

# The Driscoll Family of Howick, New Zealand

An overview of the descendants of Florence Driscoll,  
who served in the 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> Regiments of the British Army  
and the Royal New Zealand Fencible Corps.



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First published 2021 by  
James J. Cosgrave  
Parksville, British Columbia, Canada

1<sup>st</sup> edition – June 2021

2<sup>nd</sup> edition – September 2022

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Front cover: 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion of settlers from ship *Sir George Seymour*, which arrived in New Zealand in 1847 (Bridget Brady, nee Driscoll, is 2<sup>nd</sup> from right in front row)

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# Table of Contents

Introduction .....	4
Chapter 1 – Florence Driscoll and Elizabeth Gibbons.....	6
Chapter 2 – Catherine Driscoll .....	9
Chapter 3 – Mary Driscoll and James Willis.....	11
Chapter 4 – Bridget Driscoll and James Brady .....	14
Chapter 5 – William James Brady and Angelina Hacker White.....	17
Chapter 6 – Margaret Brady and Cornelius O’Donoghue .....	19
Chapter 7 – Elizabeth Brady and Robert Samuel Alward .....	21
Chapter 8 – Justine Ursula Brady and Vivian John Cosgrave.....	23
Chapter 9 – Veronica Brady and David Samson.....	26
Chapter 10 – James Edward Cosgrave & Kathleen V. Sherlock.....	27
Chapter 11 – George Steele Cosgrave .....	32
Chapter 12 – DNA Testing .....	34
References.....	36

## Introduction

The Driscoll surname originates in County Cork in Ireland, the ancestral land of the O'Driscoll sept, and is therefore common in that area. This document is focussed on the descendants of my Driscoll ancestor who was born in Cork, served in the British Army in the 1800s & later in the Royal New Zealand Fencible Corps, and is intended to provide a general overview of the many descendant branches of our Driscoll family tree. There will be more information on my immediate family, and their story, as that is what I am most familiar with, but I hope that it will also provide a better understanding of the other descendant lines, and how we are all related.

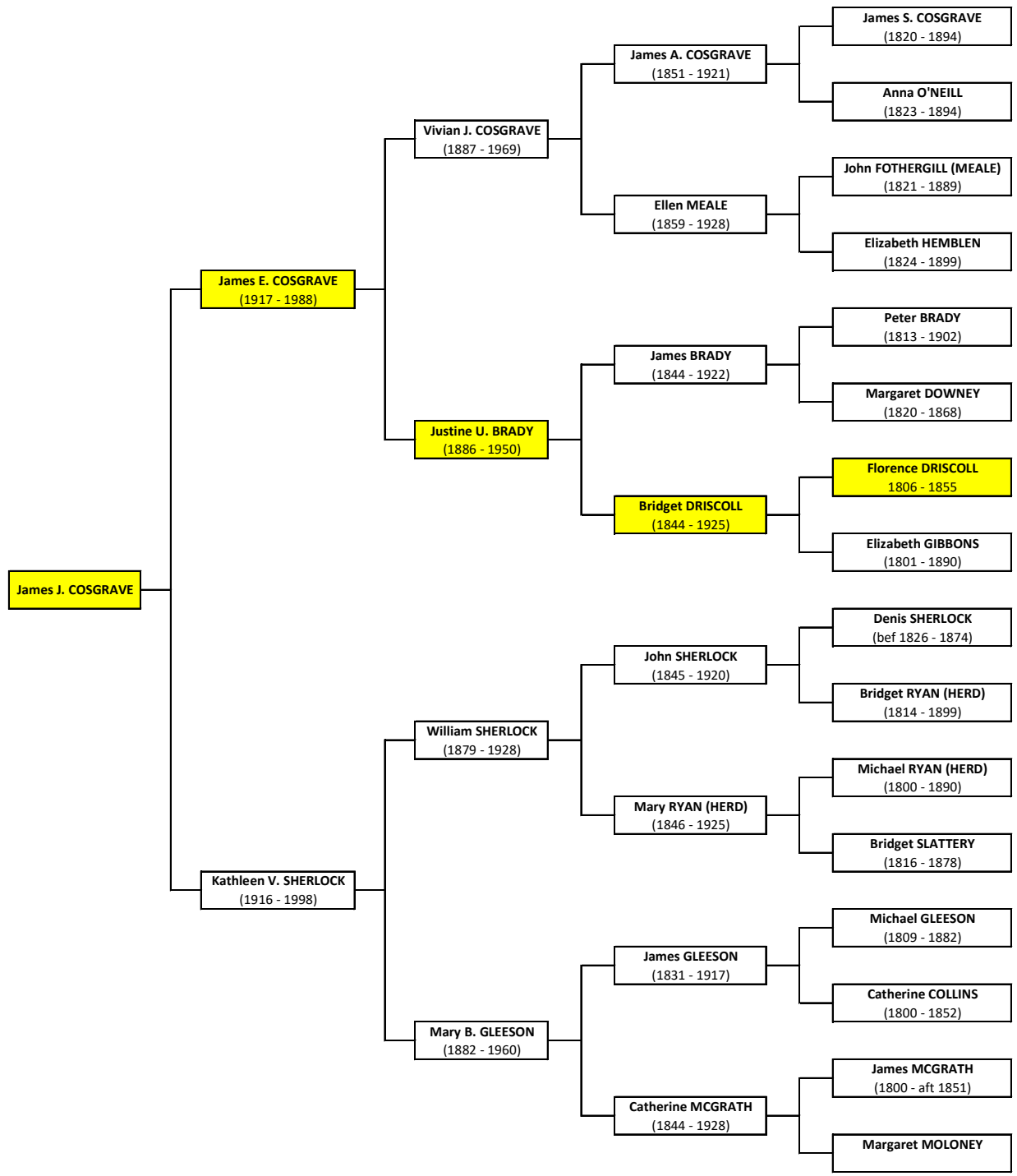
Throughout the document, to protect their privacy, I have tried to avoid providing details of living relatives, and I apologise if this cut-off has not been perfectly executed.

This is not intended to be the final word on the Driscoll family of Howick (today a suburb of Auckland), New Zealand, and I hope that over time, new information will be identified, and that people from the various descendant branches might add additional chapters to this document, expanding the story of their Driscoll lines.

The research that went into this document is not entirely my own work, and I acknowledge the tireless efforts of Fr. Kevin O'Donoghue (1926-2017) and Keith Sellar (1929-2020) for their very large contribution.

I apologise for any errors that may have crept into the document, and I welcome any corrections, family photographs, or other feedback, which can be incorporated into future revisions.

The chart on the next page shows with yellow highlight, the ancestral line that is the focus of this document.



## Chapter 1 – Florence Driscoll and Elizabeth Gibbons

Florence Driscoll was born at Schull (Skull), County Cork, Ireland circa 1806.

At the age of 18 years he travelled the 70 Km to the town of Bandon, where he enlisted in the 97<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the British Army on 24 April 1824. Florence spent 11 years in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and the balance of his almost 16 years military service at various locations throughout Britain, before being discharged in Dublin on 26 November 1839, after being diagnosed with “pulmonary disease and palpitations of the heart” He was 31 years old at the time of his discharge from the army.

Florence did not remain in Ireland for very long after his discharge from the army, as on 9 January 1840 he married Elizabeth Gibbons at Burnley, Lancashire, England. Their civil marriage registration states that his father is Timothy Driskill, a labourer. The church marriage record from St. Mary of the Assumption parish in Burnley, adds that his mother’s name was Ellen. Elizabeth Gibbons was the daughter of Michael Gibbons, a labourer, and Ann Fox.

In the 1841 census<sup>i</sup>, Florence Driscall is living at Cannon Street in Burnley, with his wife Elizabeth, Catherine Driscall, Timothy Driscall and Micheal Gibbons, all born in Ireland except Timothy, who was born in Lancashire.

A handwritten census record from 1841, showing the following entries:

Florence Driscall	35	Permanence	1						
Elizabeth	30								
Catherine	14								
Timothy	6								
Michael Gibbons	2	Schull							

**Florence and Elizabeth Driscoll in 1841 census.**

Micheal Gibbons is likely a brother of Elizabeth, and Timothy is a son of Florence and Elizabeth, but who is Catherine? Soldiers in the British Army of the time required permission to marry and such permission was limited, so that the Regiment was not burdened with relocating a large number of wives and children each time a unit moved locations. Given how quickly Florence and Elizabeth married after Florence’s discharge from the army, it is guessed that they had known each other for some time but were prevented from marrying until Florence was discharged. Some descendants suggest that Catherine was a child of Florence and Elizabeth, born while Florence was in the army, but Florence’s regiment was in Ceylon from 1825 to 1836, and Catherine is listed as being born in Ireland in the census record. It is equally possible that Catherine was a child of Florence or Elizabeth from a previous relationship. Regardless, there is strong DNA evidence (see chapter 12) that Catherine and the other children of Florence & Elizabeth are blood relatives, so for want of better information, we will assume that Catherine is the eldest child of Florence and Elizabeth Driscoll.

In addition to (Florence) Timothy, born 30 November 1840, Florence and Elizabeth Driscoll had three more children, as follows –

- Mary Driscoll, born 23 October 1842
- Bridget Driscoll, born 16 April 1844
- John Driscoll, born 16 November 1845

After some unrest between local Maori and European settlers in New Zealand in 1845-46, the British government formed the Royal New Zealand Fencible Corps to provide security to the settlers. Recruits had to be under 48 years of age, be medically fit, and have served at least 15 years in the British Army. Each was to receive free passage to New Zealand for their family, a cottage on an acre of land, and an increased pension, in return for limited military service as required.

Florence Driscoll travelled to Halifax in nearby Yorkshire to sign up, and he sailed to New Zealand on the ship *Sir George Seymour*, arriving at Howick on 27 November 1847. The Fencible records at Howick Pioneer Village state that he travelled with a wife, one child over ten years old and four children under ten years old. This is further evidence that Catherine was Florence and / or Elizabeth's daughter, as she was the listed child over ten years old.

