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# OUR BENHAM CHILDREN

1883~1983

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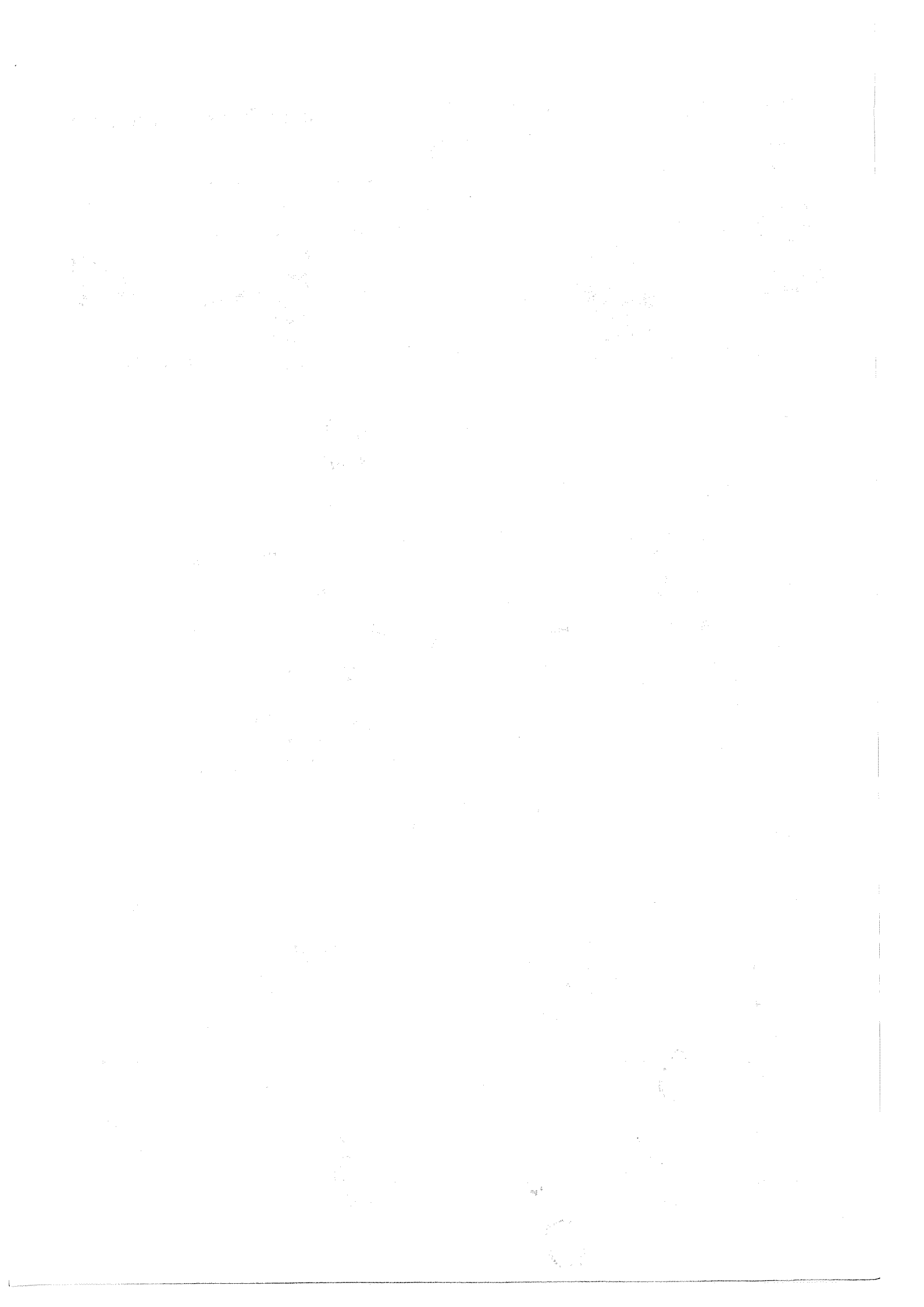
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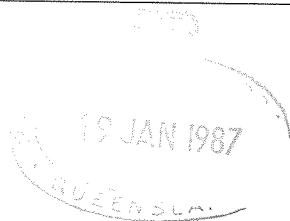
OUR BENHAM CHILDREN  
1883 — 1983



*Dedicated to the memory of our Grandparents  
George and Ethel Benham, and their beloved  
brothers and sisters, Frederick, Emily, Jesse,  
Arthur, Sarah, Edwin, Edith, Marion and Henry*

# OUR BENHAM CHILDREN

1883~1983



*By*  
*Lee Digweed and Marilyn Hammond*

*Published by:*  
*L. Digweed, The Summit, Queensland.*  
*1986*

Q 929.207943

DIG

*Front cover:*

*The names on the cover are place and mine names  
with which our Benhams were associated.*

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*Printed by:  
The Oakey Champion, Oakey*

# CONTENTS

Photographs and Documents	VI
Preface	VII
Acknowledgements	VIII
Parents of Our First Australian Benhams	1
"Hereford"	5
"Roma"	7
SS "Merkara"	8
SS "Dacca"	11
SS "Jumna"	16
Frederick James Benham	19
Emily Benham	29
George Albert Benham	59
Jesse Edward Benham	81
Arthur Ernest Benham	101
Sarah Jane Benham	119
Edwin Henry Benham	131
Edith Benham	137
Marion Benham	149
Ethel Amy Benham	163
Henry Edmund Benham	179
Late Entries Page	187
Index	188

## PHOTOGRAPHS & DOCUMENTS

George and Sarah	1	Charters Towers Working Map, Mines	111
Marriage Certificate, George and Sarah	2	Ingham Map	112
<i>Hereford</i>	5	2656 Private Arthur Benham	113
Report, Ship's Surgeon <i>Hereford</i>	6	Opening of Mt. Spec Road	115
<i>SS Merkara</i>	8	Arthur digging for tin; Arthur and relations	116
Report, Ship's Surgeon <i>SS Merkara</i>	9	The Sage of Cloudy Creek; Oldest Resident of Mt. Spec	117
Report, Schoolmaster <i>SS Merkara</i>	10	Birth Certificate, Sarah	120
<i>SS Dacca</i>	11	Passengers' Contract Ticket, Sarah	121
Electric Telegraph Message <i>SS Dacca</i>	12	Steerage Dietary Scale, Sarah	122
Bill of Health <i>SS Dacca</i>	13	Marriage Certificate, Sarah and William	124
Health Officer's Report <i>SS Dacca</i>	14 & 15	The Children of Sarah and William	125
<i>SS Jumna</i>	16	Sarah and William and family	126
Immigration Agent's Report, <i>SS Jumna</i>	17	Family group; Sarah, Will and Edith Lynch	127
Birth Certificate, Frederick	20	Birth Certificate, Edwin	132
Marriage Certificate, Fred and Annie	25	Enterprise Hotel, Charters Towers	134
Annie Haskell	26	Edwin; Edwin and George Jnr.; Arthur, Edwin and friend	135
The Children of Fred and Annie	26	Shareholders in the mine <i>Majestic</i>	136
Birth Certificate, Emily	30	Birth Certificate, Edith	138
Emily's Return Ticket to Australia	32	Marriage Certificate, Edith and Frederick	141
Steerage Dietary Scale, Emily	33	The Children of Edith and Frederick	142
Passengers' Contract Ticket, Emily	34	Marriage Certificate, Edith and Peter	143
Emily and baby	42	The Children of Edith and Peter	144
Marriage Certificate, Emily and Arthur	43	Birth Certificate, Marion	150
The Children of Emily and Arthur; Ethel Benham	42 & 44	Edith, Jesse and Marion	152
Birth Certificate, George	60	Marriage Certificate, Marion and James	153
Charters Towers Liedertafel	63	The Children of Marion and James	154
George, Margaret and house	64	Birth Certificate, Ethel	164
Marriage Certificate, George and Margaret	65	Happy Days; Ethel; Ethel and Ivy Kammerer	168
The Children of George and Margaret	66	Ethel, 93; Pioneer Dies	169
Birth Certificate, Jesse	82	Kindergarten Group	170
Marriage Certificate, Jesse and Margaret	90	Marriage Certificate, Ethel and James	171
The Children of Jesse and Margaret	91	The Children of Ethel and James	172
Five Generations; J. Benham's Home; Obituary	92	Birth Certificate, Henry Edmund	180
Birth Certificate, Arthur	102	Henry	182
Benham's Falls	107	Marriage Certificate, Henry and Eliza	183
Ethel Creek Falls	108	The Family of Henry	184
Miner's Right; Transfer Certificate	110		



## PREFACE

*The thrill of finding the Benham names on the Passenger Lists, seeing how young they all were and what lay ahead of them, made me feel that something had to be done before it was all lost.*

*We have compiled a book of memorabilia, memories, and research, for our first 100 years in Australia and hope you enjoy it. Our thanks to all descendants for your participation with our family forms, and to all who have so generously and willingly lent us photographs and documents, and written articles. This book is certainly a combined effort.*

*Lee Digweed*

*The book is not a history of all George and Sarah's children. Aubrey, Lillian, Ralph and Harold remained with Sarah in England and did not venture to Australia. Maybe at some future time we will be able to compile their history, but at this time we know nothing of our English relations.*

*I would like to say 'thank you' to three people without whose co-operation and assistance I could not have found all the information needed to compile this book. They are my mother-in-law Melba Hammond nee Benham, her cousins Ethel Hatfield nee Dyer and Alfred Benham who, to my sorrow, did not live to see the book printed.*

*I have thoroughly enjoyed researching and collecting the information for this book. It has enabled me to visit many places, where normally I would not have gone, and to meet many lovely people-relations. I hope you find as much pleasure in reading it as I have had in its preparation.*

*Marilyn Hammond.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alan Wilson (The Oakey Champion)  
Alex Kennedy  
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Bill and Audrey Houston  
Bill James  
Carol McDonald  
Clerk of The Court, Charters Towers  
Clerk of The Court, Ingham  
Cummins and Campbells Proprietary Limited  
Daisy Bucklar  
Department of Ethnic Affairs, Brisbane  
Department of Mines, Brisbane and  
Charters Towers  
Department of Mapping and Survey, Brisbane  
and Toowoomba  
Doris Campbell  
Doris Dinnis  
Emily Adams  
Ethel Hatfield  
Ethel and Robin Shepherd  
Ethel Wells  
Frank Benham  
Gerty Ireland  
Gordon Benham  
Grace Crowther  
Gwen Douglas  
Ilma Dance  
Ivy Corazzol

Ivy and Malcolm Kammerer  
Jack and Jean Pappin  
James Cook University, Townsville  
Jan Whitmee  
Jessie Thomson  
Joan Bourke  
Joan Reese (Researcher, Sydney)  
John Oxley Library, Brisbane  
Kath Gillespie  
Lavinia Paterson  
Lillian Downing  
Linda Venn  
Mable Hohensee  
Margaret Taylor (Researcher, England)  
Marion Thomson  
Melba Hammond  
Norma Kelso  
North Queensland Register, Townsville  
Patricia Allen  
Premier's Department, Brisbane  
Queensland Archives, Brisbane  
Sheilah Richards  
The Observer, Townsville  
Thelma Flowers  
The Townsville Daily Bulletin  
Townsville Library  
Tom and Irene McAntee  
Val Long  
Yvonne Dauth

*A special thanks to our families for their patience, particularly our husbands, John and Warren, for their help with checking, reading and helpful criticism, and Andrew Digweed for helping to sort the 1539 Index names manually in alphabetical order.*

# PARENTS OF OUR FIRST AUSTRALIAN BENHAMS



• *George Benham*



• *Sarah Green*

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON

Application Number *B16822*

1866 Marriage solemnized at *St. Paul's Church* in the *Parish* Church in the *Parish* of *St. Paul* in the County of *London*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Residence.	Rank or Profession of Father.
178	<i>January 24<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>George Barkham</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Gardener</i>	<i>St. Michael's</i>	<i>James Barkham</i>	<i>Laid Surveyor</i>
		<i>Sarah Green</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>---</i>	<i>St. Michael's</i>	<i>Henry Green</i>	<i>Gardener</i>

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by *Banns* or after *---* by *me*,  
*George Barkham* in the Presence of *George Green* *St. Michael's*  
*Sarah Green* *James Humphreys*

This Marriage was solemnized between us,

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of *Winchester* given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the *14<sup>th</sup>* day of *October* 19*84*

MX 861810

This certificate is issued in pursuance of section 65 of the Marriage Act 1949. Sub-section 3 of that section provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the marriage to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid. CAUTION:—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person, or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

Form A513MX Dd.834972 65M 8/84 MGr(304816)



*MS*

*This brief resume of the life of George Benham in Australia was researched by the authors, and written by Lee.*

G

GEORGE BENHAM, the son of James and Mary Benham, was baptised in the Parish of Hinton Ampner, Hampshire, on the 19th September, 1830. He married Sarah Green in the Parish Church of St. Michael, Winchester, on the 21st January, 1861. His profession at that time was gardener.

On the 12th January, 1886, at 53 years of age, George sailed from London in the SS "Dacca" with his daughter Sarah, and son Edwin. They arrived in Brisbane on the 9th March. Ten days after his arrival he lost his first grandson, Arthur Ernest William Dyer, aged 10 months. George was then living with Emily.

Setting up a landscaping and excavating business in Brisbane, George employed his sons and many other men who were out of work at the time. They excavated the site for the Broadway Hotel, in Logan Road, Woolloongabba, which is still standing. George and his sons then lived in Desham Street.

The Queensland Deposit Bank in 1892, and about forty other banks throughout Australia in 1983, collapsed, and the Benhams lost all their savings. Many years later some cheques were received in repayment for their loss, but their business suffered, and those involved had to look for other work.

There has been mention of George working on the Victoria Bridge after the 1893 floods. Houses were swept down the Brisbane River and banked up against the bridge which collapsed under the strain. George may have remained in Brisbane working as a labourer for a few more years, and there is a chance that he went with, or later joined his son and daughter-in-law, George and Margaret, in Sydney.

When George did go north, he lived with George Jnr. and Margaret in Gladstone Road, Charters Towers, and had a beautiful rose garden which he lovingly tended.

George finally decided to return to Sarah in Winchester, and his son took him to Brisbane to prepare for the journey. While waiting on the Brisbane Wharf to board the ship for England, George had a stroke. He was totally paralyzed and unable to speak, and could only move his eyes. His unmarried sons paid for his care in the Goodna Mental Hospital, where dying patients in those days were admitted. He died of bronchitis about six weeks later on the 4th August, 1902, at 72 years of age, and was buried in the hospital cemetery.

The records which may have helped with this research were destroyed some years ago. His grave is unmarked and the number of it was with his records.

George was a medium to small man, about 5 ft., 6 ins. tall, with light brown hair and blue eyes. He spent sixteen years in Australia. Ethel, his daughter, often said that her mother was to follow her family to Australia with her remaining daughter Lillian, and sons Ralph, Aubrey, Harold and Henry, but was afraid of the journey and would not set foot on a ship.

## THE CHILDREN OF GEORGE AND SARAH

FREDERICK JAMES — *b 16 January 1862*

EMILY — *b 7 October, 1863*

GEORGE ALBERT — *b 11 March, 1865*

JESSE — *b 1 October, 1866*

ARTHUR ERNEST — *b 23 February, 1868*

SARAH JANE — *b 5 April, 1870*

EDWIN HENRY — *b 21 May, 1871*

EDITH — *b 27 August, 1872*

MARION — *b 7 June, 1875*

\*RALPH — *b 5 March, 1876*

ETHEL AMY — *b 23 July, 1877*

\*AUBREY WILLIAM — *b 17 November, 1878*

\*LILLIAN FRANCES — *b 7 July, 1880*

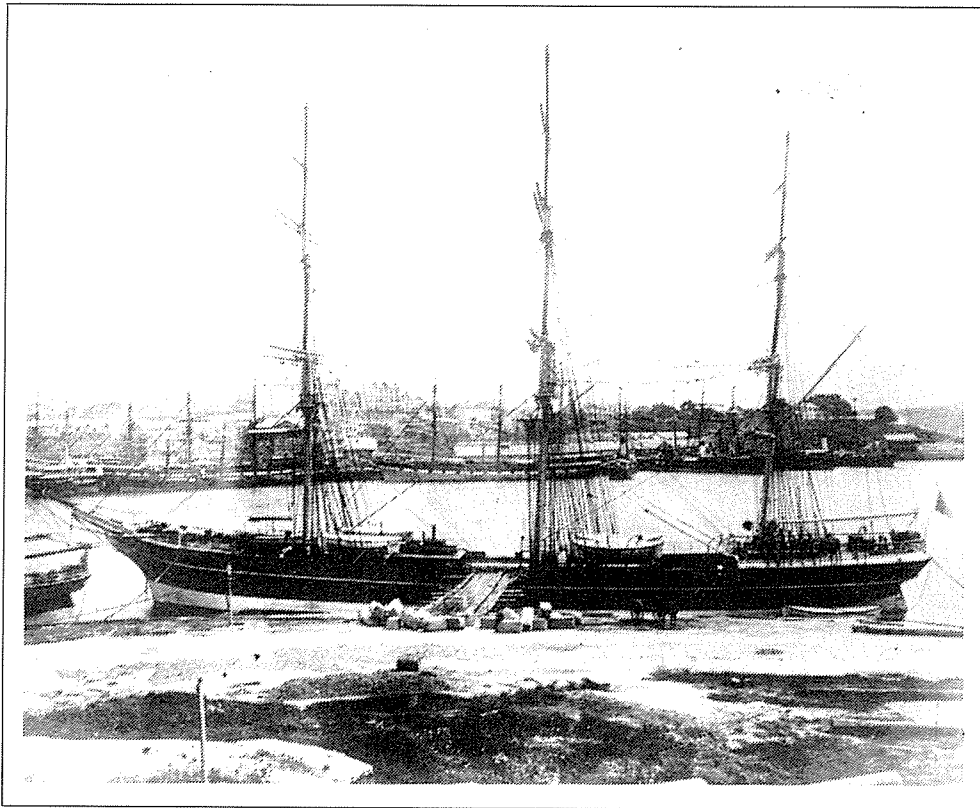
\*HAROLD EDGAR — *b 15 August, 1882*

HENRY EDMUND — *b 30 June, 1885*

*Reference: Birth Certificates*

*\*These children did not come to Australia.*

## *"Hereford"*



<sup>1</sup>1,456 tons, Captain Gordon, Surgeon Superintendent Dr. A. Dunlop, Matron Mrs. Evans, sailed from Plymouth on the 16th May, 1883, arriving in Townsville on the 25th August.

On the Passenger List among the Free Immigrants were Fred Benham, aged 21, single; Emily Benham, aged 19, single; and Arthur Benham, aged 18, single.

<sup>1</sup> Qld. Archives — Z4, 1MM/118 pages 179 & 180. Courtesy of the Premier's Dept., Brisbane. <sup>2</sup> Hereford photograph — Courtesy of John Oxley Library, Brisbane. Photograph No.18623.

Ship

To the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Secretary  
The Colonial Secretary  
Brisbane

Sir

I have the honor to submit the following report relative to the passage from Plymouth to Townsville of the Queensland Government ship "Hereford". The "Hereford" left Plymouth on May 16<sup>th</sup> 1873, crossed the Equator on June 13<sup>th</sup>, passed the meridian of the Cape of Good Hope on July 6<sup>th</sup> and arrived at Townsville on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, thus completing the voyage in 108 days.

The health of the passengers through out the voyage has generally speaking been good. I am happy to be able to report that with the exception of one very mild case of Typhoid fever no infectious or contagious disease has at any time prevailed. There are at present the following cases of sickness on board viz. one of Chronic Pleuritis, one of "Blahy after Fever" and one of Ulcer of Haemorrhage. The number of cases of each kind of disease that prevailed during the passage is as follows. viz. Bronchitis 17, Diarrhoea 48, Constipation 7, Conjunctivitis 6, Tonsillitis 6, Debrisy 8, Symplocis 2, Enteralgia 2, Intermittent 2, Chronic Pleuritis 1, Dyspepsia 1

I was left by the ship  
August 23<sup>rd</sup> 1873

Parulis 1, Contusions 4, Gastric Bypass 1, Dyspepsia 1, Muscular Rheumatism 1, Pulmonary Congestion 1, Epilepsy 1, Mammary Abscess 1, Ulcer of Haemorrhage 4, Scalp Wound 2, Fracture of Femur 2, Pleurodynia 1, Comp. de Soliel 1, Adenitis 1, Incised Wound 1, Anaemia 1, Typhoid Fever 1. Three births occurred, one on June 12<sup>th</sup> one on June 28<sup>th</sup> and the third on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. I regret to add that two deaths occurred, the first that of James Ches Lane aged 11 months, the second that of Noah Alfre de Hollope aged 6 months. The cause of death in both cases was Bronchitis, Bronchitis and Pneumonia were the two most prevalent diseases, the former prevailing chiefly during the period immediately subsequent to departure and in the latter the latter after leaving the Tropics. Disease was most prevalent amongst the married people, in fact I can only attribute to the greater susceptibility of young children. On the 15<sup>th</sup> day to day an apprentice fell from aloft and sustained a compound fracture of the leg and ring the ankle joint, and several contusions. He made a good recovery. In falling he struck his bones the Maston and inflicted several

Contusions of the left leg, forearm and hand, as well as shock to the system generally. He has in consequence been incapacitated for the performance of his duty on several occasions during the voyage. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 7th the "Hereford" fell in the "tween decks" and sustained a fracture of the forearm. With these unfortunate exceptions no casualty of any importance has occurred.

With the exception of a few cases of insubordination at the beginning of the voyage the conduct of the passengers of all classes has been good. The provisions water and medical comforts were of good quality and with the exception of the Resolved brand, sufficient in quantity. The Condensing Engine worked well and provided a plentiful supply of good water throughout the voyage.

Captain Godwin and the Officers under his command were at all times most assiduous in assisting me to carry out my instructions for maintaining discipline and providing on board.

With regard to the general arrangements on board I have to report satisfactory. The compartments separated the different com-

partments were strong and sufficient and were kept in that condition. The conduct of the single girls was without exception good. The Matrons discharged their various duties in a highly efficient manner, and kept the compartments allotted to the Single Women in a very satisfactory condition. Three weekly lectures were delivered the subjects being being "Queensland as a Home for the Working Man" and "Queensland and its Resources". Their continuance was found impracticable.

Sir

I have the honor to be  
your most obedient servant  
Albert Deane, Esq.  
Surgeon Superintendent

Ship "Hereford"  
Townsville 25<sup>th</sup> August 1873.



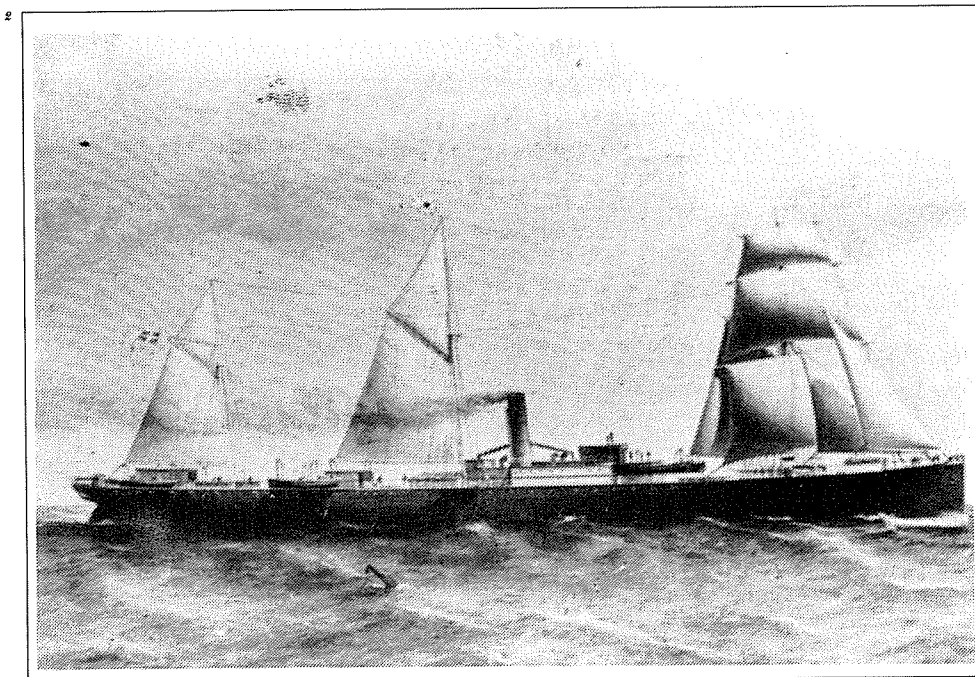
## *"Roma"*

Unfortunately we have been unable to locate either a photograph or any reports on the ship *"Roma"* covering the period when Jesse travelled to Queensland.

The following information is all we have found:

<sup>1</sup>The ship *"Roma"*, Captain Ingram; Surgeon Donkley; Matron Mrs. Fowler; arrived December 14th, 1884. Among the passengers was J. Edward Benham, male, single.

## *SS "Merkara"*



<sup>1</sup>1,900 tons; Captain Phillips; Surgeon Superintendent Dr. C.R. Woodward; Matron Mrs. Turnbull; sailed from London on the 10th February, 1885, arriving in Brisbane on 8th April.

On the Passenger List among the Free Immigrants was George A. Benham, aged 20, single, farm labourer, English, can read and write, Protestant, from Hants.

<sup>1</sup> Qld. Archives — Z5, 1MM/120 page 98. Courtesy of the Premier's Dept., Brisbane.

8 | <sup>2</sup> Photograph No.7456, courtesy John Oxley Library, Brisbane.



Ship

Brisbane  
8<sup>th</sup> April 1885

S. S. Hickman

To The Honorable Report on Voyage  
The Colonial Secretary

I have the honor to report to you the arrival of the S.S. Hickman at this port on Queensland. The steamer left Newcastle at 4 pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. 85 having on board the following: 26 married couples, 149 single men, 84 single women, 71 children between the ages of 1, 12 and eleven months, 22 sick passengers and a crew of 105, making a total of 492 souls.

The steamer arrived at Brisbane on the 19 Feb. where we called, we left there on the 20<sup>th</sup> and experienced light head winds up to our arrival at Port Dick on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. The subject the day before next morning reached the Port Dick on the 25<sup>th</sup>. We arrived at Allen on March the 2<sup>nd</sup> where we were delayed two days meeting the arrival of the

See list  
 5 5 1874

English mail. Left Allen on the 4<sup>th</sup>. I reached Batavia on March 19<sup>th</sup> & left at noon next day & reached Singapore Island on 29<sup>th</sup> March, Doolton on April 1<sup>st</sup> Townsville on the 5<sup>th</sup> last - 2<sup>nd</sup> Bowen on the 6<sup>th</sup> & last - Hamilton on the 6<sup>th</sup> & Hamilton Bay on the 8<sup>th</sup> -

The general state of health during the passage was extremely good; no infectious or contagious diseases having occurred, with the exception of 3 cases of whooping cough. There was one birth (female) and one death (female) from brain fever, brought on by exposure to sun.

The following were the number of cases which occurred during the passage:

- 1 pleurisy, 4 dyspepsia, 8 Coughs
- 12 sore throats, 3 whooping coughs
- 1 Phthisis, 3 bilious diarrhoea,
- 1 Scandies, 1 Malaria fever, 1 Gut-rotted fever, 1 brain fever, 7 fibrinula.

The provision, water and medical comforts were excellent in quantity, equality & no complaint was made during the passage with reference to short rations or bad cooking.

The passengers were supplied throughout the passage with soft

bread and fresh potatoes every day, and lime juice every day from entering the tropics, the ship's provisioning being superior for same.

Capt. Phillips takes kind & attention to the wants of the passengers, he inspected the between decks every day with me & did everything in his power to aid me in carrying out the instructions of the Queensland Government.

The officers were attentive to their respective duties. The between decks were very dry, well-stored & ventilated every day under my personal supervision.

Every Sunday Roman Catholic & Church of England services were held on the upper deck, also Sunday school. Day school was held every day & the library was much used by the Officers.

The conduct of the single women was exemplary, indeed no fault was found by the assistance care & attention paid to their wants by the Master, Mr. Turnbull. (I may add this was her first voyage.)

The conduct of the single men was very good throughout the voyage, except at Batavia, where they went on shore contrary to orders.

The fittings of the ship were good. The passengers were amused during the voyage by Concerts and Athletics, which seemed to be highly appreciated by all.

Enclosed please find classified summary and steward's report.

I have the honor to be Sir,  
 Yours obed. servant,  
 Charles P. Woodward  
 Surgeon Superintendent.

• Report from the Surgeon Superintendent to the Colonial Secretary, Brisbane.

Reference: Qld. Archives COL A/419 -- 2340 of 1885. Courtesy of the Premier's Dept., Brisbane.

## Schoolmasters Report

### Report on the School

To The Honourable the Colonial Secretary for Queensland.

Sir, I have the honor to present to you the report of the school held on board the Royal Mail Steamship *Westport*.

Under and other circumstances permitting, school has been held aboard, from about 10 days after leaving London. The children generally came to school neatly dressed, clean, and happy, and always took an interest in their work, whether consisting of Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Sewing, Knitting or Needlework.

The average attendance was about 35.

The children did not attend as regularly as it was thought they would. They were often kept away from school by their mothers, either to look after the very young members of the

family, or because they thought the library would do them good after their schoolwork was finished. But in spite of these drawbacks, those who did attend, greatly enjoyed the novelty of coming to school aboard ship, and most of the mothers thought it a capital break in the dull monotony of every day life whilst on the passage.

### Report on the Library

The books in the Library were eagerly sought after and read by the Emigrants - the married, the single men, and the single women; all considered the library a great boon.

From hearing the opinions of most of the married men and the more detail single men, I feel most respectfully to suggest that the books in the Library should not in future consist solely of works of Fiction; the books chiefly in demand were those romances touching on History or Travel. I was continually asked for works of Biography, books bearing on the productions of the soil, both mineral and

vegetable, and on the manufactures of the Colonies of Queensland. I therefore, beg to suggest that in future, works bearing on the foregoing subjects, should be added to the Library, whereby the Emigrants will be benefitted, as well as amused.

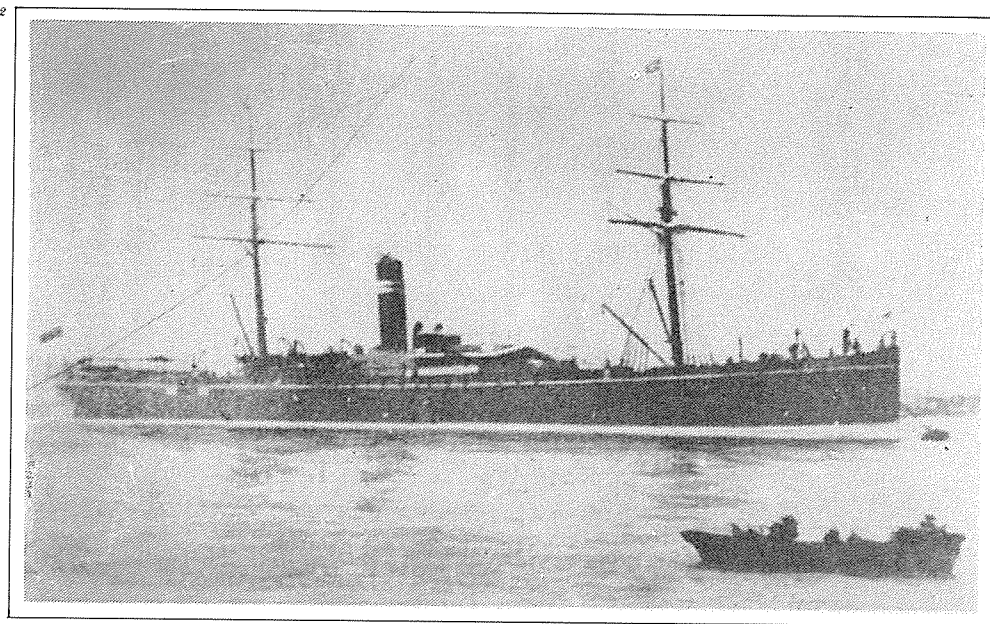
Respectfully,

Arthur J. G. Corp.

Schoolmaster on board  
the *S.S. Westport*

- Report from the Schoolmaster on board, to the Colonial Secretary.

## SS "Dacca"



<sup>1</sup>2,500 tons; Captain A. Morris; Surgeon Superintendent Dr. Cunningham; Matron Miss Bray; sailed from London on the 12th January, 1886, arriving in Brisbane on the 9th March, having touched the Ports of Port Said, Aden, Colombo and Batavia.

On the Passenger List among the Free Immigrants were Sara Benham, aged 15, single, domestic servant; George Benham, aged 53, married, labourer; and Edwin Benham, aged 13, single, labourer.

<sup>1</sup> Qld. Archives — Folio 101, film Z6, 1MM/121 p.110. Courtesy of the Premier's Dept., Brisbane. <sup>2</sup> Photograph No.11517, courtesy John Orley Library, Brisbane.

Health Officer  
Lourdesville



AM

Granted pratique to Dacca

Electric Telegraph, Queensland.

Via 17 1886  
From Lourdesville to \_\_\_\_\_  
Dated 1886



Messages for Alba Lacey

5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10										
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40										
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Reference: Qld. Archives COL/A457 1886/1630. Courtesy of the Premier's Dept., Brisbane.

Health Off  
Coochtown



AM

Admitted & Dacca to pratique

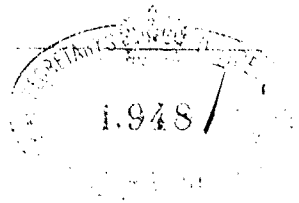
Electric Telegraph, Queensland.

Via 17 1886  
From Coochtown to \_\_\_\_\_  
Dated 1886

Messages for John Rees

5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10										
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35										
40										
45										
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60										

Reference: Qld. Archives COL A/457 1886 /1567. Courtesy of the Premier's Dept., Brisbane.



Health Officer

Rockhampton

March 8<sup>th</sup> 1948

Bill of Health S S "Dacca"

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that I boarded the S.S. "Dacca" on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> Inst; and found the sanitary condition of Passengers & crew satisfactory.

I enclose usual report.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedient

W.F. Hurston

Health Officer.

The Under Colonial Secretary  
Brisbane.

## HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT.

QUESTIONS to be put by the Health Officer to the Surgeon and Master, or other person  
in command of any Ship or Vessel arriving in

55-14-84-5.

QUESTIONS	REPLIES.
1. What is the name of the Vessel, and tonnage?	Dacca 3908
2. What is the Master's name?	A. Morris
3. Have you any, and what Bill of Health?	Yes: from each Port.
4. From whence did you come, and when did you sail?	London 12/1/86
5. At what Ports have you touched on your passage?	P. Said: Aden: Colombo Batavia
6. Did you receive any Cargo or Passengers at the intermediate Ports?	No
7. What is the nature of the Cargo, and the number of Officers, Mariners, and Passengers?	General Officers 24 Native crew 112 miscellaneous 17 None
8. What Vessels have you had intercourse or communication with on your passage, and from whence did they come?	
9. What is the Surgeon's name?	C. Cunningham
10. Are you aware that any Epidemical, Contagious, or Infectious Disease prevailed at the place from which you sailed, or at any of the places which you have touched, or on board of any Vessel with which you have had communication? If so, state where and when.	No

*A. Morris*



QUESTIONS.

REPLIES.

11. In the course of your voyage have any Persons on board suffered from sickness of any kind, and what was the nature of such sickness, and when did it prevail? How many persons were affected by it, and have any of them died in the course of the voyage?

*One suffered from Pneumonia & broken blood vessels, Congestion of the lung followed & he died from it -*

12. What is the date of the last death, and the cause of it?

*Aug 31/86*

13. How many sick have you now on board, and from what Disease?

*1. Scrophulous Int. of Eyes.  
2 Debility  
4 Boils  
1. Broken chloride  
1 - Hurt foot*

14. If any of the Crew or Passengers have died during the voyage, state the nature of the Disease of which they died, and the date.

*No.*

15. Upon the appearance and prevalence of any Disease, was there any unusual state of the weather, which might lead you to suppose its existence to depend rather upon atmospherical causes than upon specific contagion?

*None necessary*

16. Are you aware of any circumstances during the passage, or at present, which would render it expedient to place the Ship and People in Quarantine?

*None whatever*

17. How many Births have occurred during the voyage?

*None*

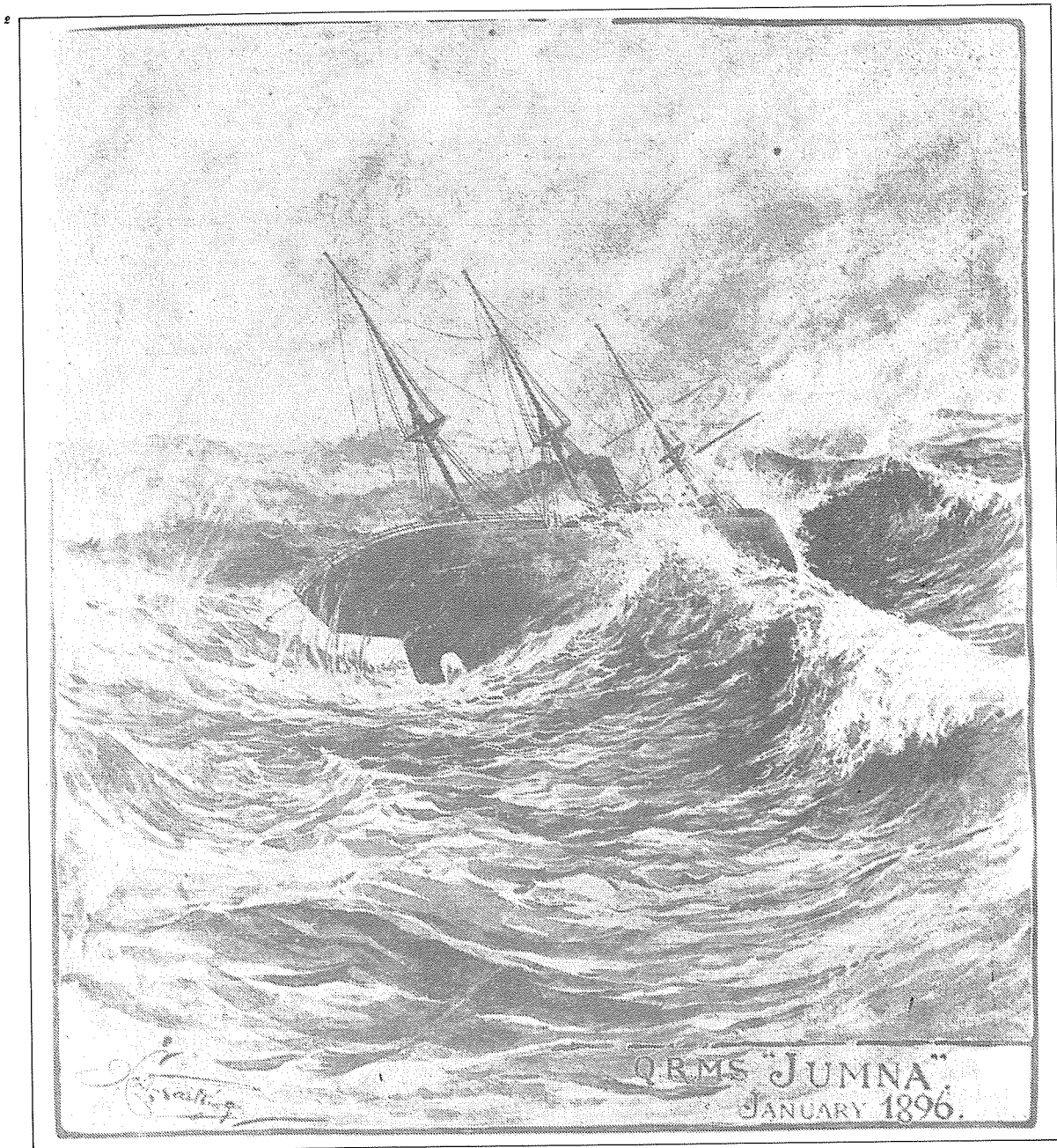
18. To the correctness of the foregoing statements, are you ready to make a declaration, if required?

*Certainly*

*J. Cunningham*

*Wm. Morris*

## SS 'Jumna'



• This drawing of the "Jumna" was produced for the newspaper "The Queenslander" in 1896, seven years after the girls' arrival. It shows how frightening it must have been during the storm they went through on their voyage. Ethel often told how frightened she had been during the voyage and often asked the Captain to turn back and take her home. She vividly recalled the storm which kept them battered down for days.

13,377 tons; Captain Birkitt; Surgeon Superintendent Dr. Marshall; Matron Mrs. Tymons; sailed from London on the 11th January, 1889, arriving in Brisbane on the 4th March.

On the Passenger List among the Free Immigrants were Edith Benham, aged 17, single, domestic servant; Marion Benham, aged 14, single, domestic servant; and Ethel Benham, aged 11, single, domestic servant.

I Agent

QUEENSLAND

89/

Immigration Office,  
Brisbane, The 8th 1889

Report re arrival of *Jumna*

I have the honor to report the arrival on the 4th instant of the Immigrant ship *Jumna* — Captain Birkett, Master, Dr. Marshall Surgeon Superintendent, and Mrs. Tymons, Matron.

I left town in the *Bollo* the same date at 8 o'clock am, and boarded the *Jumna* at the anchorage when she arrived — The ship being too late for that day's tide, after the usual inspection & muster the people were transported to the tug, and landed at the Depot Wharf at 5.30 pm.

There were no complaints, and everything was in good order. The people appeared to be a respectable and orderly lot, and have behaved as such while in the Depot.

Annexed is a list giving particulars of all the Immigrants landed at the various ports in the Colony.

There are 69% of the *Jumna* people remaining in the Depot today.

Yours obedient servant

W. C. Parry-Jones

Immigration Agent.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary }  
Brisbane }

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Annexed is a list giving particulars of all the Immigrants landed at the various ports in the Colony.

There are 69% of the *Jumna* people remaining in the Depot today.

I have the honor to be  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant

W. C. Parry-Jones

Immigration Agent.

• Report on ship's arrival to the Colonial Secretary. It read:

Immigration Office,  
Brisbane. March 8th, 1889

Report re arrival of SS "Jumna"

Sir.

I have the honor to report the arrival on the 4th instant, of the Immigrant Ship "*Jumna*" — Captain Birkett, Master, Dr. Marshall Surgeon Superintendent, and Mrs. Tymons, Matron.

I left town in the "*Bollo*" the same date at 8 o'clock am, and boarded the "*Jumna*" at the anchorage when she arrived — The ship being too late for that day's tide, after the usual inspection & muster the people were transported to the tug, and landed at the Depot Wharf at 5.30 pm.

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There are 69% of the "*Jumna*" people remaining in the Depot today.

I have the honor to be  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant

*W. C. Parry-Jones*  
Immigration Agent.

<sup>1</sup> Qld. Archives COL/A 2242 of 1889. Courtesy of the Premier's Dept., Brisbane.

F  
R

R  
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FREDERICK JAMES  
BENHAM  
1862-1919



*Frederick Benham*

B 32234

CERTIFIED COPY of an Entry in a REGISTER of BIRTHS (6 & 7 Wm. IV. cap. 86).



Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON.

W B A L (4181v) -12572-76090-14

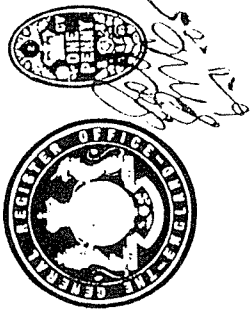
REGISTRATION DISTRICT W I N C H E S T E R										
BIRTHS in the Sub-District of W I N C H E S T E R in the County of S O U T H A M P T O N										
No.	When and where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name, if added after Registration of Birth.
9	Sixteenth January 1862 Abbey Passage	Frederick James	Boy	George James Benham	Sarah Benham formerly Green	Gardener	G. J. Benham Father Abbey Passage Winchester	Thirty first January 1862	Charles Mayc Registrar	-----

CERTIFIED to be a true Copy of an Entry in the Certified Copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the 6th day of November 1905.

By the Act of 6 & 7 William IV. c. 86, sec. 38, it is enacted, "That the Registrar-General shall cause to be sealed or stamped therewith all Certified Copies of Entries given in the said Office; and all Certified Copies of Entries purporting to be Sealed or Stamped with the Seal of the said Registrar-General shall be received as evidence of the Birth, Death, or Marriage to which the same relates, without any further or other proof of such Entry; and no Certified Copy purporting to be given in the said Office shall be received as evidence of any other matter which is not Sealed or Stamped as aforesaid."

By sec. 37 of the said Act it is enacted that, "for every general search of the Indexes shall be paid the sum of twenty shillings, and for every particular search the sum of one shilling, and for every Certified Copy the sum of two shillings and sixpence;" exclusive of inland Revenue Stamp (33 & 34 Vict. c. 97) of one penny.  
The Act 24 & 25 Vict., c. 85, sec. 56, enacts that whosoever shall "unlawfully destroy, deface, or injure, or cause or permit to be destroyed, defaced, or injured, any Register of Births, Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths, or Burials, or any Certified Copy of any such Register, or any part thereof, or shall forge or fraudulently alter, in any such Register, any Entry relating to any Birth, Baptism, Marriage, Death, or Burial, or shall forge or fraudulently alter, in any part thereof, or shall forge or counterfeit the Seal of or belonging to any Registrar-General, or shall offer, utter, dispose of, or put off any such Register, Entry, Certified Copy, Certificate, or Seal, knowing the same to be false, forged, or altered," shall be guilty of Felony, and be liable to Penal Servitude, or to Imprisonment with Hard Labour.



F

REDERICK JAMES BENHAM was born in Abbey Passage, Winchester, on the 16th January, 1862, the first child to George and Sarah Benham.

It is believed that Fred was ill with ulcerated lungs and was advised by his doctor to take a long sea voyage. He travelled to America and back to England which apparently cured his lungs. It is not known if he stayed in America any length of time.

At 21 years of age, Fred sailed to Australia with Emily and Arthur, leaving Plymouth on the 16th May, 1883 on the ship *Hereford*, arriving in Townsville on the 25th August.

Fred spent most, if not all of his life in Australia, in North Queensland. For the first 10 years, as far as we can determine, he worked as a labourer, explorer, prospector and miner. Exactly where and when we do not know. He was with Arthur and Edwin in 1889 when they found tin in the Mt. Spec area.

On the 22nd May, 1899, Fred married Annie Haskell in the Methodist Parsonage, Clermont. Annie was born on the 22nd May, 1866 in Trentham Victoria to Alfred and Barbara Haskell (nee World). She was about five feet tall, and a very shy and gentle lady.

Their first child, Frederick Ernest, was born in Townsville in 1900, but he did not live very long. Alfred James was also born in Townsville, in 1901. Fred and Annie moved to Paluma in 1902, opening up a store situated about eight to nine miles from Bosworth's Hotel at Hidden Valley. Annie made the trip to Townsville for the birth of their last child, Lavinia Emily, in 1907.

Fred's son, Alfred, wrote a few articles for *The North Queensland Register* in 1980, about his family's early life at Paluma and the colourful old days of the Kangaroo Hills. The following are extracts from these stories:—

<sup>1</sup>My parents had a store at Cloudy Creek Clearing, now known as Paluma. We shifted from Cloudy to Prospector's Creek about six miles north of Hidden Valley, part of the Kangaroo Hills mining field, once more storekeeping. I would have been about eight or nine years old at that time. There would have been about 30 tin scratchers within a radius of 12 miles. Dad had a few horses and used to deliver goods when needed.

The Benham brothers were early day prospectors. They found the Mount Brown lode and the Metropolitan Mine at Ewan, and had the Mt. Brown Battery. They had the name of being good miners. However, the lodes round Ewan in those days were and easily found.

One funny incident which happened while we had the store at Prospector's Creek: Dad used to do tin scratching when he had time and one year he stacked a lot of dirt ready for the wet season. At this time he did his own packing, taking delivery in Ingham. On one trip he went down for goods and it rained inches and all creeks were bankers. It was over a week before we could get home and the old boy was worried about

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of "The North Queensland Register".

his stacked dirt getting washed away—tin and all. When we got home he unloaded the packs, got on his horse and tore over the gully, only to find someone had made good use of the rain and had washed all his stacked dirt and taken the tin. Away he went to find out who might have found such a good patch. Tent poles were all that was left of one bloke's camp so he went over to Bosworth's Store at Hidden Valley and found out that the chap had sold the tin and "done a bunk", leaving us with a store bill of around nine quid. The old boy could not do anything about it and it was a long time before he could see the funny side of the incident.

Another touchy incident was when Dad and a chap called Chum Johnson were working wages in a mine over on Cow and Calf and they had a dopey boy as an offsider. The shaft was about 30 odd feet down and they had just started a drive only a few feet in. They got all their charges ready and only had time to light the fuse so they decided to work till dinner time getting the holes bored and then the shaft could clear up while they were at dinner. The charges were all ready in the bucket and all the boy had to do was let it down, so they gave him the signal to send it down. One of them looked up in time to see him just let the bucket go—just letting it drop! It came down with a bang, but luckily did not explode.

Another story the old fellow used to tell was how they kept the detonators out of the camp and one lot got damp, so they were arguing about whether they should be used. Some said they were still good, others said "no". One bloke grabbed a couple and dumped them in the fire. They were good fire sticks alright, and coals went over all hands.

On another occasion they were arguing about Jelly and one of them said it was harmless without the detonator, and to prove the point he put a plug on the anvil and got a ten pound hammer intending to strike it. However, Dad grabbed the plug away, nipped a piece the size of a match head off it and put it on the anvil and said, "Hit that first, then you can hit the plug." It blew the hammer out of the bloke's hand, so he never tried the plug.

Dad and my two uncles, Arthur and Jess, found a big, rich lode at the very head of the Stone River and were busy getting a big crushing out of it—doing things in a big way. Now, Jess was the smart, careful one and decided they should put a small crushing through, but Dad and Arthur howled him down. However, he was determined to have his own way. The nearest battery was Ewan, a walk of 25 miles. They told him the stone they got out while he was away would be their own. Away wen Jess and came back with a pack team and took a crushing to the battery. When it got on the tables they found it was garnet, not tin, so Jess won all the way. He gave mining away and went cane farming, and did well.

Continuing his interest in mining for some years after his marriage, Fred shared claims and leases with a number of other miners, as well as his brothers.

After a severe drought in the mining area, Fred and Annie were broke. They closed the store and Fred remained in the area trying to earn some money tin scratching. He was not a well man as it appears he had strained his heart lifting heavy bags of tin.

Annie, taking her small daughter with her, went out west working as a cook in hotels and on stations. During this period their son Alfred was sent to school in Ingham. He boarded with people by the name of Althouse.

Annie worked in many different places during her time in the west. Her daughter Lavinia can remember the time when her mother was working at a hotel in Maxwellton, east of Julia Creek. It was the year of the big flood, she said, "the water was running through the hotel and the snakes and centipedes were trying to climb the walls, I was very frightened."

In early 1918 Annie received word from the Ingham Hospital that Fred was very ill with heart trouble. She returned to Ingham and when Fred was discharged from hospital they all went to live in Annie's home on Francis Creek Road. Annie cared for him at home until his death.

Fred passed away at home of rheumatic fever and cardiac failure on the 18th September, 1919, in his 58th year. He is buried in the Old Ingham Cemetery.

After Fred's death, Annie remained living at Francis Creek bringing up her two children. Annie received a pension of 17 shillings a week to live on. She ordered all her supplies from Townsville and had them sent by train to "Helen's Hill Siding" where she would collect them in her buggy.



*Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pappin remember:—*

"Annie was always a considerate person. For example, it was not unusual for us to open our door and find a pumpkin or other vegetable and a jar of home made jam, quietly left by her."

After the children had left home Annie lived on her own for some years.

At 73 years of age, Annie lost her right leg under the wheels of a train. She was travelling to Brisbane from her home in Ingham to visit her seriously ill sister in the Brisbane General Hospital. When the train passed through Glass House Mountains, at 4.45 a.m., the fireman on the train missed the staff from the station master. When the train was stopped and reversed to the station platform, so the fireman could receive the staff, Annie, thinking she was at Zillmere where her brother was to meet her, tried to alight. She was not seen in the darkness, where she had slipped and fallen between the platform and the train, when the train started off again.

Annie survived her ordeal and returned to Charters Towers to live in the Eventide Home for the Aged. She was a very independent lady and did not want to be a burden on her family. With the aid of one crutch, Annie managed to walk around quite well. She often spent a day with her daughter Lavinia and family who lived in the Towers. She was loved by all her grand children.

Son, Alfred, when asked about his mother, said: "I don't need her photo, I can see her right now—what a wonderful woman. It distresses me to think of the hard life she had and the slow, painful death." She was suffering with cancer.

Annie passed away on the 23rd October, 1954, at the Charters Towers Hospital, at the grand old age of 88. She is buried in the Charters Towers Cemetery, and her grave has a lovely headstone.



*A study of the Mining Records held at the Queensland Archives has produced the following Leases and Claims in which Fred was involved:*

- Lease No.263*     <sup>1</sup>Fred, Charles Hussey, George Polby and Edward Steele of Kangaroo Hills, leased for 21 years from 1 Sep. 1892, for the purpose of Tin Mining, an area of 10 acres in the proclaimed mining district of Kangaroo Hills, Parish of Hermitville, County of Clarke, for an annual rent of £5. They named the mine "*Lady Susan Starkey*".
- Claim No.5*     <sup>2</sup>On the 25 Sep. 1894 at 8 a.m., Fred, with S. Strickland, G.H. Townson, and Thos. Quinn, marked off ground, 20 chain x 12 chain, situated on the western boundary of Mineral Lease 263, for registration as an Extended Claim. Fred's Miner's Right No. was 4962.
- Claim No.6*     <sup>3</sup>On the 27 March 1896 at 5 p.m., Fred, John Lee and George R. Uhr, marked off ground, 32 chains x 4 chains, situated at the head of Cloudy Creek, for registration as an extended claim. Fred's Miner's Right No. was 17331. This mine was registered in the Register of Claims Book on 15 Apr. 1896 with each man having a one-third share.
- Claim No.10*    <sup>4</sup>On the 12th April 1897 at 8 a.m., Fred, John Lee, and George Uhr marked off ground, 9 chains x 5 chains, situated north of Mt. Spec, for registration as a Lode Claim. Fred's Miner's Right No. was 17341. This claim was registered in the Register of Claims Book on 15 April 1897. There was an objection to this claim on the 22 April by J. Kenny, who stated that he and T. Anderson had pegged out the ground, and the said applicants were not, on April 12, miners.

- Claim No.40*<sup>5</sup> On the 3 Sep. 1899, at 10 o'clock, Fred and George Dolby marked off ground, 5 chains x 12 chains, situated at Prospector's Creek, Mt. Benham, for the registration as an extended claim, for Reefs or other Minerals. The registration was granted on 25 Oct., 1899. Fred's Miner's Right No. was 2350.
- Schedule of Land No.111*<sup>6</sup> Fred, Daniel William Gibson, Joseph Kenny, James William Dandon, Edwin Benham, Jesse Edward Benham, Arthur Benham, and Charles Allen of Ingham, leased for the full term of 21 years from 1 Oct., 1900, for the purpose of Tin Mining, an area of 20 acres in the proclaimed Mineral Field of Ingham, Parish of Hermitville, County of Clarke, District of North Kennedy, for an annual rent of £10. They named the mine "*Majestic*". On the 6 Jan. 1902, Fred transferred his half share to Frank Fraser.
- Claim No.97*<sup>7</sup> On the 12 May, 1903, at 3 o'clock, Fred marked off ground, 200 ft x 350 ft, situated on the head of the Stone River, requesting registration as an Ordinary Reef Claim for Lode Tin, under the name of "*The Specimen*". Fred's Miner's Right No. was 45102. The registration was granted on 29 May, 1903.
- Lease No.144*<sup>8</sup> Fred, Jesse, William James and Arthur Dyer of Kangaroo Hills leased for 21 years from 1 Dec. 1903, for the purpose of Tin Mining, an area of 10 acres, in the proclaimed Mineral Field of Kangaroo Hills, Parish of Goertz, County of Wairuna, District of North Kennedy, for an annual rent of £5. They named the mine "*Empire*".
- Claim No.119*<sup>9</sup> On the 25 Apr., 1904, at 11 o'clock, Fred and Edgar Clayson marked off ground, 200 ft x 350 ft, situated at Ewan, Kangaroo Hills Field, requesting registration as a Reef Claim for Tin, under the name of "*Vanda*". Fred's Miner's Right No. was 54274.
- Claim No.141*<sup>10</sup> On the 6 Aug., 1904, at 10 a.m., Fred and Arthur Dyer marked off ground, 14 chain square, situated at the head of Salt Water Creek, applying for registration as a prospecting area, under the name of "*Try It*", to prospect for Wolfram. Fred's Miner's Right No. was 54274, and Arthur's 54212.
- Claim No.150*<sup>11</sup> On the 1 Feb., 1905, at 2 p.m., Fred, Arthur Benham, Edwin Benham and Arthur Dyer marked off ground, 4800 ft x 300 ft, situated at the head of Saltwater Creek on the eastern fall from Cloudy Creek known as Ethel Creek, applying for registration as an Extended Alluvial Tin Claim under the name of "*Try It*". The registration was granted on 24 Feb., 1905. Miner's Right Nos. were, Fred 54274, Arthur 61409, Edwin 61408, and Arthur Dyer 61531.
- Claim No.180*<sup>12</sup> On the 7 Sep., 1906, at 10 a.m., Fred marked off ground, 300 ft x 1200 ft, situated at Ethel Creek, Kangaroo Hills, applying for registration as an Extended Alluvial Tin Claim under the name of "*Ethel*". Fred's Miner's Right No. was 81309. The registration was granted on the 9 Oct., 1906.
- Claim No.244*<sup>13</sup> On the 15 May, 1909, at 10 a.m., Fred and John Fitzgerald marked off ground, 600 ft x 300 ft, situated about 1½ miles south west from the old tin township of Kangaroo Hills, applying for registration as an Alluvial Tin Claim, under the name of "*Mount Endeavour*". Fred's Miner's Right No. was 93997.

<sup>14</sup>A few words in *The North Queensland Register* on the 16 August 1909 gives us a clue to another mine worked by Fred—"F. Benham's Alluvial Claim on "*Graveyard*" is looking well."

*With reference to the Claims and Leases throughout this book:*

*Claim—* A pegged out piece of ground by Miners with Miner's Rights, registered at the Warden's Office. The miners usually worked it for a start to see if it would prove good payout tin, if so, they then took out a Lease.

*Lease—* This term is for a larger area and longer period of time—21 years at £1 per year. It had to be surveyed by the Mines Department and registered with approval.

Reference— Qld. Archives: <sup>1</sup> MIN/05 p.10; <sup>2, 3, 4, 5, 7</sup> MWO 12A/11-100; <sup>6</sup> MIN/014 p.85; <sup>8</sup> MIN/028 p.85; <sup>9, 10, 11, 12</sup> MWO 12A/2 101-200; <sup>13</sup> MWO 12A/3 201-300. Courtesy of the Premier's Dept., Brisbane. <sup>14</sup> Courtesy North Queensland Register.

CAUTION—Whoever shall unlawfully destroy, deface, or injure any Certified Copy of an Entry in any Register of Births, Marriages, or Deaths, is guilty of a CRIME, and liable to the punishment by law provided in that behalf. (Wide Section 488 of the "Criminal Code.")

Price, Two Shillings.

# MARRIAGES.

No 19394


MARRIAGES Solemnised in the District of Clermont in the State of Queensland  
 1899

Registered by Wynham Henry Fitzgerald Esq, District Registrar

Marginal Notes (if any).	Column.	1	2
	1	Number in Register .. .. .	941
	2	When and where Married .. .. .	22nd May, 1899 Clermont
	3	Names and Surnames of the Parties	<i>Bridegroom.</i> Frederick James Denton <i>Bride.</i> Annie Haskell
	4	Condition of the Parties .. .. .	Bachelor Spinster
	5	Birthplace .. .. .	Winchester Hampshire - England Wagston Victoria -
	6	Rank or Profession .. .. .	Printer Domestic - Steward
	7	Ages .. .. .	27 Years. 33 Years.
	8	Usual Place of Residence .. .. .	Wild Cat Clermont
	9	Parents— Names .. .. . (Mother's Maiden Name)	George Denton and Sarah Green Annie Haskell and Barbara Wood
	10	Father's Rank or Profession .. .. .	Gardener Shopkeeper

Married at Methodist Parsonage at Clermont  
 According to the rites of the Church of England  
 Date of Registration 22nd May 1899  
 This Marriage was solemnised between us Frederick James Denton and Annie Haskell  
 In the presence of us James William and Annie Denton  
 By (or before) me James Henry Fitzgerald Officiating Minister or Registrar.

I, Edward Henry Dwyer, District Registrar, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an entry in a Register of Marriages kept in the District Registry Office, at Clermont, and I further certify that I am a person duly authorised by law to issue such certificate.

Extracted this Thirteenth day of October 1899  
  
Edward Henry Dwyer District Registrar.



