

Fancy that!

By Dale Hartle

A collection of interesting facts about the Dale family. Warning: please be aware that there is some sensitive information in this file.

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By Dale Hartle

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Generations

Generation 1 – Children of Charles Hawkins Dale and Eliza Mary Bolton Stow. The first four were born in Australia, and the remaining children were born in Otago, New Zealand.

1. William Charles Dale, 1854-1924 (b. Australia)
2. Eliza Mary Dale 1856-1922 (b. Australia)
3. Lydia Anne Dale, 1859-1941 (b. Australia)
4. Rose Dale, 1861-1891 (b. Australia)
5. Edward Dale, 1864-?
6. George Dale, 1865-1948
7. Frank Beaumont 1868 (died 2 months)
8. Henry Dale, 1869-1909
9. Frank Dale, (twin) 1870-1954
10. Stillborn twin 1870
11. Emily Dale, 1873-1950
12. Mary Constance Dale, 1875-1914
13. Clara Dale, 1877-1949

Generation 2 - there were 51 direct descendants from Generation 1 (grandchildren).

Six in Generation 1 did not have any children: Edward, George, Frank Beaumont, Henry, stillborn twin and Emily.

Two had 10 children: Lydia, Mary Constance

Charles and Eliza had the following direct descendants in total (as at **17 May 2020** with known info)

	Generation 1	Birth Year	Gen 2	Gen 3	Gen 4	Gen 5	Gen 6	Gen 7	TOT
1	William Charles Dale	1854	6	7	13	23	9	-	59
2	Eliza Mary Dale	1856	10 (12*)	23	43	104	78	-	259
3	Lydia Annie Dale	1859	10	54	129	267	176	12	649
4	Rose Dale	1861	2	2	5	10	-	-	20
5	Edward Dale	1864	0	-	-	-	-	-	1
6	George Dale	1866	0	-	-	-	-	-	1
7	Frank Beaumont (died 2 months)	1868	0	-	-	-	-	-	1
8	Henry Dale	1869	0	-	-	-	-	-	
9	Frank Dale (twin)	1870	8	15	53	77	25		179
10	Stillborn twin	1870	0	-	-	-	-	-	1
11	Emily Dale	1873	0	-	-	-	-	-	1
12	Mary Constance Dale	1875	10	22	64	56	4	-	157
13	Clara Dale	1877	5	15	40	51	15	-	127

Totals	13		51	138	347	588	307	12	1456
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*There is evidence that Eliza Mary had a set of boy/girl twins whose birth were not registered in NZ shortly after her marriage in 1872 in Tapanui.

*Descendants from Pearce George Gordon Bridgman's wife Jenny Meech not counted.

*Lydia Annie Dale brought up her granddaughter Henrietta and counted her as her own, names on birth certificate.

Twins and more

There's lots of multiple births in the Dale Family:

- Frank **DALE** (b. 1870) had a twin brother who was stillborn.

Eliza Mary Dale

- Eliza Mary Dale and William Stephen **BOX** – 1872, unnamed boy/girl twins (unconfirmed)
- Alfred Robert Daniel **BOX** and Rosey Sarah Jane **BOX** 1884 in Tapanui (Eliza Mary Dale)
- Jennifer Marion and Margaret Rachael **HOLMES** 1951 (Florence Winnifred Lambourne, Elsie Lillie Anne Box, Eliza Mary Dale)
- David and James Sinclair **EDGAR** 1954 (Phyllis Chandler, Ivy Alice Susan Sinclair, Eliza Mary Dale)
- Frankie and Jaye **NOVES** 2004 (Kerrie Marie Warden, Winifred Sylvia Melville, Winifred Stewart Box, Henry William Stephen Box, Eliza Mary Dale)

Lydia Annie Dale

- Grace and Wallace **BRIDGMAN** 1931 (Wallace Barclay Bridgman, Ernest John Bridgman, Lydia Annie Dale)
- Russell Ivan and Brian Roger **SMALL** 1947 (Charles Herbert Small, Jessie Bridgman, Lydia Annie Dale)
- Wayne and Janis **BRIDGMAN** 1954 (William Bridgman, Ernest John Bridgman, Lydia Annie Dale)
- Aaron and Jeremy **COCHRANE** 1976 (Faye Joselyn Jennings, Rose Bridgman, Ernest John Bridgman, Lydia Annie Dale)
- Aaron Richard and Jeremy Douglas **COCHRANE** 1976 (Faye Joselyn Jennings, Rose Bridgman, Ernest John Bridgman, Lydia Annie Dale)
- Darren and Louise **SMALL** 1976 (Russell Ivan Small, Charles Herbert Small, Jessie Bridgman, Lydia Annie Dale)
- Gary and Lana **BRIDGMAN** 1982 (Graeme Douglas Bridgman, Leslie Bridgman, Ernest John Bridgman, Lydia Annie Dale)
- Luke Matthew and Isaac Paul **BAILEY** 1988 (Paul Alistair BAILEY, Alistair Avon Bailey, Edith Euphemia Bridgman, Ernest John Bridgman, Lydia Annie Dale)

- **Triples:** Matthew, Ryan and Callum **CRAWFORD** 1993 (Lynley Bridgman, Alan Bridgman, William Bridgman, Ernest Bridgman, Lydia Annie Dale)
- David and Mathew **GOULD** 1993 (Amanda Sharmon, Gaynor Brayshaw, Sylvia Dale Warden, Ruth Gladys Bridgman, Lydia Annie Dale)
- Amelia and Imogen **WEIR** 1993 (Howard John Weir, Rita Olive Warden, Ruth Gladys Bridgman, Lydia Annie Dale)
- Thomas and Daniel **ONGOUA** 1998 (Virginia Bridgman, Ronald G Bridgman, William Bridgman, Ernest John Bridgman, Lydia Annie Dale)

Frank Dale

- Donald Bruce and Colin James **DALE** 1952 (Gordon Henry Dale, Frank Dale)
- Wayne and Richard **CORBETT** 1963 (Carol Fay Dale, Francis Charles Dale, Frank Dale)
- Tania Louise and Maree Anne **MILLS** 1964 (Heather Wright, Alice Eledia Dale, Frank Dale)
- **Two sets of twins:** Jason and Aaron **HARTLE** 1980, Callum and Blair **HARTLE** 1989 (Dale Anne Sharp, Marie Daughan Valerie Rush, Janet Flora Beatrice Dale, Frank Dale)
- Monique Ann and Aimee Nichole **THOMPSON** 1991 (Daren Ross Thompson, Ronald James Thompson, Maud Gladys Myrtle Dale, Frank Dale)
- Josh and Sam **YOEMAN** 2003 (Maria Loren Cole, Barbara Jean Cole, Mavis Jean Thompson, Agnes May Dale, Frank Dale)

Mary Constance Dale

- Judith and Linda **SHANNON** 1957 (John Oscar Shannon, Constance Lania Batchelar, Mary Constance Dale)
- Erin and Lauren **CUMMING** 1980 (Derek John Cumming, Mollie Lorraine Shannon, Constance Lavinia Batchelar, Mary Constance Dale)
- Chantelle and Monica **NITSCHKE** 1984 (Graeme Ross Nitschke, Audrey Francis Shannon, Rita Frances Batchelar, Mary Constance Dale)
- Andrew Craig and Richard Miles **BATCHELAR** 1968 (Philip Wayne Batchelar, Merlin Octavius Batchelar, Mary Constance Dale)

Clara Dale

- **3 sets of fraternal twins:** Colleen and Trevor **BRYANT** 1933, Don and Doris **BRYANT** 1934, Barry and Beverley **BRYANT** 1943 (Mavis Eileen Litchfield, Clara Dale)
- Andrea Jaceline and Martin Grant **PRICE** 1963 (Gilliam Rae Shannon, Beryl Doreen Litchfield, Clara Dale)
- Trudy Joy and Neville John **CAMMOCK** 1962 (Elizabeth Ann Bryant, Mavis Eileen Litchfield, Clara Dale)
- Mark Joseph and Warwick John **BRYANT** 1964 (Trevor Leonard Bryant, Mavis Eileen Litchfield, Clara Dale)

There's also twins in Eliza Mary Bolton Stow's wider family too.

