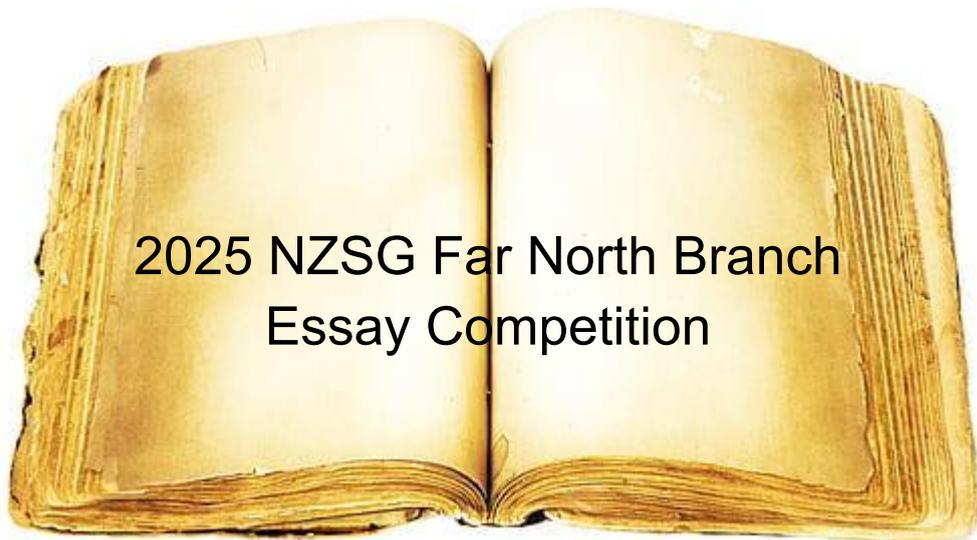


***My
Great Great
Grandparent***



2025 NZSG Far North Branch
Essay Competition

“We have a castle in England!
The family just left it when they came out to New Zealand.
Nanny was the English rose that married a full blooded Maori man.”

Such exciting titbits of information to hear as a child.
My dreams ran wild.

Can I go to England and find my castle? Can I build my own castle? Is
the recurring dream I'm having the actual layout of the England Castle?

The musings of a child. Me, I was the child.

I felt a deep connection to these people that left England. Because of the
countless hours spent dreaming of them? Because of the love Dad
spoke of for his Nanny? The lady that raised him.



Hylda Fairfax-Cholmeley



***Nanny,
My Great Great Grandmother***

Hylde's father, Roger Edward Fairfax-Cholmeley of Brandsby Estate, was born in Bath, Somersetshire, England in 1867. Alice Mary Aldworth, Hylde's mother, was born in West Hagbourne, Berkshire, England in 1863. They were married at St Mary's Church in Wanganui, New Zealand on the 9th of January 1893.

Their first daughter, Mary Winifred was born in 1896 in Wanganui. Their second daughter was Hylde, who was born in 1898 in St John's Hill, Wanganui. And their third daughter, Alice Moana was born in 1899.

So begins the life of Hylde, born a New Zealander, to English parents who married in New Zealand.

Hylde's Father Roger, was one of the last generation to live in the family 'castle'. Otherwise known as Brandsby Hall. It was left to his older brother Hugh. Hugh was instrumental in many changes and improvements to agriculture of the time.

Roger did however receive a little over 2000 pounds, which is what he must have used to begin his new life abroad. The Hall was sold upon Hugh's death in 1940.

*"Hugh Charles Fairfax-Cholmeley inherited the Brandsby estate in April 1889. He was squire for 51 years. This is a case study of the social reforms he implemented against the background of the political debate on Land Reform and the increasing economic difficulties experienced by landowners. During Fairfax-Cholmeley's lifetime the traditional order of landed aristocracy and gentry, which had made good economic, political and social sense for several centuries, was breaking down. For agriculture, the years 1888 to 1914 were mainly years of depression, with falling incomes for farmers, falling rents for landlords and agricultural labour draining to the towns. Income from land declined dramatically. But during that time the sleepy village of Brandsby became a beacon of progress in the locality and around the country, due to its cooperative ventures, instigated and supported by this unusual squire. After the first World War Fairfax-Cholmeley continued to work in the service of agricultural reform in Brandsby and district up to his death in 1940 at the age of 76, through times of increasing hardship." **Extract from Patricia Alice McCarthy's article; 'To whom belongs the land: Change and reform on a North Riding Estate, 1889 - 1914' in the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal 2020, vol. 92, No. 1, 131-153***



The only known photo of Roger is a tiny thing. Patricia sent it to Yorkshire to be stored in the archives along with many family papers. She inherited everything like that after her father passed away. So it's a big deal to get it out to view or copy. Apparently Roger is standing in front of a house, and he is just a tiny image that you can't clearly see. If the house is 'Gilling' in Bellblock, it's the only photo of that known to me too. Apparently Roger had sent the image to his brother Hugh in the mail. Perhaps Roger looked like his brother Hugh, pictured.

