Hannah Amelia (Nan) HILDER b. 22 Jun 1885, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 13 Jul 1940, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia

+George Adam Templeton GRAHAM b. 16 Jul 1889, Kaikohe, New Zealand, m. 2 Apr 1914, Methodist Church, Burnie, Tasmania, d. 4 Dec 1967, Tasmania, Australia, par. Thompson GRAHAM and Margaret TEMPLETON

Wenman John (Bill) HILDER b. 28 Nov 1887, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 12 Oct 1971, Auckland, NZ

+Margaret Elizabeth GRAHAM b. 23 Oct 1887, Okaihau, Bay Of Islands, m. 31 Dec 1913, Okaihau, d. 7 May 1962, (Glenfield Berm Cemetery/Birkenhead/Glenfield Cemetery), par. Thompson GRAHAM and Margaret TEMPLETON

Milton James Thomas (Jim) HILDER b. 21 Feb 1890, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 6 Oct 1963, Dannevirke, New Zealand

+Sarah Ann (Annie) GRAHAM b. 18 Apr 1885, Okaihau, m. 27 Dec 1911, Residence of Mr Thompson Graham, Okaihau, New Zealand, d. 14 Jun 1949, Kaikohe, Bay of Islands, New Zealand, par. Thompson GRAHAM and Margaret TEMPLETON

Sarah Jane Doris HILDER b. 21 Jul 1892, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 31 Dec 1975, Kew, Victoria, Australia

Basil Richard HILDER b. 7 Nov 1894, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 8 Aug 1915, Lone Pine, Gallipoli, Turkey

Arden Arthur Harold HILDER b. 12 Sep 1896, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 25 Dec 1980, Murray Bridge, SA

+Agnes Mary (Mollie) JAMES b. 1892, m. 24 Mar 1920, Private House, Longford, Tasmania, d. 22 Nov 1972, Murray Bridge, SA

Alfred Robert HILDER b. 7 Apr 1898, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 18 Jan 1974, Devon House, Latrobe, Tasmania

+Irene Valerie (known as Valerie) CHATWIN b. 16 Feb 1899, m. 11 Jan 1922, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, d. 18 Dec 1950, Spencer Hospital, Wynyard, par. Alfred CHATWIN and Hannah EASTWOOD

Martin Joseph Hilder

(1881-1956)



Martin Joseph was the second child of Richard and Amelia and the eldest son. He was born at Hill Farm, near Burnie, Tasmania, on the 29th of October 1881 in the very early morning with Mrs John Long, midwife, attending at the birth, as she had for the birth of his older sister, Marion.⁵⁴

Much of the following details of his life consists of excerpts from the writings of his father, Richard Hilder.⁵⁵

Schooling

“Early in 1888, two children commenced their schooling, Marion aged 8 years, Martin aged 6 years. They attended a private school kept by Mr and Mrs Berjew at the Gospel Hall Wilson Street, Burnie and at a later period to their teachers’ private house Strahan Street, South Burnie. The tuition fees were 1/9 per week for the 2 of them. It was a long walk from Hill Farm to South Burnie, but the children loved their teachers and cheerfully went. A couple of years later, three Hill Farm children were attending a private school conducted by the Miss Boyds at West Burnie with a much shorter distance to walk. Similar fees to those of Mr Berjew were paid. In 1894, private school education eased and the Burnie State School adopted under different headmasters.”⁵⁶

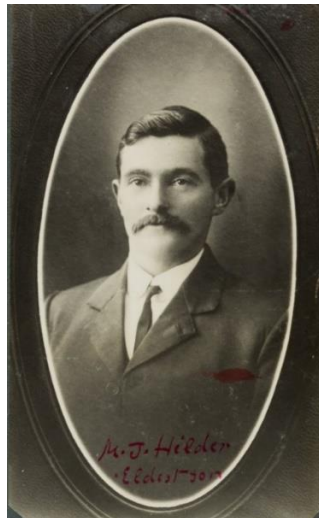
“In the year 1890, the eldest son of Richard and Amelia Hilder (Martin) [aged 8-9] was stricken with serious hip disease in an acute form. The joint was kept rigid in plaster of paris for 8 months. The hardship of nursing fell on his dear mother who could not agree to send him to hospital 100 miles away. He ultimately recovered, but schooling was marred. He could not be allowed the rough and tumble of schoolboy life with a hip bone liable to injury so to give him some chance, Martin attended a night school for boys situated [at] Marin Terrace, S. Burnie.”⁵⁷

Methodism

“...in 1896 during the superintendency of Penguin circuit by the Rev James Rogers, a gracious revival visited the Primitive Methodist Church at Burnie. Among the numerous young folk converted were Marion Hilder [17 years old] , Martin Hilder [15] and Olive Hilder [13]. Each quickly grew in grace amid the glowing warmth of a spiritually quickened church which contained many adult members. While the whole 3 of them took great interest in the Sunday school and church services, Martin at once began to exhort and show forth his speaking capabilities in the big Christian Endeavour Society containing 100 active and probationary members. In 1898 he qualified as a fully accredited local preacher when only 17 years of age. It was a great joy to his parents and both gave him all the help and encouragement within their reach.”

Leaving home

Martin left home at the age of 21. "Early in 1902 Martin Joseph Hilder struck out. In September he is at Mole Creek, Tasmania learning the saw mill trade. He was a born engineer and very skilful among machinery of all kinds. During his stay in that neighbourhood he continued his good work as a Methodist local preacher with marked ability and with a fixed intention to undertake foreign missionary work....Martin returned to Burnie at the close of 1903 and he and most of the Hill Farm family was present at their parents' Silver Wedding December 26th 1903."



Move to New Zealand

At the age of 24, Martin moved to New Zealand, the first of the Hilder brothers to do so. "In May 1905 Martin Hilder sailed from Tasmania for Utiku, North Island, New Zealand. His object was experience in sawmilling. Keeping in view the foreign Methodist Missions, he became (after a further grounding in local preacher's work) a candidate for the Methodist ministry, serving on probation for 2 years. Then came the prospect of the fulfillment of his heart's desire – a missionary with saw-mill experience was needed for New Britain.¹ He applied, but some other applicant was accepted. He did not succeed in passing his probation but entered on Home Mission work in the Ohura King Country, North Island, New Zealand and proved acceptable after declining an offer to enter the Presbyterian church."

Mr M. T. Hilder, formerly of the Emu Bay district, who recently passed successfully as a foreign missionary candidate in New Zealand, is now for a few months engaged as a "bush missionary" in the Ohura district of the North Island. He has a large district, 70 miles long and 40 miles wide, with 400 families on his list. He is the only preacher in this part, and says he finds "the best recommendation to the hearts and homes of the scattered settlers is to tell them that he was brought up on a farm and his mother had 10 children."

The Advocate, 7 Feb 1908

¹ An island in Papua New Guinea

Richard fails to mention his service in the Taranaki region around 1908, probably during his probation period. In 1909, his farewell from Stratford was reported as follows:

REV. HILDER FAREWELLED

On Thursday evening the Rev. M. J. Hilder, who has been transferred to the Ohura district, was farewelled by the friends at Carrington Road. Last night there was a large gathering at the South Road Methodist Church when another farewell social was tendered the Rev. Mr. Hilder, who during his connection with the Whiteley Circuit has made himself very popular with all with whom he has come in contact. During the evening Mrs. McIsaac, on behalf of the South Road congregation, presented to the guest of the evening a handsome silver teapot. The Chairman, Mr. J. W. Boon, and Messrs. H. Black, E. Chatterton and J. Gibson each made complimentary remarks concerning the work of the Rev. Mr. Hilder in the circuit. The Rev. T. G. Brooke, superintendent minister, delivered a farewell address, expressive of the loss that would be sustained by the circuit in the removal of the Rev. Hilder from their midst. He referred to the Methodist Church system of itinerary as one which gave clergymen a varied and valuable

experience, enlarging their sphere of usefulness. He said he knew of no young man in the connexion who was better fitted for the work in the Ohura district than was the guest of the evening.

The Rev. Hilder, in replying, said he had to thank the South Road and New Plymouth people for many kindnesses. Speaking of his new charge, he said that Ohura was in the backblocks today, just as Stratford had been thirty years ago, and the settlers were undergoing trials such as New Plymouth had conquered long ago. But in a very short time Mangaroa was going to be an important distributing centre of a district whose trade should come to New Plymouth if the people here made an energetic move to secure it. He concluded by returning thanks for the presentation and for this kind farewell gathering. During the evening songs were sung by Misses Blake and Oxenham and Mr. McIsaac, Miss Cannel playing the accompaniments.

Taranaki Herald, Volume LV, Issue 13926, 3 April 1909, Page 7

Marriage and children

Martin married Hilda Mead on the 12th of April 1909 in Kilbirnie, Wellington (probably near his wife's family). Their first son, Frederic Martin, was born in Kawakawa in 1910. In Richard's words: "Before proceeding on Home Mission work at Ohura he was married to a school teacher, Hilda Mead. They had become mutually acquainted some years before. She proved a good help-mate for a Home missionary."

Martin was officially appointed as a home missionary in March 1911 in the Bay of Islands,⁵⁸ but was stricken with ill health according to his father, which required him to give up the position. His father arrived in New Zealand in April 1911, after apparently suffering from some kind of nervous breakdown, and took over his son's position on a temporary basis.⁵⁹

Martin and Hilda relocated to Wellington, probably because Hilda's family lived there. In December 1911, Martin is recorded as preaching in Kilbirnie, Wellington South⁶⁰ and their second son, was born in Wellington in 1912.⁶¹ Richard visited "the Methodist conference at Auckland in March 1912 ...[then] return[ed] to Tasmania ... via Wellington where he stayed a week with his son, Martin, who had so far recovered as to be able to work in a sawmill."

"The illness with which he was attacked proved of long standing and frequently compelled him to enter into other occupations than sawmilling, but always something to do with mechanics or engines for, as previously stated, he was a born engineer."

By 1918 at least, the family were in Hawera as indicated in the following death notice for Hilda's sister, a victim of the influenza epidemic that year.

MEAD.—On December 12th, 1918, at New Plymouth Hospital, of influenza, Beatrice (Milly), third daughter of Mrs F. M. Mead, "Crow's Nest," Melrose, Wellington, and sister of Mrs M. J. Hilder, Hawera; aged 35 years.

Dominion, Volume 12, Issue 70, 17 December 1918, Page 1

Martin had work as a motor mechanic at this time, as indicated by the following item in 1920, which shows the family to be renting four rooms in a large house of 12 rooms, their sons aged 10 and 8:

HOUSE RENTS IN NEW ZEALAND

35/ A WEEK FOR 4 ROOMS.....

Referring to a recently-published paragraph on cost of houses in Masterton (N.Z.), Mr. M. J. Hilder, eldest son of Mr. Richard Hilder, of Burnie, writes as follows:—

We have what is considered 4 rooms in a house of 12 rooms. Two more families occupy the other 8 rooms. Our weekly rental for our part is £1 15/. One needs to be a monied man to live in his own house here. A good 6-roomed wooden house, standing on its own 1/2 acre lot, was sold recently for £2000.

Mr. Hilder is a motor mechanic at Hawera (North Island).

Advocate, 1 May 1920, Page 2

In 1921, they were living in Rotorua, according to the following proud letter to the Editor by Martin's father in the local Tasmanian newspaper:

Sir, - Knowing that you like to hear of successful Tasmanian boys, many of your readers will remember the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hilder, of Burnie. It is 16 years since Mr. Martin J. Hilder left Tasmania for New Zealand, and always of a studious character, he has lately turned his attention to the study of mechanical forces. Writing recently to his parents at Burnie, he expressed himself as on the eve of consummating the working model of an invention, which, to use his own words, if successful will thoroughly revolutionise transport equal to the first introduction of steam power as an agency. He wisely gives no hint of the working of the model but confidently expresses the hope that success will come to himself and family.

To obtain funds to further carrying out his object, he is now supervising the building of a big sawmill up in the Rotorua district at the weekly remuneration of £7, and a house to live in, rent free. He is a married man, with two growing sons.

Yours, &c., R. Hilder

The Advocate, 2 March 1921

Later in 1921, Martin's wife Hilda had a narrow escape:

A fatal accident through the overturning of a truck of timber occurred last week on the private railway of the Timber Company at Te Whetu, near Rotorua, and resulted in the instantaneous death of Mr. S. Eltringham, of Auckland. Mrs. M. Hilder, another passenger, had a miraculous escape from death, being for a considerable time pinned beneath a load of sixteen tons of timber, and was rescued by means of a pit dug in the earth beneath the truck. Mrs. Hilder, who was severely injured, is a daughter of Mrs. F. M. Mead, of Melrose, and a sister of Mrs. A. Leigh Hunt, of Hataitai.

Evening Post, 23 December 1921, Page 8

In 1926, they were at Tangowahine, near Dargaville in Northland where Martin was the manager of a large sawmill.⁶² The mill was reported to support about 100 persons "workmen and their families" and that "immense quantities of timber are cut daily." He was quoted as having written "I do not sharpen all saws, but I generally touch up or sharpen 17 daily." He also wrote of the Australian bushfires: "Fortunately, we had no bush fires like you have had, but we have had samples of your smoke. Steady westerly winds blew for a week. We had no fires, but dense clouds of smoke, and at early morning I could smell the burnt gum leaves of my native land very distinctly indeed."

The following curious item appeared in the newspaper in early 1928 regarding whether or not dogs should be allowed to travel in train carriages, which also serves to locate the family north of Auckland at this time:

**DOG IN A CARRIAGE.
RAILWAY TRAIN INCIDENT.
FINE IMPOSED ON OWNER**

Remarking that dogs, however good they might be as pets, were disliked by the public when they were carried in tramcars or trains, Mr. F. K. Hunt, S.M., in the Police Court yesterday, fined Hilda Hilder, who did not appear, on a charge of taking a dog into a passenger carriage while travelling on the Helensville-Auckland train recently. The railway guard said 'the woman boarded the train at Waitakere with a small boy. Going through the carriages he espied a Pomeranian dog sitting

between the boy and the woman with a coat over it. The dog's fare was 1s 4d, he had told her, and invited her to put the pomeranian in the dog box, but an argument had followed. The Court Clerk: The woman writes saying she would not put her dog in the dog-box because she thinks dog-boxes are cruel things. She complains bitterly about the railway regulations. "The public do not want dogs sitting next to them scratching off fleas," said Mr. Hunt. "Anyway, what about the children. Parents do not like to have dogs in carriages where their children are these warm days."

NZ Herald, 26 January 1928, Page 13

Around 1928, they moved to Otorohanga where Martin established a well-known transportation business: Hilder & Son.⁶³ In 1932 his father, Richard Hilder noted that: "During his 25 years residence in New Zealand he has had many removals hundreds of miles apart and his name is well known and revered throughout the length of the North Island."

In 1935 Hilda died at the age of 58. Their sons were in their early twenties.

NZ Herald 25 September 1935

**HILDER.—On September 24, at her late residence, Otorohanga, Hilda, dearly-beloved wife of M. J. Hilder; aged 58 years.
The funeral will leave the Anglican Church, to-day (Wednesday), at 2 p.m., after a short service, for the Otorohanga Cemetery.**

Mrs. M. J. Hilder.

Mr. Richard Hilder, of King Street, Burnie, received a letter from his eldest son, Mr. Martin J. Hilder, of Otorohanga, North Island, New Zealand, dated September 24, in which the news was conveyed that Mrs. Martin Hilder had passed quietly away on that date. Deceased was in the late fifties of life, and had suffered from serious illness for many years, but the end came suddenly. She was an American by birth, arriving in the Dominion in her girlhood. She became attached to the Education Department of New Zealand, filling several posts as head teacher of country schools, until her marriage to Mr. Martin Hilder, which took place in 1909, when both undertook home mission work for the Methodist Home Mission Department of the New Zealand Conference.

Mr. Martin Hilder will be remembered by some "Advocate" readers as a prominent local preacher of the Burnie and Deloraine circuits before leaving Tasmania for Utiki, North Island, New Zealand, in May, 1905. He has never revisited the land of his birth during those 30 years.

The family consists of two sons, who are in business with their father.

The Advocate (Burnie, Tas. : 1890 - 1954), 8 October 1935, p. 2

Two years later, in 1937, Martin (aged 56) remarried, to Dora Johnson (aged 52).

HILDER - JOHNSON

The marriage was solemnised quietly at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Cambridge, New Zealand, between Miss Dora Johnson, of Hamilton, and formerly of Otorohanga, and Martin Joseph Hilder, of Otorohanga, son of Mr. Richard Hilder, of Burnie. Rev. C. W. Chandler performed the ceremony.

The bride, who was escorted by Mr. E. A. McCracken, wore a smart model frock in deep larkspur blue, relieved with cream Brussels lace at

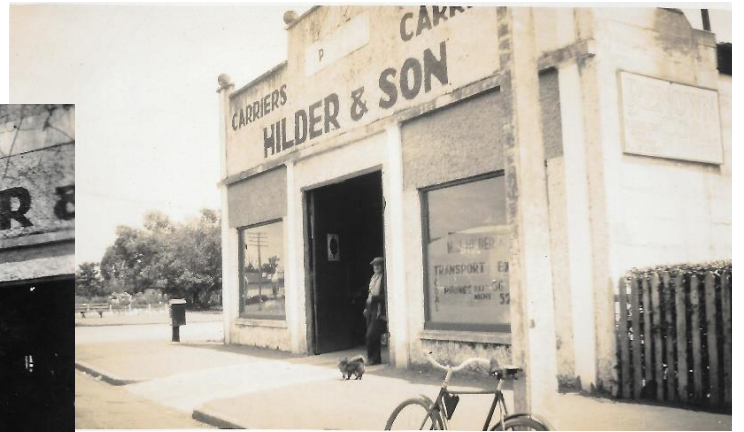
the neck line, and a navy coat, tailored in red-ingot effect, with a panel of roulet work on either side of the neck-line. Her hat was of cream Leghorn straw, swathed in finely pleated georgette in larkspur and navy. She carried a bouquet of rich crimson roses and maidenhair fern....

Later Mr. and Mrs. Hilder left by car for a short motor tour. They will make their home in Otorohanga, New Zealand.

The Advocate (Burnie) 6 January 1938

In July 1936, Martin returned to Tasmania to visit his father⁶⁴ on board the Monterey⁶⁵, for the last time as it turned out, since Richard died in February 1938.

Around the late 1930s, Martin's niece, Margaret (the eldest daughter of Milton), lived for a time in Otorohanga,⁶⁶ and worked for Martin,⁶⁷ and the photos below date from this time.



Dick Hilder in a loaded truck



Dick and Martin Hilder with Margaret Hilder



Martin (3rd from left) and his son, Dick, at far right with staff and Martin's niece, Margaret Hilder (daughter of Milton) at far left.

In 1943, Martin's son Richard (Dick) died from an illness contracted while serving in the air force in World War II at Guadalcanal, leaving behind a wife and young son (aged 6).

Martin died in 1956 at the age of 74 and received an extensive obituary in the Otorohanga Times, which gives further details of his approximately 30 years in Otorohanga as seen below.

Dora died in 1967 at the age of 82.

OBITUARY

MR. MARTIN JOSEPH HILDER

The news that Mr Martin Joseph Hilder had passed away after a long illness was received with regret throughout the district last week by his many friends, both pakeha and Maori.

A resident of Otorohanga for 30 years, Mr Hilder was one of the pioneers of the community, who has seen the town and district grow from a small village and a comparatively poor district into one of the most thriving areas south of Auckland, and it is to Mr Hilder and others of his calibre that this transformation has taken place.

Born at Burnie, Tasmania in 1881, Mr Hilder came to New Zealand as a young man and for a time was engaged in sawmilling in the King Country.

He arrived in Otorohanga about 30 years ago where he established the transport business which still bears his name and by virtue of his wide knowledge of transport problems in this district, his advice was on occasions sought by both transport authorities and operatives. During the war, he was one of the Government appointees of the District Committee controlling the registration of vehicles and the distribution of petrol.

Probably Mr Hilder's outstanding attribute was the keen interest he took in everything and particularly the town and district in which he lived.

He was a former member of the Otorohanga Town Board, a past president and life member of the Otorohanga Golf Club and at the time of his death he held the position of patron of the club.

Prior to the illness which confined him to his home he was keenly interested in drama and was the first patron of the Otorohanga Drama Club. He was also a past president of the Otorohanga Physical Welfare Club.

Mr Hilder was a man whose word was his bond and there is probably no man in the district who was held in higher regard by both Maoris and pakehas. Although he suffered an illness which would have confined most people to their beds, until fairly recently he was a familiar sight in Otorohanga in his electric wheel chair and until he died he retained that keen interest in all that went on about him.

His death removes an old identity of the town and a man who played more than his part in its development.

The funeral was held at Otorohanga on Thursday.

Mr Hilder is survived by his wife, and one son, Fred. His younger son, Dick, died as a result of an illness contracted while serving overseas in the war.

Otorohanga Times, 14 March 1956

Descendants of Martin Joseph HILDER

Martin Joseph HILDER b. 29 Oct 1881, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 7 Mar 1956, (Waikumete, Auckland, NZ)

+Hilda MEAD b. 16 Aug 1877, Lambeth, Surrey, England, m. 12 Apr 1909, Methodist Church, Kilbirnie, Wellington, NZ, d. 22 Sep 1935, Auckland, New Zealand, par. Frederick MEAD and Edith FEATHERSTONE

Frederic Martin HILDER b. 5 Dec 1910, Kawakawa, Auckland, New Zealand, d. 18 Mar 1966, Christchurch, New Zealand

Richard Oswald HILDER b. 25 Jun 1912, Wellington, New Zealand, d. 25 Dec 1943, Auckland, New Zealand

+Eileen Mary SHORT b. 4 Aug 1916, m. 1936, d. 5 Sep 1986, Hamilton

Garry Richard HILDER b. 13 Jul 1937, Te Kohanga, Otorohanga, NZ, d. 23 Jul 1999

+Margaret Susanne b. 8 Oct 1936, d. 17 Aug 2014, North Shore, Auckland

Donna HILDER

Jannine HILDER

Darryl HILDER

+Lana

Hayley HILDER

Rory HILDER

Jaimee Paige HILDER

Kerry Ann HILDER b. 3 Feb

+Lindsay HARRIS

Christopher Richard HILDER b. 29 Nov 1987

Kelsie Susanne HILDER-WYLLIE b. 13 Apr 1989

+Kaleb VITALE

Kyrie Paul VITALE b. 23 Oct 2016, Auckland, NZ

Matthew (Matt) HILDER b. 16 Aug 1991

+Dora JOHNSON b. 1885, m. 17 Nov 1937, St Andrew's Anglican Church, Cambridge, NZ, d. 19 Jun 1967, (Hamilton Park Cemetery)

Martin's Children

Frederic Martin Hilder was born on the 5th of December 1910 in Kawakawa.

He would have attended school in Wellington and Hawera and maybe other places as well.

He worked with his father in the trucking business in Otorohanga. Later he worked as a bacteriologist according to probate records. He did not marry. He died in Christchurch in 1966 at the age of only 55. The NZ Institute of Medical Laboratory Science established a prize in his memory:

Hilder Memorial Prize - 1967

The 1966/67 Council instituted this prize in remembrance of Mr Fred Hilder, (55 years), who was the Christchurch Regional Representative on Council. \$30 was awarded annually for the best Journal article published in the previous year. In 1974 it was modified and awarded biennially for the best Technical Communication. In 1995, its value is \$200.

NZ Journal of Medical Laboratory Science, Vol 50, No. 4 1996



Richard Oswald Hilder was born on the 25th of June 1912 in Wellington. He was known as Dick. He married Eileen Short of Cambridge in 1936 and they had one son, Garry, in 1937.

Dick was a Leading Aircraftman in the Royal NZ Air Force during World War II.

The following information on his life comes from a website detailing the lives of those lost in World War II with a connection to Cambridge, NZ (which he had through his wife):

“He sat and passed his Proficiency Examination and Post Office Entrance Examination. He also served in the School Cadets for two years.

On leaving school Richard worked for four years with the Post Office, and then joined his father and brother in the family business, Messrs Hilder and Sons, who were transport operators. Richard was an active partner in the business, as a cartage contractor, until he joined the RNZAF in 1942.

Service Details: Richard joined the RNZAF at Rongotai on the 10th of July 1942, in the trade of Driver Petrol. He was later remustered to be reclassified a Driver (P) Mechanic. No doubt he required little training with his experience, and near the end of July he was posted to RNZAF Station Ohakea where he successfully passed his Trade Test on the 28th of September 1942.

On the 23rd of November 1942 Richard embarked for Tonga as a member of No. 15 Squadron, who were the first RNZAF Fighter Squadron to operate in the Pacific, with Curtiss P40 Kittyhawks they had taken over from an American unit in Tonga.

On the 1st of February 1943 Richard was reclassified with the rank of Leading Aircraftman.

Richard was invalided home to Whenuapai on the 10th of July 1943, and a month later he was transferred to Sick and Wounded, No. 1 Port Depot. This was purely an administrative unit title, and he was not actually at the port depot in downtown Auckland. He was actually gravely ill and was sent to the Military Annex of Auckland Public Hospital. A news report stated he “had been operated on a number of times for trouble which he had contracted whilst in the tropics.” He did not recover.

Details of Death: Richard Hilder died on Christmas Day, the 25th of December 1943, from illness, aged 31. At the time he was attached to the unit known as Sick and Wounded, 1 Port Depot, RNZAF Mangere, having been brought home from Guadalcanal.

Buried at: He is buried at Otorohanga Public Cemetery, plot 133.3”



Marion Eliza (May) Hilder

(1879-1954)



Marion (known as May) was the eldest child of Richard and Amelia. She was born on the 18th of September 1879 at evening time with Mrs John Long attending as midwife at the birth.⁶⁸ Richard Hilder wrote the following detailed account of the birth of his first child:

The Spring came early and all nature was grandly verdant. The men folk were ploughing for oat sowing on the afternoon of September 18th 1879. The warm fog hung about and sounds seemed very far away. The young wife became uneasy and called for assistance, her voice was heard dimly so the answer was somewhat delayed, but on the young husband appearing at the house he found the dear wife in the first pangs of child bearing.

Fortunately both husband and wife had come from households of numerous births so they both knew how to act and act promptly, so an old neighbour (Mrs John Long) was soon called on. She was a practical midwife who had frequently helped Richard Hilder's mother in similar circumstances and who knew she was to be called at this time.² There was no engagement of a doctor. Indeed such was almost impracticable for Dr Thomas Wilson lived 8 miles away and a fee of £10.10.0. Good Mrs Long's skill needed no such assistance and within an hour of her coming the young wife became the mother of her first child (a daughter). Later Mrs James Elliott of River Leven attended for a period of 3 weeks.

May started school at the age of 8, together with her younger brother Martin, in a local private school. See page 56 above for further details.

² "It was after widow O'Reilly had become Mrs John Long, and located at the small farm on Mooreville Road that her skilled services and kindly acts became so well known in the whole community, reaching from the Emu River to Cam River and back southward as far as settlement reached. From 1853 till the early seventies, she carried out her humane work. Seldom could she get a doctor's assistance, for during the greater part of this period no medical practitioner had settled nearer to Burnie than River Forth. But Mrs Long's adaptability had been so well fostered during her brief married life with Dr. O'Reilly that she was now a skillful midwife, and coupled with her skill, she had an active, vigorous body, a kind, cheerful voice, and ready fund of good Irish wit. With a steady will, she would leave her home at any time of day or night to render the assistance needed by her fellow women in their hours of stress. True, she was untrammelled by any board of health restrictions, so she succeeded admirably in the good work of assisting hundreds of infants into the rapidly increasing district, many of whom are still living in many parts, old men and women, the writer and several brothers and sisters among them. There was no thought of payment, but good services rendered ungrudgingly by a good woman." PIONEERS OF EMU BAY. Mrs J. Long Mooreville Road: An Honorable Record, *Advocate*, Wednesday 5 August 1925 p 11 Article by Richard Hilder

May married **Frank Hedley Fielding**, a blacksmith, on the 1st of May 1901 at the age of 21, in the Methodist Church, Burnie. Marion was described by her father as “a good daughter [who] had been her dear mother’s right hand for about six years” prior to marriage.

WEDDING BELLS. FIELDING—
HILDER.

The Burnie Methodist Church was crowded yesterday afternoon when Mr Frank H. Fielding of Penguin was united in matrimony to Miss Marion E. Hilder, eldest daughter of Mr Richard Hilder, of ‘Hill Farm’ Burnie. The ceremony was performed by the Rev C. Mason of Penguin, the bride being given away by her father. The bridesmaids were Miss E. Fielding (sister of the bridegroom), and Misses Olive and Hannah Hilder (sisters of the bride). Mr George Fielding (brother of the bridegroom) was best man, and Mr M. J. Hilder and Mr P. Taylor acted as groomsmen.

At 3 o’clock the bride, leaning on the arm of her father, entered the church followed by the bridal party. The bride was nicely attired in a pretty dress of cream lustre, with the usual veil and wreath, and carried a beautiful bouquet which had been arranged by her sister Miss O. Hilder. The

church was nicely decorated for the occasion with ferns and flowers, and an artistically constructed floral arch embowered the contracting parties. After the interesting ceremony the organist Mrs. E. Veitch, played an appropriate strain and the happy couple proceeded down the aisle, beneath showers of flower petals which thickened as they gained the carriage in waiting. Flower petals, by the way, are infinitely more comfortable and befitting as a testimony of good-will and nuptial gratulation than rice or old boots.

The party accompanied by relatives and friends to a considerable number, drove out to ‘Hill Farm’ where a wedding breakfast was partaken of and felicitations indulged in. The future home of Mr and Mrs Frank Fielding will be at Penguin.

The bride was the recipient of a considerable array of presents useful and pretty, testifying the good-will of her friends and acquaintances.

The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, 2 May 1901

May and Frank had four children, a son and three daughters born between 1902 and 1907. Their second child died at the age of 2 months while May was staying with her parents, Richard and Amelia:

Yesterday morning at about 3 o’clock the infant daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Fielding, of Penguin, succumbed to a sudden illness. Mrs Fielding was staying with her parents, Mr and Mrs R. Hilder and the child, which was two months old, took ill suddenly in the night. Dr Watson was summoned but before his arrival life was extinct. The funeral will take place to-morrow afternoon at Penguin.

The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, 19 October 1903

According to Richard Hilder, Frank became a Methodist local preacher while living in Penguin. In 1905, Frank was in the newspaper with the following oddity:

Freak of Nature.

MR. FRANK FIELDING is in possession of a curiosity in the shape of a live calf which has the head divided down the centre with two nostrils, one each side of the mouth. It will take food, and is likely to live. It may, perhaps, find its way to the Launceston show for exhibition.

The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, 2 October 1905

May and Frank moved to Melbourne around 1931, when they were in their 50s, living first in Camberwell, Kooyong and then in Oakleigh from about 1937.⁶⁹ They celebrated their golden

wedding anniversary there in May 1951. May's aunt, Ruth Cumming, her sister-in-law Margaret Hilder (Mrs Wenman Hilder) from New Zealand, and her cousin, Mrs Rundle (daughter of Susan Phillips, nee Hilder) were all present among others.

May died at the age of 74 on the 19th of February 1954 at the home of her daughter, Lorrie Thake, 10 Wrixon Ave, East Brighton, Melbourne. This was not far from where Frank and May had their house at 14 Bletchley Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne. Frank lived until 1961 when he died at the age of 84, in Cheltnam, Victoria.

Descendants of Marion Eliza (May) HILDER

Marion Eliza (May) HILDER b. 18 Sep 1879, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 19 Feb 1954, Wrixon Ave, East Brighton

+Frank Hedley FIELDING b. 1877, m. 1 May 1901, Methodist Church, Burnie, Tasmania, d. 1961, Cheltnam, Victoria, Australia, par. James FIELDING and Anne CLARK

— Keith Hedley FIELDING b. 23 Feb 1902, Penguin, Tasmania, d. 21 Aug 1987, Tasmania, Australia

— +Ruby Louisa HILLIER b. 7 Sep 1899, Beaconsfield, Tasmania, m. 22 Sep 1923, Launceston

— Keith Patrick (known as Patrick) FIELDING b. 24 Aug 1924, Beaconsfield, Tasmania, d. 9 Sep 1999, Tasmania, Australia

— +Alva Dorothy WATTERS b. 1922, Tasmania, Australia, m. 14 Oct 1948, d. 4 Nov 2001, Tasmania, Australia

— Cheryl Ann FIELDING b. 9 Oct 1952

— Patience Irene FIELDING b. 28 Aug 1903, Penguin, Tasmania, d. 19 Oct 1903, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia

— Loreen May (Lorrie) FIELDING b. 11 Nov 1904, Penguin, Tasmania, d. 1991, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

— +Norman Charles THAKE b. 1904, Richmond, Melbourne, Australia, m. Abt 1942, d. 1968, Prahan, Melbourne

— Helen May THAKE b. 6 Dec 1940, Brighton, Victoria, Australia, d. 6 Dec 1940, Brighton, Victoria, Australia

— Lynette Mary THAKE b. 6 Dec 1940, Brighton, Victoria, Australia

— +Gavin

— Andrew

— Richard

— Margaret THAKE

— +John TAUBMAN m. Jun 1965

— Nancy Hilder FIELDING b. 22 Mar 1907, Penguin, Tasmania, d. 7 Mar 1995, Korumburra, Victoria, Australia

— +Victor George BROOM b. 12 Jan 1911, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England, d. 20 Sep 2007, Wonthaggi, Victoria, Australia

— Loreen BROOM b. 1931

— +Allan Raymond NEAL b. 29 May 1918, Buckham, Victoria, Australia

— Ian NEAL

— Kerrie NEAL

— Gregory NEAL

— Judith NEAL

— Peter NEAL

— Margaret Anne BROOM

— +Geoffrey Jesse HOPWOOD b. 23 Feb 1930, Korumburra, Victoria, Australia, d. 5 Jul 2009, Korumburra, Victoria, Australia

— Jennifer Anne HOPWOOD b. 15 Sep 1956

— Philip HOPWOOD

— Christine HOPWOOD

— Malcolm HOPWOOD

— Kenneth HOPWOOD

— Unnamed BROOM b. 1933, d. 1933

Olive Elizabeth Hilder

(1883-1929)



Olive Elizabeth was born on the 25th of July 1883 just after midnight with Mrs John Long, midwife, attending at the birth, as she had for the two previous births.⁷⁰ Olive was the 3rd child of the family, and 2nd daughter.

Her father described her as “a vigorous child. But had small colored birthmarks on one cheek, not enough to disfigure but were generally visible. When about 15 years old, she developed hip disease in a mild form. Dr Rooke (who attended her) declared he had never met with a young girl of her age so perfectly developed in bodily stature and symmetry. Recovering, she became a special favorite of young and old people of both sexes and was a good natured godly spiritually minded young person passionately devoted to her home and to her church (Primitive Methodist) and one of the most ardent workers for a year after Methodist Union.”⁷¹

As a young woman, she first worked in domestic service in Burnie, and then in 1902 at the age of 19, went to Launceston to act as companion and nurse for an old lady, Mrs Bain until she died. She attended three similar invalids in Bracknell, Tasmania, Mrs Pitt, Mrs Pearn, and Miss Andrews.⁷²

In February 1904 (after attending her parents’ silver wedding anniversary) she went to Melbourne to act as nurse to her great-aunt Jane Stutterd (nee Russen), the younger sister of Olive’s grandmother, Eliza Ann Hales (nee Russen). In Richard’s words, she “undertook the tender duty to another elderly lady, smoothing her last days with efficiency and tenderness of heart.”⁷³

After Jane died at the age of 71 in May 1904, Olive married the widower Walter Stutterd on the 17th of November 1904. Walter, a photographer, had been 12 years younger than his first wife and was 59 when he married Olive who was 21. Richard Hilder, Olive’s father, noted that this was her third relationship with an older man and that the marriage was “not without a heavy protest by her parents. The disparity in their ages was great – practically a big bar.”⁷⁴

Richard claimed that “the union turned a very happy one”⁷⁵, although one of her grand-daughters (Heather Westerkamp) heard that the marriage was not a happy one.



Olive and Walter

Olive and Walter had two children, a daughter and then a son. “On the birth of her second child (a son) in 1908 she was very ill and her mother was called to assist and did so and remained 3 months, then on return she brought the young infant home to Hill Farm and nursed him to a fine child up till March 1910. The mother [Olive] never fully recovered from the effects of this birth. There were no more children.”⁷⁶



Olive with her parents and children, at their home

Walter died in Dandenong, Victoria, on the 19th of September 1923 at the age of 77. Only 6 years later, Olive died at the age of 45 from Hemiplegia and Cerebral Haemorrhage in Sale, Gippsland on the 6th of March 1929. Her obituary appeared in *The Examiner* as follows:

The late Mrs Stutterd

Mrs Olive Elizabeth Stutterd, the notice of whose death appeared in “The Examiner” on Friday last, and whose death occurred after a long illness in the hospital at Sale, Victoria, was the second daughter of Mr and the late Mrs Richard Hilder, well-known residents of Burnie. Mrs Stutterd was born at Hill Farm, Mooreville road, Burnie. She grew up to young womanhood in that district, and was of striking personality, and will be well remembered yet for her activities in connection with the Burnie Methodist Church. She was also well known in Launceston 25 years ago and spent some time in the Bracknell district. Removing

to Melbourne, she married the late Mr Walter Stutterd, and spent the remainder of her life at Malvern, Dandenong Road, Dandenong and Sale (Victoria), always in forward movements for the Presbyterian Church and was liberal to the poor and distressed. Six months ago she was smitten with paralysis, from which she made no recovery. She leaves a son and daughter, grown up. Miss Stutterd is attached to the domestic science staff at the Sale High School.

The Examiner, 11 March 1929

Olive died before her father, although he was already quite ill. He was particularly upset at her death, writing in a letter to his son Milton in New Zealand on 11 March 1929:

“Dear Olive died in Sale Hospital on Wed 6th after over 6 months helplessness and sorrow. May managed to reach her before she died and says her death was peaceful though she could not speak for several days. Tasma has had a long trying time without a single relative of her fathers or mothers kindred near her. Sale is 130 miles from Melbourne. Only Uncle Will Hales and one of his sons, May & Tasma were there when she was buried at Sale on afternoon of 7th March out of all the relations on both sides. Cleve Stutterd’s whereabouts are unknown. He has not visited or written to his mother or sister since July. I have all along feared of him falling into bad ways. I have heard rumours before. May God grant he will see about his mother’s death and come and see Tasma. ... This blow has shaken me more than your dear mother’s death.”

Olive’s son Cleve moved to New Zealand and therefore Olive has descendants in that country.



