

Wagga Wagga's First Council Engineer



Henry John Edgar Chaston. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council.

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Notes

NSW birth, death, and marriage registrations are quoted extensively throughout this story. Please note that the recorded places where these events occurred are usually the local district centres where the registrations took place. The actual event was commonly at a location within that district. Where there is evidence of the actual location the place may have been amended.

The Family of Henry John Edgar Chaston

GENERATION 1

John Chaston [1797-1855]

The Chaston family story in Australia starts with the arrival of John Chaston in 1838. John was born in Suffolk, England, around 1797. It is believed he served in the Napoleonic Wars, being at Waterloo in 1815.

In 1820, he married Mary Storey, at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, England.¹ Mary was born in England, and was a couple of years younger than John. The couple had five children, the last of whom was born in 1831, the year that Mary died, and it is assumed her death was connected to the birth. The two youngest children both died in infancy.

In 1825 John was convicted of larceny and sentenced to a year in prison,² which, it is assumed, he served. One wonders if he stole to pay for food or medicine for his children.

John remarried, in 1833, to Sarah Self.³ This couple had three children before leaving England and another two in Australia.

John and Sarah sailed to Australia along with their three children, plus two children from John's first marriage – Daniel and Benjamin.⁴ The eldest son from John's first marriage, John [junior], is not listed on the trip and it is not known what happened to him. They landed at Adelaide in South Australia on the 24th June 1838, aboard the vessel, *Eden*.

John and his family stayed in South Australia and in May 1846 he was a "lime-stoker" at Bowden. His son Daniel was trading in sheep at this time.⁵ In July 1854, he was charged with stealing a quantity of limestone belonging to the Hindmarsh District Council. He was not convicted but the judge cautioned John stating that his actions had been "improper."⁶ It appears John may have been illegally selling limestone to brick makers, from council stock.

In 1854 he also advertised a sire, Young Samson, to stand and it is assumed he had a small farm, at Bowden.⁷

It seems John, like many early citizens, had a problem with alcohol. On a Saturday in February 1856, he was drinking at the Governor Hindmarsh hotel, at Bowden. His wife found him later that day, when she returned home, laying on his bed, intoxicated. She searched his pockets and found £2. 15s. According to Sarah, his wife, he had £3 when he left home that morning. Charles Elliot was subsequently charged with improper possession of Chaston's stallion, Young Samson, and George Wallis, and John Puckham were accused of aiding and abetting Elliot. They claimed John had sold them the sire. Evidence from Dr Edward Mortimer, was that he examined Chaston on the Monday after the event and that

¹ England, Select Marriages: 1538-1973. FHL film # 918504.

² England & Wales, Criminal Registers: 1791-1892.

³ England, Select Marriages: 1538-1973. FHL film # 918522.

⁴ Passenger List. Eden, arrived 24th June 1838, Adelaide, South Australia,.

⁵ Adelaide Observer. 30th May 1846, p4.

⁶ Adelaide Times. 6th July 1854, p4.

⁷ Adelaide Observer. 19th August 1854, p12.

he was at that time, suffering from *delirium tremens*, and his behaviour was no better than that of an imbecile. In his opinion Chaston could not have made a rational decision on the Saturday. He also testified that Chaston was still too sick to appear in court. The horse was said to be worth £120, or more, and it was clear that Chaston did not have this sort of money in his possession. The three men were all bound over to answer the charge in a higher court.⁸

John's son, David [a drayman] testified that he lived with his father, and that the horse was his, he having purchased the same from his father. His testimony also revealed that Elliot had been a groom in the employment of John. Sarah Chaston, and her daughter, Ann, provided supporting evidence.⁹

Sarah Fyffe, the landlady of the Wellington Inn, at Bowden, testified that John Chaston had not been in his right mind for three weeks or more, and that she had cautioned Elliot against taking advantage of the situation. The charges against Wallis & Puckham, were soon dismissed, and after hearing all the evidence the judge acquitted Elliot, but made no ruling as to who owned the horse. David Chaston subsequently sought, and was granted an injunction, preventing Elliot for selling, hiring, or using the horse, pending further court action.¹⁰ The matter was finally settled in June 1855, when a jury found in favour of David Chaston.¹¹



Above: A notice posted by John in December 1846.¹²

⁸ Adelaide Times. 17th February 1855, p3.

⁹ South Australian Register. 19th February 1855, p3.

¹⁰ South Australian Register. 19th February 1855, p3.

¹¹ South Australian Register. 19th June 1855, p3. [additional facts revealed in this hearing] / 12th July 1855, p3.

¹² South Australian. 18th December 1846, p4.

On the 25th March 1855, after six weeks illness, John Chaston passed away, at his home, in Bowden,¹³ at the age of fifty eight years.

In April 1856, an eight acre block in the village of Prospect, was up for sale, on account of the estate of the late John Chaston. The block was lot 21, of section 373B, known as, “*the Prospect Village.*” A number of blocks of land in Bowden were also for sale, on account of Chaston’s estate. Allotments 285, 286, 287 and 288, all faced onto Gibson Street, Bowden, and all featured houses and/or other buildings. Allotments 289, 290, 291, 292, 321, 322, 323, and 324, were all building lots. The sale also included household furniture and effects.¹⁴

Even John’s will was contested. The executors, John Packham and Frederick Stacey, had been granted probate, and had sold some real estate to Mathew Smith. The issue before the court was not whether the executors had the right to sell the real estate, but whether the wording of the will allowed them to convey the properties. It was explained that the law stipulated that an “*heir-at-law*”, must consent to the conveyance, but that in this instance the latter was “*absent from the colony,*” and that previous rulings would allow the court to disregard this item. The sums involved were small, and it was clear the testator [Chaston] had intended that the monies raised should be distributed amongst his children, in the colony. The court reserved its decision on this occasion.¹⁵ The “*heir-at-law,*” would have been John’s eldest son, John [junior], from his first marriage.

YOUNG SAMPSON.—The fine Draught Stallion YOUNG SAMPSON will stand to cover this season, near the Wellington Inn, Bowden. On Tuesdays he will be at Stewart’s Public-house, at Salisbury, returning every Wednesday by way of the Cross Keys and Grand Junction Inn.

Terms, £3 3s., and 2s. 6d. grooming fee, payable at time of service.

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JOHN CHASTON.

Above: One of many advertisements run by John Chaston in the 1850’s.¹⁶

Sarah Chaston [nee Self] [1808-1871]

Sarah Chaston [nee Self] passed away, at Bowden, on the 20th March 1871, aged sixty three. As recorded earlier, it is not known what happened to John Chaston [junior], the eldest son from the first marriage. The other two survivors from that first marriage, who came to Australia, were Daniel and Benjamin.

¹³ South Australian Register. 28th March 1855, p2.

¹⁴ South Australian Register. 17th April 1856, p4.

¹⁵ South Australian Register. 2nd June 1856, p3.

¹⁶ Adelaide Observer 19th August 1854, p12.

GENERATION 2 – The family of John Chaston and Mary Storey

Daniel Chaston [1825-1900]

Daniel Chaston was born on the 13th November 1825 at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, England. He passed away in 1900, at Benayeo, near Apsley in Victoria, aged seventy five.¹⁷ He was survived by his wife, Mary Ann Chaston. It is not known if they had any children. Mary Ann passed away in 1919, at Benyeo [sic].¹⁸ No details were recorded of her parents or her husband.

Benjamin Chaston [1828-1908]

Benjamin Chaston was born on the 9th March 1828, at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, England. In March 1908, it was confirmed that Benjamin was still living in Adelaide, and that he had come to South Australia in June 1838. In his early days he had assisted in the building of the Register Office, when it was in Hindley Street. When the Register Office in Grenfell Street was demolished he managed to secure a part of a window shutter and one of the door frames, from which he had constructed a match box holder and a coat hanger.¹⁹

Benjamin passed away, at his residence, 228 Halifax Street, at the age of eighty. He was survived by his wife, Mary Jane Chaston,²⁰ who passed away in the following year, on the 29th August 1909, at the same address, and at the age of eighty one years and five months.²¹ It is not known if the couple had children.

GENERATION 2 – The family of John Chaston and Sarah Self

There were five children from John Chaston's second marriage, to Sarah Self.

Christina Maria Chaston [1843-1907]

The youngest was Christina Maria Chaston, born on the 13th October 1843, at Bowden, South Australia.²² In 1868 she married William Henry Roper, in Victoria.²³ The couple had at least two children, and the 2nd youngest daughter was named after her mother – Christina Maria Roper. This daughter passed away at Williamstown, Victoria, in September 1904.²⁴ Christina's husband, William Henry Roper, passed away, at Hamilton, in May 1907,²⁵ and Christina, herself, followed in September 1907, at Hamilton.²⁶

¹⁷ VIC BDM's. Death registration # 7564.

¹⁸ VIC BDM's. Death registration # 10121.

¹⁹ Evening Journal. 25th March 1908, p1.

²⁰ Evening Journal. 5th August 1908, p1.

²¹ The Advertiser. 30th August 1909, p4.

²² Australia, Birth Index: 1788-1922. Vol.1, p42V.

²³ VIC BDM's. Marriage registration # 1269.

²⁴ VIC BDM's. Death registration # 10959.

²⁵ Hamilton Spectator. 14th May 1907, p3.

²⁶ VIC BDM's. Death registration # 8481.



Above: Christina Maria Chaston

Henry Self Chaston [1840-1912]

The next youngest child was Henry Self Chaston, who was born on the 31st March 1840, also at Bowden [Adelaide]. In October 1871 he married Amelia Maley, at Bowden.²⁷ Henry passed away in December 1912, at Bowden. He was seventy three years old. An obituary notice provided some details,²⁸

“He was a son of the late Mr. John Chaston, who arrived in this state in the Eden in 1838. Mr. Chaston was born in Gibson-street, Bowden, and resided in one house nearly 60 years. He was one of the oldest members of the Rechabite order in this State, and was one of the foundation members of the Star of Freedom Tent, of which he had been a past chief ruler. He was an earnest worker in the Bowden Methodist Church. A widow, four sons - Messrs. H., (Southwark), D. (Brompton), H. J. (Bowden), and E. W. (Kingston) and two daughters -Mrs. H. Hartshorn (Glenelg), and Miss Chaston (Bowden), and a number of grandchildren are left.”

