

ROBINSON of Dungannon, County Tyrone

to

Auckland, NZ



Lachlan and Connor Skipworth at the grave of their gt, gt, gt, gt grandparents, Purewa Cemetery, Auckland, NZ 4 October 2010

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Introduction

One of my maternal great grandparents was Eliza Ann MULLAN nee ROBINSON, who lived all her married life in Westport, NZ. Until very recently the only information I had about her family, gleaned from her death certificate, was that she was born in Ireland, father John ROBINSON, tinsmith. With such a common name, I had written off any possibility of following her history further. However, there was one clue which my mother had given me - Eliza had mentioned a Robinson nephew in Auckland in her will. Mother had no idea how this nephew had come to be in NZ. It was to be 30 years before I got around to reading that will, having little expectation that Robinson in Auckland would be much easier to pin down than Robinson in Ireland. How wrong I was, but to be fair - information is much more accessible now than it was 30 years ago, making the story much easier to piece together.

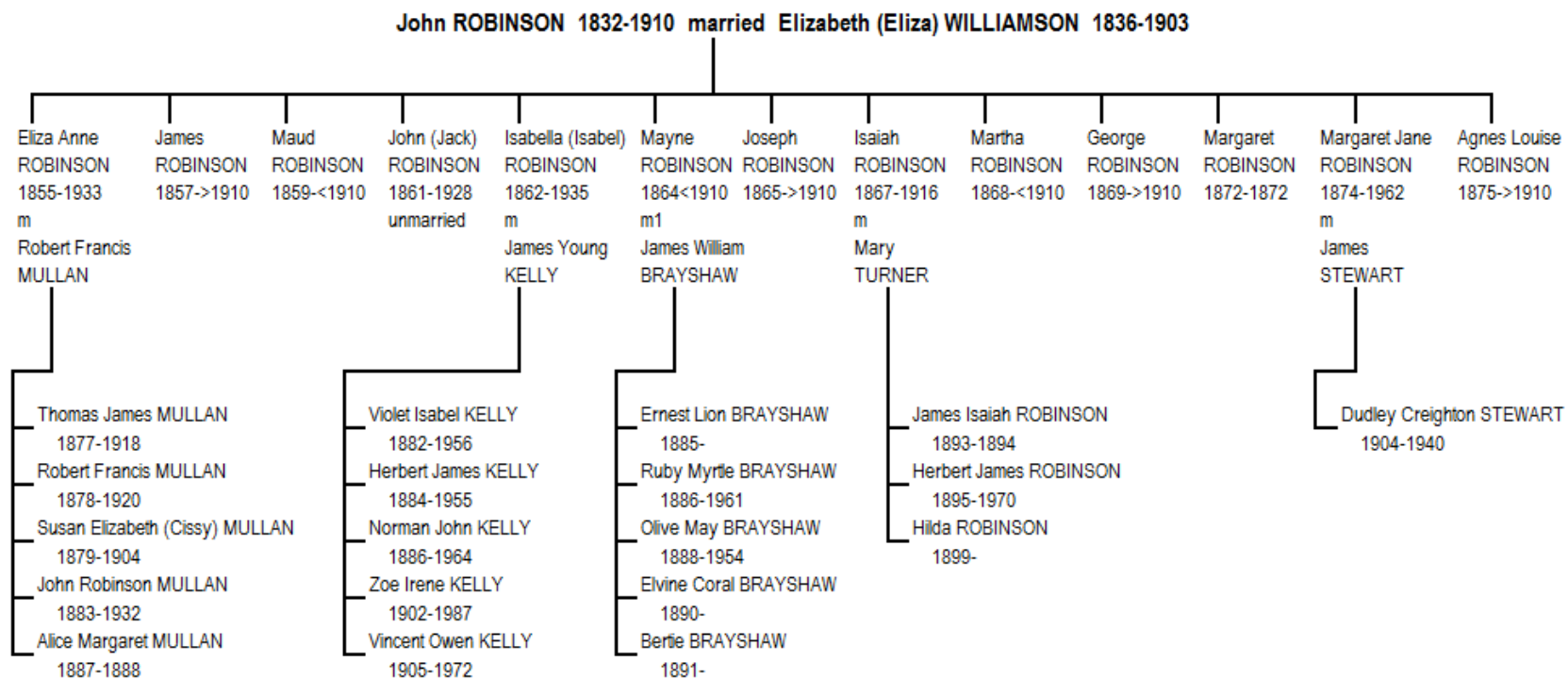
To my surprise I found that Eliza's will mentioned her married sister, a sister-in-law, and some of their children, all in Auckland. Reference to the on-line indexes of births, deaths and marriages identified a family member with a reasonably distinctive name which I advertised on a genealogy mailing list and obtained an immediate response. This led me to Annette WOOLSEY, who has very generously shared the research that she had done on our mutual gt gt grandfather. It appears that present day descendants of the Auckland Robinsons were as unaware of their Mullan relatives from Westport, as the Mullans were ignorant of the Robinsons in Auckland.

The story which follows is far from complete. There are quite likely to be other families descended from the 13 children of John and Eliza ROBINSON of Dungannon, and I would be pleased to add them to this record should they contact me.