- Eliza Mary Bolton Stow's older sister Margaret, born 1823 in Margate Kent, England, had twins: Alfred and Walter, born 1856 in Clerkenwell, Middlesex, England. Margaret married George Dixie and there were 8 children altogether.

- Eliza Mary Bolton Stow's older sister Jane Stow, born 1825 in Margate, Kent, England, gave birth to twin girls while on board the ship "Omega" en-route to Australia in 1856: Jane and Eliza Mary. Eliza Mary died after 5 days. Jane married John Marriott and they had 7 children.
- Arthur Henry Stow has twin grandsons: Tony and Les Stow, born 1950 in Glendale, NSW. These are Eliza Mary Bolton Stow's great-grand-nephews.

+100 years old

The only descendant of Charles and Eliza Dale to make it to 100 years was Georgina Keeler nee Dowler, daughter of Eliza Dowler nee Bridgman, granddaughter of Lydia Bridgman nee Dale, and great-granddaughter of Charles and Eliza Dale. Georgina died on 21 January 2007 aged 101 years of age. She is buried in the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill with her husband Percy William Keeler.



Back row: Georgina, Marguerite, Lorna, Ethel

Front row: Emily, Eliza Dowler nee Bridgman, Rosalind

Birthdays

Four of Lydia Annie Dale and John Thomas Bridgman's children had birthdays in September:

- Herbert 24 September
- Wallace 15 September
- Ruth 21 September

- Henrietta 13 September

World Travellers

Caroline Stow, the eldest of the seven Stow children, married a George Tite in 1854, but he died just ten years later in Clerkenwell. Caroline was a widow for some time before accepting a marriage proposal from a friend's husband's brother Mr Fred Darby, and she emigrated to New Zealand. Unfortunately he died in Wellington in 1893, and it appears that Caroline then travelled to Victoria to be with her sister Jane Marriott, who passed away in 1897. Caroline herself died on 28 December 1898 and was buried with her sister in Castlemaine General Cemetery.

Minnie Dixie, youngest daughter of Margaret Stow and her husband George Dixie was a milliner by trade. She left England bound for China on a mission but ended up in India where she married a Charles Arthur Ross Sage in 1897. He was a Colonel in the Bengal Staff Corps. After the birth and death of their first baby Edith in India in 1898, Minnie and Charles returned to England where another 3 children were born. They are both buried in the Southborough Cemetery in Kent.

Herbert Dixie, son of Margaret Stow and her husband George Dixie, travelled to Australia and ended up a very well known man in Queanbeyan, New South Wales. He was involved in the wool industry and as a bookkeeper, and became an auctioneer and local alderman, and member of the masonic lodge. He was also an officer in the Queanbeyan Mounted Infantry and a member of the P. & A. Association. He died unmarried in 1904 and was given a huge sendoff by the Freemasons with an impressive monument at the Tharwa Road cemetery.

Letter Writers

Margaret Dixie, sister of Eliza and Jane Stow, and Joseph Stow, was a prolific letter writer. Transcripts of a number of letters she wrote reveal a number of interesting facts about family life. Margaret kept in touch with her sisters Jane and Eliza who had emigrated to Australia, Caroline who went to New Zealand, Annie who was still in England, and brother Joseph in Australia. She sent many letters, newspapers and photographs over the years, and related the news and other comings and goings from England. She wished she could have seen her sisters as they grew older, and especially all her nieces and nephews. She scolded them for not writing often enough and wondered why they were so slow to reply to her letters. She sounds like a religious woman who loved keeping in touch with her family, and she always accounted for her children and what they were up to in her letters. She reported on the state of the economy in England in the 1870-1890s, her health, how her family were growing up, what they were all doing, and how she herself had struggled running her husband's business after his death, and her sister Annie's progress following her husband's untimely demise. Margaret died in 1899.

Accomplished Artists



Ione Bridgman, wife of Arthur John Bridgman, was an accomplished ISN Artist. She did artwork of various forms for most of her life.

Before marrying Arthur Bridgman, she was a display artist in a large department store in New Zealand. Not long afterwards she completed an International Correspondence Course on Art, and then painted for her own enjoyment.

She was the mother of **Alice Sherrill Bridgman**, who married Ian David Knaggs in 1970. Sherrill was an ISN News Guide and Artist, who was severely disabled with Diffuse Scleroderma.



Ione also painted the book covers for the entire Voices of Scleroderma Book Series.

After taking early retirement, Sherrill became ill with diffuse systemic scleroderma, and being unable to walk because of the scleroderma, and with kidney failure she spent much of her time at the computer, and on the Internet. Because of her interest and experience with this, she also created the ISN page about dialysis, so she became the ISN Dialysis Guide, and the ISN Thyroid Guide.

As an ISN News Guide for Scleroderma News, she researched and prepared items about scleroderma medical and media news which are on the Internet.

Ione passed away in 2011, and her daughter Sherrill died in 2008. You can read their stories on the Sclero.org website.

<https://sclero.org/isn/hr/bio/bridgman-ione/en.html>

<https://sclero.org/isn/hr/bio/knaggs-sherrill/en.html>

King's and Queen's Honours

Two members of the Dale family have been honoured by the Sovereign:

- Rose Dale's daughter **Rose Caroline Muir** 1884-1970 – MBE 1937 for services to nursing (NZ)
- Rose Dale's grandson **Frank Herbert Muir** 1920-1998 – CBE 1980 for services to broadcasting (UK).

