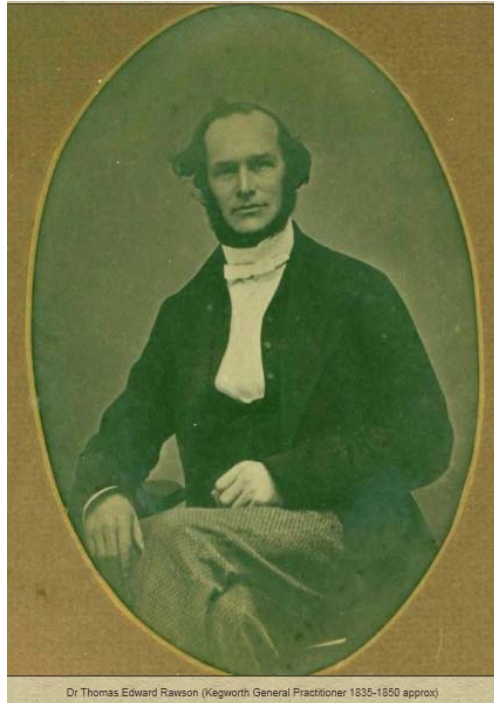


# Descendants of Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON



## ***Introduction***

I have put together this account of the Rawsons in New Zealand because I have a connection to one of the spouses. I was having difficulty working out whether occasional Rawsons encountered in the records were “family”, and decided the only solution was to produce my own account. I had realised that some of the places where they settled and their chosen occupations were influenced in both families by availability of kin to lend support. Both families produced surveyors as well as dentists, and both had branches in Westport.

As far as I have been able to determine there seems to have been an unrelated group of Rawsons descended from William RAWSON (from Lancashire ?) and Elizabeth Brice HAINES who farmed at Maheno in North Otago, but other than them it appears that most of the early NZ Rawsons are part of the present family.

This work is based almost entirely on articles in *Papers Past* and the online registration indexes of births, deaths and marriages, and for this reason I have not recorded sources specifically. Other sources were the FreeBMD index to English registrations, NZ Electoral Rolls indexed by NZSG, and the NZSG IndexV5. A great deal more biographical information could be extracted from the newspapers by anyone wanting to build a more detailed story.

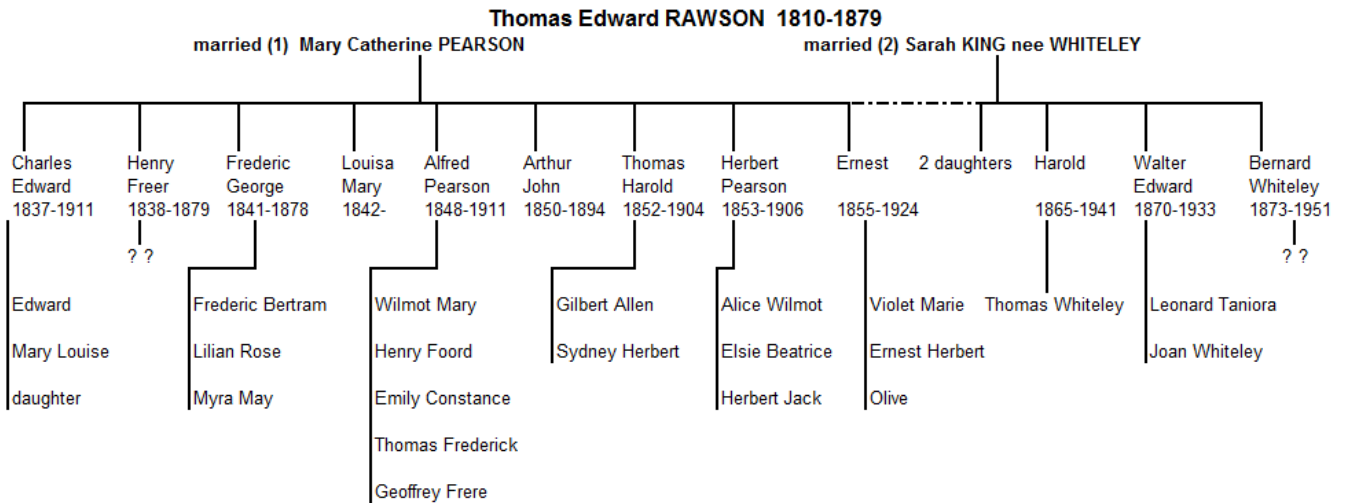
There are likely to be additional grandchildren of Dr T E Rawson born before parental names were included in the NZ online indexes, but I have not attempted to speculate on where they fit. There are also likely to be additional children who died in infancy in England.

