

William and Fanny Richardson

from Wiltshire, UK to Nelson, NZ

in sailing ship *Fifeshire* 1842

Let's start this account with something you may already know about – a story that has been carefully passed down because of the tragic nature of the event.

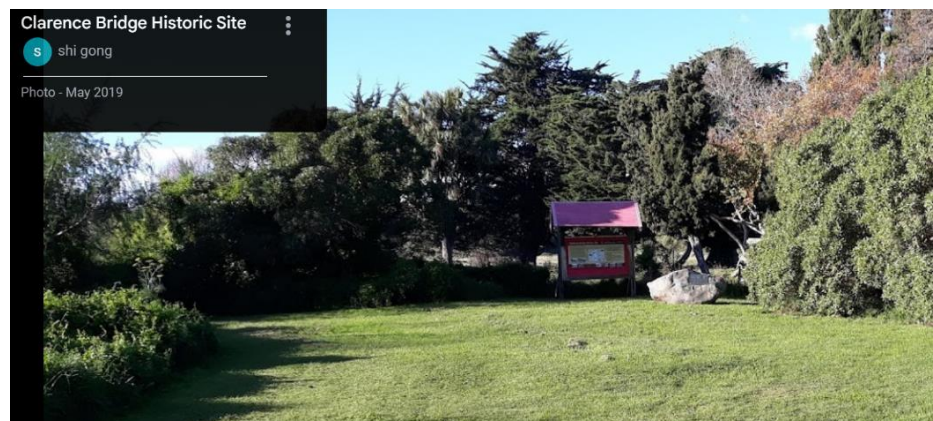
Sarah Richardson had emigrated with her family from Wiltshire in England, landing as a 9 year old, from the *Fifeshire*, the first emigrant ship to arrive in the very new settlement of Nelson, New Zealand, on 1 Feb 1842.¹ When she was 18, Sarah married **Thomas Lyford** at Wakapuaka, Nelson.² The event which descendants remember her for is her unfortunate death from exhaustion and haemorrhage after ten hours of hard labour giving birth to a stillborn daughter.



At this time, the family were living at Waipapa, near the mouth of the Clarence River, North Canterbury, where Thomas operated a ferry and accommodation house under Government licence, to assist travellers to cross the river before there was a bridge³. It was an isolated spot, 38 km from Kaikoura, and Thomas needed to be available at any time to assist with a river crossing. To register his children's births would have involved a 70 km return journey on horseback to Kaikoura. Only three of the ten children of that marriage were recorded in the birth registers, making it difficult to compile their history.

The old accommodation house at the Clarence has been demolished, but the area is a registered Historic Site. Driving north, watch for an unmarked road going off to the left immediately after passing Waipapa Road. Drive down the incline watching for a parking area and a walking track going off to the right, under the bridge approaches. It leads to an open area with an information

board and a commemorative plaque mounted on a large boulder.



An unexpected fatality with no doctor in attendance required an inquest, so word of Sarah's death was sent urgently to Blenheim. Two days later a Coroner arrived and enrolled a jury of 12 local men to hear the evidence and decide what had happened. A full transcription of their report follows, but be warned, it is painful reading, and better avoided if you are easily upset.

Sarah Lyford Inquest 1871⁴

Informations of Witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen touching the death of Sarah Lyford at the dwelling house of Thomas Lyford known by the name of Accommodation House of The Clarence in the Provincial District of Marlborough in the colony above mentioned on Saturday[sic] the 19th day of January one thousand eight hundred and seventy nine before Henry Williams M.D. one of the coroners for the said colony, on an Inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of the said Sarah Lyford then and there lying dead, as follows, to wit:-

Sarah McRae, being sworn, saith that I reside at Waipapa, Clarence River. On Thursday morning the nineteenth of January I was called to see Mrs Lyford. I arrived at five o'clock in the morning. I then saw Mrs Lyford and she was very weak, and she was in labour and very bad and low. She was delivered of a still born female child at 12 o'clock. I noticed nothing wrong during labor nor for a quarter of an hour afterwards. She was then in a cold perspiration and complained of a great pain in her chest. She was not insensible. I think her death arose from weakness. She said she had worked too hard. She had a great loss during labour before the birth of the child. The loss took place about nine o'clock. I was alarmed and Mrs Lyford said she had been as bad before. It continued up to the birth of the child. There would not have been time to have got a medical man before her death. [signed] Sarah McRae

