

DELIA McDONALD, Daughter

Birth: 27 Apr 1853 Place: Westbury
Baptism: 12 Mar 1854 Place: St Andrew's C.E., Westbury
Death: 12 Feb 1926 Place: New Town Infirmary, Hobart Age: 72
Burial: 13 Feb 1926 Place: Cornelian Bay/ Kingston Lawn Cemetery
Occupation: Farmer's daughter (1869) Domestic Duties (1912 1914-1925)
Residence: Place: Castra Road [Sprent]; Castra (1912 1914-1925)
Father: GEORGE McDONALD (~1801-1878)
Mother: DELIA FURNER [ALIAS GILLAM] (~1815-1900)

Informant of birth was Delia (x) McDonald. [RGD 1143] Date of birth on Baptism given as 4 February 1854. [C.E. Baptism Register]

Witnesses to marriage were William Warden and Frances Sturzaker [sister]. Illiterate. Date of marriage registered as 29 March 1869 but shown as 1 March 1869 on original. [RGD 577 and C.E.]

Admitted to the New Town Infirmary 14 September 1925 at the age of 60 years. Cause of death was senility and syncope. Dr W. Inglis Clark. Informant of death was L. Woodhouse for Superintendent, New Town Infirmary. [RGD 1364]

No death or funeral notice published in the Mercury or Advocate. See entry in Cornelian Bay Burials Index. Have taken day of registration as burial date but this may not be correct. See section C.E. W 150. See Advocate 17 February 1926 for obituary.

Spouse: HENRY WARDEN

Birth: 5 Apr 1847 Place: Launceston District
Baptism: 16 May 1847 Place: St Joseph's Church, Launceston, Catholic
Death: 5 Sep 1900 Place: Killicuddy, Castra Age: 53
Burial: 8 Sep 1900 Place: Ulverstone Cemetery, C.E. [Headstone]
Occupation: Farmer (1869 1900) Splitter (1877) Carter (1879)
Father: HENRY WARDEN (~1808-1886)
Mother: JULIA DALEY (~1820-1875)
Marriage: 1 Mar 1869 Place: House of Mr George McDonald senr, *Greenhills*,
River Leven, C.E., by Lic.

Birth not registered. See Baptism RC Launceston entry No. 215. Born 5 April 1847. Father Henry Warden and mother Julia Daley. Abode Launceston. Godmother Catherine Fitzgibbon.

1890-91 Henry Warden, Castra Road, Free Holder, House and Land, Castra Road. [ER]

According to Mr Marshall of Sprent (Feb 1984) the Warden's lived on the flats before Clayton, on Moreton Road.

Cause of death 'crushed by a log'. Inquest 6 September 1900. Informant of death was J.H. O'Neill, Sub-Inspector of Police, Ulverstone. [RGD 848] See North West Post 8 September 1900 and Examiner 7 September 1900

Children: HENRIETTA (1870-1957)
HARRIETTE SOPHIA (1872-1940)
AMY FRANCES (1874-1952)
ANNA MARIA [Hannah Maria] (1877-1927)
HENRY WILLIAM (1879-1968)
ERNEST LESLIE (Did not marry) (1881-1921)
LLEWELLYN HENRY (1884-1959)
HILDA MARY (1886-)
MARJERY [MARJORIE] McDONALD (1894-1976)

Delia McDonald, who was born in the Westbury district (probably Exton) on 27 April 1853, was married to Henry Warden at *Greenhills*, River Leven on 1 March 1869, with her sister Frances Sturzaker and his brother William Warden as witnesses. He was 21 years of age and she was 15, going on 16. They lived at Sprent.

Delia's husband, Henry Warden was the son of convicts, Henry Warden (*Georgiana*, 1829) and Julia Daley (*Gilbert Henderson* 1840). He was born at Launceston on 5 April 1847 and baptised a Catholic. Henry senr. was tried at Warwick in August 1828 at the age of twenty for stealing in a dwelling house and sentenced to transportation for life. He was a jeweller by occupation. He died at Castra Road [Sprent] in 1886.¹

Four daughters were born to Delia and Henry before their first son Henry was born in 1879. He was followed by two more sons, and finally two daughters. Their second daughter, Harriet, lived with her aunt and uncle Fogg.

On the 27th August 1872 an unusual assortment of goods was stolen from Henry's hut on the Castra Road and a list published in the Police Gazette of 6 September 1872. The stolen items were as follows:

1 flutina², 11 keys; 1 black cloth coat, nearly new, burnt spots on left breast; 1 salmon-color dress piece, about 7 yards in length; 1 white and red flowered muslin dress, flounced at the bottom; 1 white petticoat; 1 baby's cape, large size, trimmed with white muslin embroidery; 1 infant's robe, white; 1 ditto petticoat; 3 pairs of lady's drawers; 1 lady's night-dress, lace trimming; 1 pair lady's riding cuffs: all identifiable.³

No one was suspected of this dastardly crime and I don't know if the items were ever recovered, if not, the loss would have been quite a blow for Delia and her two little girls. I don't know what the well-dressed subsistence-farmer's wife would have been wearing at this time, perhaps a modified version of the old-fashioned crinoline or the new fashion of the bustle which was beginning to make its mark at this time. Eleven keys seem to be somewhat excessive: I wonder what they opened!

Henry, who combined farming pursuits with tree felling, splitting etc, was working in the bush in the locality known as Killacuddy at Castra with two of his sons (Leslie and Llewellyn) when he was killed on 5 September 1900. A log being sawn by Leslie broke off and rolled down the steep hillside, crushing Henry when he slipped and fell into its path.⁴

A shocking accident occurred yesterday at a spot known as Killacuddy, Payne's road, near Sprent, resulting in the death of Henry Warden, an old, well-known, and much-respected resident of that part.

