

## William Robertson HASTWELL & Elizabeth POWLEY

1861 Golden Fleece Hotel Pakuratahi

### William Robinson HASTWELL

B 1830-1832 Kirkby Stephen Westmorland England  
D 19 December 1879 Greytown Wairarapa New Zealand  
M 1853 New Zealand

### Elizabeth POWLEY

B 1833 Brough Westmorland England  
D 02 March 1900 Greytown New Zealand

#### Children:

1. George HASTWELL born 1855 New Zealand
2. Mary Isabella HASTWELL born 1857 New Zealand
3. Elizabeth Annie HASTWELL born 1859 New Zealand
4. William Henry Robinson HASTWELL born 1870 New Zealand
5. Agnes Mary HASTWELL born 1873 New Zealand

William Robinson HASTWELL baptised 03 May 1832 Kirkby Stephen Westmorland England to parents Mary and George Hastwell.

*(Reference Ancestry website parish records Kirkby Stephen Westmorland England FHL film 97389, 97390, 97391, 97392)*

Elizabeth POWLEY was born 1833 Brough Westmorland England

William Robinson HASTWELL married 1853 New Zealand Elizabeth POWLEY

*(Reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1853 folio website 1853/871)*

#### 1853-1864 Wellington Electoral Roll

- William Robinson HASTWELL Lambton Quay Boarding House Keeper Household Lambton Quay

*(Reference Ancestry website New Zealand Electoral Rolls)*

#### 1853-1864 Wairarapa Electoral Roll

- Wm Robinson HASTWELL Greytown Carrier Household Greytown

*(Reference Ancestry website New Zealand Electoral Rolls)*

William and Elizabeth had a child George HASTWELL born 1855 New Zealand

*(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1855 folio website 1855/3138 parents Elizabeth and William Robinson Hastwell)*

William and Elizabeth had a child Mary Isabella HASTWELL born 1857 New Zealand

*(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1857 folio website 1857/106 parents Elizabeth and William Robinson Hastwell)*

William and Elizabeth had a child Elizabeth Annie HASTWELL born 1859 New Zealand

*(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1859 folio website 1859/6963 parents Elizabeth and William Robinson Hastwell)*

In 1861 William Robinson HASTWELL was the proprietor of the Golden Fleece Hotel. William Robinson Hastwell leased the hotel from Walter HODDER.

Wellington Independent newspaper 21 February 1862

Notice to Contractors – Tenders will be received at the Office of the Provincial Secretary Wellington until Tuesday the 04<sup>th</sup> day of March for the erection of a Timber Bridge over the Pakuratahi River on the Wairarapa Road. Tenders to be addressed to J Woodward. Plans and Specifications may be seen at the Engineer's Office Wellington and at the House of Mr Hastwell Pakuratahi. J Woodward Acting Provincial Secretary.

*(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 21 February 1862 page 2 plus other dates)*

#### 1865-1866 Wairarapa Electoral Roll

- William Robinson HASTWELL Greytown Household Greytown house

*(Reference Ancestry website New Zealand Electoral Rolls)*

William and Elizabeth had a child William Henry Robinson HASTWELL born 1870 New Zealand  
(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1870 folio website 1870/21200 parents Elizabeth and William Robinson Hastwell)

William and Elizabeth had a child Agnes Mary HASTWELL born 1873 New Zealand  
(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1873 folio website 1873/15593 parents Elizabeth and William Robinson Hastwell)

1873-1874 Wellington Electoral Roll

- William Robinson HASTWELL Greytown Wairarapa leasehold Courtenay place building and land

(Reference Ancestry website New Zealand Electoral Rolls)

1873-1874 Wairarapa Electoral Roll

- William Robinson HASTWELL Greytown freehold Greytown house and land

(Reference Ancestry website New Zealand Electoral Rolls)

1874-1875 Wellington Electoral Roll

- William Robinson HASTWELL Greytown Wairarapa leasehold Courtenay place building and land

(Reference Ancestry website New Zealand Electoral Rolls)

1875-1876 Wellington Electoral Roll

- William Robinson HASTWELL Greytown Wairarapa leasehold Courtenay place building and land

(Reference Ancestry website New Zealand Electoral Rolls)