I would be pleased to make corrections if notified of any errors.

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Mary Skipworth  
updated 4 Apr 2011

# Descendants of Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON



## First Generation

**1. Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON, MD LSA**, was christened on 9 Apr 1810 in Wimeswold, Leicestershire, UK, and died on 14 Dec 1879 in New Plymouth, NZ at age 69 of paralysis.

The family arrived at Auckland by *Mary Ann* from London on 3 June 1858 - Chief cabin: Mary, Louisa, Alfred, Arthur, Thos., Herbert and Ernest Rawson, Surgeon: Dr Thomas Rawson. On 16 Oct 1858 arrived by *Sporting Lass* from Auckland at New Plymouth, Dr & Mrs Rawson from Auckland.

Taranaki Herald 20 Nov 1858: Dr Rawson First Gold medallist and medical associate of the London University in attendance at Mr Hood's Devon St every alternate Wednesday for the purposes of practising dentistry.

1 Jul 1859 Dr Rawson appointed surgeon to New Plymouth militia

1862 Dr T E Rawson, Symonds St Auckland, Advertisement First Gold medallist etc MD LSA Spoke at meeting of Bible Society, Spoke at opening of a Methodist chapel, New Plymouth Gave a lecture to Mechanics Institute: Earth Air Fire Water

Obituary 16 Dec 1879 *Taranaki Herald*: On Sunday at about three o'clock in the afternoon, Dr. T. E. Rawson, who has for some time been an invalid, breathed his last. Dr. Rawson had nearly reached the age which is said to be the allotted span of human existence, being in his seventieth year. He was born at Windsolt, in Leicestershire, and, after studying for the medical profession, started in practice in London. He afterwards removed to Kegworth, in Leicestershire, where he had a very large practice. In 1858 he emigrated with his family to Taranaki, and the war breaking out shortly after his arrival, he was appointed Surgeon-Major to the Militia and Volunteers of the District. In 1861, he resigned that position, and went to Auckland, where he commenced to practice his profession. He, however, returned again to Taranaki in 1863, when he was appointed Hospital Surgeon, which, with other offices, he held until a short time ago, when failing health compelled him to resign them. Dr. Rawson was highly respected, and enjoyed a large share of the confidence of his medical brethren.

## Descendants of Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON

Thomas first married **Mary Catharine PEARSON** on 2 June 1836 in Attenborough, Nottingham, England. She died in 1859 in New Plymouth, NZ. Said to have died giving birth to stillborn twins.

Thomas and Mary's children were

- |    |       |   |
|----|-------|---|
| 2  | i.    | <b>Charles Edward RAWSON</b> 1837-1911  |
| 3  | ii.   | <b>Henry Freer RAWSON</b> 1838-1879     |
| 4  | iii.  | <b>Frederic George RAWSON</b> 1841-1878 |
| 5  | iv.   | <b>Louisa Mary RAWSON</b> 1842-         |
| 6  | v.    | <b>Alfred Pearson RAWSON</b> 1848-1911  |
| 7  | vi.   | <b>Arthur John RAWSON</b> 1850-1894     |
| 8  | vii.  | <b>Thomas Harold RAWSON</b> 1852-1904   |
| 9  | viii. | <b>Herbert Pearson RAWSON</b> 1853-1926 |
| 10 | ix.   | <b>Dr Ernest RAWSON</b> 1855-1924       |

After Mary's death Thomas remarried a soldier's widow, **Sarah Hannah KING**, daughter of Rev J WHITELEY, Wesleyan Mission, on 14 Jul 1866 in New Plymouth. Sarah died in New Plymouth in 1907, aged 73, and was buried with her husband at Te Henui cemetery.

Thomas adopted Sarah's two young daughters, and they also had the following sons

- |    |      |  |
|----|------|--|
| 11 | x.   | <b>Harold RAWSON</b> 1869-1941           |
| 12 | xi.  | <b>Walter Edward RAWSON</b> 1870-1933    |
| 13 | xii. | <b>Bernard Whiteley RAWSON</b> 1873-1951 |

# Descendants of Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON

## Second Generation (Children)

**2. Charles Edward RAWSON** (*Thomas Edward (Dr)*<sup>1</sup>) was christened on 22 Feb 1837 in Kegworth, Leicestershire, UK [Baptist] and died in 1911 in Invercargill, NZ at age 74.

Resident Magistrate and District Judge, New Plymouth for 30 years, then moved to Invercargill.