Thomas Lyford, sworn saith that I am a hotel keeper residing at the Clarence River, on Thursday morning last the 19th January the deceased my wife was taken bad. She thought labour had set in and asked me to send for Mrs McRae. I at once sent for her. Mrs McRae soon arrived. I then went to work. I called in several times and she was still bad. She said that she was worse than usual. She gradually got worse. Mrs McRae sent for me and said she wanted someone with her to help her. I could not get any other person. The deceased was bad about ten hours. She was delivered of a still born female child about 12 o'clock. She seemed very bad after the birth of the child, much more so than usual. I did not hear from Mrs McRae that my wife had lost much blood, but my wife told me she had. My wife complained of great pain in her back. My wife did not think she was going to die, neither did I think so. I thought she was sleeping when she was dead. I cannot say what the cause of death was. My wife has always done without a medical man during previous confinements. There would not have been time to have got a medical man. [signed] Thos Lyford

James Freeman Fletcher, sworn saith that I am a duly qualified medical practitioner residing at Kaikoura. I did not attend Sarah Lyford. I have heard the evidence of the two witnesses. and I have seen the deceased since her death. I think the deceased might have died from the loss previous to the labour, it caused great debility and weakness, and from the evidence that I have heard I think there must have been some internal haemorrhage which was the immediate cause of death. From Mrs McRae's evidence I think that she [has] done everything she could for the deceased. [signed] James F Fletcher

An Inquisition indented, taken for our Sovereign Lady the Queen at the house of Thomas Lyford at the Clarence River Province of Marlborough in the said Colony on the 21st day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy one before Henry Williams one of the coroners of our Sovereign Lady the Queen for the said Colony on view of the body of Sarah Lyford then and there lying dead upon the oath of William Thomson (foreman), William Balfour, Walter Gibson, William Harrison, Stenton Workman, Thomas Workman, James Read, Bernard Riley, George Paterson, George Chapman, Thomas King, Erney Thomas, good and lawful men of the neighbourhood, duly chosen, and who being there and then duly sworn and charged to enquire for our Lady the Queen, when, how, and by what means Sarah Lyford came to her death, do, upon their oath, say – That the said Sarah Lyford, on the 19th day of January by weakness and disorder occasioned by labour with and lingering trauma from difficult birth causing excession during labour aforesaid did die and so the Jurors aforesaid upon their oath aforesaid do say that the said Sarah Lyford in the manner and by the means aforesaid came to her death and not otherwise. [signed and sealed individually by the coroner and each juror]

A note on dates: All the inquest evidence states that the baby's birth and her mother's death occurred on Thursday 19 January, and 19 January did fall on a Thursday in 1871. Each of the jurors swore by his signature that the date of death was the 19th, and the coroner signed off their verdict. But Sarah's death certificate states she died on 18 January 1871. It also gives her age as 44, though she was actually 37. The informant was Benjamin, husband of Clara Gilling, Sarah's granddaughter. Ages on death certificates are often wrong, and even the date cannot always be believed, as we find in this case.

Turning now to **Sarah's burial**, no cemetery record can be found, and burial details were not recorded on death certificates prior to 1875. We should remind ourselves that even today, burials do not have to be in recognised burial grounds if the nearest is more than 32 km away.

We do have a family story to consider. Sarah's daughter Mary was six years old when her mother died. The story handed down is that she remembered how miserable she had been watching her mother's coffin being carried across the swollen river on its way to Nelson for burial. At the same time, she had bad toothache and could not decide which pain was worse.

My inclination is to reject this story because it seems so impractical. The journey to Nelson would have taken days, with other unbridged rivers to cross. It was high summer, the coffin is likely to have been roughly made, without a sealed lining. It would not have been a pleasant journey for the escorts. There was no road, only a bridle track, so-called because some parts were so steep that horses could not be ridden but had to be led by their bridles.³ Why would they have gone to all that trouble and expense when Sarah had no relatives in Nelson to visit the grave?