● *Annie Benham (nee Haskell) in the kitchen of her Francis Creek home. Annie was very camera shy, and it is believed that this could be the only photograph taken of her.*



## THE CHILDREN OF FRED & ANNIE BENHAM

● *Alfred and Lavinia*

# THE CHILDREN OF FRED & ANNIE

FREDERICK ERNEST BENHAM

*b* 8 Apr 1900/Townsville  
*d* circa 1900

ALFRED JAMES BENHAM

*b* 6 Jun 1901/Townsville  
\*

LAVINIA EMILY BENHAM

*b* 6 Sep 1907/Townsville

1: Frederick Ernest Benham

*b* 8 Apr 1900/Townsville  
*d* circa 1900

2: Alfred James Benham

*b* 6 Jun 1901/Townsville

\*

*m* Isabell Ethel Baillie

*b* circa 1898/Ingham

*d* 31 Mar 1962/Ingham

*m* Adeline Bourke (nee Gray)

*b* 11 Jan 1896/Happy Valley Mt. Morgan

*d* 12 Nov 1979/Mareeba

3: Lavinia Emily Benham

*b* 6 Sep 1907/Townsville

*m* Clarence Edward Paterson

*b* 10 Sep 1906/Pentland

*d* 1 Nov 1966/Charters Towers

*children* -----

1: Gordon Clarence Alfred Paterson

*b* 24 Jul 1931/Charters Towers

2: Keith Ellvin Paterson

*b* 29 Aug 1932/Charters Towers

3: Rona Raby Paterson

*b* 27 Jul 1934/Charters Towers

*m* Richard William Luscombe

*b* 21 Nov 1931/Chillago

*children* -----

1: Rosemarie Rhonda Luscombe

*b* 22 Apr 1956/Penang Malaysia

2: Richard Reginald Luscombe

*b* 8 Sep 1960/Charters Towers

3: Kelvin Edward Luscombe

*b* 21 May 1962/Charters Towers

4: Cherrie Suzanne Luscombe

*b* 14 Mar 1969/Cairns

5: Rachelle Lavinia May Luscombe

*b* 17 Jul 1972/Ayr

4: Thyra Paterson

*b* 13 Apr 1938/Charters Towers

*m* Brent Penny

*m* Desmond George Smith

*b* 18 Sep 1943

*children* -----

1: Russell Clarence Penny

*b* 2 May 1960/Charters Towers

2: Pauline Thyra Penny  
b 25 Jun 1961/Charters Towers  
m Peter Darcy  
children 1: Stacy Pauline Darcy  
b 4 Aug 1980/Charters Towers

2: Janet Darcy  
b 7 Oct 1981/Charters Towers

3: Chriss Edward Penny  
b 27 Jun 1963/Charters Towers  
m Vicky Richards  
children 1: Christopher John Penny  
b 30 Jun 1983/Charters Towers

4: David Alfred Smith  
b 18 Feb 1974/Charters Towers

5: Glen Paterson  
b 1 Jun 1939/Charters Towers

6: June Ina Paterson  
b 17 Feb 1942/Charters Towers  
m Thomas Francis Donnelly  
b 1 Apr 1921/Brisbane

children 1: Kerry Anne Macfie  
b 8 Aug 1966/Cloncurry

2: Deborah Maree Macfie  
b 27 Sep 1968/Charters Towers

3: John Mark Macfie  
b 25 Oct 1970/Brisbane

4: Gregory Alan Macfie  
b 16 Jul 1972/Brisbane

5: Daniel Andrew Macfie  
b 16 Aug 1974/Brisbane

6: Timothy David Macfie  
b 21 Oct 1977/Brisbane

7: Claire Askell Paterson  
b 9 Oct 1947/Charters Towers  
m Michael Frederick Mullins  
b 21 Mar 1935/Bowen

children 1: Jacqueline Michelle Mullins  
b 17 Jun 1967/Charters Towers

2: Shayne Clarence Mullins  
b 2 Feb 1969/Charters Towers

3: Michael Edward Mullins  
b 24 Dec 1970/Charters Towers

4: Hayley Elizabeth Mullins  
b 1 Mar 1977/Cairns

EMILY  
BENHAM  
1863~1909



*Emily Benham*

**CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH**



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON.

Application Number *B16822*

REGISTRATION DISTRICT <i>Winchester</i>										
1863 . BIRTH in the Sub-district of <i>Winchester</i> in the County of <i>Southampton</i>										
Columns:—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10*
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name, and surname of father	Name, surname, and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
<i>183</i>	<i>Seventh October 1863</i>	<i>Emily</i>	<i>girl</i>	<i>George Benham</i>	<i>Sarah Benham formerly Green</i>	<i>Gardener</i>	<i>S. Benham Mother</i>	<i>November 1863</i>	<i>Registrar</i>	
	<i>10, Abbey Passage</i>						<i>Abbey Passage Winchester</i>			

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.  
 Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office the *4th* day of *October* 19*84*



This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953.  
 Section 34 provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the birth or death to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.  
**CAUTION**—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person, or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

**BCA 083526**

Form A802 P4. 8264351 30M 7/83 MC. (201151)



**E**MILY BENHAM WAS born on the 7th October, 1863 at 10 Abbey Passage, Winchester, the first daughter to George and Sarah. She was admitted as a member of the Winchester Branch of the Girls Friendly Society (GFS) on the 7th July, 1878. At nineteen years of age she sailed from Plymouth with her brothers Fred and Arthur on the ship "*Hereford*", arriving in Townsville on the 25th August, 1883. Details of her arrival can be found in her letters included in this chapter.

On the 1st September, Emily was engaged as a servant by Matron Abigail Macleod from the Orphanage in Townsville. She was in charge of thirty children and enjoyed her work very much although at times some of the children were hard to manage. On one occasion two boys broke into her box of personal belongings and stole some of her papers.

On the 8th December, 1883, Emily left the Orphanage and travelled by steamer to the Lower Burdekin where she obtained a position with Mr. MacKenzie of "Seaforth Plantation". It is believed she met her future husband, Arthur Dyer, while working there.

Emily married Arthur on the 16th April, 1884 at the Church of St. James in Townsville. Arthur was born on the 16th April 1858 in South Molton, Devonshire, England, to William and Moriah Dyer (nee Willicott).

After their wedding they journeyed out west to work on a station as a "Married Couple". It was a hard life, especially for Emily as her work entailed lifting heavy pots and pans. Her daughter Ethel tells of one occasion when Emily dropped a large cast iron kettle. It fell to the floor and the lid fell in and made a hole in the side. Arthur patched the hole with a piece of tin so it could be used.

It seems Arthur went into the tin mining business at Kangaroo Hills, with his brothers-in-law. Their first child, Winifred May, was born at the tiny tin mining township of Ewan on 2nd May, 1886. This venture did not last long, as 1888 found them in Brisbane, where they remained until 1892.

While in Brisbane, Emily gave birth to a son, Arthur. He died when he was only ten months old, in 1889. The same year their second daughter, Hilda Nellie was born. Another son, George, was born while they were in Brisbane but again they were to lose a child. Little George died on 18th April, 1893, in Townsville, aged only eighteen months.

Back in the north again, they went to Paluma to live. They built their hut at Cloudy Clearing. Emily's brother, Arthur, lived just up from them. A creek ran behind the two huts and supplied them with fresh water.

On 2nd May, 1894, Ethel Marion Edith came into the world at Cloudy Clearing. At her birth Emily was attended by her sister Ethel, although she was only sixteen. We can see why the baby was so named. Ethel Creek, running behind the huts, was named at this time too.

In 1897 Emily was in ill health and her doctor advised her to take a long holiday. She and her three small daughters, Winnie, Nellie and Ethel went home to England. They stayed with Arthur's mother and sister, also Emily's mother Sarah Benham in Winchester.

*At ninety years of age, Ethel recalls one episode which happened in England:*

"Grandmother Dyer gave us a meal of bread and milk. We refused to eat it without sugar much to her disgust as it was the custom in England to add salt. She threw her hands in the air saying, 'Oh!, you Australians, you always do everything wrong'."

They returned to Townsville on the steam ship "Buckingham", leaving London on the 9th February, 1898.

Ethel recalled how, when as a little girl, her family moved from one place to another in a wagon drawn by horses, and camping when it was too dark to go any further. They had a goat tied behind the wagon for fresh milk for the babies.

In 1899 the family again moved, this time to Charters Towers, where Emily opened a little dressmaking shop in the front room of their home. She sewed beautifully and earned extra money as a midwife.

Emily was a small blonde woman and enjoyed having friends to morning and afternoon tea during which she would read the other women's tea cups. Emily was very entertaining when doing this and would have everyone in great fits of laughter.

Their only son to survive, Percy, was born in Charters Towers in 1899. Over the next five years Emily, Herbert and Wilfred were born, sadly all three only lived a short time.

While in Charters Towers, Arthur worked for the Northern Railway Department as a "Wagon Examiner". One day he was crushed between two wagons. He was not killed, but his injuries contributed to his early death in Charters Towers on 26th May, 1905, aged 47 years.


Emily met Thomas Ellis in Charters Towers and they were married on the 12th June, 1906, at the Presbyterian Manse in Millchester. Thomas was born in Anahonish, County Derry, Ireland, the son of Thomas and Margaret Ellis (nee Wallace).

In 1907 the family moved north to live near Atherton. After an illness of six months, Emily died of heart failure on the 12th August, 1909, at Severin Creek, aged 45 years. She is buried in the Atherton Cemetery. Her two youngest children, Percy, nine years, and Ethel, fifteen years, were heartbroken, losing both mother and father in four years. Their married sister, Nellie (Mrs. Bucklar), took them to live with her at Barrine. Ethel found a job and gave all her pay to Nellie for their keep.

Emily was a gentle, loving mother who left behind a young family that loved and missed her very much. Ethel's one regret was that her mother did not live to see her children. Emily loved children.

Ticket No. 235  
6

Full Paying Steerage. No. of Berth

QUEENSLAND  ROYAL MAIL LINE.

Steam Ship Buckingham

COUNTERPART OF PASSENGER'S CONTRACT TICKET.

The Parts of the Contract Ticket is to be separated from the other, and to be delivered by the Passenger to the Immigration Officer at the Port of Embarkation (or, if so such Officer, to the Officer of Customs), or to any one appointed by him to receive it, under a penalty not exceeding £10.

CONTRACT TICKET.

I engage that the Person mentioned below shall be provided with a Steerage Passage to Townsville and be landed at the Port of Townsville in QUEENSLAND, in the Steam Ship Buckingham of 3134 Tons, with not less than Ten Cubic Feet for Luggage for each Statute Adult, and shall be victualled during the whole voyage according to the Dietary Scale prescribed by Law. The Ship to receive her Passengers at London on the 9th day of February 1898.

Passage Money, including Government Taxes, if any, and all charges of Landing £2-10-0

NAMES.	AGES.
<u>Mr Arthur Dyer</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Winnie Dyer</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Nellie Dyer</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Ethel Dyer</u>	<u>2</u>

• 4 Souls, equal to 2 Statute Adults.  
• Insert Number of Souls, and of Statute Adults respectively.

*W.L.*

• Emily took her three daughters to Winchester to visit her mother, and this ticket was for her return voyage to Townsville.

~~Assisted, Free, Remittance, Free Nominated.~~

**PASSAGE CERTIFICATE OF QUEENSLAND  
GOVERNMENT PASSENGERS.**

Berth No.

The Berths will be marked on board the ship on the day of embarkation. Relatives or Friends desiring to be berthed near each other should present their Tickets together. When passengers are once berthed no change must be made without special permission. Girls of 12 years and upwards, whether members of families or otherwise, are berthed in the Single Females' compartment, in charge of the Matron, and Boys of 12 are berthed with the single men.



SEE OTHER SIDE.

**PASSENGERS' CONTRACT TICKET.**

- 1.—A Contract Ticket in this form must be given to every Passenger engaging a Passage from the United Kingdom to any place out of Europe, and not being within the Mediterranean Sea.
- 2.—The Vouching Scale for the Voyage must be printed in the body of the Ticket.
- 3.—All the Blanks must be correctly filled in, and the Ticket must be legibly

- 4.—The day of the Month on which the Passengers are to Embark must be inserted in Words and not in Figures.
- 5.—When once issued, this Ticket must not be withdrawn from the Passenger, nor any alteration, addition, or erasure made in it.

Ship *Hereford* of *1456* Tons Register, to take in Passengers at *Glynnville* for *Townsville* on the *16* day of *May* 188*3* for QUEENSLAND.

I engage that the person named in the margin hereof shall be provided with **STEERAGE** Passage to, and shall be landed at *Townsville* in QUEENSLAND, in the Ship *Hereford* with not less than Ten Cubic Feet for Luggage for each Statute Adult, and shall be victualled during the Voyage and the time of detention at any place before its termination, according to the subjoined scale, for the sum of £ *1.0.0* including Government dues before Embarkation, and Head Money, if any, at the place of Landing and every other charge, except Freight for excess of Luggage beyond the quantity above specified, and I hereby acknowledge to have received the sum of £ *1.0.0* in full payment.

NAME.	Equal to Statute Adults.
<i>Emily Benham</i>	<i>19</i>

The following quantities, at least, of Water and Provisions to be issued to each Statute Adult 3 quarts of Water, daily, exclusive of what is necessary for cooking the articles required by the Passengers Act, to be issued in a cooked state; and a weekly allowance of Provisions according to the following scale:—*34* lbs. of Bread or Biscuit, not inferior in quality to navy biscuit, 2 lbs. Wheaten Flour, 1 lb. Oatmeal,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Rice, 14 lb. Peas, 2 lbs. Potatoes, 14 lb. Beef, 1 lb. Pork, 2 ozs. Tea, 1 lb. Sugar, 2 ozs. Salt,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Mustard,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Black or White Pepper, ground, 1 gill Vinegar, 6 ozs. Lime Juice (when the ship shall be within the Tropics, during the other portions of the Voyage the issue of Lime Juice shall be at the discretion of the Medical Practitioner on board), 1 lb. Preserved Meat, 6 ozs. Suet, 8 ozs. Raisins, 4 ozs. Butter

Substitutions at the following rates, may, at the option of the Master of any Passenger Ship, be made in the above Dietary Scale, that is to say—1 lb. of Preserved Meat, for 1 lb. of Salt Pork or Beef; 1 lb. of Flour or of Bread or Biscuit, or  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of Beef or of Pork, for 14 lb. of Oatmeal, or 1 lb. of Rice or 1 lb. of Peas, or 14 lb. of Soft Bread, baked on Board in lieu of 1 lb. of Flour, or of 1 lb. of Biscuit, or of 14 lb. of Oatmeal, or of 1 lb. of Rice, or of 1 lb. of Peas; 1 lb. of Rice for 14 lb. of Oatmeal, or rice *versus*;  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of Preserved Potatoes for 1 lb. of Potatoes; 10 ozs. of Currants for 8 ozs. of Raisins; 34 ozs. of Cocoa or of Coffee roasted and ground, for 2 ozs. of Tea;  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of Treacle for  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of Sugar; 1 gill of mixed Pickles for 1 gill of Vinegar.

N.B.—Mess Utensils and Bedding to be provided by the Passengers.  
On behalf of *John H. Hurrell*  
*John H. Hurrell*  
LONDON 11.5.1883

Total £ / : : 1883

**NOTICES TO PASSENGERS.**

- 1.—If Passengers through no default of their own are not received on board on the day named in their Contract Ticket, or fail to obtain a Passage in the Ship, they should apply to the Government Emigration Officer at the Port, who will assist them in obtaining redress under the Passengers' Act.
  - 2.—Passengers should carefully keep this part of their Contract Ticket until after the end of the Voyage.
  - 3.—This Ticket must be kept clean and ready for production when the Ship is clearing at
- N.B.—This Contract Ticket is exempt from stamp duty.

• *Emily's ticket for her voyage to Australia.*

## STEERAGE DIETARY SCALE.

	ANIMAL FOOD.					BREAD STUFFS.				PRESERVED VEGETABLES.					GROCERIES.				Water.
	Beef.	Pork.	Preserved Meats.	Suet.	Butter.	Biscuit.	Flour.	Onion.	Peas.	Rice.	Potatoes.	Carrots.	Onions.	Raisins.	Tin.	Coff. weight when roasted and ground.	Sugar.	West India Molasses.	
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	pint.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	
SUNDAY ...	...	...	8 B	2	...	6	8	...	...	...	4	...	3	1	...	...	2	...	3
MONDAY...	...	8	...	...	3	6	8	...	1/4	4	...	...	...	...	1/2	4	2	...	3
TUESDAY	...	...	8 M	...	...	6	8	8	...	...	4	...	4	...	1/4	...	...	...	3
WEDNESDAY...	8	...	...	2	...	6	8	...	...	...	4	...	2	...	1/2	4	2	...	3
THURSDAY	...	8	...	...	3	6	8	...	1/4	4	...	...	...	...	1/4	...	...	...	3
FRIDAY ...	...	...	8 M	...	...	6	8	8	...	...	4	...	4	3	...	1	4	2	3
SATURDAY	...	8	...	2	...	6	8	...	1/4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
WEEKLY TOTALS	8	24	24	6	6	42	56	16	3/4	8	8	8	8	8	1	2	12	8	21

Mustard...     ...     Half an ounce  
 Salt     ...     ...     Two ounces  
 Pepper, ground...     ...     Half an ounce

Mixed Pickles     ...     ...     Half Gill     } Twice  
 Lime Juice, while within the Tropics 3 ounces     } Weekly

### QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

Persons proceeding to Queensland who may wish to avail themselves of the Queensland Savings Bank Regulations can deposit at the Queensland Government Office, London, or with the Despatching Officer of the Ship, any sum or sums of money from One Pound and not exceeding Two Hundred Pounds. The Deposit will be repayable at any Branch of the Government Savings Bank in the Colony. The rate of Interest allowed is five per cent. per annum, Interest commencing from the First day of the Month following that in which the deposit is made.

#### LUGGAGE.

10 Cubic Feet, equal to about 5 cwt., is allowed to each Adult Passenger, but all articles for present use must be packed in Canvas Bags, one for each Adult. Boxes or Trunks cannot be allowed in the Berths or Cabins, but will be placed in that part of the Vessel appropriated for Passengers' Luggage, access to which may be had about once every fortnight.

#### NOTICE.

AS THIS CONTRACT TICKET WILL BE FREQUENTLY ASKED FOR ON BOARD THE SHIP IT MUST ALWAYS BE KEPT READY AND NOT PUT IN YOUR BOX.

• The reverse side of Emily's ticket

## EMILY'S LETTERS

*While searching through the Colonial Secretary's Register in the hope of finding a report on the voyage of the "Hereford", I also found a reference to Emily Benham. The file proved to be centred around three letters Emily wrote home to her parents. Apparently disturbed by what Emily told them, they took the letters to Mrs. Joyce, the Secretary of the Women's Winchester Emigration Society. She copied and sent them to the Agent General in London, who in turn passed them on to the Colonial Secretary in Brisbane, asking for an investigation into the complaints made by Emily. It seems there were also complaints from some of the other girls, but only Emily's letters were in this file.*

*It appears the letters were copied exactly by the authorities, and Emily had obviously written them the way in which she was thinking, going from one subject, or day, to another without warning. We have copied them exactly, using the same punctuation and capital letters. The writing is very difficult to read, particularly some names, so we hope there are no mistakes.*

*From our own personal point of view as family researchers, we found the letters and enquiry of great value. The humour, excitement, and sadness in Emily's letters, and statements made by witnesses during the enquiry, give us a small picture of the voyage and the start of a new life in Australia.*

*The letters will be enjoyed by all who find a young girl's gossip and attitude of so long ago fascinating. I wondered at first why Emily was reporting to her parents that Arthur was keeping himself very tidy and clean, then realised that Arthur was 15 and not 18 as in the shipping list, and Emily was obviously keeping a motherly eye on him.*

*When reading the letters, I get the feeling that the single girls under very strict supervision, were a group full of excitement and very nervous about the future, with their activities and gossip centred on shipboard life. Having lived on the ship for three months, they continued this way of life until they all finally went their separate ways, settling into their new lives.*

*There are thirty-six full pages to the enquiry, too many for the book, so following Emily's letters are the highlights extracted from the enquiry, and the letters and "Electric Telegraph" messages prior to it. As this was an Enquiry, heresay evidence has obviously been accepted, and it does not appear that very much effort was made to obtain statements from many passengers.*

—Lee Digweed

Immigration Depot,  
Townsville.  
August 19th.

My dear Mother & Father

I have not had a chance of sending you a letter before as the Steamer we expected passed us in the night and we have not seen a bit of land since we left Plymouth. We are expecting to land either Monday or Tuesday. I hope they are all well at home and that you & Grandmother are better. I have seen the boys several times on Sunday afternoons and they are getting on very well, but are heartily sick of the voyage. Fred has been well all the time and quite at home on the Sea Arthur looks very nice and keeps himself very tidy and clean. they are all very fond of him Fred wishes he had gone back to America instead of coming here—and Arthur says there is no place like home—he was very fond of Edwin, and keeps on talking about him Since I wrote last, we have had some very rough and cold weather. there are ten in our mess, and at the end of our table a gutter runs and it is more often than not, full of water, which we know to our cost—and when the ship rocks the Pork Treacle Butter Sugar Biscuits Bread & Coffee roll off the table into the gutter and we after them. You would laugh. The weight of us all rolled to one end of the Form, broke it down, and we kept the things company. Once when the ship was rocking, the Coffee slopped all over me and scalded me Last week we were all sick again it was so rough. Tomorrow will be Sunday. I daresay you will be thinking of us then We talk and think of you more on that day than any other. Sunday is the saddest day of all, having no work and no Church. England seems very dear to us now we are far away. Fred & Arthur & Charlie are going in the Bush to get work together. They want to

take me with them, but I do not know what I shall do yet. Tell Mrs Marsh I am so sorry I had not time to wish them good bye, and I shall be very pleased to hear from them. I hope they are quite well. Dear Mother—be sure and remember to send and thank Mrs. Green for her nice letter and character. I hope she is quite well, also Mr. Green and the children. I had not time to answer her letter as it came just as we were going to set sail. Remember me to Mrs. Jenkins and Ellen Wright, little Lillian and Fabby Hall and Jim Adams. I hope Mrs. Moberly will not forget to send me a portrait of the Church. We have not had any concerts since I wrote last. I have been to School since the 27th of May and can write much better now, but I cannot write well with a pen as my hand shakes so. The School-Mistress is a very nice young lady. She is an Italian. I love her very much indeed—I made a mistake in saying we had not seen any land—We have seen a little but it only looked like a great cloud at a distance. All the girls are in ecstasies at the thought of landing. We have had two births since I last wrote, one of them a little boy is going to be named Hereford after the Ship. Tell Jessie I will write to him as soon as possible but you must give them news of me—Dear Father & Mother, If you think of coming be sure you come in a Steamer I am going to have my throat cut when we land I have had it cut four times since we have been on board, but if it does not get any better, the Dr. says I must have it taken right out. He has ordered me beaf tea and tapioca pudding for the last nine days. I have sat up with sick people several nights in the Hospital. The little boy that I told you about in my other letter that fell from the rigging is getting on very nicely and one of Mrs. Mortons Nephews in our Street is a Sailor on board this Ship. I hope George is well, and getting on nicely in his places and I hope Sarah is good. Tell her to remember my motto "What would Jesus do" it is such a help to me specially here She promised me she would. I miss Ethel very much. Tell her Maurine will not forget her. I hope all the others are well I suppose Willie & the baby are grown beyond recognition I wonder if I shall ever see you all again -----

The Orphanage  
Townsville  
Sep 4

My dear Mother & Father

I hope you are all well. I will try & go back to where I left off with my letter. I think I was expecting to land. Well we did not anchor that morning till the day after at 9 o'clock we anchored in the Bay. We packed up, dressed, did all the work till the ship was as clean as a new pin—they said it was the cleanest Emigrant ship that ever came in. There is one anchored in the Bay with 600 in it and they are not allowed to land they have small pox. Well, as I said we were waiting for the pilot to come on board. Well he came—we were all dressed ready to land, when the girls saw him they were frantic. They did cheer— We were locked down till about 10 when we were let up to go ashore as we thought. Then we were told we could not go till after dinner. Well we kept on our best things. I was not dressed any different to what I always was but they were most of them dressed splendid some in silk satin & velvet — It was remarked that they looked more like ladies than Emigrants. We had our dinner on deck that day for the first time, and then we hurried and washed up, when we saw the steamer coming to take us away as we thought but it was bringing provisions for us till Monday. It was a disappointment I can tell you. Next day we had plenty of very nice bread for tea— and beef steaks. Sunday before breakfast they came again they brought vegetables bread and meat—that day we had soup for dinner and nothing for tea. In the afternoon a stange boat full of young men welcomed the girls by rowing round six times kissing their hands and raising their hats. In the evening there was a dreadfull row Sunday evening too it lasted till nearly 7(?) o'clock. The Matron was tipsy, and began it by saying horrid things of the girls. Then they one and all joined in and told of everything she had done and said to each one all through the voyage. They did not quit it at all. They told her of everything and she never spoke a word. The next morning we everyone had to pass before the Inspector and he asked us each separately if we had been treated kindly by the Captain, Dr., Matron, or if we had any complaints to make The girls very nobly said no they had none to make. I think it would have been well if they had for the Matron has been drunk the whole of the time. She was rolling into the gutters and carried into pubs. Everyone who know us says have you seen your matron. The Emigrant Agent says it is a disgrace to the Town. She has lost her pass now and I suppose cannot go home. That accounts for her treatment of us on board. On Monday about 4 we started for Townsville in a fearful dirty steamer. You should have

seen the grand dresses and hats going into it. Well the single girls went first the Captain and Matron with us. The girls shook hands with all the Sailors blacks and all then gave three cheers for them for grog the Dr. and Captain and our Sub Matron then when they saw the Matron coming they called out three cheers and instead every one burst out laughing. Well we sailed away leaving our dear old Hereford and every one in her. I felt sorry for I did not know what would happen next, we longed to see what the place was like. One was saying shall we live in real houses. Shall we drink real water and see real trees. Well before the steamer stopped some one was asking for me and it was Mr. Hill. Tom Martin was gone a hundred miles where Fred is going presently for they did not sail yesterday as it was full of Chinamen. They will set sail in an hours time. Tom will not get on anywhere he left his place the day after he went there. If they can't do at home it is no use coming here. I work hard so they tell me but not so much as I had to do at Mrs. Cavills. I am always in bed by 10. I used to work till nearly 12 there. I went with Mr. Hill to the Depot and Post Office but did not get my letter till the night before last as Tom took it to Mr. Hume. I hope you did not read the report of our ship going down some of the girls had such heart rending letters from their friends. I had not had enough of the sea I suppose for Will took me over the ferry to meet the boys for they landed in the town we landed in front of the Depot. He wanted to see Jack Coward it was a greeting I can tell you for it was like a parting on board. We had tea at the Depot which consisted of bred meat and tea I never tasted such nice bred as it is here. Then they all or most of them went into the town Mip Bell and I only went out twice in the afternoon till we went to our places. That evening nearly every soul was drunk. Fellow from the Bush crowded the town, they came for wives, they had plenty of money. Now the Depot is a long room with windows near the ground all round and the girls sleep on the floors on mattresses with a blanket over them well all the windows were wide open and fellows leaning in the open windows and lingering in crowds all round that how we had to undress. The married people and single had nothing to sleep on and one blanket on tis a disgrace to put a decent girl into such a place. The Matron was giving out the blankets we were undressing and the young bushmen began to come in. Of course a fight followed and knives were used and two men were stabbed. twas dreadfull. The girls did scream I thought some of us would be stabbed every moment. In the morning about half were hired I could have gone several times for more money but one place was in the bush another in an Hotel two in boarding houses. I must leave off scribbling now. from your affectionate daughter Emily.

The Orphanage  
Townsville

My dear Father & Mother

I hope you are all well. I have five minutes so I am going on with my letter. There is a little girl outside crying with the cold — the natives feel every breath of wind. I came with Fred to try for this place as second Matron — There are fifty three, orphans most of them, some love children. They are fearful dirty children. They wear boots on Sunday, at least the eldest of them. They are from two to twelve years Two went away yesterday boys to places — they broke open my box and bag before they went and stole some things — they are wicked children, I have entire charge of thirty boys and the little girls and sleep with them right away from the house. tis a large Dormitory. My room is parted of at the end with a door opening into theirs. I have 5 little ones sleeping in my room such dirty children they mess the bed at 7 years old, two little half cast a boy and a girl. I must go now and get the tea I have to cut and serve the whole fifty six three times a day and wash up after. Sunday evening I was getting the eldest boy into bed, and had to strap them they would not get into bed, and Mip Bell and Charlie came for me and I went to Chaple. I heard a splendid sermon. There are 2 nice chaples they are building another one Scotch Church and (?) (?) tis very high church. There is plenty of building going on and going to continue. Things are very dear. 2d for an apple or orange. Both are a very little dearer, sugar 4 & 5d lb. Tea the same as home — 5d for a small loaf. Flour is dear — cheese 1/3 to 1/6 lb butter 2/3 to 3/- paper & Haberdashery very dear — you can live better on one lb at home than on two here, but it is better after a while but you must not expect any home comfort, for every one when they come have to huddle up in a very little tent which they pay 3/- a week for the ground, and makes it up of old sheets. You even have to buy your wood unless you go into the Bush to get it. A great many poor fellows

went wandering into the Bush to try for work, but came back half starved. tis a lie about it being a land of plenty tis only meat that's cheap and that will only keep a day. I think we are very lucky to what some of them are for there are 30 still in the Depot without work besides the married people. One family is selling the bed they brought out with them for nothing but bread, they were well off at home. he was like H. Humphrey and all his children worked in a factory where they make cloth weavers<sup>(?)</sup> There are 6 children. the eldest boy is gone for 10 shillings. he had 14 at home. that is only one case. One woman has been here 11 months She had a good general business at home and their just beginning to get up a nice little trade She says it was very hard at first. She had £50 when she landed. Now she has not got 10, but she will get on now. She lives in a house with 3 rooms, shop fitted up nicely. They brought their things with them, they brought 18 large boxes with them for six and their two selves. They brought all their pots and pans and Carpenters tools a machine like mine, a set of china looking glasses books and all little things which are so dear out here. Charlie says he should not like you to come out till he had a home to ask you to so you should not have to go to the Depot where Mrs Rickens sat up on the bare floor three nights with her two babies in her arms. I forgot to tell you that Mrs. Kelly says it is all trust, trust, I don't know what it will be when this six hundred land in Townsville — the streets will be crowded with people out of work. Brisbane and New Zealand and Cape Town, and they say there is another vessel on its way. Don't think I tell you this because I don't like this place, but I tell the truth neither making it better or worse, so you can judge for yourself what it is like — Directly I read Arthurs letter and heard what Father said, I said to Fred, oh we mustn't let them come to the depot and Fred says we must work and get a place for them to come to. If you took in washing out here you would get 6s a dozen not done very nice either — 2s for washing a dress £1 for making one. Hats and feathers are very cheap. no flowers because of the sun, but every one has lovely feathers. Frilling for dresses is 1s a yard no ¼ here — one of my ship mates is making it. She has gone out dressmaking 30s a week and all found, we had a barber on board has not got work yet though he earns something among the young fellows for they charge a shilling to cut hair. He was offered £1 a week but he says he can pick that up playing. Charlie gets £2.2s a week Fred £2.8s. I have to cut all the boys hair. I shall not be married till I have paid Mrs. Joice the £3.15s and the £1.5s I had lent me here. I can do it in three months, but I shall not do everything in a hurry I know more than that. If I do at all yet awhile, it is only on condition that we have got a place to go into both together like to take the management of a farm for £100 a year that how they all do out here. One way you would get on here would be to pitch a tent and work on a sugar plantation girls and boys all work on it. Sarah would get 7s a week and all found. You get a good free education out here, and they wear nothing week days but a chemise and frock no boots or stockings never Sundays. they dress very nice indeed no drawers tis too hot The Catholic Church and Nunnery is next to us the Dr. oposite and the sea by the side of us. They have 40 boarders in the Nunnery they all wear merone dresses and white aprons red stockings low shoes. Two of my ship mates Irish got on their first day. They are Irish and Catholics. They do the wash at home every where out here. Nearly every one who came to engage servants were Emigrants a month or two before. they were servants but now they want them. I had a very good chance. The men comes and asks you tis like a market. He wanted me to go to the bush with him and take who I liked for a servant with me. I think a good many must get ruined now as they know where they are going to. No more this time from your ever loving daughter Emily. Love to everybody Gran Ethel all still enquiring friends. Mr. Wall<sup>(?)</sup> Mrs. Lampard Flo Mrs. Tugs<sup>(?)</sup> tell me who has paid you. I hope to send you some money soon—Good bye love to every God bless you all. Good Night. There is green grass growing in the roads. Water and gas is laid on like at home.

Footnote: (?) indicates the word could be incorrect. Courtesy John Oxley Library, Brisbane.



- 1st Sep. 1883 *Mr. John A. Wallace, Assistant Immigration Agent, Townsville, wrote to the Immigration Agent in Brisbane, to report that Mrs. Evans, late Matron of the Immigrant Ship "Hereford" had been behaving herself very badly since her arrival on shore. He was sorry to have to report her as he understood she had done her duties thoroughly whilst on board the "Hereford". Mrs. Evans was given the opportunity to make amends, but did not report for duty.*
- 14th Sep. 1883 *Telegraph Message from J.A. Wallace, Townsville, to Immigration Agent, Brisbane. "Arrived from Burdekin today hear Matron Hereford has been drinking heavily been amissing found yesterday in house ill fame destitute of money shall I sign voucher for board and give passage to Brisbane." (This telegram cost 2/11d).*
- 14th Sep. 1883 *Telegram Message from Immigration Office Brisbane to Assistant Immigration Agent Townsville. "If you are sure your statements pay her nothing and give no pass".*
- 9th Dec. 1883 *Letter from Mrs. Joyce, Hon. Secretary, Women's Winchester Emigration Society to Mr. Archer, Agent General, Queensland Govt. Office, Westminster Chambers, Victoria St., London SW., calling attention to some statements made in letters received from some young women who left Winchester for Queensland in the "Hereford".*
- 12th Dec. 1883 *Letter from Thos. Archer to Mrs. Joyce, St. John's Croft, Winchester, enclosing a copy of report by Dr. Dunlop of the Hereford, with the favourable mention of the Matron, promising to communicate with Dr. Dunlop as soon as possible to look into the matter, and that "if such things really have happened they are in direct contravention of the rules laid down by the Immigration Act for the control and proper arrangements of the Depots."*
- 21st Dec. 1883 *A letter from the Agent General, Queensland Govt. Office, Westminster Chambers, Victoria St., London SW. to the Colonial Secretary, Brisbane, stating that a complaint has been made by the Hon. Mrs. Joyce, of the treatment of the Emigrants on board the "Hereford". A copy of Emily Benham's correspondence enclosed with a view to the matter being investigated.*
- 7th Feb. 1884 *Letter from A. Macleod, Matron, Townsville Orphanage, to the Immigration Agent, Brisbane, stating that Emily Benham was engaged by her as a servant on the 1st September last, and on the 8th December she left for another service from which she left without notice for the Lower Burdekin where she found employment with J.M. Mackenzie, Seaforth Plantation.*
- 12th Feb. 1884 *Letter from Acting Immigration Agent, Brisbane, to Immigration Agent, Townsville, enclosing correspondence between Agent General and the Hon. Mrs. Joyce, relating to treatment of Emigrants on the Hereford under Mrs. Joyce's auspices—also copies of Emily Benham's letters, and asking for a searching enquiry into the complaints, namely:—*
1. As to young Bushmen being allowed to stand outside the windows whilst the girls were dressing.
  2. A fight is said to have occurred amongst these men in the single women's ward and it is alleged two men were stabbed.
  3. That Immigrants have to pay 3/- a week for the use of a tent.
  4. That one family in the Depot had to sell their bed for bread.
  5. That a Mrs. Rickens sat up for three nights on the bare floor with her two babies in her arms.
- "As regards the Matron, you have already reported her for drunkenness and she is dismissed, so that part of the complaints is true enough".*
- 21st Feb. 1884 *Electric Telegraph message from John A. Wallace, Townsville, to Immigration Agent, Brisbane. "Re Enquiry find Emily Benham has gone to Seaforth Burdekin will it be necessary to go to the expense of sending for her a few of her ship mates obtainable Emmigration board not anxious to sit please say if enquiry must be held before board Morey chairman on leave."*
- 26th Feb 1884 *Enquiry held before John A. Wallace, Assistant Immigration Agent, Townsville into certain allegations made in writing to her Father and Mother by one Emily Benham on Immigrant per sailing ship "Hereford".*

*Mrs. Rickens stated:* She kept a boarding house in Townsville and was an Immigrant on the "Hereford". Her husband (since dead), and three daughters were on the same vessel. She remembers coming ashore to the Depot. The first night there were a good many strange men around the Depot but she could not say that she saw any on the Single girls verandah. About 9 p.m. just after roll call, the Matron came to her ward and requested the assistance of the married men to eject a young drunken man who was in the

single girls' ward. Her husband and a man named Clarke and several others went to eject the man and she was told that Clarke and the man had commenced fighting and later a rumour got around that Clarke had been stabbed. She spoke to Clarke later and he told her he only had a slight scratch on the hand which he got in the scuffle.

Mrs. Rickens also stated that she had never lived in a tent lent out by the Immigration Dept. but know others that do and have done and knows that they never paid rent. Never heard of any family having to sell their bedding to purchase bread. She and her family were quite satisfied with the rations served out to them — there was more than enough. She never sat up for three nights with two babies in her arms — she had no babies. She knows of no family who had to sit up from want of bedding.

*Eliza Alice Clark stated:* She is now residing on Ross Island in a tent lent to her husband by the Immigration Dept. She and her husband were Immigrants on the "Hereford". Her husband is now engaged to work on the Railway line at Cooktown. She remembers coming ashore and being located at the Depot. Did not see any strange men around the single girls' ward but heard that there were a good many. Remembers about 9 p.m. after roll call, her husband went out to bring the bedding for her and her two children. He brought the bed and returned to get the blanket. He was a long time away but her attention was taken up with her children she did not take much notice of his absence. Some one came and said that her husband was hurt. She went out and met him and he said it was nothing only a bit of a scuffle putting a drunken man out of the single girls' ward. "Some say I have been stabbed, nothing of the kind only a scratch on the hand."

Her husband told the Assistant Immigration Agent who was in the Depot the next morning that he would not appear against the man that it was so trivial an affair that he was quite certain that no knife had been used.

Never knew or heard of anyone whilst she was in the Depot having to sell their bedding for provisions. She was quite satisfied with the rations served out to her and family by the Wardsmen and Matron. She does not pay any rent for the tent she is now occupying nor knows of anyone paying or having to pay rent for living in a tent.

During her stay in the Depot she never saw any men allowed on the single girls' verandah or any laxity on the part of the Matron, indeed quite the reverse.

*Sarah Elizabeth Ward stated:* Now residing in Townsville at service with a Mr. and Mrs. Flatcher as general servant. Was an Immigrant on the "Hereford". Remembers coming ashore and being located in the Depot. One girl named Emily Benham came ashore at the same time. Remembers the first night there were a few strange men hanging round about the Single girls' quarters, some inside the fence, some outside. Do not remember seeing any strange men on the verandah looking in at the Windows. Remembers Mrs. Pearce ordering the men inside the fence, out, some went and others remained inside. Am positive no men were at the windows whilst the girls were undressing. Remember the drunken man coming into the girls ward about 9 p.m. after roll call. Mrs. Pearce ordered him out civilly twice, and he would not go. She then called some of the married men to assist her amongst whom was Clarke who got into a scuffle with the man in which it was stated that Clarke had been stabbed but he seemed to make very light of it. He told me next day he was quite sure that it was not done with a knife it might have been done with a ring on the man's finger,

Never heard of anyone in the Depot selling their bedding to purchase bread. Always had sufficient rations served and sometimes more than she could eat. Have no reason to complain of the quality. Had sufficient bedding supplied to her. Cannot say the Matron showed any laxity of duty, indeed the reverse. Never saw any strange men about the Depot after the first night except people wanting to engage servants. The girls were all engaged within a fortnight. Never knew Emily Benham before she met her on board the "Hereford". Never heard of anyone paying 3/- per week for rent living in a tent. Never saw or heard of Mrs. Rickens sitting up for three nights with her babies.

*Bartholomew Watt stated:* A lumper working on the Wharves at Townsville, residing on Ross Island with a private family. Made an appointment outside the Depot with one of the girls who had landed, to meet her at 7.30 p.m., but did not get over to Ross Island from Townsville until 9 p.m. and having a good deal of drink, went to the Depot to see if he could get her out knowing it was against the rules, but it was the drink that did it. Seeing the gate open and finding that Mrs. Pearce the Matron was in the married people's quarters he went into the girls ward to see if he could get this girl out. Mrs. Pearce came in and ordered him out. He said alright but still remained until several men came to put him out. He closed with one of them and both of them fell and when they got up he had his hand scratched but the rumour got

about that he was stabbed. He positively swears that he had not a knife in his possession. Remember two police constables coming into the Depot immediately and searching him and making full enquiries, they finding nothing like a knife took him outside and told him to go home which he did. He never remembered seeing any men on the single girls' verandah looking in at the windows indeed Mrs. Pearce looks too well after them for that.

*Elizabeth Ann Jackson stated:* She was a married woman residing with her husband in a tent on Ross Island lent to them by the Immigration Dept. She knows no one who pays rent for their tent.

*Elizabeth Scorer stated:* She was a married woman residing in a tent on Ross Island lent to her by the Immigration Dept. Her husband was working on Pioneer Plantation, Lower Burdekin. She pays no rent for the tent, and knows of no one else who does.

*Allan Sugg stated:* A labourer now residing on Ross Island in a tent rented from Mr. Pearce, Wardsman, Depot. A tent with calico sides and iron roof. He pays 3/- per week. It does not belong to the Immigration Dept. as far as he was aware. He also has the use of several articles of furniture supplied by Mr. Pearce. He arrived by the SS "Duke", preceding the "Hereford", and knew several of the immigrants by the "Hereford" amongst them one Emily Benham, they were natives of the same town he came from, Winchester. He handed the Assistant Immigration Agent an extract from a letter dated 20th Dec. addressed to him from a friend in Winchester — "We were particularly glad to have your letter, because some of the girls have been writing home complaining of the Depot and everything connected with Townsville. I daresay they felt very home sick and it made them see everything under a cloud, but, I feel sure that the Matron of the Depot must seem to be a nice woman, or you would not have left Norah there as servant".

Allan Sugg also stated that while an inmate of the Depot he and his family had sufficient rations, he had never heard of anyone having to sell their bedding for bread, and it was his opinion that Emily's statement, that people pay for their tents, is a result of him privately renting.

*Mary M. Pearce stated:* Matron of the Immigration Depot, her husband was Wardsman, they reside in a cottage adjoining the Depot. There were no more men about the Depot than usual on the first night of any ship landing immigrants. There were two gates to the single women's reserve, one she kept locked, the other faces her house to which a constable was appointed by the Wardsman from instructions given to him by the Assistant Immigration Agent. The Constable's duties were to stand at the gate and refuse admittance to any men unless accompanied by her. On the night in question a man by the name of Matthews was acting as Constable, but just at locking up time, he gave it up saying he had enough of being Constable on the ship. The gate was left unprotected whilst the Wardsman was getting another man to take the Constable's place — The Constable receives 5/- per day and rations for this duty — Not having a store room at the Depot the blankets were stored in the single women's ward, she went to the married quarters to tell the men to come for their blankets. Upon her return she found the man Watt talking to the girls. She told him to go as it was against the rules — He replied alright, if I don't go what then — she said she will have to put him out. At that moment the married men arrived, Clark first, Watt struck him and both fell. She called the other married men and sent the Wardsman for the police, who were on duty around the depot at the time. In the meantime the two men had come to an understanding and shook hands. She reported the matter to the Assistant Immigration Agent next morning. The Depot windows are over six feet from the ground and it is quite impossible for men to see the single women undressing unless they come to the windows and show themselves.

1 Mar. 1884 *Note from Immigration Agent, Townsville, to Immigration Agent, Brisbane.* "Enquiry held before me personally as Assistant Immigration Agent, Townsville forwarded to you this day. Not being a Magistrate I could not swear them but I took their depositions as statements."

10 Mar. 1884 *Letter from Charles Horrocks, Acting Immigration Agent, Brisbane, to the Under Colonial Secretary,* forwarding the enquiry and stating that Emily Benham's statements were exaggerated and totally disproved, except that regarding Mrs. Evans, late Matron of the "Hereford", who was promptly dismissed upon her conduct becoming known. He trusts the girl's assertions will be contradicted as soon as possible, as they are likely to do the Colony an infinite amount of harm, which it will be difficult hereafter to contravene.



● *Emily and baby — date and place unknown.*



● *Emily — date unknown*

● *Emily and Arthur Dyer with Ethel Benham (far right) and their children, Winifred (right), Hilda (left) and baby George. Taken about 1892. Ethel was then about 15 years of age and lived and worked with Emily for a couple of years. She was the witness to the birth of Ethel Marion Edith Dyer at Cloudy Creek Tin Mine, Mt. Cloudy in 1894.*

St James Church	Arthur Dyer	Bachelor	Stoth Dyer Dorchester England
16 <sup>th</sup> April 1884	Emily Benham	Spinster	
Married in the Church of St James			
According to Miss Ferenonius of Ch of England			

Dover	26	Burdekin	William Dyer Abroad with wife	Labourer
"	24	Do	George Benham Sarah Green	Gardener
This Marriage was solemnized between us		Arthur Dyer	In the presence of us	
Emily Benham		Joseph Perrett		
/		Elizabeth Lawrence		
By (or before) me		Alfred Edwards	Officiating Minister or Registrar.	

• Marriage Certificate, Emily and Arthur

## THE CHILDREN OF EMILY AND ARTHUR



• *Emily and Arthur Dyer with their children, Winifred (back), Hilda (right), Ethel (left) and Percy, taken about 1899.*



• *From left: Winifred, Percy, Hilda, Nellie and Ethel.*

# THE CHILDREN OF EMILY AND ARTHUR

## WINIFRED MAY DYER

*b* 2nd May 1886/Ewan  
*d* 14 Dec 1946/Brisbane

## ARTHUR ERNEST WILLIAM DYER

*b* May 1888/Brisbane  
*d* 19 Mar 1889/Brisbane

## HILDA NELLIE DYER

*b* 26th Dec 1889/Brisbane  
*d* 2 Oct 1954/Cairns

## GEORGE ARTHUR DYER

*b* 2nd Sep 1891/Brisbane  
*d* 18 Apr 1893/Townsville

## ETHEL MARION EDITH DYER

*b* 2nd May 1894/Mt. Cloudy

\*

## PERCIVAL CHARLES DYER

*b* 24th Nov 1899/Charters Towers

## EMILY DYER

*b* 30th Mar 1901.2/Charters Towers  
*d* 30th Mar 1901.2

## HERBERT JESSE BENHAM DYER

*b* 5th Aug 1903/Charters Towers  
*d* 17th Dec 1903/Charters Towers

## WILFRED ERNEST DYER

*b* 6th Jun 1904/Ewan  
*d* 19th Jun 1904/Ewan

### 1: Winifred May Dyer

*b* 2 May 1886/Ewan  
*d* 14 Dec 1946/Brisbane

*m* William Alexander Anderson James

*b* Jul 1880/Cape River Pentland Q

*d* 21 Jun 1907/Balfe's Creek

*m* John Hedges (Jack)

*b* 29 Jan 1884/Pentland

*d* 25 May 1940

children

#### 1: William Edward James

*b* 2 Jan 1905/Townsville

*m* Mary Ellen Parsons

*b* 14 Oct 1909/Ewan

*d* 22 Feb 1930/Townsville

*m* Mabel Esther Walker

*b* 7 Apr 1911/Townsville

children

#### 1: Mary Olive Winifred James

*b* 17 Feb 1930/Townsville

#### 2: Charles Arthur James

*b* 17 Apr 1907/Townsville

*d* 11 May 1963/Brisbane

*m* Gladys Theresa Lindner

*b* 27 Apr 1907/Rocky Bluff Qld.

\*

children

#### 1: Charles Arthur James

*b* circa 1929-30/Ayr

*d* Jan 1934/Ayr

\*Late Entries Page 187

2: William Edward James

b 16 Mar 1932/Ayr

m Jean Anderson

b 3 Jul 1931/Brisbane

children 1: John William James

b 1 Mar 1963/Brisbane

\*

2: Sharon Anne James

b 14 Dec 1963/Brisbane

\*

\*

3: Shirley Winifred James

b 8 Jan 1934/Ayr

m Carl Austen Lehmann

b 15 Sep 1912/Euroa Vic

d 20 Sep 1982/Kilcoy

3: John William Maudsley (Jack) Hedges

b 2 Feb 1911/Prairie

m Margaret McLeod

b 28 May 1924/Red Hill Brisbane

children 1: Peter Hedges

b 28 Feb 1946/Ashgrove Brisbane

m Noela Joan Duffy

b 30 Apr 1949/Brisbane

children 1: Darren Mark Hedges

b 2 Apr 1969/Brisbane

2: Sharlane Maree Hedges

b 22 Jul 1971/Brisbane

2: Kaylene Margaret Hedges

b 8 Aug 1951/Mullumbimbi NSW

m Trevor Parham

b 4 Sep 1944/Gawler SA

children 1: Sheree Jayne Parham

b 26 Mar 1972/Gin Gin

2: Deborah Kay Parham

b 16 Feb 1975/Brisbane

3: Linda Gaye Hedges

b 8 Apr 1953/Nambour Q

m Ronald James Unsworth

b 21 Oct 1948/Brisbane

children 1: Shayne John Unsworth

b 21 Dec 1972/Windsor NSW

2: Nigel James Unsworth

b 5 Sep 1975/Windsor NSW

3: Lee William Unsworth

b 3 Feb 1978/Ipswich Q

4: Percival Arthur Maudsley Hedges

b 5 Jan 1913/Prairie Q

d 7 Aug 1937

5: Winifred May Hedges

b 21 Apr 1915/Charters Towers

m Clement Roy Thornton

b 15 Jun 1910/Ipswich

6: Thelma Rebecca Hedges

b 21 Apr 1915/Charters Towers

m Frederick Beutel

b 9 May 1917/Mundubbera

children 1: Heather Joyce Beutel

b 21 Jul 1938/Brisbane

d 14 Dec 1954

\*Late Entries Page 187



2: Frederick John Beutel

*b* 8 Mar 1945/Brisbane

*m* Shirley Ann Rossiter

*b* 9 Mar 1947/Maryborough

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Michelle Ann Beutel

*b* 19 May 1966/Maryborough

2: Leanne Fay Beutel

*b* 10 Oct 1971/Maryborough

3: Narelle Joy Beutel

*b* 29 Jul 1974/Maryborough

3: Pamela Winifred Beutel

*b* 2 May 1952/Brisbane

*m* Ivan Wilfred Flint

*b* 23 Mar 1951/Maryborough

*m* Maxwell Raymond Thomson

*b* 13 Jan 1952/Goomeri

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: John Wilfred Flint

*b* 4 Jul 1971/Mundubbera

2: Jeffrey Ivan Flint

*b* 14 Mar 1973/Brisbane

3: Ricky Jason Thomson

*b* 15 Feb 1977/Biloela

4: Tammy Maree Thomson

*b* 2 Oct 1981/Bundaberg

7: Clorine Emily Hedges

*b* 13 Jul 1917/Townsville

*m* George Fyfe

*b* 11 Feb 1911/Creive Hill, 5 Mile Town, Co. Tyrone, N. Ireland

*d* 23 Jul 1982/Brisbane

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Beverley Winifred Fyfe

*b* 20 Aug 1942/Brisbane

*m* Samuel Frederick Robinson

*b* 25 Feb 1931/Proserpine

*d* 8 Feb 1972/Brisbane

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Jeanene Winifred Robinson

*b* 2 Apr 1962/Brisbane

*m* Anthony David Kelly

*b* 31 Mar 1957

*d* 9 Oct 1982

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Anthony David Kelly

*b* 26 Apr 1983

2: Garry Samuel George Robinson

*b* 13 Apr 1963/Brisbane

3: Darryn Jamie Robinson

*b* 12 Feb 1965/Brisbane

8: Lillian Myrtle (Myrtle) Hedges

*b* 2 Aug 1920/Townsville

*m* Kenneth Allan Booth

*b* 10 Oct 1916/Reynella SA

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Calvin Collin Booth

*b* 14 Jan 1949/Murwillumbah NSW

2: Roslyn Leyslie Booth

*b* 12 Dec 1954/Mullumbimby NSW

*m* Harold Frederick Kelly

*b* 11 Nov 1954/Toowoomba

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Neil Drennan Kelly

*b* 31 Jan 1981/Tweed Heads

2: James Robert Kelly  
b 18 May 1983/Southport

\*  
\*

3: Gregory John Booth  
b 25 May 1955/Brisbane

2: Arthur Ernest William Dyer  
b May 1888/Brisbane  
d 19 Mar 1889/Brisbane

3: Hilda Nellie (Nellie) Dyer  
b 26 Dec 1889/Brisbane  
d 2 Oct 1954/Cairns  
m Albert Edward Bucklar  
b 4 Jul 1877?/Old Mark Yorkshire  
d 18 Feb 1962?/Cairns

children 1: Arthur William Bucklar

b 29 Oct 1907/Mt. Cloudy

d 29 Jan 1982/Cairns

m Ellen Robinson

children

1: Kelly Patrica Bucklar

b 14 Aug 1961/Cairns

d 11 Aug 1979/Cairns

2: Albert Edward Charles Bucklar

b 19 Oct 1909/Charters Towers

d 18 Aug 1966/Wellington NSW

m Ethel Lorna Birchall

b 28 Nov 1916/Wellington NSW

3: Charles Henry Bucklar

b 24 Nov 1911/Barrine

d 11 Feb 1949/Cairns

4: Emily Lillian Bucklar

b 15 Jan 1914/Barrine

m Arthur Stanley Adams

b 19 Jan 1899/Hughenden

children

1: Ronald Percival Adams

b 20 May 1936/Atherton

m Patricia Geraldine O'Connor

b 1 Aug 1936/Uralla NSW

children

1: Raymond Brett Adams

b 15 Apr 1964/Coonamble NSW

2: Brenda Patricia Adams

b 22 Apr 1965/Tamworth NSW

children

1: Damian Adams

b 2 Jun 1983

3: Elizabeth Emily Adams

b 21 Apr 1966/Tamworth

4: Desley Maree Adams

b 29 Oct 1967/Brisbane

5: Desmond Arthur Adams

b 10 Jul 1969/Brisbane

6: David Stanley Adams

b 9 May 1971/Brisbane

- 2: Douglas Stanley Adams  
b 7 Jul 1940/Atherton  
m Barbara May Kajewski  
b 31 Jan 1940/Oakey  
*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Barbara Anne Adams  
b 18 Jan 1963/Thursday Island  
m Kevin St. John  
b 24 Mar 1964/Cairns  
*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Heather May  
St. John  
b 25 Nov 1982/  
Cairns
- 2: Trevor Douglas Adams  
b 23 Dec 1964/Thursday Island
- 3: Colin Arthur Adams  
b 17 Jun 1966/Cairns
- 3: Valerie Edith Adams  
b 9 Nov 1944/Cairns  
m Rodney William Douglas  
b 28 Oct 1943/Sydney  
*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Kerry Ann Douglas  
b 1 May 1963/Cairns  
m Mark Douglas Stover  
b 24 Aug 1960/Proserpine  
*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Stephen Russell  
Stover  
b 29 Dec 1982/  
Cairns
- 2: Wayne Allan Douglas  
b 1 Mar 1965/Cairns
- 3: Christine Lynore Douglas  
b 1 Mar 1971/Cairns
- 5: Percival Claud Bucklar  
b 16 Apr 1916/Atherton  
m Mary McDonald  
b 1920/Mungana Qld.  
d 1958/Southport  
m Daisy G. Gane (nee Kingston)  
b 7 Dec 1919/Aramac  
*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Ernest Edward Bucklar  
b 11 July 1938/Atherton  
m Jeanette Clarke  
b 15 Aug 1938/Cairns  
*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Neil Bucklar  
b 16 Nov 1969/Cairns
- 2: Mark Bucklar  
b 28 Jul 1973/Cairns
- 2: Arthur Albert Bucklar  
b 25 Aug 1939/Atherton  
m Geraldine Anne Doyle  
b 6 Feb 1944/Cairns  
*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Karen Joy Bucklar  
b 21 Jan 1967/Cairns
- 3: Pamela Joan Bucklar  
b 16 Aug 1941/Atherton  
m Brian Fox  
b —  
m Ronald Fox  
b 5 Sep 1947/Atherton  
*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Michelle Fox  
b 1 Sep 1959/Townsville

2: Estelle Fox  
b 30 Jul 1961/Townsville

3: Fred Fox  
b 3 Mar 1963/Townsville

4: Andrew Fox  
b 11 Aug 1982/Cairns

4: Aileen May Bucklar  
b 28 Dec 1942/Maryborough  
m Morris Arthur Atkinson  
b 13 Oct 1935/Cairns

children 1: Anne Maree Atkinson  
b 23 Aug 1966/Cairns

2: Alan Daren Atkinson  
b 8 Jul 1969/Cairns

3: Helen Lorraine Atkinson  
b 2 Mar 1978/Cairns

5: Joyce Ann Bucklar  
b 8 Oct 1944/Atherton  
m Peter Murphy  
d 1969/Cairns  
m Ronald Cameron  
b 25 Sep 1937/Mackay

children 1: Lee-Ann Murphy  
b 6 May 1967/Cairns

2: Julie-Anne Murphy  
b 20 Jun 1968/Clermont

3: Daren Cameron  
b 18 Apr 1973/Cairns

4: Brett Cameron  
b 29 Oct 1976/Cairns

5: Kelly-Ann Mary Cameron  
b 30 Mar 1979/Cairns

6: David Cameron  
b 15 Sep 1981/Cairns

6: Edward John Bucklar  
b 16 Jul 1946/Cairns  
m Allison Nielsen  
b 2 Apr 1948/Babinda

children 1: Sean Bucklar  
b 1 Dec 1971/Darwin

2: Gavin Bucklar  
b 3 Mar 1974/Darwin

6: Hilda Ellen Bucklar  
b 10 Dec 1917/Mareeba  
m Herman George Schulz  
b 13 Sep 1913/Mossman

children 1: Ellen Jean Schulz  
b 18 Nov 1941/Atherton  
m Steven Richard Wootton  
b 3 Jan 1940/Atherton

children 1: Larine Gayle Wootton  
b 22 Feb 1966/Cairns

2: Noeleen Marie Wootton  
b 21 Jan 1969/Cairns

3: Diane Cherie Ellen Wootton  
b 1 Sep 1972/Cairns

4: Sharon Louise Wootton  
b 14 Sep 1973/Cairns

2: Gloria June Schulz

b 30 Jun 1944/Cairns  
m Winston Fredrick Wootton  
b 29 Nov 1943/Atherton

children

1: Gavin John Wootton  
b 23 Mar 1967/Cairns

2: Stephen Edward Wootton  
b 13 Apr 1970/Cairns

3: Darryll Shane Wootton  
b 4 Sep 1973/Cairns

4: Michelle Ellen Wootton  
b 8 Mar 1977/Cairns

3: Merle Joan Schulz

b 21 Jun 1948/Cairns  
m Barry Kevin Woodhouse  
b 18 Jul 1947/Brisbane

children

1: Glen Alan Woodhouse  
b 16 Jan 1969/Cairns

2: Brian David Woodhouse  
b 26 May 1970/Cairns

3: Annette Cherie Woodhouse  
b 7 Mar 1977/Cairns

4: Kristy Jade Woodhouse  
b 24 May 1981 Atherton

4: Warren Leslie Schulz

b 3 Jun 1954/Cairns  
m Lynnette Grace Pearse  
b 26 Jun 1961/Cairns

children

1: Rachael Jane Schulz  
b 19 Apr 1980/Cairns

2: Andrea Lesley Schulz  
b 7 Jul 1983/Cairns

5: Cheryl Ann Schulz

b 5 Jun 1957/Cairns  
m Keith James McDonald  
b 24 Apr 1954/Cairns

children

1: Jamie Lee McDonald  
b 21 Nov 1975/Cairns

2: Amanda Cherie McDonald  
b 26 Jan 1978/Cairns

7: Edna May Bucklar

b 22 May 1919/Mareeba  
m Edward Michael Wilson  
b 20 Dec 1921/Wellington NSW

children

1: Robert Edward Wilson  
b 6 Dec 1946/Wellington NSW  
m Robyn Lesley Rawson  
b — Trangie, NSW

children

1: Tracee Elizabeth Wilson  
b 14 Mar 1967/Parkes, NSW

2: Karen Anne Wilson

*b* 1969/Scone, NSW

*d* 1969/Scone, NSW

3: Gregory Robert Wilson

*b* 3 Feb 1970/Scone, NSW

4: Darren Ronald Edward Wilson

*b* 15 Oct 1973/Narromine, NSW

2: Marlene Louise Wilson

*b* 9 Apr 1948/Cairns

*m* Terry Bruce Rich

*b* — Wellington, NSW

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Kellie Louise Rich

*b* 10 Dec 1974/Wellington, NSW

2: Alison Marie Rich

*b* 21 Feb 1977/Wellington, NSW

3: Gavin Edward Thomas Rich

*b* 6 Oct 1979/Wellington, NSW

3: Rhondoa Hellen Wilson

*b* 27 Jan 1950/Wellington, NSW

*m* Allan Lindsay Johnson

*b* — Wellington, NSW

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Kylie Marie Johnson

*b* 6 Sep 1970/Wellington, NSW

2: Troy Allan Johnson

*b* 2 Jan 1972/Wellington, NSW

3: Andrew Edward Johnson

*b* 4 Jan 1974/Dubbo, NSW

4: Carol Ann Wilson

*b* 21 Jan 1952/Wellington, NSW

*d* 1 Nov 1952/Cairns

5: Lorraine Jean Wilson

*b* 8 Mar 1954/Wellington, NSW

*m* Mark William Broomfield

*b* — Wellington, NSW

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Melissa Jane Broomfield

*b* 11 Apr 1973/Nyngan, NSW

2: Katrina Louise Broomfield

*b* 29 Jun 1976/Nyngan, NSW

\*

8: Myrtle Edith Bucklar

*b* 13 Mar 1922/Mareeba.