Photo sourced from Patricia McCarthy's family collection

Brandsby Hall (the castle)

Originally built in 1745 for Francis Cholmeley, Brandsby Hall was a sandstone house constructed in an Italianate style. It boasted 9 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms and various other rooms. The Brandsby Estate was in North Yorkshire, and included the village of Brandsby, the church, cottages and various buildings relating to the industry of the time. Slowly over the years the size of the estate reduced as parcels of land were sold off. The estate couldn't survive the downturn in the agricultural industry. There is mention of two of Roger's daughters being sent back to England to stay with Hugh. A common occurrence of the time. It's not recorded which of the girls it was. Maybe Hylde was one of them, and got to stay in the 'castle' too. But because of the financial difficulties the downturn of the agricultural industry caused, Hugh was forced to return the girls home to their father in New Zealand.



Image sourced from
<https://www.knightfrank.co.uk/properties/residential/for-sale/brandsby-york-north-yorkshire-yo61/har140194>

But wait, there is another castle.... **Gilling Castle**

In 1349, the year of the Black Death, the owner, de Eaton, gave the castle to his wife's family, the Fairfaxes. The Fairfax family remodelled this 14th Century Manor house in about 1585. In 1885 Lavinia Barnes nee Fairfax was the last of the line. Upon her death the castle was sold.



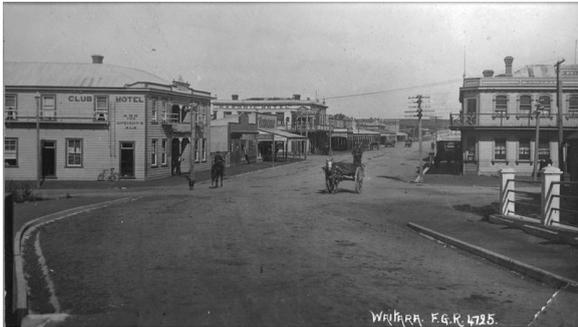
Image sourced from
<https://www.countrylife.co.uk/property/one-of-englands-most-treasured-and-historic-buildings-in-north-yorkshire-is-up-for-sale-for-the-first-time-in-nearly-100-years-244921>

Fairfax-Cholmeley - how the names came to be together.

Originally two separate names of prominent families, the Fairfax of Gilling and the Cholmeley of Brandsbury. When Captain Thomas Cholmeley inherited the Gilling estate, he took on the name Fairfax to become Fairfax-Cholmeley, a common stipulation when there are no male heirs to carry on the name of the inherited estate. Combining the names ensures the continuation of the name and legacy alongside the property.

When Hylda was born, Wanganui was a thriving, established town with a population of approximately 7000. In 1911 Hylda's father was recorded as living in Bell Block, Taranaki. So I'm sure the family was with him as Hylda appears in the papers winning 3rd place on a hack at the Taranaki Show.

No more information is available on Hylda until 1914. She was 16 and a hack, entered in the Taranaki Show by W Stockman was called Hyldella. Too much to be a coincidence when a month or 2 later she ran away from home and married a man by the name of William George Stockman at the Waitara registry office.



He was a 24 year old farmer. Not a full blooded Maori as our family legend had it. His ancestors being both Maori and English. Though there was a photo on the wall of Hylda's home of a dark Maori man. If it wasn't William, who was it? The distance between where Stockman and Hylda lived was nearly 60km. Being as she had to run away to marry this man, I'm going to suggest

they didn't meet through being friends of the family. Hylda's father was a rural landowner, and worked for the Department of Agriculture as an Inspector of noxious weeds. So perhaps they met through this rural connection. I can only speculate.

This photo shows the Waitara Hylda and William would have seen back in 1914.