Much closer than Nelson, we need to consider an area referred to in the Find a Grave database as "**Clarence Bridge Woodbank cemetery**"⁵. Photos of a small church of 20th century style make the website visually appealing but the few 19th century headstones are not located in the churchyard. Find a Grave lists 21 burials for Clarence Bridge, though Sarah Lyford's is not one of them. Fewer than half appear to be correctly assigned to this area but are listed by default of evidence to the contrary, or in some cases due to misinterpretation of evidence.

We know from the inquest that Sarah McRae from Waipapa Station, on the south bank of the river, was the close neighbour summoned by Thomas Lyford to assist his wife in labour. On the north

bank of the river, and close enough to be in visual communication with Waipapa homestead, was the Woodbank Station homestead.³ In the late 1970s the NZ Society of Genealogists compiled a nationwide collection of cemetery records. They included “Woodbank cemetery, Clarence Valley”, listing six burials “in the paddock behind the church under gum trees.”

In my view, that is a possible burial place for Sarah if the Troloves offered the use of their family’s burial site. If Sarah was buried at Woodbank, six-year-old Mary could have seen her mother’s coffin crossing the river as it was taken away. The idea that it was on its way to Nelson could have been an embellishment tacked onto the story by someone else.

An alternate story passed down among some Gills and Palmers was that she was buried in the Kaikoura cemetery, and that no record survives on account of a fire. This is possible, but still a lot more trouble than using the Woodbank burial place, or Thomas may have chosen an isolated site close to his home. In the absence of new evidence, we need to accept we will never know.



Sarah is remembered on this plaque which has been placed more recently in the Hira cemetery, near the corner of Cable Bay Road and the State Highway, on the northern approach to Nelson. It perpetuates the false date for her death already discussed. Thomas Lyford’s burial at Hira is found in the Nelson City Burials database, but no burial for Sarah is included.^{5, 15}

Sarah’s married life can be inferred from Thomas’s entry in my Lyford document, so it remains for us to investigate her Richardson family origins.

Emigration from England on the NZ Company ship *Fifeshire* 1841-42.

Family oral history has preserved the name of the ship, and FamilySearch.org provides us with an image of the embarkation register in their New Zealand Passenger Lists collection.⁶

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Fifeshire **EMIGRATION REGISTER.---Register of Emigrant Labourers**

No. on Application Register	Name No.	Name	Wife's Christian name	Trade or Calling before Emigrating.	Married before or Single.	Single		Children.				By whom Especially Recommended.
						Man's Age	Woman's Age	Boys.		Girls.		
								No.	Ages.	No.	Ages.	
3449	Funnells	Richard	Eliza	Agric. Labourer	22	22				1	7	
3450	Richardson	William	Fanny	Agric. Lab.	36	33	1	5	2	7	4/12	

Transcription: [select maximum zoom to read details]

“Register of emigrant labourers who have received a free passage to New Zealand.”

Introductory Page [page 144]: “Fifeshire, 557 tons, Captain Arnold, West India Docks”

[Marginal Note] “This copy to be returned addressed to Secretary, NZ Company, No 9 Broad Street Buildings, London, and sent on shore by last pilot. Sailed 26 Sept 1841 from Deal.”

[page 149] “No. on Application Register: 3450

Surname: Richardson, William Wife’s Christian name: Fanny*

Trade or calling: Agric Labourer Ages: 36, 33

Children: 1 boy aged 5, 2 girls aged 7 and 17 months”

[The second girl could not have been 17 years old because that was classed as adult. There is a tiny illegible squiggle after the 17, probably to indicate months.]

* The wife’s name in this record has sometimes been transcribed “Nancy”. Compare this word with “Name” at the head of column 2, the initial letter is different from an “N”. I think it was written “Faney”, a novel way of spelling Fanny, the usual diminutive for “Frances”.

Application Register entry 3450 (available at Archives New Zealand) confirms the above details and includes the date of application: 19 June 1841, **and the place of residence:** Luggershall.

The *Fifeshire* had loaded freight and passengers at the West India Docks in London. It had been piloted down the Thames and around the coast of Kent to Deal, where ships anchored while waiting for a favourable wind to set sail. Whilst at Deal, an occasional late passenger could still embark, and others, including the pilot, would disembark, so the passenger list was not finalised until they were leaving Deal. A second copy of the passenger list would travel with them to New Zealand, hopefully with annotations of births and deaths at sea. By comparing the two, the exact payments due to the Captain and the Surgeon for shipping the emigrants could be calculated.

