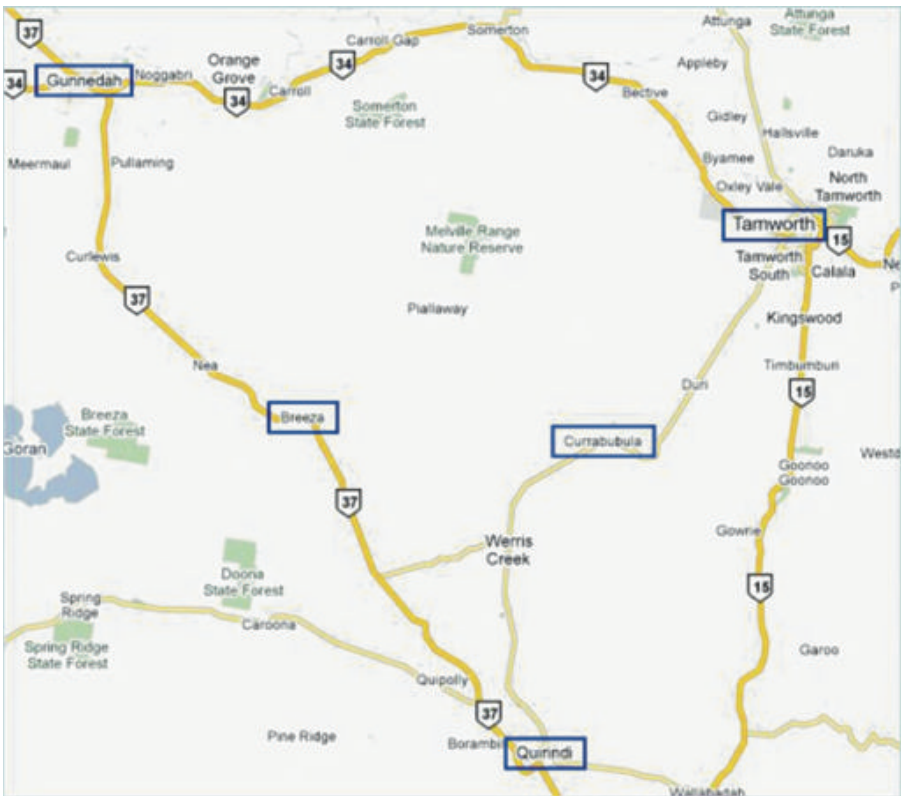


## 5

# A young lady from the bush

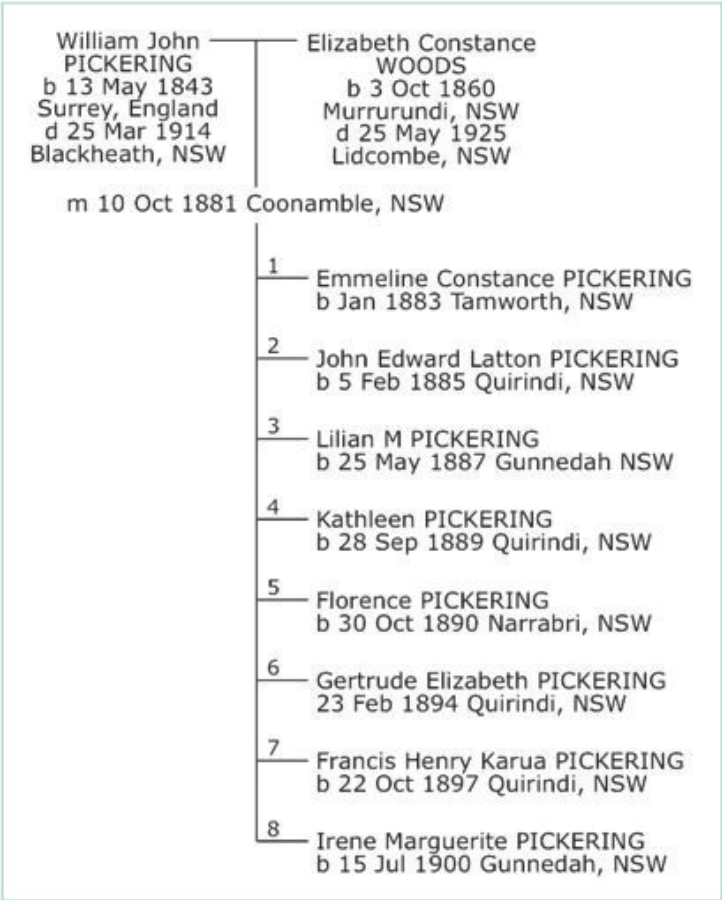
My grandmother Kathleen Pickering was born on 28 September 1889 at Quirindi in central NSW. She was the fourth child of William John Pickering and Elizabeth Constance Woods. The Pickerings lived on a sheep property at Currabubula, to the east of Breeza, inside a triangle formed by Gunnedah, Tamworth and Quirindi.



Item 5-1: Region surrounding the Pickering property at Currabubula.

# My grandmother’s parents and siblings

The following chart describes the Pickering family:



Item 5-2: Family of William Pickering and Elizabeth Woods.

Curiously, my grandmother’s given name is spelt as “Cathline” on her birth certificate. I never saw this spelling anywhere else. So, I prefer to use the more orthodox spelling, Kathleen, which she herself had adopted. Most of my grandmother’s friends called her “Kit” or “Kitty”.

---

## Family photo

Here is a photo of the Pickering family dated 1894:



Item 5-3: Pickerings at Currabubula Station, 1894: Emmeline, Kathleen, Florence, William (father), John, Elizabeth (mother), Gertrude and Lilian. Francis and Irene were not yet born.

The Pickerings were share-farming on the Currabubula property, which was owned by a family named Clift. The two families and their respective children were in friendly contact with one another.

Apparently, William Pickering was a complete novice in the agricultural domain. There was an amusing family joke about William using a lump of salt in an attempt to entice a cow out of a barn. Personally, I would not dare to make fun of my great-grandfather (after whom I was named), because I know—from my experience here at Gamone—that the salt method would work perfectly well if the cow happened to be a donkey. Besides, my children recall that I once fed my four caged rabbits with horse pellets, and found them dead the following morning.



Item 5-4: Elizabeth Constance Woods.







Item 5-6: Map indicating Coonamble and Warren.

