

FAWCETT/DIACONO

McKAY/MACKAY/COOK

A

CONDENSED VERSION OF

FAMILY HISTORY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many folk have helped with the Family History: my family, particularly Geoffrey Fawcett and Bill & Nette Richardson, Tom Wear and Corinne Kleine (Australia), Raymond Diacono, Renee and Robert Diacono, The Nani Sisters, Anna Rozierres (France), Ken Coombs, Tony Deacon, the late Hugh Deacon, Felicity Marpole, Jeremy Knight, Petra Manche (UK), The Mackay/McKay family members both in Australia and in Scotland including our mother, Martha Fawcett nee Mackay. Dr. Manche (Malta) Kontea Foundation, (Cyprus). Henny Orfaly (Florida USA), and Barb Koehler of Rochester, New York USA. Contact with an unexpected extension of our family, although not a blood line, came in the form of James Warren of Washington DC. USA. Research on his family tree enabled me to merge information on Hugo Diacono and his first wife ca 1918.

The Many Forums I have subscribed to provided immense amounts of information in the UK, Malta and Cyprus.

I also wish to thank Rhonda Maher, a distant cousin living here in Hervey Bay, Queensland, for her extensive material on William Fawcett b. 1816 and Samuel Fawcett b 1818.

The Mackay/McKay/Cook Family history began with the announcement of a Mackay Reunion that was to be held on the North Coast of N.S.W. In 1988. Walda and her mother, Martha Fawcett, nee Mackay, collaborated on a history of Martha's Family. She went to Scotland twice, and contributed her story to the Mackay/McKay book which, at this late stage, can be found at the Mitchell Library, in Sydney.

Many of these folk are still alive, but the years are removing them, one by one. In time, it will be the turn of our cousins, some of whom have already left us; then ourselves, Gordon Fawcett, Geoffrey Fawcett and Walda Scholler (nee Fawcett). In the future, there will be no one to ask and this research, which started in earnest - Mackay 1983 and Fawcett/Diacono 2006, has acquainted me with relatives from far flung corners of the world. Younger folk show no interest at this time of their lives, but in fifty years time, there will be Grand children, and Great Grand children asking questions. It is my sincere hope that this document will provide some of the answers.

Research is not without its pitfalls. There can be typing errors too. Assumption is a great thing but it may not always be right. This is the best that has been achieved thus far.

Walda Scholler
Hervey bay
2015.

GENEALOGY IN THE ROUGH

There is always a right way and a wrong way to approach any genealogy research. If one is loaded with cash, one can hire a Genealogist and get the job done – at great expense. Certificates for authenticity are not cheap. Computer Screenshots of official entries cost nothing!

There are those who make a life time hobby out of searching for relatives, and for those of us who watch TV, the commercials for *ancestry.com* make it seem simple. The next best thing is to find a relative with like interest and compare notes, each in their own way, helping the other.

Some just join a Family Tree Website, find a relative who has already done the hard yards, and copy their material *verbatim*. Still, there are those (and one in our family), who didn't know that Vol. meant Volume.... As in Volume 10 Page 156. This fellow put our Diacono Great Great Grandmother as being born in a place called Vol in Russia.

Nonetheless, even those that have the rights to TNA (The National Archives in Kew, UK) records, have to charge a fee. This can be for a year's subscription, letting you look at most everything they have or you can Pay As You Go. I chose the latter.

Much of the Fawcett Family History was done by my brother, Geoffrey. Here is a quote from what he wrote to me regarding this matter.

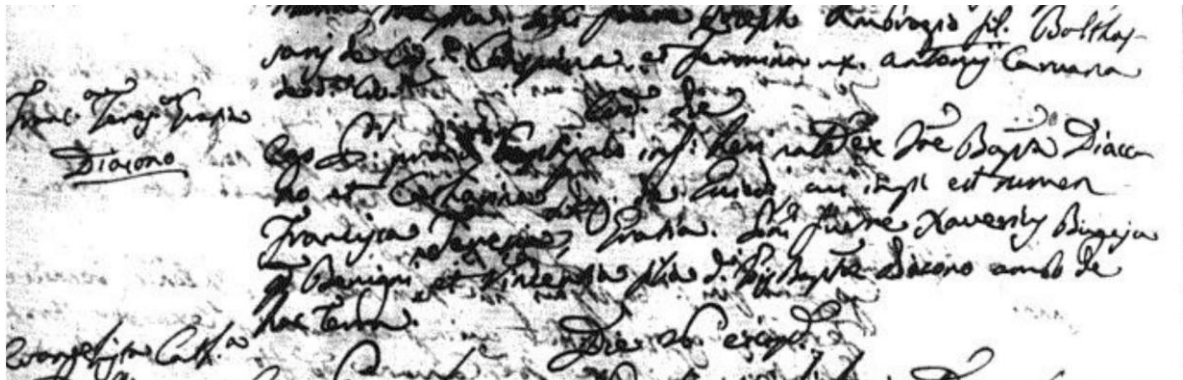
As I recall I wasn't very interested in our genealogy for a long time either and only became interested after our move to Brisbane. We had computers in Dubbo and I could see then the potential they had. Later at Ormiston we got a pair of Apple IIe's which had disk drives and the possibilities offered by the Internet for tracing and recording family became apparent. So I began using a program called EZ tree or something like that. We had a tractor driven dot matrix printer and I printed reams of paper records. Then I got busy and one way and another didn't get back till much later with GRU (Genes Reunited). So there's hope that among our kids or grandkids, there'll be someone to take over from us. Even if no further research is done, it's important to preserve what you and I have achieved.

My association with computers started back in the 1960s when I worked for Metropolitan Security Services (aka MSS) in NSW. This computer was a punch card machine and I kid you not, it was the size of a house. The coming of personal computers with the idea of one in every home together with the advent of the Internet, opened avenues for research beyond our wildest dreams. There, at the touch of a mouse button (and if you had money), you could click your way through myriad records in accordance with the ancestor you were looking for...Birth, Death and Marriage dates, if at hand, were downright handy.

In the instance of tracing the Diacono family, I had a torn piece of a certificate – of no use, a few names, and a date. These were provided by Aunt Lily; more information was provided by her son Bill Richardson and his wife, Jeanette, together with Geoffrey's material with regard to the Fawcett Family.

Colonial roots were found in British Consulate/Embassy records in a far off lands. The people recorded every BDM that crossed their desk and such records became an invaluable source for research together with early Church records, Census records and a plethora of other avenues for investigation such as War, Army, Navy and Air Force documents. Some might go as far as searching "Waif" or Prison records, Court Cases and Newspaper Articles. Estates and Probate. Passenger Lists and Passport records. The lists are increasing in volume with more avenues for investigation being added – even as I type.

Not to be outdone, the Malta Archives seemed to have everything that opened and shut regarding records. All written in Latin, one had to obtain the skills to decipher what was written and to overcome the “curly flourishes”, so common in Church written Latin. These archives are a smorgasbord of information and can be viewed, free of charge however; without a date, the records are useless, hard on the eyes and, although committed to Microfilm in the late 1980s, extreme perseverance is required. Below is an example of an entry for an 1813 Diacono Baptism.



Some National Archive (UK) records were in early English and one had to gain skills for reading these documents which, in the main, were handwritten. An example was the name of our Great Grandmother Louisa Annie Philippine Wiss. Her maiden name, in early records, and those of her ancestors who came to England from Switzerland in the late 1700s, wrote the name Wifs. The double “ss” not utilised until much later in more modern records. Below is an example of the spelling. The birth of Harriett Thirza Wiss in 1853.

121	Sirith Kilwan 1853 St James Place	Laurill Wiss Thirza	Wiss	Louy Richard Wiss	Elizabeth Ann Wiff formerly Brimfield	Calind Makin	Henry Wiff father 53 Grosvenor place Upper March Lambeth	Anniceath March 1853 Hystia
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The same went for Fawcett which originally was Fassett and written Fafsett. In other searches many documents were written in Italian or French and some had to be translated

The Wiss family were Silk Merchants; with the Industrial Revolution in full swing there is a record of the original Wiss brothers (Matthieu and Pierre) having meetings with James Watt, the inventor of the Steam Engine. Louisa Annie Philippine Diacono nee Wiss was our Great Grandmother.

The Wiss family were rather wealthy by standards of that time, and I discovered the Last Will and Testament of James Wiss dated 1815 starting: “I James Wiss a native of Geneva but now residing in Hafford No 5 in the parish of St Margaret Westminster in the County of Middlesex...” James Wiss died sometime later and I have no record of the death. English TNA records for BDM’s did not start until September 1837.

The Last Will and Testament of Matthew Wiss dated 1806 started; “I Matthew Wiss of Upper Clapton do by ... revoke all former wills (and do ...my last will and testament) codicil and testament do give and bequeath to my mother Louisa Wiss...” Matthew Wiss died in Cornwall in 1808. This timeline provided by my contacts with Wiss family in the UK.

It was said that the Wiss Family lost some of their money in the "Balfour Trust", a house-of-cards scheme, started by Jabez Balfour. He took money from the common people to Invest. Some of the story reads like this... *"It is estimated that Balfour's various businesses collapsed with combined debts of some £7m, the equivalent of around £500m in today's money, although it was the collapse of the Liberator Building Society that had the greatest impact, as thousands of people lost their life savings, many of whom were prompted to commit suicide. Having once been feted as the Great Liberator, Jabez now found his effigy being burnt at the Bonfire Night celebrations in 1892"*

Be that as it may, back in 1875/6 Alfred and Louisa Isabella Wiss, the parents of Louisa Annie, were not well off. After Alfred's death in early 1876, Louisa Isabella took in boarders to make ends meet, and her Census occupation was given as "Sick Nurse". For several years her boarders were two spinster sisters, whom she nursed into their graves so to speak. Louisa Isabella Wiss (nee Schofield) died in 1904. As we go further along, we will see her role in the rearing of Cora Louisa Diacono, her only Grandchild.

As previously outlined above, Church records, especially those from foreign countries and in particular for our Diacono family, were often times written in Latin especially in Malta. Oddly enough, most every Latinised name ended in "us". Thus, when our Great Grandfather, married the first time, in England, he was Frederick Robert Diacono. When he married again, in Cyprus in 1880, after the death of his first wife, he was Fredricus Robertus, Diaconus. Indeed, knowing these things can save being led a merry chase in the archives.

Forums were not to be sneezed at. Personally, I gained a lot of information from British Forums regarding our family, often times right down to the Name, Volume No. and Page No. along with the year of the registration of a birth, a death or marriage.

FASSETT/FAWCETT

Much of this history is backed up by Census Reports together with written/certified evidence. In one research case the name Fawcett has been picked up or misinterpreted as "Frank".

LDS (Latter Day Saints - America) Records can sometimes be fanciful. Much Material on the Fasset/Fawcett family is on a LDS - CD ROM Disc# 105. The Submitter was Jerald Fawcett. 933 East 75 North Bountiful, Utah. 84010. USA. I cannot place him as an immediate relative although his research covered a great many aspects of our family.

In the case of Fasset: I am reliably informed from the UK that we Fawcetts were known as Fasset. When Aaron Fasset/Fawcett married Charlotte Derberidge on 2.9.1813, dual naming was used. When his son, Henry William Fawcett (b 1814), married Harriett Eddicett, He used the name Fawcett. Likewise, the marriage certificate shows Aaron's name as father: Aaron Fawcett. The two names blended then, thereafter, Fasset became Fawcett.

Our Australian Family ancestor, Henry William (b. 1814), was hard to trace because in some documents his christening date became a death date. Henry was alive and well to get married and have children.

One has to remember that in the 16th to 19th Centuries, most records were kept in Churches. The best record ever kept was “The Domesday Book”, a population and property register carried out by William the Conqueror in 1086.

Starting in 16th Century, (the 1500s), the only persons who could read and write would have been the Parish Priest/Pastor or Clerk of the Church; moneyed folk and of course, Royalty. Thus, local entries were made into Church records sometimes using phonetics. Als Saunde ca. 1580, the wife of Bartholomew Fassett, would probably have been “Alice”. Also, Biblical names were often used and I found that Hannah became Anna . What may seem incorrect at first glance, is explained further on.

Yorkshire in the UK is a Fassett/Fawcett stronghold. It would **not** be easy to meld those families with ours, as the proof is difficult to obtain – our family originated in Berkshire (pronounced Bark – sheer).

From Wikipedia:

Berkshire (/ˈbɜːkʃər/ or /ˈbɜːkʃɪr/, abbreviated **Berks**) is a county of south east England, located to the west of London. It has also been known as the **Royal County of Berkshire** since at least the 19th century because of the presence of Windsor Castle and was recognised as such by the Queen in 1957 and letters patent issued in 1974.....

Research has shown the family name as Fassett, Fossitt, Fassat even Faucett before it became Fawcett. Entry spelling was seldom consistent, but always phonetic - Fassett is sometimes written Fafsett, the double “ss” being written as “f”. Further, the female line was often recorded as a single name or no name at all - e.g. unknown. In the instance of our Ancestor, Charlotte Derberidge, the wife of Aaron Fawcett and later, Thomas Pilgrim – I have elected to use this spelling as it defines the person. There are several spellings of the name: Durberidge or Derberge

Birth years (are) used thus: ca.1830 - for the reason that actual births were not registered only a Christening date. Sometimes many months after the death of the Mother in childbirth e.g. Sarah Chalke Fassett.

England was a protestant country - religious conflict in England was rife, particularly from the time of Henry VIII when it did not pay to be Catholic or Jewish, hence the Church Records (or lack of them).

In the 19th Century, records were slowly taken over by the “State” and were recorded in vast registers. At one time they were found at “Somerset House”. Today, the majority of records are to be found at The National Archives (TNA) in the UK.

WHAT DOES THE FAWCETT NAME MEAN?

Northern English: habitational name from Fawcett in Cumbria or Facit in Lancashire, both named from Old English *fāh* ‘(brightly) coloured’ + *sīde* ‘slope’, ‘hillside’. A further possible source, Forcett in North Yorkshire, is named from Old English *ford* ‘ford’ + *set* ‘animal fold’.

Note: The writer has no references that would point to a death for a couple that cannot be found in records such as the Census but, the reader must also remember, some folk “seemingly” disappeared from the face of the earth for no recorded reason. They were poor. Disease was often not far away and starvation a daily companion. Birth and childhood death rates could be high and large families quite normal. When what seems like a family is missing, one can’t rule out the cold of winter, floods, disease or a catastrophe about which we know nothing.

In the case of Emma Lavinia Fawcett b. 1842 (blind) who married John Turner b.ca 1838 (blind)...when Lavinia died in 1887, her husband, John, could not cope with the younger children alone. Edith was eight and Hilda about six years old. He married Deborah List, also blind, in 1889 and kept his two young daughters with him. Still unable to cope, the youngest two were put in a Waifs' home and later sent to Canada thence to New York where their descendants live today. Bartholomew Fasset - 1580 is as far back as our Fawcett/Fasett Ancestors can be located.

Family connections:

Parents

Bartholomew FASSETT b. 1580 --238
1580 - Thatcham Berkshire

Marriage: Abt 1604 --89

Spouse

Als SAUNDE (phonetic - Alice)-239
Abt 1580 - THATCHAM Berkshire England

	Children	Born	Parent Link
1	Thomas FASSETT-903	Abt 1601	
2	John FASSETT-902	Abt 1605	
3	John FASSETT-904	Abt 1607	
4	Ursula FASSETT-905	Abt 1615	
5	Daniel Danneyll or Danney FASSETT-236	26 Nov 1620	
6	Sarah FASSETT-906	Abt 1621	

Parents

Daniel Danneyll or Danney FASSETT-236
26 Nov 1620 - THATCHAM Berkshire England
14 May 1689 - Thatcham Berkshire

Marriage: 19 Oct 1640 --88

Spouse

Jane RUSSE-237
20 Jun 1620 - Thatcham Berkshire, England
Abt 4 Feb 1693 - Thatcham

Bartholomew FASSETT b. 1580 --238
1580 - Thatcham Berkshire

Als SAUNDE (phonetic - Alice)-239
Abt 1580 - THATCHAM Berkshire England

	Children	Born	Parent Link
1	Richard FASSETT-560	Abt 1645	
2	Daniel FASSETT-234	30 Nov 1652	

Parents

Daniel FASSETT-234
30 Nov 1652 - Thatcham Berkshire, England
27 Nov 1729 - Thatcham Berkshire

Marriage: Abt 1686 --87

Spouse

Judah MRS JUDAH FASSETT-235
1666 - England

Parents

Daniel Danneyll or Danney FASSETT-236
26 Nov 1620 - THATCHAM Berkshire England
14 May 1689 - Thatcham Berkshire

Jane RUSSE-237
20 Jun 1620 - Thatcham Berkshire, England
Abt 4 Feb 1693 - Thatcham

Children

	Born	Parent Link
1 Phillip FASSETT-1077	16 May 1686	
2 Phillip FASSETT-1078	11 May 1689	
3 James FASSETT-1079	4 Feb 1693	
4 Elizabeth FASSETT-1080	May 1694	
5 Thomas FASSETT-226	13 May 1705	
6 Sarah FASSETT-1081	Abt 1706	

Parents

Thomas FASSETT-226
13 May 1705 - Thatcham Berkshire, England

Marriage: 18 Jul 1734 --86

Spouse

Sarah CHALKE-227
Abt 1 Mar 1712 - Thatcham, Berkshire, England
12 Jan 1752 - Thatcham Berkshire

Parents

Daniel FASSETT-234
30 Nov 1652 - Thatcham Berkshire, England
27 Nov 1729 - Thatcham Berkshire

Judah MRS JUDAH FASSETT-235
1666 - England

Children

	Born	Parent Link
1 Mary FASSETT-229	6 Dec 1736	
2 Diana FASSETT-230	8 Jan 1738	
3 Sarah FASSETT-231	1741	
4 Thomas FASSETT-232	1742	
5 Daniel FASSETT-233	26 Dec 1745	
6 Joseph FASSETT-228	16 Oct 1749	
7 Samuel FASSETT-218	23 Jun 1752	

Samuel FASSETT-218
 23 Jun 1752 - Thatcham, Berkshire, England
 - Reading Berkshire.

Marriage: 20 Jun 1772 --83

Spouse

Sarah SWAIN-219
 1748 - St Mary's Reading, Berkshire, England
 15 Oct 1826 - Thatcham

Parents

Thomas FASSETT-226
 13 May 1705 - Thatcham Berkshire, England

Sarah CHALKE-227
 Abt 1 Mar 1712 - Thatcham, Berkshire, England
 12 Jan 1752 - Thatcham Berkshire

Children

	Born	Parent Link
1 Mary FASSETT-220	Nov 1772	
2 Sarah FASSETT-221	Abt 1774	
3 Elizabeth FASSETT-222	Abt 1775	
4 Ann FASSETT-257	22 Jun 1777	
5 James FASSETT-223	13 May 1779	
6 Thomas FASSETT-225	1782	
7 Aaron FASSETT/FAWCETT-216	25 Apr 1791	
8 Benjamin FASSETT-224	1793	

Aaron FASSETT/FAWCETT-216
 25 Apr 1791 - St Mary's Reading, Berkshire, England
 25 May 1818 - Poorhouse St Mary's, R, Berkshire.

Marriage: 2 Sep 1813 --81

Spouse

Charlotte DERBERIDGE-217
 2 Sep 1793 - St Mary Reading Berkshire, England
 Dec 1876 - Reading Berkshire. England

Parents

Samuel FASSETT-218
 23 Jun 1752 - Thatcham, Berkshire, England
 - Reading Berkshire.

Sarah SWAIN-219
 1748 - St Mary's Reading, Berkshire, England
 15 Oct 1826 - Thatcham

Children

	Born	Parent Link
1 Henry William FASSETT/FAWCETT-207	25 Sep 1814	
2 William FASSETT/FAWCETT-243	22 Sep 1816	
3 Samuel FASSETT/FAWCETT-244	1818	

Henry William FASSETT/FAWCETT-207
 25 Sep 1814 - Thatcham Reading Berks, England
 - March 1894

Marriage: 25 Sep 1839 --80

Spouse

Harriett EDDICETT-208
 1813 - Tiverton, Devon, England
 Mar 1881 - Lambeth Q1 v. 1d p. 358

Parents

Aaron FASSETT/FAWCETT-216
 25 Apr 1791 - St Mary's Reading, Berkshire, England
 25 May 1818 - Poorhouse St Mary's, R, Berkshire.

Charlotte DERBERIDGE-217
 2 Sep 1793 - St Mary Reading Berkshire, England
 Dec 1876 - Reading Berkshire, England

Children

	Born	Parent Link
1 Henry William FAWCETT-200	26 Aug 1840	
2 Emma Lavinia FAWCETT-209	15 May 1842	
3 Thomas FAWCETT-210	1 Apr 1844	
4 Eliza FAWCETT-211	24 Feb 1846	
5 Harriett FAWCETT-212	1854	
6 Emily Elizabeth FAWCETT-213	2 Dec 1856	

Henry William FAWCETT-200
 26 Aug 1840 - City of London, Middlesex, England
 Mar 1898 - St Saviour, London England. v. 1d p. 322

Marriage: 1 Jun 1879 --29

Spouse

Sarah CUTTS-201
 13 May 1838 - B, Herts. England (Royston v. 6 p 518)
 death record can not be found -

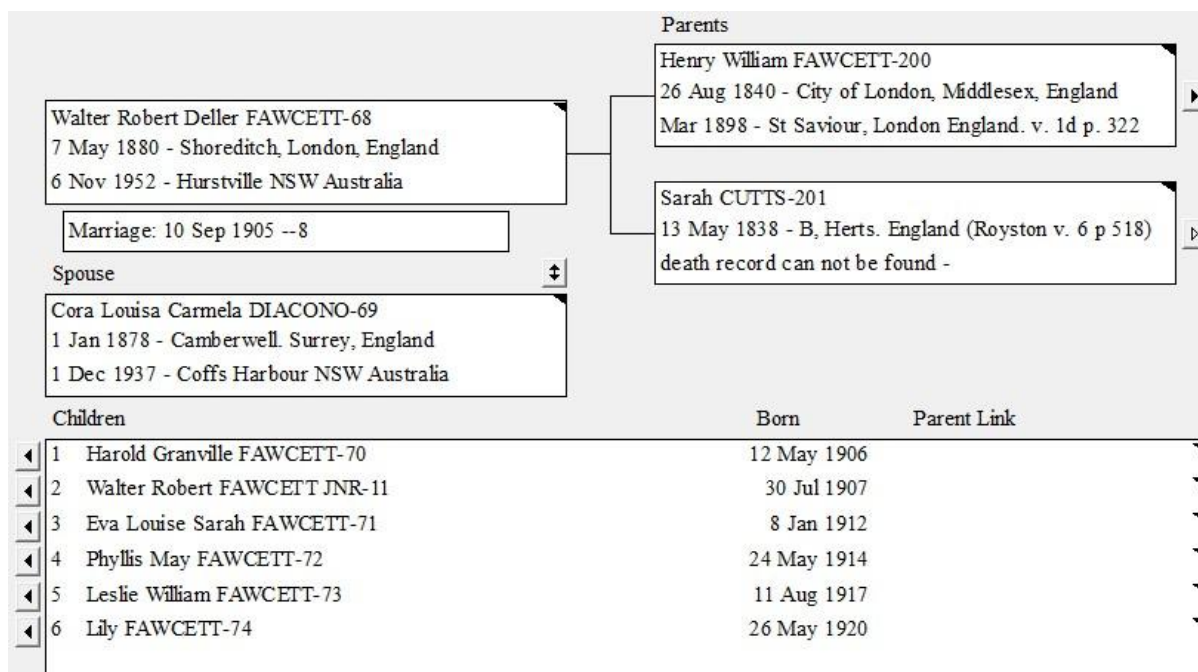
Parents

Henry William FASSETT/FAWCETT-207
 25 Sep 1814 - Thatcham Reading Berks, England
 - March 1894

Harriett EDDICETT-208
 1813 - Tiverton, Devon, England
 Mar 1881 - Lambeth Q1 v. 1d p. 358

Children

	Born	Parent Link
1 Henry William FAWCETT (parents didn't MU1-202)	7 Jan 1866	
2 Emily Sarah FAWCETT-203	8 Feb 1869	
3 Lavinia Harriett FAWCETT-205	13 Sep 1869	
4 Albert John FAWCETT-204	13 Sep 1873	
5 Harold John FAWCETT-2486	Q3 1875	
6 Arthur George FAWCETT-206	26 Mar 1876	
7 Walter Robert Deller FAWCETT-68	7 May 1880	



The above is the shortest method of explaining our family connections. All of the above deceased



Henry's (b. 1814) brother, William Fawcett. b. 1816 Photo taken in New Zealand.



**This is either Albert or Arthur Fawcett, brother(s) of Walter Robert Deller Fawcett b. 1880
(there was no inscription)**



Great Aunt Emily Fawcett b. 1869, sister of WRD Fawcett



**Arthur Fawcett b. 1897 – son of Arthur George Fawcett b. 1876. WRD Fawcett’s nephew,
with his wife Elsie (May) M. Fawcett, nee Ray taken ca 1952, Surrey, UK.**

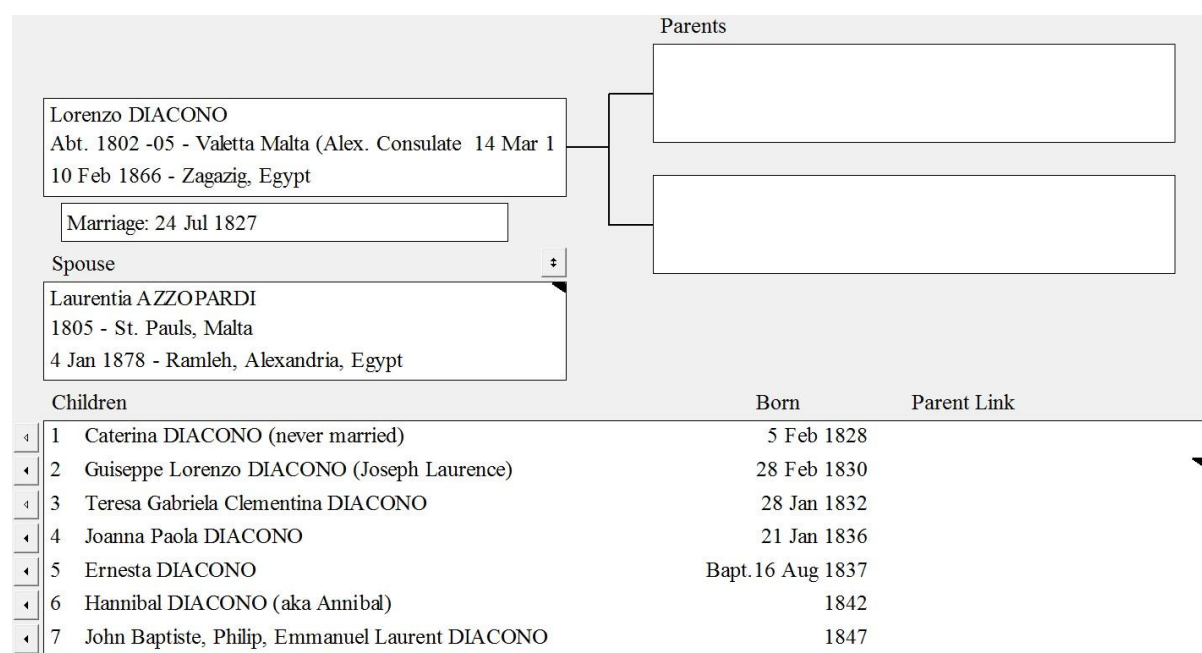
THE DIACONO

(Birth - Marriage and Death)

One can never assume anything is correct when it comes to the research of other folk. The Diacono could be descended from this Nicolo di Diacono, who married Isabella Calipoliti at Vittoriosa (Malta) in 1599.

Or the Family could also have descended from **Vincenzo dei Baroni Lo Giacomo**. He was born about 1580 at Cava Luca, Ragusa, Sicily

To be candid, I was very happy with my research until I obtained a Marriage certificate from Alexandria, Egypt, via another family member, Raymond Diacono, who lives in Frejus, France. This certificate dashed a lot of my research, and unless someone can come up with something better, below is the limit of the Maltese ties with the Diacono mentioned above. Lorenzo Diacono, b. ca 1802 (below), married Laurentia Azzopardi on 14 January, 1827, in Alexandria, Egypt. Our Diacono left Malta for Egypt sometime before 1827 because another certificate indicates that our Guiseppe Lorenzo was born in Egypt, as Joseph Laurence Diacono, in 1830. (Names Anglicised because they were British Subjects – see further along) Certificates obtained from Alexandria, Egypt through Sister Collette a Nun running an orphanage and associated with the Coptic Christian Church.



