

HARRIS George Brown and ZINZAN Lavinia Caroline

contributed by family researcher Valerie Sherwood, valesherwood@xtra.co.nz

N.B. prior to reading this biography please read the **ZINZANS in England** biography on this website.

Lavinia, born 7 August 1838 at Kingsbridge Devon, England, was the eldest child of **Robert Comport Zinzan** and **Ann Elizabeth Edwards**.

Following the death of their mother, Ann Elizabeth, in 1848, the four Zinzan children were separated, with **Ann** and **Lavinia** living with their Zinzan grandparents, and **Robert Vaux** and **Susannah** living with their Edwards grandparents. Both the Zinzan and Edwards grandfathers were medical practitioners.

Lavinia married **George Brown Harris** on 13 October 1862 at Shanghai, China.

The couple had seven children: **George Charles Zinzan Harris** born in Shanghai in 1864; **Harry Francis Harris** born in Mere, Wiltshire in 1866; **Frederick John Zinzan Harris** born Bethnal Green, London, in 1868; **Ernest Walter Harris** born in London, in 1870.

Some time between 1870 and March 1871 the family migrated to New Zealand to join Lavinia's brother **Robert Vaux Zinzan** and sister **Ann Elizabeth Griffiths**, who had emigrated in 1869.

Three more children were born to the couple in New Zealand: **Susan Anna Harris** b. 11 May 1872; **Theophilus Jermyn Harris** b. 5 June 1874; and **Robert Vaux Comport Harris** b. 26 Aug 1880. All three were born in Onehunga and baptized at Saint Peter's Church. Onehunga.

As a master mariner, **George Harris** sailed out of Onehunga for some years.

He died on 12 October 1884 in Auckland, and was buried in **Saint Peter's Cemetery** three days later. He left his real and personal estate, including a substantial insurance to his wife, Lavinia.

Lavinia then lived with her family at Te Awamutu. She died on 31 January 1931 aged 92 at Pokuru, Te Awamutu, and was buried at **Saint Peter's Cemetery**, on 2 February 1931.

Robert Vaux Zinzan and his sister **Lavinia Caroline Zinzan Harris** can be credited with originating a strong line of Zinzan descendants in New Zealand who have excelled in sporting, medical and academic fields. Lavinia and George Harris were the forebears of the father and son test cricketers Parke Gerald Zinzan (Zin) Harris and Christopher Zinzan (Chris) Harris, while Zinzan Brooke, All Black rugby player and coach is a descendant of Robert and Isabella Zinzan.