

CHAPTER 18

The Descendants of Emily Cunningham

Emily (nee McWilliam) and her first husband, James Cunningham had ten children. Her second marriage to James's elder brother, Richard, resulted in no issue - and, as has been described in Chapter 11, connubial breakdown. What follows is an account of as much as is known by the present writer about the ten offspring of Emily and James. They were Frederick, Leonard, Etta, Violet, Hilda, Reginald, Cecil (?), Ivy, Edith and Lovina ('Vena').

The eldest son and the first child of Emily and James Cunningham was Frederick, known as 'Fred'. He would have been born in about the second half of the year 1870, for he is shown as being 52 when his mother died in June 1923. He was a 'fine man', reports his nephew, Scott Harkness. Although he married, he died without issue.

The next Cunningham offspring was Leonard ('Len'). He was probably born in 1871. He was manager of a large hardware firm in Auckland by the name of Wingates. He was said to have been a particularly fine man. He married and had five children: Noel, Elsma, Reginald, Jack and Val. Jack is reported to have done very well in a top Auckland newspaper. He has now passed on, but, it is believed, he is survived by a son. Elsma married RS Macey. She lived in Greenland, Auckland, but has now moved to Hamilton.*

Born about 1872 was the third child and eldest daughter of James and Emily Cunningham. She was Etta Emily Cunningham. She is thought by some to have been named Emily Etta, but documents from the NZ Registrar-General's office show her as Etta Emily, though one records her even as Eva Etta. The copy of the Marriage Certificate of her sister, Ivy, clinches the matter, for she has signed as one of the witnesses - 'Etta E. Wall'. What is certain is that she was always called Etta. In 1895 she married Frank (or Francis) James Wall on 15 October of that year, aged 23, at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Avonside, Christchurch, NZ. Her husband was a year older and his occupation is given as that of Ironmonger, having been born in Wanganui, the son of Silas Wall (carpenter) and Emily (nee Townsend). Frank died in 1908, in his mid-thirties, but Etta lived until about 1942. They had three sons. James Lawrence (also shown as Lawrence James) who was born in 1896 and died the year before his mother, in 1941. He was always called 'Jack'. Etta and Frank's second son was Clive Glover ('Paddy') whose wife is named Connie. Alan Frank ('Snowy') Wall was the youngest, a regular Navy man. Born in 1904 he served in the Navy for most of his active life and was said to have been a great favourite with his acquaintances. In 1937 he married Alice Danks (1920) and they had three girls. He passed on in 1963; Alice lives at Wainue Beach, Gisborne, NZ.

The eldest of the Wall girls is Shirley Dawn (1938). In 1958 she married Leslie Herbert Green (1935) and they have two sons. Shirley writes: 'Stephen Leslie (1961), our elder son is an accountant, living in Auckland. Bryan Frank, our younger son, is at Dunedin University studying law and BA economics.' Aileen Frances (1942) is the second of the Wall daughters. In 1961 she married Noel Sidney ('Sam') Swarbrick (1937). They have a boy and a girl, Peter Alan (1965) and Louise Susan (1968). Cynthia Carol (1943) is the youngest of the three daughters of Alan and Alice Wall. In 1963 she married Lindsay Raymond Nelson (1939). Their three daughters are Pauline Carol (1964), Donna Maree (1966) and Linda Robyn (1967). Cynthia lives in the Sydney

* Two of their four children are John, living in Perth, WA and Brian in Matangi, Hamilton, NZ. Elsma and Russell Macey have two daughters.



Above: I. to R, Vie Brookes (nee Matthews), (small girl) Shirley Wall (now Green), Alan Wall, Eddie Brookes, Alice Wall (Alan's wife). c. 1940.

Right: Etta Wall (nee Cunningham) and her three boys, Alan, James ('Jack') and Clive ('Paddy'). c. 1922.



