

Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN
(Weblink Mary Elizabeth Manssen)

Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN

B 08 July 1850 Nelson NZ

D 17 May 1931 Atawhai Nelson NZ

Never Married

The family history of
Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN

Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN was born on the 08 July 1850 in Nelson. Her parents were residing in Nile Street East at the time of her birth. Her parents George and Johanna would have been respectively around 30 and 30 years old.

An Unnamed Female was born 08 July 1850 in Nelson. The parents were recorded as George Henry Conrad MANSSEN occupation Gardner and Joanna Catherine Elizabeth MANSSEN formerly MARTIN. One month later the birth was registered by G.H.C. MANSSEN a Gardner of Nelson on 10 August 1850. The Deputy registrar was John POYNTER.

(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1850 folio 230 line 103 Nelson district)

The first record of Mary after her birth was on the Suburban North Education Committee meeting register dated 07 March 1859. It recorded that Mary MANSSEN won a 2nd class prize at Clifton Terrace School. Mary was aged eight years eight months at the time.

Mary MANSSEN Spinster of Wakapuaka registered the birth of her nephew Charles PAGE on 03 March 1871. Charles was born 25 January 1871 Suburban North. His parents were William PAGE occupation Bricklayer and Caroline PAGE formerly MANSSEN (Mary's sister).

(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1871 folio 655 item 59 Nelson district)

The 1894-95 Wise's Directory, Nelson, Westland and Marlborough list our ancestors living at Wakapuaka - Miss MANSSEN, Charles H MARTIN and William PAGE Bricklayer.

(Reference National Library of NZ 1894-95 Wise's Directory, Nelson, Westland and Marlborough)

In 1893 Mary appeared on the City of Nelson Electoral Roll. On all the Electoral rolls through the years she was always recorded as living in Suburban North and later Atawhai with her occupation as either Spinster or Domestic Duties.

City of Nelson Electoral Rolls

- 1893 Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN Suburban North residential spinster
- 1894 Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN Suburban North residential spinster
- 1896 Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN Suburban North residential spinster
- 1899 Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN Suburban North residential Domestic Duties

Nelson Supplementary Electoral Roll

- 1902 Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN Suburban North Domestic Duties

Nelson Electoral Roll

- 1905 Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN Suburban North Domestic Duties
- 1908 Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN Suburban North Domestic Duties
- 1911 Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN Suburban North Domestic Duties
- 1914 Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN Suburban North Spinster

- 1919 Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN Suburban North Spinster
- 1922 Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN Atawhai Spinster
- 1925 Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN Atawhai Spinster
- 1928 Nothing for Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN

(Reference National Library NZ Electoral Rolls on various microfiche)

The book *Early Tide to Wakapuaka* by P.V. and N.L. Wastney stated that Miss MANSSEN was the Postmaster for Hillside in 1894. She would have been about 44 years at the time.

After Mary's mother died her nephews Percy and Conrad MANSSEN were known to have spent some time living with her and helping out on the farm. Later her niece Caroline (PAGE) BARNES and family lived with her in the home called "Greendale".

Catherine KERR the married niece of Mary MANSSEN and oldest daughter of Caroline and Daniel BARNES. Catherine husband Oliver and their children moved into "Greendale" and looked after Mary until her death. In later years "Greendale" was burned down and was replaced with another house, which remains on the section to this day. A photo of "Greendale" can be found in the (publication Manssen Family In New Zealand) chapter on Caroline and William PAGE. Mary was a tall lady with long hair. Families tell of Mary also known as Aunt MANSSEN often taking fits, perhaps she could have suffered from epilepsy.

Mrs KERR, Miss MANSSEN and Mr BARNES together purchased a Ford Touring Car at a total cost of £277.17s.0d.

