

## James Smith LESSELS and Bertha MANSSSEN

### Chart 4-5

(Weblink LS Lessels Manssen 1900 New Zealand)

(Weblink to James's parents LS Lessels Gillies 1855 England chart 8-9)

(Weblink to Bertha's parents LS Manssen Marris 1874 New Zealand chart 10-11)

#### James Smith LESSELS

B 11 April 1865 Lewisham Sydenham Kent England

D 11 April 1934 Nelson NZ

1<sup>st</sup> M 06 July 1895 New Plymouth NZ (1 Issue)

2<sup>nd</sup> M 04 July 1900 Nelson NZ (10 Issue)

#### Mary Ann ORGAN

B 15 July 1872 Nelson NZ

D 03 March 1897 New Plymouth NZ

M 06 July 1895 New Plymouth NZ (1 Issue)

#### Bertha MANSSSEN

B 09 April 1878 Stoke Nelson NZ

D 05 June 1919 Nelson NZ

M 04 July 1900 Nelson NZ (10 Issue)

#### Children

1. Ivy Gillies LESSELS born 27 April 1896 New Plymouth NZ
2. Louis Alexander LESSELS born 08 September 1901 Nelson NZ
3. Olive Margaret LESSELS born 27 January 1903 Nelson NZ
4. Vera Dollie LESSELS born 30 May 1904 Nelson NZ
5. William Ronald LESSELS born 20 August 1905 Nelson NZ
6. John Maurice LESSLES born 15 November 1906 Nelson NZ
7. Keith LESSELS born 19 June 1908 Nelson NZ
8. Malcolm Bevan LESSELS born 06 February 1910 Nelson NZ
9. **James Bertie (Jim) LESSELS** born 11 September 1911 Nelson NZ
10. Alec Neil LESSELS born 06 February 1917 Nelson NZ
11. Rita Dorothy LESSELS born 09 April 1919 Nelson NZ

### The family history of James Smith LESSELS and Mary Ann ORGAN and Bertha MANSSSEN

James Smith LESSELS was born 11 April 1865 North Road West Kent Park in the registration district of Lewisham in the sub-district of Sydenham in the County of Kent England. His parents were Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Architect Clerk. The informant was father John LESSELS from North Road West Kent Park, Sydenham. The birth was registered on the 26 April 1865. The registrar was Edmund BROWN.

#### **SEARCH AGAIN and record volume and page number**

(Reference RGO UK birth registration 1865 June quarter Lewisham district volume page)

#### **1871 Census** St Paul Deptford Greenwich England - 16 Warwick Street

- Margaret LASCELLES wife married age 35 Wife of Architect born Scotland
- John LASCELLES son age 12 Scholar born Scotland
- George LASCELLES son age 10 Scholar born Middlesex Maida Hill
- Anne E LASCELLES daughter age 7 Scholar born Middlesex Kingsland
- **James S LASCELLES** son age 6 born Kent Forest Hill
- William (Willie) LASCELLES son age 3 born Kent Deptford
- Laura E LASCELLES daughter age 2 born Kent Deptford
- Louis E LASCELLES son age 1 born Kent Deptford
- Ann KENIALY servant unmarried age 25 Domestic servant born Ireland

(Reference National Archives England 1871 Census St Paul Deptford Greenwich England RG 10 743)

**1881 Census** High Road Hayes England (boarding with the Chandler family)

- **James Smith LESSELS** boarder unmarried age 17 Joiner born Kent Forest Hill  
**SEARCH AGAIN** (Reference National Library of NZ ancestry 1881 census  
(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 1341324 Census 1881 High road Hayes England)

St John the Baptist Hillington Borough

James Smith LESSELS baptised 31 March 1882 Parish of Hillington Middlesex London England. His parents were John and Margaret LESSELS (child born 11 April 1856) abode Hayes father's trade or profession Architect ceremony performed by Vicar J M THOMAS

(Reference National Library NZ Ancestry Parish of Hillington Middlesex London England 1882 baptisms page 258 line 2064)

James Smith LESSELS left England travelling to Africa then Australia somewhere between 1882 and 1886 aged between 18 and 21 years.

According to family stories James arrived in Auckland around 1886 (aged 21) and saw the famous Pink and White Terraces in Rotorua before they were destroyed. On 10 June 1886 a major six-hour eruption of Mt Tarawera killed 153 people. It also destroyed the natural wonders of the Pink and White Terraces which were completely obliterated. Earthquakes accompanied the eruptions.

According to James's 1934 death registration it stated that he dwelled in New Zealand for 50 years which means he arrived in New Zealand about 1884.

I searched Archives NZ Auckland shipping records and could not locate any information regarding James's arrival in Auckland New Zealand.

James arrives in New Plymouth around April 1894. This is according to his intention to marry application.

No LESSELS 1894-5 Stones Directories Wellington, Hawkes Bay, & Taranaki  
No LESSELS 1895-6 Stones Directories Wellington, Hawkes Bay, & Taranaki

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#### Mary Ann ORGAN

Mary Ann ORGAN (later known as Pollie) was born in 1872 Stoke Nelson New Zealand. Her parents were Mary Ann nee JACKSON and Henry ORGAN occupation Boot maker.  
**ORDER** (Reference source RGO NZ birth registration 1872 folio district web reg. 1872/10204 Stoke Nelson district)

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#### James Smith LESSELS and Mary Ann ORGAN

Intention to Marry 05 July 1895 New Plymouth district

James Smith LESSELS age 30 bachelor occupation painter dwelled in New Plymouth 15 months and Mary Ann ORGAN age 23 spinster dwelled in New Plymouth 12 months intend to marry on the residence of C GREIG New Plymouth by Wesleyan minister J H GRAY.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington intention to marry 1895 agency BDM series 20 item 41 page 116 line 38 New Plymouth)

James Smith LESSELS aged 30 years bachelor occupation painter born Edinburgh Scotland and Mary Ann ORGAN aged 23 years spinster born Nelson NZ on 06 July 1895 at the Residence of Mr C GREIG New Plymouth by officiating Minister J H GRAY.

John's parents were Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESSELS occupation Architect. Mary Ann's parents were Mary Ann formerly JACKSON and Henry ORGAN occupation Boot maker. The usual residence of both John and Mary Ann was recorded as New Plymouth. The witnesses were Minnie and Charles William GREIG occupation Painter both from Pendarves Street New Plymouth.

(Reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1895 folio 2317 New Plymouth district Indexed under Lessells)

The Methodists Marriage register of Taranaki

James Smith LASSELS age 30 born Edinburgh bachelor occupation painter residence New Plymouth parents Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LASSELS occupation Architect married Mary Ann ORGAN age 23 born Nelson NZ spinster residence New Plymouth parents Mary Ann formerly JACKSON and Henry ORGAN occupation Bootmaker married on 06 July 1895 in residence of C GREIG New Plymouth by Rev J H GRAY. The witnesses were Charles William GREIG occupation painter of Pendarves Street New Plymouth and Minnie GREIG of Pendarves Street New Plymouth.

(Reference Methodist marriage records Taranaki 1855 – 1917 transcripts original No 314 record book 9)

James's occupation was painter the same as the witness Charles William GREIG. I believe they may have been working together as painters in New Plymouth.

Charles William GREIG of Pendarves Street New Plymouth married Minnie ORGAN 1895 New Zealand. I believe Minnie was a cousin to Mary Ann ORGAN. Charles William GREIG died 1934 Spring-grove/Brightwater Nelson NZ occupation painter and his wife Minnie died 1944 Spring-grove Nelson NZ.

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1895 folio 0228)

15 July 1895 Nelson Evening Mail newspaper

MARRIAGE

LESSELS – ORGAN: - On July 6<sup>th</sup> 1895, at the residence of Mr C. Greig, Pendarves Street, New Plymouth, James Smith Lessels, third son of Mr John Lessels, of Thistlewood, Guernsey, to Mary, second daughter of Mr Henry Organ, of Brightwater, Nelson.

(Reference National Library of NZ Papers Past newspaper Nelson Evening Mail 15 July 1895 page 2)

“The West Coasts Settlement Reserve Act 1892.”

Notice to Native Owners and Lessels of a meeting to be held at the Courthouse Waitara, at 10 o'clock a.m. on Monday, the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1893, to fix the Rent for a New Lease to Frances Vickery and John Vickery of Section 102, Block V., Waitara, containing 125 acres (more or less), being the Land comprised in Memorandum of Lease registered No 737. (list the names of owners etc). Dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June 1893 – J K Warburton – Public Trustee

Note: Waitara is a district situated north of New Plymouth along the coast travelling towards Te Kuiti and Hamilton. I believe this is a printing error and that Lessels should read Lessees, which makes more sense.

(Reference Source National Library of NZ web paperspast Hawera & Normanby Star, Volume XX, Issue 2455, 16 June 1893, Page 4)

1896 Taranaki Electoral Roll

- James Smith LESSELS occupation painter dwelling New Plymouth residential
- Mary LESSELS occupation Household duties dwelling New Plymouth residential

(Reference National Library NZ & Alexander Turnbull Library 1896 Taranaki Electoral roll microfilm 216-570)

John and Mary Ann LESSELS had a daughter Ivy Gillies LESSELS who was born on the 27 April 1896 at New Plymouth.

(Reference RGO NZ Birth registration 1896 folio 1419 New Plymouth district)

1896-7 Stones Directories Wellington, Hawkes Bay, & Taranaki.

- Jas (James) LESSELS jymn (journeyman) painter Eliot Street NP (New Plymouth)

Eliot Street starting from where Devon Street crosses over the families dwell in this order

1. Mrs Eliza TURNER household
2. Harry STOREY Carpenter household
3. **Jas LESSELS** household

Then Eliot Street crosses over Courtney Street

(Reference National Library of NZ & Alexander Turnbull Library Stones Directories)

Mary Ann LESSELS aged 24 years born in the Province of Marlborough NZ died on 03 March 1897 at New Plymouth Hospital. Cause of death was Typhoid Fever 17 days as certified by the Medical Attendant Dr P J O'Carroll who saw her last on 03 March 1897. Her parents were Mary Ann formerly JACKSON and Henry ORGAN occupation Shoemaker. She was buried on 05 March 1897 at Te Henui Cemetery New Plymouth by the Episcopalian minister Rev F G EVANS. She married at age 22 to John LESSELS New Plymouth and her living issue was 1 female age 2 years. The undertaker Malcolm CLOW of New Plymouth registered the death on 08 March 1897. The deputy registrar was John MACKENZIE.

(Reference RGO NZ death registration 1897 Folio 167 New Plymouth district)

04 March 1897 Taranaki Herald newspaper reads:

**DEATH**

LESSELS: - On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at New Plymouth Hospital, MARY ANN LESSELS, wife of John Lessels, of New Plymouth, Aged 24.

04 March 1897 Taranaki Herald newspaper

**FUNERAL NOTICE**

THE FUNERAL of the late Mrs LESSELS will Leave Mr Gregg's residence, Pendarves Street, To-Morrow (Friday), March 5<sup>th</sup> at 2.15 p.m., for Te Henui Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation.

M CLOW Undertaker

(Reference New Plymouth Museum "The Taranaki Herald" March 4 1897)

Mr GREGG of Pendarves Street New Plymouth was Charles William GREIG. Charles was married to Minnie formerly ORGAN. Charles and Minnie were the witness at the 1895 wedding of Mary Ann ORGAN and James Smith LESSELS.

**SEARCH** Directories and electoral rolls for New Plymouth for Charles William GREIG.

Nelson Evening Mail 08 March 1897

LESSEL – After a short illness, at New Plymouth, Pollie the beloved wife of James Lessel, and second daughter of Henry and Mary Organ, of Brightwater, Nelson, aged 24 years.

(Reference Papers past website newspaper Nelson Evening Mail 08 March 1897 page 2)

Te Henui Cemetery New Plymouth - Block Y - Row 9 - Plot 5304

There is no Headstone and this triple plot but a concrete border surrounds the grave which was reserved by J. LESSELLS. The plot is next to CLERE and PUTT. Direction to the grave are, drive into the cemetery and park straight after the roundabout near the large tree. Then walk down the row immediately on your right, stop after the 5<sup>th</sup> row on you left, turn left and walk down this row the plot should be the 2<sup>nd</sup> on your left. The plot is before the headstone of Andrew ANDERSON born Sweden 1876 died July 1923.

