

MARY CONSTANCE DALE 1875-1914

By Dale Hartle



Mary Constance Dale was the 10th child and 5th daughter of Charles Hawkins Dale and Mary Eliza Bolton Dale. She was born on 5 Sep 1875, in Tapanui. Mary moved up to Palmerston North with her parents in 1889 when she was 14 years old.

Mary married John William Batchelar who was born in 1873 in 1895 and the family were based in the Manawatu. The Batchelars were a well known farming family in the area.

The couple had ten children:

1. Constance Lavinia Batchelar, b. 1896
2. Rita Frances Batchelar, b. 1897
3. Raymond Dale Batchelar, b. 1899
4. John Arthur Batchelar, b. 1901
5. Percival William Batchelar, b. 1902
6. Maisie Enid Batchelar, b. 1904
7. Mary Agnes Batchelar, b. 1908
8. Clarissa Amelia Batchelar, b. 1909
9. Merlin Octavius Batchelar, b. 1910
10. Joyce Aileen Bolton Batchelar, b. 1914

Fatal Accident

A very unfortunate and fatal accident occurred in 1903 to John Arthur Batchelar. The story is best told from the newspaper articles about it.

His birth was noted in the *Manawatu Standard* on 30 March 1901:

BATCHELAR – At Main-street, Palmerston North, on March 27th, 1901, the wife of J.W. Batchelar, of Oroua Bridge, of a son.

Fatal Accident. Child Burnt to Death.¹

A shocking accident occurred at Tokomaru yesterday morning, resulting in the death of an infant son of Mr John Batchelar, and grandson of Mr J. O. Batchelar, of Fitzherbert. The little fellow was in bed, and, in some unaccountable way, it is presumed, must have obtained a match, struck it and set fire to his flannelette nightdress, for when discovered by his parents the garment was in flames and the child severely burned.

Dr. Campbell was sent for, and the little sufferer was brought into Palmerston by the afternoon train, but died shortly after arrival at Mrs Freeman's hospital. He was only 2½ years old. The greatest sympathy is felt for the bereaved parents in the shocking misfortune that has overtaken them. They were for many years residents of Palmerston, and while here were greatly esteemed. They have received numerous expressions of condolence both from friends here and at Tokomaru.

Captain Mowlem, Coroner, has made enquiries into the accident, and has decided it is not necessary to hold an inquest.

DISTRESSING ACCIDENT. Child Burned to Death.²

A very distressing accident happened yesterday morning shortly after six o'clock to an infant son of Mr John Batchelar, of Tokomaru, and a grandson of Mr J. O. Batchelar, of Fitzherbert. The little fellow, while lying in bed, must have got possession of a match, lit it, and set fire to his flannelette nightdress, for when his parents found him he was in flames, and before the fire could be extinguished he was very badly burned. Dr Campbell, of Palmerston, was sent for, and the child's removal to Palmerston was ordered. He was brought here by the afternoon train. In spite, however, of every effort to save him, he died at Mrs Freeman's Hospital shortly after his arrival there. The child's name was John Arthur, and he was 2½ years of age. The bereaved parents were for many years, and until quite recently residents of Palmerston, where they have been well-known; and esteemed, and very great sympathy will be felt for them in the great misfortune which has overtaken them.

Death Notice³

BATCHELAR. - On September 23, at Palmerston North, John Arthur (little "Jackie") second, son of John William and Mary Constance Batchelar, of Tokomaru, from accidental burns; aged 2½ years. Deeply regretted.

Funeral Notice⁴

FUNERAL NOTICE. THE friends of Mr and Mrs J. W. Batchelar are respectfully requested to attend the funeral of their late son, John Arthur, which will leave the residence of Mr J. O. Batchelar, Willow Bank, Fitzherbert, to-morrow, Friday, at 2 p.m. for Palmerston cemetery. E. HALL, Undertaker.

Thanks⁵

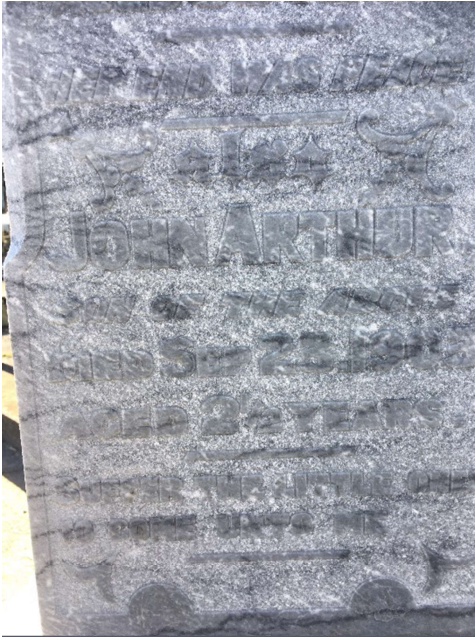
¹ MANAWATU STANDARD, VOLUME XL, ISSUE 7661, 24 SEPTEMBER 1903

