

BULCRAIG Charles Henry

these biographical notes were curated by John McAlpine,
and they await confirmation/correction, and further detail/expansion from family descendants ...

In the 19th Century the disease 'diphtheria' was a poorly understood, feared, and often fatal disease that was largely grouped alongside other severe sore throat illnesses, such as croup or scarlet fever. It was not yet recognized as a distinct bacterial infection. Known aspects of the disease included a severe sore throat, fever, and a thick, leathery, greyish membrane in the throat that could cause children to choke or suffocate. It was sometimes referred to as 'the strangling angel' or 'throat distemper'.

Charles Henry BULCRAIG, born 27 December 1873, died of diphtheria when he was barely 30 months old. He died on 24 May 1876 and was buried in **Saint Peter's Cemetery, Onehunga**.

Charles' parents were **William BULCRAIG** and **Mary Ann WAINWRIGHT**.

William BULCRAIG was born on 2 August 1831, in South Shields, Durham, England.

Mary Ann WAINWRIGHT was born in England on 18 March 1833. Aged 30, she migrated to New Zealand in 1863.

William and **Mary Ann** were married in Auckland on 13 December 1864. The New Zealand 'Intention to Marry Register' described William (aged 35) as 'mariner' and Mary Ann (aged 31) as 'milliner'.

They gave birth to four children:

Sarah Elizabeth 1864–1951

William Albert 1867-1934

Mary Ann 1870–1927

Charles Henry b. 1874 died 1876 buried Saint Peter's Cemetery, Onehunga

In the 1860s, **William** (snr) was registered as a shipping pilot who guided ships within the Manukau Harbour.

Mary Ann (milliner and draper) eventually owned two shops (with an attached residence) on the east side of Queen Street, Onehunga (between Arthur and Church Streets). In her Will, she bequeathed the shops to her son **William Albert**, who then conducted a plumbing business from them for many years.

Mary Ann died 15 December 1904, aged 72, and was buried 18 December in the Waikaraka Cemetery Onehunga (Area 1, Block 9, Plot 011).

Auckland Star: 16 December 1904

BULCRAIG: At Onehunga, on December 15th, **Mary Ann**, the dearly beloved **wife of William Bulcraig**, in her 73rd year. The funeral will leave her daughter's (Mrs Stewart) residence, Arthur Street, for the Waikaraka Cemetery, on Sunday, at 2.30 p.m.

William (snr) died 26 September 1909, aged 80, and was buried with his wife **Mary Ann** in the Waikaraka Cemetery, Onehunga.

NZ Herald: 27 September 1909

BULCRAIG: September 26, 1909, at Onehunga. **William Bulcraig**, in his 81st year. At rest. The funeral will leave the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Stewart, Arthur Street, for the Waikaraka Cemetery, to-morrow (Tuesday), at 3 p.m.