

Wealth won't guarantee the survival of your name

Mary Ann "Marianne" Skipworth, Mrs William Robinson

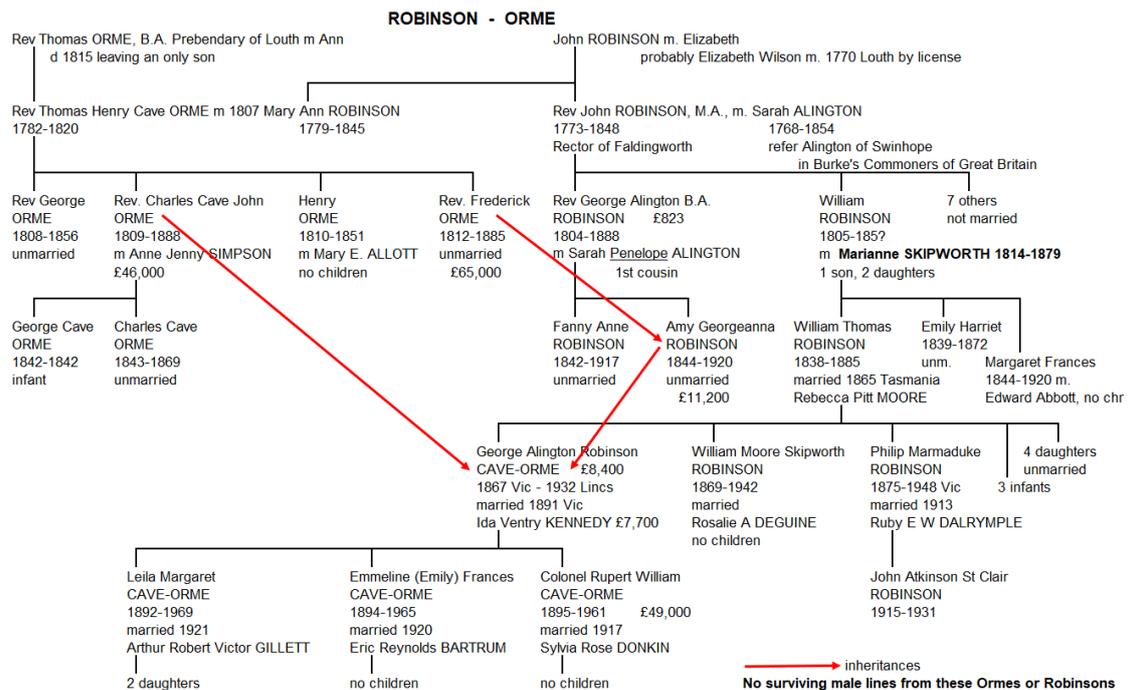
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Harriet and Mary Ann, the two eldest daughters of **Thomas Skipworth** of Cabourne, Lincolnshire, were quite close in age. It often happens in large families that pairs of siblings form close friendships, and it is easy to imagine this happening with Harriet and Mary Ann, especially since their mother had died when they were in their early teens. As befitted her seniority, Harriet was the first to marry, in 1836, and John Robinson, Rector of Faldingworth came to Cabourne to perform the ceremony. He would be invited back the following year for Mary Ann's nuptials with his own son William. Mary Ann honoured her sister in naming her first born daughter **Emily Harriet Robinson**.

As had been the case with Harriet, Mary Ann's husband **William Robinson** is described in the marriage register as a solicitor, from nearby Kirton in Lindsey. Mary Ann Skipworth signed the register with her correct baptismal name, but in the baptisms of her own children and in later census she is usually **Marianne Robinson**.



William had been born at Market Rasen in 1805, seventh of the 9 children of Rev **John Robinson**, M.A. and his wife **Sarah, nee Alington**. He was at Kirton at the time of his marriage, and for the christening of his two elder children, but the family had moved to Gainsborough by the time their third child arrived in 1844.

In the interim, the 1841 census found William, Mary Ann, and their two infant children, William Thomas and Emily Harriet, as visitors in Thomas Skipworth's household at Cabourne. Grandfather Thomas was a widower, but he was supported by three unmarried children, Thomas, Elizabeth and Jane, all in their early 20s, and three house servants. Also present was Lionel Holmes who would marry Elizabeth in 1846, while Jack was away visiting Lionel's parents. We do not know how long the Robinsons spent at Cabourne, but judging by the number of gentry households which happened to have additional family visitors on census night, it is more likely than not that this was an extended visit.