Charles married **Jane GINGER** on 28 Mar 1860 in New Plymouth, NZ. Jane died on 12 Jul 1916 in New Plymouth. Obit Evening Post 20 Jul 1916. Probated estate £2345

Charles and Janes' children were:

- 14 i. **Edward RAWSON** 1865-1919 Magistrate Hamilton, m Gertrude Emmeline MOSS
- 15 ii. **Mary Louise RAWSON** 1867- married Dr Henry B. LEATHAM, New Plymouth
- 16 iii. **unmarried daughter RAWSON**

**3. Henry Freer RAWSON** (*Thomas Edward (Dr)*<sup>1</sup>) was born in 1838 and died of dysentery in Wanganui on 14 Apr 1879 at age 40.

Surgeon/Dentist of Nelson 1862-1873, later of Wellington. He was in the habit of residing a few months each year at Wanganui attending to his practice.

Buller 1863 H F Rawson giving series of lectures on Natural Philosophy and Chemistry

He was an avowed atheist, which gave rise to some controversy over his funeral at which the Anglican clergyman objected to reading the usual funeral service, refer *Wanganui Herald* editorial 3 May 1879.

Henry married **Wilmot Elizabeth BORLASE** in 1867. She died in 1915, probated estate £6895. I have not been able to identify Henry's children.

Following Henry's death, Wilmot Elizabeth RAWSON married Walter Ernest PEARSON in 1892. Refer *Free Lance* 22 May 1909 for account of WEP's contribution to sport - father of Wellington Hockey, Notts County rep soccer player, etc.

**4. Frederic George RAWSON** was born in 1841 in Kegworth, Leicestershire, and died on 23 Sep 1878 at Hawera, NZ. Died of epilepsy, having long been subject to epileptic fits.

Private Fred Rawson, seriously wounded Taranaki wars at battle at Waireka, NZ Medal Bank clerk in 1868 according to his marriage record

1878: F G Rawson, Chemist, Town Bridge advertising Taranaki Herald

1878: F G Rawson elected to committee Mutual Improvement Society

1878: Public vaccinator

Author of letter to paper objecting to excursion train breaking the Sabbath

1878 August - giving up New Plymouth chemist business to remove to Hawera, also experienced dentist.

Fred married **Rosa Helen HUTTON** in 1868 in Hokitika. She died 1940, age 89, buried New Plymouth.

Fred and Rose's children included

- 17 i. **Frederic Bertram RAWSON** 1873-1881
- 18 ii. **Lilian Rose RAWSON** 1875-. married Henry Arthur LENNON in 1906
- 19 iii. **Myra May RAWSON** 1877-1906 MA (Cant) 1899, teacher, died aged 29.

**5. Louisa Mary RAWSON** (*Thomas Edward (Dr)*<sup>1</sup>) was born in 1842. Emigrated with her parents, but returned to England where she married **Edward Henry WALKER**, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Cagliari, on 31 Dec 1869 at St Mary's Church, Mold, Flintshire. [*Liverpool Mercury* 8 Jan 1869]

## Descendants of Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON

**6. Alfred Pearson RAWSON** (*Thomas Edward (Dr)*<sup>1</sup>) was born about 1848, died on 5 Dec 1911 in Masterton, NZ aged 64, and was buried in Archer St cemetery, Masterton.

1861-62 Attended Nelson College, the 3 Rawson brothers being entered as the first boarders  
1876 Govt Surveyor, Karamea, surveyor of Masterton from about 1898  
1877 applied for 50 acres land at Karamea adjacent to his future wife's uncle GCP Jennings  
1881 El Roll Residence Westport Freeholder

Obituary *Wairarapa Times* Mr A P Rawson

The death occurred at his residence Donald Street at 1.30 o'clock this morning of Mr A P Rawson, a highly respected citizen of Masterton. The deceased gentleman had been ill for some considerable time and was making steady progress towards recovery when he suffered a relapse which ended fatally.

The late Mr Rawson was 64 years of age and with his parents came to NZ 50 years ago, arriving at Auckland. His father Dr Rawson was honorary surgeon of the home forces which came to the colony. Dr Rawson and family removed to Taranaki shortly afterwards but returned to Auckland again with the troops when the Maori war broke out. Subsequently the late Mr Rawson and his brothers engaged in farming pursuits in Taranaki and had many exciting experiences in those strenuous times. Some thirty years ago Mr Rawson went to Nelson, where he studied for a surveyor and passed his examination. After practising successfully in Nelson for many years Mr Rawson came to Masterton, this being about thirteen years ago. He had an extensive practice and surveyed and subdivided a large number of the important estates in Wairarapa, including Jean's estate, Wrigley's estate, Yates' estate, Lenz's estate and Cole's estate.

