

Credit to Brian Sutton, (Alice and Edward Eaves grandson) who has researched and compiled this document.

IRIS AMELIA GRACE SUTTON (nee EAVES) 12. 4. 1912 - 2.3.1999

PARENTS

Father : Edward Eaves (27.5. 1869 - 21.7.1964)

Mother : Alice Caroline Forrest (18.6.1869 - 26.7.1955)

Grave of Alice and Edward is at Eskdale Rd, North Shore. Co ords. S 36.79917 / E 174.721666
(Both Alice and Edward are buried in the one grave site, shown above.)

ALICE FORREST (married Edward Eaves)

ALICES MOTHER : SARAH SOPHIA PERKINS , was born in Clapham, London (ca 1835) Her parents, teenagers WILLIAM 15 and Sarah 16 when she was born ...both died a decade later around 1844 when Sarah was only nine, with two younger brothers CHARLES and GEORGE.

Sarah’s NZ obituary (, 15th Aug. 1922 ,) and other webpage info, relates that she arrived in Wellington with a younger brother Charles , their GRANDMOTHER SARAH SMITH and an uncle , CHARLES SMITH on the ship “MATOAKA” in September 1859.

SARAH , age 24 , within the following year, moved south to Dunedin, possibly with one or two of her family who may have remained there with her for a year or two.....though details are not known.

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.Another brother GEORGE, had earlier arrived in Wellington in 1857 on the ship *Anne Wilson* and initially moved to the South Island to search for gold.. It is likely letters from GEORGE encouraged the others to follow him to come and live in NZ.

By 1863 both brothers , their uncle Charles, and their granny Sarah Smith had relocated to live near NELSON . This was at a time of much unrest between settlers and MAORI in that particular area , over differences in interpretation of the **TREATY OF WAITANGI** ..allowing new settlers to expand into further reaches of the upper South Island.

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James and Sarah married in FEB 1861 in DUNEDIN , remarkably, just five months after James disembarked there. . A quick romance it surely was ...but circumstances probably favoured such individuals “getting together”... for mutual physical and emotional support in a foreign and undeveloped land.

ALICE’S FATHER : JAMES FORREST (born ca. 1836) came from the county of Surrey in Englandthough he recorded ‘from Brixton ‘ on the ships manifest.

James arrived in NZ under “assisted category “ .. on the ship “Evening Star” , departing from **Gravesend 4 July 1860** arrived **DUNEDIN** on 14 October..

The manifest of cargo below, makes interesting reading... showing the needs of the colonists at the time.

The passenger manifest also shows an ALFRED FORREST ..for which Otago newspapers are our only record. ...surely a brother . See following account.

Shipping News.

ARRIVED..

October 14—Evening Star, 811 tons, H. W. Norris, from London, with 100 cases candles, 160 boxes soap, 115 bags salt, 16 kegs nails, 24 grindstones, 124 camp-ovens, 87 iron pots, 6 packages rope, 5 kegs paint, 40 packages tea, 60 cases Geneva, 160 tons coals, 1 pipe, 72 hhds., 54 qr.-casks, 480 casks, 30 barrels, 784 cases, 457 boxes, 141 packages, 181 bundles, 91 bales, 316 kegs, 77 drums, and 20 kilderkins merchandise. Passengers—Cabin : Rev.

hhds ...hogsheads.... were a British measure for alcoholic beverages ...most frequently beer or aleeach one being 66 gallons.

Genever is a clear, botanically rich, malted grain-based spirit that originated in Holland and Belgium. Geneva was the anglicised name for Jeneva, which British soldiers had taken back to England.

Assisted immigrants were expected to repay their fares, and repayments were strictly monitored. Alfred appears to have been a carpenter '....and was recorded to be making mantelpieces....apparently helped at times by James.

James got into trouble when a timber supplier would not provide them with material they requested... and he used such strong profanities, that he landed up in the magistrates court. Alfred was also taken to court by the same accuser, after 'he'd found a hen "on the road '....and took it home. It seems some leniency was the order of the day.

It appears that JAMES brought experience as a farmer. and skills with farm animals with him to New Zealand. Within just a week or two of landing it is recorded that he entered a ploughing competition near Mosgiel, using bullocks and equipment owned by a Mr. William Blackie....., coming 6th. out of about 20 competitors. He used a brace of bullocks with single driver configuration...though horses were used in other similar competitions on the day. .

TAIERI PLOUGHING MATCH.

The Taieri Agricultural Society's first Ploughing Match took place on Mr. Burns' farm of Mosgiel, on Thursday, the 4th inst., and was in all respects eminently successful, notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather during the greater part of the day. A fine level piece of natural pasture had been placed at the disposal of the Society by Mr. A. J. Burns, and no expense had been spared by that gentleman in thoroughly clearing and rendering it fit for the occasion. It appeared to be the unanimous opinion of all present, that a more suitable portion of ground could not easily have been found in this or any other country. During the previous night heavy falls of rain and snow threatened to interfere somewhat unpleasantly with the proceedings of the coming day, but in the course of the morning the sky cleared, and soon after the appointed hour nearly the whole of the competitors with their respective teams were upon the ground. Thirty-nine ploughs had been entered for competition, the whole of which, with only one exception, took a part in the day's proceedings. Allotments of one-third of an acre each were apportioned by lot among the respective competitors in the following order:—

The general standard of ploughman-ship ...as. critically measured in the ways of the day, was noted as "extremely good", by the judges., "considering the equipment and animals were not up to the same standards as expected at home".

It is quite possible that James was displaying his farming skills to a potential employer at the time. However, other activities which began just 60 miles from town were to bring rapid changes to the city ...and impact greatly on the men's lives. .

Gold was discovered at Lawrence in May 1861, .soon resulting in Dunedin becoming the most populous city in New Zealand.

The two men literally found themselves in the middle of a gold rush.

The Circumstances of how "James met Sarah in DUNEDIN is not known, but it must have been at the end of 1860..."very shortly "after James disembarked.

There is a website record of SARAHs arrival in Wellington in September 1859. : "Sarah, brother Charles and their GRANDMOTHER, Sarah SMITH, together with "uncle Charles Smith" arrived in Wellington on the "Matoaka ". At over 1000 tons this Canadian built ,fully rigged wooden sailing ship was among the largest vessels to have sailed to New Zealand at that time, It carried only 100 passengers on this particular passage, leaving London, under Captain Stevens, on 13 June 1859 ..along the most favoured "clipper route." This route around the bottom of Africa, then east below Australia and Tasmania ,to New Zealand. The Matoaka arrived at Wellington on 13 September '59, later sailing north to Auckland.

(This ship was lost with all hands returning to England via Cape Horn about a decade later. ..hitting an iceberg at night being suspected.)

Records show JAMES and SARAH married in Dunedin on 15 Feb 1861, and their first child Charlotte born 31 JAN 1862. ..with son Archie in April the next year.

Anecdotal record has it that James began delivering supplies to the newly discovered goldfields with 'horse and cart.'...but we have no other confirmation.. By the end of 1863 the real 'gold rush' was over, and companies were being organised to continue to mine the deeper and more difficult alluvial gold using large scale water sluices and the like. . The number of miners reached a maximum of 18,000 in February 1864 but numbers dropped dramatically from then on.

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It would seem that the young family of four decided to join the exodus and they moved to Auckland for a short period. ( An Otago newspaper dated April 1864 has a "Mr and Mrs Forrest on board the 250 ton "SS QUEEN " ( . The date would certainly coincide with their approximately known movements )

The "QUEEN" was the first screw steamer to visit Dunedin. She had caused quite a stir when she arrived on 27th September 1858. Greeted with a 21 gun salute, she replied with a display of fire works launched from her deck that evening.