In 1851 at Gainsborough, William Robinson aged 45 was a practicing Attorney at Law, with his wife Marianne aged 36, and daughters Emily aged 11, and Margaret Frances aged 7, and 3 female servants. Their son William Thomas aged 13 was not at home - almost certainly he had been sent away to school. Sure enough, 13 year old William Robinson is found living at Louth with his widowed grandmother Sarah Robinson and a maiden aunt.

William was 9 years older than Marianne, and died in 1853 according to the Nicholson pedigree [Lincoln Archives 1-Dixon 15/327]. This is probably his death notice in Lincolnshire Chronicle 18 June 1852: *On the 10th inst., deeply regretted, Wm. Robinson, Esq., of Gainsborough, in the 47th year of his age.* His widow was probably Mrs Mary Ann Robinson, Church Street, Gainsborough in an 1856 directory. In 1861 she still had her younger daughter at home in Gainsborough, with a live-in servant. By 1871 Marianne was an annuitant living in lodgings in Gainsborough, accompanied by Margaret, now a daily governess. She is thought to have died in 1879 aged 65, but I have not found burial or probate records for William or Marianne.

Emily Harriet Robinson, eldest daughter and second child of William and Marianne was born in Kirton in Lindsay in 1839, and was with her parents in 1841 and 1851. In 1861 she was a 21 year old student, boarding in Kensington, London. Her father had died but apparently family finances could indulge her wish to study. Tantalisingly, the census gave no hint of what she was studying, but the answer came with the 1871 census, when she was still in Kensington, though now in lodgings, and gave her occupation as "Professor of Singing." In musical circles the term professor was used quite freely where we would now use teacher. I did not find Emily advertising her services in the newspapers, a card in a shop window would have been sufficient. She was probably the Emily Harriet Robinson who died in 1872 at age 33 in Dover Registration District.

An Emily Robinson who performed in a musical concert London in 1866 could be her.

Margaret Frances Robinson was born in 1844 in Gainsborough, the youngest of William and Marianne's three children. She was at home with her widowed mother in 1861, but I have been unable to find her in 1871. She married **Edward Hall Stutley Abbott**, a brewer, in 1883 in Southwark, London. Edward died aged 44 in 1891 in St Pancras, London, effects £2,089. In 1901 she was a widow living alone in Kensington, London. Margaret Frances Abbott of 87 Landsdown Road, Finchley, Middlesex died on 3 Feb 1920, aged 76. Her executor was her nephew George Arlington Cave-Orme, Barrister, effects £8,200. There were no known children of her marriage.

William Thomas Robinson, William and Marianne's eldest child, was born in 1838 at Kirton in Lindsey, and by 1851 as indicated above, he was away from home living with his grandmother and aunt in Louth, probably attending the Grammar School or he could have had private tuition. His father died while he was in his early teens, but it is assumed that he at least made a start on a legal training, apparently not completed.

William Thomas (or W.T. as I shall call him to distinguish him from his father, since that is how his name appeared in the newspapers) went out to Victoria, Australia in his early twenties. Was he the W.T. Robinson, esq. who presented a copy of *Synopsis of the Contents of the British Museum* to the Melbourne library in 1859? In December 1859 the shipping column reported the arrival at Melbourne of 15 cases of furniture consigned to W.T. Robinson per *Sarah* from Sydney. In 1864 W.T. Robinson 19 O'Connell St was in need of a French polisher. The impression gained is that, like many young men of his class, he was open to any opportunity to turn a profit.

His next requirement was a wife, and so on the 2nd September 1865 Mr. W.T. Robinson, of Port Albert, Gipps Land, only son of the late William Robinson, solicitor, of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, was married by special license at St. David's church, Hobart to Rebecca, youngest daughter of Philip Moore, Esq., of Nile Terrace, Hobart Town.

How did William in Victoria get to meet **Rebecca Pitt Moore** in Hobart? Their families may have been known to each other and encouraged the match, or it may be simply that William visited Tasmania looking for "opportunities", in the course of which he came into contact with the Moores.