*d* 12 Feb 1971/Ballarat, Vic

*m* Raymond John Rickard

*b* 28 Jun 1926/Williamstown, Vic

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Coral Dawn Rickard

*b* 21 Dec 1945/Cairns

*m* Geoffrey Thomas Cross

*b* 19 Feb 1944/Ballarat, Vic

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Peter Cross

*b* 18 Nov 1967/Ballarat

2: Nathan Cross

*b* 14 Jan 1969/Ballarat

3: Matthew Cross

*b* 13 Dec 1969/Ballarat

\*Late Entries Page 187

4: Benjamin Cross  
b 11 Apr 1973/Ballararat

\*

2: Veronica Joy Rickard  
b 6 Mar 1947/Ballararat  
m Ronald Maxwell Hepburn  
b 5 May 1942/Pereswick, Vic  
*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Melissa Jane Hepburn  
b 3 Mar 1970/Melbourne  
2: Darcy John Hepburn  
b 11 Dec 1974/Melbourne

3: David John Rickard  
b 14 Dec 1948/Ballararat  
m Barbara Anne Kilpatrick  
b 14 Jul 1944/Naracoorte, SA  
*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Anthony John Rickard  
b 9 Apr 1976/Sale, Vic

4: Robert Charles Rickard  
b 17 May 1950/Ballararat  
m Maureen Anne Rousch  
b 12 May 1953/Ballararat

5: Denise Lesley Rickard  
b 16 Dec 1951/Cairns  
m Robert George Storey  
b 7 Sep 1948/Ballararat  
*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Joanne Maree Storey  
b 22 Dec 1971/Melbourne  
2: David Andrew Storey  
b 13 Aug 1974/Melbourne  
3: Adam Robert Storey  
b 15 Jun 1977/Ballararat

9: Wilfred James Bucklar  
b 14 Nov 1922/Mareeba  
m Myrtle Beatrice Hammet  
b 4 Aug 1919/Townsville  
*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: James Robert Bucklar  
b 6 May 1944/Townsville  
m Helen Esme Harris  
b 21 Jan 1946/Casino  
*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Janine Allison Bucklar  
b 29 Jul 1973/Brisbane  
2: Glen James Bucklar  
b 19 Mar 1975/Brisbane  
3: Sarah Beatrice Bucklar  
b 23 Mar 1978/Brisbane

2: Leslie Edward Bucklar  
b 23 Sep 1948/Townsville  
m Doreen Pavey  
b 5 Apr 1951/Mareeba  
*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Fiona Madeline Bucklar  
b 24 Nov 1969/Cairns  
2: Dianne Lesley Bucklar  
b 3 Jan 1972/Cairns  
3: Suzanne Lynell Bucklar  
b 6 Feb 1978/Cairns

4: Leonard Edward Bucklar  
b 4 Aug 1980/Cairns

5: Caroline Valmae Bucklar  
b 3 Aug 1982/Cairns

10: Son (stillborn)  
b 28 Aug 1924/Mareeba

11: Son (stillborn)  
b 2 Aug 1925/Mareeba

12: Henry Bucklar (twin)  
b 10 May 1926/Barrine  
d 10 May 1926

13: Daughter (twin)  
b 10 May 1926/Barrine  
d 10 May 1926

14: George Henry Bucklar  
b 27 Aug 1928/Atherton

4: George Arthur Dyer  
b 2 Sep 1891/Brisbane  
d 18 Apr 1893/Townsville

5: Ethel Marion Edith Dyer  
b 2 May 1894/Mt. Cloudy

\*

m Joseph George Hatfield  
b 22 Aug 1887/Cooktown  
d 1980/Gordonvale

children 1: Elizabeth Lillian Hatfield

b 18 Mar 1913/Cooktown  
m Thomas Patrick Downing  
b 10 Apr 1911/Innisfail

children 1: Patrick Thomas Downing

b 1 Dec 1932/Mossman  
m Enid Ann Humphries  
b 18 Jan 1937/Gympie

children 1: Karen Ann Downing  
b 20 Jun 1963/Gordonvale

2: Elizabeth Therese Downing  
b 3 Apr 1965/Gordonvale

3: Patrick William Thomas Downing  
b 19 Jul 1968/Gordonvale  
d 26 May 1982/Gordonvale

2: Ronald Charles Downing  
b 12 Oct 1939/Mossman  
m Dawn Ivy Anderson  
b 25 Feb 1941/Gordonvale

children 1: Christopher Mark Downing  
b 26 May 1962/Cairns

2: Naomi Suzane Downing  
b 21 May 1963/Cairns

3: Bronwyn Kay Downing  
b 2 Sep 1964/Cairns

4: Erin Janine Downing  
b 15 Sep 1965/Cairns

\*Late Entries Page 187



5: Kylie Marie Downing  
b 3 Jun 1967/Cairns

6: Simon Thomas Downing  
b 17 Aug 1968/Cairns

7: Rachel Lillian Downing  
b 18 Apr 1970/Cairns

8: Mathew Daniel Downing  
b 11 Jul 1972/Cairns

2: George Arthur Hatfield

b 5 Dec 1914/Cooktown  
m Ethel Grace Squires  
b 29 Feb 1924/Bellenden Ker, Qld  
d 11 Feb 1971/Mossman

children 1: James George Hatfield

b 17 Jul 1940/Babinda  
m Joan Marion Barton  
b 23 Sep 1944/Gordonvale

children 1: Peter James Hatfield  
b 31 Dec 1967/Mossman

2: Kylie Anne Hatfield  
b 25 May 1970/Mossman

3: Patricia Ethel Hatfield  
b 27 May 1973/Ayr

2: Carole Paulette Hatfield

b 8 Aug 1944/Babinda  
m Allan George McDonald  
b 17 Nov 1944/Mossman

children 1: Robert Glenn McDonald  
b 11 Apr 1976/Cairns

3: Annette Merle Hatfield

b 5 Feb 1946/Babinda  
m Robert John Harper  
b 20 Sep 1943/Mossman

children 1: Sandra Jayne Harper  
b 16 May 1968/Mossman

2: Wesley John Harper  
b 18 Oct 1969/Mossman

3: Derrick Robert Harper  
b 4 Mar 1974/Mossman

4: Malcolm Dick Hatfield

b 23 Dec 1947/Atherton  
m Desley Mary Miller  
b 25 Mar 1952/Tully

children 1: Carmel Grace Hatfield  
b 6 Dec 1971/Mt. Isa

2: Matthew Lloyd Hatfield  
b 16 Dec 1973/Mt. Isa

3: Bradley James Hatfield  
b 21 Jan 1977/Mossman

5: Ian Joseph Hatfield

b 23 Jul 1949/Atherton  
m Lesley Anne O'Donoghue  
b 17 Jun 1953/Mossman

children 1: Zane Joseph Hatfield  
b 30 Apr 1974/Nhulunbuy NT

- 2: Travis Kelwin Hatfield  
b 24 Apr 1977/Mossman
- 3: Ashleigh Simone Hatfield  
b 14 Jun 1979/Mossman
- 4: Faith Bernice Hatfield  
b 2 Aug 1982/Mossman
- 3: Percival James Hatfield  
b 28 May 1916/Cooktown
- 4: Colin Hatfield  
b 1918/Cooktown  
d 1918/Cooktown
- 5: Edwin Hatfield  
b 1919/Cooktown  
d 1919/Cooktown
- 6: Stillborn child  
b 1921/Atherton
- 7: Jessie May Hatfield  
b 9 Apr 1922/Cooktown  
d 9 Feb 1964/Mossman  
m Bogal Wienert  
b 18 Jul 1922/Pt. Douglas  
d 8 Jul 1979/Mossman
- 8: Charles William Thomas Hatfield  
b 14 Apr 1925/Cooktown
- 9: Richard Mackay Hatfield  
b 8 Feb 1927/Cooktown  
m Elsie Gaul Holzapple
- 10: Emily Marion Hatfield  
b 2 Jun 1928/Cooktown  
m Thomas Sydney Schultz  
b 2 Jul 1911/Toowoomba
- children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Colleen Patricia O'Connor  
b 9 Oct 1948/Babinda  
m Evan George Llewelyn  
b 8 Sep 1942/Brisbane
- children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Nicole Suzanne Llewelyn  
b 1 Aug 1969/Cairns
- 2: Tania Michelle Llewelyn  
b 26 Apr 1971/Darwin
- 3: Amanda Kim Llewelyn  
b 15 Aug 1974/Melbourne
- 2: John Richard Healey  
b 17 Jun 1957/Brisbane
- 3: Robyn Sharyn Schultz  
b 10 Feb 1962/Stanthorpe
- 4: Donald James Schultz  
b 30 Mar 1963/Stanthorpe

11: Aileen Rose Hatfield

b 6 Nov 1930/Mossman  
m John Llewellyn Morgan  
b 16 Nov 1924/Auckland NZ

children \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Deborah Kaye Morgan  
b 9 Jun 1960/Mossman  
m Simon Christopher Davie  
b 11 Jan 1959/Brisbane  
children \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Adrian Christopher Davie  
b 24 Feb 1979/Cairns  
2: Carly Natahia Davie  
b 3 Apr 1981/Cairns

2: David John Morgan

b 3 Feb 1962/Mossman

3: Drew Francis Morgan

b 8 Dec 1964/Mossman

12: Dawn Delores Hatfield

b 18 Mar 1937/Mossman  
m Barrie John Mackenzie  
b 29 Jun 1937/Sarina

children \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Peter John Mackenzie  
b 28 Apr 1960/Proserpine  
2: Steven James Mackenzie  
b 24 Jan 1964/Proserpine  
3: Jason Charles Mackenzie  
b 19 Oct 1978/Proserpine

6: Percival Charles Dyer

b 2 May 1898/Charters Towers  
d 1 Aug 1975/Gordonvale  
m Ida Rushworth  
b 18 Aug 1898/Little Mulgrave

children \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Leonard Charles Dyer  
b 23 May 1928/Cairns  
m Daphne Clara Garrett  
b 3 Dec 1933/Brisbane  
children \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Robert John Dyer  
b 3 Oct 1958/Brisbane  
m Virginia Marince Petro  
b 13 Aug 1957/Southport  
2: Sandra Kay Dyer  
b 4 Oct 1962/Brisbane

2: Alice Emily Dyer

b 7 Aug 1930/Gordonvale  
m Kendrick Dansie  
b 8 Mar 1929/Millaa Millaa

children \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Cheryl Diane Dansie  
b 11 Nov 1950/Atherton  
m Arthur Raymond Yates  
b 9 Mar 1951/Darlinghurst NSW  
children \_\_\_\_\_ 1: David Kendrick Yates  
b 7 Aug 1969/Cairns  
2: Augustus Dwayne Yates  
b 24 Sep 1971/Mossman  
3: Virginia Mickel Yates  
b 5 Apr 1974/Tully

2: Judith Ann Dansie

*b* 24 Apr 1952/Atherton  
*m* Jeffrey Howard Latimer  
*b* 5 Feb 1951/Brisbane

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Juanita Jane Latimer  
*b* 8 Aug 1973/Cairns

2: Kylie Sherie Latimer  
*b* 3 Aug 1977/Brisbane

3: Isaac Jeffrey Howard Latimer  
*b* 16 Jul 1981/Brisbane

3: Kenneth Brandon Dansie

*b* 17 Jun 1953/Atherton  
*m* Kerry Michele Anfruns  
*b* 19 Jan 1954/Melbourne

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Tracey Lee Dansie  
*b* 4 Jan 1972/Innisfail

2: Crystalyn Marie Dansie  
*b* 6 Aug 1974/Tully

3: Brandon John Dansie  
*b* 23 Aug 1978/Atherton

\*

4: Graham Charles Dansie

*b* 6 Aug 1954/Atherton  
*m* Rhonda Fraser  
*b* 21 Jul 1955/Cairns

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Tanya Dansie  
*b* 29 Aug 1974/Cairns

2: Donnetta Dansie  
*b* 25 Jan 1980/Gladstone

3: Timothy Dansie  
*b* 2 May 1983/Tieri, Qld

5: Peter John Dansie

*b* 27 Jul 1960/Gordonvale

6: Sharyn Lillian Dansie

*b* 16 Aug 1963/Innisfail  
*m* David Christopher Ruback  
*b* 25 Nov 1959/Ingham

7: Emily Dyer

*b* 30 Mar 1901-2/Charters Towers  
*d* 30 Mar 1901-2/Charters Towers

8: Herbert Jesse Benham Dyer

*b* 5 Aug 1903/Ewan  
*d* 17 Dec 1903/Ewan

9: Wilfred Ernest Dyer

*b* 6 Jun 1904/Ewan  
*d* 19 Jun 1904/Ewan

\*Late Entries Page 187

GEORGE ALBERT  
BENHAM  
1865-1947



*George Albert Benham*

**CERTIFIED COPY of an Entry of BIRTH**  
 (6 & 7 Wm. IV., cap. 86).

Given at the **GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,**  
**SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON.**

Applicant's Number **S.nr. 38985/31**



**REGISTRATION DISTRICT WINCHESTER**

**BIRTH in the Sub-District of WINCHESTER**

In the County of **SOUTHAMPTON**

When and Where Born	Name and Surname of Father	Name and Surname of Mother	Rank Profession or Occupation of Father	Signature, Description and Residence of Informant	Where Registered	Day of Month and Year
1865 No. 277 Klerentia Mary 1865 Abbey Passage	George Benjamin	Sarah Benjamin Cornhill Grace	Gardner	S. Benham Mother Abbey Passage Winchester	St. Nicholas 1865	July 31

CERTIFIED to be a true Copy of an Entry in the Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the **GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, this 31st day of July 1865**

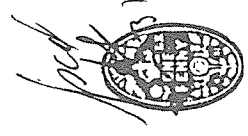
This certificate is issued in pursuance of and subject to the following Acts:—6 & 7 Wm. IV., c. 86, sec. 28; 7 Wm. IV., c. 86, sec. 28; 1 & 2 Vict., c. 23, sec. 3; 3 & 4 Geo. V., c. 27, sec. 5 & 6.

That all Certified Copies of Entries, purporting to be Signed or Stamped with the Seal of the General Register Office, shall be deemed to be true and correct, notwithstanding that the same may be false, unless it can be proved to the contrary in any Court of Law.

That any person who, without any lawful authority, shall knowingly or recklessly make or cause to be made any false entry in the said Office, or shall knowingly or recklessly make or cause to be made any false statement in relation to any such entry, shall be liable to be punished as if he had committed the offence of perjury.

Any person who, without any lawful authority, shall knowingly or recklessly make or cause to be made any false statement in relation to any such entry, shall be liable to be punished as if he had committed the offence of perjury.

**B 63401**



**G**EORGE ALBERT BENHAM was born on the 11th March, 1865, the third child of George and Sarah Benham at Abbey Passage, Winchester, England. Very little is known of his childhood, however, after leaving school he worked as a farm labourer.

At the age of twenty years, George decided to join his three brothers and one sister in Australia. In late January he sailed from London on the "*Merkara*". After a nine-weeks voyage, he arrived in Brisbane on the 8th April, 1885. We assume he lived and worked with his brother Jesse who had landed three and a half months previously.

He met a Scottish lass, Margaret Stewart Hunter, in Brisbane and courted her on a park bench "with 6d worth of apples in a paper bag." They were married at "Ellerslie", Vulture Street, Brisbane, on the 14th January, 1890, by William Poole. George's occupation at that time was a labourer.

In 1891 their first child was born, Lucy May. At this time George was working as a Drayman, address Peach Street, Dunnellan Estate. Before the year was out, George and Margaret were to lose Lucy just before Christmas. One can imagine their Christmas being very sad.

The couple left Brisbane in 1893 and went to live in Sydney where two sons were born. (Of this time I do not have any information). They stayed in the south for five years before moving north to take up residence in Charters Towers.

Their first home in Charters Towers was in Armstrong Road. It was here their third son was born in 1898. George had found work in the mines and also had a horse and dray in which he carted wood for the people in the town.

A few years later the family moved to Gladstone Road, Charters Towers. George loved gardening and had a large vegetable garden and many fruit trees at this house. They had George Senior come to live with them for a time and he also was a keen gardener and had a beautiful bed of roses, which he devoted much of his time to while he stayed with them.

Old George loved his pipe but on occasions was unable to fill and light it himself. Margaret was always there to help out. Before going to bed each night Margaret would also bring him his much loved tote of rum. After a time he returned to his family in Brisbane.

In 1902, George was employed by the Northern Railway Department and worked in the Loco Shed as a "washout man". His job was to clean out the steam engines and have them ready for the new crew. He remained in their employment until his retirement in 1930.

Daughter Grace can remember their shift from Gladstone Road to Dundee Lane, Queenton, just before the First World War. George again established a lovely garden, vegetables, fruit trees and fernery. This was to be their last shift and to this day the home is still occupied by George's descendants.

The Benhams were a musical family, George being no exception. He joined the Charters Towers Liedertafel early in the 1900s. The Liedertafel was an all-male choir formed in Charters Towers in 1891. Grace can remember the many occasions the family gathered around the piano for a happy sing-song.

*As told by daughter, Doris:*

George had a very kind hearted nature, especially where children were concerned. Not only did he legally adopt two babies at birth, one of which was his granddaughter, he also gave a home to an eight year old girl, Phyllis Stafford, whose family could no longer take care of her. Phyllis was always treated as a daughter. After leaving high school she obtained a live-in position, always returning home on her days off to visit the only mum and dad she ever knew.

They were a very Christian family and attended the Baptist Church. George and his daughter, Ivy, were members of the Church Choir for many years. At the Anniversary Concerts, George, Ivy, Melba, Doris and Phyllis all sang in the choir.

George was a Steward in the Lodge of Foresters (Rechabites) in Charters Towers for a number of years. He took the pledge and did not break it in his lifetime.

*Grace tells:*

George was an avid reader and would buy a box of second hand books for 6d. On arrival home he would search through them to see what interested him.

She also tells of the doll her father made for her:

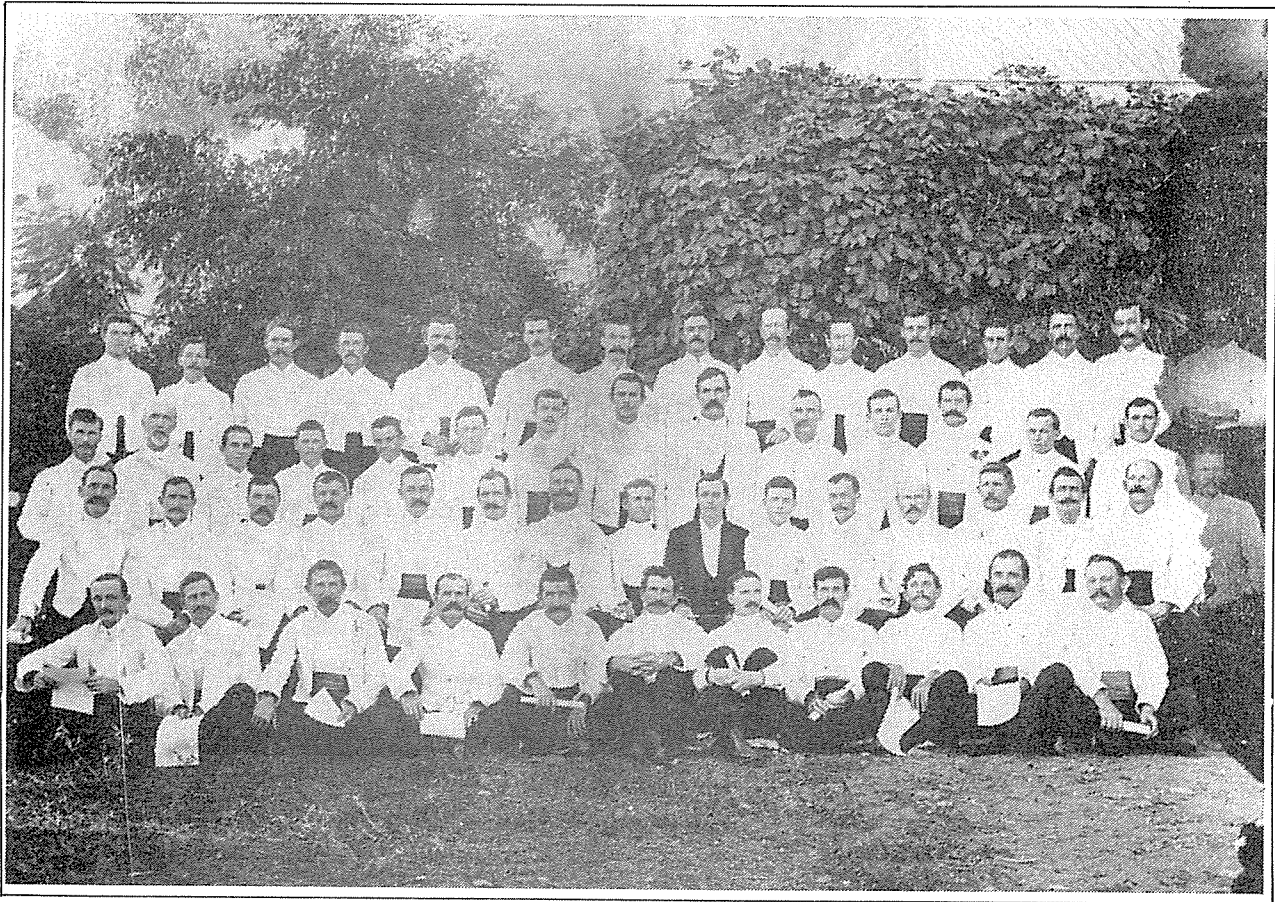
"One day as he was reading the paper he saw an advertisement for a doll that could be made up. He sent away for the doll. Next day he brought some waste home from work to stuff it with. When the parcel arrived he spread out the pattern on the table, lifted me up to see him cut it out. I can still remember it as clear as on that day he made it. He then sat down to the sewing machine and sewed it up, great was the excitement I could hardly wait, he took so long to tease the waste out for the stuffing when it was finished he wrapped my arms around the doll, gave it a big kiss and said, isn't she very beautiful. I thought it was the best present in the world. I was five years old, and loved my dad very much."

George was a very quiet and gentle man of slight build and fair complexion. He had blue eyes, light brown hair and was approximately 5 ft., 8 ins. tall. After his retirement he loved pottering in his garden, reading his Bible while sitting under the trees which he had planted many years before.

For some years before his death, George was totally blind, but still loved to get out into his garden to weed, and water his plants.

George died peacefully in the Charters Towers District Hospital on the 27th November, 1947, aged 82 years. Margaret had predeceased him on the 3rd August, 1946. Both were loved and sadly missed by their family.





voices.

THE CHARTERS TOWERS LIEDERTAFEL.

Came into existence in March last, thanks to the energetic action of a few gentlemen who were not daunted by the fate of the Musical Union, and to whom guarantees and overdrafts have no terrors. They set to work and canvassed the town and succeeded in getting a large list of subscribers; they were further assisted by the Hon. Hugh Mosman, who subscribed liberally to the funds of the society, and thereby placed it on a sound basis. The society is on the same lines as the Liedertafels in other towns, that is, it is formed for the purpose of the cultivation of part singing for male voices only, and gives alternate concerts—grand evenings for ladies, and smoke concerts for men. They have recently completed their fourth concert of this their first season. Each and every concert given thus far has been a decided success, both in point of attendance and from a musical point of view. It is apparently a class of entertainment much appreciated, as the programmes usually contain a variety of pieces calculated to please the taste of those who attend these concerts—both grave and gay, sufficiently short to be enjoyable, and yet not of the solid consistency of plum dough, which has a tendency to impair the digestion. The patron of the society is the Hon. Hugh Mosman; President, Joe Milligan, Esq., (Mayor); Vice-Presidents, Messrs C. F. Plant and W. Jarvis; Committee, Messrs A. W. Clarke, H. Perkins, F. Pfeiffer, C. Watts; Conductor, S. H. Hall; Hon. Treasurer, H. S. St. Paul; Hon. Secretary, R. Jessop, with a choir of 25 performing members.

THE APOLLO ORCHESTRA.

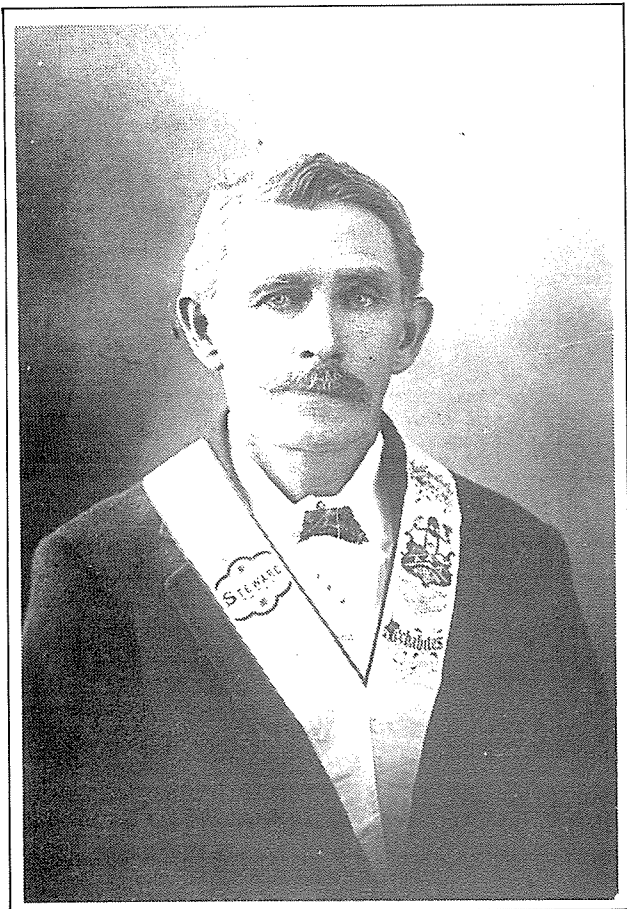
• Charters Towers Liedertafel — 1904

First row: F.C. Harris, R. Irwin (Librarian), F. Broomhead (Committee), G. Benham, G.R. Wenderoth, E.F. Gluyas, A. Todd, R.G. Smith, B.J. Barker, G. Irwin, A. Edwards, J. Molloy, W. Crisp, A. Ellis, G. Lear.

Second row: A. Pirie, P. Paul, W. Tredrea, W. Robins, S. Hall, G. Hempenstall, R.B. Jenkins, C. Larsen, N.A.R. Pollock (Treasurer), G. Jacobs, W.J. Thompson, J. Redmond, G. Hocking, T. Jones.

Third row: R. Nelson, R. Ashworth, G. Short, J. Thomas, R.R. Hancorne (Committee), Reg. Gard (Pianist), R. Hall (Conductor), N. Robins, (Asst. Pianist), R. Odgers, G.R. Gibbs, J.C. Larsen, R. Yeo, J. Hinchey, P. Larsen.

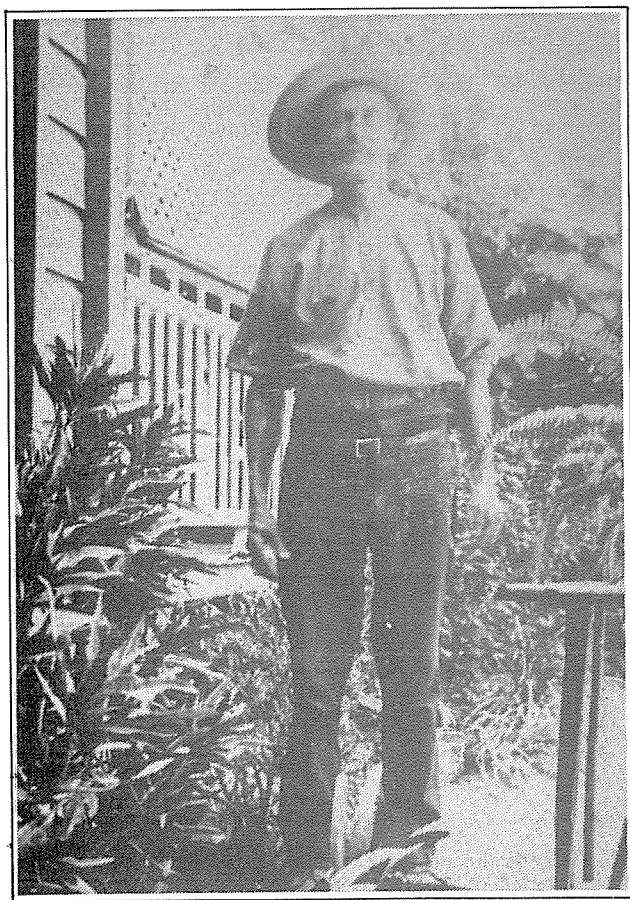
Fourth row: T.W. Bushell, J. Ashworth, J.H. Brockhurst, P. Lister, G.N. Dougall, R. Munt, R.L. Donnan, E. Hannah, S. Goldsworthy, G. Fenton, R.J. Hand.



● George was a Steward in the Forester Lodge, Charters Towers.

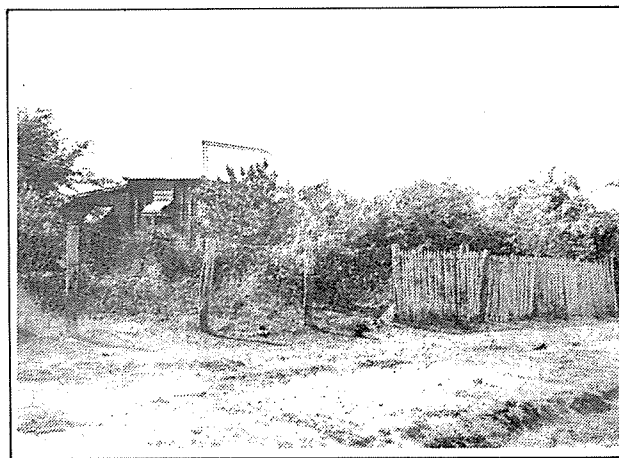


● Margaret Stewart Benham (nee Hunter) born on the 19th November, 1869, in Duke Street, Allowa Clackmonan, Scotland. She died in Charters Towers District Hospital on the 3rd August, 1946.



● George loved his garden and spent many hours there.

● George and Margaret's house in Dundee Lane, Charters Towers.



# MARRIAGE

A 72829

MARRIAGE solemnised in the District of BRISBANE

Colony  
in the STATE of Queensland

12 890

Registered by Charles James Whitley Deputy Registrar-General

Marginal Notes (if any)	Column 1 Number .. ..	13815	
	2 When and where married .. ..	14 January 1890 Brisbane	
	3 Name and surname ..	<b>Bridegroom</b>	<b>Bride</b>
		BENHAM George Albert	HUNTER Margaret
	4 Condition .. ..	Bachelor	Spinster
	5 Birthplace .. ..	Winchester Hampshire England	Clackmannan Clackmannan Scotland
	6 Profession, trade or occupation .. ..	Laborer	Domestic
	7 Age .. ..	24 years	20 years
	8 Usual place of residence .. ..	Dunnellan Estate	Dunnellan Estate
	<b>Parents—</b>		
	9 Father's name and surname. Mother's name and maiden surname .. ..	George Benham Sarah Green	William Hunter Maria Stuart
	10 Father's rank or profession .. ..	Gardener	Farmer

Married at Ellerslie Vulture Street  
South Brisbane

This marriage  
was solemnised  
between us )

George Albert Benham  
Margaret Hunter

according to the rites of the Baptist  
Church

In the presence  
of us )

Mary Poole  
Annie Rowland

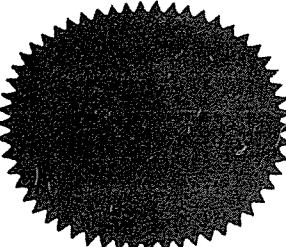
~~Date of Registration~~

By me

William Foole

~~SIGNATURE OF BRIDEGROOM~~

Officiating Minister or Registrar



I, Keith William Redman  
Registrar-General, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an entry in  
a Register of Marriages kept in the General Registry Office, Brisbane, and I  
further certify that I am a person duly authorised by law to issue such certificate

Extracted on 17 March 1983

Exd. by

*W Redman*

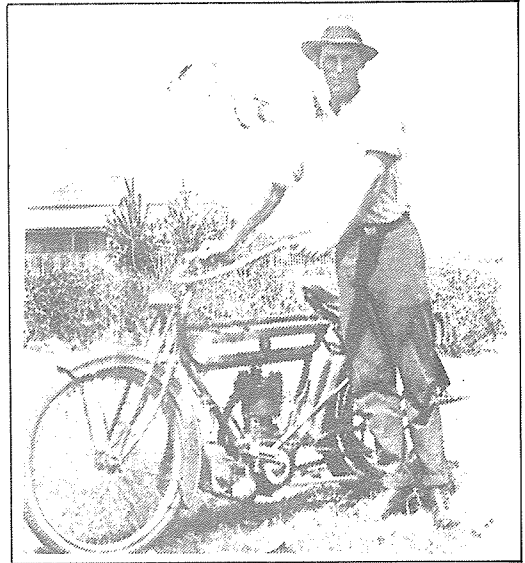
Registrar-General

CAUTION.—Whenever shall unlawfully alter any Certified Copy of an Entry in any Register of Births, Marriages, or Deaths, whether by erasure, obliteration, removal, addition, or otherwise, is guilty of a CRIME and liable to the punishment by law provided in that behalf. (Vide Sections 486 and 488 of the "Criminal Code.")

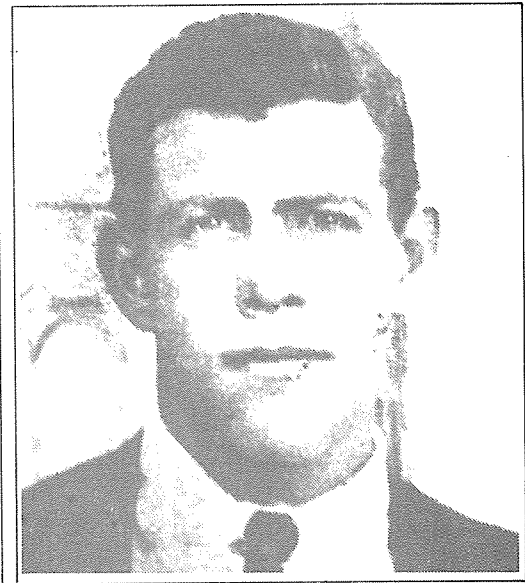
# THE CHILDREN OF GEORGE AND MARGARET



• Ivy (back), Grace (sitting), Melba and Doris Thelma. (Doris died soon after this photograph was taken, from burns received in an accident).



• Douglas



• Edwin, aged 17 years.



• George and Margaret, with Doris Jean.



• George



• Ernest

# THE CHILDREN OF GEORGE AND MARGARET

LUCY MAY BENHAM  
*b* May 1891/Coorparoo, Brisbane  
*d* 15th Dec 1891/Meadowlands, Coorparoo

GEORGE ALBERT BENHAM  
*b* 7th Oct 1893/Sydney  
*d* 24th Jul 1973/Charters Towers

EDWIN HENRY BENHAM  
*b* 4th Jun 1895/Sydney  
*d* 8th Nov 1935/Ayr

CHARLES LESLIE BENHAM  
*b* 15th Jan 1898/Charters Towers  
*d* 21st Oct 1906/Charters Towers

DOUGLAS WILLIAM BENHAM  
*b* 26th Jun 1900/Charters Towers  
*d* 2 Jan 1966/Charters Towers

IVY LILLIAN EMILY BENHAM  
*b* 20th Nov 1902/Charters Towers

HAROLD CLAUDE BENHAM  
*b* 3rd May 1905/Charters Towers  
*d* 4th Oct 1905/Charters Towers

GRACE MARGARET BENHAM  
*b* 27th Oct 1906/Charters Towers

ERNEST DONALD BENHAM  
*b* 23rd Nov 1909/Charters Towers  
*d* 4th Jul 1976/Charters Towers

JOHN BENHAM  
*b* 12th May 1911/Charters Towers  
*d* 15th May 1911/Charters Towers

MELBA SARAH BENHAM  
*b* 4th Mar 1913/Brisbane

DORIS THELMA BENHAM  
*Adopted*

*b* 20th Apr 1914/Charters Towers  
*d* 19th Jul 1922/Charters Towers

DORIS JEAN BENHAM  
*Adopted*

*b* 7th Oct 1924/Brisbane

## 1: Lucy May Benham

*b* May 1891/Coorparoo, Brisbane  
*d* 15 Dec 1891/Coorparoo, Brisbane

## 2: George Albert Benham

*b* 7 Oct 1893/Sydney  
*d* 24 Jul 1973/Charters Towers  
*m* Violet Annie Jane Brown  
*b* 26 Aug 1895/Charters Towers  
*d* Unknown  
*m* May Louisa Eyles  
*b* 23 Nov 1904/Bowen  
*d* 10 Oct 1970/Bowen

*children*

### 1: Joseph Arthur Benham

*b* 26 Mar 1918/Charters Towers  
*d* 13 Jan 1979/Innisfail  
*m* Aileen Joyce Tindale  
*b* Mar 7 1930/Clermont

\*

*children*

### 1: Judy-Joy Benham

*b* 7 Jan 1955/Innisfail  
*m* Richard James Lonergan  
*b* 29 Dec 1954/Brisbane

*children*

### 1: Allan Richard Lonergan

*b* 11 Dec 1981/Brisbane

\*Late Entries Page 187

**2: Susan Joyce Benham**

*b* 1 Aug 1957/Innisfail  
*m* Peter Lewis Stringer  
*b* 12 Jan 1954/Cairns

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ **1: Andrew Keith Stringer**  
*b* 2 May 1978/Brisbane

**2: Amy Judith Stringer**  
*b* 28 Oct 1979/Brisbane

**3: Linda Irene Stringer**  
*b* 20 Oct 1981/Brisbane

**2: Richard John Davey Benham**

*b* 22 Jan 1920/Charters Towers  
*m* Daphne Margaret Lattke  
*b* 14 Jul 1926/Brisbane

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ **1: Christopher John Benham**  
*b* 26 Oct 1955/Adelaide

**2: Richard Davey Benham**  
*b* 28 May 1957/Adelaide  
*m* Cheryl May Ogston  
*b* 21 Oct 1951/Sydney

**3: Derek Anthony Benham**  
*b* 3 Dec 1958/Adelaide  
*d* 31 Dec 1958/Adelaide

**4: Amanda Jane Benham**  
*b* 5 Dec 1959/Adelaide

**5: Timothy James Benham**  
*b* 18 Jul 1965/Adelaide

**3: Evelyn May Benham**

*b* 26 May 1932/Bowen  
*m* Basil Napier  
*b* 22 Sep 1929/Bowen

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ **1: Sheryl May Napier**

*b* 23 May 1951/Bowen  
*m* Thomas John Brannan  
*b* 20 Oct 1947/Barrhead Scotland

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ **1: Jordie James Brannan**  
*b* 6 Feb 1975/Charters Towers

**2: Marilyn Anne Napier**

*b* 10 Feb 1953/Bowen  
*m* Lee Duncan Buchanan  
*b* 16 Jun 1947/Rockhampton

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ **1: Shane Edward Buchanan**  
*b* 22 Aug 1970/Emerald

**2: Justin James Buchanan**  
*b* 10 Sep 1975/Rockhampton

**3: John Victor Napier**

*b* 11 Dec 1959/Bowen  
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**4: Kaye Therese Napier**

*b* 10 Jul 1961/Bowen  
\*  
\*

**5: Debra Suzanne Napier**

*b* 8 Aug 1962/Bowen

4: Thelma Dorothy Benham

*b* 6 Apr 1935/Bowen  
*m* Joseph George Flowers  
*b* 27 Jan 1922/Townsville  
*d* 9 Apr 1969/Bowen

children ----- 1: Robert George Flowers  
*b* 7 Aug 1955/Bowen  
*m* Tricia Ann Wicks  
*b* 28 Nov 1961/Charters Towers

2: Karen May Flowers  
*b* 16 Jun 1959/Bowen

3: Steven John Flowers  
*b* 1 Jan 1964/Bowen

5: Robert Edward Benham

*b* 25 Aug 1936/Bowen

6: Bruce Raymond Benham

*b* 2 Jun 1939/Bowen  
*m* Beverley Edna Edgerton  
*b* 22 Aug 1943/Bowen

children ----- 1: Paul Raymond Benham  
*b* 11 Jun 1964/Bowen

2: Kim Leanne Benham  
*b* 30 Jun 1967/Bowen

3: Peter James Benham  
*b* 20 Jul 1971/Bowen

7: Gordon James Benham

*b* 2 Jun 1939/Bowen  
*m* Dale Moana Feary  
*b* 29 Sep 1943/Lower Hutt NZ  
*m* Maria Servou  
*b* 12 Jun 1938/Lefkas Island, Greece

children ----- 1: Karyne Leigh Benham (adopted)  
*b* 6 May 1963/Lower Hutt, NZ

2: Tracey May Benham  
*b* 24 Jan 1967/Lower Hutt, NZ

8: Colin Frederick Benham

*b* 10 Oct 1945/Bowen

3: Edwin Henry Benham

*b* 4 Jun 1895/Sydney  
*d* 8 Nov 1935/Ayr  
*m* Eleanor Elizabeth Ann Sutton  
*b* 10 Aug 1902/  
*d* 21 Jul 1977/Sydney

children ----- 1: Edwin John Benham  
*b* 3 Aug 1919/Richmond  
*d* 30 May 1943/POW, Burma

2: James Henry Stephen Benham

*b* 31 Jan 1921/Richmond  
*m* Valma Joan Clark  
*b* 24 Apr 1928/Goolwa, SA

children ----- 1: Jeanette Ann Benham  
*b* 30 Mar 1948/Horsham, Vic  
*m* Vivian Maxwell Ekman  
*b* 5 Jun 1942/Stawell, Vic

children ----- 1: Tony Stephen Ekman  
*b* 25 Sep 1967/Stawell

2: John Stuart Ekman  
b 24 Oct 1968/Stawell

3: Robert Maxwell Ekman  
b 10 Oct 1971/Swan Hill

4: Leonie Ann Ekman  
b 15 Sep 1975/Swan Hill

2: Beverley Joan Benham  
b 17 Feb 1951/Horsham. Vic  
m Ronald Dennis Frew  
b 27 Oct 1949/Rainbow. Vic

children 1: Donna Michelle Frew  
b 8 Jan 1975/Horsham

2: Brett James Frew  
b 26 Apr 1978/Horsham

3: Carole Edith Benham  
b 26 Jul 1952/Horsham. Vic  
m Kevin Phillip Baker  
b 26 Mar 1949/Horsham

children 1: Paul Wayne Baker  
b 6 Jun 1973/Horsham

2: Clint Phillip Baker  
b 24 Sep 1979/Horsham

3: Lillian Grace Margaret Benham  
b 8 Feb 1923/Charters Towers  
m John Lawrence Nielsen  
b 28 Jul 1921/Home Hill

children 1: Lyel John Nielsen  
b 11 Dec 1941/Ayr  
m Margaret Myatt  
b 3 Dec 1947/Gin Gin

children 1: Christopher Darren Nielsen  
b 28 Jul 1967/Bundaberg

2: Cherie Ann Neilsen  
b 26 Jan 1969/Bundaberg

2: Valerie Joan Nielsen  
b 24 May 1946/Home Hill  
m Paul Briggs  
b 12 Jun 1944/Sydney

children 1: Alison Maria Briggs  
b 20 Mar 1969/Home Hill

2: Jennifer Cathrine Briggs  
b 9 Sep 1971/Home Hill

3: Peter John Briggs  
b 24 Jun 1973/Brisbane

4: Trevor Anthony Briggs  
b 16 Jan 1975/Brisbane

3: Ronald Edwin Nielsen  
b 22 Nov 1947/Home Hill  
m Judith Andersen  
b 1 Aug 1951/Ayr

children 1: Shane Joseph Nielsen  
b 19 Mar 1973/Ayr

2: Caisee Annette Nielsen  
b 13 Jul 1974/Ayr



3: Tricia Reine Nielsen  
b 18 Dec 1980/Home Hill

4: Kenneth Paul Nielsen  
b 22 Feb 1949/Home Hill  
m Lydia Ushay  
b 2 Mar 1955/Ayr

children 1: Kristy Nielsen  
b 1 Jan 1974/Home Hill

2: David Nielsen  
b 11 Feb 1976/Home Hill

3: Narelle Nielsen  
b 17 Aug 1977/Ayr

4: Leanne Nielsen  
b 3 Apr 1980/Home Hill

5: Anne Threse Nielsen  
b 8 Mar 1957/Home Hill  
m Jose Rafael Ferrando  
b 9 Mar 1953/Home Hill

children 1: Lyndon John Ferrando  
b 3 Jul 1975/Home Hill

2: Philip Anthony Ferrando  
b 1 May 1977/Ayr

3: Jaime Lee Ferrando  
b 4 Feb 1980/Home Hill

\*

4: Vivian Claude Benham  
b 10 Oct 1925/Charters Towers  
d 3 Oct 1940/Brisbane

5: Gloria Benham  
b 3 Sep 1927/Charters Towers  
d 15 Feb 1929/Charters Towers

6: Sheilah Benham  
b 25 Mar 1930/Ayr  
m Harold James Richards  
b 14 Nov 1926/Ayr

children 1: Colin James Richards  
b 18 May 1950/Ayr  
m Irene Rose Cranshaw  
b 19 May 1951/Ayr

children 1: Donna Rose Richards  
b 6 Jul 1973/Ayr

2: Lynda Maria Richards  
b 15 Aug 1975/Ayr

3: Rodney James Richards  
b 17 Dec 1976/Ayr

2: Gary Edwin Richards  
b 30 Apr 1952/Ayr  
m Rhonda Ann Bredden  
b 27 Aug 1954/Charters Towers

children 1: Pamela Ann Richards  
b 24 Jan 1974/Brisbane

2: Andrew Edwin Richards  
b 11 Nov 1975/Charters Towers

3: Melanie Jane Richards  
b 24 Sep 1979/Charters Towers

**7: Eleanor Benham**

*b* 1 May 1931/Ayr

*d* 29 Mar 1982/Sydney

*m* John Laird

*b* 19 Mar 1916/Ayr, Scotland

children 1: Micheal Edwin Laird  
*b* 7 Jul 1950/Sydney

2: Gregory John Laird

*b* 24 Dec 1951/

*m* Catherine Anne Dunne

*b* 30 Jun 1952

3: Kerry-Lynn Laird

*b* 7 Jan 1957/Sydney

*m* Ronald William Hunter

*b* 17 Feb 1958/Sydney

children 1: Melissa Jane Hunter  
*b* 24 Dec 1979/Sydney

2: Kate Lyn Hunter

*b* 19 Oct 1981/Sydney

**8: Jill Benham**

*b* 4 Sep 1934/Ayr

*m* John Sharples

*b* 30 Nov 1919/Tarrawanna, NSW

children 1: John Thomas Sharples

*b* 12 Mar 1955/Woollongong

*m* Maree Annette Hill

*b* 30 Dec 1955/Bulli

children 1: Greta Ann Sharples  
*b* 31 Dec 1977/Bulli

2: John Thomas Sharples

*b* 16 May 1980/Bulli

*d* 22 May 1980/Bulli

3: Gerard Joseph Sharples

*b* 27 Jan 1982/Paddington

*d* 28 Oct 1982

2: Cheryl Anne Sharples

*b* 21 Jun 1957/Woollongong

*m* Raymond Pisani

*b* 26 Oct 1959/Pola, Malta

children 1: Christie Lee Pisani  
*b* 8 Jan 1979/Bankstown

2: Aaron John Pisani

*b* 18 Jul 1980/Bankstown

3: Suzan Mary Sharples

*b* 18 Jul 1961/Woollongong

*d* 26 Dec 1961/Woollongong

**4: Charles Leslie Benham**

*b* 15 Jan 1898

*d* 21 Oct 1906

5: Douglas William Benham

b 26 Jun 1900/Charters Towers

d 2 Jan 1966/Charters Towers

m Isobel Victoria Summers

b 14 Sep 1901/Charters Towers

children

1: Edith Ivy Benham

b 10 Aug 1923/Charters Towers

m Neville Seabury

b 17 Nov 1925/Sydney

children

1: Yvonne Margaret Seabury

b 28 Aug 1951/Sydney

m Marco Fortini

b 24 Oct 1950/Italy

children

1: Sharon Lee Fortini

b 5 Aug 1970/Sydney

2: Paul Marco Fortini

b 14 Aug 1982/Sydney

2: Jeanette Pamela Seabury

b 31 Mar 1954/Sydney

m Thomas Burke

b 27 Aug 1947/Condobolin. NSW

children

1: Shane Thomas Burke

b 15 Jun 1978/Sydney

2: Christopher Neville Burke

b 26 Sep 1980/Sydney

2: Alan Douglas Benham

b 20 Jan 1929/Ayr

m Phyllis May Vipen

b 20 Feb 1933/Charters Towers

children

1: Cheryl Joyce Benham

b 6 Sep 1953/Hughenden

m Gary Keith Carling

b 6 Dec 1952

children

1: Kylie Marie Carling

b 18 May 1975

2: Tracey Leanne Carling

b 14 Oct 1977

3: Lisa Jayne Carling

b 2 Oct 1979

2: Geoffrey Alan Benham

b 23 Nov 1954/Hughenden

3: Lynette Phyllis Benham

b 12 Apr 1956/Hughenden

m David Coomes

\*

children

1: Amanda Coomes

b 12 May 1973

2: Collette Coomes

b 11 Mar 1975

4: Sandra Marie Benham

b 7 Apr 1957/Hughenden

m Raymond Brown

m Graeme Hagenbach

children

1: Nathan Brown

b 18 Aug 1976/Hughenden

2: Tennille Brown

b 8 Dec 1978/Hughenden

3: Kim Hagenbach

b 5 Jul 1982/Hughenden

\*Late Entries Page 187

5: David John Benham  
*b* 26 May 1959/Hughenden

6: Kenneth Raymond Benham  
*b* 27 Oct 1960/Hughenden

3: Joyce Isobel Benham

*b* 20 Jan 1929/Ayr

*m* George Robert Jackson

*b* 17 Jul 1927/Charters Towers

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Warren Robert Jackson

*b* 26 Jun 1949/Charters Towers

*m* Mary Lawn

*b* 9 Sep 1953/Charters Towers

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Brian William Jackson

*b* 25 Apr 1973/Charters Towers

2: Juanita Mary Jackson

*b* 2 Jun 1976/Charters Towers

3: Robert Warren Jackson

*b* 28 Aug 1979/Charters Towers

2: Kevin Alan Jackson

*b* 7 Jan 1955/Charters Towers

*m* Heather Margaret Rich

*b* 23 Jan 1959/Ayr

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Sherry Letitia Jackson

*b* 15 Jan 1978/Townsville

2: Philip Alan Jackson

*b* 16 Jan 1982/Townsville

4: Leslie Frederick Benham

*b* 17 Oct 1930/Ayr

*m* Audrey Ethel Thwaite

*b* 15 Sep 1936/Townsville

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Jacqueline Joyce Benham

*b* 24 Jun 1963/Townsville

2: Christine Karen Benham

*b* 11 Dec 1965/Townsville

3: Vicki Caroline Benham

*b* 12 April 1968/Townsville

4: Michael Leslie Benham

*b* 16 Apr 1971/Townsville

*d* 7 Apr 1974/Townsville

5: Neil John Benham

*b* 13 Oct 1940/Charters Towers

*d* 27 May 1983/Charters Towers

6: Ivy Lillian Emily Benham

*b* 20 Nov 1902/Charters Towers

*m* Friedrich August Kammerer

*b* 29 Sep 1902/Germany

*d* 20 Apr 1960/Charters Towers

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Malcolm Frederick Kammerer

*b* 9 Dec 1941/Charters Towers

*m* Lilbeth Dawn Exelby

*b* 27 Sep 1938/Ingham

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Lynette Lesley Kammerer

*b* 2 Oct 1960/Charters Towers

*m* Malcolm Robert Smith

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Terri Louise Smith

*b* 1 Jun 1983/Charters Towers

2: Lawrence Malcolm Kammerer  
*b* 14 Jul 1962/Charters Towers  
\*

3: Trina Kammerer  
*b* 25 Jan 1968/Charters Towers  
*d* 25 Jan 1968/Charters Towers

4: Scott Arnold Kammerer  
*b* 16 Jan 1969/Charters Towers

7: Harold Claude Benham  
*b* 3 May 1905/Charters Towers  
*d* 4 Oct 1905/Charters Towers

8: Grace Margaret Benham  
*b* 27 Oct 1906/Charters Towers  
*m* Sydney Edward Mafeking Crowther  
*b* 23 Apr 1900/Brisbane  
*d* 2 Jun 1978/Tully

children 1: Patricia Grace Crowther  
*b* 22 Aug 1925/Innisfail  
*m* Lloyd Arnold Butler  
*b* 24 Feb 1924/Townsville  
*d* 9 Sep 1980/Tully

children 1: Dale Robert Butler  
*b* 2 Apr 1952/Gympie  
*m* Julienne Janet Jenkins  
*b* 24 Feb 1953/Mackay

children 1: Naomi Janet Butler  
*b* 3 Aug 1974/Tully

2: Fiona Grace Butler  
*b* 6 Jul 1976/Cairns

3: Alice Marie Butler  
*b* 1 Sep 1982/Tully

2: Helen Louise Butler  
*b* 28 Feb 1956/Tully  
*m* Michail Daniel Pantovic  
*b* 12 Jan 1953/Innisfail

3: Janet Patricia Butler  
*b* 3 Jun 1960/Tully  
*m* Steven Paul Taylor  
*b* 14 Dec 1956/Stratford, NZ

2: Alan Edward Crowther  
*b* 17 Aug 1927/Innisfail  
*d* 2 Sep 1949/Caboolture

3: Arthur Crowther  
*b* 15 Oct 1928/Charters Towers  
*m* Edna Caroline Martha Hansen  
*b* 19 Jul 1929/Townsville

children 1: Graham Arthur Crowther  
*b* 10 Jan 1963/Townsville

2: Brian Michael Crowther  
*b* 7 Feb 1966/Townsville

4: Dawn Margaret Crowther

b 21 Mar 1932/Tully  
m Glen Evan Kingston  
b 12 Sep 1932/Caboolture

children 1: Judith Ann Kingston

b 17 Oct 1954/Mossman  
m Philip James Couлта  
b 16 Sep 1953/Stanthorpe

children 1: Tammy Nicole Couлта  
b 9 May 1976/Brisbane

2: Daniel John Couлта  
b 3 Oct 1977/Atherton

3: Bradley James Couлта  
b 30 Sep 1980/Atherton

2: Russell Evan Kingston

b 5 Apr 1956/Mossman  
m Christine Rose Craven  
b 19 Dec 1958/Mossman

children 1: Luke Russell Kingston  
b 5 May 1982/Mossman

3: Beverley Dawn Kingston

b 28 Jul 1958/Mossman

5: Ailsa Ethel Crowther

b 7 May 1933/Charters Towers  
m Leonard Leslie Johnson  
b 25 Nov 1929/Gympie

children 1: Gregory Alan Johnson

b 12 Feb 1954/Gympie  
m Leonie Joyce Godwin  
b 29 Jul 1963/Gympie

children 1: Julieanne Mary Johnson  
b 10 Nov 1981/Ayr

6: Sidney Merle Crowther

b 10 Sep 1934/Charters Towers  
m Alexander George Coyle  
b 7 Sep 1933/Tully

children 1: Glenn Edward Coyle  
b 30 Dec 1969/Brisbane

7: David Adam Blackwell Crowther

b 21 Apr 1936/Tully  
m Barbara June Whatley  
b 2 Jun 1944/Woodend, Vic

children 1: Ann Elizabeth Crowther  
b 4 Jun 1966/Chelsea, Vic

2: Debra Grace Crowther  
b 29 Nov 1967/Mordialloc, Vic

3: Ross David Crowther  
b 26 Sep 1973/Frankston, Vic

8: Janice Elizabeth Jean Crowther

b 15 Aug 1937/Tully  
m Guntars Nimands  
b 19 Oct 1936/Rigor, Latvia

children 1: Aaron Bruce Nimands  
b 27 Dec 1961/Tully

2: Michael Guntars Nimands  
b 17 May 1963/Tully

9: Geoffrey Stewart Crowther

*b* 22 Jun 1940/Charters Towers

*d* 6 Sep 1982/Gympie

*m* Patricia Myrtle Wallace

*b* 13 Feb 1941/Avoca, Vic

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Robert Wayne Crowther

*b* 2 Jan 1963/Melbourne

2: Lynette Marie Crowther

*b* 29 Apr 1964/Melbourne

*m* A.C. Mayfield

*b* 20 Aug 1961/Gympie

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Kelly Marie Mayfield

*b* 29 Nov 1982/Gympie

3: Mark Anthony Crowther

*b* 12 Jan 1966/Maryborough

4: Paul Geoffrey Crowther

*b* 25 Jul 1967/Gympie

5: Jennifer Joy Crowther

*b* 13 Nov 1969/Gympie

6: Caroline May Crowther

*b* 12 Jan 1971/Gympie

7: Christopher Ian Crowther

*b* 1 Jul 1972/Gympie

10: Alison Florence Crowther

*b* 11 Sep 1942/Tully

*m* Peter Angelo Bescansin

*b* 3 Aug 1936/Tully

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Desmond Peter Bescansin

*b* 23 Jul 1959/Tully

2: Denise Ann Bescansin

*b* 29 Nov 1960/Tully

\*

3: Paula Maria Bescansin

*b* 7 Jun 1963/Tully

\*

4: Gary John Bescansin

*b* 27 Dec 1969/Tully

5: Neville Matthew Bescansin

*b* 27 Feb 1972/Tully

11: Gwenith Joy Crowther

*b* 29 Aug 1944/Tully

*m* Terrence Richard Ronlund

*b* 24 Aug 1938

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Mark Terence Ronlund

*b* 31 Jul 1964/Mossman

2: Duke Gavin Ronlund

*b* 22 Jan 1971/Tully

12: Franklin John Crowther

*b* 1 Apr 1951/Gympie

*m* Eva Amanda Karsikas

*b* 13 Mar 1952/Valtimo, Finland

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Melanie Eve Crowther

*b* 11 Oct 1972/Tully

2: Jonathan Edward Crowther

*b* 30 Oct 1976/Tully

9: Ernest Donald Benham

b 23 Nov 1909/Charters Towers  
d 4 Jul 1976/Charters Towers

10: John Benham

b 12 May 1911/Charters Towers  
d 15 May 1911/Charters Towers

11: Melba Sarah Benham

b 4 Mar 1913/Brisbane

\*

m Arthur Roy Hammond

b 21 Oct 1913/Charters Towers

d 11 Sep 1965/Charters Towers

children

1: Kenneth Hammond

b 9 May 1936/Charters Towers

m Eunice Sandra Carling

b 18 Dec 1943/Townsville

children

1: Karen Joy Hammond

b 18 Jan 1963/Charters Towers

\*

2: David Kenneth Hammond

b 17 May 1964/Charters Towers

3: Christine Michelle Hammond

b 21 Dec 1967/Charters Towers

2: Raymond Arthur Hammond

b 7 Dec 1937/Charters Towers

m Margaret May Kratzmann

b 14 Aug 1942/

children

1: Phillip Charles Hammond

b 12 Mar 1962/Townsville

2: Judith Maria Hammond

b 4 May 1967/Townsville

3: Trevor Ian Hammond

b 25 Nov 1969/Townsville

3: Warren Roy Hammond

b 6 Mar 1939/Charters Towers

m Marilyn Gail Williams

b 17 Jan 1943/Ayr.

children

1: Darryl Keith Hammond

b 11 Sep 1963/Townsville

\*

\*

2: Fiona Denise Hammond

b 5 Oct 1967/Townsville

3: Dion Roy Hammond

b 12 Sep 1972/Townsville

4: Neville James Hammond

b 17 Oct 1941/Charters Towers

m Eileen Joyce Bray

b 30 Jan 1943/Richmond, Qld

children

1: Geoffrey Wayne Hammond

b 3 Apr 1964/Townsville

2: Robyn Lesley Hammond

b 19 May 1965/Townsville

3: Kevin James Hammond

b 14 Dec 1966/Townsville

\*Late Entries Page 187



4: John Arthur Hammond  
*b* 15 Mar 1969/Townsville

5: Doris Joy Hammond  
*b* 21 Aug 1943/Charters Towers  
*d* 23 Oct 1962/Townsville

6: Melba Jean Hammond  
*b* 10 Feb 1945/Charters Towers  
*m* Noel Hamilton Trembath  
*b* 15 Sep 1941/Windsor, Brisbane

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Rhonda Janette Trembath  
*b* 4 Jan 1966/Charters Towers

2: Suzane Denice Trembath  
*b* 12 Mar 1970/Charters Towers  
*d* 12 Mar 1970

3: Noel James Trembath  
*b* 11 May 1971/Charters Towers

7: Stuart Keith Hammond  
*b* 11 Jan 1956/Charters Towers  
*d* 9 Jun 1982/Toowoomba

12: Doris Thelma Benham  
*b* 20 Apr 1914/Charters Towers  
*d* 19 Jul 1922/Charters Towers

13: Doris Jean Benham  
*b* 7 Oct 1924/Brisbane  
*m* Frank Richard Dinnis  
*b* 22 Jan 1922/Herberton

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Merrilyn Jean Dinnis  
*b* 15 Jun 1949/Bowen  
*m* John Alexander Williams  
*b* 2 Jun 1950/Bowen  
*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Bryan Jeffrey Williams  
*b* 24 Nov 1975/Bowen

2: Jillian Louisa Williams  
*b* 12 Aug 1977/Bowen

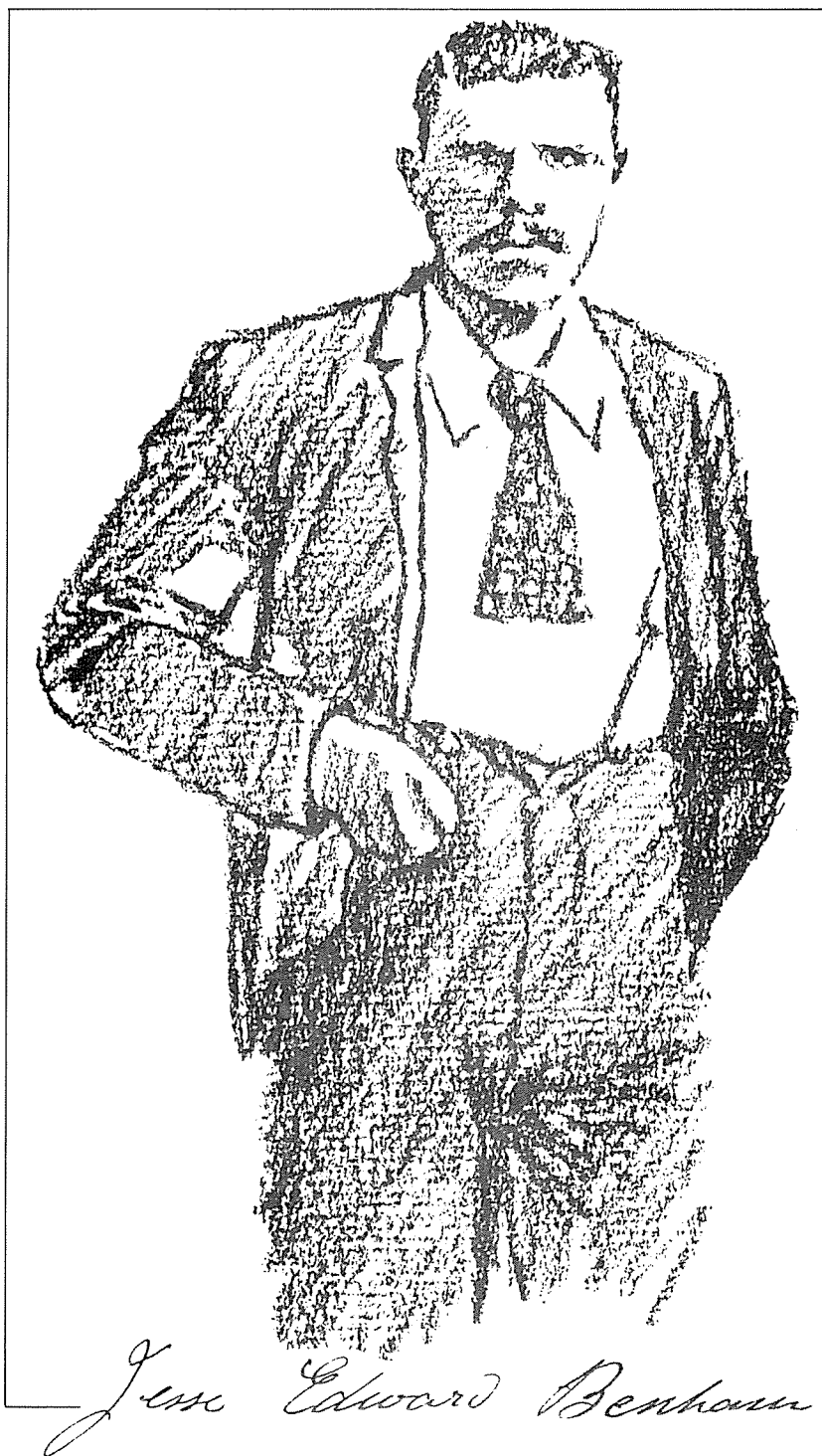
3: Mark Jason Williams  
*b* 14 May 1981/Bowen

2: Frank Stuart Dinnis  
*b* 14 May 1952/Bowen

3: Roslyn Ivy Dinnis  
*b* 9 Mar 1960/Bowen  
*m* James Evan Owen  
*b* 18 Aug 1954/Wondai



JESSE EDWARD  
BENHAM  
1866-1953



*Jesse Edward Benham*

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON

Application Number Y18689A

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Winchester in the County of Southern

1866. BIRTH in the Sub-district of Winchester

Columns:—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10*
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
435	<u>John</u> <u>Benham</u> <u>1866</u> <u>Cannon Street</u>	<u>John</u>	<u>Boy</u>	<u>George</u> <u>Benham</u>	<u>Sarah</u> <u>Benham</u> <u>formerly</u> <u>Green</u>	<u>Bricklayer</u>	<u>S. Benham</u> <u>Mother</u> <u>Cannon Street</u> <u>Winchester</u>	<u>1866</u> <u>1866</u>	<u>John</u> <u>Benham</u> <u>Registrar</u>	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.  
Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 1985

\*See Note overleaf

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953. Section 34 provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the birth or death to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

CAUTION.—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

Form A.502M Dd B149710 120M 8/84 M.S. 304794



**J**ESSE EDWARD BENHAM was born on 1st October, 1866, the fourth child to George and Sarah Benham, in Winchester, England. He left home at eighteen, alone, in 1884, to migrate to Australia. He had decided to be a doctor, but his trunk with all his belongings disappeared from the wharf in Townsville when he arrived on the "Roma" on 14th December, so he gave up the idea and worked for a short while as a "call-boy" in the Railway before joining his brothers tin prospecting at Cloudy Clearing—Mt. Spec as it is now known.