Mary Skipworth
7 May 2010, updated 11 May 2014

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First Generation

1. John ROBINSON was born about 1832 in Dungannon, County Tyrone, Ireland, and died on 6 Dec 1910 in Auckland, NZ¹ aged 78. He was buried in Purewa Cemetery, Auckland with his wife and his second son. He consistently gave his occupation as tinsmith. His parents are not named on his death certificate, though it states that his father was a miller.

1866: arrived Auckland 15 February by *Mary Shepherd* [2nd cabin & steerage list] with his wife and 7 children: Eliza, James, Maud, John, Isabella, Mary, Joseph [This list is assumed to be in birth order.]

Comment: it is hard to guess what might have driven John to move on from Auckland to Sydney with 7 young children, unless it was a firm offer of employment in Sydney.

1867 - 1876: In Sydney for Isaiah's birth, and for Eliza's marriage. Six children were born in Sydney, the last in 1876. Note however that at present we only have evidence linking three of the six to "our" Robinsons. Inclusion of the others is speculative, based on the sequence of births registered to "John and Eliza Robinson of Sydney". There is nothing in the indexes to suggest that two couples with these names were registering children in this period.

1880: Wisers NZ Directory: John Robinson, tinsmith, Pitt St, Auckland, same 1885, 1887, not found 1878.

1887: Electoral roll, of Pitt Street, Auckland, living with Isaiah, John jnr, Joseph - all are tinsmiths.

Not found in earlier NZ electoral rolls, but note that not all rolls for Auckland have survived.

1893: Electoral roll, as for 1887. Apparently the women of this family did not register to vote in the first election with women's franchise.

1910: of Finch St, Morningside, Auckland, birthplace "Belfast" in cemetery record, "Dungannon, Belfast" in death certificate. Died of cerebral hemorrhages - 13mths, & 1 day.

1910: Death notice, NZ Herald 8 Dec 1910: *ROBINSON, on December 6th at his late residence, Finch Street, Morningside, John, dearly beloved husband of the late Eliza Robinson, and beloved father of Mrs James Stewart, Northcote, in his 79th year.*

1910: living children listed on death certificate

5 males 53, 51, 44, 42, 40; [James c1857, John 1861, Joseph 1865, Isaiah 1867, George 1869]

4 females 56, 49, 36, 34 [Eliza 1855, Isabella 1862, Margaret Jane 1874, Agnes Louise 1875] Maud and Mary may have predeceased their father, John's age appears incorrect.

1910: Buried Purewa plot E/045/033, with Eliza plot E/043/034 Jamieson Funeral Dir John jnr is buried in his father's plot - [Tongue funeral director.] Headstone:

*In remembrance of Eliza, the beloved wife of John ROBINSON,
departed this life 30 Jun 1903 aged 67 years,
also John ROBINSON beloved husband of the above,
departed this life 6 Dec 1910 aged 78 years.
Absent from the body, present with the Lord.
also their son John died 13 Jun 1928 aged 67 years.*

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1911: Probate: ROBINSON John - Morningside - Retired Tinsmith - The will mentions his son John, who inherited the house and shared the other assets with a daughter Agnes Louise. The executors were his son in law James Stewart and the solicitor. John "made his mark, being literate though unable to sign his will through illness".⁴⁷

Comment on John snr's will: John jnr was an unmarried son still living with his father in 1910, and Agnes Louise, as the unmarried daughter, was almost certainly housekeeping for her father and brother in place of her mother who had died 7 years previously. The value of the estate was probably too small to make provision for any of the other surviving children.

John married **Elizabeth (Eliza) WILLIAMSON**. Eliza was born about 1836 in Ireland, and died on 30 Jun 1903 in Auckland, NZ ² aged 68. She was buried in Purewa Cemetery, with her husband - see above.

Her maiden name is taken from her daughter Isabella's marriage certificate and from son Joseph's birth registration. She "made her mark" on the latter.

1903: Death notice from *NZ Herald* monthly supplement 8 Jul 1903
ROBINSON, on June 30 at her late residence, Finch St, Morningside, Eliza, the dearly beloved wife of Mr John Robinson and dearly loved mother of Mrs James Stewart, jun, Northcote, in her 69th year. Thy will be done. Westport and Sydney papers please copy.
Comment: The reference to Westport papers would be for her daughter Eliza MULLAN, and it appears she also had a child living in Sydney in 1903.

Their children were:

2	i.	Eliza Anne ROBINSON "Lizzie" 1855 - 1933	<i>refer to page 6</i>
3	ii.	James ROBINSON c 1857 - after 1910	<i>refer to page 8</i>
4	iii.	Maud ROBINSON c 1859 - before 1910	<i>refer to page 8</i>
5	iv.	John ROBINSON Jnr "Jack" 1861 - 1928	<i>refer to page 8</i>
6	v.	Isabella ROBINSON "Isabel" 1862 - 1935	<i>refer to page 9</i>
7	vi.	Mayne ROBINSON "Minnie" c 1864 - before 1910	<i>refer to page 9</i>
8	vii.	Joseph ROBINSON 1865 - after 1910	<i>refer to page 9</i>
9	viii.	Isaiah ROBINSON 1867 - 1916	<i>refer to page 10</i>
10	ix.	Martha ROBINSON 1868 - before 1910	<i>refer to page 10</i>
11	x.	George ROBINSON 1869 - after 1910	<i>refer to page 10</i>
12	xi.	Margaret ROBINSON 1872 - 1872	<i>refer to page 10</i>
13	xii.	Margaret Jane ROBINSON 1874 - 1962	<i>refer to page 10</i>
14	xiii.	Agnes Louise ROBINSON c 1876 - after 1910	<i>refer to page 11</i>

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Second Generation (Children)

2. Eliza Anne ROBINSON "Lizzie" (*John* ¹) was born in 1855 in Ireland, and died on 30 Sep 1933 in Westport, NZ ³ at age 79. She was buried with her husband on 1 Oct 1933 in Orawaiti Middle Cemetery, Westport. She is referred to as Eliza in her childhood, and as Lizzie in the registrations of her children's births. She signed her will E A Mullan, and her marriage entry Eliza Ann Robinson.