You can read Rose Caroline Dale's story on the Te Ara website

<https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/4m66/muir-rose-caroline>

You can read about the Christchurch Hospital Nurses Chapel in this file produced by the Christchurch City Council:

<https://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Heritage/Publications/ChristchurchCityCouncil/ArchitecturalHeritage/NursesChapel/ISBN-0959797300.pdf>



Figure 1 - Rose Caroline Muir 1884-1970 – MBE

Rose Caroline Muir MBE (12 January 1884 - 12 May 1970) was a New Zealander nurse. She was Frank Muir's aunt. She became a registered nurse in 1909. In 1919 she became director of Christchurch Hospital, and continued in that job until poor health forced her to retire in 1936. In 1923 she founded New Zealand's first pre-school training for nurses. In 1924 she wrote to the hospital council stating the need for a chapel, and was therefore important for the creation of the Chapel Nurses' Christchurch Hospital Memorial, which was approved in 1925 and had its foundation stone set out in 1927. (Sibylla Maude and Mabel Thurston, both former matrons of Christchurch Hospital, had first thought of a chapel at the hospital before she wrote.) She was also an honorary secretary (1916-1919), a member of the executive committee (1924-1936), and president (1929-1930) of the New Zealand Trained Nurses Association, as well as being

vice president and president of its multiple times Canterbury branches. Upon its withdrawal, the Association honoured it with a lifetime subscription. From 1931 to 1936, she was a member of the Board of Nursing and Midwives Registration, and she was a New Zealand Sunshine League member foundation as well. In 1937 she became one of ten nurses who were the first nurses to be named a member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE). In 1940 Walter Fox donated a Rose Muir medal to be awarded in his honour. In 1962 some of his former students founded the Rosa Muir Association. After Muir died a stained glass window was commissioned in the Nurses' Memorial Chapel in memory of her.

Frank Herbert Muir has his own Wikipedia page - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Muir

Read his online Obituary <https://funeral-notices.co.uk/national/death-notices/notice/Frank+Muir/4092738>

Frank's son-in-law **Geoffrey Wheatcroft** has his own Wikipedia page

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geoffrey_Wheatcroft

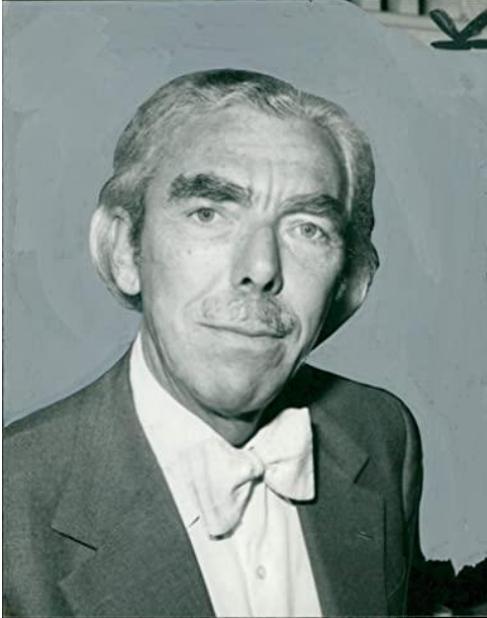


Figure 2 - Frank Herbert Muir CBE 1920-1998



Figure 3 - Geoffrey Wheatcroft, a British journalist and writer (son-in-law of Frank Herbert Muir)

Our ANZACs

Many of the Dale men served in World War I and World War II for New Zealand, Australia and Britain. Several existing and future spouses of Dale women also served.

Two died in WW1 -

- **Edward Thomas Dale (Private), 1886-1917** – second son of William Charles Dale, killed at Passchendaele during the Third Battle of Ypres, no grave (Served for Australia)
- **Charles Alexander Sinclair, 1893-1918** – eldest son of Eliza Mary Dale and Charles Sinclair, died of disease 13 December, buried Etaples Military Cemetery

and two were taken prisoner -

- **Wallace Barclay Bridgman 1894-1970** – son of Lydia Anne Dale – Germany WWI
- **Arthur John Bridgman 1916-1997** – grandson of Lydia Ann Dale – Greece WWII

One served at Gallipoli and was evacuated wounded:

- **John Laird Llewellyn Clougher 1891-1949** (later to marry Mary Dale, daughter of William Charles Dale)

One Served for **Britain** – **Frank Herbert Muir CBE, 1920-1998**

Two of William Charles Dale's sons served in WWI – **Edward Thomas Dale** and **William Dale**, plus son-in-law **John Laird Llewellyn Clougher**, and his son **John Laird Clougher** served in WWII.

Eliza Mary Dale's family served: sons **Alfred Robert Daniel Box**, **Charles Alexander Sinclair**, and **Edward Sidney Sinclair** - WW I, grandson William Stephen Box in WW II, grandson John William Holmes in WW II,

Two of Frank Dale's sons served in World War II – **George Frederick Dale** and **Gordon Henry (Claude) Dale**.

Roy Clement Shannon, husband of Rita Frances Batchelar, received the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry in 1916.

Lydia Anne Dale's family served: sons **Pearce George Gordon Bridgman** and **Wallace Barclay Bridgman**, WW I, son-in-law **Percy William Keeler** WWII, grandsons **William Henry Dowler**, **Wallace Watson Dowler**, **John Leslie Small**, **William Eric Henderson**, **Frederick John Bridgman**, **Stanley Bridgman**, **Leslie Bridgman**, **Ernest James Bridgman**, **Arthur John Bridgman**, **Herbert Raymond Bridgman** – WW II.

Four of Ernest John Bridgman's sons served in World War II – **Frederick John Bridgman**, **Stanley Bridgman**, **Leslie Bridgman**, **Ernest James Bridgman**.

Two of Herbert Alfred Bridgman's sons served in World War II – **Arthur John Bridgman**, **Herbert Raymond Bridgman**.

Two of Martha Rose Bridgman's sons served in World War II – **Pearce George Gordon Bridgman** and **Wallace Barclay Bridgman**.

Mary Constance Dale's sons-in-laws (brothers) **Roy Clement Shannon** and **Alvan Ezekiel Shannon** both served in World War I. Their brother Ronald Lenon Shannon was killed in action on 5 June 1917 after receiving multiple wounds in the back, neck and thigh and arm in France and is buried at the Military Cemetery, Trois Arbres in France.

Names and Nicknames in the Dale Family

- Gordon Henry Dale was known as "Claude"
- Emily Grace Tiddy who married Gordon Henry Dale was known as "Pixie"
- Janet Flora Beatrice Dale who married Henry Reginald Rush was known as "Jean".
- Henrietta Rebecca McDonald Bridgman was known as "Ettie"
- Mary Agnes Batchelor who married Alfred Jerome Wevell was known as "Molly"
- Georgina Agnes Dowler was known as "Jean"
- Florence Dale, wife of William Dale – also known as "Tess"

Brothers and sisters marrying

Frank Thompson who married Agnes May Dale, and James Thompson who married Maud Dale were brothers! It is rumoured that another Thompson brother – Charlie, was also engaged to Janet Dale (Jean) but the engagement was broken off, and she went on to marry Henry Reginald Rush (Reg).

Roy and Alvan Shannon married sisters Rita Frances and Constance Lavinia Batchelar.

Goldfields Preacher

Joseph Arthur PENNA was the eldest son of Samuel Penna and Eliza Stow. He was born in 1882 in Castlemaine, and became a Methodist Minister. Together with his wife Bessie and 2 sons **Reuben Rowland** (1917-1995) and **Mervyn Henry** (1919-2007), they spent many years serving the Church in the Victorian Goldfields region. They were well thought of in their community and with their congregations, organising support and events for their well-being. Ministers were moved to new towns every few years, and the Pennas built up a strong following of charge people some of whom helped build new churches and community facilities. When they moved town they were given great send-offs and lavish gifts. The (Rev) Joseph Arthur Penna died on 4 October 1956 aged 74, and Bessie died on 24 August 1967 aged 88 years. They are buried in Castlemaine.