(Reference FHC NZSG Cemetery Index J02-14)

Mary Ann LESSELS was buried in the Anglican section of the Te Henui Cemetery New Plymouth. This is recorded in cemetery transcripts book 8, page 44 (LESSELLS J 5304) Te Henui Cemetery Part 2 Plots 4021-9070.

(Reference FHC Film form NZSG New Zealand Cemetery Transcripts)

1897-8 Stones Directories Wellington, Hawkes Bay, & Taranaki.

- Jas LESSELS (James) jymn (journeyman) painter Molesworth St NP (New Plymouth)

In Molesworth Street from Currie Street there are 16 householders and James's neighbours were:

- Jas Edward BIRCH Ironmonger's assistant household
- Jas LESSELS household
- Mrs L SHUTTLEWORTH household

Then Hobson Street crosses over Molesworth Street.

There are no record of James or any LESSELS in the 1899 Stones Directories for Wellington, Hawkes Bay, & Taranaki.

Some time after the death of his wife Mary Ann, James's made a decision and moved to Nelson to be near his late wife's family so they could assist him in taking care of his baby daughter Ivy Gillies LESSELS.

1899 City of Nelson supplementary electoral roll

- James Smith LESSELS occupation Painter & paperhanger dwelling Brightwater  
(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library 1899 Nelson supplement 3 Electoral roll microfilm 222-576)

Brightwater was where James's late wife May Ann's parents and family lived. Family story says that James and his daughter Ivy were living with the ORGAN in Brightwater during this period.

It was while working in Nelson that James met and married Bertha MANSSSEN.

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### Bertha MANSSSEN

Bertha MANSSSEN was born 09 April 1878 Stoke Suburban South Nelson New Zealand. Her parents were Emma Elizabeth formerly MARRIS age 25 born Sheffield York England and Charles Frederick MANSSSEN age 30 years born Nelson NZ occupation Labourer. Bertha's parents were married 03 June 1874 Wellington NZ. E. E. MANSSSEN the mother of Stoke Suburban North registered the birth on 17 May 1878. The registrar was Robert PICKETT.

(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1878 folio 1401 line 136 Nelson district)

Bertha lived most of her younger years in Stoke and I believe she attended the Stoke School. The Stoke School records have not survived but her older brother's attendance certificate for Stoke School has survived.

1899 City of Nelson Electoral roll

- Bertha MANSSSEN occupation Domestic duties dwelling place Milton Street  
(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library 1899 Nelson Electoral Roll Microfilm 222-576)

It is interesting to note that Bertha was living in the Milton Street and this was eventually the same street that James and Bertha would settle in and share with their children.

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### James Smith LESSELS and Bertha MANSSSEN

Intention to marry 29 June 1900 Nelson district

James Smith LESSELS age 32 widow occupation Painter dwelled Hardy Street Nelson 18 months and Bertha MANSSSEN age 22 spinster occupation Domestic Duties dwelling place Milton Street Nelson 22 years intend to marry Church of Christ Meeting House Waimea Street Nelson by Minister of Church of Christ W T CHAPMAN.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Intention to marry 1900 agency BDM series 20 item 50 page 848 line 31 Nelson)

James Smith LESSELS age 32 born London England occupation Painter widower (03 March 1897) and Bertha MANSSSEN age 22 born Nelson occupation Domestic Duties married 04 July 1900 at Christian Meeting House Waimea Road Nelson by the Officiating Minister William T CHAPMAN. James's parents were Margaret formerly GILLIES and John LESESL occupation Architect. Bertha's parents were Emma Elizabeth formerly MARRIS and Charles Frederick MANSSSEN occupation Carpenter. James's dwelling place was Hardy Street Nelson and Bertha's was Milton Street Nelson. The witnesses were John HAWKSWORTH and (Bertha's sister) Alice Edith MANSSSEN.  
(Reference RGONZ marriage registration 1900 folio 2096 Nelson district)

#### 1901 New Zealand Post Officer Directory

- James LESSELS Hardy Street Nelson

(Reference Wellington Public Library 1901 New Zealand Post Officer Directory page 1367)

James and Bertha had a son Louis Alexander LESSELS who was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 1901 in Hardy Street Nelson. His parents were Bertha formerly MANSSSEN aged 23 years born Nelson and James Smith LESSELS aged 33 born London England occupation Painter. His parents were married on 04 July 1900 in Nelson. The birth was registered on 17 October 1901 by mother Bertha LESSELS of Nelson and signed by the registrar S Bloomfield.

(Reference RGO New Zealand 1901 folio 4425 line 186 Nelson district)

#### Post Office Directory 1901 - 1902

- James LESSELS Hardy Street Nelson

(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library Directories)

#### 1902 Nelson Electoral roll

- James Smith LESSELS occupation painter & paperhanger dwelling place Hardy Street
- Bertha LESSELS occupation Domestic duties dwelling place Hardy Street East

(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library 1902 Nelson Electoral Roll Microfilm)

#### 27 November 1902 Colonist newspaper

Jurymen who were challenged or later told to stand down at the Nelson court were listed as J S LESSEL plus 3 other men.

(Reference National Library NZ Papers past Colonist newspaper 27 November 1902 page 2)

#### 28 November 1902 Colonist newspaper

The Third Court  
The following jury were sworn – 13 men listed including J S LESSELL

(Reference National Library NZ Papers past Colonist newspaper 28 November 1902 page 2)

#### 29 November 1902 Colonist newspaper

Supreme Court – Criminal sittings – 12 Men were selected for the Jury and one listed was J S LESSEL

(Reference National Library NZ Papers past Colonist newspaper 29 November 1902 page 2)

#### 08 December 1902 Colonist newspaper

Jurymen who were challenged or later told to stand down at the Nelson court were listed as J S LESSEL plus 3 other men.

(Reference National Library NZ Papers past Colonist newspaper 08 December 1902 page 1)

James and Bertha had a daughter Olive Margaret LESSELS who was born on 27 January 1903 Milton Street Nelson. Her parents were Bertha formerly MANSSSEN aged 24 born Nelson and James Smith LESSELS aged 34 born London England occupation Painter. Her parents were married on 04 July 1900 in Nelson. Bertha LESSELS mother

of Milton Street Nelson registered the birth on 06 March 1903. The registrar was S Blomfield.

(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1903 folio 761 line 44 Nelson district)

Post Office Directory 1903 - 1904

- Jno. LESSELS Painter Milton Street Nelson

(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library Directories)

James and Bertha had a daughter Vera Dollie LESSELS who was born 30 May 1904 Milton Street Nelson. Her parents were Bertha nee MANSSEN aged 26 born Nelson and James Smith LESSELS aged 36 born London England occupation Painter. They were married 04 July 1900 in Nelson.

The birth was registered on 07 July 1904 by mother Bertha LESSELS of Milton Street Nelson and signed by the registrar S Bloomfield.

(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1904 folio 3507 Nelson district)

#### Brightwater School

- Ivy LESSELS birth date 27 April 1896 parent/guardian H Organ address Brightwater admission date 03 July 1905 last school Nelson last day 28 July 1915 Destination Nelson register number 0016 formerly number 0322
- Ivy LESSELS birth date 27 April 1896 parent/guardian H Organ address Brightwater admission date 03 July 1905 last school Nelson last day 07 June 1910 Destination Home register number 0322 former number 0296

1905 Nelson Electoral roll

- James Smith LESSELS occupation Painter dwelling place Milton Street
- Bertha LESSELS occupation married dwelling place Milton Street

(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library 1905 Nelson Electoral Roll Microfilm 232-590)

James and Bertha had a son William Ronald LESSELS who was born on 20 August 1905 in Milton Street Nelson. His parents were Bertha nee MANSSEN aged 27 years born Stoke Nelson and James Smith LESSELS aged 37 years born London England occupation Painter. They were married on 04 July 1900 in Nelson. Father J.S.

LESSELS registered the birth on 30 September 1905.

(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1905 folio 3624 Nelson district)

#### Toi Toi School

- Ivy LESSELLS birth date 27 April 1896 parents John Lessells address Tasman Street admission date 23 July 1906 last school Tasman Street School last day 02 September 1910 destination Brightwater register number 1334

James and Bertha had a son John Maurice LESSELS who was born 15 November 1906 Milton Street Nelson New Zealand.

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1906 folio 5201 Nelson district)

Nelson Evening Mail 26 June 1906

#### CITIZENS BAND SOCIAL AND DANCE

The Citizens' Band will hold a social and dance at the Druids' Hall this evening. The prices fixed for admission should ensure a large attendance. A social gathering was held in the Druids' Hall on Friday evening of the members of the Painters' Union. During the evening Mi- W. Chisholm, the hon. treasurer, was presented with a smoker's companion, ns a n-.ark of appreciation of the services he had rendered to the -Union. A lengthy programme of songs and toasts was gone through, those contributing to the harmony being Messrs Lessels, Davis, Peene, Douglas, G. Campbell, Gardiner, de Frere, J. Witten, Cannington, and Corder. Mr Webb acted as accompanist. A pleasant evening terminated about midnight with the singing. of "Auld Lang Syne ' and the National Anthem.

(Reference National Library of NZ Papers past Nelson Evening Mail newspaper 26 June 1906 page 2)

Nelson Evening Mail 22 November 1906

Messrs W. Rout and Sons report having sold lot 5 of Fairhall's estate, The Wood, to Mr J. S. Lessels, at a satisfactory figure.

(Reference National Library of NZ Papers past Nelson Evening Mail newspaper 22 November page 2)

Colonist Newspaper 23 November 1906

Messrs Rout and Sons report the sale of lot 5 of Fairhall's estate, the Wood, to Mr J. S. Lessels of Nelson, paperhanger, at a satisfactory figure.

(Reference National Library of NZ Papers past Colonist newspaper 23 November 1906 page 2)

20 May 1907 Nelson Evening Mail

Public Works Committee report  
The Public Works Committee reported as follows.  
4 On letter from Mr J S Lessells: That the City Supervisor report to the next meeting of the committee with an estimate.

(Reference National Library of NZ Papers past 20 May 1907 Nelson Evening Mail page 1)

James and Bertha had a son Keith LESSELS who was born 19 June 1908 Milton Street Nelson New Zealand.

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1908 folio 3972 Nelson district)

1908 Nelson Electoral roll

- James Smith LESSELS occupation painter dwelling place Milton Street
- Bertha LESSELS occupation married dwelling place Milton Street

(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library 1908 Nelson Electoral Roll Microfilm 240-598)

1909 Wises Canterbury, Marlborough, Nelson & Westland Directory

LESSELS Jas Smith jymn painter, 33 Milton Street. Nelson

Some of the families living in Milton Street were:

**31** Milton Street = WEBLEY John Hart (of Webley & sons)

**33** Milton Street = LESSELS Jas Smith household

**35** Milton Street = EAST John grocer's assistant household

(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library Directories)

James and Bertha had a son Malcolm Bevan LESSELS who was born 06 February 1910 Milton Street Nelson New Zealand.

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1910 folio 933 Nelson District)

1911 Nelson Electoral roll

- James Smith LESSELS occupation painter dwelling place Milton Street
- Bertha LESSELS occupation married dwelling place Milton Street

(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library 1911 Nelson Electoral Roll Microfilm 247-605)

James and Bertha had a son James Bertie LESSELS who was born 11 September 1911 Milton Street Nelson New Zealand.

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1911 folio 5702 Nelson district)

Toi Toi School

- Olive M LESSELLS birth date 27 January 1902 parents Jas T Lessells address Toi Toi Street admission date 29 January 1912 last school Tasman Street School last day 17 December 1915 destination College register number 1836

1914 Nelson Electoral roll

- James Smith LESSELS occupation painter dwelling place Milton Street
- Bertha LESSELS occupation married dwelling place Milton Street

(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library 1914 Nelson Electoral Roll Microfilm 256-614)

James and Bertha's oldest son Alexander LESSELS attended Nelson College between 1915 and 1916. The Nelson college old boys register records:

- Alexander LESSELS 1915-16 - Formerly Painter Nelson died at Nelson 1953  
(National Library Nelson College Old Boys Register Publication)

1916 NZ Post office Directory

- Jas Smith LESSELS, pntr, 33 Milton st NI (Nelson)  
(Reference Wellington Public Library NZ Post Office Directory 1916 page 1555)

James and Bertha had a son Alec Neil LESSELS who was born on 06 February 1917 at Milton Street Nelson. His parents were Bertha nee MANSSSEN aged 39 years born Nelson and James Smith LESSELS aged 49 years born London England occupation Painter. His parents were married on 04 July 1900 in Nelson. At the time of his birth the family is recorded as 5 males aged 15, 11, 10, 8, 7, 5 and 2 females aged 14 and 12. The birth was registered on 06 March 1917 by mother Bertha Lessels of Milton Street Nelson and signed by the Deputy Registrar EM Emerson.

