

# WAKELIN: Elizabeth, Thomas Edward, William, and Maurice Everard

Contributed by family researchers

Dorothy and Harry Wakelin (dandhwakelin@gmail.com) and Max Lambert (maxlambert1936@gmail.com).

**Elizabeth, Thomas Edward, William and Maurice Everard** were only infants when they died and were buried in **Saint Peter's Cemetery**.

They were children of **Henry and Maria Mary Wakelin (nee Everard)** who came to Onehunga in the late 1860s.

This biography features the lives of **Henry and Maria Mary Wakelin**.



Newly-weds Henry and Mary Maria  
Wakelin

Henry and Mary Maria Wakelin, English migrants, spent 34 years together, all of them in New Zealand with the exception of the long sea voyage to get here in 1868.

They settled first in Onehunga and in just under 11 years there produced an astonishing 10 children. But like so many couples of that era they suffered heartbreak. They lost no fewer than four of the 10, not one living beyond 16 months. **Elizabeth** and **Thomas**, twins born in 1872, **William** born 1873 and **Maurice Everard** born 1877 are buried in St Peter's Anglican churchyard, Onehunga.

William was also a twin - his brother Mark, who lived to the age of 40, was the sole survivor of the two sets of twins. And those sets were born barely a year apart. Astonishing. Medical science, improved health care, better living conditions and so on have largely obliterated such losses today but the Wakelin childhood deaths remain a cruel figure.

Countering the sadness though, Henry and Mary Maria had the six other children (Herbert, Rosa, Mark, Philip, John

Walter, and Amy) who survived child ailments and lived to adulthood.

**Henry Wakelin**, born on a farm abutting Braintree, Essex, in 1847 was one of the four sons of Thomas and Rosa. Thomas, a tenant farmer, died far too young in 1851. He left his wife and four sons - William 14, Thomas 12, Henry 4 and John 2. Rosa though was a tough, determined woman. She had buried the three daughters she had borne and did not give up the lease of Hill Farm; she simply carried on, remaining on the property until her death in 1888 at 76. She had though handed its running by then to John, the only son who remained in England. William was not one for the land, shifting to London and joining a bank. Thomas helped out on the farm as he grew older but couldn't see much future in it and listened to New Zealand immigration agents. He had enough get-up-and-go to see what New Zealand offered, something more than tenant farming and old ways in England. He paid his own passage on the *Frenchman*, turned 21 on the voyage out, and fetched up in Auckland late March 1860. He flourished here starting a stock and station business and building stockyards in in Kamo, just outside Whangarei, his firm becoming Northland-wide eventually.

We can be reasonably confident **Henry's move here with a new bride in 1868** must have been encouraged by Thomas. William, when he came later was a sick man and died not long after his arrival. Strangely perhaps, Henry did not join his brother in Whangarei, instead settling in Onehunga and starting a family. He and Mary Maria had married just 10 days before they embarked on the Auckland-owned, Shaw-Savill-chartered *Constance*. Henry was still just short of his 21st birthday, a 'minor' on 19 March 1868 when he wed his cousin **Mary Maria Everard** - a full seven years older. The Everard family had long associations with Essex, the surname said to have arrived with the Normans in 1066.

In Onehunga, Henry first worked as a farmer and later for timber merchants E. Gibbons and Co. But as the 1880s began the family moved north. On 20 January 1880 Henry paid £5 as down payment for a block of 37 acres just west of Kamo between the Ketenikau settlement and tiny Lake Ora. The memorandum of agreement is signed by the owner and 'Thomas Wakelin, auctioneer, Kamo'.

Henry, Mary Maria and children moved to Kamo in March 1881. Henry built a dwelling on this picturesque, rolling country, and farmed and lived on it until 1915 retirement.

A farm of just under 40 acres doesn't seem much of a working proposition but Henry obviously made a go of it. He ran dairy cows and became deeply involved in the establishment of the Whangarei dairy factory. He also grew and sold fruit and vegetables. Henry never approached his brother in terms of acquiring land and making money, never tried to, but was totally happy on his few acres with his wife and family - quiet, gentle and hugely popular. A thorough gentleman. He and his children were shaken by the death of Mary Maria, aged 62, on 9 December 1902. She was buried the following day at Ketenikau (later Kamo) Cemetery in sight of the land Henry farmed. The memorial to her and her husband still stands prominently in the cemetery.

Henry was alone for more than six years before remarrying in April 1909 in Christ Church, Whangarei. His bride, **Ada Grace Evans**, a widow since March 1901, was born in New Zealand in 1861, a daughter of master mariner John Going and his wife Eliza who arrived in Auckland in May 1859. And yes, Sid Going, noted All Black halfback, was a later family member.

Henry left an indelible mark on the mid-North dairy industry. A 1957 jubilee booklet for the Whangarei Co-operative Dairy Company gives a glowing account of Henry's part in the formation and success of the company. It says he was a prime mover in 1906-07 in the formation of the company and was its first and only chairman until his retirement in 1927. Henry also served on other local groups and was prominent in Anglican church affairs. After selling their farm in 1915, Henry and Ada moved to a neat little former miner's cottage on a five-acre section in Whau Valley Road and lived there for the rest of their lives. The building still stands.

Henry outlived all his brothers, dying at 85 on 27 June 1932.