Memories

- I remember Aunty Emily Dale very well as a young boy, and visited her often in her home in Grey Street, Palmerston North, with my mother Clarissa Amelia (nee Batchelar) Whiteman. Her and brother George never had electricity in the house, until my mother had it connected for them. It was like taking a walk back in history. (Gary Whiteman)
- Flora Dale was a great gardener - her sons helped her and all the paths from the flower beds were given names after Auckland streets such as Queen Street, Karangahake Road. (Ang Cole)
- Did you know the first time Maud Dale met her future husband Jim Thompson he tried to put a daddy long legs down her back! (Ang Cole)
- Frank Dale Senior was a surveyor, he was often away from home for long periods of time surveying throughout the country.
- Steven Hitchcock won the Australasian Maths Competition medal when he was 13 and had it presented by the Queensland Governor. (Clare Hitchcock)
- Claude Dale remembered being in the Raetihi fires¹. He also remembered being a keen quick student of mental arithmetic. A school inspector commented on his ability when he caught up with Claude when he shifted schools. Claude was proud to think the inspector remembered him. (Clare Hitchcock)
- In his early days, there were five boys named Gordon in the class. The smallest shy boy kept the name Gordon, and the other four took on nicknames. That's how "Claude" stuck with Claude Dale. People called him that from then on. (Clare Hitchcock)

Where did the early Dale family mostly live?

Charles Hawkins Dale and Eliza Mary Bolton Stow – Tapanui, Mabel Bush, Palmerston North

William Charles Dale family – South Island – Tapanui, Invercargill

Eliza Mary Dale family (Box-Sinclair) – Tapanui, Wellington, Dunedin, Auckland

Lydia Anne Dale (Bridgman) family – Tapanui, Invercargill,

Rose Anne Dale (Muir) – Blenheim

Frank Dale – Raetihi, Wanganui, Tauranga, Matamata

Mary Constance Dale (Batchelar) – Feilding, Palmerston North

Clara Dale (Litchfield) – Palmerston North, Woodville

¹ **Raetihi Forest fire** was a **fire** that occurred on the 19–20 March 1918 in and around the townships of **Raetihi** and Ohakune in the North Island of New Zealand. The great **fire** itself was a major catastrophe. It burned for two days, devastating areas of forest and almost destroying the townships of **Raetihi** and Ohakune. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raetihi_Forest_fire

Where are they buried?

Many members of the Dale family are buried in Palmerston North, and Feilding.

Others are in Invercargill, Tauranga, Rotorua, Te Awamutu, Matamata, Tapanui, Dunedin, Port Chalmers, Alexandra, Blenheim, Australia, England, France and Stewart Island.

Charles Hawkins Dale, Eliza Mary Bolton Dale, daughter Emily Dale and son George Dale all buried in same plot at Terrace End Cemetery, Palmerston North, block 26, plot 42

See the **List of Burials** file.

Dale family members to die early or tragically

Rose Dale 1861-1891

Rose Dale, daughter of Charles Hawkins Dale and Eliza Mary Bolton Stow, who married James Muir, died a few days after a critical operation on 21 June 1891 in Blenheim, leaving two small children aged 7 and 3 years, and her husband James Muir. She is buried in Marlborough.

John Joseph Patrick Crengle – Bluff 1921

John Joseph Crengle was the husband of Henrietta Rebecca McDonald Bridgman 1899-1983 (granddaughter of Lydia Anne Dale).

They had married only a year earlier and had an infant son. They lived at Grove Bush, and John was a farm labourer.

John Crengle (Cringle) attempted to board a passenger carriage on a train that was being reversed into the railway station at Bluff at 5.45 pm on 1 January 1921, when he fell and went down between the carriages. The train was immediately stopped but he was killed instantly. At the Coroner's Inquest on 4 January it appears that John was with his brother Thomas Crengle and they were waiting on the platform after the annual New Year's Day Regatta at Bluff. The station staff saw him attempt to board the carriage but missed his foothold, and then disappear from view and fall



between the trucks, being hit by the next truck. The coroner entered a verdict of "accidental death" "no blame being attachable to anyone, the Railway Department having taken all necessary precautions." (Bluff Railway Fatality, Otago Daily Times, Issue 18134, 4 January 1921.)

John Crengle was buried with his parents at the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill, Block/Plot: Roman Catholic - 7 / 88.

John Hector Dale 1902-1911

John Hector Dale was the 3rd child of Frank Dale and Flora McLean. He was born in 1902 but sadly died aged 10 years on 7 June 1911 and is buried in Raetihi. The cause of death is believed to have been diphtheria but there is also the family story about him falling in a creek and “getting a chill”.

Henry Dale 1869-1909

Henry Dale was the 6th child of Charles Hawkins Dale and Eliza Mary Bolton Stow.

Henry joined the Wirth’s Brothers Circus in 1904 when it was touring New Zealand as a menagerie attendant and travelled with the circus on tour in Australia.

In June 1909 the circus was exhibiting at Childers in Queensland, and Henry was in charge of an elephant which was transporting material to a special train at the railway station. On its arrival there with the load, the female



elephant, named Toby, who had signs of bad temper in the past, suddenly pinned Henry against a railway truck with his head. Henry’s chest was crushed flat, and he died a few minutes later after getting up and staggering a few yards. The accident was widely reported in Australia and New Zealand. Toby died in 1915 after becoming ill herself.

Following Henry’s tragic death, his fellow workers must have paid for his burial and erected a white marble headstone. The inscription reads (note month is incorrect, it should read June):

In memory of HARRY DALE, killed 27 July 1909, At Rest with God. Erected by members of Wirths Circus.

Harry was buried Apple Tree Creek Cemetery, Block 5, row 2, near Bundaberg in Queensland.

No photo of Henry can be found. See his full story separately.

Mary Constance Dale (Batchelar) 1875-1914

Mary Constance Dale was the second youngest daughter of Charles Hawkins Dale and Eliza Mary Bolton Stow.

Mary married John William Batchelar and together they had 10 children.

Sadly Mary died on 1 February 1914, just 10 days after giving birth to her 10th child in Feilding. Her death was reported as being a “severe blow to the widower and family”.

Mary was buried on 2 February 1914 at Terrace End Cemetery, in Block 23, plot 31, with her son John Arthur Batchelar. She was just 38 years of age.

John Arthur Batchelar 1901-1903

John Arthur Batchelar was the son of Mary Constance Dale and John William Batchelar and they lived in Tokomaru in the Manawatu. Young John in bed at his home in the morning when he managed to get hold of a match, struck it, and set fire to his flannelette nightdress. He was discovered by his parents but the garment was in flames and the child was severely burnt.

The doctor was sent for, and the boy was brought into Palmerston by the afternoon train, but he died shortly after arrival. He was just 2 and a half years old.

This was a shocking incident for the family and they received numerous expressions of condolence from friends in Palmerston and Tokomaru.

The coroner enquired into the accident and decided it was not necessary to hold an inquest.

John was buried in Terrace End Cemetery on 25 September 1903 in Block 23, plot 31.

