

THOMAS McDONALD, Son

Birth: 6 Sep 1842 Place: Exton
 Baptism: 25 Dec 1842 Place: Longford, C.E.
 Death: 24 Dec 1907 Place: Ulverstone Age: 65
 Burial: 26 Dec 1907 Place: Ulverstone, C.E.
 Occupation: Splitter (1877) Farmer (1862)
 Carpenter (1882 1887) Farmer (1887 1907)
 Residence: River Leven (1856 1862) Castra Road (1882)
 Upper Castra (1907)
 Father: GEORGE McDONALD (~1801-1878)
 Mother: DELIA FURNER [ALIAS GILLAM] (~1815-1900)

Informant of birth was mother, Delia (x) McDonald. [RGD 1188] Baptism recorded twice 25 December and 9 October 1842. [See C.E. 614 and 608]

License to Marry - bachelor, Green Hills. [NS373/2 No. 2422] Witnesses to marriage were James Fogg [brother-in-law], Maria Louisa Fogg [sister] and William Farmer [brother-in-law?]. [RGD 653]

1899 Hut and Land, Castra, Free Hold. [ER] Cause of death was cystitis and acute nephritis. Dr W.J.A. Walker, MB Ch.B. Informant of death was J.C. Titmus, Carpenter, Ulverstone. [RGD 653] Cemetery records give place of death as Upper Castra. Time of death 'about 9 o'clock'. No Will. See North West Post 27 December 1907 for death. C.E. Burial Register gives age at death as 67 years.

Spouse 1: PRISCILLA FARMAN

Birth: 11 Sep 1845 Place: Valley Field, nr Launceston
 Baptism: 29 Oct 1845 Place: St John's C.E., Launceston
 Death: 28 Feb 1887 Place: Castra Road Age: 41
 Burial: 1 Mar 1887 Place: Leven Church Yard, Ulverstone [No headstone]
 Occupation: Domestic duties
 Father: JOHN FARMAN (~1801-1869)
 Mother: JEAN [or JANE] COOPER (~1804-1849)
 Marriage: 10 Oct 1861 Place: House of Mr McDonald, Green Hills, River Leven,
 C.E., by Lic.

Informant of birth was father, John Farman, Valley Field, [RGD 985] License to marry issued - Priscilla Farmer, Leven, Spinster. [NS373/2 No. 2422] Name written as Farmer but signature Farman. [RGD 653] Burial recorded in C.E. Register as: Priscilla Farman McDonald, 42 years, wife of Mr Thos McDonald, Castra, farmer. Cause of death was myxoedema and valvular heart disease. Informant of death was Arthur J. McDonald, brother-in-law, Castra Road. [RGD 1268]

Children: FRANCES [Frances Hannah] (Died as a child) (1862-1873)
 GEORGE (1864-1931)
 HENRY JOHN (1867-1929)
 THOMAS WILLIAM (1870-1968)
 EDWIN CHARLES (1872-1958)
 ALEXANDER EPHRAIM (Died as a child) (1876-1886)
 CLAUDE ARCHER (1882-1957)

Spouse 2: JANE JORDAN

Birth: by 1871 Place:
 Death: Place:
 Occupation: Widow (1892)
 Marriage: 26 Nov 1892 Place: House of Emma Maria Morey, Latrobe, C.E. by Lic.
 No children

George and Delia McDonald's sixth child was a son whom they named Thomas born 6 September 1842 and baptised on Christmas day of the same year.



He married twice, firstly Priscilla Farman, daughter of John Farman and his de facto wife, the widow Jane Woodhouse.

Thomas and Priscilla were married at *Green Hills*, River Leven on 10 October 1861. The witnesses were his sister Maria Louisa and her husband James Alfred Fogg, and William Farman who, in all probability is the William Woodhouse who married Catherine McDonald and was the son of Jane Woodhouse by her husband Francis Woodhouse, and thus a half-brother to Priscilla.



Between the years 1862 and 1874 Thomas and Priscilla farmed at the Leven. In 1867 and 1868 the valuation Rolls show them with a house and land (sixty-four acres in extent) which may have been Priscilla's father's farm which she was to inherit on his death in 1869.