Though he took no active part in public affairs, the late Mr Rawson was always keenly interested in matters which had for their object the advancement of the town and his advice was often sought by public men. The deceased gentleman, who was of a kindly disposition and very popular, leaves two brothers (Dr Rawson and Mr H P Rawson, dentist, of Wellington), a stepbrother (Mr Walter Rawson, judge of the Native Land Court) and two stepsisters, who reside in England, five children (Mrs F W Dunn, of Ballance, Miss C E Rawson and Messers Harry, T and G Rawson) and a widow to mourn their loss, and they will have the sympathy of a wide circle of friends in their bereavement.

Alfred married **Sarah Isabel WILSON** on 4 Jan 1879 in Motueka, NZ, daughter of **Joseph Foord WILSON** and **Madalena "Madge" SINCLAIR**. Sarah was born in 1859 in Motueka, and died in Wellington on 6 Apr 1932 at age 73. She was buried in Porirua cemetery.

1893 Motueka Electoral roll

- |    |      |   |
|----|------|---|
| 20 | i.   | <b>Wilmot Mary RAWSON</b> 1879-1963 marr <b>Frederick William DUNN</b> of Ballance  |
| 21 | ii.  | <b>Henry Foord RAWSON "Harry"</b> 1881-1963 married <b>Constance Ellen Hamilton BREMNER</b> in 1908.<br>At Nelson College 1896-97, staff Bank NSW 1899-1946<br>Prominent in the formation of the Association of Bank Officers in 1919 |
| 22 | iii. | <b>Emily Constance RAWSON</b> 1883-1975 unmarried (died at Porirua Hospital)  |
| 23 | iv.  | <b>Thomas Frederick RAWSON</b> 1886- nothing further known  |
| 24 | v.   | <b>Geoffrey Frere RAWSON</b> 1889-1977 married <b>Doris Elinor Margaret HINDLESMITH</b> (1892-1988), nee <b>BEARD</b> . He was a farmer of Waikaraka and Whangarei  |

**7. Arthur John RAWSON** (*Thomas Edward (Dr)*<sup>1</sup>) was born about 1850 in Leicestershire, UK, died in Oct 1894 aged about 44, and was buried in Karori Cemetery.

1861-62 - boarder at Nelson College, sent from Taranaki to the safety of Nelson

## Descendants of Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON

Obit *WairarapaTimes* 15 Oct 1894: We regret to have to record the death of Mr Arthur J Rawson, which occurred this morning at Wellington after a somewhat prolonged illness. Mr Rawson was originally on the Government Survey staff, retiring in 1879 to take up a private practice on the West Coast. About nine years ago he came to Masterton and resided here until within a few weeks of his death. The deceased was a brother-in-law to Mr C E Bremner, engineer to the Wairarapa North County Council, and has several brothers holding prominent positions in various professions, amongst them being Dr Rawson and Mr Herbert Rawson of Wellington, and Mr T Rawson, Engineer to the Westport Harbour Board. The deceased, who was the fourth son of Dr Rawson of New Plymouth, leaves a widow but no family.

Arthur married **Ella Frances BREMNER** in 1881. They had no children

**8. Thomas Harold RAWSON** M I C E (Lond) (*Thomas Edward (Dr)*<sup>1</sup>) was born about 1852 and died on 4 May 1904 in Dunedin, NZ aged about 52.

1861-62 with 2 older brothers was among the first boarders at Nelson College  
Engineer to Westport Harbour Board  
1878 Government Engineer at Waitotara  
1900 Secretary and Engineer to Otago Harbour Board, Dunedin

Thomas married **Mary Annie HARGREAVES** eldest daughter of E A HARGREAVES, The Priory, Timaru, in 1877.

- 25 i. **Gilbert Allen RAWSON** 1880-1960 married **Doris TYLER** in 1920.  
Attended Nelson College 1895-98, clerk of Dunedin, died Auckland
- 26 ii. **Sidney Herbert RAWSON** 1883-1951  
Attended Nelson College 1898, Dentist of Dunedin

**9. Herbert Pearson RAWSON** (*Thomas Edward (Dr)*<sup>1</sup>) was born about 1853 and died in 1926 aged about 73.

apprenticed to brother Henry, dentist, in Wellington, took over that practice on Henry's death in 1879; first President NZ Dental Assn 1905

Herbert married **Agnes Beatrice SYMONS** in 1880.

- 27 i. **Alice Wilmot RAWSON** 1881-1971 married **Francis DAVISON** in 1913
- 28 ii. **Elsie Beatrice RAWSON** 1883- married **Mathew HOLMES** in 1909
- 29 iii. **Herbert Jack RAWSON** 1887-1936 Capt J Rawson RAMC WWI m **Eliza Gladys DICK** (1892-1968)

**10. Dr Ernest RAWSON, MRCS, LSA** (*Thomas Edward (Dr)*<sup>1</sup>) was born about 1855 in Leicestershire and died in Wellington on 20 Mar 1924 aged about 69, buried at Karori cemetery.

