

Appendix 2

The children of William and Jane Wilson

At present we do not have a definitive list of all children born, or their dates of birth.

According to Laura Thomas (nee Wilson, a grand daughter) her father Joe “*came from a large family - approx. twenty siblings, however several died in infancy*”

This may have been an exaggeration.

Barry Hawke, who resides in Australia, provided from his Hawke family tree, the following list of 12 children (apparently not in chronological order):

William Wilson

Jane Wilson

Mary Ann Wilson

Sandy Wilson (twin)

Frances Wilson (twin)

Joseph Wilson

Archibald S. Wilson

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Wilson

Ann Wilson

John (Jack) Wilson

Isobel (Bella) Wilson

James Wilson

Three of these (Jane, Sandy and Ann) have not yet been authenticated.

However, If Laura Thomas is correct in stating that some of William and Jane’s children died as infants, then Barry Hawke’s list of 12 may well prove to be correct.

R. I. Harding and Barrie Hawke have shared information, source at present unknown.

A list provided by R. I. Harding agrees with Barrie Hawke.

Harding’s list also includes some dates for the three children, who are supposed to have died as infants. (Compare also with Bill Balsom’s notes, later appendix.)

It is recorded on the registration of his death in 1906 that William had five living sons (ages: 48, 35, 29, 27 and 25) and three living daughters (ages: 39, 38 and 32.)

They are named in his probate and match eight of the names in Barry Hawke’s list of 12. (In the probate, “Mary Anne” is recorded in the hand-written version, and mis-transcribed in the typed up version as “Mary Jane”.)

In addition there was the daughter (Frances) who had died in 1903, aged 39.

Taranaki Herald news clippings of births and marriages provide further clues:

29-Oct	1873	B	On 13th Oct at Tataraimaka to wife of W Wilson a daughter.
2-Feb	1876	B	On 27th Jan to wife of W Wilson Tataraimaka a son
19-Jun	1878	B	18th Jun To W Wilson of Tataraimaka a son
22-Jul	1880	B	18th Jul to W Wilson of Tataraimaka a son
5-Mar	1887	M	23rd Feb at Omata William, eldest son of William Wilson, to Jessie 3rd daughter John Hamilton.
5-Nov	1904	M	12 Oct Okato. Arch Wilson youngest son of William, to Ada eldest dau of Joseph Hart, Okato
11-Sep	1908	M	Sept 8 1908 James 4th son of William Wilson to Annie Ellis Victoria Wareham

Matching all this information with a list of names found by searching BDM online, and in some cases checking birth registration, the following list has been constructed:

1858	Dec 7	William	(Birth Dec 7, no year. Could be 57. Reg. in 1858)
1859	6 th April	Jane	(R I Harding list. Died 7 th April 1859)
1860	2 Feb 1860	Ann ? Mary?	(R I Harding list as "Mary". Died 5 th Feb 1860)
1861			
1862			
1863	September 12	Frances	(Birth registration has Francie)
1864		Sandy	(twin to Frances, died as infant. R I Harding list.)
1865			
1866	April 22	Mary Anne	(Birth registration has Mary)
1867			
1868	Dec 17	Lizzy	(Birth registration has Elizabeth)
1869			
1870			
1871	March 6	John	(Birth registration has John)
1872			
1873	October 13	Bella	(BDM online has Isabella. Also newspaper)
1874			
1875			
1876	January 27	Joe	(BDM online has Joseph. Also newspaper)
1877			
1878	June 18	Jim	(BDM online has James) d.o.b. from RI Harding
1879			
1880	July 18	Archie	(Newspaper notice gives date of birth.)

(Added to the chart, in lighter colour: information from the list of R I Harding, including birthdates, showing children supposed to have died as infants.).

There is ample room in this timeline for the birth of Jane and Ann recorded by Barry Hawke, particularly during the 1860s when infant mortality was high in New Plymouth. According to Barry Hawke, Sandy was a twin to Frances (born 1863). However, BDM has no record of Jane or Ann, nor is there any record of a twin, 1863.