Warden was engaged with his sons, Leslie, and Llewellyn, aged 19 and 17 years, getting a tree ready for splitting into palings. The tree had been felled on a slope of the hill. The head having been cut off, one of the sons was sawing off the butt on the waste end. Deceased got to the lower side of the log, to see that everything was clear for rolling it down the hill to a spot convenient for splitting it up. Immediately the butt end was off, the log started away, and before the deceased could get clear it went over him, and simply crushed the life out of him. The log. was about 11ft, long and 4ft. 6in through at the small end, and would weigh about 5 tons. Death must have been instantaneous. Assistance was sought for, quickly arrived,

and the body removed to deceased's residence, near Sprent. Warden was a native of the River Tamar, and was 52 years of age. As a woodsman, splitter, and bushman he was second to none in the district. He was of a genial temperament, and most upright in all his

¹ RGD: Ulverstone 1199.

² The flutina is an early precursor to the button accordion.

³ AOT: POL 709/2 Police Gazette, Reports of Crimes 5 September 1872 p146.

⁴ North West Post: 8 September 1900 and Examiner 7 September 1900.

dealings. His untimely death is deeply regretted. A widow and nine children are left to mourn his sad death, and their loss.

An inquest was held at deceased's residence this afternoon, before Coroner Collett and a jury, of whom Mr. P. Culgan was foreman. After hearing the evidence of Dr. G. Stuart, Constable Callanan, the two sons, and deceased's wife, the jury found that the deceased, Henry Warden, met his death from being crushed by a rolling log which his son Leslie had sawn off, no blame being attached to any one.⁵

Delia died at the New Town Infirmary in 1926. She had been admitted on 14 September 1925.

⁵ The Mercury: Friday 7 September 1900.

HENRIETTA WARDEN, Granddaughter

Birth: 16 May 1870 Place: River Leven
Baptism: 26 Jun 1870 Place: Forth & Leven C.E.
Death: 25 Feb 1957 Place: 58 Kooyong Road, Armadale, Victoria Age: 86
Burial: 26 Feb 1957 Place: Burwood Cemetery, Victoria
Occupation: Farmer's Daughter (1887) Domestic Duties (1914-1930) Home Duties (1957)
Residence: Sprent (1914-1921) Central Castra (1922-1930)
Residence: 58 Kooyong Road, Armadale (1957)
Father: HENRY WARDEN (1847-1900)
Mother: DELIA McDONALD (1853-1926)

Informant of birth was [uncle] J.A. Fogg, Storekeeper, Leven. [RGD 1399]

See Examiner 12 September 1887 for marriage notice. Witnesses to marriage were Henry Ponsonby and Alfred Champion and Harriett Warden. [RGD 906]

Described as 'very pretty but not well educated' by Mrs A. Piercey. She said that he left her. Ponsonby was from an aristocratic family.

Died at her home, aged 84 [sic] years. Cause of death was coronary thrombosis, arteriosclerosis, hypertension and cerebral thrombosis. Dr M. Lauricella. Informant of death was F. Smith, High Street, Malvern. Lived 81 years in Tasmania and 3 years in Victoria. Two children who died in infancy are not listed on death certificate. [VIC RGD 2407]

Spouse: GEORGE ARTHUR PONSONBY Esq.

Birth: 1864 Place: Whitehaven, Cumberland, England
Baptism: 14 Aug 1864 Place: Saint Bees, Cumberland, England
Death: 2 Jun 1936 Place: Hobart Age: 72
Burial: 3 Jun 1936 Place: Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart
Occupation: Farmer (1889 1891 1893 1896) Dairyman (1891) Traveller (1914)
Collector (1925)
Father: CAPT. JOHN PONSONBY (1820-1872)
Mother: MARY ANNE GOODFELLOW[?] (1826-1876)
Marriage: 7 Sep 1887 Place: House of Henry Warden, Morton, Castra, C.E.

For birth see FreeBMD web site: George Arthur Ponsonby Whitehaven June Quarter 1864 10b 567.

Baptised at Saint Bees, Cumberland. Father John Ponsonby a Master Mariner. Mother Mary Anne. [Parish Register Page 74 entry No. 2188]

5th s/o Capt John Ponsonby and Mary Anne, nee [Goodfellow?] Saint Bees, Cumberland, England. See IGI Batch C036861 7256 Input 090644 and 090645 Printout 6904698 Source.

1890-91 George A. Ponsonby, Castra Road, Free Holder, Farm, Castra Road. [ER]

See Mercury 3 June 1936 for death.

Children: DORA WHITEHEAD (1889-1969)
MARY MCCALL (1891-1973)
NELLIE GERRARD (1893-1893)
HENRIETTA (1894-1894)
FREDERICK HENRY (1896-1982)

Henrietta Warden, the eldest child, was born at the Leven on 16 May 1870. She married George Ponsonby the fifth son of a Captain John Ponsonby of St Bees, Cumberland, England, at *Moreton, Castra* on 7 September 1887.⁶

Henrietta has been described as 'a great beauty' but this alone was not enough to hold the marriage together, and eventually the pair split up.