Elizabeth Chaston [1837-1911]

The next youngest child was Elizabeth Chaston, who was born back in England, on the 4th December 1837. In 1859 she married William Lewis, at Adelaide.²⁹ Elizabeth passed away on the 1st July 1911, at Narracoorte, aged seventy four.

An obituary provided the following details,³⁰

“An old resident of the district in the person of Mrs Elizabeth Lewis, wife of Mr. W. Lewis, formerly foreman of the railway permanent way in this district, died at her residence, Narracoorte, on. Saturday evening. The deceased lady had not been in the best of health for some time, but she was not confined to her bed, and it was only a day or two before she died that she was unable to go about and her death which occurred somewhat unexpectedly, was due to heart affection,. The late. Mrs. Lewis was born in Suffolk, England, and was 73 years of age. | She came to South Australia with her parents when about six weeks old in the ship, Old Eden, so that she was one of the old pioneer colonists. She had resided in the South-East for 32 years. On first coming to the district she lived with her husband at Kingston for about eight years, then they lived at Border Town and Narracoorte for a period of five years, and returned to Kingston again and were residents there for about 16 years. Mr. Lewis came to reside at Narracoorte some years ago in his capacity as district foreman of the railway permanent way, and two years ago he retired from the service. Mrs. Lewis was well-known and respected by a large circle of friends. She leaves a husband and grown up family of three, two sons and one daughter, viz., Mr. E. W. Lewis (Narracoorte), Mr. A. H. Lewis (Petersburg), and Mrs. A. Barclay (Narracoorte).”

Mary Ann Self Chaston [1836-1930]

John & Sarah’s second eldest child was Mary Ann Self Chaston, who was born on the 6th March 1836, at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, England. In January 1868, Elizabeth married Richard Ford

²⁷ South Australian Advertiser. 30th October 1871, p2.

²⁸ Advertiser [Adelaide]. 27th December 1912, p11.

²⁹ Australia, Marriage Index: 1788-1950. Vol.36, p131.

³⁰ Narracoorte Herald. 4th July 1911, p2.

Willcocks, in Adelaide.³¹ No subsequent records could be found for the couple. It is believed that Richard may have passed away in 1878, but no evidence has been found to date. Mary Ann may have remarried, but no record could be found of that event, or of her death.

David Chaston [1833-1925]

John and Sarah's eldest child was David Chaston, who was born on the 11th July 1833, at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, England. Along with his parents, he arrived in Adelaide, on board the *Eden*, in 1838. In 1861, David Married Ann Newey, at Edenhope, Victoria,³² and the couple had five children. Anne was born at Ballycastle, in Antrim, Ireland, in 1832.³³

In 1855, David was living with his parents, at Bowden, in South Australia.³⁴ In 1861 he married, Ann at Edenhope [to the east of Apsley and Narracoorte]. When they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in February 1911, a report stated that the couple were married at Lake Wallace, South, in Victoria,³⁵ at the residence of JP Hayman, JP.³⁶

All of their children were born at Edenhope, between 1861 and 1873, and it can be assumed that the family lived at Edenhope for all of that period.

In 1877 the family moved to Balranald, and it is assumed they had selected land before they moved.³⁷ This property they named Spring Bank – it was part of Paika Station.³⁸

In 1887, David and family were residing at Balranald, on his property called Springbank [or Spring Bank] Farm.³⁹

When David signed a notice in 1894, he did so with his mark. It was initially assumed David could not read or write,⁴⁰ but it could also been due to the fact that he went blind about this time.⁴¹

Ann Chaston had an accident in February 1912. She was sitting in a chair on her verandah and after a while stood up, and as she moved off, she slipped, fell to the floor, and broke her hip bone.⁴² In just over two months she was dead. She died on the 30th April 1912, as a result of a heart affection.⁴³ She was survived by her husband, one son – Henry David Chaston, of Spring Bank – and one daughter – Mrs JW Burrell, of Mildura.

³¹ Australia, Marriage Index: 1788-1950. Vol.74, p116.

³² VIC BDM's. Marriage registration # 836.

³³ Riverina Recorder. 8th May 1912, p2.

³⁴ Adelaide Times. 14th February 1855, p3.

³⁵ Riverine Grazier. 21st February 1911, p1.

³⁶ Riverina Recorder. 15th February 1911, p2.

³⁷ Riverina Recorder. 8th May 1912, p2.

³⁸ Riverina Recorder. 21st November 1925, p3.

³⁹ Australasian. 2nd July 1887, p3.

⁴⁰ Sydney Mail. 15th December 1894, p1199.

⁴¹ Daily Telegraph. 11th November 1925, p4.

⁴² Riverina Recorder. 21st February 1912, p2.

⁴³ Riverina Recorder. 8th May 1912, p2.

David Chaston passed away on the 8th November, aged ninety two. For some years previously he had been living with his daughter, Mrs James Burrell, at Mildura, and at Nyah West, where he died.⁴⁴



Above: David Chaston and Ann Chaston [nee Newey]

⁴⁴ Riverina Recorder. 21st November 1925, p3.

GENERATION 3 – The family of David Chaston and Ann Newey

Henry David Chaston [1873-1958]

The youngest child of David and Ann Chaston was Henry David Chaston, who was born in 1873, at Edenhope.⁴⁵

On the 28th February 1906 Henry married Evelyn Frances Burrell at the residence of his bride's parents – Five Mile Lagoon.⁴⁶

In June 1911 Henry was installed as Worshipful Master, Lodge Balranald, Masons.⁴⁷

In November 1923 he was elected [unopposed] as a director of the PP Board, for Balranald.⁴⁸

Henry David Chaston passed away on the 29th August 1958, at Balranald.⁴⁹ His wife, Evelyn, passed away some four years later, in 1962.⁵⁰



Above: Henry David Chaston, Evelyn Frances Chaston [nee Burrell], and three of their children – baby Edith, John Henry [Jack] and Elsie Muriel.

⁴⁵ VIC BDM's. Birth registration # 16306.

⁴⁶ Riverina Recorder. 7th March 1906, p2.

⁴⁷ Albury Banner. 23rd June 1911, p30.

⁴⁸ Riverine Grazier. 30th November 1923, p2.

⁴⁹ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 24179.

⁵⁰ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 28965.

Christina Ellen Vida Chaston [1871-1894]

The second youngest child of David and Ann Chaston was Christina Ellen Vida Chaston, who was born on the 11th July 1871, at Edenhope, Victoria.⁵¹ Christina passed away in the prime of her life, on the 22nd November 1894, at Spring Bank, aged twenty three.⁵²



Above: Christina Ellen Vida Chaston

⁵¹ VIC BDM's. Birth registration # 8784.

⁵² NSW BDM's. Death registration # 2614. / Australasian. 28th November 1896, p51.

Margaret Henrietta Chaston [1867-1954]

The third child of David and Ann Chaston was Margaret Henrietta Chaston, who was born in 1867, at Edenhope.⁵³

In December 1887 she married James William Burrell, at Spring Bank, Balranald.⁵⁴ James died at Bendigo, in October 1944,⁵⁵ and Margaret died at the same place in February 1954, aged eighty seven.⁵⁶



Above: Margaret Henrietta Burrell [nee Chaston] with two of her sons, George Lawrence Burrell and John Lewis Burrell.

⁵³ VIC BDM's. Birth registration # 1975.

⁵⁴ Riverina Recorder. 21st December 1887, p2.

⁵⁵ VIC BDM's. Death registration # 22136.

⁵⁶ VIC BDM's. Death registration # 16344.

Sarah Ann Chaston [1864-1909]

The second eldest child of David and Ann Chaston was Sarah Ann Chaston, who was born in 1864, at Edenhope.⁵⁷ In June 1887 she married Thomas Newey at Spring Bank, Balranald,⁵⁸ and the couple had four children.

Sarah passed away in 1909, at Balranald.⁵⁹ Tom Newey passed away in February 1949, at Balranald, aged eighty nine.⁶⁰

John Newey Chaston [1861-1894]

The eldest child of David and Ann Chaston was John Newey Chaston, who was born on the 1st December 1861, at Apsley [this could have been Edenhope].⁶¹

He would have moved to Balranald with his parents in 1877. In May 1884 he married Ellen Julie McGuiness, at Balranald.⁶² Ellen was the daughter of William McGuiness and Bridget McGuiness [nee Quinlan]. William and Bridget both came from Ireland, but were married at Melbourne, in April 1855.⁶³ They both died at Balranald – William in 1902,⁶⁴ and Bridget in 1906.⁶⁵ William had been an alderman on the Balranald Council for many years, and when Bridget passed away she owned a number of town allotments.⁶⁶

John Newey and Ellen Chaston had four children. No doubt there would have been more, but John passed away in February 1894, at Cobar, at the age of thirty two.⁶⁷

John's occupation was listed as that of a teamster, on the death certificate of his son, Harry.

Ellen [Julia] passed away in May 1935, at her daughters residence, 284 Punchbowl Road, Belmore, aged seventy four. She and John had lived at Cobar for some thirty years but around 1925 she moved to Lakemba. She was a pious and holy woman - a true daughter of her Church, being a life-member of Mt. Carmel Society, Puratorian Society, and the CoBuilders Society of the Philippines. During her late illness, she was ministered to by the Rev. Father Sheehy, of St. Therese of the Little Flower Church, Lakemba, who officiated at her graveside. The pallbearers being Messrs. J. J. B. Kinkead, U. F. Mullen. L. O'Neill, and T. H. Kinkead. The chief mourners were Mr. and Mrs. T Kinkead (Nth. Richmond), Harry Chaston (Shire Engineer, Wagga), Mr. and Mrs. L. O'Neill, and Miss E. Chaston (Belmore). Mr. and Mrs. D. McGuiness (Trangie), brother and sister in law.⁶⁸

⁵⁷ VIC BDM's. Birth registration # 8920.