*Olive with her father,
Richard Hilder*

Descendants of Olive Elizabeth HILDER

Olive Elizabeth HILDER b. 25 Jul 1883, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 6 Mar 1929, Sale, Gippsland, Australia

+Walter STUTTERD b. 7 Oct 1845, Banbury, Oxfordshire, UK, m. 17 Nov 1904, home of Walter Stutterd, d. 19 Sep 1923, Dandenong, Victoria

Tasma STUTTERD b. 5 Jan 1906, d. 16 Jun 1976, Yarram, Victoria, Australia

+George McDonald (Don) THOMPSON b. 1905, m. 22 Feb 1930, Sale, Victoria, Australia, d. 18 Mar 1981, Sale

Ian McDonald THOMPSON b. 30 Apr 1931, Sale, Victoria, Australia

+Wilma Beryl GRAHAM b. 26 Sep 1933, Werribee, Victoria, Australia

Marshall THOMPSON b. 8 Sep 1957, Yarram, Victoria, Australia

+Tracey Anne McPHEE b. 26 Feb 1963, Portland, Victoria, Australia

Ashley THOMPSON b. 26 Jul 1985, Sale, Victoria, Australia

+Patricia WETTON b. 20 Sep 1983, Sale, Victoria, Australia

Jude Graeme THOMPSON b. 3 Nov 2014, Sale, Victoria, Australia

Winnie Rose THOMPSON b. 7 Jun 2017, Sale, Victoria, Australia

Stephanie THOMPSON b. 7 Apr 1988, Sale, Victoria, Australia

+Mitchell Dean BELL b. 29 Nov 1991, Sale, Victoria, Australia

Hamish Dean BELL b. 21 Mar 2017, Sale, Victoria, Australia

Zara Grace BELL b. 2 Aug 2018, Sale, Victoria, Australia

Felicity THOMPSON b. 27 Jan 1990, Sale, Victoria, Australia

Stacey THOMPSON b. 16 Jul 1991, Sale, Victoria, Australia

+Samuel Francis BREAKSPEAR b. 27 Aug 1991, Nowra, Australia

Lauryn THOMPSON b. 16 Aug 1959, Yarram, Victoria, Australia

+Neil HULME b. 14 Apr 1958, Orbost, Victoria, Australia

Mikael HULME b. 21 May 1988, Orbost, Victoria, Australia

Alex HULME b. 24 Sep 1990, Orbost, Victoria, Australia

Nick HULME b. 27 Sep 1995, Orbost, Victoria, Australia

Evan THOMPSON b. 28 Oct 1960, Yarram, Victoria, Australia

+Lauren Kay MORGAN b. 18 Jul 1964, Warragul, Victoria, Australia

Cassandra THOMPSON b. 5 Apr 1992, Victoria, Australia

Mitchell THOMPSON b. 30 Sep 1994, Victoria, Australia

James THOMPSON b. 6 Jan 1996, Victoria, Australia

Vaughan THOMPSON b. 19 Feb 1962, Yarram, Victoria, Australia, d. 2 Sep 1985

Rhys THOMPSON b. 24 Mar 1966, Yarram, Victoria, Australia

+Katherine Anne (Kathy) TAYLOR b. 27 Jun 1966

Lachlan THOMPSON b. 14 Dec 1996, Wantirna, Victoria, Australia

Pippa THOMPSON b. 19 Nov 1998, Wantirna, Victoria, Australia

Campbell THOMPSON b. 7 Mar 2001, Wantirna, Victoria, Australia

Meredith THOMPSON b. 15 Apr 1971, Yarram, Victoria, Australia

+Michael CONNAUGHTON b. 12 Mar 1956, East Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Mia CONNAUGHTON b. 7 Oct 2003, Box Hill, Victoria, Australia

Niall THOMPSON b. 11 Sep 1973, Yarram, Victoria, Australia

+Tania Josephine KONDRES b. 10 Feb 1974, Malvern, Victoria, Australia, m. 19 Jan 2008

Andrew Vaughan THOMPSON b. 6 Apr 2009, Malvern, Victoria, Australia

Olivia Josephine Elizabeth THOMPSON b. 15 Sep 2015, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Lois Hylda THOMPSON b. 11 Apr 1935, Sale, Victoria, Australia, d. 10 Nov 1993, Tynong, Victoria

+Gerald CROWLEY b. 4 Oct 1935, Melbourne, Australia, m. 3 Feb 1958, Melbourne Registry Office, d. 21 Mar 1985, Koo Wee Rup, Victoria

Janice Patricia CROWLEY b. 5 Apr 1958, Carlton, Victoria, Australia

+Garry Ronald JANSEN b. 14 Oct 1955, Mt Lawley, Western Australia, m. 19 Sep 1981, Uniting Church, Richmond, Victoria

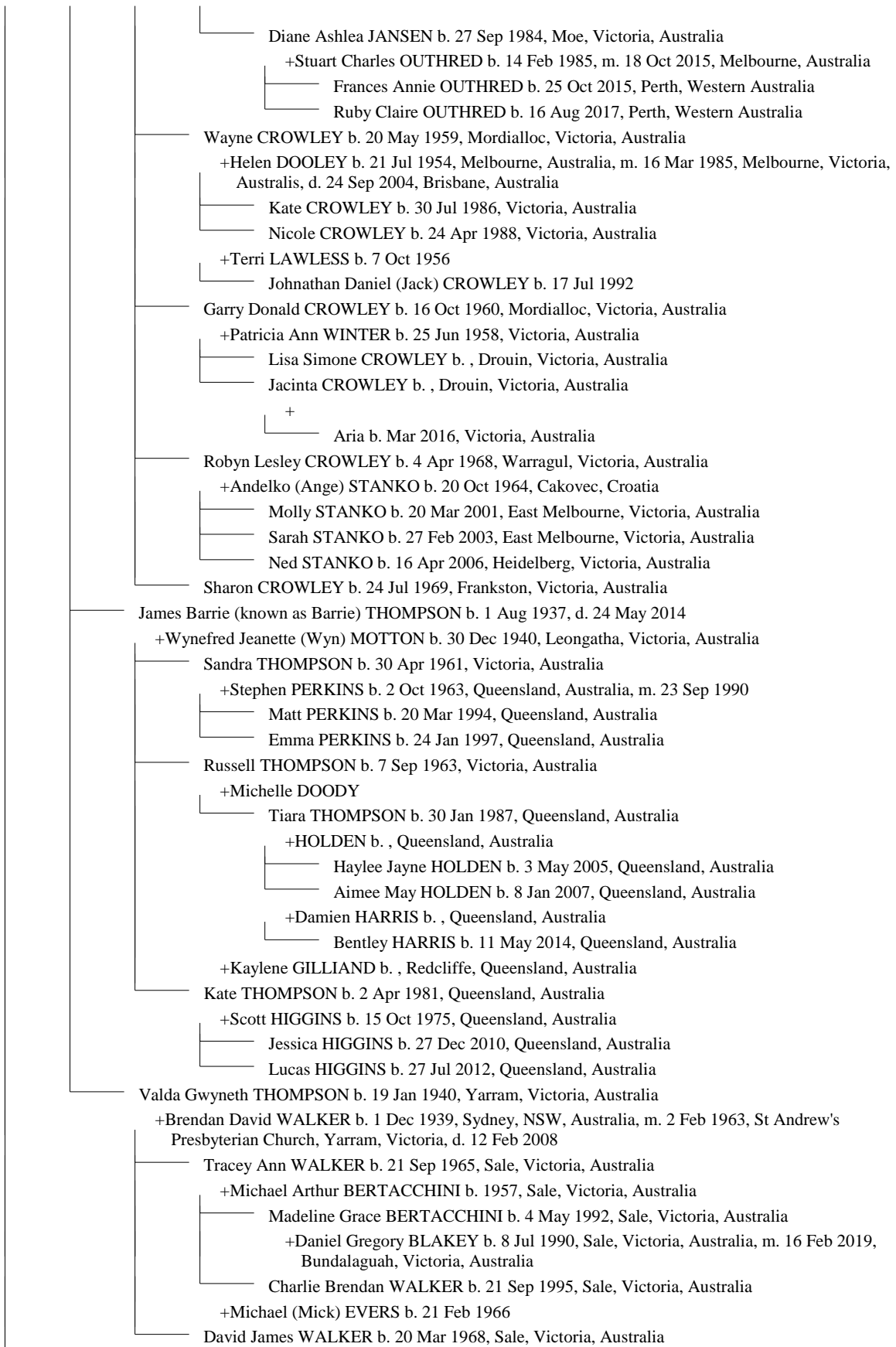
Andrew Mark JANSEN b. 6 Apr 1983, Moe, Victoria, Australia

+Megan Marie STEVENS b. 17 Nov 1980, Perth, Western Australia, m. 15 Mar 2013, Perth, Western Australia

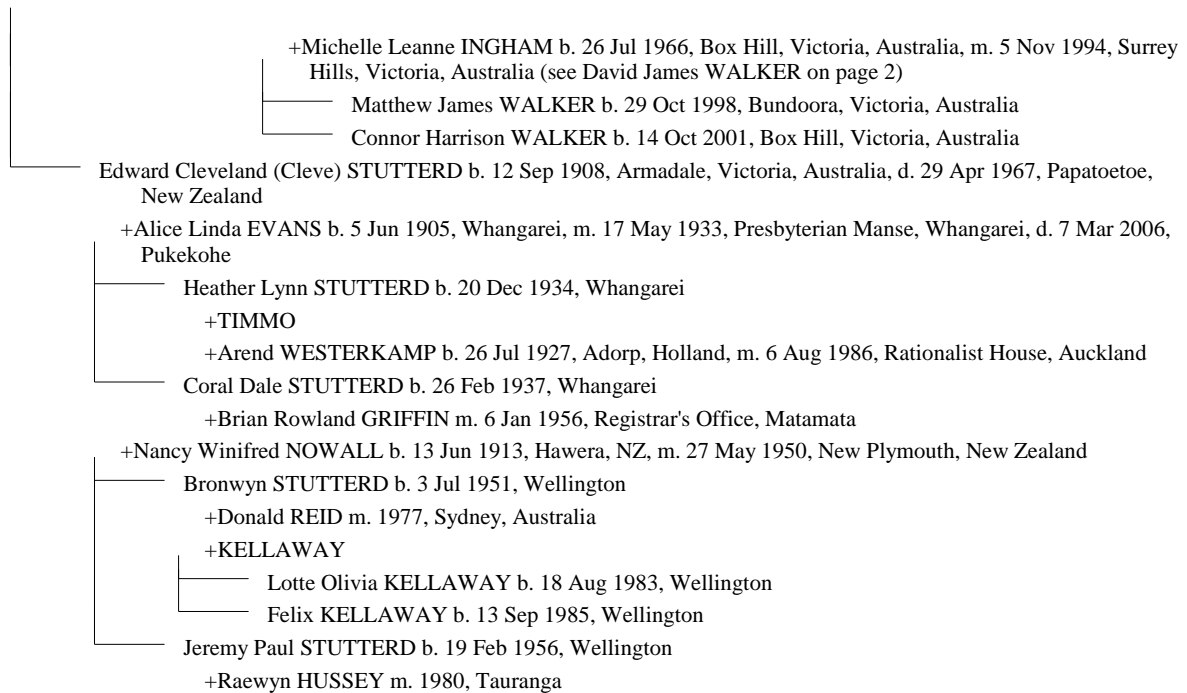
Isla Marie JANSEN b. 20 Jun 2015, Melbourne, Australia

Edward Mark JANSEN b. 16 Mar 2017, Melbourne, Australia

Descendants of Olive Elizabeth HILDER



Descendants of Olive Elizabeth HILDER



Hannah Amelia (Nan) Hilder

(1885-1940)

Hannah Amelia (known as Nan) was born on the 22nd of June 1885 on a bitter frosty morning, with Mrs John Long, midwife, again attending at the birth (her fourth and final attendance for the family).⁷⁷ Hannah was the fourth child of the family, and third daughter.

As a young woman, Nan spent some time with her married sister in Melbourne, Olive Stutterd. She is pictured below as a member of a Methodist Church group in Burnie (second from left), probably in the early 1900s. Her aunt Ruth (who was only 10 years older than her) is second from right.



In 1911, at the age of 26, Nan followed her father to New Zealand to keep house for him while he recuperated from a nervous illness and worked as home missionary at Kawakawa in the Bay of Islands (filling in for his son Martin who was unwell).

After her father returned to Tasmania in May 1912, Hannah remained in New Zealand until the end of the following year. This may have had something to do with the fact that she had met her future husband, George Graham, at the wedding of her brother, Milton, in December 1911.

George Adam Templeton Graham was a younger brother of the bride at the wedding (Annie Graham) and appears to have followed Nan back to Tasmania where they married on the 2nd of April 1914 at the Methodist Church in Burnie, Tasmania. Hannah was 28 and George was four years her junior at 24.

George was a builder and joiner. Nan and George had two children. More information on George, their children and descendants is found on page 172.



*Hannah and George on their wedding day in 1914
Photo courtesy of Bob and Trixie French*

Hannah died suddenly at the age of 55 on the 13th of July 1940 in Burnie. Her death was reported as follows:

Mrs. H. A. Graham, Burnie

The death occurred suddenly at her home in Mornington Street, Upper Burnie, on Saturday evening of Mrs. Hannah Amelia Graham, wife of Mr. George Adam Templeton Graham, a well-known Burnie builder.

Just before 8 p.m. on Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. Graham were preparing to go to a party. Mrs. Graham went to the bath-room to take a bath. Soon afterwards her husband heard her fall. He rushed in and found that she had collapsed. He took her to another room and then went for assistance. He then returned and put his wife to bed.

Shortly afterwards, Dr. W. A. Fleming arrived, and found life extinct. Deceased had suffered from acute blood pressure. A postmortem examination was held yesterday, and revealed that death was due to natural causes.

The late Mrs. Graham leaves a family of two, a daughter (Mrs. C. Aylett, of Cooe) and a son (Mr. T. Graham). The funeral will take place at the Wivenhoe cemetery this afternoon.

The Advocate, Monday 15 July 1940

Memorial Service:

A memorial service in memory of the late Mrs. Hannah Amelia Graham was held in the Methodist Church on Sunday evening, Rev. H. Chambers officiating. Mrs. Graham was a lifelong member of the Methodist Church, and was a daughter of the late Mr. Richard Hilder. Mrs. Graham was a member of the Ladies' Guild, members of which occupied the front pews of the church on Sunday evening. Mr. T. Graham, son of deceased, had to leave for the mainland on military duty. Mr. Chambers spoke on "The Marks of a True Christian," based on the life of Mrs. Graham. A solo was sung by Mr. Rod Lyne.

The Advocate, 30 July 1940

George remarried and lived to the age of 78. He died on the 4th of December 1967 in Burnie.

Sarah Jane Doris Hilder (Dorrie/Doris/Dot)

(1892-1975)

Sarah Jane Doris was born on the 21st of July 1892 on a warm sunny afternoon, with Miss Summerfield and a lady visitor attending at birth.⁷⁸ She was the 7th-born child and 4th and youngest daughter of the family.

Aged about 19, she was at home with her mother when her father, Richard, spent a year in New Zealand in 1911. By the time World War I was starting, Doris was at Armadale.

By 1915, Doris had begun training to be a nurse, but did not serve in the army.⁷⁹

In 1932, her father noted in his memoir that she remained unmarried but wedded to her profession as a nurse, aged 40.

She worked as a nurse in Melbourne for a time at least, as she is mentioned in the obituary of her uncle, Robert George Hales, to whose aid she rushed when he suddenly fell ill and died in 1936.⁸⁰

In 1937, she returned home for a time from Melbourne to help care for her father on his discharge from hospital when he had suffered some rare and severe disease in his foot. She was overseas on a trip to Colombo to meet with a friend when her father died in 1938.⁸¹

Variously known as Dorrie, Doris or Dot, she is pictured below with her brothers, Wenman (on the left) and Milton (Jim) (on the right), on a visit to New Zealand in about 1961 or '62.



She died in Kew, Victoria on the 31st of December 1975 at the age of 83.

Basil Richard Hilder

(1894-1915)



Basil Richard (known as Dick⁸²) was born on the 7th of November 1894 in the very early morning with Mrs James Davis, professional midwife, attending at birth.⁸³ He was the 8th child and 4th son of the family.

According to his father, “he was educated at the Burnie State School, and became a cadet among the military units in the town. He followed farming pursuits after leaving school, and grew rapidly to vigorous young manhood. During 1911 he left Tasmania and became a much-esteemed resident of King Island.”⁸⁴ He was 18 when he left Tasmania and on King Island worked as a labourer,⁸⁵ and had a girlfriend by the name of Miss Tatnell.⁸⁶

In May 1915, at the age of 20, Basil enlisted as a private with the Australian Imperial Force at the same time as his younger brother Arden. His father wrote a letter in support of him enlisting under the age of 21. He and Arden set sail from Melbourne on the 4th of June 1915 on the “Ajana” bound for Zeitoun in Egypt. He was with the 6th reinforcements of the 15th Battalion, No. 2290.⁸⁷



According to his service record, his battalion arrived on Gallipoli on the 2nd of August 1915. By the 8th, he had been killed in action. As Richard Hilder described it:

Pte. Hilder, with his contingent, was actually on Gallipoli ... occupying some of the original dugouts of the storming troops of the A.I.F. who made Australia famous on April 25, 1915.

Early in August General Sir Ian Hamilton was preparing for his great attack on Chunuk Bair and Hill 971, inland north-east of the original Anzac area. By August 6 the preparations were considered complete, and the raw recruits of the 15th Battalion, who three months before were civilian workers, enjoying the comfort of home in Tasmania, were called to do their part in dislodging the Turks from their strongly entrenched positions

Basil was one of many who lost their lives there. He was originally reported as having been wounded early in August and his parents received a telegram to this effect on the 14th of September.⁸⁸ A week later, their receipt of a postcard from Basil was reported:

Mrs. Richard Hilder, of Burnie, received a postcard from her son, Private Basil R. Hilder, on Saturday. It was written from "Gallipoli Dugouts" on August 3, several days before he was wounded. He was then in good spirits, and said that his brother, Arden Hilder, had caught the measles, and had to go into hospital at Zetoun Camp, Egypt.

"PERSONAL PARTICULARS." Examiner, 21 Sep 1915

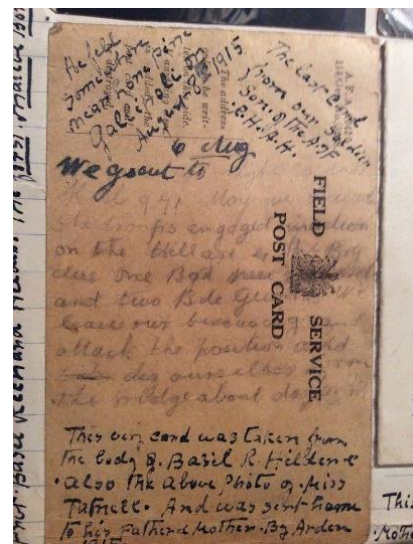
It was not until the 28th of September that his parents were advised of his death:

Rev. F. J. Rankin had sad news to break to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hilder of King street, Burnie, yesterday afternoon, an official report from the Defence Department having reached him that their son, Private B. R. Hilder, had fallen in action, on 8th August whilst assisting to capture Anafarta heights. Private Hilder was reported wounded on 8th August, but no particulars could be obtained until yesterday, which told of his death in action. The telegram conveyed the deepest sympathy for the stricken parents. This is the first break in the family of 10 sons and daughters.

Private Hilder only left Tasmania on June 2 with the 6th Reinforcements, 15th Battalion, having volunteered from King Island about a month before. The second son of Mr. and Mrs. Hilder is at Gallipoli, and the youngest, A. R. Hilder (Fred) is about to leave Tasmania with the 11th Reinforcements of 15th Battalion.

The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Wednesday 29 September 1915

A photo of Miss Tatnell was found on his body and an uncompleted trench card written 2 days before his death:



The trench card reads:

6th Aug.: We go out to-night to take Hill 971: may we succeed. The troops engaged in action are the 4th Brigade Infantry, one brigade of New Zealanders, and two brigades of Gurkas. We leave our bivouac and attack the positions, and dig ourselves in about daylight.⁸⁹

Richard Hilder further noted:

The card and other personal belongings were taken from Pte. B. R. Hilder's body (discovered on the battle field) and actually reached his parents at King Street, Burnie, on New Year's Day, 1916.

Among the personal belongings returned was the identification disc, 2290, B. R. Hilder, 15 A.I.F.⁹⁰

The following notices appeared in the local Tasmanian newspaper:

KILLED IN ACTION. HILDER.- Fell in action, at the severe battle on Gallipoli Heights, August 8th, Private Basil Richard Hilder, 6th Reinforcements, 15th Battalion, A.I.F., the beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hilder of King street, Burnie; born at Hill Farm, Mooreville Road, and late of King Island, from which place he volunteered. Died heroically in the cause of right, in his 21st year. For King and Empire and Native Land.

The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tuesday 5 October 1915

RETURN THANKS Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hilder and Family, of King street, Burnie, desire to return THANKS to all kind friends, far and near, for the letters, cards and messages of sympathy extended to them in their loss of their son, Private Basil R. Hilder, who fell in action at Gallipoli, August 8. For King and Empire and Native Land.

The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Thursday 21 October 1915

According to Richard Hilder, Basil was "the first native born lad of the Emu bay Municipality to fall in action for freedom's redemption".⁹¹ Basil's mother, Amelia was seriously affected by his death, suffering "heartbreak of the loss and uncertain burying place of her dear son", and subsequent serious health problems and "was never again the vigorous woman of her earlier years".⁹²

Memorials

At least one brother in New Zealand placed a memorial notice in the newspaper a year later:

HILDER. Loving memory of our dear brother Basil, who died at sea of wounds received on Gallipoli. on August 8. 1915. - Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Milton J. T. and Annie Hilder. Kaihu. Northern Wairoa.

NZ Herald, 11 August 1916, Page 1

In 1919, Basil's name was among those inscribed on marble tablets installed in Burnie Methodist Church, beneath the rose window.

Three nephews born in the decade following his death were given Basil's name: Hannah and Wenman each gave a son the name Basil as a middle name (Thompson Basil in 1918 and Colin Basil in 1920, respectively) and Milton James named his 1st son Basil James (in 1924).

In 1920, a memorial was created in his honour at West Park, Burnie.

A.I.F. MEMORIAM, TREE AT WEST PARK. Mr. and Mrs. R. Hilder and family have erected a fence of neat design around a pine tree which was planted five years ago. The fence is painted chocolate and dark blue, these being the 15th Battalion colours. A shield shaped

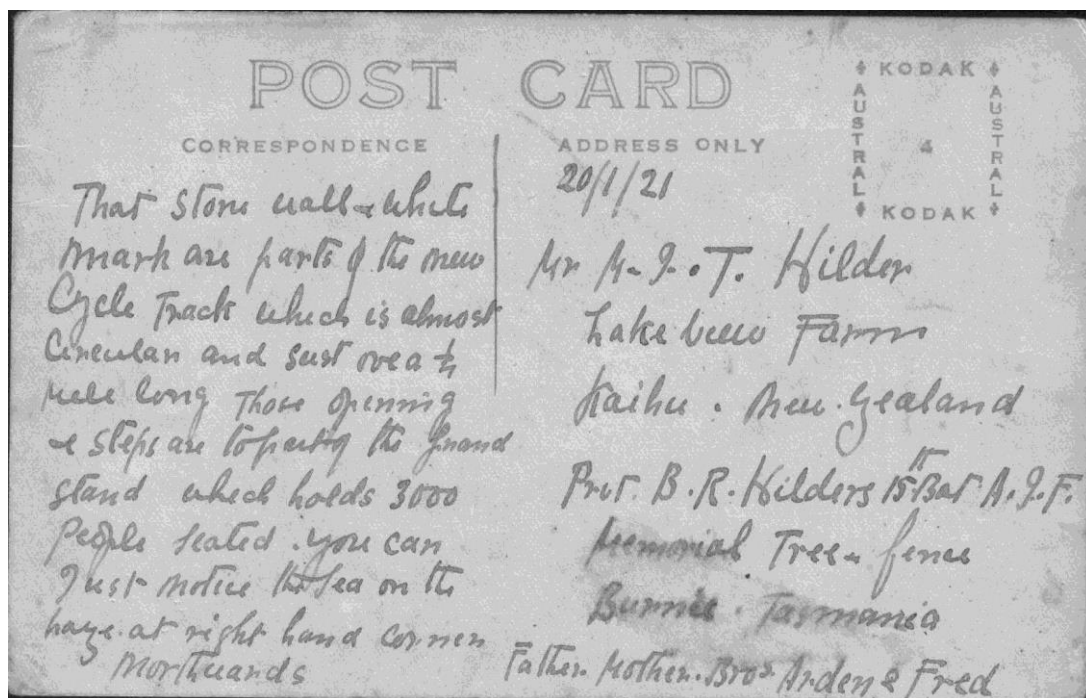
tablet with gold lettering, erected on a corner of the fence facing the entrance to the park, contains the following inscription:-“This memorial tree is in evergreen memory of Private Basil R. Hilder, 15th Battalion, A.I.F., who fell at Lone Pine, Gallipoli, August 8, 1915. He was the fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hilder, of Burnie, and the first native-born soldier of this municipality to give his life in the great war for freedom, 1914-1918. God save the King.” The tree is an ornament to West Park, and should incite other societies or persons to further improve the park and perpetuate the fallen.

Examiner (Launceston, Tas. : 1900-1954) Wednesday 22 December 1920

In 1921, Richard Hilder sent the following postcard to his son Milton James in New Zealand, showing the memorial:



Arden, Amelia, Richard and Fred Hilder



Basil Richard's name is recorded on the memorial at Lone Pine, Gallipoli. "...in the Official Memorial Register, No. 6, of the Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli, appears the following record:

Hilder, Pte., Basil Richard, 2290, 15th Batt. Killed in action 8th August, 1915. Age 20. Son of Richard and Amelia Hilder, of King street, Burnie West, Tasmania."⁹³

In 1929, Richard and Amelia Hilder accepted an offer for a rubbing to be made of the inscription, and the following article appeared in the *Advocate*.

**WHERE OUR HEROES SLEEP; Anzac Memorial at Lone Pine.
A GRACIOUS ACT APPRECIATED.**

By RICHARD HILDER.

SOME time ago a request appeared in "The Advocate" urging the parents or relatives to supply particulars of any soldiers of the A.I.F. who had fallen at Lemnos Island or Gallipoli, to a resident of Ulverstone, who would send such particulars to a lady residing in England, who with her husband was contemplating a visit to the various cemeteries at Lemnos and Gallipoli. This lady undertook to ascertain the facts and forward same direct to those who made the information available. The writer and his late wife were the only responders and gladly accepted the offer of Mrs. Williams-Ellis, of England, who forwarded the following letter, for which the writer is extremely appreciative, and deeply regrets that the dear mother, to whom it was sent, had died before it arrived at its destination, King street, Burnie, Tasmania.

Stanbridge Crossways,
Romsey, Hants,
England.

Dear Mrs. Hilder,

I am sending you two photographs which I know you will dearly cherish and you will especially like to possess the rubbing I took of the actual name of your son as it is cut on one of the tablets in Lone Pine cemetery. The press photographer came along and took the picture of me as I knelt, making the rubbing in my left-handed way. In the big picture, my husband is standing exactly over the tablet on which your son's name is cut, and I send you this picture to give you an idea of the arrangement of these tablets recording the names of the missing, and also to show you the great Australian Memorial, and one half of Lone Pine cemetery.

When my husband and I made the pilgrimage to Gallipoli there were only two Australians and one New Zealander in the party of over 300. The rest were English. The Australians, my husband and I and the photographer were (with an English bereaved father and mother) the only persons to visit the Lone Pine cemetery. I had expected to see a wild piece of land, a real pine tree, no gravestones, and a tablet on the tree. We were dumb with surprise to find a huge cemetery with the Australian Memorial in the centre of it. The Memorial is raised on massive blocks of granite, very high, and is itself so big that a person standing beside it looks the size of a fly. The Memorial takes the form of a bare chapel, no seats, no altar, nothing but the building, a wonderfully pure and beautiful piece of architecture, with bronze doors, opened the day we went there. My husband and I and the two English parents went in first with our laurel wreaths, and knelt on the floor in prayer and in honor of those thousands and thousands of dead heroic souls.

It was some time before we found that the names of the missing were on the stone wall in the centre of the cemetery, arranged in battalions, just names, close together, one under the other. Those thousands and thousands of names staggered one - it was unthinkable, terrible, cruel - only it was Holy Ground, and we spoke in whispers in the invisible presence of that Great Army whose names are written in glory everlasting. In front of the wall of tablets you will see the altar-like block, such as in every war cemetery, called the "Stone of Remembrance and Altar of Sacrifice." On it is engraved, "Their Name Liveth For Evermore." I lay special stress on this, as some months ago I saw in one of your Australian weeklies an enlarged picture of one of these "Altars of Sacrifice,"

and beneath the picture it stated it was the Australian Memorial. That is incorrect. The "Altar of Sacrifice" is in every cemetery. The Australian Memorial is the large chapel in Lone Pine cemetery.

The headstones, you will notice, are like little pillows, raised very little from the ground, on account of sand storms, I understood. They just gave the name and number and rank and regiment of the man buried, and in addition a text chosen by his wife or family. In some instances I noticed the words were a message of love from some bereaved parents or sisters.

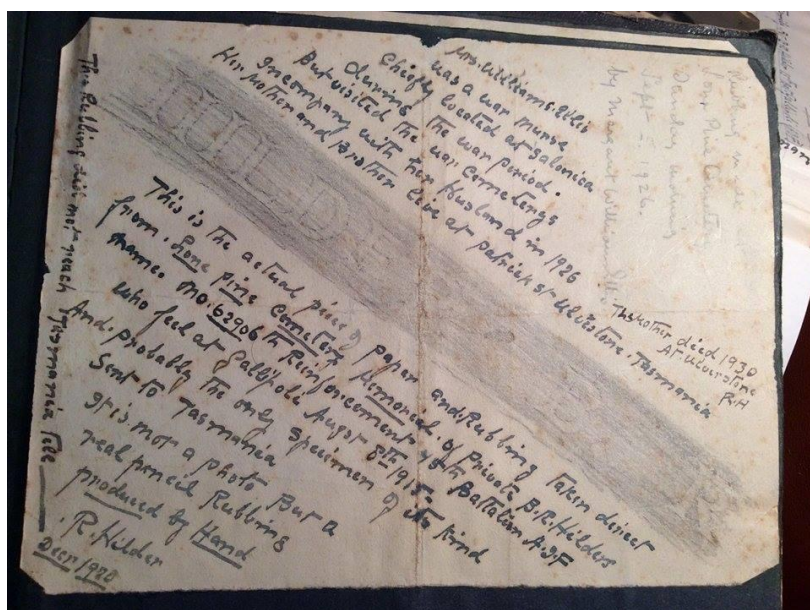
When we were there (September) the grass was all dried up and yellow. The man in charge of the cutting of stones at Kelia Bay told me the grass is wonderfully green in spring. The cemetery was surrounded by a wire fence, then a very deep ditch, and at one side we remarked a 500-gallon (or more) cistern for collecting rain water for use on the grass and shrubs. The little bushes you see in the photographs are all rosemary – "for remembrance." I am sending my mother a piece for you that I cut from the bush nearest to your son's name. My husband and I visited on foot and in terrific heat 11 Australian cemeteries, and wrote down names and texts at random in case some mother would like to hear, but so far I have never published those lists – Johnson's Jolly, Pink Farm, Green Hill, 4th Battalion, Shrapnel Valley, Beach Cemetery.

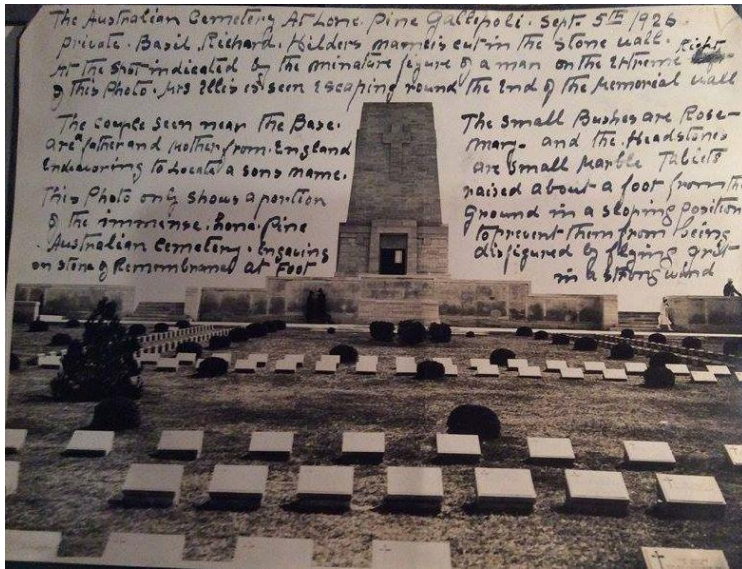
We were driven to Lone Pine cemetery, whence we made our way on foot to all the others. We walked down Shrapnel Valley to Anzac Beach, a virtual Valley of Death, it must have been. What a landing, what a desperate attack! Surely of all the landing beaches Anzac was the most terrible and withal the most glorious! No word of mine could do justice to such a tragic and dramatic epic. John Galsworthy, in his volume "Gallipoli," has done a noble work to bring before the world what the marvellous Australians did at Gallipoli. I do not think the English even guess at it.

I thought on the steamer during that trip they were jealous of most of the glory and credit going to the Australians, and certainly, at a meeting after we left Gallipoli, a motion was put and carried by a large majority to endeavor to have "Anzac Day" altered to "Gallipoli Day." The motion was put by an Irishman who had emigrated to New Zealand and later served with the New Zealand troops. I mention this to show how little the world at large realises and knows what the Anzacs - the "Diggers" - did at Gallipoli. I am thankful to have been able to get the "rubbing" for you, and so let you see your dear son's name.

Yours very truly, MARGARET WILLIAMS-ELLIS.

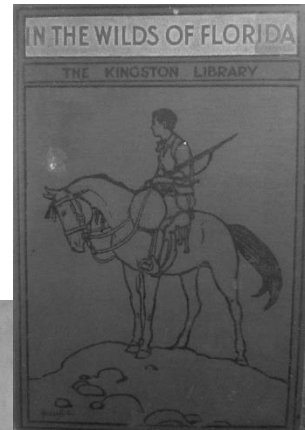
From: WHERE OUR HEROES SLEEP. *The Advocate* (Burnie, Tas.), 1 June 1929, p. 14.





Mrs Williams-Ellis making a rubbing of B.R. Hilder's name on the Lone Pine Memorial, 1929

In 1921, Basil's parents presented a book that he had won as a Sunday School prize in 1908 (at age 14) to Basil's nieces in New Zealand: Margaret, Myrtle and Jessie Hilder (daughters of Milton James).



For Maggie, Myrtle & Jessie Hilder.

The Sunday Prize Book of
Their Soldier Uncle Basil
who gave his life for a great
cause. Falling at Gallipoli
August 8th 1915

Presented By
Grandfather and Grandmother
Hilder of Burnie
Tasmania
November
1921

Arden Arthur Harold Hilder

(1896-1980)



Arden Arthur Harold was born on the 12th of September 1896 in the early morning with Amelia's eldest daughter (May, aged 17) attending till Mrs Thomas Hearps, professional midwife, hastily arrived.⁹⁴ He was the 9th child and 5th son of the family.

During World War I, he enlisted for the army on the 21st of May 1915 at the age of 18, at the same time as his older brother Basil. His father wrote a letter stating his support for his son enlisting at this young age:

King St
Burris West
May 18th 1915

To all whom it may concern

This is to
Certify that Arden Arthur Harold Hilder
aged under 19 years has my full and
free consent (and his mothers also) to enlist
as a Tasmanian Soldier for reinforcements
of previous sections already under orders
or in camp.

May God defend the right
God Save the King

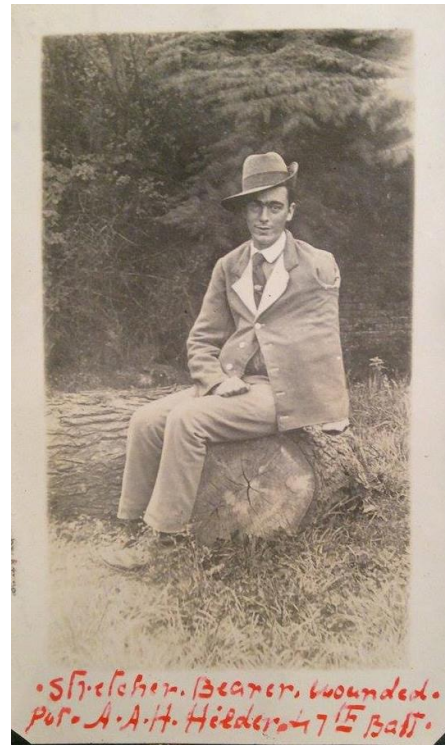
I am loyally yours
Richard Hilder
Father of
A.A. Hilder
A real good son

Arden and Basil both embarked from Melbourne on the 4th of May 1915 on the 'Ajana' bound for Zeitoun, Egypt. Arden was initially assigned to the 15th Battalion like his brother but, having suffered a bout of measles in Egypt,⁹⁵ was sent to Gallipoli later than Basil (September). He was later transferred to the 47th Battalion in 1916. He was wounded in the shoulder in 1917 and invalided home.

BURNIE
HOME AGAIN.

Private Arden H. Hilder returned home to Burnie by Saturday night's train, after having seen lengthy service abroad with the A.I.F. He was one of a large party who were invalided home, who returned to Tasmania by the Loongana on Saturday morning. In June last Pte. Hilder was shot through the shoulder by a German sniper, during the engagement at Messines, and it was on this account that he was invalided home. He was met at the station by a large party of relatives and friends, who gave him a hearty welcome.

The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, 25 March 1918, p. 2

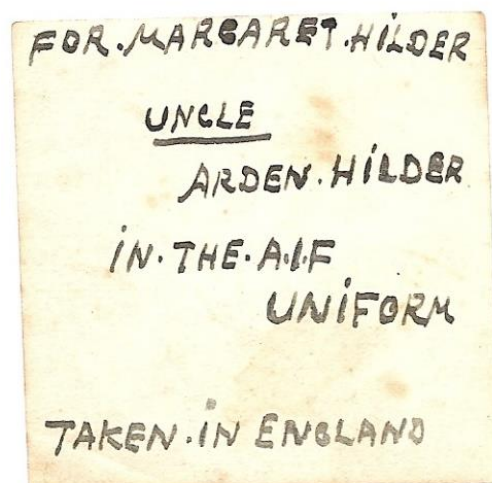


BURNIE SOLDIER'S RECORD

Pte. Arden Hilder, who returned from the front some weeks ago, is at present in the Launceston Base Hospital undergoing further treatment for his injured arm. This young soldier participated in ten different engagements on the West front, including Pozieres and Messines. At the latter battle in June last year, while engaged in aiding a wounded comrade he was struck with a bullet

from a sniper to the left shoulder, and the missile penetrated the lungs. His assistance on this occasion to Sergt. Alex. James, of Longford; who subsequently died from wounds, did not go unrewarded, as the following shows [indecipherable text follows but something about a Major General congratulating him.]

The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, 29 March 1918, p. 2



Engagement and married life

Arden's best mate in the Army was Pte Alec James, who was killed in the war in 1917 (as mentioned in the newspaper article above). Arden wrote to the family after Alec's death and in 1918 was invalided home to Launceston General Hospital. Alec James had been the favourite brother of his sister Agnes Mary (known as Mollie) who was working nearby at Cressy. In the words of Arden's daughter, Dorothy Hambidge:

What was more natural than that she should go and visit her favourite brother's best mate who had been wounded whilst fighting for King and Country? The fact that she was engaged to (wait for it) Mr Jones the butcher at the time did not deter that young man who, despite having had half his left shoulder shot away, swept her off her feet from his hospital bed!

Arden reportedly spent all his gratuity pay on an engagement ring (which was handed down to their daughter).⁹⁶ They married on the 24th of March 1920 in a private house in Longford. They had one daughter, Dorothy, born in 1933.



*Arden and Mollie, soon after their wedding
Photo courtesy of Dorothy Hambidge*

The couple farmed most of their lives in Yolla.⁹⁷ Dorothy described their life:

They were always hard-up, farming was all he knew and they cleared virgin land and existed on that 'mixed' farm - potatoes, dairy cows and oats.

Mum put me in a Moses basket and took me out in the paddock with them when I was only a few weeks old. She worked like a man on that farm, then had to come home to a wood stove, cold water tap in the kitchen and no mod cons to produce a meal for a hungry man - 6 ft and 14 stone eventually although he wouldn't have been that heavy when they were first married.

During the Depression they lived on rabbits and their own garden produce. I never knew we were poor until I had been married some years - somehow they found money for school uniforms etc for me, paid board when I had to stay with mum's bridesmaid while going to high school, even money for a piano and lessons.

In 1936, Arden was a beneficiary of his uncle Robert George Hales, receiving 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of the estate, plus half of his mother's share of 13 $\frac{1}{3}$ % as she had predeceased her brother. The other half his mother's share went to his brother, Alfred.

When Arden could no longer farm, they moved to Burnie where Arden worked as a cleaner for the Post Office and later retired in 1962 to Murray Bridge in South Australia where his daughter was living.^{98,99} Mollie died in 1972. Arden's final residence was in Resthaven, Swanport Road, Murray Bridge.¹⁰⁰ He was buried in the Murray Bridge Cemetery on 29th of December 1980.

Descendants of Arden Arthur Harold HILDER

Arden Arthur Harold HILDER b. 12 Sep 1896, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 25 Dec 1980, Murray Bridge, SA

+Agnes Mary (Mollie) JAMES b. 1892, m. 24 Mar 1920, Private House, Longford, Tasmania, d. 22 Nov 1972, Murray Bridge, SA

└── Dorothy Sophia HILDER b. 21 Dec 1933, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia

 +Michael George HAMBIDGE b. 20 Aug 1935, m. 9 May 1959, Burnie Baptist Church, Tasmania

 └── Peter Michael HAMBIDGE b. 3 Mar 1963, Adelaide, Australia

 +Coral NICHOLAI b. 1 Apr 1966, m. 1 Jun 1985, Adelaide, Australia

 └── Josh HAMBIDGE b. 12 Mar 2001

 └── Oscar HAMBIDGE b. 7 Apr 2003

 └── Helen Rosemary HAMBIDGE b. 19 Nov 1964, Adelaide, Australia

 +Rochelle HAY

 └── Molly HAMBIDGE-HAY b. 7 Aug 2003

 └── William HAMBIDGE-HAY b. 24 Nov 2004

 └── Matilda HAMBIDGE-HAY b. 24 Nov 2004

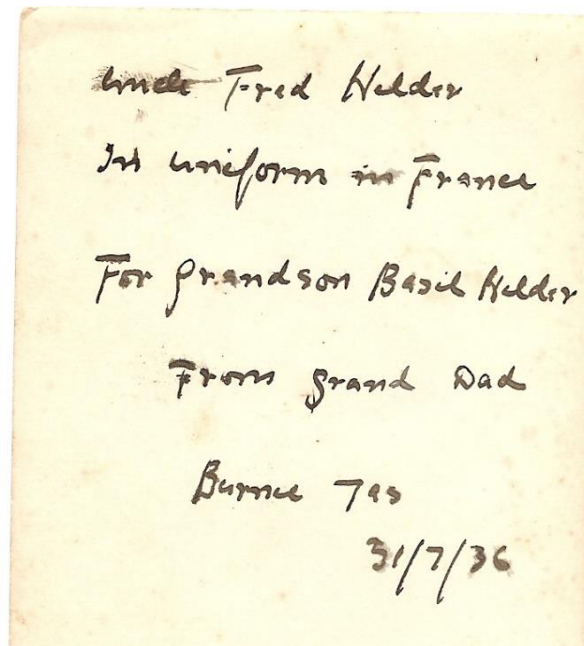
Alfred Robert Hilder (Fred)

(1898-1974)

The youngest son, Fred, was born on the 7th of April 1898 in the afternoon, with Mrs James Davis, professional midwife attending.¹⁰¹ He was the 10th child, and 6th son.

He enlisted for World War I shortly after his older brothers, Basil and Arden, despite being under the minimum age, stating on his enlistment form that he was 18 years old when in fact he was only 17. His father supported him in this. He joined the 15th Battalion, 11th Reinforcement in which he served from 1915 to 1918.

He was farewelled from Burnie on the 10th of August 1915 to go to Claremont Camp, with "his mate (W. Chatwin)". He would not have known that his brother Basil had been fatally wounded in action only 2 days before.



OFF TO CAMP.

A social evening was spent at Mrs. Chatwin's, Ladbroke street, Burnie, last night, the occasion being to wish farewell and good fortune to two more of Burnie's youths, Messrs. William Chatwin and A. R. (Fred) Hilder, who leave for Claremont camp today. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hilder were amongst those present. Mrs. Chatwin has given three sons to the forces - Alton at the front; Roy, on the way; and Will, recruit. A fine record for this mother, who is a widow.

'OFF TO CAMP.', *The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times*, 11 August 1915, p. 2

Ranked a Private, Fred embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A38 Ulysses on the 27th of October 1915. After the requisite stop in Zeitoun in Egypt, he served in France.

Tragically, his best friend, William Chatwin, with whom he had enlisted, was killed on the 31st of December 1916 in France.

'She has done what she could.' Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hilder have also three sons serving King and country. Basil and Arden have had a long sea trip and are now in Egypt, awaiting the call to assist their Australian mates at Gallipoli; and Fred, the youngest and last of the family, fired with emulation to follow his brothers, goes with his mate (W. Chatwin) into camp this week. Mr. and Mrs. Hilder's three sons are all under 21 years of age.



Fred and William Chatwin (prob) in Egypt



William Chatwin and his sister Valerie

In June 1918, Fred was a driver in France and a letter home gives a taste of his war experience towards the end of the war. As many did, he maintained a cheery tone in letters home:

‘AS HAPPY AS LARRY’

CHEERY LETTER FROM FRANCE.

The following are extracts from a letter, sent by Driver A. R. Hilder (Fred) to his father, Mr. Richard Hilder, of Burnie, dated July 17 and 18:

The weather has grown cooler since we had some rain, for we have had it hot for France this summer. For a fortnight I had a good job ‘cockeying.’ I was cutting wheat, barley, and rye with a binder. We have some fine crops up this way, but much of it, I am afraid, will go to waste, because we are unable to cut it. We cannot get the horses and machinery to do it. We seldom see any oat crops growing. I don’t know why, because they will grow well enough. This is the third harvest I have seen in France. I am attached to the A.A.S.C., and do not care much about the change. We have had a lot of quick movements without transports lately, and have put in some very hard graft night and day. However, we are doing well now, and the war should be over this year. I had a narrow escape from a gas shell; I heard it coming, but could not get out of the way quick enough, and it fell close to my donks’ team, but thank God, it was a dud

and did not go off, so we all escaped any harm. Some time ago I visited the 11th Battalion, and saw a lot of the boys I know — Rube Billett, Charlie Close, Les Gower, Tommy Weeks, Frank Rockliff, Gordon Docking, Alf Rockliff, Hilton Crooks, and Bob Higgins (of the Town Hall). Lance-Corporal Crooks looks well and wished to be remembered to all of you, so does Bob Higgins, who was in charge of the Y.M.C.A. It was good to meet so many. I have not seen Paris yet, but I hope to (and Ireland also) before I return home from my world wanderings. I have been in England and Scotland. I am pleased to hear of my brother Arden’s safe arrival home and of his satisfactory operation for his wounded arm. Don’t let it get well too soon, or he might be sent back! I am in good health and condition, and sometimes am as ‘Happy as Larry’.

“AS HAPPY AS LARRY”, *The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times*, 16 November 1918, p. 1

Fred returned to Australia on the 18th of December 1918. Those who knew him said that he “had difficulty when he returned making small talk and was a lot more withdrawn than he had been before.”¹⁰² He worked as a labourer at this point.¹⁰³

Fred married Irene Valerie Chatwin on the 11th of January 1922, at the age of 23. Valerie (as she was known) was the sister of Fred’s best friend William Chatwin, who was killed in the war. Fred and Valerie had three children, two girls and a boy, although the 2nd child, a girl, died aged 10 days. Their eldest daughter, Loris, was in fact adopted, being the 9th child of Valerie’s sister, Myrtle, whose husband had died only 5 weeks after the birth of Loris.¹⁰⁴

They moved in to live with Richard Hilder at King Street in 1928 after Amelia died. Fred worked as an engineer at this point.¹⁰⁵

In 1936, Alfred was a beneficiary of his uncle Robert George Hales (his mother’s brother), receiving 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ % of the estate, plus half of his mother’s share of 13 $\frac{1}{3}$ % as she had predeceased her brother. The other half of his mother’s share went to Arden.