In 1869 the Valuation Rolls show Thomas on a fifty-acre farm owned by William Mason and this situation continued until 1874. In 1875 Priscilla's 64 acres were conveyed to James Alfred Fogg (Thomas's brother-in-law) for £350.¹

In 1876 and 1877 income came from splitting palings.

In the years between 1882 and 1887 his occupation is that of carpenter, and in 1885 he purchased 51 acres in the parish of Bradworthy near the township reserve of Crawford on the Upper Castra Road, but this is the only year the property appears in the Valuation Roll.²

Thomas and Priscilla had seven children: the eldest, Frances, died in 1873 at the age of ten; and their second youngest son, Alexander Ephraim, died of meningitis when six years of age.

Priscilla died from heart disease at Castra Road on 28 February 1887. She was 41 years old.

Around September 1888, eighteen months after the death of Priscilla, Thomas left his youngest boy Claude, then aged six, in the care of the Brooks family. He was away on the West Coast for several years and although Claude was fed and clothed he wasn't sent to school for most of that period³ as it was too far for him to travel being four miles each way. The Brooks' later took Thomas to court to recover their expenses of £13 16s for forty-six weeks board and lodging.

¹ Lands Department: Book 6/928.

² TAHO: RD1/100: Purchase of land.

³ Enrolled at the Ulverstone State School Tuesday 17 April 1888, but nothing further available.

(Brooks said he (Thomas) also skipped off without paying him his due wages.) Claude's uncles, Joseph McDonald and John Sturzaker, also had charge of the boy for a time.⁴

It was not uncommon for the fledgling settler to spend time prospecting for minerals, no doubt in the hope of a find sufficient to pay off the farm and set him up for life. Brother-in-law James Fogg indulged himself and found small quantities of tin, and John Sturzaker involved himself in the Black Bluff gold discoveries of the late 1890s, and both men had their fingers burnt in the Penguin Creek Silver Mine debacle, as did many other locals. So it would be surprising if Thomas did not take up tent and pick while he was working on the West Coast, and as his son Thomas William did, an account of what the prospector could expect is included here:

Many people who are not acquainted with the peculiar characteristics of the Tasmanian bush express surprise that a little island like Tasmania has not been fully explored years ago; a short practical experience of "swagging it" generally makes them wonder that it has ever been explored at all.

Certainly our bush, more especially that lying to the westward, is not a kind country for the prospector, the man who has done the greater part of the exploration of this colony. Standing upon some eminence, from which an extended view of the western country can be seen, the traveller sees before him range behind range, like the petrified billows of some giant sea, gradually fading from their sombre olive-green till they mix with the blue of the sky and disappear. This is the country he has to traverse, loaded with his flour and bacon and tent, too often to have the profits of his labours reaped by others. Seventy or eighty pounds is not an unusual weight for a man to start upon a trip with: as he has to allow at least one pound of flour for each day he is out, besides, his bacon, tent, and tools. Scrambling through the ferns, and over horizontal scrub and bauera with this load is a matter that requires considerable practice, as the tendency of the load is to pitch a man forward upon his nose upon the slightest provocation: and it is not unusual to see a novice dive headforemost over a log, to the general disorganisation of his temper and his swag.

The tools of trade invariably consist of a tin dish, a pick, and a short-handled shovel...when once secured a good shovel is a carefully treasured article. Many a prospector is compelled to abandon his tools and tent, but always saves his shovel, if it is a good one. Many also take a light iron pestle and mortar, with which to test any likely looking stone they may come across. When the whole of the kit and provisions is got together they are generally wrapped up in a tent, strapped at the top and bottom, and fitted to the shoulders with straps, and with this load, the prospector plods away on his journey. Of course any fast travelling is out of the question, and two miles an hour is about the average pace. In many places a mile a day is the maximum distance covered when the bête noir of bushmen, the horizontal scrub is encountered. Its growth may best be explained to those unacquainted with its appearance by asking them to imagine a tangled fishing net bundled irregularly along the ground and then to imagine each string a living stem varying in thickness from a penholder to a man's thigh. If it cannot be crawled under, it has to be

⁴ North West Post: 18 May 1893 pg 4 c1-2.

