

LYDIA ANNIE DALE 1859-1941

By Dale Hartle



Lydia Anne Dale (Bridgman) 1859-1941

Lydia Annie Dale was the third child of Charles Hawkins Dale and Eliza Mary Bolton Stow.

She was born in Castlemaine, Victoria on 23 July 1859. She had an older brother William and an older sister Eliza.

Lydia married **John Thomas Bridgman** on 17 March 1877 aged 17 years. John was from Dautsey, Wiltshire, England, and was baptised on 9 October 1853. He was 6 years older than Lydia.

A local publication "*Beyond the blue mountains*" by F W G Miller states on page 166 that "The first marriage in Tapanui by an Anglican priest was that of John Thomas Bridgman to Lydia Annie Dale, by Mr H J

Edwards, on March 17, 1877." The marriage took place at the residence of the bride's father (Charles Dale).

After various changes of districts and occupations where, for many years Mr and Mrs Bridgman settled in the Mabel Bush District, where for many years Mr Bridgman worked in the employ of W.A. Massey, sawmillier.

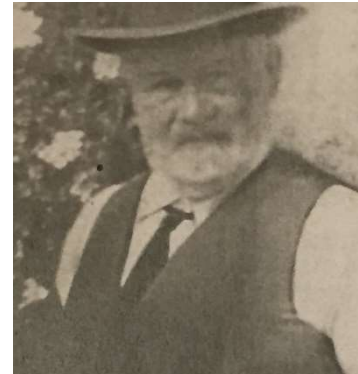


Figure 1 - John Thomas Bridgman 1853-1927



Photo above: John Bridgman and Lydia Bridgman nee Dale and their family. Taken in Mabel Bush near Invercargill, about 1900. L-r back row Martha, Herbert, Ernest, John and Lydia. Front row Pearce, Ruth, Wallace and sitting is either Jessie or Florence.

Lydia and John Bridgman had 9 children plus 1 adopted child between 1878 and 1899:

Children:

- 1. Eliza Annie Bridgman 1878-1961**
- 2. Jessie Bridgman 1880-1965**
- 3. Florence Jane Bridgman 1881-1972**
- 4. Ernest John Bridgman 1883-1955**
- 5. Herbert Alfred Bridgman 1885-1962**
- 6. Martha Rose Constance Bridgman 1888-1980**
- 7. Pearce George Gordon Bridgman 1892-1980**
- 8. Wallace Barclay Bridgman 1894-1970**
- 9. Ruth Gladys Bridgman 1896-1971**
- 10. Henrietta Rebecca McDonald Bridgman 1899-1983 (adopted daughter of Eliza Annie)**

The Bridgman family is huge, so here is a summary of the family.

1. **Eliza Annie BRIDGMAN** was born on 19 February 1878 in Tapanui and died 14 October 1961 in Invercargill aged 83. She married **George Montgomery DOWLER** in 1902, who was born in 1879 and died in 1938 aged 59. They are buried in St Johns Cemetery, Invercargill.

They had nine children: **Marguerite Annie Tryphena (1902-1981)**, **Georgina Agnes (1905-2007)**, **William Henry (1907-1960)**, **Emily Elizabeth (1909-1996)**, **Lorna Katherine (1911-1996)**, **Ethel Evaline (1913-2003)**, **George Anzac (1916-1994)**, **Rosalind May (1917-1982)**, and **Wallace Watson (1921-1998)**.

Plus Eliza had a daughter Henrietta Rebecca McDonald Bridgman in 1899 before she was married who was adopted and brought up by her grandparents. Father unknown.

2. **Jessie BRIDGMAN** was born on 7 June 1880 in Tapanui, and died on 12 November 1965 in Invercargill.

Jessie married **Charles SMALL** in 1911 who was born in October 1881. He died on 26 March 1956. They are both buried in the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill. They had four children: **Charles Herbert (1912-1982)**, **Lilian May (1914-2011)**, **John Leslie (1916-1975)** and **Doreen (1920-1994)**.

You can read the story of **Lilian May (Skipper)** separately.

3. **Florence Jane BRIDGMAN** was born on 28 June 1881 in Tapanui and died on 25 July 1972 in Dunedin aged 91, and is buried in Anderson's Bay Cemetery, Dunedin.

Florence married **Walter Eric HENDERSON** in 1909. He was born on 27 Nov 1884 and died on 2 July 1950 and is buried in Andersons Bay. They had two children: **Rita Florence Christine (1910-2002)** and **William Eric (1912-1986)**.