The list of children attending Tataraimaka school in 1873:

Frances, who would have been about 10, William, who would have been about 14 and Mary Anne, who would have been about 6. This also provides an interesting match. The eldest of the other children, Lizzie, was only about 4 years old in 1873, thus she and the other younger children were not registered at the school in 1873.

If any other children had been born earlier than Mary Ann (Jane? Ann? Sandy?) then they must have died in infancy as they were not registered at the school in 1873.

William jnr was born in New Plymouth, Dec 7 1858 (or possibly 1857) prior to the first Taranaki war. The informant was Joseph Hawke, Grey Distr. The Wilsons' address is not given in the registration. William's occupation is "labourer."

Frances was born in New Plymouth on Sept. 12th 1863. The family was living at St Germaine's Square. William's occupation was recorded as "sawyer".

Mary Ann was born, 22 April 1866, the family then lived in Mt. Edgecumbe Rd, New Plymouth. (The name is recorded as "Mary", address as "Edgecumbe St", and William's occupation as "sawyer.")

Lizzie (registered as Elizabeth) was born in Tataraimaka, on Dec 17th 1868 and William's occupation is now given as "farmer".

John (Jack) was born March 6 1871 at South Rd.

Father's occupation: sawyer, Tataraimaka.

The other children were all born during the time the Wilsons farmed at Pitone Rd, Tataraimaka.



These four studio photographs are said to be children of William Wilson and Jane (Hawke.) Three of them are at present unidentified. Photo copies held by R I Harding.

William Wilson Jnr.

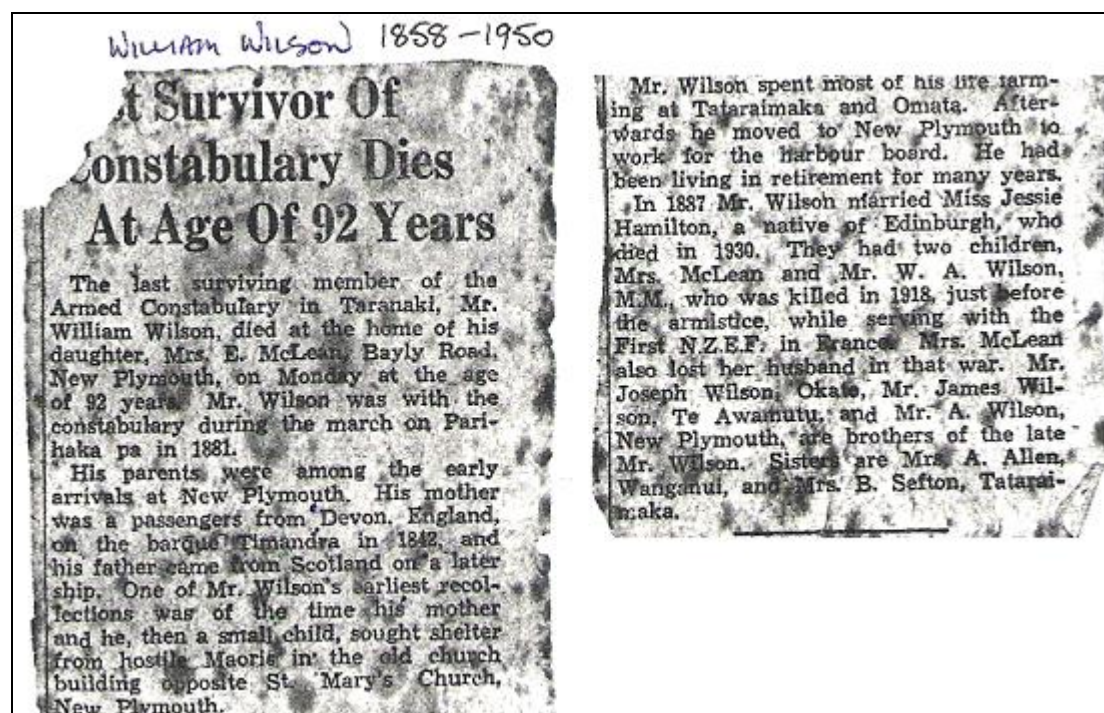
William, first son of Jane and William Wilson Snr., probably born on Dec 7, 1857 or 58, in New Plymouth.