He helped support his father for some years, and after George Benham's death in 1902, he courted Margaret Jane Reid (Maggie) and they were married in the then "Unitarian" Church, Queenton, Charters Towers, on 7th January, 1904. They settled in Ewan in a newly built bark walled hut with an iron roof—the first in the district. They later added a lean-to, for washing and cooking. After their first child was born they sold the house, and took the Cobband Co. coach to Mt. Garnet, then by rail to Ord, and coach the last few miles to the rich tin district of Gurrumbah. Later, with three sons, they moved on to Herberton.

Here they heard of the great future open to workers in the sugar area around the Mulgrave area, and Jesse obtained the position of manager on a developed cane farm at Aloomba. When the owner, who was sick, died, he brought virgin land at Gordonvale with a cane assignment. Here the older boys helped with feeding, grooming and harnessing horses and carrying small branches off the land to be ploughed. They had very little time for recreation, but while here, Jesse was hit on the finger with a ball while playing cricket, and had a stiff finger for life.

By this time the First World War was in progress, and the news of the Gallipoli landing came through. Though turned down for enlistment in Cairns, as he was now 48 with six children, Jesse decided to try to enlist at Townsville. Maggie, with the children and personal luggage, was packed off to Cairns by rail to catch the boat, and Jesse held a "walk-in, walk-out" sale of the farm, even putting wedding presents, china and cutlery in the sale—which Maggie never let him forget. As forecast, Jesse was refused enlistment in Townsville, so they went on to Proserpine where he bought another sugar cane farm. It was here that he once again tried to enlist by travelling to Brisbane in 1917, when he was 51 with seven children. This was such a bad time for the allied forces he was sure he would be accepted, but once again he was turned down, and settled down to farming. Maggie's young brother, Bill, was killed in action in November, 1916, and this had been an added spur to his desire to join up.

The tropical coast was torn and deluged by cyclones in 1918, and in 1919 Jesse began to be troubled by ulcers on one of his legs, where he had been bitten previously by a carpet snake. As these recurred each year, Jesse was advised by the doctor to move to a drier climate, so in 1920 he went off to look at farms for sale in the Burdekin district, just waiting until his ninth child, a boy, was born at the end of July, and he had a buyer for the farm at Proserpine. Maggie, with five girls and a month old boy—the three older boys were now boarding at the Townsville Grammar School—packed up and shifted to Home Hill. She vowed this would be the last move she made, but, after nine years, Jesse did sell out, and bought another farm outside Home Hill, where they stayed till he retired in early 1941. Nine of the eleven children were now married, one of the younger boys in the Army in the Second World War, and the baby of the family working on a cattle station.

On retirement, Jesse and Maggie spent some time in Home Hill with a married daughter, and revisited Townsville and the Herberton district, before staying at Mt. Spec for eighteen months. Then they rented a house in Charters Towers for a while before Jesse found time doing nothing intolerable, and he bought a small property outside the town and grew vegetables for a living, never claiming the old age pension. He died in Charters Towers at 86, in March, 1953, and is buried there.

During his life, dad worked very hard, giving all his children a good Christian education, while he and his wife went without everything but essentials. Nevertheless, he thought the inventions of the new century wonderful, and always wanted to experience them, at the same time as he enjoyed the things of the past. He had that wonderful time saver, the telephone, installed as soon as possible—you had only to ring for horse feed, or later, parts for the tractor, and they were delivered to your door. Then he had the third car in the district, a Rugby 4, in which we took Sunday afternoon drives in place of the sulky, but they were never so much fun.

In the sulky, several lucky children sitting cramped on the floor, the one chosen resignedly climbed out to open and shut a gate when told to "stretch your legs", as we knew we ran 200 yards to catch the sulky before being allowed back in. The day came when a visiting aunt, a young sister of Maggie's insisted on climbing out, as she needed to "stretch *her* legs". The children watched fascinated as she strolled back to the sulky, came that graceful sweep out and upward of the long skirt, the outstretched hand to climb up, and Dad didn't fail us. There was that little flick of the whip and the pony bounded forward leaving aunt stranded, and Dad pulling back on the reins and calling out "Whoa!". As Aunt hurried forward again, came the flick of the whip and this time she ran the hundred yards with Mum exhorting Dad to stop it! Everything was quiet as Aunt climbed in and got settled, but soon the laughter rang out.

Some Sunday evenings Dad walked us to church where we enjoyed the hymns, and struggled not to go to sleep during the sermon; and on Saturday nights we walked to the pictures. We never missed a "Charlie Chaplin", Dad paying what he considered reasonable for a family. Then, to keep children awake, we played "Follow Mother to Market" on the mile walk home, trailing behind him, and being chased along when we finally said "Yes" to the question "Are you my children?", or occasionally we marched in time to the song of . . .

"I've got sixpence, jolly, jolly sixpence,  
I've got sixpence to last me all my life,  
I've got tuppence to spend, and tuppence to lend,  
And tuppence to send unto my wife."

or else . . .

"Oh where, O where has my little dog gone?" with variations from the "dog" to "wages", and a "Bumble Bee" that the fellow sat on while rambling with a pretty girl. On evenings when he sat before the fire, warming his back, he told us the old repetitive stories of the old woman who found the sixpence in a corner while sweeping, and bought a pig at the market, but the pig wouldn't go, and she wouldn't get home till midnight.

Oh! She finally met the rat, who was very hungry and—  
The rat began to gnaw the rope,  
The rope began to hang the butcher,  
The butcher began to kill the ox,  
The ox began to drink the water,  
The water began to quench the fire,  
The fire began to burn the stick,  
The stick began to beat the dog,  
The dog began to bite the pig, —and  
The pig "went", and the little old woman got home before midnight, "O"!

or else . . .

"The House that Jack Built" ending with—  
"This the lad all tattered and torn,  
Who married the maiden all forlorn,  
Who milked the cow with the crumpled horn,  
Who tossed the dog,  
Who worried the cat,  
Who chased the rat,  
Who ate the malt,  
That lay in the house that Jack built."

When the older boys were on holidays and friends and neighbours visited on Sunday evening—there was always singing—the old songs, "Silver Threads Among the Gold", "After The Dance Is Over", "Two Little Maids in Blue", or "The Wild Colonial Boy", and a special song of Dad's—"When You and I Were Young, Maggie". New Year's Eve it was "The Bells were Ringing the Old Year Out and the New Year In". Often we wound up the old gramophone Dad had bought Mum, with band

music, or songs by Peter Dawson and Dame Clara Butt. While playing in the yard after tea he often joined in our hopscotch and skipping games, which really made our day.

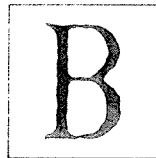
When younger, he often took the older children camping overnight, and, while roasting potatoes at the campfire, would tell them stories of roasting chestnuts as a boy in England. In his sixties he took four of us teenagers camping for a week while hiking up the range behind Ingham, showing us how to roll swags to the best advantage, and cooking Johnny Cakes for breakfast. When there was a heavy downpour while camping by the Running River, he showed us how to find dry bark to light a fire.

Of course there was always a game of cards going of an evening, after work was done, Dad teaching us all to play as soon as we were able to sit up and hold a "hand". The older children tell of nights being wakened by the cry of "anyone for a game of Forty Up?"—Dad being a very poor sleeper. When Mum stopped this he resorted to reading by the light of a bedside lamp, mainly Dickens, and especially the "Pickwick Papers", but he was a prolific reader, and would pick up anything in town he considered interesting.

When the rail link from Townsville to Bowen was opened there were often excursions running on Sunday. As we rose from the breakfast table, Dad would announce we were going, and what a scramble ensued. We never did miss that train, but, as a result, I for one, have never considered it necessary to wait for a train, much to the disgust of others concerned.

Though he thought aeroplanes a marvellous invention, Dad never seemed anxious to travel in one, preferring a slower means of journeying when he could really see the country through which he passed.

When he died it really left a gap in all our lives, but he is remembered by all who knew him with great affection and respect.



*The following anecdotes were written by Jesse's son, Frank Benham.*

**MY EARLIEST MEMORIES** go back to a sugar farm at Aloomba. I have a strong recollection of three boys sitting and crying on a wood heap. I think my father must have used his belt to some purpose.

Stories my father told me in my childhood fascinated and interested me deeply. He had a great-uncle Bob who fought on the Great Wall of China in the Boxer Rebellion. I can still see in my imagination Chinese soldiers climbing up ladders to the Great Wall only to have their heads chopped off by our sword wielding ancestor and his fellow soldiers. That's the picture my father painted, verbally, that is!

He owned a well-trained horse named Beauty before he married. On one occasion he rode from his camp several miles to work on a "show", unharnessed Beauty and let her roam. Now, Beauty always knew when it was knock-off time, and came and neighed down the shaft. On this occasion Dad was absorbed in the results he was getting, so he called up to Beauty and carried on. Three times Beauty came back and neighed, but Dad still persisted in his work. But, never again! When he finally came up he discovered Beauty had gone home without him.

One winter's night in Proserpine (at our second sugar farm) around the kitchen stove, Dad told us that in 1902 he and Uncle Edwin saddled their horses, loaded a packhorse or two with mining gear and supplies, and took the road to Clermont where shortly before gold had been discovered. This was during a very severe drought, and they had a tough time as I recall, but I can no longer remember details of the story. On arrival at Clermont they discovered they had arrived too late to take up any worthwhile ground. However, a party who were working on a good lead, but had lost it, employed them to find it again. This party had sunk a few holes round about without success. Dad and Uncle Eddie climbed a nearby hill and were able to pick out a line of green showing up among the drought-stricken trees which indicated where the original creek bed ran.

On another occasion he told of his escape from death at the hands of Fat Tommy, an aboriginal. Supplies running low, Dad was elected to go into Ingham for more. He was up before daybreak, and set out at first light carrying his rifle at the ready as he hoped to shoot a scrub turkey or

two. He was listening intently for any movement in the scrub, and so heard a movement behind him. He swung around to face Fat Tommy, with his tomahawk raised. He marched him back to the camp and after some argument as to what they should do with him, Dad persuaded them to let him go with a warning. They had no further trouble with him.

When Sam was 16 and I 14 years old, we had the most marvellous adventure that any two Benham boys could possibly have. Dad had us roll swags under his direction while he rolled one for himself, then we caught the train to Ingham. We alighted at Helen's Hill, shouldered our swags, and set off on a blistering hot day for the foot-hills of the Kangaroo Hills. There we stayed overnight with Auntie Annie, the widow of Uncle Fred Benham. Alf was away, but Lavinia was there. This was the year, 1922. Dad took us up the old Jacobsen track into Hidden Valley where we met a blind old gentleman named Bosworth who was delighted to meet us. He introduced us to a cockatoo that had a marvellous flow of language interspersed with a variety of swear words. He also directed us to the remains of an old dray and told us that Dad had brought that dray up the Jacobsen track many years before. Eventually, Dad brought us along to the 3 Mile Creek(?) and on to Prospector's Creek. At one of these (I forget which) our Uncles Arthur and Edwin Benham were working on alluvial tin. That night after we had crawled into our blankets we heard a yell from Uncle Arthur and raced back to discover that a black snake had got into his bed before him. The snake seemed to have disappeared till someone saw his evil black head poking up in the corner of a kerosene box. Uncle Arthur fired and creased the corner of that box, but missed the snake. Sam and I raced round the back of the tent, saw the snake gliding away in the moonlight, Sam fired his pea-rifle from the hip, no time to shoulder and sight, and broke the snake's back. Excitement over, we went back to bed.

While we stayed there, Uncle Arthur regaled us with stories of his World War I adventures. He played the part of sniper (unofficial) rising before daylight, positioning himself in readiness for Germans that were finicky and not wanting to foul their trench, climbed out in the grey light of dawn to relieve themselves. Arthur was a deadly shot with rifle and revolver.

Dad used to sing a number of songs, but no nursery rhymes as I remember. Some fragments remain with me. He told me that as children in England one of them would be sent to a concert and on return, had to sing the items to the rest of the family. I wish I could pass on the tunes of the few I remember.

"It is a famous story,  
Proclaim it far and wide  
And let your children's children  
Re-echo it with pride  
Earl Cardigan, the fearless  
His name immortal made  
When he crossed the Russian Valley  
With his famous light brigade."

Another, with a United States flavour—

The train is speeding on its way  
To brighter Tennessee  
For Tennessee is many miles away  
And in fancy I can see the bride  
Arrayed in white for me  
The happy morrow is my wedding day,  
For the strains of dear old Dixie sing  
The sweetest melody  
For the North and South are here today  
At the wedding of the Blue and Gray  
When the boy from old New Hampshire  
Weds the girl from Tennessee.

An an Irish one—

Scotland may boast of her thistle,  
England may boast of her rose  
Sure Ireland can boast of the sweet shady spot  
The place where the Shamrock grows  
Where the girls are gay and frisky  
They'll take you by the hand  
Singing "Gra Machree, come along with me  
You're welcome to Paddy's land"  
Hurrah! my boys, hurray! Hurrah!  
No more I wish to roam  
For the sun may shine in the harvest time  
To welcome poor Paddy home.



# MEMORIES

WHEN MY FATHER, Jesse, came to Australia, I know he was carting timber in the Northern District of NSW, and I remember him telling me of hauling timber from down Queen Street in Brisbane.

There is a story—half remembered—of one time at Mt. Spec when the brothers, including Dad, were tin scratching. One brother was injured (broken leg?), and the other two had to go for provisions. One of their black helpers had cleared off with some of the food and they did not trust the other. They hobbled him, propping the injured one against a tree with his rifle and some food. He was okay when they returned a few days later.

We always understood the brothers named Mt. Spec. There were two mountains which they called Mt. Certainty and Mt. Spec (speculation?). As it turned out, they found no payable tin at Mt. Certainty, but had success at Mt. Spec. There are other stories told now of how Mt. Spec received the name.

—Ilma Dance (*nee Benham*)

DAD WAS STRICT but very just, and we knew he loved us all. My most constant memory is of his walking round the verandah singing the old hymns such as “Rock of Ages”.

He was very anxious that we keep in good physical condition and would send us down the road before breakfast, or skip rope and do exercises. If he thought we were lying around too much reading he would have us ride the horse while he was ploughing between the rows of cane.

Dad rode many miles to court Mum, and was afraid Grandad wouldn't give his permission because he was eighteen years older. Mum was born the year he came to Australia.

—Doris Campbell (*nee Benham*)

I CAN REMEMBER my grandmother, Margaret, telling me that Grandad was going to buy a pub, but she put her foot down on that idea, and he either went tin mining or bought a tin mine.

Mum (Alice Edith) also mentioned something about the Benhams being the first to travel from Charters Towers to Clermont. I think they put the original sulky track through, but sadly on this point it's only vague, and I'm not sure of the facts.

—Alex Kennedy

*A study of the Mining Records held at the Queensland Archives has produced the following Claims and Leases in which Jesse was involved:*

- Claim No.28*<sup>2</sup> On the 29 Apr. 1899, in the Mining District of Kangaroo Hills at 4 o'clock, Jesse marked off a piece of ground situated near the "White Crystal" mineral lease, and made application to the Warden at Ingham requesting the registration thereof as an extended claim, 5 chains x 12 chains. Jesse's Miner's Right for this claim was No.2311. He named the mine "*Blue Crystal*". Registration was granted on the 6 Jun. 1899.<sup>1</sup> Then on the 17 Oct. 1899, Jesse applied for six months exemption of this claim, stating "Not payable without Machinery & Battery wanting to make roads and rise capping have worked this claim for over 6 months." The exemption was granted on 25 Oct. 1899.
- Claim No.41*<sup>3</sup> On the 13 Sep. 1899 at 9 a.m., Jesse marked off ground at Mt. Benham on the southern boundary of extended claim No.30, 12 chains x 5 chains, for registration of an extended claim. (Claim No.30 was "*Certainty*"). His Miner's Right for this claim was No.2311. The registration was granted on 10 Nov. 1899. In November of the same year, Jesse, with William Samuel Sutherland, Harry Seymour, Joseph Kenny, John D. Otten, and Philip Foxlee, applied to unite their claims under the name of Foxlee, Sutherland & Party Mt. Benham.
- Claim No.43*<sup>4</sup> On the 15 Nov. 1899, at 8 a.m., Jesse, with Daniel W. Gibson and Joseph Kenny marked off ground situated at the head of Hidden Valley for an ordinary Reef Claim, 600 feet x 350 feet, under the name of "*Nelson*". This registration was granted on the 25 Dec. 1899. Then, on the 23 Jul. 1900, Daniel Gibson applied on behalf of his party for an exemption for six months from labour of this claim, to enable the men to erect machinery and open up roads to the workings. This was granted to them on 24 Aug. 1900. The work done up to then was a shaft 45 feet deep, another 10 feet, and 50 feet of an open cut.
- Claim No.57*<sup>5</sup> On the 15 Dec. 1900, Jesse marked off ground, 200 feet x 350 feet, about 10 chains to the south of Mineral Lease No.111, and applied for an Ordinary Reef Claim under the name of "*Rover 1*". His Miner's Right was No.18034. This application was struck out on the 25 Jan. 1901 by the Warden at Ingham because there had been no return of Certificate of Application.
- Claim No.58*<sup>6</sup> This application for an Ordinary Reef Claim was the same as claim No.57, only commencing at the south-west corner of claim No.57, 200 feet x 350 feet, under the name of "*Rover II*". This was also struck out because of no return of Certificate of Application.
- Claim No.59*<sup>7</sup> On the 24 Jan. 1901 at 9 a.m., Jesse and Matthew Nolan marked off ground, 200 feet x 350 feet, situated near the Running River, about five chains south-west from the southerly boundary line of "*Majestic*" lease, requesting registration as an Ordinary Reef Claim, under the name of "*Rover*". Jesse's Miner's Right was No.18034. This registration was granted on the 22 Feb. 1901.
- Claim No.60*<sup>8</sup> On the 24 Jan. 1901 at 9 a.m., Jesse and Matthew Nolan also marked off ground, 200 feet x 350 feet, about five chains from the southern boundary line of "*Majestic*" lease adjoining claim No.59, under the name of "*Rover II*".
- Lease No.108*<sup>9</sup> *Jesse Edward Benham, William Sutherland, Philip Foxlee, Henry Seymour and Joseph Kenny of Ingham, leased an area of 12 acres, 2 roods and 16 perches at the yearly rent of £6.10.0, for the full term of 21 years from 1 Jun 1900, for the purpose of Tin Mining, in the proclaimed Mineral Field of Ingham, Parish of Hermitville, County of Wairuna, District of North Kennedy. They named the Mine "Blue Crystal".*
- Lease No.109*<sup>10</sup> *Jesse, again with Sutherland, Foxlee, Seymour and Kenny, leased an area of 9 acres, 3 roods and 8 perches at the yearly rent of £5, for the full term of 21 years from 1 Jun 1900, for the purpose of Tin Mining, in the proclaimed Mineral Field of Ingham, Parish of Hermitville, County of Wairuna, District of North Kennedy. They named the Mine "Hercules".*

*Lease No.110<sup>11</sup> Jesse, again with Sutherland, Foxlee, Seymour and Kenny, leased an area of 9 acres, 2 roods and 36 perches at the yearly rent of £5 for the full term of 21 years from 1 Jun 1900, for the purpose of Tin Mining, in the proclaimed Mineral Field of Ingham, Parish of Hermitville, County of Wairuna, District of North Kennedy. They named the Mine "Certainty".*

*Lease No.145<sup>12</sup> Jesse, with Fred, William James and Arthur Dyer of Kangaroo Hills, leased an area of 10 acres at the yearly rent of £5, for the full term of 21 years from 1 Dec 1903, for the purpose of Tin Mining, in the proclaimed Mineral Field of Kangaroo Hills, County of Wairuna, Parish of Goertz. They named the Mine "Metropolitan". It is believed they later sold this mine to the Mt. Brown Tin Mining Coy Ltd.*



SCHEDULE D.

28 VICTORIAE, NO. 15.

(COPY OF) CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

Insert Minister's or Registrar's Christian Name and Surname at full length.  
Insert Designation.

I, George Haulach Kirke being  
a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland

Church or place where celebrated.

do hereby certify that I have this day at The Presbyterian Church Queensland duly celebrated Marriage between

BRIDEGROOM

Insert Bridegroom's Name (in full) Josee Edward Kenham  
" Rank or Occupation Miner  
" Residence Gladstone Road Queensland  
" Condition (Bachelors or Widower) Bachelor  
" Age (Last birthday) Thirty three (33) Years  
" Birthplace (Town or Place) Witchford (County or Shire) Hants (Country) England  
" Father's Name (Christian Name and Surname in full) George Kenham  
" Father's Rank or Profession Gardener  
" Mother's Name (Christian Name) Sarah Jane (Maiden Surname) Green

AND

BRIDE

Insert Bride's Name (Christian Name and Surname in full) Margaret Jane Reid  
" Rank or Occupation (if any)  
" Residence Sea St Ecclestone Ridge Queensland  
" Condition (Spinster or Widow) Spinster  
" Age (Last birthday) Seventeen (17) Years  
" Birthplace (Town or Place) Parsonsboro (County or Shire) Hennedy (Country) Queensland  
" Father's Name (Christian Name and Surname in full) Samuel Reid  
" Father's Rank or Profession Labourer  
" Mother's Name (Christian Name) Jane (Maiden Surname) McKillop

WITNESSES (Names in full)

Before George Albert Kenham Nellie Hilda Dyer

after declaration duly made as by law required.

DATED this Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) day of January 1904

Geo H. Kirke {Signature of Minister or Registrar.

Signatures of Parties to the Marriage

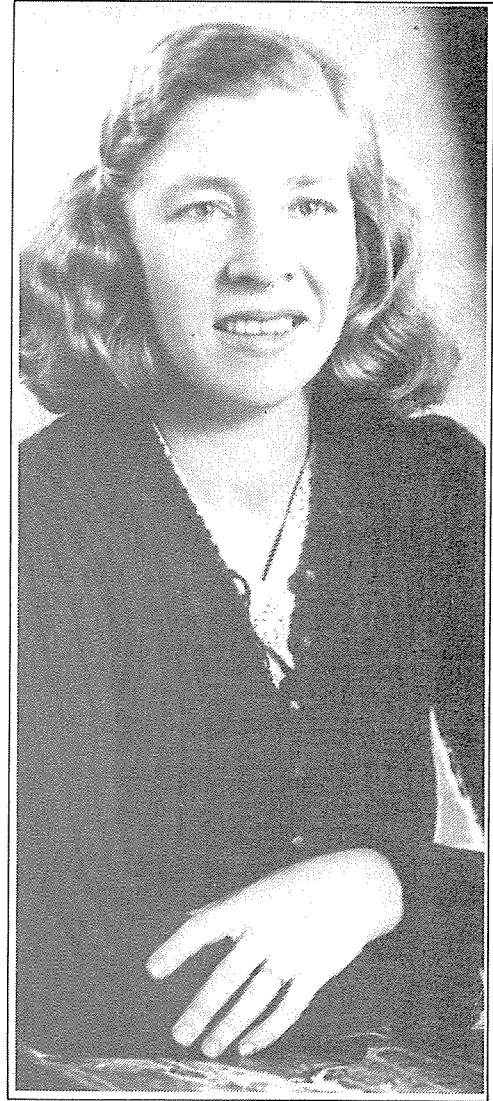
Margaret Jane Reid

Signatures of Witnesses

George Albert Kenham  
Nellie Hilda Dyer

To be handed by the Minister or Registrar to the parties married, immediately after the Marriage.

# THE CHILDREN OF JESSE & MARGARET

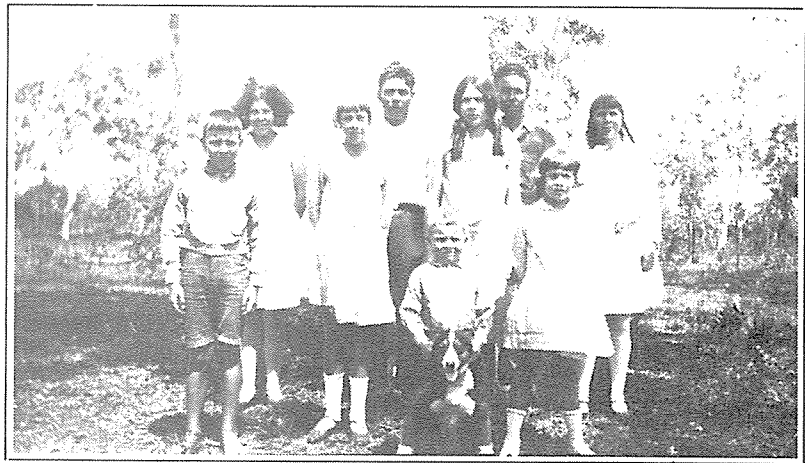


• *Ilma Benham*

• *Jess and Margaret Benham with their first child, Darcy, taken in 1904.*



• *Darcy Benham*



• *From left: Bill, Jessie, Alice, Sam, Annie, Frank, Marion. Front: Ralph and Doris.*

"The Observer", Thursday, 1 Apr. 1982:

## OBITUARY

### MARGARET JANE BENHAM

The death occurred at the Good Shepherd Hospice, Townsville, on 24th March, 1982 of one of Home Hill's early pioneering residents, Mrs. Margaret Jane Benham, at the age of 97 years and ten months.

The late Mrs. Benham was born in Ravenswood and lived in Proserpine and Herberton prior to moving to the Home Hill district sixty-two years ago.

As Margaret Jane Reid, she married Jesse Edward Benham in Charters Towers on 7th January, 1904.

Mrs. Benham lived at 52 Seventeenth Street, Home Hill and during her lifetime, she took an active interest in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church; she was an avid gardener and she stayed particularly close to her family.

She lived in the Home Hill district for fifty-five years from 1920 to 1982 with only a seven year period away when she lived in Charters Towers.

The late Mrs. Benham is survived by nine of her children, Sam (Giru), Frank (Charters Towers), Ilma (Mrs. Fred Dance, Cheilmer), Annie (Mrs. Bill Rawsley, Home Hill), Marion (Mrs. Harold Thomson, Home Hill), Jessie (Mrs. J. A. Thomson, Home Hill), Bill (Barrattas), Doris (Mrs. H. M. Campbell, who left Australia as a war bride and now lives in California) and Ralph (Tyringham, via Dorrigo).

As well, she had forty-one grandchildren, seventy-seven great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren.

Two members of her family, Darcy Edward Benham (Kingaroy) and Alice Edith (Mrs. W. P. Kennedy, of Mount Isa) predeceased her.

The funeral moved from the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Home Hill on 25th March, 1982. Pastor Boucher and retired Pastor Frank Benham of Charters Towers conducting the service.

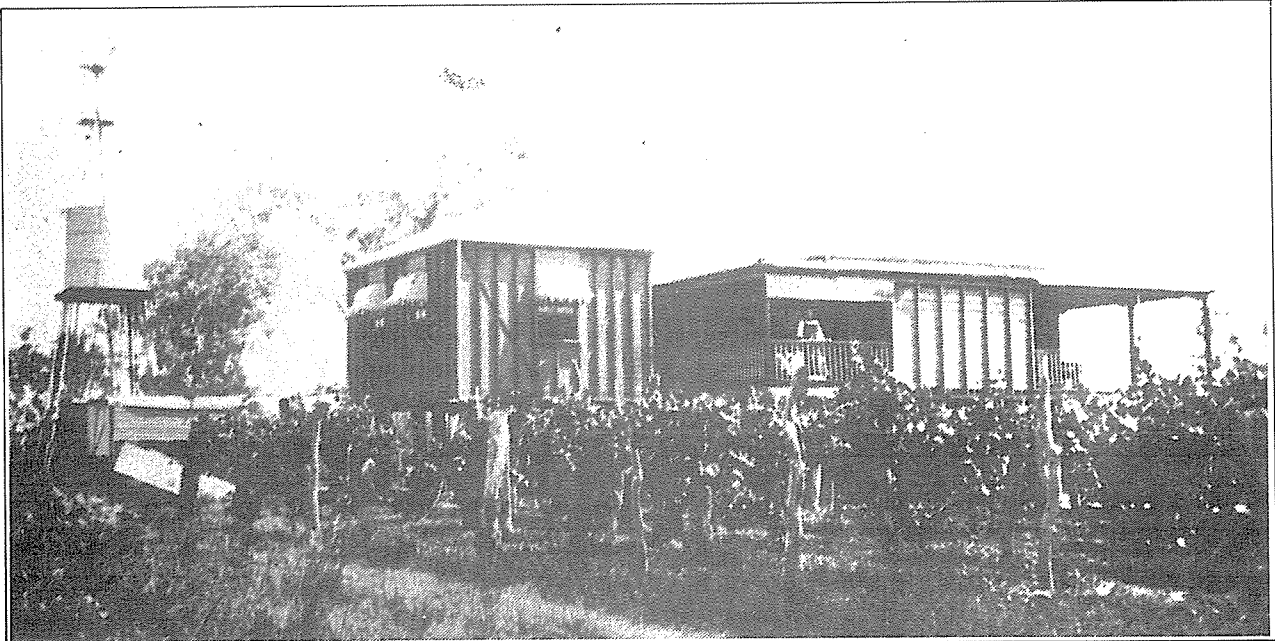
Courtesy of "The Observer"



● Five generations, taken 1980.  
Maggie Benham (centre),  
Marion Thomson, nee Benham (far right),  
Margaret May Sabadina (Peggy), nee Thomson  
(left),  
Jane Margaret Pool, nee Sabadina (right),  
Nelinda Jane Pool (baby).

MARGARET JANE BENHAM was born on the 6 May, 1884, at "69 Mile Camp", Ravenswood, North Queensland. Her parents were Samuel Reid and Jane McNeil, who were both born in Maynock, Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Her father was a baker, then sleeper cutter for the railway, and later they bought a farm at Upper Stone. Margaret was the eldest of 10 children.

● Jesse Benham's home, Home Hill.



Reference— Marion Thomson.

# THE CHILDREN OF JESSE & MARGARET

DARCY EDWARD BENHAM

*b* 2 Nov 1904/Ewan.  
*d* 21 Jun 1973/Kingaroy

SAMUEL JOSEPH BENHAM

*b* 29 Nov 1906/Gurrumbah, Herberton

FRANCIS ALFRED BENHAM

*b* 16 Jul 1908/Gurrumbah, Herberton

ILMA JANE BENHAM

*b* 5 Jul 1910/Aloomba

ANNIE MARGARET BENHAM

*b* 9 Sep 1912/Aloomba

MARION BENHAM

*b* 20 Aug 1914/Gordonvale

JESSIE VERA BENHAM

*b* 16 Jun 1916/Proserpine

ALICE EDITH BENHAM

*b* 28 Jun 1918/Proserpine  
*d* 15 Oct 1980/Mt. Isa

WILLIAM GEORGE BENHAM

*b* 31 Jul 1920/Proserpine

DORIS MAY BENHAM

*b* 25 Oct 1922/Home Hill

RALPH ERIC BENHAM

*b* 3 Mar 1925/Home Hill

## 1: Darcy Edward Benham

*b* 2 Nov 1904/Ewan  
*d* 21 Jun 1973/Kingaroy  
*m* Winifred Maud Houston  
*b* 13 Sep 1905/Brisbane  
*d* 28 Dec 1971/Kingaroy

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Bryon Darcy Benham

*b* 22 Nov 1931/Home Hill  
*d* 25 Nov 1931/Home Hill

## 2: Samuel Joseph Benham

*b* 29 Nov 1906/Gurrumbah, Herberton  
*m* Bertha Elizabeth Holt  
*b* 23 Dec 1914/Brisbane  
*d* 30 Mar 1974/Charters Towers

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Dawn Alice Benham

*b* 9 Dec 1935/Home Hill  
*m* John McMaster Burnside  
*b* 5 Sep 1942/Norseman, WA

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Peter John Burnside  
*b* 4 Jul 1973/Perth

2: Mark William Burnside

*b* 25 May 1976/Perth

2: Valmae Ruth Benham  
b 8 Jul 1937/Home Hill  
m Brian Mansfield Dunn  
b 29 Jun 1940/Hitchen, UK  
d 22 Dec 1964/Honiara, British Solomons  
m Malcolm Warren Long  
b 17 Dec 1934  
children \_\_\_\_\_ 1: James Malcolm Long (adopted)  
b 1 Aug 1975/Cairns

3: Faye Grace Benham  
b 16 May 1941/Charters Towers

4: Roy William Benham  
b 30 Jul 1942/Charters Towers  
m Cheryl Ann Lake  
b 27 Jun 1946/Brisbane  
children \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Brian William Benham  
b 2 Sep 1966/Charters Towers  
2: Maree Ann Benham  
b 9 Nov 1968/Charters Towers  
3: Danny Ware  
b 27 Jul 1969/Prince of Wales Island  
4: Julie Michelle Benham  
b 28 Aug 1970/Charters Towers  
5: Tracey Joy Benham  
b 31 Mar 1973/Charters Towers

5: Gwenda May Benham  
b 12 May 1944/Charters Towers  
m Gregory William Thorne  
b 29 Jun 1937/Launceston  
children \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Kerin Joy Thorne  
b 27 Jan 1973/Mt. Hagen, PNG

6: Beverley Joan Benham  
b 28 Sep 1951/Charters Towers  
m David John Thorpe  
b 23 Aug 1948/Brisbane  
children \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Tina Elizabeth Thorpe  
b 4 Sep 1975/Brisbane  
2: Michael John Thorpe  
b 10 Aug 1978/Brisbane  
3: Katelyn Beverley Thorpe  
b 5 May 1983, Roma

3: Francis Alfred Benham  
b 16 Jul 1908/Herberton  
m Lillie Stephenson  
b 17 Sep 1918/Townsville  
children \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Coral Lucille Benham  
b 12 Dec 1941/Home Hill  
m John Pile  
children \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Pehita Lillian Annette Pile  
b  
b 18 Jun 1965  
2: Dene Nohatahi Pile  
b 12 Mar 1968  
3: Kenneth te Ngakahu Pile  
b 6 Apr 1969



2: Graeme Leslie Benham  
*b* 3 Mar 1944/Home Hill

3: Robin Jesse Benham  
*b* 19 Aug 1946

*m* Joy Brown  
*m* Barbara Helen McKone

*children* ----- 1: Christopher John Benham  
*b* 23 Jun 1965/NZ

2: Michael David Benham  
*b* 28 Jun 1968

3: Karen Franses Lilly Benham  
*b* 14 Nov 1970

4: Robin Jesse Benham  
*b* 22 Dec 1971

5: Jason Daniel Benham  
*b* 16 Aug 1976

4: Ilma Jane Benham

*b* 5 Aug 1910/Aloomba

*m* Frederick Ernest Alfred Dance

*b* 16 Apr 1900/Berkshire. UK

*children* ----- 1: Barrington Frederick Benham Dance

*b* 10 Apr 1933/Home Hill

*m* Rosemary Elizabeth Key

*b* 15 Nov 1932/Adelaide

*children* ----- 1: Alexanda Frederick Benham Dance  
*b* 18 Feb 1964/Melbourne

2: Nicholas Barrington Benham Dance  
*b* 13 Feb 1968/Malaysia

3: Catherine Louise Benham Dance  
*b* 3 May 1970/Geelong, Vic

2: Kenneth Alfred Benham Dance

*b* 28 Aug 1937/Home Hill

*m* Del Elizabeth Orr

*b* 5 Sep 1944/Brisbane

*children* ----- 1: Michelle Andrea Benham Dance  
*b* 29 Dec 1967/Brisbane

2: Stephen Craig Benham Dance  
*b* 30 Oct 1969/Brisbane

3: Malcolm Jon Benham Dance  
*b* 7 Jan 1971/Brisbane

3: Janelle Ernestine Benham Dance

*b* 26 May 1954/Brisbane

*m* William Martin Weir

*b* 29 Sep 1946/Belfast, Ireland

5: Annie Margaret Benham

*b* 9 Sep 1912/Aloomba

*m* William Charles Rawnsley

*b* 25 Dec 1911/Innisfail

*d* 22 Apr 1975/Home Hill

*children* ----- 1: Patricia Anne Rawnsley

*b* 8 Sep 1937/Home Hill

*m* Terrence Allen Rosier

*b* 15 Feb 1947/Melbourne

*children* ----- 1: Elizabeth Patricia Rosier  
*b* 12 Jul 1982/Townsville

2: Daphne Ilma Rawnsley

b 29 Jan 1950/Home Hill

m Barry John Bosworth

b 3 Apr 1947/Ayr

children 1: Wayne John Bosworth  
b 7 Mar 1970/Home Hill

2: Roger William Bosworth

b 1 Oct 1975/Home Hill

3: Megan Jane Bosworth

b 9 Apr 1982/Home Hill

6: Marion Benham

b 20 Aug 1914/Gordonvale

m Harold Lawrence Thomson

b 30 Mar 1912/Charters Towers

children 1: Margaret May (Peggy) Thomson

b 9 Mar 1937/Home Hill

m Eugene Nicholas Sabadina

b 24 Oct 1935/Charters Towers

children 1: Paul Nicholas Sabadina

b 1 Jun 1958/Home Hill

m Debra Joan Crowdey

b 13 Jun 1962/Ayr

\*

2: Anthony Michael Sabadina

b 1 Jul 1959/Home Hill

m Judith Ann Crowdey

b 10 May 1964/Ayr

3: Jane Margaret Sabadina

b 4 Oct 1960/Home Hill

m Michael Frederick Pool

b 7 Mar 1956/Brisbane

children 1: Nelinda Jane Pool  
b 16 May 1980/Brisbane

2: Joel Michael Pool

b 14 Aug 1981/Brisbane

3: Eli Nathaniel Pool

b 2 Jun 1983/Brisbane

\*

4: Sharon Lee Sabadina

b 1 Oct 1962/Brisbane

5: Nerissa Zona Sabadina

b 3 Apr 1966/Brisbane

children 1: Vaughan Christopher Sabadina

b 14 Oct 1981/Mt. Isa

6: Donna Maree Sabadina

b 3 Aug 1967/Brisbane

2: Donald Andrew Thomson

b 24 Jan 1939/Home Hill

m Janet Lorraine Preston

b 29 Jan 1949

children 1: Anthony John Thomson  
b 18 Apr 1967

2: Shane Richard Thomson

b 16 Sep 1969

3: Kelsie Jane Thomson

b 11 Nov 1971

\*Late Entries Page 187

**3: Clair Marion Thomson**

*b* 1 May 1947/Home Hill

*m* David Peter Kennedy

*b* 2 Mar 1938/Home Hill

*children* ..... 1: Damien Matthew Te Whakahau Kennedy  
*b* 17 Nov 1969/Auckland NZ

2: Dallas Megan Kennedy

*b* 7 Apr 1973/Mt. Isa

3: Leah Marion Kennedy

*b* 22 Jan 1975/Mt. Isa

4: Nathan Joshua Benham Kennedy

*b* 20 Dec 1976/Mt. Isa

**4: James Harold William Thomson**

*b* 9 May 1951/Home Hill

*m* Heather May Bowater

*b* 27 May 1952/Ayr

*children* ..... 1: Gary Lawrence Thomson  
*b* 27 Feb 1973/Wagga. NSW

2: Mark James Thomson

*b* 14 Aug 1974/Windsor, NSW

**7: Jessie Vera Benham**

*b* 16 Jun 1916/Proserpine

*m* John Alfred Thomson

*b* 30 Jan 1910 Charters Towers

*children* ..... 1: Richard John Thomson

*b* 15 Jun 1937 Collinsville

*m* Not known

*children* ..... 1: Amanda Jay Thomson  
*b* 15 Jun 1974 Townsville

2: Kara Louise Thomson

*b* 26 Apr 1977 Perth

**2: Joan Margaret Thomson**

*b* 26 Nov 1938/Townsville

*m* Mervyn Allan Law

*b* 3 Dec 1934 Mackay

*children* ..... 1: Julie Ellen Law

*b* 22 Dec 1961 Innisfail

*m* Allan Frank Accatino

*b* 16 Mar 1960 Innisfail

*children* ..... 1: Rachel Anne Accatino  
*b* 20 Sep 1982 Innisfail

2: Kenneth Andrew Law

*b* 23 Feb 1966 Innisfail

**3: Robert Edward Thomson**

*b* 26 Oct 1943/Innisfail

*m* Bernice Ann Liles

*b* 23 Dec 1943/Innisfail

*children* ..... 1: Michelle Alice Thomson

*b* 9 Apr 1962 Innisfail

*m* Peter Robert Thompson

*b* 31 May 1957 Mitchell

2: Lisa Maria Thomson

*b* 20 Feb 1964 Innisfail

\*

3: Elliott John Thomson

*b* 17 Jan 1974/Innisfail

4: Matthew Edward Thomson  
*b* 7 Jul 1975/Innisfail

4: William Henry Thomson  
*b* 27 Mar 1945/Innisfail  
*m* Alma Jessie Assman  
*b* 16 Nov 1947/Gordonvale

children 1: Grant William Thomson  
*b* 28 Oct 1976/Cairns

2: Dale Fredrick Thomson  
*b* 8 Jan 1979/Cairns

5: Keith Harold Thomson  
*b* 30 Dec 1947/Innisfail

6: Bernard Samuel Thomson  
*b* 20 Apr 1954/Innisfail

8: Alice Edith Benham  
*b* 28 Jun 1918/Prosperpine  
*d* 15 Oct 1980/Mt. Isa  
*m* William Peter Kennedy  
*b* 7 Nov 1909/Wagga Wagga

children 1: David Peter Kennedy  
*b* 2 May 1938/Home Hill  
*m* Clair Marion Thomson  
*b* 1 May 1947/Home Hill

children 1: Damien Matthew Te Whakahau Kennedy  
*b* 17 Nov 1969/Auckland

2: Dallas Megan Kennedy  
*b* 7 Apr 1973/Mt. Isa

3: Leah Marion Kennedy  
*b* 22 Jun 1975/Mt. Isa

4: Nathan Joshua Benham Kennedy  
*b* 20 Dec 1976/Mt. Isa

2: Rosemary Alice Kennedy  
*b* 23 Mar 1940/Home Hill  
*m* Edward Raymond Barnes  
*b* 13 Feb 1939/Brisbane

children 1: Edward Allan Barnes  
*b* 20 Jun 1966/Bundaberg

2: Michael Raymond Barnes  
*b* 17 Dec 1967/Bundaberg

3: Thomas Edward Kennedy  
*b* 5 Oct 1942/Home Hill  
*m* Gwen Ivy Burgen  
*b* 21 Oct 1946

children 1: Deborah Doyle (adopted)  
*b* 17 Aug 1961/Julia Creek  
*m* Charles John Wilhell  
*b* 3 Aug 1958/Mt. Isa

children 1: Krystle Ronelle Wilhell  
*b* 20 Apr 1983/Mt. Isa

2: Athol Edward Kennedy  
*b* 26 Nov 1964/Mt. Isa

3: David Thomas Kennedy  
*b* 30 Sep 1966/Mt. Isa

4: Kim Charles Kennedy  
*b* 7 Mar 1973/Mt. Isa

5: Kelly Marie Ivy Pankow  
*b* 21 Dec 1981/Cairns

4: Carolyn Estelle Kennedy

*b* 3 Aug 1947/Home Hill  
*m* James Cecil Charles Hendy  
*b* 1 Oct 1942/Rockhampton

*children* ----- 1: William Peter Hendy  
*b* 19 Jun 1967/Clermont

2: Lesley Ella Hendy  
*b* 24 Jul 1968/Rockhampton

3: Patrick James Hendy  
*b* 28 Oct 1972/Bundaberg

5: Jessica B. Kennedy

*b* 21 Feb 1953/Home Hill  
*m* Detail not available

*children* ----- 1: Amara Jane Burgen  
*b* 30 Jan 1974 Mt. Isa

2: Jesse James Burgen  
*b* 2 Apr 1976/Mt. Isa

3: Kathleen Alice Ellen Rita Grace Burgen  
*b* 7 Jun 1978/Mt. Isa

4: Jason Peter Blackburn  
*b* 5 Jul 1983/Mt. Isa

6: Alexander Joseph Kennedy

*b* 31 Jul 1956/Clermont  
*m* Jennifer Irene Philips  
*b* 19 Nov 1955/Bundaberg

*children* ----- 1: Lionel Cameron Kennedy  
*b* 9 Aug 1979/Bundaberg  
\*

7: Patricia Jane Kennedy

*b* 16 Oct 1960/Brisbane  
\*  
\*

9: William George Benham

*b* 31 Jul 1920/Proserpine  
*m* Mavis Isabel Lawlor  
*b* 30 Oct 1930/Townsville  
*d* 15 Jan 1970/Townsville

*children* ----- 1: Laurie Herbert Benham

*b* 2 May 1949/Townsville  
*m* April Dawn Viney  
*b* 12 Apr 1951/Charters Towers

*children* ----- 1: Jason Laurie Benham  
*b* 18 May 1976/Townsville

2: Emily Jane Benham  
*b* 20 Apr 1979/Townsville

2: Judith Ann Benham

*b* 27 Jan 1960/Townsville  
*m* Malcolm John Phelps  
*b* 17 Aug 1960

*children* ----- 1: Aaron James William Phelps  
*b* 18 May 1979/Home Hill

2: Robert John Malcolm Phelps  
*b* 5 Mar 1983/Sydney

\*Late Entries Page 187

3: Darcy William Benham  
*b* 20 Dec 1961/Townsville

4: Barry George Benham  
*b* 27 Jul 1963/Townsville  
*d* 27 Jul 1963/Townsville

5: Jeffery Mark Benham  
*b* 7 Aug 1964/Townsville

6: Debbie June Benham  
*b* 8 Aug 1969/Townsville

10: Doris May Benham

*b* 25 Oct 1922/Home Hill

*m* Harry Marshall Campbell

*b* 12 Apr 1913/Los Angeles, USA

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Janet May Campbell

*b* 20 Oct 1947/Pasadena, Ca. USA

*m* Robert Wallace Harper

*b* 19 Feb 1942/Savannah, Georgia, USA

2: Bruce Marshall Campbell

*b* 26 Jul 1950/Pasadena, Ca. USA

*m* Darlene Kathryn

*b* 17 Sep 1955/Winston-Salem, Nth. Carolina, USA

3: Mark Ralph Campbell

*b* 10 Nov 1951/Pasadena, Ca. USA

*m* Synthia Gregg

*b* 29 Mar 1949/Los Angeles, Ca., USA

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Deborah Campbell

*b* 16 Dec 1977/Tarzana, Ca., USA

2: Rebekah Campbell

*b* 15 Jan 1980/Mission Hills, Ca., USA

4: Lois Jane Campbell

*b* 20 Mar 1953/Van Nuys, Ca., USA

*m* Don Charles Sullivan Jr.

*b* 18 Dec 1951/Little Rock, Arkansas USA

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Don Charles Sullivan III

*b* 22 Oct 1978

2: Rachel May Sullivan

*b* 24 Nov 1981

11: Ralph Eric Benham

*b* 3 Mar 1926/Home Hill

*m* Barbara Isobel Speers

*b* 17 May 1928/Brunswick, Canada

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Maxine Karen Benham

*b* 27 Feb 1952

ARTHUR ERNEST  
BENHAM  
1868-1956



*Arthur Benham*

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON

Application Number 816822

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Winchester in the County of Southernhampton  
Winchester in the Sub-district of Winchester

Columns:—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10*
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
83	19th Feb 1868 Canons Hill	Arthur	Boy	George Buchanan	Ann Buchanan formerly Price	Jardine	J. Buchanan Bookbinder Canons Hill Winchester	First April 1868	Charles Price James Higgins	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.  
 Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the 14th day of October 19 84

\*See note overleaf

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953. Section 34 provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the birth or death to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

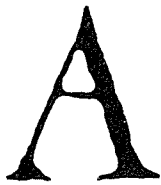
BXA 99(6)00

CAUTION.—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

Form A.502M Do. 1770 100M 8/84 Mer (304799)







ARTHUR ERNEST WAS born on the 23 Feb. 1868 at Cannon Street, Winchester. He was privately Baptised at St. Michael's, Winchester on the 17 Jul, 1868. As a young lad he sang in the choir at Winchester Cathedral.

He was of medium build and had fair hair and complexion. At the age of fifteen, with his brother Fred and sister Emily, Arthur sailed from Plymouth England on the 16 May 1883, bound for Australia on the ship "*Hereford*". They arrived in Townsville on Monday, the 25 Aug. 1883. These were our first Benhams to arrive in this country.

Soon after their arrival, Fred, Arthur and shipboard friend Charles, departed for the bush. Arthur's first job was on the Mourilyan Tramline carrying water from the harbour to the construction camp. Later on he worked for a period with the Kanakas on a plantation on the Herbert River.

In 1885, aged seventeen, Arthur walked to Ayr and then on to Charters Towers looking for work. The rail line from Charters Towers to Pentland was under construction and he was able to obtain work on the line. Later he worked as a groom for Cobb & Co.

In the late 1880s Arthur returned to the Herbert District and became interested in tin mining at Kangaroo Hills, which is north of Paluma. His brothers Fred, Jesse and Edwin joined him in the area, all taking up claims and leases. They found the rich Mt. Brown tin lode.

In December 1892 Arthur, Hughie MacDonald and Unsworth followed up a branch of the Star River, Burdekin River Waters, and found payable tin in Scrubby Creek at the head of the Star River and named the place Cloudy Creek. Arthur then blazed a track through to the present Mt. Spec Road, enabling them to transport their tin from the diggings.

The tin was transported by William James with his team. The tin was then placed in calico lined bags, loaded on to the wagon and taken down through Running River and over the range at the Pinnacals. He used a big log tied to the back of the wagon as a break coming down the range. Arriving in Townsville via the western route. He would return with a wagon load of supplies for the prospectors.

Some months after leaving the Kangaroo Hills area Arthur and Fred found rich tin on the head of a branch of Saltwater (now Crystal Creek) and formed a camp now known as Cloudy Clearing close to the township of Paluma.

Later Arthur built himself a hut in Cloudy Clearing. It was made from Iron Bark trees cut at Running River, the walls and roof were of Iron Bark and floor ant-bed. He did not marry and he and hut became well known in the area.

Four ton of very rich tin was mined from a small creek, hence it was named "*4 Ton Creek*".

The Benhams mined mostly alluvial tin. Because of the terrain, prospectors built lean-tos from bush material, to live in and when the tin was mined out moved on to the next diggings and built again. They were tough men in those days, living on salted beef and damper. If they stayed long enough in one place some vegetables could be grown.

At one time Arthur cleared about half an acre of ground and dug trenches, so as to make it easier to wash out the tin, but to his dismay, down came a deluge of rain and all his tin was washed down the creek via the trenches.

Arthur walked everywhere. Many times he walked down the pack track to Rollingsstone Hotel where he'd spend a few days living it up. Once he walked from Paluma down through Star Valley, across the Burdekin and out to Pentland to see his niece Winifred and family, then back through Homestead and on to Charters Towers to visit his brother George and family.

In 1913, Arthur discovered a strong outcrop of tin bearing lode about one quarter of a mile east of the Hidden Valley Hotel.

Many places in the area are named after the family. "Mt. Benham" in the Paluma Ranges, "Benham's Track" from Paluma to Hidden Valley Post Office, and "Benhams Lookout". Ethel Creek and Ethel Creek Falls are named after their sister.

In January, 1916, Arthur left Paluma for Rollingsstone where he caught a train to Townsville and enlisted in the 1st Australian Imperial Force<sup>1</sup> on the 31 Jan., 1916, stating that he was 42 and 11/12 years of age, putting his age back by six years to enlist. He served overseas in England, France and Belgium with the following units:

3rd Australian Training Battalion (England)

9th Australian Infantry Battalion (England, France, Belgium)

Australian Employment Company (France).

While in England he was able to visit members of his family. He was discharged from the 1st Australian Imperial Force in Queensland on the 11 Jul., 1919. I am told he brought back a Scottish Belt with a beautiful silver buckle, badges and tartan material.

After the war he returned to Cloudy Clearing tin scratching for a living. When he saved up enough money, he travelled to Brisbane to holiday with his sisters, returning when his money ran out. He did this many times during his lifetime.

Often Arthur and his friend, Mr. Lynton, who had a store at Paluma, went out tin scratching together.

I've been told, at one time Arthur rode a horse into the bar of the Running River Hotel and sent everyone racing for the outdoors. He was quite a character, I believe, and had a fight with a chap called Gunnawarra Jack at the Ewan Hotel.

Over the years Arthur had many visits from different members of the family. His niece Ethel Hatfield and children came to holiday with him. On their arrival at the bus stop Arthur was there to meet them, presenting Ethel with a bunch of flowers.

Many times he visited Mrs. Little, who was the owner of the guest house at Paluma. They sat and chatted and had a drink or two. After World War II his great nephew Bill James came to stay with him for six months. Bill helped around the hut putting in two extra windows to make it cooler. Bill travelled to Townsville once a month for their supplies. He and Arthur also went tin scratching.

In 1945 Arthur sold his last alluvial tin claim for "the whole of Paluma" to James Charles Butler for an undisclosed sum of money. He was 77 by this, and I feel, the work was too heavy for someone his age.

Arthur loved cats, and had quite a few living with him. They slept on the end of his bed. One night he had a visitor, a twelve foot carpet snake, who took a liking to one of his cats and swallowed it from off the end of the bed. He read by the light of a kerosene lamp, never having electricity installed.

He had a long white beard, was well known and respected in the area where he had lived most of his life, some sixty-five years. He loved to sit outside his hut smoking his pipe, telling stories to anyone who happened by.

In 1955, aged 87 years, he became ill and Bill James went up to Cloudy Clearing and brought him down to the Townsville General Hospital where he stayed some two weeks. His niece, Ivy Kammerer, took him to her home in Charters Towers to live.

He was admitted to the Charters Towers District Hospital two weeks before he passed away on the 31 Aug., 1956, aged 88. This very fine old gentleman was laid to rest on the 1 Sep., 1956, in the Charters Towers Cemetery.



<sup>1</sup> Courtesy Central Army Records Office, Melbourne.

*Researching into the leases and mines owned by the Benham brothers has given me a look into a way of life which must have "caught" many men wanting to make quick money to perhaps buy a farm or other business, to start their new life in Australia.*

*The miners, in a lot of cases, followed the rushes, and some eventually gave it up to settle down. But others spent their whole lives mining, apparently not happy working for a mining company, but more determined to do their own thing. Arthur Benham seems to have been one of those men. We are not sure if Edwin chose that way of life, or whether he, because of his personality, never got round to changing his direction. The fascination for me with these two men is their up bringing and background, and their total change of lifestyle in Australia and the way they took to becoming good bushmen.*

*The following articles helped us considerably, and we wish we had more room in the book to cover some of the other miners whose names keep appearing in records with, and around, the Benhams.*

<sup>1</sup> "IN THE MOUNTAINS around Ingham there are a series of old tracks which, in years gone by, have provided access to the hinterland. These old paths wind their way through jungle, forests and along mountain spurs. In many places they have literally been carved out of the mountain side. They are identified mainly by a regular tree blaze. These blazes guided many a pioneer and miner to his lonely homestead and mine. These tracks were the lifeline over which supplies and the necessities of life and the riches of their toil were carried.