1875-1876 Wairarapa Electoral Roll

- William Robinson HASTWELL Greytown freehold Greytown house and land

(Reference Ancestry website New Zealand Electoral Rolls)

1878-1879 Wairarapa Electoral Roll

- William Robinson HASTWELL Greytown freehold Greytown house and land

(Reference Ancestry website New Zealand Electoral Rolls)

Evening Post newspaper 21 November 1879

District Court This Day - Carroll, Trustee of Robert Elliott v Hastwell

A jury of four composed of Messrs J McLean, W Fraser, B Donovan and William Luke were empanelled to try this case, which is an action to recover the sum of £200, alleged to be due for stabling accommodation from the defendant, a coach proprietor, to Robert Elliott, now a bankrupt but formerly landlord of the Rising Sun Hotel Greytown and the Golden Fleece Hotel at Pakuratahi.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 21 November 1879 page 3)

New Zealand Times newspaper 22 November 1879

His Honor Mr Judge Mansford held a sitting at the District Court yesterday, when the case of Carroll (trustee of Robert Elliott) v Hastwell was dealt with before a jury of four.

Mr Ollivier instructed by Messrs Buller and Lewis, appeared for plaintiff and Mr Stafford, instructed by Messrs Buckley and Fitzherbert, for defendant. The action was one for the recovery of £200, alleged to be due for stabling from defendant Mr Elliot, who is now a bankrupt, was formerly landlord of the Rising Sun Hotel, Greytown, and the Golden Fleece, Pakuratahi. The principal portion of the debt was stated to have been incurred while Elliott had the latter hotel. The case lasted all day, judgment being ultimately given for defendant.

(Reference paper past website New Zealand Times newspaper 22 November 1879)

William Robinson HASTWELL died 19 December 1879 New Zealand

(Reference RGO NZ death registration 1879 folio website 1879/4497 age 48 born circa 1831)

Wairarapa Daily Times newspaper 20 December 1879

Another link connecting the Wairarapa of the past with the present was severed yesterday by the death of Mr W R Hastwell, Though the melancholy event was sudden and unexpected it was not

altogether a matter of surprise It was well known that the deceased did not possess a strong constitution and that for the last three years his health was very indifferent. Mr Hastwell was to Greytown which Mr Bannister formerly was to Masterton a principal employer of labour and a leader in all public movements. Both possessed the esteem and good will of the settlers in their respective localities and though their characters were in many respects dissimilar they were alike in energy and directness of purpose and kind-heartedness. They were formerly partners in business and even in their social relations they were closely united as their widows are sisters. Both have died within an intermission of a few months and Greytown mourns for Mr Hastwell with that genuine regret which was so marked a short time ago at Masterton when the last tribute of respect was paid to Mr Bannister. The late Mr Hastwell is one those men whom the Colony delights to honor men who begin life with willing hands as their only capital and who by diligence and industry acquire wealth and reputation. Mr Hastwell was essentially the architect of his own fortunes. When he first started as a carrier he had but a single horse his next step was a team. He commenced the conveyance of passengers with a trap which in time became a coach and which ended in several lines of coaches running all over a province. In public matters the late Mr Hastwell was not obtrusive. He rarely addressed a meeting or took a prominent part in it. Nevertheless he was generally regarded as the backbone of any movement with which he permitted his name to be associated and when action followed upon discussion he was usually found to be in the van. His connection with St. Luke's Church his connection with the public school his connection with the Waiohine River Board and numberless other movements was in each instance of signal service to Greytown. He was ever ready to spend money or time in any good cause and his private benevolence though often appealed to never tired. It is no wonder that the deceased was the most popular resident in Greytown and that his death will call forth expressions of sympathy as general as they will be genuine. Within the past year Mr Hastwell purchased a valuable property near Masterton and had he lived would probably have become a resident in this Borough where he possessed many friends and considerable business interests. But in the prime of manhood he has been called away and few have been taken from amongst us who have done better work in and for the district than William Robinson Hastwell. Yesterday at noon the deceased was about as usual though for several days previously he had been confined to the house by illness. Later in the afternoon he was found dead whether from epilepsy or heart disease is as yet unknown but the result of the usual medical enquiry will doubtless determine this point.