Tragedy struck the family half way through the voyage to New Zealand, when on 5 October, their son John, who was not quite two years old, died.

When the ship arrived in New Zealand after 103 days on board ship, the Fencibles were not allowed to disembark as accommodations had not yet been built at Howick to house the new arrivals. They finally got to set foot on New Zealand soil on 16 December and into their hastily-built temporary accommodations which were two one hundred foot long sheds. One Fencible wrote - "*They are living in sheds and are likely to remain so for 18 months or two years. These sheds are of the most uncomfortable description; the boards being apart in many places one inch so that dust, heat, wind and rain alternately assail the unfortunate inmates and in a few weeks, when winter sets in, these sheds will be almost, if not quite, uninhabitable*". Conditions were so bad that the men were given permission to build dwellings made from a local reed known as raupo, on their one acre allotments, and 180 of these shelters were built in 1848.

The Driscoll's cottage was eventually built on Lot 56 in Howe Street and they took up residence in their new home on 12 October 1854.

Catherine Driscoll married Patrick Smith, a soldier in the 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment, in St. Patrick's Cathedral in Auckland, on 6 November 1848, and her life will be covered in chapter 2.

Florence Timothy (known as Timothy) Driscoll did not marry. He served in No. 3 Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the Waikato Militia, from 1863 to 1865 and fought in the New Zealand Wars. He later worked as a rabbitier, and died at Herbertville, Hawkes Bay, on 3 June 1889. His probate record states that he died intestate and that none of his family wished to administer his estate. His estate was administered by his brother in law's brother, William Brady, a violist, who was also living at Herbertville at the time.

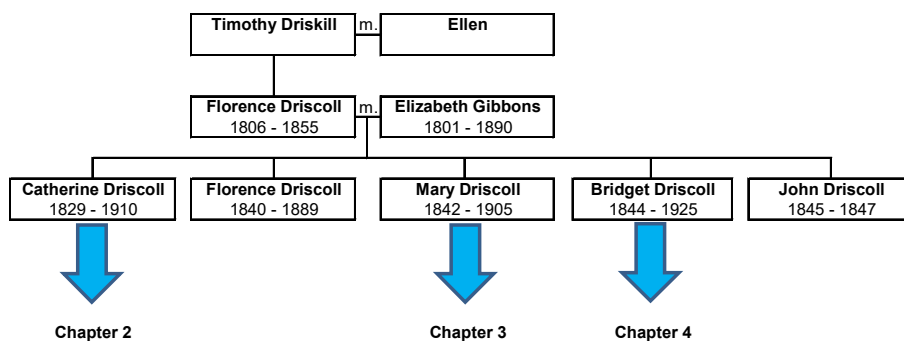
Mary Driscoll married James Willis in 1864 and their life will be covered in chapter 3.

Bridget Driscoll married James Brady on 20 January 1866 and they will be the subject of chapter 4.

Florence Driscoll died in Auckland on 19 November 1855 at 49 years of age, and his death was reported in the Daily Southern Cross<sup>ii</sup> newspaper as follows – "*SUDDEN DEATH - Yesterday afternoon, at 1/4 past 3 o'clock, a pensioner, named Florance Driscoll, dropped down on the wharf, nearly opposite Captain Salmon's store, and immediately expired. He had come from Howick in the morning, and, at the hour of his death, was waiting till the steamer would start on*

her return. We understand that apoplexy was the cause of death; but an inquest will be held this forenoon at 12 o'clock". An autopsy was held, which confirmed the cause of death as apoplexy (cerebral hemorrhage or stroke).

Elizabeth lived on until 20 May 1890, and died at Howick at the age of 89 years. The cause of death was listed as general debility and old age, and the death was not certified by a doctor. Elizabeth and Florence are both buried in the Howick Roman Catholic Cemetery.





## Chapter 2 – Catherine Driscoll

As identified in the previous chapter, it is unclear whether Catherine Driscoll was a child of both Florence and Elizabeth Driscoll, or perhaps she was a child of one of them with a different partner. There is strong DNA evidence (see chapter 12) that Catherine and the other children of Florence & Elizabeth Driscoll are all blood relatives.

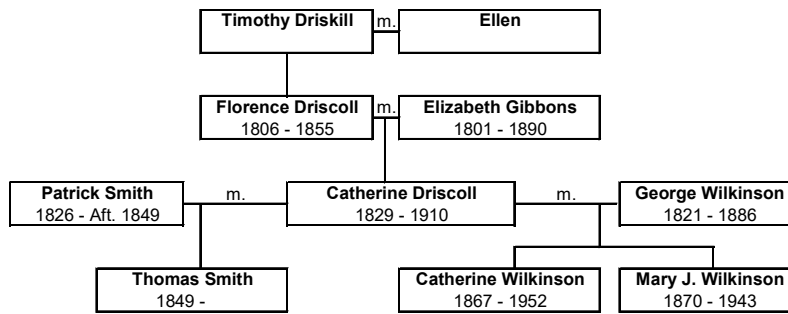
Catherine Driscoll married Patrick Smith, a soldier in the 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment, at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Auckland on 6 November 1848.

The couple had a son, Thomas Smith, born in 1849, but after his birth the family disappear from New Zealand records. The 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment returned to Australia around this time, and it is believed that Patrick, Catherine and Thomas Smith returned to Australia with the regiment.

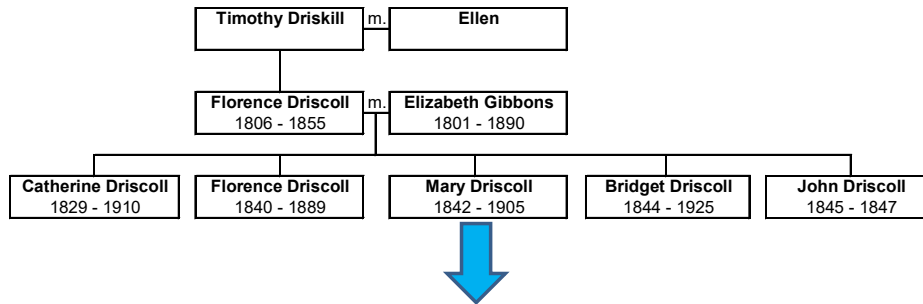
Catherine is believed to have later married George Wilkinson in New South Wales, and the couple produced two children. Their known descendants are as follows -

1. Catherine DRISCOLL (b. Abt 1829-Ireland; d.1910-New South Wales, Australia)  
sp: Patrick SMITH (b. Abt 1826-Loughinisland, Down, Ireland; m.6 Nov 1848; d. Aft 1849)
  2. Thomas SMITH (b.1849-New Zealand)  
sp: George WILKINSON (b. Abt 1821-England; d.Ab 1886-Liverpool, New South Wales, Australia)
    2. Catherine Ann WILKINSON (b. Abt 22 Feb 1867-Braidwood, New South Wales, Australia; d.1952-Marrickville, NSW, Australia)  
sp: William Patrick LONERGAN (b.1862-Yass, New South Wales, Australia; m.1895; d.1933-Granville, New South Wales, Australia)
    3. Florence Rose WILKINSON (b.27 Jul 1889-Tumut, New South Wales, Australia; d.14 Apr 1953- Bendigo, Victoria, Australia)  
sp: Henry Lawrence CURRY (b.8 Feb 1889-Billimari, NSW, Australia; m.7 Nov 1910; d.2 Mar 1959-Essendon, Victoria, Australia)
    4. Coral Patricia CURRY (b.1928-Australia; d.6 Sep 2015-Wonthaggi, Victoria, Australia)  
sp: George Frederick DRAPER (b. Sep 1926-Pancras, London, England; m.1949; d.29 Dec 1984-Melbourne, Victoria, Australia)
      5. George Frederick DRAPER (b.1 Dec 1954-Wonthaggi, Victoria, Australia; d.15 Oct 2002-Melbourne, Victoria, Australia)  
sp: Christine CARROLL  
sp: Gloria June MOORE (b.1958; d.1998)
2. Mary Jane WILKINSON (b.2 Jul 1870-Braidwood, New South Wales, Australia; d.24 Jan 1943-Glebe, New South Wales, Australia)  
sp: Henry SELICK (b.1868-Araluen, New South Wales, Australia; m.1898; d.15 Jul 1937-Newtown, New South Wales, Australia)
  3. Edward Vincent SELICK (b.19 Jul 1905-Tumut, New South Wales, Australia; d.16 Oct 1992-Condobolin, NSW, Australia)  
sp: Gwendoline Mary Clare BRADLEY (b.28 Jan 1912-Tumut, NSW, Australia; m.28 Sep 1935; d.10 Jul 1993-Condobolin, NSW, Australia)
  4. Dianne SELICK

Catherine is believed to have died in New South Wales in 1910. It is unclear what became of her first husband, Patrick Smith, or their son, Thomas Smith.



## Chapter 3 – Mary Driscoll and James Willis



Mary Driscoll, the third child of Florence and Elizabeth, married James Willis in Howick on 7 September 1864. Their marriage produced four children, as follows –

- Marie Willis, born 1870
- Annie (Adie) Willis, born 1872
- Henry Burnham Willis, born 1874
- Alice Maude Willis, born 1875

James Willis managed the Commercial Hotel in Otahuhu, Auckland, which was kept by a Mr. Rogers. When the Criterion Hotel was built, James managed it until Mr. Rogers retired, at which time he took over the lease, which he held for fourteen years.

Mary Willis, nee Driscoll, died at the Criterion Hotel in Otahuhu, on 20 August 1884 at 39 years of age. James Willis later married Helen Meenan in Auckland on 16 April 1885. The couple did not have any children, and James Willis died at Otahuhu on 4 October 1891, after a short illness.