Rueben Pearce Penna 1899-1923

Reuben Pearce Penna, son of Eliza Mary Stow and Samuel Pearce Penna, served with the Australian Imperial Force, enlisting on 7 September 1914 after resigning from the Victorian Mounted Police. He was born on 17 September 1889. He served in the Middle East and France, and was mentioned in dispatches for conspicuous service. On his return to Victoria, Rueben rejoined the police, but was tragically killed on his way to work in Melbourne on 24 November 1923, when he stepped from a tram into the face of an oncoming tram and was run over. His brother Albert tried in vain to help save his life by offering a blood transfusion, and he missed his lawyer's exams in the process. However Rueben was too badly injured to survive, and was buried in the New Melbourne Cemetery, Fawkner. He left a widow and children who received grateful donations from the police and community to help with their support.

John Thomas Bridgman - Plane Crash



Figure 4 <http://www.adf-serials.com.au/nz-serials/nzharvard.htm>

John Thomas Bridgman, son of Wallace Barclay Bridgman, grandson of Lydia Bridgman nee Dale, and great grandson of Charles and Eliza Dale died in a plane crash while working as a journalist. He was married with two sons. According to the accident report, the accident occurred at 0955 hours on 15 April 1957, one mile south of Birdlings

Flat while inspecting a rocket range. The aircraft, a North American AT-6D Harvard IIA owned by the Royal New Zealand Air Force, had verified that the range was clear of shipping and was flying low along the beach when it hit a sand dune and cartwheeled. Flight Lieutenant Bruce McGill and journalist John Bridgman killed. (Information supplied by Murray Ballantine)

<https://aviation-safety.net/wikibase/68446>

<http://www.adf-serials.com.au/nz-serials/nzharvard.htm>

Here are the three newspaper article transcripts and obituaries:

Pilot, Reporter die in Harvard Crash

Inspection flight ends in tragedy

A Harvard aircraft crashed at Birdlings Flat this morning, killing the pilot and a newspaperman passenger. They were: Flight Lieutenant B.M. McGill, an instructor at the RNZAF station, Wigram, and Mr John T Bridgman, of 37 Banks Avenue, Shirley. The accident happened about 9.55 am, five or ten minutes after the aircraft had taken off from Wigram. Flight Lieutenant McGill's task was to inspect the Birdling's Flat area to make sure it was clear of sheep before pupil pilots practised rocket attacks. This meant coming down to probably within 100 ft of the ground.

Flight Lieutenant McGill was married, without children. Mr Bridgman was married with three sons.

The accident occurred a mile south of Birdling's Flat, the Harvard apparently striking the ground, ricocheting back into the air and then plunging to the ground on its right wing. It caught fire after striking the ground.

Flight Lieutenant McGill had made one run out over Lake Ellesmere and then turned back towards the land, the crash occurring soon after he reached it.

Mr Bridgman, formerly a reporter on the "Star-Sun", was New Zealand representative for the "Daily Express", London.

He entered journalism as a cadet reporter on the "Southland Times". Mr Bridgman saw extensive naval service during the war and kept up his interest subsequently as an enthusiastic officer in the Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve. He returned briefly to the United Kingdom after the war.

Mr Bridgman is survived by his wife and three young sons.

Two die in Crash at Birdlings Flat

A Royal New Zealand Air Force Harvard tipped a knoll rising a few feet above the surrounding flat land at Birdling's Flat yesterday morning and crashed into the ground on its wingtip 100 yards further on, killing both the pilot and the passenger.

The accident occurred at 9.55 am, a few minutes after the plane had taken off from the Birdling's Flat airstrip to make sure a nearby area was clear of sheep before student pilots from Wigram practised rocket attacks.

The men killed were:

Flight Lieutenant Bruce McGill, aged 31; the pilot of the aircraft and an instructor at the Wigram Flying Training School, of 6 Makora avenue, Fendalton; and

John Thomas Bridgman, aged 33, a journalist employed by the London "Daily Express", of 37 Banks avenue, Shirley. He was a lieutenant-commander in the Canterbury division of the Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve.

Both men will be given military funerals.

The cause of the crash is not known and it is likely that an investigation team of experts may be sent to Christchurch from Wellington. A special court of inquiry is to be set up.

Flight Lieutenant McGill had made one run over Lake Ellesmere and had turned back towards the land. The crash occurred soon after he reached it, about a mile south-east of the Birdling's Flat buildings.

A fire tender and an ambulance were dispatched immediately and arrived on the scene within minutes. A fire in the plane wreckage was quickly put out but the men in it were found to be dead.

A possible failure in the aircraft's power is being investigated.

Flight Lieutenant McGill was one of the Air Force's most experienced pilots and only three

or four men in the serve are said to have logged more flying time. He had spent a good deal of time piloting Hastings transport planes.

Born and educated in Tauranga, where his parents live, Flight Lieutenant McGill joined the Air Force in 1944, leaving the service after 13 months and re-entering in 1948. He underwent a pilot's refresher course, was commissioned in 1949, and promoted to his latest rank in 1954. He was married last September.

Mr Bridgman was a popular journalist and naval officer. He was born in Invercargill in December 1923 and received his secondary education at the Southland Boys' High School, joining the "Southland Times" when he left school.

In 1942 he joined the army but the following year was transferred to the navy and posted overseas for training to serve with the Royal Navy. He was commissioned in 1944. For two years he served in coastal force motor launches and in escort vessels, including the Caistor Castle, Varyan Bay and the Diomedea guarding the Western Approaches, and in the cruiser Leander in the Pacific theatre of war.

Mr Bridgman joined the "Christchurch Star-Sun" on his return to New Zealand in 1946 and stayed with that newspaper until he took up a position as South Pacific representative of the "Daily Express" two years ago. He was a past member of the executive of the Canterbury-Westland Journalists' Union and Invercargill representative on the council of the New Zealand Journalists' Association.

In 1947, Mr Bridgman was granted a permanent commission in the Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve and was appointed to HMNZS Pegasus, Christchurch. He continued to take an interest in naval reserve affairs when he visited the United Kingdom in 1949.

At the time of his death Mr Bridgman was boats officer of the division and an instructor in advancement classes. He is survived by his wife and three young sons.

Aircraft Crash Victims

Services held at Crematorium

Group Captain T.J. de Lange, officer commanding the Royal New Zealand Air Force station, Wigram, represented the Air Force at the funeral yesterday of Flight Lieutenant B. McGill, who was killed on Monday when the Harvard he was flying crashed at Birdling's Flat.

The Rev. W.M. Hendrie, minister of St Giles' Presbyterian Church, conducted a service at the Crematorium, attended by relatives and service friends.

The Army was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel J.A. Worsnop, Chief of Staff, Southern Military District, and Major E.W. Maxwell. "Last Post" was sounded by buglers of the Air Training Corps band.

Mr J.T. Bridgman

The captain, officers and a body of ratings of the Canterbury Division of the Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve attended the funeral of Mr J.T. Bridgman, a journalist, who was killed in the same accident. Mr Bridgman was a lieutenant-commander of the division.

A service at the Crematorium was conducted by the Rev. G.H. Schurr, vicar of the Shirley Anglican Church. The coffin, draped with the White Ensign, and bearing Mr Bridgman's cap and sword, was borne by eight officers of the division. Officers and ratings also lined the driveway of the Crematorium.

Lieutenant-Commander J. E. Washbourn represented the Royal New Zealand Navy and Lieutenant-Colonel Worsnop and Major Maxwell represented the Army. Group Captain De Lange represented the Air Force.