## Pickering offspring

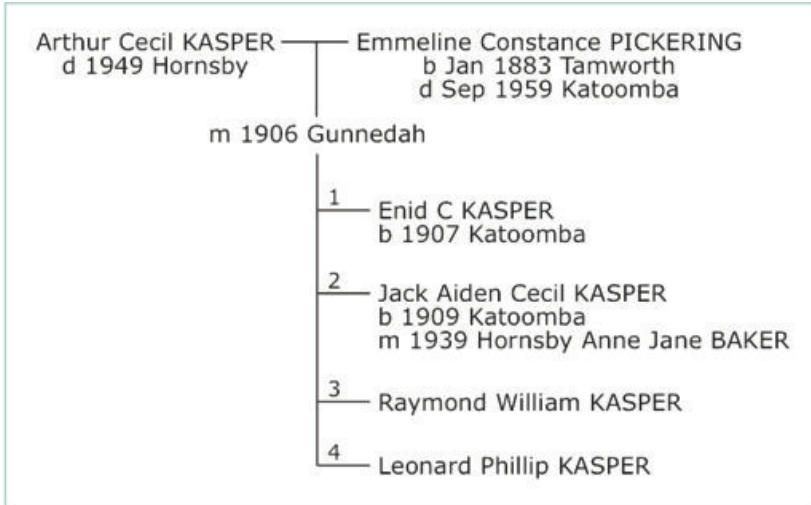
There were eight Pickering offspring.

1	Emmeline Constance PICKERING [1883-1959]
2	John Edward Latton PICKERING [1885-1924]
3	Lilian M PICKERING [1887-1966]
4	Kathleen PICKERING [1889-1964]
5	Florence PICKERING [1890-1961]
6	Gertrude Elizabeth PICKERING [1894-1947]
7	Francis Henry Karua PICKERING [1897-1945]
8	Irene Marguerite PICKERING [1900-1972]

Item 5-7: Children of William Pickering and Elizabeth Woods.

## Emmeline Pickering [1883-1959]

The eldest Pickering daughter, Emmeline, married Arthur Kasper.



Item 5-8: Family of Emmeline Pickering.

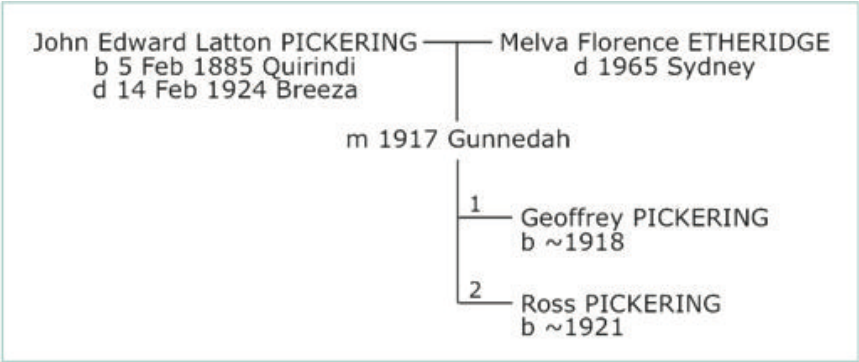


Item 5-9: Emmeline Pickering.

My grandparents once took me to visit this lady at Katoomba.

**John Pickering [1885-1924]**

The elder son, John Edward Latton Pickering, known as “Jack”, was born in Quirindi on 5 February 1885. He married Melva Etheridge of Tamworth.



Item 5-10: Family of John Pickering.

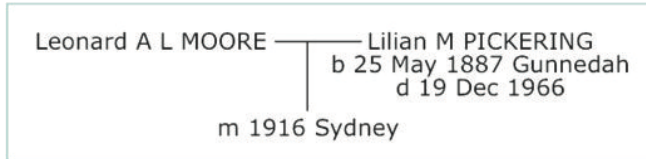


Item 5-11: John Pickering [1885-1924].

On 14 February 1924, he was killed by a log falling off a wagon at Spring Hill near Breeza. He left two sons, Geoffrey and Ross, aged respectively six and three at the time of their father’s death.

## Lilian Pickering [1887-1966]

The second daughter married Leonard Moore.



Item 5-12: Family of Lilian Pickering.



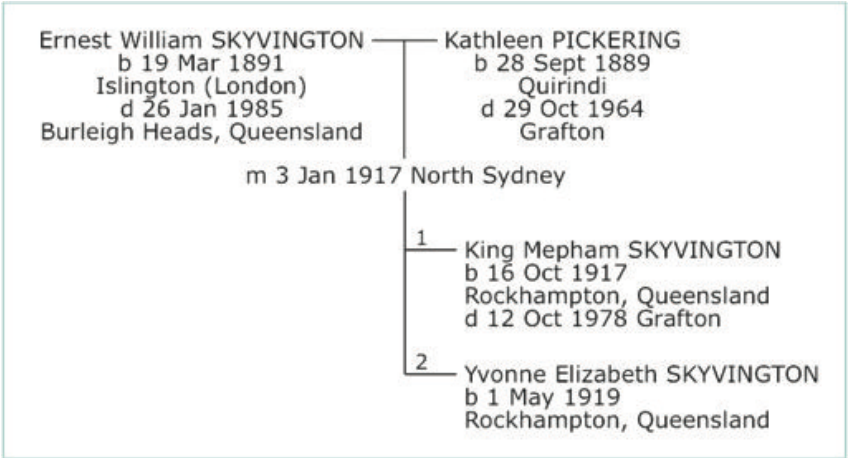
Item 5-13: Lilian Pickering and Len Moore.

They lived in China for some time. As a child, I remember them showing us worthless bank cheques for huge sums of inflated Chinese currency. Later, Len and Lilian settled down in New Zealand. They had no children.



Kathleen Pickering [1889-1964]

The third daughter was my future grandmother.



Item 5-14: Family of Kathleen Pickering.

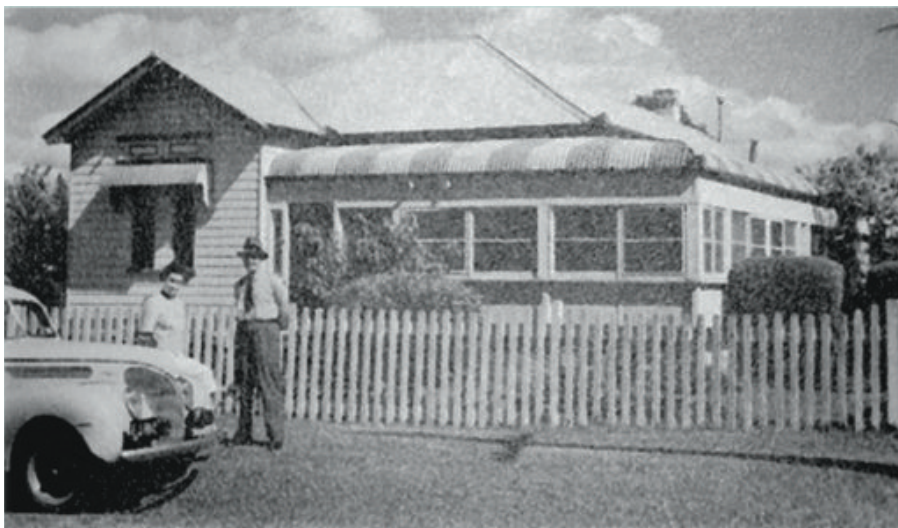


Item 5-15: Kathleen Pickering.