The known descendants of Mary Driscoll and James Willis are as follows -

1. Mary DRISCOLL (b.23 Oct 1842-Burnley, Lancashire, England; d.20 Aug 1884-Otahuhu, Auckland, New Zealand)

sp: James WILLIS (b. Abt 1838-England; m.7 Sep 1864; d.4 Oct 1891-Otahuhu, Auckland, New Zealand)

2. Marie WILLIS (b.24 Jun 1870-Otahuhu, Auckland, New Zealand; d.25 Sep 1944-Wanganui, New Zealand)

sp: Albert Edward KITCHEN (b.30 Sep 1865-Blenheim, New Zealand; m.4 Jul 1892; d.30 Jan 1942-Wanganui, New Zealand)

3. Raymond Leopold Albert KITCHEN (b.19 Mar 1893-Wanganui, New Zealand; d.19 Jun 1946-Hastings, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand)

sp: Mary DWYER (b. Abt 1883; m.28 Jun 1941; d.8 Jul 1971-New Zealand)

3. Bernard Cecil James KITCHEN (b.13 Aug 1896-Wanganui, New Zealand; d. Jun 1936-London, Middlesex, England) – *see biography at end of this chapter*

sp: Ethel Eliza GILCHRIST (Wish WYNNE) (b. 19 Feb 1879-Croydon, Surrey, England; d. 11 Nov 1931-London, England)

sp: Zoe Coe THORPE (b.15 Sep 1907-Southwark, London, England; m. Apr/Jun 1932; d.1997-Exeter, Devon, England)

3. Maurice Allan Ambrose KITCHEN (b.29 Jul 1904-Wanganui, New Zealand; d.16 May 1979-Wanganui, New Zealand)

sp: Dorothy May RICHARDS (b.10 May 1905-New Zealand; m.8 Apr 1941(Div); d.1 Jul

1993-Palmerston North, Manawatu, New Zealand)

4. Raymond Allan KITCHEN

sp: Nora Sammon O'MEARA (b.26 May 1907-New Zealand; m.1947; d.6 Jun 1967-Wanganui, New Zealand)

2. Annie Adelaide WILLIS (b.26 Jun 1872-New Zealand; d.18 Apr 1961-New Zealand)

2. Henry Burnham WILLIS (b.28 May 1874-Otahuhu, Auckland, New Zealand; d.21 Jul 1936-Wanganui, New Zealand)

sp: Frances Cecilia MCMANUS (b.3 Sep 1880-New Zealand; m.5 Sep 1923; d.14 Dec 1956-Fremantle, Western Australia, Australia)

2. Alice Maude WILLIS (b.6 Sep 1875-New Zealand; d.4 Sep 1930-New Zealand)

When I was researching the descendants of Mary Driscoll, her grandson, Bernard Cecil James Kitchen stood out. There is a lot of information and misinformation online about Bernard and about his wife, Ethel Eliza Gilchrist, whose stage name was Wish Wynne. I scoured public records and newspaper archives, and believe that what follows is an accurate depiction of Bernard and Ethel -

Bernard Cecil James Kitchen was born at Wanganui, New Zealand on 13 August 1896, the second of three children of Albert Edward Kitchen and Marie Willis. Bernard was a talented pianist and after graduating from Wanganui Collegiate, he studied music in Stuttgart, Germany. His studies were interrupted in 1914 by World War I, and Bernard returned to New Zealand via the United States of America.

In August 1916 he attested for the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, was accepted and assigned regimental number 30235. He was sent to France in May 1917, was wounded on 18 August 1917 and returned to England for treatment. On 29 November 1917 he was declared medically unfit, returned to New Zealand, and was discharged from the army, at the rank of Lance Corporal, on 3 April 1918.

Once the war ended, Bernard studied medicine at Otago University, and in 1920 he continued his medical studies in Edinburgh, Scotland. In late 1921 his love of music triumphed over his medical studies and he became piano accompanist to Wish Wynne, a world-renowned actress and music hall star, who had toured the world several times by this time.

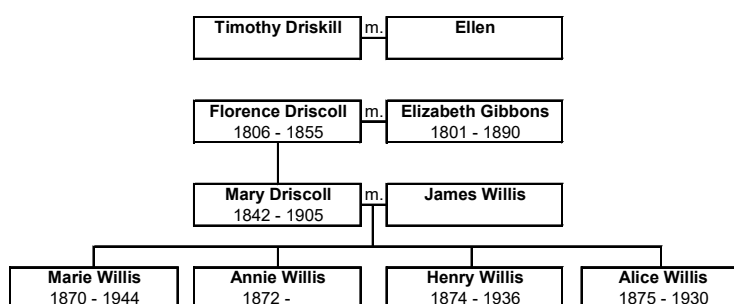
Wish Wynne was born Ethel Eliza Gilchrist, on 19 February 1879, in Croydon, Surrey, England to Samuel (a bootmaker) and Julia Gilchrist. She started acting at the age of 12, and subsequently became a music hall act. On 15 September 1907 she gave birth to a daughter, whose birth was registered as Zoe Coe Thorpe. Wish married Ewart James Watts on 13 September 1912 at the British Consulate in Yokohama, Japan, and in the 1918 electoral roll, the couple are found living at 17 Colherne Court, Kensington. Wish Wynne made her West End acting debut in 1913 as Janet Cannot in Arnold Bennett's *The Great Adventure*, and then split her time between the music hall and theatre, before beginning radio broadcasts in 1924.

Bernard Kitchen became full-time accompanist to Wish Wynne and from 1925 to 1928 they were living together in Harrow, listed in the electoral rolls as Bernard Kitchen and Ethel Watts. In the 1930 electoral roll, the family is found at *Klang* on Oldfield Lane in Harrow, listed as Bernard Kitchen, Ethel Kitchen and Zoe Wynne Kitchen. By 1931 they had moved to 127 Wymering Mansions, Wymering Road, Paddington and are listed in the electoral roll as Bernard Kitchen, Ethel Kitchen and Zoe Thorpe.

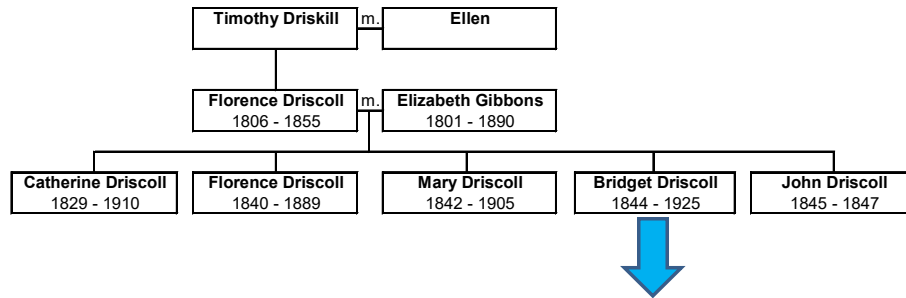
It is unclear whether Bernard and Ethel were officially married, but I have found no record of their marriage in England, Ireland, Scotland or New Zealand. When they toured New Zealand in 1925, they were identified in the newspapers as husband and wife, so they may have married in one of the other countries in which they were performing.

Ethel underwent a serious operation in 1930, after which she suffered a lot of pain. She collapsed after a radio broadcast in 1931 and died at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London on 11 November 1931. Bernard had by this time returned to studying medicine and was a student at St. Bartholomew's when his wife died.

In 1932 Bernard Kitchen married Ethel's daughter, Zoe, in Kensington, and by 1933 he was working at Florogen Perfumery Works in Mitcham. But the couple did not have long together, as Bernard Kitchen died at 39 years of age in June 1936, leaving Zoe a widow at the age of 29.



## Chapter 4 – Bridget Driscoll and James Brady



Bridget Driscoll, the youngest daughter of Florence Driscoll and Elizabeth Gibbons, was born at Fountain Street, Burnley, Lancashire, England, on 16 April 1844.

At the age of three, she travelled to New Zealand with her parents and siblings on the ship *Sir George Seymour*, as part of the Royal New Zealand Fencible settlement at Howick

On 20 January 1866, at 21 years of age, she married James Brady, son of Peter Brady, a soldier in the 58<sup>th</sup> Regiment. The couple settled in Howick, where they produced a family of eleven children, as follows –

- William James Brady, born 29 November 1866
- Margaret Brady, born 18 September 1868
- Elizabeth Brady, born 4 August 1870
- Emily Brady, born 21 July 1872
- Henry Timothy Brady, born 3 July 1874
- Eva Iney Brady, born 3 October 1878
- Lillian Lavinia Cicelia Brady, born 17 September 1881
- Florence Brady, born 11 September 1883
- Justine Ursula Brady, born 16 July 1886
- Undine Mary Brady, born 25 November 1888
- Veronica Brady, born 9 November 1890

William James Brady married Angelina Hacker White and will be covered in chapter 5.

Margaret Brady married Cornelius O'Donoghue and will be covered in chapter 6.

Elizabeth Brady married Robert Samuel Alward and will be covered in chapter 7.

Emily Brady died at 15 months old on 23 October 1873.

Henry Timothy Brady married Mary Brosnahan on 25 January 1903 in Blenheim, New Zealand. Their known descendants are as follows –

1. Henry Timothy BRADY (b.3 Jul 1874-Howick, New Zealand; d.8 Aug 1937-New Zealand)  
sp: Mary BROSNAHAN (b. Abt 1876-Waterford, Ireland; m.25 Jan 1903)
  2. Eileen Veronica BRADY (b.22 Jan 1911-New Zealand)
  2. William Kenny BRADY (b.1911-New Zealand)

Eva Iney Brady married James Allen Wilson in 1907 and they produced three children. James died in 1929 and Eva died 16 July 1951 in Northcote. Their known descendants are as follows

–

1. Eva Iney BRADY (b.3 Oct 1878-Howick, New Zealand; d.16 Jul 1951-Northcote, New Zealand)

sp: James Allen WILSON (b. Abt 1870; m.21 Nov 1907; d.7 Nov 1929-New Zealand)

2. Mary Phyllis WILSON (b.9 Apr 1909-New Zealand; d.11 Apr 1909-New Zealand)

2. Allan James Halley WILSON (b.19 May 1910-New Zealand; d.6 May 1983-New Zealand)

sp: Ellen Mitchell Watson SMITH (b.29 Jul 1913-New Zealand; m.30 Dec 1936; d.13 Jan 2015-Auckland, New Zealand)

3. Barry WILSON

3. Raewyn Marie WILSON (b.17 Jan 1940; d.3 Apr 2012-New Zealand)

sp: HOWARD

2. Frances Edna WILSON (b.1 Aug 1911-New Zealand)

sp: Harry George ANDERSON (m.3 Dec 1938(Div))

Lillian Lavinia Cicelia Brady married Richard Ebden Minns in Howick on 12 July 1906. The couple moved to Australia and produced two children there. Lillian died in 1924 and Richard in 1937. Their known descendants are as follows -

1. Lillian Lavinia Cicelia BRADY (b.17 Sep 1881-Howick, New Zealand; d.1924-Victoria, Australia)

sp: Richard Ebden MINNS (b. Abt 1881-Victoria, Australia; m.12 Jul 1906; d.1937-Victoria, Australia)

2. Thelma Lillian MINNS (b.1908-Victoria, Australia)

sp: Harold James DOYLE (m.1927)

2. Richard Ebden James MINNS (b.1912-Victoria, Australia; d.1988-Victoria, Australia)

sp: Dorothy Frances May ELLIS (b.1912-Victoria, Australia; m.1936)

Florence Brady married Joseph Richardson in 1909. Florence died 11 January 1921 in Auckland.