Below: "My six grandsons", writes Emily Cunningham (nee McWilliam). They are Jack Wall, Alan (on Emily's knee), — Brookes, Stan Brookes, — Brookes and Paddy Wall. (All boys, despite the clothing!)





Above, left: Hilda Rosina Skeates, daughter of Emily Cunningham. Right: Her brother, Reginald Cunningham with his wife Norah and their youngest, Derek, c. 1936.

Below: The Reunion Organising Committee: Ric Havyatt, Joan Lane, Pam Weston, Janine Hazlett, Nell Cohen, Barbara Golder, Ronald McWilliam.



Harbour-side suburb of Cremorne and leads a busy life as presently the manageress of a large accommodation service.

The fourth child of Emily and James Cunningham was Violet May ('Vie'). Born in 1878 she reached the grand old age of 91, dying in April 1969. She married Edwin Stanley Brookes (1872), the brother of Archie Howard Brookes (c.1880) who married her sister, Vena. Vie's 'Good Attendance Certificates' for school attendance at North Canterbury 'Normal Public School' have been proudly preserved. She was awarded the coveted recognition for no less than seven consecutive years, 1884 to 1890. The award was for being 'present every time the school was open, both in the morning and afternoon', for the whole year. What a record of unbroken school attendance - seven years! No wonder she ended up by being DUX of her school! Her granddaughter, Alison Kelso, writes from Rotorua, NZ:-

I remember (my grandmother) well. She told me a story that is very topical this year because of the centenary of the eruption of Mt Tarawera, which we can see from Rotorua. In 1886 the family were living in Christchurch, and my grandma was a little girl of 8. The night of the eruption they were woken by the noise, and they could see the bright red glow in the sky...

Vie and her husband had two children. The elder was Edwin Stanley ('Stan') Brookes (1902) who married Violet Lillian Matthews who is presently living at Howick, NZ, Stan dying in 1973. Their two children are Edwin Stanley ('Lee') (born 1933) and Sandra Joan. Lee married first Patricia Hardcastle in 1955 and then Margaret Jean Stephens in 1968. June Brookes (1956) is the child of the first marriage and Lara Jean (1970) and Anthony Lee (1971) of the second. The other child of Stan and Violet is Sandra Joan (1942). She married Garry Melville-Smith and they have two children, Nicola (1967) and Tracey (1970). Bernice Violet (1912) is the other child of Vie and Edwin Stanley Brookes. In 1938 Bernice married Norman Steventon Shaw (1914-1945) and when he was sadly killed in action in England, Cecil Frederick Green (1904). The child of the first marriage is Alison Jean who in 1962 married an Irishman, William Charles Frederick Kelso (1933). Their four offspring are Michael Charles (1963), Jennifer Anne (1964) and twins Richard James and Stephen James (1967). The two children of Bernice and Cecil Green are also twins, Helen Bernice and Nola Cecily (1946).

We next come to Hilda Rosina Cunningham, the fifth child of Emily and James Cunningham. Born towards the end of the 1870s, she married Philip (Phil) John Skeates in 1903. Her granddaughter, Jackie Randerson, writes:-

The marriage went childless for 14 years until to everyone's delight a child was born. Hilda and Philip had sent telegrams to people for ages signed 'Philda', so it was no surprise when the daughter was so named. No other children were added.

Thus it was that in 1917 Philda Josephine Skeates arrived; she died in 1975. In 1941 she married John Crossman Wills. Jackie tells how on this Wills side

we have the young Englishman, Wills, of the Burke and Wills saga (if they'd have listened to him they'd have survived !).*

Jackie Randerson goes on in reference to the Skeates family:

In terms of fame, nothing spectacular. Good steady family life... My grandmother's husband's family was responsible for bringing the first car into NZ (Skeates & Bockaert).

* See footnote, page 4. # Horace McWilliam left his grandfather's school & in 1888 attended 'the Normal School opposite Latimer Square', Christchurch - doubtless Violet's school. These two cousins would have been there at the same time.