⁵⁸ Australasian. 2nd July 1887, p3.

⁵⁹ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 12422.

⁶⁰ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 6164.

⁶¹ VIC BDM's. Birth registration # 8651.

⁶² NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 3802.

⁶³ VIC BDM's. Marriage registration # 1445.

⁶⁴ Riverina Recorder. 23rd April 1902, p2.

⁶⁵ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 11771.

⁶⁶ Riverina Recorder. 24th July 1907, p2.

⁶⁷ Australasian. 24th February 1894, p41. / Argus. 21st February 1894, p1.

⁶⁸ Catholic Freeman's Journal. 9th May 1935, p29.



Above: John Newey Chaston with his sister Christina Ellen Vida Chaston.

GENERATION 4 – The family of John Newey Chaston and Ellen Julie McGuinness

Emma Veronica Chaston [1893-1973]

The youngest child of John Newey and Ellen Chaston was Emma Veronica Chaston, who was born on the 11th January 1893, at Cobar.⁶⁹

In 1936, 1937, and 1943 she was living at 384 Punchbowl Road, Belmore, and her occupation was described as, “*home duties.*”

By 1949 she had moved to 58 Linda Street, Belfield, and her occupation was now that of a cashier.

In 1958, 1963, 1968, and 1972, she was living at 168 Majors Bay Road, Concord, and was still a cashier.⁷⁰

It seems Emma never married, and she passed away at Bankstown, in January 1973.⁷¹

Mary Josephine Chaston [1891-1947]

The second youngest child of John Newey and Ellen Chaston was Mary Josephine Chaston, who was born on the 4th April 1891, at Cobar.⁷²

In 1913 Mary was living in Barton Street, at Cobar, and her occupation was listed as, “*home duties.*”⁷³

In June 1921, Mary passed the obstetrics examination, in Sydney, and was training at the Women’s Hospital, in Sydney.⁷⁴ In June 1929, Mary was one of many nurses who had completed their training and were now eligible to be registered as a nurse. Mary, at this time, was working at the Moree District Hospital.⁷⁵

In 1922, Mary married Leslie Francis O’Neill, at St Leonards.⁷⁶

In 1932, Mary & Leslie were living at *Lesma*, in Linda Street, North Belmore. Les’s occupation was that of a barman, and Mary’s was still that of home duties.⁷⁷ There were a number of O’Neills living in Belmore, and it is assumed Les had a number of relatives in close proximity.

In 1935 their address was still *Lesma*, but in 1936 it was now 58 Linda Street, Belmore. It is assumed that these were the same house. Les was still a barman and Mary was still a

⁶⁹ NSW BDM’s. Birth registration # 11007.

⁷⁰ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1936, 1937, 1943, 1949, 1958, 1963, 1968 & 1972.

⁷¹ NSW BDM’s. Death registration # 41895.

⁷² NSW BDM’s. Birth registration # 10748.

⁷³ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1913.

⁷⁴ Sydney Morning Herald. 22nd June 1921, p8.

⁷⁵ Daily Telegraph. 8th June 1929, p10.

⁷⁶ NSW BDM’s. Marriage registration # 10197.

⁷⁷ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1932.

housewife, on all occasions.⁷⁸ The couple were still living at this address when Francis Leslie O'Neill passed away on the 8th July 1946, at the age of fifty five.⁷⁹ Frank had served in the AIF, during WW2.

Mary Josephine O'Neill passed away on the 28th January 1947, at Balranald.⁸⁰ There was no mention of any children in her death notice.



Above: Mary Josephine O'Neill [nee Chaston]

⁷⁸ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1936.

⁷⁹ Sydney Morning Herald. 9th July 1946, p14.

⁸⁰ Sydney Morning Herald. 29th January 1947, p24.

Henry John Edgar Chaston [1886-1972]

The second eldest child, and eldest son of John Newey and Ellen Chaston was Henry John Edgar Chaston, who was born on the 9th December 1886, at Cobar.⁸¹

From an early age he was employed by the Public Works Department - at Cobar,⁸² then Dubbo, then Wentworth.⁸³

When he left Dubbo in 1914 he was described as "*the champion football kicker of the west.*"⁸⁴

On the 26th May 1914 he married Ruby Elizabeth Fitzgerald, at Dubbo.⁸⁵

In 1914 he was assistant works officer at Dubbo, when he was appointed to the position of District Works Officer at Wentworth. He had been at Dubbo for two years and before that at Cobar for eight years and before that one year at Broken Hill.⁸⁶

In December 1915 it was announced that the Wentworth office was to be closed and merged into the Broken Hill district. Chaston subsequently moved to the Balranald office.⁸⁷ Then, in November 1916, it was announced that Chaston had been moved to the Cootamundra office.⁸⁸

In December 1919, the Wagga Wagga Municipal Council acknowledged an approach from Chaston [a consultant architect, electrical and mechanical engineer] seeking an appointment as a consulting engineer. The mayor was of the opinion that, "*they could get no one better.*"⁸⁹

In March 1920 it was announced that Henry had been appointed to the position of consulting engineer to the Culcairn Shire Council.⁹⁰ A public protest followed, on the basis that the position should have gone to a returned soldier.⁹¹ The council's actions appear to have been in order as Chaston was still the Shire Engineer in November 1921.

In September 1920 he had applied for the position of Shire Engineer with the Burrangong Shire Council, but the position went to a Mr Heffernan, who was given preference because of his service during the war.⁹² In that same month he finally secured a position as Shire Engineer, with the Wingecarribee Shire Council.⁹³ Chaston must have resigned from this

⁸¹ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 16743.

⁸² Cobar Herald. 26th March 1909, p5.

⁸³ Leader [Orange]. 1st June 1914, p3.

⁸⁴ Dubbo Liberal. 10th March 1914, p2.

⁸⁵ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 6719.

⁸⁶ Cobar Herald. 13th March 1914, p4.

⁸⁷ Riverine Grazier. 31st December 1915, p2.

⁸⁸ Riverina Recorder. 29th November 1916, p2.

⁸⁹ Daily Express. 5th December 1919, p2.

⁹⁰ Evening News. 24th March 1920, p4.

⁹¹ Urana Independent. 9th July 1920, p4.

⁹² Cootamundra Herald. 10th September 1920, p3.

⁹³ The Scrutineer and Berrima District Press. 15th September 1920, p2.

position shortly afterwards as he had been appointed full time Shire Engineer at Culcairn by the end of the year.

By June 1923 it was announced that Harry Chaston, Shire Engineer with the Culcairn Shire Council, had accepted a similar position with the Wagga Municipal Council, at a salary of £600 per annum.⁹⁴

The Wagga Gas Works manager, Mr J Middlemiss, resigned in October 1923, and council resolved to appoint the Shire Engineer, as his replacement. The benefits of the new responsibility included, "*free use of the gasworks cottage, with lighting and fuel.*" The gas works cottage was to be renovated as well. At the same time the council appointed John Castle as foreman of the gas works, at a salary of £5 per week.⁹⁵ Harry was still the Shire Engineer as well. Harry Chaston was the first ever Shire Engineer employed by the Wagga Municipal Council.⁹⁶ Chaston had assumed responsibility for a wide range of council operations, and consequently, In July 1924, council appointed an assistant engineer, Mr AJ McKee, a returned soldier of Bronte.⁹⁷

Henry's youngest daughter, Margaret Mullins [nee Chaston] confirmed that Henry and the family lived in the cottage, which was on the south east corner of the intersection of Cross Street and Tarcutta Street, on the same block of land as the gasworks.⁹⁸ The Australian electoral rolls, show that Harry and his family were living there in 1930, 1935, 1936, 1937, and 1943 - at 189 Tarcutta Street [the gas works cottage].

In June 1925, Harry Chaston was one of two shire engineers, appointed as consultants to the Southern Riverina County Council.⁹⁹

Harry Chaston personally supervised every major project undertaken by the council during his time – the gasworks, the saleyards, sewerage, the Beckwith Street bridge, Wagga Wagga beach, roads, et al - every aspect of Wagga Wagga's daily life. The influence of this man, on Wagga Wagga's infrastructure, and the wellbeing of its citizens, cannot be overstated.

On the 1st October 1946, Harry Chaston went on six months long service leave. He had been suffering poor health in recent times, and was relocating to Sydney to try and improve his health.¹⁰⁰ Harry officially retired from council on the 18th April 1947,¹⁰¹ and Mr TB Sheppard was appointed to the position of city engineer. Sheppard had been filling this position, on a temporary basis, for the past seven months.¹⁰²

In 1949 Henry was living at 12 MacNamara Avenue, Concord, along with Ruby, and his daughter Elizabeth, a clerk. In 1954 it was just Henry and Ruby are living at this address.

⁹⁴ Western Age. 29th June 1923, p2.

⁹⁵ Daily Advertiser. 27th October 1923, p4.

⁹⁶ Daily Advertiser. 30th May 1924, p3.

⁹⁷ Daily Advertiser. 26th July 1924, p4.

⁹⁸ Margaret Mullins. February 2020.

⁹⁹ Daily Telegraph. 1st June 1925, p11.

¹⁰⁰ Daily Advertiser. 2nd October 1946, p2.

¹⁰¹ Daily Advertiser. 19th April 1947, p2.

¹⁰² Daily Advertiser. 10th May 1947, p1.



Above: 1941 aerial photo showing the location of the gas works and the associated cottage that Harry and his family lived in. Courtesy Wagga Wagga City Council. Intramaps.



