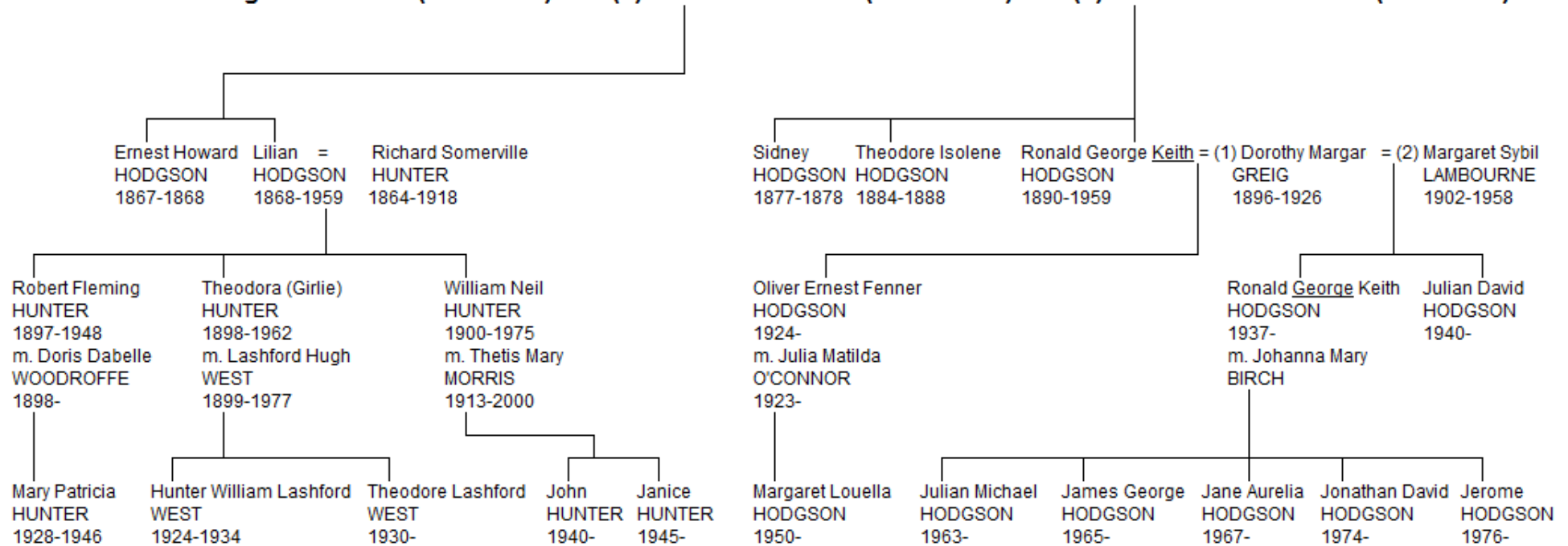


George HODGSON 1846-1890

and his descendants

by Mary Skipworth mskip@xtra.co.nz 7 July 2011

George HODGSON (1846-1892) and (1) Martha BARRETT (c1846-1869) and (2) Julia Deborah BERRY (1854-1943)



George Hodgson

George was the extra mouth to feed, born at Wakapuaka, Nelson on 22 Feb 1846, 9th and youngest child in his family. His Aunt Rebecca, commented:

I hope the little fellow whose arrival seems to have given pleasure to his brothers and sisters will have brought happiness to you and his mother, and though another mouth to feed must cause some anxiety to the food provider, yet I trust he has brought a blessing with him which will more than compensate for the extra care.

He hardly knew his father, who died on 13 Oct 1848. At that point they had NO money, and a prospective son-in-law (not yet even married into the family) had to pay for the coffin.

So George grew up in a curious mixture of subsistence farming alongside the classical education of his older brothers. Cash was always in short supply, and Agnes lamented being unable to afford shoes for her little boy.

By 1853 brother Ben was married and living in Nelson. His mother commented in a letter:

"Ben has taken George and sends him to school. I find his clothes, which cost a good deal because being in town he must dress well. My sister promised to send a quantity of her little boy's for him. He is a nice quiet good boy very little trouble, gets on very nicely at school. His ambition is to be in an office like Ben. Ben's wife is so kind and gentle with him as if he were her own. He comes home on Friday night and returns Sunday night. He walks to and fro himself. He is little more than 7. He knows all his tables, can do any common sum. He has not been to school more than 4 months. I had taught him myself before he went, but he has improved faster from being with other boys".