"With the advent of roads and motor vehicles, these tracks fell into disuse and now lay almost forgotten, resting beneath their jungle and bush canopy. A silent tribute to the courage and fortitude of the old time packer and carrier.

"The tracks were opened by miners and packers in the period from 1875 to the 1890s. From roughly 1895 to the turn of the century came the period of intensification of mining activity. The peak of the boom was reached in 1905—but from then on the decline was rapid.

"The Mt. Spec area was worked exclusively for tin (in both alluvial and lode deposits), but the Kangaroo Hills area yielded copper, silver-lead and wolfram, as well as tin in large quantities. The Star River area was worked for its silver deposits. The three areas—Mt. Spec, Kangaroo Hills and Star River, merge geographically and inevitably their historical backgrounds were closely interconnected.

"Those who blazed their way into the tangle of range spurs from the coast, left their names on the tracks they opened and in map land marks. Benham Brothers, Gard Brothers, Jack Johnson, Sid Jacobson, Phil Foxlee and "Bullocky Tom" Andrews are all remembered in this way. Benham's Track was opened by Arthur Benham in connection with the many mining ventures with which he and his brother were associated. He lived in Prospector's or Hermit Creek and his camp area is retained on the maps as "Hermitville". His name is commemorated also in Mt. Benham. He originally made the clearing at what became known as "Cloudy Clearing" and what is now the Paluma township. Benham's Track was opened from Hidden Valley along the divide of the Seaview Range to Mt. Spec and on to connect in the vicinity of the Peak with the Bambaroo Track, Foxlee's Track and Bullocky Tom's Track. He is credited also with opening the track through to Cloudy Creek. This track crossed the present Mt. Spec main road at the "Mango Tree".

"In late 1904-early 1905, however, there was a fresh rush in alluvial tin—to Cloudy Creek. Up to fifty men were established here with a tramway of 200 to 300 yards running from the workings to the dam. The workings were at the 3000 feet level and loam carrying tin had been excavated from the surface to a depth of thirty-six feet. Another minor rush occurred in dense scrub country around Ethel Creek. "Settlement" there consisted of fourteen huts.

"The Cloudy Creek area was fifteen miles distant from both Ollera and Hidden Valley. At Mt. Beresford, twenty-five miles from Ingham, Benham Brothers were prospecting "large lodes with a great body of ore in sight and showing four to seven percent".

"Hidden Valley was nine miles from the township of Mt. Benham (store, hotel and post office). There was no road as now, but all communication with Ingham was by Jacobson's Track, which crossed the gorge about seventeen miles south of Ingham, after which the road turned south two miles to Mt. Benham, then a further two miles to Prospector's Creek and six miles more to Mt. Spec. Paluma township was originally called Cloudy Creek and Crystal Creek was known as Saltwater. Paluma is on top of the watershed. Cloudy Creek falls to the Star River which later joins the Burdekin River. Running River joins the Burdekin River, passing Hidden Valley and Ewan. Saltwater Creek after a few waterfalls joins Crystal Creek. Another tin mine in the area was the "Midnight Queen", both mining for lode tin and sluicing for stream tin was carried on.

"Mt. Benham—the hill on the top of the Ranges on the edge of Hidden Valley. The Valley was about six by one mile in area and the name was derived from local topography. It is surrounded by hills and now devoted to cattle grazing.

"Prospector's Creek—flowing into Running River on the western side of the Divide. Now known as Hermit Creek because of another Prospector Creek further west flowing into Stone River."

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of Capt. R. Burla (Ret.) 2RQR "Following the Blazed Paths", and Mr. R.L. Shepherd, researcher.

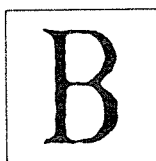
## “OLD KANGAROO HILLS”

<sup>2</sup>“THE BENHAMS HAVE all passed on. Arthur was a hard case. He had two nick-names, one was “Possum”, the other “Chicken”. He got the name “Chicken” through a fight he had at the pub in Ewan. A chap by the name of Gunnawarra Jack, a good fighter, always called himself the “Cock of the North”, moreso after a few beers. Jack informed Arthur that he was “Cock of the North”, so Arthur told him, “I’m the Chicken, so we’ll go outside and see just who is “Cock of the North”. This was before my time, but I have heard the stories from several different men and they all tally. Those two stayed out for three hours trading punches and then decided it was a draw. A couple of very tough guys!”

—Taken from an article, written by Alf Benham, for the North Queensland Register, 12 Jan., 1980.

“I THINK IT was just after my grandfather’s death and I was about nine, living with my grandparents. My aunt Winifred Benham was visiting us and told me about great Uncle Arthur living the life of a hermit. I decided to write to him, and enclosed a drawing of how I thought he must look. He wrote me a most charming letter in return, and enclosed a ten shilling note—in those days, an incredible fortune to a nine year old child.

—Jan Whitmee (nee Ireland)



The following article, under the headline “Falls Rediscovered: Pioneer Remembered” was published in the Townsville Daily Bulletin on the 28 Mar., 1966—

AN EARLY PIONEER who, with other packers, blazed his way through the tangle of range spurs from the coast to open up the Mt. Spec area, may be remembered in years to come by a waterfall as well as a track.

“A 60-foot waterfall was recently re-discovered by members of the Ingham-based C Company of the 31st Battallion, Royal Queensland Regiment.

“The pioneer after whom it is proposed to name the falls was Arthur Benham, who opened up a track from Hidden Valley along the divide of Seaview Range to Mt. Spec and on to connect with the Bambaroo, Foxlee’s and Bullocky Tom’s Tracks.

“Benham’s Track was opened up for the many mining ventures with which Arthur Benham and his brother were associated.

“In building the Paluma Dam, Benham’s Track was developed to carry vehicles, and to enable river gravel and building materials to be carried from Running River to the dam site.

“Further development work was carried out during the 1965 annual camp by Army engineers when many creek crossings were bridged.

“Recent reconnaissance activities by members of C Company, 31 RQR, have helped re-awaken interest in the area, and it was during a navigation exercise by the unit in the Paluma Dam area that the falls were found.

“Screened from the road by a curtain of jungle and forest, the falls are on the upper reaches of Hermit Creek, not far from the dam.

“Officer Commanding C Company, Captain Bob Burla, said that old timers probably knew of the falls, but with their passing and the passage of time, the falls had slipped from memory and remain forgotten.

“He said the falls were apparently unnamed, as maps gave no indication of their existence. They were over sixty feet in height and set against a background of oak forest, decked with orchids and lined with fern.

<sup>2</sup> Courtesy North Queensland Register.

“A path off Benham’s Track provided access to them.

“Captain Burla said the name Benham’s Falls would be submitted to the Queensland Place Name Committee for approval.

“While carrying out research into the naming of the falls, a reference was found in old records to Hermit Creek Falls. A photograph of Hermit Creek Falls in the same records clearly indicated that they and Benham’s Falls were not the same.

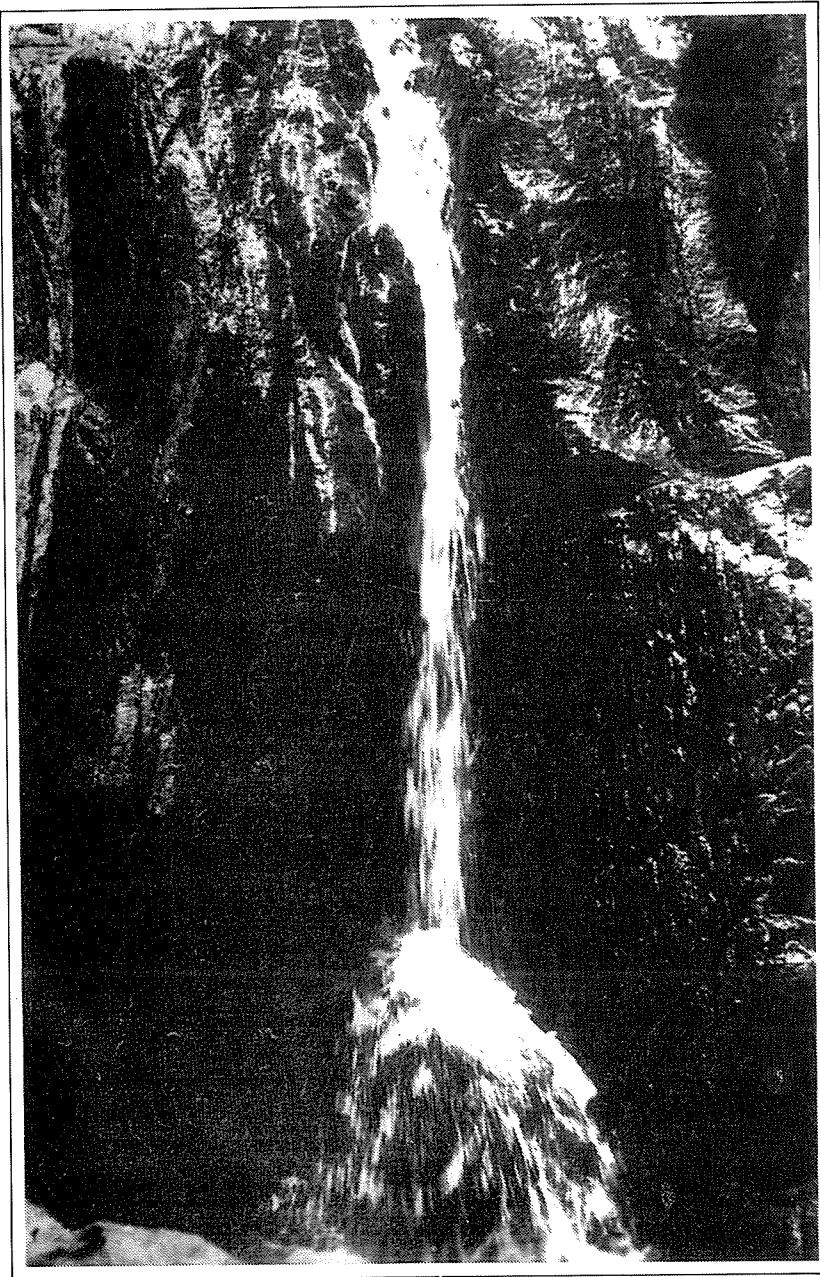
“Where then are Hermit Creek Falls?

“According to Captain Burla, the size of the creek and the type of country surrounding the falls indicates they are somewhere on the lower reaches of the creek—and when time permits, members of C Company 31 RQR, hope to return to the area to confirm their OC’s belief.



● *Benham's Falls*

*Courtesy of the Townsville Daily Bulletin.*



● *Ethel Creek Falls, Cloudy Mountain, Paluma, named by the Benham brothers after their sister, Ethel.*

# B

*A study of the Mining Records held at the Queensland Archives has produced the following claims and leases in which Arthur was involved—*

*Claim No.8<sup>1</sup>*

On the 25 Jul., 1894 at 10 a.m. Arthur and Thos Quinn marked off ground measuring 10 chain x 12 chain, situated at Mt. Benham requesting registration as a Lode Claim. Arthur's Miner's Right was No.17472. This was apparently abandoned.

- Claim No.39*<sup>2</sup> On the 2 Aug., 1899 at 12 noon, Arthur and D.W. Gibson marked off ground 12 chain x 5 chain, situated on the Running River near Boomerang Creek, about five miles south-east of Waverley, in the Mining District of Kangaroo Hills, applying for registration as an Ordinary Reef Claim. Arthur's Miner's Right was No.2302. They registered 6 chain x 5 chain of this claim which was granted on the 25 Oct., 1899.
- Lease No.81*<sup>4</sup> Arthur, Charles Allen, and Daniel William Gibson of Ingham leased for a period of twenty-one years from the 1 Oct., 1899, for the purpose of Tin Mining, an area of nine acres, sixteen perches, at Saltwater Creek in the proclaimed Mineral Field of Ingham, Parish of Hermitville, County of Wairuna, District of North Kennedy, for yearly rent of £5. They named the mine "*Chance*".
- Lease No.80*<sup>3</sup> Arthur, Charles Allen, and Daniel William Gibson, leased for a period of twenty-one years from the 1 Oct., 1899, an area of nine acres, 16 perches, at Saltwater Creek, in the proclaimed Mineral Field of Ingham, Parish of Hermitville, County of Wairuna, District of North Kennedy, for yearly rent of £5. They named the mine "*Kapia*". On the 14 Jan., 1903, all interests in this lease were transferred to the Mt. Spec Tin Mining Company Ltd.
- Claim No.56*<sup>5</sup> On the 14 Nov., 1900 at 11 a.m., Arthur marked off ground 350 feet x 800 feet, situated at the head of Saltwater Creek, a quarter of a mile from Mt. Spec, requesting registration as an extended Reef Claim under the name of "*The Midnight Queen*". Arthur's Miner's Right was No.18032. The registration was granted on the 14 Dec., 1900. Arthur applied for an exemption from work for this claim for three months on the 4 Mar., 1901, owing to "the heavy rain causing too much water to contend with and therefore I am unable to work the ground". This was granted on the 17 Apr., 1901.
- Claim No.132*<sup>6</sup> On the 20 Jun., 1904, at 10 a.m., Arthur, Edwin, Arthur Dyer, and William Miller, marked off ground situated on Prospector's Creek, Mt. Benham, measuring 1200 yards x 100 yards, requesting registration as an Extended Claim, under the name of "*The Brilliant Sluicing Claim*".
- Claim No.151*<sup>7</sup> On the 20 Feb., 1905, at 4 p.m. Arthur, Samuel Thomas, Herbert Benson, and Edwin Benham marked off ground 150 feet x 3200 feet, situated on Mt. Beresford, Harvey Range, Kangaroo Hills, requesting registration as a Lode Tin Claim, under the name of "*Mt. Beresford*". Arthur's Miner's Right was No.61409, and Edwin's No.61408. The registration was granted on the 21 Mar., 1905.
- Claim No.255*<sup>8</sup> On the 16 Nov., 1909, at 11 a.m., Arthur and Joseph Kenny marked off ground, 1800 feet x 300 feet, situated at Prospector's Creek, Mt. Benham, applying for registration as an Extended Alluvial Tin Claim under the name of "*The Scrub Sluicing Claim*". Arthur's Miner's Right was No.118672. The two men, on the 6 Jul., 1910, applied for an exemption from the work on this claim, because of "Insufficiency of water for sluicing purposes". This was granted on the 5 Aug., 1910.
- Claim No.321*<sup>11</sup> On the 1 Nov., 1912, at 10 a.m., Arthur, Joseph Kenny and Samuel James Allen marked off ground 400 feet x 350 feet, situated at Hidden Valley, applying for registration as a Lode Tin Claim, under the name of "*The Piastre*". Arthur's Miner's Right was No.125887. The registration was granted on 23 Nov., 1912. They applied for an exemption from work for six months for this claim on the 22 Mar., 1913, "To enable us to get capital to develop the mine, the one at present being too low in grade for existing conditions." This was granted on the 28 Apr., 1913.
- Claim No.429*<sup>9</sup> On the 20 Jun., 1920, at 11 a.m., Arthur and Walter Langdon marked off ground measuring 700 feet x 500 feet, situated on Oakey Creek on the Kangaroo Hills Mineral Field, applying for registration as a Reef Claim for Tin, under the name of "*The Maritana*". Arthur's Miner's Right was No.193170.
- Claim No.498*<sup>10</sup> On the 7 Sep., 1925 at 11 a.m., Arthur once again marked off the claim "*Maritana*", previously worked and abandoned, applying for registration as an Extended Mineral Claim, under the same name. This was registered on the 23 Sep., 1925. Arthur's Miner's Right was No.14990.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>12</sup>Arthur also had another mine at Prospector's Creek, Mt. Benham, under the name of "*Coronation Tin Sluicing Claim*". In 1912 he transferred half of this mine to Philip Foxlee.

<sup>13</sup>15 Feb., 1913 — About a quarter of a mile north-east of the Hidden Valley Hotel, a strong outcrop of tin-bearing lode has lately been discovered by Mr. A. Benham. The outcrop continues readily visible for perhaps 200 yards in a north-east, south-west direction, and is well worthy of the expenditure which would be required to test it thoroughly.

FEE: FIVE SHILLINGS PER ANNUM.]

№ 27864



Date of Issue:

14 April 1936

Place of Issue:

ING.

# MINER'S RIGHT

(For One Year.)

Issued to Arthur Benham under the provisions of  
"The Mining Act of 1898," to be in force until 13 April 1936.

Not Transferable.

C. B. Buxton  
Warden  
per J. W. Fittell

## TRANSFER CERTIFICATE

[Form 23.]

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that I have this day Registered a Transfer  
from ARTHUR ERNEST BENHAM to  
JAMES CHARLES BUTLER, of the whole of "Paluma"  
Alluvial Tin Claim No. 12831 and the said JAMES CHARLES BUTLER  
is now the Registered holder thereof subject  
to "The Mining Acts, of 1898 to 1940" and Regulations thereunder.

Dated at CHARTERS TOWERS this Twentysixth day of November, 1945.

A. E. George  
Warden

Note.—This Certificate must be produced at the Warden's Office when this Interest is to be again transferred.

Paluma  
Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 1945

Received from J. C. Butler, the  
Sum of Seventy Pounds, Being  
the final payment in respect  
of Transfer of Tin Mining Claim  
No.            situated in Cloudy Creek

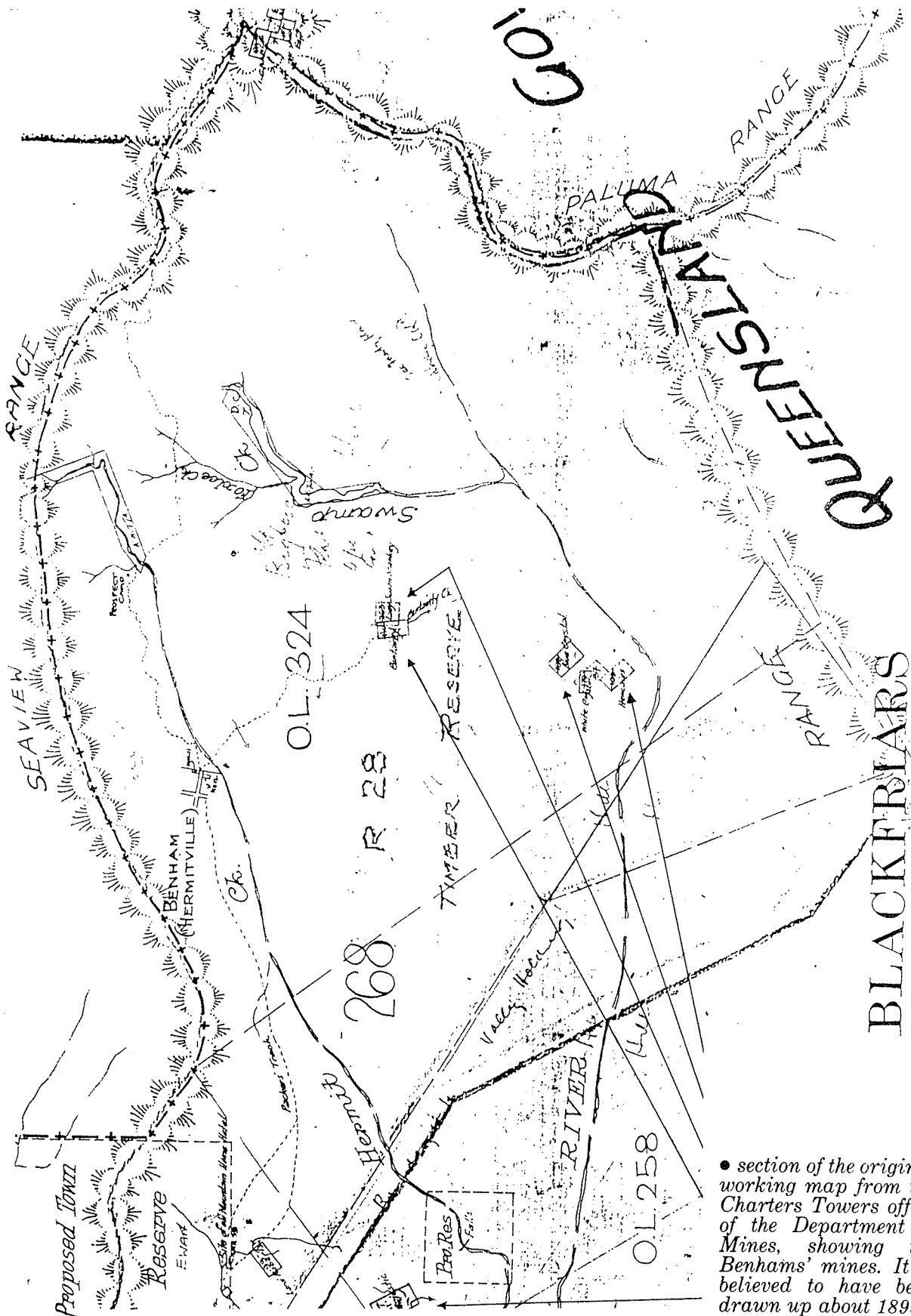
Signed, Arthur Benham

Witness.

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of Mrs. Joan Bourke, daughter of James Butler.

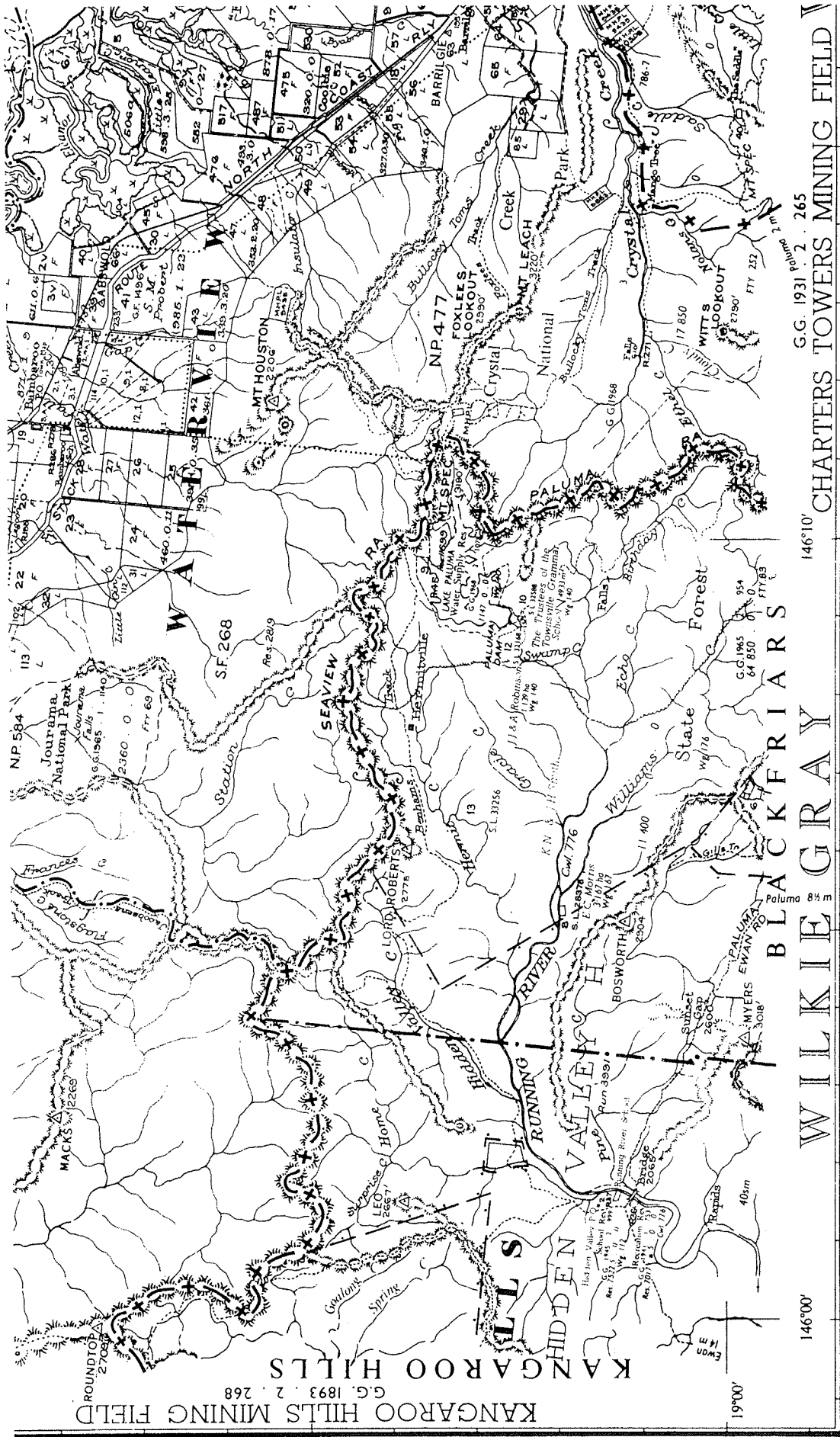


The following map is a section of the original working map from the Charters Towers Office of the Department of Mines, showing the Benhams' mines. It is believed to have been drawn up about 1893.



• section of the original working map from the Charters Towers office of the Department of Mines, showing the Benhams' mines. It is believed to have been drawn up about 1893.

This map is reproduced with the permission of the Chief Government Geologist, Department of Mines, Queensland.



Map 8160 Ingham, showing section covering the area where the Benhams lived and worked.



Map supplied by the Surveyor-General, Queensland and reproduced by arrangement with the Queensland Government.

CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED

G.G. 1931 2 265

146°10'

19°00'

146°00'

19°10'



• 2656 *Private Arthur Benham*

*The following two letters to Arthur had been passed on to Edith. Her daughter Ethel kindly loaned them for the book. The letters are very frail and the writing feint, so they could not be copied photographically.*

19/5/17

Army Service Corps Barracks  
Woolwich.

No 857 Dr. A.W. Benham  
No 2 Coy A.S.C.  
Woolwich

My dear Brother,

have just received your most welcome letter, and glad to find that you are still all right Old Chap. I wrote a couple of days ago to you, My word you are having a hot time of it out there it is doubly hard loseing your mates, seeing them go under around you, I never had that experience, as death was usually dealt out to our crowd from afar, with no chance of retaliating worst luck as the boys were always game only being hung up with a pair of horses it was a mater of getting them out of danger as soon as possible and preserving the rations for the boys in the Trenches, but there was plenty of excitement while the blighter's had the range.

Well Arthur George is getting better I am glad to say but he will want a lot of building up as he has wasted away a lot. Queen and the Girls are getting on alright Lily and Louie have had their examinations we do not know how they have got on as yet but do hope that they have won as it may help them a lot in life as our aim is to give them a better chance than we had ourselves. I did manage to get four days at home on the garden, but there is still some more left to do, we have in over a 1 cwt of Potatoes in so that will help a lot if we get a good season, we have had some nice fine weather, and now a nice rain which will help the crops on a lot, note Harold's address.

152449 Pte. H. Benham  
634 Coy Workshop Sec.  
M.T.A.S. Corps  
c/- Army P.O.  
Kalindine  
British East Africa.

...

Give my best wishes to your mates I am sure that they acquit themselves to the best of their abilty. So with the best of luck for your safe return. I still Remain Your Loving Brother Aubrey W. Benham xxxxxxxx

Pittmoor Farm  
Otterbourne  
Nr Winchester  
Hants  
Sunday

My dear Brother

Many thanks for P. Cards the children were very pleased & so was I with Photo. I think them very good. I was glad to hear you did not get into any trouble & Aubrey only got a blowing up by his Serj so that was alright & I hope you will come again soon but must arrange things a little better so that you will get back in time both of you I shall be very pleased to see you at any time. What bad weather we are having wet all the week. The children send their love to you & thank you for their cards which they like very much. I have written to Marion & told her I have met you she will be delighted I know I do so wish I could see her. She seems always in trouble I would so like to try & cheer her up a bit she says she has had a lot of trouble & a large family. Perhaps that makes her so low spirited but I don't take trouble to heart myself for lory I keep looking ahead for better days & make the best of the present. I have a good Husband one of the best of boys only he has his one Failing & that I must forget & forgive we all have our Failings but with all our up & downs I love him dearer than my life. I blow him up sometime when he is careless but Bless you it is like pouring water on a Ducks back dont laugh Arthur his heart is good & true I know & I do hope we shall be able to go to

Australia. If you really think it would better us a little I will work I should love it I am sure & not regret leaving here if he kept straight & we worked together Now dear Brother I shall be pleased to hear from you at any time & see you whenever you can get off there will always be a corner for you here & you are welcome humble though our home is. Now I must close with the best of love from children & Sisterly affection from myself. I remain your loving Sister

Queenie Benham

From the children to Uncle Arthur xxxxxxxxx

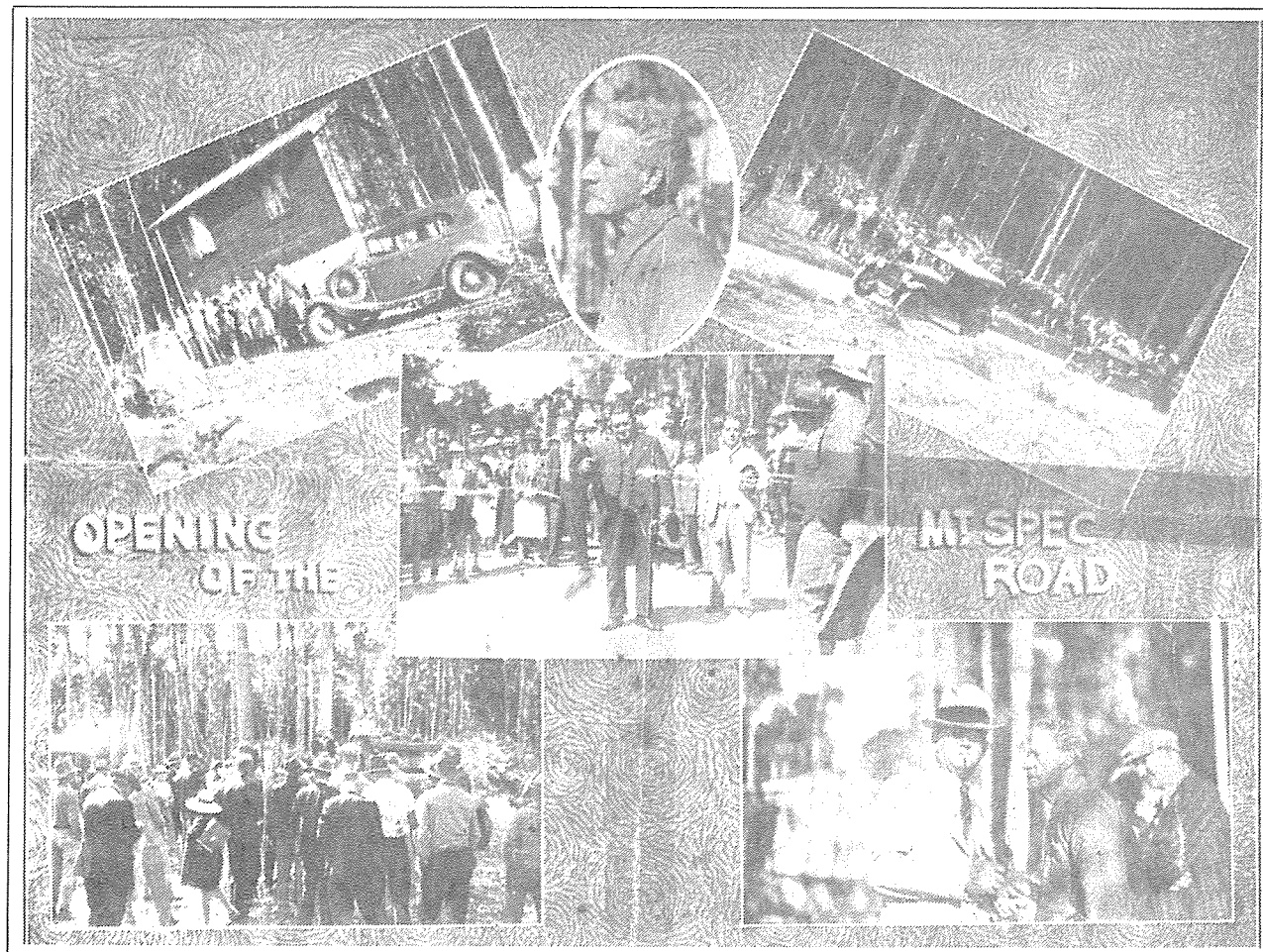


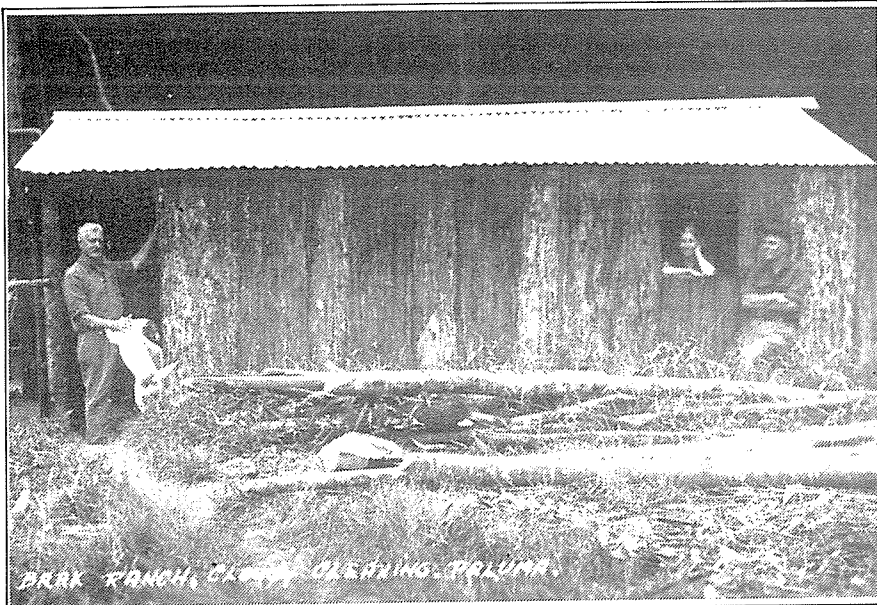
*One can imagine the thrill Arthur experienced when, years after cutting tracks through such a wide area, he watched the Mt. Spec Road being built and was a guest at its official opening.*

THE MT. SPEC Road was officially opened on Sunday, the 18 Jul., when Mr. C.G. Jesson MLA for Kennedy cut a ribbon placed across the road, held by two Townsville ladies.

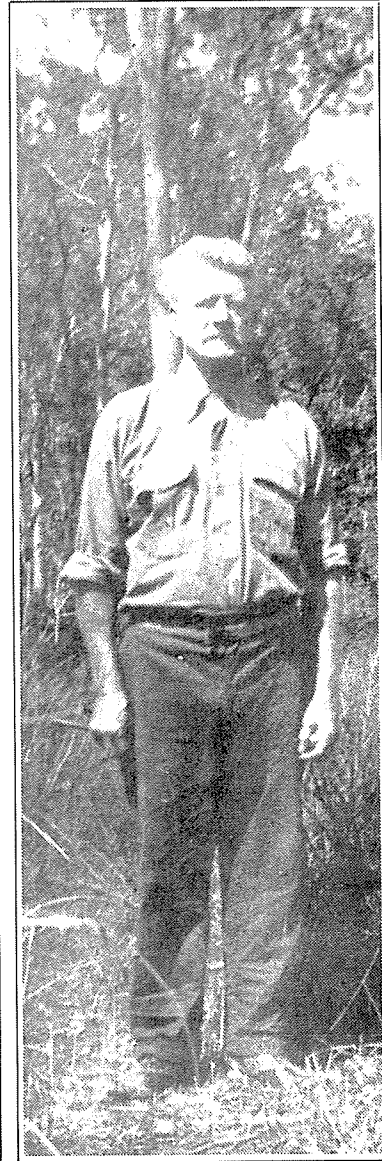
A community concert was held around a large bonfire the evening before, and many people from Townsville and Ingham attended the opening ceremony, which was organised by the Townsville and District Development Association, supported by the Railway Dept., and the Tourists' Bureau.

"But one of the happiest men at the gathering was Mr. Arthur Benham, one of the pioneers of Cloudy Clearing. Over forty years ago, with his brother, he established a home on the mountains, and some of their fruit trees are still in existence. In the old days a good deal of tin was recovered in the locality and packed to Ingham. Mr. Arthur Benham still enjoys good health and can tell many stories of mining, when the prospector carried his life in his hands. In the scrubs there were numerous aboriginals, who were more feared than trusted; although, on the whole, they were friendly to the white intruders."

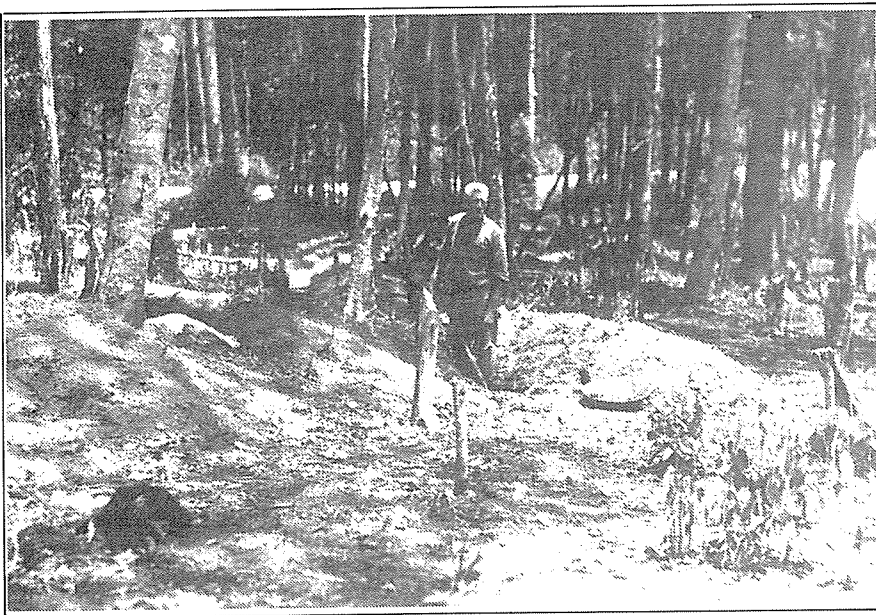




• Arthur with Darcy and Winifred Benham (nee Houston), at Arthur's bark ranch, Cloudy Clearing, Paluma. Taken on the 17 Apr., 1938.



• "Just taken for you in front of my home. I am still in the bush & wild & woolly. Your affectionate brother, Arthur Benham."

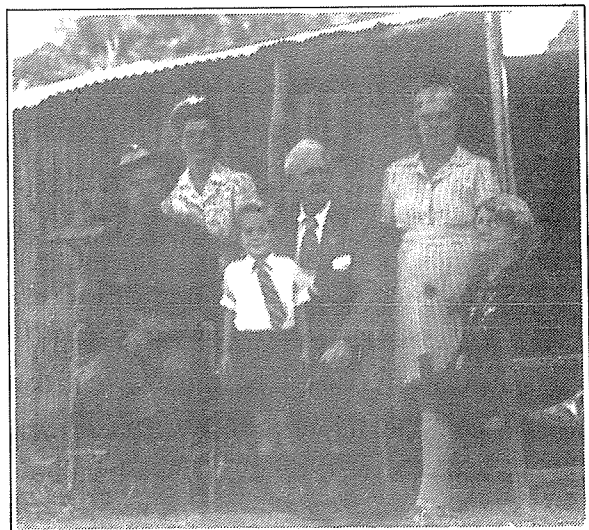


• Arthur digging for tin at Paluma. Taken on the 17 Apr., 1938.

"UNCLE ARTHUR HAD invited my mother, Ethel, my brother, Percy, and myself to have a holiday with him. Marion was staying with Arthur at the time. We travelled by bus from Rollingstone, and Uncle Arthur was at the bus stop with a small bunch of flowers for his niece, Ethel. We had a nice week with the brother and sister, staying in their bark hut. Uncle Arthur wanted Percy to work his mine for him, which never happened, as the mine was too close to the township and people were against felling the trees and so on."

—Lillian Downing (nee Hatfield)

• From left: Percy Hatfield, Lillian Downing (nee Hatfield), her son Ron Downing, Ethel Hatfield (nee Dyer), Marion Page (nee Benham).



# The Sage of Cloudy Clearing



★ THIS rough bark hut in Northern Queensland was for 20 years the home of one of the North's most colorful pioneers.

He was Arthur ("Possum") Benham, a one-time choir boy at Winchester Cathedral, England, who followed his brothers to Australia in the eighties.

The Benham brothers became well known on the mining fields of the North — found their own field, Kangaroo Hills, in 1891.

"Possum" — nicknamed because of his mop of snowy hair — lived on the field he pioneered for 60 years, the last 20 of which he spent in the famous bark hut at Cloudy Clearing.

A celebrated yarn-spinner with a vast reservoir of racy stories of the wild pioneering days, he welcomed an audience for his story-telling.

He lived alone until he was 81. Died of pneumonia at Charters Towers hospital in 1954.

*Australasian POST, February 8, 1962—Page 25*



*Courtesy Australasian Post.*

## ARTHUR BENHAM IS OLDEST RESIDENT OF MOUNT SPEC

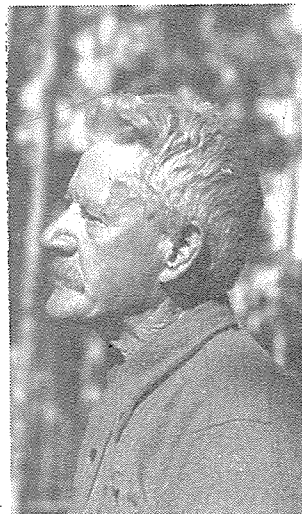
Best known identity of the Mount Spec country is Mr. Arthur Ernest Benham, who has been ill at Townsville, but expects to be about again shortly.

Arthur Ernest Benham was born at Winchester, England, on February 23, 1870. At a lad he was a choir boy in the Winchester Cathedral.

With two sisters and four brothers he came to Australia in the ship, Herbert, and landed at Townsville in 1883, and in North Queensland he has made his home since.

In his early life here he worked on the Mourilyan tramline, carrying water from the harbour to the construction camp. Then followed a period with the kanakas on a plantation on the Herbert. In 1885 he walked to Ayr and then on to Charters Towers, and he followed the construction of the railway line to Pentland. At one time he was a groom with Cobb & Co.

Mr. Benham decided to return to the Herbert, and there they became interested in tin mining on the Kangaroo Hills field. In 1892 Arthur and three brothers, Fred, Jesse and Edwin, left the Kangaroo Hills country and moved south to the Mount Spec country, settling in what is now known as Cloudy Clearing, some 52



MR. ARTHUR BENHAM  
(Laurie photo)

miles from Townsville. The period he served in World War I is the longest he has spent away from the range.

Mt. Benham, in the range, is named after the Benham brothers and Ethel Creek is named after their sister.

*Courtesy North Qld. Register.*





SARAH JANE  
BENHAM  
1870-1955



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON

Application Number *B16822*

REGISTRATION DISTRICT *Winchester* in the County of *Southampton*  
 BIRTH in the Sub-district of *Winchester*

Columns:—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10*
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
<i>18</i>	<i>24th April 1870</i> <i>(in room 34)</i>	<i>Sarah Jane</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>George Binham</i>	<i>Sarah Binham formerly Green</i>	<i>Gardener</i>	<i>Sarah Binham the wife of Robert Binham Winchester</i>	<i>Second May 1870</i>	<i>W. L. Carr</i> <i>E. H. Hildig</i> <i>Registrar</i>	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.  
 Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the *4th* day of *October* 18*74*

\*See note overleaf

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953. Section 34 provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the birth or death to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

CAUTION:—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

BXA 990573



Form A 502M DU S.349770 100M 8/54 MR 354799

Assisted, Free, Remittance, Free Nominated.  
**PASSAGE CERTIFICATE OF QUEENSLAND  
 GOVERNMENT PASSENGERS.** 92

Berth No. *16*

The Berths will be marked on board the ship on the day of embarkation. Relatives or Friends desiring to be berthed near each other should present their Tickets together. When passengers are once berthed no change must be made without special permission. Girls of 12 year and upwards, whether members of families or otherwise, are berthed in the Single Females' compartment, in charge of the Matron, and Boys of 12 are berthed with the single men.



SEE OTHER SIDE.  
**PASSENGERS' CONTRACT TICKET.**

1.—A Contract Ticket in this form must be given to every Passenger engaging a Passage from the United Kingdom to any place in Europe, and not being within the Mediterranean Sea, immediately on the payment or deposit by such Passenger of the whole or any part of the Passage Money, for, or in respect of the Passage engaged.

2.—All the Blanks must be correctly filled in, and the Ticket must be legibly signed with the Christian Names and Surname and Address in full of the Party issuing the same.

3.—The Voyage Scale for the Voyage must be printed in the body of the Ticket.

4.—The day of the Month on which the Passengers are to Embark must be inserted in Words and not in Figures.

5.—When once issued, this Ticket must not be withdrawn from the Passenger, nor any alteration, addition, or erasure made in it.

Ship *Adelaide* of *1574 Tons* Register, to take in Passengers at *Wellington*  
 for *Wellington* on the *10* day of *June* 188*5* for *QUEENSLAND*.  
 I engage that the person named in the margin hereof shall be provided with a STEERAGE Passage to, and shall be landed in QUEENSLAND, in the Ship, with not less than Ten Cubic Feet for Luggage for each Statute Adult, and shall be victualled during the Voyage and the time of detention at any place before its termination, according to the subjoined scale, for the sum of £ *7* including Government dues before Embarkation, and Head Money, if any, at the place of Landing and every other charge, except Freight for excess of Luggage beyond the quantity above specified, and I hereby acknowledge to have received the sum of £ *7* in full payment.

NAMES.	AGE.	Equal to Statute Adults.
<i>Sarah J. Benham</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>1</i>

The following quantities, at least, of Water and Provisions (to be fresh daily) will be supplied by the Master of the Ship as required by Law, viz:—  
 To each statute Adult 3 quarts of Water, daily, exclusive of what is necessary for cooking the articles required by the Passengers Act to be issued in a cooked state; and a weekly allowance of Provisions according to the following scale:—3½ lbs. of Bread or Biscuit, not inferior in quality to navy biscuit, 2 lbs. Wheaten Flour, 1 lb. Oatmeal, ½ lb. Rice, 1½ lb. Peas, 2 lbs. Potatoes, ¼ lb. Beef, 1 lb. Pork, 2 ozs. Tea, 1 lb. Sugar, 2 ozs. Salt, ½ oz. Mustard, ¼ oz. Black or White Pepper, ground, 1 gill Vinegar, 6 ozs. Lime Juice (when the ship shall be within the Tropics, during the other portions of the voyage the issue of Lime Juice shall be at the discretion of the Medical Practitioner on board), 1 lb. Preserved Meat, 6 ozs. Suet, 8 ozs. Raisins, 4 ozs. Butter.  
 SUBSTITUTIONS at the following rates, may, at the option of the Master of any Passenger Ship, be made in the above Dietary Scale, that is to say—  
 1 lb. of Preserved Meat, for 1 lb. of Salt Pork or Beef; 1 lb. of Flour or of Bread or Biscuit; or ½ lb. of Beef or of Pork; for 1½ lb. of Oatmeal, or 1 lb. of Rice or 1 lb. of Peas; or 1½ lb. of Soft Bread, baked on Board in lieu of 1 lb. of Flour, or of 1 lb. of Biscuit, or of 1½ lb. of Oatmeal, or of 1 lb. of Rice, or of 1 lb. of Peas; 1 lb. of Rice for 1½ lb. of Oatmeal, or rice *crust*; ½ lb. of Preserved Potatoes for 1 lb. of Potatoes; 10 ozs. of Currants for 8 ozs. of Raisins; 3½ ozs. of Cocoa or of Coffee roasted and ground; for 2 ozs. of Tea; ½ lb. of Treacle for ¼ lb. of Sugar; 1 gill of Mixed Pickles for 1 gill of Vinegar.  
 N.B.—Mess Utensils and Bedding to be provided by the Passengers.  
 On behalf of *Sarah J. Benham*  
 LONDON, 1885  
 Total £ *7*

**NOTICES TO PASSENGERS.**

- If Passengers through no default of their own are not received on board on the day named in the Contract Ticket, or fail to obtain a Passage in the Ship, they should apply to the Government Emigration Officer at the Port, who will assist them in obtaining a Contract Ticket, or fall to obtain a Passage in the Ship, they should address under the Passengers' Act.
- Passengers should carefully keep this part of their Contract Ticket until after the end of the Voyage.
- This Ticket must be kept clean and ready for production when the Ship is clearing at the Port.
- N.B.—This Contract Ticket is exempt from stamp duty.

*Sarah's ticket for her voyage to Australia.*

## STEERAGE DIETARY SCALE.

	ANIMAL FOOD.				BREAD STUFFS.				PRESERVED VEGETABLES.				GROCERIES.						
	Beef.	Pork.	Preserved Meats.	Suet.	Butter.	Biscuit.	Flour.	Oatmeal.	Pork.	Rice.	Peas.	Onions.	Raisins.	Tea.	Coffee, whole when roasted and ground.	Sugar.	West India Molasses.	Water.	
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	qt.	
SUNDAY ...	...	...	8 B	2	...	6	8	...	...	...	4	...	3	1/4	...	4	2	3	
MONDAY ...	8	...	...	...	3	6	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1/2	4	2	3	
TUESDAY ...	...	...	8 C B	...	...	6	8	8	...	...	4	...	...	1/4	...	...	...	3	
WEDNESDAY ...	8	...	...	2	...	6	8	...	...	...	4	...	2	...	1/2	4	2	3	
THURSDAY ...	8	...	...	...	3	6	8	...	1/4	4	...	...	...	1/4	...	...	...	3	
FRIDAY ...	...	...	8 M	...	...	6	8	8	...	...	4	...	3	...	1	4	2	3	
SATURDAY ...	8	...	...	2	...	6	8	...	1/4	...	...	...	...	1/4	...	...	...	3	
<b>WEEKLY TOTALS</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1/4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>

Cheese, 3 ozs. Weekly.    Jam and Marmalade, 2 ozs. Weekly.    Mustard...    ...    Half an ounce }  
 Mixed Pickles    ...    Half Gill } Twice    Salt    ...    Two ounces } Weekly.  
 Lime Juice, while within the Tropics 3 ounces } Weekly    Pepper, ground...    ...    Half an ounce }

### QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

Persons proceeding to Queensland who may wish to avail themselves of the Queensland Savings Bank Regulations can deposit at the Queensland Government Office, London, or with the Depositing Officer on board Ship, any sum or sums of money from one Pound and not exceeding Two Hundred Pounds. The Deposits will be repayable at any Branch of the Government Savings Bank in the Colony. The Rate of Interest allowed is five per cent. per annum, Interest commencing from the First day of the Month following that in which the deposit is made.

### LUGGAGE.

20 Cubic Feet, equal to about 5 cwt., is allowed to each Adult Passenger, but all articles for present use must be packed in Canvas Bags, one for each Adult. Boxes or Trunks cannot be allowed in the Berths or Cabins, but will be placed in that part of the Vessel appropriated for Passengers' Luggage, access to which may be had about once every fortnight.

### KIT BARD.

For each £1 Os. Od. paid, the holder of this Contract Ticket is entitled to a Kit, comprising the following articles, viz.: 1 Bed and Pillow, 1 Rug or Blanket, 1 Pair Sheets, 1 Wash Basin, 1 Plate, 1 Pint Drinking Mug, 1 Knife and Fork, 2 Spoons, 3 lbs. Marine Soap, 2 Canvas Bags, 1 Brush.

### NOTICE.

**AS THIS CONTRACT TICKET WILL BE FREQUENTLY ASKED FOR ON BOARD THE SHIP IT MUST ALWAYS BE KEPT READY AND NOT PUT IN YOUR BOX.**

• The reverse side of Sarah's ticket.

S

ARAH JANE BENHAM was born in Canon Street, Winchester, on the 5 Apr., 1870, and Baptised in the Parish Church of St. Michael, on the 18 Aug., the same year.

At the age of 15 years, Sarah sailed from London on the SS "Dacca" with her father, and brother Edwin, leaving on the 12 Jan., 1886, and arriving in Brisbane on the 9 Mar.

Following her arrival in Australia Sarah obtained live-in positions around Brisbane as a domestic. One of her places of employment being in Toowong.

Sarah met William Houston when she and Edith were crossing the Victoria Bridge. Sarah had a bundle of papers under her arm. William was with a friend, James Johnston, and as the two men approached the sisters, William doffed his hat and said to Sarah, "May I carry your music, Miss?"

Jim later became engaged to Edith and was best man for William when he and Sarah married on the 15 Jul., 1892, in South Brisbane. The two men remained life long friends.

In about 1903, Will went to Pially near Gladstone, to work as a sawyer in a timber mill. He returned to his family in Brisbane when he could at weekends. Sarah became unhappy with this way of live, so Will built a small cottage at Pially, and Sarah and their three children joined him.

There were no shops in this small community, so all provisions were delivered from Gladstone. By the time meat was delivered it was usually fly blown, and Sarah would throw it out, until the other women told her to put it into boiling water, then she could use it.

The family returned to Brisbane in 1905 and lived in Paris Street, West End, where Will worked as a Cooper in Rosalie. He was a keen fisherman and a member of the West End Fishing Club, and was very good with his hands, making most of the furniture in their home.

When Sarah's sixth child, Edith, was born, the new baby caught whooping cough from a visiting family which weakened her heart. At eighteen months of age, Edith died from measles. Sarah could no longer remain in the house where her child had died, so the family moved to Wynnum in 1912, where Will travelled by train to South Brisbane where he worked as a Cooper for Baynes Bros.

Two more moves found them in South Brisbane, then Longlands Street, East Brisbane, and finally Sarah and Will bought their own home in Bruce Street, Buranda.

Will was later forced into an early retirement when an American company had bought out Baynes Bros. and all employees over forty years of age were put off. With three young children to support, Will worked at his home making ice chests and furniture to order, and sharpening saws.

Sarah and Will lived their remaining years in Buranda. Will had been born in Graham Street, South Brisbane on the 17 Jan., 1867, one of seven children to David and Margaret Houston (nee Hendry) who had migrated from Scotland. Will, one day, spend hours walking around the area he had grown up in, reminiscing. He returned home very late, happy and full of his memories, but during the night he suffered a stroke. He was admitted to hospital where he died four days later, on the 30 Jun., 1946.

Sarah's daughter Gerty and her family had been living with Sarah and Will, and they remained with Sarah until they built their own home several years later. Sarah then lived for a short while with her son, Bill, but was able to return to her house in Buranda when relatives came to live with her. She became bedridden the last couple of years of her life and was finally admitted to a nursing home where she died a month later on the 29 Oct., 1955 in her 86th year.

Sarah had spent her life as a wife and mother and was good at crochet work, and her daughter Gerty has many happy memories of visits by uncles, aunts and cousins throughout the years.

# MARRIAGE

A 90149

Colony  
in the State of Queensland

MARRIAGE solemnised in the District of BRISBANE

19 1892

Registered by

Charles James Whitley, Deputy Registrar General

Marginal Notes (if any)	Column 1 Number . . . . .	15773	
	2 When and where married . . . . .	15th July 1892 Brisbane	
	3 Name and surname	<b>Bridegroom</b> HOUSTON William Henry	<b>Bride</b> BENHAM Sarah Jane
	4 Condition . . . . .	Bachelor	Spinster
	5 Birthplace . . . . .	South Brisbane Stanley Queensland	Winchester Hampshire England
	6 Profession, trade or occupation . . . . .	Saw Sharpener	Domestic
	7 Age . . . . .	24 years	22 years
	8 Usual place of residence . . . . .	South Brisbane	Dunnellan Estate
	Parents— 9 Father's name and surname. Mother's name and maiden surname . . . . .	David Houston Margaret Henry	George Benham Sarah Green
	10 Father's rank or profession . . . . .	Tinsmith	Contractor

Married at "Braeside" Vulture Street,  
South Brisbane

This marriage  
was solemnised  
between us

William H. Houston  
Sarah J. Benham

according to the rites of the Baptist Church

In the presence  
of us

James Johnston  
Edith Benham

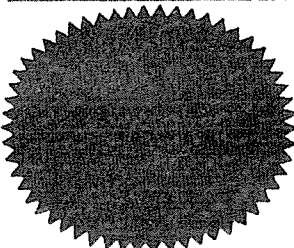
Date of registration 18th July 1892

By me

William Poole  
Officiating Minister of Religion

Signature of Registrar

CAUTION.—Whosoever shall unlawfully alter any Certified Copy of an Entry in any Register of Births, Marriages, or Deaths, whether by erasure, obliteration, removal, addition, or otherwise, is guilty of a CRIME and liable to the punishment by law provided in that behalf. (Vide Sections 486 and 488 of the "Criminal Code.")