There are mentions of **Philip Moore**, esq. of Hobart in contemporary newspapers from the mid 1850s. He is listed in 1861 among owners objecting to property assessments in Hobart, when he apparently owned two houses in Nile Terrace, one in Collins Street, and two cottages and a house in Macquarie Street. Some of this property may have been the basis for a statement made to the court in 1882 when William was being sued to recover a debt: "his wife had property in her own right, and had consented that the rents should accumulate in the hands of the principal creditor to pay all the defendant's creditors in full...." More on this presently.

The young couple initially set up house in Port Albert, but after a few years W.T. found employment as managing clerk for William Patten, solicitor, of Sale, Gippsland, about 200 km east of Melbourne. The earliest reference I have found to him in this position is 1868.

In 1869 a very significant family event occurred back in England. This was the death of W.T.'s second cousin, Charles Cave Orme, at age 26, leaving the Orme family with no heir for their considerable wealth. W.T. was their only blood relative in his generation, and they determined that he should be their beneficiary. There would be some delay before he received his inheritance, for there were still several living Ormes.

Possibly his relatives determined that W.T. needed to complete his education, and his employer agreed to grant him leave of absence. Leaving his wife and two young children, he returned to England, where the 1871 census found him living with his uncle, Rev. George Alington Robinson, described as "married, law student / visitor". It is not known how long he was away, but there is a slightly longer gap than usual between the second and third births of his children. He arrived home in the ship *Lincolnshire* in July 1871.

A news item in 1873 throws more light on this return to England, when at a shareholders' meeting a purse of 50 guineas was voted to W.T. Robinson in recognition of the zeal displayed by him in the case of the Walhalla Company before the Privy Council. So another possibility is that his trip was funded by the Walhalla Company, with the legal study being incidental.

W.T. appears to have been a responsible citizen, contributing to the development of his community in a number of ways. He served on a committee working for extension of the railway to Sale, and was also on the hospital committee. He was joint auditor for the Caledonian Society. He was an occasional writer of letters to the editor, for example objecting to part of a church collection for the hospital being diverted to the Ladies Benevolent Society. He was politically active, serving as campaign secretary for his preferred candidate.

His recreation included membership of the Dramatic Club and the Parliamentary Debating Society. The paper reported him reading from Shakespeare, The Poets, and Pickwick Papers (1866); Hood's *Bridge of Sighs* "feelingly recited by Mr W.T. Robinson" (1868); in the role of Attorney General at the Debating Society (1874).

On the home front, Rebecca was steadily adding to their family, ten children in all, of whom three died in infancy. When Philip died his father's name was given as William Skipwith Robinson, and his mother as Rebecca Unknown. So much for family history! It appears that this line died out when the only grandson was killed in a road accident.

Their children were:

George Alington Robinson CAVE-ORME 1867 - 1932, barrister, married, 3 children
William Moore Skipworth ROBINSON 1869 - 1942, FRCS Edinburgh, married, no children
Ada Rebecca ROBINSON 1872 - 1916, unmarried
Emily Frances ROBINSON 1873 - 1933, unmarried
Philip Marmaduke ROBINSON 1875 -1948, wife: Ruby Emilie Wemyss Dalrymple,
only child: John Atkinson St Clair Robinson, born 5 Nov 1915 at Lyndhurst, Victoria,
Australia. He was killed aged 15 in March 1931 when the bicycle on which he was riding
and a motor car collided at the corner of Harcourt and Cowper Streets, Auburn, Victoria.

Henry Charles ROBINSON 1876 - 1876, 4 days
Isabel Carlyle ROBINSON 1877 - 1963, unmarried
Octavius Frederick ROBINSON 1879 - 1879, 9 days
Margaret Elizabeth ROBINSON 1881 - 1901, unmarried
Edith Albertina Robinson 1883 - 1884, 7 months

In 1880 W.T. suffered a financial setback, the nature of which has not been ascertained. He appears to have avoided bankruptcy by coming to an arrangement with his creditors to repay them out of the proceeds of his wife's rental income. His house and furniture, which included "a pianoforte, an organ, a violin, and a sewing machine, books etc" were auctioned, and the family moved from Sale to Melbourne where William found employment as clerk to Messers Blake & Riggall, solicitors. Five years later he was dead:

ROBINSON, on 12th September [1885], at his residence 105 Albert Road, Albert Park, South Melbourne, William Thomas Robinson, formerly of Sale, Gippsland, the only son of the late William Robinson, barrister at law of Lincolnshire, England, aged 47 years.