1866: aged 11, arrived in Auckland, NZ with her family on the ship *Mary Shepherd*

1867: the family were in Sydney for the birth of her brother Isaiah

1876: assume family was still in Sydney at the time of her marriage to Robert MULLAN.

1876: came to Westport, NZ shortly after her marriage and would have had little further contact with her family who were in Sydney and Auckland. Her granddaughter Joan commented that although she loved having the newspaper or books read to her, Joan had no memory of seeing her ever reading for herself. Given that both of her parents used a mark rather than signing documents, we can guess that Eliza's education may have been minimal. If this was the case her ability to keep in touch with relatives in Auckland would have been further compromised. There must have been some contact, though, for her to have known the names of two nephews and a niece, and an address in Auckland.

Her granddaughter, Molly Mullan said that Robert and Eliza came straight to Westport by ship. Eliza was left on the wharf with the luggage while Robert went to find accommodation. She was left there all one very wet, cold day, a seasick bride of 21 - not a happy introduction to her new country.

Her granddaughter Joan (Mullan) Scott wrote her memories of Eliza:

"She had many tinkly glass vases, glass domes covering birds, flowers, clocks. A few Dresden china ornaments, and coloured, framed photographs. There was a dining table that had served no crumb of food, and a fireplace that never held a burning stick. Leather balloon back dining chairs with shiny slippery seats. A piano that was never played. But up at the front of the house was another holy of holies that was rarely entered. It was a sitting room furnished mostly in Japanese style. Wicker chairs, matting, fine teaset. The bedrooms all had starched lace curtains and crochet bedspreads. The iron bedsteads had canopies and starched side-curtains. The kitchen was homely enough. The coal range was polished to a mirror finish, the table, benches and kitchen chairs scrubbed snow white. This is where they sat every evening of their lives. He would read the paper to her at the kitchen table, while she did her crochet-work. They were always so pleased if Madge (daughter-in-law) and Joan popped in to see them.

Robert died on 3 August 1928, aged 80, of a weak heart and senile decay.

Joan continues: "After Robert's death Eliza was completely lost. She became afraid to sleep in the house alone and Madge discovered that she was not going to bed, just sitting all night at the kitchen table. So she was persuaded to at least sleep at her daughter-in-law's home, though she would not live there. Every night at dusk she would arrive and she would slip out at daybreak. It was here she found an unexpected joy. This was to sit by an open fire in an easy chair while the other grandmother read Dickens to her. She did love Dickens and she relaxed more there than ever before in her life. I remember her wiping her eyes when Gimmie read of the death of David Copperfield's Dora.

It never seemed to occur to her that all those years she herself could have had an easy chair and an open fire.

In 1927 came the terrible Murchison earthquake. All her property suffered grievous damage. Especially bad was the two storied Alexandra Buildings, built of concrete about 1911 before much was known about reinforcing. It was cracked from top to bottom and money had to be borrowed for repairs. It should never have been repaired, was never

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safe, and was more recently condemned after the Inangahua earthquake in 1967. There was not a chimney standing in Westport after the Murchison earthquake.

On top of all this worry came the 1929-33 slump. Rents were hard to collect and taxes and rates high. She became so confused she was at one stage making a fresh will about once a month.

However, she did leave my mother [Madge] her chattels. It was a pity that Don and I had so little time to deal with things at the time of my mother's death in 1937. There was so much to dispose of, and so little time. Mary was there, a toddler of 3, but she wasn't giving us much help.

We made a huge bonfire of all Grandpa Mullan's records. He had recorded everything. Some of the more interesting items were set aside until little Mary, keen to "help", threw them into the bonfire with the rest.

As I remember her, Grandma always wore black with a little bit of white lace round the neck. She went to church in a Queen Alexandra hat with ostrich plumes over the crown. She unbent, I believe, quite a lot after she adopted the practice of sleeping at Madge and Gimmie's home. But fear drove her to that situation.

Mollie had more to do with her than any other grandchild because Mollie's mother was, and still is, a very notorious person. She dumped Mollie there every week when she played golf and was involved with boy-friends etc. It was embarrassing to the old people. Mollie was a strange and very lonely child, and the old lady became attached to her."

She died in 1933, aged 79, of pneumonia and senile decay, having outlived all her children. Eliza had placed the following headstone on her husband's grave [Orawaiti Middle Cemetery Section C Row 16&17, Block 3, Plots 879, 880] but it was not updated with her own details.

"In loving memory of Robert F. Mullan, died at Westport Aug 3 1928, aged 80 years, deeply regretted. Erected by his loving wife."

