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## DOROTHEA GILMER & CHARLES WILLIAM ZIELE

Dorothea Gilmer was the eldest child of Hamilton and Elizabeth Gilmer. She was born at Greymouth on 8 January 1873. She was nine years old when the family moved to Wellington where she attended the Terrace school.

As could be expected there were very few newspaper references to Dorothea. However, she was mentioned in 1882 as a student at Greymouth State School receiving second prize for General Proficiency in the Lower Class 3.<sup>1</sup> Later in Wellington at the Juvenile Industrial Exhibition in 1884 she won a cookery prize for a Blancmange.<sup>2</sup>

Dorothea met **Charles William Ziele** and they were married in Wellington at her parent's home "Fern Glen" 102 The Terrace on 24 February 1903.

Miss Dorothea Gilmer, eldest daughter of Mr. Hamilton Gilmer, was married to Mr. Chas. W. Ziele, of Christchurch, at the residence of the bride's parents, Wellington-terrace, yesterday. The wedding was a very pretty one, the hall of "Fern-glen" being specially arranged for the ceremony. The Rev. W. C. Waters was the officiating clergyman. The bride, who was given away by her father, was beautifully gowned in white Duchesse satin, old rose point lace was used as trimming for the bodice, which had a transparent yoke; the sleeves were of tucked chiffon, the skirt was of flounces of accordion-pleated chiffon frills, and the train of chiffon frills. The veil was composed of old Limerick lace, the gift of the bride's mother. The bride carried a handsome bouquet, and also wore a diamond star pendant, a gift from the bridegroom. The bridesmaids were Misses Florrie Gilmer (sister of the bride), Mary Stuart Seddon, and Alice M'Clatchie, of Christchurch. The duties of best man were carried out by Mr. W. Price, and the groomsmen were Messrs. S. H. Gilmer and W. E. Bethune. Mr. and Mrs. Ziele left for the South yesterday evening.

Evening Post 25 February 1903

<sup>1</sup> Grey River Argus 24 January 1882

<sup>2</sup> Evening Post 5 July 1884

**Charles William** was the second child and eldest son of **Charles George Ziele** and **Grace Poole Fincher**. (A separate story has been written about them and the Ziele Family).

He was born in Dunedin in 1870 and he attended the Dunedin Collegiate School. In 1876 he was awarded a Junior Division prize at the half yearly prize presentation.<sup>3</sup> In later years he was frequently mentioned in articles relating to school sports. Charles engaged in bicycle racing. In the following articles indicate that in 1885 he was still at school and also comment on his performance:

ONE MILE BICYCLE HANDICAP (open also to present pupils).—E. C. Cutten, C. Gillies, T. C. Fisher (past), C. Ziele, J. B. Thomson (present).

Otago Daily Times 21 September 1885

ONE-MILE BICYCLE RACE.

T C Fisher (scratch)	...	...	1
C Ziele (200 yds)	...	...	2

C. Gillies and J. B. Thomson also started. This was the most interesting event of the day. Fisher rode with good judgment, and won a fine race on the tape. Ziele, who is quite a young rider, however kept his lead, and rode in fine style till coming up the straight at the finish. Fisher having more strength was then able to pull up against the wind, and win by a few feet in 3 min. 30 sec.

Fisher won both the mile race at the electric light sports (though one of the competitors cribbed 50 yards when the light went out) and the race at the High School sports. In the latter event Ziele, a lad of fifteen, rode very well, and, making the most of his 150 yards handicap, made Fisher travel pretty fast in the last two laps. Seeing that Fisher was the only "crack" rider in the race, the general opinion among cyclists seems to be that it would have been more gallant on his part had he left the event to the boys.

Otago Daily Times 28 September 1885

Otago Witness 3 October 1885

In 1886 Charles was mentioned as riding in a One Mile Cycle Race as the scratch marker.<sup>4</sup> Later that year Charles was rowing in a race of the Otago Rowing Club. He occupied the Bow position in a foursomes event.<sup>5</sup> He continued to be involved in cycling and rowing up to 1890 when he had an unpleasant rowing experience:

**AN UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCE.—Mr C. Ziele, of the Union Bank, Dunedin, met with an unpleasant adventure on Wednesday morning. He had, it appears, pulled down to Broad Bay the previous evening in a light rowing skiff, intending to return to Dunedin next morning. This he essayed to do at daylight, but on reaching Grassy Point found the wind and sea more than he had bargained for, and in turning back**

**the boat capsized. Finding it impossible to hold on to the boat, and being an expert swimmer, after cutting off his boots he struck out for the beach, which he succeeded in reaching. Returning to Broad Bay, he obtained assistance, and the boat was picked up, minus oars, of course, and a bag containing a suit of clothes. He also loses his coat, in which was his watch.**

The Star 15 April 1890

By this time Charles had turned twenty and had left school and was working at the Union Bank.

<sup>3</sup> Otago Daily Times 20 December 1876

<sup>4</sup> Otago Daily Times 15 April 1886

<sup>5</sup> Otago Daily Times 15 October 1886

Throughout the 1890's Charles continued to be referred to in reports about Cycle Races and rowing competitions.

In 1897 Charles was mentioned as being a member of B Battery NZ Artillery and was active in their sporting competitions especially in shooting and cycling and also their social functions. In 1899 he obtained the rank of Lieutenant.