As I explained in the preface, the given name of their son, King, was in fact the nickname of my grandmother’s young brother, the World War I hero Francis Pickering, whom I shall present in a moment. In our family, there were five offspring: William, Donald, Anne, Susan and Jill. Yvonne married Reginald Tarrant, and they had three children: Lynne, Roger and Glenn.



Item 5-16: Kit and Ernie in George Street, Sydney.



Item 5-17: House in Villiers Street, 23 March 1944.



Item 5-18: My grandmother with their red dog Paddy.



## Final letter from my grandmother in September 1964

This letter (sent to me at the *Cité Universitaire* in Paris) bears the date of 2 September 1964. But it was not completed and posted until 14 September.

12 Robinson Ave,  
Grafton.  
Sep. 2nd 1964

Dear Bill,

I was in hospital with a very bad attack of 'flu' bordering on pneumonia, when your mother brought your letter for me to read, have wanted to writ to you ever since, but have only just begun to feel a bit like my old self, a dreadful type of 'flu' Pop had it also, & is only just picking up. Was delighted to hear of you falling in love, am sure the young lady is everything nice, but think her people very wise to wish her to finish her studies, hope everything turns out as you wish, the best of wishes from Pop & me. Am enclosing only snaps I have of the family you may show them or not as you please. Momme & Glenn have been up to see us for a week & I miss them very much. I have a very nice woman living with me now, but turned the garage into a nice flat for her, Eva couldn't live in & I wanted someone to get up early to get breakfast for Pop, I can't do it anymore. Eva, I got her a good place & she is considering being married, her employers are sorry as they say she is marvellous

Item 5-19: Letter of September 1964 from my grandmother (page 1).

I was happy to know that my grandmother had been informed (through my mother) of my "falling in love" with my future wife Christine.

Pleased to hear you have a scooter you will be  
 able to travel around now. Pop & I went to final  
 of Rugby 2nd match last Sunday. Jimmy Lisle  
 kicked off for them, he has been awarded  
 a Falcon (Ford) sedan as the best & fairest  
 footballer of some club in Sydney.  
 Gill is at the Strongground in the pony club  
 camp. Anne is home for holidays.  
 & Susan studying, starts her trial leaving  
 after holidays, 5th Sep. Well do I remember  
 your trial leaving. Poor old Max Ridley  
 died on the 10th of August. Pop met  
 Mr. McLaren the other night, he knew  
 the name & told Pop he had taught  
 you & wanted to know where you  
 were. He is an Inspector of High School  
 Maths, as Susan says he had been  
 inspecting High School here. Don is in  
 Sydney working & making good money  
 as he says. Dear Bill I started this on  
 2nd Sep now it is 12th & wanted to get  
 it to you for your 24th birthday, our  
 good wishes & may you get what  
 you want. Susan starts trial leaving  
 today & tonight she will sleep here  
 after a marnikan parade for the  
 Jaycees staged by MacKell's she is  
 wearing swim suits bikini style, she  
 is brown all over as she has been  
 wearing a bikini's. I am not cussing  
 snaps, your mother will get later ones

Item 5-20: Letter of September 1964 from my grandmother (page 2).

The rugby player Jimmy Lisle was one of my good friends at school in  
 both South Grafton and Grafton. The school inspector encountered by Pop  
 was my former mathematics teacher Tom McLaren.



You will be back at the college now  
I will post this air mail, Dr. Collins  
Got a letter from Canada on Thursday  
it had been posted on Tuesday, so  
you should get this soon.  
Pop worked all day yesterday  
(Sunday) & put peplums in my  
back room. I now have the  
set new curtains am going to  
have my hair cut this afternoon  
& will have a look at materials.  
The Rock lily is out but only  
eleven blooms last year I  
had 59 & was a Cream mass.  
Much love from  
all for the 24th.  
Ma.  
P.S.  
I wonder if I will ever see you  
again.  
K.S.

Item 5-21: Letter of September 1964 from my grandmother (page 3).

I was tremendously moved by the way in which my grandmother ended her letter with detailed news about their rock lily (a native wild orchid).

My grandmother's post scriptum was ominous: "*I wonder if I will ever see you again. KS.*" On 29 October 1964, a month and a half after sending me this final letter, Ma died suddenly and peacefully while reading a book in her rocking chair.

## Memorial window in Christ Church Cathedral, Grafton

After the death of his wife, my grandfather arranged for the creation of a beautiful memorial window in the northern aisle of the nave of Christ Church Cathedral in Grafton.

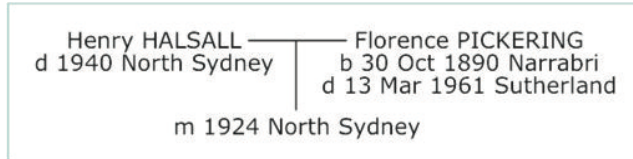


Item 5-22: Memorial window in Christ Church Cathedral, Grafton.

---

## Florence Pickering [1890-1961]

The fourth Pickering daughter married Henry Halsall.



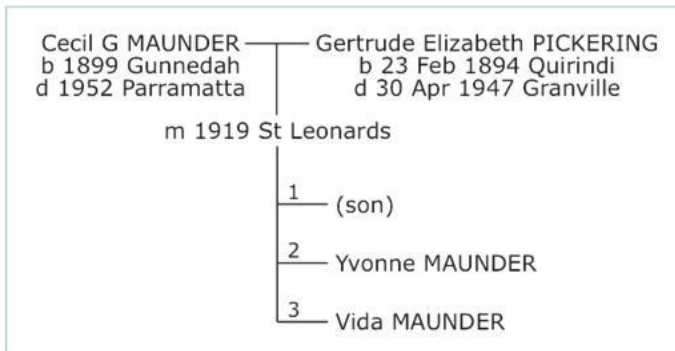
Item 5-23: Family of Florence Pickering.

They had no children.

---

## Gertrude Pickering [1894-1947]

The fifth Pickering daughter married Cecil Maunder.



Item 5-24: Family of Gertrude Pickering.

I do not know whether there are descendants of their three offspring.

---

## Francis Pickering [1897-1945]

The younger son, Francis Henry Karuba Pickering, born in Quirindi on 22 October 1897, was nicknamed “King” through his athletic agility. He emerged from the Great War as a hero.