(Birth registration shows date of birth 7th Dec. (year not given.) Registration in 1858.)

Married Jessie Hamilton 23rd Feb 1887.

Children: William Archibald 1889, Ellen 1892

The following summary of William's life comes from an obituary kindly supplied by Hawke descendant R. I. Harding:



During the last years of the Taranaki wars, William Junior had been a member of the Armed Constabulary – this article claims he was the last surviving member.

He was one of those who marched on Parihaka in 1881.

One of his earliest recollections is sheltering with his mother “in the old church building opposite St Mary’s Church” during the Taranaki wars.

During the first Taranaki war, 1860/61, there were alarms which did send women and children seeking shelter inside the barricades, though the town was never actually invaded. William can have been no older than 3 or 4 at that time.

William Wilson Jnr married Jessie Hamilton and they had a son (William Archibald) and a daughter Ellen, who married Donald McLean in 1889.

During WW1 William Jnr.’s son (William Archibald) and his son-in-law (Donald McLean) were both killed.

(William Archibald (No. 65644) together with his cousin Arthur Richard Hawke (No. 65624) fought at Le Quesnoy.

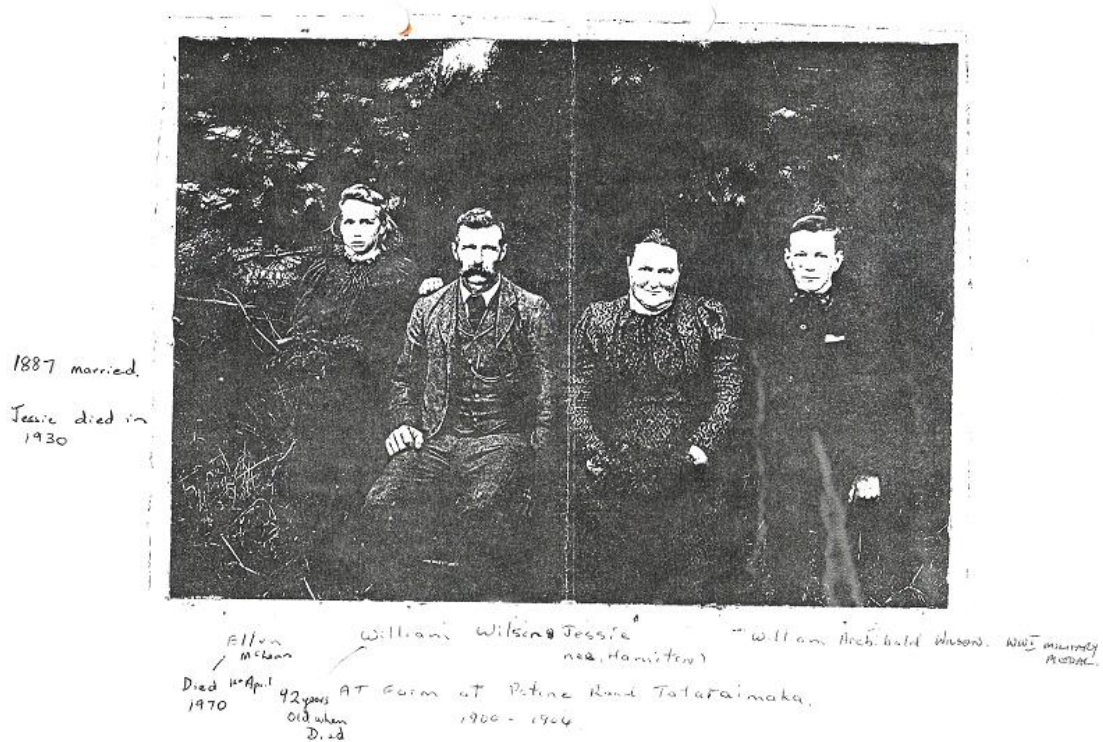
R. I. Harding believes they may have enlisted together.)