The annual ball of the B Battery and N.Z.R.A.V. was held in the Garrison Hall on Friday evening, and proved a great success. Nearly all the city corps were represented. The proceedings commenced shortly before 8 o'clock with a grand march, which was an imposing spectacle to the large number of on-lookers in the gallery. Dancing was kept up until nearly 3 in the morning. The music was performed by Mr Yates's band, and, as usual, left nothing to be desired. The guests included Colonels Penton, Webb, and Banks (of Auckland), Major Madocks (N.Z. Forces), Captains Barclay (Engineers), Stoneham (Highlanders), Lieutenants Strong and Paterson (Dunedin Navals), and Staff-sergeants Major Towler and Kibblewhite. Apologies were received from Colonels Gordon and Newall and Captain Myers. The catering was in the hands of Mr Lean, and gave every satisfaction. Mr Sutton excelled himself in the decorations, which were very elaborate, and much admired, and the floor was never in better condition. The duties of M.C. were efficiently carried out by Q.M.-Sergeant Stewart, Bombardier Williams, and Gunners Williams and Ziele. The Ball Committee worked hard, and are to be congratulated on the result of their efforts.

The usual weekly parade of B Battery, New Zealand Artillery, was held on Wednesday, 21st, when there was a fair attendance. The battery was exercised in foot drill by the various officers; the movements being creditably performed. By the recent amendments to the volunteer regulations the battery's establishment is increased by one lieutenant and 28 men. To fill the lieutenantancy thus created a meeting was held after the parade, when Mr Charles Ziele was duly elected to the position. In consequence also of the increase in establishment there is room for a number of recruits. Any men intending to join should do so early so as to get the advantage of the winter course of instruction.

Otago Daily Times 29 August 1898

Otago Witness 29 June 1899

In September 1899 Charles entered into partnership with Alfred Tyree at Christchurch and moved there. In December Charles resigned from B Battery because of his transfer to Christchurch.<sup>6</sup>

**PARTNERSHIP NOTICE.**  
**I** HAVE This Day taken Mr CHARLES WILLIAM ZIELE, of Dunedin, Manufacturer, into PARTNERSHIP with me in my business of a Leather Merchant and Boot and Shoe Importer. The business will be carried on as heretofore under the name of "Alfred Tyree and Co."  
**ALFRED TYREE.**  
 Christchurch, September 12th, 1899. 4748

Press 14 September 1899

<sup>6</sup> Otago Daily Times 23 December 1899

Charles demonstrated on a several occasions that he was a creative and original thinker. His applications for Patents were accepted for:

- Improved means of stiffening the backs of boot uppers.<sup>7</sup>
- An improved reservoir for nibs of writing pens<sup>8</sup>
- The Trade Mark "Master Polish"<sup>9</sup>

On 2 August 1901 Charles sailed from Christchurch to Hobart<sup>10</sup> on the *Monowai*. There he met his parents who arrived from London on 16 August. The next day he sailed with them on the *Whakatane* for Wellington. He was obviously concerned with his father's health as he had been in hospital in England for a month. At Wellington they changed to the *Elingamite* which left for Lyttleton & Dunedin on 23 August.<sup>11</sup> They were finally home two months after leaving London.

Before his marriage to Dorothea, Charles made regular trips to Wellington and in 1902 made about six trips there. The last of these was from 26 December to 31 December. After their marriage in February 1903 they went to live at Christchurch. However, Dorothea made regular visits to see her mother and we have identified reports of these almost every year through to 1910.

In October 1904 they were living at 38 Chapel Street St. Albans and later at 38 Bristol Street St. Albans. They spent Christmas 1904 in Wellington staying with the Gilmers at their home on The Terrace leaving Lyttelton on 23 December 1904 on the *Rotomahana*<sup>12</sup> and returned home on the *Maroroa* on 5 January 1905. The next month Charles was empanelled on to a Grand Jury of the Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court in February 1905.

**THE GRAND JURY.**  
The following were sworn in as the Grand Jury:—Messrs C. M. Gray (foreman), W. Radcliffe, W. W. Morton, J. Gott, P. S. Stewart, P. Wood, G. Byron, L. Matson, G. C. Matson, A. C. Nottingham, J. A. Inglis, J. F. Grier-son, C. Ziele, G. H. Elliott, A. C. Craddock, J. R. Triggs, F. W. Dowd-ling, B. M. Lichfield, P. Selig, J. E. Todhunter, F. J. Barlow, A. Kincaid, and A. Borrows.

During the day the Grand Jury re- turned true bills against Amy Bock, forgery; Paul Ortmann, arson; Herbert Joseph O'Brien forgery and uttering; Arthur Ernest Eldred, breaking and entering and theft; Andrew Francis Gallagher, breaking and entering and theft; Robert Rutledge, shooting with intent to do grievous bodily harm; Frederick J. Clarke, embezzlement; and Thomas Joseph Walsh, incest.

No bills were returned in the cases of William Alfred Monk and Tom Nott Monk, charged with forgery and utter- ing, and Ernest Wright, charged with discharging firearms with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The Press 14 February 1905

<sup>7</sup> Evening Post 20 May 1901

<sup>8</sup> Evening Post 8 April 1901

<sup>9</sup> Otago Daily Times 1905

<sup>10</sup> Press 3 August 1901

<sup>11</sup> Otago Witness 28 August 1901

<sup>12</sup> The Star 23 December 1904

Dorothea's mother and sister, Florence, came to visit her on 9 February 1905 and her father, Hamilton Gilmer, came on 14 February. They all then took the train to Dunedin leaving Charles to his jury duties.

Surprisingly, Charles was again empanelled on Grand Juries of the Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court in May 1906 and also November 1907. The following articles indicate the cases that were heard:

The grand jury returned true bills against Mathew Finlay Peterson, voting twice at the general election; William James, breaking and entering and theft; Frederick Wilbert Baker, indecent assault; John W. Churchfield, theft (two charges); John Kennedy, assault causing actual bodily harm; Daniel Gunn, assault on a girl under sixteen years; Stephen Sargent, theft from the person. No bills were found in the cases of Frank William Schutz, indecent assault (two charges), and John Crosbie, theft.

