

## ELIZA MARY DALE 1856-1922

By Dale Hartle

**Eliza Mary Dale** was born in 1856 in Campbell's Creek, Victoria, Australia. She was named after her mother.

At the time of her birth, she had one older brother William Charles Dale born in 1854.

Eliza married **William Stephen Box** on 28 January 1872 at the home of W Robins, Tuapeka Flat, at 9.30 am. The Rev Henry Bull officiated and William Robins and Nancy Robins were the witnesses.

The marriage notice<sup>1</sup> reads:

**Box-Dale** – At Lawrence, on Sunday 28 January, by the Rev H. Bull, William Box to Eliza Mary, eldest daughter of Mr C Dale, of Beaumont Ferry.

Eliza was just 16 years of age, and William was 28 years of age although their ages are not recorded on the marriage certificate, just the word "full". When you look at the dates, it appears that Eliza was actually about 3-4 months pregnant.

William was born in February 1844 in Broughton Gifford, Wiltshire, England. His father's name was Daniel Box (d. 1889/89) and his mother was Edith Winslow (d. 1905). They arrived in Australia in 1852 and both died there. William came to New Zealand some time later, perhaps 1869 but kept ties with his Australian family.

Together they had seven recorded children:

- **William Stephen Box 1873-1955**
- **Henry (Hendary) William Stephen Box 1875-1942**
- **Albert Charles Winslow Box 1877-1939**
- **Eliza Mary Edith Box 1880-1881**
- **Elsie Lillie Ann Box 1882-1951**
- **Alfred Robert Daniel Box 1884-1955 (twin)**
- **Rosey Sarah Jane Box 1884-1884 (twin)**

However there is evidence that Eliza actually gave birth to twins a few months after her marriage in 1872<sup>2</sup>:

**BIRTHS.** Box – On the 26<sup>th</sup> inst, Mrs Wm. Box of twins – son and daughter. All doing well.

It is possible that Eliza and William travelled to Australia and left the twins there, as there is no official record of their birth being registered in New Zealand. Investigations in Australia have not yet been done. Unless there was another Box family in the area at the time with the same name!

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<sup>1</sup> Tuapeka Times, Volume III, Issue 209, 1 February 1872

<sup>2</sup> Tuapeka Times, Volume V, Issue 230, 27 June 1872

The birth of William Stephen Box is noted in the local newspaper in 1873<sup>3</sup>:

**BIRTH.** Box – At Evans Flat, near Lawrence, on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> inst, the wife of Mr William Box, of a son.

Eliza also gave birth to another son, **Henry (or Hendary) William Stephen Box** in 1875 in St Arnaud, Victoria. This was while she was in her husband's home town visiting family.



*Figure 1 - Henry (Hendary) William Stephen Box 1874-1942*

They then travelled back to New Zealand because her next child **Albert Box** was born in Tapanui in 1877.

Tragically, Eliza's daughter **Eliza Mary Edith Box** born 14 May 1880 died on 17 May 1881 aged just one year. She is buried in Tapanui.

Later, **Rosey Sarah Jane Box**, twin to **Alfred Robert Daniel Box** born 6 December 1884, died when just 17 days old on 23 December 1884. She was buried in Tapanui Cemetery, Block 3, plot 12.

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<sup>3</sup> Tuapeka Times, Volume VI, Issue 278, 29 May 1873



*Figure 2 - William Stephen Box 1873-1955 and sister Elsie Lillie Ann Box 1882-1951*

### **Death of William Box**

William Box died on 19 July 1887 in Tuapeka Lawrence Hospital, aged 43 years of cardiac arrest, and was buried on 21 July 1887 in Tapanui Cemetery, Block 3, plot 4.

### **Eliza's marriage to Charles Sinclair**

After William died, Eliza married a man named **Charles Cairns (or Charns) Sinclair** on 17 November 1892. Details on the marriage certificate note the marriage took place at the residence of Mrs Box, Tapanui. Charles Cairns Sinclair was 41, a bachelor and farmer and contractor by trade, originally born in 1851 in Glasgow, now residing in Tapanui. Charles' father emigrated to New Zealand a year before his mother brought Charles and his two sisters Jean (b. 1843) and Mary Cecilia (b. 1848) across the sea aboard the "*Alpine*" from Glasgow to Dunedin<sup>4</sup>. Two more sisters were born in Dunedin: Anne Cecelia in 1863 and Susan in 1866.