Second son Arthur was born in AUCKLAND the following year..

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It is very likely the young Forrest family were resident in Auckland at the same time our equally young EAVES family ancestors who arrived on the "BOMBAY" from England at the end of March 1865, Their paths almost certainly crossed ...though my grandparents Edward and Alice were yet to be born into each of the families.

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The Government was allocating land in the north island to able bodied men who joined a militia and we have a record in the "***Daily Southern Cross***" in May 1867 of "***Land grants ( Militia ) to the following persons... " . The list included James Forrest .***

We believe , however, that the family , now with three children, had moved from Auckland to the Cambridge area early the previous year. Pioneering families generally traveled by steamship from Auckland's Manukau harbour ..to Port Waikato ,where they typically transferred to flat bottomed river paddle steamers to continue their journey up the Waikato river ,

Such vessels had in 1863/64 been converted into 'gun boats' with iron cladding above deck level ...to suppress and bypass Maori riverside 'fortifications ' ...in order to establish settlements on desirable lands further up the river.

The seagoing 'screw propelled' ships that served Port Waikato ( e.g. *Gundagai, Lady Barkly, Sturt*) were used for troop and stores transport between coastal and sometimes, up-river ports. A substantial naval dockyard with workshops was set up at [Port Waikato](#) where gunboats and barges were built and repaired. The dockyard and other depots were closed down and the naval flotilla dispersed after the New Zealand Wars were substantially concluded in 1867.

James enlisted in the 3rd. Waikato Militia in Cambridge as a 'substitute soldier '...the militia acting as a bulwark to Maori resistance to the establishment of European settlements.

As it turned out, this particular militia was disbanded shortly after James and family moved to their allotment .  
However James later (~age 36 ) saw fit to join the *Cambridge Cavalry Volunteers* during the years 1872-80

The family became part of New Zealand's first substantial farming region having been granted 50 acres of 'vacant' land for farming , plus.. "a town acre".

The government's plan was to establish these farms as a buffer between the still hostile Maori "King Country" and Auckland... with Cambridge as a military outpost.

The land James was granted was in an area known as Hautapu , between the town of Hamilton and village of Cambridge...and they lived there for the rest of their lives.

( Hautapu has a range of meanings in Maori ...but centres around " a portion of an enemy slain in battle, or something used in a rite to ensure good fortune.". Either way...it sounds ominous and maybe that's 'enough to know..)

The HAUTAPU district was mainly swamp, and many militia men just walked away, while some others sold their land . Men with families generally pitched in and made a go of their new life, and by 1867 the population was 200 ...including men, women and children .

We might draw a conclusion that industrious James had done reasonably well during the short lived 'gold rush years '...allowing him to quickly improve ..and add to.. the 50 acres he had been granted. A Cambridge rates notice 1869/70 shows James adding to their land grant...eventually acquiring a total of 300 acres.

James paid just 2 pence an acre... a *give away price* even in those days, which was likely just government transferral fees.  
( In 1909 he sold 280 acres for £22 per acre. )

According to one record, they had called their farm 'GWYNNELANDS'.. ( *In later years , after selling 220 acres, it appears they renamed their remaining homestead acreage .."Surrey Park".* )

Poultry, pigs and cattle were their first livestock. A vegetable garden and orchard were family essentials, while Wheat and oats were an economic mainstay.

Scrub, fern and ti-tree made a bleak outlook, and larger trees were quickly planted as shelter from the cold southerly winds. Today , Cambridge has an inheritance of magnificent trees from which has come the name, "Cambridge Town of Trees."

Newspaper records show that James was very involved in local school and 'Roads Board' affairs, being noted as 'chairman' for several committees. He also tendered for government contracts ... such as drainage and road improvements , and in the process....adding value to their own land.

In January 1873 (~ 1877) JAMES was appointed official " *Collector of Rates for the Cambridge North Highway District.*" The letter of appointment, in





flourishing handwriting , indicated that it was ‘an honourable’ position , and presumably a tax for upkeep of the areas roads.

A newspaper entry dated July 1878 shows he won a tender ( £315 ) for the establishment of a ‘drainage system serving Duke Street.’., now the main East / West thoroughfare in Central CAMBRIDGE .

JAMES would have needed to be an employer and organiser of some note with practical abilities no doubt honed by his experience improving his own land a decade earlier. .

**Alice** was born. in 1869, the fifth of eleven children. She recalled that her father felt that she was somewhat delicate as a young girl ....in need of 'building up , and he would encourage her to eat food from his own plate at mealtimes.

James was denoted as a "Settler " on Alice's birth certificate, but he was soon to become a very successful farmer and business man ...later becoming President of the Cambridge Farmers Club, and other agricultural committees. It was recorded in 1897 that he was also a *Justice of the Peace*.

#### **Children b./marriages / x grandchildren shown below:**

Charlotte SARAH JAN 1862 Unmarried / died age 31

Archie JAMES. Apr. 1863 Sophie Vincent x8

Arthur Henry. Aug.1865 (unmarried) died 8/1942

EMMA Hautapu Aug.1867. Alex Andrew x 4

**ALICE CAROLINE .June 1869. EDWARD EAVES x 8**

Eleanore Mary (Nellie) 1871. Charles Keely x 2

Edith Gertrude 1873. Willy Denize x 6

Lucy Matilda. Sept.1874. Ernest Goldsbury x 5

Lily July 1876 Walter Smerdon -

Rosaline Agnes. Feb.1878. Reuben Crawshaw x 5

Grace Emily. Jan.1880. Ezro Brockeksby x 4

Society in Cambridge was very class conscious . Eleanor ( Nellie ) was a good sportswoman and wanted to join the local tennis club but the committee would not accept her application saying

" We must draw the line somewhere ! " Only members of 'professional families' were accepted.

A newspaper record in Dec 1884 , states that Alice was a keen piano player and performed a duet , with her older sister Emma , at the Cambridge Town Hall when she was 15.

In 1889 James was offered 3 shillings and sixpence per bushel for wheat which would be shipped to Christchurch. Other records show that he was a producer of 'show quality' root crops, and prize ewes and rams.

A newspaper record from March 1890 show that serious loss, due to fire, of farm buildings and stables amounted to 200 pounds. James allowed tramps to sleep in the lofts and it seemed that one had let a match get away.

James became very 'well to do' , especially after sale of land decades later , and he travelled back to England on three occasions. The second time in 1906 when he would have been 70 years old, he reported that he found the English people very 'conservative'...and "slow to adopt more modern methods of agriculture".

In May 1910, James engaged Mr. Fred Potts, an architect, to design and build a new house on the corner of Forrest and Hamilton Roads near to their older home, so to be near their orchard and gardens. They had lived in their previous house for 44 years. It was to be quite a Grande Villa with many rooms, and it remains a very desirable home to this day.



Even though not in good health, James had a third trip to England , just after commissioning the construction of their new home ,, and whilst it was being built. We do not believe SARAH accompanied him on any of his overseas trips.

James died 24 November 1914, aged 77 , having enjoyed the completion of his new home for just 2 or 3 years. Sarah died at the family home, eight years after James, in Aug. 1922. aged 83 .



A measure of their later wealth is also supported when Alice received £500 in 1918 from her parents' estate 3-4 years after James had died. Alice used her inheritance to purchase OREWA HOUSE in 1919...eventually increasing her landholdings to about 300 acres .