Above: The gasworks along Cross Street, with the cottage far right. Courtesy CSU Regional Archives [RW129.9]

In 1958 Henry, a civil engineer, was still living at 12 Macnamara Avenue, Concord, with Ruby, and now, also, with his daughter, Margaret Mary Chaston, a stenographer. He was at the same address in 1963 and 1968, but in both these years it was just himself and Ruby.

Henry was still living at 12 MacNamara Avenue, at the time of his death, which event took place in a local hospital.

In addition to his work on council Harry's other activities within the community included,

- Member of the executive committee of the Snowy River Diversion Scheme.¹⁰³
- Member, and president,¹⁰⁴ of the Wagga Rotary Club.

In recognition of his contribution to the city, Chaston Street, Wagga Wagga, was named in his honour.



Above: Wagga Wagga Municipal Council staff in February 1934. Courtesy Museum of the Riverina. [BGS2008_584]

Back Row [L-R]: NW Grinton, J Chaston, J Colqhoun, E Williams, DF Bertram.

Front Row [L-R]: RR Clout, Miss J Elliot, Miss B Morrow, R Emblen, CR MacDonald, WC Hanes, HR Nutt.

¹⁰³ Daily Advertiser. 22nd July 1946, p2.

¹⁰⁴ Daily Advertiser. 27th August 1946, p2.



Above: Henry John Edgar Chaston with his new bride, Ruby Elizabeth Fitzgerald. Courtesy Clem Cormack.

Jane Millicent Chaston [1885-1948]

The eldest child of John Newey and Ellen Chaston was Jane Millicent Chaston, who was born on the 2nd August 1885, at Balranald.¹⁰⁵

In May 1909 Milly married Thomas Kinkead, at Cobar.¹⁰⁶ Both were residents of that town and all of their four children were born there.

In 1913 the couple were living in Queen Street, Cobar, and Thomas was listed as a draper.¹⁰⁷ In 1921 Thomas was listed as the proprietor of a store at Cobar, and he was a JP.¹⁰⁸

In 1934, and 1935 Jane was living at *Boomi*, on Punchbowl Road, Belmore. Her occupation was listed as, "*home duties*."

In 1936 and 1937 she was living at 384 Punchbowl Road, Belmore, with her daughter Mary Millicent Kinkead, a stenographer.

In 1943 she was still at 384 Punchbowl Road, Belmore, with Thomas Kinkead, orchardist, Mary Millicent Kinkead, stenographer, Thomas Henry, police constable, Francis, clerk. In the same year, her eldest child, John Robert Kinkead, an assistant engineer, was living at 25 Boronia Street, Belmore, with Catherine Lucy Kinkead.

It is not known why Thomas was not listed at the same address as Jane in the 1930's. Presumably he was working on an orchard somewhere?

Jane passed away in April 1948, at her residence, 58 Linda Street, Belfield,¹⁰⁹ which is not far from the intersection of Punchbowl Road and Burwood Road. 384 Punchbowl Road, was not far away, to the west, along this latter road.



Ten years later Thomas, an orchardist, was living at 58 Linda Street,¹¹⁰ Belmore [aka Belfield], when he passed away there in March 1958.¹¹¹

Left: The headstone of Jane and Thomas Kinkead.

¹⁰⁵ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 13793.

¹⁰⁶ Cobar Herald. 14th May 1909, p5.

¹⁰⁷ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1913. Cobar.

¹⁰⁸ Sands Directories. Sydney & NSW: 1921, p1493.

¹⁰⁹ Sydney Morning Herald. 21st April 1948, p20.

¹¹⁰ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1958. Belmore.

¹¹¹ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 1936.

GENERATION 5 – The family of Henry John Edgar Chaston and Ruby Elizabeth Fitzgerald

John Henry Chaston [1915-2004]

The eldest child of Henry John Edgar Chaston and Ruby Chaston was John Henry Chaston, who was born on the 18th June 1915, at Dubbo.¹¹²



In 1940 John Married Joan Magdalen Sheahan, at Wagga Wagga.¹¹³
John passed away on the 27th January 2004, in Queensland.¹¹⁴ Late of Mermaid Waters.

Left: Joan Magdalen Chaston [nee Sheahan]

Francis Norman Chaston [1917-1985]

The second child of Henry John Edgar Chaston and Ruby Chaston was Francis Norman Chaston who was born on the 12th February 1917 at Orange.¹¹⁵

In 1944 he married Doreen McLean Williams, at Wagga Wagga.¹¹⁶

Francis passed away at Gilston, in Queensland, on the 25th April 1985.¹¹⁷ Late of Oak Park, Nerang, Queensland.

¹¹² WW2. Service Records. SERN NX170901.

¹¹³ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 28971. / Daily Advertiser. 10th December 1940, p3.

¹¹⁴ Gold Coast Bulletin. 29th January 2004. / 19th March 2004.

¹¹⁵ WW2. Service Records. SERN NX76376.

¹¹⁶ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 12959. / Daily Advertiser. 2nd May 1944, p2.

¹¹⁷ Gold Coast Bulletin. 27th April 1985.

Edward Gerald Chaston [1919-2009]¹¹⁸

The third child of Henry John Edgar Chaston and Ruby Chaston was Edward Gerald Chaston who was born on the 21st January 1919, at Cootamundra.¹¹⁹

Education

Edward attended St Joseph's at Wagga Wagga [1925-1926], and then St Michael's Christian Brothers High School 1926-1935]. Edward was School Captain in his last year [1935]. He earned his Leaving Certificate, and won a Teachers Scholarship to Sydney University. Edward later studied accountancy and valuing.

Employment

Edward commenced work in 1936 as a junior clerk at the Australian Mercantile Land & Finance Company, and progressed up the ranks to the position of General Manager, in 1973, and from 1975 he was the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.

Edward held directorships at a number of other companies during his time at AMLF.

He was widely respected throughout the industry and held a number of important posts, including,

- Chairman - Trustees, AMLF Pension Fund
- Chairman – McGarvie Smith Trust
- Chairman – Sydney Wool Selling Brokers Association
- Chairman – NSW Livestock Agents Bureau
- Patron & President – Stock & Station Agents Association of NSW
- Trustee – C.E.D.A
- Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management
- Fellow of the Institute of Directors
- Member of the executive – National Council of Wool Selling Brokers
- Justice of the Peace

Edward also invested in rural properties, owning the following stations at various times,

- Clifton Hills at Marrar [1944-1952]
- Pine Grove at Wagga Wagga [1956-1958]
- Belford Park at Singleton [1967-1973]
- Meadowlands at Wellington [1973-1984]
- New Oakliegh at Wellington [1984-1994]
- Gold Hill at Wellington [1994-1998]

Community

Edward served as follows,

- President – Wagga Wagga Apex
- Member – Wagga Wagga Legacy
- Member – Sydney Legacy

¹¹⁸ Edward's daughter, Clem, was the source for all of his biographical details.

¹¹⁹ WW2. Service Records. SERN NX 76324.

Social

Edward was a member of a number of clubs, including the Australian Club in Sydney, the Riverine Club at Wagga wagga, and the Waradgery Club at Hay.

Family

On the 26th May 1943 Edward married Lillian Florence Hartwig, at Wagga Wagga.¹²⁰

Edward and Lillian had three children,

1. Barbara Diane Chaston [b.10th March 1945]. Married
2. Anne Elizabeth Chaston [b.11th November 1947]
3. Clem Madeline Chaston [b.5th November 1950]

The family moved around over the years, living at Wagga Wagga, Hay, North Balwyn and Killara.

Edward passed away on the 9th September 2009, at Sydney.¹²¹



Left: Ted and Lillian in the garden at Killara. Courtesy Clem Cormack.

¹²⁰ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 13322. / Daily Advertiser. 29th June 1943, p3.

¹²¹ Sydney Morning Herald. 16th September 2009.



Above: Captain Ted Chaston [left] and CEO Ted Chaston [right]
Below [L to R]: Jack [Ted's brother], Doreen [Jack's wife], and Lillian. Courtesy Clem Cormack.



Elizabeth Chaston [1924-2009]

The fourth child of Henry John Edgar Chaston and Ruby Chaston was Elizabeth Chaston who was born on the 23rd June 1924, at Wagga Wagga.



In October 1949 Elizabeth married William George Gordon, at Concord.¹²²

Elizabeth passed away at Ballina hospital, on the 1st July 2009.¹²³ She had been living at the Crowley Village, Ballina.¹²⁴

Left: Elizabeth Chaston

Margaret Mary Chaston [1933-?]

The youngest child of Henry John Edgar Chaston and Ruby Chaston was Margaret Mary Chaston, who was born on the 23rd January 1933, in Wagga Wagga.¹²⁵

In 1960, Margaret married Geoffrey Vianney Mullins, at Burwood.¹²⁶

In February 2020 Margaret was alive and well.

¹²² NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 25138.

¹²³ Wagga Wagga Advertiser. 5th August 2009.

