

BROOKFIELD Frederick Morrison Preston and HALL Maria Drakeford, daughters Mabel Elise and Emma Beatrice, and son Sydney John

these biographical notes were curated by John McAlpine,
and they await confirmation/correction, and further detail/expansion from family descendants ...
some of the information below was copied from 'Remembrance' by Andrew Connolly and Peter Stanes
(c.f. Auckland Grammar School Archives)

Frederick (Frederic) Morrison Preston BROOKFIELD was born on 26 April 1825 in Sheffield, Yorkshire, England. His parents were **Charles** and **Jane BROOKFIELD**. **Frederick** was raised in the village of Ecclesall, Bierlow, just south-west of Sheffield. His father, **Charles**, was a solicitor.

Maria HALL, daughter of **George** and **Sarah HALL**, was born in Newcastle under Lyme in Staffordshire, England, and baptised there in December 1826. Her father, **George HALL** was a dealer in silk.

Frederick BROOKFIELD and **Maria HALL** were married, 18 December 1849, at Saint Mary's Church in Islington, London, and they began their married life in the village of Sydenham, near Lewisham in Kent, where Frederick practiced as an attorney and solicitor.

Frederick and Maria named their first child, a girl, **Maria Kathleen**, She was baptised in October 1850 in Sydenham, London.

In 1851, the Brookfield family of three emigrated to New Zealand, arriving in Auckland from London on the barque *Lord William Bentinck* in December (122 days).

Their second child, **Charles George**, was born in Auckland in March 1852, shortly before they went to Melbourne, Australia.

In Melbourne, the family lived in Upper Hawthorn (now Glenferrie), where both children, **Maria Kathleen** and **Charles George**, died in 1853.

Their third child, **Frederick William**, was born in Melbourne in 1854, and it was this family of three that returned to Auckland in October 1855 on board the clipper *Invincible*.

Frederick and **Maria** settled in Mount Smart Road, **Onehunga** (on the corner of what is now called Mount Smart Road and Onehunga Mall) where they lived for the rest of their lives. They had another eight children, three sons and five daughters, one of whom (**Mabel Elsie**) died in infancy:

Sydney John	b. 30 April 1856	baptised at St Peter's Church Onehunga, 12 May 1856
Alice Maud	b. 28 Jan 1858	baptised at St Peter's Church Onehunga, 7 March 1858
Kenneth Stanley	b. 14 Oct 1859	baptised at St Peter's Church Onehunga, 1 Nov 1859
Emma Beatrice	b. 24 July 1861	baptised at St Peter's Church Onehunga, 24 Aug 1861
Ida Jane	b. 16 Sept 1863	baptised at St Peter's Church Onehunga, 28 Oct 1863
Mabel Elise	b. 30 June 1865	baptised 30 June 1865; died (aged 1 year, 5 months) 24 Nov 1866
Harold Cotterill	b. 26 April 1867	baptised at St Peter's Church Onehunga, 11 June 1867
Lucie Ethel	b. 25 March 1869	baptised at St Peter's Church Onehunga, 30 May 1869

Frederick, born into a family of legal practioners, set up a sole legal practice in Queen Street, Auckland, which, by 1866, had become *Brookfield and Cox*. After many years, during which he was, for a time, Provincial Solicitor for Auckland, he was appointed Crown Prosecutor, a position he held for several years. He was then a judge of the Native Land Court. He resumed his legal practice about 1892 in the New Zealand Insurance Buildings in Queen Street, taking his son, **Frederick William Brookfield**, into the

business, named *Brookfield and Son, Solicitors*. *Brookfield Lawyers* remains a leading law firm in Auckland to date.

Aged 75, **Maria** died on 7 October 1902 and was buried the following day in Saint Peter's Cemetery in the same plot as her daughter, **Mabel Elise BROOKFIELD** (Plot 004), who died as an infant, 24 Nov 1866.

Four years later, **Frederick**, aged 81, died 4 October 1906. Two days later he was buried with **Maria**, his wife, and **Mabel Elise**, his daughter.

Both **Frederick** and **Maria** died in their Onehunga home *Southbourne House*.

Two of their children, **Sydney John** and **Emma Beatrice** (both of whom never married) stayed living in *Southbourne House* until their deaths.

Emma Beatrice BROOKFIELD aged 76, died 19 October 1937. Her body was taken to the Waikamete Cemetery to be cremated. Her ashes were returned to Onehunga and buried were with her parents and her baby sister, **Mabel Elise**, in **Saint Peter's Cemetery**.

Sydney John BROOKFIELD, aged 85, died 4 August 1941. He was also cremated, and his ashes may have also been buried in the family plot in **Saint Peter's Cemetery**.

Note: the bodies of the two eldest BROOKFIELD children, **Charles George** and **Maria Kathleen**, who both died in 1853 as young children, were laid to rest in Melbourne, Australia, but their names are etched on the family Obelisk in **Saint Peter's Cemetery**.