I, Keith William Redman  
Registrar-General, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an entry in  
a Register of Marriages kept in the General Registry Office, Brisbane, and I  
further certify that I am a person duly authorised by law to issue such certificate

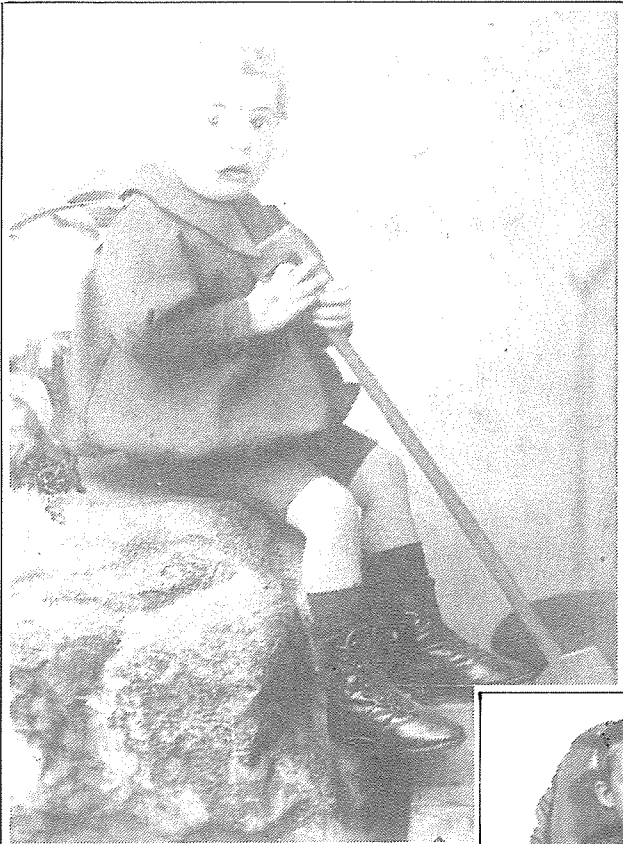
Extracted on 12 November 1985

Exd. by *[Signature]*  
tc

*[Signature]*

Registrar-General

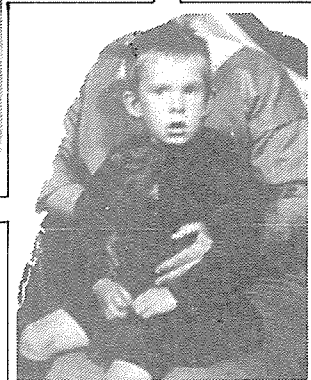
THE CHILDREN OF SARAH & WILLIAM



• *Arthur William (Arty)*



• *Frederick James (Fred)*



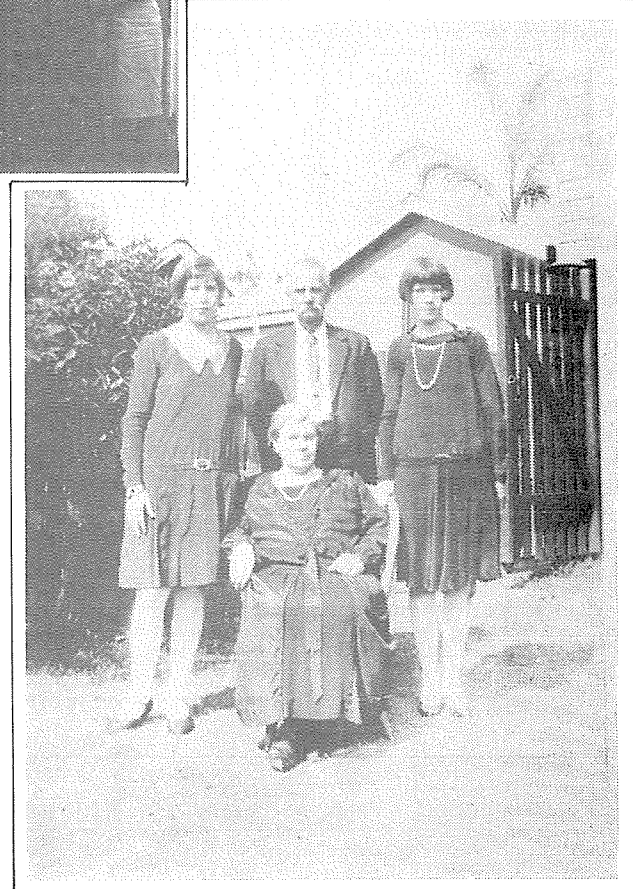
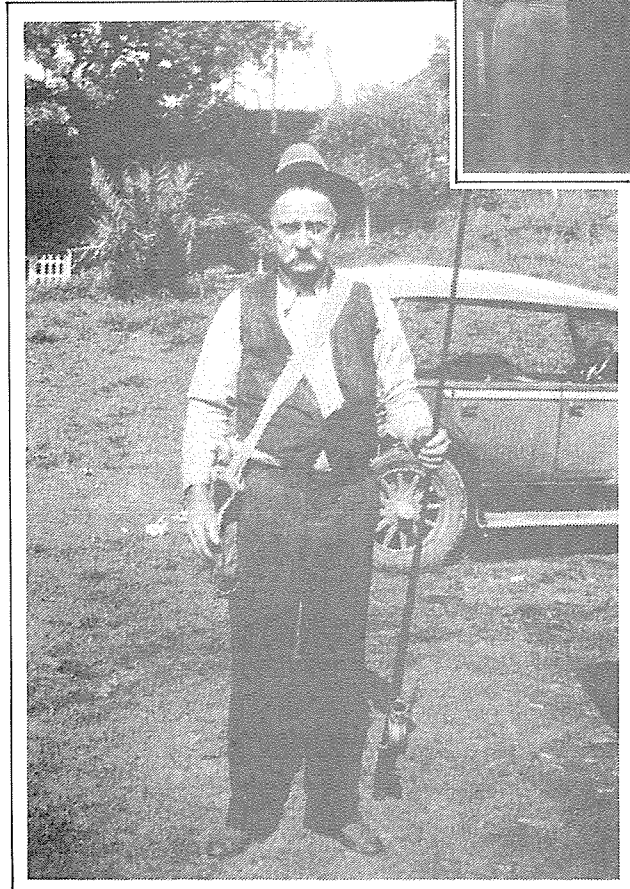
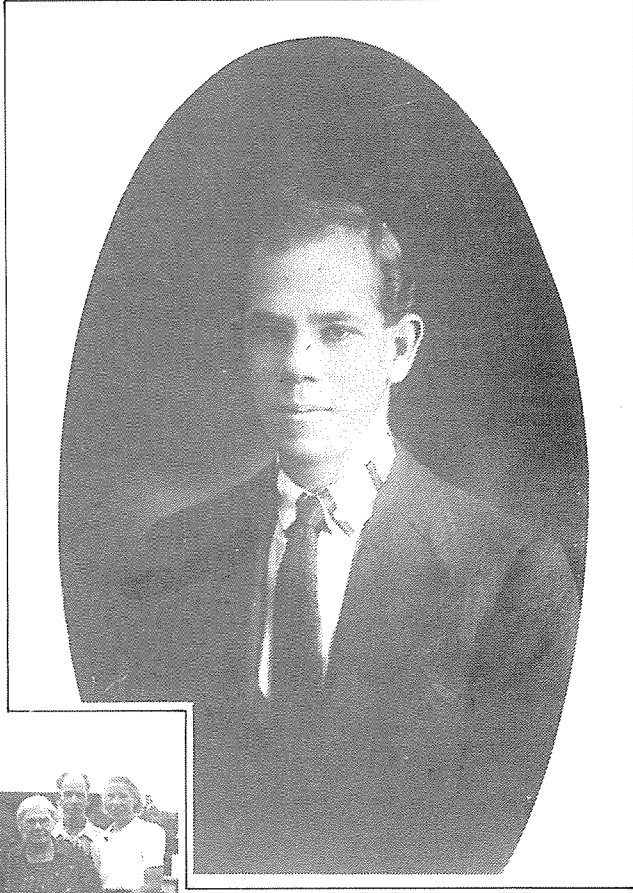
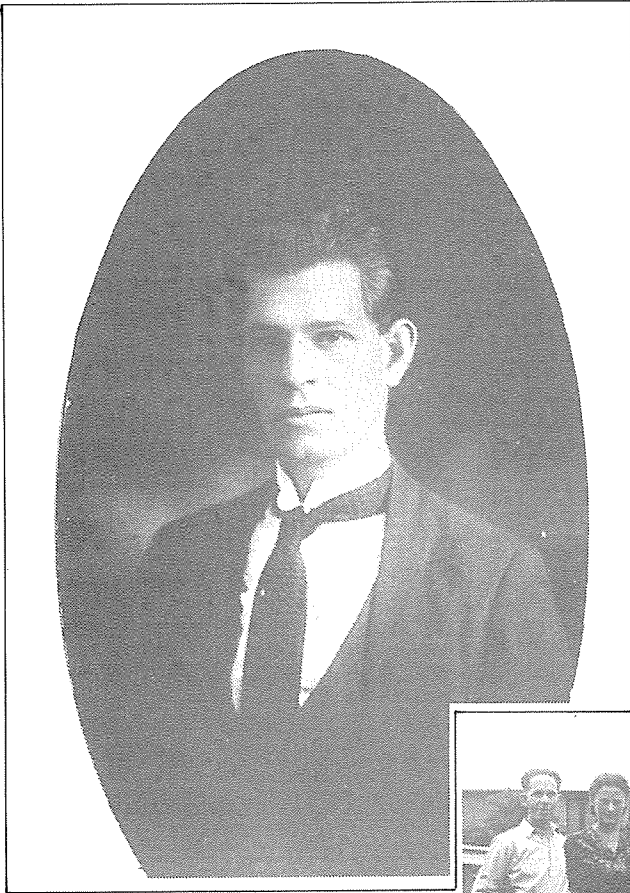
• *William Henry (Bill)*



• *Winifred Maud (Winnie)*



• *Gertrude Ellen (Gerty)*



● Clockwise (from top left): Arthur Houston; Fred Houston; Sarah and William Houston with Gertrude (left) and Winifred (right); William Houston. ● Centre photo (left to right): William and Audrey Houston, Sarah, Frederick and Winifred.



## THE CHILDREN OF SARAH & WILLIAM



● *Family group on the steps of Arthur Houston's house at Geebung— Back row (from left): Janice Ireland, Arthur, Gertrude, Bill; Second row: Don, Rodney and Sarah; Front: Violet, Thelma and Audrey.*



● *From left: Sarah, Will, and Edith Lynch (nee Benham).*

### ARTHUR WILLIAM HOUSTON

*b* 18 Nov 1893/South Brisbane  
*d* 17 Nov 1953/Brisbane

### FREDERICK JAMES HOUSTON

*b* 9 Sep 1895/Brisbane  
*d* 29 Jul 1975

### GERTRUDE ELLEN HOUSTON

*b* 15 Nov 1901/Brisbane

### WINIFRED MAUD HOUSTON

*b* 13 Sep 1905/Brisbane  
*d* 28 Dec 1971/Kingaroy

### WILLIAM HENRY HOUSTON

*b* 7 Dec 1909/Brisbane

\*

### EDITH MAY HOUSTON

*b* Jun 1910/Brisbane  
*d* 7 Dec 1911/Brisbane

#### 1: Arthur William Houston

*b* 18 Nov 1893/South Brisbane  
*d* 17 Nov 1953/Brisbane  
*m* Violet Priscilla Hudd  
*b* Apr 1895(?)/Brisbane  
*d* 22 May 1967/Brisbane

#### *children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Thelma May Houston

*b* 17 Feb 1925/Sydney  
*d* 24 Apr 1948/Brisbane  
*m* Henry Wood  
Detail not available

#### *children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Raymond Henry Wood(?)

*b* 1948(?)  
Detail not available

\*Late Entries Page 187

2: Frederick James Houston

b 9 Sep 1895/Brisbane

d 29 Jul 1975

m Elizabeth (Bessie) Menzies

b 24 Jul 1904/Glasgow, Scotland

children 1: Valmai Elizabeth Houston

b 22 Feb 1925/Sydney

m Ronald McInnes Sutherland

b 20 Sep 1922/Glasgow, Scotland

children 1: Linda Anne Sutherland

b 24 Dec 1953/Sydney

m Francesco Guiliano Bellanato

b 29 Aug 1947/Mirano, Venice, Italy

children 1: Chiara Elizabeth Bellanato

b 26 Jul 1983/Kogarah, NSW

2: Frederick William Houston (Bill)

b 7 Jan 1928/Sydney

m Marie Murkins

b 18 Dec 1926/Sydney

children 1: Jennifer Houston

b 17 Jan 1956/Sydney

m Thomas William Hole

b 12 Sep 1952/Kent, England

\*

2: Cathy Houston

b 15 Mar 1958/Sydney

3: Irene (Mary) Houston

b 13 Jul 1931/Sydney

m Raymond Hepple

b 15 Dec 1926/Newcastle, NSW

children 1: Noni Lee Hepple

b 12 Dec 1953/Sydney

m Jeremy Callaghan

b 1948/Birmingham, UK

\*

2: Mark Hepple

b 15 Jun 1955/Sydney

3: Gertrude Ellen Houston

b 15 Nov 1901/Brisbane

m Dugald Victor Ireland

b 13 Aug 1906/Eureka, Vic

d 20 Jul 1957/Camp Hill, Brisbane

children 1: Janice Ireland

b 16 Feb 1937/Brisbane

m Graham John Fitzpatrick

b 4 Sep 1934/Brisbane

m Francis Leslie Whitmee

b 5 May 1944/Rockhampton

children 1: Jeffrey Graham Fitzpatrick

b 3 May 1959/Wynnum

\*

2: Colin John Fitzpatrick

b 15 Dec 1960/Wynnum

4: Winifred Maud Houston

b 13 Sep 1905/Brisbane

d 28 Dec 1971/Kingaroy

m Darcy Edward Benham

b 2 Nov 1904/Ewan,

d 21 Jun 1973/Kingaroy

children 1: Bryon Darcy Benham

b 22 Nov 1931/Home Hill

\*Late Entries Page 187

d 25 Nov 1931/Home Hill

5: William Henry Houston

*b* 7 Dec 1909/Brisbane

\*

*m* Audrey Emmett

*b* 8 Jul 1916/Brisbane

*children* -----

1: Donald William Houston

*b* 1 Mar 1939/Brisbane

*m* Margaret Ann Evans

*b* 10 Oct 1943/Victoria

*children* -----

1: Andrea Jane Houston

*b* 5 Nov 1971/Brisbane

2: Craig Andrew Houston

*b* 19 Mar 1974/Brisbane

2: Rodney Henry Houston

*b* 1 Nov 1943/Brisbane

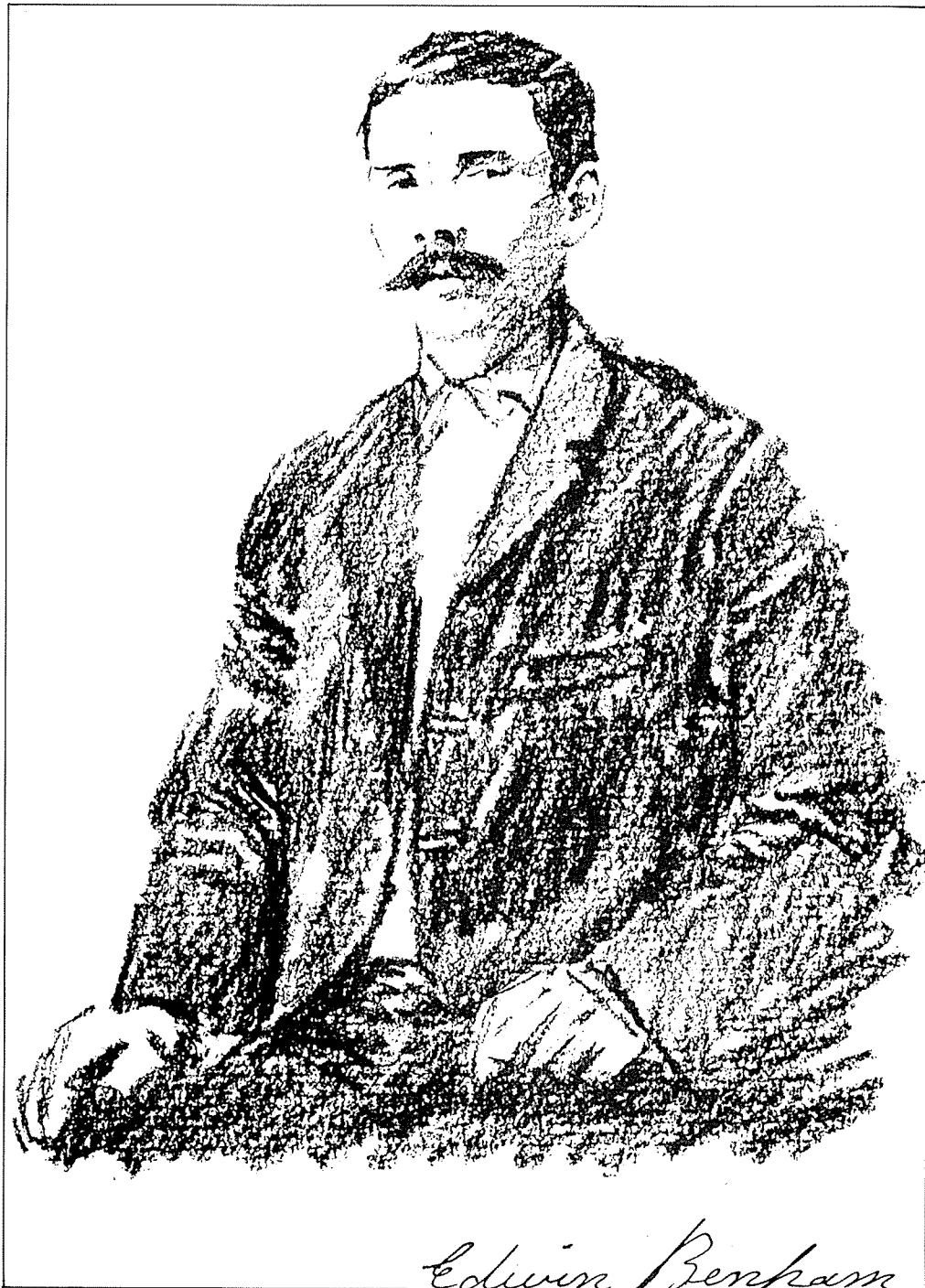
6: Edith May Houston

*b* (?) Jun 1910

*d* 7 Dec 1911



EDWIN HENRY  
BENHAM  
1871-1949



*Edwin Benham*

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON

Application Number Y 18,689



REGISTRATION DISTRICT Winchester in the County of Southampton

1871. BIRTH in the Sub-district of Winchester

Columns:—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10*
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
197	<i>Sturley Field</i> <i>May 1871</i> <i>Sturley Field</i>	<i>Edwin</i> <i>Henry</i>	<i>Boy</i>	<i>George</i> <i>Benham</i>	<i>Sarah Benham</i> <i>formerly</i> <i>Green</i>	<i>Gardener</i>	<i>George Benham</i> <i>father</i> <i>Benham Street</i> <i>Winchester</i>	<i>June 1871</i>	<i>William</i> <i>Edward</i> <i>Registrar</i>	—

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned  
 Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the 7th day of March 1985

\*See note on back



BXB 035852

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953. Section 34 provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the birth or death to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

CAUTION:—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate, or a copy of a false certificate, intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

Form A 523B. D4 81497/6-100M 8 84 M 10/1/79

D9

**E**DWIN HENRY BENHAM was born in Canon Street, Winchester, on the 21st May, 1871, and was Baptised in the Parish Church of St. Michael, on the 28 Jan., 1872. At the age of 15 years he sailed on the Ship SS "Dacca" with his father George, and sister Sarah, leaving London on the 12 Jan., 1886, and arriving in Brisbane on the 9 Mar.

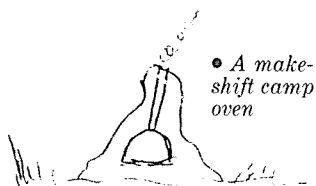
We do not know at what age Edwin joined his brothers in North Queensland, but there seems to be a general belief that he remained in Brisbane for a while, perhaps working until he went north.

Edwin was a very quiet and gentle man and apparently had a heart problem, but it did not prevent him from living the life he chose in the bush for many years. He was slim with light brown fine hair, olive complexion and blue eyes, and later in life wore strong gold rimmed glasses. He may have had rhumatic fever sometime in his life, as he walked with a slight twist to one side.

<sup>1</sup>In 1889 Edwin, Arthur, Fred and Joseph Kenny were prospecting for tin in the Mt. Spec area starting at Prospector's Creek, later going further afield where they struck a good lode. It was this discovery and their remark that the lode was a good "Spec" which gave the theory that the Benham brothers gave Mt. Spec its name. However, research has been done regarding the naming of Mt. Spec, and other stories include a lead pack horse which the miners could see from a distance named "Old Spec" because of the white spot on his face, and a likely theory that the mountain was named after a brig. "HM Survey Sloop Paluma" was surveying the coast north of Townsville in 1886, and the range was named after this survey sloop. What more natural than the highest peak of the range should be named after the brig "The Spec" probably well known to the commander of the *Paluma*.

When Edwin and his brothers were exploring, they would try to avoid the aboriginals in the area rather than face the possibility of an attack. On one occasion Edwin and Arthur had been caught out in a storm and had come across an aboriginal camp. The men were all out hunting, and the women took pity on the two brothers, inviting them into the camp, and giving them a hot drink. The hunters then returned unexpectedly, and Edwin and Arthur were hidden by the women. The next morning when the men left their camp, the women helped the two men out of hiding, and they left very quickly.

Not being able to come to town regularly, prospectors had to salt their own beef. A beast was killed, its meat cut into approximately ten-inch squares, and these pieces soaked in wooden casks full of brine (salted water) for twenty-four hours. When taken from the brine, coarse salt was continuously rubbed into the meat, and repeated three times before the meat was laid out to dry. Smaller pieces were done the same way and were often placed over the shafts of the dray to dry. The meat, when dry, was very hard, and kept in corn sacks. When needed, a large piece of meat was soaked in water till soft, then boiled till cooked—corn-beef.



If needed, a camp oven could be made from an ant hill by scraping out a hole in the side and then tunnelling down from the top, making a small hole for a chimney. A fire was built inside to make coals on which they cooked their "buggers". These were little scones made from the damper recipe. A comment often heard around the camp fires was "Throw the buggers on the fire."

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of Capt. R. Burla (Ret.), 2 RQR "Following the Blazed Paths". Researched by Sydney May.

It seems Edwin spent most of his life tin mining, although in the 1902 Post Office Directory, he and Arthur both gave their occupations as "Farmer, Hidden Valley". Each time he sold some tin he would have a holiday with his married brothers, Fred, George or Jesse. Grace can remember him staying with them for a time during World War I. Owing to ill health, Edwin gave up tin mining and left Paluma. He went to live with his brother George and wife Margaret in Dundee Lane, Queenton, Charters Towers. Melba Hammond can remember him being there when she was about ten years old. This would be 1923-24. He lived with them for many years.

At one time, Margaret had a very bad leg and it often forced her to bed for long periods. During this time, Edwin took over the cooking. He would be up early each morning to light the fire and make the breakfast, then clear the table and wash up. By this time it was about 9 a.m. and he would walk the two miles into town to meet his friends and have a beer with them. There were no outdoor seats in the town then, so the men all sat on the footpath gutter in the street to talk. He always arrived home by 11 o'clock with something for lunch.

Edwin and Margaret occasionally argued, so Edwin would pack his things, board a train and disappear for a few months. We think he probably visited his brothers, as Ilma Dance remembers him coming to visit Jesse's farm at Home Hill. "He was a very gently, kindly uncle, whom I remember with affection. He was very thin and softly spoken."

Without warning, Edwin would return to George and Margaret's, walking down the lane carrying his suitcase and his coat over his arm. The children loved him, and upon seeing him would yell "Uncle is coming", running down the lane to meet him. Any cries from Margaret against his return were lost in the noisy greeting from the children.

In 1936 Edwin left Charters Towers and went to Tully to live with his niece Grace and her husband Syd Crowther. He was then on the pension, receiving seventeen shillings a week. Ten shillings was given to Grace for board and the remainder he kept for tobacco and a couple of beers. He never spent money on himself and did not wear socks, but wrapped his feet with strips of cloth.

Edwin worked about the house and garden doing odd jobs for Grace. He always told Grace her cooking was great. He had a very nice voice and would sit out the back singing lovely old songs. He enjoyed his time with Grace and was very sad when he left.

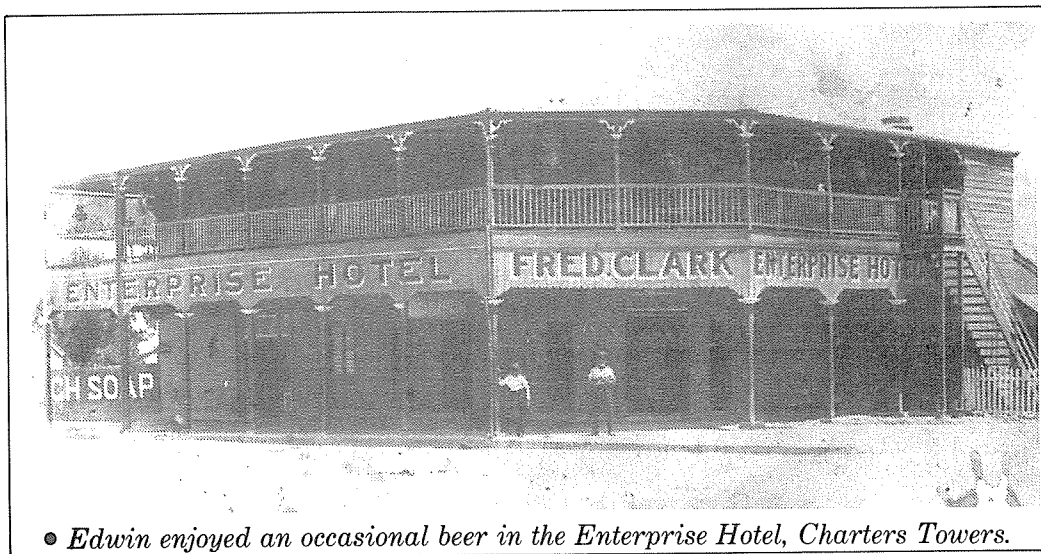
On his return to Charters Towers in 1940, Edwin went to live with his niece, Lavinia Paterson. After a while he decided to build a shack for himself beside the Mullock heap between Lavinia's and George and Margaret's houses. He lived there for the rest of his life.

He enjoyed a couple of drinks at the Enterprise Hotel, opposite the Railway Station, and occasionally an old chap would talk to him, but he had few friends, probably as most of the friends he had made years before were tin miners who had passed on or left the area.

About four times a year he would come up to George's and have a meal with them, George, Margaret, Dorrie and Ivy. He spent most of his time on his own.

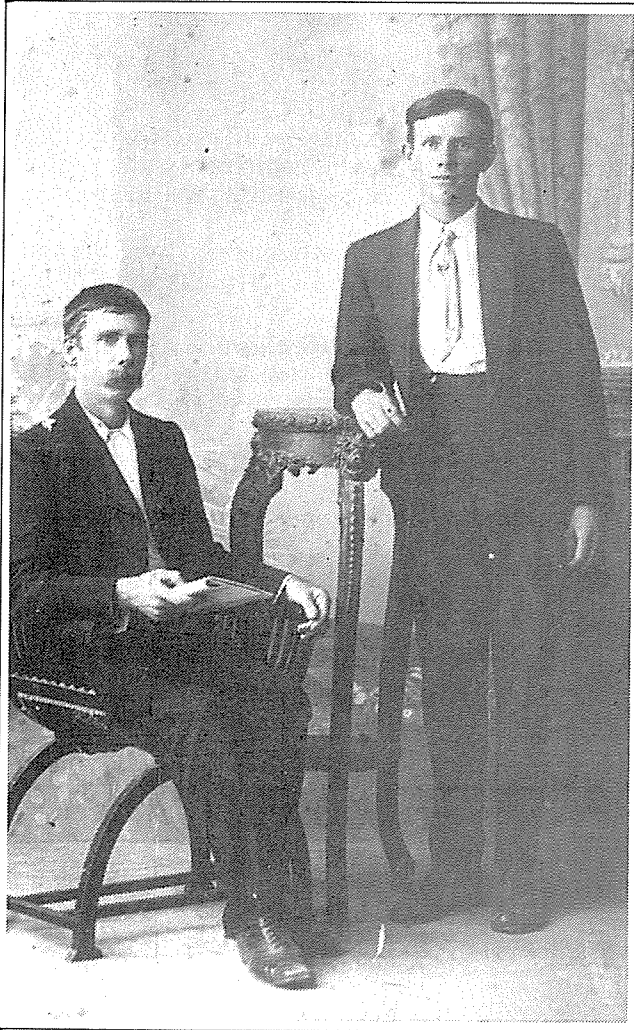
When Fred Kammerer (Ivy's husband) was interned during World War II, Edwin ambled down each evening to play cards and cribbage with his niece Ivy. Around 11 p.m., after supper, he would walk home.

Slowly, Edwin deteriorated and became very ill. He was admitted to the Charters Towers District Hospital, where he died several weeks later, on the 31 Mar., 1949, in his seventy-eighth year. His funeral moved from the rear of the hospital for a grave-side service at the Charters Towers Cemetery. We have been unable to locate his unmarked grave.



• Edwin enjoyed an occasional beer in the Enterprise Hotel, Charters Towers.





• *Edwin with George Albert Benham Jr.*



• *Edwin, date unknown.*



• *Arthur (left), Edwin (centre) and a friend. Believed to have been taken before 1900.*

*A study of the Mining Records held at the Queensland Archives has produced the following claims in which Edwin was involved, other than those mentioned in previous chapters.*

*Claim No.25*<sup>1</sup> On Tuesday, 28 Mar., 1899 at 11 a.m., Arthur and Edwin marked off ground 5 chain x 6 chain, situated at Saltwater Creek, Mt. Spec, applying for registration as a Claim. Their Miner's Rights numbers were 2302 and 2301. The registration was granted on the 12 Jul., 1899.

On the 3 May and 4 Jul., 1899, the two men applied for exemption from work for this claim "(1) Owing to the heavy inflow of water. (2) To collect funds to sink shaft." This was granted on the 26 Jul.

*Claim No.26*<sup>2</sup> On Tuesday, 28 Mar., at 1 p.m., Arthur and Edwin marked off ground 5 chain x 6 chain, situated at Saltwater Creek, Mt. Spec, applying for registration as a Claim. Their Miner's Rights numbers were 2302 and 2301. The registration was granted on the 12 Jul., 1899.

On the 3 May and 4 Jul., 1899, the two men applied for exemption from work for this claim as per Claim No.25.

These two claims were situated on the western and eastern ends of another claim held by Lee and Uhr.

*Claim No.36*<sup>3</sup> On the 12 Jun., 1899, at 2 o'clock, Edwin and Joseph Kenny marked off ground 12 chain x 5 chain, situated at the head of Prospector's Creek, applying for registration as an extended Lode Claim. Edwin's Miner's Right was No.2301. The registration was rejected on the 30 Aug., 1899.



● Shareholders in the mine "Majestic". Back row (from left): Jesse Benham, Matt Nolan, Bill Sutherland. Front row: Arthur Benham, Joe Kenny, Fred Benham and Edwin Benham.

EDITH  
BENHAM  
1872-1952



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON

Application Number *B16822*

REGISTRATION DISTRICT *Winchester* in the County of *SOUTHAMPTON*  
 BIRTH in the Sub-district of *Winchester*

Columns:—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10*
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
	<i>Twenty seventh 20th August 1872 Canon Street</i>	<i>Edith</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>George Bertram</i>	<i>Sarah Bertram formerly Green</i>	<i>Gardener</i>	<i>Sarah Bertram Mother Canon Street Winchester</i>	<i>Second October 1872</i>	<i>William Atheridge Registrar</i>	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.  
 Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the *4th* day of *October* 19*84*

\*See note on page 1.

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953. Section 34 provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the birth or death to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

CAUTION:—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or to cause to be made a certificate or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

Form A 923M. D41519770. 10001. S. 15. M. 10. 1972.



BXA 990574

**E**DITH BENHAM was born in the garrison city of Winchester, England, on the 27th Aug., 1872, and was baptised in the Parish Church of St. Michael, Winchester on the 26 Jan., 1873. She was one of fifteen children.

Her father, George Benham, was a dispensing chemist at Guys Hospital, London. He was fifteen years older than his wife, Sarah Green, who was little more than a schoolgirl when they married.

George gave up his profession to go into business and owned a collection of shops in Cannon Street, Winchester. The family was quite affluent until the shops were destroyed in a fire one Sunday morning when the family were at church.

George was an elder in the Anglican Church, and the children had a strictly religious upbringing. One son, Arthur, was a soloist in the choir of Winchester Cathedral. Oddly enough, George's own father had some fame as an astrologer.

Edith was an adventurous child, and at about eight years of age she fell from a bridge into a weir and was saved from death in the wheel of a water mill by a workman who plucked her out with a bailing hook. On another occasion, she was lost outside the city, gathering flowers, and was rescued by a soldier returning to barracks.

After her experience in the weir, Edith developed rheumatic fever and was seriously ill for a time.

At school, Edith showed a talent for sewing. When her school was visited by the elderly Queen Victoria, Edith was presented with a silver thimble for having "the cleanest, neatest sampler".

At fourteen years of age, she left school and was apprenticed to learn tailoring for the next two years.

Meanwhile, her father had left England for Australia, after the fire disaster. He took another daughter, Sarah, and son Edwin with him to join five other children who were already in Australia (Fred, Emily, George, Jesse and Arthur). Edith was the eldest child then left at home.

Her mother took over the Albert Inn, in Winchester, and the remainder of the family went to live there. The inn was supposedly haunted, and Edith and her sisters used to sit up until midnight to watch for the twelve ladies in white, carrying lamps, who were supposed to descend the stairs. However, there is no record that they ever managed to catch sight of them.

The inn mostly catered for soldiers who were billeted there.

When Edith was sixteen, her father sent for her and her two younger sisters, Marion and Ethel. They travelled to Australia on the ship "*Jumna*" under the care of the ship's doctor.

The journey took nine weeks and they met very bad weather (near Thursday Island?). They were battered down for three days.

They arrived on a Sunday afternoon, but their father had not received the letter announcing their arrival. Their father had strolled down to see the ship from England, out of curiosity, and was surprised to find his daughters standing on the wharf, wearing their name tags.

He took them to stay with their sister, Emily, who had married and settled at Belmont. Edith obtained a position as a companion and mother's help for two years, after which she became a shop assistant at Edwards and Lambs, in Queens Street. Late night shopping then meant till midnight, to catch the theatre crowds! Assistants in the showroom were required to wear black frocks and behave in a very proper, lady-like manner.

At eighteen years of age, Edith became engaged to a young man named James Johnston, who was a cooper by trade. They remained engaged for seven years, but never married.

At twenty-one, Edith lost all her possessions, except the contents of one trunk brought from England, in the 1893 Brisbane flood. She was rescued from the roof of the Plough Inn, in Stanley Street, and taken to safety with others in a rowing boat.

At twenty-five, Edith visited her sister, Marion, who had married James Page, and was living at Tumbulgum on the Tweed River. There she met James' brother, Frederick Guy Page, who she married after three weeks acquaintance.

She accompanied her husband to western Queensland, where he worked as a stockman and she learned to shoot a rifle for protection during his absences. Back in Brisbane, they settled at Moggill where he operated the ferry across the Brisbane River, as he had done on the Tweed River before their marriage.

They settled at Stanley Street, South Brisbane, and Frederick worked on the boat taking coal from Ipswich to Brisbane. There were five children of the marriage, two boys and three girls. One girl, Edith, died at eighteen months of age.

In 1907, Frederick was drowned in the Brisbane River while trying to swim out to the boat. He was a strong swimmer, but had become entangled in water lillies.

As a young widow with children to support, Edith was resilient. She commenced a dress-making shop at Woolloongabba, where she stayed for five years. She worked very hard, sometimes working all night, making theatrical costumes. She built up a successful business and eventually had a staff of eight girls.

She sold the business in 1912 and bought a boarding house at East Brisbane, catering for young gentlemen. When the First World War broke out, the young men all enlisted and Edith remarried and moved to Buranda.

Her second husband was a Dublin born Irishman, Peter Joseph Patrick Lynch, and they had two children, a boy and a girl.

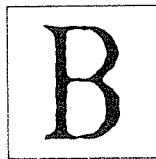
Peter worked in various labouring jobs, but in his later years, in 1929, when they had moved to Coorparoo, they ran a travelling library. Peter travelled about Brisbane with a horse and sulky and a small black dog.

Peter Lynch died in 1942, and Edith lived on at Coorparoo for five years. Her youngest son and his wife lived with her.

In 1947 she moved to live with her daughter, Ethel, and her family at Wynnum, and stayed there until her death in 1951, on the 2 Jan., in her eightieth year.

Edith was a lady of strong character and determined opinions. She was devoted to her children and overcame obstacles that would have defeated a lesser personality. She retained her faculties of intelligence and wit until her death, and took a keen interest in the world about her.

*Written by Ethel and Robin Shepherd.*



“MUM SAYS GRANDMA sang and told stories continually, especially when she was a young widow running her dress-making business and wanted to keep the children good while she was sewing.

I certainly remember her quoting all the old proverbs and sayings. As an old lady she listened avidly to all the old radio serials and I have always thought she would have been delighted by television.”

*Robin Shepherd.*

# MARRIAGE

A 90150

MARRIAGE solemnised in the District of BRISBANE Colony in the State of Queensland

1897 Registered by Richard Baron Howard Deputy Registrar-General

Marginal Notes (if any)	Column 1 Number	18433	
	2 When and where married	6 January 1897 Brisbane	
	3 Name and surname	<b>Bridegroom</b> PAGE Frederick	<b>Bride</b> BENHAM Edith
	4 Condition	Bachelor	Spinster
	5 Birthplace	Cleveland Queensland	Winchester Hants England
	6 Profession, trade or occupation	Labourer	Domestic
	7 Age	29 years	24 years
	8 Usual place of residence	Stanley Street South Brisbane	Stanley Street South Brisbane
	9 Parents— Father's name and surname. Mother's name and maiden surname	James Guy Page Sarah Drake	George Benham Sarah Green
	10 Father's rank or profession	Saddler	Contractor

Married at "Braeside" Volture Street South Brisbane

This marriage was solemnised between us } Frederick Page  
Edith Benham

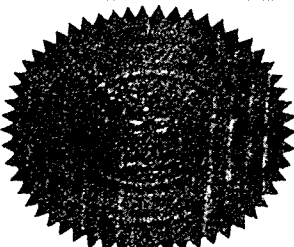
according to the rites of the Baptist Church

In the presence of us } Mary Poole  
Lilian Margaret Poole

Date of registration 13 January 1897

By me William Poole  
Officiating Minister or Registrar

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~



I, Keith William Redman

Registrar-General, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an entry in a Register of Marriages kept in the General Registry Office, Brisbane, and I further certify that I am a person duly authorised by law to issue such certificate

Extracted on 12 November 1985

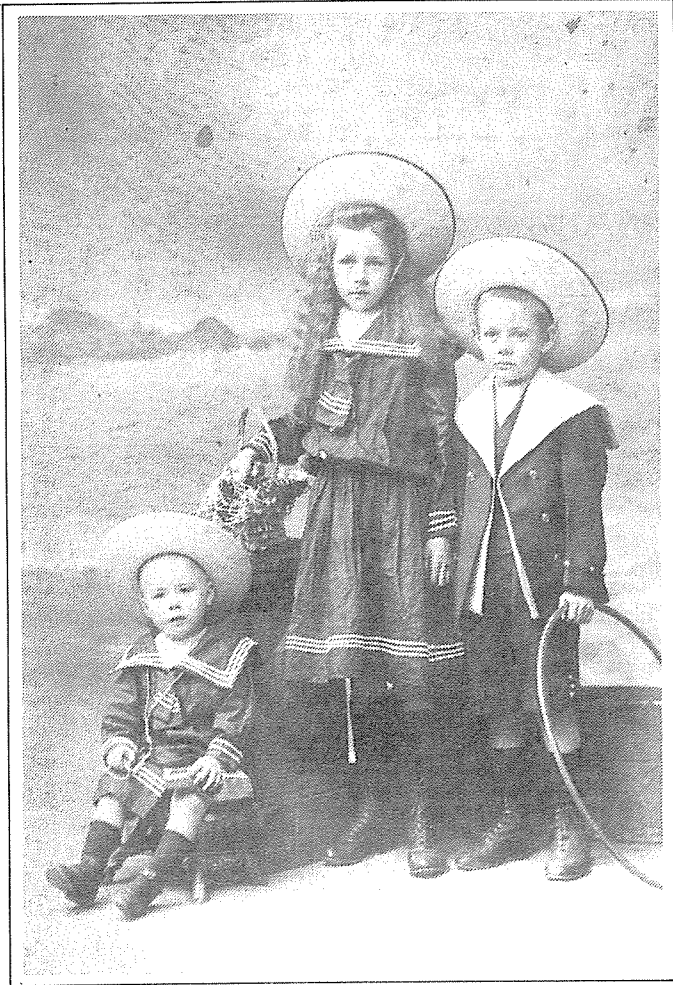
Exd. by

*Handwritten signature of Keith William Redman*

Registrar-General

CAUTION.—Whosoever shall unlawfully alter any Certified Copy of an Entry in any Register of Births, Marriages, or Deaths, whether by erasure, obliteration, removal, addition, or otherwise, is guilty of a CRIME and liable to the punishment by law provided in that behalf. (Wide Sections 486 and 488 of the "Criminal Code.")

THE CHILDREN OF EDITH & FREDERICK PAGE



• *Elsie May, Charles Aubrey and John.*



• *Ethel Amy.*



SCHEDULE D.

28 VICTORIAE No. 15.

\* \* (COPY OF) CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

† Insert Minister's or Registrar's Christian Name and Surname at full length.

I, William Bell being

Insert Designation.

Minister of the Baptist denomination

a Church or place where Celebrated.

do hereby certify that I have this day at my house, Kullura St., S. Brisbane duly celebrated Marriage between

Insert Bridegroom's Name (in full) Peter Joseph Lynch

Rank or Occupation Labourer

Residence Boundary St., Spring Hill, Brisbane

Condition (Bachelor or Widower) Bachelor

BRIDEGROOM

Age (Last birthday) 45 (forty five)

Birthplace (or Place) Dublin (County or State) Dublin (Country) Ireland

Father's Name (Christian Name and Surname in full) John Lynch

Father's Rank or Profession Lammer & Currier (deceased)

Mother's Name (Christian Name) Margaret (Maiden Surname) Farrell

AND

Insert Bride's Name (Christian Name and Surname in full) Edith Page

Rank or Occupation (if any) Dress maker

Residence Trinity St., E. Brisbane

Condition (Spinster or Widow) Widow

BRIDE

Age (Last birthday) 42 (forty two)

Birthplace (or Place) Winchester (County or State) Hampshire (Country) England

Father's Name (Christian Name and Surname in full) George Benjamin

Father's Rank or Profession Contractor (deceased)

Mother's Name (Christian Name) Sarah (Maiden Surname) Green

WITNESSES (2 Witnesses Name in full)

Before Sarah Jane Houston and William Henry Houston after declaration duly made as by law required.

DATED this ninth day of January 1915

William Bell (Signature of Minister or Registrar)

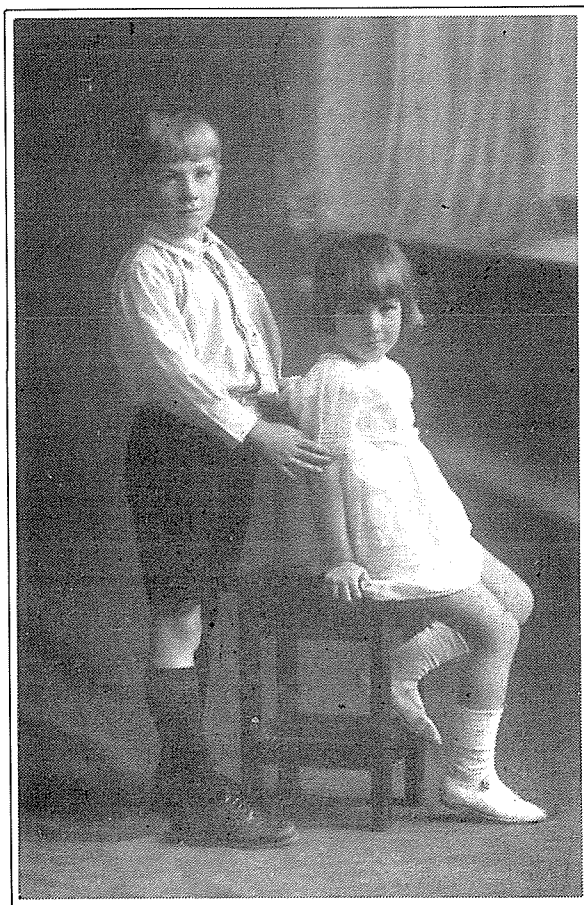
Signatures of Parties to the Marriage

Peter Joseph Lynch

Sarah Jane Houston  
William Henry Houston

\* \* To be handed by the Minister or Registrar to the parties Married immediately after the Marriage.

THE CHILDREN OF EDITH & PETER LYNCH



• *Harold Edgar and Norma Hazel.*

# THE CHILDREN OF EDITH AND FREDERICK PAGE

ELSIE MAY PAGE  
b 12 Oct 1897/Brisbane

\*

CHARLES AUBREY PAGE  
b 17 Sep 1899/Townsville  
d 13 Jun 1979

EDITH MARION PAGE  
b 21 Jul 1901/Tumbulgum NSW  
d 30 Sep 1902

JOHN PAGE  
b 12 Jul 1904/Brisbane

ETHEL AMY PAGE  
b 5 Oct 1906/Brisbane

1: Elsie May Page  
b 12 Oct 1897/Brisbane

\*

m Thomas Walter Shephard  
b Unknown  
d 11 Jul 1976

children 1: Audrey Elsie Shephard

b 15 May 1935

Further detail not available

2: Charles Aubrey Page  
b 17 Sep 1899/Townsville  
d 13 Jun 1979  
m Eileen Law  
Further detail not available

3: Edith Marion Page  
b 21 Jul 1901/Tumbulgum, NSW  
d 30 Sep 1902

4: John (Jack) Page  
b 12 Jul 1904/Brisbane  
m Edith Minnie Newman  
b 10 Jun 1906/Brisbane

children 1: John Charles Page

b 8 Feb 1932/Brisbane

m Winifred Beach

b 24 May 1930/Brisbane

children

1: John Douglas Page

b 26 Dec 1954/Brisbane

m Helen Whyte

b 11 Apr 1954/Brisbane

\*

2: Sandra Gayle Page  
b 9 May 1961/Brisbane  
m Robert Ernest Boardman  
b 20 Jan 1961/Brisbane

children 1: Drew Robert Boardman  
b 22 Jul 1983/Brisbane

3: Sheryl Ann Page  
b 25 Mar 1963/Brisbane  
m Martin Kenneth Crane  
b 8 Apr 1955/Rockhampton

children 1: Luke Kenneth Crane

b 17 Jun 1983/Charleville

\*Late Entries Page 187

2: Pamela June Page

*b* 29 Jun 1941/Brisbane  
*m* Stanley Wayne Lovejoy  
*b* 5 May 1939/Brisbane

- children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Kim Aaron Lovejoy  
*b* 29 Dec 1960/Brisbane
- 2: Karen Anne Lovejoy  
*b* 15 Mar 1962/Brisbane
- 3: Mark Shayne Lovejoy  
*b* 10 May 1964/Brisbane

5: Ethel Amy Page

*b* 5 Oct 1906/Brisbane  
*m* George Alfred Shepherd  
*b* 12 Nov 1905/Warwick

- children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Owen George Shepherd  
*b* 16 Feb 1930/Coorparoo  
*m* Gweneth Rose Burton  
*b* 5 Dec 1926/Brisbane  
*d* 23 Jan 1979/Brisbane  
*m* Marylou Sanchez  
*b* 13 Oct 1952/Phillipines
- children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Gary Owen Shepherd  
*b* 27 Aug 1955/Brisbane
- 2: Randell Leigh Shepherd  
*b* 4 Mar 1958/Brisbane  
*m* Rayne-Elizabeth Dawes  
*b* 12 Dec 1960/Brisbane  
\*
- 3: Brett Robin Shepherd  
*b* 2 Aug 1960/Brisbane  
\*
- 4: Christopher Adam Shepherd  
*b* 23 Sep 1961/Brisbane  
\*
- 5: Karen Leigh Shepherd  
*b* 12 Dec 1970/Brisbane

2: Robin Noela Shepherd

*b* 6 May 1942/Coorparoo.

## THE CHILDREN OF EDITH & PETER LYNCH

### HAROLD EDGAR LYNCH

*b* 8 Feb 1916/Brisbane

### NORMA HAZEL LYNCH

*b* 5 Mar 1919/Brisbane

6: Harold Edgar Lynch

*b* 8 Feb 1916/Brisbane  
*m* Joan Bridget Hynes  
*b* 15 Sep 1921/Brisbane

- \*
- children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Judith Ann Lynch  
*b* 9 Oct 1942/Brisbane  
*m* Bernard Albert Jones  
*b* 25 May 1942/Brisbane

\*Late Entries Page 187

- children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Paul Bernard Jones  
*b* 6 Jun 1967/Brisbane

2: Stephen Anthony Jones  
*b* 12 Nov 1969/Brisbane

3: Angela Maree Jones  
*b* 28 Sep 1973/Brisbane

4: Natalie Therese Jones  
*b* 28 Sep 1973/Brisbane

2: Cheryl Joan Lynch  
*b* 6 Feb 1945/Brisbane  
*m* Lex Ernest Batterham  
*b* 28 Jun 1940/Brisbane

*children*----- 1: Peter Andrew Batterham  
*b* 15 Aug 1968/Brisbane

2: Troy Anthony Batterham  
*b* 17 May 1973/Brisbane

3: Noela Frances Lynch  
*b* 30 Oct 1948 Brisbane  
*m* Ronald Vincent Williams  
*b* 12 Dec 1949/Brisbane

*children*----- 1: Katherine Joanne Williams  
*b* 16 Jul 1970/Brisbane

2: Matthew Lawrence Williams  
*b* 14 Feb 1975/Brisbane

3: Elizabeth Renae Williams  
*b* 5 Mar 1976/Brisbane

4: Shannon Louise Williams  
*b* 18 Dec 1979/Brisbane

5: Peta Leigh Williams  
*b* 30 Mar 1983/Brisbane

4: Trevor Patrick Lynch  
*b* 21 Aug 1952/Brisbane  
*d* 7 Dec 1969/Brisbane

7: Norma Hazel Lynch  
*b* 5 Mar 1919/Brisbane  
*m* George Henry Lester  
*b* 13 Dec 1908/Sydney

*children*----- 1: Heather Yvonne Lester  
*b* 3 Sep 1938/Coorparoo  
*m* Warren Henry Thomson  
*b* 22 May 1938/Balmoral

*children*----- 1: Stacey Ann Thomson  
*b* 27 Aug 1964/Brisbane

2: Jason Alexander Thomson  
*b* 7 Dec 1965/Brisbane

3: Aaron Lee Thomson  
*b* 10 Nov 1973/Brisbane

2: Michael Peter Lester  
*b* 23 May 1951/Dalby  
*m* Janis Hopkins  
*b* Sep 1952/Brisbane

*children*----- 1: Amber Peta Lester  
*b* 19 Feb 1975/Brisbane

2: Nicholas Michael Lester  
*b* 29 Jun 1976/Brisbane

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MARION  
BENHAM  
1875-1946



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON

Application Number *B16822*

REGISTRATION DISTRICT *Winchester* in the County of *Southernhampton*  
 BIRTH in the Sub-district of *Winchester*

Columns:—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10*
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
<i>67</i>	<i>Stanh Shine 10/14 Winnere Street</i>	<i>Mason</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>George Bentham</i>	<i>Sarah Bentham Annely Bentham Green</i>		<i>Sarah Bentham Mother Winnere Street Winchester</i>	<i>10/14</i>	<i>Winnere Edmidge Rigby</i>	<i>Winnere</i>

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.  
 Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the *14th* day of *October* 19*84*

\*See note overleaf

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953. Section 34 provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the birth or death to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

CAUTION:—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

BXA 990571

Form A502M D3 1770 196M 4.84 MCr (304799)



*PWF*



**M**

ARION BENHAM WAS born in Canon Street, Winchester, on the 7 Jun., 1874, and was Baptised in the Parish Church of St. Michael, Winchester on the 30 Aug., the same year.

At fourteen years of age she sailed on the ship *SS "Jumna"* with her two sisters, Edith and Ethel, leaving London on the 11 Jan., 1889, and arriving in Brisbane on the 4 Mar.

Mum and Dad\* were married in Murwillumbah, NSW, on the 18 Dec., 1893. Mum was nineteen years old and their address was given as Tumbulgum, Tweed Heads, NSW. My mother helped my grandmother run a small general store. Her soft heart proved her downfall, anyone with a sob story would be given a handout.

As far as I know, seven of her ten children were born in Tumbulgum, my father being a cane farmer there.

Thinking there would be more opportunities for the growing family, they moved to Brisbane, which was quite an undertaking in those days. The journey taking several days. My father cut cane at Bundaberg.

The family now numbered ten children in 1918. The three eldest daughters were married and in 1922 my parents decided to move to North Queensland. They settled in a small seaside township called Port Douglas, beautiful blue water and white sandy beaches. Although very hot during the summer months, we children loved it. Work was still very hard to find, and once again Dad was cutting cane and in the off season, cut sleepers for the railway. To supplement the income, Mum worked as a cook and laundress at the Port Douglas Hospital, which has since been moved to Mossman.

My mother was a very generous, loving, warm hearted person. She reared ten children, keeping her family together with love and patience. She was a great believer in prayer and sincerely believed when one door closed, another would open. She told the most wonderful fairytales when we were small children. She was always singing— songs of the day intermingled with hymns. Jerusalem being one of her favourites.

We spend eight years at Port Douglas. They were happy, carefree years for me, but must have been hard for Mum. After a hard day's work, Mum and Dad liked to go for a swim to escape the heat. My parents were good swimmers and the locals were amazed at our exuberance, not bothering about the beach themselves.

Because of the depression, eight years later, Christmas 1929, we moved to Herberton on the Atherton Tablelands. My father was then 69 years, and Mum 55 years, and I the youngest of the family had just turned eleven years. My father became a tin and copper miner, and once again Mum became a cook to help with the family budget.

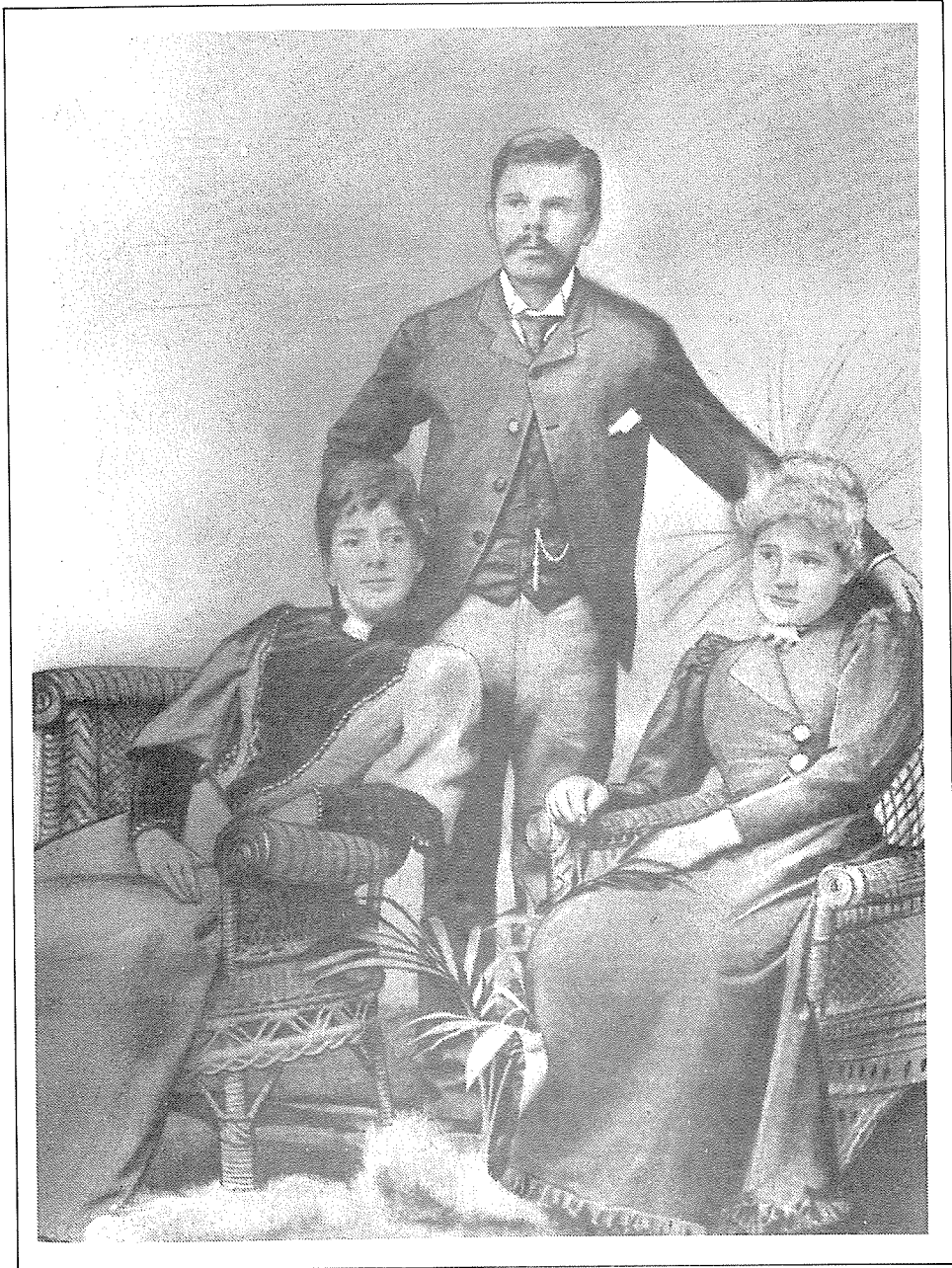
As the family grew older, we moved in different ways. Five daughters settled in Brisbane and one daughter and four sons remained in North Queensland.

My parents spent a couple of years in Hemmant before the Second World War, but the call of the north was too strong, and once again they were on the move.

They spent the remainder of their days in Freshwater and Cairns.

Dad died aged eighty-five years on the 6 Oct., 1945. Mum died aged seventy-one, on the 16 Jul., 1946. Both are buried in the Cairns Plaque Cemetery.

\*James Page was born in Brisbane on the 17 Feb., 1860.



• *Edith (left), Jesse and Marion (right). Date unknown.*

SCHEDULE.

(55 Vro. No. 84.)

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

51 449

Insert Christian and Surname in full of Minister or Registrar.

I, William Byrman, do hereby

Insert Designation.

Minister of the Gospel, do hereby

Place.

do hereby Certify, that I have this day, at Cape Town

Insert Christian and Surname of the Husband at full length.

Mr. James Page duly celebrated Marriage between

Insert Designation, Residence, and Condition of Husband.

James Page

Insert Christian and Surname of the Wife at full length.

James Jameson

Insert Designation, Residence, and Condition of Wife.

Bochee

Maria Page

Jameson

Christie

after Declaration duly made before me, as by law required.

DATED this 10th day of Decr 189

Signature of Minister or Registrar.

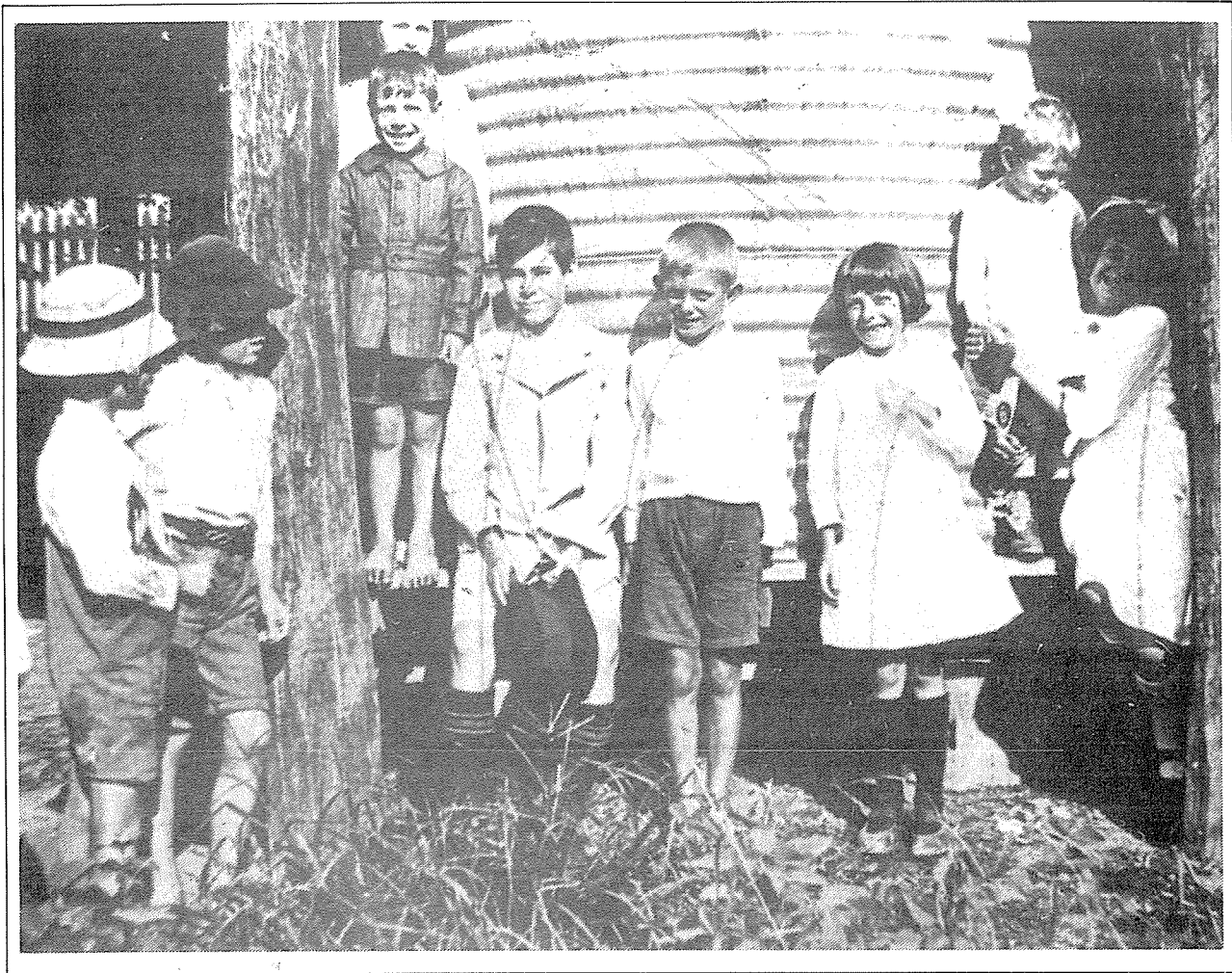
Signatures of Parties to the Marriage.

Signatures of Witnesses.

The declaration on the back hereof must be duly made and signed, otherwise the parties and the officiating Minister or Registrar are liable to the punishment by law provided in that behalf.

3m 24-93

## THE CHILDREN OF MARION & JAMES



• ABOVE: The two boys near the post are friends. From left— Marie Page (cousin), Gilbert Page, Frank Page (cousin), Bill Page, Joy Page, Arthur Page, Jean Page.



• LEFT: Taken at Port Douglas— Gilbert Page (left), Norma Page (with umbrella), Joy Page (front), and a friend, Kevin Sellars.