William Wilson Jnr



Thought to be William Archibald Wilson, son of William Jnr and Jessie.



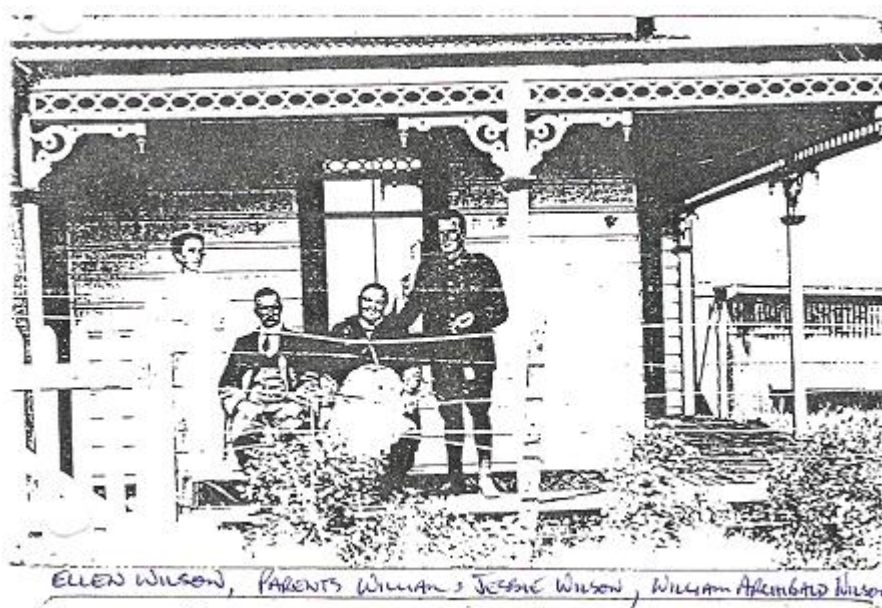
William Wilson Jnr and wife Jessie (Hamilton).