² MANAWATU TIMES, VOLUME XXVII, ISSUE 7823, 24 SEPTEMBER 1903

³ MANAWATU STANDARD, VOLUME XL, ISSUE 7661, 24 SEPTEMBER 1903

⁴ MANAWATU STANDARD, VOLUME XL, ISSUE 7661, 24 SEPTEMBER 1903

⁵ MANAWATU STANDARD, VOLUME XL, ISSUE 7663, 26 SEPTEMBER 1903



THANKS. Mr and Mrs J. W. Batchelar desire to return thanks for the many acts of kindness they received both at Palmerston and Tokomaru on the occasion of their recent bereavement.

John Arthur Batchelar was buried on 25 September 1903 at Terrace End Cemetery, Block 23, plot 31. He is remembered on one side of his parents' headstone monument.

War Service

Alvan Ezekiel Shannon, husband of Mary Constance and John William Batchelar's eldest daughter Constance Lavinia Batchelar, served in World War I.

Their eldest son Ronald John Shannon, served in World War II.

John Walter Cuming, husband of Mollie Lorraine Shannon, also served in World War II.

Roy Clement Shannon, husband of daughter Rita Frances Batchelar served in World War I.



Batchelar family - Standing L-R Percy, Mary (Molly), Raymond, Joyce, Merlin. Sitting - Constance (Connie), Clarissa, John William Batchelar, Rita, Maisie

Brothers and Sisters marry

Constance Lavinia Batchelar married Alvan Ezekiel Shannon in 1920 and her sister Rita Frances Batchelar married brother Roy Clement Shannon in 1924

Twins

There are several sets of Twins in the Batchelar family:

- Judith Anne and Linda Jane Shannon, 1957 (John Oscar Shannon, Constance Lavinia Batchelar)
- Erin Linda and Lauren Judith Cuming, 1980 (Mollie Lorraine Shannon, Constance Lavinia Batchelar)
- Chantelle Maree and Monica Audrey Nitschke 1984 (Graeme Ross Nitschke, Audrey Frances Shannon, Rita Frances Batchelar)
- Andrew Craig and Richard Miles Batchelar 1968 (Philip Wayne Batchelar, Merlin Octavius Batchelar)

Death – Mary Constance

Mary Constance Batchelar died unexpectedly shortly after giving birth to her 10th child, Joyce Aileen Bolton Batchelar. She was 38 years of age. She was buried at Terrace End Cemetery, block 23, plot 31 with her son John Arthur.

The *Manawatu Standard*⁶ reported the death in a story:

Deep and sincere sympathy will be felt for Mr J.W. Batchelar and family of Waituna West in the bereavement that has overtaken them by the death of Mrs Batchelar, the sad event taking place in Feilding on Sunday morning. Mrs Batchelar had been an inmate of a nursing home there, and was expected to leave the institution very shortly, when her death ensued quite suddenly. The late Mrs Batchelar was a daughter of Mrs Dale, of Grey street, Palmerston, and was 38 years of age. She leaves her husband and nine children to mourn their loss, and they will have the sincere sympathy of all in the sad circumstances. The funeral takes place this afternoon, leaving Feilding in the morning for the St. Peter's Church, Terrace End, and thence to the cemetery.

Funeral Notice⁷

Friends of J.W. Batchelar are respectfully informed that the funeral service of his late wife, Mary Constance, will be held at St Peter's Church, Terrace End, at 2.15 o'clock today and the funeral will afterwards leave for Palmerston North Cemetery.

Death - John Batchelar



John Batchelar died on 27 November 1953 aged 80 years, and was buried at Terrace End, block 23, plot 31 with his wife Mary Constance and son John Arthur. At the time he was listed as a farmer of 3 Union St, Palmerston North.

Their headstone inscription reads:

Mary Constance wife of John W BATCHELAR, died 1st February 1914 aged 38; and their son John Arthur died 23rd September 1903 aged 2½; John William Batchelar, 1873-1953.

On 11 September 1952 John Batchelar made out a new will leaving all his possessions to his second wife Jocelyn Vincent Batchelar (nee Perry-Almao). She died on 8 May 1993 aged 86 years (b. 12 Nov 1906) and is buried in Kelvin Grove, Palmerston North.

⁶ MANAWATU STANDARD, VOLUME XLI, ISSUE 9716, 2 FEBRUARY 1914

⁷ MANAWATU TIMES, VOLUME LXVI, ISSUE 2143, 2 FEBRUARY 1914

The Batchelar family tree numbers over 156 descendants. A full update is awaited.

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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