The Baptism Certificates of the above children were obtained from Alexandria, Egypt. Mother, Laurentia nee Azzopardi.

Caterina did not marry and died in 1907, at Ramleh, Alexandria. UK archives made an error in her age at death and the UK certificate shows 83 years. Her birth certificate shows 1828.

Guiseppe – our Great Great Grandfather.

Teresa died sometime between 1849 and 1865, according to consular reports at the UK archives.

Joanna and Ernesta. They were listed on Guiseppe's death notice in 1900 as being the widows Blache and Bauerhorst. We have not been able to trace them further and we do not know which of them married which one of these named.

Hannibal lived in Alexandria, Egypt, married there and died in 1911

John Baptiste (Giovanni on his wedding certificate), left Egypt, went to Turkey, married there, and died of cholera, in 1877 at Jeddah, Arabia.

Giuseppe Lorenzo anglicised his name to Joseph Laurence. He became our Great Great Grandfather. Lived and died at Ramleh, Alexandria, Egypt. He married Carmela Anna Rosa Manche on 19th April 1852, in Alexandria: Their children listed below.

Giuseppe Lorenzo DIACONO (Joseph Laurence) 29 Feb 1830 (debatable : Not a leap year) - Alexandria, Egypt 28 Sep 1900 - Ramleh, Alexandria, Egypt (UK Rg. No. 329)		Abt. 1802 -05 - Valetta Malta (Alexan. Consulate letter 14 Mar 1995) 10 Feb 1866 - Zagazig, Egypt	
Marriage: 19 Apr 1852		Laurentia A ZZOPARDI 1805 - St. Pauls, Malta 4 Jan 1878 - Ramleh, Alexandria, Egypt	
Spouse			
Carmela Anna Rosalia MANCHE (written Mansce) 3 Mar 1834 - Malta STP Vol 1834 p.178 21 Jun 1901 - Ramleh, Alexandria, Egypt. (UK Reg., No. 425)			
Children		Born	Parent Link
1	Maria (Mary) DIACONO died as a baby	1853 v1 p 163	
2	Ferdrico Roberto DIACONO	9 May 1854	
3	Maria Madalena DIACONO died aged about 2 yrs.	1856 v2 p414	
4	Adolfo DIACONO died as a baby	1857	
5	Irma DIACONO died as a baby	1858	
6	Clotilde DIACONO died as a baby	1860 v3 p492	
7	William Frederick DIACONO	21 Feb 1862	
8	Roberto Octave DIACONO	30 Jun 1862	
9	Clotilde DIACONO died as a baby		1865
10	Edgardo William DIACONO (Edgar)		26 Aug 1867
11	Riccardo DIACONO died as a baby		1868
12	Giorgio E.L DIACONO (George)		6 Oct 1870
13	Corinne DIACONO		1871

Our family comes from the union of our Grandmother, Cora Louisa Carmela Diacono, the daughter of Frederic Robert Diacono, (Giuseppe's first surviving son) who married in England, Walter Robert Deller Fawcett. The marriage took place on 10th September 1905. The word "diacono" literally means "deacon". Just before WWII and after, at least three family members, living in England, and one in Australia, changed their surname from Diacono to Deacon and Dean. In one case, that of Hugo b. 1893 in Ceylon, I have researched and know the reason – as for the others – there was no reason to change their surname at all. The name was held in high esteem in English Military records.

Walter and Cora, with two children, Harold and Walter (Wally), emigrated to Australia on the "SS *Wilcannia*", arriving in Sydney in 1909. When they stepped ashore, they were greeted by the Salvation Army who gave them two pennies, so that they could not say they arrived penniless in Australia. Of course, in those days, two pennies was comprised of eight farthings, and one could purchase a loaf of bread for one farthing. Indeed they were broke – they had to pay for everything aboard ship.

The roots and shoots of our Diacono Family start with Lorenzo Diacono and Laurentia Azzopardi, who married in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1827. Their second child, Giuseppe Lorenzo Diacono, born Joseph Diacono, 1830 married Carmela Anna Rosa Manche on 19th April, 1852. In Alexandria.

Carmela was born in Malta on 3rd March 1834, and this is recorded in Cospicua, Malta. **STP Volume 1834 Page 178**. They made their home at Ramleh, Bacos, in Alexandria. The area was a Tram Terminus.

Malta was under British occupation around this time and until 1937 the *Lingua Franca* of Malta was Italian. Indeed, Giuseppe and his entire family spoke Italian, his children and their children, including our Grandmother, Cora. Most family members were bi-lingual. Hugo Diacono spoke 4 languages. Lanugages: Italian, French, Arabic, Tamil, English/

Because the Maltese people were under British Protection, they were registered with the British Consulate in Alexandria. Giuseppe Lorenzo Diacono was registered as Joseph Laurence Diacono. His wife as Carmela Anna Rosa Diacono. Their death Certificates were recorded with their Anglicised names.

Many hundreds if not thousands of Maltese left Malta after 1800 after The Napoleonic French Conquest 1798-1800. Crops failed. The people were starving; disease and death was rampant. Reference sources below have been removed as the intention is to enlighten the reader. For further information, go to the ***French Invasion of Malta*** at the Wikipedia website.

French invasion of Malta

On 19 May 1798, a French fleet sailed from Toulon, escorting an expeditionary force of over 30,000 men under General Napoleon Bonaparte. The force was destined for Egypt, Bonaparte seeking to expand French influence in Asia and force Britain to make peace in the French Revolutionary Wars, which had begun in 1792. Sailing southeast, the convoy collected additional transports from Italian ports and at 05:30 on 9 June arrived off Valletta, the heavily fortified port-city on the island of Malta. At this time, Malta and its neighbouring islands were ruled by the Knights of St. John, an old and influential feudal order weakened by the loss of most of their revenue during the French Revolution. The order was composed of men from across Europe, including a significant proportion of Frenchmen, who ruled over the majority Maltese population of the islands. The head of government was Grand Master Ferdinand von Hompesch zu Bolheim, refused Bonaparte's demand that his entire convoy be allowed to enter Valletta and take on supplies, insisting that Malta's neutrality meant that only two ships could enter at a time.

On receiving this reply, Bonaparte immediately ordered his fleet to bombard Valletta and on 11 June General Louis Baraguey d'Hilliers directed an amphibious operation in which several thousand soldiers landed at seven strategic sites around the island. The French Knights deserted the order, and the remaining Knights failed to mount a meaningful resistance. Approximately 2,000 native Maltese militia resisted for 24 hours, retreating to Valletta once the city of Mdina fell to General Claude-Henri Belgrand de Vaubois. Although Valletta was strong enough to hold out against a lengthy siege, Bonaparte negotiated a surrender with Hompesch, who agreed to turn Malta and all of its resources over to the French in exchange for estates and pensions in France for himself and his knights. Bonaparte then established a French garrison on the islands, leaving 4,000 men under Vaubois while he and the rest of the expeditionary force sailed eastwards for Alexandria on 19 June.

Above and below - from Wikipedia

Maltese Uprising

On Malta, the French had rapidly dismantled the institutions of the Knights of St. John, including the Roman Catholic Church. Church property was looted and seized to pay for the expedition to Egypt, an act that generated considerable anger among the deeply religious Maltese population. On 2 September, this anger erupted in a popular uprising during an auction of church property, and within days thousands of Maltese irregulars had driven the French garrison into Valletta. Valletta was surrounded by approximately 10,000 irregular Maltese soldiers led by Emmanuel Vitale and Canon Frangisk Saverio Caruana. The Maltese were armed with 23 cannon and a small squadron of coastal gunboats. Although there was intermittent skirmishing between the garrison and the Maltese, the fortress was too strong for the irregulars to assault.

*In mid-September, a squadron of Portuguese ships had arrived at the island. They included the *Príncipe Real* (90)(Captain Puysigur), *Rainha de Portugal* (74)(Captain Thomas Stone), *São Sebastião* (64)(Captain Mitchell), *Afonso de Albuquerque* (64)(Captain Donald Campbell), and the brig *Falcão* (24)(Captain Duncan). Four of the captains were British, and all were under the command of Domingos Xavier de Lima, Marquess of Niza. In addition, the British ship *HMS Lion* (Captain Manley Dixon) and the fireship *HMS Incendiary* (Captain George Baker) were attached to the squadron. The Portuguese government had sent this force from the Tagus to augment Nelson's fleet, and after a brief stay off Malta the squadron continued to Alexandria. There Nelson sent the squadron back to blockade Malta.*

Late in September, a British convoy consisting of 13 battered ships under Captain Sir James Saumarez appeared off the island. Survivors of the Battle of the Nile, they were in urgent need of repair and unable to directly assist in the siege. Nevertheless, Saumarez met with representatives of the Maltese and on 25 September, sent an offer of truce to Vaubois on their behalf. Vaubois replied "Vous avez, sans doute, oublié que des Français sont dans la place. Le sort des habitans [sic] ne vous regarde point. Quant à votre sommation, les soldats français ne sont point habitués à ce style" ("You might have forgotten that the French hold this place. The fate of the inhabitants is none of your concern. As for your ultimatum, French soldiers are not accustomed to such a tone") Unable to persuade the French to give in, Saumarez instead provided the Maltese forces with 1,200 muskets with which to continue the siege. Saumarez, unable to delay repairs any longer, sailed for Gibraltar at the end of the month.

*On 12 October, the British ships of the line *HMS Alexander* under Captain Alexander Ball, *HMS Culloden* under Captain Thomas Troubridge and *HMS Colossus* under Captain George Murray joined Niza's ships off Malta, marking the formal start of the blockade. On the same day, Vaubois withdrew the last of his soldiers into the fortified new city of Valletta, accompanied by approximately 100 Maltese nationals who had joined the French forces. The garrison numbered over 3,000 men and initially at least was well supplied. In the harbour lay the ships of the line *Dégo* and *Athénien* and the frigate *Carthaginoise*, all of which were former ships of the Maltese Navy, as well as the newly arrived *Guillaume Tell* and frigates *Justice* and *Diane*, survivors of the Battle of the Nile under Rear-Admiral Pierre-Charles Villeneuve, which had reached Malta at the end of September.*

A record of a Lorenzo Diacono, was found as a storekeeper in Valetta, Providing food at this time. He could have been the father of Lorenzo born ca 1802, but there is no way of tracing this. Below is the document: It would seem that Alexander Ball was the Master of the ship "Alexander" mentioned in the above, at Malta in 1799, and the supplies were for a Naval Hospital at Malta.

Mr Thomas Audridge, Purser of His Britannic Majesty's Ship Lion, Superintendent of the Naval Hospital at Malta

Bought of Lorenzo Diacond between the 30th of Aug and first of October 1799 for the use of the Sick at the said Hospital.

265 1/2	Rotelloi of Beef at 100 grains for Rotello	152	2	10	
1540	Rot. of Bread at 25 grains for Rotello	210	5	0	
2520	Eggs at 80 grains for Dozen & 300 quarts of Milk at 2 farins per gal.	97	3	14	
754	Rotelloi of Onions at 6 grains for Rotello	202	5	11	
652 1/2	Rotelloi of Mutton at 70 grains for Rotello & 225 1/2 Rotelloi of Biscuit at 24 grains	19	9	8	
13	Rotelloi of Cauliflower at 3 farins for R. & 1900 Lemons at 10 farins for R. & 1000 Edmils	19	7	0	
158	Rotelloi of Cabbage at 2 farins for R. & 1/2 Rotelloi of Coffee at 3 - 8 for R.	12	4	0	
223	Rotelloi of Grapes at 1 farin for R. & 1/2 fowl at 1.0	8	6	0	
9 R.	of Macaroni at 2 farins for R. & 65 R. of Various Fruits at 2 farins	19	7	0	
24	Sheeps Heads at 3 farins, five fish at 6 farins	62	10	8	
151	Land Twottle at 1 farin each - & 42 Plates at 2 farins	74	8	12	
14 1/2	Rotelloi of Sugar, at 2. 5. for R. & 13 Cantars of Wood at 2 Scuto for Cantari	14	8	12	
To hire of Sack after during this month for Carrying Provisions to Hospital					
To Lunary Persons employed attending the said Hospital during of Month					
Sept. 1799. To Surgeon attending the said Hospital as per Order & Receipt 5 1/2 per diem					
"	"	D. Superintendant 31 days @ 5 for day	147	9	0
"	"	2/3 Surgeons mate at 2/6 per diem	38	9	0
£ 107 2 1/2 Exch. at 120 farins for 20 shillings Sterl. - Scuto 1072 5 1/2					
5. 7 1/4 Sterling					

By Alex^r John Ball Esq^r
 Captain of His Majesty's Ship
 Alexander &c. &c. at Malta.

Whereas I have judged it necessary for the Good of His Majesty's Service, to establish an Hospital on Shore at this place (for the reception of Soldiers employed on Shore, as well as for such Seamen as may be Sick on board) and to appoint you Superintendant of the same; And the Articles mentioned in the above Account amounting (with the Salaries of Surgeon - Mate, and Superintendant) to the Sum of One Hundred & Seven Pounds, four Shillings, & three pence halfpenny, having been reviewed. You are hereby Ordered and directed to draw upon the Commissioners of the Sick and Hurt London, for the said Sum taking Vouchers for the same.

Given under my hand
 on board His Majesty's Ship
 Alexander at Malta this
 30th of September 1799.

Alex^r Ball

To Mr Thomas Audridge
 Purser of His Majesty's Ship
 Lion Superintendant of the
 Naval Hospital
 at Malta.

* 1072. 10. 15
 Salaries * 193. 9. 0
 Provision to 879. 1. 10

Provisions to	879. 1. 15	equal to	07. 18. 2 1/2 Sterling
Salaries	193. 9. 0	"	19. 7. 0
	1072. 10. 15	"	1072. 10. 15

for the use of the Sick, with Certificate that the same

Back to the family:

Giuseppe and Carmela's first born was Maria, b. 1853 - d. 1853. **Volume 1, Page 163**, Alexandria, Egypt. Recording BDMs was in its early stages. Of their 11 children, only six survived. In the case of miscarriage and still birth, some folk (even in England) did not bother to register a birth and subsequent death of an infant. The climate was harsh; medical assistance not readily available, and it was not unusual to lose a mother in childbirth. Carmela was an amazing woman and mother; there is no known photograph of her.

Our Great Grandfather, Frederick Robert Diacono was born at Alexandria, Egypt, on 9th May 1854. He wasn't registered however, on his 20th birthday, he had the foresight to have a photograph taken, and the date was on the back of the photo. Here, I will only list those children that survived.

Frederick Robert b. 1854 - 1898. He was Ferdrico Roberto Diacono.

– there were four births and deaths between Frederick and his next surviving sibling,

William Frederick b. 1862 - 1920 The William was not changed; Frederick would have been Ferdrico.

Robert Octave b. 1863 - ca 1941 Roberto Octave

Edgar William b. 1867 - 1934 Edgardo William

George E.L. b 1870 - 1935 Giorgio – The E. evaded me but the L was Lorenzo (Laurence) and

Corinne b. 1872 – 1939 Corina – the only girl of the family



Frederick on his 20th Birthday

Giuseppe Lorenzo Diacono.

Edgar

The family group shows Giuseppe with William standing back right. Robert standing Left.

George kneeling and Corinne.

Frederick and Edgar were missing. The photo is typical of a pose taken in a studio at Alexandria.

One thing is known about William – he was educated in Beirut, Lebanon.

Corinne attended the *Notre Dame de Sion* Convent, as a boarder, in Alexandria. She later became a student teacher. At the time of the outbreak of the Orabi Revolution ca 1880-81, when they (Arabs) were killing foreigners in the streets, the Convent was saved by Queen Victoria's son, the Duke of Connaught. (Information from Henny Norfaly, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA – Grand Daughter of Corinne Zacher nee Diacono)

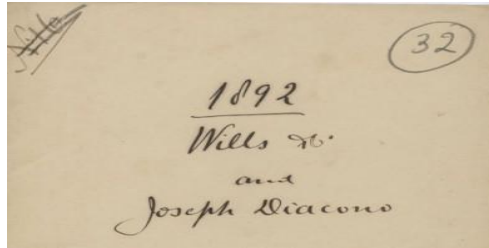


Ramleh Tram Station area in Alexandria, Egypt



Alexandria Harbour.

I did discover Giuseppe Lorenzo (aka Joseph) named in Court Documents, was mixed up in a Court Case in Port Said – for some reason he was living in Suez at the time (1892) and because a witness excused himself on the first available steamer for England, the Court case didn't come to fruition. There are document in the family file. Wills & Co, to my knowledge were Tobacco, Tea and Rubber Merchants (below)



FO/847/21 *Wills and Co and/vs. Joseph Diacono 1892*. The fact that there were two separate Court Cases was pointed out to me by Raymond Diacono (France). The documents seemingly fizzle out to nothing and that was where Court Case No. 1 ceased. The two Court Cases were not related. So that I do not get ahead of myself, this will be elaborated upon later.

The **FO/847/21** indicates a Foreign Office Consular Record. These were usually lodged every five years. Sent by ship to England via Diplomatic bags.

Frederick went to England about 1875 where he met Louisa Annie Philippine Wiss. He had told her family he was in the Coal Business. Louisa Annie's father, Alfred Wiss, died early in 1876. This was her 21st year – her coming of age on 11th October 1876.

Coal was King: The completion of the Suez Canal (1869) demanded coal bunkering ports for ships, in the Mediterranean, on route to India, Ceylon, Australia and the Pacific and to have such an association with the Coal Industry should have made Frederick a suitable suitor for Louisa's hand in marriage.



Suez Canal - Port Said

Frederick and Louisa Annie married on her 21st birthday, an indication that she did not require her widowed mother's approval. It seemed to me, that her mother, Louisa Isabella Wiss (nee Schofield), did not approve of the marriage. However, her signature as Witness, together with that of her brother, Alfred Edmond Augustus Wiss, was sufficient. They married at Emmanuel Church, Camberwell, Surry.

It should have been something of story-book romance, but Louisa Annie obviously did not foresee the ramifications of being a light-skinned English Rose, married to a hot-blooded Maltese/Italian then leaving England, dressed from neck to toe in the fashion of the day, to live in heat ridden Alexandria, Egypt.

Louisa Annie did not fall pregnant right away. I think she and Frederick went to Alexandria, then returned to England for the birth of their daughter, Cora, on 1st January 1878. I have been unable to trace any incoming or outgoing from England for the family – not even a passport for Frederick, Louisa Annie (now Diacono), or for her baby.

In transit to Alexandria, a little over a year after Cora's birth, Louisa Annie died at sea. Inside the family it was said that she committed suicide. This information handed down to family by Cora herself. One can hypothesise until the cows come home – but it is a total mystery. I found the death of a Diacono Female – at sea – in 1879, on a ship called the *Almora*. I obtained the certificate of the death. It didn't add up. Louisa Annie would have been 22 years old – this Diacono was 29, female with no first name with death recorded as 30th August 1879. Much later, I found that grave in Malta. It certainly was not Louisa Annie.



This excerpt Maltese burial detail – is not Louisa Annie.



Louisa Annie Philippine Wiss ca 1876



Her brother: Alfred Augustus Wiss ca 1908

If suicide was the case... Louisa Annie was very young and inexperienced and perhaps with an over demanding husband – a crying baby and a future in a far off land - yes, I can see this may have happened. There is no documentation. No grave. It is possible that Louisa Annie threw herself overboard. Who knows? She just disappeared, literally, into thin air.

A Scenario:

It would seem that the family left England in the early months of 1879, the possible time being late March or early April. During the voyage Louisa Annie died under baffling circumstances. Frederick continued on to Alexandria with baby Cora and left her with his parents, Giuseppe and Carmela Diacono.

The journey to Alexandria could have taken some two weeks. This time frame is mentioned because it is known that Frederick was in Larnaca, Cyprus by 7th May 1879. This detail is on the reverse of a photograph of himself, with Alexandria printed on the front of it, probably after Louisa's death. It is a single person photograph, no wife, no child. Frederick posted the photograph of himself from Cyprus, to his Mother-in-Law, Louisa Isabella Wiss in the UK.

Frederick was a Catholic. Religious Custom would demand a mourning period. In Frederick's case, a minimum of one year. He married his second wife, Virginie Lapierre, on 13th June 1880, in Larnaca, Cyprus – one year and one month after the dated photograph was taken in Alexandria. This would cover one year mourning period and sufficient time for the reading of marriage banns in the Catholic Church (usually three weeks including Sundays). At this time, Cora would have been living in Alexandria for a year.

Here it is surmised that Louisa died at sea sometime before 7th May 1879. This assumption is based on the aforementioned facts unearthed and does not coincide with the Deaths at Sea entries at The National Archives in Kew, UK.



This very old and grainy photograph was probably taken ca 1875. Louisa Annie Philippine Wiss, with her mother, Louisa Isabella Wiss. Before Louisa Annie married Frederick Diacono.



Frederick in Alexandria 1879

We have no way of knowing where or when Frederick met up with Virginie Lapierre, but it is possible they met aboard the ship. Frederick's life up until this time, was in Egypt **not** Cyprus.

Why did Frederick marry so soon after Louisa's death? The writer believes he was seeking a mother for his daughter, Cora. Alternatively he could have stayed in Alexandria and allowed his parents to rear Cora until his life had settled down. He had no idea that his second union would be a disaster for Cora and that it led to her eventual return to England, never to see her father again.

Summary:

The "suicide" may have been one of jumping off the ship never to be found. Conversely, if her body remained on board, Frederick (for religious reasons), would not have been allowed to bury her in Hallowed Ground. Had she died of natural causes, she would have been buried in Alexandria and the death recorded by the ship's Master. There is no grave, no marker, no report...nothing. She just disappeared.

Conclusion: Today we are familiar with various syndromes associated with childbirth. In the lighter days of less information, it was called "baby blues". Today it is known as Postpartum Depression. Some of the symptoms are: Feeling sad or hopeless nearly every day; losing interest in or not getting pleasure from most daily activities and feeling this way nearly every day; an especially common symptom was/is thinking about death – even suicide.

What happened to Cora? Previously mentioned was the Orabi Revolution. This Information came from Corinne Zacher's (nee Diacono) granddaughter, Henny Orfaly, of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida USA. She told me that her Grandmother, Corinne, mentioned that she was one of 11 children and until she, Henny, had received my family history CD, and was rather surprised to find that it was true. It was Henny who told me about the Orabi Revolution, and how they (the Arabs) were killing foreigners in the Streets of Alexandria.

*The 'Urabi Revolt, also known as the 'Urabi Revolution was a nationalist uprising in Egypt from 1879 to 1882. It was led by and named for Colonel Ahmed 'Urabi (also spelled **Orabi** and **Arabi**) and sought to depose the Khedive Tewfik Pasha and end British and French influence over the country. Despite a French refusal to resort to arms and the pacifist proclamations of the Gladstone*

administration in Britain, the uprising was ended by a British bombardment of Alexandria and invasion of the country that left it under foreign control until after World War II. (extract from Wikipedia).

This information tallied with a photograph I had of Cora, taken in Sliema Malta, seven weeks after her 4th birthday dated 23rd February 1882. Indeed, Cora was spirited out of Alexandria by her grandparents, Giuseppe and Carmela and taken to Manche relatives in Malta for the duration.



Cora in Egypt



Cora in Malta - 23rd Feb 1882

The departure from Alexandria must have been exceedingly urgent. I have no idea how many Diacono children went to Malta; Edgar would have been about 14 years old and Giorgio about 11. I know for a fact that Corinne was probably 10 years old and was left behind at the convent with the Nuns, as previously mentioned.

By the time Cora arrived in Malta, her father had already remarried to Virginie Lapierre (13th June 1880, at Terra Santa, Larnaca, Cyprus). Virginie was due to deliver her first child; a daughter, Edmee, who was born on 11th March 1882. Frederick went to Malta to pick up Cora and take her to his new home at the Lapierre Mansion, Kontea, Cyprus,



Lapierre Mansion – Kontea - Cyprus



The Lapierre Mansion, Kontea, Cyprus



The ruins of the Lapierre Mansion after the Turkish Army destroyed it in 1974.
(Frederick's home from 1880 - 1898 and is where Cora lived in Cyprus – she thought it was a castle).

Here I have given considerable thought to the events which took place at the mansion in Kontea. Virginie (Lapierre) Diacono, a new mother and coping with her newborn, would have had her hands full right at a time when Cora arrived in Kontea. I can understand how things got out of hand. Cora had been “wrenched” from the arms of Giuseppe and Carmela, by her father whom she did not know. She was taken to Kontea and lodged in a home with a stepmother who was also unknown in her little life. Impressionable children at the age of four years would be prone to sullenness, tantrums and probably the “No” syndrome of children that age. Thus, I can understand Virginie being harsh with Cora – not being her child but expected to mother her.

Cora’s presence at the Lapierre Mansion became a thorn in Virginie’s side. Cora remembered her hair being pulled, and the one thing that altered her life forever, the “push down the stairs” which broke her ankle.

Our mother remembered seeing Cora’s broken Ankle back in 1934-35, when she married Walter Fawcett Jr, Cora’s second son. It was poorly repaired as one could imagine, with little or no medical assistance available in an isolated part of Cyprus.

During my research I came across a “cousin” living in Sydney. All relatives at this stage became cousins, it was easier to relate who they were. Our status was the same; I was Frederick’s great granddaughter, through Cora, His name was Alex Pugh, and the great grandson of Frederick and Virginie. Alex had come upon the Fawcett Website on the Internet. He registered his displeasure with what had been written. The following is his displeasure Part I.

When Alex was told about his Great Grandmother’s dislike for Cora, which ended in the broken ankle incident, he did not and would not believe it. Without elaboration, I can tell you that his own mother, Marie (Mary), who died in Sydney in 2009, repeated some of what transpired, but knew nothing of the broken ankle.

(Information left out by Virginie during a discussion with her Granddaughter, Mary, in 1937)

Italian was spoken in the Diacono household and at one mealtime, Virginie asked Cora to eat her food. Cora replied in Italian, “*Molto buono, ma Cora non piace*”. Cora had said that the food was good but she did not like it. It would seem that this response caused Virginie to erupt in a temper. Perhaps Cora left the table – perhaps she ran, but it ended in Cora being pushed down some stairs and her ankle was broken.

The veracity of the story came from Alex’s mother (Marie Terese Pugh *nee* Diacono). The Italian words were repeated, as told to her by Virginie, shortly before Virginie’s death in 1937. Marie (or Mary) was 20 years old at the time. If one turns back the clock to that fate filled day, and the repeating of what happened – as late as 1937, Virginie must have held this on her conscience for the rest of her life. I have this in writing, except for the broken ankle.

Frederick obviously realised his daughter, Cora, was a cuckoo in his new marriage nest, and once she could walk again, she would be taken to England to live with her maternal grandmother, Louisa Isabella Wiss. Alex insisted that Virginie was a kindly and loving person; that the broken ankle was a tall tale, and that Cora should have remained in Kontea.

The Mediterranean was and still is a “slave trade” area. Cora would not have gone to England alone. To this end Frederick would have taken her to England. There is no entry or departure details. No Passport clearance. But Cora would not have left Cyprus on her own. Alex disapproved of the story. He was engrossed with the Kontea Heritage Association (Foundation) which was trying to restore Kontea after it was destroyed by Turkish soldiers in 1974. There was more to come.

NOTE: Actually, the Mediterranean was traversed by ships coming and going all the time and if one thinks about it - it was just like taking a taxi from one place to another. Some journeys being longer than others, but it was the way people got around.

Cora could have returned to England ca 1885. She would have be at least seven years old. An old English School Photo shows a very young Cora. Compulsory Schooling came into being under the Education Act of 1870.

We will remain in England for a short time. Cora had to learn a new language. She was put in school and was recorded on Census documents for 1891, 1901. When it was 1911 Census time, Cora was in Australia.



Cora (arrowed) at School in England.



Louisa Isabella Wiss nee Schofield 1830-1904. Cora's maternal grandmother.