Trained as medical practitioner in London,  
1879 returned to practice in New Plymouth, later of Wellington

Ernest married **Constance Courtney WOOD** on 8 Dec 1880.

[Her name in the marriage registration is as stated here, but the Taranaki Herald described her as "only daughter of the late W. Courtney."]

Their children were:

- 30 i. **Violet Marie RAWSON** 1881-
- 31 ii. **Ernest Herbert RAWSON** 1883- served WWI as dental surgeon
- 32 iii. **Olive RAWSON** 1884- married **John William ABBOTT** in 1904.

## Descendants of Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON

11. **Harold RAWSON** was born in 1869 in New Plymouth, and died in 1941 aged 72.  
1893: Surveyor's cadet of New Plymouth. 1941: Surveyor of New Plymouth

Harold married **Frances Mary CHATTERTON** in 1907. She died in 1968, aged 94.

They had a son:

- 33 i. **Thomas Whiteley RAWSON** 1910-1993 MSc (Vic) 1952

12. **Walter Edward RAWSON** (*Thomas Edward (Dr)<sup>1</sup>*) was born in 1870 and died in 1933 aged 62.

Judge of Maori Land Court, New Plymouth

Walter married **Ellen Letitia MARSHALL** (1880-1948) in 1902. Their children were:

- 34 i. **Leonard Taniora RAWSON** 1903-  
35 ii. **Joan Whiteley RAWSON** 1910-1992 unmarried, MA (Vic) 1934

13. **Bernard Whiteley RAWSON** (*Thomas Edward (Dr)<sup>1</sup>*) was born in 1873 and died in 1951 in Auckland, clerk.

rescued from possible drowning when aged 7  
1885 attended Nelson College  
1890 assistant in music shop New Plymouth  
1908 "of Auckland" on holiday in New Plymouth  
Staff member *Auckland Star*

Bernard married **Olive Annie PICKETT** (1879-1969) in 1909.

# Descendants of Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON

## Name Index

ABBOTT		Elsie Beatrice.....	6
John William.....	6	Emily <u>Constance</u> .....	5
BEARD		Ernest (Dr) .....	3 , 6
Doris Elinor Margaret.....	5	Ernest Herbert .....	6
BORLASE		Frederic Bertram.....	4
Wilmot Elizabeth .....	4	Frederic George.....	3 , 4
BREMNER		Geoffrey Frere .....	5
Constance Ellen Hamilton.....	5	Gilbert Allen .....	6
Ella Frances .....	6	Harold .....	3 , 7
CHATTERTON		Henry Foord "Harry" .....	5
Frances Mary .....	7	Henry Freer.....	3 , 4
DAVISON		Herbert Jack .....	6
Francis .....	6	Herbert Pearson .....	3 , 6
DICK		Joan Whiteley .....	7
Eliza Gladys .....	6	Leonard Taniora .....	7
DUNN		Lilian Rose .....	4
Frederick William .....	5	Louisa Mary .....	3 , 4
GINGER		Mary Louise .....	4
Jane .....	4	Myra May .....	4
HARGREAVES		Olive.....	6
Mary Annie.....	6	Sidney Herbert.....	6
HINDLESMITH		Thomas Edward (Dr), MD LSA.....	2
Doris Elinor Margaret.....	5	Thomas Frederick.....	5
HOLMES		Thomas Harold .....	3 , 6
Mathew.....	6	Thomas Whiteley .....	7
HUTTON		Violet Marie.....	6
Rosa Helen .....	4	Walter Edward .....	3 , 7
KING		Wilmot Mary .....	5
Sarah Hannah.....	3	SINCLAIR	
MARSHALL		Madalena "Madge" .....	5
Ellen Letitia .....	7	SYMONS	
PEARSON		Agnes Beatrice .....	6
Mary Catharine .....	2	TYLER	
Walter Ernest .....	4	Doris.....	6
PICKETT		WALKER	
Olive Annie.....	7	Edward Henry .....	4
RAWSON		WHITELEY	
[daughter].....	4	Sarah .....	3
Alfred Pearson .....	3 , 5	WILSON	
Alice Wilmot .....	6	Joseph Foord.....	5
Arthur John .....	3 , 5	Sarah Isabel.....	5
Bernard Whiteley .....	3 , 7	WOOD	
Charles Edward .....	3 , 4	Constance Courtney.....	6
Edward.....	4		