Many journalistic colleagues of Mr Bridgman also attended the service.

Ernest James Bridgman 1932-1951



This is a photo of William Bailey and Ernest James Bridgman. This photo was taken on Ernest's 21 birthday. Two years later he was about to go and fight in the Korean War, but while he was working at NZ Rail, he was crushed between two units by the coupler and died. He was only 23 years old.

The coupler which is the big metal device joining the rakes of carriages or 'coal' trucks. Bill (William) is my Dad and Ernie is my Mum's brother. I was only 12 when Ernie died. (Lynette Garnett.)

Ernest James BRIDGMAN was born on 5 Nov 1927 in Invercargill, Southland, and died on 14 May 1951 in Invercargill, South Island, New Zealand at age 23. He is buried in the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill, Soldiers Avenue Block 2, Plot 110.

His parents were Ernest John Bridgman, son of Lydia Anne Dale, and Jessie Weir.



Joseph Bannister Stow's daughter Clara

Joseph Stow, Eliza's older brother lost a daughter Clara to a tragic situation in Winter's Flat, Castlemaine, Victoria in 1862:

CHILD BURNT TO DEATH THROUGH PLAYING WITH MATCHES. – An inquest was held by Dr Preshaw, on Monday last, at Winter's Flat, on the body of a child named Clara Stow, aged 2½ years, whose death was occasioned by burning. It appeared that it was playing with some matches, which by some means ignited her clothes, and before the fire could be put out she was burnt dreadfully about the right side. Medical aid was had immediately, but deceased only lived a few hours. A verdict of accidental death was returned.²

² CHILD BURNT TO DEATH (1862, January 15). Mount Alexander Mail (Vic. : 1854 – 1917), , p. 2. Retrieved March 8, 2016, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article197093711>

Cecil James Box 1920

The following report about a tragic fall from a dray of Cecil James Box at Port Chalmers in 1920.³

INQUEST

BOY BREAKS HIS NECK. Mr H. Y. Widdowson, S.M., district coroner, held an inquest at Port Chalmers on Sunday in respect to the death on Saturday afternoon of Cecil James Box, a lad of 13 years, who was killed by falling off a loaded dray he was driving from Port Chalmers to his father's farm at the Lower Harbour.

Henry William Stephen Box, farmer, Lower Harbour, said deceased was his oldest son, and had suffered from bronchitis for 10 years, but had been better during the past two years. Deceased, who lived with his parents at the farm, visited Port Chalmers with his father on Saturday, leaving for home about 2 p.m. Witness was driving a spring dray loaded with manure, and the boy was driving a spring cart. About half-way home they exchanged vehicles at the lad's request. Witness drove on and the lad followed. At the corner, about one mile and a half from home, witness saw the dray and the boy was then on the dray driving. About five minutes afterwards witness saw the dray had stopped. The boy was not then on top, but witness thought the lad had probably dropped something and gone back along the road to look for it. As the dray continued standing for half an hour witness sent William, a younger son, to the dray to see what was the matter. This boy brought the dray along, and witness went down to meet him with a leader to pull the dray up the hill to the farm. William told him that Cecil was lying on the road near the dray evidently dead, and he had removed him to the side of the road. Witness hurried along and found Cecil at the roadside as described, his face covered with mud and blood, his oilskin coat half off. Witness had previously seen Cecil put on this oilskin coat, over another overcoat, when a shower was passing at an earlier stage of the trip home. Witness got a vehicle and took the body to Port Chalmers, where it was examined by Dr Borrie. Deceased attended school. He was a careful driver, and was used to the road.

William Box described the finding of his brother, who was lying with his head on the wheel track near the wheel of the dray and his feet towards the horse's head. He backed the horse and lifted his brother to the side of the road. He never moved. His oilskin coat was half off.

Formal evidence was given by Lincoln Garfield Newton, builder, who was working at the farmhouse. He had often seen deceased driving, and the lad seemed competent. Dr W. H. Borrie deposed to examining the body, which was poorly developed. The face was covered with blood and mud, the mud filling the mouth and nostrils. There was a cut on the chin, a slight abrasion on the left side of the face, and a bruise on the back of the neck. The neck was broken and death must have been instantaneous. The Coroner said that the inference to be drawn from the evidence was that the boy in taking off his oilskin coat had evidently fallen from the dray and broken his neck. Death was due to deceased severing the cervical vertebrae by accidentally falling from a dray.

³ OTAGO WITNESS, ISSUE 3475, 19 OCTOBER 1920

Killed by train 1978

3 May 1987

Two brothers were killed instantly yesterday in a level-crossing smash. They were Fraser Thomas Smith, 16 and Benjamin James Smith, 9, of Bayview. Police said the car in which brothers were travelling was hit by the Gisborne-Napier passenger train about 1.30 pm. The car was pushed nearly 100 m along the track. The engine hauling the train was damaged and passengers were delayed at the scene for nearly three hours before a second locomotive was sent from Napier.

These two boys were the great-great-grandsons of Eliza Mary Dale and William Stephen Box.

Killed in car crash 2015

Rosemary LAMB was killed in a car crash at Luggate on 2 February 2015. Rosemary was a passenger in the vehicle. She was a member of the Wanaka Tennis Club and had only recently moved to Wanaka. Rosemary Margaret McDONALD was the daughter of Margaret Bridgman and granddaughter of Wallace Barclay Bridgman.

Tragic Accident 1985

Ben Evan Nitschke was the husband of Audrey Frances Shannon. Her mother was Rita Frances Batchelar, daughter of Mary Constance Dale.

Ben and his son Graeme Ross Nitschke died tragically in a drowning accident on 31 July 1985 in the Ahu Ahu Valley, Wanganui.

Here is the transcript of the newspaper articles:

Search for men

PALMERSTON NORTH (PA). A search was going on today for two men missing after a wire rope they were using to cross a flooded Wanganui stream yesterday collapsed.

Wanganui police said the accident happened at about 2.15 pm when the unnamed men were carrying deer posts across the flooded Ahu Ahu stream, a tributary 80km up the Wanganui River.

The flying fox broke dropping them into the rain-swollen stream.

Fencing found in stream

WELLINGTON (0A). Two farmers who disappeared when a flying fox across a river north of Wanganui collapsed on Wednesday

By Dale Hartle

were crossing with a load of large fenceposts, police say.

Posts for high deer farm fencing were found yesterday by searchers in the Ahu Ahu Valley stream below the spot where Mr Ben Evan Nitschke, 56, and his son, Graeme Ross Nitschke, 26, plunged into the water.

The flying fox "cage" was also recovered but there was no sign of the men in the swollen and dirty stream.

Farmer's body found

WANGANUI (PA). The body of a missing man was recovered from the Ahu Ahu stream north of Wanganui about 9.30 am today.