(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1917 folio 1182 Nelson district)

James and Bertha had a daughter Rita Dorothy LESSELS who was born on 09 April 1919 at Milton Street Nelson. Rita's mother died when she was 2 months old so her mother's brother Conrad and his wife Emily took baby Rita into their home. Conrad and Emily had no children and a year later they adopted Rita as their own and she became known as Rita Dorothy MANSSSEN.

(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1919 folio 2632 Nelson district 192)

Bertha LESSELS formerly MANSSSEN aged 41 years born Stoke Nelson died on 05 June 1919 at the Public Hospital Nelson. Cause of death was Verdict of Coroner Shock from Burns. Her parents were Emma Elizabeth formerly MARRIS and Charles Frederick MANSSSEN occupation Labourer. She was buried on 07 June 1919 at Nelson (Wakapuaka) cemetery by Church of England minister Rev Wm WOOLSTEIN. Bertha was age 22 years when she married James Smith LESSELS in Nelson. Her living issue were 7 males age 17, 13, 12, 10, 9, 7 & 2 years old and 3 females aged 16, 15 & 2 months. The informant was M A DONNELL the agent duly authorised in writing by Coroner, Police Station Nelson who registered the death on 09 June 1919. The registrar was S TYSON.

(Reference RGO NZ death registration 1919 folio 1464 line 67 Nelson district)

I have a copy of the Coroners report but have not transcribed it into the family document. The coroners report is held at Archives New Zealand under the Justice department records series COR.

Colonist Newspaper Nelson Deaths

On 5<sup>th</sup> June 1919 at Nelson Hospital of burns Bertha wife of J LESSELS Leaves Husband and large family

(Reference FHC NZSG Cemetery Index U011 457/84=7745)

Whakapuaka Cemetery Nelson - Presbyterian Block 7 Plot 12

James Smith LESSELS died 11 April 1934 also his wife  
Bertha died 4<sup>th</sup> June age 41 years

(Reference FHC NZSG Cemetery Index U011 457/84=2051)

After the death of his wife James employed a housekeeper to look after the children but this women proved to be unreliable and in the end he managed the household and running his business all on his own. James's son told me that his father gave each child

the responsibility of looking after and out for the child immediately younger than themselves.

The oldest daughter Ivy was unable to assist James' as she was living away from home training to be a nurse. The next daughter Olive was also unable to assist her father as she was employed and living away from home waiting to start her training to be a nurse.

The youngest daughter Rita was only two months old when her mother died and she went to live with Bertha brother and his wife who had no children of their own. The middle daughter Vera who was a witness to her mother's accident was taken into the care of James's bachelor brother William who had settled in New Zealand. I was told that William took Vera back to England for a holiday and when they returned she returned to live with her father and siblings in Milton Street.

James did a grand job of bringing up his 7 sons on his own as even though they did not have the presence of a woman in the household they were respectful towards women and all had good manners. They were also all very domesticated, which is understandable.

#### NZ Truth 31 December 1921

Nesbitt, who has already proved himself to be some fighter; in fact, the audience were so pleased -with his exhibition in September last, when he fought another local lad named Lessels, that they showered sufficient silver on to the- ringside to buy two cups. Smith, of Blenheim, is considered to be one of the best bantams produced in Marlborough, but Scholeneia, the Nelson boy who has beat Robinson twice) will give him a terribly good go."

*(Reference National Library of NZ Papers past NZ Truth newspaper 31 December 1921 page 8)*

#### 1919 & 1922 Nelson Electoral roll

- James Smith LESSELS occupation painter dwelling Milton Street  
*(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library Nelson Electoral Roll microfilm 1919=266-624, 1922=276-634)*

#### 1925 Nelson Electoral roll

- James Smith LESSELS occupation Painter dwelling 33 Milton Street  
*(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library Nelson Electoral Roll Microfilm 1925=286-644)*

#### 29 December 1926 Evening Post

The Anawera, an 18-foot; yacht manned by Messrs Lessels (2) and Mr. A. Littlejohn, capsized in the old entrance near the Arrow Rock on Sunday morning. Lying becalmed, the boat was struck by a gusty wind from the southeast. The men swam to the dinghy astern and escaped with a wetting. The yacht was later secured and refloated.

*(Reference National Library NZ papers past Evening Post newspaper 29 December 1926 page 8)*

James 2<sup>nd</sup> to youngest son James Bertie LESSELS attended Nelson College between 1926 and 1927. The Nelson college old boys register records:

- James Bertie LESSELS 1926-27 - Painter McLeavey Road Ohau Wellington  
*(National Library Nelson College Old Boys Register Publication)*

Only 3 of the 7 sons of James and Bertha LESSELS attended Nelson College this was the oldest and the 2 youngest. Perhaps James could not afford to send the other sons to college, as he was a widower left to bring up the children on his own.

#### 1928 & 1931 Nelson Electoral roll

- James Smith LESSELS occupation painter 33 Milton Street  
*(Reference Nelson rolls sighted at RGO Electoral Officer Lower Hutt book publication)*

#### 1931 – 1932 Post Office Directories

- Jas. LESSELS Pntr. 33 Milton Street Nelson  
(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library NZ Directories)

James youngest son Alec Neil LESSELS attended Nelson College between 1930 - 1932. The Nelson college old boys register records:

- Alec Neil LESSELS 1930-32 - Master painter 72 Weka Street Nelson Executive Master Painters Assn Nelson - World War II 2NZE POW 3½ years  
(National Library Nelson College Old Boys Register Publication)

The Nelsonian - July 1930 School Roll July 1<sup>st</sup> 1930

Form III.B. - LESSELS, A.N. - December 1930 School Roll December 1<sup>st</sup> 1930

Form III.B. - LESSELS, A.N. - July 1931 School Roll 1<sup>st</sup> June 1931

Form IV.C. - LESSELS, A.N. - December 1931 School Roll 1<sup>st</sup> December 1931

Form IV.C. - LESSELS, A.N. - July 1932 School Roll 1<sup>st</sup> July 1932

Form V.E. - LESSELS, A.N. - December 1932 School Roll 1<sup>st</sup> December 1932

Form V,E. - LESSELS, A.N.

(Reference National Library Wellington The Nelsonian)

James Smith LESSELS aged 67 years born London England occupation Painter died on 11 April 1934 at Public Hospital Nelson from 33 Milton Street Nelson. His parents were recorded as Emma Elizabeth and John LESSELS occupation Architect. Cause of death was General peritonitis, Carcinoma of Pelvic Colon (perforation) 2 days as certified by Dr F HUDSON who saw James last on the 10 April 1934. He was buried 12 April 1934 at Nelson (Wakapuaka) cemetery by the Church of England minister J R DART. James had dwelled in New Zealand for 50 years arriving about 1884. Details of his 1<sup>st</sup> marriage were married New Plymouth and 2<sup>nd</sup> married aged 32 years in Nelson to Bertha MANSSSEN. His living issue were recorded as nil from his 1<sup>st</sup> marriage and 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage 7 males aged 33, 29, 27, 25, 23, 21, 17 years and 2 female aged 30 & 22 years. The Undertaker J M BREDBURY of Nelson registered the death 13 April 1934. The Registrar signed the registration.

(Reference RGO NZ death registration 1934 folio 2632 line 50 Nelson district)

Information on the death registration regarding James's mother was incorrect was Emma Elizabeth was actually his mother-in-law and the mother of his late wife Bertha. James's mother was Margaret LESSELS formerly GILLIES.

James was buried along side of his wife Bertha in the Wakapauaka cemetery in Nelson where there is a headstone recording both their names.

#### The Wills and Probate for England 1906-1943

1935 - James Smith LESSELS of Nelson New Zealand died 11 April 1934 Probate

Nelson to Louis Alexander LESSELS Painter. Affects \$3,600.4s.5d in England.

Sealed London 15 August

Note: The probate could not be processed when requested from the UK agent as quote "they are not available as they were resealed Confirmations."

(Reference NZSG Microfilm Willis and Probate England 1906-1943)

James Smith Lessels made a will and copies of this are held at Archives of New Zealand. There are about 7 documents. Including Motion of Probate, declaration of Trustees that the estate is under the value of two thousand pounds.

James Smith LESSELS place Nelson occupation Painter court Nelson filed date 23 August 1934 Type Will

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Probate agency AAOM series 17072 accession W5410 record 2886 Nelson)

#### Document 1

This is the last will and testament of me James Smith Lessels of the City of Nelson in the Provincial District of Nelson in the Dominion of New Zealand Painter I hereby revoke all

former Wills and Testamentary dispositions made by me I appoint my son Louis Alexander Lessels of the said city of Nelson Painter and Harold Leon Harley of the said City of Nelson Solicitor hereinafter refer to as my Trustees to be the Executors and Trustees of this my Will I give devise and bequeath all my real and personal estate whatsoever and wheresoever situate unto my trustees upon trust to sell the same and after payment of my funeral and testamentary expenses and debts to divide the net proceeds of such sale unto between and amongst all my children in equal shares as tenants in common as and when they respectively attain the age of twenty one years and I declare that in the event of any child of mine dying in my lifetime leaving issue at my death who attain the age of twenty one years then the share of the child so dying shall be held In trust for such issue as aforesaid and if more than one in equal shares with power for my trustees to invest any money subject to the trusts hereof in any investments authorised by law for the investment of Trust money and to vary investments and at his discretion to raise the whole or any part of the presumptive share of any infant child and to apply the same for his or her advancement or benefit and I empower my Trustees at their discretion to postpone the conversion of any part of my property for so long as they shall think fit and I direct that the income of any property remaining unconverted howsoever invested shall from my death be treated and applied in the same manner as the income of the proceeds thereof would have been payable and applicable for the time being if the same had been converted In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this day of January One thousand nine hundred and twenty three

*James Smith Lessels*

Signed by the testator James Smith Lessels as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us both being present at the same time who at is request I his presence and sight and in the presence and sight of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses

*E Howard Gill*

Law Clerk Nelson

*Robin J B Smith*

Law Clerk Nelson

#### Document 2

Memorandum for Fell & Harley Solicitors Nelson Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1935 Nelson Estate £158.14.6.

#### Document 3

The High Court of Justice Principal Probate Registry Somerset House London W C 2 date 22 August 1935, Name of deceased LESSELS James Smith, Nature and Date of Grant Probate 7<sup>th</sup> September 1934, Date of resealing 15<sup>th</sup> August 1935

*(Reference Archives of NZ Wellington Agency AAOO Series 17072 Accession W5410 Record 2886/1934 Reference Box 102 Probate Nelson J S Lessels)*

James Smith LESSELS had shares in (Boilermakers) Badcock & Willcock in England until his death. His oldest son Louis sold the shares on behalf of the estate.

Whakapuaka Cemetery Nelson - Presbyterian Block 7 Plot 12

Burial records: James Smith LESSELS 67years died 11 April 1934  
Bertha LESSELS 41 years died 04 June 1919

Headstone: James Smith LESSELS died 11 April 1934 also his wife  
Bertha Died 4<sup>th</sup> June age 41 years

*(Reference FHC NZSG Cemetery Index U011 457/84=2051)*

Whakapuaka Cemetery Nelson - Presbyterian Block 7 Plot 12

James Smith LESSELS died 11 April 1934 also his wife  
Bertha died 4<sup>th</sup> June age 41 years

*(Reference FHC NZSG Cemetery Index U011 457/84=2051)*

## James & Mary Ann LESSELS their daughter and descendant

**1- Ivy Gillies LESSELS** born 27 April 1896 [1419] New Plymouth New Zealand died 28 November 1929 Wellington New Zealand married 14 March 1923 Brightwater Nelson New Zealand Cecil Walter THORN born 18 March 1894 Appleby Nelson New Zealand died 10 July 1963 Christchurch New Zealand  
1-1- Josephine Mary THORN born 12 October 1926 Wellington New Zealand (never married)  
**Refer website** "THORN" genealogy document Thorn Lessels 1923 Nelson NZ chart 2-3

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## James & Bertha LESSELS their children and descendants

**2-Louis Alexander LESSELS** born 08 September 1901 Nelson New Zealand died 19 June 1953 Nelson New Zealand married 19 March 1948 Nelson New Zealand Jessie Eileen (widow) LESSELS (formerly HANSEN) born 19 October 1913 Lower Hutt New Zealand died about 1999 Ashhurst New Zealand (Jessie 1<sup>st</sup> married Bevan Malcolm LESSELS Nelson [1 issue], Jessie 2<sup>nd</sup> married Louis Alexander LESSELS [1 issue] and Jessie 3<sup>rd</sup> married 21 August 1955 Roland Austin FENDALL)  
2-1- Male Living LESSELS and Female living  
2-1-1- Female living LESSELS  
2-1-2- Female living LESSELS

Louis Alexander LESSELS was born on the 08 September 1901 in Hardy Street Nelson. His parents were Bertha formerly MANSSEN aged 23 years born Nelson and James Smith LESSELS aged 33 born London England occupation Painter. His parents were married on 04 July 1900 in Nelson. The birth was registered on 17 October 1901 by mother Bertha LESSELS of Nelson and signed by the registrar S BLOOMFIELD.