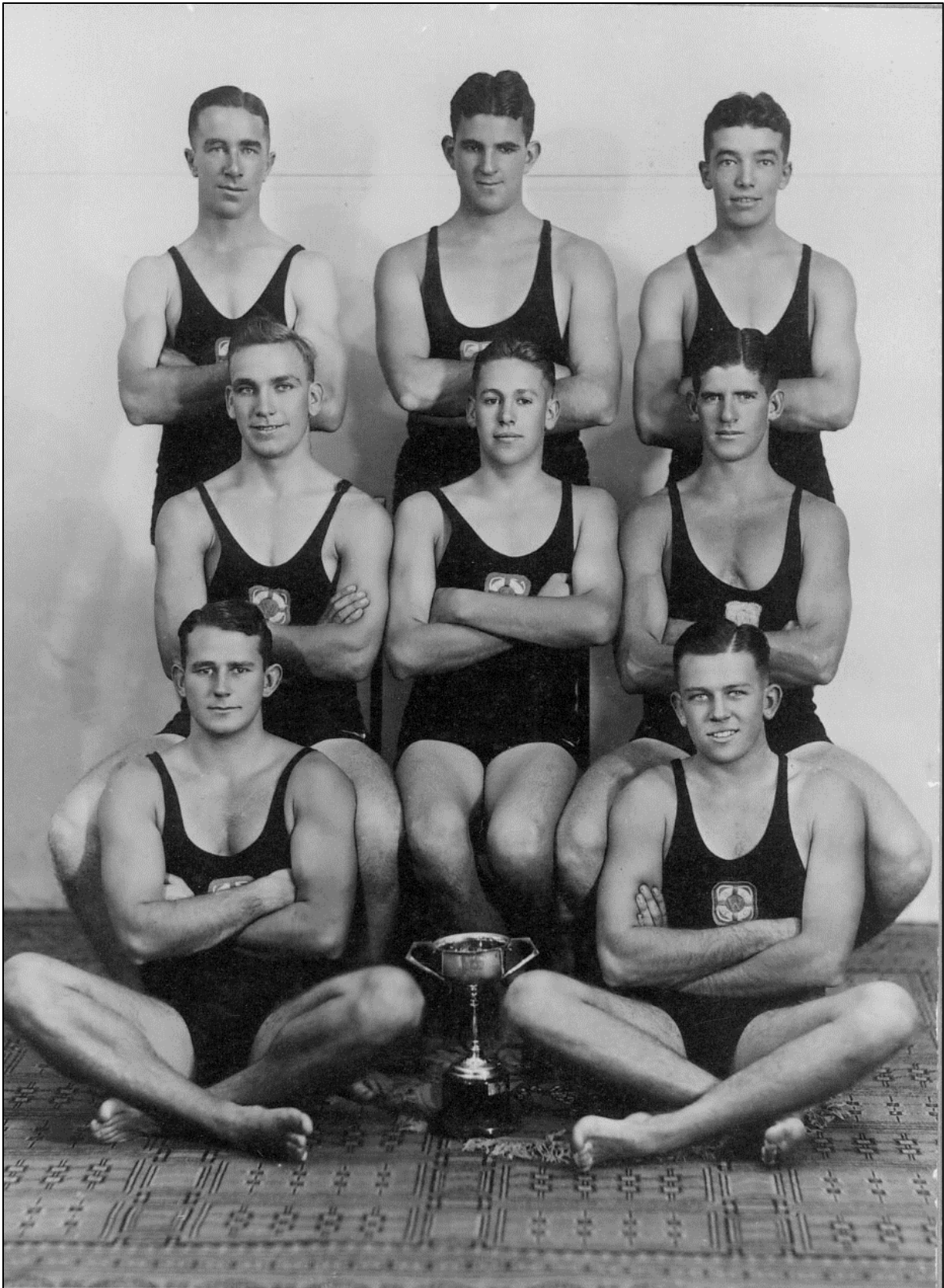
¹²⁴ Northern Star. 4th July 2009.

¹²⁵ Margaret Mullins [nee Chaston]. February 2020.

¹²⁶ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 11911.



Above: The Wagga Beach Lifesaving Club – Eastern Riverina Swimming Association Premiers 1934-1935. The team featured three Chaston brothers - Frank Chaston [back row – 2nd left]; John Chaston [back row – fourth left]; and Edward Chaston [front row – centre, holding shield]. Courtesy Museum of the Riverina [BGS2009.906].



Above: Wagga Beach Lifesaving Club, "A" Team., featuring Frank Chaston [front right].
Courtesy Museum of the Riverina [BGS2009.904]

The Family of Ruby Elizabeth Fitzgerald

Ruby Elizabeth Fitzgerald was the wife of Henry John Edgar Chaston. Her family's story, in Australia, starts with the arrival of John Fitzgerald in 1838.

GENERATION 1

John Fitzgerald

John Fitzgerald was born at Knockanemorney, Rostellan, county of Cork, Ireland, in March 1816.¹²⁷

On the 24th February 1838 he married Mary Doyle, at Rostellan. Mary was also a native of that place.

John and Mary came out as assisted immigrants, arriving in Australia, aboard the Magistrate, on the 21st July 1838. Mary was twenty years old and John was twenty two.¹²⁸

The couple had one child, Ellen, who was born on the 12th October 1839, at Parramatta.¹²⁹

Mary passed away sometime between the birth of her daughter and 1844, when John remarried. His new bride was Mary Murphy, and they were married at Parramatta in 1844.¹³⁰ John and Mary had at least nine children, between 1845 and 1865.

John passed away on the 8th April 1899, at Orange.¹³¹

An obituary read as follows,¹³²

"It is our sad duty to have to chronicle the death of the abovenamed gentleman, one of the early pioneers of the colony, which took place at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Eyles, Standard hotel, on Saturday morning last, at the advanced age of 82 years. Deceased, who has not been in good health for some time past came to Orange about three months ago to seek medical advice, but it was seen from the first that the old gentleman was breaking up fast. Some few days before his death he had a stroke of paralysis and that, combined with his advanced age, hastened his end. Deceased came to the colony about 63 years ago and first resided at Parramatta. After remaining there about 24 years he and his family came westward and started in farming pursuits on Ploughman's Creek, on the right hand side of the Molong road, and about two miles from Orange. Here he remained for several years and was fairly successful. Deceased then purchased a farm at the Mullion, where he resided up till the time of his death. He was of a very retired nature, judging it was best to look after his own affairs, and not trust to others. He had a warm heart to those he became attached to and was always ready to lend a helping hand to friends of his who were need or it. Deceased leaves a widow, 76 years of age, and two sons and four daughters, all grown up. Mr.

¹²⁷ NSW Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists: 1828-1896.

¹²⁸ NSW Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists: 1828-1896.

¹²⁹ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # V183960 145.

¹³⁰ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 129/1844 V1844129 146.

¹³¹ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 6756.

¹³² Leader [Orange]. 12th April 1899, p2.

Michael Fitzgerald (Albury) is the eldest son, and Mr. P. Fitzgerald (Girilambone) the other. The daughters are Mrs. J. S. Foster, Mrs. E. Eyles, Mrs. J. Graham (Orange), and Mrs. H. A. Lyons (Sydney)."

Mary Fitzgerald [nee Murphy] passed away on the 17th March 1905, at Dubbo, where she had lived for the past ten years.¹³³ She was eighty one years old.

GENERATION 2 – The family of John Fitzgerald and Mary Murphy

Michael Fitzgerald [1845-1934]

The eldest child of John and Mary Fitzgerald was Michael Fitzgerald, who was born on the 27th April 1845 [?] at Parramatta.

In July 1874 he married Jane Ann Neal, at Dubbo.¹³⁴

Michael passed away at Albury, on the 6th November 1924,¹³⁵ aged ninety. He had lived in Albury for some forty five years [since c.1879].¹³⁶ His wife, Jane, passed away on the 23rd October 1927, at Albury, aged seventy one.¹³⁷ She was survived by two sons and four daughters.

Mary Ann Fitzgerald [1846-1939]

The second eldest child of John and Mary Fitzgerald was Mary Ann Fitzgerald, who was born on the 30th July 1846 [?].¹³⁸

In 1869 she married John Schofield Foster, at Orange.¹³⁹

John Foster passed away on the 14th May 1907, at Sydney.¹⁴⁰ His death was an accident, brought about by a collision between a tram and a cart. An inquest into his death determined that the tram driver and the tram conductor were drunk at the time.¹⁴¹ The driver lost control at Young Street and the tram crashed into a cart of J McMahan & Co. It was not known if John had been a passenger in the tram, or if he was crossing the road, but his body was found under the tram. He died on the way to the hospital.¹⁴² John's body was returned to Orange for burial.¹⁴³

¹³³ Dubbo Dispatch. 22nd March 1905, p3.

¹³⁴ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 2264.

¹³⁵ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 23010.

¹³⁶ The Land. 7th December 1934, p13.

¹³⁷ Catholic Press. 3rd November 1927, p34.

¹³⁸ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 1964/1846 or V18461964 63.

¹³⁹ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 3131.

¹⁴⁰ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 3576.

¹⁴¹ Leader [Orange]. 24th May 1907, p3.

¹⁴² Dubbo Dispatch. 18th May 1907, p4.

¹⁴³ Leader [Orange]. 16th May 1907, p3. / National Advocate. 17th May 1907, p2.

Mary passed away many years later on the 24th March 1939, at Coogee.¹⁴⁴ She had left Orange some twenty years earlier, to live in Sydney. She was survived by two daughters – Agatha [Mrs Davidson of Gulargambone], and Mildred [Mrs Martin of Sydney]. Her only surviving sibling was Mrs Graham, of Sydney.¹⁴⁵

Margaret Fitzgerald [1850-1934]

The third child of John and Mary Fitzgerald was Margaret Fitzgerald, who was born in 1850,¹⁴⁶ at Parramatta.

In March 1876 she married Elijah Eyles, at Orange.¹⁴⁷

Elijah passed away on the 11th March 1892, at Orange, aged forty four. He was a well-known orchardist, with a long history in the horticultural industry. He had served as an alderman at Orange and had been mayor for one year. He was survived by his wife and four children – two boys and two girls.¹⁴⁸ Elijah was bankrupt in January 1892, and the stress of this may have contributed to his death.¹⁴⁹

Following the death of her husband, Margaret applied for a license for the Standard hotel in Anson Street [in July 1892]. The hotel had been closed for five weeks, because the then licensee did not have sufficient funds to pay the £30 license fee.

In an unusual turn the application was opposed by a Mrs Harrison-Lee [the temperance evangelist], three clergymen, and a number of other persons. The bench granted the license [by a majority of one], and an editorial pointed out how ridiculous it was that this one hotel should have been singled out for an objection, noting that there were six other hotels in the same block.¹⁵⁰

Margaret Eyles passed away on the 22nd November 1934, at Summer Hill,¹⁵¹ at the residence of her daughter [Mrs George Wheeler]. She had left Orange many years ago to live with her daughter. Her two sons had predeceased her, but her two daughters, Mrs RG Bouffler of 85 Sale Street, Orange, and Mrs G Wheeler of 4 Regent Street, Summer Hill, survived her.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁴ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 1818.