Justine Ursula Brady married Vivian John Cosgrave and will be covered in chapter 8.

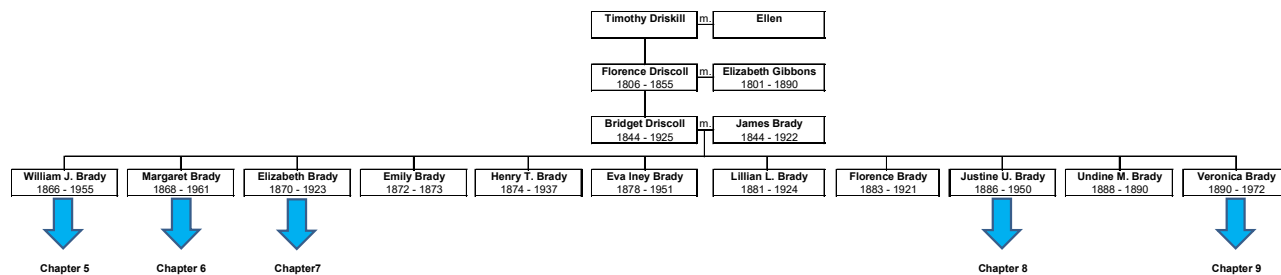
Undine Mary Brady died in Howick at 13 months old, on 9 January 1890.

Veronica Brady will be covered in chapter 9.



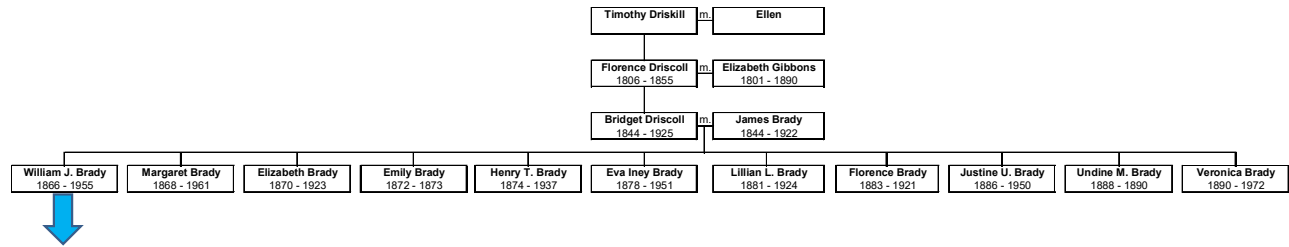
**James Brady and Bridget Driscoll.**

James Brady died at Howick on 30 May 1922, at 77 years of age, and was buried in the Howick Cemetery on 1 June 1922. Bridget died on 9 September 1925, aged 81 years, and was buried alongside her husband 2 days later.





## Chapter 5 – William James Brady and Angelina Hacker White



William James Brady, the eldest child of James Brady and Bridget Driscoll, was born at Howick on 29 November 1866.

He married Angelina Hacker White on 25 December 1897 at Howick, and they produced four children.

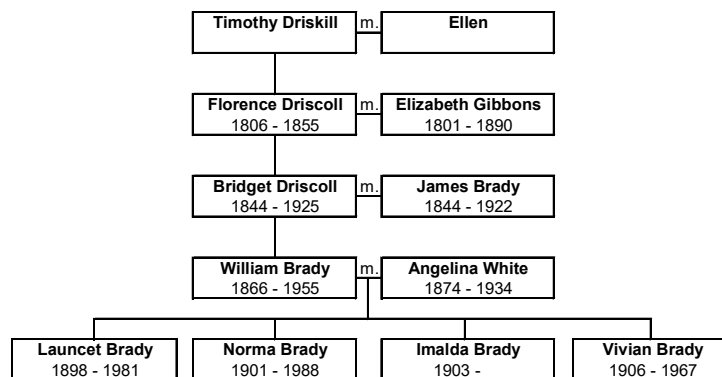
Angelina died 11 August 1934, and William James died 17 May 1955. Both are buried in the Howick Roman Catholic Cemetery.

Their known descendants are as follows -

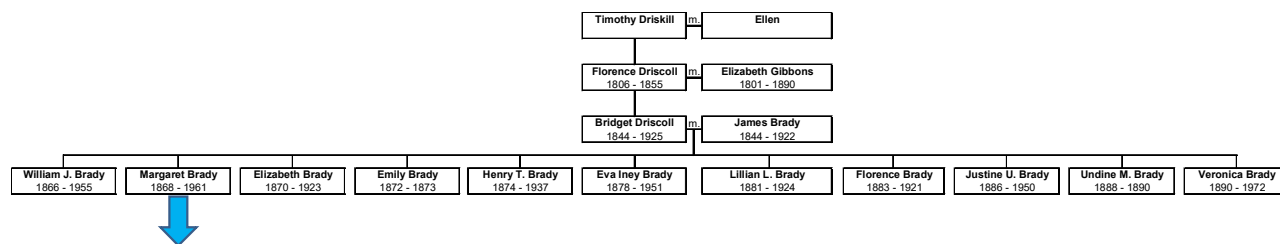
1. William James BRADY (b.29 Nov 1866-Howick, New Zealand; d.17 May 1955-New Zealand)  
sp: Angelina Hacker WHITE (b.16 Jun 1874-Dunedin, New Zealand; m.25 Dec 1897; d.11 Aug 1934-New Zealand)
  2. Launcet Eric BRADY (b.21 Oct 1898-New Zealand; d.26 Oct 1981-New Zealand)  
sp: Charlotte Mary JOHNSON (b.16 Dec 1901-New Zealand; m.22 Sep 1920; d.1954-New Zealand)
  3. Eric William Noel BRADY (b.21 Dec 1923; d.2 Jan 2011-Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand)  
sp: Masie Priscilla EVANS (b.7 Aug 1922-New Zealand; m.1956; d.25 May 2002-New Zealand)
    4. Garry BRADY
    4. Joanne Marie BRADY  
sp: Mary Gertrude (b.25 Oct 1898; m.1957/1960; d.21 May 1981-New Zealand)
2. Norma BRADY (b.13 Jan 1901-New Zealand; d.13 Oct 1988-New Zealand)  
sp: John Cameron WHITE (b.2 Mar 1897-New Zealand; m.16 Jan 1926; d.21 May 1980-New Zealand)
  3. Joan May WHITE (b.1927-New Zealand)  
sp: Wilfred George ATKINS (m.1949)
  3. Nora Emma WHITE (b.16 May 1931-Auckland, New Zealand; d.2 Apr 2016-Auckland, New Zealand)  
sp: James William Kenneth BEGG (b.29 Aug 1927; m.1955; d.5 Nov 2015-Auckland, New Zealand)
2. Imalda BRADY (b.21 Aug 1903-New Zealand; d. Abt 1960)  
sp: William Archibald GREIG or WRATT (b.24 Oct 1899; m.4 May 1927; d.23 Jan 1962-Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand)
  3. Ian Maurice GREIG (b.24 Sep 1930; d.9 Sep 2008-New Zealand)  
sp: Marcia Marion KING (b.3 Jun 1927; d.3 Jul 2018-New Zealand)
  3. William Arthur GREIG

sp: Evelyn GREEN (m.1950)

2. Vivian Ivan BRADY (b.22 Jun 1906-New Zealand; d.7 Dec 1967-New Zealand)



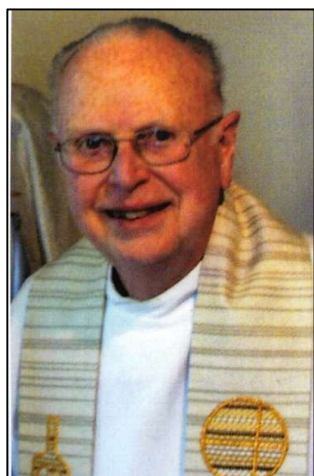
## Chapter 6 – Margaret Brady and Cornelius O’Donoghue



Margaret Brady was born 18 September 1868 at Howick, the second child of James Brady and Bridget Driscoll.

On 21 January 1895 she married Cornelius O’Donoghue, a native of County Waterford, Ireland, at Napier, New Zealand. Their marriage produced only one child, Dominic Henry Fitzroy, O’Donoghue.

Cornelius died at Hastings on 2 January 1912 and Margaret died at Te Awamutu on 6 June 1961.



**Kevin O’Donoghue  
(1926-2017).**

Their grandson, Kevin O’Donoghue (1926-2017) recounted that he vividly remembered 3 February 1931, his first day of school, as it was also the day of the Napier earthquake. His Aunt Justine and Uncle Vivian Cosgrave came and picked him up soon after the earthquake and he spent several months living with them in Hunterville, and he attended school there. Kevin’s mother had died in August the previous year, and it is not known where his two younger siblings lived in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake.

Kevin trained at the Greenmeadows Seminary and was ordained as a Catholic priest in the Marist Order, on 17 December 1950.

