

## George Alexander McILVRIDE

Born	18 Jan 1873 Lower Hutt, New Zealand	
Married	1893	Frances Maud Mary KILMISTER
Died	28 Nov 1935 Public Hospital, Wellington	
Buried	30 Nov 1935 Taita Cemetery, Lower Hutt	
Father	George McILVRIDE (1838-1910) son of Peter McILVRIDE (1792-1855) and Girzel MILLAR (1796-1872)	
Mother	Janet SINCLAIR (1839-1897) dau of John SINCLAIR (1807-) and Margaret BAYNE	

<i>Frances Maud Mary KILMISTER</i>		
Born	1872 Karori, Wellington	
Died	9 Mar 1939 Lower Hutt	
Buried	11 Mar 1939 Taita Cemetery, Lower Hutt	
Father	James KILMISTER (1845-1914) son of John KILMISTER (1808-1904) and Frances NICHOL (1810-1904)	
Mother	Elizabeth JUDD (1852-1915) dau of William JUDD (1804-1876) and Ann SYERS (1810-1870)	

<i>Children</i>			
Leith James	b 22 Jan 1894 Petone	m 1912 Ethel Winifred HOBBS	d 17 Nov 1918 Palmerston North
Elizabeth Judd	b 2 Dec 1897 Lower Hutt	m 1920 Edgar James SIMPSON	d 1 Oct 1953 Petone
Janet Sinclair	b 2 Dec 1897 Lower Hutt	m 1928 Fred William James TARR	d 30 Nov 1974 Lower Hutt
Daphne May	b 16 Jul 1899 Lower Hutt	m 1921 Donald CAMERON	d 27 Oct 1978 Lower Hutt
Huia George Alexander	b 6 May 1904 Lower Hutt	m 1927 Dorothy WRIGHT	d 25 Aug 1990 Lower Hutt
Meri Love	b 1907 Lower Hutt	m 1953 Frank Edward LARSEN	d 1 Nov 1965 Waikanae Beach

*Evening Post 25 Feb 1904 Death*

On the 25<sup>th</sup> February, at their residence, Sydney-street Cutting, John and Frances Kilmister, husband and wife, aged 96 and 94 respectively.

*Evening Post 25 Feb 1904 A Romance of Everyday Life – The Passing away of Mr and Mrs Kilmister – Some Remarkable Circumstances*

That there can be romance and remarkable coincidences in a quiet life as well as in the life of the adventurous has been proved by the life story of Mr John Kilmister and his wife Frances, both of whom passed away this morning at their residence off Sydney-street Cutting. Away back in Gloucestershire in the early part of last century these two were playmates and sweethearts, and 74 years ago last Christmas Day they were married. Throughout their long married life they were noted for their affection for each other, and their great desire in the closing years of their lives was that they might die together and be interred side by side on the same day. That desire has been in part, and will be wholly, fulfilled, though neither of them was aware of it. Mrs Kilmister, who was in her 95<sup>th</sup> year, and who was conscious almost to the close passed away at 2 o'clock this morning, and her husband, who was two years her senior, died without knowing of his wife's decease, at 9.15 a.m. Mr Kilmister was laid aside on Monday last, and his wife took to her bed on the following day. She had been a victim to rheumatism for 30 years, and got about on crutches during the last 20 years. They had eight children, four born in England, and four in New Zealand. It is remarkable that of the four children who died, two were a son and daughter born in England and the other two were a New Zealand son and daughter. The surviving children are Mr John Kilmister and Mrs Gardner, who were born in England, and Mr James Kilmister and Mrs George Judd, who were born in New Zealand. There are some 50 grandchildren and others to the fourth generation scattered throughout the colony. Mr Kilmister was a cooper by trade, and he also became a brewer and malster whilst a resident in Bath. He was induced by the son of his employer, Mr Dunn, to try his luck in faraway New Zealand, and arrived in Port Nicholson in the Lady Nugent on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 1841. Mr Dunn, who came out by the same vessel, was afterwards drowned in the Wellington harbour. Mr Kilmister and his family went to the Hutt, where he started sawmilling; but a heavy flood set him against the district, and after cutting the necessary timber for a house he rafted it down the river and conveyed it by boat to Wellington. The house then constructed was that afterwards occupied by the late Mr E. W. Mills behind Wellington-terrace. When Wellington's first brewery was established by Messrs Northwood and Drake on the site now occupied by the Wellington Club, Mr Kilmister became the brewer and maltster. The brewery did not prove a success, and Mr Kilmister and his two sons John and William (since deceased) took up land at Porirua, helped to construct the road through Johnsonville and along Tawa Flat. Mr Kilmister *senior*, receiving a wage of one guinea per week for overseeing the Maoris in the construction of the Tawa Flat road, over which work the Hon. W. B. Mantell was general overseer. Mr Kilmister was the first man to put a pick into the Pauatahanui roadworks, also. Then he came back to Wellington and made a start upon the business of a dairyman on the 58-acre farm at the southern end of Tinakori Range now occupied by Mr George Thomas. He assisted the late Mr Woodward in establishing the first Independent, or Congregational Church in Wellington. Mr Kilmister retired from his farm 36 years ago, made a voyage Home with his wife 30 years ago, and on returning to the colony resided for a short time at the Hutt, and then returned to Tinakori-road, in which neighbourhood he lived a very quiet life, taking no part whatever in public affairs.

*Poverty Bay Herald 26 Feb 1904 In Death not Divided – Per Press Association – Wellington, this day*

A remarkable coincident occurred yesterday in connection with the deaths of Mr and Mrs John Kilmister. These two were married in Gloucestershire 74 years ago, and had reached the ages of 95 and 97 respectively. It is said that they had always expressed a great desire that they might die together. That desire was fulfilled. Mrs Kilmister died at 2 o'clock in the morning, and her husband passed away without knowing of his wife's decease seven hours later. They were very well known in the district, having arrived in 1841. Their descendants to the fourth generation are scattered throughout the colony.

*Evening Post 26 Feb 1904 Funeral Notice*

The Funeral of the late John Kilmister and his Wife, Frances Kilmister, will leave the Sydney-street Cutting at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 1904, for the Sydney-street Cemetery. Isaac Clark and Son, Undertakers, 55, Molesworth-st. Tel. 806.

*Colonist 4 Mar 1904 Undivided in Death*

"They were lovely and pleasant in their lives and in their death they were not divided," is the thought that comes directly into one's mind on reading the story of the life and death of Mr and Mrs John Kilmister, an aged couple in Wellington, whose call home came last week. They were born in the same Gloucestershire village, were boy and girl sweethearts in the little school there, were married there as far back as Christmas Day, 1830 – over 73 years ago! – and after a long life partnership, in which each had been everything to the other, passed away in Wellington on Thursday last, within eight hours of each other. Mr Kilmister was taken seriously ill on Monday, Mrs Kilmister took to her bed on Tuesday. Predicting with her dying breath that she and her husband would die on the same day and be buried together, she passed away at 2 a.m. on Thursday, at the advanced age of 94. Her husband, all unconscious that she was already awaiting him on the other side, crossed Death's river too at 9.15 a.m. the same day, at the still greater age of 96, to be reunited for eternity unknowing the temporal tie had been severed. A more beautiful picture of the close union between heart and heart that should always characterise marriage has rarely been presented to the world. "Press"