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ca. 1890

James wanted his daughters to remain at home until such time that they married but Alice became the first of his daughters to go out to work. She went into 'service' as a parlour-maid for a wealthy family in Remuera (Honeymans) and later worked as a dressmaker.



ALICE left in pic , moved to live in Coromandel where her married younger sister Edith (right) then lived. They worked together in a dress making business there.

Alice met her future husband **Edward Eaves** during a Xmas visit he made to see his sister in Coromandel , a thriving gold mining town at the time. Edwards sister , Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie) WARING (née Eaves). lived in Coromandel at the time and owned the dressmaking business where Alice worked. Alice was living with her younger sister Edith, by then Mrs William. Dineze. 'Willy' was a wiley entrepreneur of the day and owned many horses and 'vehicles'. A year or two before WILLY died in 1939 he wrote of the early days in Coromandel, and excerpts from his interesting recollects...ons are appended hereto..

Alice standing in the main street of Coromandel with horses ,buggies all around her. (ca 1896) Businessman ; brother - in - law Willy Denize in the foreground.



Alice and Edward got on well together , and after numerous letters to one another over the following year, Edward asked Alice to marry him.

Edward , however, was a very honest man, and told Alice about an 'unrequited love he'd experienced in Melbourne a few years earlier.

Alice felt , that given time , he would forget about his lost love and agreed to marry him. They were married in St. Andrews church in Cambridge , Alice's home town, on 5th. Oct 1897 when they were both 28.

However, in spite of their having 8 children ,and remaining together for the rest of their lives, their relationship may have lacked the deep affection that most marriages would hope to achieve.

They settled on a 30 acre property Edward already owned in Red Hill, near Dargaville in the far north, where he had a licence for digging kauri gum..... a relatively valuable export resource at the time. The gum used in Europe for the manufacture of high quality varnishes and the like . Edward made a good income from digging the gum from deep in the ground , where it had been deposited many thousands of years ago by vast Kauri forests which were already rapidly disappearing, due to the huge demand for the highly prized timber .. The gum was removed mainly from swampland , in pieces ranging from a few ounces to several kilograms .It was then scraped , washed and sorted into grades of purity before sale to purchasing agents who despatched the gum to England. In those early days at Red Hill Alice helped Edward in his search for and the processing of the gum.. Long wearisome hours were spent well into the nights... cleaning and scraping the 'nuggets' of gum. On one occasion ,whilst scraping gum ,Alice cut the top off one finger , clean through the fingernail and down to the tip of the bone . When the initial shock had passed she retrieved the fingertip with the half nail attached from the scrapings, washed it and replaced it on the finger and bound it tightly. In time the finger showed no ill effects except for a faint scar .

Alice managed in this way to contribute towards the purchase of a piano she had long wished for .She became a proficient pianist and delighted the family with her music for many years to come.

A number a post-card letters to Alice, from younger sister Lily in Cambridge, during this period provide a delightful little insight to the closeness, and the comings and goings of family and their interests of the day.

All of their eight children were born whilst they lived at Red Hill , the first being Harold in July 1898 and Iris being the last child born in April 1912. Harold was

followed by Lily, Bernard, Ilene, Elsie, Victor, Anne and Iris . Apart from his own land Edward also leased other plots to farm in a small way , to help support the family, but life was, to a large extent, at a subsistence level. A photo exists of the cottage ,with Edward and the family outside.

Perhaps in recognition of his own boyhood, Edward was instrumental in taking two orphan boys into the family for a number of years, a cripple named Bertie Brown and a Fred McLaren.

Edward and Alice's home at Red Hill, just south of DARGAVILLE ca. 1906. They lived here till 1914 , bringing up their 8 children who were all born whilst the family lived here.

Eldest son Harold is the smaller of the two boys at far left , Bernard in pram next to Edward ,Lily and baby Ilene in Alice's arms. Iris would be born 6 years later.



It is perhaps noteworthy that Alice's parents were building their grand new residence near Cambridge at the time their daughter and family were living in this tiny home, ...shortly to be homeless as their lives became a nomadic one for 4-5 years.

In 1914, when Iris was only two yrs old, Edward decided to sell their property in Red Hill and purchase some coastal land at Big Omaha; actually a tiny enclave on the inland side of the Whangateau harbour, east from Warkworth. This decision was most likely due to the falling demand and prices for kauri gum .. their main source of family income all of their married life until then .

(The nearby, and today much better known beach resort of Omaha is now an expensive and well populated coastal playground) .

It is suspected that Edward may have bought the land 'sight unseen' ...and it turned out to be of poor quality . Edward succumbed to a familial psychotic despondency and lost his will and ability to properly support the family . Alice's brother-in-law Willy Denize (husband of sister Edie) assisted the family in locating to Whangapoua (adjacent to the popular beach resort of Matarangi today) on the Coromandel peninsular ,where they could live and assist with work on a family sheep farm.

The family transferred with their belongings from Big Omaha on the scow, "Jane Gifford" ,across the firth of Thames to Coromandel. See pic below.

The wharf and building which the 'Jane Gifford' is tied to , *plus the vessel itself*, have been restored to pristine condition by historical societies, and can be viewed today.

Some of the older children had to go to a boarding school in Coromandel township. Lily who had just finished schooling became the younger childrens' tutor , with classes often held under a tree outside their temporary farm home on the other side of the peninsular at Whangapoua .

Edward was restless, and increasingly spent time in Auckland where he stayed with his sisters. Subsequently he resettled with his family at 113 Crummer Rd. Grey Lynn, Auckland, for a year or so. These were the years of WW I and eldest son Harold had joined the army, to be transported



The concrete wharf with the scow Jane Gifford tied up. Note the shop over the water on piles, ca 1922–24. T.H. (Jack) Walden photo. Ina Shaw collection.

to England for further training. Luckily for him the war came to an end before he was sent to the front and he returned home to take a teachers training course in Auckland which did not come to final fruition . (He went to live at Orewa House a few years later, never to have any real vocation.)

Money was extremely tight for the family in Auckland and Alice began making ornamental beads from paper and paste which were coloured and dried in the sun before threading into necklaces. She found a ready market for these at 'Milne and Choyce', one of the major department stores in Auckland ,and continued making these for some time until one day she overheard a woman on a tram , wearing her beads ,say that water affected them and they did not last well. Alice stopped making them from that day on. Lily and Bernard had started working and their small pay packets supplemented Edward's income from odd jobs. Porridge could be made from broken biscuits and cases of damaged fruit & vegetables from the city markets helped to feed the family.

Alice was becoming ,by necessity, more assertive ...and answered an advertisement for a manager to run a boarding house at Mangapehie , a hurly burly central North Island timber town over 100 miles south of Auckland .They got the position and moved there in 1917. Although remote, it was on the main north / South trunk railway line. The older children were able to help in the operation of this new family venture. Iris and Anne started their schooling here. Alice in particular ,learnt much from this experience, and the family also managed to save some money .

Alice's father died in 1914 , and her mother in 1923 . Alice received £500 inheritance from her parents estate around 1918-19 , with which she instigated a search for a boarding house property of her own .

In Sept 1919 Alice, then 50 yrs. old, saw an advertisement in the *NZ Herald* for the sale of a guest house in Orewa , some 25 miles north of Auckland .Edward was not initially much impressed by Alice's enthusiasm but in spite of this she felt that it would be a good opportunity for the growing family to better themselves. So with her characteristic determination she set off for Auckland by train ,the only link with the outside world in 1919 , taking with her a niece as a companion. They caught the small coastal steamer from Auckland to Silverdale , and then horse and buggy to Orewa. This journey could be accomplished in one long day with careful planning, and a pre-dawn start. She was immediately impressed enough to know that she wanted to proceed with the purchase, and after some hard bargaining with the interim owner, a Mr. Hitchings , to deduct some of the land and reduce the price, a sale was concluded .