There were two priests in the Marist Order named Kevin O’Donoghue. To differentiate between them, each had a nickname. Because of his love of music, this Kevin O’Donoghue was known as “Mozart” and because of his love of photography, the other was known as “Kodak”.

The known descendants of Cornelius and Margaret O’Donoghue are as follows -

1. Margaret BRADY (b.18 Sep 1868-Howick, N.Z.; d.6 Jun 1961-Te Awamutu, New Zealand)  
sp: Cornelius O’DONOGHUE (b. Abt Jan 1858-Coolbeggan, Waterford, Ireland; m.21 Jan 1895; d.2 Jan 1912-Hastings, New Zealand)
  2. Dominic Henry Fitzroy O’DONOGHUE (b.16 Jan 1896-Ahuriri, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand; d.14 Dec 1980-Cambridge, Waikato, New Zealand)  
sp: Marion LEVETT (b.12 Oct 1897-N.Z.; m.13 May 1925; d.26 Aug 1930-New Zealand)
    3. Kevin O’DONOGHUE (b.5 Jan 1926; d.31 Jul 2017-Silverstream, Wellington, N.Z.)
    3. Margaret O’DONOGHUE (b.20 Mar 1928)  
sp: Brian Philip GALLAGHER (b. Abt 15 Sep 1921; m.1955; d.26 Jun 2008-Cambridge, New Zealand)
    3. Gerard O’DONOGHUE (b. Abt 3 Jun 1930; d.11 Oct 2020-Whangarei, Northland, N.Z.)

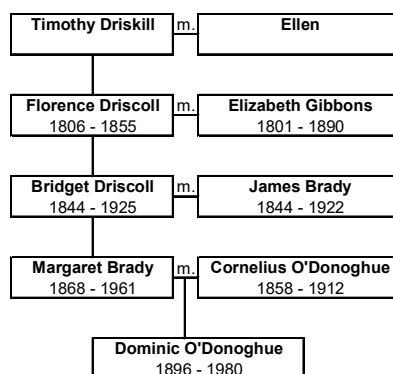
sp: Kathleen Patricia TOBIN (b. Abt 19 May 1937-Masterton, New Zealand; d.12 Aug 1993-Whangarei, New Zealand)

3. Brigid O'DONOGHUE (b.1 Jan 1938-Hastings, New Zealand; d.16 Aug 2008-Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand)

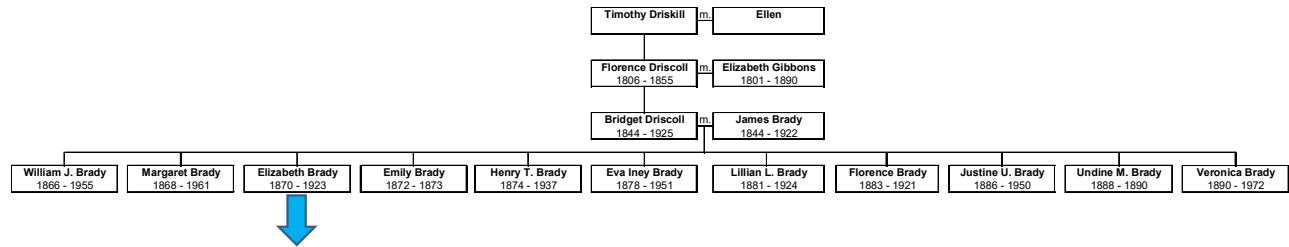
sp: Keith Robert SELLAR (b.6 Oct 1929-Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand; m.7 Apr 1958; d.9 Aug 2020-Dunedin, Otago, N.Z.)



**Keith Sellar  
(1929-2020).**



## Chapter 7 – Elizabeth Brady and Robert Samuel Alward



Elizabeth Brady, the third child of James Brady and Bridget Driscoll was born 4 August 1870 at Howick.

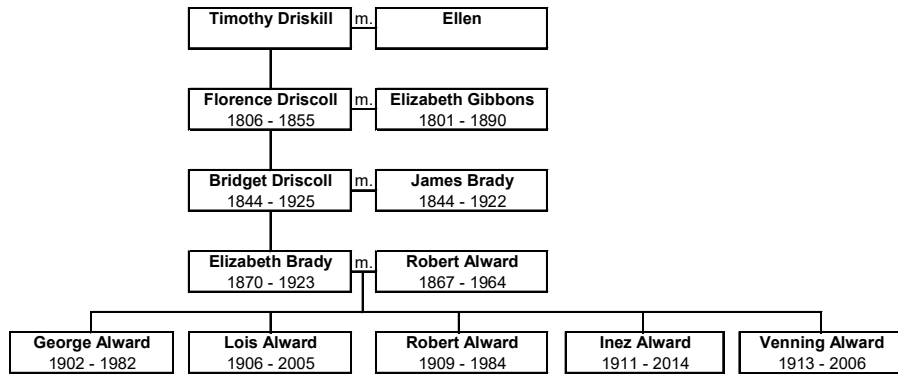
She married Robert Samuel Alward in Napier on 2 October 1901, and they produced five children.

Elizabeth died in Napier at 53 years of age on 15 November 1923. Robert Alward then married Mary Evelyn Mundy and died 13 November 1964 in Wellington.

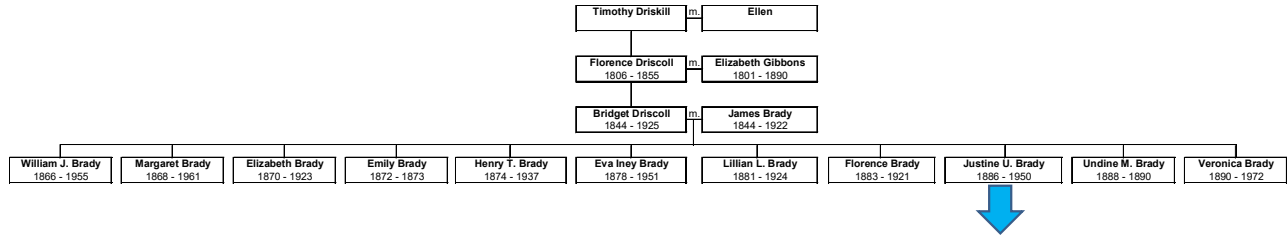
The known descendants of Elizabeth Brady and Robert Alward are as follows -

1. Elizabeth BRADY (b.4 Aug 1870-Howick, N.Z.; d.15 Nov 1923-Napier, New Zealand)
  - sp: Robert Samuel ALWARD (b.11 Oct 1867-Grimsby, Lincoln, England; m.2 Oct 1901; d. 13 Nov 1964-Wellington, New Zealand)
2. George Frederick James ALWARD (b.26 Oct 1902-New Zealand; d.20 Jan 1982-New Zealand)
  - sp: Joyce Hannah HILL (b.5 Sep 1905-New Zealand; m.5 Jan 1931; d.23 Mar 1982-New Zealand)
3. Graham George ALWARD
3. Christine Anne ALWARD
3. Joan Elizabeth ALWARD
2. Lois Margaret ALWARD (b.3 Sep 1906-New Zealand; d. 6 Apr 2005-N.S.W., Australia)
  - sp: Abraham Adolph MARKS (b. Apr/Jun 1871-Kings Norton, Worcestershire, England; m.1944; d.1956-Paddington, N.S.W., Australia)
2. Robert Cook ALWARD (b.10 Sep 1909-Wellington, N.Z.; d.18 Sep 1984-Wellington, New Zealand)
  - sp: Dawn Louie BASS (b.23 Oct 1918-Wellington, New Zealand; m.28 Feb 1946; d.31 Jan 1976-Wellington, New Zealand)
  - 3. Helen Elizabeth ALWARD (b.-Wellington, New Zealand)
    - sp: David WILLIAMS
  - 3. Jacqueline Marie ALWARD
    - sp: Selwyn John BLINKHORNE (d. 26 Oct 2012)
2. Inez Marie ALWARD (b.28 Nov 1911-New Zealand; d.5 Sep 2014-New Zealand)
  - sp: Cyril Edward DILLON (b.9 Nov 1905-New Zealand; m.1938; d.24 Nov 1982-New Zealand)
2. Venning Gerard ALWARD (b.4 May 1913-Wellington, New Zealand; d.7 May 2006-New Zealand)
  - sp: Marcella SCHULTZ (b.14 Jan 1915-New Zealand; m.28 Oct 1940; d.4 May 1996-New Zealand)

- 3. Marcella E. ALWARD
- 3. Gerard Cook ALWARD



## Chapter 8 – Justine Ursula Brady and Vivian John Cosgrave



Justine Ursula Brady was born at Howick, on 16 July 1886, the ninth child of James Brady and Bridget Driscoll.

On 10 November 1915 she married Vivian John Cosgrave, a police constable, in the Roman Catholic church at Howick, Auckland, and the couple settled into life together in Wellington, living at 228 Tinakori Road, and it was here that all five of their children were born.



(l-r) Viv, Harry, Justine, Jim, Vivian, Noeline Cosgrave abt. 1940.

Vivian's first promotion in the police force was to a sole-charge constable position in Levin in the mid-1920s, but by 1930 he had been transferred to Hunterville. The Truth newspaper of 3 April 1930 reports that "*VIVIAN JOHN COSGRAVE is the law in Hunterville and he does his job well. While he would always prefer to do a man a good turn he does not allow his kindly nature to interfere in the discharge of his duties. As clerk of the court he wields his pen and conducts his cases well, while his guiding hand controls a wide district. "Cossy" loves football and he may often be heard instructing the young men in the rudiments of the game. He knows its "laws" and the boys listen well*"<sup>iii</sup>.

From Hunterville, the family moved back to Wellington in 1935, living again on Tinakori Road, but this time at number 174, as Vivian was promoted to Police Sergeant. In 1939 he was transferred to Wanganui, in December 1940 to Taumaranui, and in 1944 to his final appointment, in Foxton.

Vivian retired in Foxton in 1955 after serving his 40 years with New Zealand Police. Justine had died on 2 May 1950 and is buried in the Foxton cemetery. In the mid-1960s Vivian moved to Wellington, where he lived with his daughter Noeline, until his death on 16 October 1969. He is buried in the Foxton cemetery, next to his wife and their two unmarried children.