In 1938, shortly after Richard died, they moved out of King St to a house up the hill in Amelia Street, built by Fred’s brother-in-law, George Graham.¹⁰⁶ He was listed as a farmer at Yolla on the electoral roll at this point.¹⁰⁷

Valerie died on the 18th of December 1950 at the age of only 51. In 1954 Fred was living at 3 Main Rd, Wivenhoe.¹⁰⁸

In November of 1967, Fred’s brother Wenman visited Tasmania with his daughter June and they visited Fred, a meeting described by Wenman in his memoir:

At Ulverstone were two more cousins Milly and Madge Evans, now Mrs Lovegrow (sic. [actually Lovegrove]) and Mrs Goninion. Oscar [Lovegrove, Madge’s husband] is a great organiser and he arranged for us to meet my brother Fred, who is at present confined to the hospital, owing to first world war injuries. While at the hospital the local paper’s reporter and photographer interviewed Fred and Loris, June and myself, took our photos, and we appeared in the paper next day as our first meeting for over 47 years and also as my 80th birthday.¹⁰⁹



L-R: Wenman, June, Fred and Loris

Wenman was perhaps mistaken in attributing the disabilities that required Fred to be cared for in a hospital to First World War injuries. According to his grand-daughter, Lynette, around 1966 or ’67 “Fred had a stroke ... and he lost the movement down one side of his body. ... [but] his mind remained sharp and determined.”¹¹⁰

The article in the local paper (as transcribed by Wenman) is excerpted below:

47 Years Since the Hilders Met

It was 47 years since they'd last met, but when Wenman Hilder (80) and his brother (69) were reunited at the geriatric division of the Mersey General Hospital yesterday afternoon, Fred grinned: "I'd have recognized him anywhere, first up."

The last time the two met was when Fred landed home in King St., Burnie, after serving overseas with the 15th and 47th Battalions during World War 1.

Wenman, who celebrates his 80th birthday today, left Burnie for New Zealand in 1908 and, apart from a couple of years in King St. during the kaiser's war, has lived in Auckland ever since. ...

It was a reunion for the brothers, but a first meeting for their daughters, June Hilder and Mrs Loris Evans, of Devonport.

As they settled into adjoining chairs, Wenman and Fred took a good look at each other and agreed they hadn't changed much in 47 years.

"I used to try and keep 'the baby brother' out of trouble when we were kids," Wenman said.

"I could always look after myself," retorted Fred."¹¹¹

Fred died on the 18th of January 1974 at the age of 75. His death notice read as follows:

HILDER Alfred Robert - On January 18 1974, at Devon House, Latrobe, beloved husband of the late Irene Valerie Hilder, and loving father of Loris (Mrs. M. Evans, Devonport), Faye (dec.), and Ray (Vic.). Loving Bemar of Lynette and Cheryl. Aged 75 years.

The Advocate 19 January 1974

Descendants of Alfred Robert HILDER

Alfred Robert HILDER b. 7 Apr 1898, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 18 Jan 1974, Devon House, Latrobe, Tasmania, bur. Wivenhoe General Cemetery

+Irene Valerie (known as Valerie) CHATWIN b. 16 Feb 1899, m. 11 Jan 1922, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, d. 18 Dec 1950, Spencer Hospital, Wynyard, bur. Wivenhoe General Cemetery, par. Alfred CHATWIN and Hannah EASTWOOD

— Loris Clare HILDER b. 16 Apr 1925, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, d. 2 Nov 1992, Launceston Hospital, Tas, bur. Mersey Vale Memorial Park

— +Mervyn Thomas EVANS b. Between 3 and 8 May 1924, m. 1 Dec 1945, d. 22 Jan 1981, At His Home, 5 Adelaide St., Devonport

— Lynette Sandra EVANS b. 1948

— +David SMITH

— Joanne SMITH

— Matthew SMITH b. 8 May 1974

— Cheryl Maree EVANS b. 1952

— +Denis PHIPPS

— Ben PHIPPS

— Emma PHIPPS

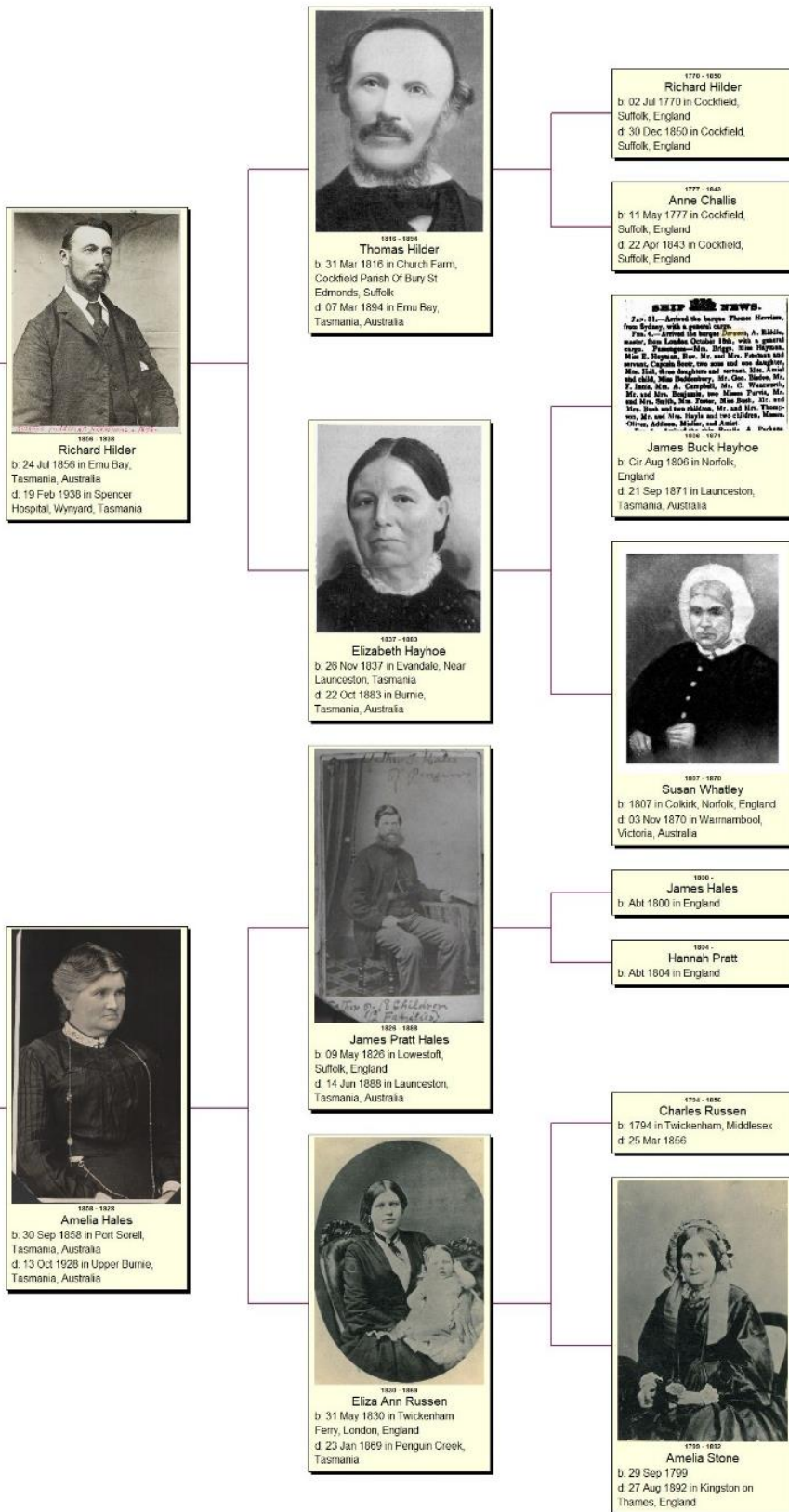
— +Theodore Denis HUNTINGFORD

— Fay HILDER b. 11 Aug 1926, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, d. 21 Aug 1926, At Her Uncle's Residence, Pearl Street, Wivenhoe, bur. Wivenhoe General Cemetery

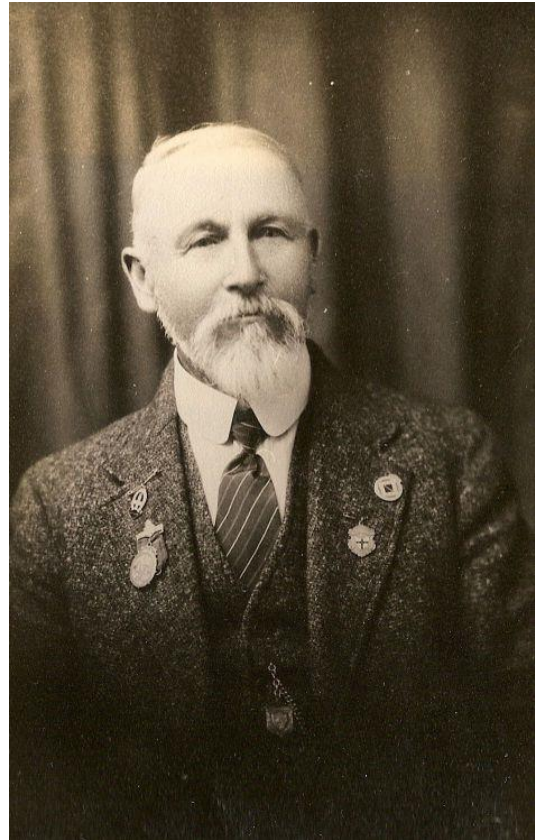
— Raymond John HILDER b. 29 Mar 1931, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, d. After 1992, Vic

— +Mary Jean PRICE m. 1 Dec 1952, St George's Church, Burnie, Tasmania

Hilder/Hales Ancestry



Richard Hilder and Amelia Hales



Richard and Amelia were the parents of Wenman (Bill) and Milton James (Jim) Hilder.

Both were born in Tasmania to early pioneer families in 1856 and 1858 respectively. They married in 1878 when Richard was aged 22 and Amelia aged 20. They lived for 32 years at Hill Farm, West Mooreville Road, Burnie where they raised a family of 10: six sons and four daughters. Richard was also a lay Methodist preacher for more than 55 years. In his later years, Richard worked as municipal inspector. Their three youngest sons served in World War I, with one (Basil) dying at Gallipoli. Amelia died in 1928 at the age of 70 while Richard outlived her by ten years, dying at the age of 81.

Richard Hilder

(1856-1938)



Richard Hilder was a prolific writer, writing out by hand his own and his family's life history for many of his children. Much of the detail of their lives is presented here in his own words, although the content has been re-ordered and a mixture of wordings has been used from three versions of his chronicle written out for his daughter Hannah (1930)¹¹² and two of his sons, Milton James (1932/33)¹¹³ and Fred (1930).¹¹⁴ Additional content has been sourced from reminiscences of his that were published in the local newspaper, *The Advocate*.

Birth

“Richard Hilder, second son of Thomas and Elizabeth Hilder, was born at Beach Farm on July 24th 1856, registered at Emu Bay and his name is the 3rd name on the first Government Registration Book for the district of Emu Bay (Burnie). The Registrar was Mr George Rouse JP and the office was situated at a room of his private residence on the Old Surrey Road. The actual Register can be verified at the office of the Municipality of Emu Bay, Mr J W (?) Atkinson, Clerk.”

Childhood/Youth

Richard wrote an account of his first trip as a child aged 6: “Emu Bay to Launceston and Return - A Sea Voyage of the Year 1862” which was published in the *Advocate* on the 19th of June 1924.

“As a small boy of 6 years of age, I was having the time of my life. And while the adults were busy, so was I in exploring the schooner. She was built on fine lines with very soft timber planking, but exceedingly well fitted up with berths occupying a fine big cabin that had other appointments.”

This three-week trip, during which his father sold goods, conducted various items of business and visited friends (including his original shipmates from his journey to Tasmania), was clearly a very memorable one for the young boy. (See p.147 for further detail).

Richard suffered an accident as a young child which impacted his education. He recounted it as follows:

“Richard, when quite a young child, fell into the fireplace and suffered a severe burning on the crown of his head and his left hand, the scars of which are still plainly visible and will be till the day of this death. The effects of the head burning caused slow development. It was

hard for him to learn under schoolmistress Mrs Widow Mary Morris hence education was limited much and ceased altogether publicly when he was only nine and a half years of age, but 2 winters night school under the same teacher and afterwards keen personal endeavour improved him very materially.”

Work was also a part of his early life:

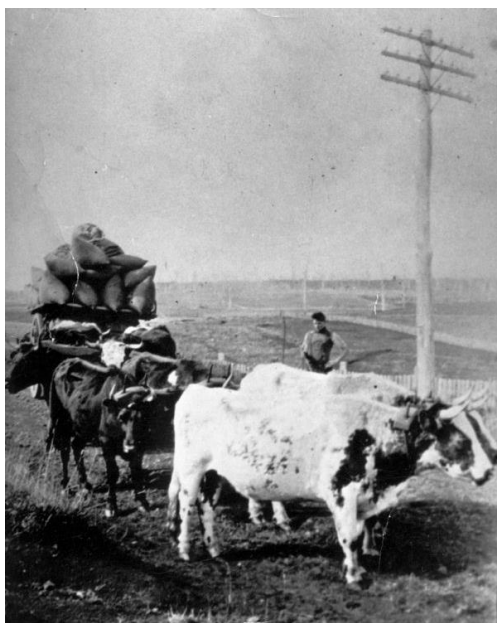
“...during Richard Hilder’s boyhood he worked on his father’s farm with long hours and few holidays, and a few shillings as it could be spared. Occasionally a small job with equally small wages might be obtained from some neighbouring farmer in his busy time of which his father did not suggest any sharing. Of course weekly wages always carried board and lodgings whether the workman was a member of the family or not.”

This early work was “day after day chip-hoeing the hill-slopes, planting potatoes and wheat, and wielding a scythe. For a couple of years he went to night school after the day’s work.”¹¹⁵

In 1873, he opened his first bank account:

An Old Pass-Book.
Mr. Richard Hilder, who was among those present at yesterday’s function, proudly displayed a Launceston Savings Bank pass-book dated 1873.
Following a successful potato season his father had given each of his eldest children £5. “I banked my share in the Launceston Bank for Savings,” he said, and produced the entry in the pass-book. “There were no banks further west than Deloraine in those days, either,” he added.
Mr. Hilder said that, having a thirst for knowledge, he withdrew all except a few shillings of the amount, to purchase a dictionary and letter-writing books, wherewith he was able to increase his education.
It was fifty years later, in 1923, he said, that he again came across the old pass-book, containing the small amount still to his credit.

Bullock team driving – 1874-1877



From 1874-1877, aged 19 to 22, Richard often also drove a bullock team to and from Mt Bischoff, a tin mining town some 60 miles from Emu Bay (Burnie). Bullock teams were used to send in supplies for the town and to bring out tin. His first trip was with his father and older brother in January 1874 when there was high demand for such teams after a bad winter had made the cart track impassable for a long time (with only pack horses able to make the journey). The Hilders, like many others, were keen to make some extra money in this way. Richard later wrote detailed accounts of his many trips over this road which were published in sections in *The Advocate* in 1923, from which the following excerpt comes:

“... on a bright morning of the 3rd week in January 1874, with a team of 6 decent looking bullocks attached to a long poled bullock drag fitted with a calico

unbleached tilt or tent, a good supply of bundles of hay for bullock food and personal bedding, not forgetting a big pine box well lidded, which contained a good supply of well assorted tucker (rations) and a couple of good tin billies for boiling the water needed for camp use and tea, Mr. Thomas Hilder senior, Mr. Thomas Hilder junior and the writer drew up with their team into place ready for loading stores for Mount Bischoff.”

Richard gives vivid accounts for various incidents on the track including broken axles and encounters with ‘tiger cats’ or ‘hyenas’ which were probably the Tasmanian Tiger or *thylacine*, a marsupial which may be extinct.¹¹⁶ He “slept under a tarpaulin draped over the long pole of this bullock dray.”¹¹⁷

As detailed below, Richard became a member of the Temperance Society in 1875 and “became a total abstainer for life.”¹¹⁸ “His freight on [the first] trip in 1874 included bottled beer but thereafter he resolutely refused to cart beer or spirits to Bischoff, although on one occasion he admitted being tricked into carrying cases marked “apples” when the contents were in fact spirits.”¹¹⁹

A wooden tramway, and then a railroad replaced the bullock carts by 1884, but Richard still made a number of journeys along the track delivering goods to Rouse’s Camp (partway to Mt Bischoff) or transporting household effects.

Joining the Temperance Society - 1875

“Joining up with the Temperance & Friendly Society in March 1875, he joined up with the first Temperance Society Burnie ever knew (there were 3 public houses). The Society was the Dawn of Hope Good Templars. It pleased the mother greatly for skittle playing at one or other of the public houses was the only pastime available and she feared her teaching of her son might succumb to the lure of Skittle Alley, but that pledge of total abstinence from alcoholic drink allayed her anxiety and has been kept to the present day. The Society flourished exceedingly for many years but ultimately ceased to exist. The active part played by Richard Hilder in the Good Templars Lodge resulted in his promotion to front rank speedily and a consequent improvement in speech, manners and dignity. As Secretary it largely improved handwriting and method of composition.”

Richard met his future wife, Amelia Hales, at a rally of the Penguin Creek Good Templar Lodges in 1875.

Joining the Odd Fellows - 1876

“Joining up with Manchester Unity Independent Odd Fellows on November 16th 1876 Richard Hilder became a contributing member of the local Wellington Lodge 6229. There were 10 persons who made up the party that ... constituted this Lodge. It had small beginnings but its interests and success was a captivating power to the youngest of the 10 who was in his 21st year. This Lodge gave added zest to make good and all the young man’s ambitions of a worldly or material character got their chance speedily in this order. His tongue got a good chance to talk on Lodge matters and intercourse with older members of the order and with some that held high office tended to further edification. He was in January 1879 elected a Trustee of his Lodge.”



Richard Hilder, aged 20 (2 years before marriage)

Preparing for marriage working on his father's farm

Richard and Amelia announced their engagement in July 1877, after which "...Thomas Hilder Snr agreed to pay his son Richard at the rate of 20/- per week with board and lodgings and all the other home comforts that an indulgent mother could supply. Included in this bargain was the use of a hack horse fortnightly to ride to Penguin Creek to visit the sweetheart which was the period agreed on by the youthful lovers and only rarely exceeded.

So for 8 months Richard Hilder worked on his father's farm as a paid labourer. He was the only man employed and he and his father worked very harmoniously together at all kinds of ordinary farm work. The son only drew the sum of £5.0.0. during that 8 months and that was to purchase ... 3 heifers ... He bought the heifers from his prospective father-in-law at a very moderate price too so in that 8 months service Richard got his £29 capital."

Hill Farm, Mooreville Road: Description and Lease – April 1878

Richard sub-leased a farm from his father following his engagement, in preparation for marriage.

"It contained 53 acres of excellent chocolate soil, partly cleared, and was held by Richard Hilder on a sub-lease from his father (the late Thomas Hilder Snr). The land was not Crown land but belonged to the Van Diemens Land Company (VDL), and portion of their Emu Bay Block of 75,000 acres."

"The rental was £25.0.0. per annum. The original lease of the land was dated 1875 and Thomas Hilder Snr had improved the section considerably in his three year tenure. It was all scrubbed and 15 acres cultivated and all enclosed with some kind of rough fencing. Richard Hilder's lease was for seven years currency and dated April 1st 1878. In that year when he took possession in the Autumn his sole capital was £29.0.0 and three 2-year old heifers. There was not a building of any kind on the section but the land (though heavily timbered) was exceptionally good."

"Hill Farm was well situated with a good easterly frontage on Mooreville Road and Brickport Road. The junction of those roads mentioned obtained, as the years went by, the fixed cognomen of Hilder's Corner."

Obtaining running water for the farm

"Unfortunately there was not a single spring of running water. A rough 43 acres adjoining on the west side had several springs close to Hill Farm boundary and before Richard Hilder could make up his mind to secure this rough section by lease from the VDL Company it was secured by the late Wm. Jones of Uplands as a tram route.

Having neither spring water or any fixed water right to the rough 43 acre section Richard Hilder determined to put to the test a spot marked out by a water diviner on the cleared land suitable for building. So securing some very primitive equipment and the services of a well-sinker (Kerry Jack) whose stipulated terms for sinking the well was this – one shilling per foot – no water no pay, but a man to do the dirt haulage with board and lodging while at work.

Having made satisfactory arrangements the work of well-sinking proceeded. There were plenty of advisors and some keen critics too for the spot selected was fully 200 feet above the level of any running creeks. Kerry Jack worked hard and steadily descended to 40 feet then some foolish critic played on his imagination as to complete failure on the ground caving in on him, but after a brief spell he tackled the work again in earnest and at 45 feet struck the water with a sudden stroke of his pick. At 48 feet it was plentiful and a continuous supply that stood the hottest summer with plenty of water for all stock and household requirements and it could stand the strain of a steam thrasher or chaff cutter for 6 or 7 hours."

Building a house and other buildings

“In April 1878 when Richard Hilder first took possession there was not a building on it. Thomas Hilder had worked it in conjunction with his homestead farm for both farms touched each other at the south of the homestead, so building on Hill Farm was not considered needful.

Almost the first work the new leaseholder undertook was to select a site for farm buildings and decide what class they should be (the VDL Company – owners – would neither undertake the erection of any buildings or the construction of any fencing). So how a habitation fit for himself and prospective wife could be erected as well as purchase seed and implements and clear and fence the land for cultivation with the few pounds at his command £29.0.0 was a bit of a problem.”

“The sawn timber came from GBB Elliott’s Sawmill situated on the Cam Road 1½ miles from the township of Somerset. It cost 8/- per hundred feet (square measure) at the sawmill but it was well seasoned wood and could be picked any size required of either hardwood or blackwood. Enough was chosen for the framework and flooring of a building 20+9 with 7ft walls (no flooring joists, they were split on the farm), some blackwood boards were also selected for the making of amateur furniture. It took 2 trips with a bullock team to transport the chosen timber to Hill Farm. The palings needed cost 12/- per hundred at the township of Emu Bay (Burnie). They were a splendid sample of 6ft split for the VDL Company on their Highclere Estate and brought to the coast by the company’s newly constructed horse tramway. The builder had no training as a carpenter and could not afford to pay one with wages at 8/- a day so he bought a few gimlets and small spirit level with sufficient nails (Eubanks³) to complete the work. The foundation was not hard to lay for the ground was very level, so a dozen square stones formed the foundation.

In about 4 weeks the shell of the habitation was erected and securely roofed with 6ft palings in their full length, the floorings roughly laid, and a wooden chimney (stone lined) erected. And as time allowed from other important work it got lined with very light palings secured locally and scrimmed and papered throughout. Doors and tables for both rooms were completed from the blackwood and hardwood timber, also cupboards and stools, with good size rough shed constructed from slabs and saplings and very coarse palings.

The house paddock (4 acres) securely fenced with a good chock/log fence and planted with oats, so by the time the bride came to live with her youthful husband at Hill Farm, the home and surroundings were cheerful.”

“The family ... occupied Hill Farm for 35 years - from 1878 to 1913 - having had five separate leases of seven years each from the V.D.L. Co. The farm [was] greatly improved by its practical occupier, who was well known for his efficiency in soil culture.”¹²⁰

See the map in Appendix 2 for the location of the farm.

³ “one the first effective machine made nails suitable for hardwoods. It had a remarkable run of over one hundred years in use in Australia, where for a long time it was ubiquitous.” How, C. & M. Lewis (2009). *The Embank Nail*. Proceedings of the Third International Congress on Construction History, Cottbus, May 2009 (http://www.themeister.co.uk/hindley/ewbank_nail.pdf)

Amelia Hales

(1858-1928)



Birth

“[Amelia] was born at Mr James Wilson’s farm at Old Forth Beach, September 29th 1858 and registered at Registry Office at Port Sorell, the only north west coast Registry Office in 1858. The registration was sent by a messenger and in some unaccountable way the date given to the Port Sorell Registrar (Major Templar) was September 30th and that was the official date of birth. Her mother had a serious turn at the birth and no doctor nearer Forth Beach than Port Sorell with the unbridged Mersey River in between but the sagacity and attention of a local midwife saved her life.”

Amelia was the third child, and 2nd daughter, of James Pratt Hales and Eliza Russen who had 8 children together before Eliza died in childbirth.



Childhood/Youth

“Amelia grew to a lovely girlie at Forth Beach Farm.

She removed with parents and their other children to Penguin Creek when about 6 years of age.

In very early life through the Godly teaching of her parents she became deeply permeated with true religious experience which controlled her whole life and kept her continuously on the alert to do good and serve God and her church and generation in the way God would show her.

She had a very limited education or school life first at Penguin under Miss Melligan and later under a schoolmaster named Marshall.

When only 10 years of age she lost her dear mother and it was to her a great loss indeed with her mother’s memory continued sacred to her all the following 60 years of her life”;¹²¹ ... “a stepmother never could take the place.”¹²²

Her father remarried to Jane Parsons and went on to have a further 10 children, half brothers and sisters to Amelia.

As a young woman, she was reportedly “beloved by all as a Sunday school teacher, home mission collector, etc. As a mission collector she rode and walked many hundred miles over bush tracks and unmade roads, her smiling face and cheery laugh bringing cheer to many a sick person or lonely mother living in the backblocks of Penguin.”¹²³

“At an early age she contracted a great favour for a young man of most pleasing appearance and manner but he was not worthy of her and coldly abandoned his suit... After her previous treatment she kept Richard Hilder at bay for some time till that Birthday party in 1877 when she unreservedly surrendered.”¹²⁴

Richard and Amelia’s First Meeting (July 1875) and Engagement (July 1877)

“In her early womanhood [Amelia] became attached to Richard Hilder. Their first meeting each other occurred at Penguin Creek July 1875. Both were attending a rally of (Burnie) Emu Bay and Penguin Creek Good Templar Lodges. Both were officers of their respective Lodges, but no real engagement took place till July 1877 when Richard Hilder was 21 years of age and Amelia Hales 19. Both were passionately attached to the Primitive Methodist ministers and Amelia to Sunday school.”

Marriage of Richard Hilder and Amelia Hales– 26 December 1878

“Richard Hilder and Amelia Hales were married at the home of Mr James Hales (the bride’s father) on December 26th 1878 (Boxing Day).”

Richard was aged 22 and Amelia was 20.

“The ceremony was conducted by the Rev John Oglethorpe, Primitive Methodist minister of Penguin Home Mission Station. It was not an elaborate affair for historical accuracy compels the statement of facts. The bridegroom’s total cash for spending on marriage fee £2.0.0 and honeymoon expenses was the sum of five pounds only.

Some members of both families were present and a few presents of household articles were made to the young married couple who needed no honeymoon trip or expensive outfit for their future humble life. During the wedding day the bride and bridegroom visited the Penguin Creek picnic ground on the West Beach and were most heartily congratulated by a numerous gathering of country folk who made a pilgrimage to this picnic ground on Boxing Day of every year coming by all sorts of conveyance from horse back to bullock dray. Fathers, mothers, young men and women, local preachers, Sunday school teachers all gave a hearty greeting to the new married couple.”



*Emu Bay - Burnie early 1880 (Population: c.100).
Oil on canvas board by unknown artist.¹²⁵*

Early married life

“Richard Hilder all his lifetime (after school days) had been accustomed to rough farming or clearing land from timber and stones and stumps, fitting it for the purposes of agriculture obtaining at that period. Amelia Hales had also been accustomed to farm life and could well manage all kinds of dairy and general household work for she had passed through a stiff training in her father’s home with its large number of children continuously increasing.

So on December 28th 1878, after a stay of a single day at Penguin Creek, the young people entered on farm life together at Hill Farm, Mooreville Road, near the township of Burnie then known as Emu Bay. The mode of travel was by a horse and heavy pagnal cart hired for the 3 days occasion from Mr Henry Oldaker at 10/- a day which cost came out of the £5.0.0. previously alluded to. Mr Oldaker was proprietor of the Ship Inn, Marine Terrace, Burnie and his horse harness and pagnal was the only one of the kind for hire. There were a few private turnouts of similar kind and a waggonette with pole and a pair of horses, but such an equipage was far beyond the money resources of Richard Hilder.”

“The chief land product for that first harvest (1879) was cocksfoot and English grass seeds with promising crops, so as soon as Christmas and New Year’s holidays were over the seed was ready for gathering. So the services of two willing lads who had just left school were secured at 15/- per week each with board and (shed) lodgings. All hands worked well with hours from 6am to 6pm. The young wife looked after her 2 young cows (now in profit) and fed the seed gatherers with five meals a day. The two lads loved her and would do lots of extra things for her, bringing in the cows, drawing water from the well, and a good supply of firewood. Joseph J Alexander and Henry Robinson were the two boys.”

Children

Richard and Amelia had ten children, six sons and four daughters. None appear to have died in infancy which was relatively rare in those days.

Birth of their first child – September 1879

Setting the scene: “Fencing (chocks and log), clearing up land with a helper to lift logs at 20/- a week, ploughing with a bullock team was a busy time all through a cold dry winter. With the Spring came a great event. The Spring came early and all nature was grandly verdant. The men folk were ploughing for oat sowing on the afternoon of September 18th 1879. The warm fog hung about and sounds seemed very far away.”

Labour and birth: “The young wife became uneasy and called for assistance, her voice was heard dimly so the answer was somewhat delayed, but on the young husband appearing at the house he found the dear wife in the first pangs of child bearing. Fortunately both husband and wife had come from households of numerous births so they both knew how to act and act promptly, so an old neighbour (Mrs John Long) was soon called on. She was a practical midwife who had frequently helped Richard Hilder’s mother in similar circumstances and who knew she was to be called at this time. There was no engagement of a doctor. Indeed such was almost impracticable for Dr Thomas Wilson lived 8 miles away and a fee of £10.10.0. Good Mrs Long’s skill needed no such assistance and within an hour of her coming the young wife became the mother of her first child (a daughter). Later Mrs James Elliott of River Leven attended for a period of 3 weeks.”

This first child was a daughter, Marion Eliza, born at evening time.

Births of remaining children

Richard Hilder recorded the birth attendant and the time of day for each of the births of his children, all of whom were of course born at home. Mrs John Long attended the first four births (Marion, Martin, Olive and Hannah), followed by various different attendants.

Martin Joseph	Oct 29th 1881	very early morning
Olive Elizabeth	July 25th 1883	just after midnight
Hannah Amelia	June 22nd 1885	a bitter frosty morning
Wenman John	Nov 28th 1887	very hot afternoon, Mrs Joseph Woodcock, midwife, attending birth after.
Milton James Thomas	Feb 21st 1890	during the night, Mrs George Best, experienced midwife attending at birth.
Sarah Jane Doris	July 21st 1892	early afternoon, Miss Summerfield and a lady visitor attending at birth.
Basil Richard	Nov 7th 1894	early morning, Mrs James Davis, professional midwife attending at birth.
Arden Arthur Harold	Sept 12th 1896	early morning, eldest daughter attending till Mrs T Hearps hastily arrived.
Alfred Robert (Fred)	April 7th 1898	during afternoon, Mrs James Davis, professional midwife attending at birth and afterwards.

According to Richard Hilder, Amelia suffered a miscarriage between the births of Milton and Doris and a doctor was called in.

Richard becomes a Christian preacher – 1880-81

Richard recorded difficult financial times in 1880 with the harvest not returning a profit after caterpillars infested the grass seed and oats. He contrasted this with the “great joy” of his conversion:

“This financial struggle was accompanied by a period of great joy for during February of 1880 Richard Hilder experienced a clear sense of deliverance from sin. In fact after years of spiritual struggle he was truly converted to God. The dear wife had before her marriage and afterwards shown true Christian courage. She had at once established family prayers in the home and continuously encouraged her husband to a full trust in Jesus Christ for his soul’s salvation so the conversion brought much joy to both the parents of the infant daughter.

Both were deeply attached to the Primitive Methodist Church at Burnie township on the preachers plan then as (sic) Emu Bay and the young husband was urged by his fellow church folk to allow his name to be set down as a preacher, so during the month of June 1880 he consented to have a trial of exhorting at a week night meeting. Rev John Ogleshorpe was the Primitive Methodist Minister residing at Penguin Creek and he was present at that first attempt at preaching from the text 1st Timothy 6th Chapter part of verse 12, viz lay hold on eternal life. The preaching attempt did not prove a failure for promotion in the church came quickly and the Minister urged both work and study. Young Richard had now 3 important duties apart from the routine of family life.

- 1st The Good Templars Order and its crusade against drink with weekly meetings on Monday evening and important offices that entailed preparation and traveling.
- 2nd The Manchester Unity Independent Order of Odd Fellows Loyal Wellington Lodge, meetings fortnightly on Tuesday evening in which he was deeply interested and already held the important office as one of the 3 Trustees.
- 3rd The Primitive Methodist church and its interests and advancement throughout the Penguin Creek Home Mission.

The dear wife gave every encouragement to her young husband to proceed in all those eventful enterprises and practiced much self-denial and lonely days and sometimes nights too when he was

compelled to spend the night at some distant place after meetings etc. The heavy financial discouragement could not destroy the joy of husband and wife while they ardently worked for temperance, thrift and the Primitive Methodist Church to which they dedicated their infant daughter for baptism.

By January 1881 the young Methodist minister had so far improved in study and ability that he readily passed the recognized examination of his church's preachers meeting and became a fully accredited local preacher of the Penguin Creek Home Mission station that in 1881 was comprised of Penguin Creek, Gravel Hill, Gawler Road, North Motton, Emu Bay (Burnie) and Cam Road. To each of those places (outside the township of Burnie) the new preacher went once a quarter to conduct service. Hard graft was his daily round on weekdays generally but the Sundays preaching (with long journeys) a spiritual recreation."

"Mr Hilder preached throughout the districts which now embrace the circuits of Ulverstone, Forth, Penguin, Burnie and Wynyard. Most of his journeys were made on horseback, often along bridle tracks of unnamed roads. At one period he visited regularly 28 preaching places, covering an area of about 50 miles."¹²⁶

Building and farm improvements: kitchen, barn, fences, extra rooms – 1882-85

"In 1882-1883 the shed previously referred to was very materially improved. Half of it was converted into a kitchen with a strong wooden-framed chimney wall lined up inside to 6 feet with stones and white loam mortar of a very adhesive character. Then lined further inside with sheets of iron or tin to the top. A camp oven had been hitherto used for all kinds of baking, but now a good 3 foot Peters cast iron oven⁴ was installed and gave great satisfaction to the hard worked mother of a growing family.

A barn was erected proving a great boon and cattle food saver. A hand turned chaff cutter was secured so that hay chaff could be cut by hand power for there was coming a good market for it at this time. Two boundaries of Hill Farm had been completed with post and rail fencing, with some delay from opposition of a neighbour."

"In 1885 further room was required for an increasing family (there were now four children) so the framework of 2 small rooms were erected at the tenant's sole expense for as yet the VDL Company (as landlords) would not spend one penny for either building or fencing. So stringent were the finances of the occupier, that only one of the 2 rooms was completed, the other remaining in an unfinished condition for 2 years."

Farm Animals

Bullocks were initially used on the farm, later replaced by horses.

"The bullock team proved a good source of income to the young farmer who drove them himself and was very frequently made the source of ribald mimicry or merry jokes but continued on his way rejoicing. The rate of pay did not improve much but contract work was abundant and frequently gave good returns, but by 1886 metal roads were being constructed and did not suit the bullocks' feet. Hill Farm had been much improved and many acres of it well cleared and for more intense cultivation thanks to the bullock team. In 1887 this team went on to the market selling readily from £15 to £20 per pair and the bullock dray to Dr Thomas Wilson of Doctors Rocks for £22.

⁴ Presumably from Peter's Foundry at Launceston which produced its trademark stove from 1845. (Preston, K. and M. Shaw *Peter's Foundry*, in Alexander A. (Ed). *The Companion to Tasmanian History*, Centre for Tasmanian Historical Studies, University of Tasmania, http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/P/Peter%27s%20Foundry.htm)

Two horses were now purchased for farm work and carting. "Doctor" a broken kneed half-blood cost £12 and "Blondin" a shaggy haired half-draught, 10 years old, cost £25. These horses were the envy of all neighbours for the work of all kinds they could perform while managed by Robert Hilder, a younger brother of Richard.

Blondin could carry his master on his long preaching trips at 8 miles an hour and the farmer's wife could now drive either of them in a pagnal cart and take her children with her. Doctor gave over 8 years of good service, Blondin 18. Both were kept on Hill Farm until they died of old age."

Later farm developments

1898

"By 1898 the Hill Farm had been occupied 20 years and the family number was 10, 6 sons and 4 daughters. It was a big household, but the dear mother kept a loving touch on them all and they were a happy family."



*Richard Hilder,
pictured in Melbourne in 1898*

1899

"In 1899 a new lease and increased rent £40. But Hill Farm was now equipped with modern plough, Harrow scarifier and also a Massey Harris Reaper and Binder costing £47.10.0."

1901

The first of the children, Marion, married this year.

The following photo shows the complete family at this time, with the eldest aged 21 and the youngest nearly 3.



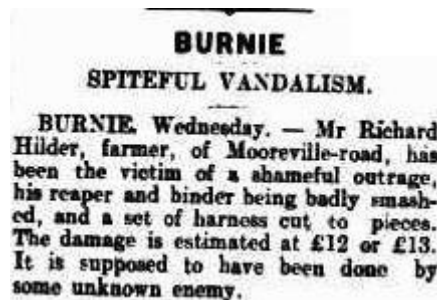
The Hilder Family in January 1901

*Back row (L-R): Wenman, Doris, Olive, Martin, Hannah, Marion (May)
Front (L-R): Basil, Milton, Richard (father), Arden, Amelia (mother), Alfred*

Silver Wedding Anniversary - 1903

Most of the family were together for this anniversary on December 26th 1903, although Richard reports no special commemoration. On New Years' Day of 1904, however, all the family were together, including their first grandchild, the last time that the entire family were all together at the same time.

Richard was also the victim of reported vandalism in 1903:



Emigration of eldest son to New Zealand - 1905

The eldest son, Martin, was the first of three sons to sail for New Zealand in May 1905, with the aim of gaining experience in sawmilling as well as becoming a Home Missionary. He was 23. (see p. 55 for more details)

Farm leases

1906

“The VDL Company would not grant leases for their farms for longer than 7 year periods, so in 1906 a new lease was required. There had already been four 7-year leases with varying rentals always on the upgrade. Land values had largely increased and correspondingly rents were demanded of a much higher figure. Hill farm was now in the prime of condition for Farmer Hilder was a great believer in good log-less and stump-less paddocks but he did resent having the rental

of the farm nearly doubled from the previous lease from 1899 to 1906. Federation had not proved the benefit to the farmer that had been anticipated. Prices of farm produce kept exceedingly low and wages and threshing and chaff-cutting all rose in price.

It was a difficult situation the tenant of 28 years duration found himself in for he knew full well that his landlord could easily get the higher rent from other claimants for a good farm, and while the VDL Company praised the tenant for his industry, they tenaciously stuck to the prospect of increased rent (Richard Hilder had now the 43 acres added to the 53). A compromise was arrived at and Tenant Hilder agreed to the increased rent, but the VDL Company must do £100 worth of renovations and improvements to the dwelling house.

With a new lease and an improved dwelling house prosperity hung fire and more of the sons and daughters felt constrained to go out in the world for themselves and as the boys moved away, greater difficulties arose for the rate of wages still increased with shorter hours too. Accident and hospital treatment fell to the lot of both the mother and the father.”

1907 – Amelia is injured in an accident

“In July 1907 Mrs Hilder had the misfortune to be thrown from a horse conveyance one bitter frosty Sunday morning severely injuring one knee and, before it had recovered, she had a serious fall in the house dislocating her shoulder. She had a hard time for 7 or 8 months during which time she visited several parts of Victoria and New South Wales visiting many of her own and some of her husband’s relations. It was a big expense cheerfully paid for she ultimately recovered.”

A DRIVING ACCIDENT.
Mrs Richard Hilder, of "Hill Farm," was badly hurt through being thrown from a trap while coming into church yesterday morning. Mr Hilder was driving, and when descending the hill near Mr Frank O'Heilley's, Mooreville Road, the pony fell and threw Mrs Hilder forward on to the road. Mr Hilder kept his seat, and fortunately was able to prevent the trap from passing over his wife. The latter, who was very severely shaken, was immediately taken back home, and then Mr Hilder drove to Burnie and summoned Dr Watson. It was found that one leg had been cut, while there were several minor injuries. It is hoped that with rest the unfortunate lady will soon recover.

North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Monday 8 July 1907, page 2

Emigration of second son to New Zealand – 1908

Wenman followed his brother, Martin, to New Zealand at the age of 21. (See p. 29 for more details)

1909 – Financial difficulties and health issues for Richard

“During 1909 cash was very short. Hill Farm hay crop was good but chaff ranged from £1.15.0. to £2.5.0. per ton and potatoes were few that season, so the prospect of paying good wages and finding increased rent was a problem. The horse team was worn out and could not do the farm work or go out and earn any money.

And to complete the discomfiture, in August 1909 Richard Hilder had to go into the General Hospital in the city of Launceston and undergo a serious operation for hernia of long standing and for which the surgeon charged a special fee of £15.15.0., apart from the ordinary hospital charges which were very moderate, but the operation was most successful and in 4 weeks the patient was home at Hill Farm again. This illness held up all potato crops for that season. It took the patient up to the New Year 1910 to be fully fit for farm or any other work.”

There was a good pea and potato harvest with 2 small paddocks of hay. The VDL Company had been lenient and not pressed very heavily for overdue rent. There was no kind of preparation for future crops. In fact everything was in abeyance.”

Planning a trip to New Zealand with heavenly intervention - 1911

Martin, Wenman and Jim suggested their father come over to visit them in New Zealand.

“... the three sons were importunate that Father should come for a trip to New Zealand and suggested they would meet all expenses. The dear wife urged acceptance without much effect.

Then came the intervention of the Heavenly Father and the answer to many prayers. While threshing peas on a sailcloth with a flail, came those words of command to the long stricken man: Go to New Zealand and I will cure you in 6 weeks. Now obey my command. This command repeated the stricken man heard quite distinctly. His son Arden was at work with him but heard no actual voice.”

“So convinced was Richard Hilder that the good Lord out of Heaven had given this extraordinary command that he conferred not with flesh and blood any longer but there and then decided in his heart to obey and, on returning home to the house for dinner, at once acquainted his dear wife of the extraordinary event of the morning and his determination to put it into practice. Dear woman, how soon she concurred and though it came so suddenly, placed no personal obstacles in the way. It was towards the end of February 1911 so the sailing of a boat for New Zealand was sought and finally the Maheno would leave Sydney for Auckland, New Zealand about the middle of April 1911.”

Richard at first intended to remain in New Zealand and was keen to sell his farm but was persuaded by his family, the church and friends to sub-let the farm instead and allow Amelia to remain in the house with a small paddock for a cow.

Richard's time in New Zealand – 1911-12

Richard left Tasmania bound for Melbourne on the 8th of April 1911 and stayed with his daughter Olive Stutterd for a week at her home in St James Terrace, Malvern. He then took the train to Sydney where he reported seeing the first aeroplane flying over the city before he boarded the Maheno, bound for Auckland. He arrived in Auckland after a very tempestuous voyage on Monday the 23rd of April 1911.

After a day in Auckland, he took a coastal steamer, the Clansman, to Russell and then a train from Opuā to Kawakawa where he was met by his son, Martin.

Since Martin was unwell and unable to fulfil his duties as Home Missionary for the Bay of Islands, Richard was appointed in his place by the Auckland Executive of Methodist Home Missions. Despite misgivings based on his own state of health, Richard believed that God had intended him to do this and reported that he was cured completely after six weeks in the position.

Martin moved down to Wellington with his family and Richard continued as missionary. Amelia arranged for their daughter Hannah to come to New Zealand to be the housekeeper for her father.