*(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1901 folio 4425 line 186 Nelson district website 1901/18139 parents Bertha & James Smith Lessels)*

### Tasman Boys School

- Louis Alexander LESSELS birth date 08 September 1901 admission date 17 September 1906 parent Mr L address Milton Street last day 16 September 1910 destination B C S register number 0012
- Alexander LESSELS admission date 06 February 1923 register number 1473

Alexander LESSELS attended Nelson College between 1915 and 1916. The Nelson college old boys register records:

- Alexander LESSELS 1915-1916 formerly Painter Nelson died at Nelson 1953  
*(National Library Nelson College Old Boys Register Publication)*

### 1922 Nelson Electoral supplementary roll

- Louis Alexander LESSELS occupation painter 33 Milton Street Nelson  
*(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library Nelson Electoral roll Microfiche 1922=276-634)*

### 1925, 1928, 1931 & 1935 Nelson Electoral roll

- Louis Alexander LESSELS occupation painter 33 Milton Street Nelson  
*(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library Nelson Electoral roll publications RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt)*

In 1937 Louis Alexander LESSELS was living at 21 Milton Street Nelson.  
*(Reference National Archives Auckland NZ "Will" for William Alexander LESSELS filed in 1937)*

Louis Alexander LESSELS use to visit the MARRIS farm in Murchison to go pig hunting and deer stalking. He had an old bulldog that would grab wild pigs by the ear and hang

on even though the dog did not have any teeth. Louis always declared the dog hang on by suction.

*(Reference story told by **Living MARRIS** of Nelson NZ around 1990)*

1938, 1941, 1943 & 1946 Nelson Electoral roll

- Louis Alexander LESSELS occupation painter 21 Milton Street Nelson

*(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library Nelson Electoral roll publications RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt)*

1938, 1941, 1942, 1946, 1947 & 1948 NZ Post Office Directory

- Louis A LESSELS Pntr 21 Miln Street (Painter Milton Street) Nelson

*(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library Wellington NZ Post Office Directories)*

Jessie Eileen HANSEN was born about 19 October 1913 Lower Hutt. Her parents were Alice May formerly ENGLAND and Theodore HANSEN.

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1913 folio 5753 Lower Hutt district)

Intention to Marry 17 March 1948 Nelson district

Louis Alexander LESSELS age 46 bachelor occupation Market gardener dwelled Nelson 46 years and Jessie Eileen LESSELS (HANSEN) age 34 widow (01 October 1943) dwelled Nelson 10 years intend to marry Cathedral of Christ Church Nelson by Church of England Officiating minister P B HAGGITT

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Intention to marry 1948 agency BDM series 20 item 292 page 1654 line 49 Nelson district)*

Louis Alexander LESSELS age 46 born Nelson bachelor occupation Market Gardner and Jessie Eileen LESSELS age 34 born Lower Hutt (widow 01 October 1943) married 19 March 1948 the Cathedral Nelson by Church of England minister B HAGGITT. Louis's parents were Bertha formerly MANSSSEN and James Smith LESSELS occupation Decorator and Painter. Jessie's parents were Alice May formerly ENGLAND and Theodore HANSEN occupation Builder. The usual and present residence for both couples was Nelson. The witnesses were Mabel E BROOKS of 103 Brook Street Nelson and A N LESSELS (Louis's brother Alec Neil) Painter of 72 Weka Street Nelson.

*(Reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1948 folio 4888 line 82 Nelson district)*

1949 Nelson Electoral roll

- Louis Alexander LESSELS occupation painter 121 Milton Street Nelson
- Jessie Eileen LESSELS occupation married 121 Milton Street Nelson

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt in Book form)*

1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954 & 1955 NZ Post Office Directory

- Louis A LESSELS Pntr 121 Miln Street (Painter Milton Street) Nelson

*(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library Wellington NZ Post Office Directories)*

Louis Alexander LESSELS aged 51 born Nelson occupation Market Gardner (ex serviceman) from 121 Milton Street Nelson died on 19 June 1953 at Public Hospital Nelson. Cause of death was left ventricular failure days, Aortic stenosis, Mitral incompetence, rheumatic carditis as certified by Dr J F MOODIE who saw him last on 19 June 1953. His parents were Bertha formerly MANSSSEN and James Smith LESSELS occupation Painter. Louis was age 46 when he married Jessie Eileen HANSEN in Nelson. His widow was aged 39 years and his living issue was 1 male aged 4 years. Louis was buried on 23 June 1953 in grave 53 block 1 Soldiers Lawn (Wakapuaka) cemetery Nelson.

*(Reference RGO NZ Death registration 1953 folio web reg. 1953/26272 age 51 years Nelson district)*

Louis Alexander LESSELS place Nelson occupation Gardner court Nelson filed date 22 July 1953 type Will probate number 5223. The will of Louis Alexander Lessels is held at Archives of NZ there are about 3 documents.

Louis made his brother Alec Neil Lessels and wife Jessie Eileen Lessels Executors of his will. He gives 500 pounds to his wife for her own use and when she dies to leave all to his stepson Bevan and any children he may have (Alan) age 21. If wife is deceased before he dies then half his property 104 Grove Street Nelson to stepson Bevan and half of the remaining estate unto between and amongst the children living at the date of my death of my brothers as tenants in common in equal shares. Estate under the value of 7 thousand pounds.

*Reference Archives of NZ Wellington probate agency AAOO series 17072 accession W5410 Box 142 record 5223/1953 Nelson)*

Whakapuaka Cemetery Nelson R.S.A. block 1 plot 53

Burial Record: Louis Alexander LESSELS 51 years died 19 June 1953

Headstone: 74407 Gnr L.A. LESSELS N.Z. Artillery died 19.6.1953 age 51 years

*(Reference FHC NZSG Cemetery Index U011 457/84=7979)*

Whakapuaka Cemetery Nelson - R.S.A. Block 1 Plot 53

74407 Gnr L.A. LESSELS N.Z. Artillery died 19.6.1953 age 51 years
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*(Reference FHC NZSG Cemetery Index U011 457/84=7979)*

1954 Nelson Electoral roll

- Jessie Eileen LESSELS occupation married 121 Milton Street Nelson

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)*

Roland Austin FENDALL was born about 30 May 1900 Masterton NZ. His parent's Frances Harriett formerly BONNINGTON and Charles Donald FENDALL.

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1900 folio web reg. 1900/9449 parents Frances Harriett & Charles Donald Fendall)

Jessie LESSELS formerly HANSEN (widow) married 21 August 1955 Roland Austin FENDALL.

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1955 folio 12834)

Intention to Marry 18 August 1955 Nelson district

Jessie Eileen LESSELS age 41 widow (19 June 1953) dwelling place Nelson and Roland Austin FENDALL age 55 bachelor occupation Clerk intend to marry in All Saints Church Vanguard Street Nelson by Church of England minister H J AULT.

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Intention to marry agency BDM series 20 item 362 page 131 Nelson district)*

Jessie Eileen LESSELS aged 41 years born Lower Hutt status widow (19 June 1953) and Roland Austin FENDALL aged 55 born Masterton bachelor occupation Clerk married on 21 August 1955 at All Saints Church Vanguard Street Nelson by Minister H.F. AULT.

*(Reference Messrs Fell & Hartley Barristers and Solicitors and Notaries Public, P O Box 28, Nelson, at R.G.'s office Re: Estate L.A. LESSELS Cert. 117/12817)*

1957 Nelson Electoral roll

- Jessie Eileen FENDALL occupation married 68 Locking Street
- Roland Austin FENDALL occupation Bank officer 68 Locking Street

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)*

Roland Austin FENDALL died 1987 NZ

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ death registration 1987 folio web reg. 1987/43939 born 30 May 1900)

Jessie Eileen FENDALL died 1997 Ashworth NZ

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ death registration 1997 folio web reg. 1997/30930 born 19 October 1913)

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**3-Olive Margaret LESSELS** born 27 January 1903 Nelson New Zealand died 07 August 1991 Nelson New Zealand 1<sup>st</sup> married 25 June 1925 Nelson New Zealand John (Jack) GARDNER born 15 March 1903 or 1904 died 05 January 1943 Nelson New Zealand (1 issue) 2<sup>nd</sup> married 29 March 1952 Nelson New Zealand Roy ANDREWS born about 1906 (no issue) died 1961 NZ  
3-1-Alec John GARDNER born 14 March 1933 Nelson New Zealand died 18 March 1933 Nelson New Zealand (died young never married)

Olive Margaret LESSELS was born on 27 January 1903 Milton Street Nelson. Her parents were Bertha formerly MANSSEN aged 24 born Nelson and James Smith LESSELS aged 34 born London England occupation Painter. Her parents were married on 04 July 1900 in Nelson. Bertha LESSELS mother of Milton Street Nelson registered the birth on 06 March 1903. The registrar was S Blomfield.

*(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1903 folio 761 line 44 Nelson district website 1903/16104 parents Bertha & James Smith Lessels)*

Tasman School

- Olive Margaret LESSELS birth date 27 January 1902 admission date 03 February 1908 parent J S L address Milton Street last day 12 December 1911 destination G C S register number 0119

Colonist newspaper 12 April 1910 & 04 May 1910

Wood Sunday School – Special prize – Olive Lessels

*(Reference National Library of NZ Papers past Colonist newspaper 12 April 1910 page 2 & 04 May 1910 page 5)*

Toi Toi School

- Olive M LESSELS birth date 27 January 1902 admission date 29 January 1912 parent Jas T Lessels address Milton Street last school Tasman Street Last Day 17 December 1915 destination College register number 1836

I was told by her brother that after Olive's mother died in 1919 she went to live with a lady as her companion.

1925 Nelson Supplementary Electoral roll

- Olive Margaret LESSELS occupation spinster Brougham Street Nelson  
*(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library Nelson Electoral Rolls Microfiche 286-644)*

1928 Nelson Electoral roll

- Olive Margaret LESSELS occupation spinster C/- Mrs Harley Brougham Street  
*(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library Nelson Electoral rolls RGO Electoral Office publications)*
- John GARDNER was born about 1905 **ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1905 folio web reg. 1905/4482 parents Fannie and John GARDNER)
- Jack GARDNER was born about 1904 NZ. His parents were Mary Ellen and Alfred Henry GARDNER. **ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1904 folio web reg. 1904/18851 parents Mary Ellen and Alfred Henry GARDNER)  
Jack GARDNER birth date 11 June 1904 parent Alf Gardner address Lincoln Road Side School Masterton admission date
- John GARDNER was born 15 March 1903 **ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1903 folio 765) John GARDNER birth date 10 March 1902 parent Mrs M Gardner address Tahuna Tahunanui School admission date 17 February 1908 last day 19 December 1917 destination Tahunanui register number 022

Intention to Marry 25 June 1925 Nelson district

Oliver Margaret LESSELS age 22 spinster occupation Nurse dwelled Nelson 22 years and Jack GARDNER age 22 bachelor occupation Orchardist dwelled Nelson 22 years intend to marry residence of Major R SAMSON 35 Collingwood Street Nelson by Salvation Army minister Major R SANSON.

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Intention to marry agency BDM series 20 item 166 page 2331 line 50 Nelson)*

Olive Margaret LESSELS married Jack GARDNER 1925 Nelson

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1925 folio 4898 Nelson district)  
1928 Nelson Electoral roll

- Jack GARDNER occupation orchard hand Rawhiti Street Tahunanui

1931 Nelson Electoral roll

- Jack GARDNER occupation Orchard hand Wakatu Nelson
- Olive Margaret GARDNER occupation married Wakatu Nelson

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)*

Olive and Jack had a son Alec John GARDNER who was born on the 14 March 1933

**SEARCH** (Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1933 folio Nelson district)

Olive and Jack's son Alec John GARDNER died on 18 March 1933 aged 4 days.