Sourced from <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1476086319357415/posts/3416230275343000/>

1915 Hylda and William were living in Oaonui and were sharemilkers. It's unknown if they owned their own herd or not. It's common for sharemilkers to not have their own herd, it was a way for individuals to get into the industry without them having to have the capital to buy straight away. There is also no clue as to how many cows they might have milked. It's possible they had milking machines though, they were around by this time. Though many still milked by hand. Cows were first introduced to New Zealand in 1814, 101 years previous to Hylda taking up farming. Dairy farming in the Taranaki region was popular. By 1915 there was already a dairy factory there. Asides from working hard on the farm, their first child William George "Jack" was born on the 29th November this year too. It's nice to know Hylda didn't feel pressured into getting married because she was pregnant.

1st November 1917 saw their second son, Edward Roger "Toby" born. 6th October 1919 and their third and final child was born, Alice Mary Moana "Maymay".

Various farms in the Province were moved to as invariably happens over the years on dairy farms.

In January 1924, when Hylda was 26, her parents Roger and Alice against their daughter's wishes, took their son in law to court. They were seeking separation, maintenance and guardianship against him on the grounds of failure to maintain and persistent cruelty. This must have put Hylda in quite a sticky situation. Her parents were taking a huge gamble with their relationship with their daughter. After dismissing both applications, the magistrate remarked however, that the parents appeared to have every ground for applying to the court. It's interesting that even at the age of 26, the papers and the court were referring to Hylda as a girl. And another interesting, or baffling part of the article was that it mentioned there being 4 children. The family has only ever been aware of there being three children.

It sounds like Hylda did try to leave her husband at one stage, but he convinced her to come back. He was both verbally and physically abusive to her. Apparently William was an occasional drinker. Every few months he would go on a bender. She confessed to Kerry that that's why she didn't tolerate drinking.

I can't imagine living the hard life of a woman in the early 1900's, milking cows, raising young children and dealing with an abusive husband. Especially if she was at odds with her parents and sisters over the relationship too.

INTERFERING PARENTS

SEEK TO SEPARATE DAUGHTER FROM HUSBAND

SEQUEL TO A MARRIAGE AT SIXTEEN

Wife Clings to Home and Children

(From "Truth's" Taranaki Rep.)

A case which must be one of the most remarkable in the annals of the Courts of New Zealand, and which would have taxed the wisdom of Solomon came before Magistrate A. M. Mowlem at New Plymouth last week. It was nothing less than an application by legally interfering parents asking the Court to separate their twenty-six-year-old daughter from her lawfully wedded husband in direct defiance of the wishes of the daughter herself, who had repeatedly told them, and also told the Court, that she was perfectly happy and wished to live with her husband and children. Despite the protests of the girl, the parents had it firmly fixed in their minds that she was under the domination of the husband, and it was on the grounds that they were acting in her best interests that they brought the case to the Court.

Sourced from

https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZTR19240202.2.29?end_date=31-12-1925&items_per_page=10&query=stockman+fairfax&snippet=true&start_date=01-01-1924

In April 1924 Hylda's mother Alice changed her will. Everything was to be left to the other two daughters. The only provision for Hylda was a maintenance fund to be accessed at the discretion of the sisters for the duration of Hylda's life. This stunned me. Were they more worried about any money falling into Stockman's hands than potentially helping the situation of a daughter that was struggling? And I can only assume that the money was never accessed. Hylda was denied visitation when she tried to visit her sisters in much later years. If they were turned against their sister by their parents' view towards her, the money perhaps never made its way to Hylda.

1928 Electoral rolls show Hylda and William still in the Oaonui area, farming on Turu Road.

1931 and tragically their middle child, Edward Roger "Toby" died on 25th March. It's a very tragic story. Apparently William, the father, encouraged his children to fight each other, to box. Now the other two, Jack and Maymay could hold their own. But poor Toby wasn't like that, he wasn't as strong. But William persisted with the boxing between the siblings, Toby taking the brunt of the beatings. He died of a brain haemorrhage at the age of 13. A further example of Williams tendency towards inappropriate behaviour. Simply tragic.

By 1935 Hylda and William were listed as living in Doralto Road, New Plymouth. William is now a labourer. I wonder what Hylda turned her hand to now, living in town for the first time since she was born.

1936 and 1937 saw happier times with the marriage of Maymay to Victor Moorby. And Jack married Alice Lowe. Somewhere in here was a move to Main South Road, Omata, New Plymouth too. Hylda was potentially raising her daughter Maymay's four children from the time they were born, Colin Royce 1936, Doreen Jeanette 1939, Margaret Dawn 1940 and Barbara Lynette 1942.