*climbed over, and sometimes the climber is thirty feet above the ground...Another cheerful scrub encountered is the bauera, an unfailing indication of worthless soil. It is like a horizontal scrub on a very much smaller scale, and consists of a tangled mass of wire-like stems which cannot be broken. The only way to cross it is to keep throwing the pack ahead and keep rolling after it. The prospector has always his eyes open for "indications", such as quartz, granite, slate, and so forth, and as he reaches each creek, he puts down a little pothole in the drift and carefully washes it in his dish...Certainly the life of the prospector is a hard and often an unrewarded one, and no one will grudge him what he may get. To many a one of these lonely wanderers the country is indebted to an extent that is not appreciated for years, and often when the reward does come it is too late.*⁵

Returning to life at Castra, we find that Thomas married a second time in 1892. His new wife was Jane Jordan, widow, on the marriage certificate. Thomas and Jane were married at Latrobe. A marriage notice in the *North West Post* states the lady was Jane Taylor, late of Surrey, England.:—

*“McDONALD—TAYLOR—On November 26, at Latrobe, by the Rev W. Hogg, Thomas McDonald, of Ulverstone, to Jane Taylor, late of Surrey, England.”*⁶

From the many stories told of him it would seem that Thomas was a drinking man. One story tells of his getting merry at the hotel in Ulverstone and of his deciding to sleep it off. While he was sleeping some of his friends tied bullock horns to his head and there was much mirth when he awoke, felt his head and on discovering the horns exclaimed that he 'went to sleep Tommy McDonald and woke a bull'.⁷

Then we have the story told by (the late) James Biddle his grand-nephew of how he and Thomas and Thomas's second wife were travelling into Ulverstone — Jim driving the bullocks and the others seated on top of the load of palings they were bringing in. On this occasion Thomas wasn't the only one to be thirsty; the bullocks were too and on approaching a creek desire overcame them and they bolted, dashed into the water, and overturned the dray with Thomas and his wife landing in the nearby paddock. Unhurt and undeterred Thomas and his wife walked the rest of the way to Ulverstone leaving Jim to reload the palings.⁸

Thomas died on 24 December 1907 after a short illness.

⁵ Tasmanian Mail: Saturday 13 July 1895 pg 32 c4.

⁶ North West Post: Tuesday 29 November 1892, pg 2.

⁷ Hearsay: Late Harry McDonald.

⁸ Hearsay: Late James Biddle.

FRANCES McDONALD, Granddaughter

| | | |
|------------|------------------------------|--|
| Birth: | 25 Aug 1862 | Place: River Leven |
| Baptism: | 27 Oct 1862 | Place: St Mark's C.E., Deloraine |
| Death: | 25 Mar 1873 | Place: Castra Road Age: 10 |
| Burial: | 27 Mar 1873 | Place: River Leven [C.E. No headstone] |
| Residence: | River Leven; Castra Road | |
| Father: | THOMAS McDONALD (1842-1907) | |
| Mother: | PRISCILLA FARMAN (1845-1887) | |

Also known as Frances Harriet and Frances Hannah.

Informant of birth was father, Thomas McDonald, River Leven. [RGD 1425]

Baptism found in Deloraine Parish Register - clergyman travelled.

Date of birth given as 15 August 1862. [C.E.].

Died aged 10 years. Cause of death was diarrhoea [sic]. Informant was Samuel (x) Haydon, Farmer's son, River Leven. [RGD 448]

GEORGE McDONALD, Grandson

Birth: 9 Dec 1864 Place: River Leven
Death: 6 May 1931 Place: Spencer Hospital, Wynyard Age: 66
Burial: 7 May 1931 Place: New Wynyard Cemetery
Occupation: Farmer (1898 1902) Labourer (1912 1914 1919 1921 1922)
Residence: Upper Castra (1898 1902) Sprent (1909 1912 1914 1919 1921 1922) Stowport
Father: THOMAS McDONALD (1842-1907)
Mother: PRISCILLA FARMAN (1845-1887)

Informant of birth was Thos. McDonald, farmer, Leven. [RGD 1281]