Details of Eliza's will follow. As Joan said, she was very confused and has omitted one grandson, Franklin Mullan - whether by accident or design we will probably never know. Executors Henry Lovell, solicitor and John William Bloyce, clerk in Holy Orders

£400 to Molly Mullan granddaughter

£400 to Olga Valesca Skinner (born Seimer) - granddaughter

£400 to Christian Emilie Seimer - grandson

£100 to Mary Robinson - sister-in-law

£100 to Herbert Robinson - nephew, son of Mary

£100 to Hilda Robinson - niece, daughter of Mary

£100 to Isabella Kelly - sister, of 108 St Andrews Rd, Epsom

£100 to Violet Isobel Utting, niece, eldest daughter of Isabel Kelly

£100 to Anglican Church, Westport

£100 to St Andrews Church of England Orphanage, Nelson

£100 to Wakarewa Orphanage, Motueka

Alexandra Buildings on Lot 1 part section 1007 Westport to Madge Mullan, dau-in-law for life, then to her children Donald Mullan and Joan Scott in equal shares

£100 additional from residue to Molly Mullan

£100 additional from residue to Olga Skinner

£100 additional from residue to Christian Siemer

divide any remaining residue between Westport Old People's Home, Westport Anglican Church, and O'Connor Home Westport

If insufficient funds: to be proportionally abated apart from the first three legacies.

Codicil - furniture and effects to Madge Mullan to be dealt with as I have directed her

Probated at £7800.

[Note that she does not mention her residential property with 2 houses on it, presumably it formed part of the residual estate.]

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Eliza married **Robert Francis MULLAN** on 28 Sep 1876 in St Peters Church, Sydney, Australia.⁷ Robert was born in 1849 in Dungannon, County Tyrone, Ireland and died on 3 Aug 1928 in Westport, NZ⁸ at age 79. Both the Mullans and the Robinsons had come from Dungannon, so it is likely that the families knew each other before their emigration. Robert Mullan's account of his life in *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, 1905 suggests that he went to Australia in 1873, where he would have had an opportunity to renew his acquaintance with the Robinsons and to court Eliza. They were both "of Woolloomooloo St" on their marriage certificate. Parents not stated, but a witness was James Robinson, Eliza's eldest brother. The history of the Mullans is the subject of a separate document.

Their children were:

14	i.	Thomas James MULLAN 1877 - 1918 ⁹	<i>refer Mullan doc</i>
15	ii.	Robert Francis MULLAN jnr 1878 - 1920 ^{10, 11}	<i>refer Mullan doc</i>
16	iii.	Susan Elizabeth MULLAN "Cissy" 1879 - 1904 ^{12, 13}	<i>refer Mullan doc</i>
17	iv.	John Robinson MULLAN 1883 - 1932 ¹⁴	<i>refer Mullan doc</i>
18	v.	Alice Margaret MULLAN 1887 - 1888 ^{15, 16}	<i>refer Mullan doc</i>

3. James ROBINSON (*John*¹) Born about 1857 according to father's death registration. Eldest son according to *Mary Shepherd* passenger list.

1876: witness to his sister Eliza's wedding in Sydney.

1887: not living with the family in Auckland, either he remained in Sydney, or he was married and living independently by this date. Note that his mother's death notice implies she had family in Sydney in 1903.

Only one possible death was found in the NSW index: James, son of John and Eliza Robinson, died 1911 Granville, NSW. Several possible deaths are listed in the NZ index.

4. Maud ROBINSON (*John*¹) second daughter according to *Mary Shepherd* passenger list. She would have to be born about 1859 (between James and John). She is likely to have died before 1910 as there is no corresponding surviving daughter in John's death registration.

No possible death entries found in NSW or NZ indexes, making it likely that she married. There are several possible NZ marriages, but certificates would have to be purchased.

5. John ROBINSON Jnr "Jack" was born about 1861 at Dungannon, County Tyrone, Ireland, and died unmarried in Auckland, NZ, on 13 Jun 1928 aged 67. Referred to as "Uncle Jack" in the Kelly family of his sister Isabel.

1866: emigrated to NZ aged 5 with his family on *Mary Shepherd*

1893: tinsmith living with parents at Pitt St - Electoral Roll

1928: sheetmetal worker of 145 Hobson St, Auckland in burial record Purewa

1928: buried in his father's plot, and mentioned on his headstone - see above

1928: will at National Archives, Auckland - John Robinson, the younger, of Auckland, retired tinsmith, born at Dungannon. His estate, sworn at under £1000, was divided one third each to his sisters Margaret Jane and Isabella, and the interest from one third to Mary (widow of Isaiah), with the residue to her children. A later codicil directed the residue to go to Hubert (Herbert?) Robinson (probably because his only sibling Hilda had died?). Margaret Jane STEWART, born in Sydney, was to be his executor.

1952: Hubert Robinson applied for a second probate of his uncle's will, as an additional bank account had been discovered. At this stage Margaret Jane STEWART was insane and unavailable to act.

6. Isabella ROBINSON "Isabel" (*John*¹) was born about 1862 in Dungannon, County Tyrone, Ireland, and died on in Auckland, NZ, aged 73.

1928 received 1/3 share of her brother John's estate

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1933 *my sister Isabella Kelly of 108 St Andrews Rd, Epsom* in Eliza Mullan's will

1935 buried with her husband in Waikumete cemetery.

