

HUGH GEORGE GILMER

Initial Upload 2 May 2012

Hugh was the eldest son of William and Mary Anne Gilmer. He was born at Mullaghnee on 22 April 1887 and he was baptized at the Church of Ireland Broomfield on 29 April 1887.

Hugh's father died in February 1891 before Hugh was four years old and we believe that his mother and the family returned to Mulladuff to her parents. Hugh's mother and both of his grandparents were school teachers and the National School was on their property. Hugh would have received a good education.

Hugh was not present with his family at the 1901 Census and by this time he was fourteen. He had left home and gone to Limerick where he had a five year apprenticeship with a drapery business owned by John McBirney. Mc Birneys were neighbours of the Lockharts with farms in Mulladuff townland with James McBirney having land adjoining Samuel Lockhart's and another 11 acres on the opposite side of the road. Samuel and David McBirney also had land there. It appears that John McBirney in Limerick was their relative.

While at Limerick, Hugh enrolled in an evening class at the Municipal Technical Science and Arts School where he studied wood carving. He exhibited his work and had some success winning a Second Prize.



Second Prize 1/10/-

Hugh worked at Limerick for eight years and while still about 22 years old decided to go to New Zealand. He would have been attracted by the fact that he already had relatives there and was aware of their success.

Hugh sailed on the SS *Otranto* which left for Australia on 1 October 1909. This ship had been launched in 27 March 1909 and delivered to its owners on 30 June. It was planned for the London New Zealand route and Hugh was aboard the ship's maiden voyage which left London on 1 October 1909. The *Otranto* like many other ships soon saw service during World War 1

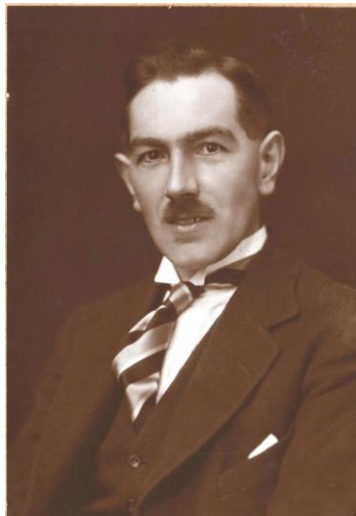
and on 6 October 1918 collided with the *HMS Kashmir* and soon after hit rocks and sunk losing 431 lives including 351 troops.¹

By 13 November 1909 the Otranto had reached Sydney with its 1120 passengers of whom Hugh was one of the 400 third class travelers. It was only another week or so before Hugh was in New Zealand.



SS Otranto 1909

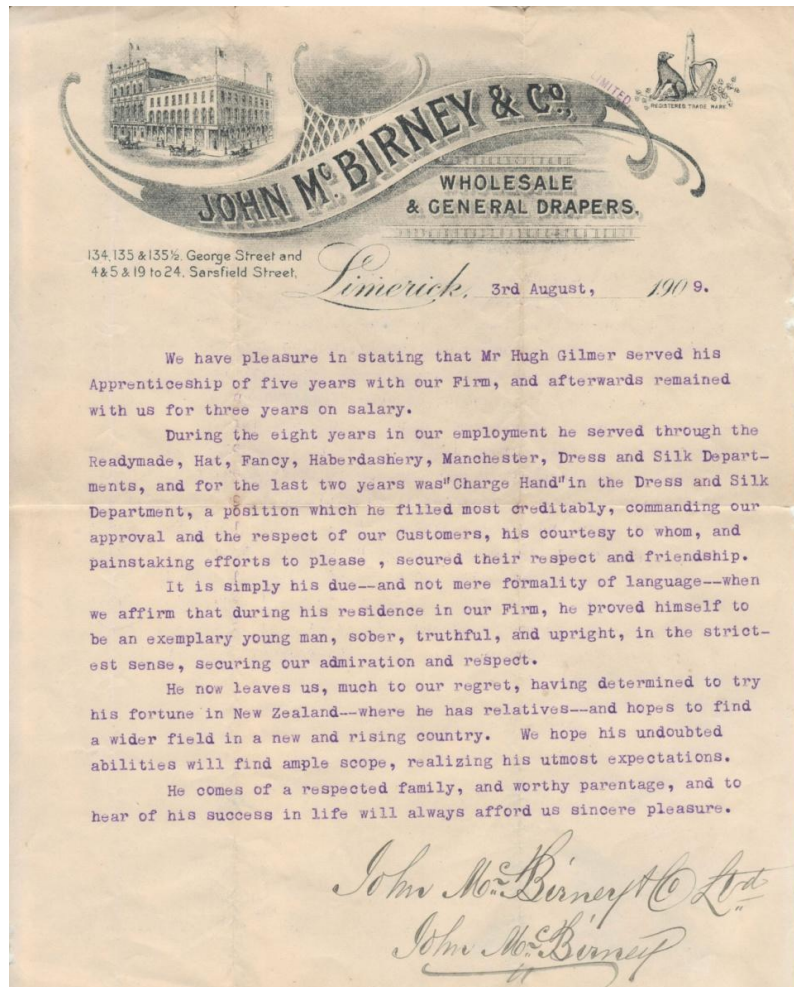
Hugh had developed a good relationship with John Mc Birney who provided him with an excellent reference (see below). John also continued to correspond with him keeping him informed of things in Ireland. The usual letter was about the other members of staff and their progress both at work and in their personal lives. We have another letter in which Hugh is advised that an “old sweetheart” Ada Ralston was getting married.²