Grave of Vivian, Justine, Noeline & George Cosgrave – Foxton, NZ.



**George S. & James E. Cosgrave (Abt. 1922).**

As mentioned at the beginning of this chapter, Vivian and Justine Cosgrave raised five children, four boys and one girl. Their eldest child was my father, James Edward Cosgrave, who was born in Wellington on 9 January 1917. His life will be covered in detail in chapter 10.

The second child of Vivian and Justine Cosgrave was George Steele Cosgrave, whose life will be covered in chapter 11.

Noeline Catherine Cosgrave was the third child and only daughter of Vivian and Justine Cosgrave. Noeline was born 31 December 1920 in Wellington. She was at secretarial college in Wanganui when her father was transferred to Taumaranui, and Noeline boarded with a local Wanganui family until her studies were completed. Noeline worked in an administrative role for the New Zealand government until retirement, and she then worked for a firm of architects.



**Noeline Cosgrave.**

Noeline did not marry and she cared for her father in his later years. When her property on Kemp Street, Kilbirnie became too much for her to look after, she moved into an apartment on William Street, where she lived until moving to a care home when her health failed. Noeline died at 95 years of age on 28 September 2015 and is buried with her parents in the Foxton Cemetery.

Vivian John junior (Vic or Viv) was born 20 January 1923. Viv (as I knew him) joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force (70987), and was a career officer. In the 1967 New Year's Honours he received an M.B.E. (Military Division). Viv retired from the Air Force as a Warrant Officer.

He married Audrey June Martyn in 1951 and they had two sons – Gary Martyn and Paul Edward. Both sons emigrated to Australia, and after Viv retired, he and Audrey also moved to Australia, settling in Brisbane.

Viv was hit by a car while crossing the road, and died 11 April 2007. Audrey died 22 January 2014. Both are buried in Nerang, Queensland.

The youngest child, Henry Timothy (Harry) Cosgrave was born 4 May 1924. After high school Harry joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force (71779) and spent a portion of his career stationed in Singapore.

Harry married Kathleen Marjorie Jury in 1947 and the marriage produced four children – Karyn Justine, Antony John, Peter Christopher and Michael David.



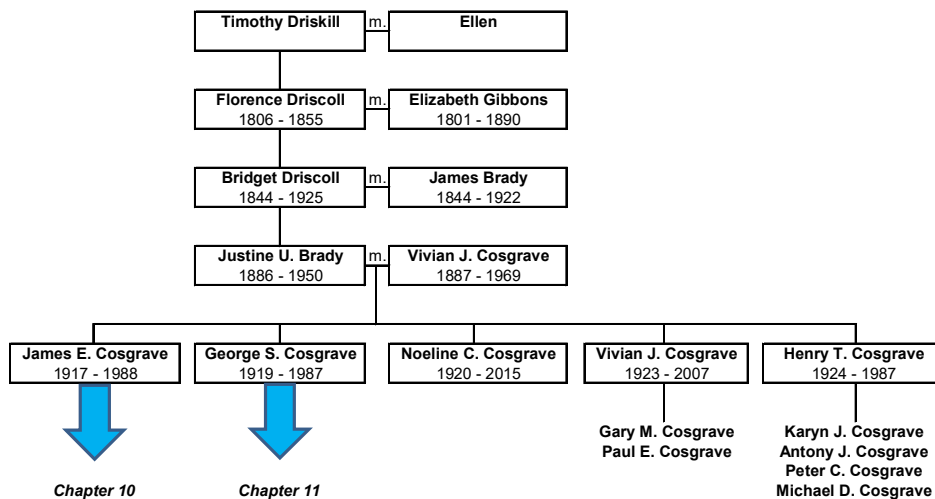
He retired to the Air Force Officers Reserve List as a Flight Lieutenant on 17 February 1969 and was officially retired four years later Harry then worked for the City of Porirua, and died in Rotorua on 25 April 1987. His wife, Kathleen, died 20 October 2010 in Wellington.



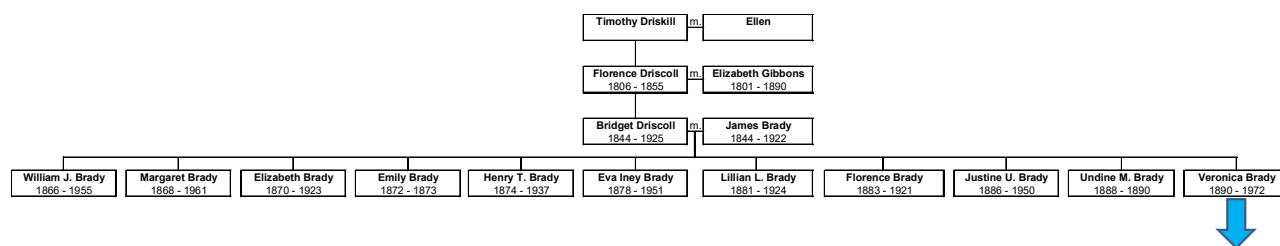
**Viv Cosgrave & Audrey Martyn 1951 wedding.**



**Harry Cosgrave & Kathleen Jury 1947 wedding.**



## Chapter 9 – Veronica Brady and David Samson

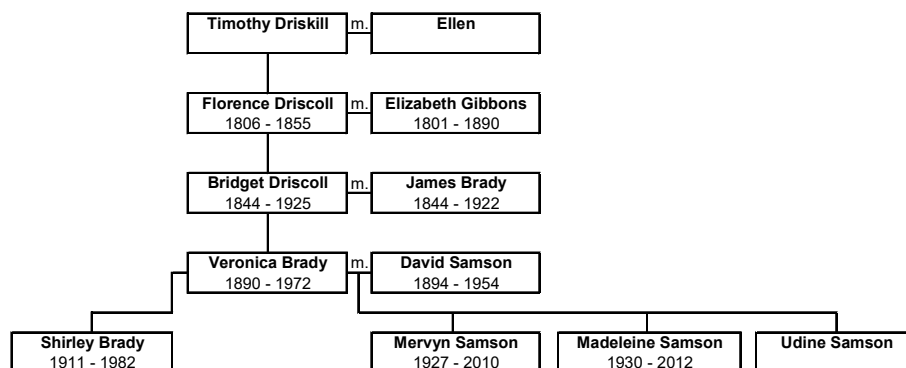


Veronica Brady, the eleventh and youngest child of James Brady and Bridget Driscoll, was born at Howick on 9 November 1890.

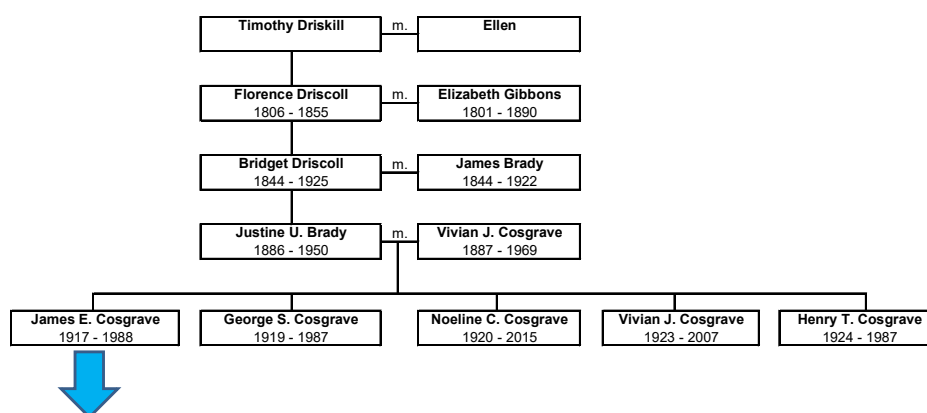
In 1911 she had a child whose birth was registered as Shirley Clarence Raymond Brady, and in 1926 married David Nelson Samson, with whom she had three additional children.

David Samson died on 30 May 1954, and Veronica died in 1972. Veronica's known descendants are as follows -

1. Veronica BRADY (b.9 Nov 1890-New Zealand; d.26 Dec 1972-New Zealand)
  2. Shirley Clarence Raymond BRADY (b.12 Feb 1911-New Zealand; d.6 Sep 1982-Thames, New Zealand)
    - sp: Jessie Hilda HARRIS (b.5 Aug 1894-New Zealand; m.1949; d.7 Jul 1975-Thames, New Zealand)
    - sp: UNKNOWN
  4. Bernard Clarence BRADY (b.7 May 1941; d.2 Oct 2005-New Zealand)
    - sp: Margaret Patricia (b.2 Jul 1940; d.23 Nov 2010-New Zealand)
- sp: David Nelson SAMSON (b.30 Mar 1894; m.20 Jan 1926; d.30 May 1954-New Zealand)
  2. Mervyn James SAMSON (b.13 Mar 1927; d.17 Jun 2010)
    - sp: Leonie Olive Ethel EDWARDS (b.28 Jan 1937-Wangarata, New Zealand; m.1955; d.6 Dec 1998-Papatoetoe, Auckland, New Zealand)
  3. David SAMSON
  3. Sharron SAMSON
  3. Glen SAMSON
2. Madeleine Genevieve SAMSON (b.4 Oct 1930; d.28 Jun 2012-New Zealand)
  - sp: Raymond James FOSTER (b.23 Jan 1930; m.1951; d.8 Feb 2012-New Zealand)
2. Udine Ramona SAMSON
  - sp: Douglas William HEALY (b.1 Dec 1932; m.1954; d.10 Jul 1990-New Zealand)



## Chapter 10 – James Edward Cosgrave & Kathleen V. Sherlock



New Zealand had been at war for a little over a year, when Justine Ursula Brady married Vivian John Cosgrave on November 10<sup>th</sup> 1915. Vivian's brothers, James and George, had signed up for military service and were already serving overseas, so they missed the celebration.