In the year 1881 George, at the age of 16 years, was working as an apprentice. By this time both of his parents had died and he was living with his four unmarried siblings at Toxteth Park in Lancashire.⁷

Henrietta was living with her mother when her brother Lesley died in 1921. No doubt this was a practical course of action with George "on the road" and her aged and infirm mother needing care. Throughout 1938 and 1939 Henrietta suffered much ill health and was hospitalised on numerous occasions.⁸

Her husband George Ponsonby was working in Hobart for the Hobart Gas Company from 1915 to 1925, at which time he made a trip home to Cumberland, and intended to visit other parts of England and Scotland.⁹ He travelled on the P & O vessel, *Moldavia* which was carrying Tasmanian apples for the UK market. He returned to Hobart in late 1925¹⁰ and the Gas Company in 1928, and remaining there until his death in 1936.¹¹



Mr. George Arthur Ponsonby, an old and respected servant of the Hobart Gas Company, died in his 73rd year at Hobart on Tuesday, and was buried at Cornelian Bay Cemetery yesterday. The chief mourners were his brother, Mr. Alfred S. Ponsonby, of Ulverstone, his daughters, Mrs. E. A. Littler and Miss M. Ponsonby, and his son, Mr. F. Ponsonby, of Geeveston. The burial service was conducted by the Rev. T. K. Pitt, and among those at the graveside were the deputy chairman of the Hobart Gas Company (Mr. A. J. Miller),

**Henrietta Ponsonby (left) and Hannah Stalker (right)
Photo: G. Mulhern**

⁶ Examiner: 12 September 1887 p1 and Mercury: 3 June 1936.

⁷ 1881 Census 13 Hadassah Grove, Toxteth Park, Lancashire RG11 Piece: 3652 Folio: 21 pg 35.

⁸ A.O.T.: HSD 370/2 Ulverstone District Hospital General Case Book 2 July 1938-2 February 1944.

⁹ Mercury: Saturday 28 March and Monday 11 May 1925.

¹⁰ George left London on 3 November 1925 aboard the *Jervis Bay*.

¹¹ Hearsay: Late Mrs Alleyne Piercey; Mercury 3 June 1936.

Messrs. A. C. Walch and C. H. Grant (directors), and H. A. Chalmers (secretary), and members of the staff and employees of the company, Messrs. A. McGregor, N. Hurst, and J. Lee. The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Clark Brothers.

Mr. Ponsonby, who was the fifth son of the late Captain John Ponsonby, of St. Bees, Cumberland, England, was born at Whitehaven, In Cumberland, and educated at St. Bees Grammar School. He was a member of the ancient and famous Ponsonby family. He entered the service of the Hobart Gas Company as outdoor representative in 1915, and left in 1925 to make a trip to England.¹² He returned to Hobart in 1928, [sic] and rejoined the company, which he served until a few days ago. Because of a sudden illness he was taken to a Hobart hospital, and died following an operation. He was beloved by all who knew him in business and private life. He was a great reader and a lover of the works of Charles Dickens.¹³

Henrietta died in Armadale, Victoria in 1957.

There were five Ponsonby children: Dora, Mrs Edwin Littler (born 1889 and named after her Aunt Dora Ponsonby), Mary (1891), Nellie (born and died 1893), Henrietta (born and died 1894), and Frederick (1896).

¹² The Argus: Saturday 5 December and Saturday 12 December 1925. George returned by the TSS Jervis Bay, leaving London on 3 November 1925, and arriving in Fremantle on 4 December and Melbourne on 11 December 1925.

¹³ *The Mercury: Thursday 4 June 1936.*

HARRIETTE SOPHIA WARDEN, Granddaughter

Birth: 1 Mar 1872 Place: River Leven
Baptism: 29 Mar 1872 Place: Forth & Leven C.E.
Death: 15 Jul 1940 Place: Private Hospital, Hobart Age: 68
Burial: 16 Jul 1940 Place: Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart
Occupation: Lady (1900) Domestic Duties (1914 1916 1921 1925 1928)
Residence: Ulverstone; 131 Patrick St, Hobart (1914 1916 1921 1925 1928 1940)
Father: HENRY WARDEN (1847-1900)
Mother: DELIA McDONALD (1853-1926)

Informant of birth was [uncle] A.J. [sic] Fogg, Storekeeper, River Leven. [RGD 1318] Birth date given as 17 Feb 1872 on baptism.

Stated she was a lady and a spinster, aged 27 years, at time of marriage. Gave her birthplace as Ulverstone, and her parents as Henry Warden, farmer, and Deliah [sic] Warden. Witnesses to the marriage were F. Back and M. Fogg, both of Ulverstone. [RGD 1205]

"Married at uncle Fogg's residence 'Chestnut Villa'. Lived with Fogg's. Companion to May Fogg." [A. Piercey]

See Mercury 16 July 1940 for death notice.

Spouse: JOHN EDMUND BINGHAM

Birth: ca 1866 Place: Sorell
Death: 23 Jul 1946 Place: Private Hospital, Hobart Age: 80
Burial: 25 Jul 1946 Place: Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart
Occupation: Draftsman; Surveyor (1914 1916 1921 1925 1928 1946)
Father: JAMES GEORGE BINGHAM (1835-1911)
Mother: SARAH REBECCA MCGINNIS (1835-1922)
Marriage: 26 Jun 1900 Place: Ulverstone, residence J.A. Fogg, R.C., by Lic.

Stated he was a draftsman, aged 34 years, at time of marriage. Gave his birthplace as Sorell and his parents as James [George] Bingham, gentleman, [1835-1911] and Sarah [Rebecca] Bingham [McGinnis 1835-1922]. Birth registration not found Tasmanian Pioneers Index.

Presented with a 'handsome tea and coffee service' by Government Engineering Staff of the Ulverstone-Burnie Railway on the eve of his marriage to Harriett Warden. [Advocate 27 June 1900]

For death see Mercury Thursday 25 July 1946.