Philda and John Wills had four children. The eldest is Jacqueline Diane (1942), quoted above. She married Rev. John Richard Randerson who is currently the Vicar of the Parish of St Peter, Wellington. Their three children are Rebecca Anne (1971), Joanna Ruth (1973), Jeremy Philip (1976). (Philip) John Crossman Wills (1944) is the second child of Philda and John. He married Janice Nina ('Jenny') Oliver and their three offspring are David John (1968), Jason Oliver (1970) and Daniel Ian (1978). Christopher Stanlake Wills is Philda and John's next. He married Pamela Connor, their two offspring being Simon and Andrea. The youngest of Philda and John is Philippa Rosina Wills. She is married to Wayne Langman and their son is Paul (1985).

More is known about the next child of Emily and James Cunningham because his daughter, Joan, is a generous worker on the committee organising the forthcoming family reunion. He is Reginald Edward Cunningham, known to his contemporaries as 'RE'. He was born about 1882 in Christchurch, NZ. He was a Warehouseman and Company director by occupation and married in Auckland Norah Gladys Timewell. She was born about 1889 in St Albans, England. Reg. died at Palm Beach, Sydney and Norah at Beauty Point, Sydney in November 1956. Reg. and Norah had three children, 'well spaced out'. Joan was born in 1911 at Ponsonby, Auckland and was her father's office secretary after leaving school. She then married Boyd Michael Lane in 1936 at St Michael's, Vaucluse, Sydney. Boyd was born in Brisbane in 1907 and was an importer and Company Director. He died in 1975. Joan lives at the Sydney suburb of Mosman. She and Boyd had three children. The eldest is domiciled at Clontarf, near The Spit, Sydney. He is Robert Boyd Lane and was born in 1937 at Manly. He attended the Sydney Church of England Grammar School and is an accountant by profession and a Company Director by occupation. He married Carole Sims (1940) in the Shore Chapel in 1962 and they had four children. Sadly the first, Adam (1963) died before his first birthday in 1964. Then there is Ross Lane (1965), Anna (1967) and Thomas (1970). The second son of Joan and Boyd Lane is Peter Boyd who was born in 1940. He attended Sydney Grammar School (to be distinguished from the Sydney Church of England Grammar School, which is known as 'Shore' and which his elder brother attended). He then graduated BSc from the University of Sydney and is a Geologist oil Consultant. He married Jan Marks who was born at Parkes, NSW in 1940. She attended school at Wenona, North Sydney. They have four children and live at Cottesloe, Western Australia. The four Peter Lane children are: Jodie (1965), Richard (1967), Paul (1969) and Anthony (1971). Joan and Boyd Lane's third child is Judy, born in 1942 in Manly. She holds a Diplome of Fine Arts from the highly regarded Julian Ashton School of Art. She is a teacher of Art and one of her pupils turned out to be her third cousin, Helen Bradfield (nee McWilliam). It is only a slight exaggeration to say that the recognition of this relationship after the cousins had been acquainted for some time was part-cause of the birth of the idea to set up the forthcoming McWilliam family reunion and the production of this History. Another prompting factor, incidentally, was the same kind of fortuitous recognition of relationship between Pam Weston, Fred McWilliam's granddaughter, and Helen's sister, Margaret Foster (nee McWilliam). These two are second cousins. Judy Lane lives in Mosman and has had a number of exhibitions of her paintings. She married (now divorced) Donald Guy Sigsby (born in 1940 in the United States). He graduated from the University of Michigan in Architecture and currently is a Lecturer in Landscape Design at the University of NSW. Judy and Donald have one child, a daughter, Suzannah (1975). Judy has retained her maiden name.