Stories in the family point to her raising three generations of children. Her own, her Grandchildren and her Great Grandchildren.

In 1943 at the age of 45, Hylda lost her husband. William was only 55 years old and is buried at Hurdon Cemetery. (Row 10, Plot 53). Was this a relief to her? Did she feel released from his abusive behaviour?



Photo sourced from https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/182176167/william_george-stockman

The next available piece of information is an article found in Papers Past, relating to an incident in Sept 1945. Pertaining to a court case. Hylda was taken to court for "trying to elicit a higher price" for selling her house. The case was dismissed.

P.A. NEW PLYMOUTH, This Day.
If no agreement for sale and purchase was entered into between the parties it was no offence for a vendor to suggest that a prospective purchaser of property should consider paying a price different from that which the Land Sales Committee might fix, said Mr. W. H. Woodward, S.M., in the New Plymouth Court in a reserved judgment in the case in which Mrs. Hylda Stockman was charged that on September 17, at New Plymouth, she, being a principal, attempted to induce another person, Jeffery Owen Hill, to enter into a transaction or arrangement that was intended to be inconsistent with an application to be made under the Servicemen's Settlement and Land Sales Act and Amendment.

Sourced from

https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/EP19451218.2.15?end_date=31-12-1945&items_per_page=10&query=%27Mrs.+Hylda+Stockman%27&snippet=true&start_date=01-01-1945

1950, Hylda was living at Cowling Road, Westown, New Plymouth. She probably had her 4 grandchildren in tow. 1951 and her grandson Kerry was born to Maymay. Hylda officially adopts Kerry. We aren't aware of her adopting the other children.

1954 and Hylda owns 487 Devon Street East, New Plymouth. She has the property surveyed, and sells to a developer who knocks the house down and builds some shops. The grandson Kerry explains that the developer paid the deposit, but never paid the outstanding sum. I wonder what situation this left Hylda in? She now had five children in her care.

In 1953 Colin, the eldest of Hylda's grandchildren, decided to join the Navy. Which meant moving all the way North to Auckland. Well, Hylda wasn't letting the 'chosen child' out of her sight. Everyone was packed up and off they all headed to Auckland. No mean feat I'm sure in the 1950's as a single older woman with children in tow. But move they did.



Above is a photo of Lawrence as a boy at 70B Hinemoa street, Birkenhead.
From his private collection.

Hylde brought the house they lived in at Birkenhead. She paid 2000 pounds for it in 1953/4. 1959, while living in Birkenhead, Auckland, Hylde adopted Lawrence Glenn. He was her Great Grandson. His mother, Barbara Lynette (granddaughter) had already adopted out another child, potentially because of her young age. Hylde, I bet couldn't bear to see another baby disappear from the family.



Image of Hylde holding baby Lawrence 1959 from Kerry Stockman's private collection

Barbara Lynette was also raised by Hylde. Her mother Alice "Maymay" being described as 'a nasty piece of work' by her son. She never let her children call her Mum. They had to call her Maymay. All six of Maymay's children were raised by Hylde. Even though Maymay and her husband Victor, then later her new partner Rick were living on the same property in another house. She officially adopted the youngest child, Kerry. But she also fostered other children too. One girl's name was Angela, she was a similar age to Kerry. The Birkenhead house was large enough to allow Hylde to have borders. The money they bought in would have been what kept the family going. She looked after the border's children while the parents worked. So even after raising her own children in a volatile domestic situation, she went on to raise her grandchildren, then her great grandchildren, and foster children. What an amazing, selfless woman.

Her dedication to her faith is commendable too. The family didn't have a car, so Hylde walked to her church early each Sunday morning for the first service of the day at 7am. Returning home later in the morning to retrieve all the children and take them up for Sunday school and she would attend that service too. Hylde even returned each Sunday evening for the evening service. A very religious lady, perhaps owing to her Father being a minister at an Anglican Church. In Waihi, it was the St John's Anglican Church they attended. I see there is an All Saints Anglican Church on Hinemoa Street in Birkenhead. Perhaps this was the one Hylde frequented when she lived there. It was only 700m from their home. It might even be the reason why Hylde chose this house to buy.