¹⁴⁵ Sydney Morning Herald. 25th March 1939, p10. / Gilgandra Weekly. 30th March 1939, p5.

¹⁴⁶ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 1489/1850 or V18501489 68.

¹⁴⁷ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 3779.

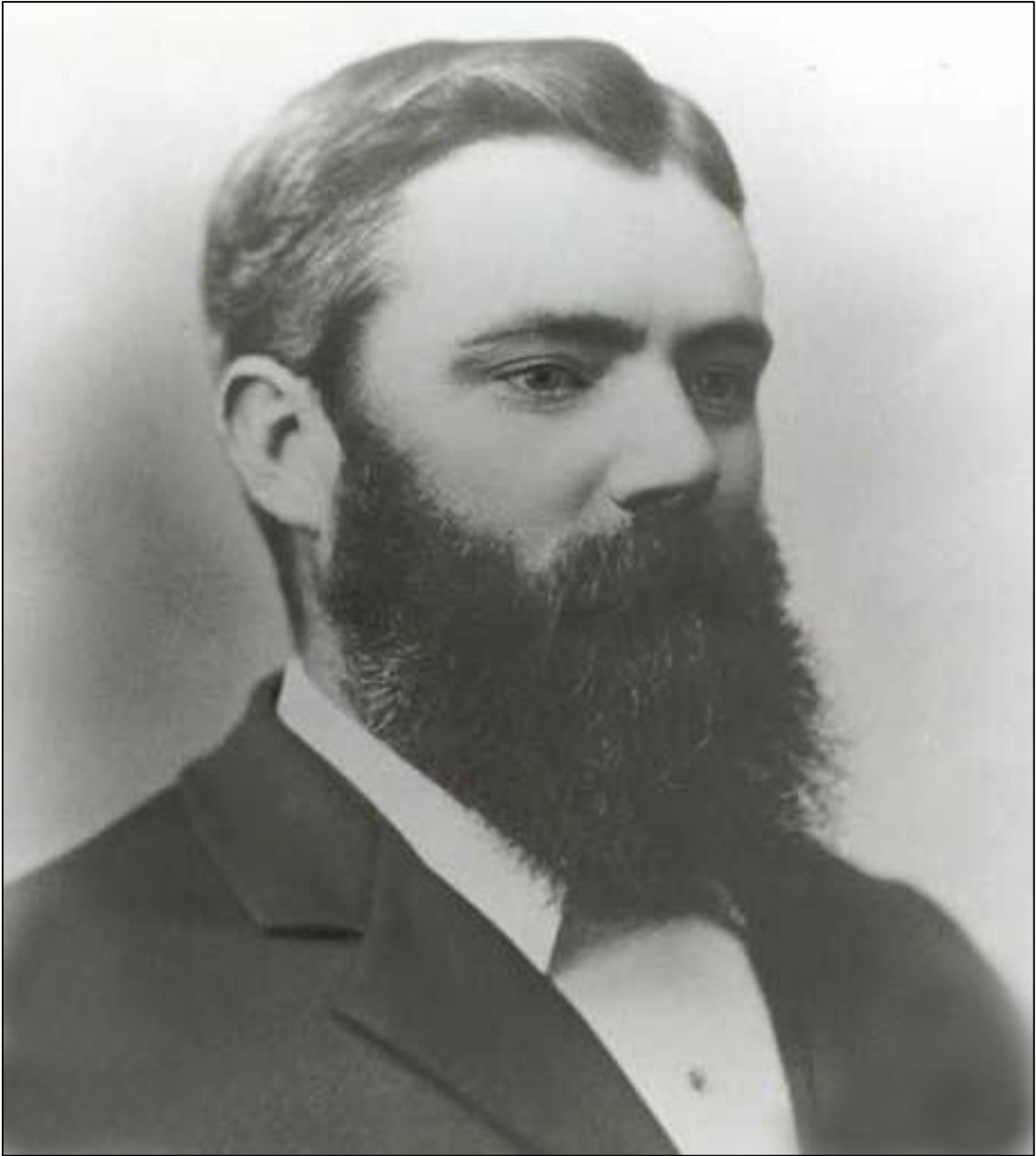
¹⁴⁸ Dubbo Dispatch. 15th March 1892, p2.

¹⁴⁹ Australian Star. 23rd January 1892, p1.

¹⁵⁰ National Advocate. 29th July 1892, p2.

¹⁵¹ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 18855.

¹⁵² Leader [Orange]. 26th November 1934, p1.



Above: Elijah Eyles.

Edward John Fitzgerald [1850-1897]

The fourth child of John and Mary Fitzgerald was Edward John Fitzgerald, who was born in December 1850 [?].

In 1875 he married Elizabeth Mary Colbran at Orange.¹⁵³

Edward passed away on the 29th November 1897, at Dubbo,¹⁵⁴ aged forty six. He was, at the time, the licensee of the Court House hotel [at Dubbo]. He was born at Penrith, and had lived in Orange, Wellington and Cowra, before coming to Dubbo.¹⁵⁵

Elizabeth took over the license of the Court House hotel, after the death of her husband, and was still there in 1901 when her son, Stanislaus, passed away.



Mary moved from Dubbo, to Sydney, in October of 1918, along with her eldest surviving son, Edgar, and his wife. She had been living at Dubbo for some twenty five years. Her husband, Edward, had first licensed the Court House hotel in 1895, and Elizabeth had continued as licensee for some time, before taking the license of the Castlereagh hotel [in Dubbo].¹⁵⁶

Edward's wife, Elizabeth, passed away on the 9th January 1925, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs Gregg, in Burwood.¹⁵⁷

Left: Edward "Ned" Fitzgerald.

¹⁵³ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 3616.

¹⁵⁴ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 11568.

¹⁵⁵ National Advocate. 30th November 1897, p3.

¹⁵⁶ Dubbo Dispatch. 8th October 1918, p1.

¹⁵⁷ National Advocate. 12th January 1925, p2.



Above: Elizabeth Mary Fitzgerald [nee Colbran]

Patrick Fitzgerald [1854-1908]

The fifth child of John and Mary Fitzgerald was Patrick Fitzgerald, who was born in 1854 [?], at Parramatta.

In 1881 he married Jessie Phyllis Neal, at Cobar.¹⁵⁸

Patrick passed away in 1908, at Wellington,¹⁵⁹ aged fifty three. His death was brought about by a case of typhoid fever [a second source attributed his death to cancer of the stomach]¹⁶⁰. Patrick was born at Parramatta, but spent his early days in the Mulyan district [near Cowra]. For the last twenty five years he had managed *Neally Station*, Girilambone, for his brother in law, the late JS Foster. He had moved to Orange about twelve months ago, but then took over Anderson's hotel at Wellington, which was where he passed away. He was survived by his wife and six children.¹⁶¹

Jessie passed away 1929,¹⁶² at her residence, 32 Neich Parade, Burwood.¹⁶³

Honorah Fitzgerald [1856-1945]

The sixth child of John and Mary Fitzgerald was Honorah Fitzgerald, who was born in 1856, at Prospect [?].

In October 1876 she married John William Graham, at Orange,¹⁶⁴ and the couple had four children;

1. Jane F, b.1876 at Orange > m.1897 – John H Lynch
2. John, b.1879, at Orange
3. Mary J, b.1888, at Wellington > m.1928 - Sidney H Hartley.
4. Edward B, b.1890, at Orange

John passed away in 1919, at Nyngan.¹⁶⁵

Honora passed away on the 10th May 1945, at Randwick, aged eighty eight,¹⁶⁶ at the convent of the Little Sisters, in Market Street, Randwick.

Her children were listed as John [deceased], Edward [1st AIF, deceased], Jennie [Mrs Lynch of Nyngan, and Mary [Mrs Hartley of Burwood].¹⁶⁷

Honora was buried in the Botany Cemetery.¹⁶⁸

¹⁵⁸ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 3291.

¹⁵⁹ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 7791.

¹⁶⁰ Wellington Times. 4th May 1908, p2.

¹⁶¹ Leader [Orange]. 4th May 1908, p2.

¹⁶² NSW BDM's. Death registration # 16373.

¹⁶³ Sydney Morning Herald. 9th September 1929, p9.

¹⁶⁴ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 3820.

¹⁶⁵ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 18310.

¹⁶⁶ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 12155.

¹⁶⁷ Sydney Morning Herald. 15th May 1945, p12.

¹⁶⁸ Sydney Morning Herald. 15th May 1945, p12.



Above: [L-R]: Honora Graham [nee Fitzgerald], her son Edward, her daughter Mary, and husband John William Graham [standing].

Catherine Fitzgerald [1859-1921]

The seventh child of John and Mary Fitzgerald was Catherine Fitzgerald who was born in 1859, at Parramatta [?].

In January 1885, Catherin married Henry Augustus Lyons, at Orange.¹⁶⁹

Henry died in April 1907, at Katoomba.¹⁷⁰ Henry was a solicitor who was admitted to the bar in December 1881.¹⁷¹ He had practiced at Mudgee early in his career,¹⁷² but mostly in Sydney.