Cora's life in England would have been hard. She stayed with her grandmother until Louisa Isabella's death in 1904. On Census Records she was shown firstly as a scholar in 1891 living at 25 Queens Road, Hornsey, Middlesex. Isabella's name was written Wifs and her occupation "Sick Nurse". In 1901 they were living at 97 Winston Road, Stoke Newington. Cora's profession was Dressmaker. Louisa Isabella's profession was "living on own means". The latter did not bode financially well for the family

Shortly after her Grandmother's death in 1904, Cora met and married Walter Robert Deller Fawcett.

FREDERICK'S PROBLEM WITH THE LAW.

In early 1884 Frederick took his family to Alexandria: possibly in transit to the UK with Cora. Virginie, by now heavily pregnant, gave birth to their son, Louis Diacono, on 21st January in Tanta, Egypt, some 105 miles south east of Alexandria. Tanta had a pleasant climate and was apparently very cool in January, unlike other parts of Egypt. Sometime later, Frederick probably left Edmee, Louis and Virginie with his parents in Alexandria to take Cora to England. He may have also returned with them to Cyprus, we have no way of knowing.

We next hear of Frederick in Suakin, on the red Sea, in 1885. His address was amongst Cora's personal items after her death in Australia in 1937. This gives an approximate time of Cora's departure for England. In 1887, Joseph, the third and last child was born,

Cora never saw her father or half siblings again. It is known that she wrote to him and would have been aware of his Court Case in 1893, in Alexandria, where he and his father were accused of embezzlement by the Credit Lyonnaise Bank (France).

The Court Documents are available on the Family CD. They are difficult to read because Court Notes were more of a scrawl than legible handwriting.

Part of a letter amongst Cora's possession indicated that Frederick was chastising his daughter for the paper she used to write to him.

Facsimile of what Frederick wrote : The letter was aged and damaged.

These the respect you have for me. A grocer will be ashamed to wrap his Sardines and herrings in such a quality of paper. It is surprising, astonishing that in London you could not find a piece of writing paper and should be obliged to use Pieces of old books and all this to write a few words as if you were a child of 10 years old.

Now I have said enough and hope..ture You will be more Careful in writing. n ...

One must not forget that, at this time Cora would have been 13 or 15 years old and could have been prohibited access to paper to write to her father. She would have had to find paper, an envelope and the postage fee. I am very sure that Louisa Isabella Wiss may not have appreciated being landed with the rearing of her only grandchild. Also, I think she had soured a bit on Frederick. It also may answer a question. Did Cora know about her father's Legal situation?

It is very possible that this letter was the last she heard from him not unless they corresponded from Cyprus. Yet – here again, Oral History makes one think. Cora told our mother that Frederick died in Cyprus in 1898. She was corresponding with someone - possibly her half sister, Edmee.

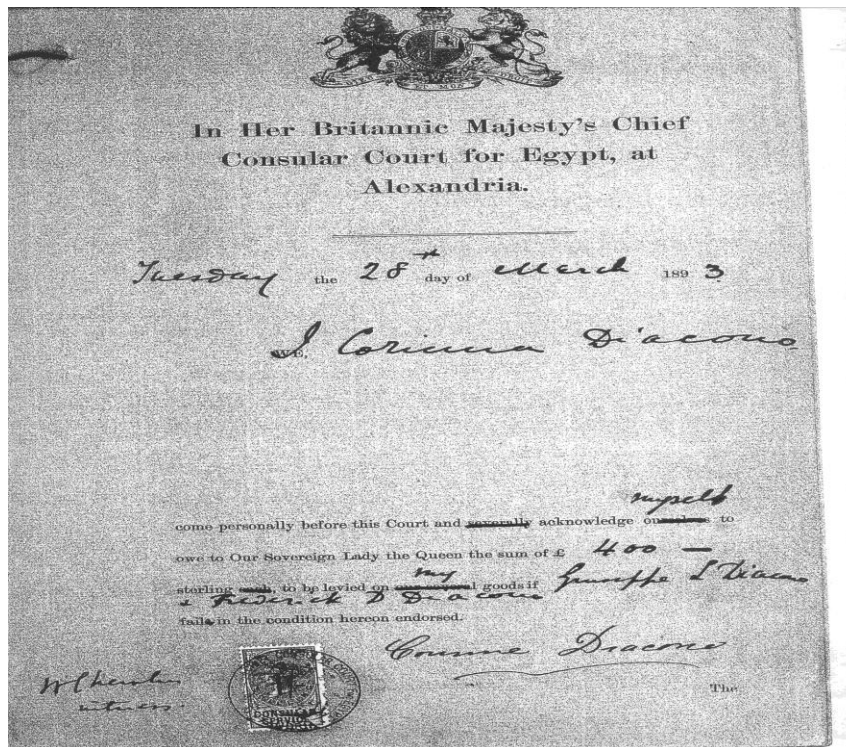
The 17th, May 1893

Part II of Alex's complaint against my research: In 1892, Frederick and his father were engaged in work with the Credit Lyonnaise Bank in Suez. Both were charged with Larceny: full details of Court and Witness documents are on the family CD. The plea of both was "Not Guilty".

Frederick was in Alexandria (with his father) in 1893 for the committal hearing on 28/3/1893 where a document was read *in the presence and hearing of the said accused*. .. prior to this, Frederick was most certainly in Suez with his father.

Towards the end of these documents Corinne Diacono (Frederick 's sister then aged 22 and not married to M. Zacher at the time) went surety (guarantor) to the tune of £400 (English Pounds) on 28/3/1893 with a final document dated. 10th May 1893 - that her Father, Giuseppe Diacono and brother, Frederick Robert Diacono, would present themselves at the Consular Cells, for Trial on 17th

May 1893 – 7 days later. This was a considerable sum of money if one realises that one could live in the UK for a year on a stipend of £50!



The Bail receipt signed by Corinne.

It would seem the Trial Day opened on 17th May 1893 . Documents were tended. The documents were accepted, dated and then.....nothing.

Alex Pugh was provided with the Court Documents and his Part II disgust with what was written was registered by calling it “An elephant in the room”. He acknowledged the documents and set about trying to prove them incorrect. His stubbornness to admit or accept the foregoing pressed me so much that I cut ties with him.

About the non- trial:

Frederick was probably sending money to England to Louisa Isabella Wiss for Cora's upkeep. By 1893, Frederick had a daughter in England and a wife and three children in Cyprus to support. Further, the trial did not take place and the Documents 022 and 023 (see family CD) can be read as “get out of jail” documents whereby, Corinne had paid the 400 English Pounds.(£400) she put up a security for her brother and father to appear in court on 17th May 1893. (Frederick had seven days in which to organise his departure from Alexandria as the bail was posted for 10th May 1893).

A curious observation: Corinne would not have had such money. Neither did her father nor her brother. I suggest that the money came from the Zacher family. It is a presumption on my part, but ...could Corinne have promised her hand in marriage to Michel Zacher in exchange for the “loan”. She married him a year later in 1894 when she was 23 years old.

Frederick left Alexandria for Cyprus pre-trial date where he died on 22nd October 1898, five years after the event. He was 44 years old. There is no record of what happened to his father until his reported death, at Alexandria, in 1900.

I refer to Page 527 “*Chapter Notes*” of a book written by Martin Meredith “*Diamonds Gold and War*”. Here the author quotes the late Nineteenth Century value of £1 pound was equal to 86 times that value in 2007. A calculation of Corinne’s payment to get her father and brother out of legal difficulty, which she did, would be approx. £34,400 in modern UK currency.

Little was known about Frederick by any of the family until I started ferreting around the archives in Kew – UK . I started this search in the belief that Frederick was an only child! Descendants of William, Robert, George, Edgar and Corinne would have barely known of his existence because he was eight years older than his first surviving sibling, William – and at about the time of the Giuseppe Lorenzo photograph, Frederick would probably have been in England .

The passage quoted below was in the Court Documents. Originally written in French, it has been translated. Note “The Two British Subjects”. Yes – the Diacono’s considered themselves British Subjects and as far as I know, held passports to that effect and were subject to British Justice in the place where they lived. They could not be tried by a Foreign (Egyptian) Court.

The Chancellor of the French Consulate at Alexandria, Egypt, is pleased to recommend to the Honourable Chancellor of the Consulate General of England ...Mr Escoffier, the Director of the Agency of the Credit Lyonnais in this town, who will make a formal protest against the two British Subjects, the Diaconos.

It would seem that the Court was told Frederick and Giuseppe had paid “an amount” twice, in error. The following interpretation of some of the documents is given by a descendant of William Diacono, Christine Stewart who lives in Ireland . Frederick contacted the bank to say that they had acted in error by making a payment twice in the same day to a M. Radken. They were in contact with M. Petrovich the sub manager and ask for the bank’s assistance to recover the money. However they do not appear to be able to produce firm proof of the transaction and M. Radken has left the country.

Giuseppe appears to try to make reparation however didn’t have sufficient funds. It does seem hazy – but they were both sent to trial...which did not happen.

There is, thus far, neither a form of exoneration, nor *carte blanche* that gave him freedom or allowed Frederick to find freedom for himself or his father; further – what happened to Corrine’s £400?

The Lapierre family held Frederick in high esteem. It was also obvious they knew nothing of his Court problems. I personally believe that Virginie did know and kept quiet thus nothing was said inside the family and over 110 years later, Alex saw the revelations as an elephant in the room (*it’s there but no one can see it*).

In 1974, the Turkish Army took over the Northern Part of Cyprus. They destroyed Christian Churches and monuments and what there was of the Lapierre Mansion. It would seem that Frederick’s grave came in for a battering too. Two of Frederick’s great grandsons, Nicholas and Manolis Diacono, were living in Nicosia in 2007 – perhaps they have passed away by now.

Giuseppe Lorenzo Diacono died on 28th September, 1900. Carmela, his wife, died on 21st June 1901. Both passed away at Ramleh, Alexandria, Egypt (sometimes called Bacos). Their Certificates were obtained from TNA in England where the deaths were registered with their Anglicised names of Joseph and Carmela.

Frederick Worked in Kontea in some sort of Forestry capacity and in 1898 contracted virus. He died on 22nd October, 1898, from a chest or allied lung infection – probably pneumonia, but we may never know. Virginie Diacono nee Lapierre died at Kontea, Cyprus, on 5th November 1937.

Cora died in Australia within 4 weeks of her step mother, on 1st December, 1937, at Coffs Harbour, NSW. She is buried with her husband, Walter Robert Deller Fawcett in the Historical Section of Coffs Harbour Cemetery. Their youngest, Lily (d. 2011) is buried in the same grave.

THE FINAL WORD ON THE COURT CASE: RECEIVED 29TH JULY 2007

Dear Mrs Scholler,

Thank you for your email of 24 July. This has been passed to Foreign and Commonwealth Office Historians for reply.

We note that you have already undertaken extensive research on this case.

Unfortunately, I have to advise that FCO Historians is only a small team and we do not have the resources to answer your questions in detail. We have, however, looked at The National Archives' catalogue and have noticed one other file, which although earlier, may be of some interest to you. It is in the same FO 847 Alexandria Consular Court series: FO 847/21 Wills and Co and Joseph Diacono, 1892

I have also browsed through the catalogue entries for later files in the FO 847 series but cannot find any further references to Diacono.

I am very sorry that I cannot be of greater assistance in this instance.

Yours sincerely

Alastair Noble

Dr Alastair Noble

Historians

Information Management Group Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Old Admiralty Building

London SW1A 2PA



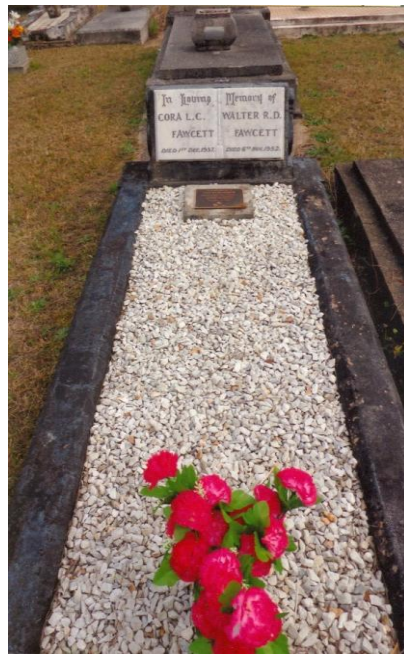
Frederick, Virginie, Edmee, Louis & Joseph



Frederick's Grave in Kontea, Cyprus



Cora 1878-1937- Coffs Harbour ca 1930



Cora's grave 2014 with headstone for her daughter Lily.



The above photo is of Cora & Walter's six children. Taken sometime in the 1960's probably at Port Macquarie, NSW

LEFT TO RIGHT:

- Walter Robert Fawcett Jr. 1907 – 1968
- Leslie William Fawcett 1917 – 1996
- Harold Granville Fawcett 1906 – 1975
- Lily Richardson nee Fawcett 1920 – 2011
- Eva Louise Sara Wear nee Fawcett 1912 – 2007
- Phyllis May Marks nee Fawcett 1914 – 2008

FAMILY STORIES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST.

Our family is made up of several major surnames. Fawcett, Diacono, Mackay, Cook, Manche, Nani, Custot, Sakakini and Musso. Roots and shoots went off in all directions. In the case of our Great Great Grandmother, Carmela Anna Rosa Diacono nee Manche, her mother's maiden name was Nani. The Nani family was well known in Egypt. Frederick Diacono's brother, William, b. 1862 in Alexandria Egypt, married at Port Said, Mary Nani b. at Damanhour, Egypt. 1863. She had twin brothers, Attilio and Arturo and a sister, Amalia.

They were the children of Alexander Nani and Battistina Nani (nee Franchi). Like many Maltese, Alexander's father, Luigi, left Malta for economic reasons to live in Egypt, a land of opportunity. The map below is more orientation of where the many family members lived. Alexandria, Port Said, Suez, and Cairo.

Attilio and his twin brother Arturo were born at **Domehhour, Egypt**, on 11th October 1859. They had two sisters; Amalia b. 28th April 1844 (probably born in Malta) and Mari (Mary) b. 15th Oct 1863 (later the wife of William Frederick Diacono).



Map – Google. These arrowed cities are part of our family history in Egypt.

Attilio's Last Will and Testament (TNA ref: FO847/227) was signed on 29th March 1939. The witnesses were Cesare G. Vella and Massimiliano Petrovich. It was translated to English from the original Italian.

Attilio died at Alexandria, Egypt, in 1947, leaving his entire Estate to his niece, Renee Rose M.E. Nani b. 2nd June 1893 – she being the daughter of his twin brother, Arturo. His Estate included, shares and bonds, cash, jewellery, silver and his stamp collection.

The stamp collection stands out because it would have been fabulous at the time of his death. Attilio was Sub Director of the Alexandria Post Office. In April 1917, he was awarded the Insignia of the

Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred upon him by His Highness, the Sultan of Egypt, in recognition of valuable service. (UK Government Gazette, Whitehall, April 16th 1917).

Stamp Collecting was not confined to Attilio, in fact other family members were passionate about stamps one of which was Attilio's nephew, Hugo Diacono b. Ceylon, 1895, the son of his sister, Mari (Mary) b. 1863.

Hugo was born and reared in Nuwara Eliya, Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and moved to England in 1922. He had a wonderful collection of stamps which, sadly, was eroded by his sister, Nora, in the 1950's when she went to England and lived for a time with Hugo and his family. Nora was a gambler, and sold off much of Hugo's collection to finance her addiction.

From the Malta Migration website:.... *the Director of the Egyptian Posts was Attilio Nani M.B.E.; the Director of the Public Health was Dr William Sacco; Dr M. J. Paris was at the Quarantine etc. etc.....*

The M.B.E. threw me for a bit. I think it was a fanciful entry. Sometimes I came across the words Bey and Pascha or Pasha: A cousin in the UK wrote:
Bey and Pasha or Pacha are titles, like Sir in England, granted in the Ottoman Empire. Pasha is more important than Bey. So the surname would be followed by the title. I didn't realize Pasha was so grand (there is also Sakakini Pasha)

From Wikipedia

Pasha or pascha (Ottoman Turkish: پاشا پاشا, Turkish: *paşa*), formerly **bashaw**, was a higher rank in the Ottoman Empire political and military system, typically granted to governors, generals and dignitaries and others. As an honorary title, Pasha, in one of its various ranks, is equivalent to the British title of Lord, and was also one of the highest titles in pre-republican Egypt.



Medal of the Order of the Nile

Attilio Nani and Order of the Nile Medal.



Luigi (Aloysius) Nani (Pasha) b. 1841 married his cousin, Amalia Nani b. 1844 – sister of Attilio.

(Names were often anglicised or modified further after christening)

ROBERTO & EDGARDO DIACONO

Two of Frederick’s brothers, Robert and Edgar, to quote their English names, lived in Cairo. Robert was in the Tourist Industry, owning boats that plied the Nile River with sightseers reminiscent of an Agatha Christie background to one of her famous novels, “Death on the Nile”; except there was no Murder.



The *PS Sudan* was used for TV version of “Death on the Nile” (Starring David Suchet) in 2004. Something like what Robert owned.

Edgar was a broker “a finder”, which is common today when one wants to buy/sell an item that requires a specific seller and buyer to meet, exchange commodities, and pay. For this type of service there is/was a “finder’s fee”. A Commission for the service rendered or Brokerage.

At this time (1908) Robert was selling up The Egyptian Directory and Advertising Coy. Ltd. Edgar found a buyer for the Business, and introduced the buyer to Robert. The business was to sell for £1300, with £600 in cash and the Balance in some form of Debt payment.

The Commission/Brokerage for this was £32/10/- which was a lot of money in 1908. Robert, for reasons best known to himself, refused to pay the fee to his brother and on 6th June 1908, Edgar took Robert to court to get the money. The court documents are on the Family CD.

Edgar’s run in with his brother left a sour taste in his mouth. His wife, Claudine, had died in 1902, leaving him with two sons to rear, Walter b. 1900 and Herbert b. 1901. To my mind, I believe Edgar was the only child who saw Malta as his home rather than Egypt. He packed up his sons and left Egypt for good to rear his sons in Malta.

Years later, Edgar travelled to the UK, and was an interpreter aboard trans Atlantic passenger and immigration vessels. He married a second time late in life. He died in Birkikara, Malta, on 23rd July, 1934. Walter and Herbert remained in England. His second wife, Claudine Winifred nee Camilleri, pre-deceased him, and with no family around him, he was buried at Birkikara, Malta, in a Pauper’s grave marked No. 54.



Edgar Diacono and his sons, Walter and Herbert ca 1910, probably taken in Malta.



Edgar Diacono, in suit far right. Egypt. I believe the other two are his sons.

HUGO VICTOR DIACONO

(of Ceylon/Sri Lanka. 1895 - 1964)

Hugo Victor Diacono. Frederick's nephew and Cora's first cousin. The sixth of William Diacono's children. b. 7th August 1895, Ceylon. d. at Crompton Bassett, England. 23rd March 1964 .

His parents were William Frederick Diacono, born in Alexandria, Egypt on 23rd February 1862. died 11th June, 1920, in Ceylon. His mother was Maria (Mary) Nani, born at Damanhour, Egypt on 15th October 1863. died 2nd March 1932 in Ceylon.

Hugo spent a lot of time in England being educated in Scotland along with four of his brothers, Arno, Otto, Ezio and Remo. The fifth and eldest brother, Aldo, remained in Ceylon. He had three sisters.: Aida, Irima and Nora. Irima and Nora were educated in a Convent in Darjeeling, India.

The boys attended *St. Joseph's Catholic College in Dumfries, Scotland*. Hugo became an Accountant; he was also was an excellent violinist according to his brother Remo. The English home base for the family was located at: *1 Montpellier Gardens, Harrogate*, which is not very far from the Scottish border in the UK. Hugo's father, William Frederick Diacono, maintained this home-away-from-

home for his work and for the boys to have a place to go to during Holiday breaks – Harrogate is a centre for “*Harrogate Java Lava*” Coffee.

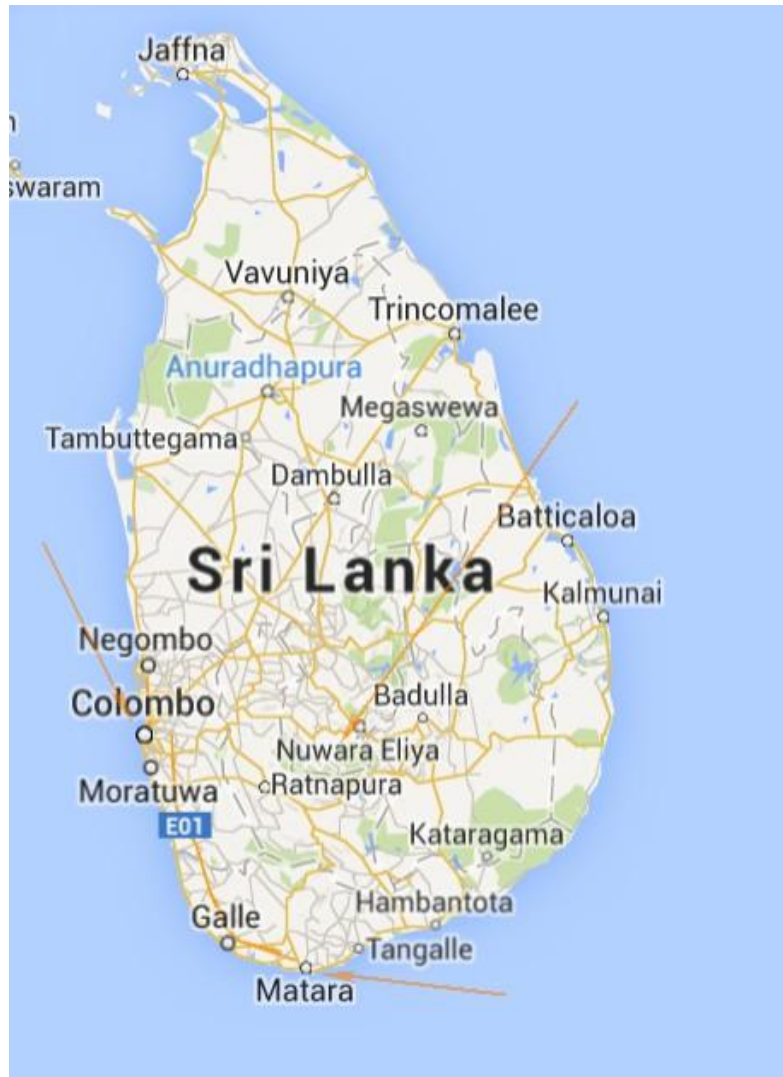
The Diacono family lived in *Nuwara Iliya, Ceylon*, which is located due east of Colombo. High in the mountains in Tea , Coffee and Rubber growing country. Their actual home was *The Mary Hill Hotel* which Mary Diacono operated in the long absences of her husband and sons – she was described as an “Hotelier”. Shortly after William’s death in 1920, Mary Diacono put in a Mr. Larsen as a Manager. *The Mary Hill Hotel* was eventually sold (no date known) to The Government of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) for use as a police Station



The Diacono Family with friends in 1903. Taken at Nuwara Iliya Ceylon. William is seated on the back to front chair. Next to him on the left is his wife, Mary - pregnant at the time – the baby being Remo, the last born child. In the front row, left to right, the young lady with rolled hair-do is Aida (16), Aldo (15), Irima (11), Hugo (8) and Arno (7). I believe the little girl standing next to William is Nora. I don't think she is the one seated at the left end. Ezio and Otto are not in the photo and Remo was not yet born. Seated, far end right is Ali Foad Toulba a family friend. The balding fellow sitting next to Aida could be her future husband Charles Duckworth. Those not identified are a question mark.



The Mary Hill Hotel, Nuwara Iliya, Ceylon



Sri Lanka (Ceylon) featuring Nuwara Eliya, Matara and Colombo which are places of interest in the story of William Frederick Diacono’s family. The sons, Hugo, Arno, Otto, Ezio and Remo referred to their occupations as “Tea and Rubber Planters”

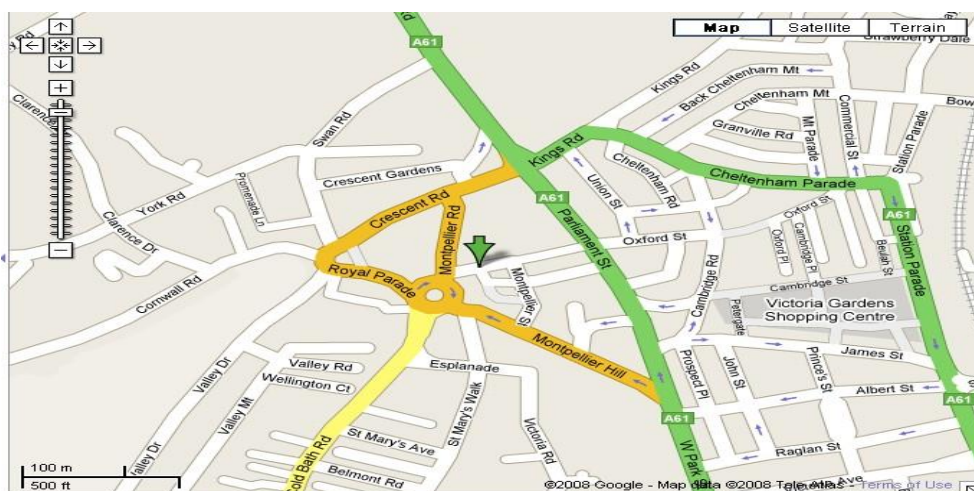


Around 1913 William and five of his sons left England for Ceylon. This is a photograph of the boys in School Uniform, taken ca 1913, probably in Egypt to visit relatives, during transit to Ceylon.

1914: The World was not happy with Germany, and on 5th August 1914, England entered into WW1. By 1917, there were War problems closer to home and Hugo volunteered for the Indian Army Reserve of Officers (I.A.R.O) and was commissioned on 15th January 1918. He was a 6th Class Supply and Transport Officer serving with "F" Supply Depot Company from 5th June 1918.

The information in the Ceylon Roll of Honour reads as follows: "*Diacono V.H.; late of Messrs C.P. Hayley & Co, Matara; Com, I.A.R.O.*" The town of *Matara* was at the lower end of the Island. Note the reversal of the initials. Hugo changed his Christian names around to avoid confusion with his cousin and Robert's son, Hector Vincent Diacono.

Around this time, in *Harrogate*, England, Hugo's brothers, Arno and Otto, were also joining up for the British Army. They gave their occupations as Tea and Coffee planters.



Map: Harrogate England – showing Montpelier Gardens.



**Hugo Victor Diacono ca 1918 (aka Victor Hugo Diacono)
of the Indian Army Reserve of Officers (IARO).
Probably taken in Bangalore, India where he attended an
*IARO Training School***

From the outset, Hugo's Army Documents show, as at 15th January 1918, he was attending an IARO School of Instruction in Bangalore, India. He gave his place of Education as Scotland. He spoke four languages other than English...Italian, Tamil, Singhalese and French... which probably made him indispensable for the work he was to do for the Army. Hugo's War occupation was given as: Manager Transport Corp.

During this time and before leaving for his Army Posting in *Mesopotamia*, Hugo, now a 2nd Lieutenant in the IARO, met Selina Spanion. They were married on 23rd of May 1918 after banns were read, in *St. Patrick's Catholic Cathedral* at Arkonam, in Bangalore, India.

Selina was born on 20th January 1897. Her father was Simon Spanion, her mother, Annie Spanion. Selina had two sisters, Adele and Rosie. At the time of the marriage, Adele was Mrs. Adele Fawcitt. One witness to the marriage was C. Fawcitt the other was A.A. McManus. The priest was Fr Anton Tabard.



Hugo Diacono and Selina Spanion ca 1918

Twenty-six days after the wedding, Hugo reported to his Army Station on 19th June 1918 and embarked from *Bombay* on 22nd June 1918. He arrived in *Basra* on 27th June 1918. His Field postings were from 4th July 1918 to 9th August 1918 then he fell ill and was admitted to a hospital at *Hamadan* – later, diagnosed with Dysentery, he was in an out of Hospital until 13th December 1918. 28th December saw him in Transport once again at *Hamadan*

Here I will make a note: Researchers have found that Dysentery, Typhoid and Malaria, contracted in Foreign Lands, were reported to be a major cause of death in Soldiers – they were diseases beyond the reach of enemy bullets.