**The Star 7 May 1906**

True bills were returned in the case of Walter Fred. Borland, breaking and entering with intent to commit a crime; David Llewellyn Moore, discharging a gun with intent; Rowland Wilfred Langdown, making false declaration. In the case of Lillian Fanny Jane Hobbs, charged with manslaughter, the Grand Jury found a true bill only on the second count. True bills were also returned against James M'Intyre and Frank Sayles, breaking and entering and theft; Edward Mills, Joseph Francis Donnelly and Harry Witte, assault and robbery; John Ireson and Grace Hutchison, forgery; and Thomas Robert O'Callaghan, attempted arson.

**The Star 18 November 1907**

By August 1907 the Zieles were living at 38 Bristol Street St Albans.<sup>13</sup> They were not there for very long and later moved to 86 Bristol Street St Albans.

Charles continued his work with Alfred Tyree until 1910 when he left and was given a presentation by the staff:

The employees of A. Tyree and Co. (Ltd.), Christchurch, met on Saturday morning and presented Mr C. W. Ziele, warehouse manager, with an address conveying their best wishes for his future happiness and prosperity, and expressing their appreciation of his unfailing kindness and consideration to the staff.

**Otago Daily Times 28 May 1910**

We have not found references to Charles having other work and in 1911 he advertised their house as an urgent sale. The advertisement gave a good description of the rather large house and land. However it is apparent that the house did not sell because it was again advertised

<sup>13</sup> The Star 3 August 1907

eighteen months later. In the meantime Charles was identified with another patent application for a "boot polish tin holder."<sup>14</sup>

**THE BARGAIN OF THE YEAR.**  
**A CHARMING SUBURBAN RESIDENCE**  
**AND DELIGHTFUL GROUNDS.**  
**IN THE BEST PART OF ST. ALBANS.**  
**I** INSTRUCTED by C. W. Ziele, Esq., who  
 is leaving Christchurch, I have for  
**URGENT SALE**, his Magnificent Residential  
 Property known as

**"WHARE KOA,"**

86 Bristol street, just off Webb street,  
 Containing 10 rooms (all on the ground floor),  
 plastered and papered, well fires in every  
 room, 4 large bay windows, 3 verandahs,  
 cosy corner, beautiful lead lights, gas fit-  
 tings, electric bells, wardrobes, linen cup-  
 board, housemaid's pantry, splendid bath-  
 room with porcelain bath and recess shower  
 bath, sewer connections, and well appointed  
 servant's bath and offices, washhouse, and  
 outbuildings.

The House was designed by Messrs Clarkson  
 and Ballantyne practically regardless of ex-  
 pense, and has just been painted. It must  
 be seen to be appreciated as no advertisement  
 can do justice to it. The land contains 1  
 acre 1 rood and 18 perches. It is most taste-  
 fully laid out in front in flower beds, shrub-  
 beries, croquet and tennis lawn. The shrub-  
 beries are well grown and give great privacy  
 to the house, which stands well back from  
 the road and gets no dust or wind.

At the back there is a first-class vegetable  
 garden and fruit trees besides deep well,  
 three 400 gallon tanks, and fowlhouses.

The price fixed I have no hesitation in  
 saying is £500 below its actual value.

Get Cards to View at office.

475

**CHARLES CLARK.**

The Press 13 March 1911

In 1912 Charles made a trip to Sydney on the ship *Moana*. He left Lyttleton on 15 August and was reported as returning to New Zealand on 19 September 1912. Very soon afterwards their house was again on the market. However, on this occasion it was to be auctioned on 31 October. A key point in the advertisement was that Charles had purchased land in Australia.

<sup>14</sup> Wairarapa Daily Times 23 November 1911

—  
AUCTION SALE.

—  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31st, at 12 noon.

—  
BEAUTIFUL RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.

—  
VALUABLE FURNITURE AND  
EFFECTS.

—  
ACCOUNT C. W. ZIELE, ESQ. (who has  
purchased land in Australia), on the  
premises,

No. 86 BRISTOL STREET,  
OPPOSITE WEBB STREET, ST. ALBANS.

—  
The PROPERTY comprises NEARLY  
NEW BUNGALOW of 10 ROOMS, EXTRA  
LARGE, papered and plastered, gas and  
electric bells, well fires, with gas points,  
lovely leadlights, washhouse, coal and wood-  
house, window seats and recesses. The house  
was built by the late Mr G. Petrie (builder),  
under Messrs Clarkson and Ballantyne  
(Architects). NEARLY 1½ ACRES, in  
LOVELY FLOWER GARDENS, LAWNS  
(CARRIAGE DRIVE), shrubberies, orchard,  
and vegetable garden, water laid on every-  
where, well sheltered. NO DUST. A  
BEAUTIFUL SITUATION.

—  
FURNITURE AND EFFECTS—  
SEMI-GRAND PIANO by BLUTHNER,  
AXMINSTER CARPETS (woven in  
one piece), 22 x 15, 20 x 16, etc., Rugs,  
SOLID OAK SIDEBORD, with  
Cellarette, Screw Ex. Table, Velvet  
Cover, 6 ANTIQUE CARVED DIN-

ING and 2 CARVER CHAIRS, EN-  
GRAVINGS, E.P. WARE, CHINA,  
Velvet Pile Window Seats, CHESTER-  
FIELD in UTRECHT VELVET, Re-  
volving Bookcase, Sectaire, Saddle-  
bag Easy Chairs, 2 Mirrors, Paintings  
by "Perritt," Fireside Companions,  
Black Ebony Pedestals, Palms, Bowls,  
Ornaments, 2 Afternoon Tables, Copper  
Wood Box, Piano Stool, Mats, Mirror  
Sideboard, Rattan Chairs and Lounges,  
Austrian Chairs, Ottoman Couch, All-  
brass Bedsteads, Mattresses and Bed-  
ding, BEDROOM SUITE in WHITE  
ENAMEL, Shaving Cabinet, Ware,  
Statue, Bedstead, Duchesse, Mirror  
Wardrobe, Wire Stretcher, Axminster  
Hall Carpet, 51ft AXMINSTER RUN-  
NER, CHENILLE CURTAINS,  
Carved Hall Seat, Carved Oak Hall  
Table, Wire Flower Stand, Tables,  
Chairs, Utensils, Crockery, Heater,  
Linen Basket, Carpet Sweeper, Tools,  
Mower, 3 Hives Bees, Cages, etc., etc.

