

## LINNELL Robert and HILL Elizabeth Sarah

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**Robert Linnell**, son of **Abraham Linnell** and **Alice Kettles**, was born 6 December 1839, in Priors Marston, Warwickshire, England. He was baptised at Saint Leonard's Church, Priors Marsten, 8 March, the following year.

The 1841 England Census has Robert living with his parents and his siblings: **John, Dianna, Abraham and George**. The 1851 Census records him as living with his parents and siblings: Abraham, George, and **Esther**.

Under the *British Immigrant Scheme*, and aged but 19, Robert sailed to South Africa on board the ship '*Bride*,' departing 17 April 1859 from Southampton, England, arriving 26 June 1859 at Table Bay, Capetown.

On arrival he went to work as a farm labourer for a Mr Munnik, in Ceres, Western Cape (Capetown being the Capital of Western Cape.)

**Elizabeth Sarah HILL**, daughter of Thomas Hill and Sarah Bradford, was born 27 November 1837, and baptised at Saint Andrew's Church, Enfield, London.

Elizabeth also emigrated to South Africa, sailing 20 July 1859 on the '*Lord Raglan*' from Southampton, and arriving 23 September 1859 at Table Bay. In Capetown, Elizabeth was employed by a Mr Ross as a general house-servant.

In 1860, **Robert** and **Elizabeth** married in Capetown, and gave birth to their first child, **George**.

The year 1864 saw **Robert, Elizabeth** and **George** leave Cape of Good Hope, 17 August 1864, on board the '*SS Steinwerder*' arriving in Auckland on 14th October. They came as part of the *Waikato Immigration Scheme*.

Shortly after arriving in Auckland tragedy struck. **George** aged 3, died at Devonport, Auckland, on 23 January 1865. He was buried at the Mount Victoria Cemetery, Devonport. (The burial records show that a number of others, who sailed on the '*SS Steinwerder*,' also died in this time period.)

From 1867 to 1873 Robert and Elizabeth lived in Whiriwhiri (a farming area, near Waiuku.) Their second son **Abraham** was born in Waiuku, 24 November 1871. This small family were again on the move in 1873, this time to Onehunga, where they lived in a two-bedroom cottage at 433 *Queen Street* (now *Onehunga Mall*.) It was in that cottage where Elizabeth gave birth to their third child, **Alice**, on 6 May 1881. The cottage still exists on the same site.

Robert worked both as a gardener and a railway employee whilst living in Onehunga. Tragedy was to strike again. Just over a year after Alice's birth



Robert



Elizabeth, Abraham, Alice -1882

Robert, aged only 42, died on 5 September 1882, and was **buried in Saint Peter's Cemetery** two days later.

**Elizabeth** was thus widowed at the age of 44, with two young children to solo parent. She worked at a variety of jobs to support herself and her children, including as a laundress 1896-1911. In a newspaper obituary, Elizabeth was described as *'having perfect health with her energy a source of wonder to all who knew her; she enjoyed a large circle of friends and was greatly respected throughout Onehunga.'* She remained living in their Queen-Street-Onehunga cottage until her death, 2 September 1922, aged 84; and was buried in *Waikaraka Cemetery*.



Elizabeth

**Abraham** married **Katherine Marie Bourke**, 4 August 1896. They gave birth to six children: Frank, Amelia, Herbert, Marguerita, Elena and John. In 1906 Abraham changed his name to **Thomas** by Deed Poll. **Thomas** divorced Katherine in 1941; he then married Delia Constance Jones, who died shortly afterwards; he then married Ellinor Stewart Shirreff Galbraith. Thomas died at Whangarei, 27 April 1945 and was buried at Maunu Cemetery, Whangarei.

**Alice** married **Joseph Fletcher**, 27 Jan 1906. They had five children: two daughters both of whom were stillborn, then Alan 1908, Muirel 1912 and Owen 1916. Alice lived in the same Queen-Street-Onehunga cottage, where she had been born, for all of her life until she died on 30 Oct 1985, aged 104 years. She was cremated and her ashes were scattered in Purewa Cemetery.



Alice