L: daughter Ellen R son William Archibald

Photo copies held by R. I. Harding



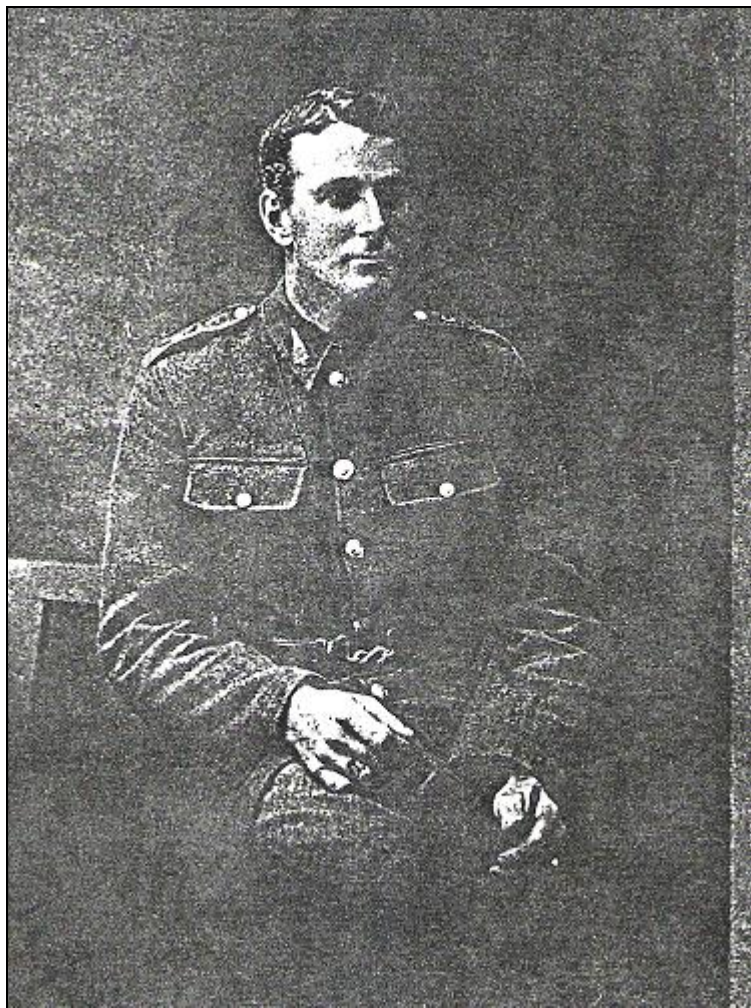
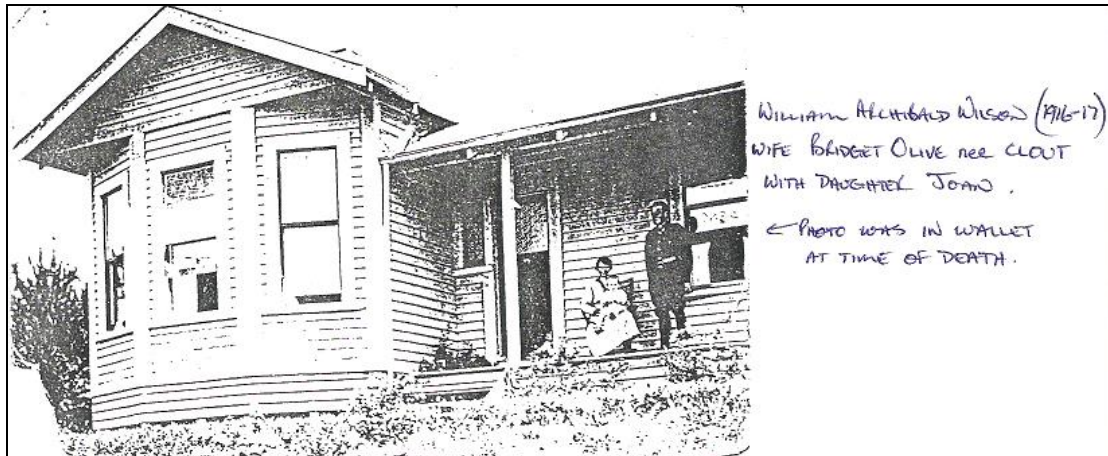
Jessie (Hamilton) Wilson



Ellen, parents William Jnr and Jessie, William Archibald Wilson

Photo copies held by R. I. Harding

William Archibald Wilson who was killed in WW1 had a photograph of his young family in his wallet at the time of his death. (See following photograph.)

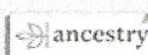


William Archibald Wilson, Military Medal, son of William Wilson Jnr. was killed in action in France, WW1, shortly before the armistice.

Photo copies from R. I. Harding.



CENOTAPH DATABASE



WHO WERE THEY?

WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

FULL NAME **William Archibald Wilson**
RANK LAST HELD Rifleman
FORENAME(S) William Archibald
SURNAME Wilson
WAR World War I, 1914-1918
SERIAL NO. 65644
FIRST KNOWN RANK Private
OCCUPATION BEFORE ENLISTMENT Engine driver
NEXT OF KIN Mrs B.O.A. Wilson (wife), Bayly Road, Moturoa, New Plymouth, Taranaki, New Zealand
BODY ON EMBARKATION New Zealand Expeditionary Force
EMBARKATION UNIT 33rd Reinforcements Canterbury Infantry Regiment, C Company
EMBARKATION DATE 31 December 1917
PLACE OF EMBARKATION Wellington, New Zealand
TRANSPORT HMNZT 99
VESSEL Athenic
DESTINATION Glasgow, Scotland
NOMINAL ROLL NUMBER 76
PAGE ON NOMINAL ROLL 12
MILITARY AWARDS Military Medal (MM)
AWARD CIRCUMSTANCES