Children: CLIFTON JACK (ca1901-1963)
DOROTHY MAYE [Dory] (1904-ca1952)
MAXWELL JAMES (1906-)
PHYLLIS (1907- 1978)

In 1888, at the age of eighteen years, Harriette Warden was recommended for an appointment as paid monitor at the Ulverstone School.¹⁴

Ten years later, on 26 June 1900, only a few months prior to her father's untimely death, Harriette Sophia, who was the second child, married John Edmund Bingham of Newtown. The ceremony took place at *Chestnut Villa*, the home of her uncle James Alfred Fogg, where she had been raised, as a companion of her cousin May Fogg.¹⁵

¹⁴ Devon Herald: 12 October 1888.

¹⁵ Hearsay: Late Mrs Alleyne Piercey.

One party was Catholic, the other Protestant, and for this reason they chose to be married at *Chestnut Villa*. The priest was very unhappy about the whole affair but fell in with the couple's decision when Uncle James threatened that the marriage would take place at Holy Trinity if he continued to object.¹⁶

Ironically, many years later, the land on which *Chestnut Villa* was built was to become the site of the Catholic Church in Ulverstone. The wedding was recorded by the *Examiner* newspaper:

A very interesting ceremony took place at the residence of Mr F.A. Fogg [sic] yesterday afternoon, when Miss Harriett [sic] Warden was united in matrimony to Mr John Edmund Bingham. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. P. Hayes of Burnie. The bride, [who was 28, having been born River Leven 17 February 1872] was given away by her uncle Mr F.A. Fogg, [sic] was dressed in white Japanese silk, with lace insertion and fringe, tulle embroidered veil, and carried a large bouquet of white flowers. The bridesmaid (her cousin, Miss Fogg wore a white corded silk and velvet dress, with hat to match, [the Post said her dress was of violet rep and the Advocate said it was of violet cloth trimmed with white corded silk and velvet with hat to match] and carried a bouquet of violets and maiden-hair. She also wore the bridegroom's present, a handsome gold bangle. Mr Fred. Back acted as best man. The house was nicely decorated for the occasion with pot plants and other flowers. The presents were numerous and costly. The happy couple left in the afternoon for Devonport en route for the East Coast.¹⁷

As her going-away outfit the bride wore a 'travelling dress with a coat and skirt of fawn beaver cloth with pink front, with a hat of beaver velvet lined with pink silk ornamented with natural ostrich feathers.'¹⁸ The bride gave her husband a silver-mounted walking stick, and received from him a diamond ring.¹⁹ The gift list is interesting. There are no gifts listed from any of her Warden siblings or parents, but many small items of table silver and photo frames from friends and cousins. May Fogg gave her a silver bread fork and Charles and Agnes a pair of vases; Uncle James gave a silver-mounted pipe (presumably for John!); cousins Flora and Kate McDonald gave afternoon tea spoons and tongs, and Emily Frampton was practical with her gift of a mincing machine. Cousin William Newman McDonald gave a cheque (probably he couldn't think of anything else); Harriette's students gave her a floral photo album with photo.²⁰ No mention of linens, blankets, or furniture; hopefully Harriette had accumulated some of the former in her glory box!

John Bingham was a qualified civil engineer and worked for the government for many years, his work taking him to many parts of the state. He was an outstanding cricketer and played for Tasmania at first-class level.²¹ He played innings' against the All England sides of 1888, 1892, and 1895, and also represented the state against Victoria on five occasions and New South Wales on one occasion.²²

We learn a little about his work from his obituary:

Born at Forcett, Mr Bingham began his career as a surveyor. He later qualified as a civil engineer, and for many years was attached to the Public Works Dept., as a constructional engineer. He supervised the construction of many public undertakings, including the Franklin reclamation work, Stanley breakwater, east coast jetty on King Island, Brittons Swamp drainage, and York Plains deviation on the Main Railway line. After severing his

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Examiner: 29 June 1900; also North West Post: 28 June 1900.

¹⁸ Advocate: Thursday 28 June 1900.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Mercury: 25 July 1946.

²² Page, Roger, *A History of Tasmanian Cricket*, Government Printer 1957.

*connection with the Public Works Dept, he was for several years engineer in charge of the East Coast Development Co.*²³

Harriet and John had four children. Harriette died at Hobart on 15 July 1940.

²³ Mercury: Thursday 25 July 1946.

AMY FRANCES WARDEN, Granddaughter

Birth: 15 Apr 1874, River Leven
Bapt: 3 Apr 1874, Forth & Leven C.E.
Death: 3 Jun 1952, Residence, 2 Belton Street, South Hobart, age: 78
Burial: 5 Jun 1952, Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart [Cremation], age: 78
Residence: Sprent (1896) Upper Castra; 1 Belton Street, South Hobart (1921)
Stitch Street, Queenstown (1903)
Occ: Spinster (1896) Dress Maker (1903) Home Duties (1921)

Informant of birth was A.J. [sic] Fogg, Storekeeper, River Leven. [RGD 1378] Baptism gives date of birth as 9 March 1874. See North West Post 17 October 1895 for Affiliation case Warden V Pickett. For death and funeral notice see Mercury 4 June 1952. Was aged 78 years, not 76 as stated.