Hugh

¹ Wikipedia.org

² McBirney Letter of 8 February 1911



Reference provided by John McBirney 3 August 1909

Hugh initially lived at the Royal Oak Hotel with Sam Gilmer and his family and the 1911 letter from John McBirney was addressed there. The 1913 Post Office Directory showed he was located at 244 Cuba Street (corner of Abel Smith St). Given publishing delays this means he was there in 1912.

On 8 January 1913 Hugh married **Ella Daisy Fisher Bell** the daughter of George Thomas Bell and Lucinda Baker Fisher. The Bells lived at "Clovelly" Walton Road, Hataitai. The newspaper carried a notice of the wedding and a detailed report of the occasion.

GILMER-BELL—On the 8th January, 1913, at St. Mark's Church, Dufferin-street, Wellington, by the Rev. A. M. Johnson, M.A., vicar of St. Paul's, Hugh, eldest son of the late Mr. Wm. Gilmer and Mrs. Gilmer of Castleblaney, Ireland, to Ella Daisy Fisher, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. T. Bell, "Clovelly," Waitoa-road, Hataitai.

A quiet and pretty wedding took place at St. Mark's Church, Dufferin-street, Wellington, on Wednesday last, the bridegroom being Mr. Hugh Gilmer, Cuba-street, eldest son of the late Mr. W. Gilmer and Mrs. Gilmer, Castleblaney, Ireland, and Miss Daisy Bell, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George T. Bell, Hataitai. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. A. M. Johnson, M.A., vicar of St. Paul's. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a dress of cream duchess satin, trimmed with Mechlin lace and jewelled ninon, and the orthodox veil and orange blossom, and carried a shower bouquet, the gift of the bridegroom. He also presented his bride with an aquamarine necklet. The bride gave the bridegroom a gold sovereign case. The bridesmaids were the Misses Gertie Bell and Agnes Rogers, and both wore pretty dresses of pale

pink satin-striped ninon, and white hats wreathed with pink roses, and carried bouquets of pink sweet peas. They also wore ruby and aquamarine brooches, the gifts of the bridegroom. Mr. S. Gilmer, brother of the bridegroom, was best man, and Mr. C. Haigh was groomsman. Among the many handsome presents received was an oak Morris chair and cushion, given to the bride by the staff of Te Aro House, and several cheques from relatives. With others present at the reception at "Clovelly," Hataitai, and during the evening, were the Rev. A. M. Johnson and Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. and Miss Morton, Mrs. Grey, Mrs. C. W. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Thirkell, Mr. and Mrs. Beharrell, Mr. and Mrs. Gledhill, Mr. J. Chapman, and several of the members of St. Mark's Girls' Club, of which the bride was a member.