Five hundred pounds from Alices parents' estate, was enough to buy the large boarding house together with some of its surrounding farmland ,plus 40 acres of native bush. (This bush exists unchanged today, amongst the now very urbanised coastal suburbs, having been willed to the nation in 1956 and known as ' Alice Eaves Bush'.)

In spite of Alice being the principal motivator , Edward had some foresight and enough acumen to encourage her to get a bank loan to buy the extra land adjoining their own... some 300 acres. She needed his input , however, to complete the loan application with the bank... it being most uncommon for women of the day to carry out such business transactions.

Exactly when the nucleus of the *present* house was erected is unknown, but it was sometime after 1868 . It is believed that a small cottage existed there as early as 25 years before that.

John Ryan , a mariner who had come to NZ from Sydney was felling trees in the area as early as 1843 and his wife Catherine was likely to be the first European woman to live here. He did not buy land officially until 1856 but was almost certainly living here earlier. Marrying again and with an extended family. Ryan purchased 56 acres where he built a small cottage using timber from his own pit-sawn kauri trees ..The forest on the flatter land had been virtually cleared by the time of his official purchase and he sold the property to a Major Issac Rhodes Cooper of the 58 th. Regiment who had come to NZ in 1847..

Temporarily resettling to Thames to take charge of Military Police following the discovery of new gold fields there , Rhodes later retired back to Orewa in 1858 where he employed some soldiers from his regiment to install a drainage system and began farming the land.

Ten years later in 1868 he sold his Orewa property to Major Collings de Jersey Grut (pronounced 'Groo') The Major had come to NZ from the Channel Islands a decade earlier with his wife, children and a brother and servants. They had bought land and lived where the Chelsea sugar works now stand across the harbour from Auckland city, but his servants soon left to take advantage of colonial opportunities. After one of his young daughters died tragically, burnt in a fire it is believed, de Grut moved north to Orewa.

Three generations of the de Grut family grew up at Orewa during the next 50 years , eventually building most of the big house that exists there today, before the Eaves family arrived in 1919.

Mr. Hitchings ,from whom Alice bought the property, had owned it for only a year or so and was something of a ' speculator '.

The family was transferred from Mangapehi to Orewa progressively over the next 2 months.

Iris made the trip to Orewa in November 1919 together with her older siblings Anne, Victor and 15 yr. old Ilene who was in charge of the small group. They were met at night on the steamer at the Silverdale wharf on the Weti River by brother Bernard in a 4 wheel horse and buggy for the final 4 miles to Orewa House . Iris , together with her own family at a later time, would live here for a large part of her life during the next 37 years, until 1956 when the property was sold following Alice's death in her 87 th year.

There was only one other house on the beach in 1919.....visitors/ guests to the boarding house had to disembark off-shore from coastal steamers into small boats to be rowed ashore, or otherwise off-load at wharves at Waiwera or up the Weiti river at Silverdale.

The main building was in need of major repair and the guest bedrooms were poorly appointed. Likewise, outbuildings and fences were derelict and inadequate. The district itself was isolated with no roads of any consequence so this undertaking was one of great courage. However none of the family, other than Edward ,questioned Alice's wisdom in purchasing the property.

Earlier in their marriage Alice had always been the dutiful wife and mother , but following Edwards bouts of depression after leaving Red Hill some three years earlier, she had necessarily assumed more authority, resulting in a determination to succeed in the venture she had chosen. Edward had little or no say (this was his own choice) in the purchase, or indeed in the actual management of the property as it developed into a very viable business over the following years ,though he was always readily available for carrying out work on the farm with his sons, and maintenance of the extensive buildings.

The first Christmas holiday season was soon upon them and Edward together with Lily and Elsie arrived from Mangapehi to become an essential part of the team to run the business. Lily was 19 by now and became Alice's main helper in running the boarding house and handling the girls who were employed on the staff. Having five girls in the family was a great asset though it would be some years before the two youngest Anne and Iris were to play any real part. Extra girls had to be recruited each season as housemaids and waitresses, eagerly seeking employment for the short holiday period. The lure of the beach, the summer sunshine and time off in the afternoons to enjoy the surroundings plus the excitement of watching or joining in with the activities of the guests in the evenings were certainly added attractions. Many of these girls would return year after year leaving whatever employment they had in Auckland to return for yet another summer season. It was obvious that they found enjoyment in what Orewa House had to offer.

Understandably the first season was not a great financial success but a start had been made and word was soon to spread. Guests, mostly from Auckland, were only available in any great number during the six week school holidays. Up to eighty people were accommodated at one time in the early years but this number was increased as additional rooms and even temporary tents were added as time went on.

Iris and Anne, only seven and nine years old when arriving at Orewa in 1919, attended school set up inside one of the property's outlying buildings commonly referred to as **'The Cottage'**. Up to 10 children from around the area would have 3 day's schooling a week. A class photo, above, with teacher Mr. Rudall at Orewa House, ca. 1925, is a reminder of those days.



Music class at Orewa House School ca. 1925. Anne Eaves back left with Iris in centre back

Remarkably, we believe that Iris' future parents-in law, William and Grace Sutton, had stayed in the **'Cottage'** some twenty years earlier, on holiday at the guest house, then owned by the de Gruts'. Their grand-children, Brian and Carol, would play in the same old building, many decades later, when they came to live at Orewa House from 1947 to 1956.



Iris ,(above right with 2 yr older sister Anne)

IRIS, the youngest of the children ,led a relatively carefree existence at Orewa during her childhood and her interest in art led her to be sent to stay with an aunt (Lily Smerdon: nee Forrest) in Auckland at a young 14 yrs of age so as to attend the *Elam School of fine Art* in Herne Bay. After a year she gained a job at large Department store *Smith and Caugheys* producing 'show cards' for the clothing fashion displays . However when Iris was 17 yrs.old, Alice decided that she should come back to Orewa where she could be more gainfully employed at the boarding house.

Iris had already met her husband-to-be ,whilst working in Auckland, and would continue to see much more of him as he visited Orewa where his parents had just bought their first holiday house in 1930.

Alice became known for the wonderful food that came from her kitchen and guests would return year after year to savour her culinary delights, especially her marvellous plum puddings.

Bernard was initially in charge of the farm until 1924 when he departed for Australia and Victor then 16, willingly took over this responsibility. In time a surplus quantity of eggs and milk products were able to be sold, to both city and local markets.

The family's first motor car was purchased at the end of 1923; a new model ' T' Ford. There was ,as yet,very little metalled surface on the tracks through to the north shore of Auckland harbour. In the summer months it was possible to obtain limited use from these roads. Some of the guests came to prefer travelling to Orewa by road , rather than by steamer ,so the car was made available to them for two pounds a trip ,for 4 passengers and their luggage.Alice started a new 'Orewa House Account Book' on 1st. Mar 1923 which recorded virtually every financial transaction right through till 1935. Every guest's name is recorded with the amount received, as is 'bonus' income from the cream and eggs produced, and all wages paid to staff including family members. The car purchase (220 pounds) and ongoing expenditures, together with it's income from fares charged, are also recorded in full, *all* within this same tome. This book remains in existence and in very sound condition. That one book can contain such a comprehensive record of all revenues and expenditures for such a long period of time seems, by todays standards, nigh impossible. However a casual perusal of the account book shows the price paid from everything from cabbage plants (one shilling) to a horse and bridle (thirty-eight pounds)

The original invoice , dated 28 th.Nov 1919 ,for Alice's first major purchase (Two hundred and twenty-eight pounds sixteen shillings. and eightpencea huge amount for the day) from the large Auckland department store , *Smith & Caughey Ltd.*, to establish the new business, remains intact within the account book. The invoice lists items from blankets, mattresses, towels, toilet sets, jugs, to 68 yards of calico and 221 yards of 'sheeting'. Surely a fascinating historical document ! Goods destined for Orewa House from retailers in Auckland became an ever increasing trade on the steamers to Silverdale where they were collected by horse and dray. All the large department stores soon made sure that *Mrs A.C. Eaves* had up-to-date copies of their catalogues.