—  
ON VIEW ON WEDNESDAY, OCT. 30th,  
from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.

The house was sold at the auction and on 22 November Charles and Dorothea left for Sydney on the *Maunganui*..

**November 22—Maunganui, s.s. (5 p.m.), 7527 tons, Worrall, for Sydney direct. Passengers: Saloon—Misses Tointon, Frank, Mitchellson, Pritchard, Spence, Beech, McDonald, Barton, Wilson, Mesdames Gaisford, Parkes, Smith, Fordham, Reid, Hubon, Reed, Ziele, Herbert, Hargraves, Healy, Maynard, Dobson, Johnston, Colonel Buch, Hon. Pitt, Messrs. Triggs, Osborne, Gaisford, Brown, Price, Lees, Davies, Campbell, Boyes, Kuppel, Hall, Hargraves, Parkes, Smith, Watt, McGregor, Buxton, Fordham, Roberts, Braithwaith, Reston, Bile, Bristow, Thorp, Flockhart, Evans, Wilson, Guthrie, Hawkins, Hill, Hubon. Ziele, Healy, Russell,**

**Evening Post 22 November 1912**

Charles had purchased a 55 acre holding in the newly established Murrumbidgee Irrigation District. This district had been set up with the building of the Burrinjuck Dam. A series of canals was established but the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Trust to allow for land holders to irrigate the land and grow crops. Charles had bought his holding in the relatively early stages of the district. It was located at Yanco and the nearest town was Leeton. The area was very new and a lot of development of basic infrastructure was required. His own holding was unlikely to have had a house and would have required the piping or channeling of water from the main canals to his paddocks.



**A Pioneer Family at Yanco**



On 1 May 1913 The Irrigation Record published an article about Charles' holding:

### MR. D. ZIELE.

Mr. D. Ziele has a holding of fifty-five acres in the south-western portion of the Yanco section, in the same locality as those settlers already described. Mr. Ziele comes from New Zealand, where he was engaged in commercial business. In his earlier days he had experience in farming. He is apparently enthusiastic as an irrigation farmer, and intends to go in for lucerne and fruit, with pigs and poultry as a side line. Good lucerne fields provide for a wide range of mixed farming. When it is low in price, the settler who is in a position to utilise his lucerne through animal husbandry has a safe proposition. Dairying of course comes in as a permanent medium for using all the lucerne a 50-acre irrigation farm can produce; but some of the settlers are shy of dairying on account of what they consider the incessant labour involved. Mr. Ziele, like some other settlers, is not disposed to take on dairying. At any rate, that is his view at present. Example of course sways a man in certain directions, and as time goes on reflecting the economic value of the industry, dairying will no doubt have many adherents from among those who now look askance at it.

Settlers having lucerne and not desirous of dairying should devise a plan of farming so as to make the best use of this valuable fodder plant. Sometimes the price of lucerne hay in Sydney may be high enough to warrant its being marketed in that manner, the railway freight to Sydney being 11s. 2d. per ton from Yanco. On the other hand, it might pay better to feed it to stock. Lambs, pigs, and poultry can be profitably produced with lucerne as a base, but the settler must work on a definite plan. When lucerne gets below a payable limit in the market, stock must be available to utilise the fodder, and this is where the successful settler's judgment comes in.

Mr. Ziele contemplates planting five acres of fruit trees, comprising peaches, apricots, grapes. He also has 1000 strawberry plants. He acquired his farm at the end of last year, and has done very well in the time as regards improvements.

### Irrigation Record 1 May 1913

On 17 June 1913 Charles joined an Advisory Board to the Commissioner of the district indicating that he had probably overcome his early development issues and he now had the time to give to community based issues.

Minutes of meetings were published in the Irrigation Record. This publication also provided information to settlers on particular crops and irrigation methods. It also advised on areas of development in the district.

Charles was an enthusiastic participant and very often was involved in developing proposals and bringing them back to the board. In 1914 the Board established weekly meetings rather

than fortnightly. The Zieles participated in their community activities including social events. At a Fancy Dress Ball in 1913 Charles won the best costume dressed as a Scarecrow.<sup>15</sup>

Charles was involved in numerous development issues. The major early issues revolved around adequate communication and he was instrumental getting the mail and telegraph services into the district. He was also an agitator for the provision of railway facilities.

In 1914 Charles was a member of the Yanco Golf Club and also on its committee. This was very early days as their course only officially opened on 25 April 1914 so there would have been plenty of work to do. He was also on the Committee of the Race Club.<sup>16</sup>

Charles was prepared to innovate and he experimented with a mixture of well known New Zealand grasses and also using logs in sluice boxes. In 1914 he also attracted attention by organizing to take a truck load of chaff to market in Sydney. He was well rewarded as the price he obtained easily topped the market.

Many settlers are destroying numbers of hollow logs which are on their blocks when taken up. Mr. C. W. Ziele, of Farm No. 280, has found a very good use to which they can be put. He saws them off in suitable lengths, fits pieces of galvanised iron in a saw cut at one end, and inserts them in the banks of his head ditches, where they admirably fulfil the purpose of sluice-boxes. Owing to the rough nature of the outside of the log, there is little or no leakage, as is the case with ordinary square wooden sluice-boxes. Mr. Ziele reports that he has no fault to find with logs used in this way, particularly as they cost nothing. He wishes he had more at the same price.

Irrigation Record 2 January 1915

On more than one occasion recently chaff from the Irrigation Area has topped the Sydney market. An instance of this kind has recently been brought under notice, the sample in question—a truck load—was grown by Mr. G. W. Ziele, Farm 280, and he has received the following advice in connection with it from the agent effecting the sale :—

“Truck of chaff No. 6314 to hand to-day, sold 5/3 per cwt., easily topping the market.”