*(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Daily Times newspaper 20 December 1879 page 2)*

Wairarapa Standard newspaper Tuesday 23 December 1879

In the year 1857 Mr Hastwell took up his residence at Greytown, in the cottage which had been erected the previous year opposite the Rising Sun Hotel by Mr Holdsworth, senior where his two surviving children were born and where he subsequently continued to live up to the time of his death, with the exception of a short time he held the position of landlord of the Golden Fleece Pakuratahi, about the year 1861, and during the time he was absent with his family in England, about the year 1865. It was in every respect unfortunate that he took a public house, as it was a business for which he was not adapted, and because it is to be feared he then laid the foundation of habits which proved his bane during the greater portion of the remainder of his extremely active and somewhat eventful life. Before going to the Pakuratahi he commenced running a one-

*(Reference Papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper Tuesday 23 December 1879)*

Wairarapa Standard newspaper Tuesday 23 December 1879

The Late Mr HASTWELL - In the midst of a thunderstorm the body of the late W R Hastwell was consigned on Sunday last, to its last resting place at the Greytown Cemetery, by the side of his infant son and daughter, who had been previously buried there. Had the weather been more favourable it would undoubtedly have been the largest funeral that has ever taken place in the district, as it was there was a very large attendance of mourners from all parts of the valley, there being any number of coaches, carriages, and horsemen, in the procession, which was led by the Freemasons, of whom over fifty were in attendance, the late Mr Hastwell having been a member of the order. The funeral service was read by Mr Teakle of Masterton in which the Masonic brethren took part, accompanied by the usual ceremonies. One of the most striking features was the procession of a large number of coaches and other vehicles from Masterton. The late Mr Hastwell was the son of a Westminster carrier, in which county he continued to reside until he

became, of age after which he left his paternal roof for London, where he obtained an engagement in a large furniture warehouse, his business being to take charge of the van. It was in this occupation he was engaged at the beginning of the year 1853, when he accidentally met in the street a young lady from his native place, with whom he had been previously intimately acquainted, who was on her way to New Zealand, to join her brother who had previously settled in Otago. The moment he became aware of the fact he resolved to accompany her, and immediately took passage in the same ship (the Tasmanian we believe) in which she was going out, and both arrived, safely in Wellington about the middle of the same year. The next day he obtained an engagement at, Mr Riddiford's station at Te Awaite, and some months afterwards he came to Wellington, where he was married at St Peter's Church, and immediately after returned to complete his engagement at Mr Riddiford's. That, accomplished, Mr and Mrs Hastwell returned to Wellington, and shortly after took the "Wellington Coffee House," which was them doing an extensive business on Lambton Quay on account of the number of successful diggers, who were at that time weekly arriving at Wellington from Melbourne. He also engaged in the firewood trade between Waiwetu and Wellington, bringing the wood over from the former place by boat. But in neither business was he in his proper element, and in the year 1856 he got into it, by commencing the business for which he had a natural inclination, that of carrier between Wellington and the Wairarapa, first by means of a hired team belonging to Mr Chew, who then resided in Wellington, as a carter and soon after as the owner of a cart and two horses of his own. At the time Mr Hastwell commenced the business of a carrier to the Wairarapa about the close of the year 1856, there was scarcely a bridge over any of the streams and rivers between Wellington and Masterton, except that at the Hutt which has just been re-erected after its destruction by the earthquake of January 1855. The road over the Mungaroa was in course of construction, as was that between the Golden Fleece and the foot of the Rimutaka, and that from the bottom of the hill to Burling's. You had to cross the stream seven or eight times in the latter locality before you could reach the Valley of the Wairarapa. The bare mention of these facts, however, will give the reader but a very inadequate idea of the difficulties that had to be surmounted in establishing dray communication between the Upper Hutt and this district. The two other carriers, then on the road, were Messrs Charles Cudby, and Charles White, both at that time residents at the Hutt. It was no uncommon occurrence to have not one but several capsizes between the Mungaroa river and the foot of the Rimutaka, and we remember the time when, in consequence of these capsizes, the journey between Collins's and Hodder's, a distance of little more than 4½ miles, occupied so much time as to render it not prudent to proceed farther that day, and it frequently happened, on account of the badness of the roads and the flooded state of the rivers, that the journey between Wellington and Masterton, would occupy the greater part of a fortnight. Such was the state of the roads when Mr Hastwell commenced the business in which he was subsequently so successful, that success being due alone to his own indomitable pluck, punctuality, and perseverance.