London Gazette, 17 June 1919, p7701, Rec No 3214: "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during operations near Le Quesnoy on the 31st October 1918. Rifleman Wilson took part in a daylight raid on an enemy position, having been out with an officer previously to reconnoitre the position. He took forward a Lewis Gun and got it into such a position as to rendered great assistance to the patrol and covered them during their retirement with the 38 prisoners they had captured, although exposed to the rifle fire of the enemy in other positions covering the captured position, remained at his post until the patrol had been safely withdrawn."
LAST UNIT SERVED New Zealand Rifle Brigade
PLACE OF DEATH France
DATE OF DEATH 4 November 1918
AGE AT DEATH 29
YEAR OF DEATH 1918
CAUSE OF DEATH Died of wounds
CEMETERY NAME Ruesnes Communal Cemetery, Nord, France
GRAVE REFERENCE I A 20
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES Son of William and Jessie Wilson of New Plymouth Husband of Olive Annie Wilson of Mission Hill, New Plymouth
ARCHIVES NZ SOURCE [Military personnel file](#)
SOURCES USED Nominal Rolls of New Zealand Expeditionary Force Volume III. Wellington: Govt. Printer, 1918

(File provided by R. I. Harding)

John and Elsie Wilson of Ratapiko.

John, second son of Jane and William Wilson Snr.
born March 6 1871.

John (farmer) married Elsie Oney Hitchcock, school teacher of Tataraimaka in 1901. The couple moved to Ratapiko (a small town in Taranaki, between Inglewood and Stratford.) Newspaper articles inform us that (unusual for the time) Elsie continued her occupation as a school teacher.

Children: Elsie Vera 1901 and Myra Jane 1904.

John Wilson died 1927 from electrocution while climbing through a fence on which a power line had fallen.

Mrs Wilson school teacher at Ratapiko
Taranaki Herald 22 April 1907

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
The annual school picnic took place here on the 11th inst. It was looked forward to keenly by the little ones, and the people rolled up from near and far. During the afternoon children's races, chopping and sawing competitions were held: also ladies' nail-driving competition, which caused much amusement. A concert and dance were held in the evening, when there was a record attendance. Mrs. Wilson, the school teacher, deserves great praise for the way she schooled the children for the concert. Messrs. Scott and Mackay were engaged to supply the music for the evening, but owing to Mr. Mackay meeting with a serious accident the whole task fell on Mr. Scott. Mr. F.

Mrs Wilson broken arm
Hawera and Normaby Star 18th Feb 1909

Mr C. Evetts has taken temporary charge of the Ratapiko School during the absence of Mrs Wilson who received a fractured arm as the result of a trap accident on Saturday.'

Prize for penmanship Vera Wilson (born 1901)
Hawera and Normanby Star 26th June 1913

**1. Alice Dawbin 2.
Penmanship (under 13)—Vera Wilson
(Ratapiko) 1, Ngahina Astbury 2.**

Hawera and Normanby Star 27th Nov 1913

Handwriting, first verse National Anthem, girls under 14.—Helen Carr, Ratapiko School, 1; Vera Wilson, Ratapiko School, 2; Ivy Seater, Mata School

Penmanship again. This time Myra (born in 1904)
Hawera and Normanby Star 5th July 1916

Penmanship, front cover of schedule (competitors under 16 years of age)—O. Wiley, Ratapiko, 1; Myra Wilson, Ratapiko, 2; R. Evans, Stratford, 3.

John Wilson died. Evening Post 16th March 1927

MAN ELECTROCUTED

(By Telegraph.—Press Association.)

NEW PLYMOUTH, 15th March.

While getting through a wire fence on his way to work yesterday John Wilson, aged 56, who lived at Ratapiko, was electrocuted, an electric power line having fallen on the fence. Wilson's work-mate missed him at the place of employment, and later in the day went to his home. A search party went out and found Wilson dead.

