

Letter from M.H. (Mac) Bridge

16 Skellatar St.

MUSWELLBROOK

28.12.1964.

What the riter knows of the descendants of the late Thomas Spencer and his wife nee Mary Stark, who arrived in Australia in 1840 and first went into residence at "Bingebarrie", 13 miles east of Aberdeen on Rouchell Vale Brook (where now is located the homes of J.T.C. McMullin). Five sons and five daughters were born. A sixth son, Edward the youngest of the family was not born at "Bingebarrie", but was probably born at Rouchel Vale (11 miles from Aberdeen) a property acquired by Thomas Spencer senior and members of his family as far as the writer knows.

The eldest son was Thomas, whose wife's maiden name was Hooper. To this union 3 sons and 4 daughters were born. The first ~~son~~ son was Alfred who married Miss Berrkett and they raised a family of at least 2 sons and 2 daughters. The second son was Arthur who first married Miss Jansen, I believe daughters were born to this union. After the death of his wife Arthur married Miss Hawthorn, to this union two daughters were born.

The third son Fred remained single. The daughters were Vivian who married Harry Crabb, Elsie married (Snowy) Hordern. No particulars of children of either of these sisters. The third daughter was May who died as a young woman. The fourth daughter is Ida who remained single and now resides with her half sister Mrs. Connolly at Lindfield.

After the death of his first wife nee Hooper, Thomas Spencer junior married a widow, Mrs. Pritchard, whose maiden name was Hayne. To this union 2 daughters were born. Gladys now deceased, married but name unknown, and Millicent (Misch) is now a widow and her married name is Connolly. Ida and Millicent are the only survivors of the families of Thomas Spencer junior.

The next son of Thomas senior was Matthew. He married Emma Walker and had 6 sons and 2 daughters. In rotation of ages Aubrey Sherwood married Grace Miller, and raised a family of 10, none (9) of whom have Sherwood as a second name. Edward Granville married Edna Whitehead and raised a family of about 5 sons and daughters. Granville and Edna are both deceased, their family reside chiefly in Muswellbrook and Aberdeen.

Ivy Ethel (married name Butler) now a widow, is a nurse at a North Sydney Hospital (no family). Stanley Hunter married Vida White (both are deceased and family number unknown). Mary Una died at age 13 years. Harrie Clive married Miss MacQueen, a son David is attached to the Melbourne University. Harrie Spencer is a retired Commissioner of the Western Lands Division of the N.S.W. Dept. of Lands and resides at Beecroft. (Aubrey mentioned above) resides at 22 Queen St. Mosman. Next is Arthur Keith, remained single and now deceased. The youngest, Jack Sherwood, died single. Aubrey, Ivy and Harrie are the only survivors.

John, son of Thomas Spencer senior, his wife's maiden name was Marsh and they raised a family of 10, 5 sons and 5 daughters. Sons are Henry, wife's name Allwood and both deceased, Henry was a member of the N.S.W. Police and there are no particulars of their family. Bert, wife's name Collis are both deceased and no particulars of family. Absolom Earl Granville, married Molly Brumcker, know nothing of the family and William first married his cousin Maimie Spencer and when widowed married Miss Collis, cousin of the wife of his brother Bert. I believe Bill resides in Wye. Cecil married May Sneddon, no family. The last three served in World War I. Cecil who now resides in Gosford was for a few years a prisoner of war in the hands of the Turks. Daughters Delia, Mabel and Lily are all spinsters and reside in Melbourne St. Gosford. (telephone is in the name of L or Lily Spencer. Another daughter was Violet (Vi) deceased, and she married Aubrey Bridge the writer's brother. Aubrey is also deceased. One son Kevin Spencer now resides in Melbourne. The youngest Grace, married Rupert Vale of Vale's Point, Lake Macquarie in the Wye area. Rupert Vale is now deceased and Grace probably resides with her sisters in Gosford (I believe there were 2 in the family.)

William (Willie) son of Thomas Senior married Grace McGregor. There were 2 daughters one Maimie married Will Spencer as stated. Willie Spencer died and was buried at Cuttabunda and in later years his remains were removed and buried at Singleton where his widow some few years ago passed away. No particulars of the other daughter.

Absolom remained single and handled the Cuttabunda Station horse team, I believe the wool from the Station was trucked at Bourke. It was whilst at Bourke that he had his horse rounded up one morning near his waggon in readiness for harnessing, when a camel team appeared on the scene. The draught horses took fright and galloped away. Apo (as he was called) mounted his saddle horse and took after them, unfortunately the saddle horse fell, killing the rider on the spot.