Hugo proceeded to India on 26th of January 1921 to be demobilized from the Army. On the top of his Army Form B103 are these handwritten words. *In India. Wife Mrs. C. Diacono. Redcliff, Bangalore, South India. In England NIL*

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
DIACONO	I.A.R.O.	2/Lt.	
V. H.			
Medal	Date	Page	Remarks
VICTORIA	10/108 B	619	} Sent by post of India m/9/2017
PREVON	20.	20.	
SEAR			
B.S. Med	6511/10/2	53	Clap Gray
Thousand War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

During research Hugo's Medal Card was found – he was IARO (Indian Army Reserve of Officers). Also found was his cousin's Medal Card – Hector Vincent Diacono – who was ELC (Egyptian Labour Corps).

In the *London Gazette* of July 23rd 1918 – Hugo was appointed a 2nd Lieutenant in the IARO under his Christened name Hugo Victor Diacono. Further, a *British Gazette* entry for 5/10/1920 indicates that

Hugo Victor of the IARO wanted to be known as Victor Hugo Diacono. So, in the Gazette of 5th October 1920, his name was officially recognised as Victor Hugo Diacono. His War Medals for WW1 as listed above...the one for WW2 was **not** added to the card. Note: His WW1 medals 1.2.3. carried the initials V.H.

WW1 documents for Hugo's brother, Arno Diacono, were found intact. The documents for his brother, Otto, were found partly incinerated. WW1 Documents were stored in London in a Warehouse which was bombed during WW2. Many documents were destroyed. Sufficient remained of Otto's documents to know who he was and his War record. Otto was repatriated to Ceylon where as Arno probably stayed in England for a time. At the outbreak of WW2, Arno was in Australia, in Victoria. He signed up for the Australian Army with his brother, Remo, also living in Victoria.

After his arrival in the UK in 1921-2, Hugo worked as a violinist in "Silent Movie" theatres and Music Halls. It was during this period that he met Sybil Matilda Lucy (b. 1906) a pianist and a descendant of Sir Thomas Lucy (b. 1542). Hugo and Sybil lived together in Exeter where, in 1926, their son, Victor Hugo was born. In 1926 d. 5th April 2013, they had a daughter, Irma Maureen b. 1927 (still alive in France but frail and ill as at 2015). Both children were born with the surname Lucy.

Inside the family, it had been understood that Hugo was still married to Selina and he could not marry Sybil. Their lives were as normal as could be, and when sound came to the movies, Hugo went into theatre management.

The children lived with their parents in houses and flats which were attached to the theatres that Hugo managed.

In 1936 two related events occurred.

(1) Mrs. A. Spanion arrived in the UK from Bombay via Brisbane, Australia, on the "*Oronsay*" at Tilbury on 24th September 1931. She was aged 55. Her occupation was given as Home Duties. In view of the next entry, I believe this lady was Mrs. Annie Spanion, Selina's mother

(2) The arrival in England from Bombay via Brisbane, Australia, on the "*Mongolia*" of Selina Diacono (nee Spanion). Selina landed at Tilbury on 26th June 1936.

In both instances, the original passenger lists show that their permanent home was India, and that their future home was to be England.

Selina was heavily pregnant at the time of her arrival and three days later, on 29th June, 1936, gave birth to a daughter, Jill Alison. **Vol 1d page 753**. The birth register shows the surname Diacono and the mother as Spanion. Selina was 39 years old.

Here the facts become clouded. The writer believes that, after Jill's birth, Selina found Hugo at his English home - what transpired would only be conjecture. Seemingly, it would have prompted moving his entire family.

Note: The writer corresponded with Hugo's son for many years, up until his death in 2013. He told me he thought he had a another sister and wanted to know about her. He also said that Selina never found his father. Hugh, as a child, must have been privy to a meeting of Selina and Hugo, how else would he know about a "sister". I argued that Selina's probably turned up as the rightful Mrs. Diacono and most likely asked that Hugo "help out". Not being a fly on the wall at the time, it seems feasible as the "sister", Jill Diacono, was born with the Diacono name. Selina was still married to Hugo, even if the child was conceived in India. I traced Selina's family. Jill was the product of a News Reporter staying in the Spanion family's hotel in Calcutta,

Hugo's son indicated that in 1936 his family moved to a flat in Coventry which remained their home from 1936-1962. Around this time, Hugo applied for a change of name by Deed Poll. Hugo lived in the UK.

Whatever arose in Hugo's life, he was obliged to provide an Original Birth Certificate. Hugo filled in the Application...he entered his correct christened name, date and place of birth. He obviously lodged the application; even paying the stamp duty...family cannot find the birth Certificate however, the application for same is still in existence.

Hugo Victor Diacono (aka Victor Hugo Diacono), became **Victor Hugo Deacon** on 25th July 1939. Irrespective of how he was called in later years. This is the true entry of the Deed Poll Document. For some reason, I am told that, Hugo, now Victor Hugo Deacon, adopted his own children.

This occurrence would coincide with Hugo not wanting to be associated in any way with Selina, or the child she bore under his name.

The family **believed** that Selina Diacono (nee Spanion) died ca 1962. Around this time, Hugo married Sybil and the Register shows Victor H. Deacon, married in Cheltenham **Vol 7b page 779**. Sybil's marriage entry is just above Hugo's with the same reference numbers.

These instances beg questions which perhaps cannot be answered because there is no living memory. We now know that Selena Diacono (nee Spanion) died in the second quarter of 1975 and the death was registered at Camberwell. **Vol 11 page 1495**.

Hugo's second marriage was bigamous.

Jill Alison Diacono married Walter F. Warren on 3rd December 1955. Lambeth. **Vol 5c page 2360**, she died in 2001. Walter F. Warren died in 2002.

Sybil Deacon (nee Lucy) died in Q2 of 1992. She was 86 years old. **Vol 23 page 2168**. Reg at Swindon, County of Wiltshire.

Hugo Diacono aka Victor Hugo Deacon, died aged 68 on 23rd March 1964 at Compton Bassett Reg. Chippenham, **Vol 1c page 493**.

Jill Alison Warren nee Diacono had two sons

James F. Warren born 1956

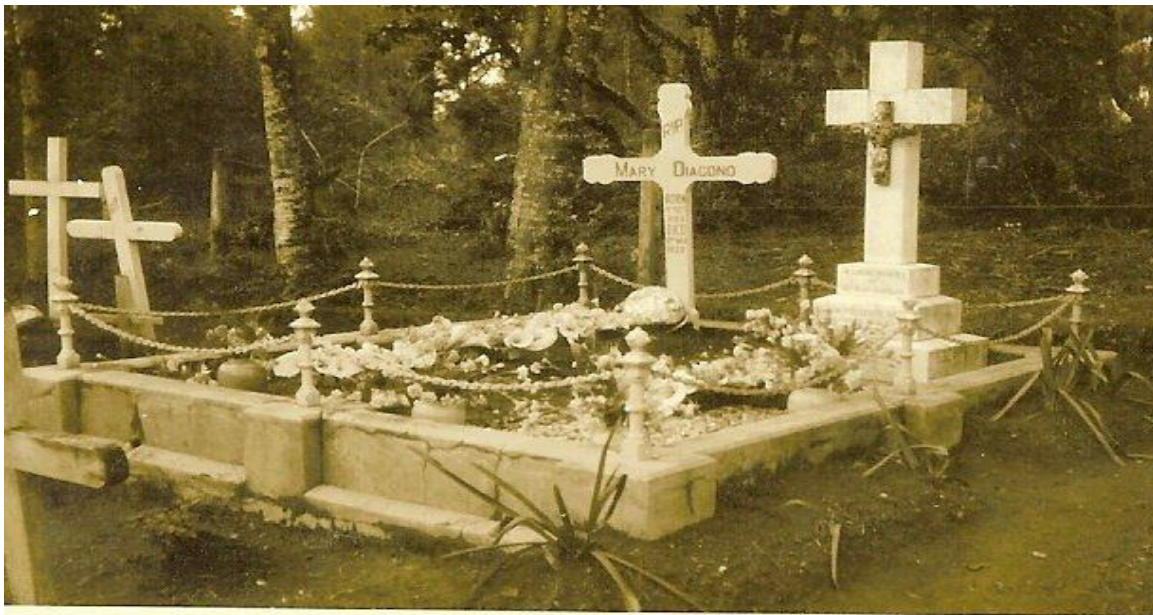
Graham Warren, born 1958



Hugo, ca 1956



Hugo worked for the J. Arthur Rank Organisation. He managed the Gaumont Picture Theatre at Jordan Well, Coventry. It closed in 1999. Now used by a University.



**William and Mary Diacono's Grave in Ceylon
William d. 1920 - Mary d. 1932**



William and Mary Diacono nee Nani

ARNO DENIS DIACONO 1896 – 1971
REMO PETER DIACONO 1903 – 1980
EZIO WILLIAM DIACONO 1901 - 1962
OTTO HUGO DIACONO. 1899- ca 1940

It may seem impossible to write about someone, without knowing the intricacies of that person's life, if not having intimate knowledge of all circumstances. Thus, the following is written about Arno, Remo, Ezio and Otto, not with tongue in cheek, but with an insight into what documents and photographs were saying about them.

Otto signed up for WWI in York, like his brother, Arno. Their father, William, signed the enlistment papers. Arno's War documents told me that he must have felt a unique freedom from the yoke of Catholic Schooling in Dumfries, Scotland and although in the Army, he obviously sought the pleasure of a lady of the night in an area that catered for young men going into battle and providing them with their "first" experience of sexual favours.

Private Arno Diacono spent more time in Army Hospitals in England with an STD than on actual Army manoeuvres let alone getting into battle. Arno was discharged as medically unfit. He came to Australia to join his brother, Remo sometime after 1923. He stayed in Australia and changed his name to Arnold Deacon, then later Arnold Dennis Dean. When WWII broke out, he signed up for the Australian Army. He put his age down, gave England as his country of birth, his father as William Dean and his mother was Mary Nani



Arno's WWII Service Record (Arnold Dennis Dean)

Arno gave his brother, Remo (Ray Dean), as next of kin, but no checks were made, as it would appear they were born too close together where in actual fact, Arno was born in 1896 and well into his forties. Remo was born in 1903 Arno said he was born in 1905, three years later than Remo.

Once again, the spectre of the STD got him a medically unfit discharge from the Australian Army. In 1942 he married Lorna Gladys Peters. He never left Australian Shores. As a patient in Queensland's Greenslopes Hospital, it was obvious he was receiving treatment at the Army's expense during the 1960s as there is a photograph of Arno in the hospital at that

time. His illness had its ramifications and he never had any children. He died in Victoria, Australia on 7th August 1971.



Arno Diacono at Greenslopes Hospital

Remo Diacono signed up and was sent to Egypt. An easy way to catch up with relatives. Many photos were given to me by his daughter, Corinne Kleine (nee Dean), He was visiting his Aunt Corinne in Alexandria – viewed the Pyramids and apparently damaged his knee and was sent to the UK for surgery, where he met up with his Sister, Aida Duckworth (nee Diacono). It is also very likely that he visited his brothers, Hugo and Ezio, both living in England at the time.



Remo with Aida – probably in the UK

Remo married firstly to Stella Grant in 1930. Divorced. Remo then changed his name to Dean. Later, in 1943, he married Mavis Lillian Lewcock. As Ray Peter Dean, he fathered six children. Most of his Australian family life was spent on King Island, an Island anchored in Bass Strait off the northern tip of Tasmania. He died in Frankston, Victoria, Australia in 1980.

World War Two Service



**SERGEANT
RAY DEAN
VX5536**

SERVICE	AUSTRALIAN ARMY
DATE OF BIRTH	26 JUNE 1905
PLACE OF BIRTH	COLOMBO, CEYLON
DATE OF ENLISTMENT	31 OCTOBER 1939
LOCALITY ON ENLISTMENT	HAWTHORN, VIC
PLACE OF ENLISTMENT	HAWTHORN, VIC
NEXT OF KIN	DEAN, HAYDIEE
DATE OF DISCHARGE	13 OCTOBER 1944
POSTING AT DISCHARGE	HS 1 AUST VEH PK W/SHOPS



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Remo – Sergeant Ray Dean – War service Record.

(Next of Kin was a girlfriend – Haydiee Dean...but there was no marriage)

Ezio William Diacono was too late for WWI, but he was training to be an Air Force Pilot at the time the War ended. Ezio spent a lot of time in England. Known as Billy he was an Electrical Engineer with his own business. He married a woman named Winifred – and there are passenger lists of himself and Winifred travelling to Ceylon. Then here is a gap. Winifred's death or divorce, whichever, was not traced. Conversely, he may have lived with her, then decided to marry – perhaps her marriage was an impediment. Ezio married in 1944. This woman had the name Winifred. She was either widowed or divorced and went by the name Winifred Bushnell-Morris. It is possible she is the original Winifred. She had two children by her first marriage. It is doubted that Ezio adopted them even though a relative remarked that Ezio had two sons. No, there is no Birth Register under his name, the children were born under Bushnell- Morris.

i	E. Glamorgan	11 a	1835	Deyo, Floyd S.	Chilcott	Bridgend	11 a	1275
	Durham N.W.	10 a	647	Deyoung, Betty	Hyams	Hackney	1 b	672
	Lambeth	1 d	359	— Ernest	Morris	Newton	8 c	488
	Romford	4 a	1337	Deytrikh, Andrew	Trow	Cardiff	11 a	680
on	Dolton	8 o	753	Dharmalingum, Jack	Roberts	Liverpool S.	8 b	254
	Woolwich	1 d	1530	B'hout, Robert G.	Davis	Sheffield	9 c	1269
	Newcastle T.	10 b	153	Diack, Phyllis	Andrews	Croydon	2 a	1418
n	Marylebone	1 a	996	Diacono, William E.	Deacon or	Bristol	6 a	435
	Reading	2 c	1072		Bushnell or Morris			

Ezio's Marriage in 1944

Ezio changed his name to William Deacon by Deed Poll, around 1939, and there are two marriage entries with the same folios and page numbers, one for Diacono and one for Deacon. Not a lot is known about Ezio. He attended the christening of his Sister (Aida's) Grandson, Brian Duckworth in 1952, He died in 1961. I was told he fell from a roof and was killed.



Ezio ca 1952

My favourite Diacono son was Otto. Otto Hugo Diacono. Otto, like his sister Nora, could not come to grips with “orders” so Army training, didn’t sit well with him. It is recorded that he hit an Officer and went to Army Goal for some two weeks. As a reward for his impertinence /outburst, he was sent to France into one of the thickest parts of the War.

His War documents were stored in a warehouse in London, and during WWII, the storage facility was bombed and caught fire. Many researchers lost entire Army histories due to this event, but Otto’s and Arno’s somehow survived the inferno. Otto’s documents were severely charred around the edges but sufficient was found to get his record.

It would appear he spent time in Hospital before being repatriated to Ceylon. It took some time because demobbed soldiers were usually repatriated to their town of origin. In Otto’s case, Harrogate, as entered on his enlistment papers. He wanted to go home – to Ceylon.

His sister, Aida, was a bit of a “shutterbug” with a camera. She took only family related photographs, and in all my research, with the help of Aida’s grandson, Ken Coombs, many photographs were identified. Then there was one stand-out. Ken didn’t know who it was, a balding, overweight man standing between two Ceylonese women, one of them pregnant. Then a photograph of two coloured children. The following is hypothesis, but I believe it to be very close to the truth

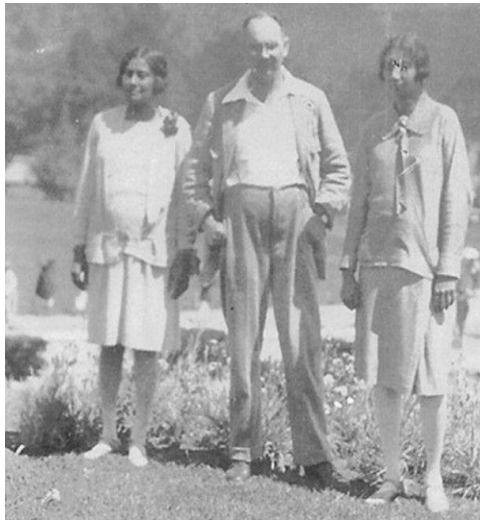


Otto’s brother, Aldo, with his wife Zoe and the two mixede blood children which I believe are Otto’s children

Otto was badly damaged by the War, both mentally and physically. The mental part of it probably made him impossible to stay inside the family – thus I believe he was relegated to the care of others. The physical part of it, to my mind, was damage to his hands, which appeared hidden in two photographs – one at the time of his father’s death in 1920, a year or so after he returned home from the War. The other, the aforementioned photograph with the two women.

In 1928, I found a record of Otto coming to Australia, probably to visit Arno and Remo, and most likely returning very quickly to Ceylon, as I found him on passenger lists going home shortly thereafter. Otto was in Aden sometime in the mid- to late 1930s, as he was on a ship with his sister Nora and her husband, Edward Pugh. Edward suffered heat stroke “on the Canal and died at sea”. He was buried in Aden. Nora’s daughter told me that at the funeral, Otto fell into the grave.

It is my firm belief that Aida photographed Otto with his “keepers”, and it would not surprise me none if he married the Ceylonese girl. The other of photo of the two children - I believe to be Diacono grandchildren.



Otto and the two Ceylonese ladies, one of which is pregnant. The two mixed blood children. It may be hard to see in this photo, but note Otto’s hands. I believe they were damaged in the War.



**Mourning Photo for William Diacono: 1920. Otto arrowed. His hands are hidden.
Centre: Family friend Ali Foud Talba, End: Ezio.
Mary Diacono left with Aida right, and the children, Winifred and Sonny Duckworth,
Aida's children. Nuwara Iliya, Ceylon.**

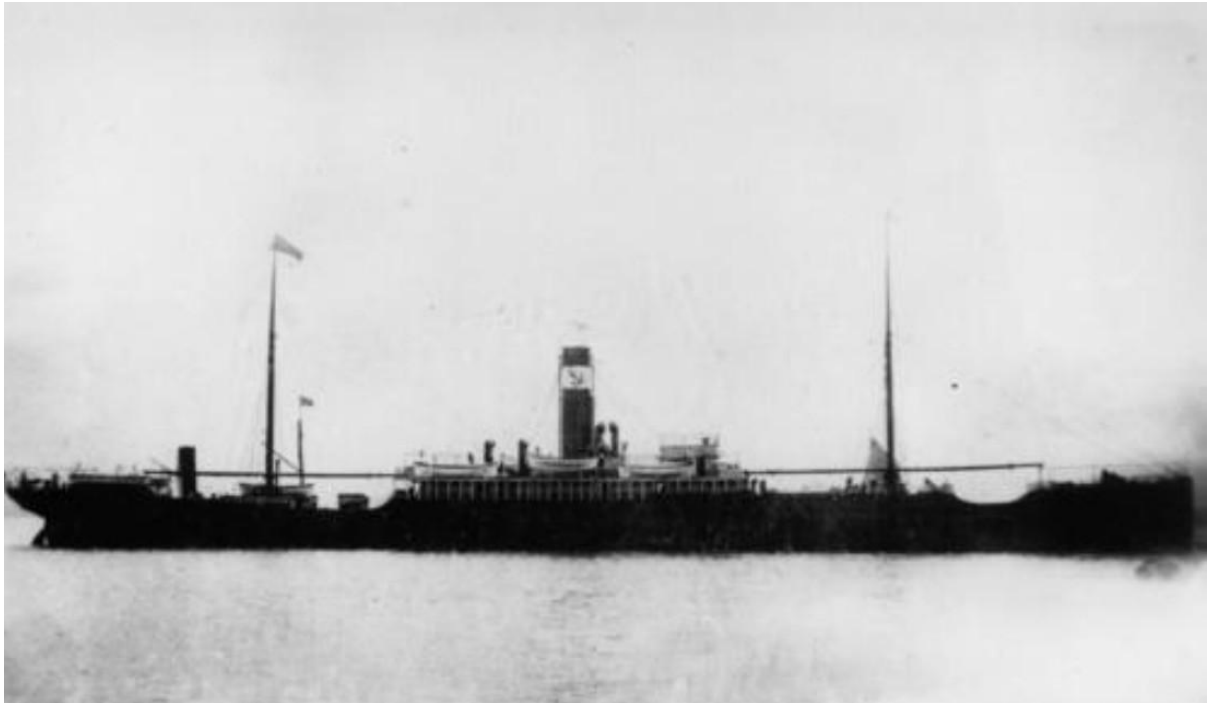
Sadly, I do not think Mary Diacono (nee Nani), had very much compassion. She was Catholic, she adhered to the principles of her religion, and it was drummed into the family, right down to their education. Otto probably proved to be too much of a handful and was disassociated with the family. So very sad.

Otto died ca. 1940. I have found no records of Otto other than photos, hence the hypothesis. I could be wrong, but after researching the family for so long, Otto was the one that faded into oblivion.

WALTER ROBERT FAWCETT JR.
1907-1968

(Written by his son, Geoffrey)

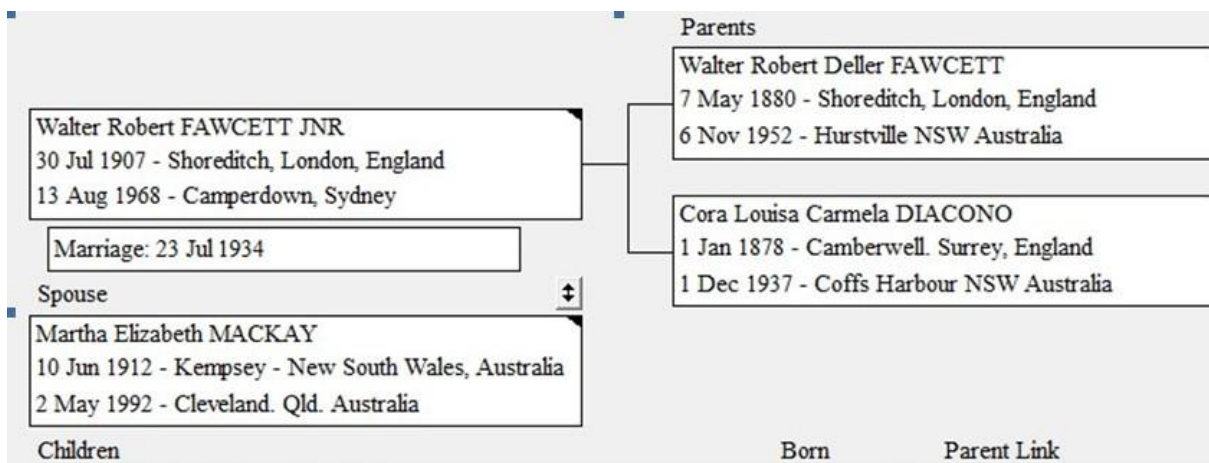
Walter Robert Fawcett (Wally) was born in Shoreditch, London, England on 30th. July 1907. He was the son of Walter Robert Deller Fawcett (1880- 1952) and Cora Louisa Carmela Diacono (1878 - 1937). He came to Australia with his parents and older brother, Harold Granville, on the "SS Wilcannia" arriving here 1909.



SS Wilcannia



Walter Robert Fawcett Jr.



Children of this marriage :
Gordon Alaexander Fawcett b. 1935
Geoffrey Richard Fawcett b. 1938
Walda Lillian b. 1940

It is thought that Walter. had contracted Rheumatic Fever as a child. From here on, he will be referred to as Wally.

The family had little if any money when they arrived, and were first heard of as being in Gunnedah where his father, referred to by his initials as WRD, took up sheep work about which he knew very little. A Londoner, he had no skills outside of horses and city life. Walter had two brothers, Harold Granville (1906-1975) and William Leslie (1917-1996) His three sisters were: Eva Louise Sarah (1912-2007), Phyllis May (1912-2008) and Lily (1920-2011).

Over the years, through farming trial and error, the family made its way up the North Coast of New South Wales and by the time they arrived at, and lived in, Central Bucca, they were Dairy Farmers. This would have been ca 1930. Like most youngsters of that era, the children had basic schooling. Their mother, Cora, was well educated and no doubt saw to it that her children could read and write. It is known Wally had only 12 months of schooling.

The 1930 Electoral Roll shows WRD Fawcett as a Dairyman but Wally and Harold were listed a Labourers. During the early Depression years, Wally worked at the Port Kembla Steel Mills (NSW), shovelling iron ore from rail trucks probably ca 1930-32. It was around the time, during the his family's progression North, that his father sold their Bellingen farm and moved to Central Bucca. Wally rejoined the family.

In 1934 Walter married Martha (Mat) Elizabeth Mackay at Grafton, in NSW. Their first son, Gordon Alexander, was born in 1935. The family was still living in Central Bucca and in 1937, Mat made her first of many visits to Sydney. It is not known if she was coping well, as Gordon's birth had been difficult for her.

Wally's mother, Cora, in a letter to her daughter Phylis, in April 1937, wrote that she was none too pleased with Mat's absence however, Mat returned to Coffs Harbour. Cora died on 1 December 1937 and in February 1938 Martha and Wally's second son, Geoffrey, was born.

Again, Mat left Coffs Harbour for Sydney taking the children with her. By today's standards, she probably was not coping well at all with two children. She worked for Melba and Sam Maiorana in their fruit shop, located in Miller Street, North Sydney. It was during this time she met Jimmy (Giacomo) Ferrari, an Italian National who owned a health food and sweet shop next door to the Maiorana's. She established a relationship with Ferrari. (much later, these shop sites became part of the foundation for the AMP building in North Sydney).

Wally knew about this liaison... He knew what was going on and it distracted him to the point where lack of concentration resulted in an accident to his person, every time Mat went away. In June of 1940, Germans and Italians were being rounded up by the Government. Ferrari was sent to an Italian Internment Camp...many Italians went, firstly to Long Bay Jail, then on to camps in Orange and Hay. Ferrari was an ex-Italian Pilot who, apparently, was injured in a plane crash during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939).

When news of the declaration of war reached Australia on June 11th 1940, most Italians had been forewarned that Italy would enter on the side of Germany... regardless of one's political persuasion. Even naturalised British subjects were arrested. By 1942 the number of Italians interned in Australia reached a wartime high of 3, 651 many were gradually released by September 1944.



Wally on a horse called a “Waler”

Wally eventually went to Sydney (Lane Cove -Christmas/New Year 1939-40) and stayed there, working for LB Swan at Balmain as a sort of maintenance man on a large property Lyle Brisbane Swan had there. He also worked on Swan’s boat, “*Enid*”. Later, he would leave his car in Balmain and travel to Coff’s Harbour by train to work at Swan’s sawmill in Central Bucca - returning home each fortnight.

Wally was fireman and saw sharpener for this steam mill for around 13 years. Many times metal splinters would enter his fore-arms and Mat would remove the metal with a razor blade. His position involved arriving at the mill by 5:00 a.m. lighting the boiler and having a full head of steam up ready to pull the whistle for a 7:00 a.m. start. Later, when that mill burned to the ground, he sharpened saws for the diesel driven mill at Central Bucca and thence at Karangi mill; both mills owned by Tom Seccombe



Wally and Mat

In September 1940, a daughter, Walda, was born at the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney. With War raging in Europe and Pacific, Harold joined the Air Force and Leslie went into the Army joining the medical corps as an Ambulance man. The farm was classified as “Essential Industry” and Wally was therefore exempted War service. It was not until much later in his life it was discovered he had eroded heart valves from Rheumatic fever as a child. Wally and Mat were living in Lane Cove on the river and were on the Electoral Rolls for Parramatta (Ryde) in 1943. Shortly after this, they returned to Coff’s Harbour and lived for a year in a rented house in Moore Street, Coffs Harbour Jetty.



Wally on a dozer in the timber

Wally then bought an ex-motor garage on Bellinghen Road and the family moved there. This property consisted of a gigantic shed, with a “house” behind it. It was owned by Jim Baker who had recently passed away and the property was sold by Jim's brother. Wally demolished the shed and sold off most of the materials from it; the remainder he used to build a much smaller shed as a car garage and workshop.

The “house” was in poor condition. Wally repaired it; closed in the back veranda and built a kitchen and fireplace. He built a laundry next to the kitchen and a bathroom next to that, effectively taking up the whole area. He built-in part of the front veranda as a bedroom for his two sons. The front and back walls of this place were falling away from the frame. Wally fixed this using a long wire rope through the roof cavity front to back and pulled the walls in employing a “twitch stick” to strain the cable.