**SEARCH** (Reference RGO NZ death registration 1933 folio Nelson district)

Seaview Drive Stoke Nelson Headstone:

"Alec John infant son of Jack and Olive GARDNER died March  
18<sup>th</sup> 1933 age 4 days"

1935 Nelson Electoral roll

- Jack GARDNER Wakatu Nelson Orchard Hand
- Olive Margaret GARDNER Wakatu Nelson Married

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)*

In 1937 Olive Margaret GARDNER was living at Wakatu Nelson.

*(Reference National Archives Auckland NZ "Will" for William Alexander LESSELS filed in 1937)*

1938 & 1941 Nelson Electoral roll

- Jack GARDNER Wakatu Nelson Orchard Hand
- Olive Margaret GARDNER Wakatu Nelson Married

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)*

Jack GARDNER died 7.20pm on Tuesday 05 January 1943 in Nelson from gun shot wounds to the head. His brother-in-law Louis Alexander LESSELS identified the body.

*(Reference Archives of New Zealand Agency J [Justice] Series 46 Item 38/1943)*

John / Jack GARDNER died 1943 NZ

**SEARCH** (Reference RGO NZ death registration 1943 folio web reg. 1943/

1943 Nelson Electoral roll

- Olive Margaret GARDNER 21 Milton Street Nelson Married

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)*

1946 Nelson Electoral roll

- GARDNER Olive Margaret 7 Victoria Road Nelson Married

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)*

1949 Nelson Electoral roll

- GARDNER Olive Margaret 38 Tipahi Street Nelson Married  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

Roy ANDREWS was born about 1906 NZ. His parents were Annie JONES and Hugh ANDREWS.

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1906 folio web reg. 1906/233455 parents Annie and Hugh ANDREWS)

1946 Marlborough Electoral roll

- Roy ANDREWS occupation Sawmiller Havelock  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

Roy ANDREWS divorced 1951 Nelson NZ.

**ORDER** (Reference Archives NZ Wellington Divorce case records agency AAOO series 17997 accession W5444 box 23 record 14/51 Nelson)

Roy ANDREWS married 1936 (folio 01878) Mavis Mary COOPER

Roy ANDREWS married 1929 (folio 02502) Norine Ethel Pearl WELLS

Intention to Marry 28 March 1952 Nelson district

Olive May GARDNER (formerly LESSELS) age 49 widow (05 January 1943) dwelling place Stoke and Roy ANDREWS age 45 (divorced decree absolute 20 March 1952) occupation Sawmiller dwelling place Mangarakau intend to marry Church of Christ Rutherford Street Nelson by Church of Christ minister R A BLOOMFIELD [sic].

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington intention to marry agency BDM series 20 item 326 page 1648 line 53 Nelson)

Olive Margaret GARDNER married 1952 Roy ANDREWS

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1952 folio 04683)

1954 Nelson Electoral rolls

- Olive Margaret ANDREWS occupation married 24 Koromiko Av. Stoke  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

1957 Nelson Electoral rolls

- Olive Margaret ANDREWS occupation Post Mistress 24 Koromiko Av. Stoke  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

1960 Nelson Electoral rolls

- Olive Margaret ANDREWS occupation married 24 Koromiko Av. Stoke  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

Olive Margaret divorced Roy ANDREWS on 21 February 1961.

Roy ANDREWS died 1961 NZ age 55 years born about 1906 NZ.

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ death registration 1961 folio web reg. 1961/41159 age 55 years born about 1906)

1963, 1966, 1969, 1972, 1975 & 1978 Nelson Electoral rolls

- Olive Margaret ANDREWS occupation widow 24 Koromiko Avenue Stoke Nelson  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

1981 Christchurch Electoral roll

- Olive Margaret ANDREWS occupation home aid 4/434 Barbadoes St. Christchurch  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

1984 Christchurch Electoral Roll

- Olive Margaret ANDREWS occupation retired 2/62 Barbadoes St. [Barbour] Christchurch

(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

When Olive became unable to look after herself she moved into a home in Christchurch and later she was transferred to Nelson where she died on 7 August 1991.

Olive Margaret ANDREWS age 88 years died 07 August 1991 Nelson NZ. She was buried on 10 August 1991 in the Marsden Valley cemetery Stoke Nelson block 24A plot 006 undertaker P DAY & Sons of Nelson. Olive's nieces and nephews carried her to her last resting place in the Stoke cemetery.

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ death registration 1991 folio web reg. 1991/ 43620 born 27 January 1903)

#### Newspaper Death Notice

ANDREWS, Olive Margaret, On August 7, 1991 at Erinleigh, Nelson. Loved sister of James (Bert) Lessels, Rita Manssen and the late Louis, Vera, Bill, John, Keith, Mac, Alec and Ivy. Loved aunty of Judith and Chantelle Savage, Brian Lessels, Lynley, Maurice, Jeanette and Josephine. In her 89<sup>th</sup> year. Messages to 24a Arapiki Road Nelson.

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**4-Vera Dollie LESSELS** born 30 May 1904 Nelson NZ died 03 July 1983 Auckland NZ married 09 September 1935 Nelson NZ Charles McCOMBIE born about 17 December 1895 England died 1978 Auckland NZ (No Issue)

Vera Dollie LESSELS was born 30 May 1904 Milton Street Nelson. Her parents were Bertha formerly MANSSSEN aged 26 born Nelson and James Smith LESSELS aged 36 born London England occupation Painter. Her parents were married 04 July 1900 in Nelson. Bertha LESSELS mother of Milton Street Nelson registered the birth on 07 July 1904. The registrar was S BLOMFIELD.

(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1904 folio 3507 Nelson district website 1904/18788 parents Bertha & James Smith Lessels)

#### Tasman School

- Vera Dollie LESSELS birth date 30 May 1904 admission date 09 August 1909 parent James L address Milton Street last day 19 December 1913 destination G C S register number 0249

Nelson Evening Mail Friday 19 December 1913 – City School Attendance Certificates  
Tasman Street School = 2<sup>nd</sup> class – Vera LESSELS

NZ Truth 31 December 1921

Tasman Street School – Second Class Certificates – Preparatory V Lessels

(Reference National Library of NZ Papers past Colonist newspaper 20 December 1910 page 1)

After the death of her mother Vera stayed with the family but when Uncle William LESSELS came to Nelson arrived from England he took Vera to board with him but later she returned to live with her family until she married then she left home and later looked after their Uncle William until his death.

#### **SEARCH 1925** Nelson Electoral Roll for Vera Dollie LESSELS

1928, 1931 & 1935 Nelson Electoral roll

- Vera Dollie LESSELS occupation spinster 33 Milton Street Nelson

(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book publication)

Charles MCCOMBIE was born 17 December 1895 England  
**SEARCH** (Reference RGO UK birth registration 1895)

Intention to Marry 09 September 1935 Motupiko district  
Vera Dollie LESSELS age 31 spinster occupation Domestic dwelled Howard Junction 3 days and Charles MCCOMBIE age 39 bachelor occupation labourer dwelled Howard Junction 6 months intend to marry at residence of Mr A M KERR Howard Junction by church of England minister Rev Robert William Wiseman ALEXANDER.

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Intention to marry 1935 agency BDM series 20 item 213 page 2531 line 2 Nelson district)*

Vera Dollie LESSELS married Charles MCCOMBIE in 1935.  
**ORDER** (Reference source RGO NZ marriage registration 1935 folio 8225 Motupiko district)

In 1937 Vera Dollie (nee LESSELS) McCOMBIE lived at Harley's Creek, Kawatiri, Nelson.

*(Reference National Archives Auckland NZ "Will" for William Alexander LESSELS filed in 1937)*

1938 Nelson Electoral roll

- Vera Dollie McCOMBIE occupation Spinster 33 Milton Street Nelson

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)*

1938 Motueka Electoral roll

- Vera Dollie McCOMBIE occupation married Gowan Bridge
- Charles McCOMBIE occupation prospector Howard Junction

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)*

1946 Roskill Electoral roll

- Vera Dollie McCOMBIE occupation married 9 Carmen Avenue Roskill

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)*

1963 & 1966 Grey Lynn Electoral rolls

- Vera Dollie McCOMBIE occupation Housewife 11 Hector Street W.1. Grey Lynn
- Charles McCOMBIE occupation Labourer 11 Hector Street W.1 Grey Lynn

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)*

1969 Grey Lynn Electoral rolls

- Charles McCOMBIE occupation retired 11 Hector Street W.1

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)*

1972 Grey Lynn Electoral roll

- Charles McCOMBIE occupation pensioner 11 Hector Street W.1

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)*

Charles MCCOMBIE age 82 years residence Westmere died 1978 Auckland was buried at Waikumete cemetery Auckland by Funeral director J Weir & Co Ltd.

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ death registration 1978 folio Auckland district web reg. 1978/30553 born 17 December 1895)

Waitakere cemetery Auckland

Charles MCCOMBIE age 82 years died 19 June 1978 occupation retired was cremated the funeral director was J WEIR & Company Limited. No headstone.

Vera Dollie McCOMBIE formerly LESSELS aged 79 years widow died on 03 July 1983 at Argyle Private Hospital, Herne Bay, Auckland usual residence was 284 Jervois Road Herne Bay, Auckland. Cause of death was Cerebrovascular accident 3 weeks, Chronic

Schizophrenia 10 years, Alzheimers disease 5 years, as certified by Dr P J CAIRNEY who saw her last on 20 June 1983. She was recorded as born 19 August 1903 but was actually born 30 May 1904 Nelson. She was age 31 years when she married Charles McCOMBIE in Murchison. Her parents were recorded as Bertha formerly MANSON and James Smith LESSELS occupation Painter. Vera was cremated at Purewa Cemetery on 06 July 1983 in Auckland. Informant A M NATTRASS Funeral Director Auckland registered the death on 12 July 1983.

*(Reference RGO NZ death registration 1983 folio 012923 Auckland district website 1983/31828 born 19 August 1903)*

Quote; "that the life tenant Mrs Vera Dollie McCOMBIE died on 3 July 1983 and she resided at 284 Jervois Road, Herne Bay, Auckland".

*(Reference Guardian Trust Office Auckland correspondence 26 October 1989 & 6 November 1989)*

Purewa cemetery cremations

Vera MCCOMBIE died 03 July 1983 age 79 years religion Presbyterian buried 06 July 1983 ashes scattered funeral director Tilton Opie & Pattinson Ltd P O box 151126New Lynn Auckland serial number 45725

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**5-William Ronald LESSELS** born 20 August 1905 Nelson New Zealand died 05 August 1951 Nelson New Zealand (never married)

William Ronald LESSELS was born 20 August 1905 Milton Street Nelson. His parents were Bertha formerly MANSSEN aged 27 years born Stoke Nelson and James Smith LESSELS aged 37 years born London England occupation Painter. His parents married 04 July 1900 Nelson. J.S. LESSELS Father registered the birth on 30 September 1905.

*(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1905 folio 3624 line 186 Nelson district website 1905/7292 parents Bertha & James Smith Lessels)*

Tasman Boys School

- William Ronald LESSELS birth date 20 August 1905 admission date 13 September 1910 parents Bertha L address Milton Street last day 17 December 1914 destination B C S

William's younger brother stated that Bill worked for the Nelson Council Power Board and when he moved to Wellington he became a metre reader for a Power Company.

1928 & 1931 Wellington South Electoral roll

- William Ronald LESSELS occupation Salesman 69 Hanson Street  
*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Wellington Electoral Roll Book form)*

Evening Post newspaper 04 July 1931 page 5

St Johns Ambulance

At the examination held on 10 June the following men qualified: W Lessells

*(Reference National Library NZ papers past Evening Post newspaper 04 July 1931 page 5)*

1931 & 1935 Wellington South/Suburbs Electoral roll

- William Ronald LESSELS occupation Meter Reader 55 Wilton Road  
*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Wellington Electoral Roll Book form)*

In 1937 William Ronald LESSELS lived at 55 Wilton Road Wadestown Wellington.