Spouse 1: ARTHUR CHARLES PICKETT
Reside: Abbotsham (1896)
Occ: Farmer (1896)
Unmarried
Children: IRIS (1895-1967)

Spouse 2: **GEORGE BEST**
Birth: 7 Oct 1866, Exton
Death: 22 Oct 1901, Queenstown [Lyell 0397], age: 35
Burial: 21 Oct 1901, Queenstown, age: 35
Reside: Queenstown (1900) Pengana (1900)
Occ: Butcher; Labourer (1899 1900)
Father: GEORGE BEST
Mother: ESTHER LAWSON

Informant of birth was father, George Best, farmer, Exton. Mother was Esther Best, formerly Lawson. [RGD 1641]

Marr: 28 Feb 1897, Ulverstone, Holy Trinity, C.E., by Lic.

Children: MONA (1898-)
IRENE [Rene] (1899-1964)
GEORGE HENRY (1900-)
RITA (1902-)

Spouse 3: **THOMAS CHAPMAN WISE**
Birth: 21 Oct 1870, New Norfolk
Death: 1 Oct 1926, Residence, 2 Belton Street, South Hobart, age: 55
Burial: 2 Oct 1926, Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart, age: 55
Residence: Orr Street, Queenstown (1903)
Queenstown (1908 1910) 1 Belton St., South Hobart (1921)
Occ: Clerk (1903 1908 1910 1921) Accountant, Mount Lyell

S/o Frederick Henry Wise and Annie Jane, nee Hamilton.

Informant of birth was mother, Annie Jane Wise, New Norfolk. Son of a merchant. [RGD 1170]
For marriage check Zeehan and Dundas Herald 19 Jan 1906.

Marr: 28 Dec 1905, St Martin's C.E., Queenstown [RGD 0931]

Children: MAURICE CHAPMAN (1907-1975)
MURIEL ANNIE [Cis] (1909-1990)

Amy Frances, the third eldest daughter resided at Sprent with her father, but on occasions lived with her grandmother Delia McDonald on the Castra Road. She was sent to school at Castra and then Ulverstone, where she was enrolled 15 March 1887 at the age of thirteen years.²⁴

Grandmamma was not particularly strict and Amy frequently attended the dances at Hogben's.²⁵

Amy married George Best at Ulverstone on 28 February 1897. George was brother-in-law to Walter Sturzaker (Amy's cousin) who had married Marion Best. George Best was a butcher and he and Amy lived at Queenstown where their children were born. He died in tragic circumstances:

A shocking accident occurred early yesterday morning on the railway line between the town and the smelters, by which a young man named George Best lost his life. Best, who was an employee of the Mount Lyell Company, and resided on the Strahan road, near the smelters, was last seen by a young man named Stewart about 2 o'clock yesterday morning on the line from the flux quarries to the smelters, which crosses the main line a couple of hundred yards from the end of Sticht street, and was apparently on his way home. Shortly after, while in Sticht street, Stewart heard a whistle blow, and a little later a man came along and told him a man had been run over by the flux train and killed. Sub-Inspector Weston was informed at once, and proceeded to the scene of the accident, accompanied by Stewart, who recognised the body, which was terribly mangled, as that of the man who had passed him a short time previously. It is thought that deceased must have got on to the wrong track, and, discovering his mistake, went along the line leading from the quarries to get on to the main line, and fell across the track. The driver of the engine reported that just after crossing the main line he noticed what appeared to be a log on the track and promptly applied the brake and stopped the train after the engine and ore truck had passed over the obstruction which on examination he and the guard found to be the body of a man. Best was a married man, about 35 years of age, and leaves a widow and three children quite unprovided for. An inquest will be held at the Federal Hotel today, and a meeting will be held this evening at the A.M.A office to devise some means of raising funds to assist the widow and family.²⁶

Amy married again in 1905. Her second husband was Thomas Chapman Wise. A 'white-collar' man, he worked in the banking and mining industries before enlisting with the 26th Battalion during the Great War. He was wounded at Gallipoli.²⁷ He died somewhat dramatically at the surgery of his doctor, Dr W.L. Crowther, who had been treating him for heart trouble since his return from the war.

His obituary states:

Mr. Wise who was 56 years of age, was educated at the City School and Christ's College, and after some years with the Commercial Bank of Tasmania, held responsible posts with the Golden Gate Company at Mathinna, and the Mount Lyell Company at Queenstown. On the out-break of the Great War he joined the 26th Battalion, and was severely wounded at Gallipoli two days before the evacuation. After discharge from hospital he re-enlisted but was detained on Home service until the Armistice. After being de-mobilised he held positions in the Repatriation Department and the Post Office, to the latter of which he was due to return yesterday after his annual leave. He was a prominent member of the R.S.S.I.A.A.²⁸

²⁴ Ulverstone State School Admission Register: Entry No. 532.

²⁵ North West Post: 17 October 1895 Affiliation Case.

²⁶ Zeehan & Dundas Herald: Thursday 24 October 1901.

²⁷ Tasmanian War Record 1914–1918: Enlisted 1 March 1915.

²⁸ Mercury: 2 October 1926.

ANNA MARIA [Hannah Maria] WARDEN, Granddaughter

Birth: 2 Aug 1877 Place: Castra Road
Baptism: 30 Sep 1877 Place: Forth & Leven C.E.
Death: 15 Dec 1927 Place: Public Hospital, Launceston Age: 50
Burial: 16 Dec 1927 Place: Ulverstone Cemetery, C.E. [Headstone]
Occupation: Lady (1899) Domestic Duties (1914-1919) Home Duties (1921 1922 1925)
Residence: Sprent; Castra (1899 1914-1919) Ulverstone (1921-1925)
Father: HENRY WARDEN (1847-1900)
Mother: DELIA McDONALD (1853-1926)

Informant of birth was David Robertson, friend, Castra Road. Father was Henry Warden, splitter, and mother was Delia Warden, formerly McDonald. [RGD 1820]

Was a lady, aged 22 years at time of marriage. Gave birth place as Castra. Witnesses to marriage were William Stalker and Alice Stalker of Gawler [younger siblings of Duncan]. [Presbyterian]

Had a number of miscarriages.