One logging incident was a crash when a load of sawn timber on a truck he was driving slipped off the front bolster on a sharp bend just above Charlie Cornish's place on Bruxner Park Road. This sling of timber jammed the bolster and caused the trailer to “track out” The trailer went over the edge of the road pulling the truck backwards somersaulting down the mountain side. He had 40 stitches in his forearm and in his back over the right shoulder blade. It was a 'T' shaped puncture wound.

In those early post-War years, Mat owned a piano and played music for country dances, known as “Barn Dances” as they were held in farm barns. Mat being at the piano all night left Wally hanging loose, so he would often “have a few” with his mates, and drive home quite “tipsy”. On one occasion he had misplaced his false teeth. It may be difficult to believe, but Mat convinced him he has swallowed them. Wally was not a drinker. He suffered from hyper-acidity and his stomach turned very sour when he drank beer.

In 1949 Wally broke his back in a log snagging accident with a tractor. His spine was plastered in a full torso cast. Even with a plaster cast, he went back to work because couldn't stand being home doing nothing. The plaster stayed on for a year and caused great discomfort. The skin underneath the cast began to degrade and the itch was really driving him mad. He used to try to scratch using a wooden rule and knitting needles. He was most unhappy. It is believed he had Osteoporosis which would explain why his spine fractured the way it did. Mat believed Wally's return to work, even in plaster, was to do with money (or rather, the lack of it). It was her take on Wally returning to work. She made him flannels, to cover the plaster and for warmth. Walda remembers one incident where he

was sitting on a grandfather- chair, a cane seated affair with arms on either side. Somehow he slipped from the chair and the back of the plaster hooked on the seat. He was in agony.

To earn extra money, Mat took in dressmaking. She used an old treadle Singer Sewing Machine which her own father had given her as a wedding present. It was tedious work so Wally converted the machine to electric by adding a motor and foot pedal.

The children thrived on the abundance of fruit growing on the Bellingen Road property. so much so, Mat would complain that they had eaten green fruit and should be given castor-oil. He tried in vain to catch Walda and Geoff, with bottle in one hand and spoon in the other, but they were fleet of foot. He never dosed them with the evil oil.

He was not a man given to bad language a seldom if ever swore. He did had some quaint sayings. If you had done something foolish he would exclaim, "Stupid Owl!". When a person had fouled up he would say "You useless gift!" His Philosophy was, "Don't expect too much and you won't be disappointed!"

Mat was unhappy at the Bellingen Road home. Wally tried to teach Mat to drive but her attempts to control a car were spectacularly unsuccessful. She hated the car spare parts and old vehicle bodies that littered the front of the house; the morning glory vines that proliferated over fences and generally covered everything in a coat of green leaves and purple flowers. She also deplored the long walk to and from town. After Gordon left home in 1952, Wally sold the Bellingen Road property and purchased a house at 25 Grafton Street, closer to, and within comfortable walking distance of, the shops.

As with Bellingen Road, there was a shed at the back of the property and Wally made good use of it as a workshop. (it was moved there from the main street where it was Archie Hunter's blacksmith shop). Mat continued her dressmaking and branched out into dress accessories. Wally bought her larger and stronger sewing machine, and button making devices.

Walda and Geoff could walk to school at St. Augustine's, right out the back door, across boards that paved a way through the swamp the ran at the back of the house, and into the school grounds. Gordon never returned to live in Coffs Harbour. Mat told Wally that when the children were grown, she too would leave.

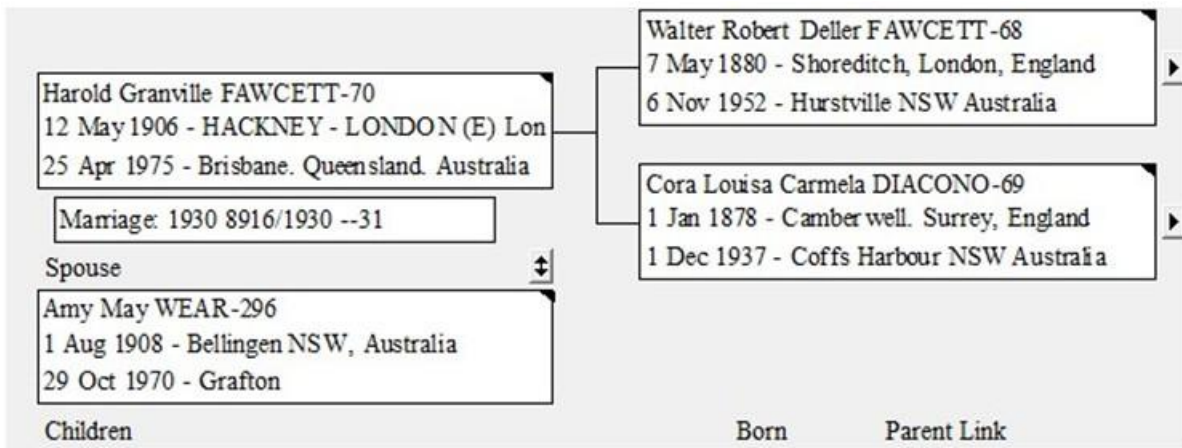
In 1956, Walda left home for Sydney; also never to return. Geoff was working at Hackings Motors and playing in the local brass band and Dance Bands. He was the musical genius of the family. Geoff worked for Golden Brothers after leaving Hackings, then worked for Wally for several years before going to work in New Guinea.

In 1959, with Walda now living in Sydney, Mat quit Coffs Harbour and the family home for good. This event devastated Wally. He was never the same again. Wally continued to send Mat money via Post Offices even though he didn't know where she was living at the time.

Walda, now 21 years old, married in 1961. At his daughter's request, he came to Sydney to give the bride away. In a letter to Mat, Wally told her that if Walda was happy, that she should be happy for her too. Mat came to the wedding under duress, because she believed Walda was making a mistake. In mid 1968, Wally's sister, Lily, who was also living in Sydney, told Walda, (against his specific request not to do so), that her father was very ill and in Hospital in Coffs Harbour. Walda flew to Coffs Harbour to find him in poor condition and failing. In an effort to save his life, she had him transferred by road Ambulance to the Page Chest Clinic in Sydney. Mat visited him and it seemed that, when Wally was lucid and not sleeping from the drugs he was on, they spent a lot of his remaining time talking. Wally died on 13th August 1968 at the Page Chest Pavilion, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown. He is buried in Rookwood Lawn Cemetery. Mat died in 1992. She is buried with him.

HAROLD GRANVILLE FAWCETT

(1906- 1975)



Children of this marriage:
Aileen Mary Fawcett b. 1931
John Harold Fawcett b. 1934
Stanley Earu Fawcett b. 1946

At the outbreak of World War II, Harold G. Fawcett joined the Australian Air Force. Service No.135082.

World War Two Service

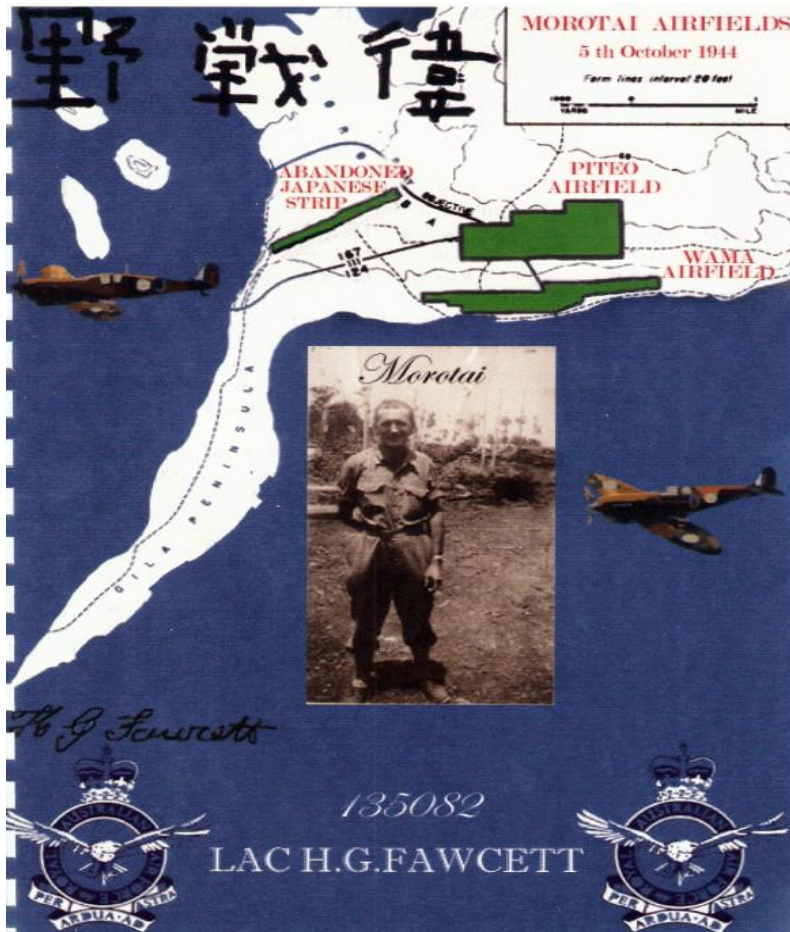


Leading Aircraftman
HAROLD GRANVILLE FAWCETT
135082

Service	Royal Australian Air Force
Date of Birth	12 May 1906
Place of Birth	LONDON, ENGLAND
Date of Enlistment	15 June 1943
Locality on Enlistment	SOUTH GRAFTON
Place of Enlistment	SYDNEY, NSW
Next of Kin	FAWCETT, AMY
Date of Discharge	1 March 1946
Posting at Discharge	2 AIRFIELD DEFENCE SQUADRON



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs



‘MOROTAI’ Written by Harold Granville Fawcett.

Below: The last page – the note encapsulates the time.

THE MOROTAI OPERATION

493

control, began missions against targets in the Philippines and the Netherlands East Indies. During early October, Morotai-based fighters also flew cover for a number of large-scale bombing attacks against the Japanese oil center at Balikpapan, Borneo, and ultimately Allied planes based on Morotai completed neutralization of Japanese air power throughout those sections of the Indies within range. The Morotai

fields, secured at an extremely low cost, were well worth the taking.¹⁷

¹⁷ Early in 1945 Australian units began moving to Morotai, and a large part of the Australian ground force which invaded Borneo was staged through that island. Between 15 September 1944 and 1 February 1945, the Japanese raided Morotai 82 times. The heaviest Japanese raid occurred on 22 November, when 2 men were killed, 15 injured or wounded, 15 planes were destroyed, and 8 were severely damaged. The last Japanese raid was carried out on 22 March 1945.

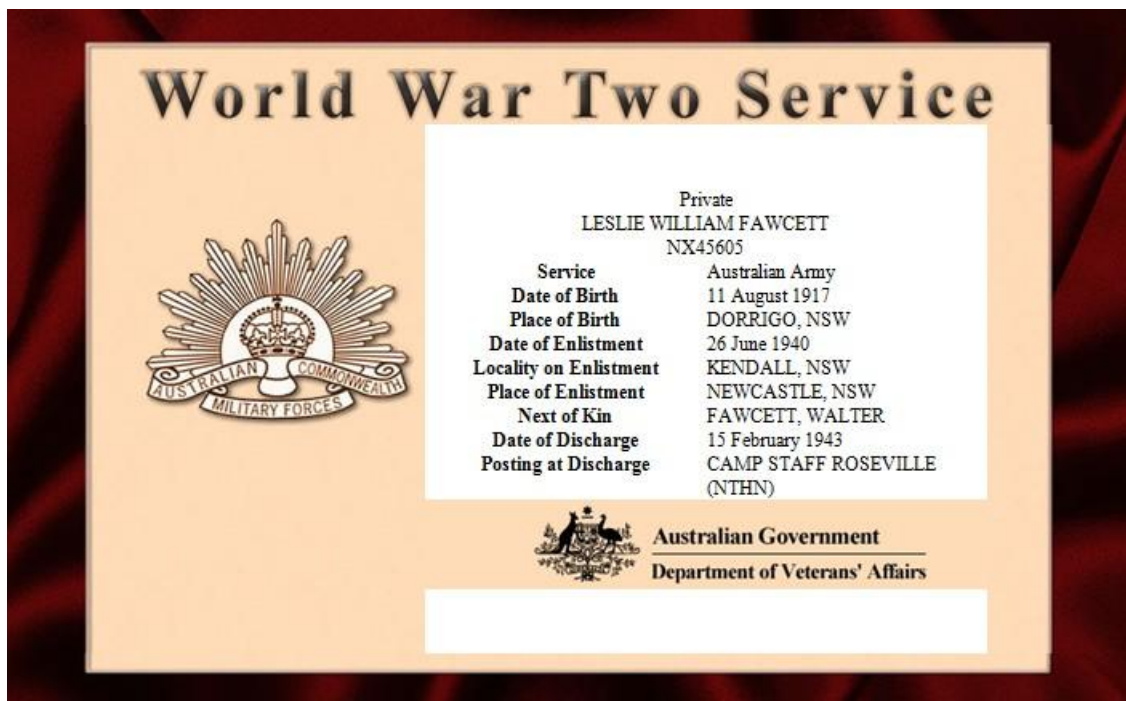
LESLIE WILLIAM FAWCETT
(1917 – 1996)



Leslie William Fawcett (1917)

Leslie William FAWCETT 11 Aug 1917 - Dorrigo, CC-NSW, Australia 11 Nov 1996 - Marriage: 1942 Spouse Margaret Katherine TODD Abt 1917 - NSW not known - Children		Parents Walter Robert Deller FAWCETT 7 May 1880 - Shoreditch, London, England 6 Nov 1952 - Hurstville NSW Australia Cora Louisa Carmela DIACONO 1 Jan 1878 - Camberwell, Surrey, England 1 Dec 1937 - Coffs Harbour NSW Australia
	Born	Parent Link
1 Noel FAWCETT 2 Allan FAWCETT		

Leslie William Fawcett was an Ambulance Office both during WWII and later in Civilian Life. He lived and worked in Wauchope, on the North Coast of New South Wales where he raised his family, retired, and passed away in 1996. He related some of his Lifetime and War Experiences after the Japanese Captured Rabaul. - to the local Newspaper and below, in photographic format is the record of interview.



Written by Pauline South for the Port Macquarie Express circa 1983/4.

Wauchope locals will be very familiar with the name Les Fawcett, for Les was their Ambulance Station Officer from 1947 to 1978.

In that time he saw a great many changes in the ambulance service in Wauchope, and of course the rest of the state.

Les was born in Dorrigo in 1917, the second youngest child in a family of six. Les grew up on the farm on which his family lived, going to school at Bellingen.

At the age of 14, he left school and went to work first on the family farm and then in the timber mills, often out in the bush.

Les might have had a totally different life, except that fate took a hand, and for the people of 3 Wauchope will be very grateful.

It was 1937, and young Les went to Sydney bent on joining the Police Force.

"There were all these exams and I passed them all with flying colours. They told me to go back to my job and I'd be called up in three months.

"Well, I went back to the timber mill I was working at, and that was on the Monday ... you wouldn't want to know ... on the Thursday a great five-ton log fell on me. It laid me out cold! I had a fractured ankle and lacerations, severe lacerations to the legs. It took me about six months to get out of hospital after that."

It crossed my mind that Les was lucky to get out of hospital at all, but he was going on with his story.

"In the meantime, the police called me up to join. I let them know what had happened and they said I could join when all was well again.

"As soon as I was well again, I went down to Sydney and of course they put me through the medical again. Well, that is ... this doctor told me to strip off and as soon as he saw the scars on my legs he just told me to get dressed again and I was sent home. No job!"

Les spent a further year off work, and then, of course war broke out. In early 1940 he joined the army.

JOINED UP

"First I was at Broadmeadow in Newcastle, then Liverpool in Sydney, where the 2/10 Ambulance was formed." He turned to me suddenly. "Did I tell you I

volunteered for the Ambulance?" I shook my head silently. "Well I did. Our last stop here was Bathurst. We trained up there for a while.

"Then one day 28 of us were picked out and given four day special leave. We were told nothing about where we going, just that we had to be back in camp on the fourth day.

"When we got back we were sent on a train to Sydney and from there we were loaded straight onto the 'Katoomba', still not knowing where we were going. It wasn't until we arrived in Brisbane that we were told where we were going.

"They were sending us to Rabaul. We called into Port Moresby and then straight onto Rabaul.

"Up there we were attached to L Forces, which was mainly the 2/22nd unit. All up, there were about 1300 troops - Aussies - in Rabaul. It was a pretty good life for about 11 months."

The Japanese invasion of Rabaul is now history, and a very impersonal history to many of us, but not to men like Les Fawcett.

The Japanese invasion started with a series of bombings, which left some 300 of the 1300 troops dead.

When the invasion itself began, the Australians, outnumbered 10-1 fought furiously to hold their positions, but were not only outnumbered, they were outdone by the superiority of Japanese weapons.

When defeat was imminent, the Australians retreated in small groups through the jungle, trying to make it back to Port Moresby, upholding the duty and tradition of avoiding personal surrender into enemy hands.

As near as statistics could come, there were, by this time, 300 of the original 1300 troops left. The fighting had taken a terrible toll on their lives. The Japanese casualty list was even higher. They had lost some 2000 of their men in the invasion battle.

SISTER JEAN

"There were six nurses at the hospital at Rabaul, and we all had to leave them there. I remember saying good-bye to them, not quite knowing how any of us would fare.

"I remember particularly one little sister, her name was Jean Anderson. I last saw Jean on the morning of 21st January, 1942. I heard that she had been taken prisoner and sent to Japan. I never saw her again. But do you know what?" and Les' eyes

lit up. "No what?" "I heard that she was going to be at the Anzac Day ceremonies in Nambucca Heads this year. She was you know, and I knew her as soon as I saw her. It had been forty years. We had a tremendous day. There was so much to talk about, and there wasn't time to talk about it all. I couldn't believe my eyes."

I listened quietly to Les' disjointed comments about his meeting Jean Anderson on April 25, 1982, and realised that there was a tremendous amount of emotion which no words could have expressed, and which were better left alone.

Les sat a while, lost in his memories of Anzac Day ... or so I thought. Suddenly he looked up at me. "You don't really want to hear all this do you?" he asked looking very vulnerable. I assured him that I really did, and that I believed that every life had a lesson to teach in its recounting.

"I hope you're right," was all he said before he went on.

"We had taken off in small groups as ordered, cutting across the island, hoping to get to the other side and find a way to Moresby. There were about 28 I think, in my group.

"It did not take us long to find out that the Japanese didn't take

prisoners. Well, not troops, anyway"

As Les talked I got the picture of groups of soldiers hacking a way through the very rough terrain, under impossible conditions, Japanese patrols also scattered through the jungle looking for them. And wherever they were found they were shot or bayoneted or beheaded.

Les' party began their escape in an old 1925 Oldsmobile. In this ute the party fled some 25 miles, and then they had to get out and walk.

"You wouldn't believe that the country," Les said, "It was as steep as hell, it rained and rained and the mosquitoes ... ooh the mosquitoes!

"We finally made it to Alder Bay. It took us 14 days, and in that time we walked about 150 miles.

"Just as we sighted the beach through the jungle there was this horrific noise. We all hit the deck in a hurry, I can tell you. We thought we were being shot at. But it turned out that this Japanese destroyer was shooting at a native trawler. They blew it right out of the water.

"When we finally got to Alder Bay, we had our first meal in 14 days. It was strange, after the first week or

so you cease to feel hungry. Anyway, the feed I had there was dry weet-bix and water.

"Those who got through, mostly the 2/22nd, met at Alder Bay, and from there we decided to split up again in small parties and go on. Major Palmer took the biggest party with him, and they set off a day ahead of the rest of us.

"Myself and Jack Holah went with six civilians, heading for Wide Bay. We finally came to this river, with Wide Bay on the other side of it. I had taken off my boots and was about to wade across when someone shouted 'pig'.

Immediately I grabbed my rifle and shot at the rustle in the bushes. Sure enough it was a pig, and I managed to kill it. We were all pretty hungry and so there and then we skinned the pig and sat down cooking it over a fire.

"While this was going on, another group of our people came upon us. We gave them some of the pig, and they headed across the river to cook and eat theirs.

"POOR BLIGHTERS"

"The poor blighters never got to eat the pig. A Japanese patrol got to them on the other side of the river and shot every one of them.

"We heard the noise, and naturally, we grabbed our pig and took off. We were about three miles further up before we were game to stop and eat the pig."

There was a funny tone in Les' voice, and I looked closely to see very big beautiful man with the hint of a tear in his eye.

"Sorry," he said unnecessarily. "Take your time", I said feeling somehow a little ashamed of myself.

After a short time he went on. "I had a lot of mates up there, and so many of them were killed. It was so cruel and brutal ... so senseless."

Why I felt ashamed came home to me. I had talked my sox off to get this man to tell me his story, and now I realized why men who have fought in various campaigns never wanted to talk about it. I was asking a man to rake through painful ashes, but why? I almost stopped the interview. And then my original reason for wanting to do this returned. So many of us so called adults, have no conception of the horrors of war. Not just the human carnage, but the emotional destruction it causes. So he went on.

Three days later, with the pig all gone, "It went absolutely rank within the first day," Les said. One

of the civilians and Les volunteered to go back where they had shot the pig and see if they couldn't find something there, another pig, maybe to eat.

"We got back to where we had almost crossed the river, and there was this guy sitting with his back to the tree. I thought he was dead at first, I went over to him, he was still alive, but badly wounded. He had a great hole in his back where he had been hit when a shell went off near him. It turned out he was one of the few survivors of the Tol massacre.

"I sent this chap with me and this wounded guy back to the party further up the river. I tried to find something to eat, but wasn't successful, so eventually I joined the party as well.

"We found an old plantation and there we got hold of some old pumpkin and grammar vines which we boiled up and ate. One of the party caught a small possum and ten of us shared it. Boy, it was the most rancid thing I had ever eaten. I remember saying that if ever I ate a dog, this is what it would taste like."

Les gave laugh that lightened the air, and I felt better. Australians are quite incredible. In the most melodramatic and crucial situations

they find time to laugh, if only at themselves.

Again and again as Les told us his story, their escape unfurled as a precession of miraculous circumstance. On several occasions they missed Japanese patrols by inches.

"On this occasion" Les was in lighter spirits as he went on, "we came to a tiny village. The natives told us that we could go up this little hill to the hut at the top and there we could get some sleep for the night. There were some Aussies there already.

"We were just too exhausted to be bothered climbing up the hill and decided to spend the night right where we were. We went a few yards into the jungle, propped up against a tree and were sound asleep in no time.

"At dawn next day we heard shots. The Japanese had crept up in the night, surrounded the hut and all our blokes in there were killed. They shot them all. They had to walk a few yards from us to get there, and there we were, sound asleep and didn't know they had gone by."

Les' party finally made it to Winung, and from there they were to go on to Drina.

CATHOLIC MISSION

Along the way they came to a Catholic Mission which was run by Father Harris, Catholic Priest.

"He couldn't help us much. He didn't have much to give us, but he gave us what food he could and we kept going. We learned later that the Japs killed him for helping the Australian soldiers."

When Les and his party arrived at Drina, they decided to try and get hold of a native canoe and see if they could go on by canoe.

"I was down near the edge of the river looking over these canoes when this native started kicking up a commotion. I looked up, and there up the river a few hundred yards away was a Japanese launch, headed straight for me.

"I took off in a hell of a hurry, I can tell you."

Hidden in the bushes, waiting for the launch to go by, Les wondered what the hell it was all about.

"We had wandered up and down the jungle, turning back on our tracks again and again, trying to avoid the Japs. Sometimes I don't think we really believed we were going anywhere, just avoiding capture and trying to stay alive.

"I'd even forgotten what we were fighting for. I had malaria, and it gave me a bad trot almost every day. When we left Rabaul after the invasion I weighed 15 stone. When we finally got to safety I was 7½ stone.

"Anyway there we sat huddled together, just waiting. Next thing this native came through the bushes to us, and in his hand he had a piece of paper with my name on it.

"I couldn't believe it, I thought it was some sort of a trick. But the native assured me in his pigeon english that the man on the launch had given to him and the man was definitely an Aussie.

"He managed to convince me, so I took the chance, and sure enough, they were Aussies. It was a party of blokes who had been sent along the coast to pick up any Aussies who had made it through.

"These natives were incredible, you know." And Les digressed as quickly as that. "Apparently there was one of our chaps about 60 miles up the coast with a broken leg. He had a mate with him who had refused to leave him.

"Now, these natives reckoned that they could go up there, get these blokes, and bring them back. It was blowing a gale, horribly rough

weather. But off went two of the natives in one of their little canoes, and back they came next morning, and sure enough, they had the chap with the broken leg and his mate. I couldn't believe my eyes. I never would have believed they could do it ... Jap patrols and all."

"The 'Laura Barda', normally crewed by four men, rescued 152 Australian troops, taking them safely to Port Moresby.

"It was fantastic. There we all were, as crowded as you could imagine, all across the decks, hanging off the railings, anywhere a man could fit there he was. We literally couldn't move for the four days it took us to get to Moresby.

"At last the burdened launch sailed into Port Moresby harbour, and from there the men were immediately evacuated onto the 'MacDhui'. Four hours after arriving in Port Moresby they were on their way to Cairns.

"Those blokes on the 'MacDhui' were great. They did for us blokes every mortal thing they possibly could. They cut our hair, lent us razors, shaved us. If you wanted a schooner, they'd go and find you one from somewhere. They were fantastic to us.

"It was crazy in a way. After we shaved and got a hair cut, no-one knew who the other guy was. We only knew each other in our dirty hairy state. Guys were running around saying to the best mate 'who the bloody hell are you?' It was really funny."

Of the 1300 Australian troops in Rabaul, 150 escaped and lived to tell the tale. These men suffered 77 days of incredible hardship before finally arriving at Cairns.

Les Fawcett spent 8 months convalescing from his experience in wartime New Guinea. When he was released from hospital, he weighed 9 stone. The army decided that they had no further use for him, and he was discharged.

On July 1, 1942 Les married his wife Margaret, whom he had met before going to New Guinea. Together they moved to Taree where Les worked 3½ years with the Manning District Ambulance before being sent to Wauchope as Station Officer.

"You know these blokes on the 'MacDhui', his sudden return to 'history' startled me. "Yes" I nodded. "They couldn't have done more for us. And you know, a couple of weeks later they returned to Moresby and the Japs blew them

apart. Sand the 'MacDhui', and they were all killed. It just doesn't seem fair."

By this time I had become convinced that nothing about war was fair.

"How was life in Wauchope," I asked quickly. "It has been very good to me." Les nodded. "It has been very interesting and rewarding." Les snapped happily back into the present. "Wauchope has been good to me and good to the Ambulance Service as well. When I first came here there was just a garage with a dirt floor and one old ambulance. Now there is a residence for the Officer and a well equipped station with two modern ambulances. The Wauchope people have done all that."

Were there any interesting stories attached to your years with the ambulance?" I asked. Les laughed loudly. I was delighted to see that the sadness so prominent earlier in the conversation, was attached only to the war years and their memories.

"There are many interesting stories. Some funny, some sad, others very rewarding. But every one of them is interesting in its own way, none more than any others.

"You know I have delivered about forty kids in this town." I laughed. "No," he shook his head merrily. "I have you know. Some of them quite grown up by now. I've been called out to many accidents, some of them tragic, others ended on a happier note. Sometimes I felt very helpless, like all I could do was get them to help as quickly as possible, but at least that was something."

I began to understand why Les Fawcett had stayed with work where he was in constant contact with the sick and dying. With a service such as the ambulance he was at least able to do something for those who were in pain and suffering, where for so many days he stood by helplessly and had to watch mates die from heat, exhaustion, hunger and sheer brutal murder. I asked him if this was the reason he stayed with the Ambulance Service.

"There could be something in that." he nodded slowly. ■

The following, marked Page 5 appears to be from another interview.

wharf which was covered with bushes to hide her.

The skipper's instructions were to leave that night, so about 3 o'clock a severe swell came up, so he decided to leave.

Mrs Yencke and another foreign woman were first on board followed by married men with children and so I was one of the last when we went on board. They said, "You three in that space", which was about six by four, "the one who can't get in stops here." We all managed.

Two planes flew over. One was a Catalina checking on us. Father Harris refused to come, he said his place was with his flock. The sun broke through as the ship pulled out. I can still see the good priest waving to us in his white dress. Later Father Harris was executed by the Japs for helping us.

One soldier died the morning we left. The ship stopped early next morning and they put another over the side, he died through the night.