Eliza Mary Box was aged 36, and a widow, her former husband deceased on 19 July 1887. Her occupation was Domestic, and birthplace was Castlemaine. Thomas and Annie Randall were the witnesses, with Rev J A Lochore officiating.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.yesteryears.co.nz/shipping/passlists/alpine.html>

Eliza had three more children from this marriage:

- **Charles Alexander Sinclair 1892-1918**
- **Edward Sidney Sinclair 1894-1975**
- **Ivy Alice Susan Sinclair 1896-1981**

Eliza's son **Charles Alexander Sinclair** served with the Army in World War I. He is recorded as dying of disease (broncho-pneumonia) in France on 13 December 1918 and is buried at Etaples Military Cemetery in France. You can read his story separately in the **ANZAC Heroes** file.



Figure 3 - Charles Alexander Sinclair 1892-1918



Figure 4 - Alfred Robert Daniel Box 1884-1955

Eliza's other two sons, **Alfred Robert Daniel Box** and **Edward Sidney Sinclair** also served in World War I. Her grandsons William Stephen Box, Bertie Box, and John William Holmes served in World War II, along with future son-in-law John Alexander Chandler, and the husbands of two granddaughters: Charles Robert Watson and Alvan Huston Edgar.

You can read their stories separately in the **ANZAC Heroes** file.

**Albert Charles Winslow Box 1877-1939** was in trouble with the law in 1915. The "*Poverty Bay Herald*"<sup>5</sup> reported on 14 October 1915: "A younger man, Albert Box, was convicted for drunkenness, and fined 10s and costs 2s in default 48 hours' hard labour. Accused was further charged with using

obscene language, but said he did not remember committing the offence. Evidence was given by Constable Fischer, and his Worship said no doubt accused was drunk at the time but that was no excuse." He was subsequently admitted to Porirua Mental Hospital on 20 November 1916 suffering from delusional insanity and was in fair bodily health, according to the Deposition of Witnesses for the Coroner inquiring into his death on 29 July 1939. "He had been confined to bed for a week owing to a cellulitis of the leg. He showed signs of having a broncho-pneumonia which developed rapidly and he died at 5.50 pm on Friday July 18<sup>th</sup>, in the presence of Attendant Raitt. In my opinion the cause of death was broncho-pneumonia associated with cellulitis of the leg. The relatives have been notified of his death." Edmund Philip Houghton, medical practitioner, Porirua Hospital.

Albert was buried on 31 July 1939 in the Porirua Cemetery, Church of England area, Row O, Plot 31. There is no headstone.

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<sup>5</sup> Poverty Bay Herald, Volume XLII, Issue 13814, 14 October 1915

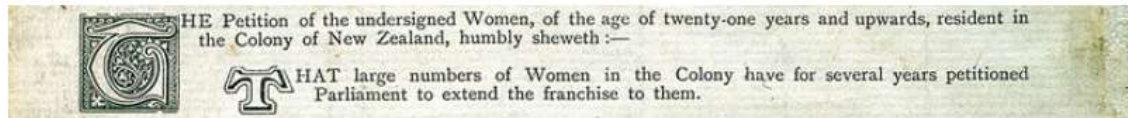
## Suffrage Petition

Eliza Sinclair signed the **Suffrage petition** which was submitted to Parliament in 1893.

The Petition read:

# Mrs Sinclair

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Surname: Sinclair

Sheet No: 82

Given names: Mrs

Town/Suburb: Lawrence

Given address: Lawrence

City/Region: Otago

## Death of Charles Sinclair

The death of Charles Sinclair is recorded in the local newspaper<sup>6</sup> on 31 October 1901:

Chas. Sinclair, a resident of the Tapanui district for many years past, died at Lawrence Hospital on Friday last, whither he had been removed some time ago for medical treatment.

Also from the "*Tapanui Courier*" dated 30 October 1901: Death on the 25<sup>th</sup> inst at Lawrence Hospital, Charles Cairns Sinclair of Tapanui, native of Glasgow, Scotland, the dearly beloved husband of Eliza Mary Sinclair and brother of Mrs S Ottrey (of Heriot), aged 50 years. Deeply regretted.

At the time Charles died on 25 October, Eliza's youngest child Ivy Alice Susan was just 5 years of age.