The youngest of the family of Thomas Senior was Edward. After leaving Cuttabunda he went into the store-keeping business at Wee Waa. No particulars of marriage- status.

Of the 8 daughters of Thomas Spencer, 2 remained single. They were Sarah and Lammie (whose Christian name is unknown to writer, Lammie was a nick name derived from the fact that she was very fond of rearing pet lambs.) Of the three other sisters whose Christian names are not known to writer, one married Stephen Dowell and raised a family of sons and daughters. The only ones known to writer were William Spencer, Stephen, Edward and Aubrey and George (all deceased). Willie Dowell was for a number of years Clerk in the office of R.G.D. Fitzgerald, Solicitors. Miss Brook, his wife's name was Yates. Aubrey Dowell (called Dick) was for a number of years in the office of M. Campbell & Co. Storekeepers in Muswellbrook and later he was travelling inspector for the Railways, his wife's name was Nagel. George was a Station Master at Aberdeen. Stephen Dowell was married at Miss Spencer for a time conducted a store in Muswellbrook and served as an Alderman for the Muswellbrook Municipality and for a time was Mayor and I believe in later years was also town clerk. A sister of Mrs. Dowell married George Hayne of Scone. I believe he was a blacksmith and I only know of a son and a daughter, so

name unknown to writer. Only to-day I heard the son died. The daughter was Ruth, also deceased, was for a number of years assistant in the Enfield Post Office.

The other daughter of Thomas Spencer senior married William (Billy) Frost, a native of Wollombi. From memory I heard my father who was also a native of Wollombi, say that when Billy Frost first came to Aberdeen he and my father joined in a partnership and did some horse breaking and later Mr. Frost I believe was employed as a stockman at Segenhoe. You would know more about his family than I do. I only remember hearing of two of the sons, one was Willie, who died as a young man, and Cyrus. Cyrus was a military man on the permanent staff. Only to-day my youngest brother, who met Cyrus Frost in Egypt during World War I, said that Cyrus who was a Warrant Officer, was too valuable in that rank to be recommended for higher up. He was on the permanent staff and they did not want to lose his services and therefore barred his way to a Lieutenancy or higher up. It was also said that Cyrus Frost possessed such a word of command, that if he called his regiment to attention, half of them would drop their guns.

There was residing in Scone a man by the name of Frost a couple of years ago and probably still is. He was foreman of a gang dealing with River Banks erosion, up to date I have not had a chance to meet him, but live in hopes.

As the foregoing has been written from memory I would say you may get more detailed information by contacting Aubrey Spencer at 22 Queen St. Mosman. Ida and Millicent live at Lindfield, telephone and address in Mrs. Conally's name and the daughters of John in Melbourne St. Gosford. The Telephone and address is in the name of L or Lilly in the Gosford Telephone directory.

Like you, it is not the first time I have heard of the death-bed episode of Thomas Spencer senior. When quite a youth (I am now 81½) I remember at various times hearing that Thomas senior asked that the name of Sherwood be made use of among his descendants. The only ones I know of who had Sherwood included in the names were the oldest and youngest in Matthew Spencer's family, and 9 out of the 10, in Aubrey's family.

I am afraid I cannot help you as regards the Ferris family. I never lived in the areas you mention and my father who was a native of Wollombi, did a lot of writing for the Scone Advocate in the 1920's dealing with the early days in the Unter River Valley. So far ~~his~~ in his writings I have failed to find mention of the name of Ferris or writings touching on the Paterson side but will keep your queries in mind. You mention that you are a fourth generation native. For myself I am a fourth and with three great grand children it makes 7 generations dating back of December 25th 1800. The seven generations run Catherine Shaw born Davie Dawes Point Sydney 25/12/1800, died Gosford 1895, Mary Carpenter, born Windwor 1826, died Gosford 1914. William Bridge born Wollombi 14/8/1847 at Scone died 1930, Self (Malcolm H. Bridge) born Muswellbrook 28/5/1883. Percy V. Bridge born Scone 19/12/1917, Toni Doreen Bridge born Scone 19/12/1940 and her 3 children, Michael, Gregory and Lee-Anne. Females given maiden names. I would be pleased to answer any queries.

Yours faithfully

M.H. BRIDGE 16 Skellaton St. Mos