Item 5-25: Francis Pickering.



Item 5-26: Francis Pickering.



Item 5-27: Terse post card to his mother dated 3 October 1917.



## Military career of Francis Pickering

A copy of the military dossier of Francis Pickering was sent to me in 2009 by his descendant Rob Pickering.

Francis Pickering, described as a grocer, joined the Australian Imperial Force on 29 December 1915, at the age of 18. That was midway between the Anzac landing at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and the battle at Fromelles on the Western Front in France in July 1916 (where British casualties reached nearly 60,000). Francis Pickering was a private in the 6th Regiment of the 30th Battalion, with the number 3002. His enlistment took place at Casula, a few miles south-west of Sydney, in the suburb of Liverpool. It is interesting to note that papers created by the AIF attesting officer do not state the date of birth of Francis Pickering, but say he was aged 21 years and 4 months. Clearly, this was untrue: no doubt a subterfuge to get enlisted.

After a halt at Alexandria in Egypt, Private Pickering reached Plymouth in England on 9 April 1916. In July, he participated in military training in the garrison town of Larkhill, near Stonehenge in Wiltshire. I found this old photo of Australian soldiers (of another battalion) doing bayonet practice at Larkhill in August 1916:



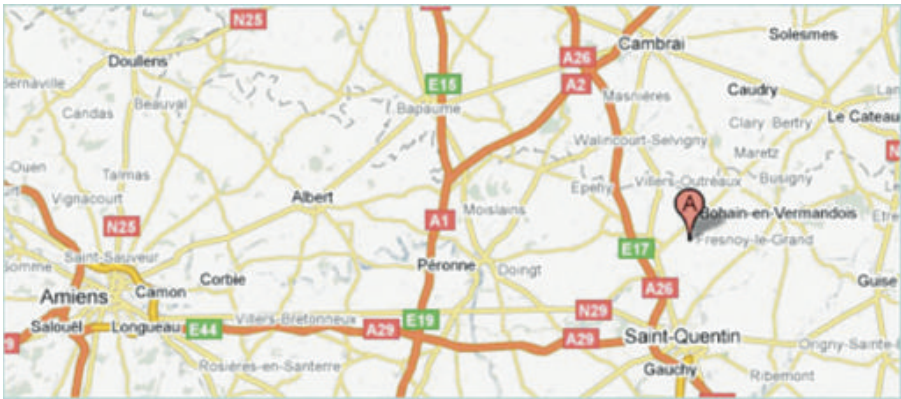
Item 5-28: AIF soldiers in bayonet training at Larkhill (Wiltshire), August 1916.

On 14 August 1916, Francis Pickering was attached to the Musketry School at nearby Tidworth (Wiltshire). If I understand correctly, Pickering's

Aussie Outback know-how enabled him to train horse cavalry at that place.

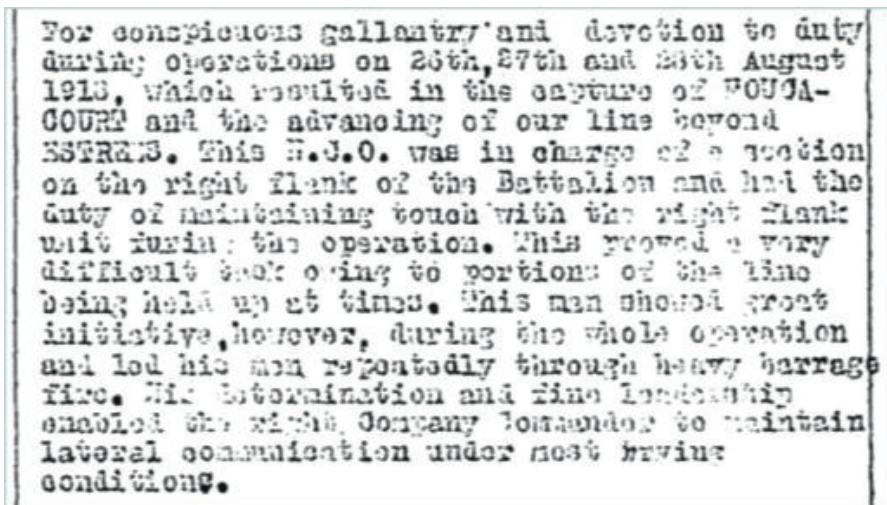
In October 1916, he arrived in France at Etaples, on the estuary of the Canche. A year later, he was evacuated to England with tonsillitis.

In February 1918, Francis Pickering returned to France at Le Havre. The Australian soldier was setting foot in Normandy, the territory of another warrior: his ancestor William the Conqueror. But young “King” hardly had genealogy on his mind. His greatest military deeds were done in the autumn of 1918 at Joncourt, to the east of Amiens, midway between Cambrai (to the north) and Saint-Quentin (to the south).



Item 5-29: Joncourt, scene of Francis Pickering's heroism in 1918.

Wounded in the leg, Pickering persevered. Here is an official mention:



Item 5-30: Mention concerning Francis Pickering, dated 8 September 1918.

It was then recommended that Pickering, wounded, should receive a Military Medal:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the attack on the village on JONGCOURT on the 1st October 1918.

During the early stages of the attack, this N.C.O. was severely wounded in the arm, but he refused to leave his section, and led them during the advance under heavy shell and machine-gun fire with great skill and determination.

His Unit was on a flank which was being heavily fired on by enemy machine-guns and the consolidation and connecting up with the flank unit was considerably hampered. This N.C.O. took his Lewis gun and a few men forward, and by skilful direction he finally overcame the enemy machine-guns and enabled the position to be consolidated and touch gained with the flank unit.

Later on, he sent in valuable information regarding the movements of the enemy which enabled our artillery fire to effectively deal with enemy concentrations. Although very weak and exhausted, he remained on duty till his Coy. was relieved.

The high sense of duty displayed by this N.C.O. together with his determination in hanging on till the end, although suffering severe pain set a fine example to all ranks.