Stated he was a farmer aged 32 years at time of marriage. Gave his residence as Upper Castra and his birthplace as Ulverstone. Stated his parents were Thomas McDonald, farmer, and Priscilla McDonald. Witnesses to marriage were Thomas Isaac Biddle and Emma Delia Biddle. [Wesleyan Marriage Register entry No. 8]

'Lived in little house [with 2 letterboxes] in Sprent. Split 6000 palings for Sprent Hotel with C. McPherson, then Jack Garland. Lost farm over it.' [Mr Marshall, Sprent, ca February 1984]

"Wynyard News: Last Rites. The funeral of the late Mr George M'Donald took place at Wynyard yesterday and was attended by relatives and friends from Stowport and district. The chief mourners were the four sons of the deceased, Messrs T., G., A., and P. M'Donald, and daughter Mrs L. Coombe; also Mr E. M'Donald, (brother) and other relatives." [Advocate 8 May 1931]

For death notice see Advocate Thursday 7 May 1931.

Spouse: MAUDE MARY BECKETT

Birth: 26 Aug 1878 Place: Falmouth, Fingal
Death: aft May 1937 Place:
Occupation: Domestic duties (1898 1912 1921)
Residence: Launceston (1937)
Father: RICHARD BECKETT (ca1857-1907)
Mother: ANNA RILET (-1896)
Marriage: 23 Mar 1898 Place: Wesleyan Church, Forth, by Lic.

Birth not confirmed. May have been registered as Rhoda Mary

Stated she was a spinster aged 19 years at time of marriage. Gave her residence as Upper Castra and her birthplace as Falmouth. Daughter of Richard Beckett and Anna Beckett. [Wesleyan Marriage Register entry No. 8]

Called Mabel Mary on son Ash's marriage certificate.

Children: THOMAS RICHARD (1898-1963)
GEORGE (1900-1972)
WILLIAM ARCHER [Ash] (1902-1979)
PERCY ARTHUR (1904-1968)
FLORA (1909-1991)
IRENE FRANCES BECKETT [Jean] (1910-1978)
MARY RILET (1913-1988)

George was the eldest son and second child of Thomas and Priscilla McDonald. He was born at the Leven on 9 December 1864.

On 23 March 1898, at the age of thirty-three, licence in hand, he married nineteen-year old Mary Maud Beckett at the Forth Wesleyan Church. His cousin Emma Delia (Sturzaker) Biddle and her husband, Thomas Biddle were witnesses.

George and Mary's first child, a son Thomas Richard, was born at Upper Castra in November 1898 and was followed by George (1900), William Archer (1902), Percy Arthur (1904), Jean, Flora (1908), Irene (1910), and Mary Rilet (1913).

They appear to have left the district some-time after the birth of Mary in 1913 and possibly moved to the south of the state.

HENRY JOHN McDONALD, Grandson

| | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| Birth: | 24 Oct 1867 | Place: River Leven |
| Baptism: | 2 Feb 1868 | Place: Forth & Leven C.E. |
| Death: | 9 Apr 1929 | Place: Public Hospital, Launceston Age: 61 |
| Burial: | 11 Apr 1929 | Place: Carr Villa Cemetery, Launceston |
| Occupation: | Labourer (1914 1919 1921 1922 1928) | |
| Residence: | Upper Castra (1914 1919 1921 1922) Castra (1928) | |
| Father: | THOMAS McDONALD (1842-1907) | |
| Mother: | PRISCILLA FARMAN (1845-1887) | |

Informant of birth was father, Thomas McDonald, farmer, Leven. Mother's maiden name incorrectly stated as 'Jarman'. [RGD 1344]

Date of birth on baptism given as 21 November 1867. [C.E. 3]

'Good splitter. Lived Barren Hill.' [Mr Marshall, Sprent, ca Feb 1984]

For death and funeral notice Examiner Thursday 11 April 1929.

Carr Villa Cemetery Plot B12 Lot 120.

Died intestate and in poor circumstances. His brother George was granted Letters of Administration.

Not known if married or any issue.

