

BARBER Mary Ellen

these biographical notes were curated by John McAlpine,
and they await confirmation/correction, and further detail/expansion from family descendants ...

Mary Ellen BARBER was born in Auckland.

Her parents were **Joseph BARBER** and **Mary Agnes CHARMAN**. They married in Auckland, 14 May 1886.

Their first child **Joseph Henry** was born 14 Sept 1886; **Mary Ellen**, their second child, was born 14 November 1888.

Not a lot is known about **Joseph BARKER**, other than he was born c. 1863, died 26 March 1890, and was buried four days later in the Symonds Street Cemetery, Central Auckland. Notice of his impending burial was carried by the Auckland Star on 27th and 28th March. (The time between his death and burial seems unusually lengthy).

More is known about his wife, **Mary Agnes CHARMAN**. She was born in Onehunga (30 June 1868) to **Henry and Ellen CHARMAN**, and was baptized at **Saint Peter's Church, Onehunga**, on 13 December 1868.

Mary Ellen (Joseph and Mary Agnes' second child) died as an almost-three-year-old-infant on 27 September 1891. Her body was brought from her mother's home in Victoria Street, Central Auckland, and buried in **Saint Peter's Cemetery, Onehunga**, on the 29th of September.

Why this journey, particularly given that Mary Ellen's father **Joseph Barber** had been living in the same Victoria Street home when he died one year earlier (26 March 1890) and had been buried in the nearby Symonds Street Cemetery in Central Auckland?

Part of the answer to that question probably lies with Mary Ellen's grandparents, **Henry and Ellen CHARMAN**, who lived in Onehunga.

The **CHARMAN** family had a burial plot (Plot 194) in **Saint Peter's Cemetery** where lay two of **Mary Agnes CHARMAN's** younger siblings i.e. **Alfred CHARMAN** (aged 8 weeks, died on 5 July 1873) and **Mary Louise CHARMAN** (aged 3 years, died on 3 August 1874).

It would seem that **Henry and Ellen CHARMAN** said to their widowed daughter **Mary Agnes**: "*Bring Mary Ellen home to Onehunga and bury her with your younger siblings, Alfred and Mary Louisa.*"

Both **Henry and Ellen CHARMAN** joined these three children years later. Ellen died 1892, followed by Henry in 1898)

(see the **CHARMAN** bibliography posted on this website)

Mary Agnes remarried a few years after the deaths of her husband and daughter. She married **Thomas Govan JAMIESON**, 23 June 1896. Together they gave birth to nine children.

Mary Agnes lived until the age of 81, when she died (8 October 1949) and was buried in the Pukapuka Cemetery, Pohuehue (Mahurangi).

Her son **Joseph Henry BARBER** lived and died in the home in Nelson Street, Auckland Central. He married Ruby Susanna Mary Jamieson (30 Dec 1909). They gave birth to three children: Joseph Henry (jnr) 1909-1991; Pearl Ruby 1914-1973; and Joyce Margaret 1923-1990.

Joseph Henry (snr) died 31 May 1958, and was buried in Waikumete Cemetery, West Auckland.