4. **Ernest John BRIDGMAN** was born on 22 August 1883 in Tapanui, died on 18 July 1955 in Invercargill, Southland, at age 71, and was buried on 21 Jul 1955 in the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill.

Ernest married **Jessie WEIR** on 27 March 1910 in Presbyterian Church, Mabel Bush, Southland. Jessie was born on 4 September 1889 in Waihola, Otago, and died on 3 November 1973 in Clyde Hospital, Central Otago, at age 84, and was buried on 6 Nov 1973 in Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill. They had 11 children: **Edith Euphemia (1911-2005)**, **Rose (1912-2000)**, **William (1914-1986)**, **Rubina Mary (1915-2006)**, **Alfred (1916 or 1917-1974)**, **Fredrick John (1919-1946)**, **Stanley (1921-1945)**, **Iris (1923-2005)**, **Leslie (1925-1976)**, **Ernest James (1927-1951)**, and **David (1932-)**.

5. **Herbert Alfred BRIDGMAN** was born on 24 September 1885 in Mabel Bush, Southland, died on 9 Sep 1962 in Kew, Invercargill, at age 76, and was buried on 11 September 1962 in Eastern Cemetery, East Road, Invercargill.

Herbert married **Alice Mary COCKROFT** in 1916. Alice was born on 12 June 1885 in Palmerston, died on 11 December 1944 in Earnslaw Street, Invercargill, at age 59, and was buried on 13 December 1944 in Eastern Cemetery, East Road, Invercargill. They had 4 sons: **Arthur John, (1916-1997), Eric Wallace (1918-1991), Herbert Raymond (1921-1995), Stuart Dale (1923-1996).**

6. **Martha Rose Constance BRIDGMAN** was born on 20 March 1888 in Mabel Bush, and died on 2 May 1980 at age 92. She is buried in the Eastern Cemetery Invercargill with her husband.

Martha married **Harry Wilfred WRIGHT** on 26 June 1911. He was born on 23 March 1881 in Mabel Bush, and died on 2 May 1959 in Invercargill, and is buried in the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill.

They had two children: **Mabel Agnes (1912-2009)** and **William Harry, (1920-1987).**

7. **Pearce George Gordon BRIDGMAN** was born on 21 March 1892 in Mabel Bush, South Island, and died on 19 May 1980 at age 89. Pearce married **Jenny NILSSON/MEECH** in 1919 who was born in 1874 in Sweden, and died on 20 August 1953 in Auckland. They are both buried at Waikumete Cemetery.

They had 4 children altogether – Pearce: **Gordon (1913-1999)**; Jenny's 3 children by another marriage: **John Alfred Walter (1908-1972), Marjory Victoria Christina (1910-2006), and Myrtle Joyce (1917-2009).**

8. **Wallace Barclay BRIDGMAN** was born on 15 September 1894 in Mabel Bush, Invercargill, and died on 6 September 1970 in Christchurch. Wallace married **Grace Garfield BROWN** in 1923. Grace was born in 1894 and died on 9 October 1965 in Christchurch. They are both buried in Christchurch.

Wallace and Grace had 7 children: **John Thomas (1923-1957), Margaret (1925-), June Mary (1926-1992), William Roger (1929-2014), Grace Garfield (1931-1987) (twin) , Wallace Barclay (1931-1996) (twin), Dorothy Mackintosh (1934-).**

9. **Ruth Gladys BRIDGMAN** was born on 21 September 1896 in Mabel Bush, died on 7 June 1971 in Invercargill, at age 75, and was buried in the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill.

Ruth married **Charles Andrew WARDEN** in 1917. Charles died on 7 November 1980 and is buried in the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill. They had 11 children over 22 years: **Gladys Lavinia (1918-1989), Sylvia Dale (1919-2005), Mavis Catherine (1920-2014), John Charles (1922-1984), Charles Maurice Andres (1924-2012), Rita Olive (1927-), Daphne Eunice (1928-), Alan Raymond (1931-2012), Shirley Ruth (1934-), Audrey Joan (1935-), Russell Lindsay (1940-1979).**

10. **Henrietta Rebecca McDonald BRIDGMAN** was born on 13 September 1899 in Mabel Bush, and died on 30 April 1983 at age 83. She is buried in Hamilton Park Cemetery, Hamilton. She was adopted by her grandparents and brought up by them.

Henrietta first married **John Joseph Patrick CRENGLE**, who was born on 30 January 1899 in Grove Bush. He was killed in a railway accident on 1 January 1921 in Bluff, and is buried in the Eastern

Cemetery, Invercargill. Henrietta then married **George Gordon THOMPSON** in 1924. He was born in 1885 and died on 1 September 1962. Henrietta had one child with John Crengle – **John Joseph Reginald Crengle (1920-1974)** and two children with George Thomson: **Eric Dale (1924-2001)** and **Dawn Margaret Jean (1933-)**.