In the year 1857 Mr Hastwell took up his residence at Greytown, in the cottage which had been erected the previous year opposite the Rising Sun Hotel by Mr Holdsworth, senior where his two surviving children were born and where he subsequently continued to live up to the time of his death, with the exception of a short time he held the position of landlord of the Golden Fleece Pakuratahi, about the year 1861, and during the time he was absent with his family in England, about the year 1865. It was in every respect unfortunate that he took a public house, as it was a business for which he was not adapted, and because it is to be feared he then laid the foundation of habits which proved his bane during the greater portion of the remainder of his extremely active and somewhat eventful life. Before going to the Pakuratahi he commenced running a one-horse trap, with an occasional outrigger, between Wellington and Greytown and after his return from England he started in the business of coach proprietor, which had been commenced in his absence by Walker and Ray, as well as by Mr Skipper, who had purchased Mr Hastwell's carrying business just before his trip to England. His subsequent career is well known to most of our readers, and needs no extended notice at our hands. It was not, however, because he was a large general carrier, and subsequently an extensive coach proprietor, that we have been induced to notice the above events in his active life, as in these respects it was not distinguished by anything more remarkable than has been experienced by others in either of these capacities, but it was because of the pluck, enterprise, and indomitable perseverance as well as liberal public spirit, he displayed throughout his career which rendered his life alike interesting,

instructive, and noteworthy. As a mail carrier, over flooded rivers and unmade roads in a rough country, he stands, unrivalled, and voluminous are the anecdotes that could be related of the hair breath escapes he had to undergo in that capacity. At the time of the Maori war, when there was a regular exodus of the wives and children of Wairarapa settlers to Wellington, and when it was daily expected the King natives would stop the road over the Rimutaka, Mr Hastwell was the man selected by the Government to secretly convey at midnight arms and ammunition to the district, which he successfully accomplished, arriving at Featherston just before the break of day. Hundreds of other little incidents could be given of a similar character, but perhaps his enterprise was never so favourably exhibited as when he undertook to construct a passable dray road at his own cost to the Taueru, for the purpose of conveying the wool from a station, the proprietor of which was then making a more profitable use of his money by lending it at 20 per cent. The only conditions he insisted upon were that he should have the carrying secured to him at a fixed sum for a period of three years. Some two or three years ago Mr Hastwell had a flattering testimonial presented to him by the settlers of the Wairarapa at the Town Hall, and more recently the children of the Greytown school subscribed a sum for the purpose of obtaining his photograph on account of the liberal interest he had displayed in his capacity of Chairman of the Greytown School Committee. He was for a number of years one of the Churchwardens of St Luke's Church, a member of the first Greytown Local Board, and one of the Waiohine River Commissioners. As an indication of the esteem in which he was held by the ratepayers of Greytown, we may mention at recent election for members of the Borough Council he only wanted one vote from being at the head of the poll. Dr Smith, the present Mayor, I having seemed the conceded honour by that narrow majority. Mr Hastwell ever carried out, and was indeed the embodiment of the Scriptural injunction, Whatever thy hand undereth to do, do it with all thy might," and the consequence was that there was scarcely anything he undertook he did not, accomplish a lesson which our younger readers will do well to acquire for their own advantage and profit. In private life Mr Hastwell was generous and unobtrusive, and his liberality was of that character recommended by Christ. Not to let thy left hand know what, thy right hand doeth, and numerous were the acts of this nature that he did which were entirely unknown to the public. Had he been one of those shoddy and veneered individuals of whom there are now too many, all of whose good qualities are worn outside as a cloak for the dross beneath, he would not have obtained this notice from us. After the death of his only son, which he took so deeply to heart, as to almost, alter his character, he has been scarcely the same man as he was before that sad event occurred, and we have heard him repeatedly say he would willingly give up all his wealth if the days when he first knew us could he again restored to him. We cannot conclude this notice without expressing our sincere condolence for his widow and children on account of their sad and sudden bereavement, and without painfully feeling that one after another of those whom we best knew, and who best knew us, are departing from this world, and that a new generation is growing up who know nothing of the difficulties and hardships inseparable from the lot of those who undertook to found for themselves new homes in a comparative wilderness.