During his time in the Bay of Islands, Richard reportedly talked with a Moriori man who he believed to be Tami (sic) Solomon. He later wrote up his recollections of this, prompted by a newspaper report in *The Advocate* of Tommy Solomon meeting with the Duke and Duchess of York in Christchurch in March 1927.¹²⁷ It seems unlikely that it was actually Tommy Solomon that Richard met in 1911, since his description of the man as being 60 years of age, white in appearance and a fluent speaker of English do not match with details of Tommy Solomon's biography¹²⁸ and the newspaper report. Richard does note the Tommy Solomon in the newspaper report was “most probably a son of the chief I met in 1911”. A shorter version of his story “Tami Solomon - Chief

of the Moraris who possessed New Zealand 800 years” appeared in the *Advocate* in March 1927¹²⁹, and an excerpt from his handwritten account is reproduced here:

“In the Spring of 1911, the writer of this story was sitting under a big pine tree on the strand at Russell, Bay of Islands, New Zealand, when I saw a very tall stranger march off the Russell wharf and come towards me. He was Maori in his gait, but quite white of skin and had a Pakeha look about him. When he drew close enough, I accosted him as a white Maori. He pulled up and bowed deferentially, and in quite intelligible English, informed me he was a real white Morari (not at all a Maori). He spoke quite calmly, and standing in front of me said he would like to know if I was a British Pakeha, or was I born in New Zealand. Upon my informing him I was a Pakeha from Australia and born in a small island called Tasmania, he evinced considerable animation, saying to me quickly, “You Tasmanian, you come from the country that kill all the native black people. Tell me what your country is like without any native people in it.” As I described my country to him, he lapsed into soft tears, repeating to himself again and again, “My people will be like Tasmanian blackfellow, all die out soon, all die out too; no hope for the poor Morari. At Chatham Island only 16 of us left now, and once there were thousands of us; but we must all die out soon.”

“...The stately Morari at Russell began his people’s history to me by saying, ‘I am Tami Solomon, the chief of my race. I am 60 years of age and have suffered many sorrows. There are only 16 member of my race left. Our home is at Chatham Island, many miles from New Zealand. My people (not a tribe but a Race) when only a remnant was left were removed by the order of the British Government to our Chatham Island home many years ago, to save us from our implacable enemy, the cursed Maori. How long we shall survive I do not know. But Pakeha, we must soon die out for we have not multiplied for generations and are reduced to 16 in number. Our case is hopeless.’”

Richard also recounted a couple of incidents in which he was given a hard time about his Tasmanian origins (these were published in the *Burnie Advocate* in 1925). In one case, the chief railway porter at Kawakawa was wont to tease him about being able to show leg rings (from being a convict) and on one occasion, encouraged some Maori women to come and ask him to pull up his trouser legs and show him. Richard got him back on another day, teasing him about a package of ‘maul rings’ that was part of the train cargo and whether it was his.¹³⁰

On another occasion, when on exchange to the mission at Hikurangi, where he initially was well-liked and his sermons appreciated, he was incited by the chairman at a mission meeting who introduced him thus (in Richard’s recollection):

“I have a very interesting person to address you (Mr Hilder). He comes from a very small country – Tasmania – which has a small population and a small Government, with a miniature revenue, but his country is the home of a big gambling institution called ‘Tattersall’s’. It is to be hoped that this speaker’s views will be [?] than the bit of country he comes from, and not tainted with Tattersalls.”

Richard recalls that in his response to this introduction he “shot [his] bolt too far” by first correcting the chairman about Tasmania’s status as part of Australia, noting that New Zealanders contributed to Tattersall’s, and that “the crooked Dominion of New Zealand” could fit into the Great Australian Bight “if you bent your two islands a bit more”. He reports that this received a frosty reception and he was not invited again.¹³¹

After the Methodist conference in 1912, Richard returned home to Tasmania, via the South Island.



Moving to Burnie and a new job – 1913

After arriving back in Tasmania, Richard found it difficult to find suitable employment at the age of 57. He did some “heavy farm work at 6/- per day” and worked as a missionary for 3 months, relieving the regular missionary at £2.0.0. per week. He also attempted to get into orcharding in Southern Tasmania but failed at this venture.

In July 1913, having come unexpectedly into some money (£200 cash), Richard and Amelia moved into a 5 room cottage in Burnie that they had purchased with a reasonable block of land in King Street, West Burnie for £450. The cottage and land was paid off in 5 years, according to Richard.

He gained a position as a Health Inspector for the Municipality of Emu Bay in 1913 “at £60 a year a year (half time). He held this position for just 7 years with increasing duties and full time and payment of £3.0.0. per week. This employment with the money received from Arden and Fred’s work (Basil had settled on his own account at King Island) kept a very comfortable home going for all.” He lost the job in 1920.



*Richard Hilder’s card as a Health Inspector
(from Basil Hilder’s military file)*

World War I years – 1914-1918

Of the 3 sons remaining in Tasmania, Basil (aged 20) and Arden (aged 18) soon enlisted with the Australian Infantry Force (A.I.F) and left for Europe in June 1915. By August, Basil had been killed at Gallipoli. By the end of 1915, the youngest son, Fred, had also enlisted, although he was only 17. Further details of their service is found in pages 80-94.

Of the three older sons who had left for New Zealand, “two [Martin and Milton] ... were notified to Report at Camp in New Zealand but the war terminated before notification expired.”¹³² Wenman returned to Tasmania in 1915 with his new wife and baby daughter and stayed until 1920. According to Richard, he “made 2 efforts to enlist in Tasmania but failed to pass [the medical]”

Richard was “closely associated with Recruiting Committee and was Chairman of the final Welcome Home Committee of all soldiers passing through Burnie.”

Amelia received “the Mother’s Badge (2 bars) for her 3 boys”.¹³³ However, she suffered greatly with “the heartbreak of the loss of her dear son Basil [which] produced a decided health break too. In October 1916 she had to enter hospital in Melbourne undergoing a severe operation which was not successful for in October 1917 she was forced to enter the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, for similar treatments (this time more successful), but the dear mother could not regain robustness and still remained at Melbourne till Arden returned from the war March 1918.”



Richard and Amelia in 1917

In August 1920, Richard’s position as a Municipal Health Inspector was terminated when the introduction of an Inspectors’ Union doubled pay rates, which the council were unwilling to pay to such an old man (as Richard tells it).

He gained temporary work as Inspector of Soldier Settlements for the County District of Emu Bay, “but upon the introduction of enlarged soldier settlements felt unequal to the task, and retired from active work in 1922”¹³⁴ at the age of 66.

At the end of 1923, “Richard and Amelia applied for the Commonwealth Old age pension for which they were both qualified by age and necessity and after some delay an old age pension was granted to both at 30/- per fortnight for each of them.” Amelia applied for a military pension for her deceased son Basil Hilder in 1925, after having been granted such in 1920. Some extra income was also obtained by renting out part of their house for 10/- a week. Richard wrote that the combination of the old age pension “with the military pension and letting of rooms occasionally gave a sufficient income to live very comfortably.”



Richard and Amelia, c. 1924

Amelia visited her widowed daughter, Olive, near Melbourne in 1923, shortly after Olive's husband died, and again in 1927 when Olive was in Dandenong Hospital.

Final years of Amelia's life – 1920-28

“After her return to Burnie with one soldier boy home she was never the same vigorous woman of her earlier years. In 1920 she had a severe attack of gallstones which prostrated her greatly and there appeared to be a general break up of health though she courageously kept going (seldom keeping to her bed).”

“She was a great sea traveler seldom suffering from sea sickness. In 1921 she accepted the invitation of her 3 sons, Martin, Wenman and Milton Hilder, and journeyed via Melbourne and Sydney to Auckland NZ spending 3 months in the Dominion returning by steamship via Sydney and Melbourne.”



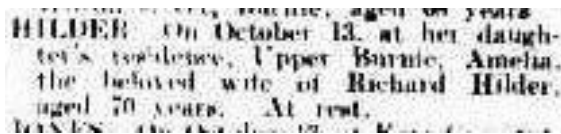
*Amelia Hilder in New Zealand
with sons Jim and Wenman and grandson Stanley (Wenman's eldest son, aged 3 or 4)*

Death of Amelia


“Amelia Hilder (nee Hales) died from effects of virulent cancer October 13th 1928, aged 70 years and 10½ weeks before the Jubilee of her wedding day leaving her husband and 9 living children mourning.”

The family had been preparing to celebrate Richard and Amelia’s Golden Wedding Anniversary later that year. However, after both Amelia and her daughter Olive became severely ill, plans had to be shelved.

Amelia died at the home of her daughter, Hannah Graham. At a memorial service for her, Rev. Wesley Hobbs stated that “she would be remembered by many a Christian woman as a model wife and mother, a sympathetic and generous neighbor, the friend of all and enemy of none.”



HILDER On October 13, at her daughter's residence, Upper Burnie, Amelia, the beloved wife of Richard Hilder, aged 70 years. At rest.



FUNERALS
HILDER. The funeral of the late Mrs. Richard Hilder will leave the Burnie Methodist Church for the Wivenhoe cemetery at 3.30 p.m. to-day. Rev. Wesley Hobbs will conduct a short service in the church prior to the cortege leaving. Friends please accept this intimation.
LOYAL WELLINGTON LODGE, BURNIE.
HILDER. Members are requested to attend the funeral of the late wife of P.P.G.M. Bro. Richard Hilder, leaving the Methodist Church at 3.30 p.m. to-day.

Family notices in the Advocate, 15 October 1928

Richard as a widower

After Amelia’s death, the youngest son, Fred, and his wife came to live with Richard at the house at 6 King Street, West Burnie.

Richard seems to have spent a great deal of his final years writing up reminiscences and other documents, many of which were published in the local Burnie newspaper, the *Advocate*.⁵ “At his King St home after his retirement, a back room was his “history den.” There he wrote for hour after hour, keeping what he called “office hours,” and never taking more than an hour for lunch-break. He admitted his short-comings when he had concluded the mammoth task of writing what he called “The Real Pioneers of Emu Bay Settlement in 1863.” He penned at the end: ‘My memory has been somewhat tried in the process of writing. Some may not be absolutely correct, but I have endeavoured to verify when uncertain and I confidently submit that this, my memory record, is a fairly correct statement...’¹³⁵

He dates his memory and habit of writing to 1923 when he suffered “a severe attack of sciatica [and] developed a most wonderful memory of past events and kept himself from fretting by writing upon many old history subjects and the lives of the pioneers of Emu Bay District. His surprising accuracy of scenes and dates won quite a literary name for himself. He still carries on this popular work without any pay.”

“Richard Hilder was surely the most avid and copious history writer Burnie has known. Not only did he contribute regular articles to “The Advocate” and other newspapers, but from the original and well-preserved master copies of his memoirs he wrote in very legible old-style hand (which deteriorated as he grew older) many stories with popular appeal which he stapled with his little brass paper-clips and donated to fairs and to the original Burnie museum committee (at the Town Hall) for sale. They found a ready market”.¹³⁶

⁵ See Appendix 1 (p. 198) for a list of articles written.

In 1936, at the age of 80, he had the experience of appearing in court for the first time, on the charge of jay-walking.

BURNIE POLICE COURT

Thirty-three defendants were dealt with on charges of jay walking in the Burnie Police Court yesterday before Colonel J.P. Clark. P.M. It was the first occasion on which such charges had come before the Burnie court, and in view of this the magistrate treated the offenders leniently. One defendant, Richard Hilder, told the court that he was 80 years of age, and he remembered Burnie when it was without any streets. It was the first occasion he had been summoned to appear in a police court. All defendants were fined 5/, costs being remitted.

Examiner, Thursday 30 January 1936 p 5

Death of Richard

Richard had been ill for some time before his death on 19th February 1938. A letter from Hannah Graham to her brother Jim in New Zealand details his decline. He had had some health issue with his feet and been told his toes would be likely to drop off but in fact they healed. However, he seems to have suffered a slight stroke and gone into Wynyard Hospital where doctors also diagnosed problems with his liver and kidneys. He was yellow and in pain and Hannah reported that he wished the Lord would come and take him.

Hannah was the last of the family to see him. A message had come that he had had a seizure but before any of the family could get to him, he had passed away. "He had been sitting up in the chair and had a seizure and fell and hit his head on the locker and was gone in a few minutes"¹⁵⁷

HILDER.—On February 19, at the Spencer Hospital, Wynyard, Richard, widower of the late Amelia Hilder, King Street, Burnie, in his 82nd year.

FUNERAL

HILDER.—The funeral of the late Richard Hilder will leave the Methodist Church, Burnie, **THIS DAY** (Monday) at 2.30 p.m., for interment in the Wivenhoe Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation.—M. M. Vincent, Funeral Director, Burnie. 'Phone 104.

LOYAL WELLINGTON LODGE, MANCHESTER UNITY, BURNIE. Members of the above Lodge are requested to attend the funeral of the late Bro. Richard Hilder, P.P.G.M., from the Burnie Methodist Church, at 2.30 p.m. to-day.—H.D., Secretary.

The Advocate, 21 February 1938

A memorial service was held for Richard at the Burnie Methodist Church on the 27th of July 1938 at which Rev H. Chambers spoke about his character:

OBITUARY. LATE MR. RICHARD HILDER: Life of Loyalty and Service

"He went full of honor and rich qualities of mind and heart, leaving behind him a record of active goodness and righteousness," said , Rev. H. Chambers at a memorial service to the late Mr. Richard Hilder in the Burnie Methodist Church last evening.

There was a large congregation. ...

The late Mr. Hilder was universally esteemed and loved. He had heard nothing but the highest eulogy of him as a citizen and a parent. His was a gentle life, and the elements so know him that Nature might sit up and say to all the world, "There was a man."

With Mr. Hilder's death there was removed from their midst a highly respected figure. He was also a picturesque figure. He carried his age well, and was known to one and all at Burnie and throughout the district. A man of the "old school," he was a citizen of whom all were proud. He took an active part in the work of the community and was admired by those in positions of authority. He filled every place and every capacity in which he served with a faithfulness and integrity which won for him the highest place in their esteem. He occupied the highest positions in the Methodist Church that a layman could occupy, being the senior trustee and the senior lay preacher.

Mr. Hilder's works published in the press were appreciated all along the Coast. He delighted in relating his experiences, which showed fine courage. Those of the Methodist Church looked upon him with veneration, "Just as the sun is unaware of its lifting the mists from the earth, so was he unconscious of the good influence he had on anyone with whom he had anything to do," said the speaker.

He concluded by appealing to the congregation to strive to emulate the example set by the one in memory of whom the service was being held.

By request, the favorite hymns of the late Mr. Hilder were sung during the service.

Advocate, Monday 28 February 1938, page 2

Another testament to his character had earlier been published in the *Advocate* in 1931 when he turned 75:

If one reads in the Bible what a Christian should be and how he should live, he will have to admit that Mr. Hilder comes very close to the requisite. He might have been in a good position to-day, but that was not his ambition. It was not for worldly things that he strove - no nice, imposing residence, sedan car, etc. His desire was to help the needy more than to rake in the shekels, and what he gave to the poor and needy was never made public.

Many years ago a family living on the Mooreville Road, who were in poor circumstances, found at their door one morning a bag of flour, a bag of sugar and a parcel of groceries. There was nothing to show who had given them, but the good Samaritan was Mr. Richard Hilder, who last week carried his score to 75.

Mr. Richard Hilder. (A Tribute by "S.B.") *Advocate (Burnie, Tas. : 1890 - 1954)*, Tuesday 28 July 1931, page 2

Siblings of Richard Hilder

Richard Hilder came from a family of 13 children born to Thomas Hilder and Elizabeth Hayhoe of Tasmania. Three of the children died in childhood, leaving 10 siblings.

Descendants of Thomas HILDER

Thomas HILDER b. 31 Mar 1816, Church Farm, Cockfield Parish Of Bury St Edmonds, Suffolk, d. 7 Mar 1894, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia

+Elizabeth HAYHOE b. 26 Nov 1837, Evandale, Near Launceston, Tasmania, m. 21 Jul 1853, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia, d. 22 Oct 1883, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, par. James Buck HAYHOE and Susan WHATLEY

Alfred Robert HILDER b. 2 May 1854, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, d. 22 Nov 1941, In Cooee At The Home Of His Niece Esther Smart Nee Billett, Somerset, Tasmania

+Georgina HARNETT b. 18 Feb 1862, m. 23 Jun 1879, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 1907, (Somerset General Cemetery), par. James HARNETT and Margaret WALLACE

Anna Elizabeth HILDER b. 26 May 1855, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, d. 3 Oct 1934, Australia

+Henry William BILLETT b. 4 Apr 1855, Belfast, Victoria, Australia, m. 1 Aug 1877, Warrnambool, Victoria, Australia, d. 1935, Wivenhoe General Cemetery, par. William Henry BILLETT and Sarah MANNING

Richard HILDER b. 24 Jul 1856, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 19 Feb 1938, Spencer Hospital, Wynyard, Tasmania

+Amelia HALES b. 30 Sep 1858, Port Sorell, Tasmania, Australia, m. 26 Dec 1878, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia, d. 13 Oct 1928, Upper Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, par. James Pratt HALES and Eliza Ann RUSSEN

Thomas HILDER b. 21 Dec 1857, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 12 May 1941, (Wivenhoe General Cemetery)

+Anna Bella MOLLISON b. 19 May 1862, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, m. 8 May 1888, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 20 Oct 1924, Launceston, par. Capt William Shand MOLLISON and Fanny SPOONER

Susan HILDER b. 11 May 1859, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 9 Jan 1930, (Wivenhoe General Cemetery)

+Archibald Stephen PHILLIPS b. 1850, m. 25 Sep 1883, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 18 Sep 1914

Esther HILDER b. 5 Mar 1861, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 12 Sep 1932, (Wivenhoe General Cemetery)

+Edward Robert EVANS b. 1841, m. 7 Apr 1890, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 9 Aug 1936, (Wivenhoe General Cemetery)

Mary Jane HILDER b. 30 Nov 1862, West Beach Farm, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 19 Oct 1866, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia

Charlotte HILDER b. 7 May 1865, West Beach Farm, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 20 Jun 1936, (Wivenhoe General Cemetery)

+Amos EVANS b. 1862, England, m. 28 Dec 1887, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 19 Dec 1951, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia

Eliza HILDER b. 8 Sep 1866, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 11 May 1876, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia

Martha Jane HILDER b. 17 Jul 1868, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 5 Sep 1947

+Watkin ROBERTS b. 1862, m. 28 Apr 1890, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 18 Aug 1937, Spencer Hospital, Wynyard

Robert HILDER b. 6 Oct 1871, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 29 Nov 1944, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia

+Mary Ann BURLEY b. 1870, m. 27 Aug 1895, Hill Farm, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 1930, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia

Frederick Henry HILDER b. 24 Sep 1873, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 9 Apr 1882, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia

Ruth Agnes HILDER b. 8 Aug 1875, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 13 Nov 1970

+Louis Schutz CUMMING b. 1873, Aberdeen, Scotland, m. 30 Aug 1895, Wesleyan Church, Burnie (Emu Bay), Tasmania, Australia, d. 21 Sep 1941, Sydney, Australia

Alfred Hilder

(1854-1941)

Thomas and Elizabeth's first-born, Alfred, was born on the 2nd of May 1854. He left school early to help his father and eventually became manager of King Lyell, Haxelwood and Mt. Bischoff mines in Tasmania and Rio Tinto in Queensland after his early experience working in the Mt. Bischoff mines at Waratah Tasmania.

He married **Georgina Harnett** on the 23rd of June 1879. They had two sons (James Rowland and Albert Leslie) and two daughters (Elizabeth Maldon and Ethel Margaret). Alfred died at the home of his niece Esther Smart (nee Billett) on the 22nd of November 1941 at the age of 87.



Four generations (L-R): Kenneth, Gilbert, James Rowland (Roley) and Alfred

Alfred's firstborn son, James Rowland Hilder (known as Roley) became quite prominent as the Warden of Burnie, receiving an MBE in 1936. He was a:

...big-time farmer, road-builder and contractor and Warden of Burnie during the depression of the 1930's. Roley left a perpetual legacy for Burnie in "Hilder Parade" on North terrace. It was reclaimed from sandhills and built by the Burnie Council with unemployed labour. He was also a Warden of the Burnie Marine Board for 13 years from 1945.

In addition to his community and local government activities, Roley Hilder was associated with every farmers' co-operative in Burnie. For many years he was simultaneously chairman of directors of the North-Western Co-Operative Dairy Co Ltd, what became Farmers Limited (supermarket), the Farmers Co-operative Auctioneers Ltd (became Roberts Stewarts), and a member of the defunct North-Western Co-operative Freezing & Canning Co Ltd (became Tas Meats).

Pike, R., *Pioneers of Burnie: a sesquicentenary publication 1827-1977*. 1977, Burnie, Tas.

The Hilder Parade in Burnie was developed and named during his tenure:

Hilder Parade

Mr. H. Halstead, secretary of the Burnie Tourist and Progress Association, wrote asking that the council adopt a recommendation made by his association that the newly constructed part of West Beach should be named "The Hilder Parade." He pointed out that if the recommendation were carried out it would assist to perpetuate the name of one of the municipality's oldest families. It was generally recognised that the present Warden had given his time unstintingly to alter what was formerly an eyesore into a beautiful parade.

Examiner (Launceston, Tas. : 1900 - 1954)
Tuesday 20 March 1934, page 5



M.T.J. Hilder at Hilder Parade, c. 1950s-60s

Wrought iron gates were erected on the Parade bearing the name. These stood for many years until it was discovered by Vicki Hilder¹³⁸ in 2011 that they were no longer there. After contacting the Council and then a local journalist, investigations eventually revealed that during a redevelopment of the foreshore the gates had been removed and installed in the garden of a Burnie Council employee who had also changed the lettering from "Hilder Parade" to "H. H. Brown", honouring one of his own forebears. Community outrage ensued and the gates were restored to their former appearance and position on Hilder Parade in 2012.¹³⁹



The Hilder Parade gates as they originally stood



The reinstated Hilder gate, as of 2012
Picture: Katrina Dodd, The Advocate

Councillor Hilder's reputation was not entirely without blemish, as shown by this incident in 1918:

COUNCILLOR AND STRAY CATTLE.

'I would like to mention,' remarked Sergt. Hynes in opening a case heard at the Police Court yesterday against J. R. Hilder for allowing a cow to stray on Ridgley road on February 10, 'that from the council the police received a complaint as to the stray cattle nuisance. Last Sunday I was on the Ridley road, and I found defendant's cow grazing on it. This cow was claimed by Hilder, who is a councillor, and a man who certainly should conform with the law, especially as he knows the council have moved in the matter. I hope an example will be made of him.' In giving evidence Sergt. Hynes said he had found the cow on the road, and later saw defendant, who claimed the animal as his property. Asked why the cow was on the road, defendant passed the question on to his son, who blamed his brother. While there the cow, which had been brought in, again walked out on to the road. There appeared to be no attempt to keep it in and the animal was able to roam about at its own sweet will. 'I find defendant guilty,' said the Police Magistrate, 'and as he is a councillor he ought to know better.' He was fined 10/- with 9/- costs.

'COUNCILLOR AND STRAY CATTLE.', *The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times* (Tas. : 1899 - 1919), 15 February 1918, p. 2

Anna Elizabeth Hilder

(1855-1934)

The eldest daughter, Anna, was born on 26th of May 1855. She spent some time in Warrnambool, Victoria, staying with relatives (most likely on her mother's side) and it was there that she met and married **Henry Billett**. They married on 1 August 1877 but moved to Tasmania a short time later.¹⁴⁰

The couple spent some time in Adelaide when times were bad in Tasmania, but settled back in Burnie until retiring to Cooe. They had 11 children, nine boys (William, George, Herbert, Albert, Frederick, Horace, Reuben, and Ralph) and three girls (Ester, Elsie and Emmaline). Their third son, Herbert, moved to New Zealand and descendants of this family still live there.¹⁴¹

Anna "seems to have inherited her parents' sterling qualities because *Pioneers of Burnie 1837-1977* states she was renowned for her hospitality and kept open house for all and sundry. ... Her generosity was unbounded and even though she had eleven children, she offered to take her son Horace's two small girls when their mother died in 1919. It was not necessary because [the] mother's elder sister, Emily Hill, was willing and able to keep [them]."¹⁴²

Henry was Burnie's first plumber.¹⁴³

He set up Burnie's first plumbing service at his home at West Burnie and became the forerunner of the Billett family being involved in plumbing in Burnie for more than 90 years. Henry was followed by his eldest son, William, and grandsons Les and Basil. Thus the family's connection with plumbing ranged from acetylene gas lighting in the horse and buggy days through to the advent of sewerage and electronic equipment.

Pink, Kerry (2000) *Campsite to City: A history of Burnie 1827-2000* Burnie, Tas.: Burnie City Council

Henry died in November 1935 and the following is an excerpt from his obituary:

The late Mr. Billett was Burnie's first plumber, and was actively engaged in that trade until about three years ago, when he retired. When Mr. Billett commenced business in Burnie the only public bodies in existence were the Emu Bay Road Trust and the Table Cape Marine Board. The Town Board, which followed the Road Trust, decided to give the town a water supply, and in the work of installation Mr. Billett was one of the leading artisans. The deceased was one of the prime movers in the formation of the West Park recreation ground, and his interest in this reserve continued through the years. He was also keenly interested in various sporting bodies in the town in his younger days.

Advocate, 8 November 1935

Anna died suddenly on the 3rd of October 1934 at the age of 79, despite being in apparently good health. She had "only a little over a fortnight ago had the honor, as the oldest member of St. George's Church of England, of cutting the birthday cake at the jubilee tea of the church."¹⁴⁴

Thomas Hilder

(1857-1941)

Thomas was born on the 21st of December 1857. He was the fourth child born to the family, and the third son.

Prior to marriage, in the 1880s, he managed a general store in Marine Terrace, Burnie with his sister, Susan, both being in their early 20s¹⁴⁵. He married **Anna Bella Mollison** on the 8th of May 1888. Thomas was 30 and Anna Bella 25.



*Tom and Anna's wedding, Capt William Mollison next to bride.
Photo courtesy of Tasmanian Archives*

Thomas was a sawmiller and the move of his mill from Somerset to the corner of North Terrace and Mount Street in Burnie was reported in the *North Western Advocate* in January 1904. An old resident of Emu Bay is reported to have commented that at one point, large numbers of penguins had made their nests in the sawdust at Tom Hilder's mill on North Terrace.¹⁴⁶

Thomas and Anna had two sons, Allan Everard and Thomas Roy (known as Roy). Roy followed in his father's footsteps after service in World War I and also became a sawmiller.

Anna died on the 20th of October 1924 at the age of 62 after a long illness. In 1935, Tom arranged for a stained glass memorial window for her in the local Catholic Church where she had been a member:

THE NORTH-WEST BURNIE HILDER MEMORIAL WINDOW

In memory of the late Mrs. Annabella Hilder, a beautiful stained glass window has been erected in the sanctuary of St. George's, Burnie, by her husband, Mr. Thos. Hilder. The artist, Mr. William Frater, of the firm of E. L. Yencken and Co., Melbourne, has worthily carried out his ancient craft, and the window has all the depth and richness of colour, also transparency, which are such prominent features of early stained glass. The window is composed of three "lights" and a "rose." It is beautiful in design, and its situation in the sanctuary adds much to the dignity of the church. The dedication will be conducted tomorrow at 11 a.m. by Archdeacon H.R. Atkinson.

Examiner, 21 Sep 1935



*Memorial stained glass window
in St George's church, Burnie
c. 2016*

In April 1929, Thomas' brother Richard noted in a letter to his son Milton James: "Uncle Tom Hilder is away in Melbourne for special Radium treatment for a poisonous little ulcer on the side of his temple." Thomas was 72 at the time.

Thomas died on 12th May 1941 at the age of 83. His death notice in the newspaper contained the following:

The late Mr Hilder, who was born at Parklands, had resided in the Burnie district all his life, but had many interests at Circular Head and was much attached to that locality. He was a sawmiller and grazier. He is survived by one son, Mr Alan Hilder, and two brothers, Messrs Alfred Hilder (Cooee) and Robert Hilder (Upper Burnie), and two sisters Mesdames L.S. Cumming (Burnie) and W. Roberts (Melbourne). He was predeceased by his wife about 10 years ago, and another son, Mr Roy Hilder, died some eight months ago.

The Advocate, 17 May 1941

It was also noted that:

Although he did not take an active part in community affairs, he closely followed the advancement of the town. The erection of the lookout tower at Round Hill was made possible by a substantial donation from him.

The Advocate, 16 May 1941

Susan Hilder

(1859-1930)

Susan was born on the 11th of May 1859. She was the fifth child born to the family, and the 2nd daughter.

Prior to marriage, in the early 1880s, she managed a general store in Marine Terrace, Burnie with her brother Thomas, both being in their early 20s.¹⁴⁷ She was later a dress-maker.

She married **Archibald Stephen Phillips**, a shipping clerk, on the 25th of September 1883. Susan was 24 and Archie was 33. The marriage was marked with some ceremony:

To-day Emu Bay is in regalia; the two fine barks Highmoor and Remonstrant are resplendent with bunting, the smaller craft are flying their best, and on shore flags fly everywhere. This unusual display is in honour of a wedding: that of our much respected fellow-townsmen, Archibald Phillips, who has filled the post of shipping clerk for several years, during which time he has earned the goodwill of all that came in contact with him. The announcement of his marriage with Miss Hilder, the proprietress of a millinery and dress-making establishment in Wilson street was the occasion of a kind of general festivity.

JOTTINGS FROM BURNIE. *The Tasmanian*, 29 September 1883, p. 1149

Susan and Archibald had three children, a daughter (Lily) and two sons (Leonard and Gerald).

Archie conducted an auction business in Devonport after his marriage to Susan.¹⁴⁸ He died in 1914 at the age of 64.

Mr. Archibald Stephen Phillips died at Devonport on Friday morning after a residence there of 30 years. He was a native of Hobart, and was 64 years of age. He sustained a paralytic stroke four years ago, since when he gradually drooped, and finally was a helpless invalid. He took an active part in politics, and was election agent for the late Mr W. Aikenhead when the latter was unseated for Devonport on the petition of Dr. McCall, but the latter did not gain the seat, as he was defeated by Mr. H. Murray, who resigned the Latrobe seat in favour of Mr. Aikenhead. Mr. Phillips was shipping clerk for the late Capt. W. Jones at Burnie for nine years before going to Devonport. The funeral took place in the Mersey Bluff Cemetery on Saturday afternoon, and was largely attended.

The Mercury, Tuesday 22 September 1914

Susan died sixteen years later, on the 9th of January 1930 at the age of 70. She was a long-standing member of the Devonport branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society whose service was acknowledged at their annual meeting in July 1930.¹⁴⁹



Susan with her brother, Richard

Esther Hilder

(1861-1932)

Esther was born on the 5th of March 1861. She was the sixth child and third daughter of the family.

After her mother's death in 1883 (when Esther was 22), she was the housekeeper for her father and her younger siblings (aged between 8 and 18 years old in 1883). She was also a dressmaker.¹⁵⁰

Seven years later, she married **Edward Robert Evans** on the 7th of April 1890. Edward was a widower aged 49 with four children when they married; Esther was 29.

Edward was a farmer and bootmaker and also a keen sportsman, playing cricket in his younger years and later shooting quail. They had three children, two sons (Vernon and Kenneth) and a daughter (Zoe).

Esther died on the 12th of September 1932 at the age of 71, having had a seizure and being seriously ill on the 1st of September 1932.¹⁵¹ A portion of her obituary is as follows:

Methodist Church services were commenced in Emu Bay during 1869, and Esther Hilder was one of the first scholars enrolled in the Primitive Methodist Sunday School. Later on she became a teacher and choir member. As a member of a large family she experienced the hardships that confronted pioneer land workers, but she grew into a useful and self-reliant young woman. After her mother's death in 1883 she became housekeeper for her father and other members of the family, and also managed a small dressmaking business. In 1890 she married Mr. E. H. Evans, and had ever since lived in Wilson street, fulfilling her part nobly as wife and mother.

During a long period she retained a deep interest in the Methodist Church and Sunday School. Though a real home woman she found time for many good

deeds, quietly and graciously rendered. As a soldier's mother her services during the Great War were uncountable, and she was actively associated with the recruiting, and home-coming committees. The street-stall in Wilson street, Burnie, is a familiar sight, and was made available for church or charitable appeals through the Christian courtesy of Esther Evans.

At the conclusion of the service a brass memorial tablet, mounted on blackwood, the gift of the brothers and sisters, was unveiled by the youngest member of the family, Mrs. L. S. Cumming, of Sydney.... The tablet bore the following inscription: "To the cherished memory of our sister, Esther Evans, who served this church faithfully for 50 years. Died September 12, 1932, aged 71. 'She, being dead, yet speaketh.'"

Advocate, Tuesday 14 February 1933

Edward died four years later at the age of 95 on the 9th of August 1936.

Charlotte Hilder

(1865-1936)

Charlotte was born on the 7th of May 1865. She was the eighth child and fifth daughter of the family (the fourth daughter having died at the age of 3).

She married **Amos Evans** on the 28th of December 1887. Amos was born in England and accidentally ended up in Tasmania after being left behind after a stop-off on the way to New Zealand.¹⁵² He worked operating machinery such as traction engines and cranes, as well as in mines and with his brother-in-law Thomas Hilder at his sawmill. In later years he was a storekeeper and lived until the age of 90, dying in 1951.¹⁵³ Amos and Charlotte had two daughters, Millie and Madge (both visited by their cousin Wenman Hilder on his visit in 1967 from New Zealand).

Charlotte died on the 20th of June 1936 at the age of 71. Some idea of her character and life is contained in the following obituary:

Late Mrs. Amos Evans. (CONTRIBUTED)

One by one they pass beyond our ken, those men and women who constitute the families of the early day settlers of the Emu Bay and Burnie districts. The recent death of Mrs. Amos Evans, of Princes street, West Burnie, removes another link from the shortening chain. Charlotte Evans was the fifth daughter of a family of 13 of the late Thomas and Elizabeth Hilder, early day settlers at Emu Bay. She was born at West Beach Farm, Emu Bay, 71 years ago, and with break periods of residence at Zeehan and Somerset, had, with her husband and family, dwelt within the bounds of the Burnie municipality till the call that commands a higher service came.

Little deeds of kindness, Little words of love;

Make this world an Eden, Like to heaven above.

The truth that these lines convey was early learned and practised by Charlotte Evans during her long and well-spent life, which did not consist of public observation, but rather the quieter, gentle services which extended far beyond her own family circle. Her practical sympathies went out to many persons in Burnie and elsewhere, who will mourn her loss as a personal friend. In young womanhood she experienced the first attack of severe illness, from which she slowly recovered, but the later years of her life has been a series of personal afflictions, borne with a fortitude which could not but be admired by all who knew her.

A few more storms shall beat, On this wild rocky shore,

And we shall be where tempests cease And surges roll no more.

Advocate, June 25 1936, p. 2

Martha Jane Hilder

(1868-1947)

Martha was born on the 17th of July 1868. She was the tenth child born to the family, and the seventh daughter (two of her younger sisters unfortunately having died in childhood).

Martha married **Watkin Roberts** on the 28th of April 1890.¹⁵⁴ “Uncle Watty” was an engine driver on the Emu Bay Railway and Martha was an assistant house-keeper.¹⁵⁵

They had five children but suffered many tragic losses. In 1891, their first-born twin boys both died, at the ages of 4 months and 9 months.

In Memoriam. ROBERTS. — In loving remembrance of our dear little Garton, who departed this life June 9, 1891, aged four months. ‘Gone, but not, forgotten.’ -Inserted by his loving parents, W. and M. ROBERTS.

Wellington Times and Agricultural and Mining Gazette, Thursday 9 June 1892

In Memoriam. ROBERTS. — In fond and loving remembrance of Colin Hayhoe, infant and only son of Watkin and Martha Roberts, who died November 13, 1891, aged nine months. The Lord give and the Lord did take away.

Oh, It was very hard to say good-bye
To my only babe, and watch him die.
But I know that his sufferings now are all o’er
And my dear little son will feel pain no more,
Mother ne’er can forget him, ‘mid sunshine or rain;
And up in heaven I hope to meet him again.

Inserted by his loving mother— M. J. Roberts.

Wellington Times and Agricultural and Mining Gazette, Tuesday 15 November 1892

Their next child was a daughter, Zillah Gertrude, who died at the age of 21 from a “lingering illness” which involved a haemorrhage. Their next son, Frederick Watkin, died within a month of birth. In 1902, their house nearly burned down (the neighbouring cottage that they owned and rented out did burn down).¹⁵⁶

Their last child was a daughter, Myra, who was the only one to survive and marry. Martha (known as Aunty Patty) and Myra (known as Ruth¹⁵⁷) moved to Melbourne in 1935.¹⁵⁸ Watkin Roberts died in 1937 at the age of 75. Martha died ten years later in Malvern on the 5th of September 1947 at the age of 79.

Robert Hilder

(1871-1944)

Robert was born on the 6th of October 1871. He was the eleventh child and fourth son of the family.

He married **Mary Ann Burley** on the 27th of August 1895, a year after his father died. They had a son (Arthur Owen, who emigrated to New Zealand with his cousin Milton James Hilder and has descendants in the Wellington area) and two daughters (Burnie Cora and Annie Gwendoline).

Robert worked as a coachman and then a farmer.

Mary died in 1930 at the age of 60. Robert died fourteen years later on the 29th of November 1944 at the age of 73. His death notice does not mention their son Arthur Owen in New Zealand:

...Mr. Hilder had been a farmer all his life until he retired to reside at Upper Burnie several years ago. Early in his life he took up land at the Three Mile E.B.R. Co. and later he cleared a property at Highclere, where he farmed for several years. His wife predeceased him several years ago. He leaves two daughters, Mesdames A. Adams (Marrawah) and A. Sampson (Launceston).

Advocate, Friday 1 December 1944

Robert's obituary a few days later contained the following details of his life:

[he] was educated at the first school in Burnie, which was situated opposite where the Tasmanian Farmers' Co-Operative Stores now stand. When a youth he joined the livery stables of the late Messrs. Thomas Haywood and Tatlow, and was coachman on the run between Burnie and Wynyard, as well as on other routes. He often recalled interesting anecdotes of early coaching days and development on the North-West Coast. In 1895 he married, Mary Burley, daughter of the late Mrs. Poke, of Stanley. Soon after his marriage he opened up a farm from virgin land on the Mooreville Road, and early in the present century purchased a belt of heavily timbered country at Ridgley. This he gradually developed till in 1914 he moved to the new farm with his family. Large quantities of blackwood staves and timber to supply a mill were obtained from the land, which developed into a substantial dairying and agricultural property. About five years ago he built a home at Upper Burnie, where he lived till his death.

Advocate Monday 4 December 1944

Ruth Agnes Hilder

(1875-1971)



The youngest child, Ruth was born on the 8th of August 1875. She was the 13th child, born when her mother was 38. Her mother died suddenly when Ruth was only 8 years old, and only a year after her younger brother died.

She was very involved with the Methodist church as a young woman, as shown by the following item in the local newspaper prompted by her impending marriage:

Country Intelligence.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

BURNIE.

On Tuesday evening, at the usual weekly meeting of the Free Methodists' Christian Endeavour, Miss Ruth Hilder, who has been one of the most prominent members connected with it for some time, was the recipient of a handsome Bible, the presentation being made on the occasion of her approaching departure from this district. Feeling reference was made to the regret felt by the members at her departure, and good wishes for her welfare and happiness in her future sphere were expressed on all sides.

Aug. 20.

The Tasmanian, 30 August 1895

Like her brother Robert, she married in the year following her father's death - these were the only remaining single children of Thomas and Elizabeth at that time. Their older brother, Thomas, expressed in a letter to Louis that he would have preferred both Robert and Ruth to "have remained as they were for a few years", as they were well provided for, but wished Ruth and Louis "every happiness and prosperity". Ruth was 20 years old and Robert was 23 when they each married.

Ruth married **Louis Schutz Cumming** on the 30th of August 1895, after the wedding was delayed due to weather:

Disappointed bride attends her brother's wedding.

Owing to the fierce gale which has raged on the North-West and West Coasts of Tasmania a would-be bridegroom, Mr. L. S. Cumming, did not put in an appearance for his marriage, which was to have taken place yesterday. Our sympathies are with Miss Ruth Hilder, the bride-to-be, for up to the time of going to press, no news has been received of the s.s. Koonya, which sailed from Strahan on the 20th inst., and was due here last Thursday, 22nd. This is no doubt due to the fact that all telegraphic communication is broken and it is impossible to know what has happened until this is restored. Miss Hilder attended the wedding ceremony of her brother Robert at Hill Farm yesterday.

The Advocate, 28 August 1895



*Lt Danes, C Jolliffe, L S Cumming, M Dyson, Rev T B Reed, A W Tattersall, C Burgess, J A Grant,
Miss L Puxton, M A Barker, Lt F Wilson, Miss Deacon, Miss Woods, Mr J Geo King,
Miss A Tribelock, Miss Ruth Hilder, M A Selby Rogge, Miss E Wilson, M L Cunningham, Miss J Rickalls*

Burnie Methodist Church Group

Louis in back row, 3rd from left; Ruth in front row, 2nd from right

The couple had no children. According to Jean Randall (a grand-daughter of Anna Elizabeth Billett, nee Hilder):

“Although Ruth has no children of her own, she made many young people her concern in a life of inspiration and help to so many. She was a member of the Red Cross for 56 years as well as of the English Speaking Union, the British and Foreign Bible Society and other organizations.

In 1957 Ruth was instrumental in founding the English Speaking Union, the Ruth A. Cumming scholarship, an annual grant for post graduate study abroad. As a staunch Methodist she also endowed the foundation for evangelical institute for students in training for the Methodist ministry.”

Louis served in World War I as a corporal, enlisting at the age of 46. They moved to Sydney after he returned from the war, and Louis became a successful businessman. He died in a head-on collision with a tram in Sydney in 1941, at the age of 68:⁶

HEAD-ON COLLISION WITH TRAM: Former Tasmanian Killed in Sydney

SYDNEY, Sunday, - Louis Stevenson Cumming, a well-known figure in the timber trade, and a former resident of Burnie and Devonport, Tasmania, was killed, and his two passengers injured, when the car he was driving collided almost head on with a tram in New South Head Road, Double Bay, yesterday morning.

One of the passengers, Miss Gwen Alderson, was taken by the central ambulance to St. Vincent's Hospital in a serious condition, suffering from abrasions to the face and hands. The other passenger, Miss Shirley Simmons, received minor injuries to the knee.

Mr. Cumming, whose skull was fractured, died instantly. The car was wrecked by the force of the impact, but the driver and occupants of the tram escaped injury.

It is stated that when attempting to close a door of the car which had accidentally opened, the driver swerved the car in the direction of the tram.

Born in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1873, the late Mr. Cumming arrived in Tasmania at the age of ten. He settled in Burnie when still a youth, but later commenced a general storekeeping business at Longford, subsequently removing to Gormanston, and then to Burnie, where he engaged in the fruit and produce trade and later in the timber industry with his brother, James.

Transferring to Sydney after the Great War, in which he served for several years he

associated himself with the timber business of V.B. Trapp and Co. He subsequently acquired the concern, of which he was managing director at the time of his death. He was also a director of Veneer and Plywood Pty. Ltd., Cumming, Henderson Pty. Ltd., Pacific Plywood Pty. Ltd., Forbes River Timber Co. Pty. Ltd., and Cumming Bros. Pty. Ltd.

WIDELY TRAVELLED

Business activities in recent years took him to many parts of the world, including Siberia, China, the East Indies, Alaska and almost every part of Europe and North America.

Mr. Cumming was a committee member of the City Bowling Club, and represented Australia in England and on the Continent. He was a member of the State champion four this year. He was a staunch supporter of Tasmania, and was patron of the Tasmanian Association of New South Wales.

He married Miss Ruth Hilder, youngest daughter of the late Thomas Hilder, of Sea View Farm, Burnie, in 1891. He is survived by the widow, one brother, Mr. James Cumming, and a sister Mrs. Ernest Dean, Boat Harbor.

The interment will take place in the Northern Suburb cemetery, North Shore, tomorrow, following a service at the Wesley Chapel, city. A Masonic burial service will be held at the graveside.