A comment on the right-hand facing page in the register indicates that the Company’s agent, Mr Gilbert, was to pay for 2 children’s vaccinations, but this has been crossed out. This and other similar notes indicate that vaccination certificates (against smallpox) were required by the NZ Company for free passage emigrants. Vaccination was not compulsory in England at that date.

The agent, Mr Gilbert, who had arranged the Richardsons’ passage, had also acted for five other families on the *Fifeshire*. For two of these, additional information is added alongside his name : “Mr Water, **Lergenhall, near Andover.**” This provided a vital clue in identifying the William

Richardson who emigrated on the *Fifeshire*. The village name is actually Ludgershall, near Andover, but this was close enough to capture my attention. The Application Register also names their place of origin. It was important to identify the place correctly, as another genealogist had mistakenly linked them to a family in Sussex with no New Zealand connection.

How well do the *Fifeshire* records match a family of Richardsons at Ludgershall? We are in luck, the national census was taken on 6 June 1841, and the *Fifeshire* sailed three months later, on 26 September. Were they still at Ludgershall or North Tidworth on census night? Yes!

1841 Census Return for Deweys Lane, Ludgershall, Wiltshire:⁸

Richardson, William 36yrs ag lab; Richardson, Fanny 33yrs

Richardson, Sarah 8yrs; Richardson, George 6yrs; Richardson, Mary 2yrs

They have all answered Yes, to the question, were they born in the county of Wiltshire?

Names and ages from the *Fifeshire* lists are in general agreement with the census, and a bonus is that we now have names for the three children.

Below: Nos 3 & 5 Deweys Lane from Google Maps Street View 2024, showing what appear to be old labourer's cottages¹³, one of which was once this family's home.



Note: the parishes of Ludgershall and North Tidworth are adjacent and lie in the Andover Registration District. Earlier records seem to have been from North Tidworth, but the 1841 address was definitely Deweys Lane, Ludgershall.

Searching for births and deaths of William and Fanny's children

Civil registration in England commenced in 1837; prior to that parish records are the chief source for baptisms, marriages and burials. Events on board the *Fifeshire*, and soon after arrival, were reported by the Nelson agent to the NZ Company head office in London. Each includes slightly different details, and between them a good listing for this family can be compiled. This is discussed in greater detail in the Richardson Family Register which follows.

Name	Type	Date	Parents	Place
RICHARDSON, Sarah	Baptism	3Feb1833	William, Frances	North Tidworth
RICHARDSON, George	Baptism	23Aug1835	William, Frances	North Tidworth
RICHARDSON, male [George]	NZCoDeath	25 May1842		Nelson
RICHARDSON, Diana	GRO UK Birth	Q1 1838	Mother birth name LANSLEY	Andover R.D.
RICHARDSON, Diana	GRO UK Death	Q1 1838		Andover R.D.
RICHARDSON, Mary	Baptism	18Aug1839	William, Frances	North Tidworth
RICHARDSON, Mary	GRO UK Birth	Q3 1839	Mother birth name LANSLEY	Andover R.D.
RICHARDSON, infant [Mary]	NZCoDeath	9Oct1841	William	<i>Fifeshire</i> , at sea
RICHARDSON, male child	NZCoBirth	14 Jan 1842	Fanny	<i>Fifeshire</i> , at sea
RICHARDSON, male child	NSCoDeath	4 April 1842	William	Nelson

What a dramatic journey this turned out to be. Before they left England, a newborn daughter named Diana had died, and they set out as a family of two adults and three children. In the next few months their toddler Mary would die, and be buried at sea, then their mother would die after giving birth to a second son and join her daughter in the ocean. Within a few weeks after their arrival in Nelson the motherless baby and his brother George would both have died as well. That left only Sarah, just turning 9, and her father William to forge a new life in a very new settlement where surveyors were still at work establishing its limits.