See Advocate 17 December 1927 for obituary. Died of cancer.

Also see Trinity Church Cemetery Register entry No. 365: Cause of death pneumonia [sic]. Age 48 years. Cost of burial £2/2/6.

Spouses: DUNCAN STALKER

Birth: 8 Oct 1867 Place: *Ridgeside*, Evandale
Baptism: 18 Nov 1867 Place: Morven [Presbyterian]
Death: 7 Aug 1948 Place: Devon Hospital, Latrobe Age: 80
Burial: 8 Aug 1948 Place: Ulverstone Cemetery, C.E. [Headstone]
Occupation: Farmer (1914-1919) Labourer (1921 1922 1925 1928)
Father: JOHN STALKER (1838-1931)
Mother: MARGARET HENDERSON (1842-1917)
Marriage: 20 Sep 1899 Place: House of Mr Henry Warden, Sprent, Presb., by Lic.

Informant of birth was father, John Stalker, Labourer, *Ridgeside*. Mother was Margaret Stalker, formerly Henderson. [RGD 1041]

For birth and baptism see entry No. 825 Presbyterian Church Register of Births 1839-1861 Longford-Evandale.

Was a farmer, aged 30 years at time of marriage. Gave birthplace as Evandale. [Presbyterian]

For burial see Holy Trinity Church Cemetery Register entry No. 827: Retired Labourer, aged 80 years. Born Evandale. Cause of death urethral strictures, renal failure, and uraemia. Cost of burial £3/15/0.

No funeral notice published in Advocate. Obituary does not state day of funeral.

Children: ANNIE (1899-1983)
JESSIE MARGARET (1911-1990)
DINAH (1911-1911)
ALIDA LOUISA [or LOIS] (1917-1989)

Siblings Hannah Maria and Henry William both married into the Stalker family. Hannah, (sometimes called Anna) was born Castra Road 2 August 1877, and married Duncan, brother of Grace McFarlane Stalker, at her home at Sprent on 20 September 1899. She had three surviving children: Annie who married her cousin William George McDonald in 1919; Alida who married Thomas Tobin in 1939; Jessie who married into the Nicolle family; and numerous miscarriages.²⁹

²⁹ Hearsay: Joy (Coldhill) McDonald.

Duncan Stalker was born at *Ridgeside*, Evandale on 8 October 1867 to John Stalker and his wife Margaret, nee Henderson. He died at Latrobe 7 August 1948 having survived his wife for 20 years, she having died in 1927.

HENRY WILLIAM WARDEN, Grandson

Birth: 30 Sep 1879 Place: Castra Road
 Death: 24 Oct 1968 Place: 58 Kooyong Rd, Armadale, Victoria Age: 89
 Burial: 26 Oct 1968 Place: Burwood Cemetery, Victoria [Headstone]
 Occupation: Labourer (1912 1914-1925) Farmer (1928 1968)
 Residence: Gawler Road (1903) Sprent (1912 1914-1925) North Motton (1928)
 Residence: Penguin (1930)
 Residence: Black River (1933)
 Father: HENRY WARDEN (1847-1900)
 Mother: DELIA McDONALD (1853-1926)

Informant of birth was Delia (x) Warden, mother, Castra Road. Father was Henry Warden, carter. [RGD 2516]

See Advocate 26 October 1968 for death notice. No place given. Had 18 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. No funeral notice.

Cause of death was myocardial failure (2 days), dysphagia (2 months), neuromuscular incoordination in pharynx (2 months), and old age. Age given as 89 years. Informant of death was G.T. Warden, 1 Neldner Avenue, Angaston, South Australia. Born Sprent, Tasmania. Lived 69 years in Tasmania and 20 years in Victoria. [VIC RGD Death Index No. 25623/68]

See Victoria Probate Index 687 815 2 June 1969, occupation- gentleman- place of death - Armadale, Victoria, and age - 89 years. [Probate Index of Victoria 1960-1969 fiche 345]

For burial see Burwood Cemetery Victoria, Headstones p711 Lawn 14A No. 32.

Spouse: GRACE McFARLANE STALKER

Birth: 3 Aug 1881 Place: Gawler Road, Ulverstone
 Death: 3 Oct 1981 Place: Residence, Burwood, Victoria Age: 100
 Burial: Burwood Cemetery, Victoria [Headstone]
 Occupation: Domestic Duties (1912 1914-1928)
 Father: JOHN STALKER (1838-1931)
 Mother: MARGARET HENDERSON (1842-1917)
 Marriage: 23 Apr 1902 Place: Gawler, Presbyterian

Children: MARGARET MAUD [Maggie] (1903-1999)
 HENRY LOUIS (1904-1981)
 JOHN HENDERSON [Jock] (1907-1969)
 GRACE McFARLANE (1910-1987)
 ADA MAY (1912-1982)
 ANDREW WILLIAM (1915-1977)
 JEAN LILIAN (1918-)
 ARCHIBALD RONALD [Archie] (1920-1996)

Henry William Warden, was born at Castra Road, 30 September 1879. He married Grace Stalker in 1902:

On Wednesday morning the marriage of Henry, eldest son of the late Henry Warden, of Sprent, to Grace, fourth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Stalker, was solemnised at the residence of the bride's parents by Mr. E. Walker in the presence of a very large gathering

of friends. The bride was given away by her father, Mr. John Stalker. After the ceremony the bridal party and guests sat down to breakfast, which was served in a marquee suitably decorated for the occasion. The presents were numerous. The happy couple left by the midday train en route for Queenstown to spend their honeymoon³⁰.