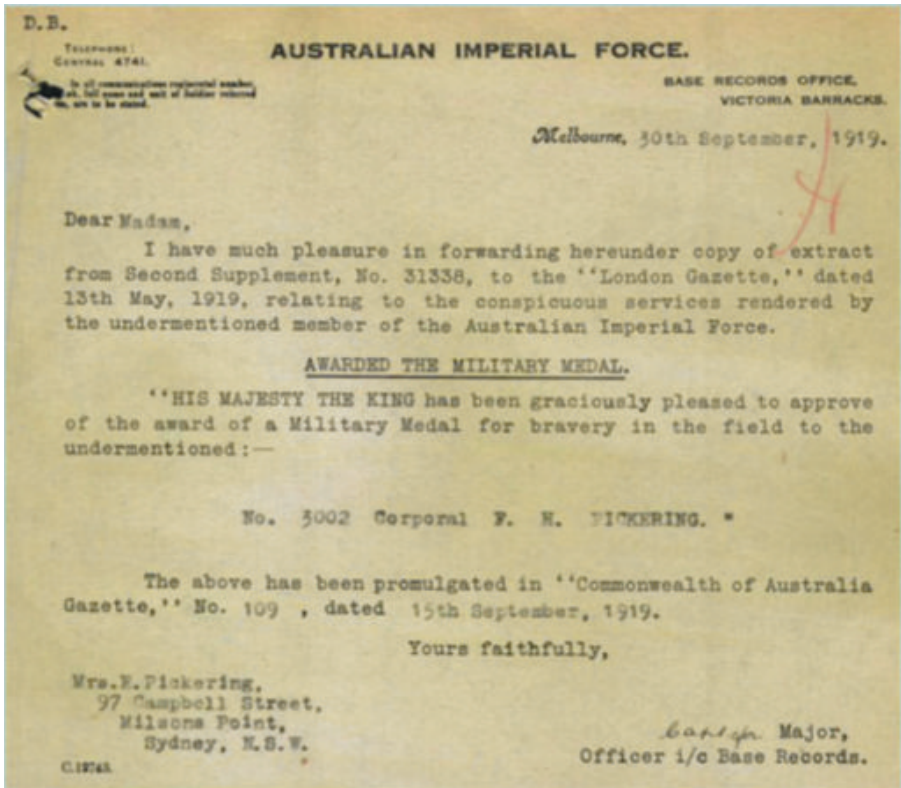
Item 5-31: Recommendations for a Military Medal, dated 5 October 1918.

Francis Pickering left Liverpool on 22 May 1919, returning to Australia on the *Durham*, which arrived in July 1919.



A young lady from the bush

The award of his Military Medal was announced soon after:



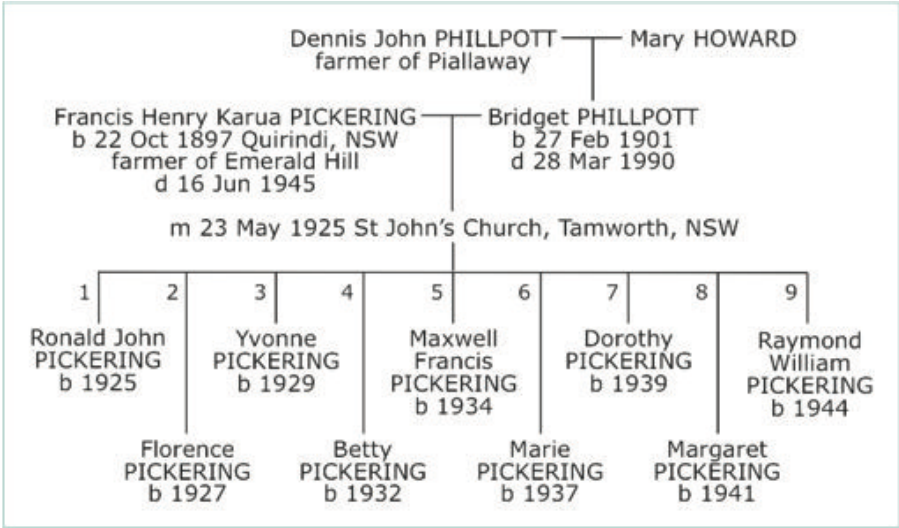
Item 5-32: Award of the Military Medal to Francis Pickering.



Item 5-33: Military Medal, often referred to as the Bravery Medal.

Back in Australia

Francis Pickering Pickering married Bridget Phillpott and raised a large family:



Item 5-34: Family of Francis Pickering.

Francis “King” Pickering died in a road accident on 16 June 1945 when his automobile collided with a lorry on the Boggabri Road at Gunnedah.

In the genealogical domain, Francis Pickering was also the unchallenged king of our family from a procreative viewpoint. At the last count, he and Bridget had given rise to over a hundred descendants!



---

## Irene Pickering [1900-1972]

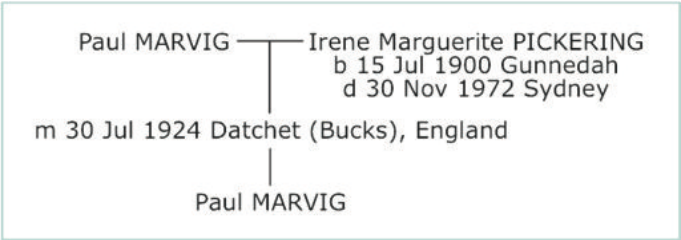
Let us return to the family of William Pickering and Elizabeth Woods. The youngest child in that family was Irene Marguerite Pickering, born in Gunnedah on 15 July 1900. “Rite” was the great aunt I best remember, no doubt because I was separated from her by “only” half a century or so.



Item 5-35: Irene Pickering [1900-1972], aged 22.

In this fuzzy copy of a delightful photo of “Reta” (as she signed her name), she has a perfect *Roaring Twenties* look. In 1924, a year after this photo was taken, Irene married a Scandinavian man named Paul Marvig (sometimes spelt Poul) at Datchet, near Windsor in England. At that time, she was visiting her uncle John Pickering, a recently-retired librarian from the Inner Temple in London (whom I describe in chapter 6), who lived in a house called *Cedar Cottage* in Datchet.

In chapter 6, when I present Irene’s English uncle John Pickering, I shall include a copy of her marriage certificate, along with several photos. Irene and Paul had a son, with the same given name as his father.



Item 5-36: Family of Irene Pickering.


Here is a street photo of the Pickering sisters Lilian and Irene:



Item 5-37: Lilian Pickering and her young sister Irene.

Death of William Pickering

William Pickering died in Blackheath on 25 March 1914.