Advocate, Monday 22 September 1941

⁶ Note that his middle name given here is Stevenson (rather than Schutz, as on his marriage certificate – perhaps changed during the War to disassociate himself from anything German sounding.)

Ruth visited New Zealand around 1938 and again around 1955 to visit her nephews.



Newspaper clipping of unknown provenance, probably 1955

One of her New Zealand nephews, Wenman, visited her in Sydney in 1967 where she was reported to be “still sprightly and well-dressed at 91.”

At the age of 95, Ruth received an MBE in recognition of her services to the community. As noted by her grand-niece Jean Randall, “she was invested with the M.B.E. personally by Queen Elizabeth II, a fitting reward for her church and welfare work.” The investiture was held on the 1st of May 1970 in which Ruth received her award from Queen Elizabeth II. She described it as follows:

“...we... were given instruction by Equerry – of procedure illustrated by a younger Equerry. Points were – A curtsy was not necessary (for which I was grateful as my old limbs were pretty stiff). When my name was called; I was directed to walk within two paces of the dais on which Her Majesty stood, and wait until the former recipient departed, then to proceed to position, bow, and if I wished say one brief sentence to the Queen – Mine was – “Your loyal subject Your Majesty.” The Queen then attached the decoration and shook hands with me, saying – “You have done a wonderful work.” Another bow, one step back, turn left, and follow others back to our seats.”¹⁵⁹

She died on the 13th of November 1971 at the age of 96.

Three of Richard Hilder's siblings died in childhood:

Mary Jane Hilder (1862-1866)

Mary was born on the 30th of November 1862. She died at the age of 3 in October 1866 from severe burning after her clothing caught fire.^{160 161}

Eliza Hilder (1866-1876)

Eliza was born on the 8th of September 1866. She died at the age of 10 on the 11th of May 1876 from debility following an attack of low fever.¹⁶²

Frederick Henry Hilder (1873-1882)

Fred was born on the 24th of June 1873. He died at the age of 9 on the 9th of April 1882 from acute enlargement of the brain.¹⁶³

They are all buried with their mother in the old View Road Cemetery in Burnie, where a recent excavation has revealed their names.

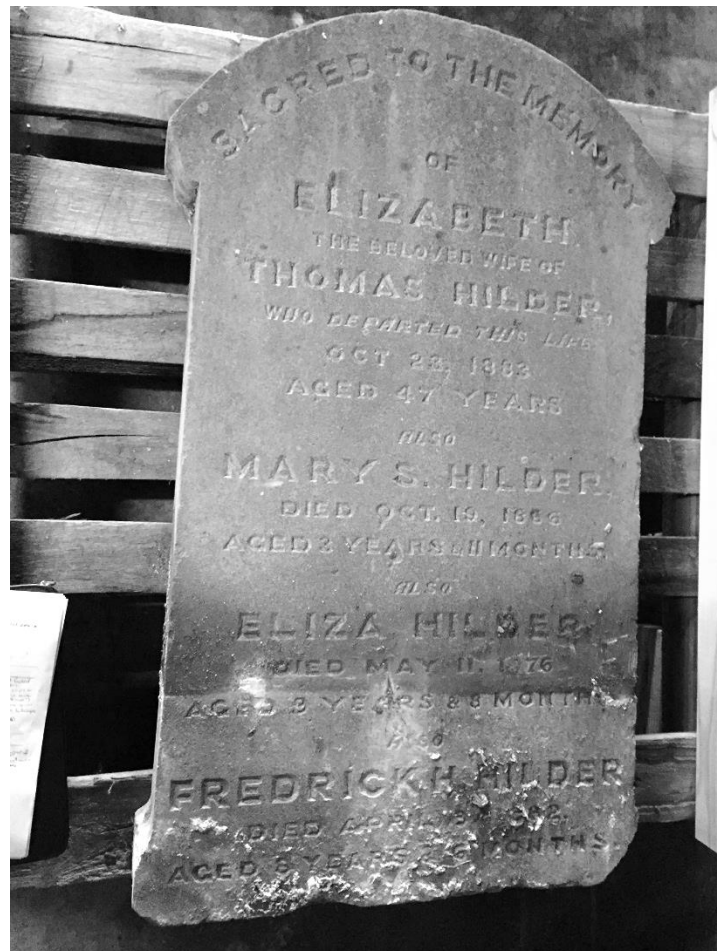


Photo courtesy of Vicki Noel Hilder

Siblings of Amelia Hilder (nee Hales)

Amelia Hales came from a family of 18 children born to James Pratt Hales. She was the third of the eight children born to Eliza Ann Russen who died in childbirth with the 8th child. James Hales went on to have ten more children with his second wife, Jane.

Descendants of James Pratt HALES

Page 1

James Pratt HALES b. 9 May 1826, Lowestoft, Suffolk, England, c. 11 Sep 1828, Lowestoft, Suffolk, England, d. 14 Jun 1888, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia

+Eliza Ann RUSSEN b. 31 May 1830, Twickenham Ferry, London, England, c. 27 Jun 1830, Twickenham, Richmond upon Thames, England, m. 11 Jul 1853, Saint Peters, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, d. 23 Jan 1869, Penguin Creek, Tasmania, bur. Penguin General Cemetery, Tasmania, par. Charles RUSSEN and Amelia STONE

Eliza Ellen HALES b. 1854, Melbourne, d. 31 Oct 1938

+Andrew Virtue Taylor BISHOP b. 9 Nov 1850, Tasmania, Australia, m. 18 Oct 1876, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia, par. Robert BISHOP and Elizabeth TAYLOR

John Charles HALES b. 2 Dec 1855, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia, d. 11 May 1885

+Jane ALLEN m. 14 Aug 1884, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia

Amelia HALES b. 30 Sep 1858, Port Sorell, Tasmania, Australia, d. 13 Oct 1928, Upper Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, bur. 15 Oct 1928, Wivenhoe Cemetery

+Richard HILDER b. 24 Jul 1856, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, m. 26 Dec 1878, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia, d. 19 Feb 1938, Spencer Hospital, Wynyard, Tasmania, bur. Wivenhoe General Cemetery, par. Thomas HILDER and Elizabeth HAYHOE

William HALES b. 3 Jul 1860, Port Sorell, Tasmania, d. 4 Jul 1860

James Henry HALES b. 30 Mar 1862, Port Sorell, Tasmania, d. 3 Mar 1941, Penguin, Tasmania

+Eliza HALL b. 1867, m. 18 Nov 1886, Penguin, d. 7 Feb 1947

Robert George HALES b. 8 Jul 1864, Port Sorell, Tasmania, d. 24 Jan 1936, Melbourne, Australia

William Henry HALES b. 6 Jun 1866, Port Sorell, Tasmania, d. 1946, Brunswick East, Victoria, Australia

+Hester AMEY m. 1890, Victoria, Australia, d. 1931, Richmond, Melbourne, Australia, par. Henry AMEY and Margretta LUSH

Alfred HALES b. 23 Jan 1869, Port Sorell, Tasmania

+Anna Susannah RADFORD b. 1870, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, m. 3 Feb 1904, Scottsdale, Tasmania, Australia

+Jane PARSONS b. 31 Jan 1843, Launceston, m. 27 Feb 1870, Penguin Creek, Tasmania, d. 15 Apr 1913, Penguin, Tasmania

George Edward HALES b. 8 Feb 1871, Port Sorell, Tasmania, d. 20 Jul 1933

+Minnie KING m. 4 Aug 1897, Zeehan, Tasmania, d. 1917

Edwin John HALES b. 22 Jun 1872, Port Sorell, Tasmania, d. 27 Apr 1876, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia

Lucy Jane HALES b. 12 Aug 1873, Port Sorell, Tasmania, d. 12 Nov 1937, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia

+Henry Herbert KING m. 3 Jul 1889, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia

Margaret Emily HALES b. 18 Sep 1875, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia, d. 4 Apr 1945, Smithton, Tasmania, Australia

+George Samuel MURFET m. 29 Nov 1899, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia

Walter Andrew HALES b. 12 Apr 1877, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia

+Gertrude Mary CURTIS m. 19 Jan 1910

Charles HALES b. 16 May 1878, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia

Ernest Albert HALES b. 14 Oct 1879, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia, d. 3 Jun 1955

+Ada TAYLOR m. 30 Dec 1908

Maybella (Mabel) HALES b. 11 Oct 1881, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia

+George COOKE m. 6 Dec 1905, Penguin, Tasmania

Edith Elizabeth HALES b. 13 Feb 1883, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia

Joseph Frank HALES b. 24 May 1885, d. 1968, Coburg, Victoria, Australia

Eliza Ellen Hales

(1854-1938)

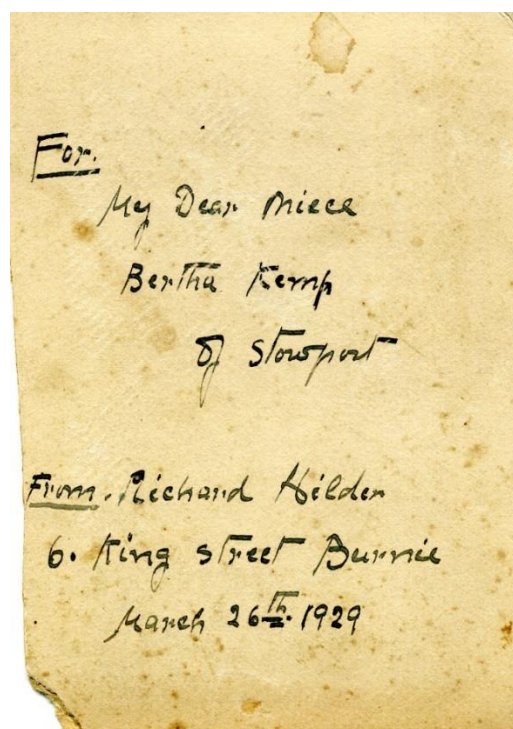
The eldest child of the family, Eliza was born in 1854 in Melbourne. She was 15 years old when her mother died in childbirth. According to Richard Hilder, she cared for her father and the other children with some help from neighbours for about a year before her father remarried.

Eliza married **Andrew Virtue Taylor Bishop** in 1876 and had eleven children, four of whom died in infancy, leaving two sons and five daughters. Eliza died in 1938 at the age of 84. In her obituary, it was stated that:

Deceased came to reside in the Stowport district 45 years ago and she left among her many friends memories of a life spent in the performance of good deeds and kindness to all with whom she came in contact. She was charitable, generous and a Sunday school teacher for many years, also a worker for her church. Her husband and daughter, Mrs W. Applebee, predeceased her several years ago. The late Mrs Bishop left a family of two sons and five daughters to mourn their loss.

The Advocate, 25 November 1938

The only photo of this family is of one of the daughters, Bertha, who married James Kemp – the photo was inscribed by Richard Hilder as a gift to Bertha in 1929.



John Charles Hales

(1855-1885)

The second born and eldest son, John was born in 1855 in Melbourne. He married **Jane Allen** in 1884¹⁶⁴ but died in a quarrying accident in 1885 at the age of 30.¹⁶⁵

William Hales

(1860-1860)

The third born and 2nd son, William died one day after his birth in July 1860, as a result of “weakness”.¹⁶⁶

James Henry Hales

(1862 - 1941)

The third surviving child, James was born on the 30th of March 1862 in Port Sorrell, Tasmania. He married **Eliza Hall** on the 18th of November 1886 in Penguin, Tasmania. He was a bootmaker and lived in Penguin until he died on the 3rd of March 1941 at the age of 78.

“OBITUARY - Mr. J. H. Hales, Penguin

Mr. James Henry Hales, of Main street, Penguin, passed away yesterday in his 79th year. He was a prominent member of the Methodist Church, and well known in Rechabite circles. He had been a Rechabite for over 60 years, and occupied the office of District Chief Ruler. He had drawn no sick pay for over 60 years until his recent illness, which lasted for only a few weeks.

He had been a local preacher for over half a century in the Methodist Church, and had missed only his last, two Sundays from church. He had been in the bootmaking and repairing trade practically all his life, his boots being well known throughout the State.

He was also prominent in the Christian Endeavor Union and Penguin Tourist and Progress Association, as he was in most public projects and committees. He was of a charitable nature and did a great deal of good.

Advocate (Burnie, Tas. : 1890 - 1954), Tuesday 4 March 1941, page 2

Robert George Hales

(1864-1936)



The 4th surviving child, Robert was born on the 8th of July 1864. He was a Mine Manager at Magnet and then Moina in Tasmania.¹⁶⁷ He never married and died in 1936 at the age of 72. In his obituary, he was described as “a well-known figure in Tasmanian mining circles”. Richard Hilder, his brother-in-law, contributed the following to his obituary:

“Mr. Hales died very suddenly at his residence, Toorak Chambers, South Yarra, the immediate cause being heart failure. His medical adviser was in attendance at the time, but not one of his relatives. My daughter, Nurse Doris Hilder, after an urgent message, hurried to him, but was too late.”

The Advocate, 30 January 1936

He appears to have had a particularly close relationship with his sister Amelia and her children. Amelia and Richard's daughter, Doris, who never married, was a principle beneficiary of his will receiving 25% of his estate as well as his personal effects. He left a further 13½% to Amelia herself, to go to her youngest sons Arden and Fred in the event of her pre-deceasing him (which she did). He left a small amount to Wenman “as a slight recognition of his attention to his mother while his brothers were on Active Service”.

Five nephews who had served in World War I were each left 6⅔% (Arden and Fred Hilder, and Arnold, Reuben (Ruby) and Robert Hales). Another niece, Tasma, also received 6⅔%. Smaller amounts were left to two other (presumably unmarried) nieces (Myrtle Bishop, daughter of his eldest sister Eliza, and Doris Hales, daughter of the 1st child of his father's second marriage, George), his sister-in-law Ada Hales, and to one Annie Taylor and to the Salvation Army of Tasmania. The residue was left to his sisters Emily and May, the only two relatives from his father's second marriage to be mentioned in the will apart from Doris Hales.

William Henry Hales

(1866-1946)

The 5th surviving child, William, was born on the 6th of June 1866 in Port Sorell. He married **Hester Amey** in 1890 in Victoria and they had 12 children. William was a baker at Traralgon, Noorat, and Mortlake then managed the farm for Margretta Amey (his mother-in-law) after Henry Amey's death.¹⁶⁸ Hester died in 1931 at the age of 63 and William died in 1946 at the age of 80.

Alfred Hales

(1869 - ?)

The sixth surviving child, Alfred, was born on the 23rd of January 1869 in Port Sorell. His mother, Eliza Ann, died during childbirth at this time. He married Alice Susannah Radford on 3rd of February 1904 in Scottsdale, Tasmania.¹⁶⁹ Nothing further is known of his life.

George Edward Hales

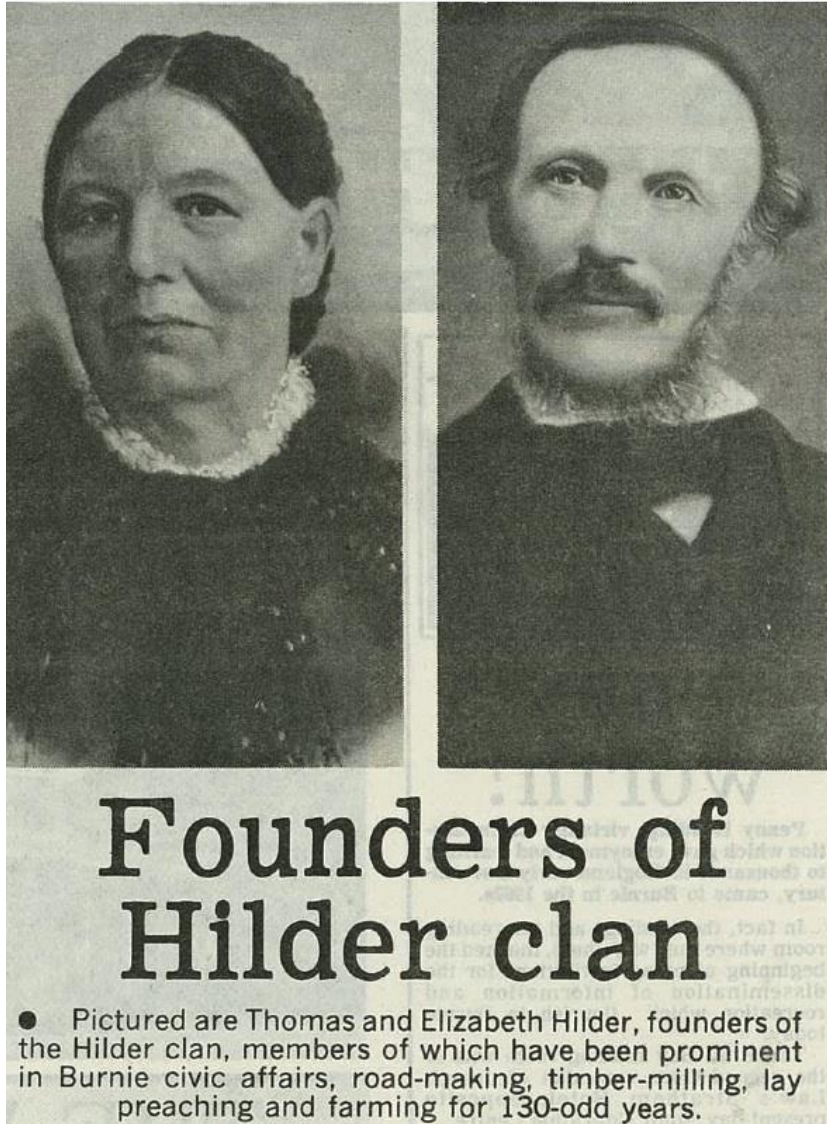
(1871-1933)

George was the first child born to James Hales and his second wife, Jane, on the 8th of February 1871. He married **Minnie King** in 1897. Minnie died in 1917 at the age of 38 and George remarried (to **Harriet**, who is named in his will). George died on the 20th of July 1933 at the age of 62.

Further children of James Hales and Jane

Edwin John, the 2nd child of James and Jane, died at the age of 4 from croup. Eight more children were born to James and Jane as shown above (p.133). The last was born in 1885, three years before James died at the age of 62, when Jane was 45. She remarried in 1890 (to Gustavus Hardy) and died in 1913 at the age of 70.

Hilder Ancestors:
Thomas Hilder and Elizabeth Hayhoe
Parents of Richard Hilder



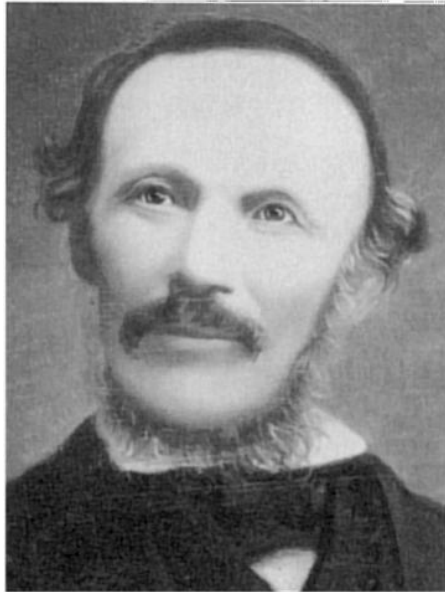
Thomas and Elizabeth Hilder were the founders of this branch of the Hilders in Tasmania, Australia.

Thomas arrived in Tasmania in 1842 at the age of 24 whereas Elizabeth was born in Tasmania in November 1837, her parents having arrived in February that same year.

They married in 1853 when Elizabeth was aged 16 and Thomas aged 37. They lived for 41 years at West Beach Farm near Burnie and raised a family of 13: five sons and eight daughters.

Thomas Hilder

(1816 – 1894)



Thomas Hilder was reportedly born on the 31st of March 1816 in the Parish of Cockfield, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, England, according to his son Richard who also noted a lack of information on his parentage.¹⁷⁰ No record of his birth has yet been found. He is thought by many Hilder genealogists to be the youngest of a family of 8 children in the family of Richard Hilder and Ann Challis of Church Farm but this is not proven.¹⁷¹ If his age at arrival in Tasmania (given below) is correct, his birth would actually be in 1818.

Emigration to Tasmania - 1842

Thomas arrived in Tasmania from England on the 'Indian' from London at the age of 24 on the 6th of April 1842. His name is recorded on a shipping list together with 23 other single men who were brought out "Under the Bounty", under the application of Henry Dowling (a Baptist preacher) of Launceston who functioned as an immigration agent.¹⁷² As Richard Hilder told the story: "the decision to immigrate was greatly influenced by a clergyman, Rev H. Dowling who pointed out the advantages to young men, of a free life in Van Dieman's Land, where 'Free Settlers' and farm workers were badly needed in the Island Colony."

The bounty was a kind of assisted immigration whereby immigrants selected as 'suitable' were paid by the government to come and work in Tasmania for a bonded period, as a way of increasing the labour force. Various forms of the bounty system were brought in focusing on single women, or married men at various times. Between June 1841 and September 1842, 795 immigrants arrived at a cost of approximately £12 000 to the Colonial Government.¹⁷³

UNDER THE BOUNTY.

N^o 3.

RETURN of Immigrants per Ship

Indian

arrived from

London

to

Launceston

Date of Arrival.	Date of Application.	Name and Address of Applicant.	Name of Immigrant.	Age of Immigrant.	Trade or Calling.	Married Adults.		Unmarried Adults.		Children.						Amount of Bounty payable to						
						Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Below 3.	3 to 10.	10 to 18 Male.	10 to 17 Female.	Male.	Female.	Applicant.	Master.	Surgeon.	First Mate.	Second Mate.		
<i>April 6 1842</i>	<i>April 8 1842</i>	<i>Henry Dowling Launceston</i>	<i>Brought</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>Totals</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>24</i>									<i>536</i>	<i>6.12</i>	<i>4.12</i>	<i>4.12</i>	<i>4.12</i>	<i>4.12</i>
			<i>John Godfrey</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>carpenter</i>			<i>1</i>									<i>19</i>	<i>7/</i>	<i>8/</i>	<i>3/</i>	<i>1/6</i>	
			<i>Will^m Lane</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>2 1/2 yrs farm. serv.</i>			<i>1</i>									<i>19</i>	<i>7/</i>	<i>8/</i>	<i>3/</i>	<i>1/6</i>	
			<i>John Hill</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>2 1/2 yrs farm. serv.</i>			<i>1</i>									<i>19</i>	<i>7/</i>	<i>8/</i>	<i>3/</i>	<i>1/6</i>	
			<i>John Sandford</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>gardener</i>			<i>1</i>									<i>19</i>	<i>7/</i>	<i>8/</i>	<i>3/</i>	<i>1/6</i>	
			<i>James Grant</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>2 1/2 yrs farm. serv.</i>			<i>1</i>									<i>19</i>	<i>7/</i>	<i>8/</i>	<i>3/</i>	<i>1/6</i>	
			<i>Hugh M. Hayes</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>2 1/2 yrs farm. serv.</i>			<i>1</i>									<i>19</i>	<i>7/</i>	<i>8/</i>	<i>3/</i>	<i>1/6</i>	
			<i>Charles Sparrow</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>2 1/2 yrs farm. serv.</i>			<i>1</i>									<i>19</i>	<i>7/</i>	<i>8/</i>	<i>3/</i>	<i>1/6</i>	
			<i>Richard Hilder</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>2 1/2 yrs farm. serv.</i>			<i>1</i>									<i>19</i>	<i>7/</i>	<i>8/</i>	<i>3/</i>	<i>1/6</i>	
			<i>W^m Ashman</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>2 1/2 yrs farm. serv.</i>			<i>1</i>									<i>19</i>	<i>7/</i>	<i>8/</i>	<i>3/</i>	<i>1/6</i>	
			<i>Thomas Meadows</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>2 1/2 yrs farm. serv.</i>			<i>1</i>									<i>19</i>	<i>7/</i>	<i>8/</i>	<i>3/</i>	<i>1/6</i>	
			<i>Elias Saylor</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Whitewright</i>			<i>1</i>									<i>19</i>	<i>7/</i>	<i>8/</i>	<i>3/</i>	<i>1/6</i>	
			<i>John Pembell</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Whitewright</i>			<i>1</i>									<i>19</i>	<i>7/</i>	<i>8/</i>	<i>3/</i>	<i>1/6</i>	
			<i>Totals</i>			<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>36</i>									<i>2764</i>	<i>4.12</i>	<i>4.12</i>	<i>4.12</i>	<i>4.12</i>	<i>4.12</i>

Page of the shipping register listing Thos Hilder

Richard Hilder's recollections (which he wrote up in his later life) differ a little from these details, perhaps not surprising in writing up what must have been effectively oral history. His account claims that his father arrived on the brig 'Arab' from Plymouth, March 31st 1841. In fact, the "Arab" did also arrive in Tasmania just before the 'Indian' on the 30th of March 1842.

Thomas' ship companions

Richard's recollection of the names of the three other young Englishmen who arrived with his father was also almost accurate. He listed:

Charles Sparrow, James Ashman and William Meadows.

The Indian's passenger list includes:

Charles Sparrow (aged 19), William Ashman (aged 34) and Thomas Meadows (aged 19).

All are listed as farm servants. It is possible that Charles Sparrow was a cousin of Thomas, since Richard Hilder Snr (the purported father of Thomas, as noted above) had a sister, Susannah, who married a Hammond Sparrow and had four children.

The following newspaper extract gives an idea of the type of immigrants:

THE Arab has brought out a large number of immigrants, chiefly agricultural laborers, selected in England by the friends of those colonists to whom the servants are indentured, and shipped under the superintendence of Mr. Dowling. There are 205 men, women, and children. Three children died on the passage, and five were born on board the Arab. In looking over the applications for a free passage sent to the Land and Emigration Commissioners, we were gratified to find that not one of the applicants had been in the receipt of parish relief. Their robust healthy appearance reflect great credit on those who selected and those who have had the care of them; and we have no doubt they will be found a valuable acquisition to the colony. The Indian" sailed two days before the Arab" with a similar selection.

Launceston Examiner, 2 April 1842

Newspaper items reporting the arrival of immigrants listed some by name (presumably those more well-off) and simply gave the number of “Bounty emigrants”:

April 6.—Barque *Indian*, 276 tons, Carr, master, from London: Borradaile, Gore & Co., agents. Passengers, Mr. William Allison, Mrs. Chitty and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Hawks, Mr. Tomkins, Mr. and Mrs. Truro and child, Mr. M’Nish, Mr. and Mrs. Watson and 4 children, Mrs. Ashman, Mr. Hodges, Mr. Ransom, and 40 Bounty Emigrants.

Launceston Advertiser, April 1842

EMIGRANTS.—Since our last, the brig *Indian*, Captain Carr, has arrived at this port from London, with about forty emigrants, and and twenty cabin and intermediate passengers. The emigrants are of the same class as those imported by the *Arab*, and are selected by Mr. Henry Dowling—“to order.” We learn that two other vessels, with about two hundred and fifty more, may be daily expected from Mr. Dowling.

Cornwall Chronicle, 9 April 1842

Richard wrote up his recollections of his father’s voyage from England, which were published in the *Advocate* in 1924. He tells of turbulent seas and gales as well as some slow sailing during the journey of over 5 months.

Arrival in Tasmania

According to Richard, they were met on arrival by Captain Whiting “a generous old gentleman”. Richard’s account continues as follows:

Trade from Van Diemen’s Land was slack in the early forties, and Capt. Whiting was among those who suffered. Cash was short, though wages were extremely low. The fixed yearly salaries of my father and his three companions were as follows: £20 for the first year, £30 for the second year, £40 for the third year. The salary began when the brig sailed from England at the first attempt.

With the month’s delay to re-fit and a five-months’ voyage there was practically six months’ salary due to each man.

I must mention that the salaries quoted carried with them a free passage from England, with board and lodgings for the balance of the three years’ term in Van Diemen’s Land.

Capt. Whiting gave the four young men a good welcome, and after showing them round his estate gave them to understand what kind of work he expected them to do. He then gave them their choice – each man take the £10 due to him and go where he pleased or keep to the original agreement for the balance of the three years. But so uncertain and precarious was employment for free men, and the unsettled state of the country with small gangs of bushrangers operating in the Tamar districts, that all four decided they would keep to the three years’ engagement, and so commenced their career in Van Diemen’s Land. So far as I can recall through the mist of years, Capt. Whiting, the generous employer of Messrs. Hilder, Sparrow, Meadows and Ashman, gave up all business in Van Diemen’s Land long before the three years expired and returned to England broken in health and spirit. His home,

orchards and estate at Bryants Bay fell into other hands, and the four young English men had to shift for themselves.

The Advocate, 8 March 1924, "In the Pioneering Days: Some Interesting Reminiscences"

Richard Hilder's memoir summarised his life thus: "Ten years of his life was spent on the land about the lower reaches of [the Tamar] river with occasional trips across Bass Strait in sailing schooners with timber and fruit for Melbourne or Portland Bay. Two years were spent on the Victorian goldfields principally on the Bendigo field, followed by 41 years settlement at West Beach Farm."

Trading in the 1840s

Additional detail from Richard's *Advocate* article:

He took to trading on the Tamar River from Georgetown to Launceston, and with a sailing boat he called a yawl he could navigate the river like a duck. He became interested in the inter-colonial fruit market of that date, 1843. At that period splendid orchards were on the Tamar, cherries, plums, apples and pears being the chief fruits.

Apart from the river trading during the season he would take a cargo on one of the small sailing ships to the new settlements of Port Phillip and Portland Bay.¹⁷⁴

A shipment of 86 cases of apples is listed under his name in 1850.¹⁷⁵

On the Bendigo Goldfields and Buying a Farm— 1851-2

The discovery of gold in the colony of Victoria caused a great exodus of all classes from Van Diemen's Land, and 1851-52 found my father and his mate (the late James Elliott of Leven) at Bendigo gold digging.⁷ It was a precarious living for many, but at Forest Creek and Golden Gully these two were fairly successful, and both began to think seriously of becoming landed proprietors. Prices of all agricultural products were big: £22 per ton for potatoes, 18/- per bushel for wheat, 10/- per bushel for oats, and all classes of split timber was at very high rates. A fellow-digger named Wreford⁸ had interests in 50 acres of good half cleared land at Emu Bay, North-West Coast of Van Diemen's Land, and it was from this part of that island the products of high value came. So finally a bargain was struck for this land while both were on Bendigo goldfields, and the 50 acres of good soil became the possession of Thomas Hilder. Having returned to Van Diemen's Land in March, 1853, he decided to go and see his purchase.

Farming in Tasmania

METHODS OF TRAVELLING IN 1853

A Luger of 22 tons register owned by the V.D.L. Co. sailed once a month from Launceston for the North-West Coast - fare 40/- return and passenger to board himself. The only other methods were by horseback or on foot. Purchasing a female nag, he started out from Kelso Bay, West Tamar, riding over the Western Tiers to Port Sorell, swimming the mare across Port Sorell Arm, he continued the journey westward, swimming or fording all rivers down to Emu Bay, for not one of them was bridged in that far-away period."¹⁷⁶

"He satisfied himself as to the locality and quality of his 50 acre farm, situated one mile west of Burnie Township, and facing Bass Strait. An order was given to the local paling splitter

⁷ Note by Peter Aylett: Should Thomas and James have acquired tentage in Melbourne before proceeding to the Bendigo gold fields, they would have most likely purchased it from an ex-mariner sail maker turned tent maker, James Pratt Hales. This gent and his yet to immigrate wife, Eliza Ann Russen were to become the parents of Amelia Hales in 1858 who was to become Richard Hilder's in 1878.

⁸ Note by Peter Aylett: 'Richard' Wreford, a Boot/Shoe Maker by trade became a farmer himself on a large (two surveyed lots) farm on the Mooreville Road.

for the timber for a small dwelling, such as palings, studs, rafters, battens, etc. The boards for flooring were ordered from the local pit sawyers, who had their saw pits on what is now Mooreville road, close to the falls on Stony Creek known as Oldaker's Falls. The hole in the ground is still visible where Zabbedey and Grant cut those boards.¹⁷⁷

Richard described the location of the farm in another article:¹⁷⁸

Thomas Hilder, his wife and young children occupied the freehold half of Brown's original selection, which joined James Davis'. It was purchased by Thomas Hilder from a fellow-digger named Richard Wreford while both of them were on the Bendigo goldfields, of the new colony of Victoria, in 1852. He and his young wife occupied it in July, 1853. Facing Bass Strait, the section of land ran south over the steep hill-side for fifty-three chains, and comprised about 50 acres of prime land, and though it was very poorly watered, it was enhanced in value by a road which connected it at the back.

"Neighbors were few, and there were no roads, only bush tracks."¹⁷⁹

See the map in Appendix 2 for the location of the farm.

"Thomas Hilder was one of the active farmers of his time and did good work for his fellow agriculturists in regard to shipping produce at Emu Bay in its pre-wharf period, in company with some other farmer pioneers."¹⁸⁰

FARMING AND DAIRYING - 1853 TO 1863

The methods of farming and dairying were most primitive. Fully one half of the cultivation was done with a chipping hoe. Wheat, oats, peas, were sown broadcast and chipped in. Potatoes would frequently be planted with the hoe. The ploughs used were short bob-tailed iron mould boards with heavy woodwork, and were usually drawn by a team of four rolling bullocks. Harvesting was performed by sickle and scythe. No mechanical harvester appeared in the district till 1883. The writer in very early life learned how to wield a sickle, cut a swathe with a scythe, and use a flail for the threshing. No threshing machines made their appearance till about 1863, and then they were not steam threshers, but worked by bullocks or horses either as roundabouts or treadle machines.

All winnowing of grain was done by hand-turned winnowing machines or by throwing rapidly with a shovel on a good barn floor or out on a sailcloth in the open with a wind blowing steadily in one direction.

The dairying operations were equally primitive. Cows were milked by hand. The milk was set in shallow tin dishes or in earthenware pans till the cream rose sufficiently. Skimming was performed with a round perforated tin plate, with a small handle on one side. Cream was often kept several days before being churned. The churn of that period was usually a wooden barrel with a top much smaller than the bottom. A plunger ran through a small hole in the well fastened lid, and the steady up and down motion of the plunger soon produced butter, and through the space of years (as I sit and write) the fragrance of the clover-scented butter comes to my nostrils and awakens old memories. No such butter is made nowadays despite the fact of splendid mechanical appliances, which first appeared in the Emu Bay district during the middle nineties.

STILL CARRYING ON

The first 2 years of my parents' farm life was prosperous. High prices still continued for all farm products, with split timber such as palings, shingles, slabs, posts and rails. Potatoes were, however, the chief source of money-making. In 1856 a terrible slump occurred, of which I wrote an account a few months ago in the 'Romance of the Potato.' Into this slump my father fell heavily, and instead of a trip to England he was reduced to real want, and I came, an infant into a moneyless home with 100 tons of the finest Redskin potatoes rotting

within easy distance of port for shipment and no sale for them. But with resolute determination my parents battled on.

The price of wheat continued good and splendid crops were grown on the newly burnt land with no rust or smut to damage it. But it was subjected to damage in harvest time by the vast flocks of white cockatoos and green parrots, which came at early morning or late in the evening from the forest close by. Recovery from the slump was slow, but an occasional trip to Melbourne or Launceston with the wheat and also potatoes was made with good profit, for sometimes the ship masters were not in a buying humor and preferred freighting at 10/- per ton.¹⁸¹

1862 – Trading journey with his son, Richard (age 6)

Richard Hilder also wrote reminiscences of a journey with his father in 1862 (at the age of 6) when Thomas travelled from Burnie (Emu Bay as it was then known) to Launceston with potatoes and wheat from his farm, sharing the schooner with another farmer with similar produce.¹⁸² The journey by sail boat was hampered by lack of wind and they ended up taking a week to complete the journey (which today takes about 1½ hours by road), completing the last 20 miles on foot.

In Launceston, Thomas sold his produce and bought supplies to take home, and they also visited relations and friends and acquaintances. One day was spent with one of his shipmates from his journey out from England, Charles Sparrow, out duck-shooting.

On the journey back from Launceston, they visited two more of Thomas' old shipmates: Thomas Meadows and William Ashman (although Richard misremembers their names as William Meadows and James Ashman). They were both living on the lower reaches of the Tamar River. Thomas Meadows was married to an older woman (aged 62 at that point) and Richard claims to have overheard that he had married her for her property. William Ashman was a widower and later died a rather horrible death alone which was reported in the paper.¹⁸³

Other aspects of Thomas' life

Richard noted that his father "Hilder proved a progressive settler, having had a dozen years of colonial experience since his arrival from England in 1841. Apart from working his farm, he was a member of the Emu Bay Road Trust, after its separation from the River Leven Road Trust, of which separation he was a very ardent advocate. He also interested himself in better shipping facilities, and in conjunction with other settlers ... managed to construct some mechanical contrivance for loading cargo, when no wharf existed. He was the first to introduce American axes to the Emu Bay district, obtaining three from a hardware merchant of Launceston. The price of a medium-weight Collins or Sharpes axe at that period was 14/-, but the American axe did not entirely supersede the long-bladed English axe for many years."¹⁸⁴ His term on the Road Trust was 1867-1869.¹⁸⁵

Richard's memoir further notes that:

He was strictly Church of England till after his last child was born August 1875, then for several years he accepted class membership tickets with The Primitive Methodist Church at Burnie, but in the late years of his life he was a pronounced Church of England man. All his children were baptized in the Church of England, Burnie.

He was a good father to his children, not so considerate to their mother in ordinary everyday circumstances as could be wished but in case of sickness he spared not himself and would most self-denyingly minister personally day or night to wife or child and in the days of poor doctors proved a skilful nurse.

Thomas' Death

"Thomas Hilder lived to the good old age of 78, being a worthy colonist for 53 years."¹⁸⁶ Thomas died on the 7th of March 1894. As Richard noted:

He died intestate. Alfred Hilder, eldest son, administered the Estate of 48 acres of unencumbered land with good house in which the 10 living children were equally participating. Note: Thomas Hilder Jnr owns 13 acres of that 48 still (30/06/30).

The remainder of the farm came under the control of A.B. Cross & Son.¹⁸⁷ In 1934, Richard noted that "The old homestead was burnt down many years ago and was never rebuilt. A few clumps of daffodil flowers mark its site. The grass paddock in front has never been ploughed or cultivated."¹⁸⁸

Mr Thos Hilder, sen, an old and much respected resident in this district died at his residence, West Beach, yesterday morning about half-past 9 (says the Burnie paper of Thursday). He had been ailing for some time past, but his end was unexpected, as he was about on Monday and appeared to be hearty and well. The deceased was 78 years of age, and had been a resident of over 40 years on the farm where he died. He was widely known and esteemed for his uprightness. He leaves a family of nine, all of whom are grown up and most of them in good positions. The best known is Mr Thos Hilder, stereographer, Cam; Mr Alf Hilder, manager Cam creamery; and Mr B Hilder, farmer, Morville road; three desirable residents in any community. The deceased was father-in-law to Mr A. S. Phillips, of West Devonport.

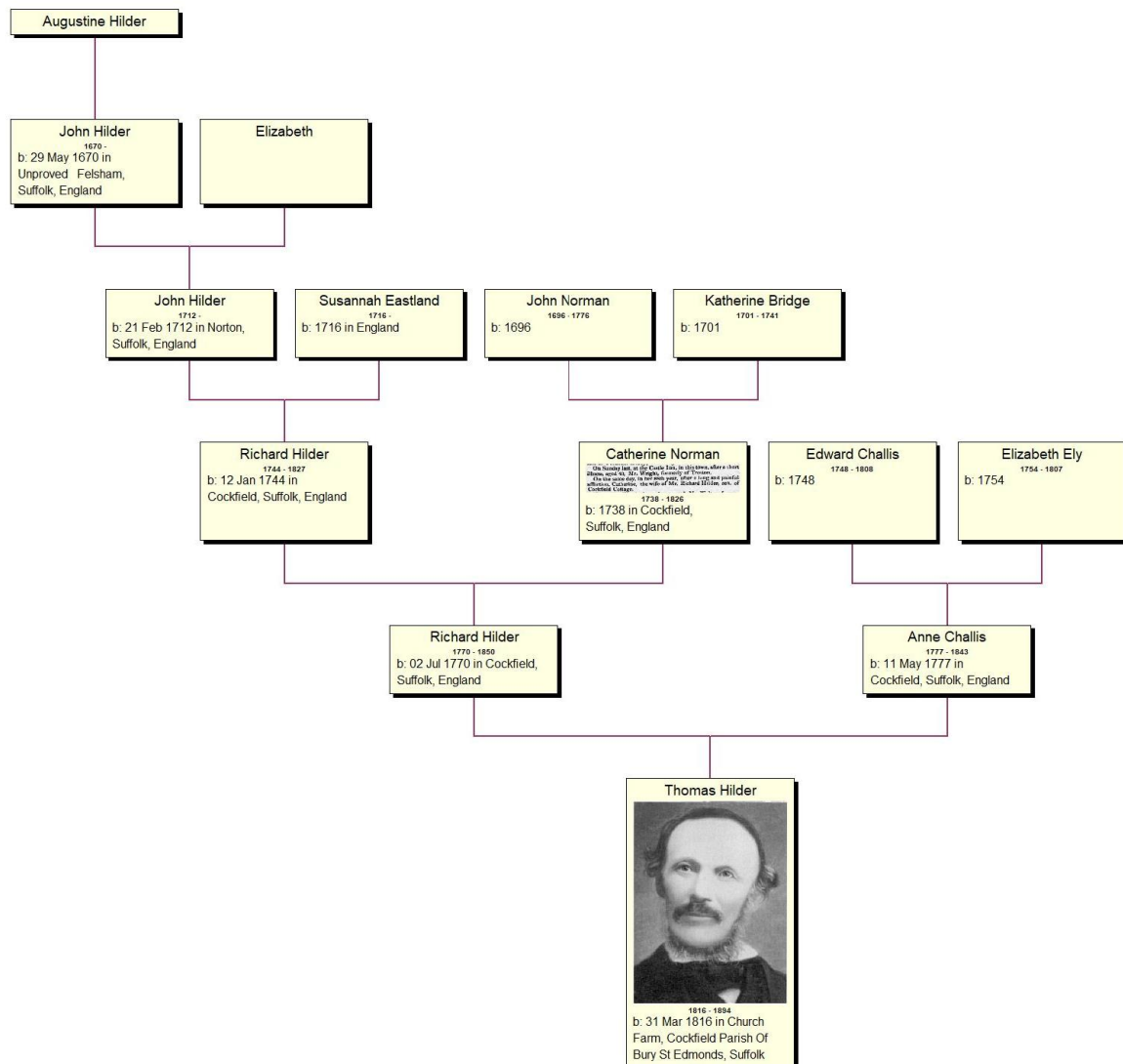
The North West Post
Saturday 10 March 1894, page 2

March 9.
The remains of the late Mr Thos. Hilder, sen., were interred in the General Cemetery on Friday afternoon, the Rev. G. M. Fielding, Anglican clergyman, conducting the burial service. The funeral, which was one of the largest that has taken place here for some time, was attended by residents of all parts of the district, whilst the neighbouring districts were also represented, thus testifying to the esteem and respect in which deceased was held by all those acquainted with him.

The Tasmanian
Saturday 17 March 1894, page 14

If 'Thomas' parents are Richard Hilder and Ann Challis, his ancestors will be as follows, but as noted above, this link is not proven:

Ancestors of Thomas Hilder



Elizabeth Hayhoe

(1837-1883)



Elizabeth was born on the 7th of November 1836, Evandale, Tasmania to James Buck Hayhoe and Susan (nee Whatley).¹⁸⁹ She was the fourth child and 2nd daughter of a family of eight, although the eldest son had died in infancy. The following excerpts about her life are taken from Richard Hilder's handwritten journal, except where noted.

“Elizabeth Hayhoe spent her childhood at Evandale then her parents removed to Cataract Hill, Launceston where her mother, Mrs Susan Hayhoe, kept a milkwalk. Elizabeth after a short school period was nursemaid at Dr Kenworthy's, a Launceston doctor. Also she served similarly at Mr A Walker's, Westbury.