Just after we were at sea the sun was setting, I looked out to the right and saw the *Mascot* going over a wave, I never saw it again. The *Laurabada* was a two deck affair and those underneath were copping it from those above, who were very sick, after being so long without food.

It rained like hell the first night, we were also packed in like sardines in a tin. We were wet, dirty, sick but happy. I don't remember much about the trip in the *Laurabada* or coming into Moresby. We went straight on board the *Macdhui*.

My only possession was a pair of Chinese trousers. Seventy seven days in the bush certainly played havoc with us. The crew on the *Macdhui* gave us

everything to cut our hair, also razors for our beards, hot baths, and excellent food. I did not realise how thin I was, until I was sitting on the bed and was able to put my hands around the thickest part of my leg. So I went and weighed myself and was surprised, seven stone eight ... I was over fifteen stone.

When we first went aboard the *Macdhui* we all had long hair and a moustache which got in our mouth. **We were all strangers to each other, we only met in the jungle and we all had beards and long hair.** When we got our hair cut and shave nobody knew who was who, it was really funny. One young lady I was writing to in Rabaul, she was only a pen friend, changed her address. The Jap got a 10 inch by 8 inch photo of a beautiful young lady. After three months I forgot her address. (Her name was Majorie James). So she would think I had got killed as there were very few survivors.

We pulled in at Cairns, the first stop, they kept us at sea for a couple of weeks. The Red Cross met us and gave us shoes and clothes. The people gave us everything, free beer and all free passes to the pictures and the dances.

Next Townsville, they wouldn't let us in the dances or pictures, they said we were too ragged.

Next Sydney, we pulled into the wharf and went for a walk, **no-one mentioned us in the papers.** Next was to the Showground and given new clothes and a months leave.

After several trips to the hospital and three months leave I was discharged from the army and given a 10% disability pension.

I had picked up to 9½ stone by then. Some time later I got a job with the Manning District Ambulance in which I stayed for 36 years

This document was prepared using Microsoft Word for Windows at Timbertown Computers

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This is an account by Les Fawcett of his experiences after the Japanese captured Rabaul during World War II.

McKAY/MACKAY/COOK

		Parents	
Other Marriages... Donald MACKAY (1769 - 1825) Ref: Daley-Scholler m. 1998 Abt 1769 - Balinloch, Sutherland Scotland Abt 1825 - Scotland Marriage: Abt 1789 Spouse Christena MACKAY		Unknown Unknown	
Children		Born	Parent Link
1	Murdoch MACKAY	1789	
2	Angus MACKAY	29 Jan 1795	

Donald Mackay b. 1769 married (1) Christina Mackay.

		Parents	
Other Marriages... Donald MACKAY (1769 - 1825) Ref: Daley-Scholler m. 1998 Abt 1769 - Balinloch, Sutherland Scotland Abt 1825 - Scotland Marriage: 10 Feb 1795 Spouse Jannetta (Janet) MCLEOD Abt 1769 - Lettermore, Scotland		Unknown Unknown	
Children		Born	Parent Link
1	Elizabeth (Betsy) MACKAY	1800	
2	Robert MACKAY	1802	
3	George MACKAY	1803	
4	Alexander MACKAY	1810	
5	MaryAnne MACKAY	Abt 1814	
6	Angus MACKAY	29 Jan 1795	

Donald b. 1869 married, (2) Jannetta (Janet) McLeod of Lettermore.

		Parents	
John MACKAY 5 Nov 1837 - Sutherlandshire Scotland 16 Apr 1894 - Bucrabindinni Marriage: 4 Oct 1860 Spouse Johanna MACKAY 1842 - Durness, Scotland 3 Apr 1912 - Bowraville NSW Australia		Alexander MACKAY 10 Mar 1810 - Midtown, Scotland 5 Feb 1884 - Polo Creek NSW Barbara MACKAY 5 Dec 1812 - Skinnett, Scotland 18 Aug 1895 - Polo Creek NSW	
Children		Born	Parent Link
1	Etizabeth MACKAY	19 Apr 1860	
2	Barbara MACKAY	18 Oct 1861	
3	Alexander MACKAY	24 Dec 1863	
4	Arthur William Sheriff MACKAY	17 Nov 1866	
5	Mary MACKAY	1869	
6	Donald Robert MACKAY	25 Jun 1871	
7	Hugh Adam MACKAY	1873	
8	John Ellis MACKAY	1875	

**Their Son, Alexander b. 1810 married Barbara Mackay of Skinnett, Scotland. b. 1812
 Their son, John Mackay b. 1837, married his cousin, Johanna Mackay b. 1842 Durness.**

Elizabeth (Betsy) MACKAY 1800 - Scotland 21 Sep 1862 - NSW Australia Marriage: 1826 Spouse		Parents Donald MACKAY (1769 - 1825) Ref: Daley-Scholler m. 1998 Abt 1769 - Bainloch, Sutherland Scotland Abt 1825 - Scotland Jannetta (Janet) MCLEOD Abt 1769 - Lettermore, Scotland	
William MACKAY Abt 1800 - Durness, Scotland 17 Apr 1876 - Pola Creek NSW Australia			
Children		Born	Parent Link
1	Mary (Mollie) MACKAY	1830	
2	Donald MACKAY	1832	
3	Mitchell Scobie MACKAY	1834	
4	William MACKAY	Abt 1836	
5	Alexander MACKAY	1836	
6	Johanna MACKAY	1842	
7	John Scobie (Curly Jack) MACKAY	1844	

**Donald & Janet's daughter, Elizabeth (Betsey) b. 1800, married William Mackay.
A blood relationship not established. More a coincidence of surnames.**

Johanna MACKAY 1842 - Durness, Scotland 3 Apr 1912 - Bowral NSW Australia Marriage: 4 Oct 1860 Spouse		Parents William MACKAY Abt 1800 - Durness, Scotland 17 Apr 1876 - Pola Creek NSW Australia Elizabeth (Betsy) MACKAY 1800 - Scotland 21 Sep 1862 - NSW Australia	
John MACKAY 5 Nov 1837 - Sutherlandshire Scotland 16 Apr 1894 - Buarabindinni			
Children		Born	Parent Link
1	Elizabeth MACKAY	19 Apr 1860	
2	Barbara MACKAY	18 Oct 1861	
3	Alexander MACKAY	24 Dec 1863	
4	Arthur William Sheriff MACKAY	17 Nov 1866	
5	Mary MACKAY	1869	
6	Donald Robert MACKAY	25 Jun 1871	
7	Hugh Adam MACKAY	1873	
8	John Ellis MACKAY	1875	
9	Angus (adopted) MACKAY	8 Dec 1876	
10	William (Gilliwang) MACKAY	1878	
11	George Mitchell MACKAY	1880	
12	Elsie Effie (adopted) MACKAY	1892	

William and Elizabeth's daughter, Johanna Mackay b. 1842 married her cousin, John Mackay b. 1837.

Their daughter, Elizabeth b. 1860, married William Cook b. 1850 and their 8th child, Elizabeth Elvie Johanna Amelia Cook b. 1895 married her first cousin, George Alexander Mackay b. 1891.

Other Marriages...		Parents	
Elizabeth Elvie Johanna Amelia COCK 19 Oct 1895 - Buccrabininni, NSW, Australia 29 Sep 1984 - (as Harris) Westmead NSW		William COOK 7 Aug 1850 - Kempsey, NSW Australia 3 Jun 1935 - Kempsey NSW Australia	
Marriage: 24 Apr 1912		Elizabeth MACKAY 19 Apr 1860 - Rollands Plains NSW Australia 15 Sep 1911 - At Sea Rosedale Tragedy	
Spouse			
George Alexander MACKAY 24 Aug 1891 - Bowraville NSW Australia 10 Jul 1952 - Coffs Harbour NSW			
Children		Born	Parent Link
1	Martha Elizabeth MACKAY	10 Jun 1912	
2	George William MCKAY (uncle Bill)	5 Jul 1914	
3	Violet Maude MACKAY	7 Dec 1915	
4	Roy Herbert MACKAY	29 Dec 1917	

All of the above now deceased.



It is understood that this is an original Mackay Home in Scotland.



**Our Grandparents. George Alexander Mackay b. 24th August 1891 at Bowraville NSW d. 10th July 1952, Coffs Harbour and Elizabeth Elvie Johanna Amelia – *nee* Cook b. 19th October 1895. Buccrabindinni d. 29th September 1984 NSW – Divorced – each remarried. Elvie is buried under the surname Harris.
Our Grandparents George and Elvie were first cousins.**



Grandfather George Mackay 2nd marriage to Bridget Vera McNamara
LR Neal McNamara, father of next, Bridget Vera (aka Vera) MacNamara, George Mackay.
Three children.

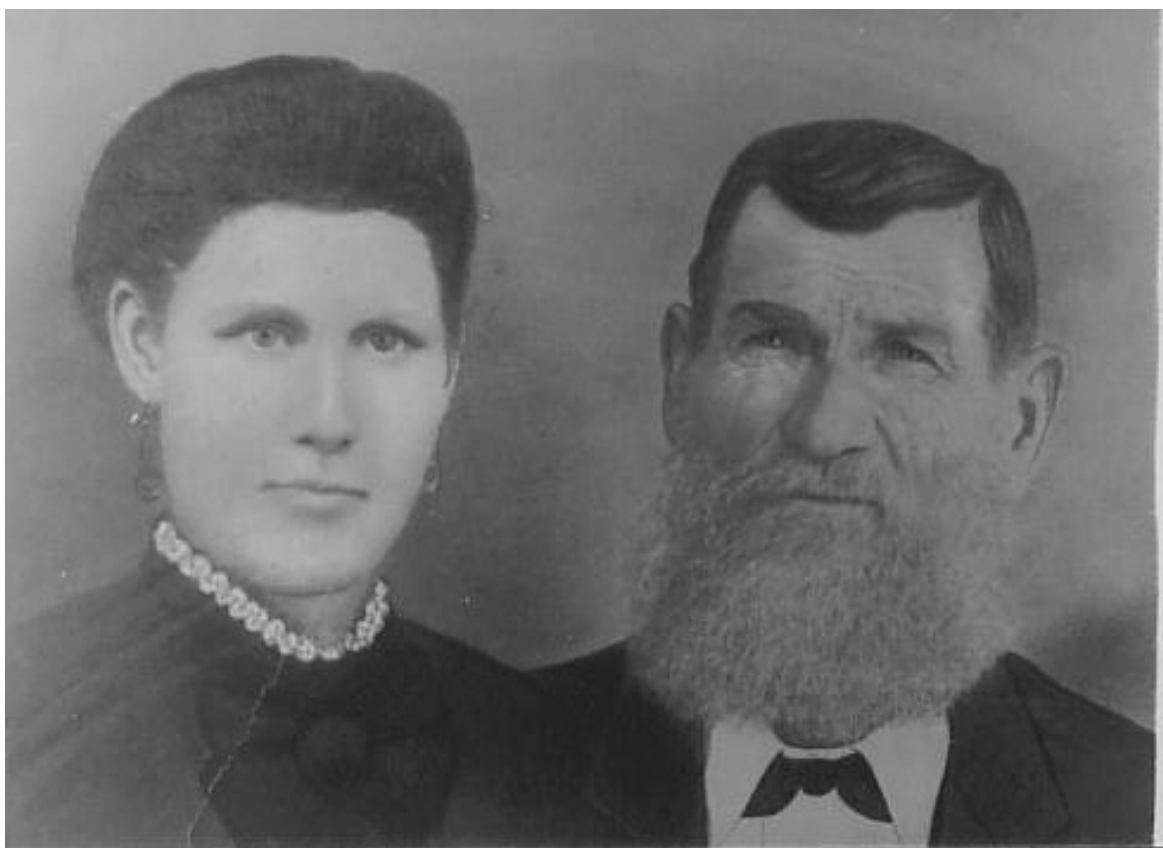
Vera Eileen (aka Eileen) Mackay b.? married Michael Nolan

Edna Jean Mackay married Gene Binskin

Alexander Mackay - no information

Step-mother Vera and half siblings to Martha, William (Bill), Roy and Violet

William Cook married 1st, to Elizabeth Gilbert – There were six children, Elizabeth, Jane, Marion, Sara, Mary and George.



Above: Our Great Grandparents, married 16th April 1883 –

William(Billie) Cook b. 7th August 1850 Glenbrook NSW d. 3rd June 1935 and Elizabeth *nee* Mackay b. 19th April 1860 at Rollands Plains. Elizabeth died in the “Rosedale” tragedy 15th September 1911. William Cook above was the son of William Cook Snr. and Anne Kerns.

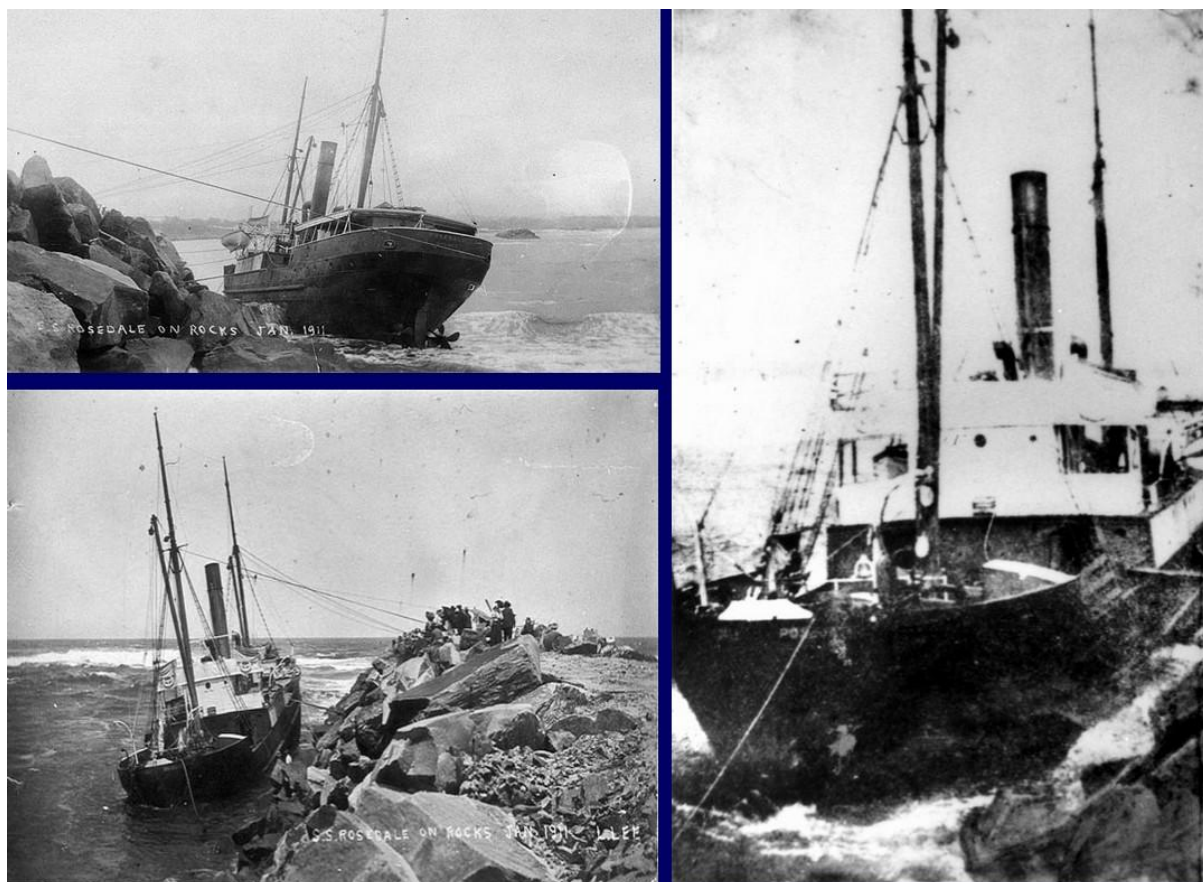
10 Surviving Children; John, Emmanuel (Hugh), William, Elizabeth Elvie (Nanna), Arthur Arden(aka Mick), Bertha, Cora, Donald and Gladys.

After the “Rosedale” tragedy the younger children, Bertha ,Cora ,Donald & Gladys were dispersed amongst other families. The older children could take care of themselves.

Other Marriages...	
William COOK	
7 Aug 1850 - Kempsey, NSW Australia	
3 Jun 1935 - Kempsey NSW Australia	
Marriage:	
Spouse	
Elizabeth GILBERT	
Children	
<	1 Elizabeth, COOK
<	2 Jane COOK
<	3 Marion COOK
<	4 Sara COOK
<	5 Mary COOK
<	6 George COOK

So as not to confuse: William Cook had a first wife, Elizabeth Gilbert, and children. These were half siblings to the second marriage below where the 8th born child became our Grandmother.

Children		Born	Parent Link
1	Edith M. COOK	1884	
2	Martha COOK	1885	
3	John W COOK	1885	
4	John Alexander COOK	24 Jan 1887	
5	Emmanuel William COOK	22 Nov 1889	
6	Hugh Adam, Phindleter COOK	12 Jul 1890	
7	William Herbert COOK	18 Jun 1894	
8	Elizabeth Elvie Johanna Amelia COOK	19 Oct 1895	
10	Bertha Wilfamina COOK	24 Mar 1898	
11	Cora Irene COOK	10 Jun 1899	
12	Donald Ross COOK	1 May 1901	
13	Gladys Mabel COOK	23 May 1902	



The “TS Rosedale” stranded on the Bellinger Breakwater in 1911. Refloated. 10 months later she claimed the lives of four family members

Elizabeth Cook *nee* Mackay (our Great Grandmother and daughter of John and Johanna Mackay), Mary Murphy *nee* Mackay b. 1898, (daughter of John and Johanna Mackay) and William Mackay (son of John and Johanna Mackay) with his wife of six weeks, Ethel Flockhart, managed to obtain berths on the *TS Rosedale* due to sail for Sydney from Nambucca the night of the 15th September 1911. This was in response to a telegram delivered to the wrong Mackay household in the valley

where they lived. It read “Come Quickly Mother dying”. The wrong family members boarded the ship.

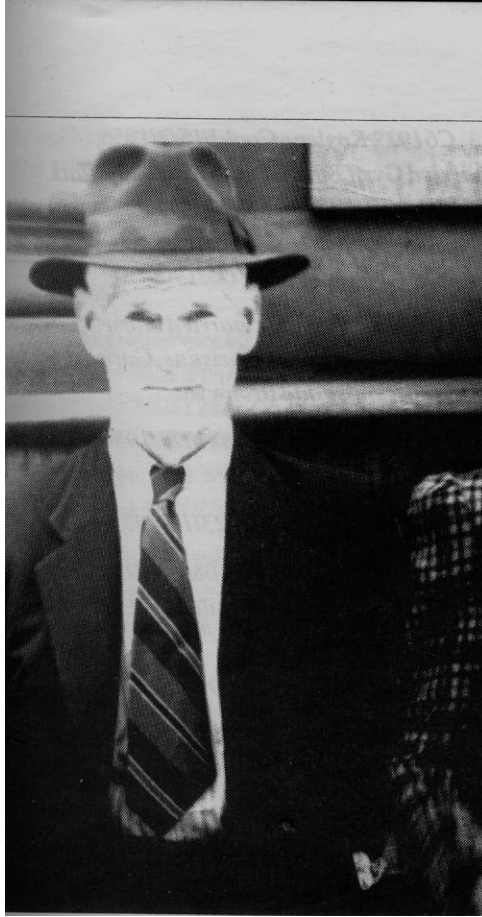
After taking on freight then passengers, the *Rosedale* left the pier and headed into an approaching storm.

The freight consisted of timber girders and sleepers, potatoes, oranges, maize and some livestock. Perhaps the vessel was poorly loaded – maybe the cargo shifted; to this day, no one will ever really know. The *Rosedale* never got past Smokey Cape lighthouse and according the lighthouse keeper for the day, the ship was six miles off course, steaming towards the open sea.

Many questions were asked much later. Did she head out to sea to ride out the thirty souls on board, would have been battered down too and had no chance of survival. See full details of the tragedy at the end of this typescript.



**William Mackay died at sea on the “*Rosedale*”
He had married Ethel Flockhart.**



John Alexander Cook was the first child of William an Elizabeth. b. 24 January 1887 he married Agnes Smith. Eight Children: John, Alan, Herbert, Louise, Edie, Flo. Ages and Colin.

No Photo of...

Emmanual William Cook, Second child. B. 22nd November 1889 – he never married.



Hugh Adam Cook b. 12th July, 1890 was the third child. He married Dorothy Aston. There were four children, Rae, Kevin, William and Leon.



William Herbert J. Cook. b. 18th June, 1894. The fourth child. He married Olive Jenner. Children, Shirley, Lorna, and Graham. I knew him a Uncle Herb. (This family lived in Timmsvale near Coffs Harbour. Gordon, Geoff and Walda knew them very well, they were known as Uncle Herb and Aunty Ollie.)

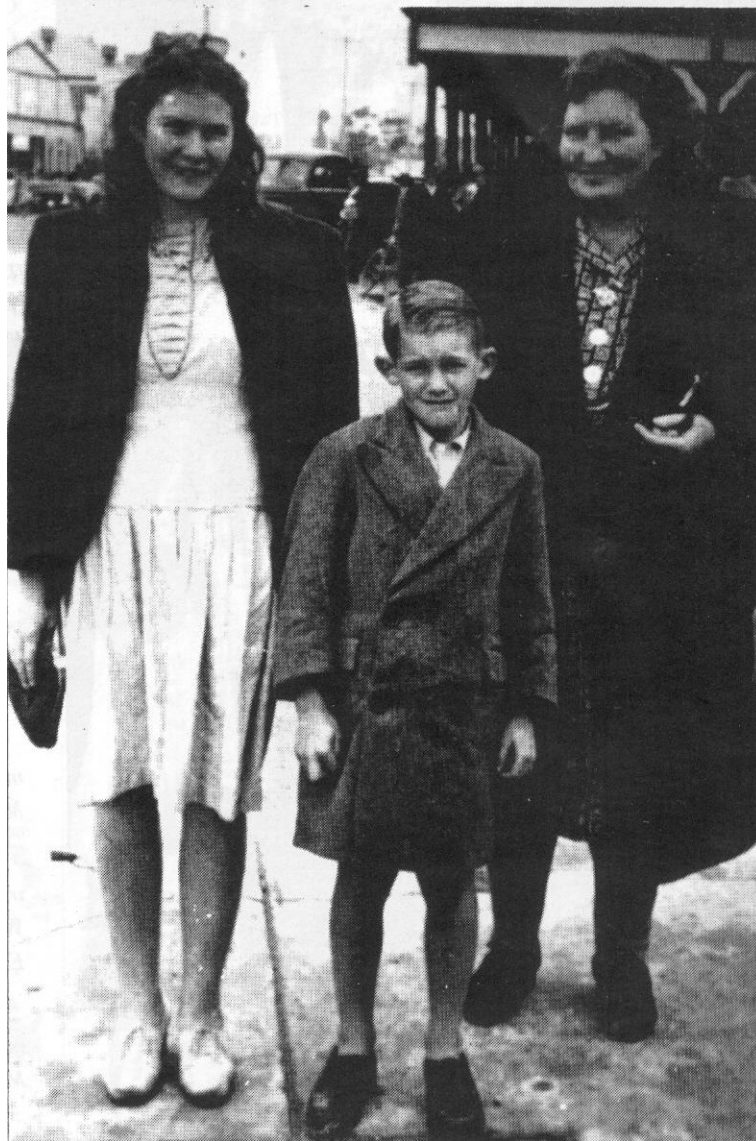


**Elvie and her brother – William Herbert Cook.
Nanna & Herb Cook**



Elvie (Nanna) and Charlie Harris.

Nanna was buried as Elizabeth Elvie Harris



**Olive Cook nee Jenner with Shirley and Graham Cook.
I have no Photo of Lorna Cook. I last saw her in Sawtell, south of Coffs Harbour with her
husband Arthur Shaw and two daughters in 1974.**

No Photo of...

Arthur Aden (Mick) Cook b. 10th December 1897, the sixth child. He married Edith Grace. Three children, Ernest, Vincent and Marion.

Of interest. Mick married Edith Grace Burt and had 1 child, Ron (Ronald?) Burt, who married Jenny? and had a daughter, Emily – b. 1988



Bertha Williamina Cook b. 24th March, 1898, She was the seventh child. She married twice (1) Percy Cook (2) Jack Baulks. She had 1 child, Evelyn Grace Cook b. 28th January, 1916. As a child we knew her as Aunt Bertha.



Cora Irene Cook b. 10th June 1899. She was the eighth child. She married Christopher Pearson..two Children, Betty, and Beryl. We knew her as Aunt Cora.



Donald Ross Cook b. 1 May 1901 The ninth child. He married Ethel Blinco and had seven children, Florence, William, Leslie, Dorothy, Gladys, Valery, Ronald, Gladys, Clement. We knew him as Uncle Ross.

No Photo of...

Gladys Mabel Cook b. 23 May 1902 was the tenth child. She married Gordon Burton of Melbourne: four children, Wallace, Olive, Jean, and Kenneth. I remember my mother referring to her as Aunty Glad.



Our Great Great Grandparents

**John Mackay b. Sutherlandshire, Scotland 5th November 1837
 d. 16th April 1894 and Johanna Mackay *nee* Mackay – b. 1842, Durness, Scotland. d. 3rd April
 1912 at Bowraville NSW.**

**In this instance Johanna’s maiden name was also Mackay. They were cousins.
 With the loss of three of her children aboard the “*Rosedale*” it was said she died of a broken
 heart.**

John MACKAY 5 Nov 1837 - Sutherlandshire Scotland 16 Apr 1894 - Bucrabindinni		Alexander MACKAY 10 Mar 1810 - Midtown, Scotland 5 Feb 1884 - Polo Creek NSW	
Marriage: 4 Oct 1860		Barbara MACKAY 5 Dec 1812 - Skinnett, Scotland 18 Aug 1895 - Polo Creek NSW	
Spouse Johanna MACKAY 1842 - Durness, Scotland 3 Apr 1912 - Bowraville NSW Australia			
Children		Born	Parent Link
1	Elizabeth MACKAY	19 Apr 1860	
2	Barbara MACKAY	18 Oct 1861	
3	Alexander MACKAY	24 Dec 1863	
4	Arthur William Sheriff MACKAY	17 Nov 1866	
5	Mary MACKAY	1869	
6	Donald Robert MACKAY	25 Jun 1871	
7	Hugh Adam MACKAY	1873	
8	John Ellis MACKAY	1875	
9	Angus (adopted) MACKAY	8 Dec 1876	
10	William (Gilliwang) MACKAY	1878	
11	George Mitchell MACKAY	1880	
12	Elsie Effie (adopted) MACKAY	1892	



John and Johanna's Grave.

John and Johanna Mackay are buried in an iron framed grave, side by side at Bowerville. A headstone marks John's grave but after the *Rosedale* there was virtually no one to put a stone on Johanna's grave. In recent years it is believed this remiss has been rectified.



**Our 3 x Great Grand Parents: Alexander Mackay b. Midtown, Scotland 10th March 1810 d. 5 February 1884 Polo Creek NSW
 And Barbara Mackay b. Skinnett, Scotland 5th December 1812 d. 18th August 1895 Polo Creek. – came to Australia on the *James Moran*.
 Again, both surnames were Mackay. Photography as a usable process was available as early as 1820. Many were on glass slides but the earliest may have been on tin.**

Children		Born	Parent Link
1	John MACKAY	5 Nov 1837	
2	Donald MACKAY	28 May 1839	
3	Margaret MACKAY	20 Jul 1842	
4	Alexander MACKAY	23 Sep 1844	
5	Elizabeth MACKAY	20 Jan 1846	
6	Janet MACKAY	20 Jan 1846	
7	Mary MACKAY	6 Jan 1849	
8	Robert MACKAY	20 Nov 1850	
9	Marion MACKAY	28 Oct 1852	
10	Hugh Adam MACKAY	1 Jun 1854	

Parents	
Unknown	
Unknown	

Alexander MACKAY 10 Mar 1810 - Midtown, Scotland 5 Feb 1884 - Polo Creek NSW	
Marriage:	
Spouse	
Barbara MACKAY 5 Dec 1812 - Skinnett, Scotland 18 Aug 1895 - Polo Creek NSW	



This photograph of Angus Mackay – was on tin.