Evening Post 11 January 1913



Hugh & Daisy's Wedding

The Bell Family

Daisy's father was **George Thomas Bell** born in 1855 who arrived with his family in Wellington in 1856 on the barque "Gleaner". He married **Lucinda Baker Fisher** in Dunedin in 1878.

Lucinda was born in 1856 at Exeter, Devon, England. We are fortunate that there have been several newspaper articles which have provided these and other details of their lives and

activities. The first of these was a report of their golden wedding anniversary in 1928. These will be reproduced but there are some small errors:

A Golden Wedding.

A golden wedding of interest which is being celebrated to-day, is that of Mr. and Mrs. George T. Bell, of Wellington, who have been resident here for the past 42 years. Mr. Bell, who was born in 1855, arrived in New Zealand when only 15 months old, with his parents, in the barque Gleaner. They lived in Wellington for 18 years, and then removed to Dunedin. Mr. Bell returned to Wellington in 1866 with the late Mr. J. B. Griffin, and opened a branch of the New Zealand Express Company; later, he joined the Colonial Carrying Company, with which he is still connected. Mrs. Bell (nee Miss Fisher) was born at Exeter in 1856, and came with her parents to New Zealand in the barque Cecilia (604 tons), landing at Port Chalmers in 1864. Mr. and Mrs. Bell were for about 20 years active members of St. Mark's Church with the late Rev. R. and Mrs. Coffey. Mrs. Bell was a member of the Nursing Guild of St. John, and for 16 years has been an energetic worker for the Boys' Institute. The family consists of two daughters, Miss Bell, who was on the staff of Base Records during the war, Mrs. Hugh Gilmer, Cuba street, and one son, Mr. G. W. S. Bell, of Taranaki. There are four grandsons and one granddaughter.

Evening Post 28 February 1928

(It is more likely that George went back to Wellington in 1886. In 1866 he was about 11 years old.)

Lucinda died not very long after their golden wedding anniversary on 25 December 1929 at the age of 73 years. The cause of death was acute bronchial pneumonia. Her obituary was published in the Evening Post:

Obituary.

The late Mrs. G. T. Bell, of Kelburn, a well-known Wellington social worker, who died on Christmas Day after a short attack of acute bronchial pneumonia, was a woman deeply imbued with the spirit of prompt action in any undertakings with which she became interested. She was the second daughter of the late Mr. W. Fisher, who arrived at Port Chalmers by the barque "Cecilia" in February, 1894. Subsequently her parents left Dunedin for Christchurch with their family, and the future Mrs. Bell was sent to St. Michael's day school with her youngest sister and brothers. One of her first self-imposed acts on behalf of others arose when she was a schoolgirl twelve years of age, when she was prompted to ask a number of girl friends to contribute to the building fund of the present beautiful Church of St. Michael, Christchurch. Starting with a half-crown given by her father, she collected silver and copper coins, and enclosing the same in a little linen bag, placed the money on the foundation stone

when it was laid by Bishop Harper. Here in Wellington, under the Rev. R. Coffey and the Rev. A. M. Johnson, both Mr. and Mrs. Bell were devoted workers on behalf of St. Mark's. Later Mrs. Bell, in conjunction with Mrs. Rhodes, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Corrigan, Mrs. Moorhouse, and a number of other ladies acting under the active co-operation of Mr. G. A. Troup, collected £1100 on behalf of the District Nursing Guild of St. John. For several years past Mrs. Bell has been actively identified with the Boys' Institute. She is survived by her husband, her son (Mr. G. N. S. Bell, of Auckland), and two daughters (Mrs. Hugh Gilmer and Miss Gertrude Bell), also by several grandchildren. Mrs. Bell's only surviving brother is Mr. W. B. Fisher, of Wellington. The funeral took place at Karori yesterday, when the burial service was conducted by the Archdeacon of Wellington. Many beautiful wreaths were sent by friends and relatives.

Evening Post 28 December 1929

George died in 1936 at the age of 80 also at Wellington. His obituary was also published.

One of Wellington's early settlers, Mr. George T. Bell, of 2 Ngaio Road, Kelburn, died last week, aged 80 years.