Telephone No 672 Central Hardy Street	No 661 Nelson June 14 th 1920
Mrs Kerr, Miss Manssen & Mr Barnes	
Dr to NELSON INUIVERSAL CAR CO.	
District Agents for Ford Cars	
All Spare parts stocked – Repairs executed	
Interest charged on accounts over 30 days.	
June	To 1 Ford Touring Car 271-00-0
	To Registration & number plates -10-0
	To 2 Gall of Benzene @ 4/6 a gall -09-0
	To 4 Gall of Oil @8/6 gall 1-14-0
	To 1 Inner Tube 1-08-6
	To 1 Extra air 1-15-0
	To 5lb of grease 8/6 -08-6
	To 2 Spark plugs 6/6 ea. -13-0
	277-18-0
	To 1 -08-0
	To 1 Gauge 4/6 To Funnel 3/6 278-16-0
	Dis -09-0
	£277.17.0

The car was registered in the name of Mrs Oliver (Catherine) KERR who was the niece of Mary MANSSEN and oldest daughter of Mr BARNES.

Waimea County Council
Certificate of Registration of Motor
1. Name of Registering authority = Waimea County Council

2. Name of Owner of Motor = Mrs Olive Kerr
3. Description of Type of Car (including Weight of Car) = Ford Touring (15 cubit 22 R F)
4. Whether intended for
 - a) Private use = Yes
 - b) Use for Trade Purpose
 - c) Use as a Public Conveyance
5. Particulars as to the [position on the Car in which it is proposed to place the Identification –mark = As per Regulation at back hereof
6. Identification-mark assigned to Motor = **W.M. 1436**
Signature of Officer issuing Registration (S BLONFIELD) County Clerk
Date June 5th 1920

In 1930 Mr A HEINE a descendant of the Rev HEINE who came to Nelson on the St Pauli wrote to Mary asking for information on the descendants of George and Joanna MANSSEN. Mary replied and I found her letters amongst the HEINE papers held in the Manuscript Section of the Alexander Turnbull Library. The letter gives details of the first three generations. How I wish I had found this information at the beginning of my research.

On 17 February 1930 Mary compiled her Will and details are transcribed below.

THIS IS THE LAST AND TESTAMENT of me MARY ELIZABETH MANSSEN of the District of Suburban North in the Land District of Nelson in New Zealand Spinster.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH the mortgage debt (if any) owing to me at my death by OLIVER ALLEN KERR of Atawhai Farmer unto the said Oliver Allen Kerr.

I BEQUEATH the sum of Fifty Pounds to my niece ETHEL SIMPSON, wife of Archibald Simpson, the sum of FIFTY POUNDS to my niece ADA LILLIAN BARNES wife of John Thomas Barnes, the sum of FIFTY POUNDS to MAISE CAROLINE NEAL daughter of my grand niece Olive Mabel Neal and the sum of FIFTY POUNDS to my niece HILDA JANE ROBERTSON wife of Thomas Robertson.

I GIVE AND DEVISE all my freehold lands unto my grand niece CATHERINE ANN KERR for and during her life AND upon her death unto such of her sons Robert Oliver Manssen Kerr and Allen Carol Kerr as shall attain the age of twenty one years and if both them shall attain that age then in equal shares.

I DEVISE AND BEQUEATH all the rest residue and remainder of my real and personal estate unto my Executors and Trustees UPON TRUST to pay thereout all my just debts and funeral and testamentary expenses and all duties payable in respect of my estate AND to convey and transfer all the remainder unto my said grand niece CATHERINE ANN KEE absolutely.

I APPOINT the said CATHERINE ANN KERR and OLIVER ALLEN KERR Executors and Trustees of this my Will.

AND LASTLY I revoke all former Wills and other testamentary dispositions by me at any time heretofore made and declare this to be my last Will and Testament.

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this seventeenth day of February One thousand nine hundred and thirty.

Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN

SIGNED by the said Testatrix the said Mary Elizabeth Manssen as and for her last Will an Testament in the presence of us both being present at the same time who at her request in her sight and

In the Supreme Court of New Zealand Nelson District - Nelson Registry
In the Estate of MARY ELIZABAETH MANSSN late Atawhai in Land District of Nelson in New Zealand Spinster deceased

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL MEN that on the fourth day of June One thousand nine hundred and thirty one that the last Will and Testament of the above named MARY ELIZABETH MANSSSEN who died on the seventeenth day of May One thousand nine hundred and thirty one a copy of which is hereunder written hath been exhibited read and proved before THE HONOURABLE SIR MICHAEL MYERS K.C.M.G. Chief Justice of New Zealand AND ADMINISTRATION of the estate effects and credits of the4 said deceased hath been and is here4by granted to OLIVER ALLEN KERR of Atawhai Farmer and CATHERINE ANN KERR of Atawhai aforesaid wife of the aid Oliver Allen Kerr the Executors in the said Will and Testament named THEY being first sworn faithfully to execute the said Will by paying the debts and legacies of the deceased so far as the property will extend and the laws binds.

Given under the Seal of the Supreme Court of New Zealand at Nelson this fourth day of June One thousand nine hundred and thirty one.

Registrar F Mitchell

In the matter of the estate of MARY ELIZABTEH MANSSSEN late of Atawhai in the Land district of Nelson Spinster deceased -

We OLIVER ALLEN KERR of Atawhai ain the Land of Nelson farmer and CATHERINE ANN KERR of Atawhai aforesaid wife of the said Oliver Allen Kerr do severally. Solemnly and sincerely declare as follows -

1. THAT we the Executors of the last Will and Testament of the above named Mary Elizabeth Manssen deceased who died on the seventeenth day of May One thousand nine hundred and thirty one
2. THAT Probate of the said Will was granted to us as such Executors on the forth day of June One thousand nine hundre3d and thirty one the Supreme Court of New Zealand Nelson District
3. THAT the said Mary Elizabeth MANSSSEN at the time of her decease was the registered proprietor of an estate in fee simple on ALL THOSE pieces of Land situated in the District of Suburban North containing together Twenty eight acres two roods and ten perches more or less being parts of Section VII on the plan of the said District and being the whole of the lands comprised and described in Certificates of Title Volume 26 folio 166, Volume 62 folio 130 and Volume 62 folio 131 Nelson registry. AND ALSO was registered as the proprietor of an estate as Mortgage under Memorandum of Mortgage registered at Nelson at Nelson as Number 18531

Mary Elizabeth MANSSSEN female spinster age 80 years died on 17 May 1931 at Atawhai Nelson. Cause of death was recorded as Chronic Myocardial Degeneration (died suddenly) as certified by Dr F A BETT who saw her some months previously. Her parents were recorded as George Henry Conrad MANSSSEN and Johanna MANSSSEN. Mary was buried on 19 May 1931 at the Wakapuaka Nelson cemetery. The Church of England minister Rev H O BRICKLAND took the service. She was born in Nelson and never married. The Nelson Undertaker J MCDREDBURY registered the death on 21 May 1931

(Reference RGO NZ death registration 1931 folio 1660 line 57 Nelson district)

Upon Mary's death he property consisted of "Pieces of land in the district of Suburban North containing together Twenty eight acres two roods and ten perches more or less being parts of Section VII on the plan of the said District and being the whole of the lands comprised and described in Certificates of the Title Volume 26 folio 166 Volume 62 folio 130 and Volume 62 folio 131 Nelson registry.

In her Will Mary left £50 to her nieces Ethel SIMPSON, Lilian Ida BARNES, Hilda Jane ROBERTSON and great grandniece Maisie Caroline NEAL. The mortgage debt owing to Mary she bequeathed to Oliver Allen KERR the freehold lands to grandniece Catherine Ann KERR during he life, then unto her sons Robert Oliver KERR and Allen Carol KERR. The reminder of her estate was left to her Executors and Trustees, Catherine Ann and Oliver Allen KERR. The Will was dated 17 February 1930 and signed Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN.

Mary was buried on 19 May 1931 alongside of her mother Johanna, but a headstone was never erected to commemorate the life of Mary. In 1993 after the Manssen family reunion held in Nelson a plaque was placed on the grave recording the name of Mary Elizabeth MANSSEN.