Catherine passed away at her residence, 96 Leichhardt Street, Waverley, on the 23rd April 1921.¹⁷³

Catherine's obituary provided the following details,¹⁷⁴

"The death took place on Saturday morning, at her residence, "Rostellan," Waverley, of Catherine Lyons, widow of the late H. A. Lyons, solicitor, of Sydney. The deceased lady was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Fitzgerald, who, for many years, resided at Mulyan, near Orange, Mrs. Lyons was educated at St. Mary's College, Bathurst, and for some years was a valued member of St. Joseph's choir, Orange, she being the possessor of an exceptionally fine voice, which, no doubt, will be well remembered by the older residents. She leaves ten children — six daughters and four sons. One of the former, Miss Lilian Lyons, resided in Orange for some time, and figured conspicuously amongst the many war workers. Mrs. Lyons was a sister of Mrs. J. S. Foster, of Sale street, whom she visited at Christmas time, remaining in Orange for about two months. The change appeared to benefit her considerably, and, as she returned home feeling infinitely better, the news of her death came as a severe shock. Other sisters are Mrs. Elijah Eyles and Mrs. Graham, Mr. M. Fitzgerald, of Albury, who is at present on a visit to his sister (Mrs. Foster) is the only brother living. Mrs. George Bouffler and Mrs. J. Gregg are nieces of the deceased lady. Mrs. J. Davidson, of Neally station, Girilambone, and Mrs. E. D. Martin, of Brewarrina, are also nieces. A son, Norbert, who has just passed his final law exam, was at the landing at Gallipoli, with his cousin, Jack Davidson. Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Davidson went to Sydney on Saturday to be present at the funeral obsequies. The remains to be interred at the Waverley cemetery."

¹⁶⁹ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 6877.

¹⁷⁰ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 5218.

¹⁷¹ Sydney Morning Herald. 19th December 1881, p9.

¹⁷² Mudgee Guardian. 2nd May 1921, p9

¹⁷³ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 8151. / Daily Telegraph. 25th April 1921, p4.

¹⁷⁴ Leader [Orange]. 25th April 1921, p2.



Above: Catherine Lyons [nee Fitzgerald]



Above: Henry Augustus Lyons

Bridget Fitzgerald [1863-1878]

The eighth child of John and Mary Fitzgerald was Bridget Fitzgerald, who was born in 1863 at Bathurst.¹⁷⁵

Bridget died on the 27th March 1878, at Orange.¹⁷⁶

¹⁷⁵ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 4943.

¹⁷⁶ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 8448.

GENERATION 3 – The family of Edward John Fitzgerald and Elizabeth Mary Colbran

Catherine Ada Fitzgerald [1877-1877]

The first child of Edward and Elizabeth Fitzgerald was Catherine Ada Fitzgerald, who was born in 1877 at Cowra.¹⁷⁷ She died in infancy in 1877, at Orange, struck down by diphtheria.¹⁷⁸

Bridget Christina Fitzgerald [1878-1882]

The second child of Edward and Elizabeth Fitzgerald was Bridget Christina Fitzgerald, who was born in 1878 at Cowra.¹⁷⁹ Bridget passed away in 1882, at Orange.¹⁸⁰

Stanislaus Sydney Fitzgerald [1879-1901]

The third child of Edward and Elizabeth Fitzgerald was Stanislaus Sydney Fitzgerald, who was born in 1879 at Cowra.¹⁸¹

In August 1898, Stanislaus resigned from his position as a switch attendant at the Dubbo Postal and Electric Telegraph Dept.¹⁸²

Stanislaus passed away on the 22nd September 1901, at Dubbo.¹⁸³ He had been ill for some time, and was subject to fits, but the immediate cause of death was a haemorrhage of the brain. He was only 22 years of age.¹⁸⁴

Edgar Theodore Fitzgerald [1882-1952]

The fourth child of Edward and Elizabeth Fitzgerald was Edgar Theodore Fitzgerald, who was born in 1882, location unknown.

In 1913 Edgar married Ellen Agnes Giugni, in Sydney.¹⁸⁵ Ellen was born at Orange, the daughter of Charles and Agnes.¹⁸⁶

In 1913, Edgar was living with his mother at her hotel in Talbragar Street, and his occupation was that of a dentist.¹⁸⁷

In 1918 he moved from Dubbo to Sydney, along with his wife, and his mother.

¹⁷⁷ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 10753.

¹⁷⁸ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 7738.

¹⁷⁹ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 11555.

¹⁸⁰ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 11608.

¹⁸¹ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 12333.

¹⁸² NSW Government Gazette. 1898, p6649.

¹⁸³ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 9178.

¹⁸⁴ Dubbo Dispatch. 25th September 1901, p2.

¹⁸⁵ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 12393.

¹⁸⁶ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 32702.

¹⁸⁷ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1913. Dubbo.

Ellen Fitzgerald passed away at Waverley in August 1919.¹⁸⁸

In 1928, Edgar held a wine license for premises at 201b Belmore Road, Coogee.¹⁸⁹ He was still a wine saloon proprietor in 1930, and in 1931, but it is not known if these were always the same business. Edgar lived at different addresses in these different years, but they were always in the Randwick district.¹⁹⁰

Edgar passed away on the 29th December 1952, at Chatswood.¹⁹¹

Edward Atley Fitzgerald [1885-1916]

The fifth child of Edward and Elizabeth Fitzgerald was Edward Atley Fitzgerald, who was born in 1885, at Orange.¹⁹²

For a while he lived at Wellington, with his parents, but spent most of his life at Dubbo, again, with his parents.

Edward passed away, at Dubbo, in March 1916,¹⁹³ aged thirty one years, from a recurrent heart problem. Three brothers (Stanislaus, John, and an infant) and two sisters (Christina and Ada) predeceased "Ted." In addition to the sorrowing mother, he was survived by one brother, Mr. Edgar Theodore ("Bunn") Fitzgerald, and two sisters, Mrs. J. M Greig (Beulah Station, Cathundral), and Mrs. H. Chaston (Balranald). Edward was prominent in local musical circles, and whenever the state of his health permitted he rendered valuable assistance as a singer to all charitable and public movements.¹⁹⁴

John Stewart Fitzgerald [1887-1909]

The sixth child of Edward and Elizabeth Fitzgerald was John Stewart Fitzgerald, who was born in 1887 at Wellington.¹⁹⁵

Jack Fitzgerald passed away on the 12th June 1909,¹⁹⁶ at the tender age of twenty two. Like his elder brother Edward, Jack also suffered from heart problems. He had travelled to Albury to see if a change of climate would help, but he had a series of heart attacks, which, on his return to Dubbo, resulted in his death.¹⁹⁷

¹⁸⁸ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 18624.

¹⁸⁹ Labor Daily. 13th March 1928, p8.

¹⁹⁰ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1930, 1933. Randwick.

¹⁹¹ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 30358. / Sydney Morning Herald. 3rd January 1953, p26.

¹⁹² Dubbo Dispatch. 14th March 1916, p1.

¹⁹³ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 1327.

¹⁹⁴ Dubbo Dispatch. 14th March 1916, p1.

¹⁹⁵ NSW BDM's. Birth registration # 35627.

¹⁹⁶ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 5229.

¹⁹⁷ Dubbo Dispatch. 16th June 1909, p2.

Mentorene Maria Fitzgerald [1888-1968]

The seventh child of Edward and Elizabeth Fitzgerald was Mentorene Maria Fitzgerald, who was born at Wellington on the 6th November 1888. The story is told that Edward had won a substantial sum of money on Mentor in the 1888 Melbourne Cup and that he named his daughter after this horse.

Mentie, as she was known, married James Miller Gregg, in 1909, at Dubbo.¹⁹⁸

In 1930, the couple were living at 434 Forest Road, Bexley. The occupation of James was listed as storekeeper. In 1931, their son, James Edward Gregg, a clerk, was living with them, at this same address.¹⁹⁹

They were all still at the same address in 1933, but now their daughter, Molly Miller Gregg, a stenographer, was also listed as a resident.²⁰⁰ In 1937, the couple are still at this address, but the only child listed at this address is Keith Colbran Gregg, a shop assistant.²⁰¹

In 1943 the couple are living at 10 Fairholm Street, Strathfield, along with their son Keith. James is still identified as a store keeper, but Keith is now a rubber worker.²⁰² The situation is unchanged in 1949, except that James is now deceased.

James, of Ashfield, died in 1943, at a private hospital in Ashfield.²⁰³ He was survived by his wife and four children – Jim, Molly [Mrs Molly Miller Bird], Jean [Mrs Amy Jean Skarratt], and Keith. He was described as a merchant.²⁰⁴

In 1954 and 1958, Mentie and Keith were still living at 10 Fairholm Street, Strathfield, but in 1963 and 1968, Mentie was on her own at this address.²⁰⁵

Mentie, late of Strathfield, passed away on the 10th November 1968.²⁰⁶

Unnamed Fitzgerald [1890-1890]

The eighth child of Edward and Elizabeth Fitzgerald was an unnamed male. This child was born and died, at Wellington in 1890. No evidence of the birth or the death could be found, but he is referred to in the death notice of Edward Atley Fitzgerald.

¹⁹⁸ NSW BDM's. Marriage registration # 4566.

¹⁹⁹ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1930, 1931. Bexley.

²⁰⁰ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1930, 1933. Bexley.

²⁰¹ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1930, 1937. Bexley.

²⁰² Australian Electoral Rolls. 1930, 1943. Strathfield.

²⁰³ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 7556.

²⁰⁴ Sydney Morning Herald. 25th June 1943, p10. / 5th July 1943, p2.

²⁰⁵ Australian Electoral Rolls. 1954, 1958, 1963, and 1968. Strathfield.

²⁰⁶ NSW BDM's. Death registration # 39968. / Sydney Morning Herald. 11th November 1968.

Ruby Elizabeth Fitzgerald [1892-1975]

The ninth, and youngest, child of Edward and Elizabeth Fitzgerald was Ruby Elizabeth Fitzgerald who was born on the 20th March 1892, at Wellington.