Mr. Bell arrived in New Zealand with his parents in the barque Gleaver in 1856. He received his schooling from the late Mr. W. Mowbray. After residing at Karori for a number of years the family removed to Dunedin, where Mr. Bell married. He returned to Wellington in 1888 with the late Mr. J. B. Griffin to open a branch of the New Zealand Express Company. Later, when Mr. Griffin founded the Colonial Carrying Co., Mr. Bell joined this firm, remaining a member of its staff until his death. For several years the late Mr. Bell was a member of the vestry of St. Mark's Church.

Mrs. Bell predeceased her husband six years ago. The members of the late Mr. Bell's family who survive him are Miss G. L. Bell (Wellington) and Mrs. Hugh Gilmer (Gisborne), daughters; and one son, Mr. George W. S. Bell (Auckland). Mr. James L. Bell, of Dunedin, is a brother, and Mrs. M. E. Densem, of Dunedin, is a sister.

Evening Post 22 February 1936

George and Lucinda had three children:

Gertrude Louise born 1879. Never married. Died 1947.

George William Sidney born 1881. Married Dorothy Oliver 1918. Died 1950

Ella Daisy Fisher born 1888 at Wellington. Married Hugh George Gilmer 9 January 1913 at St Marks Church, Dufferin St Wellington. Died 1953 at Tauranga.



Daisy Bell 1907



Daisy Bell 1910

Hugh and Daisy had three children:

Hugh George born 30 May 1914, married Chica Dusk Gini, died 14 August 1985 at Hamilton New Zealand.

Samuel William born 12 June 1916, married Mary Rylana Hawkins (born 1920 Sri Lanka) died 2000 at Tauranga, New Zealand.

Charmian Daisy born 9 December 1922, married Leonard Ardley, died 27 January 2009, Waikanae, New Zealand.



Lucinda, Daisy & child



Hugh, Daisy & child



Samuel, Charmian, Daisy & Hugh mid 1920's

As the above obituaries show, Lucinda worked very hard at a range of charitable causes. We have identified that Daisy also participated in some of these with her.

Mrs. George T. Bell, hon. treasurer Ladies' Auxiliary, Boys' Institute, and S. A. Rhodes Home for Boys, acknowledges with thanks annual subscriptions from Mesdames Niven and Remington, also goods from a friend, Miss Hale, and Mrs. Hugh Gilmer for jumble sale in aid of the Boys' Sports Club. Further contributions may be sent to the hon. treasurer, 2, Ngaio-road, Kelburn. Telephone 26-130.

Evening Post 22 May 1922

Mrs. George T. Bell, hon. treasurer, Ladies' Auxiliary, Boys' Institute and S. A. Rhodes Home for Boys, acknowledges with thanks the following donations to the cake and jumble sale:— Mesdames W. H. S. Moorhouse and A. Hamilton, 10s each; J. Hislop, R. E. Robertson, and C. Laurenson, 5s each; L. T. Watkins, 6s; further sales of goods by Mrs. and Miss Wills, 19s; and a subscription of 2s 6d from Mrs. G. E. Brown. The auxiliary thanks Mesdames L. Mills, Hugh, Gilmer, and the many other ladies who sent goods for the sale.

Evening Post 12 September 1923



Sam Gilmer (centre) Hugh (right) early 1920's

Hugh obtained a job as the Manager of Adair Brothers Ltd drapery business in Gisborne. We do not have a precise date for the move to Gisborne but Hugh was shown as living at 4 Parau Road, Gisborne in the 1936 edition of Wises Post Office Directory. The following advertisement from May 1933 could very well indicate that the sale of the household and business furniture was part of the move.

SHOP FITTINGS, COUNTERS, AND
SUPERIOR HOUSEHOLD FURNI-
TURE.

MONDAY NEXT, at 1 p.m. SHARP,
AT CUBA STREET.
SALE BY AUCTION

of
VALUABLE SHOP FITTINGS, 4 SOLID
KAURI COUNTERS, 12ft and 11ft
(each with 8 drawers), 14ft and 8ft
6in ISLAND SHOW CASE, UP-
RIGHT SHOW CASE WITH GLASS
DOORS, HEAVY QUALITY PLAIN
BROWN LINO, LOT OF SHELV-
ING, NUMEROUS METAL AND
WOODEN MILLINERY STANDS,
BOXES, WINDOW FITTINGS,
BRASS FITTINGS, STEP LADDER,
LONG MIRROR, 4 MODELS, 2
RIBBON CASES, 2 VALUABLE
ST. ANDREW GAS HEATERS,
MINIMAX FIRE EXTINGUISHER,
6, 1000-C.P. ELEC. LIGHT GLOBES,
LARGE SHOP BLINDS, 2 HOUSE
TELEPHONES, ETC.