Charles was buried in Tapanui Cemetery, Block 3, plot 5 on 27 October 1901.

Eliza applied for probate of Charles' estate which was granted on 29 May 1917<sup>7</sup>.

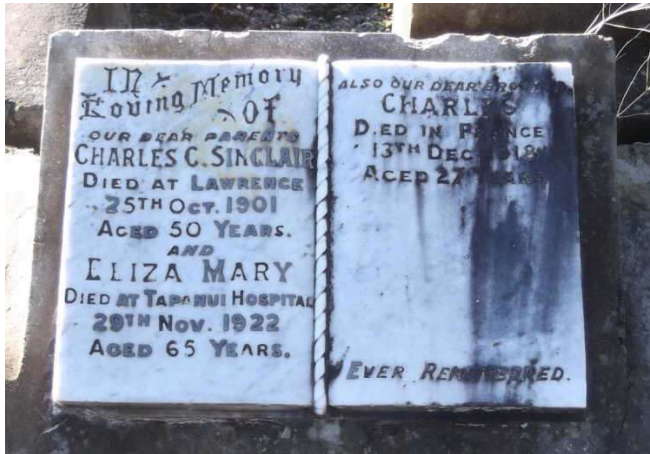
Eliza continued to bring up her family. She was a widow for the second time at 45 years of age.

She had 24 grandchildren altogether, but four of Eliza's children did not have any children: Albert Charles Winslow Box, Eliza Mary Edith Box, Rosey Sarah Jane Box, Charles Alexander Sinclair.

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<sup>6</sup> Otago Daily Times, Issue 12188, 31 October 1901

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QK9V-LK61>



### Death of Eliza

Eliza died on 29 November 1922 in Tapanui Hospital, aged 66 years. She was buried in Tapanui Cemetery, Block 3, plot 5.

Her death notice<sup>8</sup> reads:

**SINCLAIR** – At Tapanui Hospital, on November 29, 1922, Eliza Mary, relict of Charles Sinclair. Deeply mourned. Funeral will leave Manse Bush at 1.45 pm on Friday December 1. J L Wylie, undertaker.

In her will dated 23 October 1920, Eliza leaves her estate to her two youngest children Edward Sidney Sinclair and Ivy Alice Susan Sinclair.

### Obituary

Eliza's obituary from the "*Tapanui Courier*" dated 6 December 1922 stated:

Mrs E M Sinclair thank hospital staff and friends – sympathy

Mrs Chas. Sinclair of Manse Bush has been in frail health for some time. Had spent a good many months in local hospital. Was 7 years old when with her parent C.H. Dale of Castlemaine Australia, took up residence here in the early stages of sawmilling industry. She married William Box and when the sections in Bedford Street came up for auction secured their ¼ acre and with others cleared a space and built a home. Mr Box died at a comparatively early age and his widow married the late Charles S. Sinclair and removed to Manse Bush where she had resided ever since. There were 5 of a family by the first marriage, 4 sons and 1 girl. Two boys and 1 girl to second marriage. A hard working woman home and dairy farm. W.W. Ewart Minister.

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<sup>8</sup> Otago Daily Times, Issue 18724, 30 November 1922

**DESCENDANTS OF ELIZA MARY DALE**

<b>GEN</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>TOTAL*</b>
1.	William Stephen Box 1873-1955	2	4	13	10		<b>30</b>
2.	Henry (Hendary) William Stephen Box 1875-1942	10	16	42	42		<b>111</b>
3.	Albert Charles Winslow Box 1877-1939	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
4.	Eliza Mary Edith Box 1880-1881	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
5.	Elsie Lillie Ann Box 1882-1951	3	6	16	13		<b>39</b>
6.	Alfred Robert Daniel Box 1884-1955 (twin)	2	7	17			<b>27</b>
7.	Rosey Sarah Jane Box 1884-1884 (twin)	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
8.	Charles Alexander Sinclair 1893-1918	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
9.	Edward Sidney Sinclair 1894-1975	4	7	15	13		<b>40</b>
10.	Ivy Alice Susan Sinclair 1896-1981	2	3	1			<b>7</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>258</b>

\*Totals include Generation 1

**Corrections and updates:**

If any member of the family finds an error or omission in this document, or is able to provide photographs, please contact Dale Hartle on email mjhartle at xtra.co.nz in Levin, New Zealand.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, there is bound to be mistakes and updates would be gratefully received.

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