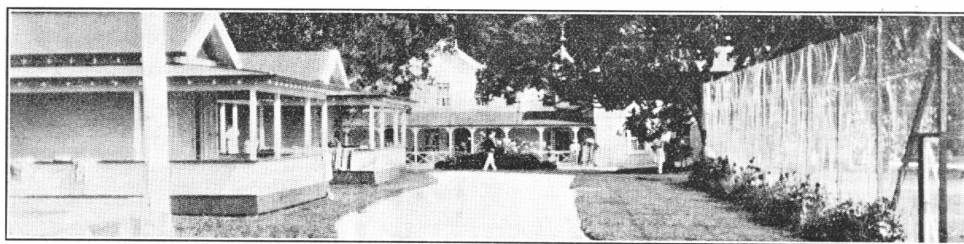
In 1927 two new tennis courts were constructed in front of the house. Much effort was made to ensure the best possible result, including the engagement of the superintendent of the main Auckland Stanley St. tennis club to supervise the project.

Salt air played havoc with paint on the buildings and each year many gallons of paint were mixed on the property from raw materials purchased in Auckland, all under the supervision of Alice .

Chief of Works.

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SURFING
FISHING
TENNIS
CROQUET
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BILLIARDS
NATIVE BUSH



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FOR 120 GUESTS

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TIMES for Children

OREWA, 193
NORTH AUCKLAND, N.Z.

OREWA HOUSE LETTER-HEAD from the thirties

Alice passionately loved her flower gardens (some evidence of these can be seen in the letter-head above) and would spend summer evenings tending to them ,often well after darkness had fallen. This labour of love did not end the days work and she would return to her kitchen domain to continue food preparations for the following day.

Victor has written a detailed account of life in Orewa from 1919 to 1975 which fleshes out very considerably the highlights and experiences the family faced during the years at Orewa House. The years of WW II arrived and although the boarding house kept operating for a time during the early part of the war, this period brought to an end the glory days of Orewa House as the thriving and colourful resort of yesteryear.

The government seconded the property to house approx. 30 war refugees from Indonesia for a year or so during the closing stages of the war ,but the house was again to fall into some disrepair .



Alice second from left sitting. My guess mid 1930's...Alice around 65.

Staff and family members to operate the guest house ,in the manner it had been run previously, were now not available and Alice, now 75, considered selling or leasing the property. However after several offers which were rejected, it was decided to retain the property ...reinstate and use a different business model for guests and their dining facilities.

Various ideas on what to do with the property were debated and it was finally decided to redesign the dining room to incorporate a self-service kitchen where guests could be self sufficient and staffing levels could be minimised.

Thus in 1947, reconstruction works were carried out and the Sutton family moved from Huntly where they had lived since 1943, to assist running the property under it's new guise.

The guest-house again became a popular destination for Auckland's holiday season beach-lovers. The Sutton children, Brian and Carol, lived out much of their childhood years in these spacious idyllic surroundings until 1956 when Alice died aged 86 , and the combined family decided that the property should be sold and her 'estate' divided between her children.

Alice is buried at the cemetery at the top of Eskdale Rd. Glenfield only 300 metres from where Shirley and Brian later bought their home after returning from living in Australia in 1985. Edward is also buried in the same plot, although the plaque only shows Alice's name and date of death.

EDWARD EAVES (1869 - 1964)

Father : Thomas Eaves
Mother : Ann Ianson

Edward's father Thomas was born near Preston, England in 1841. In 1790 ,there were 171 baptisms in the church at nearby St. John's where the family worshipped ; in 1819 they had risen to 771. We know that Eaves (Eves) flourished and intermarried with some prominent families in this area in the 16th-17thC . The population of Preston was only tiny and during the bulk of the 1700s it was fairly static at about 6000. A family by the name of Horrocks built a five-storey cotton mill in town in 1796 and started the industrialisation of Preston .The era of cotton processing in the area has long passed and the town now largely depends on aerospace, engineering and commerce
Records show that Thomas’ parents Roger and Ann Eaves (nee Bennett) were married on 7 Sept 1835. Thomas had an older brother ,Edward (b.1839,) who had 4 children, the eldest of whom he called *Thomas* after his own brother We still have two Xmas cards sent to Edward Eaves in NZ ca.1900-05, from his cousin *Thomas* Eaves ,who remained living in Preston. Thomas and Ann I’anson were married on 9.Sept.1861 in Preston -St. John.

The family of Ann Eaves (nee I’Anson)

Ann was the youngest of 6 children but her parents William.1802-1844 and mother Ann Speakman ,1807-1848 , both died when she was very young (a pattern that came to be repeated for her own children in NZ just a generation later, in rather tragic circumstances,.) Ann later lived with her maiden Aunts, two of whom were school mistresses, so it is certain that young Anne would have had a good education Ann was the youngest of 6 children but her parents William.1802-1844 and mother Ann Speakman ,1807-1848 , both died when she was very young (a pattern that came to be repeated for her own children in NZ just a generation later, in rather tragic circumstances,.) Ann later lived with her maiden Aunts, two of whom were school mistresses, so it is certain that young Anne would have had a good education.....

Piecing together what we know, it is clear that in the early part of the 19th century, the I’Anson’s were successful business people in the developing town of Preston. We can be reasonably certain that John I’Anson and his wife Elizabeth moved into Preston about 1800 give or take a year. John was a tinplate worker who established a thriving business in Friargate, Preston which is one of the main thoroughfares. Two of their daughters became school mistresses and their eldest daughter Ann married John Simpson who was a watchmaker. He is included in lists of watchmakers so it is reasonable to assume that he was also a notable and successful businessman.

In terms of church attendance, it is said that the I’Anson’s were committed Methodists. However whilst some of their children were baptised at the Methodist Church at Freckleton, a small village just outside Preston, other children were baptised at St John’s - the Anglican Parish Church of Preston.

John I’Anson died in 1835. His widow Elizabeth clearly continued in the business until she died in Oct 1844 only a couple of months before her son William.

What happened next is a matter of some speculation. We do not know for sure whether the inheritance was effectively fragmented to all and sundry members of the family or if the business passed to the next in line who would have been Ann’s eldest brother John. It seems more likely to have been the second because in the 1851 census, John is recorded as a master tin plate worker with 3 apprentices. However by 1861, John is no longer in Preston but is living in Wolverhampton as a tin plate worker. Again it is speculated , that by this time industrialisation had led to the mass production of tin plate goods effectively squeezing out the small local producer; John had given up the struggle and had followed the work into a factory. By 1871 John was in Liverpool where he was running a successful hardware business.