There's a Letter to Dot from Martha Bridgman¹, Mabel Bush, 1 May 1899 in the *Otago Witness*, in which she asks Dot to name her cat:

Dear Dot,—It is a long time since I last wrote to you. I am in the Fifth Standard, and was 11 years old on March 20. I have a kitten, which is of a white colour with black spots. Please, dear Dot, will you kindly give me a name for it. It is a nice place here. There is a lot of birds about here, such as sparrows, thrushes, goldfinches, black-birds, and many other kinds. We have a paroquet, which we call Joe, but it does not talk very well. We also have two cows, two calves, and a horse. There is a sawmill here, and my father drives the engine. Mabel is about 14 or 15 miles from Invercargill, and about seven from Woodlands. I am sending you a song called

THE LILY.

Little White Lily sat by a stone,
Drooping and waiting till the sun shone;
Little White Lily holdeth her cup,
Rain is fast falling and filling it up.

Little White Lily said, "Good, again,
When I am thirsty to have nice rain.
Now I am stronger, now I am cool,
Heat cannot burn me, my veins are so full."

—Yours truly,

MARTHA BRIDGMAN.

Mabel Bush, May 1.

[That is very pretty, Martha. It is a pity your kitten is not all white, when it might be called Lily. As it is, perhaps Spotty would be more suitable.—DOT.]

¹ LETTERS FROM LITTLE FOLKS. OTAGO WITNESS, ISSUE 2359, 11 MAY 1899



4 generations: Eliza Bridgman nee Dale: Elizabeth (Betty) Johnstone,
Lorna Johnstone nee Dowler, Eliza Dowler nee Bridgman.

Figure 2 - 4 Generations

4 generations: Lydia Annie Dale (Bridgman), Elizabeth Johnstone, (great granddaughter), Lorna Katherine Dowler (granddaughter), Eliza Annie Bridgman (Dowler) – daughter. C. 1935-36



Figure 3 - Lydia Bridgman with 3 grandchildren c. 1927

Lydia Dale (Bridgman) with grandsons John Charles b. 1922, Charles, b. 1924 and Rita Olive, b. 1927.



Figure 4- Warden family c. 1945

Warden family group photo.

War Heroes

Two of Lydia's sons (Pearce and Wallace) and six of her grandsons served in World Wars I and II as well as several sons-in-law. You can read their story in the **ANZAC** Heroes file.

- Pearce George Gordon Bridgman WWI
- Wallace Barclay Bridgman WWI
- William Henry Dowler WWII
- Wallace Watson Dowler WWII
- John Leslie Small WWII
- William Eric Henderson WWII
- Frederick John Bridgman WWII
- Stanley Bridgman WWII
- Leslie Bridgman WWII
- Arthur John Bridgman WWII
- Herbert Raymond Bridgman WWII
- William Harry Wright WWII
- Gordon Bridgman WWII
- John Charles Warden WWII

Multiple Births

The Bridgman family also has ten sets of twins and one set of triplets.

Death



Lydia died on 19 January 1941 aged 81 years at Herbert Street, Invercargill, and is buried at Saint Johns Cemetery, Southland. All her children were alive at this time.

Her husband John Thomas Bridgman died many years earlier on 13 April 1927 aged 74 years and is also buried at Saint Johns Cemetery, Block 20, plot 18.

Their inscription reads:

In loving memory of John Thomas Bridgman Died 13th April 1927
Aged 74 years

And his wife Lydia Ann Bridgman Died 19th Jan 1941 Aged 81 years

Lydia and John's family grew to over 675 direct descendants (see descendant table).

From Obituary² – John Thomas Bridgman

Obituary 1927 – Old Settler “Passed”

There passed away on Thursday April 14th 1927 another old pioneer of Southland, in the person of Mr John Bridgman of King Street, North Invercargill.

Born at Dauntsey, Wiltshire, England in 1853, when only a lad of 7 years of age and having no schooling, he went to work in a brickyard to help keep the home going, this being a very bad time in England when men received 7/- a week and were glad to get it. At the age of 11 years he got the job in the G.W. Railway workshops at 7/- a week but had to pay 5/- a week lodging leaving 2/- a week for clothes and pocket money. Later he got 17/- a week firing a locomotive boiler and stayed there at that job until he sailed for New Zealand, leaving London on October 31st 1872 on the “Charlotte Gladstone”.