Inquest Auckland Star 16th March 1927

BROKEN POWER LINE. CAUSE OF FARMER'S DEATH

(By Telegraph.—Press Association.)

STRATFORD, Wednesday

A verdict of accidental death was returned at the inquest concerning the death of Mr. John Wilson, farmer, of Ratapiko, who was found electrocuted beside a fence across which a broken electric power line was lying.

The jury added a rider calling on the Government to enforce the regulations for the protection of the public.

KILLED BY "LIVE" WIRE.

FARMER IN TARANAKI

POWER BOARD TO PAY £1400.

(By Telegraph.—Press Association.)

NEW PLYMOUTH, this day.

John Wilson, a farmer, of Ratapiko, was electrocuted some time ago when he came in contact with a live wire which had fallen on a fence on his property.

A claim was made against the Taranaki Electric Power Board for damages, the claimant alleging negligence in the construction and control of the lines.

A settlement was confirmed in the Supreme Court to-day by which the board agrees to pay £1400 damages and £100 costs.

Joseph (Joe)

Joseph, third son of Jane and William Wilson Snr.

Born Jan 27 1876

Married Myrtle Hope Penwarden, 1906.

Children: Lewis Victor 1907, Laura Myrtle 1908, Ruby May 1911.

From "Okato, Tataraimaka, Puniho Districts. Their Stories Told" by Irene Waswo:

"Joe Wilson was a carpenter and interior decorator in partnership with Carl Humphrey and Sid Hart."

"Joe Wilson was the son of Jane and William Wilson who farmed on Upper Pitone Rd, Tataraimaka. They were the proud owners of "The Park" Pitone Rd, where many enjoyable picnics and parties were held. Hours of toil were put into creating this picturesque area of lake, boatshed and gardens. There were two bridges, a small one going over to an island with gardens, and a larger bridge at the top of the lake over the stream that ran into the lake.

In his younger days Joe was a distinguished violin player and entertained at many social gatherings in the district. He was also a keen fisherman, gardener and rifle shooter, where he won a lovely chiming clock for his shooting expertise. Laura's mother (referring to Myrtle Hope Penwarden) came from a large family of Penwardens and they farmed on Lower Pitone Rd. Myrtle was a lovely cook and a very house-proud lady. Joe Wilson died in 1956 and Laura's mother Myrtle died on 22 June 1968....."

These notes, recorded by Irene Waswo, came from Laura Myrtle Thomas, daughter of Joe Wilson.

"The Park" referred to has been discussed in the section headed "Wilson's Lake".

Before Laura Thomas died, she donated her painting of Wilson's Lake to the Puke Ariki museum.

When Bob and Laura married they first lived near the Tumahu Hall for a few years and then moved on to their own farm on the Carrington Road in 1922. The land was mostly in bush with a small clear area to erect a two-roomed cottage. Bob used a bullock team while breaking in the land. Trees were felled and split for firewood and both Laura and Bob trapped possums for an income. As the land was cleared a few more cows would be added to the herd. It was all hand milking then as it was many years before electricity came along the road.

Laura and Bob brought up a family of three sons and three daughters and were farming on Carrington Road for 50 years. They have 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

About 1972 they retired to a lovely home in Okato, which overlooked the township. They took a great interest in gardening and disposed of their surplus vegetables with a stall at the gate. Bob passed away in 1988 aged 82 years. Laura has now lived in a townhouse at Fitzroy for the last six years and enjoys the company of family and friends calling in on her.

Laura and Bob's family:

- 1 Beulah m Norman Bates: - four children
- 2 Joan m Norris Durham: - one child
- 3 Barry died young
- 4 Laureen m Kelvin Stretch: - seven children
- 5 Wallace m Jan: - one child
- 6 Layton m Carol: - two children

By Irene Waswo

Laura and Bob



James (Jim)

James, 4th son of Jane and William Wilson Snr.
probably born 1878.
Married Annie Ellis Victoria Wareham Sept 8 1908.