*(Reference National Archives Auckland NZ "Will" for William Alexander LESSELS filed in 1937)*

1938 & 1941 Wellington South Electoral roll

- William Ronald LESSELS occupation Meter Reader 55 Wilton Road  
*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Wellington Electoral Roll Book form)*

1943, 1946, 1949 & 1951 Wellington Electoral rolls

- William Ronald LESSELS occupation Meter Reader 55 Wilton Road  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Wellington Electoral Roll Book form)

1938, 1941, 1942, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954 & 1955 New Zealand Post Office Directories

- Wm LESSELS Comp (William Compositor) Motueka  
(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library Wellington NZ Post Office Directories)

**CHECK AGAIN** as William's uncle William LESSELS occupation was a compositor and he died 1937

**SEARCH** Year? City of Wellington Electoral Roll

- William Ronald LESSELS occupation Meter Reader R 1 Wilton Road OR (own right)  
(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library Wellington New Zealand Electoral Rolls)

1944 City of Wellington Electoral roll

- William Ronald LESSELS occupation Tally Clerk R Wilton Road North  
(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library Wellington New Zealand Electoral Roll)

William Ronald LESSELS aged 46 born Nelson occupation Tally Clerk (Ex-Serviceman) died 05 August 1951 at Public Hospital Nelson usual residence 55 Wilton Road Wellington. Cause of death was cerebral oedema 30 hours, malignant hypertension, unknown period as certified by Dr D.J. Stephen who saw him last on 05 August 1951. His parents were Bertha formerly MANSSSEN and James Smith LESSELS occupation Painter. William was not married. He was buried on 07 August 1951 at the Whakapuaka R.S.A. soldiers lawn cemetery Nelson in grave 42 block 1.  
(Reference RGO NZ death registration 1951 folio Nelson district website 1951/34441 age 46 years)

NZ Probate William Ronald LESSELS, place Wellington, occupation Tally Clerk court Wellington, filed date 08 November 1951 type Intestate letter of administration **ORDER** (Reference Archives NZ Wellington agency AAOM series 6031 item 1420/51)

William Ronald LESSELS was engaged to Thea SELVIN at the time of his death. She never married and was known to William's nieces & nephews as Auntie Thea. Dorothy Rebecca (Thea) SELVIN age 78 years occupation spinster died April 1989 and was buried 11 April 1989 Makara cemetery Wellington section Roman Catholic plot 47/P by the undertaker was Lynchgate funeral Home record number 13064.

**SEARCH** (Reference RGO NZ death registration 1989 folio website 1989/

Whakapuaka Cemetery Nelson - R.S.A. Block 1 Plot 42

Burial Record: William Ronald LESSELS 47 years 05 August 1951

Headstone: 42922 Gnr W.R. LESSELS N.Z. Medical Corps died 5.8.1951 age 46.

(Reference FHC NZSG Cemetery Index U011 457/84=7966)

Whakapuaka Cemetery Nelson - R.S.A. Block 1 Plot 42

42922 Gnr W.R. LESSELS N.Z. Medical Corps died 5.8.1951 age 46
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(Reference FHC NZSG Cemetery Index U011 457/84=7966)

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**6-John Maurice LESSELS** born 15 November 1906 Nelson New Zealand died 28 July 1967 Nelson New Zealand (never married)

John Maurice LESSELS was born 15 November 1906 in Nelson

**ORDER** (Reference source RGO NZ birth registration 1906 folio 5201 Nelson district website 1906/20487 parents Bertha & James Smith Lessels)

Tasman Boys School

- John Maurice LESSELS birth date 15 November 1906 admission date 21 November 1911 parent J L address Milton Street last day 14 December 1916 Destination B C S register number 0464

1928, 1931 & 1935 Nelson Electoral rolls

- John Maurice LESSELS occupation Painter 33 Milton Street Nelson  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

In 1937 John Maurice LESSELS was living at 21 Milton Street Nelson.  
(Reference National Archives Auckland NZ "Will" for William Alexander LESSELS filed in 1937)

1938, 1941 & 1943 Nelson Electoral rolls

- John Maurice LESSELS occupation painter 33 Milton Street Nelson  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

1946 Nelson Electoral roll

- John Maurice LESSELS occupation Painter 21 Milton Street Nelson  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

1949, 1954, 1957, 1960, 1963 & 1966 Nelson Electoral rolls

- John Maurice LESSELS occupation painter 121 Milton Street Nelson  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

John Maurice LESSELS aged 60 years born Nelson occupation House Painter died 28 July 1967 at 21 Milton Street Nelson. Cause of death was acute haemorrhagic pneumonia as disclosed by post-mortem examination and the Coroner decided not to hold an inquest. His parents were Bertha formerly MANNSEN and John Smith LESSELS occupation House Painter. John never married. He was buried on 01 August 1967 at Marsden Valley cemetery Stoke Nelson.  
(Reference RGO New Zealand 1967 Nelson District folio?)

NZSG Probate Record LESSELS John Maurice Nelson  
Painter Probate Number 9257 Court Nelson  
1849-1968, 1973-77, 1981-82 Filed Date 03 August 1967 Type Will  
(Reference NZSG CD ROM Index Probate Records)

John Maurice Lessels bequeath all his real and personal property to his two brother Louis Alexander Lessels and Alec Neil Lessels and he appoint his two brothers, as executors of his will. August 1967 Fell & Harley Solicitors Nelson  
(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Probate agency AAOO series 17072 accession W5410 box 186 record 9257/1967 Nelson J M Lessels)

Marsden Valley Cemetery Stoke Nelson Plot 11  
John Maurice LESSELS 60 years 01<sup>st</sup> August 1967  
(Reference FHC NZSG Cemetery Index U011 457/84=1061)

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**7-Keith LESSELS** born 19 June 1908 (folio 3972) Nelson New Zealand died 15 March 1984 Nelson New Zealand (never married)

Keith was born on 19 June 1908 in Nelson.

**ORDER** (Reference source RGO NZ birth registration 1908 folio 3972 Nelson district website 1908/16630 parents Bertha & James Smith Lessels)

Tasman Boys School

Keith LESSELS admission date 15 September 1913 register number 0627

Keith was a hard worker and would work into the dark hours of night so he was given the nickname of morepork. Just before World War Two Keith had a nervous disorder and became an inmate in the Nelson hospital.

In 1937 Keith LESSELS was an inmate at Nelson Mental Hospital.

*(Reference National Archives Auckland NZ "Will" for William Alexander LESSELS filed in 1937)*

1981 Nelson Electoral roll

- Keith LESSELS 110 Toi Toi Street Nelson Resident

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)*

Keith LESSELS aged 75 years born 19 June 1908 Nelson occupation retired Painter died on 15 March 1984 at 110 Toi Toi Street Nelson. Cause of death was anoxia due to heart failure weeks, heart valve defect Years, long term nervous disorder (since 1930's) Years and certified by Dr K A Bradford who saw him last on 15 March 1984. His parents were Bertha formerly MANSON and James Smith LESSELS occupation Painter. Keith never married. Keith was buried on 17 March 1984 in the same plot as his brother John Maurice LESSELS at Marsden Valley cemetery Stoke Nelson.

*(Reference RGO NZ death registration 1984 folio Nelson district website 1984/29970 born 19 June 1908)*

Nelson newspaper 1984 page 35 Death Keith LESSELS 15 March 1984

Probate for Keith Lessels located at Archives of NZ records about 4 documents Will dated 10 March 1876 of Keith LESSELS retired of Nelson records that "one half share for my brother Bert LESSELS of King Street Upper Hutt and the other one half share for the Nelson Hospital Board for the benefit of "Arden Flats" owned by the said Board etc.

Trustee Dora Elizabeth BARCLAY social worker of Nelson & Richard Barton RAINY o Nelson Solicitor Pitt & Moore Solicitors Nelson

*(Reference Archives of NZ Agency AAOO series 17073 Accession W5410 Record 102/1984 Reference Box 275 Nelson Probate for K Lessels)*

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**8-Malcolm Bevan LESSELS** born 06 February 1910 Nelson NZ died 01 October 1943 Pacific (Killed In Action World War Two) married 1941 NZ Jessie Eileen HANSEN born 10 October 1913 Lower Hutt NZ died about 1999 Ashhurst NZ (Jessie widow 2<sup>nd</sup> married 19 March 1948 Nelson Louis Alexander LESSELS born 08 September 1901 Nelson New Zealand died 19 June 1953 Nelson New Zealand Jessie widow 3<sup>rd</sup> married 21 August 1955 Nelson Roland Austin FENDALL born 30 May 1900 died 1987)

8-1- Living LESSELS

8-1-1- Living LESSELS

8-1-2- Living LESSELS

8-1-3- Living LESSELS

8-1-4- Living LESSELS

Malcolm LESSELS was born 06 February 1910

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1910 folio 933 Nelson district website 1910/4868 parents Bertha & James Smith Lessels)

Tasman Boys School

Malcolm LESSELS admission date 09 February 1915 register number 0748

#### 1935 Nelson Electoral roll

- Malcolm Bevan LESSELS occupation Painter 33 Milton Street Nelson  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

In 1937 Malcolm Bevan LESSELS was living at 21 Milton Street Nelson.  
(Reference National Archives Auckland NZ "Will" for William Alexander LESSELS filed in 1937)

#### 1938 & 1941 Nelson Electoral roll

- Malcolm Bevan LESSELS occupation Painter 33 Milton Street Nelson  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

Jessie Eileen HANSEN was born 10 October 1913 Lower Hutt NZ  
**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1913 folio 5753 Lower Hutt district)

#### Intention to Marry 1939

**SEARCH** Malcolm LESSELS and Jessie Eileen HANSEN intend to marry

Malcolm LESSELS married 1939 Jessie Eileen HANSEN

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1939 folio 09385)

#### 1941 Nelson Electoral roll

- Jessie Eileen LESSELS occupation married 132 Nile Street East  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

#### 1941 & 1942 New Zealand Post Office Directories

- Malc LESSELS Pntr 132 Nile Street East Nelson (Malcolm Painter)  
(Reference Alexander Turnbull Library Wellington NZ Post Office Directories)

#### 1943 Nelson Electoral roll

- Malcolm Bevan LESSELS occupation painter 33 Milton Street Nelson
- Jessie Eileen LESSELS occupation married 132 Nile Street East Nelson  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

Malcolm LESSELS service number 509167 Gunner of 209<sup>th</sup> Light Anti Aircraft Battery age 33 years was killed in action on 01 October 1943 in the Pacific. His usual occupation was painter and paperhanger and usual residence Nelson. He was born New Zealand and was married. Malcolm was buried in the New Zealand Military cemetery Bourail New Caledonia. His parent were Bertha MANSEN and James Smith LESSELS. The informant was R S Wogan Director of Pay Accounts and Base Records Wellington. Certificate of person authorised by Minister of Defence. The registrar P H Wylde signed the register on 03 November 1943.

(Reference RGO NZ War Deaths 1939-45 registration folio website 1918/26935)

Malcolm LESELS type Second World War cemetery Bourail, Solomon Islands number Gunner 509167 died 01 October 1943 age 33 War Graves

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Index to War Graves 1A Series W1834)

Malcolm LESSELS, place Nelson, occupation Painter / NZEF, court Nelson 1849-1968, 1973-77, 1981-82, probate number 3763, filed date 24 November 1943, type Will

**ORDER** (Reference Archives NZ Wellington agency AAO series 17072 item W5410 record 3763 filed date 24 November 1943 Nelson)

#### Nelson Evening Mail, Friday October 29 1943

##### ROLL OF HONOUR

509617 LESSELS, Malcolm, Gnr., 1<sup>st</sup> October 1943. Killed in action Pacific Area. "Mac," dearly loved husband of Jessie

Eileen Lessels, Nelson, and dear Daddy of Bevan Malcolm;  
aged 33 years

Nelson Evening Mail, Friday October 29 1943

ROLL OF HONOUR  
509167 LESSELS, Malcolm, Gnr., 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1943. Killed in  
action Pacific Area, fifth son of the late Mr and Mrs J.S.  
Lessels.  
Inserted by his loving sisters and brothers

Southland Times 28/4/98 (photo)

IN MEMORY OF OUR COMRADES  
KILLED IN ACTION AT THIS  
BEACH ON L.S.T.448. 1,10,43

L/BDR MURRAY RW	GNR HAND JH
L/BDR FITZGERALD	<b>GNR LESSELS MALCOLM</b>
L.BDR HADDOCK AJM	GNR McMAHON JA
GNR CARMICHAEL NC	GNR RAE EN
GNR CRAW RP	GNR ROSE ALLAN
GNR DAWSON STEWART	GNR WELLS HR
GNR FERON WD	GNR YOUNG NWJ
SGT HEALY MJ	

Southland Times 28 April 1998 (continued)

DOCUMENTARY ADDS CONTACT by Meg Davidson  
BALCLUTHA - The red-gold hair, the dry wit - these qualities of Elaine Marett's father survive in her own children. But Mrs Marett, of Owaka, never knew her father. She was just five month old when 209<sup>th</sup> light artillery anti-aircraft battery gunner William David Feron went to fight in World War 2. He was killed in the Solomon Islands on October 1, 1943, and at 21, her mother was left a widow with two young children.  
Through the years Mrs Marett has searched alone for clues to the father she never knew.  
A hoard of carefully kept newspaper clippings, letters and photographs tell the story of how fair-haired 26 years-old was among 11 anti-aircraft gunners and four other killed by a Japanese bomber at Vella Lavella. As the bomber swooped in, the gunners kept firing. A bomb dropped right in their midst.  
On Sunday, new information was added to Mrs Marett's precious hoard. A TV documentary showed the memorial, bearing her father's name, erected where the men died.  
But the concrete memorial has been damaged and Mrs Marett is keen to see it restored.  
She also has a new contact to follow up - war veteran Bill Ashton, of Alexandra, who served on Vella Lavella and was shown visiting the memorial. Mr Ashton did not know her father but the conditions they experienced were the same. Mrs Marett hopes their meeting will add more pieces to the jigsaw of her long-lost father's life.