DEATH REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

No.	Date and place of death	Name and occupation	Sex and age	Cause of death Duration of last illness; medical attendant; when he last saw deceased	Name and occupation of father Name and maiden surname of mother	Informant
2331	25 <sup>1914</sup> March Blackheath, Blue Mountains, New South Wales	William John Pickering Surveyor	Male 71 years	(1) Born at (2) 6 days (3) 16 days (4) 17 years (5) Registered 25 March 1914	(1) John Pickering (2) Clergyman (3) Sarah Jane Butler	Certified by Elizabeth Pickering Widow 97 Campbell St North Sydney John Chandler

Particulars of registration	When and where buried; name of undertaker	Name and religion of Minister and names of witnesses of burial	Where born and how long in the Australasian Colonies or States	Place of marriage, age, and to whom	Children of marriage
(1) W & F Pickering (2) 25 March 1914 (3) Blackheath (4) 26 March 1914 (5) John Chandler	(1) 26 March 1914 (2) Church of England (3) Church of England (4) John Chandler (5) John Chandler	(1) W R Bowers (2) Church of England (3) John Chandler (4) John Chandler (5) John Chandler	(1) New South Wales (2) England (3) 19 years in New South Wales (4) 34 years in New South Wales (5) 34 years in New South Wales	(1) Born at (2) 39 years (3) Elizabeth Butler (4) Wood (5) Wood	(1) Elizabeth L. (2) John L. (3) Kathleen (4) Florence (5) Florence (6) Francis (7) Francis (8) Francis (9) Francis (10) Francis (11) Francis (12) Francis (13) Francis (14) Francis (15) Francis (16) Francis (17) Francis (18) Francis (19) Francis (20) Francis (21) Francis (22) Francis (23) Francis (24) Francis (25) Francis (26) Francis (27) Francis (28) Francis (29) Francis (30) Francis (31) Francis (32) Francis (33) Francis (34) Francis (35) Francis (36) Francis (37) Francis (38) Francis (39) Francis (40) Francis (41) Francis (42) Francis (43) Francis (44) Francis (45) Francis (46) Francis (47) Francis (48) Francis (49) Francis (50) Francis (51) Francis (52) Francis (53) Francis (54) Francis (55) Francis (56) Francis (57) Francis (58) Francis (59) Francis (60) Francis (61) Francis (62) Francis (63) Francis (64) Francis (65) Francis (66) Francis (67) Francis (68) Francis (69) Francis (70) Francis (71) Francis (72) Francis (73) Francis (74) Francis (75) Francis (76) Francis (77) Francis (78) Francis (79) Francis (80) Francis (81) Francis (82) Francis (83) Francis (84) Francis (85) Francis (86) Francis (87) Francis (88) Francis (89) Francis (90) Francis (91) Francis (92) Francis (93) Francis (94) Francis (95) Francis (96) Francis (97) Francis (98) Francis (99) Francis (100) Francis

Item 5-38: Death of William Pickering on 25 March 1914.

Blackheath, in the Blue Mountains, was the home of the eldest daughter of William and Elizabeth: Emmeline, married to Arthur Kasper (sometimes spelt as Casper).

The information in this certificate was supplied by the widow Elizabeth, whose address was 97 Campbell Street, North Sydney. I have the impression that the certificate contains several curious elements:

## Chapter 5

- John Pickering, the father of the deceased, was described as a clergyman. As we shall see later on, in chapter 6, William's father was first described, at the time of his marriage in 1841, as a "clerk in the church". Two years later, at the time of William's birth, his father was described as a grocer.
- The mother of the deceased was designated erroneously as Sarah Jane Butler. The true surname of William's mother was Harris. This error is most unexpected. William Pickering had a deceased uncle, Charles Butler Harris [1816-1904], whose second given name was Butler. Did this give rise to confusion in the mind of the informant?
- Speaking of herself, Elizabeth appears to have indicated her surname as "Wood" rather than "Woods". This was an unexpected error. People do not usually make mistakes about the spelling of their own name.
- The place of birth of the deceased was marked as "not known". This is a curious omission in the case of a man who possessed an English birth certificate indicating that he was born in Camberwell, Surrey.

This death certificate indicates that William Pickering had spent 19 years in NZ and 34 years in NSW. This means that he had arrived in New Zealand in 1861 and left for NSW in 1880, where he married a year later.



Item 5-39: Grave of William Pickering in Blackheath (NSW).

The witnesses of William's burial were John Neate and John Neate junior. Two NSW marriage records mention individuals of this name:



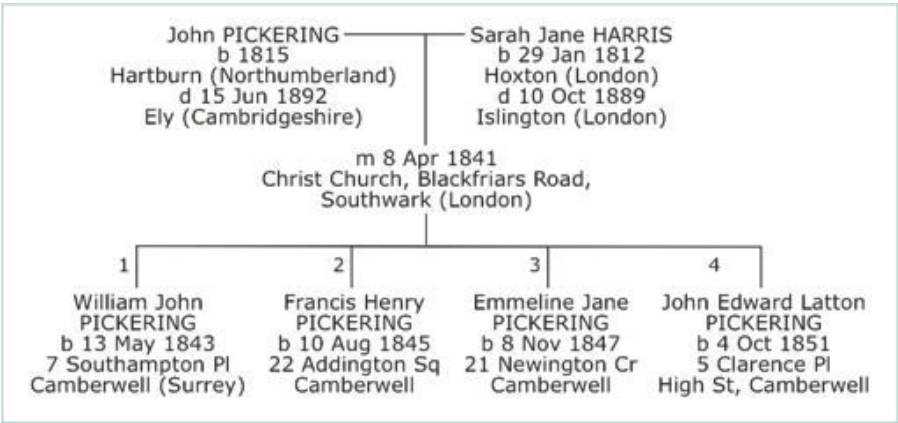
Registration Number	Groom's Surname	Groom's Given Name(s)	Bride's Last Name at Time of Marriage	Bride's Given Name(s)	District
2965/1893	NEATE	JOHN B	WOOD	ELIZABETH	COONABARABRAN
5100/1895	NEATE	JOHN J	JENKYN	ANNIE T	KATOOMBA

Item 5-40: Individuals who may have been witnesses of William Pickering’s death.

Who were these Neate men? One had married an Elizabeth Wood (with no final “s”) in Coonabarabran, while the other lived in Katoomba. Maybe they were simply neighbors.

### Birth of William Pickering

William Pickering was the eldest of four offspring born in the southern London suburb of Camberwell, lying officially in the county of Surrey.



Item 5-41: Pickering family in Camberwell.

The two elder sons migrated separately to the Antipodes, where they married and raised families, whereas the parents and the two younger offspring remained in England.

---

## William John Pickering sails to New Zealand

Long before his arrival in Australia, William touched the Antipodes in New Zealand.

On 11 November 1860, 17-year-old William Pickering left London aboard the *Zealandia*, whose captain was John Foster. On its maiden voyage in 1858, the 1032-ton vessel had brought 400 immigrants from London to Lyttleton in New Zealand. For the present voyage, there were only half that number of passengers on the *Zealandia*, which arrived in Auckland on 14 February 1861. Among them, William was accompanied by no less than seven other Pickerings, who were no doubt relatives. Their names: William, Charlotte, Elizabeth, Thomas, John, Albert and Elvira. I have no information enabling me to identify these other Pickerings, but it is possible that three of these individuals were members of a farming family mentioned in the 1851 census for Walkeringham (Nottinghamshire). The New Zealand archives include references to 19th-century marriages or deaths of Pickerings named Albert, Elizabeth, John and William. I have not been able to acquire any firm convictions concerning the identity and possible descendants of the people with whom my great-grandfather sailed to New Zealand.