Much of his life was spent at labouring work around the Gawler area, with him eventually working a farm of his own at North Motton around about 1928. He and his wife Grace McFarlane Stalker had eight children: Margaret, Henry, John, Grace, Ada, Andrew, Jean, and Archibald, all born in the Ulverstone district. In the late 1940s the family moved to Victoria where both Henry and Grace died. Grace also had a son, Guy Thomas Pettit, in 1900 who was known as Warden

There were four other Warden children: Leslie, Llewellyn, Hilda, and Marjery. Nothing is known of Hilda. Llewellyn lived with Eva May Chilcott, who was the mother of the unfortunate child, Chrissie Venn, who was murdered at North Motton in 1926. Llewellyn and Eva had three children, of whom only two survived childhood. He enlisted in the 40th Battalion during World War I.³¹

ERNEST LESLIE WARDEN, Grandson

Birth:	22 Oct 1881	Place: Castra Road
Death:	9 Oct 1921	Place: Hospital, Ulverstone Age: 39
Burial:	12 Oct 1921	Place: Ulverstone [Headstone]
Occupation:	Labourer (1912 1914-1921)	
Residence:	Sprent (1914-1919) North Motton (1921) Castra (1921) Smithton	
Father:	HENRY WARDEN (1847-1900)	
Mother:	DELIA McDONALD (1853-1926)	

Also known as Leslie Ernest.

Informant of birth, as Ernest Leslie, was father, Henry Warden, Castra Road. Mother was Delia Warden, formerly McDonald. [RGD 2288]

Died of typhoid fever. [Holy Trinity Burial Register entry No. 264]

"Funeral. Warden. The funeral of the late Leslie Ernest Warden will leave the Church of the Holy Trinity, Ulverstone, at 3 p.m. to-morrow (Tuesday), for the Ulverstone Church of England Cemetery. A.M. Harman, Undertaker." [Advocate Monday 10 October 1921]

Authors of book on Chrissie Venn state p241 that Les Warden died prematurely and under some questionable circumstances!

Did not marry. No known issue.

Lesley, who was born in 1881, did not marry. He was working at Smithton when he contracted Typhoid fever and died 9 October 1921, shortly after being removed to the Devon hospital at Latrobe.³² The Advocate of Thursday 13 October 1921 records that:

Much regret was expressed when it became known that Mr. Les Warden died under rather sad circumstances. He left here apparently in the best of health a fortnight ago for Smithton where he was going to work for Mr. Etchell. The day after he arrived there he complained of feeling ill, and his mate, Mr. G.R. Bennett,

³⁰ Examiner: Saturday 26 April 1902.

³¹ Tasmanian War Record 1914–1918.

³² Advocate: 10 and 13 October 1921.

took him to the doctor, who ordered him home again. Mr. Bennett motored him to Central Castra, but on arriving home Mr. Warden became unconscious. Mr. L.F. Wright took him to the Devon Hospital, but he never regained consciousness, and passed away at an early hour on Sunday morning. Much sympathy goes out for his mother and his sister (Mrs. Ponsonby), with whom he lived.

LLEWELLYN HENRY WARDEN, Grandson

Birth: 2 Mar 1884 Place: Castra Road
 Baptism: 4 May 1884 Place: Forth & Leven C.E.
 Death: 28 Feb 1959 Place: St John's Park, New Town, Hobart Age: 74
 Burial: 2 Mar 1959 Place: Ulverstone, C.E.
 Occupation: Labourer (1912 1914-1925 1930): 40th Batt. 1st A.I.F. (1916-1918)
 Farmer (1928)
 Residence: Sprent (1912 1914-1919) North Motton (1921-1930)
 Father: HENRY WARDEN (1847-1900)
 Mother: DELIA McDONALD (1853-1926)

Informant of birth as Llewellyn Warden, was father, Hy. Warden, Castra Road, Carter. Mother was Delia Warden, formerly McDonald. [RGD 3200]

Baptised as Llewellyn Warden. [Forth & Leven Baptism Register CE]

Enlisted 20 October 1916 as Private 3408 Llewellyn William Warden. Farm Labourer, aged 32 years. Single, Living Sprent. Next of kin was mother, Mrs Delia Warden, Sprent. C.E., and served 2 years 11 months. 40th Infantry Battalion 8th Reinforcements. Embarked HMAT Hororata 14 June 1917 Sydney. [Tasmanian War Record also Nominal & Embarkation Rolls] Entry in Tasmanian War Record 1914-1918 is L.W. Warden Private 40th Battalion.

Allegedly [Chrissie Venn book] married a French girl whilst serving overseas in World War I but no evidence of this found in his service papers.

Spouse: EVA MAY CHILCOTT

Birth: 24 Jun 1881 Place: River Leven
 Death: 10 Jun 1952 Place: 11 George Street, Ulverstone Age: 70
 Burial: Place: Ulverstone Cemetery [Headstone]
 Occupation: Home Duties (1925-1930)
 Father: ARTHUR CHILCOTT
 Mother: MARY ANN MAINE

Married: 30 Jul 1923, South Preston

Children: JOYCE [or JOY] (1920-)
 [Unnamed Male] (1922-)
 PATRICIA MARIE (1923-)

Informant of birth was Christina Chilcott, sister, Leven. Father was Arthur Chilcott, farmer, and mother was Mary Ann Chilcott, formerly Main. [RGD 2248]

Married George Arthur Venn of Somerset at Gawler 4 April 1906 aged 24 years. He was aged 18 years. [Ulverstone Methodist Marriages] Mother of the murdered girl, Chrissie Venn.