With seven children ranging in age from 18 down to 4, Rebecca faced a potentially difficult situation. Her sons were ready to embark on training for careers in law and medicine, and dowries would be required if her daughters were to marry. The promised Orme legacy would be a great comfort, and she also had some income in her own right according to the evidence referred to above.

We need to digress now to understand the relationship of the Robinsons to the Ormes.

Orme Family

Rev Thomas Orme, B.A. Prebendary of Louth and vicar of South Scarle, died in 1815. He had only one son, **Rev Thomas Henry Cave Orme**, of Louth, who died suddenly in 1820 at the age of 37. He had married **Mary Ann Robinson**, leaving her a widow with four young sons. His will mentions property in Edith Weston in Rutland, Blaiston and Croxton in County of Leicester, and Girton in the County of Nottingham, which was to be divided equally between his four sons.

[Mary Ann Robinson was the daughter of John Robinson of Louth and sister of Rev John Robinson, Rector of Faldingworth, whose son married Mary Ann Skipworth.]

The eldest son was **Rev. George Cave Orme**, 1808 - 1856, BA, Curate of Wilsford, Lincolnshire. He never married and bequeathed his property to his three brothers.

The second, **Charles Cave John Orme**, 1809 - 1888, was a barrister. He had 2 sons during a brief marriage, the first died at birth, then his wife died in childbirth leaving him with their second son Charles Cave Orme who would die at the age of 26. Charles was to be the longest survivor of the four brothers, and left his estate to his second cousin, W.T.'s son, George Alington Robinson, who thereupon changed his name by Royal Licence to George Alington Robinson Cave-Orme.

The third son was a solicitor, **Henry Orme** 1810 - 1851, who married but had no children; and the fourth **Rev. Frederic Orme**, 1812 - 1885, was unmarried. Frederick named his second cousin Amy Georgeanna Robinson as executor of his estate. Amy in turn chose George Cave-Orme as executor of her will, and although I have not read either, it is I think a reasonable guess that the residue of Frederic's share of the Orme estate ended up with George and his brothers.

Uncle George Alington Robinson

Although W.T.'s father was one of nine children, he had only one brother who married. This Uncle George had married his first cousin, Sarah Penelope Alington, known as Penelope to distinguish her from her mother-in-law. George and Penelope had two daughters, neither of whom married, and so, like the Ormes, Uncle George lacked an heir. And as in the case of the Ormes, W.T. Robinson was their only relative in his generation.

As if in preparation for this eventuality, W.T. had named his first born son after Uncle George. It was with Uncle George that he was living on the 1871 visit to England, although his mother was still alive.

Returning to the Robinson family in Melbourne

W.T. had died in 1885, about the time his two elder boys were completing their schooling, but both George and William continued their studies at the University of Melbourne. On completion of their first degrees, George took the Law Tripos at Cambridge, while William completed an F.R.C.S. at Edinburgh. Family money was probably advanced to finance these expensive studies.

George Alington Robinson Cave-Orme

As explained, on receiving his cousin's estate in 1888, George changed his surname from Robinson to Cave-Orme by Royal licence. He graduated Master of Law from Emmanuel College, Cambridge and was called to the Bar in 1893. His early professional practice seems to have been split between London and Melbourne, and it was in Melbourne that he found his future wife, whose father has been described as "one of the earliest, and for many years most successful, New South Wales squatters." The wedding was a grand affair:

A fashionable marriage took place on June 6 [1891] at Holy Trinity church, St Kilda, when Miss Ida Ventry Kennedy, second daughter of the late Mr William Kennedy, of Solerno, Melbourne, was united to Mr G Cave Orme, M.A. of Cambridge, barrister-at-law. The decorations at the church were extensive, and executed with taste. The Lord Bishop of Melbourne performed the ceremony, assisted by the Revs Horace Tucker and Dr Torrance. Mr Edward Kennedy (uncle) gave the bride away. She was attired in a trained gown of wavy white corded silk, the bodice being draped with crepe de chine, tulle veil and bridal wreath. The Misses Lela and Maud Kennedy (sisters of the bride) Misses Ada and Emily Robinson (step-sisters of the groom) attended the bride. They were dressed alike in white liberty silk, combined with cowslip yellow mousseline de soie, and wore court veils attached to the hair with ostrich feathers. Messers W Kennedy, Spooner and Robinson attended the bridegroom.*

* In 1911 these sisters were resident with George's family in Louth. They were:

Ada Rebecca Robinson, born 1874, Victoria, Australia

Emily Frances Sarah Robinson, born 1875, Victoria, Australia.