Moving further back, the consensus view of family researchers is that John I’Anson married Elizabeth Dereham on 3 July 1797 at St Helen’s Church, Garstang. According to one researcher, it is documented that the Dereham’s were a well established and influential family in the area who emigrated to America. Today, Garstang is a small town about 25 kilometres north of Preston. In 1800 it would have been a prosperous town benefiting greatly from its position on the main coaching route up the western side of England. Unfortunately, at this time, we have not been able to trace the family any further.

Turning now to the family of Ann’s mother, we know that her grandparents were Thomas Speakman and Mary Hoult. They married on 5 Nov 1794 at Prestwich. Today, Prestwich is

a suburb of Manchester but in 1794 it would have been a separate town. We also know from the 1841 and 1851 census records that Thomas and Mary were shopkeepers/ provision merchants in Preston. Their shop was also in Friargate - see the l'Anson note. At this stage there is no more information about Thomas Speakman but the parents of Mary were Samuel Hoult and Ann Walwork. Again there is no information about Samuel but Ann's parents were William Walwork and Alice Crowder. We do however know from the baptism records that Samuel Hoult was a weaver. These 2 generations were based in Radcliffe which is adjacent to Prestwich and again today is a suburb of Manchester.

It is likely that with Thomas Eaves' background, both he and Ann almost certainly had expectations of a reasonable lifestyle - perhaps not of great comfort but at least without poverty. But by 1864, through different factors, their expectations had become bleak. It is easy to see why the new opportunities on offer in New Zealand might have seemed very attractive.

Thomas' and Ann's first child, Ann Jane, was baptised on 1st.June.1862 and their next daughter Mary Elizabeth was born on 5th.July 1863.

It has been related that Roger was the owner of a cotton mill and it is recorded that his eldest son Edward was a Cotton Mill manager. (Edward's address was 57 Porter St, Preston)

We believe Thomas worked in the cotton mill as a young man ,but as tenure passed to the eldest son and his future there was not secure, he decided to emigrate to New Zealand with his young family.

In the two decades following 1853, in excess of four million people left the British Isles. Several hundred thousand of these chose New Zealand as their destination, including Thomas and Ann. In 1863 the NZ Parliament made a proposal to the British government for the establishment of emigrant settlers from the UK, who would be grouped in numerous small settlements outside the bigger towns. These settlers would be required to defend themselves, in the event of skirmishes developing, following fierce wars between Maori and British military in Taranaki and the Waikato, during the preceding few years. Shortly afterwards, the Government proclaimed the acquisition of all lands taken by Her Majesty's armed forces during the recent wars with Maori, and the confiscation of large parts of the northern Waikato area. By 1864 the Waikato Regiments were established in military settlements as far south as TeAwamutu, and the Government was able to give attention to the Special Waikato Immigration Scheme. Two agents were sent to England in early 1864 to provide advice on the selection of suitable immigrants.

Arrangements for the transfer and comfort of the new settlers aboard ship was given considerable attention and they were told that good accommodation would be provided on board and " the scale of dietary shall be liberal". It would appear (from Thomas' own diary) that the family did receive *relatively* good conditions aboard ship, when comparing the recorded experiences of other contemporary voyagers.

The intending emigrant was warned that, at first ,he would not be able to make a living upon the land granted to him.(due to afforestation) An amount of fifteen pounds was received for the building of a house... to be repaid by monthly instalments. Loans from England to the NZ Govt. to finance the transfer of new settlers were far less than anticipated and the number that could be accepted declined from 20,000 to a mere 3000. The first ship to leave Britain was the *Helenslee* from Glasgow, followed by the *Resolute*, *Viola* ,*Ganges*...and the ***Bombay*** from London.

The 'Bombay' left London (Gravesend) on 22 Nov. 1864, eventually arriving in Auckland on 18 Mar. 1865.



Pic of Gravesend Brian took in June 2019. The iron jetty from which the Bombay departed was built in 1835 and is now heritage listed . Superstructure is obviously rebuilt. The white/ grey building shown would certainly have been there in 1864.

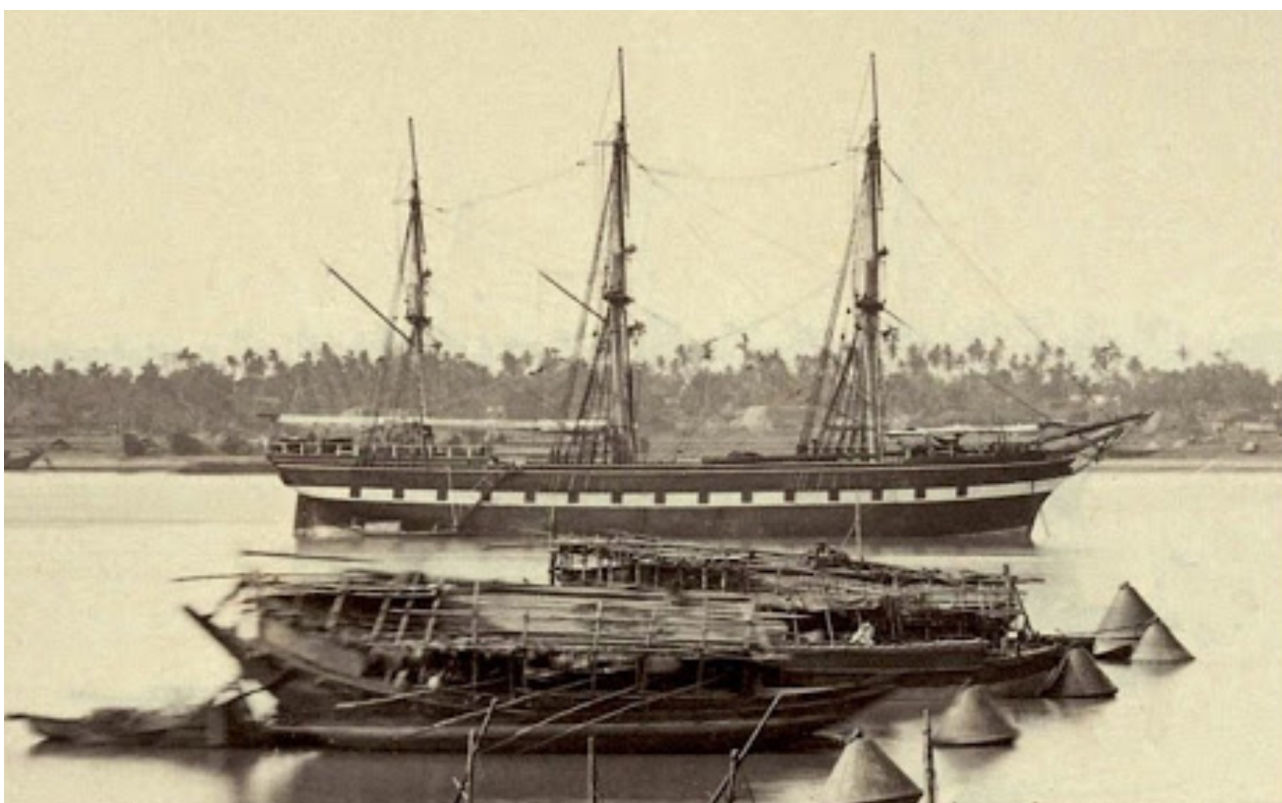
This remarkable journey is captured in Thomas' own handwritten log describing the details of shipboard life at the time.... there were 9 deaths and 7 births. It was the third voyage of four that the BOMBAY made to NZ....*and by far the most perilous*. The ship almost sank during a hurricane in the Tasman sea when virtually all masts and sails were blown away . After the storm abated , sailors began cutting away pieces of broken mast and spars , and together with ripped canvas started to jury rig the vessel. Meanwhile many of the folk on board had given up hope of survival, and prayers were the order of the day ,when another ship hove into view. The 900 ton 'Bombay' was subsequently towed by a small 350 ton barque (the "Constance") around the North Cape and down the coast towards Auckland. At Cape Brett, another much larger ship hove into view which proved to be a Man O' War steamer ,the "Curacoa".... enroute from Auckland to Melbourne. This ship subsequently towed the Bombay back to Auckland....