He was Ben Evan Nitschke, a 56 year old farmer. The body of his son was found

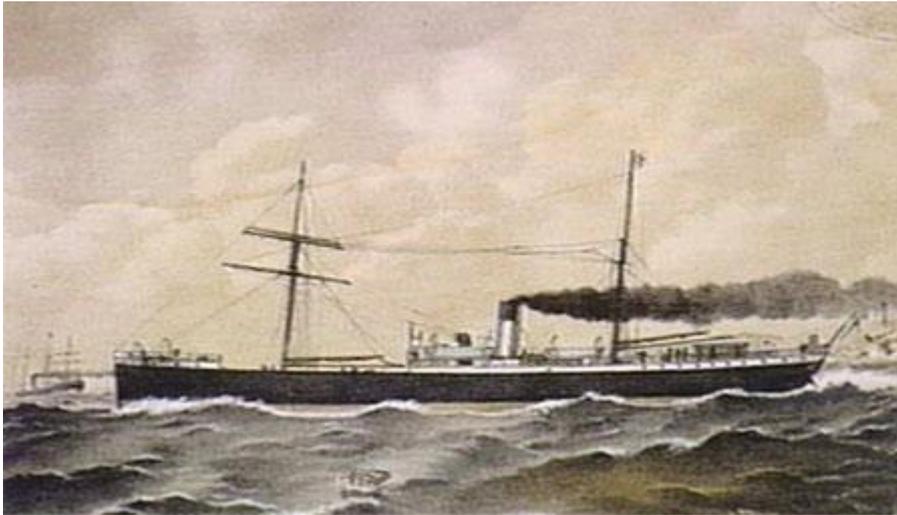
yesterday. He was Graeme Ross Nitschke, 26. Both men fell into the swollen stream on Wednesday when the flying fox they were using to cross the stream collapsed.

A Wanganui police spokesman said the search party left Wanganui at 7 am today. Divers found the body in a hole near where the flying fox collapsed.

Ben and Graeme are buried together at St Michael and All Angels Churchyard, Halcombe.

Close Calls

Shipwreck 1887



Eliza's sister **Jane STOW** and her husband **John MARRIOTT** were shipwrecked off the coast of Melbourne on 19 October 1887. They were resident in Campbell's Creek, Castlemaine, Victoria and were going to Newcastle most likely to visit Eliza's brother

Joseph Banister Stow and his wife Elizabeth, on board the s.s. *Cheviot*. The ship foundered in heavy seas just outside the heads and lost its propeller. It then broke in two and many lives were lost. The Marriotts managed to get ashore in a bruised and battered state.⁴

The official story goes like this:

The SS Cheviot set out from Melbourne on the 19th October 1887 with cargo of food stuff, wine, metals and sundries, on what was considered a typical coastal journey to Sydney. After passing through the heads of Port Philip Bay around 8pm the ship was in the outer edge of 'the rip', considered to be one of the most dangerous port entries in Australia, when she suffered mechanical problems with the propeller.

A south westerly gale was blowing, so the Captain, Thomas B Richardson, decided not to launch the lifeboats as he considered the sea was too rough so ordered the sails be set immediately. This didn't help and although the anchors were put out the SS Cheviot struck the shore around 9pm. Distress rockets were sent up and the Queenscliff Lifeboat was sent out but due to the appalling weather conditions could not make it through the heads.

Help didn't arrive until around 4am the next morning. A rocket lifeline and boatswain chair were used to rescue 24 passengers before the ship finally broke up and sank. Some passengers drowned as they were trapped in the fore cabin waiting to be rescued. Others were battered to death on rocks.

⁴ <http://www.discovermorningtonpeninsula.com.au/fascinatingfacts/shipwreck-ss-cheviot.php>

Here's John Marriott's account of the disaster⁵

"I am a resident of Campbell's Creek, near Castlemaine, and was going to Newcastle. My wife accompanied me on board the Cheviot, and was lying in the berth with me when the vessel ceased to go along. It was then about 8 o'clock. It was bitterly cold, and we were glad to rest secure from the boisterous wind. After the vessel's screw had ceased to revolve, she commenced to roll heavily, but we did not anticipate any danger. The captain came down to the saloon from the deck, and stated that the vessel had met with some difficulty, but he did not anticipate any immediate danger. He advised us to put lifebelts upon the women and afterwards to place lifebelts upon ourselves. It was seen, however, that the Cheviot was hopelessly drifting upon a lee-shore, and so rapidly that within the space of about an hour from the time she became disabled she struck upon the rocks upon the Back Beach. The shock was not so great as one would have expected, and although she had rolled very heavily, up to that time she had not taken much water on board. On becoming fast upon the rocks, however, she took the water overboard in great quantities. There was a tremendous sea on, and it was also raining. The women acted nobly, and there was not the slightest excitement amongst them. My dear wife quietly stood whilst I adjusted and secured the belt around her. All the women displayed wonderful presence of mind. The most of us remained in the saloon, as we were sheltered there, and every now and then the captain would run down the companionway to see how we are getting along. He was thoroughly self-possessed, and acted with great courage and manliness throughout. The steamer listed to the shore side considerably, so that her broadside was offered to the force of the ocean, and whilst she remained in that position we did not find things so very bad. All

of a sudden, however, the captain ran down the companionway, and said he feared that the steamer would go amid ships. He expressed the hope, however, that if she only held together as she was they would be safe, as she was firmly upon the rocky bottom. Immediately afterwards the vessel gave a sudden jump and reel, and the stern tilted up, so that we felt sure it would bump down again on the rock and break up. It kept in position however and it was only a few seconds that we realised that she had parted amid ships. I believe that every one of those poor creatures who were in the forward part of the vessel was lost, as we saw nothing of them afterwards. Strange to say, we all thought that the stern would have gone first, as the vessel, after grounding with her stern pointing shorewards, swung round stern inwards. As soon as she broke amidships, the water entered the saloon, so that we had to go on deck. We huddled together in a group on the stern end of the quarter deck, near the wheel, and a wretched time we had of it. We were exposed to all the fierce fury of the gale. The seas made clean breaches over us, and the portion of the steamer upon which we stood shook and trembled with the tremendous force of the waves. We were all drenched to the skin, and the cold was intense. Added to that was the feeling of sorrow for those who had been in the fore part of the ship, which by this time had disappeared altogether. Vast masses of floating wreckage were washed hither and thither, crashing and bumping together and against remaining ... showing that she was rapidly giving way to the assaults made upon her. During all this fearfully trying ordeal, the ladies and men all behaved nobly – and I would like you to say so. Mention was made of the boats; but the captain, on being spoken to, said they would never live in such a sea as was

⁵ Kerang Times and Swan Hill Gazette (Vic. : 1877 - 1889) Fri 28 Oct 1887 Page 1 THE WRECK OF THE CHEVIOT.

raging at the time, and that our only hope was in the remaining portion keeping together. We could see people collecting upon the beach, but they could do nothing for us, and the wind blew with such force that we could not make out anything that was hailed to us. Early in the morning the rocket saving apparatus arrived upon the beach, and the very first rocket was fired so accurately that it carried the line right over the vessel, where it was quickly secured, and the life-saving apparatus placed in working order. the ladies did not display the slightest hesitation in getting into the basket, and remained perfectly cool whilst it was being taken ashore. I should have said that the only thing we had to comfort us during our exposure on the deck of the vessel was some brandy, which the captain secured by breaking open the skylight and seizing the floating bottle in which it was contained. A curious incident occurred during the night. Just before the

steamer went ashore a young gentleman passenger named Pitchforth was playing the piano. After she struck, he continued to do so, and we thought he did not realise the dangerous position we were in. When we rushed on deck after the vessel broke up amidships, we missed him and gave him up for lost. Early in the morning, however, a coo-e-e was heard in the saloon, and on breaking into it from the deck, we found that the young man had been an involuntary prisoner during the weary night, and I can well understand what his feelings must have been, hearing the waves beating over and around the vessel, and each moment threatening her destruction. I cannot tell you with what gratitude I stepped on the shore when taken from the steamer. None of us saved any of our effects but never mind that. I am thankful to Providence for carrying my wife and self through the night's terrors."