George apparently held to his early ambition to work in an office. This 1892 advertisement says it all:

George Hodgson
Land and General Commission Agent
Sharebroker
Accountant, Valuer, and Licensed Land broker
Palmerston Street, Westport
Land and property of all descriptions bought and sold, or otherwise dealt
with
Loans negotiated
Information on land or shares always obtainable on application
Agent for
Commercial Union Assurance Company (Fire and Marine)
Trade Auxiliary Company
Mutual Life Association of Australasia
also
Manager Beaconsfield Gold Mining Company

1860: George was appointed Clerk to Superintendent of Nelson Province with a salary of £250 pa.

George married first on 29 Jan 1867 at Christ Church, Nelson, to Martha, daughter of John and Sarah BARRETT. George and Martha had a son Ernest Howard HODGSON, born on 25 Nov 1867 who died on 23 May 1868. They also had a daughter Lilian HODGSON born on 5 December 1868. Then Martha died on 15 May 1869, and was buried with her infant son, leaving George with a 5 month old daughter.

It is likely that Lilian was cared for by her grandmother, Sarah Barrett, during this period. However Sarah died at the home of George Hodgson, Vincent St, on 17 Aug 1872, leaving Lilian again in need of a caregiver.

By 1873 to his previous appointment had been added Clerk to Executive Council, Provincial Accountant, & Receiver of Gold Revenue, and his salary had risen to £325. On 4 Nov 1873, when Lilian was 5, George married Julia BERRY, youngest daughter of Thomas Berry and his wife Jane Elizabeth, nee DENNIS, at Nelson Cathedral. Julia was born on 4 Apr 1854 in Nelson, and died on 24 Dec 1943 at Andover, Hampshire.

George Hodgson

It seems that the newspapers of the time did not hesitate to publish highly coloured statements of election candidates wishing to advance their cause by vilifying the characters of others. George and his family were the subject of such an outburst, reported in the *Nelson Mail* of 1 Nov 1873:

"Mr Grove next referred to the evil of the family connections that existed in Nelson between many persons who drew their incomes from the public purse. He blamed the Nelson papers for not calling attention to this evil, and remarked how much more agreeable it would be to himself if it were possible to point out such public errors and wrongs without referring to individual cases. One thing, however, was quite certain, and that was that the public were far more to blame than those happy families, one of which, consisting of three brothers, three brothers-in-law, and a nephew to one of the brothers-in-law, drew altogether in round numbers £1400 per annum from the public purse."

In 1876 the Provincial Government was abolished making George redundant. He then seems to have set up in business as a general merchant, with finance from his brother William Charles. In 1885 he is listed in Wise's Directory as Accountant Maitai Bank, Nelson

George and Julia had a son Sidney born on 27 December 1877, who died on 2 March 1878. They also had a daughter Theodore Isolene born on 12 December 1884, who died on 29 July 1888. All the above events were in Nelson, but in 1890 he was appointed deputy assignee in Westport, so George, Julia and Lilian moved to Westport.

George and Julia had a son Ronald George Keith HODGSON, known as Keith, born in Westport on 24 Nov 1890. Then George died at Westport on 19 May 1892, aged 46, and was buried at Wakapuaka Cemetery, Nelson, Anglican Block 4 plot 71, with his father-in-law Thomas de BERRY who had died on 18 July 1872, aged 96.

George's career as clerk, accountant, insurance agent, was not dissimilar to his father William's in the cotton trade. Both men lost their fathers at an early age (William was 7 and George was 2), and had their fathers lived they may have had more successful careers. Both appear to have had academic ability to pass to their children.

So there was Julia, aged 38, who would live another 51 years, with son Keith aged 2 and stepdaughter Lilian aged 24. They lived for a time with the Sadds, George's sister's family. [Keith, George, William - three successive generations in this branch of the family had lost their fathers at a young age.]

About the mid-90's Lilian went to stay with the Nolan family in Hamilton, where in 1895 she married Richard Somerville HUNTER, of the firm Hunter and Nolan, stock and station agents, Hamilton. Richard and Lilian started married life in Whangarei (Hunter and Wilson, stock agents), and 3 Hunter children were born in Whangarei 1897-1900. In 1911 Hunter and Wilson was dissolved (Wilson had been fiddling the books). Lilian and Richard moved to farm near Pukekohe, and then to Onehunga, the latter move so that son Neil could attend Kings College. [Note priority given education coming through]

Richard died in 1918, Neil took up farming and married "the girl next door" Thetis Mary MORRIS, daughter of the head of St Stephens School. Lilian lived with them most of her life, and died in 1959 aged 91 in a home in Auckland. Thetis wrote in 1983: "Neil was first and foremost a farmer. He did a cadetship at Mauku after leaving school and had a mixed farm. He employed sharemilkers to run the dairy herd while he farmed sheep and dealt extensively in spring heifers for which he was known far afield. He also had lots of pigs. He had always grown a few potatoes, but it wasn't till 1951 when he sold all but 40 acres of the original 200+ that he went into commercial growing seriously. Neil and Lilian were good Anglicans, Neil serving on the vestry for 40 years.

Meanwhile, with her stepdaughter married, Julia could devote all her resources to Keith's education. They had £1000 from the life insurance which had been hastily arranged when George's health started to fail. [I was told the medical certificate supporting his application was not entirely truthful.] They moved to Sydney where Keith did very well at Sydney Grammar School, and made a little more money investing in building houses. I have wondered why Sydney, and believe it was because Julia a sister there. New Zealand grammar schools were turning out good scholars at that time, so I don't think the move to Sydney was purely for the educational opportunity.

George Hodgson

Keith persuaded his mother to sink all her money into putting him through medical school. He graduated MB ChB from Otago Medical School [Dunedin, NZ] in 1915, came to England to serve in the later stages of the war, and practised at Andover, Hampshire, for the remainder of his life. Keith's mother Julia lived in England and died at Andover on 24 Jan 1943, when she would have been aged about 89.

Keith was married on 5 Nov 1921 at Woking in Surrey to Dorothy Margaret GREIG, daughter of Harry Fenner GREIG of London and his wife Eleanor Charlotte, nee FRY. Dorothy was born on 11 Jun 1896 at Norwood and died on 12 Jan 1926 in London. She was also a medical practitioner, and was the first woman elected to the Andover Town Council. Keith and Dorothy had one son Oliver Ernest Fenner HODGSON, aged 2 when his mother died (see below).

Keith remarried in June 1933 at Andover to Margaret Sybil, daughter of Glen LAMBOURNE of Thruxton and his wife Henrietta, nee JEFFRIES. Margaret was born on 26 Mar 1902 at Thruxton and died on 9 May 1958 at Andover. Keith and Margaret had 2 sons, Ronald George Keith HODGSON (known as George I think) and Julian David HODGSON (see below). Keith died on 30 Jul 1959 at Winchester in Hampshire.

Oliver Ernest Fenner HODGSON was born on 16 Mar 1924 at Andover. He became a medical practitioner, and ended up Consultant Psychiatrist at Addenbrooke's Hospital, also Associate Lecturer at Cambridge University. He was for a time Consultant Psychiatrist and Deputy Superintendent of Fulbourn Mental Hospital, Cambridge. The following is a quote from the history of that hospital: [Refer <http://human-nature.com/free-associations/clark/chap5.html>]

In 1959 Oliver Hodgson was appointed to a Consultant vacancy - for me one of the best appointments made at Fulbourn. He was a quiet, unassuming man who soon showed himself a skilled and able psychiatrist, a hard worker and a most pleasant colleague. A distant descendant of Lord Protector Cromwell and a quintessential Englishman, he recommended himself quickly to the male staff by his skill and devotion to cricket and was soon elected Captain of the Hospital team - to my relief. I found him an ideal comrade and he soon came to act as my assistant in many matters. In 1962 we persuaded Leslie Buttle to give up his nominal Deputyship and Oliver took the post. It was a great relief to me to be able to leave things in his hands.

The "descendant of Cromwell" has got a bit garbled - it should read "a lieutenant in Cromwell's army" - I have seen an oil portrait of said soldier.

On 22 Apr 1949 Oliver married Julia Matilda, daughter of Jeremiah O'CONNOR of Kenmare in County Kerry and his wife Margaret Josephine (nee BUCKLEY). Julia was born on 22 Feb 1923 at Kenmare. They had one daughter Margaret Louella HODGSON (Lou), born on 4 Oct 1950 at Stralford in London who married Colin WORBOYS. They had 1 son and 2 daughters. Lou was a lecturer in a College of Education.

In 2002 a Google search for Oliver Hodgson brought up results from the Cambridge Bridge Club - Oliver partnered with Julia. He would have been aged about 78 or 79, and was standing 39th in the club after 28 rounds of the Trophy tournament. I am very sorry not to have kept in touch with him as he had some letters from George's mother he was transcribing. He also had a album of photographs of the Tate relations.

Oliver said his grandmother was always vague about George's occupation after he left the Provincial Govt. He made no money but was very popular. Was out most evenings playing cards, an interest that was apparently carried down to his grandson.

Oliver's half-brother Ronald George Keith HODGSON (known as Keith I think) was born on 17 Aug 1937 at Andover. He married Johanna BIRCH and they had four sons and a daughter. George lived in London and his son Julian is an International Grandmaster of chess. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_Hodgson

Oliver's other half-brother was Julian David HODGSON, born on 31 Aug 1940 at Winchester. I understand he was an accountant, unmarried in the early 1960s.

Living descendants of George Hodgson in 1983 included 3 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, and 3 2x gt grandchildren.