VELLA LAVELLA, November 28,  
In a setting of palm-fringed coral shore stands a simple memorial stone of white concrete bearing a plaque of names, perpetuating the memory of a number of brave New Zealanders who were killed on this spot shortly after the initial landing was made by our forces. Before a large gathering of New Zealand and American troops the memorial was unveiled today by the officer commanding the

unit to which the men belonged. This is the first memorial erected to the men of the Second N.Z.E.F. in the Pacific during the present war.

A landing vessel was unloading at the beach when Japanese aircraft made a sudden attack. Gallantly the men stuck to their post till a bomb struck the position, killing all in the group and injuring a number besides. The memorial was erected on the beach by men of their battery. The service was opened by an American Navy band playing a musical recital. There followed the playing of hymns, an address by the Rev G.R. Thompson, C.F., and the unveiling of the unit placed a fern wreath on the memorial, and the "Last Post" was sounded.

"These men who have died were our comrades," said Mr Thompson. "We knew them intimately, we knew their sorrows and grief's, their hopes and joys. Eight weeks ago today they were as we are now - well and strong. This very glade in which we stand was the last earthly scene they beheld. This is a holy day. The scene as it is now for us will be ever sacred, sacred to the memory of our friends."

Major-General Barrowclough's expressed confidence in the men of his division has not been misplaced, the men of the Third New Zealand Division had not failed when the testing time came, continued the padre. "Through their baptism of fire and their sacrifice has come to us fresh determination to continue and succeed in our task," he said. "The best way to repay these fellow-New Zealanders who have made the supreme sacrifice is to rededicate ourselves to the task on hand and to carry on till our goal is won.

"We honour the memory of these gallant men. These are parents, wives, sweethearts, who will remember with sadness their last memory of their dear ones. We pray that they may find solace in their sorrows. We salute these men who have left us, and we trust that we may be worthy of their great sacrifice."

The plaque on the memorial bears the following names: Temporary-Sergeant M.J. Healy(Temuka), Lance-Bombardiers A,J,M. Haddock (Huntly), K.P. Fitzgerald (Matamata) and R.W. Murray (Wanganui), Gunners N.C. Carmichael (Pokaka), R.P. - ? (Christchurch), S Dawson (?ford), W.D. Feron (?), H.Hand (Dunedin)

*Note: the end of the article was torn and could not be read.*

*(Reference Newspaper unknown article found amongst Rita Manssen belongings)*

RSA Review magazine February 1996 Page 14.

Return to the Solomons - after 52 years by Vince Gaughan

It shows a photo of Len French at the memorial erected at Nairovai, Vella Lavella to M Troop, 209<sup>th</sup> Battery, 29<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-aircraft Regiment, RNZA.

The article tells about his trip to the Island after 52 years. The TVNZ also made a program about the visit but I did not see this program. I also have correspondence from a Mr W R Aston from Alexandra NZ who also made the same trip. All of this correspondence and the above article make interesting reading.

1946 Nelson Electoral roll

- Jessie Eileen LESSELS occupation married 21 Milton Street Nelson

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)*

Jessie Eileen LESSELS married 1948 Louis Alexander LESSELS

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ Marriage registration 1948 folio 04888)

1949 Nelson Electoral roll

- Jessie Eileen LESSELS occupation married 121 Milton Street Nelson
- Louis Alexander LESSELS occupation painter 121 Milton Street Nelson

*(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)*

Jessie's 2<sup>nd</sup> husband Louis Alexander LESSELS died 19 June 1953

1954 Nelson Electoral roll

- Jessie Eileen LESSELS occupation married 121 Milton Street Nelson  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

Roland Austin FENDALL was born 30 May 1900

**SEARCH** (Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1900 folio website 1900/)

Intention to Marry Application 18 August 1955 Nelson district

Jessie Eileen LESSELS age 41 widow (19 June 1953) dwelling place Nelson and Roland Austin FENDALL age 55 bachelor occupation Clerk dwelling place Nelson intend to marry at All Saints Church Vanguard Street Nelson by Church of England Officiating Minister H F Ault

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Intention to marry 1955 agency BDM series 20 item 362 page131 Nelson district)

Jessie Eileen LESSELS married 1955 Roland Austin FENDALL

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1955 folio 12834)

Jessie Eileen LESSELS aged 41 years born Lower Hutt status widow 19 June 1953 married Roland Austin FENDALL aged 55 born Masterton Occupation Clerk on 21 August 1955 at All Saints Church Vanguard Street Nelson by H.F.Ault.

(Reference Messrs Fell & Hartley Barristers and Solicitors and Notaries Public, P O Box 28, Nelson, at R.G.'s office Re: Estate L.A. LESSELS Cert. 117/12817)

1957 Nelson Electoral Roll

- Jessie Eileen FENDALL occupation married 68 Locking Street
- Roland Austin FENDALL occupation Bank Officer 68 Locking Street Bank  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

Roland Austin FENDALL died 1987 NZ

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ death registration 1987 folio website 1987/43939 born 30 May 1900)

Jessie Eileen FENDALL ex LESSELS formerly HANSEN died 1997 NZ

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ death registration 1997 folio website 1997/30930 born 19 October 1913)

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<p><b>9- James Bertie (Jim) LESSELS</b> born 11 September 1911 Nelson New Zealand married 18 November 1941 Nelson New Zealand <b>Doris HARRIS</b> refer chart 2-3 (3 issue)</p>
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**10-Alec Neil LESSELS** born 06 February 1917 [1182] Nelson New Zealand died 09 January 1983 Nelson New Zealand married 24 August 1940 Eketahuna New Zealand Annie (Doll) ROLLS born 05 September 1917 [1921/2682] Alfredton New Zealand died 31 October 1990 Nelson New Zealand

10-1-Living LESSELS

10-1-1-Living LESSELS

10-1-2- Living LESSELS

10-2-3- Living LESSELS

10-2- Living LESSELS

10-2-1- Living SAVAGE

Alec Neil LESSELS was born on 06 February 1917 at Milton Street Nelson. His parents were Bertha nee MANSSSEN aged 39 years born Nelson and James Smith LESSELS aged 49 years born London England occupation Painter. His parents were married on 04 July 1900 in Nelson. At the time of his birth the family is recorded as 5 males aged 15, 11, 10,8, 7, 5 and 2 females aged 14 and 12. The birth was registered on 06 March 1917 by mother Bertha Lessels of Milton Street Nelson and signed by the Deputy Registrar EM Emerson.

(Reference RGO New Zealand 1917 folio 1182 Nelson district)

Alec Neale LESSELS - Brook Street School (801) - Boys Central  
Birth 6-2-1917 - Admission 4-2-1924 - Last Day 18-12-1925  
Previous School Tasman Street - Next School Bay Central  
J L LESSELS 33 Milton Street Nelson  
**SEARCH** (Nelson school registers again)

Brook Street School

Alec Neale LESSELS admission date 04 February 1924 register number 0801  
Nelson Central Boys School

Alec Neal LESSELS admission date 02 February 1926 register number 314  
Nelson Central School

Alec N LESSELS admission date 02 February 1927 register number 0188

The Nelsonian - July 1930 School Roll July 1<sup>st</sup> 1930

Form III.B. - LESSELS, A.N. - December 1930 School Roll December 1<sup>st</sup> 1930

Form III.B. - LESSELS, A.N. - July 1931 School Roll 1<sup>st</sup> June 1931

Form IV.C. - LESELS, A.N. - December 1931 School Roll 1<sup>st</sup> December 1931

Form IV.C. - LESSELS, A.N. - July 1932 School Roll 1<sup>st</sup> July 1932

Form V.E. - LESSELS, A.N. - December 1932 School Roll 1<sup>st</sup> December 1932

Form V.E. - LESSELS, A.N.

(Reference National Library Wellington The Nelsonian)

Alec Neil LESSELS attended Nelson College between 1930 and 1932. The Nelson college old boys register records:

- Alec Neil LESSELS 1930-32 Master painter 72 Weka Street Nelson Executive Master Painters Assn Nelson World War II 2NZEF POW 3½ years

(National Library Nelson College Old Boys Register Publication)

In 1937 Alec Neil LESSELS was living at 21 Milton Street Nelson.

(Reference National Archives Auckland NZ "Will" for William Alexander LESSELS filed in 1937)

The Nelson/Masterton Electoral Rolls read:

1938 LESSELS Alec Neil 21 Milton Street Nelson Painter = Nelson Electoral Rolls

1938 ROLLS Annie Alfredton Spinster = Masterton Electoral Rolls

(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson/Masterton Electoral Roll Book form)

Annie ROLLS was born

ORDER (Reference RGO NZ birth registration)

Return of Applications to Marry in the Eketahuna District - Date of Notice 24 July 1940

Name of Parties	Groom	Bride
Surname	LESSELS	ROLLS
Christian Name	Alec Neil	Annie
Profession	Painter	Domestic Duties
Age	23	22
Dwelling Place	Nelson	Alfredton
Length of Residence	23 years	18 years
Place where married	Church of England Alfredton	

Date of certificate	24 July 1940 (1941/12674)
Officiating Minister	L. Ives Church of England Eketahuna

*(Reference Archives of New Zealand Wellington Eketahuna District Agency BDM 20/242 page 2171-15)*

On 24 August 1940 at St Aidans Church Alfredton Alec Neil LESSELS aged 23 years born Nelson occupation Painter married Annie ROLLS aged 22 years born Carterton occupation Domestic Duties. Alec's parents were Bertha nee MANSSEN and James Smith LESSELS occupation Painter. Annie's parents were Mary Elizabeth nee HARTLEY and Henry ROLLS occupation Lorry Driver. The witnesses were Malcolm LESSELS a painter from Nelson and Joan ROLLS from Alfredton. The Church of England Minister Leonard Ives took the service.

*(Reference RGO New Zealand 1940 Eketahuna District Folio 12674)*

Annie ROLLS was born on 05 September 1917 in Carterton. Her parents were Mary Elizabeth nee HARTLEY aged 20 born Carterton and Henry ROLLS age 28 years born Glenora, Tasmania Australia occupation Farm Manager.

*(Reference RGO New Zealand 1917 Pongaroa District Folio 1921/2682)*

Alec Neil LESSELS enlisted in World War Two but was captured early and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner of war.