It was a difficult time for New Zealand, having suffered heavy losses in the Gallipoli campaign, so there would have been much joy, when just a few months later, Justine announced that she was pregnant with their first child, a son, who was born in Wellington on January 9<sup>th</sup> 1917. As their first son, in keeping with the Irish naming tradition, he was named James after his paternal grandfather (James Alexander Cosgrave), and Edward after Vivian's brother, George Edward Cosgrave, who was missing in action in France at that time.



**Justine, James & Vivian  
Cosgrave abt. 1920.**

The family of three lived at 228 Tinakori Road, and were soon joined by three more sons and a daughter – George Steele Cosgrave (1919); Noeline Catherine Cosgrave (1920); Vivian John Cosgrave (1923); and Henry Timothy Cosgrave (1924).

In November 1926, Vivian was transferred to Levin, but only 2 years later in January 1929, he was transferred to Hunterville, a sole-charge posting for a senior constable, and the family lived at the police house on Milne Street (State highway 1) in Hunterville.

Nothing is known of James's early education, but he likely attended the local Hunterville school. In 1932, when he was 15 years old, his parents decided to give him the opportunity to attend a better high school than was available in the Hunterville area, and enrolled him as a boarder at St. Patrick's College, Silverstream, in the Hutt Valley. At Silverstream James played rugby in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> fifteen, so was definitely not a star sportsman. But he did excel at rifle shooting, being considered a first class shot, with a score of 87, just 3 points short of the marksman rating.

His academic prowess may not have been as great as his shooting ability, as he remembered being caned (corporal punishment with a bamboo cane) for getting his homework wrong. It is likely that it was at Silverstream that James also developed his lifelong interest in radio and electronics.

James did not stay at Silverstream beyond one year, opting instead to leave high school and return home to Hunterville, where he worked for a local baker. Here he developed an ability to make excellent scones and other baked goods, learning to adjust the mixture based on the “feel” of the dough. His scone making prowess was much appreciated by his family in later years.

In March 1935, Vivian Cosgrave was promoted to the rank of Police Sergeant, and the family returned to Wellington. James moved back to Wellington with the family and in August 1936 he joined New Zealand Railways as a Guard. Initially, Jim (as he was now known) worked on the Wellington suburban trains, and in June of 1937 he was responsible for organizing the sound system for the opening of the new Wellington Railway Station. He later worked on the main rail lines, being recorded as a Tablet Porter in 1938, in which role he worked on the Wairarapa line and the North Island Main Trunk line.

From Wellington, Jim was transferred to Tokomaru in early 1939, where he stayed at the Guy’s boarding house on Rata Street, Tokomaru. Violet Guy, the proprietor’s daughter, was something of a matchmaker and introduced Jim to Kathleen (Kath) Sherlock. He and Kath hit it off, but on 3 September 1939 New Zealand declared war on Germany and their lives changed significantly.

On 29 December 1939 Jim attested for the Royal New Zealand Air Force at Weraroa, Levin, and by late January 1940 he was in training as a Wireless Operator at Wigram Air Force Base, near Christchurch.

Jim requested permission from the Air Force, to marry Kath, and on 17 February 1940, that request was approved. Jim purchased an engagement ring, which was mailed to Kath on 14 April, and both families were informed of the planned wedding. In late July, with many of his mates being transferred overseas, Jim was transferred to Ohakea Air Force Base, near Bulls. Perhaps this was a compassionate move, given the planned wedding.



**Jim Cosgrave & Kath Sherlock  
1940 wedding.**

Jim and Kath were married at St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic Church in Palmerston North on 3 September 1940. After the wedding, Kath remained living with her mother and sisters, who around this time had moved into Palmerston North and bought a house at 56 Roy Street, and Jim returned to the Air Force.

Jim continued to be stationed at Ohakea, apart from a short stint at Milson in 1942 (where he was promoted to Corporal), until he was transferred to Whenuapai, near Auckland in September 1943. After only a few days at Whenuapai, he was transferred to Waipapakauri and then on to Ardmore. While Jim was stationed at Ardmore, he was promoted to Sergeant, and Kath gave birth to their first child, Margaret Ann Cosgrave. Jim was not home for the birth, but did get leave soon after, to see his baby daughter.

On 26 October 1944 Jim was transferred to Lauthala (Laucala) Bay on the island of Viti Levu in Fiji. New Zealand had been

given responsibility for air reconnaissance around Fiji, and this was to be done with flying boats. The base at Lauthala Bay was developed to house the Catalina and Sunderland flying boats which fulfilled this mandate. Jim told stories of the flying boats landing two-man teams at remote islands, to spend weeks at a time, observing the sea in the area, looking for enemy ships and submarines. The radio operator was crucial to this work, as radio was the only means of communications with base. He claimed that the crews lived primarily on whiskey and bananas, to augment the military rations provided.

Soon after V.E. Day (8 May 1945) Jim was hospitalised for a short period with Dengue Fever, from which he recovered well.

The war officially ended with the surrender of Japan on 15 August 1945, but No. 6 Flying Boat Squadron was to stay in Fiji until their work could be transitioned to the civil aviation authority. Flight Sergeant (391966) James Edward Cosgrave returned to New Zealand in December 1945, after an 8 ½ hour flight on a Catalina from Fiji. He was officially discharged from the Air Force on 8 February 1946, and was entitled to wear the 1939-45 Star, the Pacific Star, the Defence Medal, the War Medal, and the N.Z. War Service Medal.



**18 Haydon Street (1946).**

In 1946 Jim and Kath bought a house at 18 Haydon Street, Palmerston North, which remained their home until their deaths. The house was built largely with recycled materials as access to new building material was still restricted due to the war. In 1958-59, the wash-house (complete with wood-fired water heater) was removed and a small addition was made to the rear of the house. At that time, the recycled roofing iron was also replaced.

Jim and Kath Cosgrave had 4 children in total, as listed below, but the second born lived only a few hours –

- Margaret Ann Cosgrave
- Vivienne Mary Cosgrave, born 5 June 1947; died 6 June 1947
- Patricia Ursula Cosgrave
- James John Cosgrave (the author)

After the war Jim hoped to open a neighbourhood convenience store (a dairy in New Zealand parlance), but it seemed that the local co-operative society was granted all of the permissions to build, with individuals left out in the cold. At a public meeting on the topic, Jim stated that he would walk bare-footed over broken glass to Awapuni (the other side of town) and carry his groceries home in a sack before setting foot in a co-op store, a pledge that he stuck to throughout his life.

Jim worked at Coles, a music and electrical shop on The Square in P.N., until the mid-1950s when he set up his own business, Communications Services, in the rapidly expanding field of mobile radio communications. Jim did the technical work, and Kath handled the office side of the business.

Running his own business as a one-man show, Jim did not take long holidays, but managed the occasional long weekend trout fishing with friends and relatives. Jim was on good terms with Monsignor Cullen, who had a rustic cottage on the southern shores of Lake Taupo at Pukawa.



**Monsignor Cullen's Cottage at Pukawa.**

Family holidays were spent at Monsignor Cullen's cottage, and involved Jim driving the family to Pukawa on a Friday night, staying the weekend to ensure that all was working well (generator for electricity, water pump, etc.), do a little fly fishing in the evening, and then driving home for the work week. He would return the following weekend to pick the family up. At least once during the week, Kath would make the trek up the dirt track to the road (often with one of the younger children in tow), hitchhike into Tokaanu, buy essential groceries and hitchhike back to Pukawa.

The British company, Pye Telecommunications Ltd., had begun selling their radio-telephones (two-way radios in North American parlance) in New Zealand in 1951, and these products became popular for mobile communications by emergency services and other fleet operators that needed to be in instant touch with their field staff. Communication Services became a regional dealer of Pye Electronics in New Zealand, a relationship which endured until the business was wound up after Jim's death.

At that time, telephone, telegraph and radio communication systems in New Zealand were primarily provided by the Post Office and it was illegal to compete with the Post Office for telecommunications revenues. However, technology was moving forward faster than the Post Office's ability to deliver service, and organizations were permitted to provide radio communications facilities for their own use where no Post Office service existed.

Communication Services became a leader in providing these systems to regional Power Boards (electricity distributors), and Catchment Boards (water resource and control organizations), municipalities, vets, taxis, etc.

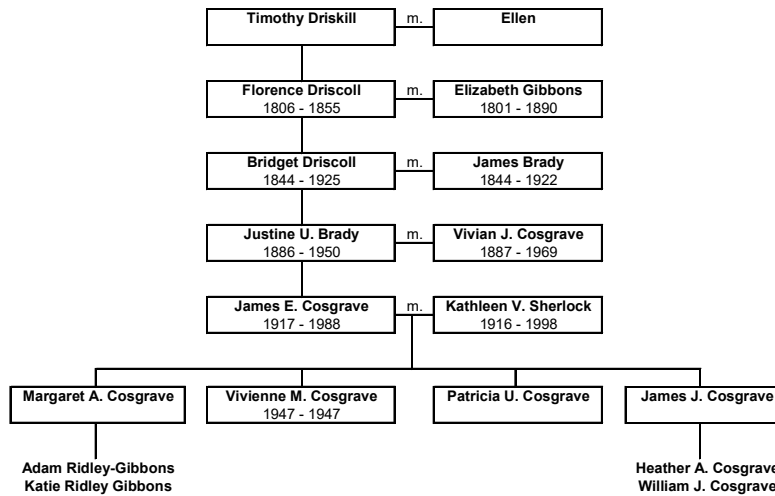
As mobile communication system use spread to trucking and other industries, the Post Office could not keep up with the demand for service, and they began licensing User Associations (groups of organizations that required radio services in a geographical area) to provide services for their members.