While in Launceston, Elizabeth was a scholar at Margaret Street Wesleyan Sunday School with Revd's William Butters and James Bickford as Ministers. The late Mrs John Denny of Melrose, Tasmania was class leader of the young people's class meeting in 1851.

After her marriage [in 1853], she fell in line with her husband and his Church of England Services at Emu Bay (Burnie) for many years. The 13 children were all baptized at the Church of England, Burnie. In this both parents were agreed.”



*S. Hayhoe,
Great Great Grandmother*

“The general surroundings of a pioneer farmer's wife in those early days would be appalling to the present generation. The nearest doctor's services necessitated a journey by water - roads were unknown - while postal facilities, church services and day schools were almost non-existent, for in those days the Burnie township, with its nine or ten homes, was practically overlooked by the rulers at Hobart Town. Despite these discouragements there was a spirit of homeliness and sociability among the neighbors that made up for much.”¹⁹⁰

When the Methodist services commenced at Emu Bay in 1868, “Elizabeth Hilder, with her husband's consent, at once attached herself to the Primitive Methodist Church and assisted at the Tea Meeting when the first Methodist Chapel was opened at Emu Bay, May 1869.”

“Elizabeth was a staunch Methodist herself and urged upon her children the need for repentance from sin and a true conversion to God. Her home became the place of welcome for all ministers and local preachers or Temperance Advocates during her lifetime. To lonely young men and

women who had no real home in the Township at Emu Bay but had accepted situations there, this good woman acted a mother's part, assisting them to lead good honest lives and by precept and example, urging them to be Christian in character, as well as by a professed creed.

In the later part of her life she suffered repeatedly from attacks or vertigo or epileptic fits which prostrated her body but could not quench her interest in any case of sickness, death or distress and when able she would never hesitate to make a personal visit of cheer."



Marriage of Thomas and Elizabeth

"The marriage of Thomas Hilder and Elizabeth Hayhoe took place at the Independent Church, Tamar Street, Launceston, Tasmania on July 3rd 1853., Rev Charles Price, Minister of Tamar Street Church officiating.

The young married couple left Launceston for Emu Bay (Burnie) on July 5th, 1853 voyaging in a small sailing schooner of 28 tons register named 'The Wave', Capt John Hill commanding. Next day without misadventure the schooner arrived at Emu Bay and the passengers landed by a rowing boat on the rocky foreshore opposite the Burnie Inn, now the Burnie Hotel, kept by Mr Thomas Wiseman Senr. Here they stayed until the 2 roomed dwelling at West Beach Farm was sufficiently completed for them to occupy. Then with their modest belongings they left the Burnie Inn July 15th 1853. The only method of removal was by a bullock dray."¹⁹¹

Thomas and Elizabeth had 13 children between 1854 and 1875. See p. 120 for details.

Elizabeth's death

Although much younger than her husband, Elizabeth pre-deceased Thomas by eleven years. She died suddenly at the age of only 45 years old, having suffered from heart disease and dying from apoplexy (heart attack) on the 23rd of October 1883¹⁹². Her youngest child, Ruth, was only 8 years old at the time.

HILDER.—In loving remembrance of our dear mother, Elizabeth Hilder, who died suddenly at Emu Bay on October 23, 1883.
"Tho' lost to sight, to memory dear."
Three years have passed, dear mother,
Since thy dear face we saw,
And with each one that passes,
We feel we miss thee more.

Daily Telegraph (Launceston), 23 October 1883

Incredibly, three items all appeared together in a local newspaper following her death, with initial reports of her husband's death having to be corrected.

Elizabeth is buried in the old View Road cemetery in Burnie, together with her three children who had died before her, in childhood.

EMU BAY, Oct. 23.
Mr. Thomas Hilder dropped dead from his chair while breakfasting this morning. He was apparently in good health and spirits at the time.

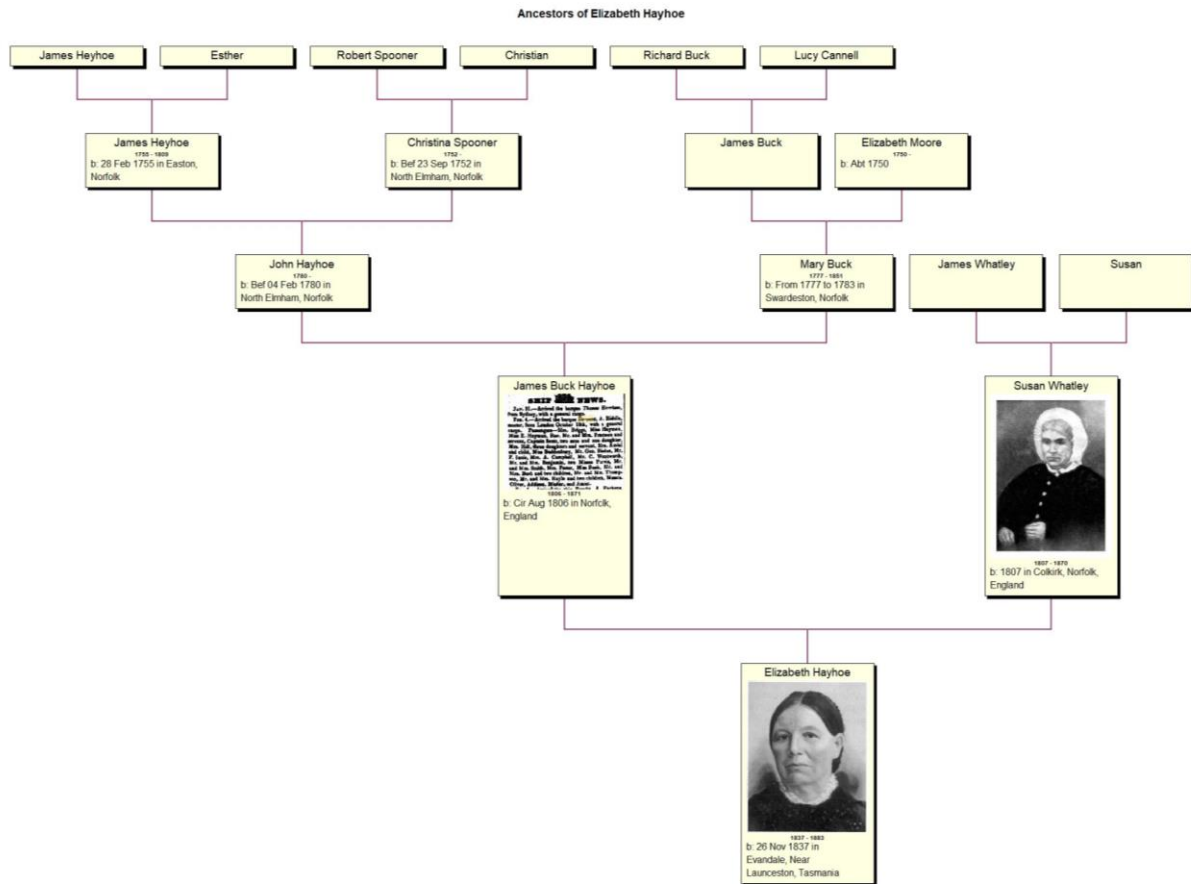
EMU BAY, Oct. 24.
It was Mrs. Hilder who dropped dead yesterday, and not Mr. Hilder. An inquest is not deemed necessary, as she was suffering from disease of the heart.

Emu Bay, October 25.
Mrs. Hilder's funeral to-day was largely attended. The deceased was a Sunday-school teacher and President of the juvenile branch of Good Templars. The Rev. W. Harris officiated and Mr. G. Patterson read the Good Templar service.

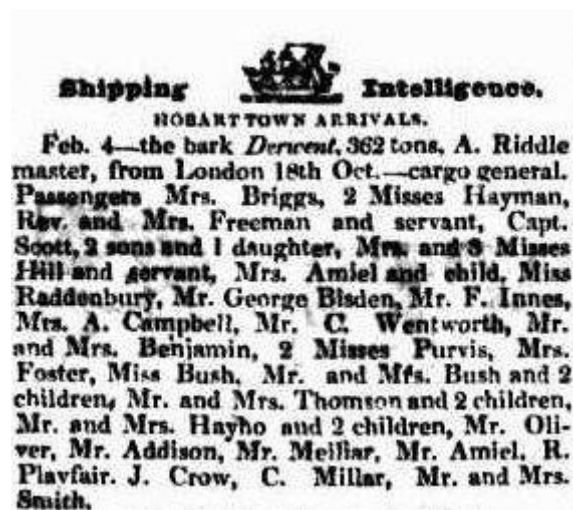
The Tasmanian (Launceston) 27 October 1883, p. 1270



Elizabeth Hayhoe's ancestors:



Elizabeth's parents, James Buck Hayhoe and Susan Whatley arrived in Launceston, Tasmania from Norfolk, England aboard the *Derwent* on the 4th of February 1837 with two young children, presumably Mary and William aged about 4 and 2 years old (see descendant chart below). Their first born had died in infancy in England. Elizabeth was born later in 1837, the first born in Tasmania.



Hobart Town Courier, 10 February 1837, p.2

James and Susan “had married in Colkirk, Norfolk in 1831. The reason for their emigration is unclear. We can only assume James and Susan were assisted immigrants, having their fare paid in

return for several years work on their sponsor's property. Research has failed to find any detail. Five more children were born in Evandale, near Launceston."¹⁹³

James appears to have worked as a bullock ploughman to R Wales, Esq., initially, earning the following favourable mention in the local newspaper for his performance in a ploughing competition in 1840:

After awarding the prizes, it was resolved in Committee, that as the ploughing of James Hayhoe, ploughman to R. Wales, Esq., was not sufficiently good to obtain a prize, that a gratuity of two guineas be awarded to him, with a certificate signed by the Chairman and Committee as a reward for his meritorious exertions in training two bullocks to work in harness, guided with reins, with equal tractibility as horses, and finishing his half acre in less time than some of the horse teams. He having ploughed, with the same two bullocks, upwards of sixty acres this season.

Cornwall Chronicle, Saturday 15 August 1840, page 2

“Later the family moved to Cataract Hill, closer to Launceston, where Susan kept a milkwalk. In about 1852, Susan and the unmarried children left Tasmania and moved to the Western District of Victoria. James remained in Tasmania and died in 1871 aged 65.”¹⁹⁴ Susan died in Victoria in 1870, aged 63.

Descendants of James Buck HAYHOE

James Buck HAYHOE b. Cir Aug 1806, Norfolk, England, c. 13 Aug 1806, Norfolk, England, d. 21 Sep 1871, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia

+Susan WHATLEY b. 1807, Colkirk, Norfolk, England, m. 13 Nov 1831, Colkirk, Norfolk, England, d. 3 Nov 1870, Warrnambool, Victoria, Australia, par. James WHATLEY and Susan

— John HAYHOE b. 1831, North Elmham, Norfolk, England, d. 1832

— Mary HAYHOE b. Abt 1833, Norfolk, England, d. 1 Feb 1867, Yangery, Vic

+John RUSSELL b. Abt 1819, Limerick, Ireland, m. 26 Jul 1849, St John's, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia, d. 25 Dec 1884, Koroit, Victoria, Australia

— William HAYHOE b. 27 Sep 1835, Molyswanton, Norfolk, England, d. 9 May 1875, Ecklin

+Agnes LEE b. 1843, Castle Douglas, Dumphries, Scotland, m. 16 Oct 1862, Spring Creek Woodford, Western Victoria, d. 16 Oct 1911, MT Perry, Qld

— Elizabeth HAYHOE b. 26 Nov 1837, Evandale, Near Launceston, Tasmania, d. 22 Oct 1883, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, bur. View Rd Cemetery, Burnie

+Thomas HILDER b. 31 Mar 1816, Church Farm, Cockfield Parish Of Bury St Edmonds, Suffolk, m. 21 Jul 1853, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia, d. 7 Mar 1894, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, par. Richard HILDER and Anne CHALLIS

— Susan HAYHOE b. 9 May 1840, Evandale, Tasmania, d. 4 May 1918, Camperdown, Victoria

+Henry Jabez UNWIN b. Abt 1833, York, England, m. 22 Oct 1855, Warrnambool, Victoria, Australia, d. 13 Oct 1923, Mortlake, Vic

— James HAYHOE b. 8 Jul 1843, Evandale, Near Launceston, Tasmania, d. 28 Apr 1900, Kynuna, Qld

— John Thompson HAYHOE b. 8 Aug 1844, Evandale, Near Launceston, Tasmania, d. 30 Mar 1911, Penshurst, Vic

+Mary Anne ADAMSON b. 21 Jun 1850, Leigh River, Ballarat, Vic, m. 1 Feb 1869, Koroit, Victoria, Australia, d. 9 Aug 1941, Malvern, VIC

— Robert Buck HAYHOE b. 20 Apr 1846, Evandale, Near Launceston, Tasmania, d. 5 Mar 1923, Ararat Hospital, Vic

+Margaret Anne "Lalla" DAVIDSON b. 10 Jun 1856, Geelong, Vic, Australia, m. 23 Dec 1872, St Mary's Hamilton, Vic, d. 16 Oct 1941, Albert Park, Vic

Hales Ancestors:
James Pratt Hales and Eliza Ann Russen
Parents of Amelia Hilder (nee Hales)



James and Eliza Hales were both English born immigrants to Australia.

James was a seaman who later became a sailmaker in Australia, arriving probably around 1850. Eliza arrived in Melbourne, Australia as an assisted immigrant in 1852 at the age of 22.

They married in 1853 when Eliza was aged 23 and James aged 27. They moved to Tasmania to farm at Old Forth Beach in 1854, producing six sons and two daughters before Eliza died in childbirth in 1869. James remarried and had 10 more children.

James Pratt Hales

(1826-1888)



James Pratt Hales was born on the 9th of May 1826 in Lowestoft, Suffolk, England to James Hales and Hannah Pratt.¹⁹⁵ He did not come to Australia on an immigrant ship and evidence of his arrival has not been found. According to a newspaper account of the marriage of his son, James Henry:

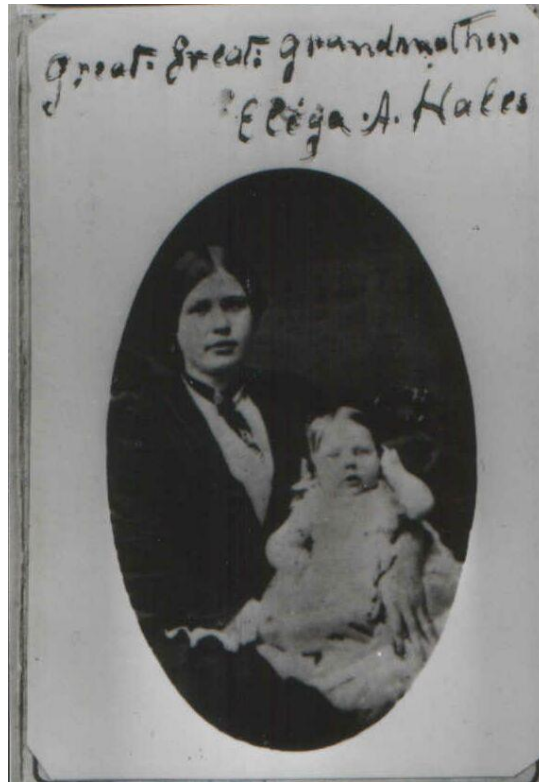
In early life [he] learned the craft of bootmaking, but having a liking for the sea, joined a sailing ship, and went to work with the sailmakers. After about ten years at sea he arrived in Melbourne at the time of the gold fever in the now colony of Victoria. He did not go to the goldfields, but remained in Melbourne, and commenced tent-making. It was there he met his future wife, Miss Eliza Russen, daughter of Major Charles and Mrs Russen.

Advocate, 18 Nov 1936

Richard Hilder believed James Hales had arrived in Australia about 1850 and decided to profit from the gold rush by using the skills he had gained at sea to start a business in Melbourne making and repairing sails and tents for “the gold diggers of the Victorian goldfields and shipmasters needing repairs or new sails”.

Eliza Ann Russen

(1830-1869)



Eliza Ann was born on the 31st of May 1830 in Twickenham Ferry, London, England.¹⁹⁶ She arrived in Melbourne, Australia as an assisted immigrant, aged 22 on the ship the 'Bombay' in December 1852 with her younger sister, Jane (age 18).¹⁹⁷

Eliza was employed on arrival by Mr Creswick in Richmond for 30 days with rations.¹⁹⁸ She was later employed as an assistant to James Hales, sailcloth and tent maker.¹⁹⁹ As Richard Hilder put it, "in due course, an intimacy of loving romance sprang up between the two young English folk."

Marriage of Eliza and James

Eliza and James married on the 11th of July 1853 in Saint Peters Church, Melbourne²⁰⁰, barely six months after Eliza had arrived in Australia. James was 27 and Eliza was 23. About a year later, they moved to Tasmania, apparently attracted by tales of the fertility of the land there and the good prospects for taking up farming.²⁰¹

James and Eliza Hales occupied a portion of the farm of James Wilson at Old Forth Beach. Some years later, they converted to Methodism as part of a revival campaign by California Taylor and became active members of the Wesleyan Chapel at Forth Beach and later at Penguin Creek where they later lived.²⁰²

Eliza and James had 8 children together (one of whom died in infancy) before Eliza died in childbirth on the 23rd of January 1869, aged 38. As her grandson Richard Hilder described it:

after 4 or 5 years of good service as a neighbour and Sunday school teacher and church worker at Penguin Creek, this devoted wife and mother died rather suddenly at her home on January 23rd 1869. She succumbed from child bearing (before a doctor arrived) leaving her husband, an infant son and 6 other children, the eldest not 15 years of age.

According to Richard Hilder, Eliza Ellen Hales, the eldest daughter cared for her father and the other children with some help from neighbours for about a year. At this point, James Pratt (then aged 43) married Jane Parsons (aged 27) on the 27th of February 1870. Jane was “a young woman of the Penguin Creek district, whose parents and family were held in high esteem.” Richard comments that becoming a stepmother to seven children including a baby was “a great task for a young woman to undertake” and “it is but fair to record that the elder 3 of the seven children [Eliza, John and Amelia] did not relish the fact of their father bringing a stepmother to their home.”²⁰³

James and his second wife, Jane, went on to have 10 more children between 1871 and 1885.

“While resident at Penguin Creek, [James] carried on farming and also bootmaking and repairs following the trade he learnt in his youth. During the later years, he kept a general store which finally ate up the farm and paying boot business. Its liabilities broke the lion heart.”²⁰⁴

James Hales died in hospital at Launceston on 14th of June 1888 from heart failure at the age of 62. Richard Hilder speculated the cause of death was “most probably a literal broken heart from business worries and financial failures.”

Eliza Russen's sisters in Australia:

Jane Russen

(1833-1904)



Eliza's younger sister, Jane, emigrated with her at the age of about 18 in December 1852. Jane gave birth to an infant²⁰⁵ (Emilia Phyllis Maria Jenkins) on board the 'Bombay', at Hobson's Bay near Melbourne.²⁰⁶ The child died in 1854 and the father was listed as Dr William Henry Jenkins on the death registration.

Jane married three other men over the course of her life (Johann Harmstrong in 1853²⁰⁷; Henry Millie in 1860²⁰⁸; Walter Stutterd in 1872²⁰⁹), and bore two more children (one to Henry and one to Walter), both of whom also tragically died in infancy. It is not known what happened to Johann or Henry although it seems that Johann just disappeared off the scene soon after their marriage. The following advertisement in the newspaper may have been an attempt to locate him prior to Jane's marriage to Walter in 1872 as she is listed on the official marriage record as Jane Harmstrong (although she married Henry Millie in 1860 as 'Jane Russen').

JOHAN HOMSTROM, alias Charley Brown, married to Jane Russen October 1853 at St Peter's Church, Melbourne, last heard of in 1854. Anyone possessing information concerning him would greatly oblige by communicating with Mr. H. Dunger, corner of Latrobe and Stephen streets, Melbourne.

The Argus (Melbourne, Vic.), 3 February 1872, p. 1 (Classified Advertising.)

Another advertisement in 1880 again sought Johan Harmstrong (aka Charles Brown), "native of Sweden", from Daylesford 1854.²¹⁰

Her last husband, Walter Stutterd, later married Olive Hilder, great-niece and daughter of Richard and Amelia. Olive had been sent over by her parents to care for Jane when she became ill. Jane died in 1904 at the age of 71, with the cause of death listed as 'malignant disease of the uterus, and asthenia', the latter being a chronic lack of muscle strength and energy.

Sarah Russen

(1843-1925)



Eliza and Jane's youngest sister (10 years younger than Jane), also emigrated to Australia 8 years after her sisters. Sarah arrived in May 1860 at the age of 16, on the 'Atalanta', and went to stay with Jane, who at that time was married to Henry Thomas Millie. Sarah married an older man Robert George Foyster though not without initial objection from Jane who sent her to stay with Eliza.²¹¹ These efforts apparently did not deter Sarah.

Sarah and Robert married in 1862 when Sarah was 18 years old and Robert about 29, with the permission of the local guardian of minors.²¹² The couple went on to have 16 children, 8 of whom died in infancy. They settled in Echuca, north of Melbourne, and became well respected members of the community, as her obituary in the local newspaper in 1925 testified when she died at the age of 81 (Robert having predeceased her in 1916, aged about 83):

Whilst in Echuca the late Mr. Foyster had been, as this paper yesterday stated, "a pillar of Presbyterianism in the town," also one of the first presidents of the hospital, in addition to holding other important public positions.

Mrs. Foyster had been of great assistance to her husband in carrying out his public duties, whilst she also had been prominent in the W.C.T.U., the P.W.M.U.⁹ and other bodies. Although greatly helping her husband in his public work, their home had not been neglected, and they had, as a result, brought up their family in a godly manner, their children being a credit to them.

Rivirine Herald, 30 May 1925

⁹ Women's Christian Temperance Union and Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union

Eliza Russen's parents:

Charles Russen

(1794-1856)

Charles was born in 1794 in Twickenham and died on 25 Mar 1856 from a 'severe cold resulting in pulmonary apoplexy'.²¹³ Hilder family lore had it that he had fought in the Battle of Waterloo, but this may be an elaboration on the truth as the following appears to be the real story.²¹⁴

He first enlisted in the East Middlesex Militia in 1813 but then joined the 33rd Regiment of Foot (commanded by the Duke of Wellington) on 7th April 1813 and served in Germany, Belgium and France during Wellington's Peninsular Campaign. He was injured at Williamstadt and hospitalised in Tournay, Belgium. He thus missed the Battle of Waterloo, and therefore the medal awarded to those who were present on the 16th-18th June at that battle. In 1816 after the defeat of Napoleon, he served in Sunderland (1816-1818) and Nottingham (1818-1819) and was discharged in Naas Ireland in April 1821.²¹⁵

Charles met Amelia Stone in Nottingham and they married there at St Nicholas' Church on the 25th May 1818. After Charles' discharge, they moved to Charles' birthplace of Twickenham, although Amelia must have gone there earlier as their first child was born there. They went on to have eleven children in total. Charles worked as a labourer and then as a newsagent/stationer.²¹⁶

Amelia Stone

(1799-1892)

Amelia was born on the 29th of September 1799, according to Richard Hilder.²¹⁷ After Charles' death, she lived in the Cambridge Asylum for Soldiers' Widows until her death at the age of 92 on the 27th of August 1892.²¹⁸

Three of their daughters (Eliza, Jane and Sarah) emigrated to Australia. One of their nephews, Charles Russen (the son of their eldest son William), also settled in Tasmania, as indicated in the following death notice for Amelia that appeared in a Tasmanian paper (it also mentions Amelia Hilder, Eliza's daughter, Eliza having died in 1869):

Death. RUSSEN.

On the 27th August, at Kingston-on-Thames, England, Amelia, relict of the late Charles Russen and beloved mother of Mrs. R. G. Foyster, of Echuca, Victoria, and Mrs. W. Stutterd, of Malvern, Victoria, and grandmother of Mr. C. Russen, of Wellington street, Launceston, and Mrs. Richard Hilder, of Morville road, Emu Bay; aged 92 years. 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.'

Wellington Times and Agricultural and Mining Gazette (Tasmania), Saturday 22 October 1892



Descendants of Charles RUSSEN

Charles RUSSEN b. 1794, Twickenham, Middlesex, d. 25 Mar 1856

- +Amelia STONE b. 29 Sep 1799, m. 25 May 1818, St Nicholas Church Nottingham England, d. 27 Aug 1892, Kingston on Thames, England
 - William Henry RUSSEN b. Dec 1818, c. 17 Dec 1818, Twickenham, d. 1889
 - +Unknown
 - Charles RUSSEN b. Abt 1848, d. 11 Dec 1914
 - +Mary Barnard LONG m. 1874
 - George RUSSEN b. 1820, d. 1889
 - Mary Ann RUSSEN b. 1823, d. 1870
 - Henry Francis RUSSEN b. 1825
 - Amelia RUSSEN b. 1826, d. 1870
 - Thomas RUSSEN b. 1827, d. 1881
 - Elizabeth RUSSEN b. 1829, d. 1870
 - Eliza Ann RUSSEN b. 31 May 1830, Twickenham Ferry, London, England, c. 27 Jun 1930, Twickenham, Richmond upon Thames, England, d. 23 Jan 1869, Penguin Creek, Tasmania, bur. Penguin General Cemetery, Tasmania
 - +James Pratt HALES b. 9 May 1826, Lowestoft, Suffolk, England, c. 11 Sep 1828, Lowestoft, Suffolk, England, m. 11 Jul 1853, Saint Peters, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, d. 14 Jun 1888, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia, par. James HALES and Hannah PRATT
 - Eliza Ellen HALES b. 1854, Melbourne, d. 31 Oct 1938
 - +Andrew Virtue Taylor BISHOP m. 1 Oct 1876, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia
 - John Charles HALES b. 1855, Melbourne, d. 11 May 1885
 - +Jane ALLEN m. 14 Aug 1884, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia
 - Amelia HALES b. 30 Sep 1858, Port Sorell, Tasmania, Australia, d. 13 Oct 1928, Upper Burnie Tasmania, bur. 15 Oct 1928, Wivenhoe Cemetery
 - +Richard HILDER b. 24 Jul 1856, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, m. 26 Dec 1878, Ulverstone, Tasmania, Australia, d. 19 Feb 1938, Spencer Hospital, Wynyard, Tasmania, bur. Wivenhoe General Cemetery, par. Thomas HILDER and Elizabeth HAYHOE
 - William HALES b. 3 Jul 1860, Port Sorell, Tasmania, d. 4 Jul 1860
 - James Henry HALES b. 30 Mar 1862, Port Sorell, Tasmania
 - +Eliza HALL m. 18 Nov 1886, Penguin
 - Robert George HALES b. 1864, d. 1936
 - William Henry HALES b. 6 Jun 1866, Port Sorell, Tasmania, d. 1946, Brunswick East, Victoria, Australia
 - +Hester AMEY m. 1890, Victoria, Australia, d. 1931, Richmond, Melbourne, Australia, par. Henry AMEY and Margretta LUSH
 - Alfred HALES b. 23 Jan 1869, Port Sorell, Tasmania
 - Jane RUSSEN b. 1833, Twickenham Ferry, London, England, c. 9 Feb 1834, St Mary the Virgin, Twickenham, d. 18 May 1904, Victoria, Australia
 - +Dr William Henry JENKINS
 - Emelia Phyllis Maria JENKINS b. 8 Dec 1852, on board the "Bombay", Hobson's Bay near Melbourne, d. 17 Apr 1854
 - +Johann HARMSTRONG m. 8 Oct 1853, St Peter's Church, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
 - +Henry Thomas MILLIE m. 17 Oct 1860, Wesleyan Parsonage, Ballarat East, Victoria, Australia
 - Frances Amelia MILLIE b. 1860, Ararat, d. 1860, Ararat Cemetery
 - +Walter STUTTERD b. 7 Oct 1845, Banbury, Oxfordshire, UK, m. 22 Mar 1872, d. 19 Sep 1923, Dandenong, Victoria
 - Jane Josephine Emily STUTTERD b. 1874, Footscray, d. 25 Dec 1875, bur. Melbourne General Cemetery
 - Emily RUSSEN b. 1840, d. 1904
 - Sarah RUSSEN b. 25 Dec 1843, d. 27 May 1925, Ocean Grove, bur. Echuca Cemetery
 - +Robert George FOYSTER b. Abt 1833, m. 27 Sep 1862, Chiltern, d. 1 Aug 1916, Ocean Grove
 - Amelia Jane FOYSTER b. 1864, Heathcote, d. 1867
 - Elizabeth Emily FOYSTER b. 1865, Heathcote, d. 1949
 - +John LAWRY m. 1892
 - FOYSTER b. Feb 1867, d. 7 Mar 1867
 - Annie FOYSTER b. 1868, Heathcote, d. 1869
 - Edwin Charles FOYSTER b. Abt 1870, d. 1872, Heathcote

Descendants of Charles RUSSEN

Page 2

- Albert George FOYSTER b. 1871, Heathcote, d. 1905
 +Mary Ann Grant BEER m. 1893
- Edith Maud FOYSTER b. 1873, Heathcote, d. 1890
- William Robert FOYSTER b. 1874, Echuca, d. 1874
- Marian Alice FOYSTER b. 1875, Echuca, d. 1963
 +James Harcourt REEVES m. 2 Jan 1901, Drawing Room, Roselands, Echuca
- Nellie FOYSTER b. 1876, Echuca, d. 1878
- Sarah Mabel FOYSTER b. 1878, Echuca, d. 1878
- Walter FOYSTER b. 1878, Echuca, d. 1878
- Henry Russen FOYSTER b. 1880, Echuca, d. 1881
- Robert Cawston FOYSTER b. 1882, Echuca, d. 1970
 +Anne Dorothy REID m. 1907, d. 1928
- May Ethel FOYSTER b. 1884, Echuca, d. 1929
 +Frederick John MENZIES b. 1887, m. 12 May 1914, Ocean Grove, d. 1937, par. J.B. MENZIES and Unknown
- Walter Frank FOYSTER b. 1886, Echuca, d. 1960
 +Elsie Swinborne MENZIES m. 4 May 1915, St Peter's Church, Ocean Grove, par. J.B. MENZIES and Unknown

Chapter 3

The Graham Family and Ancestry



Thompson GRAHAM
(1855-1923)



Margaret TEMPLETON
(Abt 1858-1914)



Sarah Ann (Annie) GRAHAM
(1885-1949)



Margaret Elizabeth GRAHAM
(1887-1962)

The Graham Siblings

Annie and Maggie were the eldest daughters of a family of eleven children born to Thompson Graham and Margaret Templeton who had both emigrated from Northern Ireland to New Zealand in early adulthood.

One son died in infancy, so Annie and Maggie had 8 siblings: 3 brothers and 5 younger sisters.

Descendants of Thompson GRAHAM

Thompson GRAHAM b. 23 Mar 1855, Ballypittmave, Co. Antrim, Ireland, d. 14 Oct 1923, Marangai, Bay of Islands, NZ

+Margaret TEMPLETON b. Abt 1858, Loughguile, Co. Antrim, Ireland, m. 8 Apr 1880, Auckland, New Zealand, d. 21 Feb 1914, Selwyn St, Onehunga, par. Adam TEMPLETON and Sarah ORR

Robert Henry GRAHAM b. 30 Mar 1881, d. 22 Sep 1967, (Waikaraka Cemetery)

+Susan Lucy FLANIGAN b. 1890, m. 11 Nov 1908, Primitive Methodist Church, Great North Rd, Auckland, d. 14 May 1966, Auckland, NZ, par. Thomas Henry FLANAGAN and Annie Atkinson

George Johnston/Thompson GRAHAM b. 17 Feb 1883, d. 28 Feb 1884

Sarah Ann (Annie) GRAHAM b. 18 Apr 1885, Okaihau, d. 14 Jun 1949, Kaikohe, Bay of Islands, New Zealand

+Milton James Thomas (Jim) HILDER b. 21 Feb 1890, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, m. 27 Dec 1911, Residence of Mr Thompson Graham, Okaihau, New Zealand, d. 6 Oct 1963, Dannevirke, New Zealand, par. Richard HILDER and Amelia HALES

Margaret Elizabeth GRAHAM b. 23 Oct 1887, Okaihau, Bay Of Islands, d. 7 May 1962, (Glenfield Berm Cemetery/Birkenhead/Glenfield Cemetery)

+Wenman John (Bill) HILDER b. 28 Nov 1887, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, m. 31 Dec 1913, Okaihau, d. 12 Oct 1971, Auckland, NZ, par. Richard HILDER and Amelia HALES

George Adam Templeton GRAHAM b. 16 Jul 1889, Kaikohe, New Zealand, d. 4 Dec 1967, Tasmania, Australia

+Hannah Amelia (Nan) HILDER b. 22 Jun 1885, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, m. 2 Apr 1914, Methodist Church, Burnie, Tasmania, d. 13 Jul 1940, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, par. Richard HILDER and Amelia HALES

+Coral Selah b. 1896, d. 15 Sep 1980, (Wivenhoe General Cemetery)

May Thompson GRAHAM b. 7 May 1891, d. 20 Feb 1962, (Okaihau Cemetery, Public Lawn, Block 1A, Plot 7)

+Wilfred MELVILLE b. 1882, m. 20 May 1914, d. 1 Jul 1919, (Otahuhu)

+John Henry DIXON b. 1871, m. 9 Dec 1925, d. 15 Jun 1940, (Okaihau Cemetery, Public Lawn, Block 1A, Plot 5)

Samuel Johnson GRAHAM b. 24 Jun 1892, d. 3 Sep 1986, (Waikumete Cemetery, Auckland (CREMATION LAWN NEW B Row 8, Plot 80))

+Elsie Gertrude PARKER b. 1890, m. 19 Nov 1930, d. 1957

+Freda Dorothy ROBINSON (LATER MITCHELL) b. 1900, m. 1958, d. 24 Apr 1965, (Waikumete Cemetery, Auckland)

+Isabella Jean (known as Jean) SAVAGE b. 18 Apr 1913, m. 1969, d. 23 Jan 2000, (Waikumete Cemetery, Auckland)

Agnes GRAHAM b. 27 Sep 1893, d. 13 Apr 1957, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia

+Carl Frederick REED b. 1863, m. 1947, d. 22 Jun 1948

Lily Jane GRAHAM b. 10 Dec 1894, d. 14 Aug 1978, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

+Thomas William Frank REEVES b. 1875, Victoria, Australia, m. 1941, Victoria, Australia, d. 1970, Dandenong, Victoria, Australia

Mary Anna Maude (Maud) GRAHAM b. 6 Feb 1898, d. 29 Dec 1955, New Zealand

+John CORCORAN b. 1894, Lancashire, England, m. 27 Sep 1928, d. 30 Jun 1960, (Maunu Cemetery, Whangarei)

Charlotte Mildred GRAHAM b. 23 Sep 1902, d. 15 Oct 1970, South Oakleigh, Australia



The seven Graham sisters, Christmas 1933

Back: Lottie, Maggie, Agnes, Maud

Front: Lily, Annie, May

(identified by Margaret Duder)



Graham gathering, Christmas 1933

Back: Myrtle Hilder, George Graham, Agnes Graham, Jim & Annie Hilder, Jack and Maud Corcoran

Centre: Lily Graham, May Dixon, Winnie Melville, Maggie Hilder

Front: Jessie Hilder, Lottie Graham, Margaret Hilder, Doreen Melville, Ruth Hilder, Edna Hilder

Very front: Bob Hilder, Basil Hilder, Russen Hilder

Robert Henry Graham

(1881-1967)



Robert was the eldest child of Thompson and Margaret Graham. He married **Susan Lucy Flanigan** in 1908 and worked as a fireman in Auckland, first in Onehunga and later in Manukau, living in Greenwood Rd, Mangere.²¹⁹ His mother apparently went to stay with him in Auckland when she was ill with liver cancer in 1914 and died there.²²⁰ According to his grand-daughter, Jeanette, Robert used to bike up from Auckland with his pup tent to visit his sister May in Okaihau.

Robert and Susan had six children, four boys (including twins) and two girls. One son died in infancy. All the sons were known by their middle names. His son George (one of the twins) was photographed in the 1930s with some of his Hilder cousins when they were in their early 20s (George was 3 or 4 years older than Myrtle and Olive).



*George Graham with
Myrtle Hilder*



*George Graham with
Olive Hilder*



Doris Graham (daughter)

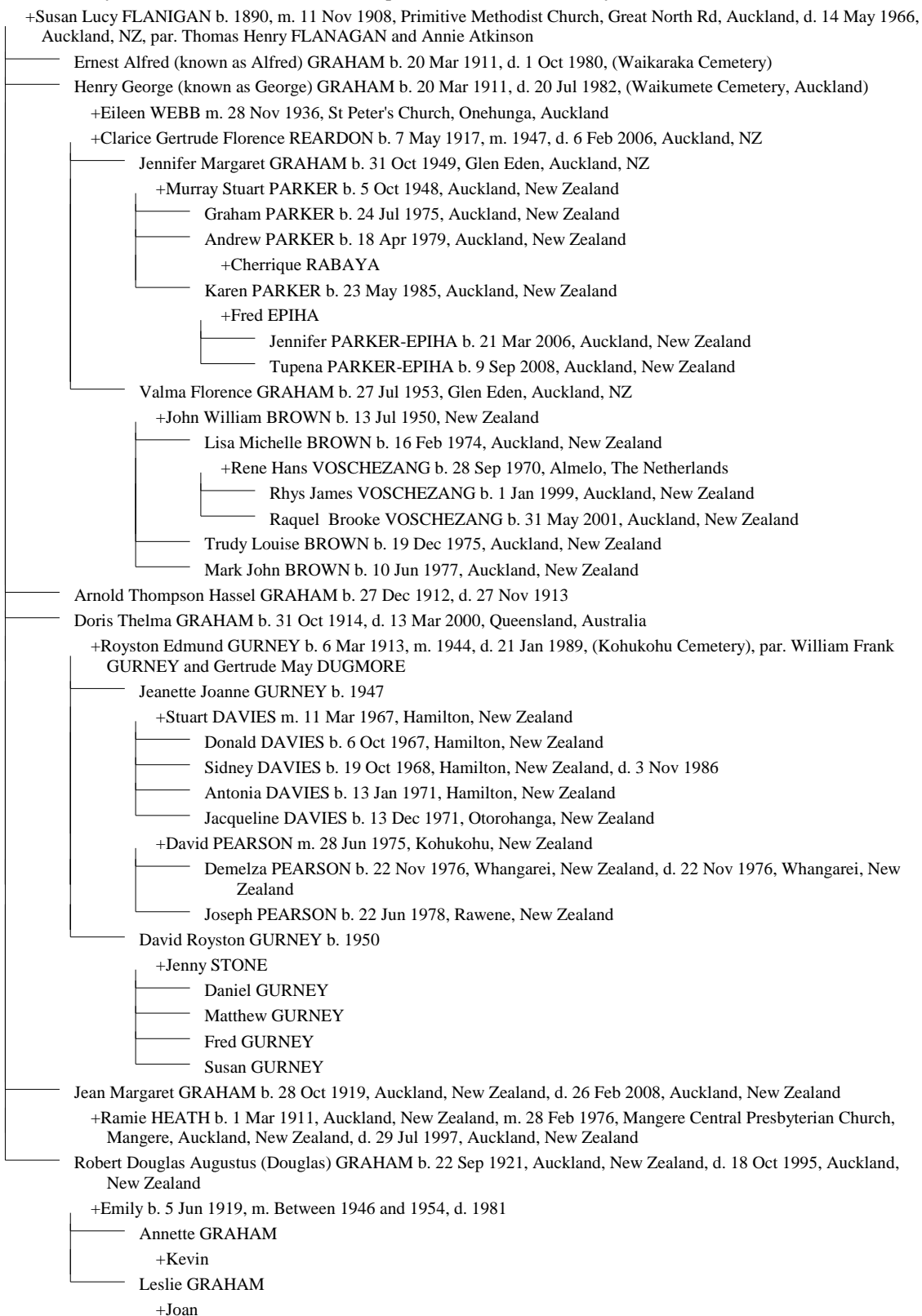
Robert died on the 22nd of September 1967 and is buried at Waikaraka Cemetery in Auckland with his mother.

A separate plaque below his mother's tombstone reads:

“In loving memory of Robert Henry Graham beloved husband of Susan Lucy and loving father of George, Alfred, Doris, Jean & Douglas died 22 Sept 1967 aged 85 yrs”

Descendants of Robert Henry GRAHAM

Robert Henry GRAHAM b. 30 Mar 1881, d. 22 Sep 1967, (Waikaraka Cemetery)





*Maggie Hilder, Robert Graham and Sam Graham
Kobukohu wharf February 1962 (probably after May's funeral)*

George Johnston/Thomson¹⁰ Graham

(1883-1884)

The next child born to Thompson and Margaret in 1883 died just after his first birthday.

¹⁰ Birth Registration 1883/5283 (17 Feb 1883) gives his name as George Johnston (with correct parents listed); Death Registration 1884/988 (28 Feb 1884) gives his name as George Thomson and age as 12 months.

George Adam Templeton Graham

(1889-1967)



George was the fifth child and second surviving son in the family, born after Annie and Maggie. He was given the name of his mother's grandfather, like the earlier son who had died in 1884. His middle names also came from his maternal ancestors, Adam Templeton being his maternal grandfather's name. He married a sister of the Hilder brothers: **Hannah Amelia Hilder**.

Hannah met George when she was visiting New Zealand to housekeep for her father in 1911 and 1912 and would have been at the wedding of George's sister Annie to Hannah's brother Jim Hilder.

George and Hannah (known as Nan) married on the 2nd of April 1914 at the Methodist Church in Burnie, Tasmania. George was four years her junior.

George Graham was a builder and joiner at several different premises during his life. In 1936 he took over premises at the corner of Wilson and Ladbrooke Sts,²²¹ but moved at the end of 1937^{222,223} and was operating from Mount St in 1942.²²⁴ In 1938, Hannah's letters to her brother, Jim, included the following comments:

George is very busy, more work than he can get through and he gets very worried over money matters, it takes some managing the finance things, the end of the month comes before he gets his money in... He built a new workshop at Xmas and New Year he had to get out of the old one.

George is very busy just finishing 2 houses off and for 2 more and possibly 8 houses [?] jobs ect – and he is at his wits end to get reliable men, we laugh at him some of his workmen he does not know their names, I asked him how he made them take notice when he wants to give order does he whistle them like a dog, he says just about the same, I will know their names when it comes pay day.

He built a house for his brother, Fred, around the same time, up a hill with “a stiff climb but a beautiful view”²²⁵.

Announcement:

Mr. George Graham wishes to inform the general public that he has purchased the building and joinery business lately carried on by Mr. G. H. Causby, cr. Wilson and Ladbrooke streets. All classes of wood work done and estimates given.*

The Advocate (Burnie), 1 Feb 1936

ACCIDENT.—Mr. Rex Harrison, of Upper Burnie, sustained a serious injury to his right hand when it came in contact with a buzzer while he was at work at Mr. Geo. Graham's joinery works in Mount street. Two fingers were severed at the second joints. The following day Mr. Harrison slipped and fell in the bathroom at his home, and received a painful gash on the head.

The Advocate (Burnie), 28 Apr 1942

One of his grandson's, Peter Aylett, recalled:

Grandpa Graham had a joinery shop for as long as I could remember at the end of a laneway within 100 meters downhill from the Burnie Methodist Church. I recall being fascinated by all the wide canvas belts and pulleys that were all driven by one gigantic electric motor. The belts went everywhere to drive an extensive array of machinery.²²⁶

In 1948, George offered to supervise the building of a memorial hall in Upper Burnie by voluntary labour, which was described as "one of the most public-spirited gestures seen in Upper Burnie for years."²²⁷ He was elected an executive member of the Northwest Master Builders' Association in 1950.²²⁸

Hannah died suddenly in 1940 at the age of 55. George remarried, to Coral Selah.