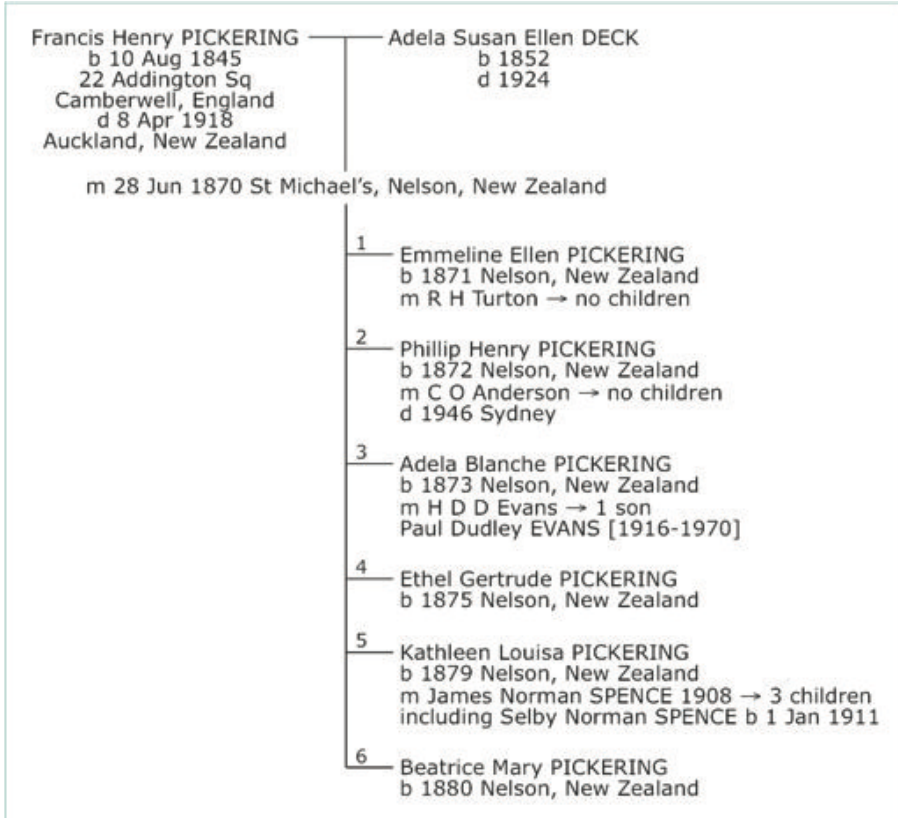
I have noticed that numerous Pickering immigrants were present in New Zealand during the latter part of the 19th century. It is possible that future genealogical research, carried out in New Zealand, will reveal links to our William Pickering.

William John Pickering remained in New Zealand for some two decades. When I was a boy in Grafton, my grandmother used to tell me that, during her father's time in Auckland, he had worked as a surveyor. Indeed, there was a family legend according to which William Pickering had been in charge of the surveying of the future city of Auckland. Unfortunately, I have no information whatsoever concerning his training in surveying and his precise activities in this field in New Zealand. Somebody once suggested that William had in fact studied surveying at Oxford, prior to his departure for New Zealand. If that were true, he would have been a very young university student, and he could not have spent many years there.

I am unaware of the details of William's voyage from New Zealand to Australia, around 1880.

## Francis Henry Pickering settles in New Zealand

The second Pickering son from Camberwell sailed to New Zealand in about 1862, but I have no information concerning this voyage.



Item 5-42: Family of Francis Pickering and Adela Deck in New Zealand.

His bride was described in a newspaper as the only daughter of Captain P A Deck of Wellington. In 1981, I corresponded briefly with a grandson of Francis Pickering and Adela Deck: 70-year-old Selby Spence, an Anglican clergyman who had spent the years 1936-1972 in Karachi (Pakistan), where he had risen to the rank of bishop.

Death of Elizabeth Woods

After William Pickering’s death in 1914, his widow survived for 11 years.

Date and place of death	Name and occupation	Sex and age	Cause of Death Duration of last illness; medical attendant; when he last saw deceased	Name and occupation of father Name and maiden surname of mother	Informant
1925. 28 <sup>th</sup> May 377 Railway Station Municipality Lidcombe	Elizabeth Constance Pickering	Female 64 years	(1) Cordelia Pauline (2) -- (3) L. B. Heath M.B. Ch.B. Registered (4) -- January 1923	(1) John Hapton Woods (2) Gristhorpe Contractors (3) Mary Burke	Certified by Florence Halsall Baughton St Laurence St. Lidcombe Reg. Witness Casper Carmeline C. Corbrey
Particulars of registration	When and where buried; name of undertaker	Name and religion of Minister and names of witnesses of burial	Where born and how long in the Australasian Colonies or States	Place of marriage, age, and to whom	Children of marriage
(1) Alex J. Annarsmith (2) 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 1925 (3) AUBURN	(1) 30 <sup>th</sup> May 1925 Church of England (2) Cemetery Rookwood (3) Halsey & Son Ltd	(1) R. O. Todd (2) Church of England (3) R. J. Rowe W. H. Roberts	Australian N.S. Wales	(1) Bonville N.S. Wales (2) 20 years (3) William John Pickering	Carmeline C. 42 Selina M. 38 Kathleen 35 Florence 34 Festus E. S. 32 Francis H. K. 18 Irene M. 25 Fanny 1 male deceased

Item 5-43: Death of Elizabeth Constance Woods.



Item 5-44: Newspaper cutting.

Elizabeth Woods, who had been living in Cabramatta, collapsed and died in a suburban train that was approaching Lidcombe. This newspaper article suggests that it took a while for her to be identified.



## Birth of Elizabeth Woods

I have never found a birth certificate for Elizabeth Constance Woods, but several references indicate explicitly that she was born in Murrurrindi, to the south of Quirindi, on 3 October 1860.



Item 5-45: Map showing the location of Murrurrindi.

This absence of a birth certificate has intrigued me. In a small rural town such as Murrurrindi, in a land that had become accustomed (through the convict phenomenon, among other things) to rigorous administrative procedures, birth certificates do not normally disappear. I found it strange that Murrurrindi, proud to display the death certificate of a notorious native son—the bushranger Ben Hall, shot by police on 5 May 1865—would have failed to give my great-grandmother a birth certificate!