Isabel married **James Young KELLY** on 8 Feb 1882,³⁴ at Wesleyan Church, Ponsonby, Auckland. James was born about 1859 at Greenock, Scotland, son of James Kelly, iron moulder and Elizabeth nee Young. He was a bachelor, and a shipwright, of Freeman's Bay, Auckland. He died on 24 Nov 1932 in Auckland aged 76 retired, and was buried Waikumete Wesleyan Div C Row 28 Plot 59.

Their children were:

- | | | |
|----|------|---|
| 18 | i. | Violet Isabel KELLY 1882 - 1956 ^{17, 41} m. Walter Ernest UTTING 1907 ⁴² |
| 19 | ii. | Herbert James KELLY 1884 - 1955 ^{18, 39} m. Mildred Bertha SMITH 1909 ⁴³ |
| 20 | iii. | Norman John KELLY 1886 - 1964 ^{19, 40} m. Phyllis Anne BRAMLEY 1912 ⁴⁴ |
| 21 | iv. | Zoe Irene KELLY 1902 - 1987 ^{20, 37} m. Thomas Fyfe KERR 1925 ³⁶ |
| 22 | v. | Vincent Owen KELLY 1905 - 1972 ^{21, 38} m. Ethel Marjorie WHELAN 1928 ⁴⁵ |

7. Mayne ROBINSON (aka Minnie or Ethel Mayne) (*John*¹) born about 1863-64, probably in Dungannon, probably died before 1910.

1866 between Isabella and Joseph in the *Mary Shepherd* list, assumed born between them 1882 probably the Minnie Robinson who witnessed Isabella's marriage in Auckland.

1910 no corresponding daughter listed on her father's death certificate.

I had very little information about her at the time of first writing this paper, and guessed that she had moved away from Auckland if Annette Woolsey had not found her family. It took 4 years for my website to deliver, but in 2014 I was contacted by a great grand-daughter who has kindly provided details of her family.

Her name was given as Mary in the newspaper report of the family's arrival in Auckland, but from her marriage notice and from the birth entries of her children, it appears that the correct name was Mayne. In any event, she was known as Minnie in her early life, but later appears to have used Ethel Mayne.

On 3 Nov 1883, the Auckland Star reported her marriage thus:

"On October 25th, by the Rev. R. F. Macnicol, J. W. Brayshaw, late of Dunedin, to Minnie, fourth daughter of J. Robinson, Pitt-street, Auckland. — Sydney and Southern papers please copy."

The story of this marriage, as told by her husband in divorce proceedings in the Supreme Court at Wanganui, appeared in the Wanganui Herald on 4 Oct 1895. The respondent and co-respondent did not appear and Mayne's version of events was not heard.

John William Brayshaw, the petitioner, said he was a coach builder in Stratford. He was married in 1883 to Mayne Robinson. After marriage resided in Auckland till 1884, then in Suva (South Sea Islands) till 1885, Sydney till 1887, Dunedin till 1888, Timaru till 1891, Woodville till 1892, and Gisborne till the date of desertion. After his wife had been in a place for a short time she made herself so objectionable to the neighbours that she gave him no peace of mind till he had shifted. Lived tolerably well, but had quarrels at times. Was a total abstainer himself, and always treated his wife with respect and courtesy. Made arrangements with her to allow her £2 per week for household arrangements whether in work or out of work, and had always paid her. Upon two different occasions had started his wife in business, starting her first in Sydney, at her request, as a milliner and dressmaker, which was a failure, losing £90 which he had saved up. She started in Gisborne and that speculation was also disastrous and petitioner lost about £17. They had six children, two of whom died in infancy. In 1894 his wife was very anxious to start a restaurant business in Hastings as she said Gisborne was a nasty dirty hole. Witness remonstrated with her, but she said unless he went there she would leave him and the children to fish for themselves. The end of it was that she left him. Went to work one day, and on returning in the afternoon about 2 o'clock found that the house was stripped with the exception of a few articles in

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the kitchen and bedroom furniture, crockery, and everything movable being taken. The children were taken to his sister's. In looking through the house found his wife's engagement ring and wedding ring on a nail. In going down town found some of his furniture in an auction room, which had been sold for what it would fetch. The furniture was worth £60 or £70. There was a man named Gilbert Binney living with petitioner, and he concluded that there was some collusion between his wife and Binney. Met Binney and had some conversation with him, and he informed witness that telegrams had passed between him and his wife. Binney repented of what he had done, and agreed to pay the cost of a copy of the telegrams. Witness's wife went by the name of Minnie. It was arranged that Binney and his wife should take up the restaurant in Hastings. Next heard of his wife in Grant's lolly shop in Napier as an assistant in the shop. Received some letters from her which are taken the following quotations "Mr Binnie came out on the lunch with me, and begged hard for to come with him. He went back, and I tell you the honest truth that I have never seen or heard from him since. What do I want with any man. I have had quite enough with you, and seen quite enough of them. Never be afraid of me." Telegrams were, however, produced proving that correspondence had passed between them. In another letter to petitioner respondent says I went straight home to live there, as I expected they would be very glad to see me, but it was quite the other way, for father would not allow me to work in Auckland at all, nor would he give me pace to live there, as he wants to know the ins and outs of this affair. Give me a few shillings a week to help me to live or give me up altogether. I am your wife I know, but we can't agree. You must keep me or else give me my freedom, so that another might have the chance of doing that which you refuse. You must do one or the other. Send me a word about my children, for I am fretting about them. Do they ever speak of me." Did not answer any of the letters. His wife returned to Gisborne in March, when one of his children was ill. She was very expensively dressed, and desired an interview, but witness refused it, saying he did not think it was desirable in the interests of his children. She left again in the afternoon, and the next day he received a letter from a firm of solicitors at Napier indicating that his wife was prepared to live with him again, and failing that would demand maintenance. Next saw his wife in Grant's lolly shop in Wanganui, and then returned to Stratford. She had left £48 unpaid at Gisborne, which should have been paid by his wife out of the £2 per week allowed. His children were in Gisborne with witness's mother.