A similar result was achieved with another truck of chaff sent forward on a different date.

Irrigation Record 14 April 1914

These kinds of initiatives led him to receiving a best farm award in 1915.

In connection with the prizes allotted by the Irrigation Commissioner for the best farms in the Yanco irrigation area, the following awards have been made:—  
Best 50-acre mixed farm, C. W. Ziele; best 10-acre mixed farm, T. A. Dalgleish; best two-acre mixed farm, P. Hourigan.

Irrigation Record 26 February 1915

<sup>15</sup> Irrigation Record 15 July 1913

<sup>16</sup> Irrigation Record 31 March 1914.

Charles experimented with different crops and not all of them were necessarily appropriate for the soils of the district:

A settler writes in some doubt as to whether asparagus growing in a large way on heavy soil is likely to be a commercial success. The inquiry is prompted, he says, by the information published last issue as to the appearance of Mr. Ziele's bed, which is in heavy soil.

There is little doubt as to the results that may be expected from, say, half an acre of asparagus on the Areas' light soils, but it remains to be proved whether the heavy soils will give results that would be considered satisfactory without working costs so high as to eat largely into the profits. On heavy soils, a bed for home use, and perhaps a little more, can, however, be recommended on Mr. Zeile's results. Before cultivation in a larger way on such soils, it would perhaps be better to wait for the returns of beds already laid down.

Irrigation Record 1 November 1916<sup>17</sup>

There was also a report in June 1916 about the profitability of the holdings with Charles mentioned as an example.

The irrigation commission reports that a number of farmers in Murrumbidgee irrigation area averaged from £60 to £100 per acre during the past season, and that the season was very profitable. Peaches and apricots realised from £30 to £60 per acre, and late grapes and sultanas up to £100. Mr. C. W. Ziele, of Lanco, banked £105 from 205 vines which were planted less than three years ago on an acre of irrigated land.

Albury Banner & Wodonga Express 30 June 1916

<sup>17</sup> Please note NLA digitized copies of the Irrigation Record only cover 1913 to 1917 at this time.

On 25 June 1919 Dorothea's father died in Wellington. Given the travelling time there was no way she could get there for his funeral. However, on 26 July Dorothea made the trip to see her mother and other members of the family. She left Sydney on 16 July 1919 on the *Prinzessin* and returned on 29 September on the *Riverina*.

Hamilton Gilmer left a large estate and his Will was complex. It is not surprising, therefore, that in 1921 there was an action before the Court which was essentially to clarify the Will especially in relation to Dorothea's interest. The outcome clearly was that Dorothea would benefit from her share during her lifetime.

A provision in the will of the late Hamilton Gilmer relating to a bequest to Mrs. Ziele formed the subject of an action between the Public Trustee and Hamilton Andrew Hugh Gilmer and others, heard in Banco by the Acting-Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Sim, on 4th August, for the determination of its effect. Judgment was delivered by his Honour this morning. The share of the estate bequeathed to Mrs. Ziele, it was stated in the will, "shall not vest absolutely in her, but shall be retained by my custodian trustee (the plaintiff)" upon certain trusts. These were that the income only from the share was to be paid to her, unless and until she became involved in any default through which such income would, but for this provision, become payable to or charged in favour of any other person or persons or corporation. In such case, "such share and the income thereof shall go and accrue to the shares or shares" of the other children. The Court was asked to determine (a) whether the capital or only the income thereof during the lifetime of Mrs. Ziele went to the survivors of the other children in the event of failure of the trust; (b) whether Mrs. Ziele had a vested and transmissible estate in her

share of the estate, subject only to the capital and income (or capital or income) of her share going over to the other children in the event of such failure. His Honour said that there was no dispute as to the first question; both capital and income went to the other children if the trust failed. As to the second question, his Honour, having traversed arguments of counsel, stated that the will made an absolute bequest of a share to each of the children, and the subsequent provision relating to the transfer of Mrs. Ziele's share did not diminish her interest in it, but merely modified and limited her enjoyment of it during her lifetime. The testator did not declare that the share given to her was not to vest in her at all, but that it was not to vest in her absolutely. Mrs. Ziele took a vested and transmissible estate in her share, subject only to the capital and income of her share going over to the survivors of the testator's other children in case of the failure or determination of the trusts expressed. The costs of the parties must be paid out of the estate.

#### Evening Post 10 August 1921

Charles continued to draw complimentary reports about his efforts to improve his farm. After ten years it was clear that these efforts were very successful. In June 1923 there was a further report of his success in growing apples.

### **Production of Apples.**

The Chairman of the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission, has also forwarded some interesting photographs taken of apple trees on Mr. Ziele's farm on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas.

In regard to Mr. Ziele's block generally it might be noted that it is one of the heaviest on the Areas, the soil being more or less shallow clay loam with heavy clay sub-soil. Mr. Ziele has given the block excellent attention, and the mechanical texture of the soil has considerably improved under his management. It is interesting to know

that apples can be produced on this soil, the block being considered one of the hardest propositions on the Yanco section of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Areas.

The trees are from eighteen (18) to twenty (20) feet high. They were planted 6½ years ago and it is estimated are carrying at present from six to eight bushels of perfect fruit. The variety is "Granny Smith."

The "Granny Smith" has shown excellent keeping qualities on the Irrigation Areas without artificial aid, and reaches fine eating conditions about July, and appears to hold over until September or October. In fact, reports have been received of this apple being held even longer.

### **The Land (Sydney) 15 June 1923**

Also in 1923 there was some evidence that the Zeiles were visiting Sydney. In March Dorothea was shown as being a guest at The Coogee Bay Hotel.<sup>18</sup> Later in the year they were both in Sydney and again stayed at the same hotel.