#### New Zealand Post Office Directory

1942 Alec N LESSELS pntr 72 Weka Street Nelson (Alec Neil Painter)  
1947 Alec N LESSELS decrtr 72 Weka Street Nelson (Alec Neil Decorator)  
1948 Alec N LESSELS decrtr 72 Weka Street Nelson (Alec Neil Decorator)  
1949 Alec N LESSELS decrtr 72 Weka Street Nelson (Alec Neil Decorator)  
1950 Alec N LESSELS decrtr 72 Weka Street Nelson (Alec Neil Decorator)  
1951 Alec N LESSELS decrtr 72 Weka Street Nelson (Alec Neil Decorator)  
1952 Alec N LESSELS decrtr 72 Weka Street Nelson (Alec Neil Decorator)  
1953 Alec N LESSELS decrtr 72 Weka Street Nelson (Alec Neil Decorator)  
1954 Alec N LESSELS decrtr 72 Weka Street Nelson (Alec Neil Decorator)  
1955 Alec N LESSELS decrtr 72 Weka Street Nelson (Alec Neil Decorator)

#### The Nelson Electoral Rolls read:

1941 LESSELS Alec Neil 21 Milton Street Nelson Painter  
1941 LESSELS Annie 74 Weka Street Married  
1943 LESSELS Alec Neil 21 Milton Street Nelson Painter  
1943 LESSELS Annie 74 Weka Street Married  
1946 LESSELS Annie 74 Weka Street Married  
1946 LESSELS Alec Neil 74 Weka Street Painter  
1949 LESSELS Annie 74 Weka Street Married  
1949 LESSELS Alec Neil 74 Weka Street Painter  
1954 LESSELS Annie 74 Weka Street Married  
1954 LESSELS Alec Neil 74 Weka Street Alec Neil  
1957 LESSELS Annie 74 Weka Street Married  
1957 LESSELS Alec Neil 74 Weka Street Painter  
1960 LESSELS Annie 74 Weka Street Married  
1960 LESSELS Alec Neil 74 Weka Street Painter  
1963 LESSELS Annie 74 Weka Street Married  
1963 LESSELS Alec Neil 74 Weka Street Painter  
1966 LESSELS Annie 74 Weka Street Married  
1966 LESSELS Alec Neil 74 Weka Street Painter  
1969 LESSELS Annie 74 Weka Street Married  
1969 LESSELS Alec Neil 74 Weka Street Painter  
1972 LESSELS Annie 74 Weka Street Housewife  
1972 LESSELS Alec Neil 74 Weka Street Painter  
1975 LESSELS Annie 74 Weka Street Housewife

1975 LESSELS Alec Neil 74 Weka Street Painter  
1978 LESSELS Annie 74 Weka Street Housewife  
1978 LESSELS Alec Neil 74 Weka Street Painter  
1981 LESSELS Annie 74 Weka Street Housewife  
1981 LESSELS Alec Neil 74 Weka Street Painter  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

#### Nelson Newspaper Article

Painter Injured By Contact With High Voltage Line.  
A painter narrowly escaped electrocution today when he came in contact with a high voltage power line above the veranda on the T.A.B. building in Bridge Street.  
The accident happened about 1.35 p.m. when Mr Alec Neil Lessels, aged about 46, of 72 Weka Street, was carrying a ladder along the roof of the veranda. It is believed that the ladder caught on an obstruction and Mr Lessels was flung against a lower line.  
The shock knocked him unconscious, and badly burned his left shoulder. He was attended by Dr K.M. Galloway, and taken by ambulance to the Nelson Public Hospital.  
While Mr Lessels was being attended, the power line he fell against snapped cutting off the supply to most of the block. A large crowd quickly gathered in the area. Nelson City Council electricians were on the scene almost immediately and expected to have power restored in a short time.

Alec Neil LESSELS aged 65 years occupation Retired Painter and Paperhanger (Ex-Serviceman) passed away on 09 January 1983 at the Public Hospital Nelson usual residence 72 Weka Street Nelson. His parents were recorded as Bertha nee MANSSEN and James Smith LESSELS occupation Painter. He was aged 22 when he married Annie ROLLS at Eketahuna. He left a widow aged 64 a son aged 35 and daughter 32. Cause of death was Coronary Occlusion - sudden death, High Blood Pressure - 21 years, Gout - 37 years as certified by Dr C.M. Stubbs who saw him last on the 22 December 1982.

(Reference RGO New Zealand 1983 folio Nelson district)

Nelson Newspaper 09 January 1983 page 4 Alec Neil LESSELS Death

1984, 1987 & 1990 Nelson Electoral rolls

- Annie LESSELS occupation housewife 74 Weka Street  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

Annie LESSELS passed away on 31 October 1990 in Nelson and was buried alongside her husband at the RSA section of the Marsden Cemetery Stoke Nelson.

Nelson Newspaper 31 October 1990 page 174 Annie LESSELS Death

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**11-Rita Dorothy LESSELS (later known as MANSSEN)** born 09 April 1919 Nelson New Zealand died 04 February 1999 Nelson New Zealand (never married)

Rita Dorothy LESSELS was born on 09 April 1919 at Milton Street Nelson. Her mother died when she was only 2 months old.

**ORDER** (Reference RGO New Zealand 1919 folio 2632 Nelson district & 1921)

When Rita was only 2 months old her mother Bertha died. Bertha's brother Conrad and his wife Emily had not children so Rita went to live with them. A year later they officially adopted Rita Dorothy LESSELS and she then became known as Rita Dorothy MANSSEN.

In 1937 Rita Dorothy LESSELS/MANSSEN was living at Washington Valley Nelson  
(Reference National Archives Auckland NZ "Will" for William Alexander LESSELS filed in 1937)

1943, 1946 & 1949 Nelson Electoral rolls

Rita Dorothy MANSSEN occupation spinster Quebec Road Nelson  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

1954 & 1957 Nelson Electoral rolls

Rita Dorothy MANSSEN occupation housekeeping 10 Watson Street Nelson  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

1960, 1963 & 1966 Nelson Electoral rolls

- Rita Dorothy MANSSEN occupation spinster 10 Watson Street Nelson  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

1969 Nelson Electoral roll

- Rita Dorothy MANSSEN occupation housekeeping 10 Watson Street Nelson  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

1972, 1975 & 1978 Nelson Electoral rolls

- Rita Dorothy MANSSEN occupation cleaner 10 Watson Street Nelson  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

1981 & 1984 Nelson Electoral rolls

- Rita Dorothy MANSSEN occupation pensioner 10 Watson Street Nelson  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

1987 & 1990 Nelson Electoral rolls

- Rita Dorothy MANSSEN occupation retired 10 Watson Street Nelson  
(Reference RGO Electoral Office Lower Hutt Nelson Electoral Roll Book form)

Rita Dorothy MANSSEN aged 79 years occupation retired Caregiver passed away on 04 February 1999 at Oakwoods Resthome Richmond Nelson usual residence 10 Watson Street Nelson. Cause of death was Cancer - Secondaries More than 1 month, Dementia - More than 1 Month as certified by Dr D.J. MvNicoll who saw her last on 02 February 1999. Her parents were recorded as Bertha and James Smith LESSELS occupation Painter. Rita never married. Rita was cremated and her ashes interned with her parents at Whakapuaka Cemetery Nelson.

(Reference RGO New Zealand 1999 Nelson District Folio?)

Nelson Newspaper

INTERMENT OF ASHES  
MANSSEN Rita Dorothy  
Rita's family wish to notify her friends that the  
Interment of Ashes will take place at the family plot  
at the Whakapuaka Cemetery on SATURDAY  
AFTERNOON, April 17, 1999 at 2.30pm  
MARSDEN HOUSE  
Funeral Directors  
F.D.A.N.Z.

Nelson Newspaper

**Nelson loses sprightly identity**  
by Andrea Kepes  
A diverse group of about 80 people paid their last respects at the funeral of Nelson identity Rita Manssen, who died at Oaklands in February 4. She was 79.

She was remembered a sprightly, elderly lady often seen on her trademark bicycle and chatting to anyone who would listen.  
Fondly recalled as a kind character, partial to children and animals, she upheld a gentle simple philosophy on life, helping where ever she could and expecting nothing in return.  
Charmingly eccentric, Rita was referred to as living as if she were a Ponsonby socialite, joyously frequenting many of the Nelson cafes. Friends sang All Things Bright And Beautiful at the service, in appreciation of Rita's love and care of animals.  
Rita's ashes will be interred next to her parents, Bertha and James Smith Lessels, at Whakapuaka Cemetery.

Note: A photograph of Rita Manssen with her bicycle appeared in the article.

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### Lessels miscellaneous information NZ

0- Robert LESSELLS born Scotland died 22 February 1949 Scotland married December 1891 Bridge of Allan Scotland Margaret or Maggie Baird or Maggie S DONALDSON born Scotland died before 1949 Scotland

**0-1- David LESSELLS / LESSELS** born about 17 November 1893/1894 Toryburn Fife Scotland died 04 February 1957 Waipa cemetery Mangakino married Lillian Frances VIEIRA born 14 April 1907 died 31 July 1986 Waipa cemetery Mangakino

0-1-1 Female living LESSELLS and Male living BILLINGHURST

0-2- Christine LESSELLS born Scotland died before 1957 America or Vancouver Canada married

0-2-1- Male born died

0-3- Peter LESSELLS (served WWI perhaps England) died before 1957 America or Canada

David LESSELLS was born about 17 November 1893/1894 Toryburn Fife Scotland. His parents were Margaret or Maggie Baird or Maggie S DONALDSON and Robert LESSELLS occupation coalminer

David LESSELLS born Scotland travelled to Canada for 5-6- years then Australia and then settled in New Zealand where he enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He had a cousin Jean LESSELLS IRVINE who dwelled Newmills Fife Scotland around 1949

David served with the 1NZE (First New Zealand Expeditionary Force) and went to Gallipoli and France. He also enlisted in World War Two.

David met his future bride in 1936 in New Zealand.

David LESSELLS married 1940 Lilian Frances VIEIRA  
**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1940 folio 16325)

David LESSELLS died 1957 NZ  
**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ death registration 1957 folio web reg. 1957/20622 age 63 born about 1894)

David LESSELLS - Waipa Cemetery Records Date 04 February 1957 Date of Burial 07 February 1957 Cemetery Hautapu Block L, Lot 20, Level Single (Hist) Type Lawn

David LESSELLS - Probate Records, Place Mangakino, Occupation PW Employee, Court Hamilton, Probate Number BCDG 4421 297/57, Filed date 04 July 1957, Type Intestate (Letters of Administration), Archives NZ Auckland Office.

Lillian Frances LESSELLS died 1986 New Zealand

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ death registration 1986 folio web reg. 1986/44953 born 14 April 1907)

Lillian Frances LESSELLS Waipa cemetery records date 31 July 1986 date of burial 04 August 1986 cemetery Hautapu block L, lot 20, 2<sup>nd</sup> Internment Type lawn

David LESSELLS had a cousin Catherine Lessels HALKETT details are below

**0- Catherine Lessels HALKETT** born about 1905 died married 1926 Auckland James LYON / LYONS born about 1903 died  
0-1- Female LYON born New Zealand  
0-2- Male LYONS born New Zealand

Intention to marry 30 March 1926 Auckland district

Catherine Lessels HALKETT age 21 spinster dwelled Milford and James LYON age 23 bachelor occupation Tram Conductor dwelled Milford intend to marry in Baptist Church Milford by Rev E NICHOLLS

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Intention to marry 1926 agency BDM series 20 item 169 page 121 line 565 Auckland district)*

Catherine Lessels HALKETT married 1926 James LYON

**SEARCH** (Reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1926 folio

Catherine Lessels Halkett LYON died 1961 NZ

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ death registration 1961 folio web reg. 1961/26611 age 56 years born about 1905)

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**0- Margaret Jane McCulloch LESSELLS** born 11 December 1902 died 1992 NZ married 1926 NZ George Edward Thompson DORMAN born about 1899 died 1967 Christchurch NZ

0-1- Unknown DORMAN born 1929

#Not Recorded DORMAN born 1929 reference RGO NZ birth registration 1929 folio web reg. 1929/26321 parents Margaret Jane McCulloch & George Edward Thompson DORMAN

0-2- George Edward Lessels DORMAN born 1939 died 1939

# George Edward Lessels DORMAN died 1939 reference RGO NZ death registration 1939 folio web reg. 1939/23990 age 14 weeks born about 1939

Margaret Jane McCulloch LESSELLS born 11 December 1902 place unknown

George Edward Thompson DORMAN born about 1899 place unknown

Margaret Jane McCulloch LESSELLS married George Edward Thompson DORMAN 1926 folio 04222

George Edward Thompson DORMAN died 1967

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ death registration 1967 folio web reg. 1967/28171 age 68 years born about 1899)

George Edward T DORMAN Probate Record Place Christchurch, Occupation Accountant, Court Christchurch, Probate Number 1537/67, Filed date 03 November 1967, Type Will Archives NZ Christchurch Office

Margaret Jane McCullough DORMAN died 1992

**ORDER** (Reference RGO NZ death registration 1992 folio web reg. 1992/35610 born 11 December 1902)

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Edward LESCELLES known as Edward SPARKES

*(Reference Hokitika Museum card index)*

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