BDM records children: Keith Albion 1909, Norma Devereaux 1911, Noel Wareham 1913.

However the following list of 9 children was provided by Graeme Atherton:
Boyd, Onis (male), Ona (female), Keith, Leon, Norma, Dulcie, Colin, Noel.
Ona and Onis were twins. (Dulcie is Graham Atherton's mother.)

Graham Atherton added that Leon was the only one of the boys who was called up, and went to WW2.

Dulcie and Ona still survive and my Dad and I met them in 2013, in the rest home where they live in Te Awamutu.

Their father, Jim Wilson, had built a large house just out of Te Awamutu, which still stands, and we took a photograph of it for Dulcie and Ona, who both remembered it. Graeme Atherton told me that Jim Wilson had later built at Waihi. Leon's wife Beryl currently lives in Waihi (Leon has passed away.)



Photograph Clive Kenyon 2013

This stately farmhouse can be seen from the road, near Te Awamutu.
(On what is now Cambridge Rd, just past the intersection with what is now Golf Rd..)
It was built in the 1930s by Jim Wilson.
Surviving children Ona and Dulcie remembered their childhood there.

Appendix 8 Archibald (Archie)

Archibald (Archie) 5th son of Jane and William Wilson Snr.

Born July 18 1880.

Married Ada Hart on 12th October 1904.


Children: three sons and two daughters.

The following summary of Archibald's life is recorded in this news clipping, supplied by R. I. (Ian) Harding.

Archibald Wilson 1880 - 27/8/1970

90 YEARS IN TARANAKI

Mr Archibald Wilson (pictured), who is 90 today, would like to live his life the same way over again. He lives with his daughter, Mrs Florida Schmidt, and her husband on Perth Rd, Okato. Mr Wilson was born at Tataraimaka and has never lived outside Taranaki. His father was a farmer but Mr Wilson decided to be a carpenter and lived in New Plymouth until he retired about 30 years ago. He married at Okato in 1904. His wife died three years ago. Recalling the time when carpenters specialised in handmade work, he said: "In those days things seemed to be much easier and there weren't as many taxes." Although Mr Wilson lives with his daughter, he owns a house in New Plymouth and visits it weekly to take care of the



garden. He also helps Mrs Schmidt with farm chores. Mr Wilson has three sons, two daughters, 15 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Frances, Mary Ann, Lizzy and Bella

Frances, eldest daughter of Jane and William Wilson Snr
born Sept 12 1863.

Married James George Kenyon on 29th September 1885 at Tataraimaka.

Children: Ethel Mildred, John Wilson, Harold, Wilfred George.

Frances died on April 3rd 1903 aged 39 years.

For more on her family, **see the book on James George Kenyon.**

Mary Ann, second daughter of Jane and William Wilson Snr.

probably born April 22 1866. (Birth registration record shows Mary.)

Married James Allen of New Plymouth 1904.

Children: Gladys Murial 1905, Archibald James 1906. No further information.

Elizabeth (Lizzy), 3rd daughter of Jane and William Wilson Snr.

born December 17, 1868.

Married Thomas Henry Rusden in 1901, freezing worker, Wanganui.

Children: Dorothy Isabella 1904, Rita Evaline 1906.

Isabella (Bella), 4th daughter of Jane and William Wilson Snr.

probably born October 13 1873.

Married James Henry Sefton 1898, Farmer, Oakura.

Children: Muriel 1899. Olive 1900, Oliver Benjamin 1907, Claude Wilson 1912

R. I. Harding's genealogy files record the births of three more children to William and Jane Wilson:

Jane	born 6 th April 1859	died 7 th April 1859
Mary	born 2 nd February 1860	died 5 th February 1860
Sandy	born 12 September 1863 (twin to Frances)	died "before Oct 1863"

Our family has no record of these births.

Reference to the list of Barry Hawke suggests that "Mary" above could possibly be "Anne".