Also:

SUPERIOR HOUSEHOLD FURNI-
TURE, IMPERIAL AX. STAIR CAR-
PET AND RUNNER, LARGE AX.
CARPET, 21 x 12, SMALL CARPET,
GOOD LINOLEUMS, SUPERIOR
OAK SIDBOARD, VERY GOOD
OAK HIGH BACK SETTEE,
COUCH, OAK MISSION ROCKER,

OAK OCC. CHAIRS, 6 OAK H.B.
CHAIRS, OAK PALM STAND,
EASY CHAIRS, OCC. TABLES,
HOSPITAL BEDSTEAD, BISCUIT
BARREL, E.P. WARE, CROCKERY,
GLASSWARE, VASES, CURTAINS,
HALL SEAT, HALL MIRROR, OAK
CORNER WARDROBE, BEDSIDE
TABLE, W.W., STRETCHERS,
MIRROR-DOOR WARDROBE,
DUCHESS CHESTS, RUGS, CAR-
PET SWEEPER, EUREKA GAS
STOVE, D. W. BEDSTEAD AND
BEDDING, WINGER, TEAK DOOR,
6ft 6in x 21½ inches, with Nickel Fit-
tings and Bevelled Mirror Panels, etc.,
etc.

ON THE PREMISES, No. 244 CUBA
STREET (Corner of Abel Smith Street).

E. JOHNSTON AND CO. have received
instructions from Mrs. Gilmer, who
is giving up business, to sell on the
premises, Cuba Street, as above

THE WHOLE OF THE SHOP FITTINGS
AND HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

SALE MONDAY NEXT, at 1 p.m. Sharp.

Shop Fittings will be sold at 1 sharp,
furniture immediately after.

E. JOHNSTON,
Auctioneer.

Evening Post 12 May 1933

Hugh & Daisy lived and worked at Gisborne until 1948. We have Identified Hugh took an active role in the Waiapu Church.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—Hon. auditor, Mr. P. Hockley; people's warden, Mr. A. E. Pyatt; vestry, Messrs. G. G. Winter, F. Wrey Nolan, H. G. Wellbourne, G. K. Pasley, J. O. Musgrave, H. M. Williams, A. Andrews, C. E. Robinson, T. Terry and H. Gilmer. Canon Hall reappointed Mr. A. T. Coleman as vicar's warden.

1 September 1936

Standing committee was elected by Synod as follow:—Archdeacons J. B. Brocklehurst and R. Hodgson, Canon S. F. N. Waymouth, Revs. H. Speight and Te H. Kaa; Messrs E. G. Loten, R. P. Wilder, G. F. Gardiner, H. Gilmer, G. H. Roach, R. E. H. Pilson and H T. Hutana.

1 December 1945

Waiapu Church Gazette

We are also aware that Daisy was one of the founders of a children's home in Gisborne.

In 1948 Hugh had turned sixty and he retired as the General Manager of Adairs. He bought a dairy farm at Tauranga with his sons Hugh and Sam. The farm was 302 acres. The property was called Mullaghnee and his grandson David still lives at the property today.

Daisy died with cancer of the Uterus in 1953 at the age of 65. Hugh died at Tauranga on 9 November 1974 at the age of 87 years. His two sons Hugh and Sam were the executors of his estate which had been made on 26 February 1974 and witnessed by a nurse in Ward 5 Tauranga.

He left all of his chrystal and fine china and the proceeds of all of his life assurance policies to his daughter Charmian. He also recorded that he had already given all of his wife's rings and jewellery to Charmian in accordance with the wishes Daisy expressed during her last illness.

The balance of his estate, less funeral Testamentary expenses and any other duties was left to Sam or to his children equally if he predeceased his father. The Will noted that his son did not receive any benefit from the Will "at his express request".