In 1924 they went to Sydney on four occasions in February, June, August and December. Each time they were shown as guests of the Coogee Bay Hotel.

By 1927 the Zieles had moved to Sydney and were living at 29 Vacluse Road, Vacluse which was in a very nice position with stunning views of the harbour.



**View from 29 Vacluse Road today assuming no Renumbering**

**The Harbour Bridge was opened in 1932**

<sup>18</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 4 March 1923

The 1927 Sands Alphabetical Directory showed Charles at Leeton and Dorothea at Vaocluse Road, Vaocluse. It is noticeable that the directory has a delay of about one year if there are changes so it is probable that they moved to Vaocluse in 1926 and may not have yet sold at Leeton. This has been confirmed to some extent from the Codicil to Dorothea's Will which is dated 17 November 1925. This states that *"in the event of my having erected a house on my land at Vaocluse near Sydney...."* It seems the house was built in 1926. The street address was shown as 29 Vaocluse Road in the 1928 and later editions.

Unfortunately, Dorothea did not have the pleasure of living in her new home for very long and she died at Vaocluse on 22 June 1927. **The causes of her death are shown as acute dilatation of the heart and acute bronchitis.**

**Dorothea was cremated at Rookwood Crematorium and her ashes were taken to New Zealand and placed in the Gilmer family grave at Bolton Street Cemetery.**

### **Dorothea's Will**

Dorothea's Will was dated 16 May 1924. The Executor's were her husband Charles, Otto Dangar of Narrandera and the Permanent Trustees of New South Wales.

Dorothea made a number of specific bequest of her jewellery, clothing and personal assets;

- Her Diamond Pendant and diamond ring to her husband.
- Her diamond sunburst brooch to Helen Gilmer, sister in law, wife of her brother Hamilton
- Her diamond earrings to her sister in law May Seddon Gilmer wife of her brother Knox.
- Her diamond star brooch to her sister Florence Elizabeth Herbert.
- Her water colour and oil paintings to those whose names are on the back of the paintings.
- Her ermine set of furs to her friend Norah Gertrude Ryan wife of Sidney Ryan of Sydney.
- Her Sable furs and Musquash coat to her cousin Jessie Forbes Macmillan of 421 Park Street Brunswick East, Victoria
- All household furniture and effects, other pictures and motor car to her husband

### **Pecuniary Legacies**

- St Peter's Church of England Leeton. 500 Pounds towards the liquidation of debt.
- Old Soldiers Memorial Hall Leeton. 500 Pounds
- Leeton Hospital 500 Pounds
- Deaf Dumb & Blind Institution City Road, Sydney. 500 Pounds
- Women's Hospital Crown Street Sydney 100 Pounds.
- Bessie Augensen wife of Gustav Augensen Wollstencroft 200 Pounds

### **Legacies to nephews**

- Hamilton Gilmer, her nephew 1000 Pounds
- Scobie McKenzie Gilmer 1000 Pounds
- Richard Seddon Gilmer 1000 Pounds

### **Legacies to nieces**

- Helen Gilmer
- May Dorothea 1000 Pounds
- Patricia 1000 Pounds
- Dorothy Herbert 1000 Pounds
- Betty Herbert 1000 Pounds
- Mary Gilmer 1000 Pounds
- Jean Gilmer 1000 Pounds

### **Legacies to others**

- Kathleen Foster 16 Park Terrace Nottingham, England 100 Pounds
- Dorothea Sims daughter of Edith Sims who worked for Dorothea at Christchurch 50 Pounds
- Rene Vance sister of Dr. Vance Leeton 500 Pounds
- Mary Norah Gertrude Ryan 500 Pounds
- Sidney Ryan 500 Pounds
- Her cousin, Jessie Forbes Macmillan 1000 Pounds
- Her cousin, Margaret Macmillan 500 Pounds
- Her cousin, May Macmillan 500 Pounds
- Barbara Hay (Aunt of Charles) 100 Pounds
- Mrs. Gray wife of George Gray, Leeton, 100 Pounds

The Trustees were also vested with 5000 Pounds to be distributed to **Blind and Disabled soldiers** in New South Wales. The newspaper reported that the amount could be higher.

#### **Windfall for Disabled Soldiers.**

Hopes are entertained by the Returned Soldiers' League in New South Wales that under the will of the late Mrs. Dorothea Ziele, of Leeton, a sum of £65,000 will be made available for blind and disabled returned soldiers. It was reported at a meeting of the league's council that Mrs. Ziele had made a direct gift of £5000 to disabled and blinded soldiers, and that from the residue the amount would be increased to £65,000. The residue of the estate, most of which is in New Zealand, it is stated, will amount to £100,000.

**Evening Post 18 October 1928**

None of the legacies were to be used to pay debts funeral or Testamentary expenses. They were also not subject to any Probate, Estate or any other duties. These were all to be paid from the balance of the estate.



The Trustees were also required to invest 20,000 Pounds and pay the income from this to her husband Charles during his life. After Charles death the 20,000 Pounds was to form part of her residuary estate.

A further trust was to be established sufficient to pay annuities of 50 Pounds to the widow and three daughters of Mr L.A.Wade the former Commissioner of the Yanco Irrigation Area during their respective lives.

The Trustees were to provide, in equal shares, the residuary estate to The Home for Incurables Ryde, The Trustees of the Blind Soldiers, New South Wales, the Deaf Dumb and Blind Institution, and the Royal Alexandria Hospital for Women at Paddington.

Dorothea made some changes to her Will through a Codicil which was dated 17 November 1925. There were three changes.

- She revoked the bequest the bequest of 500 Pounds to Rene Vance and instead directed her Trustees to invest a sum of the net income of the estate sufficient to provide an annuity of 200 Pounds to Rene Lamb Vance during her lifetime.
- Bessie Augensen to whom she was leaving Two hundred Pounds had died and she wanted to make a better provision for Bessie's husband Gustav. She changed her Will so as to provide him with an annuity of 100 Pounds.
- Dorothea also wanted to make further provision for her husband Charles. As mentioned earlier she stated that should she erect a house on her land at Vaocluse she gave Charles the right to use it as his home during his life subject to him "keeping it in repair to the satisfaction of the Trustees other than himself" and also paying all rates and taxes. She also gave him a right to purchase the property at a valuation obtained by the other Trustees.