By His Honor: Had paid for the furniture himself.

William Mackenzie, vocalist, said he knew the petitioner and the person calling herself Mrs Grant. First became acquainted with her in January, when she came to him for lessons in singing. She said she had just come from Napier with her husband to open business here. She took lessons from him, and when witness formed a concert party she volunteered her services. They went to various places, including Hawera, where Grant joined them and occupied the same room with her. Returned to Wanganui, and she had since continued taking lessons. Saw her served with a paper by Messrs Fitzherbert and Marshall's clerk about two months ago. She came next day and said she had been served with a writ, and some women were at the bottom of it who were trying to do her out of some land. She then went to Wellington and witness heard from her that Grant had gone to Christchurch, and she had put some money in a big business they intended establishing there. She told witness also that she was married to Grant at Napier. The business here (which respondent said belonged to her) was a good business, and the place was furnished with a 75 guinea piano. She also had an account at the bank. On a subsequent occasion Mrs Brayshaw told witness that life was too slow for her. She liked to be moving about— and that she had got the desire of her life, a writ for separation.

His Honor granted a decree nisi with costs £35 against respondent, the decree to be made absolute in three months.

Mayne had married **John William BRAYSHAW** (1854-1938) on 25 Oct 1883,⁴⁸ in Auckland.

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Their children were:

- 27 i. **Ernest Lion BRAYSHAW** 1885-⁴⁹
- 28 ii. **Ruby Myrtle BRAYSHAW** 1886-1961^{50, 51} unmarried (born NSW)
Sister Ruby Brayshaw, served WW1 on hospital ship *Marama*,
remembered Auckland Nurses Memorial, RSA Onehunga Memorial
Cremated Royal Oak, Auckland; will at Archives Auckland
- 29 iii. **Olive May BRAYSHAW** 1888-1954⁵² m. William Ernest HOLLARD in
1913⁵³
Passed junior scholarship exam in 1901, entitled to free tuition Stratford High
School. They had 2 sons and 1 daughter.
- 30 iv. **Elvina Coral BRAYSHAW** 1890-⁵⁴ married William SULLIVAN in 1916⁵⁵
In 1915, passed the second section for Associateship NZ Soc Accountants
- 31 v. **Bertie BRAYSHAW** 1891-⁵⁶ married Christina Grace AITKEN in 1914⁵⁷
Their second child was born in Invercargill in 1918.
Bertie held two US Patents filed in 1919 (for a sample taker) and 1920 (for
improvements to a milking machine), in the second of which he is described
as a NZ citizen, resident at Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin. Both
were sold to the General Tool and Manufacturing Co. Bertie may not have
returned to NZ, Christina divorced him in 1925.⁵⁸

According to evidence in the divorce case there was a sixth child who is presumed to have been one of the two that died young, the other apparently being Ernest, though his death has not been found.

Following the divorce in 1883 John Brayshaw appears to have led a successful life.

1904: J W Brayshaw and 2 Misses Brayshaw had visited Dawson Falls at Easter

1907: J W Brayshaw, a vice-President of Taranaki Lawn Tennis Assn, representing Stratford

1910: re-elected a director of the Taranaki Building Society

1910: represented Stratford at a meeting of poultry breeders in Wellington

1910: John William BRAYSHAW married Emma Sophia Sarah BOBIN.

1912: former Presbyterian minister returning on a visit stayed with Mr J W Brayshaw

1912: new tenant in one of Mr J W Brayshaw's 5 shops

1912: Mrs J W Brayshaw one of the chaperones at a Tennis Club social evening

1912: spokesman for delegation to Wellington seeking legislation for registration of farriers

1913: chaired meeting in Wellington seeking to form a national association of carriage builders

1915: advertising for employment as a motor-car body builder

1916: sale of his dairy farm, stock, and equipment

1938: John William BRAYSHAW died aged 84 in 1938, retired farmer of Fitzroy, New Plymouth,
buried with Sophia at Te Henui cemetery – will at National Archives, Wellington.

Mayne's history following the divorce is harder to trace. She appears to have added the name Ethel, and as Mrs GRANT, nee Ethel Mayne BRAYSHAW was sued for bankruptcy in Wanganui in March 1896 with debts of £188, and assets £230 (mostly stock in her confectionery business). By June she was able to apply for a discharge.

On 17 Oct 1896 an **Ethel Mayne ROBINSON** married **William Menlove DAWES**, a draper employed by Kirkaldie and Staines, Wellington. No death records for this couple have been found in NZ, suggesting that they may have left the country.