Reginald and Norah Cunningham's second child is Peter Bruce Cunningham. He was born in 1921. He attended Sydney Grammar School where he distinguished himself at Rugby and rowing (School Colours). He was also a keen Surf Life Saver, being a member of the Queenscliff Club. Like his brother he had a fine record of service in World War II. He was an original member of 2/17 Australian Infantry Battalion (1940)

and served with this Unit until the end of the war in the Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo. He was commissioned as Lieutenant in 1944. Peter's occupation involved him in wholesale furnishings and textiles. He was Victorian manager for Orotan Pty Ltd. He retired to Nicholson, Victoria in July 1975. In 1945 he married Betty Clarke in St Matthew's, Manly. He and Betty have three children. The eldest is Carol who became a secretary and then in 1983 married James Hurley (now divorced). They have one son, Nicholas James, born 1984. Peter and Betty's son is Craig (1949) who is a Real Estate Valuer and operates his own Company. He married Dianne Maree Tuckett (1950) in Melbourne in 1971. They have three children, Daniel Craig (1975), Adam Marc (1980) and Brooke Louise (1983). The third child of Peter and Betty is Joan Elizabeth (1951), a trained Kindergartener. She married a Canadian, (Richard) Ian Lloyd (born in 1953 in Ontario) who is a photographer. They live in Singapore and Joan currently practises her profession of Kindergarten teaching.

Derek Reginald Cunningham (1923) is the youngest of the children of Reg. and Norah. He is a Barrister by profession and rates an entry in Who's Who in Australia. He attended Sydney Grammar and holds a LL B degree from the University of Sydney. He served in the 1939-45 war in the Middle East and New Guinea. He distinguished himself for devotion to duty at the siege of Tobruk and also at the critical advance at El Alamein. He was admitted as a Barrister before the Supreme Court of NSW in 1949. It is interesting to note that he served as Law Clerk to Neville McWilliam in his (Derek's) 'salad days' when reading for the Bar. Derek's father was a first cousin of Neville, consequently, he was 'first cousin once removed' to his mentor. Derek was attached to the legal appointments branch in the Department of Territories and then the Parliamentary Draftsman's Office. Derek became the Chairman of the War Pensions Assessment Appeal Tribunal, Sydney, in 1958 and served in that capacity until 1979. In that year he was appointed Deputy Registrar of the Family Court, Sydney, which position he held until 1982. Derek married twice. His first wife was (Alison) Rosemary Marks and the resulting issue was three girls, all now married. The eldest is Jandra Sue (1950), married to Paul Charles Faranda. Jandra ('Jay') and Paul have two offspring: Melaina-Jane (1971) and Benjamin Paul (1973). Next is Jacqueline Ruth (1952) who married Christopher Harvey Ball and they have three children: twins Kaden Viner and Daniel Christopher (1973) and Jody Kimara (1975). Derek and Rosemary's third daughter is Amanda Jane (1954). She married Michael Francis Midlam and their one son is Nicholas Denys (1974). They all live at, or near Murwillumbah which is about 20km from the northern coast line of NSW near the Queensland border. Jandra writes a propos migrations (from their farm called by the delightful name of 'Serendipity'):-

My sisters and I, and our families, have made our own mini migration from Sydney to Murwillumbah. Although we have lived here for six years now we are still considered "new settlers" - very welcome, but "new" all the same! My husband, Paul, and our two children... and I moved here from Sydney in December 1980 to try our luck farming. Jacqui, Mandy (her sisters) and their children visited, fell in love with the area and moved up. Jacqui lives in the same valley and Mandy in Fernvale, just south of Murwillumbah. And so we contributed to the North Coast population explosion. Five of our children are currently attending Murwillumbah High School, and we thoroughly enjoy the benefits of having our extended family... We're loving farming - my husband, Paul, fortunately has a gift for it. We started with strawberries - and just the two of us picking, packing, marketing etc! That proved exhausting and not very profitable. So now we grow snowpeas and cherry tomatoes and employ quite a number of people...

The scenery here is breathtakingly beautiful and we've come to love our adopted part of the world dearly... It may also interest you that I

am extremely proud to wear as my wedding ring, the wedding ring worn by my grandmother, Norah Cunningham (nee Timewell). It is a simple gold band, worn slightly thin on one side. I gather that my grandparents enjoyed a happy marriage, and I feel very blessed to enjoy a wonderful marriage also...

Derek's second marriage was to Irene Michael in 1963. This union has produced two girls: Donna Theresa Cunningham and Anne Michaela Cunningham.

The whimsical humour of this line of the clan is shown by the invention of an alternative name, or pseudonym, which the family convention has as being SLYBACON, ie sly = cunning, bacon = ham ! This has no reference to what immediately follows. It will be seen that number seven on the list of the children of Emily and James Cunningham is shown as Cecil. If the truth be told it must be admitted that he is placed here in this History because we are ignorant of where else to place him. Cecil Cunningham's life story is unknown and his disappearance is a mystery. Scott Harkness writes of him that 'he cleared out from the Cunningham family at a very early stage, not having been heard of by any of my mother's brothers or sisters since leaving.'

The next child of Emily and James Cunningham was Ivy Rebecca. She was born in Christchurch about 1884 and died in 1954. Her husband was James Jabez ('Jay') Sharman, born circa 1877. He died in 1959. The couple were married on 3 October 1907 in Holy Trinity Church, Devonport, NZ. The occupation of James is shown on a copy of his Marriage Certificate as Smallgoodsman. He was also born in Christchurch, the son of James Lewis Sharman and Harriet Louise (nee Wedderburn). The witnesses who signed the Marriage Register were Cl Harkness, Etta E Wall and Edith Cunningham, all of Devonport. Ivy's second name was, no doubt, after her grandmother's, ie Rebecca McWilliam's. Ivy and 'Jay' had six children, three of whom are still alive today. The eldest was Arthur (1908-1974). In 1947 he married Clementine Wenmoth. The next is Roma (1909). In 1930 she married Alan McLachlan who died in 1962. In 1982 she married Ken Maloney. Peggy McLachlan (1930) was Roma's only issue. In 1955 she married Enzo Giordani and they had four offspring: Toni (1955) who in 1980 married Joanne Crowley, their children being Matthew (1981) and Daniel (1984); Mark Giordani (1959); Nando Giordani (1960) and Anna Giordani (1963). In 1979 Peggy married a second time. Her husband is now Hans Cinjee.

Bert (1911-1967) was the third child of Ivy and Jay Sharman. In 1937 he married Marjory Gough and they had three children. Faye (1937) married in 1959 Ron Coley, their three being Michael, Paul and Glen. Their second child is Robyn (1945) who in 1965 married John Searancke, their three being Grant (1967), Darren (1969) and Tony (1974).^{*} Their third child is Murray (1949). He married in 1969 Lynette Wolfsbaur. Phyllis Sharman (1919) was the fourth offspring of Ivy and Jay. In 1940 she married Cecil Moxon. They have three girls: Jean (1941), her twin Heather and Linda (1953). The twins were both married in 1962, Jean to Robert King, their three offspring being Susan (1963) who in 1986 married Grant Ryan, Peter (1965) and Murray (1968). Heather's husband is Eric Hefford and their three offspring are Bronwyn (1965), John (1967) and Angela (1970). Linda Moxon in 1976 married Jonathan Louch. Owen Sharman (1923-1970) was the fifth child of Ivy and Jay. In 1946 he married Muriel Blackmore and they have two children: Geoffrey (1947) who married Christine Gunning, their children being Alexandra and Amelia, and Christine Sharman (1953). In 1978 she married Lindsay Kennedy, their two being Mark (1982) and Scott (1985). Rae (1924) is the youngest of the children of Ivy and James Jabez Sharman. She lives at Mairangi Bay, Auckland.

Reverting now to the line of the earlier generation, next to Ivy Rebecca Sharman is Edith, the second youngest of the ten children of Emily and James Cunningham. She

^{*} In 1983 Robyn married for the second time: Her husband is now Colin Love.

was always known as 'Edie'; she married Charles Irvine Harkness. They had six children. Christened Edith Crowe, she was born in 1885 and her wedding took place in 1908. Her husband was born in 1883. Their eldest was Joyce (1909), born at Pahiatua, NZ. She married in 1931 Stanley Reeder Harris who was born in 1910 at Mangonui, NZ. Stanley was a farmer and is now retired. Joyce is most interested in, and knowledgeable about, family affairs and has contributed much information to this History. She says of her Cunningham aunts: 'They were dainty, well-dressed women who talked a lot among themselves. To be truthful I never could really understand them.' Her brother, Jim, blames their strict upbringing for these traits... Joyce goes on with this delightful glimpse of her grandmother, Emily, and Emily's father, John McWilliam:

My Grandmother surely was very fond of me and what little money she had paid for my first year at boarding school in Wellington. She hated Catholics and told me once she could remember watching her father lead a march for Orange Day and the Irish came and knocked him down with a shillelagh.

The two children of Joyce and Stanley are Rodney Reeder Harris (1946), born at Remuera, NZ, and Judith Reeder Harris (1939). Rodney lives in the USA (Florida) where he is a professional tennis coach. Judith married in 1965 (Edgar) Donald Stotter (1942) and they live at Rotorua, NZ. Their two are Craig (1968) and Joanne (1971).

Joyce's next younger brother was Joe (Joseph) Harkness who has now passed on. He was a Dermatologist and married Dorothy Quinell. They had no issue. Another son of Edie and Charles Harkness is Jim. He was christened James and was born in 1912. An accountant by profession, in 1934 he married May Florence Holmes (1916). They have three children: Hazel, John and Brian. Hazel was born in 1935 and is married to Ian Rutherford Stichbury. They have three children: Erin Irene, Kay Marie who in 1981 married Othello Horvarth, and Cail Frances. The second offspring of Jim and May Harkness is John James, born in 1938. He married Glenis Crutch and they have three children: Robyn, Geoffrey Grant and Toni Harkness. Jim's youngest is Brian Roberts Harkness who married Barbara Siddal. They have two children: Aaron and Nigel.

James's younger brother was Ian McWilliam Harkness. Born in 1913 and always known as 'Mack', he passed away quite recently, on 26.9.1985, to be exact. He lived in Christchurch, NZ, and was 'very active on the Stock Exchange', according to his younger brother, Scott. In fact he had just sold his seat on the Stock Exchange before he died of a heart attack following an operation. There was a 'very big funeral', writes his sister, Joyce, for 'he seems to have been very well known.' In 1946 Mack married Marjory Field (1919) at Christchurch and three children were born to them. Diana (1947) is married to Patrick Harris; Euan (1949) married Susan Hyamson and Wendy (1954) who married Alwyn Harvey.

The next scion of Edie and Charles Harkness is Scott. The provenance of his name is interesting. Close family friends of Edie and Charles were Mr and Mrs Bill Scott. So close was the friendship, in fact, that when their child was born they gave him the name of Scott. Three and a half years later the Bill Scotts' daughter was born (1921). She was Deirdre. In due time, 1946 to be exact, Scott Harkness married Deirdre Scott. Scott was born in 1917 and enlisted in the Army in World War II. He served with his brother Mack. He writes:-

He and I spent four years of the Second World War together in the Middle East and Italy which brought us very close to each other, as you might imagine.

He says of himself:-

I have had quite a colourful career when I look back on it... Following

the War, (I set about) re-instating myself in civilian life following the sale of our stud herd of Jersey cattle and farm while away in the Middle East. I joined a large Stock and Station Agency firm, developed myself to head auctioneer and after five years became senior district manager, plus auctioneering until I retired in 1978. Lots of fun and sometimes trying times in that career. I have bred and raced several racehorses and one, Miss Sophisticate, a cracker, and now all her six progeny have been winners, her first, Trade Away, racing very successfully in Victoria, winning some eleven races. I am still breeding a few on my farm here with moderate success and enjoy it. I am doing rural Real Estate and Valuations with my Company, Dalgety Crown, the farm and business keeping me very busy.

Went for a trip (to) Singapore, England, Ireland and some of the Continent on my own in 1982, enjoying every bit of it...

Scott and Deirdre live in Palmerston North. Their eldest son is Ian Scott Harkness, born in 1947. He is now an executive representative for the large AMP Insurance Company 'which position he enjoys immensely', his father adds. Ian and his wife have two children, Darryn William Scott (1972) and Jodi May (1974). The family lives in the Auckland suburb of Brown's Bay. The only daughter of Scott and Deirdre Harkness is Barbara Deirdre (1949) who is married to Andrew McLennan. Andrew's grandfather was the late Sir Philip Belmont Charley who was President of the NSW Royal Agricultural Society. Andrew has established his own designing business, planning buildings for some of the large industrial companies, plus homes for a variety of people. Barbara works part-time in the office. With the raising of her two young daughters she leads a very busy life. The daughters are Amber Rose (1977) and Amy Alexandra (1980). Bruce William is the next offspring of this Harkness family. Born in 1953, he is a Parks and Reserves foreman of the famous Botanical Gardens in Wellington. He holds a diploma in Horticulture from NZ's biggest University, Massey. For the past two years he has become a well-known TV personality, conducting weekly gardening and horticultural sessions. Bruce is married and has one child, Timothy Russell (1985). The youngest of the Scott Harkness family is Ross Warren (1959). He is a senior instructor and supervisor of a works scheme in Palmerston North.

Duncan Harkness (born 1925) is the youngest of the offspring of Edith and Charles Harkness. In fact, in his own words:-

I am the youngest person of my generation living, this pertaining to both the Harkness and Cunningham sides of the family. I had a very serious illness in 1981 and haven't worked since, so really I had an early retirement. I suffered a cerebral haemorrhage which is 98% a certain killer (eg Princess Grace of Monaco). However, I am practically fully recovered and consider myself to be the youngest sixty year old in New Zealand... I am vice president of our local stroke club which enables me to help less fortunate people than myself. I luckily have not suffered paralysis or speech defect so am extremely fortunate.

Duncan goes on to give the following information. He was born at Nelson, South Island and his mother, Edie, at Christchurch. She married Charles Harkness at Devonport, a suburb of Auckland. Duncan's doctor has told him it would be unwise to travel by air, for good medical reasons. Duncan comments:-

This seems quite unusual to me as my sport was sailplane flying, so I am a type of pilot in my own right.

William McWilliam, the uncle of all the children of Emily, his sister, was particularly fond of one of them. She was the youngest and was named Lovina ('Vena')

and his affection for her lasted all his life. Although living mostly in Sydney in his latter days, he visited Vena in New Zealand on several occasions. He often spoke of her and praised her fine qualities. In his Memoirs, Horace McWilliam, writing about his father after Rosina's death, relates (77):-

He (William) paid a visit to Auckland, to one of his niece's home (Vena), a daughter of my Aunt Emily - his sister. This amiable young woman and her very kind husband (Jack Weatherell) who was a highly respected Chemist in Auckland, invited my Father to visit them whenever he cared to come. He decided to go over to them for a prolonged holiday...

Vena married twice. Her first husband was Archie Brookes (c.1880), the brother of the husband of Vena's sister, Violet. They had three children, Howard, Archie and Jack. In 1980 Scott Harkness reported that Archie 'was roaming Australia the last I heard of him.' In fact Archie is settled in Casino, NSW and on 22.9.1986 he wrote:-

My father was Archie Howard Brookes aged about 30 when he was drowned while officer aboard the Wimmera which hit a mine 27th July 1918. He married Lovina (Vena) Aveline Phyllis Cunningham (born 9th March 1892). She died on March 28th 1938. She had four sons: Howard (died in infancy), myself, Archie Hovey Brookes, born Sept, 13th 1913, Jack Gordon Brookes, born 23rd Nov 1917, died Aug 1983 (so I heard), married Grace Busby 1943 after 3 years Middle East service. Mother re-married John Weatherell and their son, Keith, (my half-brother) married June Pepperell... I am married for the second time... I served four years during the war (with the Army) in North Africa and Italy.

Joyce Harris writes of Lovina: 'Vena was the youngest of the family, much younger than my mother (Edith) - I remember well when she died (very suddenly). She was a pretty, vivacious person.' Vena lived only to the age of 47. She was buried in the Hillsborough Cemetery. Her youngest son by her first marriage, Jack Gordon Brookes and his wife, Grace, had six children. The eldest, Jennifer (1945) married Peter Hollis (1944) in 1968. They live at Junee, NSW, and have two children: Brendon (1968) and Peta (1971). The other children of Jack and Grace are Roger (1949), Linda (1951) who married Bruce Osborne, Christine (1954) who married Robert Harrison,* Jacquelyn Robin (1960) and Stephanie (1961) who married David Metcalf. She and David live at Rose Bay Sydney.

Vena and her second husband, John Weatherell, were married at the Presbyterian Manse, Pirie Street, Wellington, in July 1920. Their son, Keith, actually John Keith, was born in 1924. In 1948 he married June Pepperell (1925) at St Bride's Church, Otorohanga. June was born at Awatuma, NZ and has kindly supplied the details given here. Their son, Dennis (1949) in 1973 married Cayle Carter and their three offspring are Matthew (1975), Nathan (1978) and Ryan (1982). The daughter of Keith and June is (Patricia) Anne (1951), who married Kelwyn Tinsley. Their children are Jason (1970) and Brent (1975). Dennis was an electrician in Otorohanga but sold his business and bought an orchard with a shop at the front at Ohauupo. Anne is a receptionist at the Waikato Hospital and her husband, Kelwyn is a plumber-drain-layer.

This is the end of the long, long list of those traced of the descendants of Emily and James Cunningham, those lovers, this History surmises, back in Ireland about 125 years ago. The count is - children 10, grandchildren traced 30; great-grandchildren traced 51; great-great-grandchildren traced 84; great-great-great-grandchildren traced 2.

As the history of this family comes to a close, thoughts turn to the progenitors

* Linda's child is Angela (1978); Christine's two are Reuben (1976) and Tiana (1979).

and the large progeny and the fine achievements attained by many of them. Like all histories the final chapter is never written, for we live in a world without end. As the line of the posterity goes on the hope is that the inspiration of uprightness, community service and the pursuit of truth and learning handed on and developed to a fuller perfection by John and Rebecca McWilliam, their son, William, his sisters Mary Fantham and Emily Cunningham will continue down the generations of the future. It is a pity that even the names of four of their siblings are unknown. The three, in addition to John (Junior), whose names and little else are within our ken, are firstly 'Maggie', presumably Margaret Moore (see page 36); Lucy Kennard who with her family lived in Christchurch and Rebecca McWilliam. It was Rebecca who, sadly, died (1878) as the result of injuries sustained from a fall from a horse. The photographs of two of these three have been preserved, which is some slight satisfaction.

In conclusion, let us praise the achievements of the many of our forebears who have dared much and overcome great obstacles to live a worthwhile life, such as Neville McWilliam, Geoff Sim, Duncan Harkness and countless others, and at the same time honour the memory of those family members who made the supreme sacrifice, Harry Geoffrey Havyatt, David McWilliam and Denys Levick. By keeping alive their memory we of the posterity will be, in the words of Joseph Addison on the flyleaf, doing something for our forebears. We owe them much; those of us who come after have the privilege and the responsibility to hand on the torch with its flame of virtuous living, held and carried so faithfully by so many, to the generations yet to come.

Reference

(77) McWilliam, Horace. Page 86. See (66), page 39.