Charles married again in 1929. He married **Mary Noel Chesterman**. Mary was 27 years old and half Charles' age. She was the daughter of Charles' next door neighbour, Alfred Henry Chesterman, who lived at 27 Vaocluse Road.

In March 1930, Charles and Mary sailed for London on the ship *Orford*. On their return home they left Vancouver on the ship *Niagara* on 15 October, Honolulu, Suva and Auckland arriving in Sydney 8 November. They were married for a very short time because Charles' died on 30 June 1931 at the age of 61 years. **The cause of his death was a Cerebral Embolism.**

**ZIELE.—June 30, suddenly, at his home, Whare Koa, Vaocluse-road, Charles William.**

The name of the house "Whare Koa" was the same as his Christchurch house. It means "House of Joy"



The other four sixths were to be shared equally by his nephews Jack Roberts, Richard Roberts and Patricia Roberts and if any were to die the balance was to be share by those remaining.

This raises an issue because we have identified the existence of a Patricia Roberts. This may mean we are in error but there is the possibility he is referring to Patricia Ziele (Herbert's daughter) who later married Colin Hall in Sydney.

### Mary Noel Ziele

After Charles died Mary would have been fairly wealthy. However, only two weeks after Charles' death Mary organized for an auction of all the household furniture and contents. It is very likely that this had all been purchased by Dorothea. It is also very likely that Mary sold the house.

<p><b>VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, ATTRACTIVE APPOINTMENTS and EFFECTS.</b></p> <p>Under Instructions from Mrs. C. W. ZIELE, removed to our rooms for convenience of sale, from WHAREKOA, 29 VAUCLUSE-ROAD, VAUCLUSE, and on account of Various Vendors.</p> <p><b>CRYSTAL CUT-GLASS, FINE CHINA, and FINEST QUALITY ELECTROPLATE.</b></p> <p><b>A FINE OLD SPANISH MAHOGANY SIDEBORD,</b> with carved rope edge, arranged with three plate and damask drawers, and cupboards under, fitted with sliding trays and cellarette, enclosed, with finely panelled doors.</p> <p><b>A CIRCULAR DINING TABLE,</b> in beautifully grained Mahogany, with carved rope edge on centre standard, and lion-claw feet.</p> <p><b>SIX FINE OLD MAHOGANY DINING CHAIRS,</b> with shaped carved backs, and upholstered seats in tapestry.</p> <p><b>DINING-ROOM and BREAKFAST-ROOM SUITES,</b> in Jacobean and Tudor designs, and Maple and Fumed Oak.</p> <p><b>A MOST LUXURIOUS BISHOP SETTEE SUITE,</b> double sprung, well stuffed and upholstered, in white linen, and fitted with loose shadow tissue covers.</p> <p><b>GRANDFATHER CLOCK,</b> in Tall Mahogany Trunk Case. A fine old timepiece, in perfect order.</p> <p><b>FUMED OAK DOUBLE PEDESTAL ROLL-TOP DESK.</b></p> <p><b>ROSEWOOD ENVELOPE FOLDING-TOP CARD TABLE.</b></p> <p><b>SMALL LIBRARY OF MISCELLANEOUS LITERATURE.</b></p> <p><b>SET OF ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA,</b> in Revolving Bookcase.</p> <p><b>WELL-BOUND SET OF DICKENS, etc.</b></p> <p><b>ECRITOIRE BOOKCASES.</b></p> <p><b>VALUABLE PLAYER PIANOFORTE,</b> in polished Burr Walnut.</p> <p><b>THE KASTNER AUTOPIANO LEIPZIG.</b></p> <p><b>UPRIGHT IRON-FRAME PIANOFORTES.</b></p> <p><b>CABINET GRAMOPHONES.</b></p> <p><b>PIANO PLAYER ROLLS.</b></p> <p><b>GRAMOPHONE RECORDS.</b></p>	<p><b>GREENS' ELECTRIC LAWN MOWER</b> <b>TUNGAR ELECTRIC BATTERY CHARGER</b></p> <p><b>VALUABLE CRYSTAL GLASS CHANDELIER,</b> fitted with 9 Electric Globes, eminently suitable for Cinema Foyer, Hotel Vestibule, or Ballroom.</p> <p><b>REMINGTON CASH REGISTER,</b> 1d to £1. In practically new condition, cost £90.</p> <p><b>TOLEDO COUNTER SCALES.</b></p> <p><b>SILENT SALESMAN, 8ft 6in, GLASS-ENCLOSED COUNTER SHOWCASE.</b></p> <p><b>LARGE QUANTITY GRINDLEY CHINA HOTEL WARE,</b> in new condition.</p> <p><b>FORTY E.P. VEGETABLE DISHES.</b></p> <p><b>TWELVE E.P. TANKARDS.</b></p> <p><b>TWENTY-TWO E.P. TOAST RACKS.</b></p> <p><b>QUANTITY HOUSEHOLD LINEN.</b></p> <p><b>TRAVELLERS' HAMPER BASKET.</b></p> <p><b>ATTRACTIVE BEDROOM SUITES,</b> in SYCAMORE, QUEENSLAND MAPLE, CHILIAN WALNUT, INLAID and FUMED OAK.</p> <p><b>DOUBLE and SINGLE BEDSTEADS,</b> complete with Finest Quality Kapok Bedding, LOUGHBOYS.</p> <p><b>VALUABLE VICTORIA AXMINSTER CARPET,</b> Finest Quality English.</p> <p><b>AXMINSTER and SUPER WILTON PILE CARPET SQUARES and HALL RUNNERS.</b></p> <p><b>VALUABLE TIEN TSIN RUG.</b></p> <p>And <b>AN EXTENSIVE INVENTORY OF GENERAL HOUSEHOLD APPOINTMENTS and EFFECTS.</b></p> <p>Further particulars of this most important sale will appear in to-morrow's auction columns.</p> <p><b>NOW ON VIEW.</b></p> <p><b>JAMES R. LAWSON,</b> <b>VALUERS,</b> <b>FURNITURE, FINE ART, and GENERAL AUCTIONEERS.</b> <b>236 CASTLEREAGH-STREET</b> <b>(near corner of Bathurst-street).</b> <b>TELEPHONE, M5408—2 LINES</b></p>
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From 1931 to 1933 Mary completed a Diploma Course in Commercial Art at Sydney Technical College.<sup>19</sup> After finishing she went to England on the ship *Mongolia* leaving on 26 January 1934 and arriving on 3 March.<sup>20</sup>