He is a half brother to our ancestor, Donald Mackay and was an Army drummer whose Regiment arrived too late to participate in the Battle of Waterloo 18th June 1815. He was born 29th January 1795.

For family perspective, his father was Donald Mackay

b. 1769 d. ca 1825 Scotland. His Mother Christina Mackay b. ca 1769.

His father married secondly Jannetta (Janet) McLeod b. 10th February 1795. – this second marriage leads to our family which came to Australia on the James Moran in 1839.

It is this man's family that is related to Kerry Scholler, nee Daley, wife of Walda's son, Adam.

Donald Mackay was a 4 x Great Grandfather.



Our Great Grandparents

**Alexander Mackay b. Rollands Plains NSW 24th December 1863 d. 25th June 1918 at Wilson
River NSW**

**With Martha Mackay *nee* Parkins b. Mudgee, NSW 1871 d. March 1935 at Bellingen NSW.
Married ca 1890**

**Parents of our Grandfather George Mackay who married his first cousin Elizabeth Elvie
Johanna Amelia Cook.**

Children of Alexander Mackay and Martha Parkins:

Children of Alexander Mackay and Martha Parkins:

George Alexander. b 24.8.1891 Bowraville d. 10.7.1952 Coffs Harbour. m. 1st. Elizabeth Elva Johanna Amelia Cook – (see further on) m. 2nd Bridget Vera MacNamara – three children, Vera Eileen, Edna Jean and Alexander (Our Grandfather)

Albert E. b. 1893 – Kempsey NSW – No known history

Martha Edna b. 1897 (Edna)- Kempsey d. 1960 m. at Bowerville in 1921 - Robert A. Lawrence b. 1890 d. 1960

Edith J. b. 1898/9 Bowerville NSW – No known history

Ivy P. b. 1902 Kempsey NSW d. 1985 m. at Stockton NSW 1920 Robert V Lunney b. 1895 Newcastle d. 1975

Ena b. 1913 West Kempsey d. 1980 m. 1930 Lawrence Rupert Lack b. 1909 Stanway, Holcombe, Wiltshire UK. d. 27.7.1979

Leonard Lionel Clement b 14.2.1895/1894? Repton/Bowerville NSW

d. 11.7.1954/1956? m. 1916 Repton NSW Ann May Buckman. b. 1896 Nambucca NSW d. 1974
Father: Benjamin Buckman. Mother: Nancy McKay

William C. b. 1904 Kempsey NSW d. 1905



**Martha Elizabeth Mackay with her two brothers
George William (Bill) and Roy Herbert ca 1918.
There was also a sister, Violet Maude.**

This Photograph does have some significance in more than siblings together. It was around this time their mother put them into Foster Care. She kept Violet with her. This then was a bone for contention between the siblings and their mother, Elvie. It went on for years. The very last photograph of this presentation says it all.



**Martha Elizabeth Mackay b. Kempsey NSW 10th June 1912
d. Cleveland Qld. 2nd May 1992**



**Walter Robert Fawcett Jr. Born UK 30th July 1907
d. Sydney NSW 13th August 1968
married Martha Elizabeth Mackay 23rd July 1934
Walter was the second son of Walter Robert Deller Fawcett b. UK 7th May 1880 d. 6th November
1952 and Cora Louisa Carmela Fawcett *nee* Diacono b. UK 1st January 1878 d. 1st December
1937**



**Martha Mackay with her two brothers, L: Roy Herbert and R: George William (Bill). 1935 -
Bucca Creek (Near Coffs Harbour NSW)**



**Gordon Walda & Geoffrey Fawcett
28th August 1942**



Geoff's 21st Birthday, CWA Rooms, Coffs Harbour, 1959. Both Gordon and I were living in Sydney at the time and came home for the occasion. I believe this to be the last photograph of the family together.



**Gordon married Magdalene Dorothea Eva (Dorothea) Becker b. Munster, Westphalia, Germany, 1932. They married in Alice Springs NT in 1969
They had two children. Mary Louise b. – d. 1972
and Nicoletta Elizabeth b. Germany, 1976 Gordon and Dorothea lived in Germany for some 10 years, then returned to Alice Springs to live.**



Gordon, Dorothea and daughter, Nicoletta.



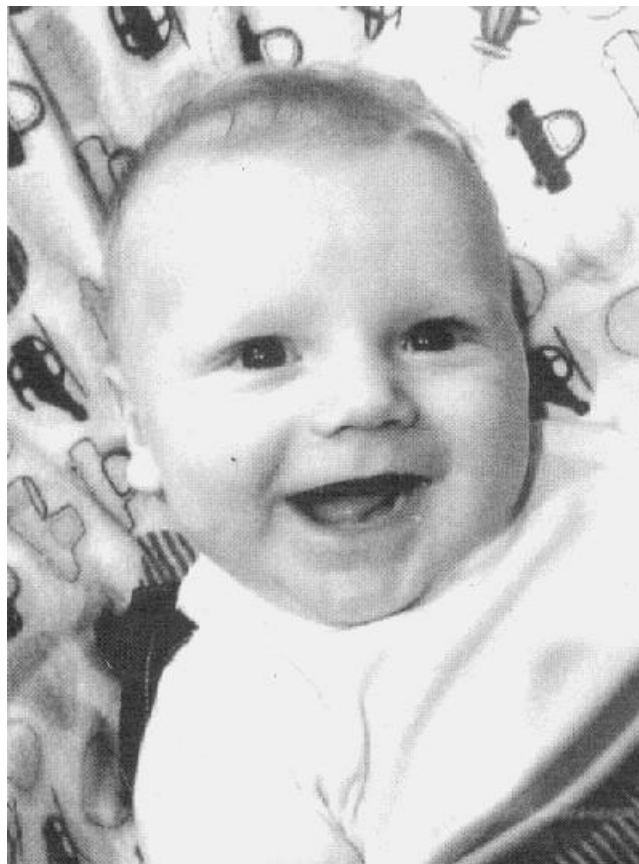
Nicoletta Fawcett married Matthew Allen in Darwin - 2008



Matt and Nicoletta with new baby, Stella Eva Allen b. 2011 Darwin. NT



Stella Eva Allen – b. 2011 Darwin NT



Miles Garry Allen b. Darwin, NT - 2014



New Addition to the Fawcett/Allen Family. Miles Garry,



**Geoffrey Fawcett married Sandra Willmott in Rabaul, on the Island of New Britain, TPNG on
1962 Divorced 1971.**

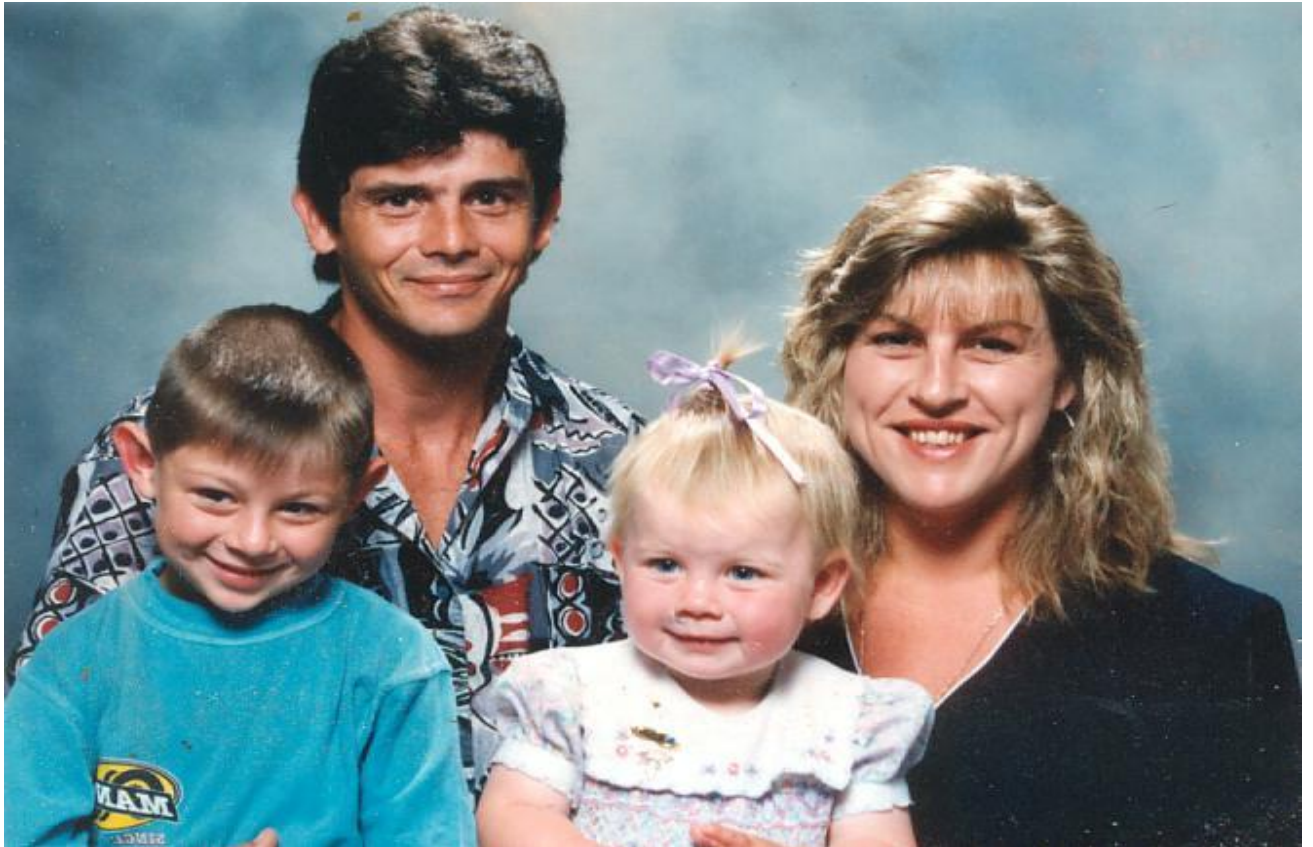
**They had two children: Walter Richard. b. 1963
Estelle Elizabeth b. 1965**



This photo was taken in Mudjee ca 1967 with Dad, (Walter) Geoff, Walda, Sandra – and their two children, Wally (Walter) and Estelle. They divorced in 1971, and Sandra took the children.

Geoff did not see them again until well into their adult years.

Wally (Dad) died on 13 Aug 1968, and to my knowledge these would be about one of the last photographs of him.

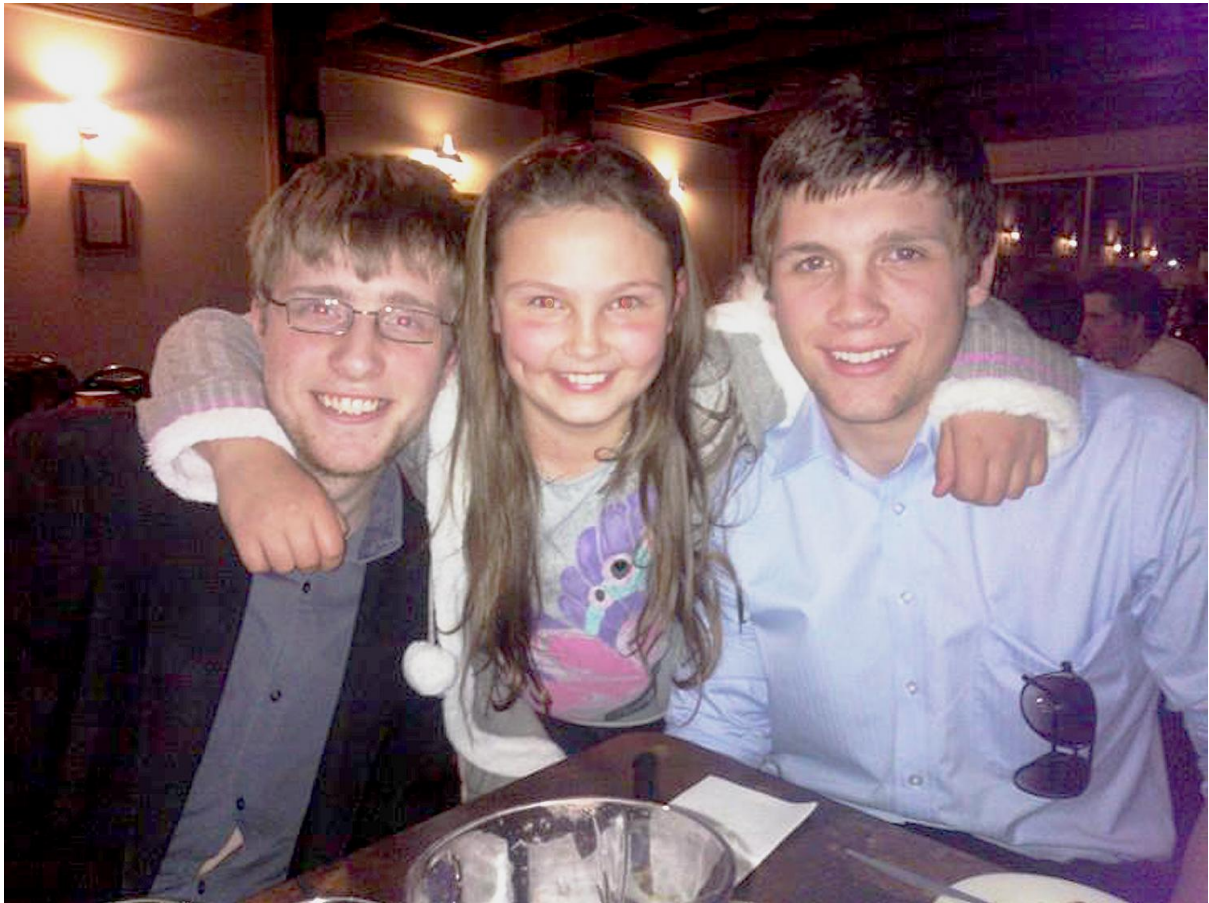


**Walter Fawcett with his wife Karen Drew.
Children are Wade and Ashleigh Rose Fawcett.**

Geoff did not see his children for 40 years. A measure by which we know very little of their families and their lives.



Estelle Fawcett married Andrew Ivory. There are three children. Robert b. 1992, Stephen b. 1996 and Cassandra b. 2003



Estelle Ivory's (nee Fawcett) Children:
LR: Robert, Cassandra and Stephen Ivory.



Geoff reunited with his children – Walter & Estelle - 2006.

Geoff always wore glasses. The patch in this instance is due to an accident which blinded him in that eye.



Geoff married 2nd. Elizabeth (Betty) Henry b. 1954 m. 1971



Geoff's second family LR: Anthony b. 1975. Vanessa b. 1974

Sharon b. 1976 and Malcolm b. 1973



Geoff, Betty & Family

LR: Sharon, Malcolm, Geoff, Anthony

Vanessa & Betty



- Malcolm Fawcett married Tracy Walker in Melbourne, little is known. Divorced. Is a sergeant in the Army in the Defence Force School of Music. Married secondly Samantha Duren. March 2015

Son, Ashton James b. 2013



Vanessa Fawcett: 1st Marriage: John Perkins (Div) with Vanessa Maree *nee* Fawcett



Alexander Perkins b.ca 1976 and his brother Nathaniel Liam b. 1997



Cody Matthew Perkins b. 2003



Emily Elizabeth Perkins. b. 2005



Sharon Fawcett married Ben Thompson in 2006



Rachel Maree Pauline Thompson b 2007



Jessica Ann Thompson b. 2008



**Anthony Fawcett on his Graduation - with his parents, Geoff and Betty Fawcett
Anthony is a computer programmer. He is married. NFI.**



Geoff and Betty 2006



Geoff's children together in Canberra on Estelle's 50th Birthday 2015.

LR: Sharon, Vanessa, Walter (Wally), Estelle, Malcolm and Anthony.



**Gordon and Geoff “The Blues Brothers”. At
Estelle’s 50th Birthday, Canberra 2015**



**Walda, Geoff and Gordon on the occasion of the Christening of Gordon's second Grandchild,
Miles Garry Allen 2015**



Walda Fawcett married (Austrian) Erich Scholler at Concord, Sydney, 1961

Two Children, Adam & Belinda. The children didn't arrive until 1972.



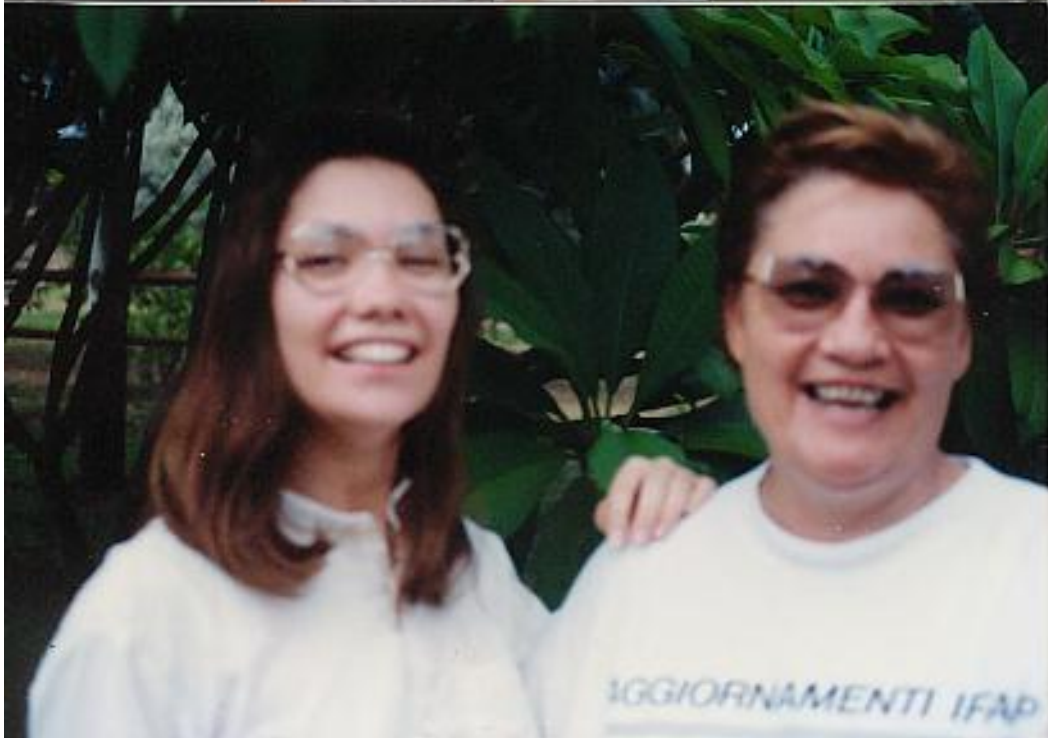
**We began to travel for many years. Erich & Walda Scholler, with children, Adam and Belinda.
Taken at Ipswich. 1976.
Our Rig for travelling. We built and moved into our home in Anakie, Queensland and started a
Souvenir Business in 1979.**



Adam & Belinda – Anakie, Queensland 1978



**Walda & Erich with Adam b. 1972 and
Belinda b. 1972. High School Graduation 1989.
Both went on to University and graduated.**



Belinda with her Parents.



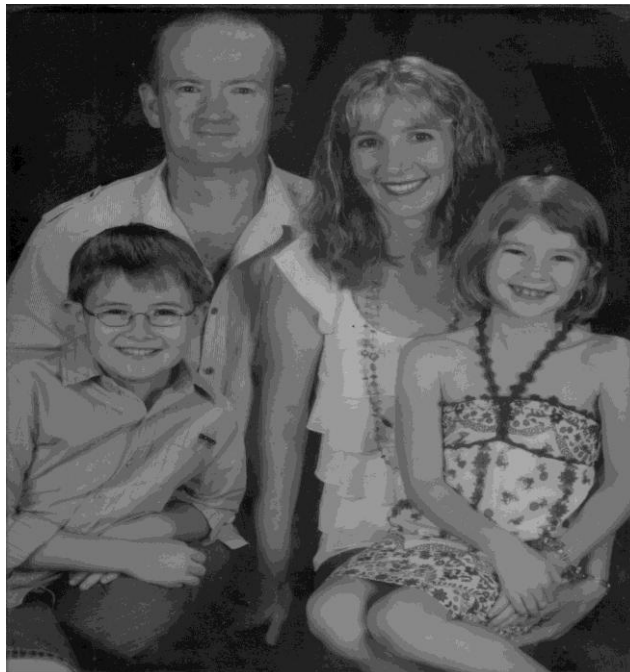
Adam – with a smile!



Walda & Erich Scholler – Hervey Bay 2014



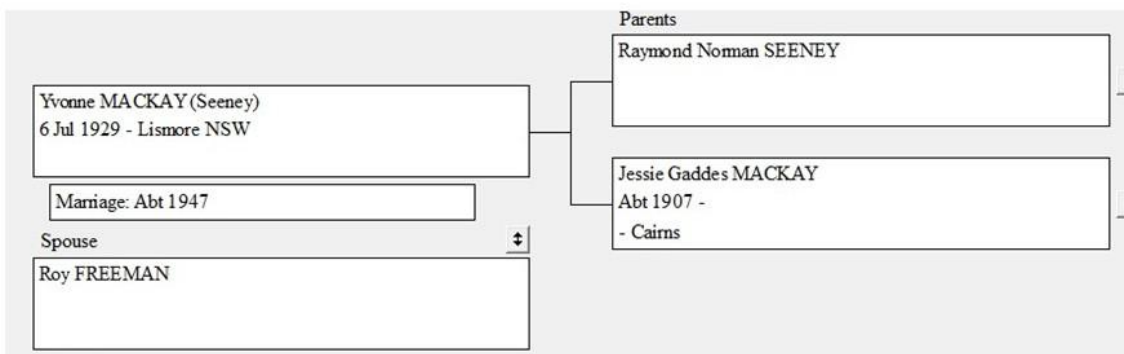
**Adam married Kerry Daley 1968
in Rockhampton. Queensland
They have two children, Deklan b. 2001 and Alexis b. 2003**



Adam, Kerry, Deklan & Alexis Scholler – Rockhampton 2011



Adam, Kerryn, Deklan & Alexis Scholler – Brisbane 2015



**Jessie Gaddes Mackay married Raymond Norman Seeney,
Their daughter, Yvonne married Roy Freeman**

**Robert Ronald Freeman b. 1948. Marilyn Kay Freeman 1950. James Arthur Freeman b. 1951.
David Jon Freeman 1952. Yvonne Carol Freeman b (?) Roy William Freeman b. (?) Peter Bruce
Freeman b. 1956. Colin Francis Freeman b. 1957, Raelene Joy Freeman b. 1958**

Meryllyn Kay FREEMAN 1950 -		Parents Roy FREEMAN	
Marriage:		Yvonne MACKAY (Seeney) 6 Jul 1929 - Lismore NSW	
Spouse Darryl Russell DALEY.			
Children		Born	Parent Link
1	Paul Anthony DALEY.	1972	
2	Kerryn Louis DALEY.	1974	
3	Michelle Kay DALEY.	1978	

**Roy Freeman and Yvonne's daughter Meryllyn Kay married Darryl Daley
 ThusAdam's Scholler's Wife, Kerryn, is distantly related to his Mother, Walda**



**Front row. Deklan, Teah, Nathaniel, Aiden and Alexis.
 Back row. Daryl Daley, Zoe, Jordan, Meryllyn Daley
 Centre back: Zachari**

**Mackay descendants via Kerryn Scholler
 and the half brother of our 4 x Great Grandfather.**



**Belinda Scholler married Andrew Thomas Watson
in Brisbane - 2000
They have one daughter, Isabelle Lily, b. 2006**



Andrew and Belinda Watson nee Scholler with their daughter Isabelle Lily



Early Photo of Isabelle Lily Watson with her Cousins, Alexis and Deklan. Photo taken in Upper Mt. Gravatt, Brisbane



The Watson Family – Singapore 2014



**Rare photo – and very grainy.
Elvie and her surviving three children, Violet, Bill and Martha.
Taken 1961.**

**LR seated. Elizabeth Elvie Johanna Amelia Mackay *nee* Cook
(called Nanna – later Elvie Harris). Then Martha Elizabeth Fawcett *nee* Mackay. LR
standing. Violet Maude Griffith *nee* Mackay and George William (aka Bill) McKay**



George William (Bill) McKay b. 1914 – Kempsey NSW d. 2002, Batemans Bay NSW.

He married in 1940 - Dorothy Minchin b. 1917 d. 1987.

They had three children.

Malcolm Kenneth McKay b. 1943

Donald William McKay b. 1945

Sandra Denise McKay b. 1947

The family spelling of McKay was adopted by his family.



George William (Bill) & Dorothy McKay *nee* Minchin
(Bill and Dot McKay)



17 Tulloh Street Willoughby with cousins. Ca 1948-49



The McKay family home was located in 17 Tulloh Street Willoughby on Sydney's North Shore where this photo was taken ca 1948-9 – here, Dot McKay with children, Malcolm, Donald and Sandra are with their cousins, Walda & Geoffrey Fawcett



Same sequence of photographs, McKay Children with their cousins and Aunt Martha.



LR: Donald, Sandra and Malcolm McKay – 2006



Malcolm and Dianne McKay nee Reid - 2011
They have two sons, Stuart McKay b. 1972 and Peter McKay
b 1974



**LR: Graham & Sandra Anderson, *nee* McKay
Malcolm and Dianne McKay *nee* Reid.
Stuart and Trish Tricia Lian Hwee Koh 2011**

Stuart McKay's Wedding November 2011.



Stuart McKay married Tricia Lian Hwee Koh - 2011



A son, Alexander Malcolm McKay b. 2013.



**LR: Peter McKay, Malcolm Kenneth McKay, Stuart McKay and Dianne McKay nee Reid. It was Peter's 21st Birthday
Photo ca 1995.**



Peter McKay b. 1974 – unmarried (2015)



**Donald McKay b. 1945 married 1973 Wendy Evelyn Tarrant
b. 1947.**



Donald & Wendy Evelyn McKay *nee* Tarrant

Married 1973



**Kerry Sinclair nee McKay, Susan Burt nee McKay, Donald and Wendy McKay nee Tarrant
2012**

**Kerry Elizabeth McKay b. 1977
Susan Louise McKay b. 1974**



Ben and Kerry Sinclair nee McKay with children Charlie and Alice 2012

**Charles Benjamin Sinclair b. 2007
and Alice Dorothy Sinclair b. 2009**

Kerry Elizabeth McKay married Benjamin Sinclair b. 1978

Married - 2006



Simon and Susan Burt nee McKay married - 2000 with children RL:, Owen, Jennifer and Angie 2012

**Owen James Burt. b. 2002
Jennifer Grace Burt b. 2005
Angela Lara Burt b. 2008**



McKay Grandchildren LR: Owen, Charlie, Alice, Angie & Jenny – 2012



Graham and Sandra Anderson *nee* McKay

**Sandra Denise McKay married Graham Frederick Anderson b. 1941. Married - 1971.
They have two sons, David Graham Anderson b. 1974 and Bryan William Anderson b. 1976**



**Sandra & Graham's son, David Graham, married
Joanne Lisa Thompson - 2004**



David & Joanne Lisa Anderson *nee* Thompson 2004
Children: Camryn Mary Anderson b. 2005
Riley May Anderson b. 2008



**Bryan William Anderson married Amanda Jane Smith. - 2004
Here with their sons, Seth Dennis Anderson b. 2008 and Trey William Anderson b. 2009**



Roy Herbert Mackay. He was born in Bellingen NSW 19th December 1917. He died in a motor cycle accident in Sydney on 24th March 1941. Never married.