George died in 1967 at the age of 78 and Coral in 1980, aged 84.

George and Hannah had only two children: Dulcie Hilder and Thompson Basil.

Dulcie married Charles Aylett when she was very young. Charles became a Member of Parliament in Tasmania. Dulcie and Charles had seven children but divorced in 1954 on the basis of Dulcie's relationship with Len Clarke. Dulcie married Len in 1955 and they had two children. There are a large number of descendants. Dulcie maintained interest in the wider family, having visited the New Zealand Hilders in 1928 at the age of 12.²²⁹ In later years, she was visited by Wenman and June Hilder in 1967 and by Basil and Phyl Hilder in January 1988, just before she died in March 1988 from cancer, aged 73.

Thompson Basil served in World War II, married and had 2 sons, but became estranged from the family, as Peter Aylett (one of Dulcie's sons) recounts:

In those days it was somewhat traditional and expected that the son should follow in their father's footsteps trade wise, in this case Carpenter and Joiner. ...I suspect it would have been after Tom's discharge from war time RAAF Service (1940-1945 as Sergeant) that he announced to his father (George) his intentions of going into retail footwear sales with a partner rather than pursue the Carpenter & Joiner trade. That news obviously upset Grandpa Graham greatly. According to my mother a huge row broke out and continued over time, obviously without compromise. Grandpa Graham offered to disown Tom if he went ahead with his plans, an offer that Tom accepted. ...

The results were a similar story. Tom's name was seldom if ever mentioned in Grandpa Graham's house, I cannot ever recall him using it anyway. I don't know that it affected my mother's relationship with her brother, it was just not to be talked about within earshot of Grandpa Graham. I don't know that Grandpa ever got to meet Tom's boys let alone get to know his grandsons.

The 'Fox and Graham' shoe store prospered, being in a prime location in a main Street of Burnie just a matter of around three blocks away from Grandpa Graham's joinery shop. Both kept their distance and each retired in due course. To my knowledge not even a partial compromise was ever reached.²³⁰

This is borne out in the fact that he was not mentioned in George's will in which only his grandchildren from Dulcie were mentioned as beneficiaries if his second wife, Coral, had predeceased him or died soon after.²³¹

Descendants of George Adam Templeton GRAHAM

George Adam Templeton GRAHAM b. 16 Jul 1889, Kaikohe, New Zealand, d. 4 Dec 1967, Tasmania, Australia, bur. Wivenhoe General Cemetery, Tasmania

+Hannah Amelia (Nan) HILDER b. 22 Jun 1885, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, m. 2 Apr 1914, Methodist Church, Burnie, Tasmania, d. 13 Jul 1940, Burnie, Tasmania, bur. Wivenhoe General Cemetery, par. Richard HILDER and Amelia HALES

Dulcie Hilder GRAHAM b. 1 Mar 1915, Upper Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, d. 4 Mar 1988, Ridgley, Tasmania, bur. Burnie General Lawn Cemetery.

+Charles Bischoff AYLETT b. 5 Oct 1913, Waratah, Tasmania, m. 21 Dec 1929, Burnie Or Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, d. 11 Sep 1966, Double Creek, Tasmania

Dawn H. AYLETT b. 2 Nov 1929, Burnie, Tasmania

+Maxwell George HODGETTS b. 17 Mar 1926, m. 22 Mar 1952, Burnie, Tasmania, d. 1 Nov 2004, Newcastle, NSW, Australia

Phillip David HODGETTS b. 8 Dec 1955, Burnie, Tasmania

+Jenny KAYE b. 21 Aug 1956, Canberra, m. 20 Jan 1977, Newcastle, NSW, Australia

David George HODGETTS b. 20 Sep 1957, Burnie, Tasmania

+Jennifer Patricia WEEKS b. 18 Sep 1962, Bankstown, NSW, Australia, m. 12 Nov 1983, Thornton, NSW, Australia

Charley Anne Kate HODGETTS b. 24 Dec 1992, Newcastle, NSW, Australia

Riley Rose Louise HODGETTS b. 13 Jan 1997, Newcastle, NSW, Australia

+Lauren Patricia GRAHAM b. 8 Jul 1960

Rex AYLETT b. 15 Aug 1933, Burnie, Tasmania, d. 15 Aug 1933, Burnie, Tasmania

Joice Janet AYLETT b. 21 Feb 1936, Burnie, Tasmania

+John (Jan) DIJKENGA b. 3 Mar 1929, Holland, m. 9 Jan 1954, Burnie, Tasmania, d. Launceston, Tasmania, Australia

Kassandra Lynn DIJKENGA b. 17 Dec 1957, Burnie, Tasmania

+Steven (Steve) Robert JONES b. 9 Dec 1955, Newcastle, NSW, Australia, m. 7 Apr 1979, Lake Macquarie, NSW, Australia

Michelle Anne DIJKENGA b. 6 Nov 1959, Burnie, Tasmania

+Jeffrey (Jeff) David DEARING b. 4 Apr 1954, Newcastle, NSW, Australia, m. 18 Apr 1978, Hamilton New Castle, NSW, Australia

Christopher John DEARING b. 12 Feb 1983, Newcastle, NSW, Australia

Brendan Charles DEARING b. 9 Sep 1984, Newcastle, NSW, Australia

Aaron David DEARING b. 13 Jan 1988

+John Stanley MANTHORP b. 3 Sep 1929, Suffolk, England, m. 20 Sep 1980, Newcastle, NSW, Australia

Kim Nanette AYLETT b. 18 Jul 1940, Burnie, Tasmania

+David George SEARLE b. 31 Jul 1937, m. 9 Apr 1960, Burnie, Tasmania

Lisa Marie SEARLE b. 23 Jan 1965, Burnie, Tasmania, d. 26 Oct 1999, Victoria, bur. Burnie Lawn Cemetery

+?

Alicia Elizabeth COPELAND b. 17 Oct 1982

+Tristan O'BRIEN

Kayley Alison O'BRIEN b. 31 Oct 2013

+Gregory Stuart LYNN m. 14 Jun 1986, Perth, Western Australia

Geordie Bernard LYNN b. 4 Jan 1997, Victoria, Australia

Elliott Gregory LYNN b. 7 Apr 1998, Victoria, Australia

Linda Jane SEARLE b. 6 Sep 1966, Wynyard, Tasmania

+Minnow BERTUCCI

Lauren Kim BERTUCCI b. 17 Aug 1993, Burnie, Tasmania

+Stephen MOOR m. 16 Mar 2013, Launceston, Tasmania, Australia

Alex Joseph BERTUCCI b. 15 Aug 1995, Burnie, Tasmania

+Heath RICHARDSON b. 27 Jul 1968, m. 25 Apr 1999

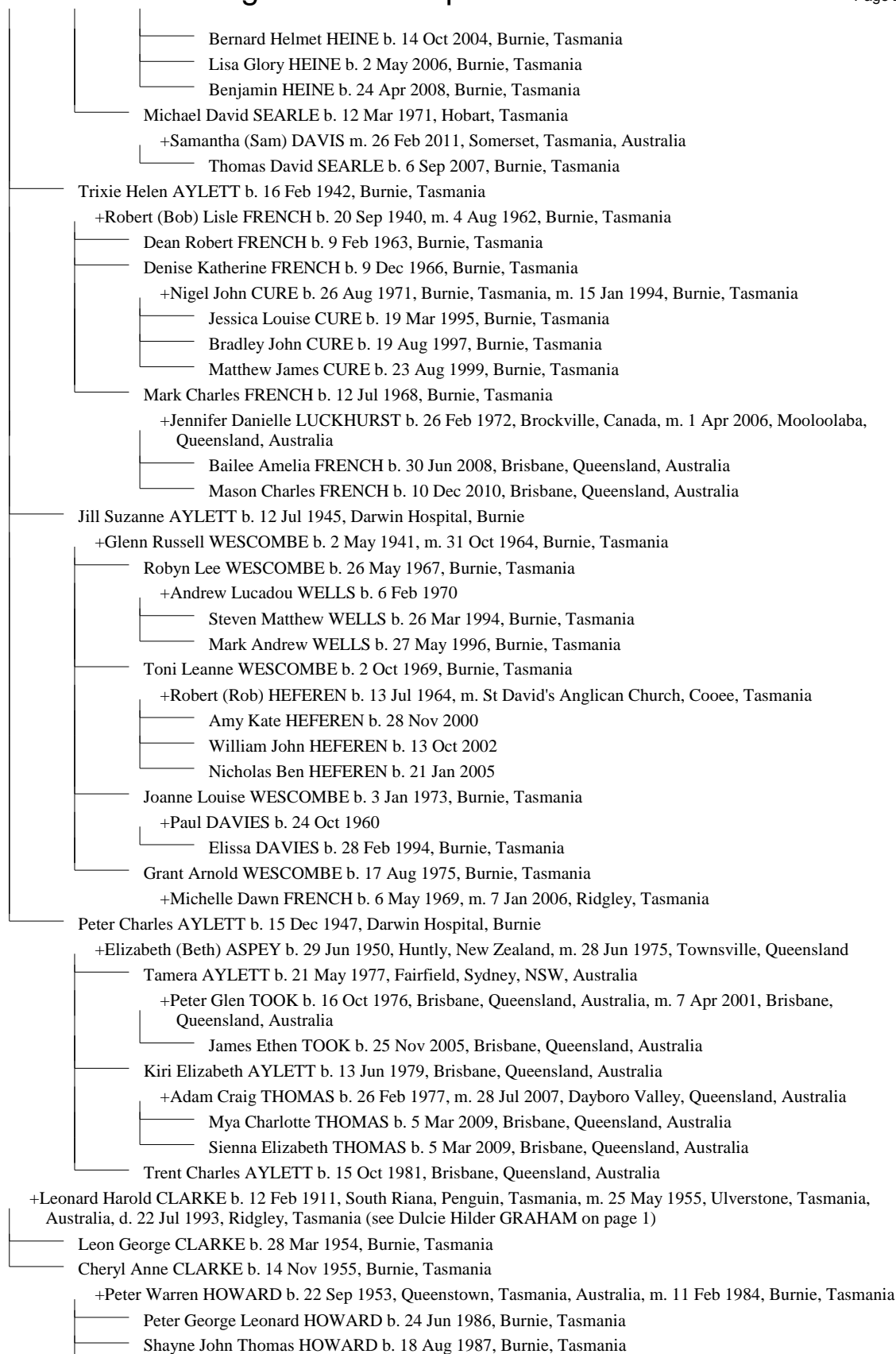
Ella RICHARDSON b. 23 Aug 2000, Burnie, Tasmania

Karen Louise SEARLE b. 14 Apr 1968, Burnie, Tasmania

+Kurt David HEINE b. 25 Sep 1971, m. 13 Mar 1999, Penguin, Tasmania

Kurt David HEINE b. 6 May 2002, Burnie, Tasmania

Descendants of George Adam Templeton GRAHAM



Descendants of George Adam Templeton GRAHAM

Page 3

┌───┐
└───┘ Nicole Maree HOWARD b. 28 Jan 1990, Burnie, Tasmania
┌───┐ Thompson Basil GRAHAM b. 23 Nov 1918, Burnie, Tasmania, d. 20 Aug 1970, Newton, NSW, Australia, bur. 22 Aug
└───┘ 1970, Northern Suburbs Crematorium, Sydney
┌───┐ +Lillian Evelyn TURNER b. 4 Sep 1921, Hobart, Tasmania, m. 24 Dec 1940, Burnie, Tasmania
└───┘ Michael John GRAHAM b. 1942
┌───┐ Phillip Gregory GRAHAM b. 17 Mar 1947
└───┘ +Coral Selah b. 1896, d. 15 Sep 1980, bur. Wivenhoe General Cemetery (see George Adam Templeton GRAHAM on page 1)

May Thompson Graham

(1891 – 1962)

May was the sixth child and third daughter of the family. She married **Wilfred Melville** on the 20th of May 1914 when she was 23 and Wilfred was 32.²³² In 1914, she and Wilfred are listed as living at St Heliers Bay in Auckland (as were Maggie and Wenman Hilder in that year). Wilfred was a creamery manager in East Tamaki. They had two daughters. Wilfred committed suicide on the 1st of July 1919 at the age of 37.²³³ Their second daughter was born in February 1920.

May moved back up north to Okaihau and in 1925 (aged 34), married **John Dixon** (aged 54). Her eldest brother, Robert, who lived in Auckland, apparently used to bike up to Okaihau to visit her.²³⁴ John “owned property between Perry Dixons and Jim Michie. After John died the place was sold to Frank Williams”.²³⁵ John died in 1940 at the age of 69 and is buried in Okaihau Cemetery.

May’s eldest daughter, Winnie, had some kind of disability and lived with her mother and then in a home after her mother died.²³⁶ Doreen married Vic Gurney and the couple had no children. Vic’s brother (Roy) married Doreen’s cousin, Doris Graham (daughter of Robert) and both Gurney couples lived in Kohukohu where Vic’s garage was well-known, and later a landmark as it and a remaining truck disintegrated.

May Dixon died in 1962 at the age of 70 and is buried in Okaihau Cemetery near her parents.



May



Vic and Doreen Gurney, 1947

Descendants of May Thompson GRAHAM

May Thompson GRAHAM b. 7 May 1891, d. 20 Feb 1962, (Okaihau Cemetery, Public Lawn, Block 1A, Plot 7)

+Wilfred MELVILLE b. 1882, m. 20 May 1914, d. 1 Jul 1919, (Otahuhu)

— Winifred May (Winnie) MELVILLE b. 12 May 1916, d. 6 Aug 1967

— Doreen Maud MELVILLE b. 5 Feb 1920, d. 12 Dec 2003, Kohukohu

+George Victor (known as Vic) GURNEY b. 8 Oct 1917, m. 1947, Kohukohu, d. 25 Jan 1998, Kohukohu, par.

William Frank GURNEY and Gertrude May DUGMORE

+John Henry DIXON b. 1871, m. 9 Dec 1925, d. 15 Jun 1940, (Okaihau Cemetery, Public Lawn, Block 1A, Plot 5)



The remains of Vic Gurney’s truck at his garage in Kohukohu until about 2013

Samuel Johnson Graham
(1892 – 1986)



Sam was the seventh child and third surviving son. He was a farmer and in 1914 and 1919 is listed at Marangai on the Bay of Islands electoral roll. He enlisted for World War I but his records show that due to illness (measles and broncho pneumonia), he was unable to serve overseas and spent time in hospital in Featherston and in a convalescent home at Lowry Bay in Wellington.

By 1924, he was back in Northland farming, winning several prizes for produce in the 1924 Bay of Islands Pastoral & Industrial show in Waimate North.²³⁷

In 1925, Sam suffered a small accident on a visit to Auckland which was reported in the newspaper:
A visitor to the city, Mr. Samuel Graham, of Okaihau, had a fall when alighting from a tram in Khyber Pass Road last night. He missed his footing and came heavily down on the road, with the result that he sustained a slight concussion, and had to be taken to the hospital for attention.
Auckland Star, Volume LVI, Issue 299, 18 December 1925, Page 6

In 1928, at the age of 36, he was listed with two of his younger sisters, Lily and Agnes, in Marangai.²³⁸ His niece, Margaret Duder recalled her uncle as working on the family farm, but supplementing this with outside fencing and labouring jobs for neighbours.²³⁹ Other locals recalled him having a good apple orchard on the farm and that he specialised in spraying and pruning. Later, Sam sold the family farm to “Arch Thomas who sold it again to Ernie Cook”.²⁴⁰

In 1930, at the age of 38, Sam married **Elsie Gertrude Parker** (aged 40), a widow from Ngaruawahia whose husband had died in the flu epidemic in 1918²⁴¹ and whose 15 year old daughter had died in 1929.²⁴² They lived in the Auckland area where Sam continued to farm, from at least 1938. Elsie died in 1957 aged 67 and is buried in Ngaruawahia with her daughter.

Sam married **Freda Dorothy Mitchell** (nee Robinson) in 1958.²⁴³ Sam and Freda lived in Point Chevalier in Auckland.²⁴⁴ Freda died in 1965 at the age of 65.

In 1967, Sam went on a road trip with Wenman Hilder, visiting his cousin Henry Templeton in Christchurch.

His third marriage was to Jean (**Isabella Jean Savage**²⁴⁵) in 1969²⁴⁶ with whom he shared a love of embroidery. Jean was a piano teacher.²⁴⁷ They maintained quite close contact with Sam’s nephew Colin Hilder.

Sam died at the age of 94 in 1986. Jean died in January 2000, aged 86. Their remains and Freda’s are at Waikumete Cemetery, Auckland.



*Back row: Freda & Sam Graham, Maggie Hilder
Seated: May Dixon, Robert Graham*

Agnes Graham

(1893 – 1957)



Agnes was the eighth child and fourth daughter of the family. She taught Sunday School for some years in the Wesleyan Church in Okaihau West.²⁴⁸ In 1919, 1928 and 1938 she was listed on the electoral roll at Marangai, as a spinster. She may have been living with siblings who also appeared on the rolls; Sam and Maud in 1919 and Sam and Lily in 1928.²⁴⁹ She won 2nd prize for her scones in the 1924 Bay of Islands Pastoral & Industrial show in Waimate North.²⁵⁰ She may have continued to live with her brother Sam and his wife Elsie, after their marriage in 1930 up until 1938 when they moved down to Auckland (all are listed as living at Marangai on the electoral roll until then).

For some years, she nursed an older woman in Okaihau, Mrs Catherine (Kitty) Reed, who “suffered from arthritis and was bedridden for the rest of her life”.²⁵¹ After Mrs Reed died in 1941, Agnes (now aged 48) continued housekeeping for the widower, Mr **Carl Frederick Reed**, known as Fred. In a letter to her newly married niece, Margaret Duder, in 1944, Agnes noted that “Mr Reed and I are both very well and happy”. They married in 1947 when Agnes was 54 and Fred was 84, reportedly so that she would inherit his estate.²⁵² Fred died the following year, at the age of 85, presumably leaving her comfortably off. She was generous and sent her niece Margaret Duder (nee Hilder) a very beautiful fur coat after she visited the Duder family when they were living in the South Island (between 1946 and 1953) and experienced the cold there compared to the far north.

She was known as Aunt Ag to her nieces and nephews and their children. One great-grandnephew, Graham Walker, recalled how “in the 1950s as a child, when we visited her in the big house in Okaihau, Barrie and myself liked to mow her lawn with the motorised self-propelled lawn mower, it being the only one we had ever seen. We would then play with her golf clubs and balls on the front lawn.”

In 1957, at the age of 63, she travelled to Tasmania to visit her brother George. Sadly she died while over there and is buried at Wivenhoe General Cemetery at Burnie. In her will, she left her car to her nephew Colin Basil Hilder, and her oak hall clock to her niece Jessie’s husband, Frank Walker, both of whom were named as executors of her will. The clock is still in the family, in the possession of Graham Walker, son of Jessie and Frank. The residue of her estate was left to her unmarried youngest sister, Lottie.

Other family members inherited small items from Aunt Ag, though these are not detailed in the will. Heather Rocco (nee Duder) was left an antique gold watch and chain and a fine China cup and saucer.

*Agnes
(from an old photo album of Vic and Doreen Gurney’s, courtesy of
Jeannette Ohlson)*



Lily Jane Graham

(1894 – 1978)



Lily was the ninth child and fifth daughter of the family. In 1928, she had been living with her sister Agnes and brother Sam in Marangai, Bay of Islands and she moved to Australia some time after this.

Lily married **Thomas William Frank Reeves** (known as Frank) in 1941 in Victoria, Australia when she was 46 and Frank was 66. They had no children. Frank died at the age of 95 in 1970. Lily lived until 1978 when she died at the age of 83.



Possibly Frank and Lily Reeves

Mary Anna Maude Graham (Maud)

(1898 – 1955)



Maud was the tenth-born and the sixth daughter of the family. She gave birth to a son in November 1916 when she was 17 and after her mother had died. He was registered as Horace Graham. Given that she had already lost her mother, it is likely that she was helped by her sisters, two older than her and one younger. In 1919, she appears on the electoral roll at Marangai, not far from Okaihau, as are her sister Agnes and brother Samuel. She won 2nd prize for her shortbread in the 1924 Bay of Islands Pastoral & Industrial show in Waimate North.²⁵³ In 1928, just prior to marrying, she was listed at 25 Victoria Ave in Parnell, Auckland with her younger sister Lottie.²⁵⁴

At the age of 30, on the 27th of September 1928, Maud married **John Corcoran** (who was born in Lancashire, England). Horace (who was nearly 13 by now) took the name Corcoran, keeping 'Graham' as his middle name. The family lived in Whangarei at 26 King St.²⁵⁵

In the early 1930s, when Maud's sister Annie was in hospital (presumably in Whangarei), Maud is mentioned in a letter written by her young nephew, Basil, who sounded impressed to have been given some chocolate by her after he had been to visit his mother.

Horace continued to live in Whangarei and after various occupations, apprenticed as a cabinet maker. He is remembered for making a glory box for his cousin, Jessie Hilder, who was less than a year younger than him.²⁵⁶ Sadly, he was killed in World War II on the 2nd of October 1943 at the age of 27, after serving in Fiji and New Caledonia. He is buried at Bourail New Zealand War Cemetery, New Caledonia (Grave 3.32).

Maud died in 1955 aged 57 and John died in 1960 aged 66.

Horace



Descendants of Mary Anna Maude (Maud) GRAHAM

Mary Anna Maude (Maud) GRAHAM b. 6 Feb 1898, d. 29 Dec 1955, New Zealand

+John CORCORAN b. 1894, Lancashire, England, m. 27 Sep 1928, d. 30 Jun 1960, (Maunu Cemetery, Whangarei)

└─── Horace Graham CORCORAN b. 25 Nov 1915, d. 2 Oct 1943, (Bourail New Zealand War Cemetery, New Caledonia (Grave 3.32))

Charlotte Mildred Graham (Lottie)

(1902 - 1970)

Lottie was the youngest of the family of ten and never married.

She lived with her sister Maud initially in Auckland and then moved to Australia around 1930 where she lived first in Kooyong, Victoria and then in Melbourne.²⁵⁷ She was named in the will of her older sister Agnes as the recipient of the residue of her estate (Agnes died in 1957). Lottie's nephew Wenman Hilder visited her in 1967 in Oakleigh where she seems to have lived with her sister Lily Reeves and Lily's husband Frank.²⁵⁸

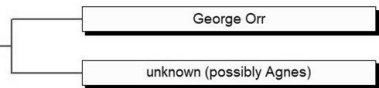
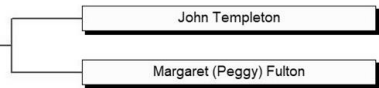
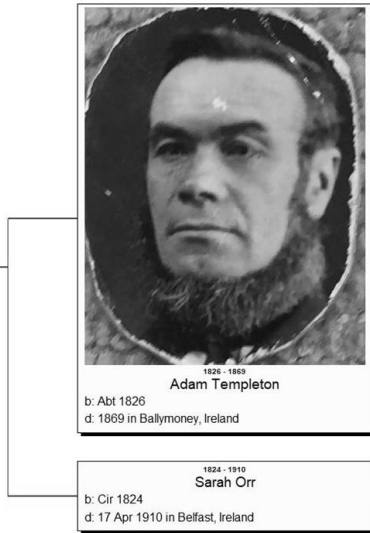
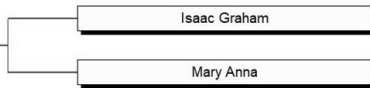
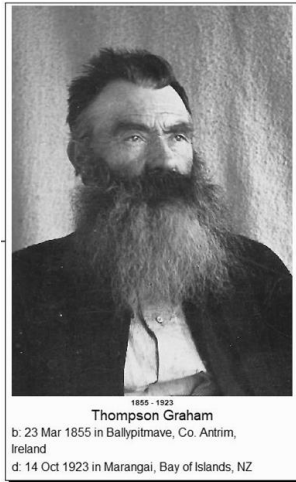
She died in 1970 in Oakleigh at the age of 68, the same year that Lily's husband died.



Lottie (from an old photo album of Vic and Doreen Gurney's, courtesy of Jeannette Ohlson)



Graham/Templeton Ancestry



Thompson Graham and Margaret Templeton



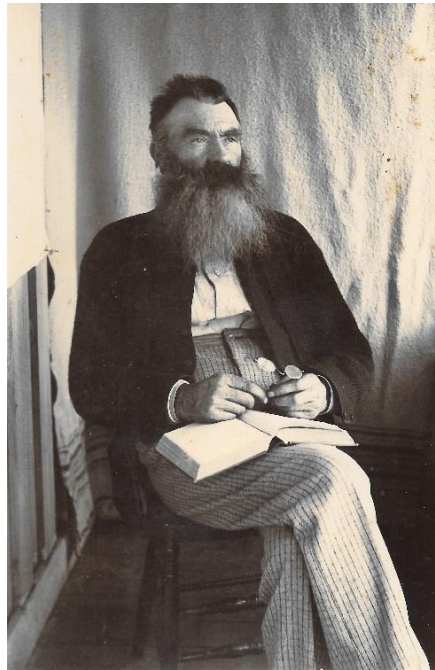
Thompson and Margaret were the parents of Sarah Ann (Annie) and Margaret Elizabeth Graham.

Both were born in County Antrim, Ireland (now Northern Ireland) not far from Belfast, in 1855 and about 1858 respectively. They were from Protestant families (known as “Orange”, as opposed to the “Green” Catholics) and presumably were descended from immigrants from Scotland – Wenman Hilder wrote that they were “Scotch not Irish” in his memoir.

They emigrated to New Zealand separately in 1874 and 1879 and married in Auckland 1880, when Thompson was aged 25 and Margaret about 22. They lived briefly at Grafton Road in Auckland before settling in Okaihau on a farm where they raised a family of ten: three sons and seven daughters (an 11th child, a son, died in infancy). Their youngest son was the only to enlist for World War I but was not fit enough to serve. Margaret died in 1914 at the age of about 56, while Thompson died nearly ten years later, at the age of 68.

Thompson Graham

(1855-1923)



Thompson Graham was born on the 23rd of March 1855 in County Antrim, now part of Northern Ireland.²⁵⁹ His parents were Isaac and Mary Anna Graham, and his father was a clerk.²⁶⁰ His probable birthplace was Ballypitmave, based on the transcribed details on his daughter's birth certificate which reads "Ballypitman" (which does not correspond to any known place). Nothing else is known of his family except that they were Protestant.

Emigration

Thompson emigrated to New Zealand in 1874 on the ship 'Waitangi' as an assisted immigrant, a farm labourer aged 20 and single.²⁶¹ He was amongst 400 assisted immigrants (including 58 Irish men²⁶²) on the ship, together with several saloon passengers. The ship was described in flattering terms in the newspaper account:

She has graceful lines, is loftily sparred, and is a fast sailer. Her cabin accommodation is replete with every comfort, light, loftiness, and ventilation being also secured. The saloon is tastefully decorated, the 'tween decks are spacious and well suited for the accommodation of a large number of passengers.²⁶³

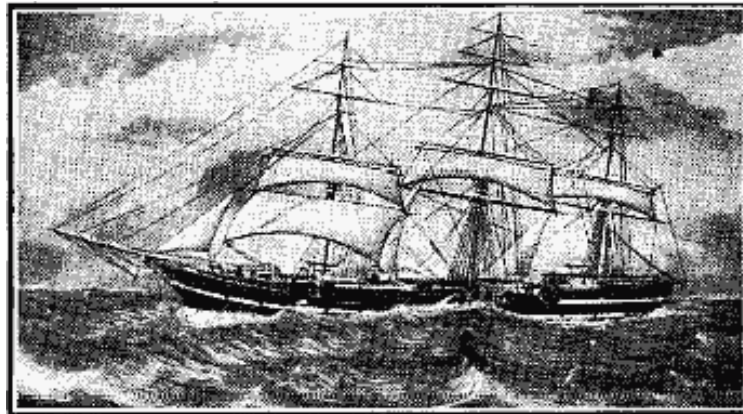
The journey took 110 days, leaving Gravesend on 1 August 1874 and arriving in Auckland on 20 November 1874. There were 6 births and 11 deaths (all children) during the voyage.

The chief officer provided the following account of the voyage to the newspaper:

The Waitangi left Gravesend on 1st of August, and was detained in the English Channel for eleven days, beating against severe westerly gales. The N.E. trades were unusually light: still under a combination of truly unfavourable circumstances, she succeeded in crossing the Equator on the twenty-sixth day from the English land. The S.E. trades proved moderate and unsteady, and were lost in 23 deg. S. After this time the ship experienced unsteady weather throughout, and unusually heavy gales. Very rough weather was experienced off the Cape, and some of the heaviest seas possible encountered. The Waitangi ran her castings down on the 43rd deg. parallel, and when in 61 deg. E. the barometer fell to 28.75. A terrific

cyclonic gale followed from the N.W., during which the ship was hove-to, the sea being too heavy to allow her to run.

Notwithstanding all the unfavourable winds and very heavy weather experienced during the voyage, the Waitangi arrived off Melbourne on the 81st day out. Off Tasmania and the west coast of New Zealand some of the heaviest weather possible was experienced, compelling a reduction of sail on several occasions to close-reefed topsails. The Three Kings were sighted on the 12th of November, after which a heavy E.S.E. gale set in, which again reduced the vessel to two close-reefed topsails, the head sea being exceedingly heavy. She has been off the coast with east gales for eight days. Passed Tiritiri at daylight yesterday, and made the harbour at 8 o'clock.²⁶⁴



THE WAITANGI IN HEAVY WEATHER.

Another young man aged 17 who appears to have been on the same voyage, William James Edwards, wrote an account of the voyage which gives a flavour of the experience.²⁶⁵ He describes sailing in dense mist early in the voyage when it suddenly cleared, revealing that they were sailing directly for one of the Scilly Islands and would have been dashed on rocks in 10 more minutes. He also described the storms detailed above, as well as the calm to follow:

I always think myself that the pleasantest time at sea is after severe weather has been safely encountered. During the storm the mind is kept continually in suspense but when it ceases there is a kind of calm upon all around which amounts to nothing less than romance more especially if crowned with one of those gorgeous sunsets of which few but sailors are ever witnesses.

At 8pm, the port watch was piped by the bo'sun but instead of 'turning in' all hands assembled on the quarter deck and a lively dance was engaged in accompanied by music from a concertina, accordion, whistles, clappers and the ship's bell. This affair seemed to enliven the spirits of all on board.²⁶⁶

We were now beset with a calm, the sea appearing like glass and from the thermometer rising it was evident we were nearing the tropics. It must not be supposed that because the water is perfectly calm that the ship also remains calm – it is far from that. During a calm, the sea rises in a series of immense swells; these can be seen approaching near a mile off and gradually they come nearer and nearer until it arrives at the vessel as high as her fore sail yard, heeling her over almost on beamsend and as it passes on turns her over the other way and thus she is kept continually rolling, the masts creaking fearfully with the strain.²⁶⁷

He also described the “only occupation at which to enjoy ourselves” during part of the voyage being the killing of albatross, and he detailed the uses of the various parts as tobacco pipe stems, tobacco pouches, ladies muffs etc. He also described a large school of about 16 whales following the vessel and spouting.

Arrival of the 'Waitangi' in Auckland

The newspaper account of the ship's arrival is as follows:

After the vessel came to her anchorage she was visited by Dr Philson, Health Officer, and Mr. H. Ellis, Immigration Officer. The inspection proving satisfactory, a clean bill of health was given the ship, and communication allowed with the shore. During the afternoon the immigrants were landed and conducted to the depot in the old Albert Barracks.²⁶⁸

William Edwards described the scene in Auckland when they arrived:

The wharf was crowded with a mixed population of all kinds: sailors, soldiers from the Men-o-war, Germans, English, Irish, Fijians and the native Maoris and presented a most animated scene. The first residences we came to were miserable wooden shanties at the end of the wharf in the windows of which were exposed for sale various articles of ship chandling, groceries, sweets etc, but after passing these, a sight is caught of the principal street of the city, namely Queen Street, lined on each side by massive buildings, and respectable shops giving to the stranger the assurance that here every necessary for physical and mental enjoyment is at hand. The harbour with its numerous masts and the well-dressed citizens parading the streets establish the pleasant belief in his mind that he is still, though thousands of miles from his native isle, in the midst of commerce and civilization. The air is genial and the sky above of cheering aspect, while the sunlight gleams and dances upon the water of the Waitemata. A large number of buildings such as the New Zealand Insurance Company, the Bank of New Zealand, the Union Bank, besides those of the principal mercantile firms are built of stone and brick but there is a considerable admixture of dingy-looking wooden buildings which detract from the character of the principal street and give it rather a motley appearance.²⁶⁹



Thompson Graham

Margaret Templeton

(abt 1858 - 1914)



Margaret Templeton was born around 1858 in Loughguile (or Loughheel) in County Antrim, Ireland (now Northern Ireland).²⁷⁰

Margaret was third born of the family of Adam and Sarah Templeton²⁷¹ which consisted of eight children, three daughters and five sons.

Margaret Templeton's Emigration

Margaret emigrated to New Zealand five years after her husband-to-be (Thompson) and her brother (John) had done so, independently of each other.

She came out on the 'Lady Jocelyn', arriving on 8 December 1879 in Lyttleton, Canterbury.^{272,273} Presumably her brother, John, was living in the Christchurch area at the time. She was 22 and is listed as a single woman, and a general servant, in company with 121 other single women, many from Ireland, and indeed County Antrim.

The single girls have been selected especially to fill the want that is experienced here in respect to a supply of domestics, and from their appearance the selection has been good.²⁷⁴

The 'Lady Jocelyn' was described very positively in newspaper accounts:

She was one of the most comfortable passenger ships in the run, and was always very popular with the travelling public.²⁷⁵

Certainly the Lady Jocelyn is eminently qualified for carrying immigrants, the great height between her decks and the number of port holes securing plenty of fresh air at all times. The compartment allotted to the single women had 122 occupants, mostly domestic servants, under the charge of Matron Mrs Gooden and sub-matrons Catherine Miles and Honora Connor. The division was scrupulously neat and clean, and the girls all looked in remarkably good health and spirits.²⁷⁶

Personal accounts by passengers give more of an idea of some of the realities of shipboard life, as in this account of an 1880 passage on the same ship, written retrospectively in 1941:

The Lady Jocelyn carried no water for drinking or other purposes, but relied on a condensing plant to turn the sea water into fresh, and a noisy donkey engine kept up a perpetual din in an altogether too close a position to our living quarters to be pleasant. For personal washing

sea water, pure and simple, was the order of the trip. Special salt water soap was one of the things we had to provide ourselves with before going aboard. Even then it left much to be desired in our daily ablutions, being hard & very 'unsympathetic'.²⁷⁷

While deaths often occurred at sea, particularly among children, this voyage was reported to have no deaths or sickness:

Owing to the extreme care shown by the medical officer, no sickness of any sort was prevalent throughout the passage, though the heat in the Tropics was very great, and much heavy rain was experienced while running down the casting, which of course kept the people below for a much greater time than usual. The health of all was remarkably good.

The immigrants are a thoroughly respectable and useful looking class of people, the married folks in particular, and were well behaved during the passage. School was held regularly by Mr Yarrell, and very good progress made. Amusements such as dancing, Christy Minstrel entertainments, and magic lantern exhibitions were given, besides treats for the school children, and thus the time passed pleasantly. Divine service was held every Sunday, and boat and fire-drill was regularly attended.²⁷⁸

Although the Lady Jocelyn was renowned for fast passages from England, this one was reported to be unusually long on account of unfavourable winds, taking "100 days from Plymouth, or 93 days from land to land".²⁷⁹ By comparison, "She is ... credited with having in 1889 made the passage from Lyttelton to London in 78 days."²⁸⁰

Marriage of Thompson Graham and Margaret Templeton – 8 April 1880

Family lore has it that Margaret and Thompson were known to each other back in County Antrim. Whether or not that was the case, it was not long after Margaret's December arrival in New Zealand in 1879 that the two married: on the 8th of April 1880, in the Office of the Registrar of Marriages, Auckland. Thompson was listed as a labourer and Margaret as a servant. The witnesses were William Donaldson (Labourer, Mt Eden) and Annie McConnell (daughter of a seedsman, Auckland).²⁸¹

MARRIAGE.

GRAHAM—TEMPLETON.—On April 8, at Auckland, Thompson Graham to Margaret Templeton, both of Auckland.

NZ Herald, 12 April 1880



Thompson and Margaret Graham

Thompson and Margaret Graham's life in New Zealand

According to Wenman Hilder (son-in-law), the couple lived at Grafton Rd in Auckland for a time and then took up a government grant of land in Okaihau later in the year, landing by boat at Kerikeri.²⁸² Wenman noted that "The North was a very isolated place in those days. The way to Auckland later on was road to Kawa Kawa 28 miles and boat from Opuia or by road and train to Whangarei."

A book on the Okaihau area contains the following information and anecdotes concerning Thompson Graham:

They had a small property on Cooks Road about half a mile from the Utakura Junction on the right hand side. This place was fairly rough but quite good land. They milked a few cows and Mr Graham worked on the roads elsewhere.

Mr Graham was from Northern Ireland. He attended The Wesleyan Church. On one occasion he was working on the Utakura road with Artie Bernard. They were sitting on the side of the road having lunch and discussing local politics, NZ politics and so on, which led to world problems. Mr Graham with a dab of dry wit, said 'By rights Artie we shouldn't be sitting having lunch together but one on each side of the road pelting each other with blooming sharp stones.' They both enjoyed the joke. Thompson was an 'orange' and Artie a 'green'.²⁸³

A Story: Thompson had a stack of sawn timber on the roadside at his front gate. At the time in the early 1920s there was a halftime school on Mr J. Cooks property which adjoined Thompson Graham's. Aritus Anderson's children, Ken, Helen and Joan, passed by on the way home. Ken being the eldest decided to play a joke with the boards. He placed a few four by twos across the road causing a bumpy ride for anyone too tired to get down and throw the boards aside. The next day Mr Graham was waiting for Ken on his way to school. He caught Ken by the ear giving it a good screw and pinch and said "If I catch you doing that again I'll pull it so long ya'll be able to get it in ya pocket".

Harrison, Tom (1993) *Okaihau, The District and Its Families – An Album of stories and photographs*

Children

Margaret and Thompson had eleven children, although their second child died in infancy:

Robert Henry	b. 30 March 1881
George Johnston or Thompson	b. 1883 (died in infancy)
Sarah Ann (Annie)	b. 18 April 1885
Margaret Elizabeth (Maggie)	b. 23 Oct 1887
George Adam Templeton	b. 16 July 1889
May Thompson	b. 7 May 1891
Samuel Johnson	b. 24 June 1892
Agnes	b. 27 Sept 1893
Lily Jane	b. 20 Dec 1894
Mary Anna Maude (Maud)	b. 6 Feb 1898
Charlotte Mildred (Lottie)	b. 23 Sep 1902

Naming

The naming of the daughters at least seems to follow the Scots/Irish traditional naming conventions in which children are named after family members in a particular birth order. Their first and fourth daughters clearly follow tradition with the eldest named after her mother's mother

(Sarah) and the fourth named for her mother's eldest sister (Agnes). The second and third daughters are less clear; Margaret might be equivalent for Mary (her father's mother), although also her mother's name and her mother's paternal grandmother's name. The third daughter could be named for her mother (May being a recognised nickname for Margaret).

For the sons, the first-born would traditionally be named after the father's father (Isaac) which is not the case here. However, the second son is named after his mother's grandfather, with her father's name as a middle name (not quite the tradition of mother's father). The Johnson as a middle name for the 2nd and 4th born sons may be a nod to Margaret's maternal grandfather and also older brother being John. The namings may indicate that Margaret was more interested in these traditions than Thompson, or that Thompson was not interested in perpetuating his family's names for some other reason.

Children's marriages and families

Robert, the eldest, was the first to marry, in November 1908 (aged 27) followed by two marriages to members of the Hilder family: Annie in late December 1911 (aged 26) and Maggie on the last day of 1913 (also aged 26).

Margaret Graham died in February 1914, so would only have seen her oldest three children marry. The next two oldest both married soon after her death: George in April 1914 (aged 24) in Tasmania (another Graham-Hilder marriage), and May in May 1914 (aged 23), although 5 years later she was widowed. May remarried in 1925 (aged 34). Thompson had died in 1923.

Maud had a son in 1916 (aged 17) and later married in 1928 (aged 30). Presumably she was helped with raising the child at first by her three unmarried sisters.

Three of the remaining siblings married later in life and had no children: Sam first married in 1930, and remarried twice more in 1958 and 1969 (after the deaths of the previous wives); Lily married in 1941 in Australia (aged 46) and Agnes married in 1947 (aged 54).

While Annie and Maggie each had seven children apiece, and Robert had six children, the others were not so prolific. George and May each had two children, and Maud one, while Samuel, Agnes and Lily all married late in life and had no children. Lottie never married.

The Graham homestead, Cook's Road, Okaihau



*Okaihau homestead, as
remodelled c. 1993*



Okaihau homestead, 2018

*The view back down Cook Rd,
Okaihau, 2018*



Death of Margaret Graham

Margaret Graham died at the age of 57 on the 21st of February 1914, from valvular disease of the heart and cancer of the liver.²⁸⁴ She died at her son Robert's home in Auckland, when her youngest daughter (Lottie) was only 12 years old.

GRAHAM - On Saturday, February 21, 1914, at her son's residence, Onehunga, Margaret, the dearly beloved wife of Thompson Graham, of Okaihau; aged 57 years. By request no mourning.

NZ Herald, 23 Feb 1914

MR THOMPSON GRAHAM and Family desire to thank all those who sympathised with them in their late sad bereavement also for letters, telegrams, and floral wreaths

Auckland Star, 26 Feb 1914

Margaret is buried at Waikaraka Cemetery (Area 3 Block 11 Lot No 33) and the plaque reads:

“In loving memory of Margaret dearly beloved wife of Thompson Graham
Died 21 Feb 1914 aged 57 yrs”

A separate plaque on the tombstone commemorates her eldest son:

“In loving memory of Robert Henry Graham beloved husband of Susan Lucy
and loving father of George, Alfred, Doris, Jean & Douglas
Died 22 Sept 1967 aged 85 yrs”



*Gravestone of Margaret Graham with plaque for her son, Robert, Waikaraka Cemetery,
Area 3 Block 11 Lot No 33*

(Picture by Alison Tu'ionetoa, May 2018)

Death of Thompson Graham

Thompson Graham died at the age of 68 on the 14th of October 1923 from a combination of senile decay, renal cirrhosis, enteric obstruction and cardiac failure.²⁸⁵ He died at Marangai and is buried at Okaihau Cemetery (Block 1A, Plot 8) with a memorial that also acknowledges his wife Margaret.

GRAHAM—On October 14, 1923, at Okaihau, Thompson Graham, dearly beloved husband of the late Margaret Graham, aged 68 years. Deeply regretted.

Auckland Star, 16 October 1923



*Gravestone of Thompson and Margaret Graham, Okaihau
(Picture by Russen Hilder, October 2017)*

Siblings of Margaret Templeton

Margaret came from a family of eight children born to Adam Templeton and Sarah Orr of Ballymoney, County Antrim in Ireland. She had five brothers and two sisters. Two of her brothers also emigrated (John to New Zealand and Joseph to Canada) but the other brothers and her sisters remained in Ireland, mostly in Belfast.

Limited details of the lives of these siblings have been obtained through research, with more available about John (the other New Zealand Templeton) through his descendants. What little is known about John, Agnes and Joseph is detailed below.

Of the remaining siblings, 1911 census data indicates that George and James were both tailors, Robert was a draper and Eliza's husband was a labourer. All were living in or near Belfast.