Mary did not seem to give much time for sightseeing or for work because on 26 April 1934 she married Captain William Vivian Crapp. The marriage was reported in both *The Times* in London and *The Sydney Morning Herald* in Sydney.

**CRAPP : ZIELE.**—On April 27, 1934, at Christ Church, Lancaster Gate, by the Rev. R. Beresford-Pierse, CAPTAIN WILLIAM VIVIAN CRAPP, 3rd Bn. 17th Dogra Regt., L.A., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Crapp, of Byfleet, Surrey, to MARY NOEL ZIELE, widow of Charles Ziele, of Sydney, Australia, and elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Chesterman, of Sydney. (*Statesman, India, and Sydney papers, please copy.*)

**The Times 1 May 1934**

A wedding of interest to Australians was celebrated at Christ Church, Lancaster Gate, London, on April 27, when Mrs. Mary Noel Ziele, widow of Charles Ziele, of Sydney, and elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Chesterman, of Vaucluse, was married to Captain William Vivian Crapp, of the 17th Dogra Regiment, Indian Army, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Crapp, of Byfleet, Surrey, England. The Rev. R. Beresford-Pierse performed the ceremony. Captain and Mrs. Crapp will make their home in India.

**Sydney Morning Herald 6 June 1934**

Vivian Crapp was born at Hendon Middlesex on 9 April 1896. He attained the rank of Temporary Second Lieutenant for service in the Indian Army in 1917.<sup>21</sup> He was promoted Second

<sup>19</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 29 January 1934

<sup>20</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 27 January 1934

<sup>21</sup> London Gazette 24 December 1917.

Lieutenant On 29 January 1918 but the promotion was to rank from 28 November 1917.<sup>22</sup> He was promoted to Lieutenant on 24 August 1919 and Captain on 23 August 1923. He became a Major on 23 August 1936. All these posts were in the Indian Army. He was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the 17<sup>th</sup> Dogra Regiment.

At the time of their marriage Vivian was stationed on the Eastern frontier in Bengal and they returned there after they were married. They established a home in the town of Comilla, Eastern Bengal. In 1935, Mary became pregnant and decided to come to Sydney and have her baby.

An arrival in Sydney by the Strathaird yesterday was Mrs. Vivian Crapp, of Bengal, who will stay with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Chesterman, of Vacluse, for six months. Mrs. Crapp was married in London, and has now been living on the eastern frontier in India for a year; she will be remembered as Miss Mollie Chesterman. Her husband Captain Crapp, who has accompanied her, will be able to remain here for only a fortnight.

Sydney Morning Herald 8 March 1935

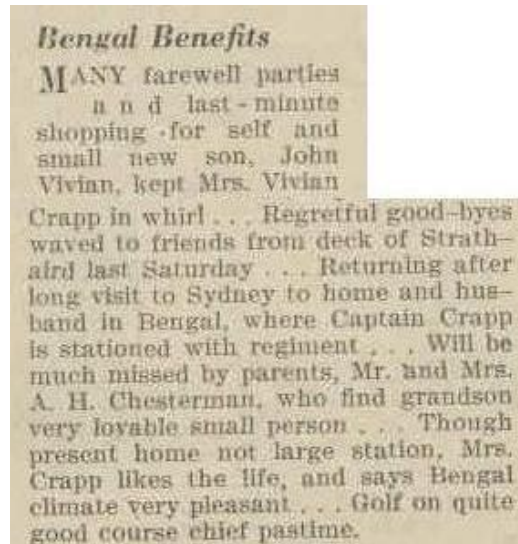
CRAPP—May 30, at Charlemount private hospital, Potts Point, to Mollie, wife of Captain W. Vivian Crapp, 3/17 Dogra Regiment, I.A.—a son.

Sydney Morning Herald 31 May 1935

Mrs. Vivian Crapp, wife of Captain Vivian Crapp, of the Indian army, who has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Chesterman, of Vacluse, will leave on September 7 by the Strathaird for her home in Comilla, Eastern Bengal. During Mrs. Crapp's stay in Sydney her infant son was born, and he was recently christened John Vivian at St Michael's Church, Vacluse.

Sydney Morning Herald 26 August 1935

<sup>22</sup> London Gazette 14 March 1919



### **Australian Women's Weekly 14 September 1935**

Mary had a second child a few years later, another son. The news was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald on 29 March 1938. The birth was at Lahore in the Punjab where her husband was then stationed.

On 7 December 1939 Mary returned to Sydney with her two children. She took a flat at Darling Point intending to stay for the duration of the war.<sup>23</sup>

With the outbreak of the war Major Crapp transferred back to the British Army. He attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel with a seniority date of 23 August 1944.

We have been unable to locate any further references to Mary or her husband. We can only assume that Mary left Australia after the war and rejoined her husband in England. However, we have no evidence that supports this view or indeed that she remained in Australia.

<sup>23</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 7 March 1940