*(Reference papers past website Wairarapa Standard newspaper Tuesday 23 December 1879)*

Elizabeth HASTWELL died 1900 New Zealand

*(Reference RGO NZ death registration 1900 folio website 1900/6939 age 67 born circa 1833)*

Greytown cemetery Wairarapa Block 10 Plot 34 Monumental inscription

Sacred to the memory of William Robinson HASTWELL  
died 19 December 1879 aged 46 years  
Elizabeth HASTWELL relict of the above  
died 02 March 1900 aged 76 years.  
At Rest

*(Reference Ancestry website New Zealand cemetery transcriptions)*

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### **William & Elizabeth HASTWELL their children and descendants**

**1- George HASTWELL** born 13 January 1855 New Zealand died 29 January 1855 New Zealand  
(died young never married)

- #George HASTWELL born 13 January 1855 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1855 folio website 1855/3138 parents Elizabeth and Williams Robinson Hastwell  
#George HASTWELL died 29 January 1855 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1855 folio website 1855/669 age 16 days born circa 1855
- 2- Mary Isabella HASTWELL** born 1857 New Zealand died 31 May 1933 Greytown New Zealand married 1905 New Zealand **Joseph Stuart Kent JOHNSTON** born 1864 died 1928 New Zealand  
#Mary Isabella HASTWELL born 1857 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1857 folio website 1857/106 parents Elizabeth and Williams Robinson Hastwell  
#Mary Isabella HASTWELL married 1905 New Zealand Joseph Stuart Kent JOHNSTON reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1905 folio website 1905/5736  
#Joseph Stuart KENT-JOHNSTON died 1928 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1928 folio website 1928/4534 age 64 born circa 1864  
#Mary Isabella Kent JOHNSTON died 31 May 1933 Greytown New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1933 folio website 1933/2094 age 74 born circa 1859
- 3- Elizabeth Annie HASTWELL** born 1859 New Zealand died 20 March 1897 Greytown New Zealand married 1892 New Zealand **Francis George TULLY** born 1851(23 September 1857) died 31 January 1908 Greytown New Zealand  
#Elizabeth Annie HASTWELL born 1859 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1859 folio website 1859/6963 parents Elizabeth and Williams Robinson Hastwell  
#Elizabeth Annie HASTWED [sic] married 1892 New Zealand Francis George TULLY reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1892 folio website 1892/2232  
#Annie Elizabeth TULLY died 20 March 1897 Greytown New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1897 folio website 1897/748 age 37 born circa 1860  
#In Memoriam of Annie Elizabeth beloved wife of F.G. Tully died 20 March 1897 aged 37 buried Greytown cemetery Wairarapa  
#Francis George TULLY died 1908 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1908 folio website 1908/1110 age 57 born circa 1851  
#Two (2) issue John Roy Hastwell Tully born 23 February 1893 & Nora Campbell Tully born 08 April 1894 both in Greytown New Zealand to parents Elizabeth Annie and Francis George Tully
- 4- William Henry Robinson HASTWELL** born 10 January 1870 Greytown New Zealand died 1875 New Zealand (died young never married)  
#William Henry Robinson HASTWELL born 1870 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1870 folio website 1870/21200 parents Elizabeth and Williams Robinson Hastwell  
#William Henry HASTWELL son of the above who departed this life 14 July 1875 age 5 years 6 months buried Greytown cemetery Wairarapa
- 5- Agnes Mary HASTWELL** born 1873 New Zealand died 1873 New Zealand (died young never married)  
#Agnes Mary HASTWELL born 1873 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1873 folio website 1873/15593 parents Elizabeth and William Robinson Hastwell  
#Agnes Mary HASTWELL died 1873 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1873 folio website 1873/8058 age 15 weeks born circa 1873  
#Agnes May daughter of W.R. and Eliz HASTWELL of Greytown who died 14 April 1873 age 15 weeks buried Greytown cemetery Wairarapa

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### HASTWELL miscellaneous information

William Robinson HASTWELL had a brother in New Zealand but the details are unknown

Comment – The Cobblestone museum in the Wairarapa holds information about the HASTWELL family. It was compiled by one of their researchers.

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