# THE CHILDREN OF MARION & JAMES

## ELIZABETH SARAH PAGE

*b* 19 Nov 1894/Tumbulgum, NSW  
*d* 27 Apr 1966/Brisbane

## MARION EDITH PAGE

*b* 17 Nov 1896/Tumbulgum, NSW  
*d* 25 Nov 1977/Brisbane

## JESSIE ROSE PAGE

*b* 19 Nov 1899/Tumbulgum, NSW  
*d* 7 Sep 1977/Brisbane

## JAMES GUY PAGE

*b* 28 Jul 1902/Tumbulgum, NSW  
*d* 16 Aug 1981/Cairns

## WINIFRED JEAN PAGE

*b* 8 Jun 1905/Tumbulgum, NSW

## WILLIAM FREDERICK PAGE

*b* 18 Feb 1908/Tumbulgum, NSW

## ESTHER JOYCE PAGE

*b* 7 Sep 1910/Tumbulgum, NSW  
*d* 20 Jul 1971/Brisbane

## GILBERT CHARLES PAGE

*b* 7 Feb 1912/Brisbane

## ARTHUR PAGE

*b* 25 Sep 1915/Brisbane

## KATHLEEN NORMA PAGE

*b* 16 Nov 1918/Brisbane

### 1: Elizabeth Sarah Page

*b* 19 Nov 1894/Tumbulgum, NSW

*d* 27 Apr 1966/Brisbane

*m* William Harris

*b* 26 Apr 1894/

*d* 23 Aug 1959/Brisbane

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1: Colin Harris

*b* 16 Nov 1915/Roma

*d* 11 Oct 1982

*m* Maya Shearer

*b* 22 May 1918/Brisbane

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1: David Colin Harris

*b* 4 Jan 1950/Brisbane

*m* Daniella Maria Hoza

*b* 16 May 1949/India

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1: Steven David Harris

*b* 1975/Gold Coast, Q

#### 2: Mark Robert Harris

*b* 1979/Gold Coast, Q

### 2: Detail not available

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1: Detail not available

#### 2: Christine Lorelle Harris

*b* 8 Jun 1955/Brisbane

*m* Rodney James O'Sullivan

*b* 1 Oct 1954/Brisbane

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1: Nathan Brett O'Sullivan

*b* 1 Jan 1981/Brisbane

\*Late Entries Page 187

\*

3: Shirley Harris

b 11 Sep 1922/Brisbane  
m Keith Burnett  
b 26 Sep 1922/Brisbane  
d 5 May 1976/Brisbane

children 1: Janet Ann Burnett  
b 9 Aug 1946/Brisbane  
m Rodney Alan Weeks  
b 23 Oct 1945/Grafton NSW  
children 1: Peter James Weeks  
b 30 May 1970/Canberra

2: Julie Ann Weeks  
b 15 Sep 1972/Canberra

2: Maxine Judith Burnett

b 4 Oct 1949/Brisbane  
m Philip Richard Burden  
b 17 Jan 1947/Sydney

children 1: Christopher Richard Burden  
b 2 Apr 1974/Wellington. NSW

2: Sally Ann Burden  
b 28 Jun 1976/Orange. NSW

3: Donald John Burnett

b 7 Apr 1953/Brisbane

4: Noel Harris

b 27 Feb 1925

2: Marion Edith Page

b 17 Nov 1896/Tumbulgam  
d 25 Nov 1977/Brisbane  
m James Noel Yunker  
b 25 Dec 1894/Bundaberg  
d 8 Jun 1944/Brisbane

children 1: Cyril James Yunker  
b 1 Apr 1915/West End. Brisbane  
m Mary Brown  
b 5 Jan 1918/  
m Shirley Rae Woods  
b 1 Sep 1925

children 1: James Michael (Mick) Yunker  
b 14 Oct 1944/Brisbane  
m Diane Josephine Theresa Thomas  
b 13 Feb 1945/Maitland. NSW  
children 1: Warren James Yunker  
b 5 Oct 1967/

2: Paul Michael Yunker  
b 5 Oct 1974

2: Myrtle Joy Yunker

b 14 Apr 1917/Southport  
m Harcourt Samin  
b 4 Oct 1912/Tweed Heads. NSW

\*  
children 1: Wilma Joy Samin  
b 26 May 1936/Brisbane  
m Geoffrey Maurice Hegarty  
b 3 Oct 1931/

children 1: Lisa Joy Hegarty  
b 26 Jun 1959/Toowoomba

2: Timothy Joseph Hegarty  
b 2 Oct 1960/

3: Christopher Maurice Hegarty  
b 19 Nov 1961/Brisbane

4: Katrina Frances Hegarty  
b 5 Jan 1963/Brisbane

2: Lynette Moira Samin  
b 12 Sep 1942/Brisbane  
m Barry Leslie Rodgers  
b 16 Aug 1943/Wynnum

*children* ----- 1: Anthony James Rodgers  
b 27 Apr 1965/Brisbane

2: Bradley Lyle Rodgers  
b 2 Feb 1968/Brisbane

3: Penelope Joy Rodgers  
b 7 Feb 1973/Brisbane

3: Jessie Rose Page  
b 19 Nov 1899/Tumbulgum  
d 7 Sep 1977/Brisbane  
m William Frederick Lyons Grobe  
b 10 Nov 18(?) /Sydney  
d 10 Dec 1980/Brisbane

*children* ----- 1: Coral Mavis Grobe:  
b 1 Nov 1925 Ashgrove  
m Paul Roy Langley  
b 28 Nov 1926/Adelaide

*children* ----- 1: Stephen Roy Langley  
b 8 Jan 1951/Brisbane  
m Joanne Powell  
b 5 Oct 1959/Mackay

2: Robyn Pauline Langley  
b 2 Jul 1954/Brisbane  
m Robert Cameron Fels  
b 24 Jan 1951/Brisbane

*children* ----- 1: Ty Cameron Paul Fels  
b 6 Sep 1980/Brisbane

2: Robert William Grobe  
b 24 Aug 1930/North Queensland  
d Apr 1976/Brisbane

3: Kenneth James Grobe  
b 7 Sep 1933/Brisbane  
m Ralda Vidliuch  
Deceased  
m Janette Florence Clark  
b 15 Oct 1940/Brisbane

*children* ----- 1: Ronald James Grobe  
b 28 Jun 1965/Brisbane

2: Kelly Jan Grobe  
b 4 May 1967/Brisbane

4: James Guy Page

b 28 Jul 1902/Tumbulgum, NSW

d 16 Aug 1981/Cairns

m Ruby Mary Beattie

b 1905?

d 13 Nov 1972/Tully

children 1: Shirley Patricia Page

b 1929/Mossman

deceased

m Francis Irwin

b Unknown

children

1: Patricia Irwin

b Unknown

m Lester Mendell

b Unknown

2: Frances Irwin

b Unknown

3: James Irwin

b Unknown

4: Tony Irwin

b Unknown

2: Joan Marion Page

b 1930/Mossman

m Nicholas Sedorken

b 1 May 1927

children

1: Christopher John Sedorken

b 25 Oct 1954/Sydney

2: Deborah Ann Sedorken

b 22 Oct 1958/Cairns

m Ian Roy Mason

b 7 Jan 1963/Cairns

\*

3: Sherrye Gail Sedorken

b 18 Apr 1962/Brisbane

m David John McLeod

b 6 Nov 1956/Tully

children

1: Renae Dale McLeod

b 2 Nov 1980/Tully

2: Casey Lee McLeod

b 6 Apr 1982/Mareeba

\*

4: Nicole Maree Sedorken

b 15 Jan 1964/Brisbane

m Alan Leslie Watts

b 6 Aug 1959/Kingscliffe, NSW

children

1: Ruby Lee Watts

b 25 Jan 1981/Murwillumbah, NSW

\*

3: Norman William (Bill) Page

b 9 Jul 1934/Mossman

m Dorothy Louise Barron

b 21 Mar 1921/Charters Towers

children

1: Robert William Page

b 31 Aug 1964/Cairns

\*Late Entries Page 187



5: Winifred Jean Page

*b* 8 Jun 1905/Tumbulgum, NSW

*m* Jeremiah Doyle

*b* 16 Oct 1901/Port Douglas, Qld.

*d* 19 Sep 1973/Cairns

*children*

1: Valmai Joy Doyle

*b* 17 Sep 1927/Brisbane

*m* Stanley James Place

*b* 23 Feb 1923/Sarina

*children*

1: Trevor Alex Place

*b* 21 Oct 1953/Mackay

*m* Gaye Margaret Magro

*b* 21 Jan 1954/Atherton

*children*

1: Karla Petrice Place

*b* 3 Apr 1982/Cairns

2: Carole Joy Place

*b* 13 Aug 1957/Mackay

3: Christine May Place

*b* 10 Jun 1959/Mackay

*m* Philip Power

*b* Aug 1953/Cairns

2: Oriel Irene Doyle

*b* 30 Dec 1929/Gordonvale

*d* 10 Sep 1982/Cairns

*m* Arthur Robert Nevins

*b* 6 Aug 1926

*children*

1: Robyn Hazel Nevins

*b* 23 Mar 1947/Cairns

*m* Warren James Stone

*b* 10 Jul 1946/Gordonvale

*children*

1: Robert James Stone

*b* 4 Aug 1967/Cairns

2: Kevin John Stone

*b* 7 Sep 1969/Cairns

3: Gary Brian Stone

*b* 16 Jun 1971/Cairns

2: Joy Alice Nevins

*b* 30 Jun 1952/Cairns

*m* Michael Peter Gibbs

*b* 27 April 1952/Gympie

3: Joan Oriel Nevins

*b* 17 Nov 1956/Cairns

*m* Edward Raymond English

*b* 23 Jan 1957/Cairns

*children*

1: Mark Edward English

*b* 7 Dec 1977/Malaysia

3: Raymond Arthur Doyle

*b* 3 Aug 1933/Herberton

*m* Helen Winter

*m* Grace Murdoch

*b* 8 Jan 1940/Mareeba

*children*

1: Kathleen Veronica Doyle

*b* 8 Nov 1955/Brisbane

2: Mark Vincent Doyle

*b* 26 Dec 1958/Brisbane

3: Sari Christina Doyle (adopted)

*b* 19 Oct 1963/Cairns

4: Janice Merle Doyle

*b* 10 Nov 1938/Cairns

*m* Kevin William Fitzgibbon

*b* 31 Aug 1939/NZ

*children*

1: Patrick Raymond Fitzgibbon  
*b* 22 Apr 1963/Cheviot, NZ

2: Desmond Kevin Fitzgibbon  
*b* 8 May 1964/Cheviot, NZ

3: David William Fitzgibbon  
*b* 1967/Cheviot, NZ

4: Jeremy Peter Fitzgibbon  
*b* 31 Jan 1969/Cheviot, NZ

5: Carmel Jeanne Fitzgibbon  
*b* 18 Jun 1972/Cheviot, NZ

6: Claire Anne Fitzgibbon  
*b* 12 Apr 1974/Cheviot, NZ

5: Geraldine Ann Doyle

*b* 6 Feb 1944/Cairns

*m* Arthur Albert Bucklar

*b* 25 Aug 1939/Atherton

*children*

1: Karen Joy Bucklar  
*b*  
*b* 25 Jan 1967/Cairns

6: Peter Denis Doyle

*b* 16 Feb 1948/Cairns

6: William Frederick Page

*b* 18 Feb 1908/Tumbulgum, NSW

*m* Mavis ?

*Details not available*

7: Esther Joyce Page

*b* 7 Sep 1910/Tumbulgum, NSW

*d* 20 Jul 1971/Brisbane

*m* John Vivian Thomson

*b* 9 Apr 1909/Edinburgh, Scotland

*d* 29 Sep 1951/Brisbane

*children*

1: Desmond John Thomson

*b* 7 Apr 1935/Brisbane

*d* 29 Jun 1978/Brisbane

*m* Judith Mary Eves

*b* 22 May 1933/Brisbane

*children*

1: David John Thomson  
*b* 25 Jul 1962/Brisbane

2: Donald Lewis Thomson  
*b* 30 Jan 1966/Southport

2: Ross David Thomson

*b* 16 Jul 1942/Annerley, Brisbane

*m* Marianne Nemeie

*b* 28 Oct 1940/Bussum, Holland

*children*

1: Andrew Maarten Thomson  
*b* 10 Jul 1971/Toowoomba

2: Georgina Catherine Thomson  
*b* 27 Jun 1973/Brisbane

**8: Gilbert Charles Page**

*b* 7 Feb 1912/Brisbane

*m* Nell Lancaster

*b* 6 Oct 1915/Cairns

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

**1: Lesley Page**

*b* 8 May 1936/Gordonvale

*m* Jonathan Ross Cameron

*b* 4 Jul 1929/Ivanhoe, Vic

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

**1: Jill Anne Cameron**

*b* 9 Aug 1958/Brisbane

**2: Malcolm Andrew Cameron**

*b* 2 Aug 1961/Brisbane

**3: Ross Alexander Cameron**

*b* 28 Apr 1967/Brisbane

**2: Peter John (John) Page**

*b* 12 Jul 1943/Helensville, NZ

*m* Brenda Marks

*b* 17 Oct 1945/Blackall, Qld

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

**1: David Leith Page**

*b* 27 May 1969/Rockhampton

**2: Paul James Page**

*b* 15 Mar 1971/Rockhampton

*d* 17 May 1971/Emerald

**9: Arthur Page**

*b* 25 Sep 1915/Brisbane

*m* Elizabeth Jane Morris

*b* 7 Apr 1920/Cairns

*d* 3 Mar 1973/Cairns

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

**1: Marion Page**

*b* 11 Oct 1938/Cairns

*m* Barry James Dooley

*b* 22 Jul 1936/Prahan, Vic

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

**1: Kerry May Dooley**

*b* 3 Dec 1963/Babinda

**2: Graham Arthur Dooley**

*b* 1 Jan 1965/Melbourne

**2: Shane Thomas Dooley**

*b* 26 Jan 1968/Babinda

**4: Kelly Maria Dooley**

*b* 19 Jul 1969/Babinda

**2: Joyce Adelaide Page**

*b* 26 Aug 1940/Cairns

*m* Raymond Philips Newton

*b* 20 May 1938/Brisbane

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

**1: Brett Alan Newton**

*b* 7 Jun 1963/Cairns

**2: Deidre Ann Newton**

*b* 17 Jun 1964/Cairns

**3: Darren Frederick Newton**

*b* 8 Jul 1967/Cairns

**3: Leslie James Page**

*b* 22 Feb 1944/Cairns

*m* Dianne Simpson

*b* 29 Dec 1943/Concord, Sydney

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

**1: Patricia Lynette Page**

*b* 30 Aug 1963/Cairns

**2: Maxine Ann Page**

*b* 12 Jun 1965/Cairns

4: Arthur Fredrick Page

*b* 12 Mar 1951/Cairns

*m* Dawn Woodcock

*b* 21 Jul 1956/Cairns

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Anthony Alwyn Francis Page

*b* 27 Jun 1976/Cairns

2: Janelle Elizabeth Page

*b* 21 Jan 1978/Cairns

3: Nathan John Page

*b* 3 Aug 1981/Atherton

5: Roslyn Ann Page

*b* 23 May 1953/Cairns

*m* Grant Stanley Webb

*b* 2 Dec 1950/Devonport, Tasmania

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Megan Elizabeth Webb

*b* 28 Jul 1980/Cairns

*d* 30 Jul 1980

2: Scott Dallas Webb

*b* 10 Nov 1981/Cairns

3: Kara Louise Webb

*b* 1 Oct 1982/Cairns

10: Kathleen Norma Page

*b* 16 Nov 1918/Brisbane

*m* Reginald Henry Moreton Kelso

*b* 22 Jun 1917/Childers, Qld

*d* 18 Jan 1950/Brisbane

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: John Reginald Kelso

*b* 18 Aug 1946/Brisbane

*m* Nicolette Theodora Hoffman

*b* 12 Apr 1949/Amsterdam, Holland

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Bruce John Kelso

*b* 5 Apr 1972/Brisbane

2: Nicole Marie Kelso

*b* 10 Jul 1974/Brisbane

ETHEL AMY  
BENHAM  
1877-1972



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON

Application Number *B16822*

REGISTRATION DISTRICT *Winchester*  
 BIRTH in the Sub-district of *Winchester* in the County of *SOUTHAMPTON*

Columns:—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
<i>104</i>	<i>Twenty third July 1877</i>	<i>Edith</i>	<i>Girl</i>	<i>George Benham</i>	<i>Sarah Benham</i>	<i>Barbican</i>	<i>S Benham</i>	<i>Twenty eighth August 1877</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Edith Benham</i>
	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Emily</i>		<i>Benham</i>	<i>Annally</i>	<i>Barbican</i>	<i>Wether</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Edith Benham</i>
	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Emily</i>		<i>Benham</i>	<i>Annally</i>	<i>Barbican</i>	<i>Wether</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Edith Benham</i>

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.  
 Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the *4th* day of *OCTOBER* 19*87*

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953. Section 34 provides that any certified copy of an entry published to be relied on or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the birth or death to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and that a certified copy purporting to have been given in the said office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as above said.

CAUTION:—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate, and to produce or accept as genuine to the prejudice of any person or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

BXA 990570



*The story of Ethel was written by Lee, in collaboration with Mabel Hohensee, Tom McAntee, Ethel Shepherd and Yvonne Dauth.*

**E**THEL AMY BENHAM was born in Canon Street, Winchester, on the 23 Jul., 1877, and Baptised in St. Michael's Parish Church on the 21 Oct. the same year.

At the age of eleven years, she sailed to Australia with her older sisters Edith and Marion, leaving London on the 11 Jan., 1889, and arriving in Brisbane on the 4 Mar. of that year.

The journey to Australia was a terrible ordeal for Ethel. She was very homesick and fretting for her mother; seasick; and would not eat for weeks. Her sisters sang to her a lot, trying to help her. She constantly went to the captain, asking him to turn the ship around and take her home to her mother.

A group of yodellers on board the ship often entertained the passengers, and one woman in the group, one day, picked the crying Ethel up, cuddled her and took her to where the group was practising. The friendship continued, and the group taught the girls to yodel, and Ethel became happier. Marion became very good at yodelling.

In Ethel's own words on tape, "there were concerts on the ship, we were in a group once, all the children, that was lovely. And we were dressed in a costume. I didn't sing, I was too self conscious for that."

During a fierce storm, the passengers were battered down for days. The heavy waves were entering the ship and forcing the cabin doors open. Edith spent hours against the door trying to prevent it opening, sometimes in vain, and each time the water entered their cabin their belongs were washed around the area. The two older girls would rush around collecting everything to prevent losing their personal belongings and rations. Ethel was made to stay on her bunk out of danger. Edith, a very dramatic girl, was sure they were all doomed, and Marion, a happy-go-lucky girl kept telling jokes and stories and singing to help ease the situation.

In Ethel's own words, "Crossing the Bay of Bisque, I drowned over and over. Edie was in charge of supplies and was holding the door with her two hands and two feet wide apart. I was in the bottom berth and we expected every minute to be our last as the ship would go right over and then would right itself. It was an awful experience. They shut up the latch and locked us in, and that was worse. I will never forget it. Edie was a wag. She'd get terribly upset. The door would swing open, and she would have to gather the things up again."

These three girls remained close friends throughout their lifetime.

The girls arrived in Brisbane and were taken by their father to Emily's at Dunnellan Estate. Being used to a comfortable home in England, they were shocked at the climate and conditions in their new country, and did not recognise Emily, her very fair skin by then burnt. She was cooking over an open fire, outside her corrugated iron house.

Living with Emily in Brisbane, Ethel attended school for a short while and helped with domestic duties. She then went north with the Dyers. They travelled with a horse and cart, the adults walking most of the time. They earned money along the way for their food, doing odd jobs.

In 1894, Ethel, then almost seventeen, was with Emily at Cloudy Creek Tin Mine, Mt. Cloudy, when Emily gave birth to Ethel Marion Edith Dyer, and Ethel, the only witness to the birth, acted as midwife.

Returning to Brisbane, Ethel then lived with Edith, who had a dress-making business at Woolloongabba. Edith also made costumes for the theatre, and Ethel would deliver them, but always forgot to hurry home as soon as she walked into the wings of the theatre, spending hours watching the rehearsals.

When a death occurred in a local family, an order would be sent to Edith for black dresses for the mourning women, and Edith, with Ethel's help, would sit up all night producing the clothing for delivery next day. Ethel, like all her family, loved music, and could never pass the music shop, often on her delivery route. She would stand inside the shop for hours listening to the music and forget about going home.

Ethel then went to work as a live-in domestic in northern NSW near her sister Marion. While there she became very ill, and was told by the doctor to spend at least six months in North Queensland to recover. Her brothers collected her and took her back to Mt. Spec where they cared for her for a few months. She then stayed with Emily before returning to northern NSW to work again. There she met James Pollock McAntee, who had been born in Tamworth on the 16 Apr., 1878, to John and Sarah McAntee (nee Pollock).

The couple later married in the Congregational Manse, Bowen Hills, Brisbane, on the 15 Sep., 1900. They lived in Brisbane, then on the Tweed River, and later moved back to Brisbane.

Like most women in those days, Ethel had a hard life. Her son, Tom, can first remember his mother as a young woman living at Deagon, having his seriously ill younger brother in her arms in a desperate attempt to get to the hospital. She had to catch the train and was late, the shortest route to the station was to cross a swamp by way of the railway bridge. "I can still see my mother stretching out from sleeper to sleeper carrying this very sick baby. What made it more dramatic, she could hear the train roaring along the railway track. She beat the train to the station." Living in a tent at Deagon, Ethel had to carry her water in kerosene tins from the railway station.

At one time, when cane farming at Gundiah, Ethel was horrified to find her young daughter Stella sitting cross-legged in a lane near where Ethel was working in the cane, with a large black snake coiled up in Stella's lap. The child was sitting petrified, and Ethel was frightened to speak or move in case Stella disturbed the snake. After what seemed hours, the snake slowly moved from Stella's lap, and Ethel was able to go to her daughter.

With her husband moving from one job to another, the family's moves were numerous—Sandgate, Bracken Ridge, Stones Corner, Hemmant, Belmont, Coopers Plains, Dutton Park, South Brisbane and Coorparoo. At Belmont, on a small farm, they had three or four jersey cows to milk, lots of orange and lemon trees, passionfruit, corn and strawberries. On the side of the hill near the house was a spring surrounded by flowers. The house was the usual structure of some in those days—no lining or ceiling, and Ethel always had a mosquito net over the beds to stop the carpet snakes crawling into them.

In Sandgate Road, Ethel ran a small shop and the family had free tickets for the "pictures" at Nundah because the shop advertised the programme.

An unhappy marriage, the depression, and children to support, Ethel always maintained her happy disposition. She was always working—housework, washing etcetera to earn money to keep her family. She often said her joy in life came from her children.

Later, with the last of her children married or living away working, Ethel was able to work, living with the family she worked for "In Service", and when she retired, lived with her daughter Ethel, and spending time with her other married children. Her daughter-in-law Rene McAntee wrote, "She was a good conversationalist and a wonderful story-teller, and her fingers were always busy too. Each time she stayed, she knitted jumpers for the children and made our cushions and floor rugs, some in wool, and some in patchwork.

Ethel continued her life, enjoying the company of her grandchildren, always interested in what everyone was doing. She had the gift of making boring tasks seem fun, and before a child realised it, while in her company, the job was done. She always told the time the old way—"Five and twenty past five". The songs she sang were many, including—"Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes", "Nearer My God to Thee", "Rock of Ages", "Good King Wencellas", "Abide With Me", "Polly Wolly Doodle", "Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair", "Down by the Old Mill Stream", "Silver Threads Among the Gold", "Blue Bird of Happiness", "Little Brown Jug", "Cockles and Mussels", "Clementine".

Of small to average height, with fair hair and blue eyes, a strong character, with a determined attitude, Ethel was always optimistic, "Things will be better in the morning". She gave so much love and understanding, and was always so patient and placid, and in return received the respect and love of all her large family of descendants.





*These memories were recorded by Ethel's daughter, Ethel Wells.*

"LOVING, GIVING, CARING and sharing". Those four words describe our mother, but her wonderful sense of humour and quick wit are the attributes for which she will be most lovingly remembered.

Our mother had a great capacity for love. Her ready smile and warmth of manner drew people to her, especially children. Many children, now grown up, still remember "Grandma" as she was known to one and all. Mum had a sweet voice and was always singing, "Johnny Fedora" being one of her favourites.

In our early years, for recreation, Mum would take us younger children to the local picture theatre. Mostly, the walls and roof would be of iron, and when it rained the noise would be deafening, which made no difference to the voices, as the words would come on the screen with the picture, and we would have to hurry to read the words before the sequence ended.

I can remember lots of happy times, thanks to Mum, but most of all I remember when she would take us three younger children up to White's Hill, Coorparoo. We would be loaded down with frying pan, dripping, sausages and bread. We would gather mushrooms, and soon the smell of frying sausages and mushrooms would fill the air.

Throughout the years Mum would send each one of us to Sunday School dressed in our "Sunday Best", ironed with heavy irons heated on the wood stove. We would be given a penny for the plate.

In those days, to see a better house, was to move. So we moved several times, Dutton Park, Virginia, Coorparoo, Norman Park, are in my memory. Mum would soon make our house a home. Pine furniture would be scrubbed and given a final rinse of lemon juice.

In no time we were grown up and going to work. Our wages were about five shillings per week, a part of which we would eagerly give Mum. She would make us feel our contribution was very important. Mum was deeply moved, it was not just the money, but the thought behind it.

Our mother's home was always a haven for her family. Great was her joy to see her sons come home from the bush. She suffered great hardship—the loss of two children and the near loss of a third—but found happiness in working for her children.

Mum never forgot her native land and always remained loyal to England and the Crown. She never failed to say "I am British".

Two incidents of her childhood stood out in her memory. The first one happened when Mum and her sisters were about to accompany their parents to church. They were searching for a dropped coin, using candles, and a flame from one of these ignited the curtains. The girls were afraid to tell their parents, so, when they returned from church, their house had burned down.

The second incident happened when Edith, Marion and Ethel began their voyage to Australia. While watching the receding wharf, Mum had the impression that their dog, which had accompanied them to the wharf, had jumped into the sea to swim after the ship. Luckily, the recollection was always hazy.

Our mother was deeply religious in a quiet way. One of her favourite hymns was "Abide With Me". The Shepherd Psalm gave her great comfort. A thread of green cotton still marks the page of the 23rd Psalm in her Bible, which was always beside her bed, and from which she read last thing at night.

Our mother lived to the great age of ninety-five years and five months, still mentally alert and loved by all.



● *Ethel in her early twenties.*



● *Happy Days. A train trip to Wynnum. From left— Ethel Morris (Wells) with children John and Lee and Noel McAntee, Dorothy Morris and baby, Ethel McAntee and Dorothy McAntee and Hazel Worth.*



● *Ethel with Ivy Kammerer at Mt. Spec.*



● *Ethel as a teenager.*



• Ethel, on her ninety-third birthday in 1970.

## PIONEER DIES - 94

Mrs. Ethel Amy McAntee (nee Benham) passed away recently aged 94.

Mrs. McAntee who lived with her daughter, Mrs. E. Wells, of 128 Wanda Road, Mt. Gravatt, will be remembered by many.

In spite of two falls which kept her house-bound and ill health from time to time, she always had a cheery word for all and was admired for her courage in the face of adversity.

Her sunny smile drew people to her, especially the local children, all of whom helped to brighten her days.

Mrs. McAntee was born in Winchester, England, in 1878. Eleven years later, with her two elder sisters, Marian and Edith, she came to Australia in the steamer Junna. They were placed in the care of the ship's doctor. This journey took them 12 weeks.

Her father, who was working on the wharves at the time of the Junna arrival was not sure when his three girls would reach Australia so — just in case — went to the ship and there he saw his three daughters coming down the gangplank with their "Friendly Societies Badges" pinned to their blouses. These badges gave them confidence on their voyage across the ocean.

The girls went to live with sister, Emily, at Belmont and Mrs. McAntee recalled driving to Mt. Gravatt by sulky turnout with her sisters to enjoy picnics at Mt. Gravatt. She attended the Carina State School then Junction Park School.

Her brother, Arthur, with other members of her family had preceded her to Australia. Arthur, one time choirboy at Winchester Cathedral, England, eventually became well known on the mining fields of the North. He and his two brothers found their own field, Kangaroo Hills, in 1891. He, with

other packers, blazed his way through the tangle of range spurs from the coast to open up the area of Mt. Spec, Townsville. On July 18, 1897, the Mt. Spec Tourist Road was officially opened and Arthur Benham was honoured by J. G. Jesson, M.L.A.

At the age of 17 years Ethel Benham journeyed up the mountains with her brother Arthur, first by buckboard, then as the going became rough, by horseback. She remembered using the saddle for a pillow and in the morning found it had been chewed by a dingo. Whilst journeying through Cloudy Mountain, Paluma, Townsville, they discovered a creek and waterfall which Arthur Benham promptly named Ethel Creek Falls after his young sister, the then Ethel Benham. In the North, Benham's Track, Hermit Creek Falls, Twin Falls, Widts Lookout, Little Crystal Falls, Cloudy Mt. and many other places of interest were associated with the early pioneers, the Benham Brothers.

Arthur went to France as a soldier, eventually returning to the North. Ethel Amy McAntee was the last surviving member of the Benham family of 11 who settled in Australia in the "eighties."

The highlight of 1972 for Mrs. McAntee was the visit of the 2nd Pack Brownies, Mt. Gravatt. These little girls walked from Upper Mt. Gravatt to 128 Wanda Road, Mt. Gravatt, carrying a huge bouquet especially to visit the elderly lady.

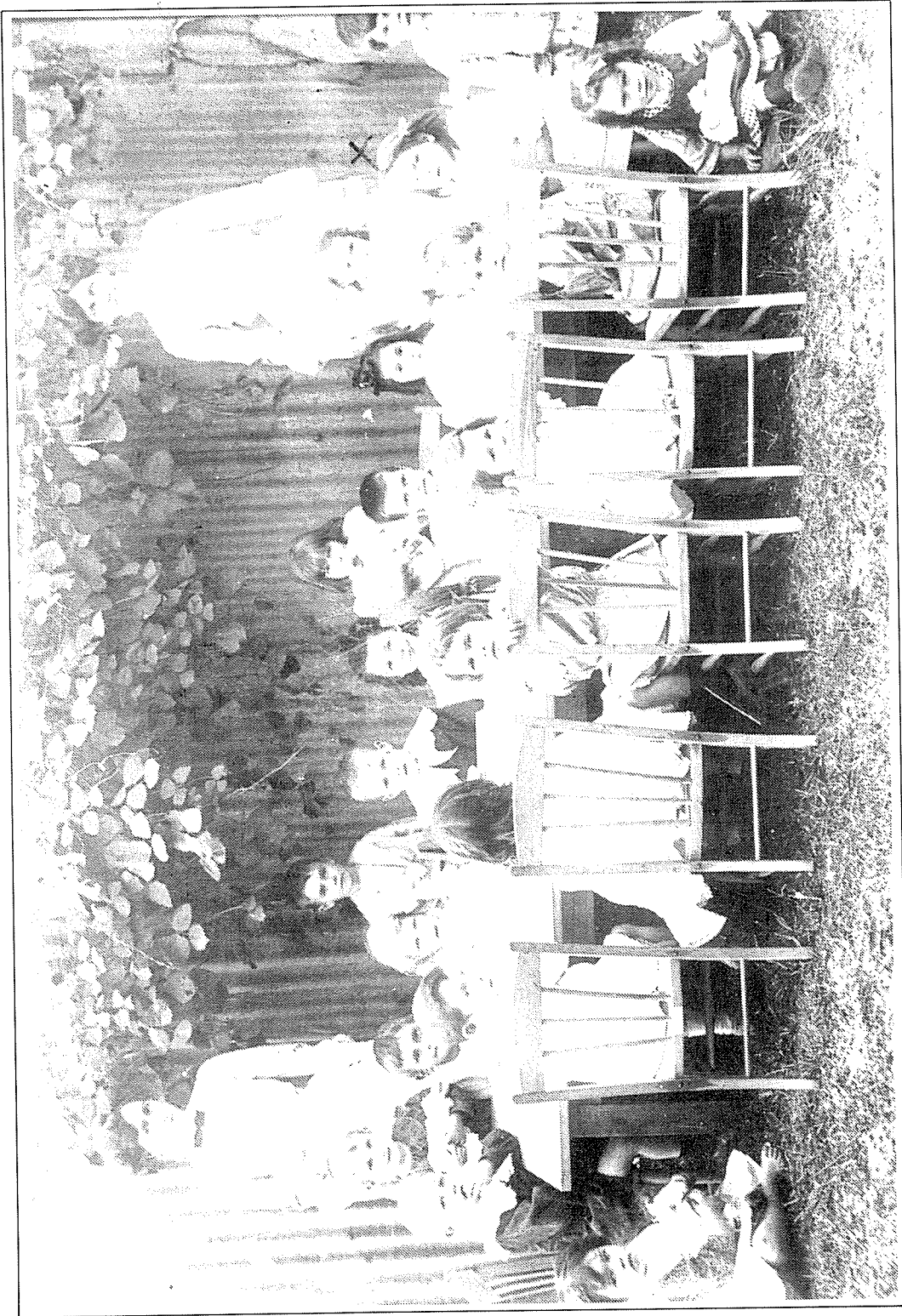
Their bright faces and songs delighted the heart of a sweet old lady. As one little Brownie remarked — "I didn't think old ladies could be so nice."

Mrs. E. McAntee is survived by seven children, Mabel (Coorparoo), Bert (Victoria), Tom (Murgon), Ted (Morningside), Gwen (Sarina), Ethel (Mt. Gravatt), and Ron (Cairns), 20 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren.

She was a wonderful mother and was highly respected and loved by all.

• *Obituary*— This article was written by Ethel's daughter, Ethel Wells, and appeared in the *Townsville Daily Bulletin* on the 27 Feb., 1973.

Courtesy of the *Townsville Daily Bulletin*.



● A kindergarten group, Ipswich Road, Woolloongabba, in 1911. The teacher on left, Miss Piper; right, Miss Connor. The little girl seated at the end of the table was Stella McAntee, daughter of Ethel. The little girl seated in the front row, second from the right (turned towards camera) is Ethel Shephard (nee Page).

Fee: One Dollar

# MARRIAGE

A 32613

MARRIAGE solemnised in the District of **BRISBANE** Colony  
in the State of Queensland

19 00 Registered by Richard Baron Howard, Deputy Registrar-General

Marginal Notes (if any)	Column 1 Number	547	
	2 When and where married	15 September 1900	Brisbane
	3 Name and surname	<b>Bridegroom</b> McANTEE James Pollock	<b>Bride</b> BENHAM Ethel Amy
	4 Condition	Bachelor	Spinster
	5 Birthplace	Tamworth, New South Wales	Winchester, Hampshire, England
	6 Profession, trade or occupation	Laborer	Domestic
	7 Age	23 years	23 years
	8 Usual place of residence	Rosalie, Milton, Brisbane	O'Connell Town, Brisbane
	<b>Parents—</b>		
	9 Father's name and surname. Mother's name and maiden surname	John McAntee Sarah Pollock	George Benham Sarah Green
	10 Father's rank or profession	Laborer	Contractor

Married at the Congregational Manse,  
Bowen Hills, Brisbane

This marriage  
was solemnised  
between us

James Pollock McAntee  
Ethel Amy Benham

according to the rites of the Congregational  
Church

In the presence  
of us

William Houston  
Sarah Houston

Date of registration 17 September 1900

By me Leslie C. Jamieson

XXXXXXXXXX  
Signature of Registrar

Officiating Minister or Registrar

I, **Lionel Albert Stevens**

Registrar-General, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an entry in a Register of Marriages kept in the General Registry Office, Brisbane, and I further certify that I am a person duly authorised by law to issue such certificate.

Extracted on 2 February 1973

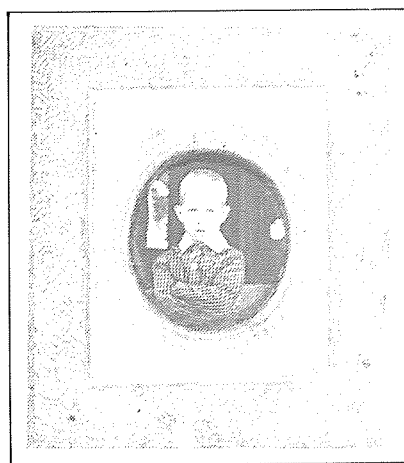
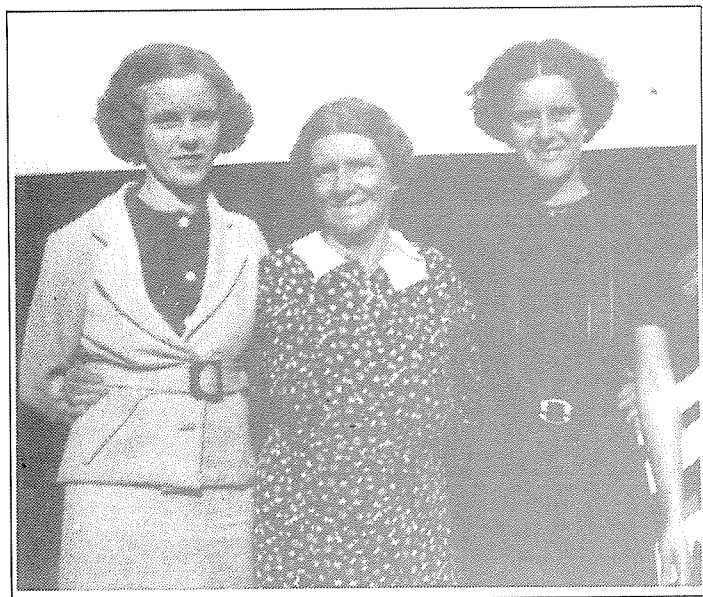
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JJD.  
Govt. Printer, Brisbane

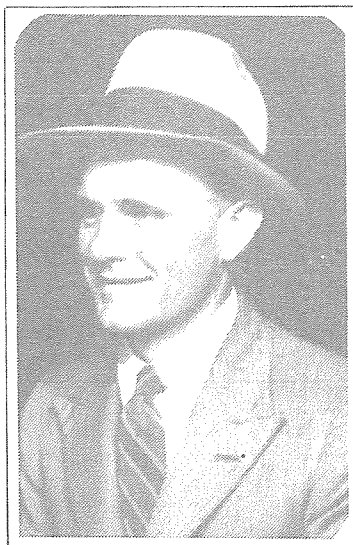
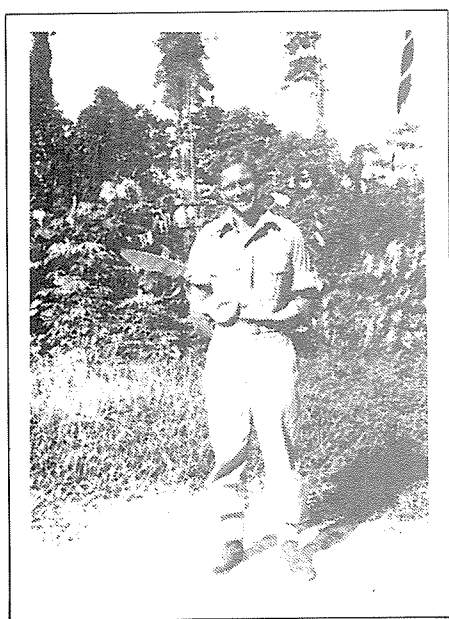
Registrar-General

CAUTION.—Whoever shall unlawfully alter any Certified Copy of an Entry in any Register of Births, Marriages, or Deaths, whether by erasure, obliteration, removal, addition, or otherwise, is guilty of a CRIME and liable to the punishment by law provided in that behalf. (Vide Sections 486 and 488 of the "Criminal Code.")

## THE CHILDREN OF ETHEL & JAMES



• Clockwise (from top left): Ethel, with her two daughters Gwen (left) and Ethel (right); Ethel, with her son Bert; Ethel with her son Edwin; May Hohensee (nee McAntee); Tom McAntee; Ron McAntee; Bill McAntee.



# THE CHILDREN OF ETHEL & JAMES

MABLE McANTEE

*b* 5 Jul 1901/Brisbane

HERBERT McANTEE

*b* 16 Mar 1903

*d* 10 Feb 1973/Erica, Vic.

WILLIAM McANTEE

*b* 14 Dec 1905/Tumbulgun, NSW

*d* 11 Jun 1964/Brisbane

STELLA McANTEE

*b* 19 Sep 1907/Tweed River, NSW

*d* 19 Nov 1911/Brisbane

THOMAS McANTEE

*b* 27 Sep 1909/Brisbane

EDWIN McANTEE

*b* 23 Jan 1912/Brisbane

GWENDOLINE McANTEE

*b* 24 Jan 1914/Brisbane

ETHEL MAY McANTEE

*b* 13 Jan 1917/Brisbane

ARTHUR ERNEST McANTEE

*b* 3 Feb 1919/Brisbane

*d* 11 Nov 1919/Brisbane

RONALD McANTEE

*b* 25 Feb 1920/Brisbane

## 1: Mable McAntee

*b* 5 Jul 1901 Brisbane

*m* Francis Joseph Hohensee

*b* 8 Nov 1901 Brisbane

*d* 9 Nov 1969 Brisbane

*children* ..... 1: Yvonne Ray Hohensee

*b* 22 Nov 1925 Brisbane

*m* Ronald James Morris

*b* 28 Jun 1928 Brisbane

*m* Ronald Fredrick Dauth

*b* 20 Jan 1920 Beenleigh

*d* 8 Dec 1977 Brisbane

*children* ..... 1: Kerry Ray Morris

*b* 24 Apr 1952/Brisbane

*m* Graeme Alan Robinson

*b* 8 Jun 1952/Brisbane

*children* ..... 1: Kirsten Leah Ray Robinson

*b* 23 Jan 1974/Brisbane

2: Troy Alan Robinson

*b* 10 Sep 1977/Brisbane

2: Phillip Paul Bradley (Paul) Morris

*b* 21 Aug 1962/Brisbane

*m* Karen Inledon

*b* 27 Nov 1963/Glamorgan, South Wales

2: Lawrence John Francis Hohensee

*b* 13 Sep 1939/Brisbane

*m* Jocelyn Mary Barrett

*b* 27 Aug 1943/Mackay

*children* ..... 1: Michelle Ann Hohensee

*b* 14 Jan 1964/Southport

2: Christine Yvonne Hohensee  
b 15 Feb 1965/Southport

3: John Elliot Hohensee  
b 3 May 1967/Southport

4: James Francis Hohensee  
b 28 Jul 1971/Southport

3: Mervyn Joseph Elliot Hohensee  
b 7 Feb 1941/Brisbane  
m Anna Cornelia  
b 13 Jul 1949/S'Graven Hage, Holland  
children 1: **Karrie-Leigh Hohensee (adopted)**  
b 20 Jun 1970/Brisbane

2: Shayne Elliott Hohensee  
b 18 Mar 1974

3: Dustin Joseph Hohensee  
b 3 Oct 1975/Brisbane

2: Herbert McAntee  
b 16 Mar 1903/  
d 10 Feb 1973/Erica, Vic  
m Melanie Elizabeth Leathom Wassell  
b 15 Mar 1902/Thursday Island  
d 3 May 1979/Melbourne

children 1: **Melanie Elizabeth McAntee**  
b 24 May 1940/Brisbane  
m Peter William Bowley Gibbs  
b 16 Oct 1940/Adelaide

children 1: **Melanie-Jane Gibbs**  
b 5 Jan 1973/Melbourne

2: Caroline Elizabeth Gibbs  
b 13 May 1975/Melbourne

3: William McAntee  
b 14 Dec 1905/Tumbulgum, NSW  
d 11 Jun 1964/Brisbane

4: Stella McAntee  
b 19 Sep 1907/Tweed River, NSW  
d 19 Nov 1911/Brisbane

5: Thomas McAntee  
b 27 Sep 1909/Brisbane  
m Irene Ellenor Harper  
b 8 Oct 1911/Wondai

children 1: **Thomas McAntee**  
b 24 Mar 1937/Wondai  
m Rosaleen Mary Scott  
b 8 Aug 1939/Wondai

children 1: **Donald George McAntee**  
b 1 Nov 1959/Wondai  
m Robyn Isobel Ashford  
b 12 Oct 1964

\*

2: Sharon Rose McAntee  
b 9 Aug 1963/Wondai

3: Neil Thomas McAntee  
b 13 Mar 1965/Wondai

\*Late Entries Page 187



2: Gilbert McAntee

*b* 27 Aug 1938/Wondai  
*m* Gwendoline Joyce Cochrane  
*b* 6 Jul 1942/Macksville, NSW

*children* ----- 1: Gilbert Mark (Mark) McAntee  
*b* 28 Sep 1961/Brisbane

\*

2: Sandra Joy McAntee  
*b* 19 Jan 1963/Brisbane

3: Clive McAntee

*b* 19 Oct 1943/Wondai  
*m* Janice June Murray  
*b* 11 Sep 1946/Childers

*children* ----- 1: Paula Maree McAntee  
*b* 29 May 1965/Brisbane

2: Tanya Terese McAntee  
*b* 18 Dec 1967/Wondai

3: Michael Edward Clive McAntee  
*b* 4 May 1974/Gladstone

4: Lyndall Ellenor McAntee

*b* 30 Oct 1947/Wondai  
*m* Richard John Parrish  
*b* 29 Aug 1947/Cairns

*children* ----- 1: Sarah Ellenor Parrish  
*b* 1 Jul 1977/Brisbane

2: Glen Richard Parrish  
*b* 14 Jul 1980/Brisbane

6: Edwin McAntee

*b* 23 Jan 1912/Brisbane  
*m* *Detail not available*  
*m* Maurine Sylvia Coxon  
*b* 1 Jul 1924/Manly, Qld  
*d* 6 Apr 1980/Brisbane

*children* ----- 1: Noel Edwin McAntee

*b* 11 Jun 1941/Sarina  
*m* Joan Lesley Henderson  
*b* 16 Apr 1943/Coorparoo

*children* ----- 1: Brett Cameron McAntee  
*b* 12 Apr 1966/Brisbane

2: Paul Jonathan McAntee  
*b* 19 Jul 1968/Brisbane

3: Joanne Dee McAntee  
*b* 23 Oct 1973/Brisbane

2: Dorothy Irene McAntee

*b* 11 Aug 1942/Brisbane

*children* ----- 1: Jason Colburn McAntee  
*b* 16 Aug 1968/

3: Naomi McAntee

*b* 16 Mar 1960/Brisbane

4: Kim McAntee

*b* 24 Dec 1965/Brisbane  
*d* 4 Jan 1967/Brisbane

7: Gwendoline McAntee

*b* 24 Jan 1914/Brisbane  
*m* Joshua Thomas Douglas  
*b* 14 Sep 1907/Sarina  
*d* 19 Jul 1965/Mackay

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Joshua Ian Douglas

*b* 24 Apr 1942/Brisbane

*m* Sandra Betty Owles

*b* 14 Apr 1943/Christchurch, NZ

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

Rachel Sherryn Douglas

*b* 8 Nov 1969/Christchurch, NZ

2: Brian Ronald Douglas

*b* 5 Sep 1944/Brisbane

*m* Margaret Diane (Diane) Vander Have

*b* 7 Nov 1951/Mundubbera, Qld

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Sonia Douglas

*b* 8 Sep 1973/Mt. Isa

2: Brett Douglas

*b* 23 Sep 1975/Darwin

3: Robert Douglas

*b* 3 Jun 1977/Rockhampton

3: Neil Arthur Douglas

*b* 24 Feb 1947/Mackay

*m* Vicky Grace Milton

*b* 27 Jan 1953/Townsville

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Debbie Jean Douglas

*b* 17 Nov 1972/Emerald

2: Donna Ann Douglas

*b* 12 Oct 1973/Ingham

3: Daryl Neil Douglas

*b* 26 Nov 1976/Ingham

4: Sarah-Cherie Douglas

*b* 28 May 1981/Ingham

4: Raymond Victor Douglas

*b* 21 Jan 1952/Mackay

5: David John Douglas

*b* 5 May 1955/Mackay

*m* Laurice Frances Vella

*b* 13 Sep 1957/Mackay

*children* \_\_\_\_\_

1: Cameron James Douglas

*b* 28 Mar 1980/Mackay

2: Angela Mae Douglas

*b* 13 Jun 1983/Mackay

\*

8: Ethel May McAntee

*b* 13 Jan 1917/Brisbane  
*m* Walter Henry Morris  
*b* 3 Mar 1915/Brisbane  
*d* 7 Oct 1947/Brisbane  
*m* Edward Rowland Wells  
*b* 11 Nov 1911/Brisbane  
*d* 27 Jul 1982/Brisbane

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Leonie Daphne (Lee) Morris

*b* 29 Jul 1939/Brisbane  
*m* John Francis Digweed  
*b* 1 Aug 1938/Brisbane

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Peter John Digweed

*b* 3 Feb 1962/Rosebud, Vic  
*m* Sharon Faye Hillier  
*b* 13 May 1963/Adelaide

2: Lindsay Morris Digweed

*b* 29 Jan 1965/Box Hill, Vic  
\*  
\*

3: Andrew Ernest Digweed

*b* 2 Oct 1966/Ipswich, Qld.

2: John Walter Morris

*b* 23 Oct 1942/Brisbane  
*m* Narelle Ann Cox  
*b* 13 Dec 1950/Brisbane

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Renae Ann Morris

*b* 26 Jan 1979/Singleton, NSW

2: Alana Lee Morris

*b* 12 Feb 1982/Southport

3: Christine May Wells

*b* 19 May 1953/Brisbane  
*m* Donald John Walker  
*b* 30 Oct 1948/Brisbane

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Donnie Christopher Walker

*b* 26 Dec 1979/Brisbane

2: Christopher Adam Walker

*b* 30 May 1981/Brisbane  
*d* 12 Jun 1981/Brisbane

4: Linda Joy Wells

*b* 25 Oct 1957/Brisbane  
*d* 24 May 1964/Brisbane

9: Arthur Ernest McAntee

*b* 3 Feb 1919/Brisbane  
*d* 11 Nov 1919/Brisbane

10: Ronald McAntee

*b* 25 Feb 1920/Brisbane  
*m* Hazel Jessie Worth  
*b* 6 Jun 1925/Innisfail

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Vivien Hazel McAntee

*b* 30 April 1951/Cairns  
*m* John Gregory Mewett  
*b* 2 Jul 1949/Melbourne

*children* \_\_\_\_\_ 1: Daniel John Mewett

*b* 3 Sep 1982/Perth

2: Rhonda Jill McAntee

*b* 4 May 1953/Cairns  
*m* Leonard Charles Caruana  
*b* 24 Jun 1953



HENRY EDMUND  
BENHAM  
1882-1967



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON

Application Number *18689H*

REGISTRATION DISTRICT *Winchester* in the County of *Southampton*  
 BIRTH in the Sub-district of *Winchester*

Columns:—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10*
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
<i>186</i>	<i>19th June 1885</i>	<i>Edmund</i>	<i>Boy</i>	<i>George</i>	<i>Sarah Bertram</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>Sarah Bertram</i>	<i>24th August 1885</i>	<i>Williams</i>	
	<i>82 Canon Road</i>	<i>Henry</i>		<i>Bertram</i>	<i>formerly</i>	<i>Handkerchief</i>	<i>Mathias</i>	<i>Original</i>	<i>Shroade</i>	
	<i>H. S. D.</i>				<i>Specer</i>		<i>Winchester</i>	<i>1885</i>	<i>Rigby</i>	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.  
 Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, LONDON, under the Seal of the said Office, the *7th* day of *March* 19*85*

\*See notes on form

This certificate is issued in pursuance of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953. Section 34 provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the birth or death to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

CAUTION:—It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or knowingly use a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate intending it to be accepted as genuine to the prejudice of any person or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.



EXB 035865

Form A5 (25) (1/1/1970) 10-A 3-11-51

M5

*The story of Henry was written by Lee, in collaboration with Ivy Corazzol and Ethel Shepherd.*

**H**ENRY EDMUND BENHAM was born on the 30 Jun., 1882, in Canon Street, Winchester, the fifteenth and last child to George and Sarah. He was registered at birth as Edmund Henry, but was Baptised Henry Edmund on the 27 Sep., 1885, in the Parish Church of St Michael. He was also generally known as Harry.

By the time Henry was seven years of age, his father and ten of his brothers and sisters were in Australia settling into their new lives.

At thirteen years of age, Henry ran away from home in Winchester and joined the Royal Navy. He travelled to many parts of the world and claimed to be the youngest bugler, at fifteen years of age, to sound the charge during the Boxer Rebellion in China.

His years in both the Royal and Merchant Navies gave him a basic knowledge of many languages and currencies. In his later years he would make his daughter sit and count in German and French, and read his documents in many languages.

Henry jumped ship in Brisbane at about eighteen years of age. He stood on the Brisbane wharf and a man came up to him and asked him where he was going. Henry told him "Woolloongabba", and the man offered to show him the direction, as he was travelling to the same area and knew where the Page family lived.

It was late at night, and when Edith answered the door, there stood Henry, who said "I'm your brother".

He lived with Edith for some time, at times much to her despair, as he was a natural comedian and constantly played practical jokes on the family members and Edith's customers in her shop. The children loved it, and the uproar in the household had Edith often threatening to do away with her young brother.

Henry was of medium build with blue eyes and brown, curly hair. He often wore a cap on the back of his head.

All Henry's papers, memorabilia and photographs, which he kept in a small case, were lost later in life when travelling, so we are unable to track any of his early life, in particular, as a Merchant Seaman. The only record we have been able to find is his discharge from the ship "*Mimero*" in January 1915, at the age of thirty-three years.

Henry married Eliza Rose Gordon (Bessie) on the 23 Jan., 1923, in Townsville. Bessie was born on the 17 Jul., 1882. They lived in Townsville where they adopted a daughter, Doris May, and changed her name to Ivy May. They moved to Charters Towers in 1932 or 1933, and stayed there until 1936 when they moved back to Townsville for about eighteen months, before returning to Charters Towers, where they remained until 1945. They then moved to Brisbane.

While in Townsville the first time, Henry worked for the railways "on the links"—sleepers. He was also a paid Gold Prospector, receiving £2 a week from the Government. Gold, at this time, was £3 an ounce.

He often visited his brothers and sisters and their families, though never without his mouth organ, and was always ready to play a tune or dance the Sailor's Hornpipe. But, owing to his outgoing

personality, he sometimes had difficulty finding relations to sit with at public meetings, in particular his shy brother, Edwin, who could often be found on the opposite side of the hall. One of the songs his nieces and nephews remember him singing was "This Old Man Came Rolling Home".

When in Charters Towers, during the war, he turned his hand to welding, and worked at many other jobs in the district before becoming an invalid pensioner just before the completion of the war.

Soon after coming to Brisbane, Bessie was admitted to Dunwich and subsequently transferred with the hospital to Eventide in Sandgate where she died in August 1949, and was buried in the Lutwych Cemetery.

In Brisbane, Henry worked at many jobs, one being a live-in yardman and handyman at Shandon's Guest House in Upper Edward Street.

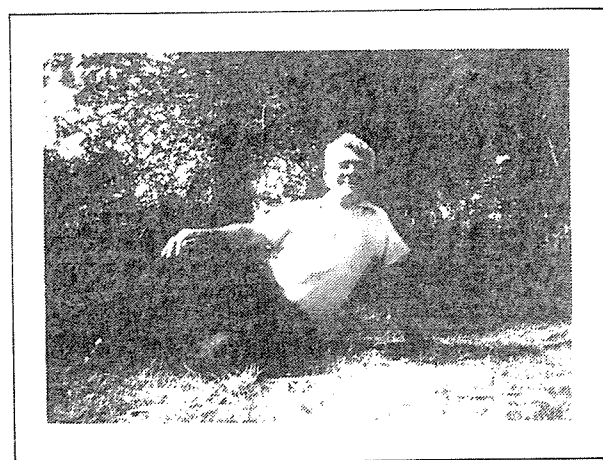
He then tried to go south, but became ill and returned to Ivy, where he lived for three to four years before being admitted to Eventide, where he died on the 27 May, 1967. He was buried in the Toowong Cemetery.



• Henry, as a young man, in Winchester



• Henry — date and place unknown.



• Henry, taken at Mt. Gravatt, Brisbane, when visiting his sister Ethel, about 1950.



# MARRIAGE

A 90151

MARRIAGE solemnised in the District of **TOWNSVILLE** in the State of Queensland

19 23 Registered by **Walter Rillie** District Registrar

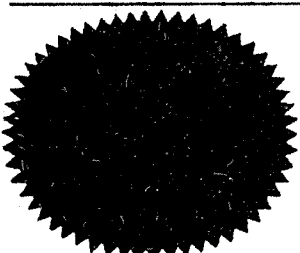
Marginal Notes (If any)	Column 1 Number . . . . .	834	8136
	2 When and where married . . . . .	4 January 1923 Townsville	
	3 Name and surname	<b>Bridegroom</b> Henry Edmund BENHAM	<b>Bride</b> Eliza Rose GORDON
	4 Condition . . . . .	Bachelor	Spinster
	5 Birthplace . . . . .	Winchester Hampshire England	Townsville Queensland
	6 Profession, trade or occupation . . . . .	Labourer	Home Duties
	7 Age . . . . .	35	40
		years	years
	8 Usual place of residence . . . . .	Stuart Street Townsville	Seventh Avenue South Townsville
	Parents— 9 Father's name and surname. Mother's name and maiden surname . . . . .	George Edward Benham Luise Green	William John Gordon Margaret O'Connor
	10 Father's rank or profession . . . . .	Deceased	-

Married at St. Joseph's Church, Townsville } This marriage was solemnised between us } Henry Edmund Benham  
Eliza Rose Gordon  
according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church } In the presence of us } Herbert Gordon  
Mary A. Collins

Date of registration 25 January 1923


W. Rillie  
Signature of Registrar

By me Thos. A. Sweeney B.A.  
Officiating Minister or Registrar



I, Keith William Redman  
Registrar-General, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an entry in  
a Register of Marriages kept in the General Registry Office, Brisbane, and I  
further certify that I am a person duly authorised by law to issue such certificate

Extracted on 12 November 1985

Exd. by  tc



Registrar-Genera

CAUTION.—Whosoever shall unlawfully alter any Certified Copy of an Entry in any Register of Births, Marriages, or Deaths, whether by erasure, obliteration, removal, addition, or otherwise, is guilty of a CRIME and liable to the punishment by law provided in that behalf. (Vide Sections 486 and 489 of the Criminal Code.)

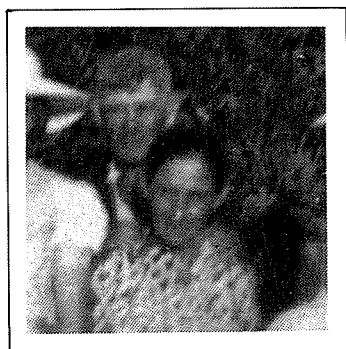
## THE FAMILY OF HENRY EDMUND BENHAM



• *Ivy May Benham, approximately four years of age.*



• *Ivy May, at 21 years of age. Taken in Toowoomba.*



• *Eliza Rose (Bessie), 1939/40.*

# THE FAMILY OF HENRY & ELIZA

## IVY MAY BENHAM (Adopted)

b 3 Nov 1921/Bundaberg

### 1: Ivy May Benham (adopted)

b 3 Nov 1921/Bundaberg

m Victor Hugo Corazzol

b 26 Oct 1924 Anisy, Pinon-Aisne, France

d 8 Jan 1983/Brisbane

*children* ..... 1: Ivan Victor Corazzol

b 11 Nov 1948 Brisbane

m Janet Lillian Roebig

b 22 Mar 1952 Brisbane

*children* ..... 1: Paul Jason Corazzol

b 21 Dec 1971 Brisbane

2: Kylie Anne Corazzol

b 21 Dec 1975 Brisbane

### 2: Ian John Corazzol

b 16 Apr 1950 Brisbane

m Sherryl Gail Rogers

b 4 Dec 1951 Brisbane

*children* ..... 1: Jodie Michelle Corazzol

b 1 Jul 1971/Townsville

2: Nicole Garey Corazzol

b 5 Jul 1973/Brisbane

3: Bradley Scott Corazzol

b 22 Jun 1978/Brisbane

4: Joel Craig Corazzol

b 2 Mar 1983/Brisbane

d 3 Mar 1983/

5: Matthew Brett Corazzol

b 2 Mar 1983/Brisbane

### 3: Trevor Leo Corazzol

b 26 Jan 1952/Brisbane

\*

m Janet Katrina Seibrand

b 27 Apr 1954/Brisbane

*children* ..... 1: Jennifer Gail Corazzol

b 4 Jul 1977/Brisbane

2: Ellen Lee Corazzol

b 30 Jan 1982/Brisbane

### 4: Carlo Corazzol

b 24 Nov 1956/Brisbane

m Nadine Robyn Lyons

b 22 Apr 1957/Brisbane

*children* ..... 1: Alicia Maree Corazzol

b 8 Jun 1982/Brisbane



## LATE ENTRIES PAGE

*We knew it was an impossible task to keep up to date with births, marriages and deaths, until our book was printed, so we chose our cut-off date as August 1983, to complete the full one hundred years of descendants.*

*This page is our Late Entries Page, and lists the events of which we have been notified, since August 1983. Some have been sad entries, and we offer these families our sympathy. The marriages and births, our congratulations.*

*We will be happy to continue collecting these names, dates and places for our future records, if families would like to contact us with future details.*

### FAMILY 1

Alfred James Benham *d* 18 May 1984 Mareeba.