On the 26th May 1914 Ruby married Henry John Edgar Chaston, at Dubbo.²⁰⁷

Ruby passed away on the 21st December 1975, at Sydney.²⁰⁸

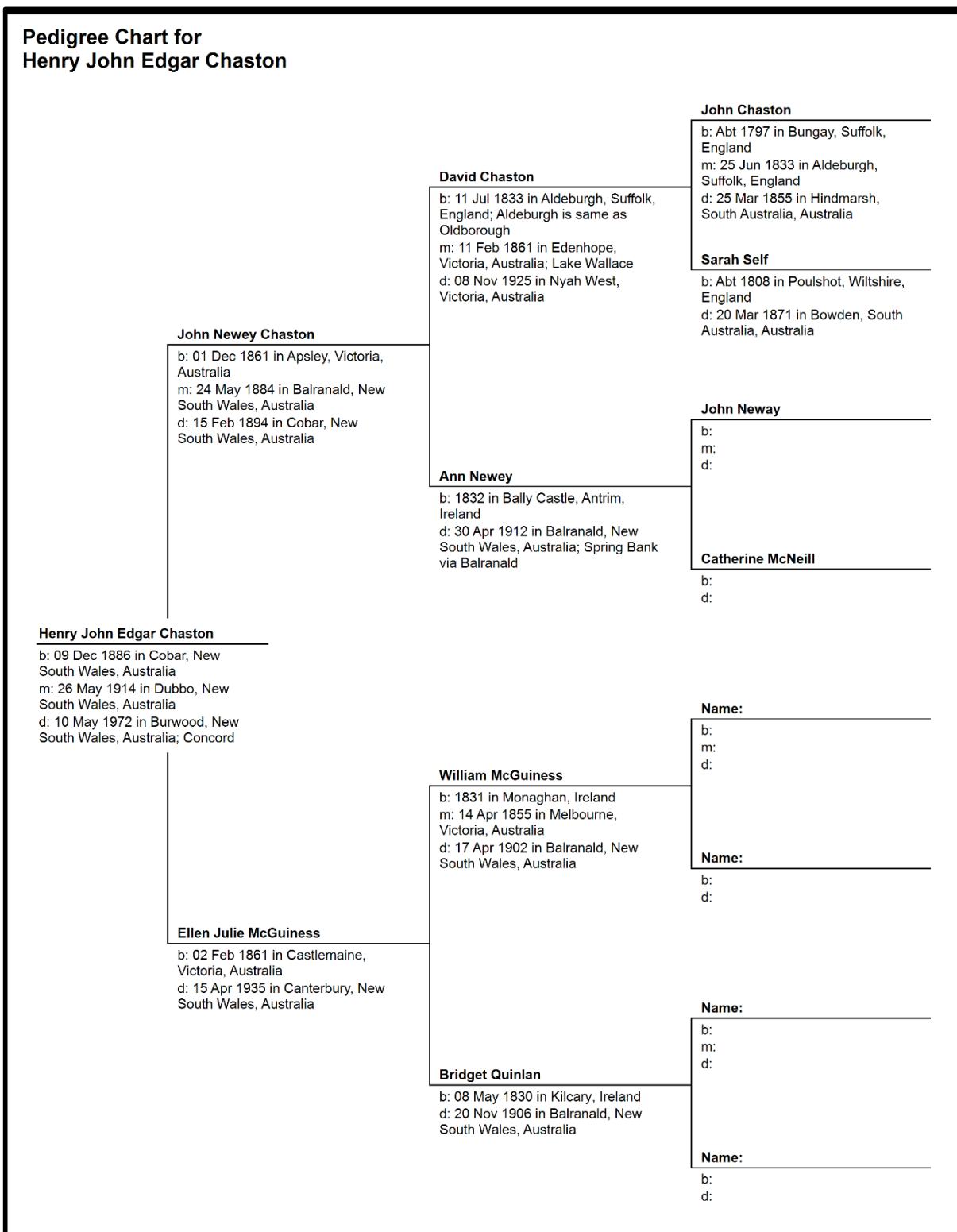


Above: Ruby Elizabeth Chaston [nee Fitzgerald]

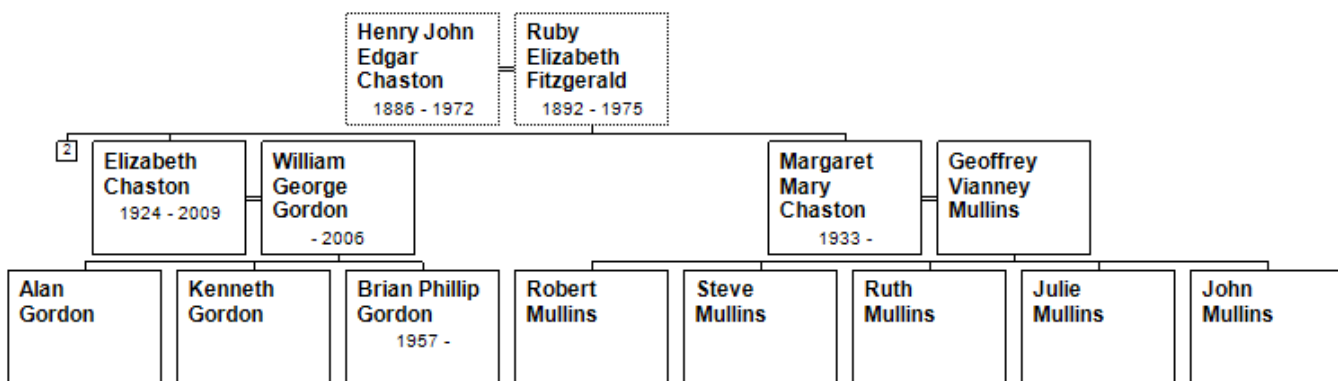
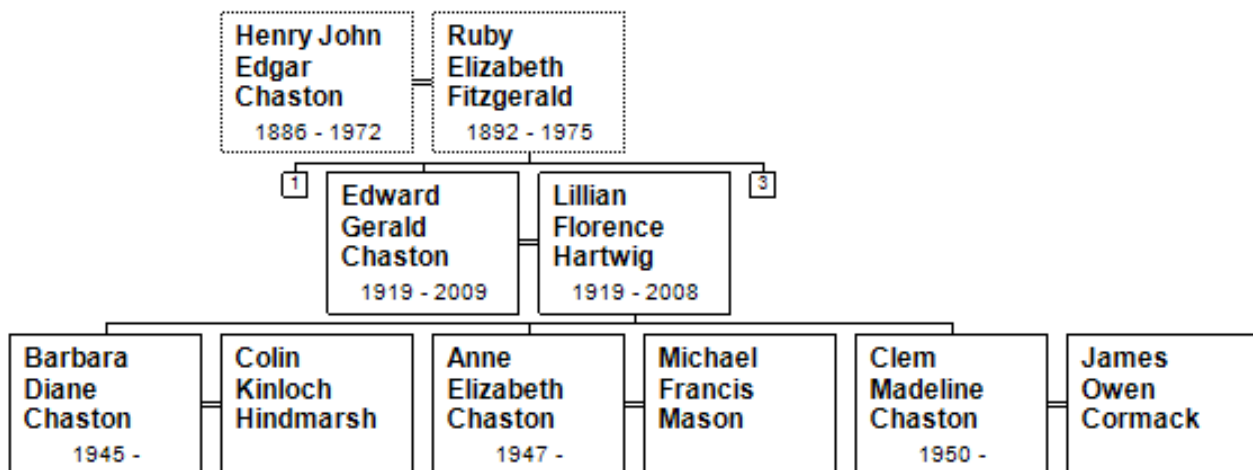
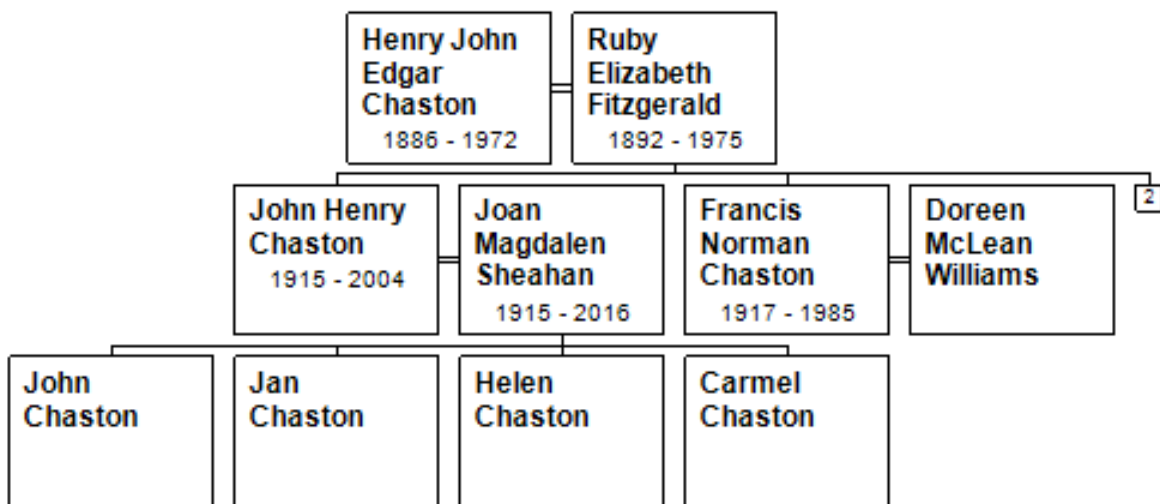
²⁰⁷ Dubbo Dispatch. 29th May 1914, p6.

²⁰⁸ Sydney Morning Herald. 24th December 1975. / NSW BDM's. Death registration # 49/1976.

Annexures



Descendant Chart for Henry John Edgar Chaston



NOTES



Wagga Wagga Municipal Council staff, 1927
Front Row [L-R]: WF Day [deputy mayor], Miss Nan Mitchell [typist], EE Collins [mayor]
2nd Row [L-R]: R Emblen [town clerk], DAF Robinson [water & electrical engineer]
3rd Row [L-R]: HJ Chaston [engineer], NW Grinton, WJ Sells, DE Lewis [health inspector]
Back Row [L-R]: WC Hanes, G Morrison [building inspector], R Clout, N Edney, EE Williams,
HR Nutt [traffic inspector]. Courtesy Museum of the Riverina [BGS2008_1044]