Comment: The contrasting characters and lives of two sisters, Eliza and Mayne Robinson, is most striking. Eliza, the first born in her family, is shown here as timid, retiring, and very conservative. Mayne on the other hand was restless and adventurous, willing to take a chance in embarking on small businesses though not particularly successful, and to abandon her husband and children in search of new experiences. One wonders if being the sixth born gave her more freedom in childhood.

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8. Joseph ROBINSON (*John*¹) was born on 12 May 1865 in Dungannon, County Tyrone, Ireland.⁴ [Civil registration commenced in 1864 in Ireland, which accounts for not finding birth registrations for the other children.] Joseph probably died after 1910.

1866: about a year old on first arrival in Auckland.

1893: still living with his parents at Pitt Street, Auckland, occupation tinsmith.

1910: identified as the son aged 44 on his father's death certificate.

Not known if he married or had children.

No very convincing death record has been found, but it could be hard to identify if his age was incorrect.

A Joseph Robinson died in 1930, aged 64, but he was a farmer of Matamata.

A Joseph Robinson who died in 1953, aged 88 of Makara, Wellington, can be ruled out as his headstone at Karori Cemetery describes him as "eldest son of Mary and Joseph Robinson."

A Joseph ROBINSON, tinsmith, who died at Riverton, Southland in 1908 can be ruled out because his age 67, puts him well outside the range for our Joseph.

9. Isaiah ROBINSON (*John*¹) was born in 1867 in Sydney, Australia,⁵ died on 20 May 1916 in Auckland, NZ⁶ at age 49, and was buried in Purewa Cemetery, Auckland.

1910: of Pitt St, tinsmith, next of kin in father's burial record

1916: buried Purewa A/011/036, age 48, of Gudnry St, Newton, Weir & Co undertakers

Next of kin - Mrs J Robinson, no headstone [should this be Mrs I. Robinson?]

1916: probate at National Archives, Auckland - Tinsmith, widow Mary the sole beneficiary

Note: Another Isaiah Robinson (likely to be this Isaiah's uncle) married in 1847 at Dungannon, and died there in 1897 aged 70. Directories list him as a tinsmith worker of Barrack St Dungannon in the 1850s and 1860s.

Isaiah married **Mary TURNER** on 27 Nov 1889.²² Mary died on 15 Aug 1950, of 1 Rata St, Devonport and her ashes were buried on 24 Aug 1950 in Purewa Cemetery, Auckland. (Sibun Funeral Director). She was remembered as *my sister-in-law Mary Robinson* in Eliza Mullan's will (1933) as were her children Herbert and Hilda. She was also a beneficiary in John Robinson jnr's will in 1928.

Their children were:

- | | | | | | |
|----|------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 23 | i. | James Isaiah ROBINSON | 1893 - 1894 | ^{25, 26} | |
| 24 | ii. | Herbert James ROBINSON | 1895 - 1970 | ^{23, 24} | m. Myrtle NEIL 1917 |
| 25 | iii. | Hilda ROBINSON | 1899 - ? before 1928 | ²⁷ | |

With the births of Isaiah and Margaret Jane in Sydney in 1867 and 1874 respectively established in this family, it seemed reasonable to investigate other Sydney births with parents John and Eliza. No evidence conflicting with the thesis that Isaiah, Martha, George, Margaret, Margaret Jane and Agnes are from a single family has been found, so all these births are accepted tentatively.

10. Martha ROBINSON (*John*¹) was born in 1868 in Sydney, daughter of John and Eliza.²⁸ No corresponding death has been found in the NSW records. The conclusion is that she probably died in NZ before 1910, as she does not appear to be listed among the surviving daughters on her father's death certificate. No possible death of a Martha Robinson has been found in NZ before 1910, suggesting that she had married. The only possible marriage found was to Alexander John MALCOLM in 1897, a Martha MALCOLM died on 12 April 1911 but was said to have been aged 33.

11. George ROBINSON (*John*¹) A George ROBINSON was born in 1869 in Sydney, son of John and Eliza.²⁹ He is thought to have died after 1910, most likely in New Zealand.

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c1879 He would have been about 10 when the family moved back to Auckland, so a NZ school record is possible.

1910 George is taken to be the son aged 40 on his father's death certificate.

12. Margaret ROBINSON (*John*¹) was born and died in 1872 in Sydney, daughter of John and Eliza.^{30, 33}

13. Margaret Jane ROBINSON (*John*¹) was born in 1874 in Sydney.³¹ The index records her parents as John and Lina, which might cause this record to be rejected. However, Margaret Jane STEWART appears repeatedly as next of kin, executor etc in the records of other family members. In Jack Robinson's will she is described as "native of Sydney." I therefore believe that Lina is a misreading of Liza. No other children born to John and Lina appear in the NSW index.

1903 & 1910: Mrs James Stewart of Northcote in her mother's and her father's death notices in the *NZ Herald*. None of the other children were mentioned in these notices.

1910: Her husband James was her father's executor, though she was not a beneficiary under this will.

1928: inherited a one third share of her brother Jack's estate, and was his executor.

1952: described as "insane" when a new executor was appointed for her brother Jack's estate. She would have been aged 78 at the time - senile dementia perhaps?

1962: age 82 in death registration though she would have been 88. The informant is likely to have been her widowed daughter-in-law.