### FAMILY 2

Gladys Theresa James (nee Lindner) *d* 4 Apr 1984 Kilcoy  
Amy Elizebeth Broomfield *b* 14 Apr 1984/Nyngan, NSW  
Simon Cross *b* 9 Jun 1984/Ballararat, NSW

Sharon Anne James *m* Brian Gordon Cherry *b* 27 May  
1963/Brisbane

Jade Anne Cherry *b* 27 Nov 1984/Canberra  
Melanie Kim Dansie *b* 3 Jun 1985

Ethel Marion Edith Hatfield (nee Dyer) *d* 28 Sep 1985  
Stewart Kenneth Michael Kelly *b* 18 Nov 1985/Redcliffe  
Christina Fay Winifred Kelly *b* 18 Nov 1985/Redcliffe  
John William James *m* Sharlyn Joan Duxbury *b* 19 May  
1967/Sydney

### FAMILY 3

Lynette Phyllis Coomes (nee Benham) *m* Paul Stoddart

Kristan Lloyd Ferrando *b* 10 Nov 1983

Denise Ann Brescansin *m* Silvio Greco *b* 30 Sep 1960/  
Innisfail

Paula Maria Brescansin *m* Peter Graham *b* 9 Oct 1960

John Victor Napier *m* Catherine Anne Harris *b* 8 Feb  
1966/Woollongong, NSW

Kaye Therese Napier *m* Patrick Joseph McGurk *b* 25 Mar  
1937/Castlecaulfield Co. Tyrone, N. Ireland

Liam Francis Basil McGurk *b* 1 Sep 1984/Wellington, NZ

Aileen Joyce Benham (nee Tindale) *d* 6 Oct 1984/Brisbane

David Joseph Lonergan *b* 24 May 1985

Katherine Ann Richards *b* 15 Oct 1985/Ayr

Darryl Keith Hammond *m* Yvette Marie de Courcey *b* 19  
Dec 1964/Townsville

Melba Sarah Hammond (nee Benham) *d* 30 Nov  
1985/Townsville

Talisha Jane Hammond *b* 5 Dec 1985/Townsville

Lawrence Malcolm Kammerer *m* Alannah May Catherine  
Faget *b* 3 Mar 1962/Ingham

Karen Joy Hammond *m* Nardino Endino Bella *b* 8 May  
1957/Mackay

### FAMILY 4

Lisa Maria Thomson *m* David Stewart *b* 4 Oct 1962/  
Mackay

Patricia Jane Kennedy *m* Mark Francis Ormes *b* 11 Jul  
1959/Townsville

Michelle Rose Ormes *b* 23 Sep 1984/Mt. Isa

Jaylene Zara Kennedy *b* 31 Jul 1985/Bundaberg

Christopher Paul Sabadina *b* 13 Aug 1985/Ayr

Ariel Jesse Pool *b* 14 Sep 1985/Brisbane

### FAMILY 6

Jeffrey Graham Fitzpatrick *m* Sharon Stanley *b* 25 Mar  
1964/Maitland, NSW

Matthew Callaghan *b* 7 Jun 1985/Hong Kong

Nathan Hole *b* 28 Jul 1985/Gosford

William Henry Houston *d* 10 Apr 1986/Brisbane

### FAMILY 8

Brett Robin Shepherd *m* Cinzia Anna Morselli *b* 18 Jun  
1963/Mirandola, Italy

Krystle Louise Page *b* 10 Apr 1984/Brisbane

Christopher Adam Shepherd *m* Naomi Leith Greer *b* 9  
Nov 1962/Brisbane

Joan Bridget Lynch (nee Hynes) *d* 28 Aug 1984/Brisbane

Elsie May Shephard (nee Page) *d* Apr 1985/Brisbane

Dylan Guy Shepherd *b* 29 Oct 1985/Brisbane

### FAMILY 9

Leon Guy Watts *b* 29 May 1984/Mareeba

Ryan Kent O'Sullivan *b* 25 Aug 1984/Brisbane

Adam Nicholas Mason *b* 30 Nov 1984/Brisbane

Harcourt Samin *d* 1 Oct 1985/Brisbane

### FAMILY 10

Lindsay Morris Digweed *m* Karen Boxer *b* 14 Jul 1964/  
Brisbane

Andrew Raymond McAntee *b* 25 Jun 1984/Wondai

Bradley John Digweed *b* 1 Dec 1984/Brisbane

Joshua David Douglas *b* 29 May 1985

Gilbert Mark McAntee *m* Robyn Gayle McIntyre *b* 6 Oct  
1956/Wondai

### FAMILY 11

Trevor Leo Corazzol *d* 24 Oct 1983/Missing at sea, S.E.  
Qld.

# INDEX

- ACCATINO**  
Allan Frank: 97  
Rachael Anne: 97
- ADAMS**  
Arthur Stanley: 48  
Barbara Anne: 49  
Brenda Patricia: 48  
Colin Arthur: 49  
David Stanley: 48  
Desley Maree: 48  
Desmond Arthur: 48  
Douglas Stanley: 49  
Elizabeth Emily: 48  
Jim: 36  
Raymond Brett: 48  
Ronald Percival: 48  
Trevor Douglas: 49  
Valerie Edith: 49
- ALLEN**  
Charles: 24, 109  
Samuel James: 109
- ANDERSEN**  
Judith: 70
- ANDERSON**  
Dawn Ivy: 54  
Jean: 46  
T: 23
- ANDREWS**  
Bullocky Tom: 105
- ANFRUNS**  
Kerry Michele: 58
- ARCHER**  
Thomas: 39
- ASHFORD**  
Robyn Isobel: 174
- ASHWORTH**  
J: 63  
R: 63
- ASSMAN**  
Alma Jessie: 98
- ATKINSON**  
Alan Daren: 50  
Anne Maree: 50  
Helen Lorraine: 50  
Morris Arthur: 50
- BAILLIE**  
Isabell Ethel: 27
- BAKER**  
Clint Phillip: 70  
Kevin Phillip: 70  
Paul Wayne: 70
- BARKER**  
B.J.: 63
- BARNES**  
Edward Allan: 98  
Edward Raymond: 98  
Michael Raymond: 98
- BARRETT**  
Jocelyn Mary: 173
- BARRON**  
Dorothy Louise: 158
- BARTON**  
Joan Marion: 55
- BATTERHAM**  
Lex Ernest: 147  
Peter Andrew: 147  
Troy Anthony: 147
- BEACH**  
Winifred: 145
- BEATTIE**  
Ruby Mary: 158
- BELLA**  
Nardino Endino: 187
- BELLANATO**  
Chiara Elizabeth: 128  
Francesco Guiliano: 128
- BENHAM**  
Alan Douglas: 73  
Alfred James: 21, 23, 27, 86, 187  
Alice Edith: 87, 93, 98  
Amanda Jane: 68  
Annie Margaret: 93, 95  
Arthur Ernest: 4, 5, 21, 22, 24, 31, 35, 86, 103, 105, 106, 108, 109, 115, 133, 136, 139  
Aubrey William: 3, 4, 36, 114  
Barry George: 100  
Beverley Joan: 70  
Beverley Joan: 94  
Brian William: 94  
Bruce Raymond: 69  
Bryon Darcy: 93, 128  
Carole Edith: 70  
Charles Leslie: 67, 72  
Cheryl Joyce: 73  
Christine Karen: 74  
Christopher John: 68  
Colin Frederick: 69  
Coral Lucille: 94  
Darcy Edward: 93, 128  
Darcy William: 100  
David John: 74  
Dawn Alice: 93  
Debbie June: 100  
Derek Anthony: 68  
Loris Jean: 62, 67, 79, 134  
Doris May: 93, 100  
Doris Thelma: 67, 79  
Douglas William: 67, 73  
Eleanor: 72  
Edith: 4, 16, 123, 124, 139, 151, 165, 166, 167, 181
- Edith Ivy: 73  
Edwin Henry: 3, 4, 11, 21, 35, 85, 86, 103, 109, 123, 133, 136, 182  
Edwin Henry: 67, 69  
Edwin John: 69  
Emily: 3, 4, 5, 21, 31, 39, 40, 41, 103, 140, 165  
Emily Jane: 99  
Ernest Donald: 67, 78  
Ethel Amy: 3, 4, 16, 31, 36, 38, 151, 165, 167  
Evelyn May: 68  
Faye Grace: 94  
Francis Alfred: 93, 94  
Frederick Ernest: 21, 27  
Frederick James: 4, 5, 21, 22, 23, 24, 31, 35, 37, 38, 85, 89, 103, 133, 134  
Geoffrey Alan: 73  
George: 3, 11, 21, 31, 61, 83, 133, 139, 181  
George Albert: 3, 4, 8, 61, 62, 63, 134  
George Albert: 67  
Gloria: 71  
Gordon James: 69  
Grace Margaret: 61, 67, 75, 134  
Graeme Leslie: 95  
Gwenda may: 94  
Harold Claude: 67, 75  
Harold Edgar: 3, 4, 114  
Henry Edmund (Harry): 3, 4, 36, 181  
Ilma Jane: 93, 95, 134  
Ivy Lillian Emily: 62, 67, 74, 104, 134  
Ivy May: 181, 182, 185  
Jacqueline Joyce: 74  
James: 3  
James Henry Stephen: 69  
Jason Daniel: 95  
Jason Laurie: 99  
Jeanette Ann: 69  
Jeffery Mark: 100  
Jesse Edward: 4, 7, 22, 24, 36, 61, 83, 87, 88, 89, 103, 134  
Jessie Vera: 93, 97  
Jill: 72  
John: 67, 78  
Joseph Arthur: 67  
Joyce Isobel: 74  
Judith Ann: 99  
Judy-Joy: 67  
Julie Michelle: 94  
Karen Frances Lilly: 95  
Karyne Leigh: 69  
Kim Leanne: 69  
Laurie Herbert: 99  
Lavinia Emily: 21, 23, 27, 86, 134  
Lillian Grace Margaret: 70  
Lillian Frances: 3, 4, 36  
Leslie Frederick: 74  
Lucy May: 61, 67  
Lynette Phyllis: 73, 187  
Maree Ann: 94  
Marion: 4, 16, 151, 165, 166, 167  
Marion: 93, 96, 140  
Mary: 3  
Maxine Karen: 100  
Melba Sarah: 62, 67, 78, 134, 187  
Michael David: 95  
Michael Leslie: 74  
Neil John: 74  
Peter Raymond: 69  
Peter James: 69  
Ralph: 3, 4  
Ralph Eric: 93, 100  
Richard Davey: 68  
Richard John Davey: 68  
Robert Edward: 69  
Robin Jesse: 95  
Robin Jesse: 95  
Roy William: 94  
Samuel Joseph: 93  
Sandra Marie: 73  
Sarah Jane: 3, 4, 11, 36, 38, 123, 133  
Sheila: 71  
Susan Joyce: 68  
Thelma Dorothy: 69  
Timothy James: 68  
Tracey Joy: 94  
Tracey May: 69  
Valmae Ruth: 94  
Vicki Caroline: 74  
Vivian Claude: 71  
William George: 93, 99
- BENSON**  
Herbert: 109
- BEUTEL**  
Frederick: 46  
Frederick John: 47  
Heather Joyce: 46  
Leanne Fay: 47  
Michelle Ann: 47  
Narelle Joy: 47  
Pamela Winifred: 47
- BIRCHALL**  
Ethel Lorna: 48
- BIRKETT**  
Capt.: 16, 17
- BLACKBURN**  
Jason Peter: 99
- BOARDMAN**  
Drew Robert: 145  
Robert Ernest: 145
- BOOTH**  
Calvin Collin: 47  
Gregory John: 48  
Kenneth Allan: 47  
Roslyn Leslye: 47
- BOSWORTH**  
Barry John: 96  
Megan Jane: 96  
Roger William: 96  
Wayne John: 96  
(Old): 86
- BOURKE**  
Adeline (nee Gray): 27  
Jean (nee Butler): 110
- BOWATER**  
Heather May: 97
- BOXER**  
Karen: 187
- BRANNAN**  
Jordie James: 68  
Thomas John: 68
- BRAY**  
Eileen Joyce: 78  
Matron: 11
- BREDDEN**  
Rhonda Ann: 71
- BRESCANSIN**  
Denise Ann: 77, 187  
Desmond Peter: 77  
Gary John: 77  
Neville Matthew: 77  
Paula Maria: 77, 187  
Peter Angelo: 77
- BRIGGS**  
Alison Maria: 70  
Jennifer Cathrine: 70  
Paul: 70  
Peter John: 70  
Trevor Anthony: 70
- BROCKHURST**  
J.H.: 63
- BROOMFIELD**  
Amy Elizabeth: 187  
Katrina Louise: 52  
Mark William: 52  
Melissa Jane: 52
- BROOMHEAD**  
E: 63
- BROWN**  
Joy: 95  
Mary: 156  
Nathan: 73  
Raymond: 73  
Tennille: 73  
Trevor Annie Jane: 67
- BUCHANAN**  
Justin James: 68  
Lee Duncan: 68  
Shane Edward: 68
- BUCKLAR**  
Aileen May: 50  
Albert Edward: 48  
Albert Edward Charles: 48  
Arthur Albert: 49, 159  
Arthur William: 48  
Caroline Valmae: 54  
Charles Henry: 48  
Dianne Lesley: 53  
Edna May: 51  
Edward John: 50  
Emily Lillian: 48  
Ernest Edward: 49  
Fiona Madeline: 53  
Gavin: 50  
George Henry: 54  
Glenn James: 53  
Henry: 54  
Hilda Ellen: 50  
James Robert: 53  
Janine Allison: 53  
Joyce Ann: 50  
Karen Joy: 49, 159  
Kelly Patricia: 48  
Leonard Edward: 54  
Leslie Edward: 53  
Mark: 49  
Myrtle Edith: 52  
Neil: 49  
Pamela Joan: 49  
Percival Claude: 49  
Sarah Beatrice: 53  
Sean: 50  
Suzanne Lynell: 53  
Wilfred James: 53
- BURDEN**  
Christopher Richard: 156  
Philip Richard: 156  
Sally Ann: 156
- BURGEN**  
Amara Jane: 99  
Gwen Ivy: 98  
Jesse James: 99  
Kathleen Alice Ellen Rita Grace: 99
- BURKE**  
Christopher Neville: 73
- Shane Thomas: 73  
Thomas: 73
- BURNETT**  
Donald John: 156  
Janet Ann: 156  
Keith: 156  
Maxine Judith: 156
- BURNSIDE**  
John McMaster: 93  
Mark William: 93  
Peter John: 93
- BURTON**  
Gweneth Rose: 146  
Rosie: 25
- BUSHELL**  
T.W.: 63
- BUTLER**  
Alice Marie: 75  
Dale Robert: 75  
Fiona Grace: 75  
Helen Louise: 75  
James Charles: 104, 110  
Janet Patricia: 75  
Lloyd Arnold: 75  
Naomi Janet: 75
- CALLAGHAN**  
Jeremy: 128  
Matthew: 187
- CAMERON**  
Brett: 50  
Daren: 50  
David: 50  
Jill Anne: 160  
Jonathan Ross: 160  
Kelly-Ann Mary: 50  
Malcolm Andrew: 160  
Ronald: 50  
Ross Alexander: 160
- CAMPBELL**  
Bruce Marshall: 100  
Deborah: 100  
Harry Marshall: 100  
Janet May: 100  
Lois Jane: 100  
Mark Ralph: 100  
Rebekah: 100
- CARLING**  
Eunice Sandra: 78  
Gary Keith: 78  
Kylie Marie: 73  
Lisa Jayne: 73  
Tracey Leanne: 73
- CARUANA**  
Leonard Charles: 177
- CAVILL**  
Mrs.: 37
- CHERRY**  
Brian Gordon: 187  
Jade Anne: 187
- CLARK**  
Eliza Alice: 40  
Valmae Joan: 69  
Jennette Florence: 157
- CLARKE**  
Jeanette: 49
- CLAYSON**  
Edgar: 24
- COCHRANE**  
Gwendoline Joyce: 175
- COLLINS**  
Mary A.: 183
- CONNOR**  
Miss: 170
- COOMES**  
Amanda: 73  
Collette: 73  
David: 73
- CORAZZOLO**  
Alicia Maree: 185  
Bradley Scott: 185  
Carlo: 185  
Ellen Lee: 185  
Ian John: 185  
Ivan Victor: 185  
Jennifer Gail: 185  
Jodie Michelle: 185  
Joel Craig: 185  
Kylie Anne: 185  
Matthew Brett: 185  
Nicole Garey: 185  
Paul Jason: 185  
Trevor Leo: 185, 187  
Victor Hugo: 185
- CORNELIA**  
Anna: 174
- COULTA**  
Bradley James: 76  
Daniel John: 76  
Philip James: 76  
Tammie Nicole: 76
- COWARD**  
Jack: 37
- COX**  
Narelle Ann: 177
- COXON**  
Maurine Sylvia: 175
- COYLE**  
Alexander George: 66  
Glenn Edward: 76
- CRANE**  
Luke Kenneth: 145  
Martin Kenneth: 145
- CRANSHAW**  
Irene Rose: 71
- CRAVEN**  
Christine Rose: 76
- CRISP**  
W.: 63
- CROSS**  
Benjamin: 53  
Geoffrey Thomas: 52  
Matthew: 62  
Nathan: 52  
Peter: 52  
Simon: 187
- CROWDEY**  
Debra Joan: 96  
Judith Ann: 96
- CROWTHER**  
Alisa Ethel: 76  
Alan Edward: 75  
Ann Florence: 77  
Ann Elizabeth: 76  
Arthur: 75  
Brian Michael: 75  
Caroline May: 77  
Christopher Ian: 77  
David Adam Blackwell: 76  
Dawn Margaret: 76  
Debra Grace: 76  
Franklin John: 77  
Geoffrey Stewart: 77  
Graham Arthur: 75  
Gwenith Joy: 77  
Janice Elizabeth Jean: 75  
Jennifer Joy: 77  
Jonathan Edward: 77  
Lynette Marie: 77  
Mark Anthony: 77  
Melanie Eve: 77  
Patricia Grace: 75  
Paul Geoffrey: 77  
Robert Wayne: 77  
Ross David: 76  
Sidney Merle: 76  
Sydney Edward Mafeking: 75, 134
- CUNNINGHAM**  
Dr. Surgeon Superintendent: 11
- DANCE**  
Alexandra Frederick Benham: 95  
Barrington Frederick Benham: 95  
Catherine Louise Benham: 95  
Frederick Ernest Alfred: 95  
Janelle Ernestine Benham: 95  
Kenneth Alfred Benham: 95  
Malcolm Jon Benham: 95  
Michelle Andrea Benham: 95  
Nicholas Barrington Benham: 95  
Stephen Craig Benham: 95
- DANDON**  
James William: 24
- DANSIE**  
Brandon John: 58  
Cheryl Diane: 57  
Crystalyn Marie: 58  
Donnetta: 58  
Araham Charles: 58  
Judith Ann: 58  
Kendrick: 57  
Kenneth Brandon: 58  
Melanie Kim: 187  
Peter John: 58  
Sharyn Lillian: 58  
Tanya: 58  
Timothy: 58  
Tracey Lee: 58
- DARCY**  
Janet: 28  
Peter: 28  
Stacy Pauline: 28
- DAUTH**  
Donald Fredrick: 173
- DAVIE**  
Adrian Christopher: 57  
Carly Natasha: 57  
Simon Christopher: 57
- DAWES**  
Rayne-Elizabeth: 146
- de COURCEY**  
Yvette Marie: 187
- DIGWEED**  
Andrew Ernest: 177  
Bradley John: 187  
John Francis: 176  
Lindsay Morris: 177, 187  
Peter John: 176
- DINNIS**  
Frank Richard: 79  
Frank Stuart: 79  
Merrilyn Jean: 79  
Roslyn Ivy: 79
- DOLBY**  
George: 24
- DONKLEY**  
Surgeon: 7
- DONNAN**  
R.L.: 63
- DONNELLY**  
Thomas Francis: 28
- DOOLEY**  
Barry James: 160

# INDEX

- Graham Arthur: 160  
 Kelly Maria: 160  
 Kerry May: 160  
 Shane Thomas: 160  
**DOUGALL**  
 G.N.: 63  
**DOUGLAS**  
 Angela Mae: 176  
 Brett: 176  
 Brian Ronald: 176  
 Cameron James: 176  
 Christine Lynore: 49  
 Daryl Neil: 176  
 David John: 176  
 Debbie Jean: 176  
 Donna Ann: 176  
 Joshua David: 187  
 Joshua Ian: 176  
 Joshua Thomas: 176  
 Kerry Ann: 49  
 Neil Arthur: 176  
 Rachel Sherryn: 176  
 Raymond Victor: 176  
 Robert: 176  
 Rodney William: 49  
 Sarah-Cherie: 176  
 Sonia: 176  
 Wayne Allan: 49  
**DOWNING**  
 Bronwyn Kaye: 54  
 Christopher Mark: 54  
 Elizabeth Therese: 54  
 Erin Janine: 54  
 Karen Ann: 54  
 Kylie Marie: 55  
 Mathew Daniel: 55  
 Naomi Suzanne: 54  
 Patrick Thomas: 54  
 Patrick William Thomas: 54  
 Rachael Lillian: 55  
 Ronald Charles: 54  
 Simon Thomas: 55  
 Thomas Patrick: 54  
**DOYLE**  
 Deborah: 98  
 Geraldine Anne: 49, 159  
 Janice Merle: 159  
 Jeremiah: 158  
 Kathleen Veronica: 158  
 Mark Vincent: 158  
 Oriol Irene: 158  
 Peter Denis: 159  
 Raymond Arthur: 158  
 Sari Christina: 158  
 Valmai Joy: 158  
**DRAKE**  
 Sarah: 141  
**DUFFY**  
 Noela Joan: 46  
**DUNLOP**  
 Dr. Albert: 5, 6, 36, 39  
**DUNN**  
 Brian Mansfield: 94  
**DUNNE**  
 Catherine Anne: 72  
**DYER**  
 Alice Emily: 57  
 Arthur: 24, 31, 45  
 Arthur Ernest William: 3, 31, 45, 48, 89, 109  
 Emily: 32, 45, 58  
 Ethel Marion Edith: 31, 45, 54, 104, 187  
 George Arthur: 31, 45, 54  
 Herbert Jessie Benham: 32, 45, 58  
 Hilda Nellie: 31, 45, 48, 90  
 Leonard Charles: 57  
 Percival Charles: 32, 45, 57  
 Robert John: 57  
 Sandra Kay: 87  
 Winifred Ernest: 32, 45, 58  
 William: 31  
 Winifred May: 31, 45  
**EDGERTON**  
 Beverley Edna: 69  
**EDWARDS**  
 A.: 63  
**EKMAN**  
 John Stuart: 70  
 Leonie Ann: 70  
 Robert Maxwell: 70  
 Tony Stephen: 69  
 Vivian Maxwell: 69  
**ELLIS**  
 A.: 63  
 Thomas: 32  
 Thomas: 32  
**EMMETT**  
 Audrey: 129  
**ENGLISH**  
 Edward Raymond: 158  
 Mark Edward: 158  
**EVANS**  
 Margaret Ann: 129  
 Mrs. (Matron): 5, 36, 37, 39, 41  
**EVES**  
 Judith Mary: 159  
**EXELBY**  
 Lilbeth Dawn: 74  
**EYLES**  
 May Louisa: 67  
**FAGET**  
 Alannah May Caterine: 187
- FEARY**  
 Dale Moana: 69  
**FELS**  
 Robert Cameron: 157  
 Ty Cameron Paul: 157  
**FENTON**  
 G.: 63  
**FERRANDO**  
 Jaime Lee: 71  
 Jose Rafael: 71  
 Kristan Lloyd: 187  
 Lyndon John: 71  
 Philip Anthony: 71  
**FITZGERALD**  
 John: 24  
**FITZGIBBON**  
 Carmel Jeanne: 159  
 Claire Anne: 159  
 David William: 159  
 Desmond Kevin: 159  
 Jeremy Peter: 159  
 Kevin William: 159  
 Patrick Raymond: 159  
**FITZPATRICK**  
 Colin John: 128  
 Graham John: 128  
 Jeffrey Graham: 128, 187  
**FLATCHER**  
 Mr. and Mrs.: 40  
**FLINT**  
 Ivan Wilfred: 47  
 Jeffrey Ivan: 47  
 John Wilfred: 47  
**FLOWERS**  
 Joseph George: 69  
 Karen May: 69  
 Robert George: 69  
 Steven John: 69  
**FORTINI**  
 Marco: 73  
 Paul Marco: 73  
 Sharon Lee: 73  
**FOX**  
 Andrew: 50  
 Brian: 49  
 Estelle: 50  
 Fred: 50  
 Michelle: 49  
 Ronald: 49  
**FOXLEE**  
 Philip: 88, 89, 105  
**FOWLER**  
 Matron: 7  
**FRASER**  
 Frank: 24  
 Rhonda: 58  
**FREEMANTLE**  
 Florence: 6  
**FREW**  
 Brett James: 70  
 Donna Michelle: 70  
 Ronald Dennis: 70  
**FYFE**  
 Beverley Winifred: 47  
 George: 47  
**GANE**  
 Daisy G. (nee Kingston): 49  
**GARD**  
 Brothers: 105  
 Reg: 63  
**GARRETT**  
 Daphne Clara: 57  
**GAUL**  
 Elsie (nee Holzapple): 56  
 Ambrose J.: 10  
**GIBBS**  
 Caroline Elizabeth: 174  
 G.R.: 63  
 Melanie-Jane: 174  
 Michael Peter: 158  
 Peter William Bowley: 174  
**GIBSON**  
 Daniel William: 24, 88, 109  
**GLUYAS**  
**E.F.:** 63  
**GODWIN**  
 Leonie Joyce: 76  
**GOLDSWORTHY**  
 S.: 63  
**GORDON**  
 Eliza Rose (Bessie): 181, 182  
 Capt.: 5, 36, 37  
 Herbert: 183  
 William John: 183  
**GRAHAM**  
 Peter: 187  
**GRAY**  
 Adeline: 27  
**GRECO**  
 Silvio: 187  
**GREEN**  
 Sara: 3, 21, 31, 61, 83, 139, 181  
 Mr. and Mrs.: 36  
**GREER**  
 Naomi Leith: 187  
**GREGG**  
 Synthia: 100  
**GROBE**  
 Coral Mavis: 157  
 Kelly Jan: 157  
 Kenneth James: 157  
 Robert William: 157  
 Ronald James: 157  
 William Frederick Lyons: 157
- HAGENBACH**  
 Graeme: 73  
 Kim: 73  
**HAGGETT**  
 Geoff: 63  
**HALL**  
 Fabby: 36  
 R.: 63  
 S.: 63  
 S.H.: 63  
**HAMMETT**  
 Myrtle Beatrice: 53  
**HAMMOND**  
 Arthur Roy: 78  
 Christine Michelle: 73  
 Darryl Keith: 78, 187  
 David Kenneth: 78  
 Dion Roy: 78  
 Doris Joy: 79  
 Fiona Denise: 78  
 Geoffrey Wayne: 78  
 John Arthur: 79  
 Judith Maria: 78  
 Karen Joy: 78, 187  
 Kenneth: 78  
 Kevin James: 78  
 Melba Jean: 79  
 Neville James: 78  
 Phillip Charles: 78  
 Raymond Arthur: 78  
 Robyn Lesley: 78  
 Stuart Keith: 79  
 Talissa Jane: 187  
 Trevor Ian: 78  
 Warren Roy: 78  
**HANCORNE**  
 R.R.: 63  
**HAND**  
 R.J.: 63  
**HANNAH**  
 S.: 63  
**HANSEN**  
 Edna Caroline Martha: 75  
**HARPER**  
 Derrick Robert: 55  
 Irene Ellenor: 166, 174  
 Robert John: 55  
 Robert Wallace: 100  
 Sandra Jayne: 55  
 Wesley John: 55  
**HARRIS**  
 Catherine Anne: 187  
 Christine Lorelle: 155  
 Colin: 155  
 F.C.: 63  
 David Colin: 155  
 Helen Esme: 53  
 Mark Robert: 155  
 Noel: 156  
 Shirley: 156  
 Steven David: 155  
 William: 155  
**HASKELL**  
 Alfred: 21  
 Annie: 21, 23, 86  
**HATFIELD**  
 Aileen Rose: 57  
 Annette Merle: 55  
 Ashleigh Simone: 56  
 Bradley James: 55  
 Carmel Grace: 55  
 Carol Paulette: 55  
 Charles William Thomas: 56  
 Colin: 56  
 Dawn Dolores: 57  
 Edwin: 56  
 Elizabeth Lillian: 54  
 Emily Marion: 56  
 Faith Bernice: 56  
 George Arthur: 55  
 Ian Joseph: 55  
 James George: 55  
 Jessie May: 56  
 Joseph George: 54  
 Kylie Anne: 55  
 Malcolm Dick: 55  
 Matthew Lloyd: 57  
 Patricia Ethel: 55  
 Percival James: 56  
 Peter James: 55  
 Richard Mackay: 56  
 Travis Kelvin: 56  
 Zane Joseph: 55  
**HEALEY**  
 John Richard: 56  
**HEDGES**  
 Clorine Emily: 47  
 Darren Mark: 46  
 John (Jack): 45  
 John William Maudsley (Jack): 46  
 Kaylene Margaret: 46  
 Lillian Myrtle (Myrtle): 47  
 Linda Gave: 46  
 Percival Arthur Maudsley: 46  
 Peter: 46  
 Sharlane Maree: 46  
 Thelma Rebecca: 46  
 Winifred May: 46  
**HEGARTY**  
 Christopher Maurice: 157  
 Geoffrey Maurice: 156  
 Katrina Frances: 157  
 Lisa Joy: 156  
 Timothy Joseph: 157
- HEMPENSTALL**  
 G.: 63  
**KENDERSON**  
 Joan Lesley: 175  
**HENDRY**  
 Margaret: 123  
**HENDY**  
 James Cecil Charles: 99  
 Lesley Ella: 99  
 Patrick James: 99  
 William Peter: 99  
**HEPBURN**  
 Darcy John: 53  
 Melissa Jane: 53  
 Ronald Maxwell: 53  
**HEPPLLE**  
 Mark: 128  
 Noni Lee: 128  
 Raymond: 128  
**HILL**  
 Maree Annette: 72  
 Mr.: 37  
**HILLIER**  
 Sharon Faye: 176  
**HINCHEY**  
 J.: 63  
**HOCKING**  
 G.: 63  
**HOFFMAN**  
 Nocolette Theodora: 161  
**HOHENSEE**  
 Christine Yvonne: 174  
 Dustin Joseph: 174  
 Francis Joseph: 173  
 James Francis: 174  
 John Elliot: 174  
 Karrie-Leigh: 174  
 Lawrence John Francis: 173  
 Mervyn Joseph Elliot: 174  
 Michelle Ann: 173  
 Shayne Elliott: 174  
 Yvonne Ray: 173  
**HOLE**  
 Nathan: 187  
 Thomas William: 128  
**HOLT**  
 Bertha Elizabeth: 93  
**HOLZAPPLE**  
 Elsie Gaul: 56  
**HOPKINS**  
 Janis: 147  
**HORROCKS**  
 Charles S.: 41  
**HOUSTON**  
 Andrea Jane: 129  
 Arthur William: 127  
 Cathy: 128  
 Craig Andrew: 129  
 David: 123  
 Donald William: 129  
 Edith May: 123, 127, 129  
 Frederick James: 127, 128  
 Frederick William (Bill): 128  
 Gertrude Ellen: 127, 128  
 Irene (Mary): 128  
 Jennifer: 128  
 Rodney Henry: 129  
 Sarah Jane (nee Benham): 143, 171  
 Thelma May: 127  
 Valmai Elizabeth: 128  
 William (Will): 123, 143, 171  
 William Henry: 127, 129, 187  
 Winifred Maud: 93, 127, 128  
**HOZA**  
 Daniella Maria: 155  
**HUDD**  
 Violet Priscilla: 127  
**HUME**  
 Mr.: 37  
**HUMPHRIES**  
 Enid Ann: 54  
**HUMPHREY**  
 H.: 38  
**HUNTER**  
 Kate Lyn: 72  
 Margaret Stewart: 3, 61, 62, 87, 134  
 Melissa Jane: 72  
 Ronald William: 72  
**HUSSEY**  
 Charles: 23  
**HYNES**  
 Joan Bridget: 146, 187  
**INCLEDON**  
 Karen: 173  
**INGRAM**  
 Capt.: 7  
**IRELAND**  
 Dugald Victor: 128  
 Janice: 128  
**IRWIN**  
 Frances: 158  
 Francis: 158  
 G.: 63  
 James: 158  
 Patricia: 158  
 R.: 63  
 Tony: 158  
**JACKSON**  
 Brian William: 74  
 Elizabeth Ann: 41  
 George Robert: 74
- Juanita Mary: 74  
 Kevin Alan: 74  
 Philip Alan: 74  
 Robert Warren: 74  
 Sherry Letitia: 74  
 Warren Robert: 74  
**JACOBS**  
 G.: 63  
**JACOBSON**  
 Sid: 86, 105  
**JAMES**  
 Charles Arthur: 45  
 Charles Arthur: 45  
 John William: 46  
 Mary Olive Winifred: 45  
 Sharon Anne: 46, 187  
 Shirley Winifred: 46  
 William Alexander Anderson: 24, 45, 89  
 William Edward: 45, 104  
 William Edward: 46  
**JAMIESON**  
 Leslie C.: 171  
**JARVIS**  
 W.: 63  
**JENKINS**  
 Juliette Janet: 75  
 Mrs.: 36  
 R.B.: 63  
**JESSION**  
 C.J. (MLA): 115  
**JESSOP**  
 R.: 63  
**JOHNSON**  
 Allan Lindsay: 52  
 Andrew Edward: 52  
 Chum: 22  
 Jack: 105  
 Julianne Mary: 76  
 Kylie Marie: 52  
 Troy Allan: 52  
 Leonard Leslie: 76  
 Gregory Alan: 76  
**JOHNSTON**  
 James: 123, 124, 140  
**JONES**  
 Angela Maree: 147  
 Bernard Albert: 146  
 Natalie Therese: 147  
 Paul Bernard: 146  
 Stephen Anthony: 147  
 T.: 63  
**JOYCE**  
 Ellen: 38, 39  
**KAJEWSKI**  
 Barbara May: 49  
**KAMMERER**  
 Friedrich August: 74, 134  
 Lawrence Malcolm: 75, 187  
 Lynette Lesley: 74  
 Malcolm Frederick: 74  
 Scott Arnold: 75  
 Trina: 75  
**KARSIKAS**  
 Eva Amanda: 77  
**KELLY**  
 Anthony David: 47  
 Anthony David: 47  
 Christina Fay Winifred: 187  
 Harold Frederick: 47  
 James Robert: 47  
 Neil Drennan: 47  
 Stewart Kenneth Michael: 187  
 Mrs.: 38  
**KELSO**  
 Bruce John: 161  
 John Reginald: 161  
 Nicole Marie: 161  
 Reginald Henry Moreton: 161  
**KENNEDY**  
 Alexander Joseph: 99  
 Athol Edward: 98  
 Carolyn Estelle: 99  
 Dallas Megan: 97, 98  
 Damien Matthew Te Whakahu: 97, 98  
 David Peter: 97, 98  
 David Thomas: 98  
 Jaylene Zara: 187  
 Jessica B.: 99  
 Kim Charles: 99  
 Leah Marion: 97, 98  
 Lionel Cameron: 99  
 Nathan Joshua Benham: 97, 98  
 Patricia Jane: 99, 187  
 Rosemary Alice: 98  
 Thomas Edward: 98  
 William Peter: 98  
**KENNY**  
 Joseph: 23, 24, 88, 89, 109, 133, 134  
**KEY**  
 Rosemary Elizabeth: 95  
**KILPATRICK**  
 Barbara Anne: 53  
**KINGSTON**  
 Beverley Dawn: 76  
 Daisy G.: 49  
 Glen Evan: 76  
 Judith Anne: 76  
 Luke Russell: 76  
 Russell Evan: 76

# INDEX

**KORTEUM**  
 Dr.: 12  
**KRATZMANN**  
 Margaret May: 78  
**LAIRD**  
 Gregory John: 72  
 John: 72  
 Kerry-Lynn: 72  
 Micheal Edwin: 72  
**LAKE**  
 Cheryl Ann: 94  
**LAMPARD**  
 Mrs.: 38  
**LANCASTER**  
 Nell: 160  
**LANGDON**  
 Walter: 109  
**LANGLEY**  
 Paul Roy: 157  
 Robyn Pauline: 157  
 Stephen Roy: 157  
**LARSEN**  
 C.: 63  
 J.C.: 63  
 P.: 63  
**LATIMER**  
 Isaac Jeffrey Howard: 58  
 Jeffrey Howard: 58  
 Jaunita Jane: 58  
 Kylie Sherie: 58  
**LATKE**  
 Daphne Margaret: 68  
**LAW**  
 Eileen: 145  
 Julie Ellen: 97  
 Kenneth Andrew: 97  
 Mervyn Allan: 97  
**LAWLOR**  
 Mavis Isabel: 99  
**LAWN**  
 Mary: 74  
**LAWRENCE**  
 Elizabeth: 43  
**LEAR**  
 G.: 63  
**LEE**  
 John: 23, 136  
**LEHMANN**  
 Carl Austen: 46  
**LESTER**  
 Amber Peta: 147  
 George Henry: 147  
 Heather Yvonne: 147  
 Michael Peter: 147  
 Nicholas Michael: 147  
**ILES**  
 Bernice Ann: 97  
**LINDNER**  
 Gladys Theresa: 45, 187  
**LISTER**  
 P.: 63  
**LITTLE**  
 Mrs.: 104  
**LLWELYN**  
 Amanda Kim: 56  
 Evan George: 56  
 Nicole Suzanne: 56  
 Tania Michelle: 56  
**LONERGAN**  
 Allan Richard: 67  
 David Joseph: 187  
 Richard James: 67  
**LONG**  
 James Malcolm: 94  
 Malcolm Warren: 94  
**LOVEJOY**  
 Karen Anne: 146  
 Kim Aaron: 146  
 Mark Shayne: 146  
 Stanley Wayne: 146  
**LUSCOMBE**  
 Cherrie Suzanne: 27  
 Kelvin Edward: 27  
 Rachelle Lavinia May: 27  
 Richard Reginald: 27  
 Richard William: 27  
 Rosemarie Rhonda: 27  
**LYNCH**  
 Cheryl Joan: 147  
 Harold Edgar: 146  
 Judith Ann: 146  
 Noelia Frances: 147  
 Norma Hazel: 147  
 Peter Joseph: 140  
 Trevor Patrick: 147  
**LYNTON**  
 Mr.: 104  
**LYONS**  
 Nadine Robyn: 186  
**McANTEE**  
 Andrew Raymond: 187  
 Arthur Ernest: 173, 177  
 Brett Cameron: 175  
 Clive: 175  
 Donald George: 174  
 Dorothy Irene: 175  
 Edwin: 173, 175  
 Ethel May: 173, 176  
 Gilbert: 175  
 Gilbert Mark: 175  
 Gwendoline: 173, 176  
 Herbert: 173, 174  
 James Pollock: 166  
**Jason Colburn: 175**  
**Joanne Dee: 175**  
**Kim: 175**  
 Lyndall Ellenor: 175  
 Mable: 173  
 Melanie Elizabeth: 174  
 Michael Edward Clive: 175  
 Naomi: 175  
 Neil Thomas: 174  
 Noel Edwin: 175  
 Paul Jonathan: 175  
 Paula Maree: 175  
 Rhonda Jill: 177  
 Ronald: 173, 177  
 Sandra Joy: 175  
 Sharon Rose: 174  
 Stella: 166, 170, 173, 174  
 Tanya Terese: 175  
 Thomas: 166, 173, 174  
 Thomas: 174  
 Vivien Hazel: 177  
 William: 173, 174  
**MacDONALD**  
 Hughie: 103  
**McDONALD**  
 Allan George: 55  
 Amanda Cherie: 51  
 Jamie Lee: 51  
 Keith James: 51  
 Mary: 49  
 Robert Glenn: 55  
**MACFEE**  
 Daniel Andrew: 28  
 Deborah Maree: 28  
 Gregory Alan: 28  
 John Mark: 28  
 Kerry Anne: 28  
 Timothy David: 28  
**McGURK**  
 Liam Francis Basil: 187  
 Patrick Joseph: 187  
**McILWRAITH**  
 S.: 33  
**McINTYRE**  
 Robyn Gayle: 187  
**MACKENZIE**  
 Barrie John: 57  
 Jason Charles: 57  
 J.M.: 39  
 Peter John: 57  
 Steven James: 57  
**MackENZIE**  
 Mr.: 31  
**McKONE**  
 Barbara Helen: 95  
**MACLEOD**  
 Abigail: 31, 39  
**McLEOD**  
 Allison: 50  
 Anne Theres: 71  
 Caisee Annette: 70  
 Cherie Ann: 70  
 Christopher Darren: 70  
 David: 71  
 John Lawrence: 70  
 Kenneth Paul: 71  
 Kristy: 71  
 Leanne: 71  
 Lyle John: 70  
 Narelle: 71  
 Ronald Edwin: 70  
 Shane Joseph: 70  
 Tricia Reine: 71  
 Valerie Joan: 70  
**NIMANDS**  
 Aaron Bruce: 76  
 Guntars: 76  
 Michael Guntars: 76  
**NOLAN**  
 Matthew: 88  
**O'CONNOR**  
 Colleen Patricia: 56  
 Margaret: 183  
 Patricia Geraldine: 48  
**ODGERS**  
 R.: 63  
**O'DONOGHUE**  
 Lesley Anne: 55  
**OGSTON**  
 Cheryl May: 68  
**ORMES**  
 Mark Francis: 187  
 Michelle Rose: 187  
**ORR**  
 Del Elizabeth: 95  
**OSULLIVAN**  
 Nathan Brett: 155  
 Rodney James: 155  
 Ryan Kent: 187  
**OTTEN**  
 John D.: 88  
**OWEN**  
 James Evan: 79  
**OWLES**  
 Sandra Betty: 176  
**PAGE**  
 Anthony Alwyn Francis: 161  
 Arthur: 155, 160  
 Arthur Frederick: 161  
 Charles: 153  
 Charles Aubrey: 145  
 David Leith: 160  
 Edith Marion: 140, 145  
**Leonie Daphne (Lee): 176**  
**Phillip Paul Bradley (Paul): 176**  
**Renee Ann: 177**  
**Ronald James: 173**  
**Walter Henry: 176**  
**MORSELLI**  
 Cinzia Anna: 187  
**MORTON**  
 Mrs.: 36  
**MOSMANN**  
 Hugh: 163  
**MULLINS**  
 Hayley Elizabeth: 28  
 Jacqueline Michele: 28  
 Michael Edward: 28  
 Michael Frederick: 28  
 Shayne Clarence: 28  
**MUNT**  
 R.: 63  
**MURDOCH**  
 Grace: 158  
**MURKINS**  
 Marie: 128  
**MURPHY**  
 Julie-Anne: 50  
 Lee-Anne: 50  
 Peter: 50  
**MURRAY**  
 Janice June: 175  
**MyATT**  
 Margaret: 70  
**NAPIER**  
 Basil: 68  
 Debra Suzanne: 68  
 John Victor: 68, 187  
 Kaye Theres: 68, 187  
 Marilyn Anne: 68  
 Sheryl May: 68  
**NELSON**  
 R.: 63  
**NEMEIE**  
 Marianne: 159  
**NESSBITT**  
 Joshua: 43  
**NEVINS**  
 Joan Oriel: 158  
 Joy Alice: 158  
 Robyn Hazel: 158  
 Arthur Robert: 158  
**NEWMAN**  
 Edith Minnie: 145  
**NEWTON**  
 Brett Alan: 160  
 Darren Frederick: 160  
 Deirdre Ann: 160  
 Raymond Philip: 160  
**NIELSEN**  
 Allison: 50  
 Anne Theres: 71  
 Caisee Annette: 70  
 Cherie Ann: 70  
 Christopher Darren: 70  
 David: 71  
 John Lawrence: 70  
 Kenneth Paul: 71  
 Kristy: 71  
 Leanne: 71  
 Lyle John: 70  
 Narelle: 71  
 Ronald Edwin: 70  
 Shane Joseph: 70  
 Tricia Reine: 71  
 Valerie Joan: 70  
**NIMANDS**  
 Aaron Bruce: 76  
 Guntars: 76  
 Michael Guntars: 76  
**NOLAN**  
 Matthew: 88  
**O'CONNOR**  
 Colleen Patricia: 56  
 Margaret: 183  
 Patricia Geraldine: 48  
**ODGERS**  
 R.: 63  
**O'DONOGHUE**  
 Lesley Anne: 55  
**OGSTON**  
 Cheryl May: 68  
**ORMES**  
 Mark Francis: 187  
 Michelle Rose: 187  
**ORR**  
 Del Elizabeth: 95  
**OSULLIVAN**  
 Nathan Brett: 155  
 Rodney James: 155  
 Ryan Kent: 187  
**OTTEN**  
 John D.: 88  
**OWEN**  
 James Evan: 79  
**OWLES**  
 Sandra Betty: 176  
**PAGE**  
 Anthony Alwyn Francis: 161  
 Arthur: 155, 160  
 Arthur Frederick: 161  
 Charles: 153  
 Charles Aubrey: 145  
 David Leith: 160  
 Edith Marion: 140, 145  
**Elizabeth Sarah: 155**  
**Elsie May 145, 187**  
**Esther Joyce: 155, 159**  
**Ethel Amy: 140, 145, 146, 170**  
**Frederic: 140**  
**Gilbert Charles: 155, 160**  
**James: 140, 151**  
**James Guy: 141**  
**James Guy: 155, 157**  
**Janelle Elizabeth: 161**  
**Jessie Rose: 155, 157**  
**Joan Marion: 158**  
**John (Jack): 145**  
**John Douglas: 145**  
**John Charles: 145**  
**Joyce Adelaide: 160**  
**Kathleen Norma: 155, 161**  
**Krystle Louise: 187**  
**Lesley: 160**  
**Leslie James: 160**  
**Lizzie: 153**  
**Marion: 160**  
**Marion Edith: 155, 156**  
**Maxine Ann: 160**  
**Nathan John: 161**  
**Norman William: 158**  
**Pamela June: 146**  
**Patricia Lynette: 160**  
**Paul James: 160**  
**Peter John (John): 160**  
**Robert William: 158**  
**Roslyn Ann: 161**  
**Sandra Gayle: 145**  
**Sheryl Ann: 145**  
**Shirley Patricia: 158**  
**William Frederick: 155, 159**  
**Winifred Jean: 155, 158**  
**PANKOW**  
 Kelly Marie Ivy: 99  
**PANTOVIC**  
 Michail Daniel: 75  
**PAPPIN**  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack: 23  
**PARHAM**  
 Deborah Kay: 46  
 Sheree Jayne: 46  
 Trevor: 46  
**PARRISH**  
 Glen Richard: 175  
 Richard John: 175  
 Sarah Ellenor: 175  
**PARSONS**  
 Mary Ellen: 45  
**PATERSON**  
 Clare Askell: 27  
 Clarence Edward: 27  
 Glen: 27  
 Gordon Clarence Alfred: 27  
 June Ina: 27  
 Keith Ellvin: 27  
 Rona Raby: 27  
 Thyra: 27  
**PAUL**  
 P.: 63  
**PAVEY**  
 Doreen: 53  
**PEARCE**  
 Mrs. Mary M.: 37, 40, 41  
**PEARSE**  
 Lynnette Grace: 51  
**PENNY**  
 Brent: 27  
 Chriss Edward: 28  
 Christopher John: 28  
 Pauline Thyra: 28  
**PERKINS**  
 Russel Clarence: 27  
**PERKINS**  
 H.: 63  
**PETRO**  
 Virginia Marinee: 57  
**PFEIFFER**  
 F.: 63  
**PHELPS**  
 Aaron James William: 99  
 Malcolm John: 99  
 Robert John Malcolm: 99  
**PHILIPS**  
 Jennifer Irene: 99  
**PHILLIPS**  
 Capt.: 8  
**PILE**  
 Dene Nohatahi: 94  
 John: 94  
 Kenneth Te Ngakahu: 94  
 Perchita Lillian Annette: 94  
**PIPER**  
 Miss: 170  
**PIRIE**  
 A.: 63  
**PISANI**  
 Aaron John: 72  
 Christie Lee: 72  
 Raymond: 72  
**PLACE**  
 Carole Joy: 158  
 Christine May: 158  
 Karla Petrice: 158  
 Stanley James: 158  
 Trevor Alex: 158  
**PLANT**  
 C.F.: 63  
**POLBY**  
 George: 23  
**POLLOCK**  
 N.A.R.: 63  
 Sarah: 166  
**POOL**  
 Ariel Jesse: 187  
 Eli Nathaniel: 96  
 Joel Michael: 96  
 Michael Frederick: 96  
 Nelinda Jane: 96  
**POOLE**  
 Lillian Margaret: 141  
 Mary: 65, 141  
 William: 61, 65, 124, 141  
**POWELL**  
 Joanne: 157  
**POWER**  
 Philip: 158  
**Preston:**  
 Janet Lorraine: 96  
**QUINN**  
 Thomas: 23, 108  
**RAWNSLEY**  
 Daphne Ilma: 96  
 Patricia Anne: 95  
 William Charles: 95  
**RAWSON**  
 Robyn Lesley: 51  
**REDMOND**  
 J.: 63  
**REID**  
 Margaret Jane (Maggie): 83, 92  
 Samuel: 92  
 William (Bill): 83  
**RICH**  
 Alison Marie: 52  
 Gavin Edward Thomas: 52  
 Heather Margaret: 74  
 Kellie Louise: 52  
 Terry Bruce: 52  
**RICKARDS**  
 Andrew Edwin: 71  
 Colin James: 71  
 Donna Rose: 71  
 Gary Edwin: 71  
 Harold James: 71  
 Katherine Ann: 187  
 Lynda Maria: 71  
 Melanie Jane: 71  
 Pamela Ann: 71  
 Rodney James: 71  
 Vicky: 28  
**RICKARD**  
 Anthony John: 53  
 Coral Dawn: 52  
 David John: 53  
 Denise Lesley: 53  
 Raymond John: 52  
 Robert Charles: 53  
 Veronica Joy: 53  
**RICKENS**  
 Eliza: 38, 39  
**RIDGLEY**  
 Thos.: 12  
**ROBINS**  
 N.: 63  
 W.: 63  
**ROBINSON**  
 Darryn Jamie: 47  
 Ellen: 48  
 Garry Samuel George: 47  
 Graeme Alan: 173  
 Jeane Winifred: 47  
 Kirsten Leah Ray: 173  
 Samuel Frederick: 47  
 Troy Alan: 173  
**RODGERS**  
 Anthony James: 157  
 Barry Leslie: 157  
 Bradley Lyle: 157  
 Penelope Joy: 157  
**ROEBIG**  
 Janet Lillian: 185  
**ROGERS**  
 Sherryl Gail: 185  
**RONLUND**  
 Duke Gavin: 77  
 Mark Terence: 77  
 Terrence Richard: 77  
**ROSIER**  
 Elizabeth Patricia: 95  
 Terrence Allen: 95  
**ROSSITER**  
 Shirley Ann: 47  
**ROUSCH**  
 Maureen Anne: 53  
**ROWE**  
 Thomas Chas.: 6  
**ROWLAND**  
 Annie: 65  
**RUBACK**  
 David Christopher: 58  
**RUSHWORTH**  
 Ida: 57  
**SABADINA**  
 Anthony Michael: 96  
 Christopher Paul: 187  
 Donna Maree: 96  
 Eugene Nicholas: 96  
 Jane Margaret: 96  
 Nerissa Zona: 96  
 Paul Nicholas: 96  
 Sharon Lee: 96



# INDEX

- Vaughan Christopher: 96
- SAMIN**  
Harcourt: 156, 187  
Lynette Moira: 157  
Wilma Joy: 156
- SANCHEZ**  
Marylou: 146
- SCHULZ**  
Andrea Lesley: 51  
Cheryl Ann: 51  
Ellen Jean: 50  
Gloria June: 51  
Herman George: 150  
Merle Joan: 51  
Rachael Jane: 51  
Warren Leslie: 51
- SCHULTZ**  
Donald James: 56  
Robyn Sharyn: 56  
Thomas Sydney: 56
- SCORER**  
Elizabeth: 41
- SCOTT**  
Rosaleen Mary: 174
- SEABURY**  
Jeanette Pamella: 73  
Neville: 73  
Yvonne Margaret: 73
- SEDORKEN**  
Christopher John: 158  
Deborah Ann: 158  
Nicholas: 158  
Nicole Maree: 158  
Sherrye Gail: 158
- SEIBRAND**  
Janet Katrina: 185
- SERVOU**  
Maria: 69
- SEYMOUR**  
Harry: 88, 89
- SHARPLES**  
Cheryl Anne: 72  
Gerard Joseph: 72  
Greta Ann: 72  
John: 72  
John Thomas: 72  
John Thomas: 72  
Susan Mary: 72
- SHEARER**  
Mava: 155
- SHEPHARD**  
Audrey Elsie: 145  
Thomas Walter: 145
- SHEPHERD**  
Brett Robin: 146, 187  
Christopher Adam: 146, 187  
Dylan Guy: 187  
Gary Owen: 146  
George Alfred: 146  
Karen Leigh: 146  
Owen George: 146  
Randell Leigh: 146  
Robin Noela: 146
- SHORT**  
G.: 63
- SIMPSON**  
Dianne: 160
- SMITH**  
David Alfred: 28  
Desmond George: 27  
Malcolm Robert: 74  
R.G.: 63  
Terri Louise: 74
- SPEERS**  
Barbara Isobel: 100
- SQUIRES**  
Ethel Grace: 55
- STAFFORD**  
Phyllis: 62
- STANLEY**  
Sharon: 187
- STEELE**  
Edward: 23
- STEPHENSON**  
Lillie: 94
- STEWART**  
David: 187
- ST. JOHN**  
Heather May: 49  
Kevin: 49
- STONE**  
Gary Brian: 158  
Kevin John: 158  
Robert James: 158  
Warren James: 158
- STODDART**  
Paul: 187
- STOREY**  
Adam Robert: 53  
David Andrew: 53  
Joanne Maree: 53  
Robert George: 53
- STOVER**  
Mark Douglas: 49  
Stephen Russell: 49
- ST. PAUL**  
S.: 63
- STRICKLAND**  
S.: 23
- STRINGER**  
Amy Judith: 68  
Andrew Keith: 68  
Linda Irene: 68  
Peter Lewis: 68
- SUGG**  
Allan: 41
- SUMMERS**  
Isobel Victoria: 73
- SULLIVAN**  
Don Charles Jr.: 100  
Don Charles III: 100  
Rachel May: 100
- SUTHERLAND**  
Linda Anne: 128  
Ronald McInnes: 128  
William Samuel: 88, 89
- SUTTON**  
Eleanor Elizabeth Ann: 69
- SWEENEY**  
Thos. A. J.A.
- TAYLOR**  
Steven Paul: 75
- THOMAS**  
Diane Josephine Theresa: 156  
Samuel: 109  
J.: 63
- THOMPSON**  
Peter Robert: 97  
W.J.: 63
- THOMSON**  
Aaron Lee: 147  
Amanda Jay: 97  
Andrew Maarten: 159  
Anthony John: 96  
Bernard Samuel: 98  
Claire Marion: 97, 98
- Dale Fredrick: 98  
David John: 159  
Desmond John: 159  
Donald Andrew: 96  
Donald Lewis: 159  
Elliott John: 97  
Gary Lawrence: 97  
Georgina Catherine: 159  
Grant William: 98  
Harold Lawrence: 96  
James Harold William (Jim): 97  
Jason Alexander: 147  
Joan Margaret: 97  
John Alfred: 97  
John Vivian: 159  
Kara Louise: 97  
Kelsie Jane: 96  
Keith Harold: 98  
Lisa Maria: 97, 187  
Margaret May (Peggy): 96  
Mark James: 97  
Matthew Edward: 98  
Maxwell Raymond: 47  
Michelle Alice: 97  
Richard John (Dick): 97  
Ricky Jason: 47  
Robert Edward: 97  
Ross David: 159  
Shane Richard: 96  
Stacey Ann: 147  
Tammy Maree: 47  
Warren Henry: 147  
William Henry (Bill): 98
- THORNE**  
Gregory William: 94  
Kerin Joy: 94
- THORNTON**  
Clement Roy: 46
- THORPE**  
David John: 94  
Katelyn Beverley: 94  
Michael John: 94  
Tina Elizabeth: 94
- THURSTON**  
W.F.: 13
- THWAITE**  
Audrey Ethel: 74
- TINDALE**  
Aileen Joyce: 67, 187
- TODD**  
A.: 63
- TOWNSON**  
G.H.: 23
- TREDREA**  
W.: 63
- TREMBATH**  
Noel Hamilton: 79  
Noel James: 79  
Rhonda Janette: 79  
Suzanne Denise: 79
- TROLLOPE**  
Noah Alfred: 6
- TURNBULL**  
Matron Mrs.: 8
- TYMONS**  
Matron Mrs.: 16, 17
- UHR**  
George: 23, 134
- UNSWORTH**  
—: 103  
Lee William: 46  
Nigel James: 46  
Ronald James: 46  
Shayne John: 46
- USHAY**  
Lydia: 71
- VANDER HAVE**  
Margaret Diane (Diane): 176
- VELLA**  
Laurice Frances: 176
- VIDLIUCH**  
Raida: 157
- VINEY**  
April Dawn: 99
- VIPEN**  
Phyllis May: 73
- WALKER**  
Christopher Adam: 177  
Donald John: 177  
Donnie Christopher: 177  
Mabel Esther: 45
- WALLACE**  
Margaret: 32  
John A.: 39  
Patricia Myrtle: 77
- WARD**  
Sarah Elizabeth: 40
- WARE**  
Danny: 94
- WASSELL**  
Melanie Elizabeth Leathom: 174
- WATT**  
Bartholomew: 40, 41
- WATTS**  
Alan Leslie: 158  
C.: 63  
Leon Guy: 158  
Ruby Lee: 158
- WEBB**  
Grant Stanley: 161  
Kara Louise: 161  
Megan Elizabeth: 161  
Scott Dallas: 161
- WEEKS**  
Julie Ann: 156  
Peter James: 156  
Rodney Alan: 156
- WEIR**  
William Martin: 95
- WELLS**  
Christine May: 177  
Edward Rowland: 176  
Linda Joy: 177
- WENDEROTH**  
G.R.: 63
- WHATLEY**  
Barbara June: 76
- WHITMEE**  
Francis Leslie: 128
- WHYTE**  
Helen: 145
- WICKS**  
Tricia Ann: 69
- WIENERT**  
Bogal: 56
- WILHELL**  
Charles John: 98  
Krystle Ronelle: 98
- WILLIAMS**  
Bryan Jeffrey: 79  
Elizabeth Renae: 147  
Janet: 25  
Jas. R.: 25  
Jillian Louise: 79  
John Alexander: 79  
Katherine Joanne: 147
- Marilyn Gail: 78  
Mark Jason: 79  
Matthew Lawrence: 147  
Peta Leigh: 147  
Ronald Vincent: 147  
Shannon Louise: 147
- WILLICOTT**  
Moriah: 31
- WILSON**  
Carol Ann: 52  
Darren Ronald Edward: 52  
Edward Michael: 51  
Gregory Robert: 52  
Karen Anne: 52  
Lorraine Jean: 52  
Marlene Louise: 52  
Rhonda Hellen: 52  
Robert Edward: 51  
Tracee Elizabeth: 51
- WINTER**  
Helen: 158
- WOOD**  
Henry: 127  
Raymond Henry: 127
- WOODCOCK**  
Dawn: 161
- WOODHOUSE**  
Annette Cherie: 51  
Barry Kevin: 51  
Brian David: 51  
Glen Alan: 51  
Kristy Jade: 51
- WOODS**  
Shirley Rae: 156
- WOODWARD**  
Dr. C.R. (Charles): 8, 9
- WOOTTON**  
Darryl Shane: 51  
Diane Cherie Ellen: 51  
Gavin John: 51  
Larine Gayle: 50  
Nicolette Ellen: 51  
Noeleen Marie: 50  
Sharon Louise: 51  
Stephen Edward: 51  
Steven Richard: 50  
Winston Fredrick: 51
- WORLD**  
Barbara: 21
- WORTH**  
Hazel Jessie: 177
- WRIGHT**  
Ellen: 36
- YATES**  
Arthur Raymond: 57  
Augustus Dwayne: 57  
David Kendrick: 57  
Virginia Mickel: 57
- YEO**  
R.: 63
- YUNKER**  
Cyril James: 156  
James Michael (Mick): 156  
James Noel: 156  
Myrtle Joy: 156  
Paul Michael: 156  
Warren James: 156

**T**HIS IS ONLY the beginning of our research.

Handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is extremely faint and illegible due to low contrast and fading. It appears to be organized into several paragraphs or sections, but the specific content cannot be discerned.

Paluma □ Charters Towers □ Ethel Creek □ Benham's Track □ Stone River  
□ Freshwater □ Cloudy Clearing □ Kangaroo Hills □ Mt. Benham □  
Herberton □ Prospectors Creek □ Home Hill □ Hidden Valley □ Ewan  
□ Mt. Brown □ Ingham □ Cow & Calf □ Townsville □ Mt. Spec □ Ayr  
□ Queenton □ Gurrumbah □ Mulgrave □ Gordonvale □ Aloomba □ "Kapia"  
□ Atherton □ Murwillumbah □ Bundaberg □ Port Douglas □ Cairns □  
Waverley □ Tumbulgum □ Hermitville □ Hermit Creek □ Cloudy Creek □  
"Lady Susan Starkey" □ "Blue Crystal" □ "Hercules" □ "Certainty" □  
"Chance" □ "Majestic" □ "Empire" □ Crystal Creek □ Saltwater Creek □  
"Midnight Queen" □ "Try It" □ Mount Beresford □ "Ethel" □ "Coronation"  
□ "Brilliant" □ "Mount Endeavour" □ Hemmant □ "Rover" □ "Nelson" □  
Pially □ "Rover I" □ "Rover II" □ Sydney □ Cloudy Mountain □ Tweed River  
□ Francis Creek □ Boomerang Creek □ Wynnum □ Gundiah □ Oaky Creek  
□ Severin Creek □ Lower Burdekin □ Benham's Lookout □ Moggill □  
Sandgate □ Rollingsstone □ Bracken Ridge □ Virginia □ West End □ Rosalie  
□ Gladstone □ Running River □ South Brisbane □ Belmont □ Dutton Park  
□ Mt. Gravatt □ Whites Hill □ Nundah □ Dunnellan Estate □ Norman Park  
□ Clermont □ Stones Corner □ Buranda □ Deagon □ Woolloongabba  
□ Coopers Plains □ Prosperine □ Coorparoo □ Greenslopes □