THOMAS WILLIAM McDONALD, Grandson

Birth: 28 Jan 1870 Place: River Leven
Baptism: 6 Feb 1870 Place: Forth & Leven C.E.
Death: 14 Aug 1968 Place: Wellington, New Zealand Age: 98
Burial: 20 Aug 1968 Place: Karori Cemetery, Wellington, New Zealand
Occupation: Contractor (1898) Soldier; Real Estate Agent & Land Broker (1925) Member of Parliament
Residence: Place: River Leven; Wellington (1898 1925), New Zealand
Father: THOMAS McDONALD (1842-1907)
Mother: PRISCILLA FARMAN (1845-1887)

Informant of birth was R.H. Davies for Thos. McDonald, River Leven. [RGD 1325] Date of birth given as 23 December 1869 on baptism. [C.E. p11]

Went to New Zealand in 1893. [See Tasmanian Mail 7 January 1899 and 10 November 1906] Living Queen's Road, Lower Hutt, New Zealand Xmas 1908. Re-visited Tasmania in 1908. Spent 2 years in England from 1911 while in the army. Commanded the Otago Battalion in 1914. Retired from the army aged 50+. New Zealand Expeditionary Force 1914-18 War:

Reg. No. 8/1071 Rank: Lieut-Colonel; Name: Thomas William McDonald; Body or Reinforcement Draft: Main Body; Unit or Regiment: Otago Infantry Battalion; Married; Last NZ address 42 Queen Street, Dunedin; Military District: Otago; Next of Kin: Mrs Amy Gertrude McDonald, wife, 42 Queen St., Dunedin.

Assistant Adjutant General, Wellington.

Elected Mayor of Lower Hutt on 20 April 1905. See Obituary "Evening Post" (New Zealand) 17 August 1968.

See Tasmanian Mail 23 February 1911 p24 for photo and article 'The Cadet Movement in New Zealand'. See Evening Post [New Zealand] 17 August 1968 for death.

Spouse: AMY GERTRUDE KIMBELL

Birth: 11 May 1879 Place: Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand
Death: Oct 1960 Place: Wellington, NZ Age: 80
Burial: 18 Oct 1960 Place: Karori Cemetery, Wellington
New Zealand
Father: ALFRED CHARLES KIMBELL
Mother: ELIZA PALMER
Marriage: 7 Dec 1898 Place: St Peter's Church,
Wellington, New Zealand

Daughter of Alfred Charles Kimbell and Eliza, nee Palmer. Father a clerk.

Children: JEAN AMY PRISCILLA (1899-1982)
HECTOR ALFRED WILLIAM FARMER (1901-1960)
JACK HAZARD NGATATA (1907-1932)



Of their seven children the third son, Thomas William (Bill), born at River Leven on 28 January 1870, was perhaps the most successful.

The *Tasmanian Mail* of 10 November 1906 has this to say of his career:

Mr T.W. McDonald, who was elected Mayor of Lower Hutt [New Zealand on April 20, 1905 and re-elected on April 20, 1906 (unopposed), was born at Castra-road, Ulverstone, Tasmania, in 1869, [sic] and was educated at the State-schools there. He started life as a farmer on the late Colonel A. Crawford's estate, Deyrah, where he remained for ten years, during which time much was done to improve his education, by the members of Colonel Crawford's family. Living so long with a military family, Mr McDonald became imbued with the military spirit, and took lessons in drill from the time he was 14 years old until he joined the Tasmanian Auxiliary Force at the age of 17. Private McDonald passed through all the N.C.O. ranks, during which time he won the Crown and Crossed Rifles for best rifle shot in the district of West Devon. N.C.O. McDonald attended the Military School of Instruction at Hobart during two years, on each occasion winning highest honours amongst the N.C.O.'s, and the second year he qualified for lieutenant. Mr McDonald was one of a party of pioneer diggers who first prospected the Mount Zeehan silver fields on the West Coast of Tasmania, and he met with such small success that it wound up with his having to walk from Mount Zeehan to Mount Bischoff, a distance of about 95 miles without anything to eat except a small piece of bread and a tin of Swiss milk. He went to New Zealand in 1893, and proceeded to the East Coast, where he entered into a contract to fell 60 acres of dense bush for 30s. per acre, which engaged his attention for about six months, after which he returned to Wellington, and a little later joined the Permanent Force (now the Royal New Zealand Artillery).