Floods in Castlemaine 1889

A major flood occurred in Castlemaine on New Year's Day 1889. There was destruction of property at Chewton, Castlemaine, Campbell's Creek, Yapeen and Guildford. The devastation included the loss of several lives and the destruction of several thousand pounds worth of property.

History shows that this area has a catastrophic flood record and has been inundated many times over the years. The worst of these floods occurred on New Year's Day 1889, which started out fine and warm, causing widespread destruction and loss of life. Another flood one month later did similar damage. The lower parts of the town became a lake and was measured at 16 feet (five metres) deep. The reason for this was because the railway embankment acted as dam wall with one small opening for water to pass through; when this becomes blocked with debris, it's a disaster waiting to happen!

One newspaper article in the Mount Alexander Mail on 3 January 1889 opened: "Disastrous floods and loss of life. The New Year's Day in Castlemaine, which opened with rejoicing, closed calamitously by the loss of several lives, occasioned by the most disastrous flood that has occurred in the district for many years. A little after three o'clock the rain poured in almost a deluge, and continued without intermission till about half-past five o'clock."

It went on to say:

“A far greater loss than this has to be borne by Mr Cunnack, the sludge water having entered the pits and spoiled the liquor in which hides were steeping. The loss to him in the works of the tannery is considerable. Below Mr Marriott’s till past the Five Flags Hotel, blocks of soap, casks of tallow, palm oil etc, were picked up, and many of them recovered by the draymen.”

The Bendigo Advertiser on 3 January 1889 reported:

“Marriott’s well-known orchard and nursery presents a woeful aspect, the whole place having been inundated. The flood waters poured through the buildings, destroying all the contents; and the inmates had a very narrow escape of meeting with a watery grave.”

In the Mercury, Hobart, on 7 January 1889, the reports were:

“A fine orchard belonging to H.O. Rowe, at North Castlemaine, has been almost destroyed. Fruit has been washed off the branches and many trees uprooted, and a deep layer of sludge covers the surface. A like casualty occurred in the orchard of Mr. Symes, at Harcourt, and of Mr. Marriott and Mr. Greer, of Campbell's Creek, together with other gardens and orchards lying along the banks of Barker's, Campbell's, and Muckleford's creeks.”

In the *Brisbane Courier* on 7 January 1889⁶:

“Proceeding down Forest Creek to its junction with Barker’s Creek or at the point where the two form what is known as Campbell’s Creek, wreck and ruin prevail everywhere. The Standard Brewery received the full force of the water, and at midnight there were nearly 9 ft of water in the buildings. Four brews, valued at nearly 100, have been destroyed, and the damage to property will amount to a like sum. Mr Marriott’s orchard and nursery is partially destroyed, while the house is little better than a wreck.”

In one report in the Ballarat Star on 10 January 1889, at a public meeting following the disaster, there were descriptions of rescues and lucky escapes, including this piece:

“Mr Marriott, a settler, who had escaped from the wreck of the Cheviot, had taken refuge on his verandah, and then climbed to his roof. Scarcely had he done so when a huge log crashed down and carried away the verandah he had been standing on.”

In the Mount Alexander Mail on Wednesday 2 April 1890, John Marriott requested the Council do something about the results of the floods:

“From John Marriott, Campbells Creek, drawing attention to the piles that are lying in the watercourse close to Prince’s bridge. The piles are diverting the water into the abutments of the bridge, as well as into his property, and unless something is done the approaches thereto will be washed away. Referred to the Engineer for a report.”

In *The Age* on Wednesday 4 February 1891, there was the following note:

“**CASTLEMAINE, TUESDAY.** At the monthly meeting of the Mount Alexander shire council, this afternoon, a letter was received from Mr J Marriott, the orchardist, of Campbell’s Creek, requesting the cooperation of the council in cleaning Forest and Campbell’s Creek from silt, with a view to

⁶ The Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933) Mon 7 Jan 1889 Page 6 THE FLOODS AT CASTLEMAINE.

preventing a repetition of the disastrous floods of 1890. It was decided to request the Minister of Public Works to take means to prevent the further silting up of the creeks.”

On 6 February 1889, there was the following report in the *Portland Guardian*⁷:

“More Floods at Castlemaine.

ONE LIFE LOST. CASTLEMAINE, Tuesday.

Castlemaine is indeed unlucky. The district gardeners who escaped the flood on New Year's Day received their dose of misfortune on Sunday night. Just before midnight a tremendous thunderstorm sprang up, with a gale of wind from the south. All round Mount Alexander and Harcourt the gardens, which had some magnificent crops of fruit, have been denuded, and the loss generally is very great. Messrs Ely, Trevena, Eagle, Symes, Lang and others are amongst the heaviest losers, and yesterday telegrams were despatched to the Melbourne jam factories to see whether they could buy any of the fallen fruit. The roof of one man's house was lifted by the gale, and toppled over upon that of his adjoining neighbour. Yesterday afternoon the thunderstorm which visited us was terrible in effects. 157 points of rain fell within forty-five minutes, as against 115 points on New Year's Day. The Forest Creek and Barker's Creek were soon raging and sweeping all before them but nearly all the bridges in the district were washed away on New Year's Day, and the flood on that day had left a clear course for the deluge yesterday. Many of the houses that were submerged by the first flood, although still uninhabitable, have again been filled with sludge, and a number aver that they will not only leave their houses deserted, but Castlemaine as well. Mooney's Hotel had three feet of water sweeping through it, and the occupants were saved through a man with a dray going to their assistance. Mr. Marriott, of Campbell's Creek, had been working hard to repair some of the damage done to his extensive gardens. Now they are as bad again.”

A previous flood on 9-10 November 1883⁸ also damaged John Marriott's gardens: “Mr Marriott was an especial sufferer, as the silt has overlaid all his garden, destroying strawberries and plants of various descriptions. It also swept through his house, greatly injuring property.” The newspaper reported that “the heaviest flood that has occurred in Castlemaine for the last thirteen years took place on Saturday morning between the hours of three and five o'clock, and attained its maximum about midway between these hours. During its continuance the darkness was so intense that little could be seen of it even by those who were driven from their houses by the inundation. About twelve o'clock rain fell with great force, and afterwards there burst a thunderstorm, which was the prelude to a tremendous downpour.”

If you know of any other stories or interesting facts about members of the Dale family, please contact Dale Hartle on email mjhartle@xtra.co.nz. Also if you have any corrections to the information in this file, please advise.

⁷ Portland Guardian (Vic. : 1876 - 1953) Wed 6 Feb 1889 Page 3 More Floods at Castlemaine.

⁸ Mount Alexander Mail (Vic. : 1854 - 1917) Mon 12 Nov 1883 Page 2 GREAT FLOOD.