Searching for William and Fanny's marriage record

The UK GRO birth records for Diana and Mary indicate LANSLEY as Fanny's maiden surname, so, having found no likely marriages for a William Richardson, I tried searching at FindMyPast for the marriage of Fanny LANSLEY. It turned out to have been on 12 Oct 1830 at Ludgershall, Wiltshire: William **RICHESTON** to Frances LANCELEY.⁹

The *Oxford Dictionary of Family Names*¹¹ claims to include any name with more than 20 bearers in the 1881 census. It includes LANCELEY and its alternate LANSLEY, but RICHESTON is not listed as a valid surname. My conclusion is that RICHESTON was a mistake made by a clerk who wrote what he thought he heard. William, an agricultural labourer and almost certainly illiterate, would have been unable to check what was written.

Without assistance from contemporary family documents such as wills or letters, I believe it is unrealistic to attempt to trace the ancestry of these Richardsons from paper records any further back in time. There were other households of both Richardson and Lansley in these villages but there is no way of distinguishing siblings from cousins or perhaps strangers.

William's Life in New Zealand

William or W. Richardson is mentioned occasionally in *PapersPast*¹² in a context that suggests it could be our man.

For example:

in 1849-50 W Richardson, labourer of Wakapuaka, was on the Nelson Jurors roll;¹² in 1854 W Richardson was listed with many others from Wakapuaka, in support of Major Richmond being appointed Superintendent of Nelson.¹² This list included Lyford, Gill, and Bungate, names with which William would eventually be connected by various marriages.

There is no listing in the NZ marriages database to suggest that William remarried. His only surviving child, Sarah, was aged 9 on arrival in New Zealand. She may have remained with her father and effectively become his housekeeper. For the first month or two she would have had a younger brother to mind as well. Alternatively, she may have been placed with another family and then gradually moved into paid employment. She must have acquired reasonable housekeeping skills to be able to take on the accommodation side of Thomas's business at Clarence ferry.

In 1851 Sarah married Thomas Lyford in Wakapuaka and later she moved with him to the Clarence Ferry. William could have worked for various landowners in the Nelson/Marlborough area, drifting towards Kaikoura, following the Lyfords. He must have retained contact with Sarah's children as he eventually died in the care of his married granddaughter, Clara, wife of Benjamin Gilling of Kaikoura. His death certificate correctly shows he had no living wife or children surviving him, but it has no information about his birth or his parents.

In Sherrard's History of Kaikoura³ there is a reference to a **Mr Richardson** managing Puhi Puhi station in the Kaikoura County during the period when Ward was the owner, and it seems possible that this was our William, or Billy as my father-in-law referred to him. I can only guess that this nickname was discovered in conversation with some longtime Kaikoura resident. I have not found William's name on any electoral roll, which might be a consequence of him having lived in isolated rural areas.

Richardson Family Register (as compiled by Mary Skipworth, August 2024)

William RICHARDSON was born about 1804 in Wiltshire, England.⁸ He emigrated to Nelson, New Zealand with his family in the ship *Fifeshire*, arriving on 1 Feb 1842.¹ He died on 18 Mar 1890 at Kaikoura, Canterbury, New Zealand.² At the time of his death he had no surviving male line descendants and the surname Richardson in this line became extinct.

He married **Frances LANCELEY (or LANSLEY)**, also known as Fanny, on 12 Oct 1830 at Ludgershall, Wiltshire, U.K.⁹ Frances was born about 1808, probably in the same vicinity.⁸ She died following the birth of her fifth child on board *Fifeshire* a few weeks short of landfall in NZ.¹⁴

William and Fanny had 5 children:

1. **Sarah RICHARDSON** was christened on 3 Feb 1833 at North Tidworth, Wiltshire, U.K.⁹ In 1841 she emigrated to Nelson, New Zealand with her family in the ship *Fifeshire*.¹ She died of exhaustion and hemorrhage during childbirth, aged nearly 38 on 19 Jan 1871 at Waipapa, near the mouth of the Clarence River, North Canterbury. Her burial place is not recorded and may not have been in a designated cemetery.

Sarah married **Thomas LYFORD** on 19 May 1851 at Wakapuaka, Nelson.² They had 10 children whose lives are detailed in my document “New Zealand Lyfords”.