John MACKAY 15 Nov 1837 - Skinnett Sutherlandshire, Scotland 16 Apr 1894 - Buccrabininni NSW Australia Marriage: Abt 4 Oct 1860 Spouse Johanna MACKAY 1842 - Dumess, Scotland 1876 - Madeay River NSW		Parents Alexander MACKAY 10 Mar 1810 - Midtown, Braesgil, Scotland 5 Feb 1884 - Polo Creek NSW Australia Barbara MACKAY 5 Dec 1812 - Skinnet, Scotland 18 Aug 1895 - Kempsey	
Children		Born	Parent Link
1	Elizabeth MACKAY	19 Apr 1860	
2	Barbara MACKAY	1861	
3	Alexander MACKAY	24 Dec 1863	
4	Arthur WilhamSheriff MACKAY	17 Nov 1866	
5	Mary MACKAY	1869	
6	Donald Robert MACKAY	25 Jun 1871	
7	Hugh Adam MACKAY	1873	
8	John Ellis MACKAY	1875	
9	Angus(adopted) MACKAY	12 Dec 1876	
10	William MACKAY	1878	
11	George Mitchell MACKAY	1880	
12	Infant MACKAY	Abt 1881	

John Mackay b. 1837 m. his cousin Johanna Mackay b. 1842

Alexander MACKAY 24 Dec 1863 - Rollands Plains NSW, Australia 25 Jun 1918 - Wilson River NSW Marriage: Abt 1892 Spouse Martha PARKINS 1871 - Mudgee, Australia Mar 1935 - Bellingen NSW Australia		Parents John MACKAY 5 Nov 1837 - Sutherlandshire Scotland 16 Apr 1894 - Buccrabininni. Johanna MACKAY 1842 - Dumess, Scotland 3 Apr 1912 - Bowraville NSW Australia	
Children		Born	Parent Link
2	Albert E. MACKAY	1893	
3	Leonard Lionel Clement MACKAY	14 Feb 1895	
4	Martha Edna. MACKAY	1897	
5	Edith MACKAY	1898	
6	Ivy P. MACKAY	1902	
7	William C. MACKAY	1904	
8	Ena MACKAY	1913	

John and Johanna's son, Alexander b. 1863 Married Martha Parkins b. 1871

George Alexander MACKAY 24 Aug 1891 - Bowraville NSW Australia 10 Jul 1952 - Coff's Harbour NSW		Alexander MACKAY 24 Dec 1863 - Rollands Plains NSW 25 Jun 1918 - Wilson River NSW	
Marriage: 24 Apr 1912			
Spouse Elizabeth Elvie Johanna Amelia COOK 19 Oct 1895 - Buccrabininni, NSW, Australia 29 Sep 1984 - (as Harris) Westmead NSW		Martha PARKNS 24 Dec 1871 - Mudgee NSW Australia 1935 - Bellingen	
Children		Born	Parent Link
1	Martha Elizabeth MACKAY	10 Jun 1912	
2	George William MCKAY (uncle Bill)	5 Jul 1914	
3	Violet Maude MACKAY	7 Dec 1915	
4	Roy Herbert MACKAY	29 Dec 1917	

**Alexander and Martha's son, George Alexander b. 1891 married his cousin, Elizabeth Evlie Johanna Amelia Cook b. 1895
 Their children were Martha Elizabeth b. 1912, George William b. 1914, Violet Maude b. 1915 and Roy Herbert b. 1917.**



Martha and her brother Roy, taken in Vacluse 1932



Bill and his brother Roy, Vacluse 1932



**Martha Mackay – taken at Chignall's –
“Strathmore” Portview Road, Greenwich
The foster Home for Martha, Bill and Roy.**



Foster Parent – Adelaide Chignall – ca 1941 – that’s the back of Geoff’s head to the left.



Lloyd George (George) and Violet Griffith *nee* Mackay
Violet Maude Mackay b. 7th December 1915 Bowerville, NSW
d. 13th September 2008 in Canberra ACT. She married Lloyd George Griffith on 4th March
1939. Known as George, Lloyd died on 1st April 1990



Violet Maude Mackay



**Violet holding baby Margaret, Geoff, Ellen and Walda
West Wallsend ca 1948**



Ellen Elizabeth Griffith b. 1941 – married -1961, Desmond Curnoe b. 1938

Ellen and Des have two sons, Mark Curnoe b. 1963 and Darren Curnoe b. 1967

Darren Curnoe married - 1997 Asha Kumari Manocha b. 1972.

Daughter Arabella Trinity Manocha Curnoe. b. 2003



An interesting photograph: 1961
LR: Walda Fawcett, Margaret Griffith, the bride, Ellen Curnoe *nee* Griffith. Elvie Harris (Grandmother) then her two daughters, Martha Fawcett and Violet Griffith.



**Right seated: Violet Griffith *nee* Mackay d. 13 Sept. 2008
Then her grandson Darren's wife, Asha Kumari *nee* Manocha next to her is Asha's sister. LR:
Seated, Margaret's daughter Jennine Gossip, then Margaret Gossip *nee* Griffith, and standing,
Ellen Curnoe *nee* Griffith (no photo of Arabella Trinity Manocha Curnoe b. 2003 or
Margaret's Husband, Peter Gossip)**



Violet and grandsons Mark Curnoe b. 1963 and Darren Curnoe b. 1967.

No Photo of Margaret and Peter together

**Margaret Fay Griffith b. 1947 married Peter Miles Gossip b. ca 1947, in 1973. They have one daughter, Jennine Elizabeth Cassandra Gossip b. 1981
Jennine married in 2006 - James Campbell Irving b. 1982
Two Children – Abbie and Miles.**



George William (Bill) McKay with his sister Martha Elizabeth Fawcett (nee Mackay)



**Another Mackay / McKay cousins photograph.
Taken at Walda's wedding on - 1961 at Illawarra Road, Marrickville, NSW.
Back LR: Walda, Ellen, Sandra, Donald, Malcolm
Front seated: Grandmother Elvie Harris, Gordon and Margaret.
Missing: Geoffrey – he was in New Guinea at the time.**



Bill McKay came to Anakie in Central Queensland to visit the Scholler family. It would have been about 1989.

He is seen here with LR: Adam, Walda, Bill, Belinda, Erich and the chocolate Labrador, Bundy. The Photo was taken at Fairbairn Dam, Emerald. Blue Falcon was ours –yellow plate was Bill's car. Adam had a Driver's Licence and Bill allowed him to drive his car from Emerald to Anakie.

Bill returned to Sydney and later began to work his way back to Queensland. He was on the North Coast of NSW when he became ill and could not continue – he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.



George (Bill) William McKay and his sister, Violet Maude Griffith *nee* Mackay – they met for the last time when Bill was very ill with Parkinson’s. He died in 21st Feb. 2002. Violet d. 13th Sept. 2008 aged 93 years,

Read On

THE ROSEDALE

In the early years of this century, there was telecommunications but limited transport facilities. People could live far apart or in the next valley but this did not mean they were in constant communication with each other.

If one received a telegram worded COME QUICKLY MOTHER DYING and signed with one of the many duplicated family names, it would be easy to assume that the mother had fallen ill, been transported to Sydney without the family’s immediate knowledge, and was in the process of dying.

It was the second week of September 1911 when just such a telegram arrived. It was intended for the family of Angus Mackay who had settled at Valla, near Nambucca, but was delivered to the family of John and Johanna Mackay.

As such large families married and spread throughout the district, contact would have been limited to an annual event and therefore it was assumed Johanna Mackay was in Sydney dying. Three of her children, one with a new wife, hastily made arrangements to get to Sydney as quickly as possible, a move which precipitated one of the worst tragedies to befall the Australian Abrach Mackay.

So, Elizabeth Cook, Mary Murphy and William with his wife of six weeks, Ethel Flockhart, managed to obtain berths on the *SS Rosedale* due to sail for Sydney from Nambucca that night, the 15th September 1911. After taking on freight then passengers, the *Rosedale* left the pier and headed into an approaching storm.

The freight consisted of timber girders and sleepers, potatoes, oranges, maize and some live-stock. Perhaps the vessel was poorly loaded – maybe the cargo shifted; to this day, no one will ever really know. The *Rosedale* never got past Smokey Cape lighthouse and according the lighthouse keeper for the day, the ship was six miles off course, steaming towards the open sea.

Many questions were asked much later. Did she head out to sea to ride out the storm? Did the ensuing storm toss and roll her so severely that her cargo moved so that she foundered? No matter the answers, the human cargo, those thirty souls on board, would have been battened down too and had no chance of survival.

Newspaper reports of the day carried headlines:

WRECKAGE SIGHTED ON ROSEDALE'S ROUTE. GRAVEST FEARS ENTERTAINED.

Each newspaper has the same story with different over-tones but mostly reported on the fears of the relatives for their families on the ship.

One report read:

The most pitiable part of the supposed foundering of the seamer *Rosedale* is the gradual wearing away of all hope by those who are relatives of the people who were on board. Wives, daughters and sisters have been calling upon officials of the North Coast S.N. Company in the hope that their burden might be lightened.

On receipt of news, brought by a horseman from Macksville, that wreckage was found near Smokey Cape...

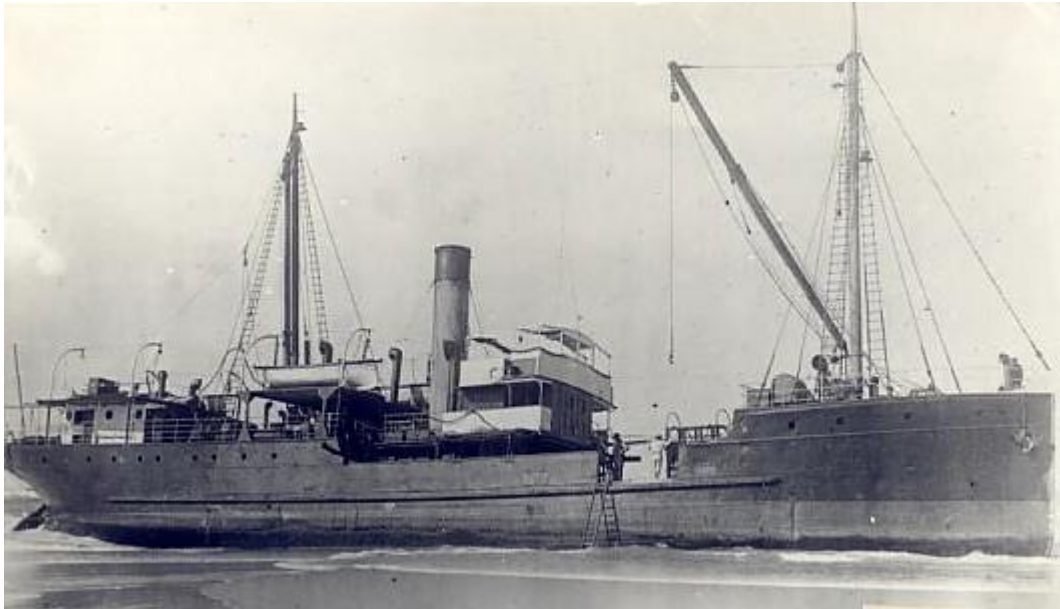
Members of the Mackay family immediately drove over about 40 miles in case something might have been swept ashore which could be identified by them. Other vessels in the vicinity searched the area; the steamer *Cape Finisterre* from Townsville notice wreckage near Solitary Island to the north. The Company's steamer *Malanbar* and another, the *Yulgilbar*, zig-zagged the area but found nothing. Even the tug-boat *Irresistible* was specially despatched from Newcastle for the search but failed to report anything that may relieve the tension which mounted as the hours passed.

Finally, the inevitable had to be accepted. The *Rosedale* was gone and with her, four members of the Mackay family.

The older children of the William and Elizabeth Cook family could look after themselves but for the younger ones, Cora, Gladys and Ross, the loss was felt keenly, more so because their father took himself off to live with Jane Ballard, the daughter of his first wife, thus neglecting these youngsters. William Cook died in June 1935.

Clare and Gus Gaddes, who were children of Jane Mackay on the Angus Mackay Line of the family, took the girls Cora and Gladys, and reared them. Ross stayed with his sister, Elizabeth Elva Johanna Amelia who planned to marry George Alexander Mackay at the time of the calamity.

Johann Mackay grieved daily and silently for the loss of her children, especially the eldest, Elizabeth. There is no doubt their deaths precipitated her own. She died in April 1912 and the cause is recorded a "apoplexy", but it was more likely grief. She is buried beside her husband in Bowraville. Angus Mackay, the child that Janet Macleod-Mackay reared as her own, is also buried there.



The SS Rosedale – she had grounded and was refloated.

Not long after the disaster, a lament was published in the press:

Tis a sad story I'm going to relate,
of a shipping disaster that happened of late,
Where by thirty mortals lost their lives in a gale
Whilst coming to Sydney in the Steamship *Rosedale*

The widows and orphans are sad and heart sore
and young maidens are weeping their love dreams are O'er
and a poor aged mother's eyes are now dimmed with hot tears,
for the loss of her off-spring she'd cherished for years.

And the fate of the Captain many friends now bewail.
He was well known at Leichhardt, likewise Annandale.
He was always trustworthy, and one of the best,
On the bed of the ocean, he's now lying at rest.

Chief Engineer Harrower will never again,
see his wife, and his off-spring who live in Balmain,
Never will she hear his voice on the shore,
nor the sound of his footsteps approaching the door.

Beneath the cruel ocean, he's lying cold and low,
he has crossed the Great Divide where all mortals must go.
And his heart broken widow will shed many a tear
since the storm has blighted her married career.

Sad is the story of the ill-fated Mackays,
a false communication has ended their days.
For the loss of each victim, there is sorrow all round.
May they all rest in peace till the dread trumpet sound.

W.F. COLLINS

Next: Passenger list of *James Moran*.

PASSENGER LIST OF THE SS JAMES MORAN
Departed Lochinver – 10th October 1838
 * indicates unsure spelling

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>TRADE</u>	<u>FORMER RESIDENCE</u>
Alexander Bain	28	Farmer	Gairloch
Mrs. Alex. Bain	26	“	“
Mrs. Dicow*	18	Shepherd	Lochinver
Duncan Ferguson	40	Farmer	Loch Broom
Mrs. Duncan Ferguson	38	“	“
John	19	Shepherd	“
Janet	18	Servant	“
Aneas*	16	“	“
Katharine	15	“	“
Mary	14	“	“
*	12	“	“
Alexander	10		“
Duncan	7		“
Jessie	2		“
Wm Fraser	55	Shepherd	“
Mrs. Fraser	50		“
Frances*	22	Cook	“
Mary	20	Country *Work	“
*	18	“	“
*	16	Herd	“
John	16	“	“
Thomas	12	“	“
Alex Carmichael	20	Shepherd	“
Dr. Macdonald	40		Pillam*
Mrs. Macdonald	36		“
Alexander	15	Shepherd	“
Katharine	11		“
Mary	10		“
Elizabeth	6		“
Ross	5		“
Donald	3		“
Dr MacKenzie (M.A.*)	28	Farmer	“
Mrs. MacKenzie	26		“
Hector	4		“
* Morrison	20	Servant	“
* Morrison	10		“
Thos. MacKenzie	40	Farmer	“
Mrs. MacKenzie	40		“
Barbara	20	Dairy	“
Janet	17	“	“
Thomas	15	Herd	“
*	12		“
Virginia	8		“
*Elizabeth	2		“
John MacKenzie	35	Farmer	Gairloch
Mrs MacKenzie	16		“

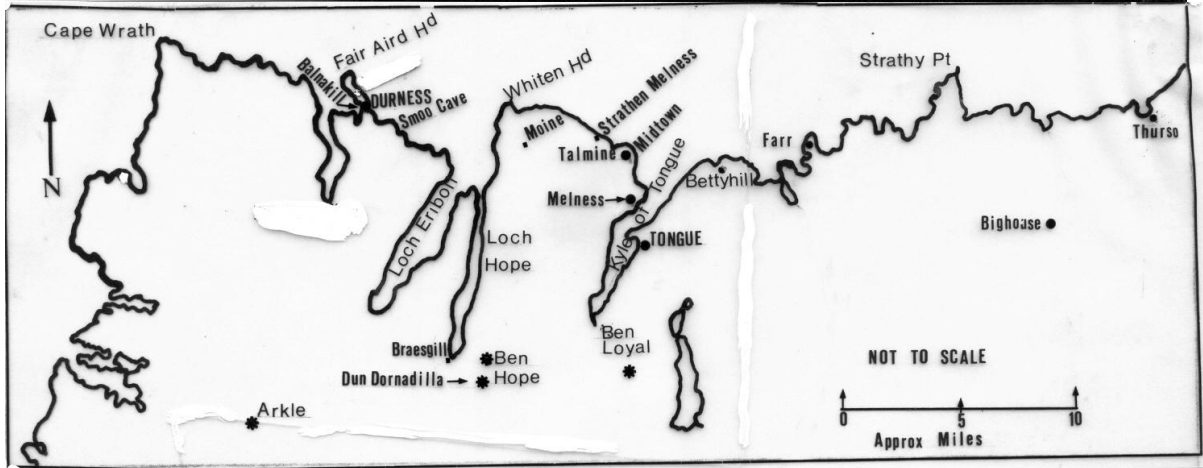
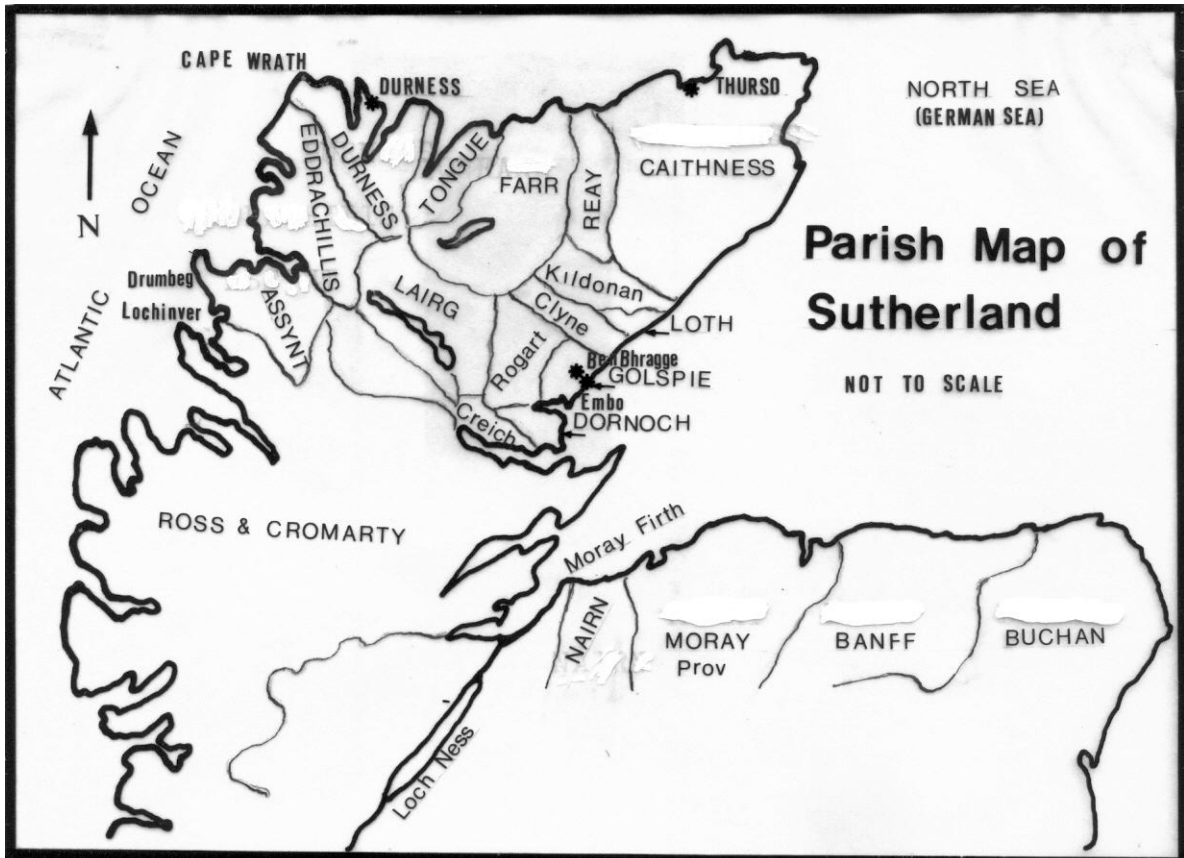
John MacKenzie	24	“	“
Agnes MacKenzie	27	Country Work	“
Alexander MacLeod	40	Farmer	Loch Broom
Mrs Alex MacLeod	38		“
Murdoch	15	Herd	“
Donald	13		“
Malcolm	10		“
Elizabeth	3		“
John MacRae	22	Farmer	Loch Else*
Hugh Morrison	27	“	Eddrachillis
Mrs. Morrison	30		“
George	7		“
James	6		“
Margaret	3		“
Donald MacLeod	22	Farmer	“
Mrs. MacLeod	40		“
*	16	Servant	“
Christina	14		“
Angus MacLeod	43	Farmer	*****
Mrs MacLeod	39		“
Margaret	21	Servant	“
Alexander	18	“	“
Hugh	16		“
George	14		“
John	12		“
Helen	9		“
Donald	6		“
James	3		“
Roderick	1		“
*****	23	Carpenter	Thurso
*MacLeod	30	Stockman	Lochinver
William MacLeod	28	Servant	“
Margaret MacLeod	23	Servant	“
Alex MacLeod	20	“	Eddrachillis
Katherine Mackay	26	“	Assynt
Duncan Mackay	37	Shepherd	Eddrachillis
Mrs. Mackay	32		“
Jean	14		“
* Finlay	13		“
*Lolina	11		“
George	10		“
Mary	8		“
Margaret	6		“
Barbara	2		“
Robert MacLeod	26	Shoemaker	Scourie
Angus MacKenzie	37	Shepherd	Eddrachillis
Donald Mackay	37	Carpenter	Eddrachillis
Mrs Mackay	33		“
*	18	Shepherd	“
Alexander	15	“	“
Mary	14	Servant	“
Hugh	12		“
Fairley*	2		“
Donald	9		“

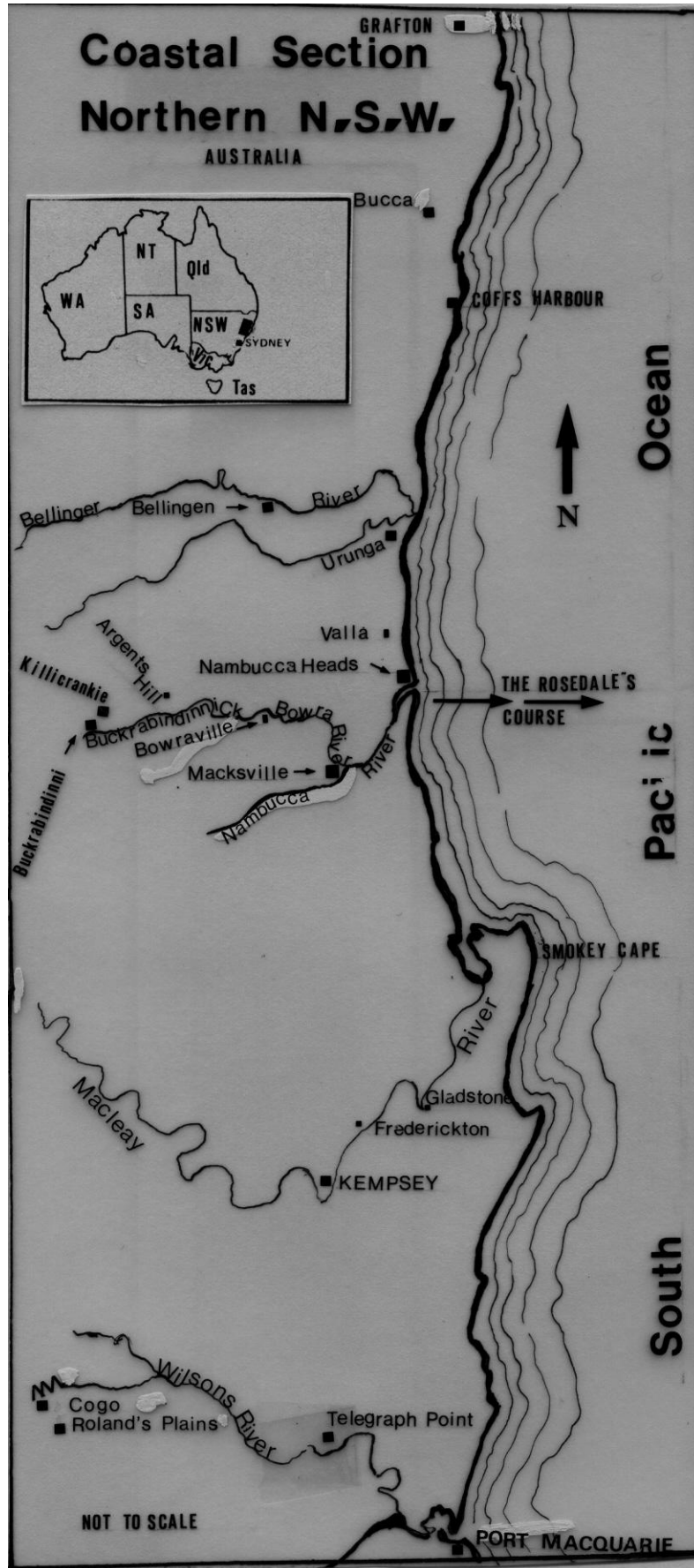
*		7			“
Thomas (infant)					“
Thomas MacDonald	24		Shepherd	Assynt	
Isabella MacKenzie	20		Maid Servant	“	
Rebecca McGeachy	28		Servant	“	
Elizabeth McGeachy	2			“	
Roderick MacKenzie	50		Shepherd	*****	
Mrs. R. MacKenzie		48			“
Christina		22		Servant	“
*Isabelle (Arabella)	20		“	“	
John		14			“
Kenneth		18		Shepherd	“
Alexander Mackay		27		Farm Servant	Tongue (Abrach Mackay our 3 x G-Grandparent)
Mrs. Alex Mackay (Barbara)	25				“ “
Mary Anne Mackay	26		Servant	“	“
John Mackay	1			“	“
Alexander MacLeod	29		Shoemaker	*Assynt	
Janet Macleod	25		Servant	“	
Wm. Munro*	26		Carpenter	Rosshire	
Alexander Munro*		28		Carpenter	“
James Munro*	22		Carpenter	“	
Alexander Mackay		24		Shoemaker	“
Mrs. Munro*	48			“	
James *	24		Dairy	“	
Christina		19			“
Donald Munro	24		Shepherd	Tongue	
Mrs. Donald Munro	16			“	
Alexander Harris		22		Shepherd	“
Mrs. Alex. Harris		20			“
Malcolm Munro		45		Farmer	“
Mrs Malcolm Munro	40			“	
Ann Munro		22		Servant	“
Angus Munro	15		Herd	“	
Hughina		12			“
Katharina		10			“
Barbara	8				“
Rachel Mackay	20		Servant	“	
Donald Mackay	22		Tailor	“	
Wm Mackay		40		Tailor	“
Mrs Wm Mackay		37			“
Hugh		23		Farm Servant	“
Roderick Mackay		15		Herd	Assynt
William		19		“	“
Erick		12		“	“
Mary		10			“
*Alasina		6			“
John		3			“
Chas. MacDonald		22		Labourer	Gairloch
John MacKenzie		30		Shoemaker	“
D MacPherson	36		Blad*****	“	(Blade maker?)
Mrs MacPherson		28			“
John		10			“
Duncan	8			“	
Jealika*(Isabella?)		6			“

Jessie	4			“
Chas. MacKenzie	34	Labourer		Rosshire
Mrs MacKenzie	26		“	
John MacKenzie	10			“
Alexander MacKenzie	9		“	
Kenneth MacKenzie	6		“	
Donald MacLennon	26	Shepherd	“	
Jean Munro	20	Servant	Tongue	
Angus Mackay	40	Carpenter	Farr	
Christina Mackay	35			“
Donald Mackay	10		“	
Isabella	19	Servant	“	
Margaret	17	Servant	“	
Hugh	7			“
James	4			“
***Infant				“
Chas. MacKenzie	30	Carpenter		Lochinver
Mrs MacKenzie	28		“	
Margaret	10			“
Charles	7		“	
James	5			“
Malcolm infant.			“	
Donald Archison	27	Carpenter		“
Mary Macdonald	20	Servant	“	
Ann MacLeod	20	Servant	Sutherland (Did not join)	
Margaret MacLeod	19	Servant	“	“
** MacLeod	25		“	Sutherland
** MacLeod	22		“	“
***Archison	39	Boat Builder		Tongue
Mrs Archison	24		“	
Euphemia	4			“
Robert	1		“	
Katharine	2			“
Jas. Sinclair	29	Carpenter		Thurso
Jas. *****	26	Carpenter		“
Mrs (as above)	18	Servant	Thurso	
Michael Peterson	33	Shepherd		“
Mrs Michael Peterson	30		“	
Janet	8			“
Anthony	6			“
Thomas	4		“	
John	2			“
Peter (Infant)				“

Many of the names are prefixed Mc as in McLeod however for consistency the term Mac has been used.

This list is over 174 years old and the writing is in very old English and open to error. Some names were totally illegible.





Notes: