

## CHAPTER 15

## The Eldest of William and his Descendants

Born on the West Coast of the South Island of New Zealand on 21 March 1871 Frederick William was the first child of the eighteen-year-old Rosina and her husband, William. He, of course, went with his parents when they moved shortly afterwards to Christchurch on the East Coast. Fred, as he was always known, would have lived all his boyhood and youth in this beautiful capital city of the South Island, a city with its dainty, winding stream, the River Avon, flowing through its willow-ornamented banks. Perhaps he, too, had attended his maternal grandfather's school before entering the famous Christ's College. He was also head choir boy at the City's Cathedral.

When his father was away on his business trip to England in approximately 1886 or 1887 Fred, then aged about 16, helped to carry on his father's business with the assistance of a man by the name of W. Alp. Presumably he continued in his father's shop, or business or whatever it was, after his parent's return and thus gained useful experience of the world of commerce. According to his brother, Horace, Fred left Christchurch somewhere about early 1889 'to make his fortune in Sydney'. After he was established there he founded a finance company and ran it very successfully for a number of years. The offices of this finance company were at 228 Pitt Street, Sydney. Eventually the venture encountered hard times, as did nearly every enterprise when the Great Depression (1929-35) set in.

Fred's father, mother and family lived for a period, as has been recorded, in Arthur Street, North Sydney. It so happened that an Englishman, his wife and family, resided in a nearby street, Mount Street. His name was Robert Jackson and he was a well-to-do businessman, having had interests in woollen mills in Yorkshire at Huddersfield in the West Riding. He was involved in Sydney with the firm of Robert Reid and also he developed substantial property interests. His wife was named Annie Eliza (nee Barker). The relevance of Robert Jackson and his wife to this saga is that they had a daughter, Alice Maude (always known as 'Maudie') and Fred McWilliam met her. She was young and charming and had an attractive appearance with a beautiful skin. She was twenty (born 1875) and Fred was four years older. On 24 June 1896 they were married at St Thomas's, North Sydney by Rev. Stephen H. Childe.

The Bride's father gave the couple what is perhaps the best kind of present of all - a house. It should be said, however, that the newly married couple first lived for a couple of years in a house at Woolwich Point called Labrena which was owned by Mr Jackson. It is still there today, its address being No.13 Werambie Street, but the tennis court is built on and it no longer fronts The Point Road. The grounds used to slope down to the waters of the Lane Cove River, though presently it has lost much of its grandness, but still retains an impressive reminder of its past stateliness. It has become a commercial concern with furnished rooms to let.

The home which Robert Jackson gave to the newly wed couple was sumptuous; indeed, it is probably more accurately described as a mansion. It was situated in the then affluent suburb of Kogarah, near Carlton on what is now the Princes Highway, and named 'Sunnyside'. It is no wonder that such a splendid home possessed a special aura. It was a mixture of grandness and dignity and homeliness, a kind of Mecca to which so many members, and quasi-members, turned in times of joy, sadness, hope and trouble. Rosina, with her youngest, Norman, was a frequent visitor. William spent his last few months living there a short time before his end came. Sunnyside was a household word,



certainly in the Fred McWilliam family, but also beyond. It was sad that the ravages of the economic depression took it out of the family eventually. Actually Fred and Maudie lived briefly in another house at Arncliffe before settling at Sunnyside.

The couple had a large family (seven) and the two of them lived busy, enterprising lives. Although handicapped by impaired eyesight, like all his siblings, Fred was interested in sport and lent his support to the encouragement of games like Soccer football. Indeed he became President of the young St Georges Soccer Club and was a strong supporter of the NSW Soccer Association.

Another of Fred McWilliam's interests was the breeding of bulldogs. He was a member of the NSW Bulldog Club and was appointed President of it. One of Fred's most famous bulldogs was one by the name of Cestus. An artist made a painting of this noble animal. It showed him seated on a magnificently coloured Union Jack flag. So effective was the artist in achieving startling nuances of the red, white and blue, and the determined, fierce visage of the dog that it became the patriotic symbol of British resolution and pugnacity and inspired many in World War I. It appeared on hoardings, posters and in magazines. It was featured in displays in many parts of the community and the original was finally donated to and hung in the Masonic headquarters in Sydney. It will quite rightly be inferred from this that Fred was an enthusiastic participant in the Masonic Order. Fred's youngest daughter, Nell (Eleanor Margaret), recalls that at one time the dog, Cestus, was her constant playmate, her 'brother' - for she was younger by far than her nearest brother.

In later life Fred and Maudie went to live in Hunters Hill and then eventually moved to Church Street, Ashfield. Here he was close to his brother, Horace, and the brothers visited from time to time. Fred died on 22 October 1941. Maudie survived him by more than twenty-two years, passing away on 18 March 1964.

The first-born child of Fred and Maudie McWilliam was Charles.\* He arrived in the year 1897 and, like his two brothers, attended Sydney Grammar School which is, and was, located in College Street, Sydney, close to the Museum. Charlie embarked on a commercial career which at one time, the present writer recalls, took him to the Clarence River at Grafton. The McWilliam clan has had a long tradition of recognising the importance of family ties. Charlie was meticulous in making regular visits to his uncle Horace and family. Horace then held the position of Bishop's Chaplain and Registrar of the Diocese of Grafton. The memory is of a young man, neatly turned out, picking his careful way through the dust of the unpaved streets and of his being held up as a paragon of the wearer of shiny shoes. This would have been about the year 1917 or 1918. Some twenty years later (1939) Horace and his family, on their way by ship to England, were treated with much generosity, arising from the same sense of family 'togetherness', no doubt, by Charlie and his wife Essie (nee Dalzell) in Perth. Charles now occupied the important position of manager for Western Australia of the well-known firm of William Adams and Co. He was widely respected as a businessman in that capital city. Charlie died in 1967.

He and Essie had two daughters, Ruth and Beryl Ada ('Betty'). The former was born in 1918 and married Norman Odgers, but they had no issue. She died at Mt Lawley in Aug. 1977. Her sister, Betty, married Kenneth Mackintosh (1918-1974) and in 1979 Ronald Gayler. Her two boys are Grant Mackintosh (1943) & Lyal Mackintosh (1946). Grant's wife is Julia (1947), children Fiona (1982) & Lucy (1984); Lyal's is Jane-Maree (1953).

Fred and Maudie's second child was Ruth (c.1900), a trained nurse. She married Frank Bowden (died 1983) and had one son, Michael who died prematurely in November

\* He was christened Frederick Charles, but always known as 'Charlie'.



1985. Michael was unmarried. His passion was music and he worked with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (as it now is) in that field. Frank Bowden was an RAAF Officer in World War II and he and Ruth used to attend St Anne's, Strathfield, where Michael sang in the choir, though not, like his grandfather, a tuneful singer.

Much more is known about Fred and Maudie's third child, Eric. He was born on 14 May 1901, his second given name originating from his maternal grandmother's maiden name, viz. Barker. He was educated at Sydney Grammar School 'till about the age of 15 - when I believe he ran away to sea,' writes his daughter, Paulette McWilliam. 'But (he) was quickly 'recovered' by his father, Frederick, who had him officially appointed as trainee deck officer in a shipping company' then trading to Pacific Islands and Vancouver. He put his age on a year or so, Paulette explains, and enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy as a midshipman in 1917 and was sent to England to join in with the Royal Navy... He was stationed in Northern Scotland and was at Scapa Flow when the German Fleet scuttled itself in the anchorage. When he returned to Australia he remained in the RAN with the rank of Lieutenant and became Navigating Officer of HMAS Karumba, the naval oiltanker which used to run up to Indonesian-Borneo regions for oil supply. That is when Eric acquired his great interest in navigating through the Great Barrier Reef inner channels, and of course gained his first experience.

The Navy was the first to be 'beached' when the Depression hit Australia and that's when he went back to the Merchant Marine. Around 1923 or 1924 he had obtained his Master Mariner's Certificate, having been working towards it for some years previously. Because he was so youthful (he remained extremely youthful in appearance - up till his mid sixties) no one would give him his first command. Also deck officer jobs were scarce in Australia. He went to New Zealand because he suddenly discovered he had been the successful applicant for the position of Third Officer in a well-known shipping company there. This would have been early in 1923 and he had only two days in which to sort out things in Sydney and take ship to be there in time. 'Sorting' things out included marrying his lady-love, Odette MacFarland. She sailed with her new husband to Auckland, because Eric's ship was only operating in New Zealand not Australian waters. It was later claimed by relatives that the couple had 'eloped'. The point was that Eric's marriage was much against his mother's wishes and the haste occasioned by the circumstances may have suggested, falsely, it is believed, that it was an elopement. Paulette writes:-

How I think my grandmother must have regretted her opposition later! She cared for and loved me as one of her own children, as did Grandfather Frederick ("Pa" to me) and there was a great bond with them both on my part.

Prior to World War II Eric was master of cargo ships trading from Australia to China and Japan. Then he took ships out to the mid-Pacific to bring phosphate back to Newcastle and Port Kembla. Paulette goes on to describe how her father remained an officer in RAN Reserve till World War II - doing his yearly 'training' stint on various cruisers. But as he was by then a Queensland Coast and Torres Strait pilot, a reserved occupation, he and others like him, were not called up but given rank equivalent to Commander, RAN and piloted US and RAN vessels, submarines, battleships, cruisers etc, plus the usual merchant shipping, up and down and through the Great Barrier Reef during the war years. This included New Guinea waters.

The following interesting letter was written by Eric himself to his Uncle Horace. It is dated 27th January 1959 under the address of: M/V "Adua". In it he says:-

... I was unfortunate enough to have to leave Sydney two days before Xmas and arrived back again on 7th January. After a couple of days at home I



was off north again meeting the cyclonic depressions along the Queensland coast and again I am bound south and expect to arrive home on the morning of 30th. I never know how long each visit may last, on one occasion recently I only had two hours at home and again sometimes may only get as far south as Brisbane and then away north again... You mention not knowing very much about my family. Well Paulette the eldest, by my first marriage, was born in Auckland on Nov. 24th 1923, a sad day, when I lost my first wife Odette - Lit's sister - after her confinement. I reached Auckland two days afterwards. Ian, the only son, was born on Dec 28th 1926 and was in the Navy for the last two years of the war and then matriculated and attended Sydney University and took dentistry. He has a lucrative practice at Dapto some eight miles south of Wollongong and is married to a very charming girl and they have two children (now four), Bruce who is four and Lindy who is 2.

Jill the youngest was born on 29 April 1929 and is married to John Wilkinson, a very fine chap and an ex-"Burma Road" P.O.W. and he is secretary manager of the Gordon Memorial Rugby Union Football Club. They have just built their home at St Ives which is not very far from us at Greenwich... Paulette lives with us and is with the CSIRO Laboratory for Coal Research...

Eric, who was formally Captain Eric B McWilliam, Master Mariner, had also held the position of Master of the Sydney Pilot Vessel 'Captain Cook'. This ship always made such a fine picture when it was anchored in Watson's Bay, awaiting the arrival of the next ship for pilotage. Eric died in 1979 aged 77, his second wife, Aileen ('Lit'), predeceasing him by three years, rejoicing in their Golden Wedding celebrations before her end.

Eric's elder daughter, Paulette, who has contributed most of the above biography of her father, has had a distinguished scientific career. She is a marine biologist by specialisation, though she had reached the age of 38 before she took out her first degree. She later obtained her higher degree (MSc) from the University of Sydney and lectured both there and at Macquarie University. She joined the CSIRO and carried out research in her expert field, several of her publications being connected with lobster larvae. When her division of the Organisation moved to Hobart she left it a year or so ago, but still responds to calls for assistance and advice on professional matters from her colleagues in Hobart. Very recently she has become involved with CSIRO again.

Eric McWilliam's only son is (Roderick) Ian McWilliam, referred to by his father as having a 'lucrative' dental practice out of Wollongong. He graduated Bachelor of Dental Surgery from the University of Sydney and married Nola Joan Jeffrey (born 1932) at Five Dock, Sydney in 1953. They have four children (two have arrived since Eric's letter of 1959). Bruce Ian was born in 1955 and has two degrees - Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and is a lawyer living in Woollahra. He married Pamela Ann Souvlis (born 1961), who has a Bachelor of Commerce degree, in 1985. The second of Ian McWilliam's children is Lindy Louise (1956). She married Anthony Dale Boyden (1954), a Bachelor of Dental Surgery (Hons), in 1979 and they have four children: James Anthony McWilliam Boyden (1980), Matthew Stuart McWilliam Boyden (1982), Joshua Ian McWilliam Boyden (1983) and Holly Alexandra Boyden (1985). Ian and Nola's third child is Wendy Jane (1960). She holds a Diploma of Teaching, as does her husband, Phillip James Kerry (1957). They married in 1983. Phillip also holds both Bachelor of Science and Master of Business Administration degrees. Ian McWilliam's youngest is Margo Nola (1966) who is currently (1985) studying Law at the University of Sydney (Women's College). All the children of Ian and Nola McWilliam were born in Wollongong, as was the present writer.



Eric McWilliam's third child is Jill Margaret (born 1929). In 1952 she married John Stewart Loder Wilkinson (1921). Early on he managed the Torres Strait Pilot Service and the family lived on Thursday Island. John had always been a committed Rugby player (Eastern Suburbs) and supporter, consequently, after the war, he accepted the position of Secretary-Manager of the Gordon Rugby Union Football Club. He had served in the Army in the 1939-45 war, had been a prisoner of the Japanese and survived the Burma Road ordeal. Jill and John have three children. The oldest is Rosemary Loder (1954) who married in 1979 Roger Grandin Chapman (1952). Their child is Eric Grandin (1983). Rosemary holds a Diploma of Teaching and Roger a Bachelor of Economics degree. They live in Canberra.

John and Jill Wilkinson's second child is Jeremy John who was born on Thursday Island in 1956. He graduated BA, Dip Ed. and, like the present writer, used to be a master on the staff of Shore. When Jeremy left, the School Magazine (77), in a farewell article, explained that he had decided to make 'a 180° turn in his career path' and joined Qantas 'in pursuit of a long-cherished dream to see the world on the cheap'. He had been on the staff four years and earned the reputation which the article describes as the English Department's 'most popular and enthusiastic member'. 'His sympathies were always with the oppressed: the more hopeless, irredeemable or ineducable a boy was the more likely Jeremy would be... to want to teach him.' High praise indeed, in the opinion of the present writer.

The youngest of this Wilkinson family is Alister Richard (1959). He is a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Literature and also holds a Diploma of Education. He too, is teaching at an independent school, Barker College, Hornsby. This ends the list of the descendants (so far) of Eric McWilliam.

Eric's younger brother was Ian (also known as 'Jack'). He was born in 1904 and attended Sydney Grammar School. He became a Company Director and married Philomena Maude Westhoven (1904) from Perth. Ian McWilliam died in 1951. His widow is currently living at Taree, NSW. Ian and Philomena had four children, the only boy being Peter who was born in 1928 at Wellington, New Zealand. In 1953 he married Wendy Anne Hanna (1931). Peter is a Company Director, having recently transferred to Melbourne where he is developing another business. He has had special success with the production of plastics. Peter and Wendy McWilliam have five children, the eldest being Peter Leslie (1954) who married in 1978 Kerrie Anne Mills (1957). They have three children: Eloise Leslie (1980), Eamon Eoin (1982) and Ryan Barton (1985). Peter gained a Farm Management Diploma and lives at Mangrove Mountain, NSW. The next offspring of Peter, senior, is Anthony John ('Tony') (1955). He married Belinda May Mills (1961) in 1983. Tony has a Diploma of Plastic Engineering and manages his father's Sydney firm. Tessa Anne (1957) is the third of Peter and Wendy McWilliam's children. She trained as a nursing sister and married Barton Sinclair Dixon (1951) who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in accountancy, though Tessa says he is a Jack of All Trades. She writes:-

Bart's from the land (sheep) and has spent most of his time working out of doors. Eighteen months ago we started to work our way around Australia... Se far we have only seen and worked in Queensland. Bart has built dams, done sheep work and grader driving and I have worked as a nursing sister and camp cook.

Tessa and Bart have a farm at Cooma 'which runs a few sheep'.

Phillip Colin McWilliam (1964) is the next child of Peter and Wendy. He lives in the family home at St Ives as does his youngest sibling, Fiona Louise (1968) who is (1985) still at school. Tessa Dixon gives some more detail about the various members of the family. She writes (24.12.1985):-



My father, Peter, was born in Wellington, New Zealand, as his father, Ian, was working over there at that time ... He was educated at Riverview College and went into his father's business in his mid-twenties, after trying numerous things from shooting crocodiles in New Guinea to an import and export business... My eldest brother, Peter (Leslie), worked on the land (cattle) for a couple of years and studied courses in between. Peter now works with my other brothers, Tony and Phillip, in the family business. The two last entered into the family business after leaving school. Tony finished a Plastic Engineering course and Phillip is in the process of studying Business Management... I trained as a nurse at Royal North Shore and after travelling overseas settled and worked in the Canberra/Cooma area.

The eldest child of Ian McWilliam and Philomena is Joan Elizabeth, who was born at St Kilda, Victoria, in 1925. In 1946 she married Samuel Charles Frederick ('Fred') North. Fred was born at Singleton, NSW, in 1919. Joan writes: 'We were married at St Philip's, Church Hill (York Street, Sydney) in May 1946 and did wish that Uncle Horace ... would marry us.' It would have been with regret that Horace was unable to perform the ceremony. Fred served in the 13th Battalion, Second AIF (Lieutenant) and went through Tobruk, Alamein and the Pacific Islands campaigns and was Mentioned in Despatches. On his return he paralleled this outstanding War service by engaging in some thirty years of community work for which he received an OM. He was thirty years on the Board of the Manning River District Hospital, some 17 years of which as Chairman. Joan writes: 'Whilst now retired, having sold his business two years ago, he is still busy as a Director of the Greater Newcastle Building Society, Legacy, etc. I am very proud of him.' As indeed she has every right to be, one is constrained to comment. Joan and Fred's home town is Taree, on the Manning River, one of NSW's main mid-North Coast rivers. Philomena had been living with them, but has recently moved to a retirement village nearby.

The first of Joan and Fred North's children is Sally Elizabeth (1948) who has a BA degree. She married Allen Scot Crawford (1943) in 1971 at Taree. Born in Launceston, Allen possesses a Bachelor of Commerce degree and is presently Finance Director of St Martins Properties. Joan North says of him: 'He is always on the go to Melbourne, Perth or overseas and happily able to take Sally with him on many occasions.' Sally and Allen have two children, Abby Jane Crawford (1971) and Josephine Elizabeth Crawford (1973). The Crawford family lives at Lindfield, Sydney. The Norths' only son is Samuel Charles who was born at Taree in 1951. In 1976 he married Janice ('Jan') Elizabeth Freedman (1951). Jan was born in Newcastle and holds a Bachelor of Special Education qualification and is currently a lecturer at Newcastle University. Sam is an A Grade Journalist with the Newcastle Herald. He is to be congratulated on winning a couple of months ago a plaque and cheque for \$2000. The prize was presented at Canberra and it was the National Press Club award for the best story of the year. Sam and Jan live in the Newcastle suburb of Merewether and have two children: Blainey Elizabeth (1978) and Samuel Joseph (1980).

Diana Mary is the youngest child of the Norths. She, too, was born in Taree, in 1955. She was occupied as a Legal Secretary when in 1976 she married Stephen Taylor (1944), a schoolteacher with a BSc degree who is at present acting Headmaster of Enmore High School (Sydney). The Taylors live at Waverton, a Lower North Shore Sydney suburb, and they, too, have two children, Nicholas ('Nicky') (1978) and Jessica Kate (1979). Thus Joan and Fred North have a neatly symmetrical posterity of three pairs of grandchildren.



Joan finishes her family account by writing: 'The three girls combined to give us a Fortieth Wedding Anniversary party at Sally's home last May (1986), a sitdown dinner for which they did all the cooking. It really was a tremendous effort and a lot of fun for us all, so you can see how lucky we have been. Long may it continue.' Indeed !

The next offspring of Ian and Philomena McWilliam is Wendy. She was born in 1926 and in 1947 married Ronald Allen (1920) who is now retired. They, too, have three children, Garry (1948), Amanda (1953) and Mary Anne (1955). Garry married in 1977 Gaye Lillington and they have two girls, Emilee (1979) and Melissa (1981). Amanda married David Halloran in 1975 and their family consists of three, Olivia Gai (1978), Edwina (1979) and Sam (1981). Mary Anne married a man by the name of Clarke and they had two children, Claudia Jane (1979) and Tim (1981). After divorce she married Richard Martin in 1985.

Ian and Philomena's youngest is Diana. She wrote an interesting letter, saying inter alia:

I always liked my father's family very much as a child, but lost contact with them when I was about 12... my father died when I was about 17, suddenly. Now here I am...remembering him so clearly and with, still, so many regrets - he was a gentle person and he loved me as I loved him. So you see I rather treasure the contact with Joan Payne (my father's cousin).

Diana ('Danny') Maude was born in 1930 and, like so many McWilliams of an earlier generation, the place of her birth was Christchurch, New Zealand. She trained as a nursing sister and then in 1956 married Herbert Gunther Rudolf Tiede at St Philip's Church, Church Hill, York Street, Sydney. Herb. was born at Stralsund, Germany, in 1927 and is a Cabinet Maker. He had a joinery and furniture business in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, from 1957 until the time of that country's independence. Diana and Herb. then moved to Western Australia where the children were at University. First they settled at Geraldton and then after five years to their present location 'at Kalamunda, in the hills behind Perth.' Diana goes on: 'It is very quiet and pretty and reminds us a little of Port Moresby. Herb. and I are very happy here and the children come and go. They are all great travellers...'

The eldest of Diana and Herb's four children is Annabelle Diana Elizabeth Tiede. She was born at Port Moresby in 1958 and is the holder of a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Western Australia. Annabelle is engaged in Social Work on a roving basis at the moment, doing locums and seeing Australia at the same time. She expects to settle in Melbourne later this year. Danny and Herb's eldest son is an Air Traffic Controller. Like all his siblings he was born in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea and the year was 1960. He is Andrew Herbert Rudolf Tiede. In his professional work he is moved to various locations as he is needed and has been in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Perth. Presently he is stationed at Port Hedland. His wife is Kari (nee Stauborg) who was born in Perth. They were married in 1984.

Angela Lisa Tiede is the younger daughter and was born in 1962. Like her sister she holds a BA degree from the University of Western Australia and is currently a buyer for Myers in Melbourne. The youngest of the four Tiede children is Anthony Johann Ian who was born in 1963. He possesses a Certificate of Mechanical Engineering and is at the moment a student pilot.

The fourth of the seven children of Fred and Maudie McWilliam was Jean Rosalie. She was born in 1906 and seemed to cope readily with a slight physical deformity.



She married three times and had four children. Her first husband was Percival Charles Weekes. They married in 1925; their eldest child is Pamela Helen (1926) who in 1952 married Tim Weston (1927). They have since divorced. There are two children of the marriage, Shane Timothy (1955) and Helen Louise (1965). Pam lives at Manly Vale and leads a busy, productive life, being active in animal welfare and voluntary work for the elderly, such as meals-on-wheels. She is a dynamic member of the committee organising the first 'John and Rebecca McWilliam Reunion' gathering (1987). Pam's younger sister is Barbara (1929). She has married twice. The first time to Thomas Chisholm Cook (1907). Their child is Andrew Thomas Cook (1960) who is married to Catherine (nee Wageman) (1958). Andrew has the distinction of having been both School Captain and Dux of the Manly Primary School. He went on to Mosman Preparatory School which enters this history again in connection with the names of Evans and Yarnold. Mr Bradley was Headmaster of 'Mosman Prep.' in Andrew's time. Andrew's paternal forebear, Samuel Cook, was, interestingly enough, General Manager of the Sydney Morning Herald until the early part of this century. He is said to have been the first man in Australia to have achieved 200 words per minute in Pitman shorthand. He introduced the first typesetting machine to the Herald. Andrew also reports that he was related to Sir Douglas Mawson. Barbara's second husband is Arthur John Barrett (1937). They live at Beacon Hill, Sydney.

The only son of Jean and Percival Weekes is Peter (1931). He is a marine engineer and also an (unpaid) Trade Union official. His work involves him mainly with tugs. When his mother remarried Peter changed his name to Baird. This is how Peter describes himself:

I am a marine engineer, employed as a Chief Engineer in Fenwick Tugs, which are a wholly owned subsidiary of Brambles Industries. That is my major occupation; however, I am also the Sydney and New South Wales secretary of the Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers. This is the Trade Union that covers marine engineers employed in all Australian merchant ships, all large Australian tugs, Manly ferries and hydrofoils, plus some grades of power Engineers in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, power generation, power engineers in some oil refineries, plus a hospital engineer here and there. We also cover the marine engineers employed in most dredges and all the offshore oilrig tender vessels, oil drilling rigs, self-propelled and non-self-propelled... I am also the Federal Treasurer and a member of the Federal Executive of the AIMPE and am elected by secret ballot every three years. The ballot is conducted by the Commonwealth Electoral Office. I have faced three elections. All these positions are honorary. It's really a team effort and I am very proud of our organisation, which has done more for me than ever I could do for it.

Peter married Anna Boersma (1933) who was born in Holland at a town by the name of Coevorden on the river Vechte near the West German border. Their wedding took place in 1956 and they live at Elanora Heights, Sydney. Peter tells of his wife:-

Anna, my wonderful wife, isn't letting herself vegetate; for the past three years she has been attending the Adult Education system; two years English studies and this year she is studying Australian History. It's a one full day a week at the Narrabeen Community Centre and these classes were specially set up for people whose first language is not English. I must say that in my opinion they are a great success and am sometimes jealous that I am not going with her. She has met a marvellous group of women from all sorts of countries. Most of them are like ourselves, with partners from other cultures and with grown children... If ever I retire I am going to get right into that kind of learning.



Peter and Anna have six children. The eldest is Marian (1956) and she has a Bachelor of Education (Hons) degree from the University of Sydney and is engaged in university lecturing. She is married to Ian Grey (1956). He holds a Master of Education degree and is currently an industrial officer. Marian has retained her maiden name of Baird. Ian recently (May 1986) visited India, having had the distinction of being awarded a Duke of Edinburgh sponsored Commonwealth Study Tour. Marian's father writes of her:-

Marian, apart from having two beautiful daughters (Alexandra, born 1982 and Rosemary, born 1984), is teaching, I should say lecturing I am reminded, at Nepean College of Advanced Education on the Westmead campus. Her subjects are Economic Geography and Business Management (Industrial Relations). She is at the College about 25 hours a week, I think, and of course the girls spend time with their grandmothers and childcare centre at Paramatta. It is Marian's intention to do a PhD and she has been accepted...

Peter and Anna Baird's eldest son is Stephen (1963) who was born at Manly. His father writes of him:-

He is a Junior Engineer officer in TNT and at present his ship is the TNT 'Alltrans'. She trades between Gladstone, Queensland, Bluff, New Zealand and Bell Bay, Tasmania and then to Bunbury, WA. His voyage pattern varies on occasions but that's the general run of it. He is away for six or eight weeks and home for the same period.

Peter describes the remainder of his family as follows:-

Naomie starts a new job on Monday. She joins Pfaff, the sewing machine people. She is nineteen (born 1966) and it's a wonderful step up for her. She will be a representative and instructor. The advancement will be quite demanding for her but I am sure she is mature enough to really make a huge success of her field.

Rebecca is just 18 (born 1968) and is a full-time student at the Sydney College of the Arts and she has just finished half of the first semester. She is studying for a BA in Visual Arts and her majors are Drawing, Printing, Glass (Ceramics), Woodcarving and Sculpture, plus Painting and Art History. This will lead eventually to her becoming an Art Teacher. I understand that these graduates are in great demand in the television and advertising industry. The whole period is three years for the degree, plus one year for the Diploma of Education. I understand that the College is associated with the University of Sydney.

Daniel (born 1970) is doing year eleven at St Augustines, Brookvale. He is an excellent student and I'll encourage him to do a degree. Matthew (born 1972) is in Year 8 at St Augustines. He knows exactly what he is going to be, a carpenter. Why not! Both his grandfathers were... I must say that I am very pleased with St Augustines. All the girls went to Mater Maria at Warriewood. That's a Good Samaritan College and an excellent school.

Not all fathers are so proud of their families and their achievements, but perhaps Peter has more to enthuse about!

The second husband of Jean (nee McWilliam) was John Arthur Baird. They married in 1935 and they had one child, John Arthur Campbell Baird (1942). Sadly he died aged 38 in 1980. John married twice. His first wife was Jan Dunbar and his second Susan. The second marriage was in 1977. In 1952 Jean married her third husband who was Albert Henry Wilson. Jean died in 1980.



The fifth child of Fred and Maudie McWilliam was in her day quite famous. She was Alice Mary who was always known as 'Mollie'. She married Thomas Henry Kelly at St James Church of England, Balmain in 1933, Rev. A.G. Rix the celebrant. The wedding ceremony was followed by a luncheon party at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron at Kirribilli. They had no issue. Mollie's achievements were outstanding, particularly in the directions of horse-riding, ice-skating and mountain climbing. She rode in every Royal Easter Show at Sydney for many years in a variety of events, including jumping and dressage. Her sister, Nell Cohen, writes of her:-

Her accomplishments in that area (horse-riding) were many and earned for her a great respect from all who knew her. The Trophies and Ribbons she won were prized and treasured by Mollie and all the family. One and all were proud of her. She was noted as Australia's Number One horsewoman at the time of her achievements. Ice-skating was another sport in which she excelled and was a member of the Ice Hockey team, playing interstate matches frequently.

To show that Nell's eulogy was more than sisterly hubris, here is what The Masonic Club Journal of 15.8.1930 had to say about the lady. After extolling the exploits of Miss Amy Johnson (aviatrix), it goes on:-

We cannot overlook the success of our own Sydney girl, Miss Mollie McWilliam. Without neglecting other branches of sport, she has attained a degree of prominence in the equestrian world which has few parallels. She took her first riding lessons at the early age of six years, and four years later made her first appearance and gained her first success in the Sydney Royal Agricultural Show when she took third prize in a competition for girl riders. Since then she has been a regular competitor in this and many other shows, both close to Sydney and in far country centres. Her success is shown in a splendid display of trophies of all kinds to the number of 300, won in the comparatively few years she has held her popular place in the public eye. As recently as last RA Show in Sydney she annexed three firsts, five seconds and three thirds in different events, as well as carrying off the Grand Champion trophy in the pony mare class. At Mudgee Show this year she earned further distinction by riding Mr J Masters' horses to victory.

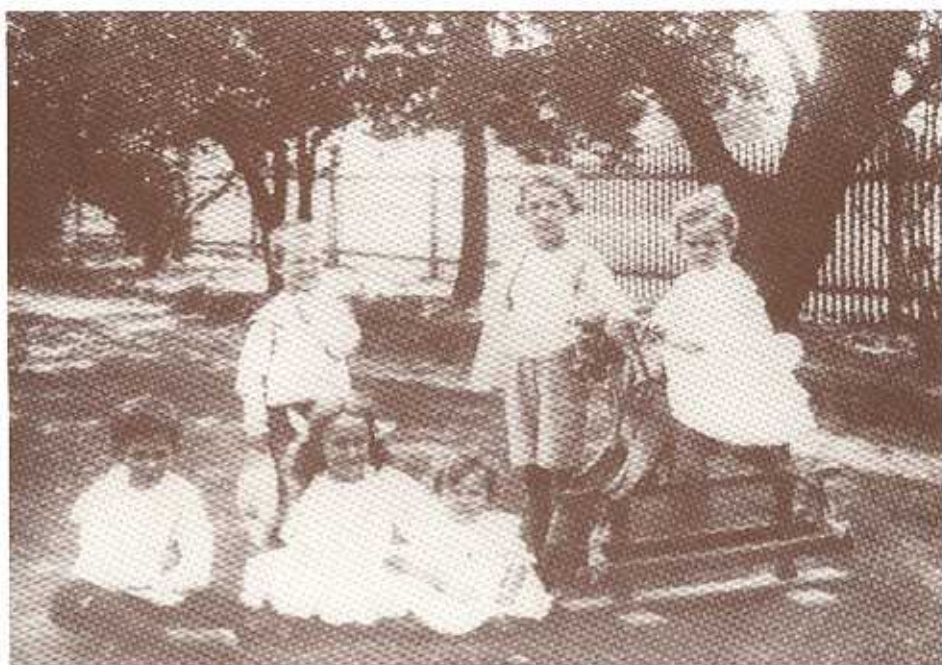
And herein lies the secret of Miss McWilliam's success among horses. An inherited instinct for horsemanship has been developed by a deep love for the animal which she has made her companion...

Mollie was the first woman to climb the summit of Mt Kosciusko (together with her friend Esme Shenstone) and was awarded a gold medal for this feat by the NSW Skiing Association. She was, of course, very proud of it and correspondingly distressed when it was stolen from her home in her last years in the course of a burglary. Mollie died in 1978. Her husband, Thomas Kelly, had attended Eton and Oxford University. He still lives in the Sydney suburb of Leumeah.

The youngest of the children of Fred and Maudie McWilliam is Eleanor Margaret, always known as 'Nell'. She is the only one of this family still alive (1986). She was born on 18 February 1915 at the family home in Kogarah, Sunnyside (see page 77). She married Roy Herbert Cohen at St Anne's, Strathfield in 1942. Roy who was born in 1913 and who attended Fort Street High School was a company executive. Roy and Nell were divorced. They have two children. Janine Margaret was born at Camperdown in 1949 and married David Cameron Hazlett (1946) in 1970. He is a company director. They have four children. The oldest is Andrew Cameron, born in 1971. At present he is a boarder at The King's School, Parramatta. Sarah Elizabeth (1973) is the eldest



The Fred McWilliam Children  
in the grounds of 'Sunnyside'  
c. 1908. L to R: Charles, Ian,  
Ruth, Molly, Eric and Jean.

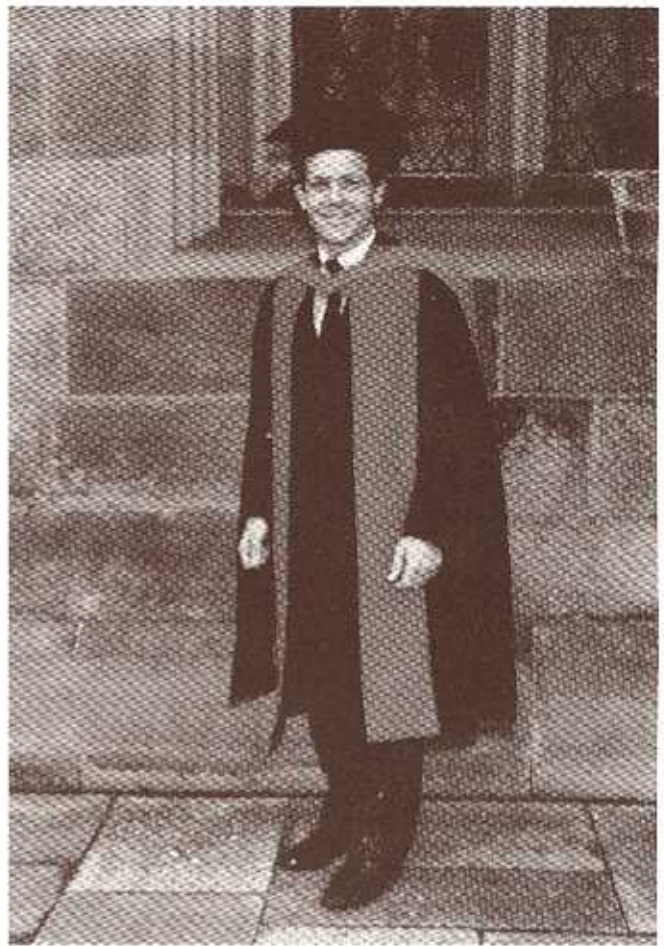


Their Uncle, Horace McWilliam,  
on his 80th birthday. 1957.



Alice Mary ('Mollie') Kelly (nee  
McWilliam) at Sydney's Royal  
Easter Show. c. 1940.





Above left: Gwen Allman (nee Evans) and Barbara Golder (nee Levick).  
 Above right: Barbara's son, Jeffrey, just having received his doctorate (PhD).



Left: Gwen's elder brother, Hallen aged 13 mths.



girl and her two younger sisters are Rebekah Jane (1974) and Georgina Margaret (1980). Janine and David were divorced in 1985. Janine lives in the picturesquely situated and historic Bellfield Farm at Rossmore on Sydney's south-west outskirts. Both Nell and Janine are keen workers on the Reunion organising committee.

The second of Nell Cohen's children is Alison Jane who was born in 1951. She married Terry Sofopoulos who was born in Egypt but is of Greek extraction. They have one child, Alexandra Elizabeth, born in 1979.

Thus we come to the end of the long line of Fred and Maudie McWilliam's seven children, 16 grandchildren, and 35 great-grandchildren and (so far!) 10 great-great-grandchildren.