- 1a. **George LYFORD** 1852 – 1938, married his cousin Eleanor LYFORD
- 1b. **Alice LYFORD** 1853 – 1928, married Thomas GILL
- 1c. **Thomas “Tommy” LYFORD** 1857 – 1944, married Elizabeth Ann SEABRIGHT
- 1d. **Albert LYFORD** 1860 – 1918, married Margaret KELLS
- 1e. **Laxon LYFORD** 1861 – 1935, married Mary CARROLL
- 1f. **Clara LYFORD** 1863 – 1939, married Benjamin GILLING
- 1g. **Mary LYFORD** 1864 – 1952, married John HARNETT
- 1h. **Frederick Robert LYFORD** 1867 – 1946, married Mary Jane GALWAY
- 1i. **Laura LYFORD** 1869 – 1908, married Abraham GILLING
- 1j. **[daughter] LYFORD** stillborn 19 Jan 1871

- 2. **George RICHARDSON** was christened on 23 Aug 1835 at North Tidworth.⁹ He emigrated to Nelson with his parents in the ship *Fifeshire*, arriving 1 Feb 1842. He died on 4 April or 25 May 1842 at Nelson,¹⁶ and was probably buried in an unmarked grave in an area which became the Hallowell cemetery.
- 3. **Diana RICHARDSON** was born and died in the first quarter 1838 in the Andover Registration District of Wiltshire, which includes North Tidworth¹⁰. Her mother’s maiden name is recorded as LANSLEY, a recognised variant of LANCELEY found in their marriage record. She was not baptised, suggesting that her life was very brief.
- 4. **Mary RICHARDSON** was born on 12 Jul 1839 and christened on 18 Aug 1839 at North Tidworth.⁹ Her birth was also registered in the Andover R.D., mother’s maiden name LANSLEY.¹⁰ In 1841 she emigrated from England with her parents in the ship *Fifeshire*, but died and was buried at sea on 9 Oct 1841, aged 2.⁷
- 5. **[male] RICHARDSON** was born on 14 Jan 1842 on board the ship *Fifeshire*, at sea.⁷ He was 2 weeks old on arrival in Nelson and his mother had died. He probably died on 4 April or 25 May 1842 at Nelson,¹⁶ and was buried in an unmarked grave in the area which became Hallowell cemetery. No forename was included in his birth or death record, a baptism has not been found. Alternately, supposing he survived, he would have needed care by another family with probable adoption and a change of name.

Sources and Notes:

- 1. Alan, Ruth: “**Nelson** : A history of early settlement” 1965 A H & A W Reed
- 2. **New Zealand Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages**. Indexes available online at <https://bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz>. Additional details from certificates in the NZ Society of Genealogists Certificates collection.
- 3. Sherrard, J.M. “**Kaikoura**, A History of the District” - Kaikoura County Council 1966

4. Archives NZ Item ID R24287108 From: **Coroner**, Blenheim Date: 11 March 1871
 Subject: With inquest proceedings on William Dufty and Sarah Lyford Available at Wellington office

5. **New Zealand cemeteries** at <https://www.findagrave.com>

Thomas Lyford at Hira cemetery, Nelson Plot 002 Block 005 Memorial ID: 136823161

Florence Richardson at Linwood cemetery, Christchurch Memorial ID: 145699358 is not this family

Clarence Bridge Woodbank cemetery, Cemetery ID: 2663255

6. New Zealand, Archives New Zealand, **Passenger Lists Collection**: *Fifeshire* emigration register

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6P5S->

[P61?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQJDV-FGCQ&action=view](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6P5S-61?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQJDV-FGCQ&action=view)

7. New Zealand, Archives New Zealand, Papers relating to emigrant ships - *Fifeshire*-George Fyfe

https://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE81685540 Scroll

through to File 10 "**Return of Births & Deaths on board ship *Fifeshire*** during voyage from London to the settlement of Nelson." Births: Mother: Fanny Richardson, date of delivery: 14 January 1842, male.