After a course in gunnery he left the artillery and assisted in the formation of the Kelburne Rifle Volunteers, of which he was the first lieutenant for about two years.⁹ On another occasion the *Mail* adds further details, stating that Thomas William:

⁹ This extract was taken from the *New Zealand Mail* of Wednesday 3 October 1906.

began his military career in the No. 4 Company of the West Devon Rifle Volunteers auxiliary force as a private and gradually worked up, step by step, until, in 1892, he passed the necessary examination for the rank of lieutenant at the School of Instruction in Hobart.¹⁰

When in New Zealand he was appointed military drill instructor of the cadets under the jurisdiction of the Wellington Education Board.¹¹

In February 1908 he returned to Tasmania for a short visit whilst Assistant Adjutant-General of the New Zealand Military Forces. He arrived on 6 February, on the ship *Oonah* from Melbourne. On the 24th he attended a Launceston City Council meeting and the next day visited Perth. The *North West Post*, Monday 9 March 1908 records that he made an inspection of the trial potato plots a short distance from Ulverstone in the company of the Hon. H.A. Nicholls, Mr W. Henry, the American Consul, and the Premier of Tasmania.

On Thursday 12 March a farewell social was held in his honour at the Sprent Hall. Over two hundred people attended with some coming from as far away as Stowport and Barrington. There was dancing and songs by Miss Moore, Mr Wood, and others, and Mr J. Stalker 'delighted the audience with some selections on the bagpipes'.

The Hon. H.A. Nicholls presented Bill with a gold medal in the shape of a map of Tasmania (with a red stone marking Sprent) and made a 'happy speech':

Captain McDonald who was much affected, briefly returned thanks, and stated he had done nothing to warrant this splendid treatment, as in advancing their interests he had also thought of his own.

After supper dancing was indulged in till a late hour! He left for Melbourne by the *Loongana* on 17 March, where he was to spend some days in Victoria and afterwards in NSW before returning to New Zealand.¹²

While he was in Tasmania Bill visited his brother Edwin at Stowport and his niece Stella Purton recalls that, 'he brought me a dear little cup with my name and date the year 1908 on it in gold letters it is crystal at the top and ruby.'¹³

Following his involvement with the volunteers he was specially selected for two years attachment to the British Army for higher field training. While at Aldershot the *North West Post*¹⁴ records that he prepared for the examination for the rank of colonel:

This rank he has now brilliantly succeeded in attaining, having passed with distinction in the first division. In military tactics, Colonel M'Donald distinguished

¹⁰ Tasmanian Mail: Saturday 7 January 1899.

¹¹ North West Post: Friday 6 January 1899 pg 4.

¹² North West Post: 17, 22, 25 February 1905; 09, 14, 19 March 1908 pg 2.

¹³ Personal correspondence late Stella Purton.

¹⁴ Daily Post: Saturday 28 December 1912, pg 7.

himself by securing the highest number of marks amongst the entrants from all over the Empire.

While he was in England Thomas William attended the farewell banquet in honour of Sir John M'Call, Tasmania's Agent-General, which was held in London.

McDONALD, Lt.-Colonel Thomas William, real estate agent and land broker, Wellington. B. Silverstone, Tas., 1869, s. of Thos. McDonald; m., 1898, Amy Gertrude, d. of A. C. Kimbell; two s., one d. Ed. Tas. State schs.; mayor of Lr. Hutt 1905-6, 1906-7; mem. Well. Educ. Bd., Well. and Petone Tech. Educ. Bds., Hutt River Bd.; exec. officer Central Bd. of Mil. Exams.; pres. Petone Rifle Club; exec. Municipal Assn. 2 yrs.; lieut. Kelburn Rifle Vols. 18 months; gunner Royal N.Z. Artillery 2 yrs.; organiser and comdg. officer Public Sch. Cadet Force Well. dist.; 1st pres. N.Z. Branch Aust. Natives' Assn.; graduated from ranks to subst.-colonelcy; headed list for Empire 1912 exams. tactical fitness in field; attended course Chatham, Longmoor, etc.; O.C. Otago Batt. Main Body until invalided; O.C. Otago and Well. dists.; pres. Palm. N. and Dun. R.S.A., and Otago dist. do.; 27 yrs. N.Z.S.C.; 1914-5 star, etc.; long service medal; author of "Physical Training for Schools" and "M.R. Training"; fishing, wild game shooting, rifle shooting, long distance walking.