ARRIVAL OF THE BOMBAY - TOWED IN BY WARSHIP

The 'Herald' of March 20, 1865, contains the following account of the arrival of the Bombay:

'Considerable excitement prevailed in the town during the morning of Saturday, in consequence of the report which had been current that the Curacao had been signalled in sight with a ship dismasted in tow. On arrival in harbour the ship proved to be the Bombay, Captain SELLARS. The ship had been out 111 days from the Downs, with 400 passengers and general cargo. The Bombay had fallen in with the terrific gale which had been experienced along the coast of New Zealand. Much anxiety had been felt as to the condition of the ship and passengers. We are happy to say the passengers were in the best health and spirits and that the ship was a model of cleanliness, evincing the greatest care and attention on the part of her commander and officers. When the condition of the ship is considered, knocked about as she must have been in the gale of two days' duration, terrific seas running, and freighted with passengers who had never before been so situated, calm and presence of mind and other sailor-like high qualities were necessary to preserve discipline and prevent anything like disturbance, which in such circumstances might have been fatal. The passengers speak in the very highest terms of their captain.

Pic of the BOMBAY in Calcutta Nov 1865. (On return voyage. to England)



The 391 settlers were almost entirely young people in their twenties .

There were delays in surveying allotments for the newly arrived settlers and many were housed in uncomfortable temporary accommodation on the northern side of the Waitemata Harbour, and in Onehunga, before going to live in disused barracks some 30 miles to the south near Drury where they worked at road-making until access to their land was ready. Land was generally divided into lots of 10 acres and records obtained show that many ,including Thomas with a family, received 2 parcels of land (lots. 28 & 30)

Almost the first activity of the settlers on arrival in the colony was the formation of a volunteer corps, called the Razorback Rangers. The late Mr R PROUDE was captain, Mr JESSUP was lieutenant and drill instructor and Mr CORNTHWAITE was ensign and afterwards senior sergeant. Mr Jessup had been in the Royal Marines and had seen active service in HMS Arrogant, engaged in the suppression of the West African slave trade. The war was in progress when the immigrants arrived and before long they were ordered to Mercer to guard the ammunition. It was only playing at soldiers declared Mr Cornthwaite, because they had no ammunition themselves and had the Maoris come, they would have had to be met with the bayonet only. Soldiers were present from Wairoa and Pokeno and the Bombay contingent numbered between 60 and 70.

When it became clear that the central government could not continue fulfilling it's promise of providing further suitable land for the new arrivals, and Maori would not tamely give up further of theirs, the scheme went entirely to pieces, resulting in great acrimony over who was to blame.

The opening of the Thames goldfield gave a fillip to Bombay. Many worked in the mines and invested their earnings on their holdings. A few years later cocksfoot (<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-JacTale-t1-body-d3-d4.html>) came (open this to read more)and when a man secured £25 for the product of five acres he was considered to be the possessor of a small fortune. Many went in for cows, one of which was sold by Mr John MARTIN to Mr W PIGGOTT for £20. The settlers churned their butter, for which they received 1s.2d. in winter and about 5d. in summer. Eggs fetched 7d per dozen in summer. The development of the dairying industry in later years really made Bombay, which is now the centre of an extremely prosperous district.

A Clergyman of the day, *Vicesimus Lush*, records in his diary on 15 June 1866.....

"....proceeded to the settlement about a mile beyond 'Williamson's Clearing' called the Bombay Settlement. They are all in a dejected state: when in England they were told that they would be given 10 acres of land free ,and work for the Government for 12 months. They have not yet been here 6 months and now told that work for them will cease at months end. Privation and suffering stare them in the face, for the Government have overdone it and there are a large number of paupers. There is not enough work in the colony from private people, and the province and Government are nearly bankrupt. I left them with a heavy heart for I could not advise them, not knowing what to suggest."

A further diary entry on 1st August goes on..." I spent the whole day among the Bombay immigrants...they take a lively interest in the proposed new church of *St Peters in the Forest* (a newer church ca. 1920 stands on the spot today) which will be within a quarter mile of their chief road.The day was beautifully fine with a magnificent sunset... I noticed noisy parrots among the treetops. I passed over the hill which is composed of very singular-looking earth, a dark rich red which feels soft to the touch .A man told me that the earth goes to considerable depth and is particularly fertile: certainly his garden, as far as he had gone, could not have looked better."

It was obvious that the new colonists had to work hard on their rough bush farms, growing corn and cutting timber, and eventually some achieved a measure of prosperity.

Further children were born to Thomas and Ann in Bombay ,AMELIA (Millie') , Florence, and **Edward. Even though Amelia returned to England when she became a young adult , she and Edward kept in close contact by letter all of their lives .**

Thomas' wife died when Edward was only about 5 yrs.old . It has been related that Ann died during a difficult childbirth when the local doctor failed to attend, due to being inebriated.

With his wife dead and 5 children to rear, Thomas found life difficult to cope with, and following some erratic behaviour on his part, (a relationship with a neighbour's wife has been mentioned) ...he committed suicide by hanging himself at home on the evening of 29th Dec. 1880. The three older children arrived home at 3am after a dance , to find him dead.

I have conjectured that it is possible he was 'bi polar '... a condition that son Edward, and then Edward's daughters Iris and Ilene also suffered from time to time.

Edward joined the temperance league later in life ('signing the pledge') and was a strict teetotaler all his life, which is not surprising.

Edward , together with his sisters, thus became orphans, the eldest Ann Jane being only 18 yrs old. We suspect that is older sister became a strong surrogate mother figure to him, as can be imagined, and he kept close to them in later years.

They were spread around local families to bring up, young Edward being taken in by a prominent family by the name of Proude.

Around 1885 he moved to live with his older sister Ann and husband William Waring ,who lived in Edwin St. Mt Eden . Edward left school after the fifth standard and was apprenticed as a boot-maker in Auckland, but later worked for a short time as a soap-maker.

We think Edward followed the Warings to Melbourne where they lived for several years ca 1888-1892. We have a record of Ann's daughter Violet being born there in 1890.

Edward was to fall in love in Australia, with a girl whose father was not impressed that his daughter's beau appeared to have such little 'prospects, and the relationship did not flourish.

Edward ultimately returned to NZ brokenhearted. We are unsure how long Edward stayed in Australia or the exact years he was there.

Ann Jane and Mary Elizabeth married brothers , William and Richard Waring.

Ann at the age of 22 ,married William on 21.6. 1884, and went on to have 9 children.

She died on 24.10.1949 and is buried in the cemetery at Papakura. Edwards sister Florence married a Wm. Wild (daughter Flossie Hicks) whilst Millie became Mrs Kennish and returned to live in Manchester UK where she had 2 children...later moving to Sth Africa to live.

Mary and Richard were 'shopkeepers and there is a building which still prominently bears their surname ,in Sandringham, a suburb of Auckland

Ann Jane's grave is at S 37.06914 / E 174.94458 on GPS., in Papakura, Auckland.

At some point, perhaps around 1892-93 ,William Waring and family together Edward returned to NZ . After an initial start at Dairy Flat just north of Auckland , it appears that Edward followed his older sister and her husband William to the Dargaville area, where he bought a small property of 30 acres in Red Hill . He added to his skills in subsistence farming and locating and extracting valuable Kauri gum from the earth.



