

1897 Drowning in Hutt River – 3 deaths

Evening Post newspaper 02 April 1897

The Hutt Drowning Case – Pathetic Particulars – The discovery of yesterday's terrible drowning accident in the Hutt River which resulted in the death of Mrs Annetta Hope her stepdaughter Miss Lillian Hope aged 20 and her infant child Annetta was made by Mr A McCulloch of Trentham.

Mr McCulloch was returning home from the Lower Hutt and on entering the gorge about a mile below the railway bridge over the Hutt river he noticed wheel marks close to the edge of the road. Pulling up he saw that an accident had taken place for about 20 feet down a horse and trap were in the river while some of the bushes at the side of the road were broken down. McCulloch called to Messrs H Quarterman and J Phillips who were a short distance away and the three got down to the water where they found the trap upside down pinning the two ladies under water. The bodies were at once got out but were lifeless as was also that of the baby, which was held tightly by one of the ladies. There was only about four feet of water at the spot and the horse was found with its head out of water against a bank, uninjured. Little damage had been done to the trap and even the baby's bottle was unbroken. When Mr McCulloch first noticed the bodies he saw that they were dead and that it would have been impossible to get them out from the trap without other assistance. The bodies have been taken to Mr Hope's house in Stokes's Valley where an inquest is being held this afternoon. In explanation of the accident it is stated in reports furnished by the police and our correspondent at Upper Hutt, that Mrs Hope evidently did not understand much about driving. As the trap was going up the Hutt Gorge the horse must have jibbed at the incline, and backed the cart over the side of the road into the river, a fall of 20ft. The road is wide at the spot, and the wheel marks show that the horse must have backed about half a chain before going over. Mrs Hope must have become frightened and held all the tighter to the reins when the horse began to back. Otherwise, there was plenty of time for the occupants of the trap to have jumped out. A sad feature about the accident is that Mr Hope, who was in Wellington when it happened, only heard of the deaths when he opened the Evening Post yesterday evening. He was naturally greatly shocked, and much sympathy will be felt for him in his triple bereavement.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 02 April 1897)

0- Joseph William (George) HOPE born 19 May 1856 Brancepth Durham England died 1936 New Zealand 1st married details unknown 2nd married **Annetta Rayner UNKNOWN** born about 1871 died 1897 Upper Hutt New Zealand
#Joseph William Hope born 19 May 1856 Brancepth Durham England parents Elizabeth nee Dodd and Joseph Hope
#Joseph William Hope farmer Stokes Valley Taita residential & Annetta Hope domestic duties Stokes Valley Taita residential 1896 Otaki Electoral Roll Wellington
#Annetta Hope married Daniel Street residential & Adam Pearson Hope (Joseph's brother) dairyman & Rebecca Annie Hope married Daniel Street 1896 Wellington Electoral Roll
#Annetta Hope died 1897 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1897 folio website 1897/3129 age 26 born about 1871
#Annetta Rayner Hope buried 04 April 1897 Taita cemetery Hutt Valley
#In Bankruptcy – In the Supreme Court holden at Wellington – Notice is hereby given that Joseph William Hope of wellington Commission Agent was this dya adjudged bankrupt and I hereby summon a meeting of creditors to be holden at my office on Friday the 25th day of

November 1898 at 11 o'clock – James Ashcroft Official Assignee Wellington 19 November 1898 reference papers past website newspaper

#Joseph William Hope cordial manufacturer Star Private Hotel Cuba Street 1919 Wellington Central Electoral Roll

#Joseph William Hope married 1923 New Zealand May Marjorie Robson reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1923 folio 2730

#Joseph William Hope traveller 98 Russell Terrace 1928 Wellington South Electoral Roll

#Joseph William (CKA George) Hoper died 1936 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1936 folio 1593 website 1936/17526 age 80 born about 1856

0-1- Elizabeth Walker Pickering (Lillie) HOPE born 1877 died April 1897 Upper Hutt New Zealand

#Elizabeth Walker Vickering [sic] Hope died 1897 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1897 folio website 1897/3130 age 20 born about 1877

#Eliz Walker Pickering Hope buried 04 April 1897 Taita cemetery Hutt Valley

0-2- Annetta Rymer (Peggy) HOPE born 1896 died April 1897 Upper Hutt New Zealand

#Annetta Rymer Hope born 1896 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1896 folio website 1896/5139 parents Annetta and Joseph William Hope

#Annetta Hope died 1897 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1897 folio website 1897/3131 age 7 months born about 1896