Deaths: Name of emigrant: Infant of W Richardson, age 1½ years, date 9 Oct 1841, cause Disease of mesenteric glands. [This was Mary, she died after 26 days at sea]

Births

Name of Mother	Date of Delivery	Place	Sex of Infant	Remarks
Elizabeth Gibson	18 th Nov 13		Male	
Mary Maggery	18		Male	
Anne Ford	26		Female	
Sarah Moore	Dec. 5		Female	
Honor Dillon	21		Male	
Hannah Cleary	31		Male	Died in 8 hours not included in forenoon
Mary Anne Jones	14 th Jan 13		Female	Died in 23 hours - not included in forenoon & returned
* Fanny Richardson	14		Male	
Elizabeth Pennell	18		Female	
Jane	26		Male	

Deaths

Name of Emigrant	Age	Date	Nature of Disease
Infant Doug. K. Parkin		18 th Oct 6	Diarrhoea
* W Richardson	1½	9	Disease Mesenteric Glands
Son of W Pennell	1½	14	Diarrhoea and Feeding
Mary Harper	35	16	Abdominal Inflammation
Lang. W. Jones	16 th	22	Water on the head
W. W. Pennell	17	Nov. 10.	Do
James Draper	28	25	Inflammation of Brain
John W. Drammors	3	29	Disease of Mesenteric Glands
Josiah Milling	24	Dec. 17	Fever
W. A. Milling	21	22	Do
Son of E. Jones	2	25	Do
Hannah Cleary	29	18 th Dec 3	Consumption
Edward James	34	4	abdom. Inflamm. caused by a worm perforating small intestine
Doug. W. Jones	8	11	Putrid sore throat
Maggery		July 1	Consumption 4 hours after landing 8 hours after ship arrived

8. **1841 census Deweys Lane, Ludgershall** – transcription with images at FindMyPast
<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=GBC%2F1841%2F1165%2F0176&parentid=GBC%2F1841%2F0005385686> (2 pages)

9. **Parish Registers** of Ludgershall and North Tidworth, Wiltshire - transcriptions at FindMyPast

* William Richeston and Frances Lanceley marriage record at Ludgershall: both parties “of Ludgershall”

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=PRS%2FWILTS%2FMAR%2FNIRO%2F0125823%2FB&tab=this>

* Mary’s baptism record: residence N Tidworth, baptism at North Tidworth

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=PRS%2FWILT%2FBAPS%2FBH%2F0367889&tab=this>

Some genealogists have named her Mary Frances but I can find no source for the extra name being applied during her very short life. If anyone has information please leave a “collaborate” note on FamilySearch Family Tree profile LZ8S-DTB. It was unusual for labourers’ children to have two forenames at that time.

* George’s baptism record: residence Tidworth, baptism at North Tidworth

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=PRS%2FWILT%2FBAPS%2FBH%2F0367841&tab=this>

* Sarah’s baptism record: residence Tidworth, baptism at North Tidworth

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=PRS%2FWILT%2FBAPS%2FBH%2F0367801&tab=this>

I can find no contemporary record of her name being Sarah Ann, as stated by some genealogists.

10. **U.K. General Register Office**, https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp

Mother’s maiden name LANSLEY. Registrations at Andover for George’s birth, Diana’s birth and death, Mary’s birth.

11. **Oxford Dictionary of Family Names** in Britain, Publisher: Oxford University Press, Current Online Version 2021. Limited free searching available without signing in at

<https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/acref/9780198868255.001.0001/acref-9780198868255>

12. **PapersPast** <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers> Searched for W, Wm or William Richardson in Nelson, Marlborough, and Canterbury areas pre-1900.

13. Go to <https://www.google.co.nz/maps/> Enter Deweys Lane, Ludgershall, Andover, U.K. in the search box, then switch to **Street View**.

14. **Transcription of Fifeshire passenger list** from Denise and Peter’s *Our Stuff* website. Denise and Peter’s source for their transcription is quoted as Archives New Zealand NZC 34/2 page 136

<https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~ourstuff/genealogy/Fifeshire.htm>

Long ago I found Fanny’s death on a copy of the Fifeshire Passenger list, but am now unable to indicate where this can be seen. I believe that the Fifeshire transcription at Ancestry.com (from Denise and Peter’s *Our Stuff*) could have been based on that copy). It quotes NZC 34/2 page 136 as their source, while the image from FamilySearch (Source 6 above) is marked as page 149.