Who's Who in New Zealand and the Western Pacific 1925¹⁵

¹⁵ Accessed Ancestry.com. Note the incorrect birth place.

On the outbreak of war Thomas was appointed to command the Otago Battalion of the main body of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. In September 1914 he was considered fit for service, passing all aspects of the medical examination. He was 45 years of age, 5 ft 9 inches tall, had brown hair and bluish coloured eyes. He left New Zealand on 15 October 1914 and disembarked at Alexandria on 3 December 1914. However, his overseas service was curtailed when a Duodenal ulcer was diagnosed whilst in Cairo, Egypt in December 1914 and forced him to be invalided to England and thence to New Zealand for home service in the New Zealand Staff Corps with the rank of Major. Thomas was a member of the United Party in the New Zealand Parliament from 1929.¹⁶

Bill married a Dunedin born girl, Amy Gertrude Kimbell in Wellington in 1898:—

A wedding which attracted a considerable amount of attention took place at St. Peter's Schoolroom this afternoon, the contracting parties being Mr. T.W. Macdonald, of the Education Board's staff (formerly of Launceston), and Miss Amy Gertrude Kimbell, fourth daughter of Mr. A.C. Kimbell, of the Lands and Survey Department. The bride wore a puce-coloured silk dress, trimmed with cream broche, and a white straw hat, trimmed with ostrich tips and lily of the valley. Miss Maude W. Kimbell (her sister) was bridesmaid, and was dressed in a blue spotted muslin dress and leghorn hat trimmed with ribbons to match. The bridegroom, who was attended by Mr. Kimbell, jun., presented the bride with a gold bracelet and a set of Wedgwood ware, and the bridesmaid with a gold dove brooch. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. W.C. Waters, and at its conclusion the bridal party drove to Mrs. Kimbell's residence, where a reception was held. The honeymoon is to be spent in the Wairarapa. Amongst the wedding presents were gifts from the Boys' Institute Cadets, of which the bridegroom is captain, and the staff of the Education Board.¹⁷

They had a family of three, two sons and a daughter and there are numerous descendants.

He died in Wellington, New Zealand on 14 August 1968 aged 98 years.¹⁸

¹⁶ Evening Post (New Zealand): Saturday 17 August 1968.

¹⁷ Evening Post (New Zealand): Wednesday 7 December 1898

¹⁸ Hearsay: Late Jean Hutchinson , and Lower Hutt City Corporation Monday 17 March 1969.

CLAUDE ARCHER McDONALD, Grandson

Birth: 15 Jun 1882 Place: Castra Road
Baptism: 1 Oct 1882 Place: Forth & Leven C.E.
Death: Aug 1957 Place: Fitzroy, Victoria
Burial: 20 Aug 1957 Place: Fawkner Cemetery, Fawkner, Victoria
Occupation: Labourer (1906 1925 1931 1943 1949 1954) Fettle (1919)
Residence: West Devonport (1906) Oonah (1919)
Residence: Gippsland, Victoria (1925) Healesville, Victoria (1931)
Residence: Fitzroy, Victoria (1943 1949 1954)
Father: THOMAS McDONALD (1842-1907)
Mother: PRISCILLA FARMAN
(1845-1887)

Informant of birth was his father, Thomas McDonald, Carpenter, Castra Road. His mother was Priscilla McDonald formerly Farmer [sic]. [RGD 2932]

Admitted to the Ulverstone State School 17 April 1888 aged 5 years and 3 months. [Admission Register entry No. 569]

Cared for by Joseph Brooks 11 September 1888 - 30 July 1889 then went to his uncle, Mr Sturzaker... [North West Post 18 May 1893]

No Tasmanian marriage found to 1930.

No Tasmanian death found to 1930.

Note that this death date has not been confirmed.