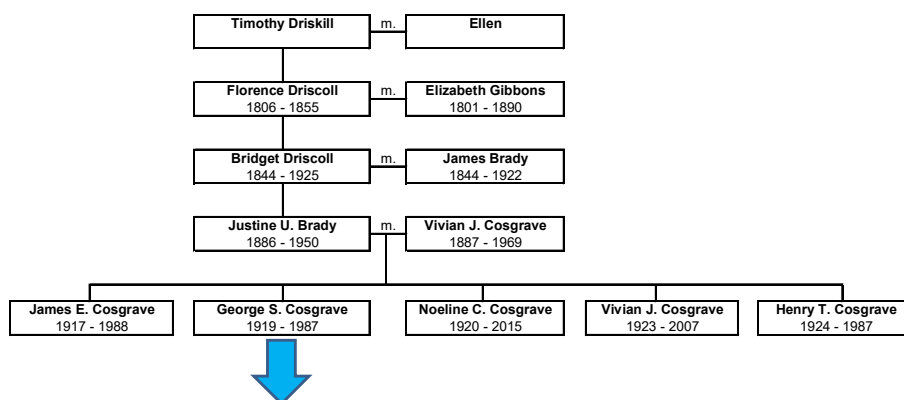
**Communication Services new workshop (abt. 1960).**

Communication Services was heavily involved in the engineering and maintenance of such systems throughout the Wairarapa and Hawkes Bay.

In the mid-1980s, Jim was diagnosed with leukemia, a diagnosis that was in common with several others involved with early radar systems during the war, suggesting that there may be a link between their wartime activities and their health. Around this same time, cellular mobile telephone service was introduced in New Zealand (1987), and this service rapidly overtook the traditional mobile communications services. Jim worked with mobile communications equipment from its war time beginnings, through its heyday, and the beginning of its decline, before passing away at the Palmerston North Public Hospital on 30 June 1988 at 71 years of age. Kathleen lived on for ten more years, and died peacefully at home on 23 April 1998 at the age of 82 years. Both are buried in the Kelvin Grove Cemetery in Palmerston North.



## Chapter 11 – George Steele Cosgrave



The second child of Justine Brady and Vivian Cosgrave was George Steele Cosgrave, who was born 24 March 1919. He attended Hunterville School, Marton District High School (1933-1934) and St. Patrick's College, Wellington (1935-1936). After leaving high school, George joined the civil service, working in the Industries and Commerce Department.

The Second World War put his career on hold, as on 29 October 1940, at the age of 21, George joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force, as a Leading Aircraftman (Airman Pilot). He underwent basic training at Harewood, was remustered as an Air Observer in Levin, and at the end of February 1941 he sailed out of Auckland on the ship *Awatea* bound for Canada, where he underwent training as an Air Observer. The training was provided by the Royal Canadian Air Force as part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

In Canada George was stationed in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan (Air Observer School), MacDonald, Manitoba (Bombing and Gunnery School), Rivers, Manitoba (Central Navigation School), Debert, Nova Scotia (31 O.T.U.). In September 1941 he was posted to the U.K., where he worked as an instructor for the following year and a half, apart from several short postings to operations units in India and Egypt. He was promoted to Flight Sergeant on 1 June 1942, gained a temporary commission as a Pilot Officer on 12 September 1942, and was promoted to Flying Officer in March 1943.

In a letter home in December 1943 George bemoaned the fact that without more operations time he could not be promoted above the rank of Flight Lieutenant, so was hoping for a posting to an operations unit.

In February 1944 George was posted to India for ten months, where he was attached to 355 Squadron, and was promoted to Flight Lieutenant in September 1944.

On 3 January 1945 George was repatriated to New Zealand, having spent 3 years and 310 days overseas. He then served with 40 Squadron, flying throughout the Pacific. On his return to New Zealand after a flight in April 1945 George was charged with breaching Air Force regulations for bringing in 3 ½ cartons of cigarettes. This was not against Customs regulations and he had declared the cigarettes and paid the duty, but it seems he was caught up in a report by Customs of goods secreted within the aircraft and would not normally have been charged as



Customs did not enforce Air Force regulations. He received his one and only reprimand for this offense.

On 19 February 1946, Flight Lieutenant (403952) George Steele Cosgrave was discharged from active service to the Reserve A List. His commission was officially terminated on 1 June 1956. During his service, George had flown a total of 826 hours on Anson, Battle, Hudson, Wellington and Liberator aircraft.

For his wartime service, he earned the Burma Star, Defence Medal, African Star and Pacific Star.

After leaving the Air Force, George rejoined the Industries and Commerce Department of the New Zealand government on 1 April 1948, as a Clerk in Wellington. He was later posted to Melbourne and by 1950 he was the Assistant Trade Commissioner in Bombay, India. George remained in India, serving as acting Trade Commissioner for an extended period in 1952, before returning to New Zealand in early 1953.

George became estranged from the rest of the family around 1957, and died in Auckland Hospital on 23 July 1987 at 68 years of age. He is buried in the family plot at the Foxton Cemetery, with his parents and sister Noeline.

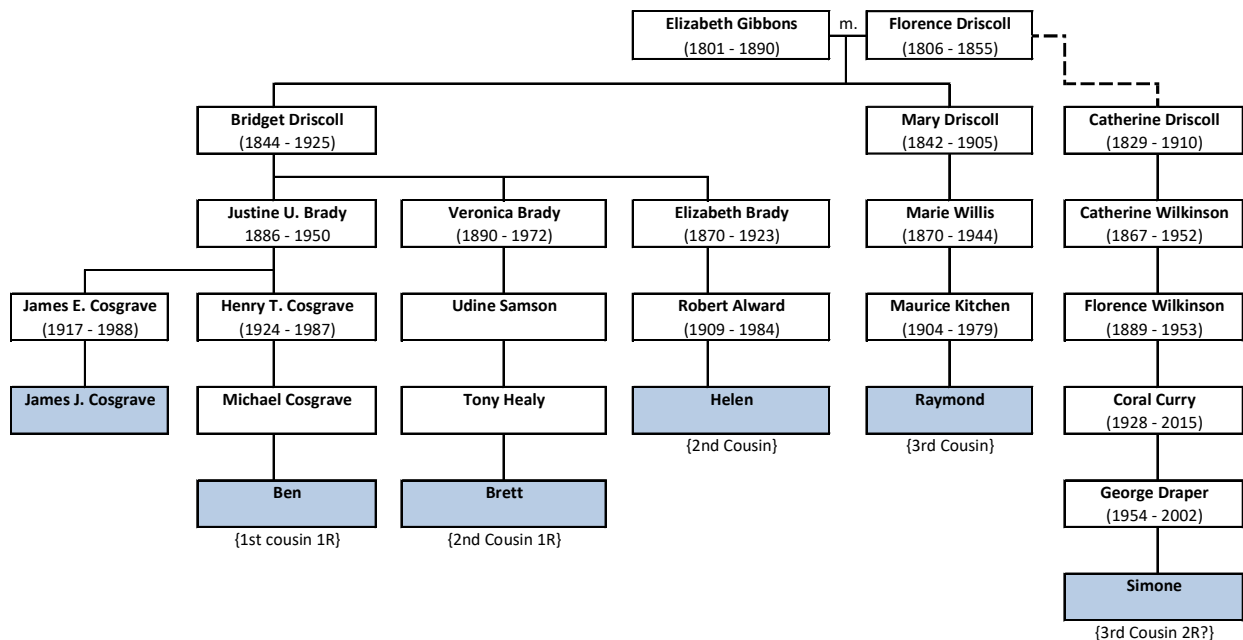
## Chapter 12 – DNA Testing

Autosomal DNA testing, through companies such as Ancestry, 23andMe, MyHeritage and FamilyTreeDNA, is of huge benefit to genealogists in confirming connections identified by researching the paper trail of our ancestors. If two people who have well-researched family trees, which identify a common ancestor, also share autosomal DNA, and if there is no other obvious ancestral connection, then it is highly likely that the identified common ancestor is correct.

Through comparison of my autosomal DNA results, with the results of others who have taken DNA tests, I have found Driscoll cousins who were previously unknown to me, back to the third cousin level, including descendants of the all three children of Florence Driscoll, known to have had children. So autosomal DNA testing has been instrumental in confirming my Driscoll ancestry.

As stated in chapter 2, it has been unclear as to whether Catherine Driscoll (1829-1910) was a child of Florence Driscoll & Elizabeth Gibbons, or a child of one of them, or perhaps related in some other way. DNA has clarified that Catherine was definitely a blood relative of Florence Driscoll and / or Elizabeth Gibbons, as descendants of Catherine share DNA with descendants of Florence and Elizabeth - I had lost track of Catherine after the birth of her son, Thomas Smith, in New Zealand in 1849. Meanwhile, in Australia, descendants of a Catherine Wilkinson (1867-1952) knew that she was a daughter of a Catherine Driscoll or Smith (both surnames had been found in public records), we found that we shared DNA and that they also shared DNA with other descendants of Florence Driscoll, suggesting a high likelihood that Catherine Driscoll, blood relative of Florence, was the mother of Catherine Wilkinson.

The chart below shows some of my Driscoll connections confirmed with autosomal DNA testing, but not all known DNA connections have been included in the chart to improve readability.



Driscoll DNA Connections of James. J. Cosgrave.

There are many other people who have taken DNA tests, with whom I share significant amounts of autosomal DNA, and with whom I may share a common Driscoll ancestor, but there is no paper trail to establish the correct relationship.

For more distant connections, Y-DNA testing can also be very useful, in tracing the male ancestral line. The Y-chromosome is passed down the male line from father to son, largely unchanged, although mutations do occur from time to time. It is these mutations that create what is termed “genetic distance” between Y-DNA samples – the genetic distance between two samples increases by 1 with each mutation on either line of descent from a common ancestor. The relative stability of the Y-chromosome is therefore useful in identifying common male ancestors in ancient times.

I therefore encourage male Driscoll descendants to take the Big Y-700 test at FamilyTreeDNA, or even the somewhat cheaper Y-111 test, which could help to clarify how our Driscoll family fits into the overall haplotree of humankind. These tests are frequently on sale, especially around Black Friday in November.

To date I am not aware of any Driscoll male descendants of Florence Driscoll who have taken Y-DNA tests, so even one person testing would be useful, and several, from different lines of descent would be a bonus.

## References

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- <sup>i</sup> 1841 Census of England; HO107; piece 506; folio 21; page 35
- <sup>ii</sup> Newspaper Daily Southern Cross; 20 November 1855; page 3
- <sup>iii</sup> NZ Truth , Issue 1270, 3 April 1930, Page 4