Some genealogists identify her with a Fanny Richardson who died on 23 Jun 19012 and is buried in Linwood cemetery, Christchurch, NZ. However, this was the burial of a child aged 3 days.⁵

15. **Nelson City Burials Database** Hira cemetery, Thomas Lyford, Block 5 Plot 2, online at <https://www.nelson.govt.nz/services/facilities/cemeteries/cemeteries-search/>

16. Two deaths are included in **NZ Company Nelson records** as “Richardson, male child” on 4 Apr 1842 and on 25 May 1842. The first of these is included on a display board at the entry to the

Hallowell cemetery, Nelson’s original burial ground. I cannot find any other Richardson families in the settlement in 1842 with children unaccounted for and take these to be the burials of George and his infant brother. I cannot say which date refers to which child. I have not retained a record of where I found this document, though I think it was on microfilm. It was a return of deaths in the Nelson Settlement compiled by the local NZ Company agent for the London office.

There was a George Richardson living in Nelson who died in 1869, aged 51 years, suggesting a birth year about 1818. This is too early to be our George Richardson who was born in 1835.

There was a Thomas Richardson who died in 1868 in Oamaru, aged 26, making his birth year about 1842. This fits the baby who was born on the Mary Ann in 1842 and is probably the reason that some genealogists have taken “Thomas” to be this baby’s given name. In 1868 details about birthplace and parents were not recorded on death certificates, and it would be difficult to identify this Thomas’s family.

If these two boys were found to have lived to adulthood, the two male Richardson children in the NZ Company return of deaths for 1842 would need assigning to another family.

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In Conclusion

The results of my research are published here for the use of any other genealogist who wishes to have a copy. Feel free to include any of this information in your own writing, but if you wish to quote my conclusions *verbatim*, please acknowledge the source. If I am not available to discuss details you disagree with, I suggest posting a note on William’s profile K2VF-MQ3 at FamilySearch Family Tree, under the “Collaborate” tab.

I wish to acknowledge many contributions made by earlier genealogists to the production of this story, and the assistance of staff at relevant record repositories and libraries. Of late, access to original records has been greatly facilitated by digital indexing by Government agencies, commercial companies and volunteers from genealogical societies. This work is ongoing, and we need to be open to the possibility that this story could need revising in the future to take account of new information.

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Appendix: Clarence Bridge Historic Site

[Slightly abridged, from an information board on the site of the former Clarence Bridge Accommodation House. Produced by the Marlborough Branch of NZ Historic Places Trust]

The Big River

In 1842, during his mission to explore into and down the Wairau Valley from Lake Rotoiti, the early European explorer John Cotterell, with a party of three others, eventually turned south on reaching Cloudy Bay. They travelled around the White Bluffs, across the Acheron River and further south beyond Lake Grassmere until they reached a deep unfordable river, the Waipopoo, or Clarence as it is known today. Unable to cross they turned back.

Perhaps one of the first Europeans to cast eyes upon the river, he certainly was not the last to be turned back by the turbulent waters. Travellers might be held up at the river for days, waiting to cross. The “Big River” as it was generally called in the early days, was much feared by the early travellers who journeyed along the east coast of Marlborough during the early 1850s and the early 1860s . . .

Ferry and Accommodation House

In the early 1860s, with the prospect of having some funds at last to spend, the Superintendent of Marlborough made a tour of the new Province to establish priorities for public works. He recommended the immediate completion of the Blenheim-Kaikoura bridle track and the provision of an accommodation house and boat ferry at the dreaded Clarence River.

The Provincial Council set aside land for the provision of accommodation houses and travelling stock reserves at the Clarence and Hapuku Rivers. Early in 1862 the ferry, an old whaleboat guided by a wire, began operations, being temporarily under the charge of the Troloves of Woodbank Station. Passengers paid two shillings and sixpence to be ferried across with their luggage, while their unsaddled horses swam over. Later in that year Thomas Lyford arrived to take over both the ferry and the accommodation house, having tendered £100 for the privilege.

During February 3rd and 4th 1868 torrential rain swept 400 miles of the eastern seaboard from Picton to Oamaru, causing great destruction to property and livestock. Blenheim recorded 470mm of rain over two days. The Clarence River rose to the foundations of Lyford’s accommodation house. A huge boulder was taken from the river to mark this 1868 flood level.

The ferry ceased operations on the opening of the bridge in 1887, but the old accommodation house continued serving the public until 1912 when a more modern place was built about 50 yards further downstream. Some time later the old house was demolished, but the exact location is still known chiefly because of early photographs which show it in relation to certain trees which still remain.