1967 Colin had left the Navy and brought a fishing boat which Kerry went to work on with him. The Birkenhead house was sold for \$4000. And again, Hylda packed up the entire family and moved back to Taranaki. Hylda was going back to help her daughter Maymay, who was very unwell, and her partner Rick who had 2 broken legs from a drunken accident. Not too long later, perhaps after Rick's legs had healed, the family was off again up to Waihi this time. Hylda had friends there that she wanted to be near.

Jean, a grandchild of Hylda's, daughter of Maymay's, moved in with Hylda and the children when they were living in Waihi. Jean's husband had become a sailor. It is joked that it was because he was escaping his wife. Sounds like she inherited her mother Maymay's



personality and temperament. This did not only add another adult and 4 children to feed, Mark James 1961, Kim Louise 1962, Gary Wayne 1963 and Paul Richard 1968, but also meant having to squash them into the small homes Hylda rented in various parts of Waihi over the years.

Lawrence remembers a porch being covered in to house him so there was room for the others. The situation worried Kerry, he was living with his partner at this stage. He remembers going back to Waihi to check his grandmother was ok and had enough food because Jean didn't contribute to the household. Add to that Hylda's generosity to the church collection plate, and they must have been living off the smell of an oily rag.

Nanny was a hard worker, and she instilled this in Lawrence at an early age. She had made a deal with the local bike shop in order to get Lawrence a new push bike so he could do a paper round. Hylda paid the deposit, and Lawrence was allowed to pay off the remainder each week from his paycheck. You can see the bike in the above photo from Lawrence's private collection. Lawrence is the eldest child in the image, the other children, his cousin's. Lawrence's wages were a huge help towards the family, I'm sure.

A trip back to Taranaki happened in October 1972 for Hylda's son Jack's funeral. Kerry remembers being there to transport him to the Hurdon Cemetery. Hylda had contacted her sisters, who were spinsters still living at Bell Block to see if she could visit, but they refused her. They stayed at an Aunts place instead.

1974 A very difficult time for the family. Hylda was in hospital very ill. Jean was home with all the children. Not being of a motherly temperament, there was a lot of strain on Lawrence as a 15 year old child. There was a definite favouritism towards her own children. A cunning Jean had somehow convinced Hylda on her death bed to amend her will. The probate form describes her signature as being shaky due to bodily weakness. Jean had managed to get everything left to her. Some \$2000 and a vehicle. All her household goods and family treasures. These included the family bible that had come out from England with the family history records of births, death and marriages. Also a prayer scroll box. Kim, one of Jean's children, remembers being allowed, when it was their turn, to take the special tweezers and choose a scroll to be read. They were tiny little things. Unfortunately when Jean died in

2020, it was one of her sons that cleaned the house out. He burnt everything he wasn't interested in, including photos, the prayer box and heartbreakingly, the family bible. A loss to the family that he just couldn't comprehend. If he'd only checked with his sister Kim in Australia, she would have kept everything.

Originally the boys, Kerry and Lawrence were the beneficiaries of the will. Hylda knew how desperately Lawrence wanted a motorbike. And it was her intention for him to have the money to be able to do so. The lawyer who witnessed the change of Hylda's will even mentioned to Kerry after Hylda passed away, that he would support him if he contested the will. He clearly knew it shouldn't have been changed.

Hylda Stockman
Died 9th April 1974
Waihi



Hylda,

A passionate young teenager that ran off to marry her love.

A loyal wife that stayed regardless of the treatment she suffered.

A hard worker that milked cows and raised her children.

A caring Nana and Grandmother that raised children their parents didn't.

A devout christian

A generous soul

Kerry remembers Nanny being an old Grandma type. She would wake early, light the wood stove and prepare porridge and eggs for those old enough to be going off to work. Then she would wake the little ones up, and any leftovers would be theirs. Everyone was dressed and then out the door for school. She had a 10am radio program called 'Aunt Daisy's cooking show' she liked to sit and listen to. Then it was chores before preparing dinner and dealing with the children returning home from school. Both Kerry and Lawrence both recall not realising Hylda was their blood relative until they were both older children. As young ones, they just thought she was a kindly old lady that looked after all the children.

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Find a Grave

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/203705712/william-george-stockman>

Personal recollections

Patricia McCarthy personal recollection and her articles

Kerry Stockman personal recollection

Lawrence Stockholmes (Stockman) personal recollection

Photos - Kerry, Lawrence, Patricia, Google