Landing in New Zealand in February 1873 after a long voyage he started work on railway constructions on some sections south of Dunedin and afterwards went to Lawrence, then called Moa Flat. In 1874 he went to Tapanui and took up sawmilling until 1878. In that year he took charge of the first traction thrashing combine south of Dunedin owned by Mr Kelty. During this time he had bought a section and built a house in Tapanui, and was married. In 1879 or 1880 he came to Southland and was engine driver for Mr Tullock at Makarewa sawmill. In 1884 he went to Mabel Bush and was in the employ of the late Mr W.A. Massey sawmiller, for whom he drove engines, built sawmills and did all his fitting and engineering work. He stayed there until 1911 when Mr Massey's bush was cut out at Mabel Bush. In the meantime he had taken up bush sections in the Mabel Bush district, set up a home, and with the help of his family, cleared it of stumps and turned it into a profitable dairy farm. In 1920 he sold his farm and came to live in Invercargill, but his health was failing and he did not live long to enjoy his much earned retirement.

² Copied from Obituaries provided by Murray Ballantine and official records

Mr Bridgman is survived by his wife, four sons and five daughters, forty-one grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mr Bridgman's life was always one of endeavour and honesty of purpose. Mr and Mrs Bridgman celebrated their Golden Wedding on March 17th last, 1926. Died 13 April 1927, aged 74 years.

From Obituary – Lydia Annie Bridgman

There passed away last Sunday at the age of 83 years, **Mrs John Bridgman** of King Street and formerly of Mabel Bush.

Born in Victoria, Mrs Bridgman, at the age of about three years, came to New Zealand with her parents, Mr and Mrs Charles Dale of Tapanui. Mr Dale, who took part in the Gabriel's Gully gold rush and other ventures, eventually settled in Tapanui where Mrs Bridgman spent her early girlhood.

During this time, while rearing a family of ten children, they carved out a home in the bush, and with the help of their sons and daughters, cleared their section and turned it into a first-class dairy farm. This work entailed long years of steady slogging with crude implements at first, but later, with more modern stumping machinery and lathes the farm was practically all cleared and in cultivation.

About the year 1920 Mr Bridgman sold the farm and the couple retired and came to live in King Street, North Invercargill. Mrs Bridgman, who by this time had seen all her sons and daughters married and settled down, lived on for a time at King Street, but three years ago her health gave way, and after passing through many weary months of pain and illness, she passed away suddenly last Sunday. Mrs Bridgman's descendants are settled throughout Southland including her own family of ten. Her fifty-two grandchildren and twenty-seven great-grandchildren survive her. Mrs Bridgman was pre-deceased by her husband fourteen years ago.

- John Thomas Bridgman d. 13.04.1927 aged 74 years.
- Lydia Anne Bridgman d. 19.01.1941 aged 83 years

BRIDGMAN FAMILY DIRECT DESCENDANTS BY GENERATION

Lydia Annie Dale and John Thomas Bridgman (as at 24 April 2020)

| GEN | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | TOTAL* |
|--------------|---|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. | Eliza Annie Bridgman 1878-1961 | 9 | 27 | 65 | 25 | 9 | 136 |
| 2. | Jessie Bridgman 1879-1965 | 4 | 5 | 13 | 12 | 3 | 38 |
| 3. | Florence Jane Bridgman 1881-1972 | 2 | 3 | 5 | | | 11 |
| 4. | Ernest John Bridgman 1883-1955 | 11 | 31 | 65 | 65 | 1 | 174 |
| 5. | Herbert Alfred Bridgman 1885-1962 | 4 | 9 | 24 | 18 | | 56 |
| 6. | Martha Rose Constance Bridgman 1888-1980 | 2 | 3 | 2 | | | 8 |
| 7. | Pearce George Gordon Bridgman 1892-1980 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 7 | | 23 |
| 8. | Wallace Barclay Bridgman 1894-1970 | 7 | 12 | 13 | 2 | | 35 |
| 9. | Ruth Gladys Bridgman 1896-1971 | 11 | 33 | 74 | 51 | 5 | 175 |
| 10. | Henrietta Rebecca McDonald Bridgman 1899-1983 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 3 | | 19 |
| TOTAL | 10 | 57 | 132 | 275 | 183 | 18 | 675 |

* Includes Generation 1

Corrections and updates:

If any member of the family finds an error or omission in this document, or is able to provide photographs, please contact Dale Hartle on email mjhartle at xtra.co.nz in Levin, New Zealand.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, there is bound to be mistakes and updates would be gratefully received.

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