The paper was incorrect in calling them step-sisters and had substituted Amy for Ada.

Over the years regular contact was maintained between the families in England and Victoria, as evidenced by shipping records. Travelling with children was no problem, as on one trip with three infants they were supported by a nurse, a maid, and an unmarried sister.

Obituary – The Times The sudden death a few days ago [30 Nov 1932] of Mr G.A. Cave-Orme will create a deep sense of loss among a wide circle of friends both here and in Australia.

A member of a good Lincolnshire family, Cave-Orme was born in Australia, but came to England in 1886, and on the death of a cousin succeeded to the family property and thereafter assiduously identified himself with all phases of public activity and social life in his county. On coming down from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, he was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple, and practised in London and on the Midland Circuit. He did good official work during the War and in later years achieved merited distinction in many spheres of public service in Lincolnshire as Vice-Chairman of Quarter Sessions, Deputy Judge of County Courts, chairman of the Agricultural Wages Committee for Holland and Lindsey, member of the Louth Branch of the League of Nations Union, and in other capacities.

He was a keen golfer and a popular member of the South Wold Hunt and of the Pegasus Club. His marriage to Miss Ida Kennedy, the daughter of the late Mr William Kennedy, of Nuntherungie, New South Wales, resulted in a singularly happy family life. He leaves one son, Captain Rupert Cave-Orme, of the Lincolnshire Regiment, and two daughters.

George and Ida's three children were:

Leila Margaret Cave-Orme 1892 - 1969, married **Arthur Gillett** and had 2 daughters,
Emily (or Emmeline) Frances Cave-Orme 1894 - 1965, married **Eric R Bartrum**, no children,

Rupert William Cave-Orme 1872 - 1961, married **Sylvia Donkin**, no children. Rupert was educated at Rugby and had a career in the army, retiring as Colonel of the Lincolnshire Regiment. He was wounded twice in 1914.

In 1961, on the death of Rupert, the Orme surname as descended from 18th century Thomas once more became extinct.

William Moore Skipworth Robinson, 1869-1942, 2nd son of William Thomas and Rebecca. As mentioned above, he studied in Melbourne and Edinburgh, where he gained an F.R.C.S. He held surgical appointments in several U.K. hospitals, including the London Cancer Hospital. In WW1 he served in the R.A.M.C., and at the end of the war married a French national, Rosalie A Deguine, but had no children. They returned to Victoria where he practiced for a few years, but retired back to England.

Philip Marmaduke Robinson, 1875 -1948, the third son, remained in Victoria where he had a poultry farm. In later electoral rolls he is listed as "gentleman". He married **Ruby E W Dalrymple** and had a son John Atkinson St Clair Robinson, born on 5 Nov 1915, who was killed at age 15 when a motorcar hit his bicycle. Thus the Robinson surname as descended from John Robinson of Louth (1750s) also became extinct.

In later life Rebecca lived with her third son Philip, in a property they named Faldingworth in memory of gt grandfather John Robinson, Rector of Faldingworth. She died there in 1906.

Sources:

Skipworth pedigree by Kirkby 1 Dixon 15/3/40 Lincoln archives (with very little on Robinson)
A Robinson tree at Mundia (part of Ancestry.com) by "Silversol" provides a fairly complete listing of names in these Robinson families. Without it I would have had much greater difficulty developing this story, although the facts are virtually all verifiable in on-line records.

Databases at FamilySearch.org, Ancestry.com, and FindMyPast.co.uk

Newspaper databases: The Times digital archive, Gale 19th century newspapers and Trove.

Further reading:

Lincolnshire archives - genealogical notes by Rev John Robinson LLHS/15/13 (not seen).