Descendants of Adam TEMPLETON

Adam TEMPLETON b. Abt 1826, c. 27 May 1826, Roseyards Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney, County Antrim, Ireland, d. 1869, Ballymoney, Ireland

+Sarah ORR b. Cir 1824, m. 16 Aug 1852, Roseyards Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney, County Antrim, Ireland, d. 17 Apr 1910, Belfast, Ireland, bur. 18 Apr 1910, City Cemetery, Belfast, par. George ORR and unknown (possibly Agnes)

— John TEMPLETON b. Abt 1853, d. 30 Mar 1908, Christchurch, New Zealand, bur. Linwood Cemetery, Christchurch

+Margaret DUFF b. 1 Jan 1855, m. 1881, d. 1 Nov 1935, Christchurch, New Zealand

— Agnes TEMPLETON b. Cir 1856, Antrim, Northern Ireland

+James CORRY

— Margaret TEMPLETON b. Abt 1858, Loughguile, Co. Antrim, Ireland, d. 21 Feb 1914, Selwyn St, Onehunga, bur. Waikaraka Cemetery, Area 3 Block 11 Lot No 33

+Thompson GRAHAM b. 23 Mar 1855, Ballypitmave, Co. Antrim, Ireland, m. 8 Apr 1880, Auckland, New Zealand, d. 14 Oct 1923, Marangai, Bay of Islands, NZ, bur. Okaihau Cemetery, Public Lawn, Block 1A, Plot 8, C/SURROUND AND TALL SHARED HEADSTONE (MEMORIAL), par. Isaac GRAHAM and Mary Anna

— Eliza Jane TEMPLETON b. Cir 1860, d. 10 Feb 1948, bur. Belfast Cemetery, Ireland

+Henry HARE b. Cir 1854, m. 10 Mar 1878, Gt Victoria St Baptist Church, Belfast, Ireland, d. 13 Oct 1931

— George TEMPLETON b. Cir 1861, d. 30 Mar 1952, bur. 1 Apr 1952, Belfast City Cemetery, Ireland (F647)

+Emily JONES m. 27 Nov 1889, Great Victoria Street Baptist Church (Belfast), d. 1 Feb 1939, bur. 3 Feb 1939, Belfast City Cemetery, Ireland (F647), par. William JONES

— Robert TEMPLETON b. Cir 1864, d. 4 Oct 1947, bur. 6 Oct 1947, Dundonald Cemetery, B1 643, Belfast

+Mary Perry GILMORE m. 26 Dec 1887, St James Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney, d. 26 Jun 1938, bur. Dundonald Cemetery, B1 643, Belfast, par. Robert GILMORE and Unknown

— Joseph TEMPLETON b. 26 Dec 1864, Dervock, Antrim, Ireland, d. 6 Jan 1938, Ontario, Canada

+Elizabeth ARMSTRONG d. 9 Sep 1919, Canada

+Annie CALDER OR COLGAN m. 15 Sep 1920, Middlesex, Canada

— James TEMPLETON b. 27 Oct 1866, Balnamore, Antrim

+Rose Arthur Faith LYTLE m. 29 Oct 1897, Tobermore, Co. Derry, Ireland

John Templeton

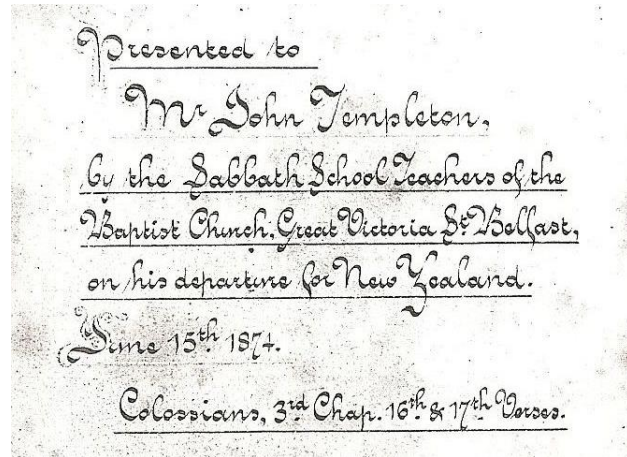
(abt 1853 - 1908)



John Templeton

John was the eldest of the family. He emigrated to New Zealand before his sister Margaret, arriving in Canterbury in 1874²⁸⁶ on the 'Merope' aged 21, among 331 immigrants²⁸⁷. The Merope left Plymouth on the 26th of June 1874.

Ten days earlier, on the 15th of June 1874, John had been presented with a bible by a Baptist Church in Belfast. The bible has remained in his family who provided a copy of the inscription:



Of particular interest is the fact that the 1874 ship that John travelled on also carried "the gentlemen who form the expedition for the transit of Venus in December next, and we hear they will be fully occupied till that time in getting matters ready. They bring with them a large quantity of material necessary for observing the transit."²⁸⁸

John married **Margaret Duff** in 1881 and settled in the Canterbury region. John and Margaret had six sons and many of their descendants seem to have remained in the South Island.

In 1905, he was listed as a labourer and lived at 44 Edgware Rd, Christchurch.²⁸⁹ He was unfortunately killed in a road accident on the 30th of March 1908 at the age of about 55, being hit while on his bicycle by a horse-drawn gig.²⁹⁰

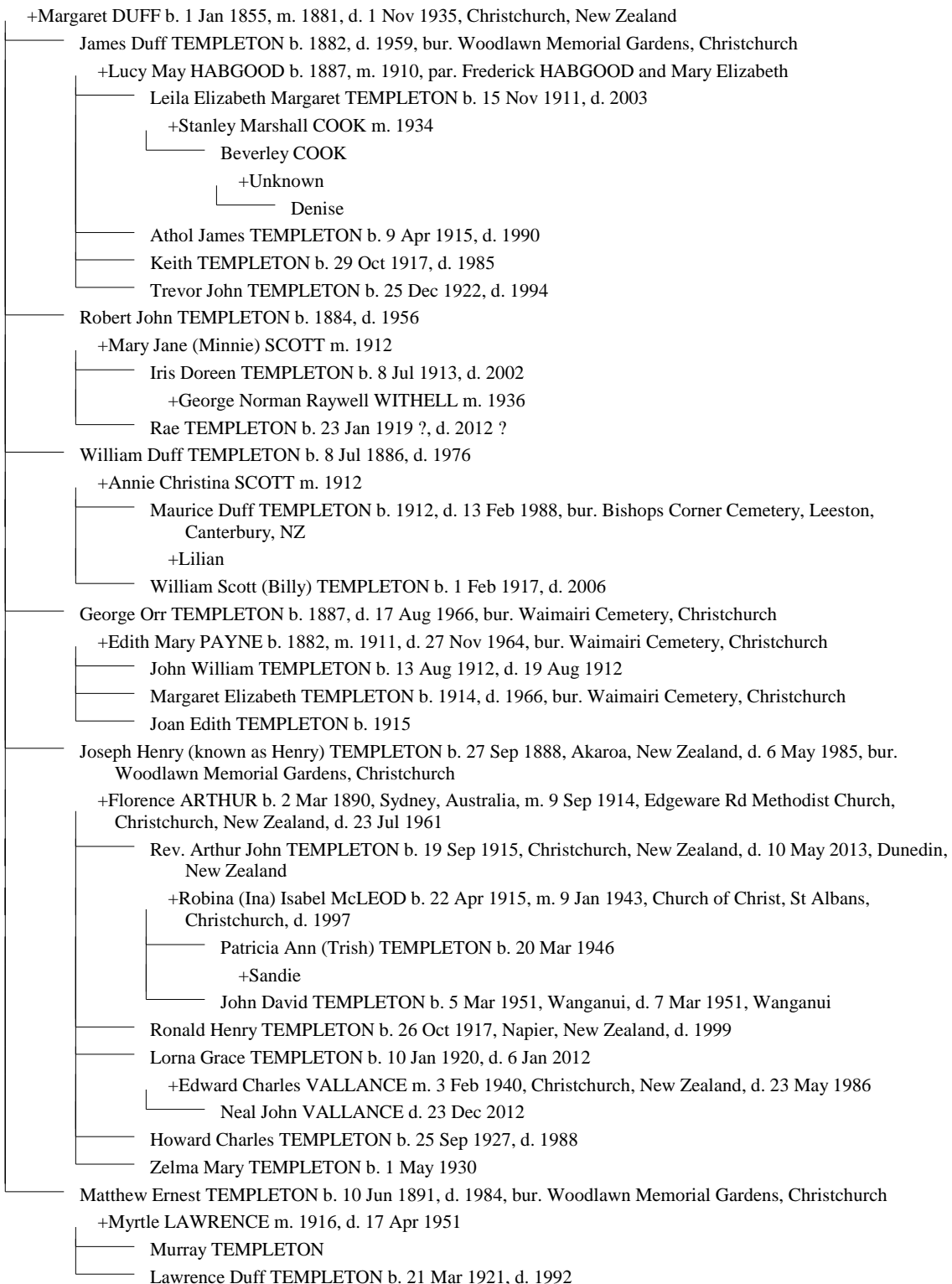
Contact was maintained between the families of John and Margaret at least until the next generation, as one of Margaret and Thompson Graham's sons-in-law (Wenman Hilder) mentioned visiting his wife's cousin, Henry Templeton, in Christchurch in 1967, together with Sam Graham.²⁹¹



Margaret Templeton (nee Duff), centre, pictured with her six sons and their wives in the 1920s (probably) Henry Templeton is 3rd from the left (standing)²⁹²

Descendants of John TEMPLETON

John TEMPLETON b. Abt 1853, d. 30 Mar 1908, Christchurch, New Zealand, bur. Linwood Cemetery, Christchurch



Agnes Templeton

(1856 - ?)

Agnes was the second child and eldest daughter of the family. It would appear that she had a daughter, Charlotte, when she was 21 but unmarried – the birth is registered with the name of the father (James Corry) but with her name as Agnes Templeton. Her address at the time was 59 Edwards Row, Belfast and her mark is recorded rather than her signature, indicating that she was not literate at this point.

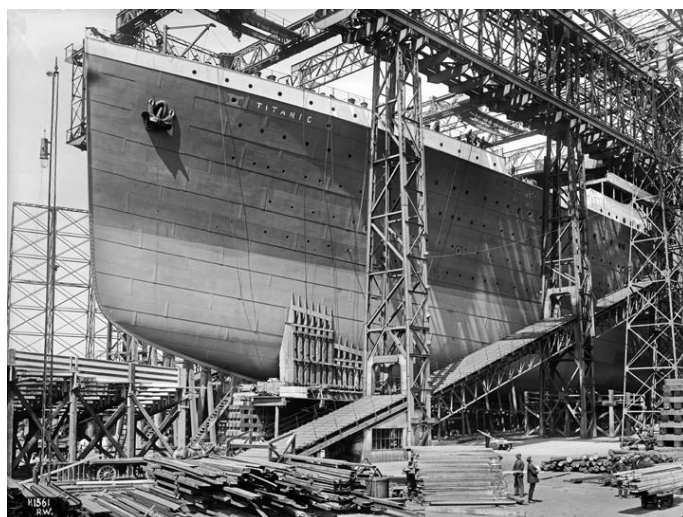
248	Joseph Corry 1874 59 Edwards Row	Charlotte Ann	James Corry Ballymena	Agnes Templeton - formerly -	Labourer	x The Mark of Agnes Templeton Mother 59 Edwards Row	First May 1874	J. J. Ellison Deputy Registrar.
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She appears on the 1901 and 1911 census records, as an unmarried tailor's machinist. She lived with her mother in 1901, and in 1911 she was listed as single and as a visitor at her daughter's home in Carrickfergus, aged 55. By 1911 she was listed as unemployed, but it is recorded that she could read and write at this point. She may have married late in life but no record has been found of this, or of her death.

Joseph Templeton

(1864 – 1938)

Joseph, the seventh child and fourth son, was a cabinet maker and ship joiner who reportedly worked in Belfast on the building of the Titanic (which was launched in May 1911).



© Ulster Museum 2008 H1561: *Titanic in the final stages of construction, May 1911*
Photograph reproduced courtesy the Trustees of National Museums Northern Ireland

In April 1911, when the Ireland Census was taken, he was living in Carrickfergus with his wife **Elizabeth** and three of their four children aged between 12 and 21 (the eldest son, Alexander, was serving in the military at the time.²⁹³)

Joseph and his family emigrated to Canada later in 1911. In 1919, his wife Elizabeth died in Canada and Joseph remarried.²⁹⁴ Alexander presumably followed later after his military service finished in 1914, as he later married in Canada, in 1921.

Graham Ancestors:
Isaac Graham and Mary Ann
Parents of Thompson Graham

Thompson Graham's family background is not known beyond the names of his parents cited on his death certificate. Isaac Graham was reportedly a clerk and the family were from County Antrim, in the north of Ireland.

Templeton Ancestors: Adam Templeton and Sarah Orr Parents of Margaret Graham (nee Templeton)

Adam and Sarah Templeton were both Protestants from County Antrim, in the north of Ireland.

Adam was a weaver from a family of flax-growers and weavers.

They married in 1852 in Ballymoney when Sarah was about 28 and Adam 26. They had eight children, five sons and three daughters before Adam died in 1869. Sarah and many of their children ended up in Belfast, while two of their children emigrated to New Zealand (their eldest son, John, as well as Margaret) and one son emigrated to Canada.



Possibly Adam Templeton

The above image was found in a gold locket (pictured, right) inherited by Margaret Duder (nee Hilder) from her maternal grandmother, Margaret Graham. She was the eldest grand-daughter, and passed the locket on to her eldest grand-daughter, Katie Duder. The photo is thought to be a Templeton, plausibly Adam Templeton although there is no way of knowing for certain.²⁹⁵

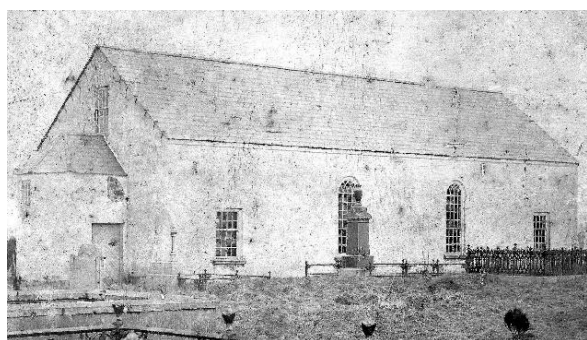


Adam Templeton was born about 1826²⁹⁶ and was a weaver from Drumafivey, County Antrim.

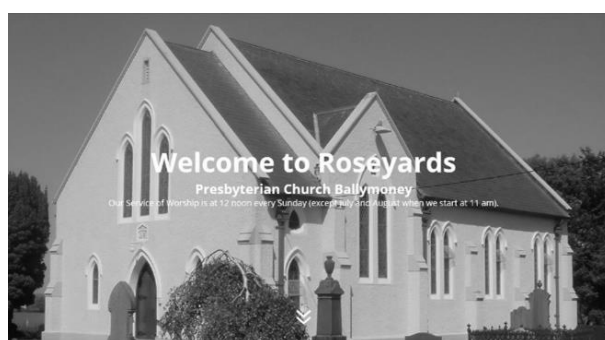
He was the son of John Templeton, also a weaver²⁹⁷ and Margaret (Peggy) Fulton.²⁹⁸ A John Templeton of Ballymoney and a Margaret Fulton of Derrykeighan (Ballymoney) were both listed as flax growers in County Antrim in 1796.²⁹⁹ John Templeton and Peggy Fulton married at Roseyards Presbyterian Church in Ballymoney on 20 November 1822.

Sarah Orr was born about 1824.³⁰⁰ Her father was George Orr, a farmer. Her mother was probably Agnes, based on naming traditions (Adam and Sarah's eldest daughter is named Agnes) as well as communion records at Roseyards Church which show a George Orr and a Nancy Orr taking communion on 12 June 1837,³⁰¹ Nancy being a possible (Scottish) nickname for Agnes.³⁰²

Adam and Sarah married at Roseyards Presbyterian Church (pictured below) in Ballymoney on the 15th of August 1852. Their families seem to have had a close association with this church as it looks like they each have siblings who also married there. However many of the family seem to have later shifted allegiance to the Baptist Church (see below).



An early photo of Roseyards Church (from their website)



Roseyards Church today

Adam and Sarah had eight children between 1853 and 1866 (three daughters and five sons).³⁰³ Adam died in 1869 at the age of 43 in Ballymoney.³⁰⁴

There is evidence that the family moved to Belfast at some point, perhaps after Adam's death. Belfast at this time was a fast-growing city and a centre for linen mills and ship building.³⁰⁵ In 1874, Margaret's older brother was presented with a bible by a Baptist Church in Belfast before leaving for New Zealand (see p.197); in 1877, the eldest daughter of the family, Agnes, gave birth to a daughter (Charlotte Ann) in Belfast (see p. 199); and Margaret's younger sister Eliza Jane married in a Baptist Church in Belfast in 1878, the year before Margaret left for NZ in 1879. Margaret's younger brother Robert married in a Presbyterian Church in Ballymoney in 1887, while George married in a Baptist Church in Belfast in 1889.

After her husband's death, Sarah lived with her eldest daughter Agnes, in a Protestant area of Belfast. In 1901, when Agnes was aged 45 and still unmarried, they are listed at 29 Bedeque Street (Court Ward, Antrim), the only two Baptists in the predominantly Protestant street. Of the 208 people listed in the street (occupying 37 houses), 65% were Protestants of various denominations, mostly Presbyterians (38%) and Episcopalians including Church of Ireland, Church of England and Church of Scotland (23%), with only six Methodists and the two Templetons as Baptists. The remainder were split between Catholics (13%) and Jews (17%) with 5% "all other persuasions".³⁰⁶ This is compared with overall figures for Belfast in 1911 when 34% of the population was Presbyterian, 30% was Church of Ireland and 7% was Methodist and 24% were Catholic.³⁰⁷

All the houses in the street were listed as having six rooms, with each housing between 2 and 10 people. The Templetons would have been reasonably comfortable with only the two of them in the six rooms.³⁰⁸

Sarah Templeton died in 1910 at the age of 86 in Belfast. Her grave is in Belfast Cemetery (in the same plot as her son George, his wife and two of their children)³⁰⁹; unfortunately the headstone is in pieces.



Sarah Templeton's grave, Belfast Cemetery



Fragments of shattered headstone

(Photos: Simon Neumegen)

Descendants of Adam TEMPLETON

Adam TEMPLETON b. Abt 1826, c. 27 May 1826, Roseyards Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney, County Antrim, Ireland, d. 1869, Ballymoney, Ireland

+Sarah ORR b. Cir 1824, m. 16 Aug 1852, Roseyards Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney, County Antrim, Ireland, d. 17 Apr 1910, Belfast, Ireland, bur. 18 Apr 1910, City Cemetery, Belfast, par. George ORR and unknown (possibly Agnes)

John TEMPLETON b. Abt 1853, d. 30 Mar 1908, Christchurch, New Zealand, bur. Linwood Cemetery, Christchurch

+Margaret DUFF b. 1 Jan 1855, m. 1881, d. 1 Nov 1935, Christchurch, New Zealand

James Duff TEMPLETON b. 1882, d. 1959, bur. Woodlawn Memorial Gardens, Christchurch

+Lucy May HABGOOD b. 1887, m. 1910, par. Frederick HABGOOD and Mary Elizabeth

Robert John TEMPLETON b. 1884, d. 1956

+Mary Jane (Minnie) SCOTT m. 1912

William Duff TEMPLETON b. 8 Jul 1886, d. 1976

+Annie Christina SCOTT m. 1912

George Orr TEMPLETON b. 1887, d. 17 Aug 1966, bur. Waimairi Cemetery, Christchurch

+Edith Mary PAYNE b. 1882, m. 1911, d. 27 Nov 1964, bur. Waimairi Cemetery, Christchurch

Joseph Henry (known as Henry) TEMPLETON b. 27 Sep 1888, Akaroa, New Zealand, d. 6 May 1985, bur. Woodlawn Memorial Gardens, Christchurch

+Florence ARTHUR b. 2 Mar 1890, Sydney, Australia, m. 9 Sep 1914, Edgeware Rd Methodist Church, Christchurch, New Zealand, d. 23 Jul 1961

Matthew Ernest TEMPLETON b. 10 Jun 1891, d. 1984, bur. Woodlawn Memorial Gardens, Christchurch

+Myrtle LAWRENCE m. 1916, d. 17 Apr 1951

Agnes TEMPLETON b. Cir 1856, Antrim, Northern Ireland

+James CORRY

Charlotte Ann TEMPLETON b. 12 Apr 1877, Belfast, d. 18 Jun 1979 ?

+John WRIGHT b. Cir 1876, m. 28 Oct 1898, Belfast, Ireland, d. 1923, par. James WRIGHT

Margaret TEMPLETON b. Abt 1858, Loughguile, Co. Antrim, Ireland, d. 21 Feb 1914, Selwyn St, Onehunga, bur. Waikaraka Cemetery, Area 3 Block 11 Lot No 33

+Thompson GRAHAM b. 23 Mar 1855, Ballypitmave, Co. Antrim, Ireland, m. 8 Apr 1880, Auckland, New Zealand, d. 14 Oct 1923, Marangai, Bay of Islands, NZ, bur. Okaihau Cemetery, Public Lawn, Block 1A, Plot 8, C/SURROUND AND TALL SHARED HEADSTONE (MEMORIAL), par. Isaac GRAHAM and Mary Anna

Robert Henry GRAHAM b. 30 Mar 1881, d. 22 Sep 1967, bur. Waikaraka Cemetery

+Susan Lucy FLANIGAN b. 1890, m. 11 Nov 1908, Primitive Methodist Church, Great North Rd, Auckland, d. 14 May 1966, Auckland, NZ, bur. Waikaraka Cemetery, Auckland, par. Thomas Henry FLANAGAN and Annie Atkinson

George Johnston/Thompson GRAHAM b. 17 Feb 1883, d. 28 Feb 1884

Sarah Ann (Annie) GRAHAM b. 18 Apr 1885, Okaihau, d. 14 Jun 1949, Kaikohe, Bay of Islands, New Zealand, bur. Kaikohe Cemetery, Public Lawn, Block B, Plot 62, Red Headstone

+Milton James Thomas (Jim) HILDER b. 21 Feb 1890, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, m. 27 Dec 1911, Residence of Mr Thompson Graham, Okaihau, New Zealand, d. 6 Oct 1963, Dannevirke, New Zealand, bur. 9 Oct 1963, Mangatainoka Pahiatua Cemetery, par. Richard HILDER and Amelia HALES

Margaret Elizabeth GRAHAM b. 23 Oct 1887, Okaihau, Bay Of Islands, d. 7 May 1962, bur. Glenfield Berm Cemetery/Birkenhead/Glenfield Cemetery

+Wenman John (Bill) HILDER b. 28 Nov 1887, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, m. 31 Dec 1913, Okaihau, d. 12 Oct 1971, Auckland, NZ, bur. Birkenhead/Glenfield Cemetery, par. Richard HILDER and Amelia HALES

George Adam Templeton GRAHAM b. 16 Jul 1889, Kaikohe, New Zealand, d. 4 Dec 1967, Tasmania, Australia, bur. Wivenhoe General Cemetery, Tasmania

+Hannah Amelia (Nan) HILDER b. 22 Jun 1885, Emu Bay, Tasmania, Australia, m. 2 Apr 1914, Methodist Church, Burnie, Tasmania, d. 13 Jul 1940, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, bur. Wivenhoe General Cemetery, par. Richard HILDER and Amelia HALES

+Coral Selah b. 1896, d. 15 Sep 1980, bur. Wivenhoe General Cemetery

May Thompson GRAHAM b. 7 May 1891, d. 20 Feb 1962, bur. Okaihau Cemetery, Public Lawn, Block 1A, Plot 7

+Wilfred MELVILLE b. 1882, m. 1914, d. 1 Jul 1919, bur. Otahuhu

+John Henry DIXON b. 1871, m. 1925, d. 15 Jun 1940, bur. Okaihau Cemetery, Public Lawn, Block 1A, Plot 5

Samuel Johnson GRAHAM b. 24 Jun 1892, d. 3 Sep 1986, crem. Waikumete Cemetery, Auckland (CREMATION LAWN NEW B Row 8, Plot 80)

+Elsie Gertrude PARKER b. 1890, m. 1930, d. 1957

+Freda Dorothy b. 1900, m. After 1957, d. 24 Apr 1965, crem. Waikumete Cemetery, Auckland

+Isabella Jean (known as Jean) b. 18 Apr 1913, m. After 1965, d. 23 Jan 2000, crem. Waikumete Cemetery, Auckland

Descendants of Adam TEMPLETON

- Agnes GRAHAM b. 27 Sep 1893, d. 13 Apr 1957, Burnie, Tasmania, Australia, bur. Wivenhoe General Cemetery.
+Carl Frederick REED b. 1863, m. 1947, d. 22 Jun 1948
- Lily Jane GRAHAM b. 10 Dec 1894, d. 14 Aug 1978, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
+Thomas William Frank REEVES b. 1875, Victoria, Australia, m. 1941, Victoria, Australia, d. 1970, Dandenong, Victoria, Australia
- Mary Anna Maude (Maud) GRAHAM b. 6 Feb 1898, d. 29 Dec 1955, New Zealand, bur. 31 Dec 1955, Maunu Cemetery, Whangarei
+John CORCORAN b. 1894, Lancashire, England, m. 1928, d. 30 Jun 1960, bur. 1 Jul 1960, Maunu Cemetery, Whangarei
- Charlotte Mildred GRAHAM b. 23 Sep 1902, d. 15 Oct 1970, South Oakleigh, Australia
- Eliza Jane TEMPLETON b. Cir 1860, d. 10 Feb 1948, bur. Belfast Cemetery, Ireland
+Henry HARE b. Cir 1854, m. 10 Mar 1878, Gt Victoria St Baptist Church, Belfast, Ireland, d. 13 Oct 1931
 - William HARE b. 26 Feb 1881
 - George HARE b. 15 Mar 1886, Belfast, Ireland
 - James HARE b. 19 Mar 1888, Belfast, Ireland
 - Sarah Agnes HARE b. 12 Mar 1893
 - Samuel HARE b. 15 Sep 1895, Belfast, Ireland
 - Mary HARE b. Cir 1902, Belfast, Ireland
- George TEMPLETON b. Cir 1861, d. 30 Mar 1952, bur. 1 Apr 1952, Belfast City Cemetery, Ireland (F647)
+Emily JONES m. 27 Nov 1889, Great Victoria Street Baptist Church (Belfast), d. 1 Feb 1939, bur. 3 Feb 1939, Belfast City Cemetery, Ireland (F647), par. William JONES and Unknown
 - George Howard TEMPLETON b. Cir 1892, Belfast, Ireland, d. 17 Nov 1918, Belfast, Ireland, bur. 19 Nov 1918, Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina Extension
+Margaret BEGGS
 - Ralph TEMPLETON b. Apr-Jun 1893, Belfast, Ireland
 - May Edith (Mair) TEMPLETON b. Cir 1896, Belfast, Ireland, d. 18 Nov 1918, Belfast, bur. 20 Nov 1918, City Cemetery, Belfast
 - Maud TEMPLETON b. Cir 1897, Belfast, Ireland
 - Wilfred TEMPLETON b. Cir 1900, Belfast, Ireland
 - James TEMPLETON b. Cir 1903, Belfast, Ireland
 - Charles TEMPLETON b. Cir 1907, Belfast, Ireland
- Robert TEMPLETON b. Cir 1864, d. 4 Oct 1947, bur. 6 Oct 1947, Dundonald Cemetery, B1 643, Belfast
+Mary Perry GILMORE m. 26 Dec 1887, St James Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney, d. 26 Jun 1938, bur. Dundonald Cemetery, B1 643, Belfast, par. Robert GILMORE and Unknown
 - James Clarke Gilmore TEMPLETON b. Apr-Jun 1889
 - Bertha A. M. TEMPLETON b. Cir 1891
 - Robert Orr TEMPLETON b. Oct-Dec 1892
 - Herbert Ernest Perry TEMPLETON b. Jan-Mar 1898, d. 29 Mar 1983
+Ethel
 - Emily M. P. TEMPLETON b. Cir 1902, d. 1917
 - Ethel Sadie C. TEMPLETON b. Cir 1904, d. 5 Sep 1956, Belfast, Ireland
- Joseph TEMPLETON b. 26 Dec 1864, Dervock, Antrim, Ireland, d. 6 Jan 1938, Ontario, Canada
+Elizabeth ARMSTRONG d. 9 Sep 1919, Canada
 - Sarah Jane TEMPLETON b. Cir 1891, d. 15 Nov 1926, Ontario, Canada
 - Alexander Dixon Grier TEMPLETON b. Apr-Jun 1893
+Sarah ARMSTRONG m. 30 May 1921, Middlesex, Ontario, Canada
 - Joseph TEMPLETON b. Cir 1897, Co. Antrim, Ireland
 - Samuel Armstrong TEMPLETON b. Cir 1899, Belfast
+Rachel BESTWARD m. 15 Jan 1925, Bruce, Ontario, Canada
 - +Annie CALDER OR COLGAN m. 15 Sep 1920, Middlesex, Canada
- James TEMPLETON b. 27 Oct 1866, Balnamore, Antrim
+Rose Arthur Faith LYTTLE m. 29 Oct 1897, Tobermore, Co. Derry, Ireland
 - James George TEMPLETON b. 11 May 1899, Co. Antrim, Ireland
 - Gladys Faith TEMPLETON b. Cir 1902, Co. Antrim, Ireland

Appendix 1

List of written works by Richard Hilder

Table of contents from *The Life and Times of Richard Hilder*, compiled by Peter C. Aylett¹¹ (Cashmere, Queensland, Australia, 2018). Based predominantly on articles published in the local Burnie newspaper, *The Advocate* (previously known as *The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times*).

Also included in this list are a few relevant articles by other writers.

Contact Peter Aylett (pca47@bigpond.net.au) to request a digital copy of this compilation as a pdf.

PART 1: TASMANIAN NORTH WEST COAST

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Conditions in England 1830

Van Diemen's Land Company Makes Its Claim

Other Early Northern Exploration 1820s - 1830s

The Real Pioneers of Emu Bay - Settlers and Settlements of 1863

Ch.1 – Toward the Cam River on the Coast Road - West of Burnie 1863

Ch.2 – Further Toward the Cam River on the Coast Road - West of Burnie

Ch.3 – Pioneers Around the Cam River & a Few Original Burnie Landmarks

Ch.4 – Old Surry Road & New Country (Mount) Road 1863

Ch.5 – Stowport & New Country (Mount) Road 1863

Ch.6 – Mooreville Road 1863

Ch.7 – The Town of Burnie 1863

Ch.8 – Burnie:- General Conditions, Religious and Public Services of 1863

Among The Pioneers Of Emu Bay

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Late Miss. Rosina Rouse

Mrs Long J. Of Mooreville Road – An Honorable Record

Mrs Mary Morris – The First State School Teacher

John Byrne Of Uplands - Settler at Cooee in 1842

Capt. John Gibson – Master Mariner – A Character Sketch

Capt. John Gibson – Further Information Supplied by Capt H. J. Emmett

Mr & Mrs Geo. Woodward Mr & Mrs – Pioneer Historys

Late Mr Geo. Woodward of Somerset – A Native Born Pioneer

Jabez Tong – Sawyer & Pioneer

Mr & Mrs C. Radford – Their Lives and Trials

John Lapham – The First White Infant Born at Burnie

Woodcock's Wanderings – Plans That Failed

Mr & Mrs John Freer of Mooreville Road – Pioneer Farmer

Late Mrs John Freer of Mooreville Road

Mrs Alice Jones

Late Mrs A. Robotham of Ridgley

Place Names

Creeks, Roads and Localities – By Richard Hilder

Coastal Place Names – By R.S. Sanderson

Preservation Bay – How It Was Named - By Richard Hilder

¹¹ Great-grandson of Richard Hilder, grandson of Hannah Graham (nee Hilder), son of Dulcie Aylett (nee Graham)

Why Preservation Bay – By R.S. Sanderson

Mount Bischoff Experiences

James “Philosopher” Smith – Prospector, Explorer & Farmer - Where It All Started

Ch.1 - By Road To Mount Bischoff – First Trip in 1873

Ch.2 - By Road To Mount Bischoff – Next Trip

Lost And Found – Story of An Axe

Ch.3 - By Road To Mount Bischoff – Teamsters

Ch.4 - By Road To Mount Bischoff – Final Trips

Tramway Survey To Mount Bischoff - 1874

The Late Mr Ulo Wells – Teamsters

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Mystery: The Disappearance of David Landale – 1873

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Rev. William Henry Walton – Methodist

Late Rev. Father Burke – Roman Catholic

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First Sawmill At Stowport – 1884

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Ship Building and Ships

Shipbuilding – Emu Bay and Cam River

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Disappearance of the Cutter 'Glympse' Pt.1 – A Mystery of 1866
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 Rabbits & Goats – Their Introduction
 Black Rats – The Mystery

PART 2: RICHARDS REMINISCENCES & HISTORY THROUGH NEWSPRINT

(1840-1863) Thomas Hilder – Emigration & Establishment in Emu Bay
(1862) A Sea Voyage Emu Bay To Launceston
 Thomas Hilder's Travel Companions Visited
 Late Mr Charles Sparrow
(1860's) Early-Day Sports at Burnie – Written 1935
(1877) To Launceston by Road and Railway (For Loyal Wellington Lodge)
(1896) A Trip From Burnie to the West Coast (For Loyal Wellington Lodge)
(1903) The Early Days of Burnie
(1898) A Court Case of Interest
(1907) Traffic Accident
(1910) Hill Farm – Produce Depot Agency
(1910) Third Son Migrates to NZ
(1911) Loyal Wellington Lodge Farewells Bro. Richard Hilder
(1911) To New Zealand. By Richard Hilder
(1911) An Interesting Encounter – Tami Solomon – Written 1927
(1915) Basil Hilder (Pte 2290) – KIA 08 Aug 1915
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(1915) Wenman Hilder Visits From NZ
(1920) An Evergreen Memorial To Basil – West Park
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(1924) Burnie Memorial to District Soldiers Lost in the Great War
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(1924) Beautiful Burnie By The Sea
(1925) Reminiscences & Experiences of a Local Preacher
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(1927) First Golden Wedding Anniversary – Mr & Mrs H. Billett

- (1927) Population Statistics
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- (1928) Amelia Hilder (Nee Hales) Passes To Gods Care – 13 Oct 1928
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 In Memorium – 1929 & 1936 (Not Conclusive)
- (1929) Where Our Heroes Sleep – A Gracious Act Appreciated
- (1929) Personal Notes from Town and Country: Richard In Hospital
- (1930) First Break in Hilder Family for 48 Years: Passing of Mrs S. Philips
- (1930) Passing of a Landmark
- (1930) Loyal Wellington Lodge Jubilee Members Honoured
- (1931) A Local Preacher for 50 Years
- (1931) Jubilee Services – Conducted By Richard (Not Conclusive)
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 Burnie Methodist Circuit – Quarterly Meeting
- (1931) Mr Richard Hilder – 75th Birthday: A Tribute by 'The Wild Irishman'
- (1933) Richard's 77th Birthday Noted
- (1933) Jubilee Jewels Presentation (Loyal Wellington Lodge)
- (1934) Hilder Parade
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 Burnie Council Meeting
 Conscious Pride for Hilder Family
- (1936) Burnie Police Court – Richard Caught
- (1936) Mr Richard Hilder 80 Today
- (1938) Richard Hilder Passes into God's Care – 19 Feb 1938
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PART 3: CHRONOLOGY & BRIEF HISTORY OF THE RICHARD AND AMELIA HILDER FAMILY

as transcription from a hand-written journal by Richard Hilder dated July 1930

Appendix 2

Map of the Burnie area showing the location of the Hilder farms

The following map (courtesy of Peter Aylett) shows the location of the Hilder two farms: that of Thomas Hilder Snr, and of Richard Hilder.

The area marked '1' shows the 48 acre farm purchased, sight unseen, by Thomas Hilder Snr from Richard Wreford whilst on the Bendigo Gold Fields in 1852. His eldest son, Thomas Hilder Jnr, retained the front 13 acres after his father's passing. The remainder of the farm came under the control of A.B. Cross & Son.

The area marked '2' shows the 53 acre Hill Farm leased by Richard Hilder from the VDL Company for five 7 year terms from 1878. A. J Chalk sub-leased from Richard for the final 2 years before purchasing. The farm was passed on to his son Jack Chalk who sub-divided it in the late 1960s for residential use.³¹⁰



Google Map 2015 used as base Map - Boundaries drawn from Richard's descriptions and are therefore indicative only.

Two street names perpetuate the heritage of the two farms:

- Hilder Street is located near the northern boundary of Thomas' farm.
- Hillfarm Drive is located within the boundaries of Richard's farm.



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- ¹²³ Late Mrs Richard Hilder *Advocate (Burnie, Tas: 1890 - 1954)* Monday 29 October 1928 p 2 (details of a memorial service for her conducted by Rev. Wesley Hobbs in the Burnie Methodist Church.
- ¹²⁴ Ibid.
- ¹²⁵ Shared by Craig Broadfield on Pictorial History of Burnie Facebook Page, 9 July 2015 (The multi-gabled building to the centre right is the Anglican Rectory built 1880-1. William Jones's 'Bay View Hotel' is dead-centre (built 1875). Thomas Wells's 'Ship Inn' (built 1850) to the left of the Bay View. The residence to the left is thought to be that of William Jones. It is interesting to note how little development had taken place at Burnie by this date. In 1875 the population is said to have been only 100).
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- ¹³⁸ Great-great grand-daughter of Thomas Hilder (1816-1894), Great-granddaughter of Thomas Hilder (1857-1941)
- ¹³⁹ "Hilder Gates Stand Tall at Waterfront", *Advocate*, 23 April 2012
- ¹⁴⁰ Obituary, *Advocate*, Thursday 4 October 1934
- ¹⁴¹ Personal communication from Marie Stringer (descendant of Herbert Billett)
- ¹⁴² Jean Randall (The Billett-Hilder family history, 1987)
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- ¹⁸⁹ England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975 (Accessed through FamilySearch.org)
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- ¹⁹⁶ Entries in the International Genealogical Index of the Church of Latter Day Saints (AFN: 97S9-LL Submitted by Keith Robert Hales and Glenn J. Brown, both of Australia)
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- ²⁶⁸ *NZ Herald*, 20 November 1874
- ²⁶⁹ Edwards, William James, 1857-1930: *Personal experiences* (Alexander Turnbull Library MS-0714, pp 46-47)
- ²⁷⁰ Birth Certificate of Sarah Ann Graham
- ²⁷¹ Death Certificate of Margaret Graham (nee Templeton)
- ²⁷² Shipping manifest Reference no: Im 15/364 held at the National Archives of New Zealand
- ²⁷³ Archives New Zealand, Passenger Lists, 1839-1973, database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FSYW-D35> : 12 December 2014), Margt Templeton, 08 Dec 1879; citing ship Lady Jocelyn, Archives New Zealand, Wellington; FHL microfilm
- ²⁷⁴ *The Press*, 9 December 1879
- ²⁷⁵ *White Wings* website - <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sooty/ladyjoce.html>
- ²⁷⁶ *Lyttleton Times*, 9 December 1879
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- ²⁸⁴ Death certificate of Margaret Graham
- ²⁸⁵ Death certificate of Thompson Graham
- ²⁸⁶ John Templeton, Archives New Zealand, Passenger Lists, Name: John Templeton, Event Type: Immigration, Event Date: 27 Sep 1874, Event Place: Canterbury, New Zealand, Gender: Male, Marital Status: Single, Nationality: Antrim, Occupation: General Labourer, Departure Date: 1874, Arrival Port: Canterbury, Arrival Place: Canterbury, Digital Folder Number: 004412039 , Image Number: 00021
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- ²⁸⁸ Ibid.
- ²⁸⁹ 1905-6 Electoral Roll Christchurch North
- ²⁹⁰ DEATHS., *Star*, Issue 9199, 31 March 1908; KILLED BY A GIG., *Marlborough Express*, Volume XLII, Issue 79, 2 April 1908
- ²⁹¹ Hilder, W. J. (1967-68). *To Our Children: Your Parents' Autobiography*. (Typewritten account). 10 Tui Crescent, Beach Haven, Auckland, N.Z.
- ²⁹² Photo from Vic and Doreen Gurney's photo album (courtesy of Jeannette Ohlson)
- ²⁹³ Military History Sheet for Alexander Templeton
- ²⁹⁴ Arthur Templeton of Christchurch (Personal communication); Canada Census data
- ²⁹⁵ Margaret Duder's handwritten list of items to leave to grand-children refers to it as "Gold locket (my grandmother's)". The photo underneath that of her husband has the words: "Relative of my mother; Don't know who" written on the back.
- ²⁹⁶ Roseyards Presbyterian Church Baptism Records (from Kathleen Connolly, 13 January 2015), Date of Baptism: 27 May 1826, Adam Templeton
- ²⁹⁷ Roseyards Presbyterian Church Marriage Records (from Kathleen Connolly, 13 January 2015); Ireland Marriages, 1619-1898, index, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/FG66-F36>: accessed 11 January 2015), Adam Templeton and Sarah Orr, 16 Aug 1852; citing Ballymoney, Ant, Ire, reference 2:3QVS0GH; FHL microfilm 101,333.
- ²⁹⁸ notes from Arthur Templeton, grandson of John Templeton (1853-1908); confirmed by Roseyards Presbyterian Church Marriage Records (from Kathleen Connolly, 13 January 2015)

²⁹⁹ *Flaxgrowers of Ireland 1796, County Antrim* (www.failteromhat.com/flax/antrim.htm); Note: “The Irish Linen Board published a list of nearly 60,000 individuals in 1796. Spinning wheels were awarded based on the number of acres planted. People who planted one acre were awarded 4 spinning wheels and those growing 5 acres were awarded a loom. Donegal and Tyrone had the highest number of awards. Dublin and Wicklow were not included in this list. These extracts contain the name, parish and county. The barony was listed instead of the parish in a few of the records. Also known as the Spinning Wheel list or the Flax Growers Bounty” (<https://www.failteromhat.com/flax1796.htm>) - *Fáilte Rombat* website

³⁰⁰ *Census of Ireland, 1901: Form A*: Sarah Templeton (77) and daughter Agnes (45); (accessed through: http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Antrim/Court_Ward/Bedeque_Street/963648/)

³⁰¹ Roseyards Presbyterian Church Communion Records (from Kathleen Connolly, 4 November 2018)

³⁰² <http://www.whatsinaname.net/female-names/Nancy.html>, citing *The Oxford Names Companion*, OUP, “Scottish Forenames” - Donald Whyte, FGH, FSG: “In Scotland Nancy has long been used synonymously with Agnes” (and many other websites)

³⁰³ notes from Arthur Templeton, grandson of John Templeton (1853-1908); Ireland census records, Irish Birth Records

³⁰⁴ *Ireland Civil Registration Indexes, 1845-1958* database, FamilySearch

(https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FR5X-53X:10_March_2018), DEATHS entry for Adam Templeton; citing Ballymoney, 1869, vol. 16, p. 105, General Registry, Custom House, Dublin; FHL microfilm 101,584.

³⁰⁵ *What was Belfast like in the early 20th century?* National Archives of Ireland website:

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/exhibition/belfast/main.html>

³⁰⁶ *Census of Ireland, 1901: Form N – Enumerator’s Abstract for a Townland or Street* for Bedeque Street, Court Ward, Parish of Shankill, North West Belfast, Brown’s Square, Belfast (accessed through: http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Antrim/Court_Ward/Bedeque_Street/963648/)

³⁰⁷ *What was Belfast like in the early 20th century?* National Archives of Ireland website:

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³⁰⁸ *Census of Ireland, 1901: Form B1 – House and Building Return* for Bedeque Street, Court Ward, Parish of Shankill, North West Belfast, Brown’s Square, Belfast (accessed through: http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Antrim/Court_Ward/Bedeque_Street/963648/)

³⁰⁹ Belfast City Cemetery Records

³¹⁰ From *The Life and Times of Richard Hilder*, compiled by Peter C. Aylett, Cashmere Qld, December 2018