1962: cremated, Purewa, address was c/- Jervois Haven, Herne Bay, Auckland.

1962: will of Margaret Jane STEWART, Presbyterian minister, signed in 1948, - Walter Ernest Utting (niece's husband) and a solicitor to be trustees; life interest to her husband (who actually predeceased her); £100 each to nieces Violet Isabel Utting and Hilda Robinson, remainder to grandson **Warwick James STEWART**, half when 25, balance when aged 30.

Margaret Jane married **James STEWART** on 5 Jun 1895.³⁵

They had a son **Dudley Creighton STEWART** 1904 - 1940 (aged 35), who married **Winifred Eleanor May COOKE** in 1932.⁵⁷ Dudley was a marine engineer of Auckland, will 1940 at National Archives, Auckland.

14. Agnes Louise ROBINSON (*John*¹) was born in 1875 in Sydney - registered as Agnes, parents John and Eliza.³²

1910: beneficiary in her father's will (Agnes Louise) - received a half share of assets other than the house, probably unmarried and housekeeping for her father and brother.

1928: not mentioned in Jack's will, suggesting she had either died or married by this date.

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Source Citations

NS = new style on-line NZ BDM registration references.

1. *NZ Registration Deaths Index*, 1910/6388 NS. certificate from Annette Woolsey
2. *NZ Registration Deaths Index*, 1903/4599 NS.
3. *NZ Death Certificate*, 1933/318.
4. *Birth Certificate*, photocopy from Annette
5. *NSW Births Index*, 420/1867.
6. *NZ Registration Deaths Index*, 1916/4042 NS.
7. NSW Marriage Certificate, 955/1876.
8. *NZ Death Certificate*, 1928
9. *NZ Births Index*, 1877/2402. Thomas James Mullan
10. *NZ Births Index*, 1878/3532. Robert Francis Mullan jnr [as Robert John Mullans]
11. *NZ Death Certificate*, 1920/319. Robert Francis Mullan jnr
12. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1880/469. as Lizzie Susan Mullans, Westport.
13. *NZ Registration Deaths Index*, 1904/1718. Elizabeth Susan Siemer.
14. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1883/1561. John Robinson Mullan
15. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1887/11060 NS. Alice Margaret Mullan
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17. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1883/19856 NS. Violet Isobel Kelly
18. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1884/5722 NS. Herbert James Kelly
19. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1887/14809 NS. Norman John Kelly
20. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1902/12589 NS. Zoe Irene Kelly
21. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1905/3744 NS. Vincent Owen Kelly
22. *NZ Registration Marriages Index*, 1889/2771 NS. Isaiah Robinson
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25. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1893/15760 NS. James Isaiah Robinson
26. *NZ Registration Deaths Index*, 1894/1104 NS. James Isaiah Robinson
27. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1899/1322 NS. Hilda Robinson
28. *NSW Births Index* 1682/1868 Martha Robinson
29. *NSW Births Index* 2351/1869 George Robinson
30. *NSW Births Index* 2469/1872 Margaret Robinson
31. *NSW Births Index* 71/1874 Margaret Jane Robinson
32. *NSW Births Index* 2725/1875 Agnes Robinson
33. *NSW Deaths Index* 1641/1872 Margaret Robinson
34. *NZ Marriages Index* 1882/231 NS Isabel Robinson
35. *NZ Marriages Index* 1895/1483 NS Isabel Robinson
36. *NZ Marriages Index* 1925/1171 NS Zoe Kelly
37. *NZ Deaths Index* 1987/45266 NS Zoe Kerr
38. *NZ Deaths Index* 1972/31098 NS Vincent Kelly
39. *NZ Deaths Index* 1955/26983 HS Herbert Kelly
40. *NZ Deaths Index* 1964/27057 NS Norman Kelly
41. *NZ Deaths Index* 1956/24898 NS Violet Utting
42. *NZ Marriages Index* 1907/2437 NS Violet Kelly
43. *NZ Marriages Index* 1909/5168 NS Herbert Kelly
44. *NZ marriages Index* 1912/1759 NS Norman Kelly
45. *NZ Marriages Index* 1928/339 NS Vincent Kelly
46. *NZ Marriages Index* 1928/339 NS Herbert Robinson
47. Probate John Robinson National Archives, Auckland 1911 Box 262 No 7894
48. *NZ Marriages Index* 1883/2659 NS Mayne Robinson
49. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1885/14121 NS Ernest Lion Brayshaw
50. *NSW Births Index*, 18634/1886 Ruby M Brayshaw
51. *NZ Registration Deaths Index*, 1961/25036 NS Ruby Myrtle Brayshaw
52. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1888/10090 NS Olive May Brayshaw
53. *NZ Registration Marriages Index*, 1913/7505 NS Olive May Brayshaw
54. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1890/8119 NS Elvina Coral Brayshaw
55. *NZ Registration Marriages Index*, 1916/14424 NS Elvina Coral Brayshaw
56. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1891/11355 NS Bertie Brayshaw

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57. *NZ Registration Marriages Index, 1932/7236 NS* Dudley Creighton Stewart
58. Divorce file at Archives NZ, Dunedin Office – refer Archway website

I am indebted to Annette Woolsey, great grand daughter of Isabel Robinson, for references to John & Eliza Robinson's life in Auckland.

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