If you look at the dates, Elizabeth turned 21 on 3 October 1881. Exactly a

week later, on 10 October 1881, she wedded a 38-year-old man. At the time of her marriage, Elizabeth had become an orphan. In the absence of a birth certificate, I wonder how she confirmed that she was indeed of age to marry. Besides, we notice that the age column in their wedding certificate [item 5-5] is blank.

Death of the father of Elizabeth Woods

The death certificate of Elizabeth Constance Woods indicates the names of her parents, John Nathan Woods and Mary Burke. Her father was killed by a falling tree on 18 December 1869.

Date and place of death	Name and occupation	Sex and age	Cause of Death Duration of last illness; medical attendant; when he last saw deceased	Name and occupation of father Name and maiden surname of mother	Informant
18 December 1869 Murrumbidgee	John Nathan Woods Milkmaker	male 32 years	(1) Killed by a tree falling (2) 3 hours (3) In London (4) 18 December 1869 Colonel August	(1) John Baptiste Woods (2) Milkmaker (3) Margaret H Ledger	Mary Norton Wife Murrumbidgee
Particulars of registration	When and where buried; name of undertaker	Name and religion of Minister and names of witnesses of burial	Where born and how long in the Australasian Colonies or States	Place of marriage, age, and to whom	Children of marriage
18 December 1869 Murrumbidgee	19 December 1869 Baykinton John Lawrence	Rev J Mary Graham Anglican John Lawrence	Ireland 14 years New South Wales	Dublin 29 years Mary Burke	one male living five female living two males deceased one female deceased

Item 5-46: Death certificate of John Nathan Woods.

## Death of the mother of Elizabeth Woods

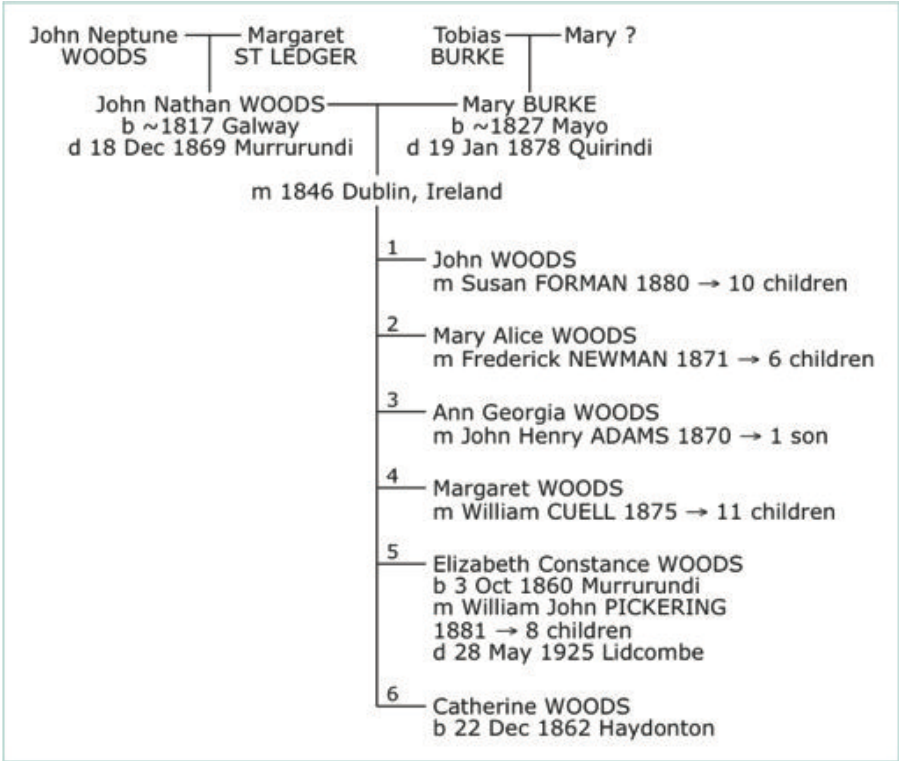
Mary Burke died of a sunstroke on 19 January 1878.

Date and place of death	Name and occupation	Sex and age	Cause of Death Duration of last illness; medical attendant; when he last saw deceased	Name and occupation of father Name and maiden surname of mother	Informant
19 <sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1878 Zuirindi	Mary Woods Housekeeper	Female 50 years	(1) Sunstroke (2) 1 day. (3) Nil (4) c	(1) Tobias Burke (2) Farmer (3) Mary	John Adams Son-in-law Muirurundi
Particulars of registration	When and where buried; name of undertaker	Name and religion of Minister and names of witnesses of burial	Where born and how long in the Australasian Colonies or States	Place of marriage, age, and to whom	Children of marriage
G.D. McLeod 21 <sup>st</sup> January 1878 Muirurundi	20 <sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1878 Haydonton John Brown Olden	Rev James Ross Church of England Burgymen John Adams William M. Bailey	Ireland 23 years N.S. Wales	(1) Ireland (2) 18 years (3) John Woods	1 male living 5 females

Item 5-47: Death certificate of Mary Burke.

# Family of Elizabeth Woods

I have tried to imagine the composition of the family of Elizabeth Woods, comprising a son and five daughters.



Item 5-48: Family of Elizabeth Constance Woods.



## Birth of a sister of Elizabeth Woods

I also obtained a birth certificate for Elizabeth's young sister Catherine, who was born at Haydonton on 22 December 1862.

Date and place of birth of child	Name and whether present or not	Sex	Father's name, occupation, age and birthplace	Date and place of marriage-previous issue	Mother's name and maiden surname, age and birthplace
22 December 1862 Haydonton.	Catherine not present.	female	(1) John Woods (2) Bricklayer (3) 45 years (4) Galway Ireland	(1) 1846 (1) Ireland (2) 1846 (2) 45 years living.	(1) Mary Burke (3) 45 years (3) Mayo Ireland
Informant	Witness	Particulars of registration		Name if added after Registration of birth	
John Woods Father Haydonton.	(1) — — — (2) Mrs Carey Midwife (3) — — —	H. Whelan 13 January 1863 Subscribed			

Item 5-49: Birth of Catherine Woods.

---

### Family legend

My grandmother told me that her maternal ancestors were Orangemen. As a child, I imagined weird old fellows with colorful round heads that might be squeezed to extract juice! Since then, I have heard of the adulation, once upon a time, of a Protestant monarch known as William of Orange. Well, according to my grandmother's tales, one of these relatives was none other than the incompetent explorer Robert O'Hara Burke. As a genealogical researcher, I was keen to investigate this legend.

The available data does not confirm this legend. On the other hand, I am equally incapable of demonstrating that the legend is necessarily invalid. So, I leave it up to others to form their own opinion on this question.