One of his sisters , Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie'), who had a dressmaking business in Coromandel ,said she could introduce him to a nice girl who worked for her, and arranged for him to visit during Xmas 1896. ALICE FORREST was living with her sister Edie in Coromandel , where she worked for Edward's sister Lizzie. Thus Alice and Edward first met in Coromandel and their relationship developed through frequent letter writing.

Edward was a prodigious record keeper and letter writer and one of his notebooks exists, started in July 1893 ,which records his living expenses (1893- 1899) plus all the letters he wrote and received over a 9 year period up to 1902.

We have clear record of the date of his first letter to Alice ,dated 6. Jan 1897, and the date of her reply (pity not the letter itself) to him on 14. Jan .1897. Letters were exchanged on a regular weekly basis until their marriage at St Andrews church in Cambridge on 5. Oct 1897.

If only we had some of those letters with the day to day commentary on the lives they lived.

Following their marriage in 1897 Edward settled with his new wife on his property at Red Hill, where all their 8 children were born over the following 15 years.

A newspaper from 1898 has an entry that their house was burgled one evening by a 'known person' , while they were attending a meeting of the "Band of Hope" together.

Articles, mostly clothing , were largely returned after the culprit was arrested.

At some point, (ca.1896-1900) Edward's sister Mary Elizabeth and husband Richard also moved to live in Red Hill. We record of their house and store being totally burned to the ground in 1904. So it is clear that there was a strong family grouping in the Red Hill area around the turn of the century.

Edward was a strict disciplinarian, not very much given to affection, although his children would later grow to respect him for his wisdom and the principles he stood for. Although Edward had not received a full education he took every opportunity to improve his status in this respect as the years passed. He bought the very best in literature that could improve his knowledge of the world at the time. All of these books and encyclopaedias had to be treated with the utmost care and respect when read by the succession of children growing up.

He could converse intelligently on most subjects whether it was astronomy , or 'the history of the world'. However Alice would say that he was "full of brains but had no common sense".

He was of lean build, wiry and tough , a little over five feet nine inches tall but appearing taller because of his slight frame. Methodical and neat in his habits he could also work extremely hard for hours on end due no doubt, in part ,to his early life on the gum fields. He continued working hard, well into his mid eighties, around the Orewa House property... including, most essentially, providing the firewood for the ovens and wet-back hot water supply for the house.He would climb into the hilly native bush area behind the house to remove dead trees for firewood. For years his days had to account for sharpening tools, cutting firewood or barrowing the wood down to the house, amongst other duties.

Edward (known to most as Ted or Eddie) was a regular church-goer early in his life and had " signed the pledge " a commitment to refrain from alcohol; but for some unknown reason grew away from the church until he reached his eighties when he recommenced attending church in Orewa.

Victor recalled that Edward sometimes had a strange habit of talking aloud to himself frequently in the company of others and on one occasion he heard him say out loudly ; .

" I wish there was no heaven if there has to be a hell!".

What he had meant or who he had in mind is obscure but nothing was said by those around him to indicate that he had been overheard.

Edward lived at Orewa House until 1956 when it was sold and he and his only unmarried daughter Anne moved to live in a house towards the centre of Orewa. Anne died in 1960 but Edward continued living on his own, having regular evening meals at daughter Ilene's a short walk up the road, until his accidental death in 1964 aged 96, when he slipped on wet timber steps at the back door of his home, striking his head on the ground. Grandson, Brian Sutton would frequently drive from Auckland on weekends and stay with Edward during these last years. Edward's large vocabulary and knowledge of the world and the known universe was always a fascination for Brian who gained much of his own childhood awareness and knowledge from his grandfather.

Of Edward's three sons only Victor married, and children Audrey and Kenneth were to grow up on the family farm in Orewa. Ken and Arlene's three children are Anita, Joanne ...and one son Alan, who remains to carry on the Eaves name

An interesting addendum..as **record by William (Willy) Denize** of his business interests around Coromandel ca 1895 .

Willy married Alice Forrest's sister Edith in 1893 and they had 6 children, though none of this is recorded here. Edward and Alice Eaves ,along with most of their children, were to move to live on the Denize's property at Whangapoua for a short period in 1915 when Edward had suffered a 'nervous breakdown'.

"In 1895 I was the proprietor of three butcher shops in Auckland. A lady owning one of the shops informed me she owned a two storied building and a large section next to the Bank of New Zealand in Coromandel. From this property she had received no rent for years and as there was a gold boom on she was determined to sell. I came to Coromandel and decided there was a good opening for a livery and carrying business. I bought the place mentioned and engaged Riddicks scow which was under sails then, no engine, for the small sum of seven pounds.

He landed me 6 horses, carts , drays, wagonettes and a full cargo of timber and horse feed. The scow came up the creek in front of the 'Golconda' hotel (still there today)

Two horses and the bus (passenger buggy) were run ashore. The steamer was coming up the harbour so down I went with the bus and in a few minutes had earned 30 shillings. The passengers were coming in hundreds, two boats running daily, the 'Akaroa' and the 'Coromandel'.

In three months my stable had increased to 20 horses and to 30 in 6 months, plus the addition of a team of bullocks. As far as one could go then was to Driving Creek, Manaia and the foot of Whangapoua hill . Any further and horse and pack had to be brought into action.

Twelve months later a racing track and grandstand were established on property owned by Mr. Howell at the Tiki, and a permit for horse racing obtained . One nice day between 9 am and midday, I took seventy pounds in one shilling fares, which will give an idea of the number traveling.

The transport of machinery to the mines was very expensive and in one instance I received 450 pounds to put the Success boiler and engine up. The boiler weighed 11 tons and had to be blocked the distance of two miles with 14 bullocks pulling downhill on a double purchase block. The Triumph portable boiler was another arduous undertaking along four miles of the inland road which was narrow and in poor order, taking about four weeks.

Twelve months later I was asked by the manager of Oritonui mines to start a branch there, being assured it would be another mine as large as Waihi. I sold my Coromandel business to my brother John and started at Oritonui where things flourished for a few months. Twelve hundred men were employed and a rail line put in from the wharf to the mine and then two miles on to a sawmill set up to cut timber for the mine and for general building purposes. The battery was erected by an American firm and the plans were for there to be enough quartz paddocked to run it three shifts a day for 12 months. After 3 months the battery was only running one shift of 8 hours ..how this bungle could have been made is a mystery. Two locomotives were running coal from the wharf to the mine and carrying quartz back to the battery. Three hotels had opened, without licenses at first. 'The Flea and Bug', 'The Dog and Duck' and the 'Pig and Whistle'. Prospectors came in from other areas and a bonus was paid to anyone who found payable gold.

Everything seemed to be going well with gold produced being worth over 50,000 pounds . Then suddenly, and completely unforeseen by business people, word came out that the mine would close down as the company's money was exhausted. Mr. Batson had just erected a large hardware shop and had received all his goods still unopened . I, like other business owners , suffered large losses, selling some buildings for only ten pounds. Buildings were transported to other regions, including some to Devonport. I had seen some pretty rough shows in Australia and Tasmania but Oritonui beat the lot.

Having seen enough of gold rushes I turned to farming and bought land at Whangapoua called the 'Punga' from which I was to derive my nick-name.

I am quite satisfied that farming is the best occupation if things would only come to normal (this being written in the depression of the 1930's) , wool down to 4d. and sheep selling as low as one shilling are quite unprofitable.