Married Francis Henry Dawes in 1913.

Had 2 children by previous marriages: Keith Tennyson Main Venn and Dawn Doreen Pearl Dawes. Private funeral.

Leslie's youngest brother, Llewellyn Henry, was born at Castra Road in 1884. No doubt he led the same kind of life as all of his country cousins—a little education and a lot of hard work.

Wartime propaganda did not entice Lew into the army until 11 October 1916 when, at the age of 32, he enlisted as a private in the 40th Battalion, and served overseas for 2 years and 11 months.³³

Llewellyn returned to Australia in July 1919. On his return to North Motton he formed a connection with Eva Chilcott with whom he lived (and later married) for over 30 years. Eva was the mother of Chrissie Venn who was murdered at North Motton in 1921.

HILDA MARY WARDEN, Granddaughter

Birth:	28 Feb 1886	Place: Ulverstone
Baptism:	18 Apr 1886	Place: Holy Trinity C.E., Ulverstone
Death:	Place:
Burial:	Place:
Occupation:	
Residence:	Place:
Father:	HENRY WARDEN (1847-1900)	
Mother:	DELIA McDONALD (1853-1926)	

Informant of birth was sister, Harriet Warden, Ulverstone. Father was Henry Warden, splitter, and other was Delia Warden, formerly McDonald. [RGD 3253]

³³ Tasmanian War Record 1914-1918: Private 3406, and Nominal Roll of the A.I.F.

MARJERY McDONALD WARDEN, Granddaughter

Birth: 19 Sep 1894 Place: Sprent
Baptism: 18 Nov 1894 Place: Forth & Leven C.E.
Death: 18 Apr 1976 Place: District Hospital, Ulverstone Age: 81
Burial: 20 Apr 1976 Place: R.C. Cemetery, Ulverstone [Headstone]
Occupation: Home Duties (1913 1953 1964)
Residence: Sprent (1913) 32 Alexandra Road, Ulverstone (1953 1964)
Father: HENRY WARDEN (1847-1900)
Mother: DELIA McDONALD (1853-1926)

Also Marjorie.

Informant of birth was Delia (x) Warden, mother, Sprent. Father was Henry Warden, farmer. [RGD 2822]

Was a spinster, aged 19 years, at time of marriage. Gave occupation as home duties. Witnesses to marriage were L. Warden, Sprent and M. Biddel [sic], Sprent. Gave her birth place as Ulverstone on the marriage certificate. [C.E. 221]

"First day of the honeymoon was spent at Gunn's Plains, where James won the 12-inch and 15-inch chopping competitions and the 130-yard running event.

A few years later he sawed with the late Leo Appo, of NSW, when they won at Wynyard.

The couple lived at Sprent till they moved to Ulverstone in about 1924.

Their only daughter Evelyn carried on the tradition by marrying Mr. Joe Britton, who is now president of the N.W. division of the Tasmanian Axemen's Association, and host to visiting world axemen during the present World Festival of Chopping.

Mr. and Mrs. Biddle have four grandsons (Gary, Don and Kevin, all of Ulverstone, and Robert, who lives in Launceston) and eight great-grandchildren.

The couple celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary with a family party held at Mr. and Mrs. Britton's home, which is next door to their own in Alexandra Rd." [Advocate Thursday 3 January 1974]

Spouse: **JAMES NORMAN [Jim] BIDDLE**, G Grandson
Birth: 28 Aug 1886 Place: Castra Road
Death: 25 Jan 1976 Place: District Hospital, Ulverstone Age: 89
Burial: 27 Jan 1976 Place: R.C. Cemetery, Ulverstone [Headstone]
Occupation: Farm Labourer (1913) Labourer (1912 1914-1928 1953 1964)
Father: THOMAS ISAAC BIDDLE (1860-1943)
Mother: EMMA DELIA STURZAKER (1867-1945)
Marriage: 31 Dec 1913 Place: St Andrew's Church, Sprent, C.E., by Lic.

Informant of birth was Emma Delia Biddle, Mother, Castra Road. [RGD 3297]

Was a farm labourer, aged 27 years, at time of marriage. Gave his birth place as Upper Castra on marriage. [C.E. 221]

Well-known chopper and sawyer and foot runner. See Weekly Courier 26 March 1925 p27 Photo 9 Final of the Sawing Competition won by J.N. Biddle (see p9).

See Advocate 26 January 1976 for death notice.

Children: EVELYN MAY (1914-1977)

Margery McDonald Warden the youngest of the children of Delia and Henry, was born at Sprent on 19 September 1894. She married her first cousin once removed, James Biddle, at the tiny Anglican Church of St Andrew at Sprent in 1913:

When nineteen year old Marjorie [sic] Warden agreed to marry James Biddle, eight years her senior, on New Year's Eve, 1913 she knew she'd have to share her wedding day with the New Year Sports. For James was not only a well-known chopper and sawyer at that time, but a footrunner as well. On the same day that they were married at Sprent by the late Revd Mr Greenwood, James took part in the chopping competitions and won the 15 inch handicap that night he saw the New Year in by carrying out his obligation to play with the local band.³⁴ James was the son of Thomas Isaac Biddle and Emma Delia Sturzaker. Margery and James' only daughter, Evelyn, married Joe Britton, well-known sports administrator on the N.W. Coast.

Margery and James died within a short time of each other in 1976.

³⁴ Advocate: 3 January 1974 p16.