

# The Officer Family

The narrative that appears throughout the early Officer's is drawn from a paper written in 2006 by Dr. Colin Officer, OAM "The Officer Family – Their Origins".

## Origin of the Name

Blacks Scottish surnames, published New York Library, defines **OFFICER** as an old name in Glenbervie, Kincardineshire, Scotland, derived from the office of "Officialis" or the "Officiar", usually a layman who presided at an ecclesiastical court. Examples are Walters officialis who witnessed a charter of Earl David 1202-03, and Master Balared officialis of the prior of St. Andrews.

The proximity to cathedrals at Brechin and Aberdeen is interesting. It does seem very likely that the name as used in the 16th Century was an occupational name, the scions of which became tenant farmers in the Glen of Bervie. The laird was the Arbuthnot. The medieval Catholic Church of Scotland was sundered by then, and it seems probable that one family living in Glenbervie gave rise to all with name today. The first family member was James Officiar (1550-1611), tenant farmer in Nether Pitforthe, who left a will (in which the name is so spelled) in the favour of his "bairns" and with his brother as executor. (A copy is in the possession of both Colin Officer and Hugh Forster). All latter family members used the spelling "Officer", from the late 17th century when the family next appears recorded.

As alternative version was given by my great grandfather, Sir Robert Officer (1800-1879), still has currency amongst some of his descendants. In this version the first of the family came from France in the train of Mary Queen of Scots, the year being 1561, and was a French officer known as "Officier". Sir Robert affected this spelling himself, though none of his relatives in Scotland did so! It is unlikely he saw the "Family Lineage" document produced by Elspet Officer née Walker on 1868 or the will of James Officiar, who died in 1661. (Elspet was his second cousin, living in Scotland).

## The Scots Diaspora

Probably by 1700 a branch of the Kincardineshire family has established itself in Ulster with the Presbyterian Scots settlements ordered by William III. There was a marriage of one David Officer to Mary Campbell in 1717, the first known mention of the name in Ulster. (Reference - Researches of "Gus" Officer, of the Ulster Branch, Pers. Comm.). Throughout the 18th Century the known family still show remarkable faithfulness to the one area of Scotland. Migration overseas certainly occurred to North America, but I suspect that like Australasia this was mostly a 19th Century event. An American cowboy named John Officer features well in an old book by Andy Williams, "The log of a Cowboy", about a trail herd in the 1870s.

First recorded **American** of the name was Robert Officer, born between 1730-40, British Isles. (Ref. First US Census 1790, when aged between 50 and 60.) He lived in Smith County, Tennessee. A son James C Officer served in the Revolutionary Army of Virginia, 1780. (Informant Mrs. Eugene A Jacquemart of California June 16, 1956 to Sir Keith Officer in Paris.) James C Officer was her great grandfather, John Henry Officer (1818-1894) was her grandfather and John Pointer Officer (1863-1930) her father. Robert Officer (he of the census) of course was her great great grandfather. The family was prominent in Overton County, Tennessee for many years. She wrote that members of the Wallace Clan of Scotland came to America and had adopted the name of Officer to avoid oppression, eventually dropping the Wallace name completely in America. This has caused much confusion genealogically, amounting to a complete name change!

Migrations to Australasia from Britain have involved three major Officer families

- a. Dr. Robert Officer, (1800 – 1879) - our line of Officers

From Kincardineshire, Scotland, he arrived in Hobart, Van Diemen's Land on March 1, 1822, in the "Castle Forbes". He subsequently brought out his two unmarried sisters, Isabella who died at sea, and Elspet who died (date unknown) in Hobart. For his career and family refer sixth generation.

- b. John Officer, (1823 – 1885) who lived in Ulster

He arrived as an assisted migrant to the Port Phillip District on 30 May 1850 in the "Sir Robert Sale", employed by W M Moyle of Geelong. He was able to purchase some land at Williamstown for 290 pounds on 14 January, 1854. Four months later he was able to return to Ireland on the "Indian Queen" to Liverpool and then married Sarah McMaster on 13 September, 1855. He soon migrated with his wife and brother, James Officer, as unassisted migrants on the "Eagle". 1050 tons, reaching Melbourne from Liverpool on

16 January, 1856 after a 77 day voyage. In 1857 he had bought 5 acres of land for 56 pounds 10 shillings and was also working as a rate collector. He farmed successfully on "Cherry Vale", Koroit, but had an unsuccessful purchase of a station at Eulo, Queensland in 1885. His family were numerous and prospered in many fields, most being descendants of his second wife.

James Officer (1833 - 1890), the brother of the above John, also farmed in the Warrnambool area. While John had many descendants, James' family has perhaps died out. He married Margaret Simpson in Warrnambool in 1866 and had three sons and four daughters. Three grandchildren settled in Broadford, Victoria in their declining years and died there in the 1980's.

Several sisters also came to Victoria at about the same time as the brothers. Eliza Officer, 25 yo, Jane Officer 24 yo, Margaret Officer 17 yo and Mary Officer 27yo. The last 3 are known to have married.

A first cousin of this Ulster family, James Officer (1820 - 8 April, 1899) married Janet Nicol Scott of Ballarat. He had come to Victoria and set up as an importer and merchant in Geelong, where there is a large monumental grave in East Geelong. His widow remarried to a cousin Thomas Scott Blake in England. His son Alexander returned to Britain, and was possibly killed in the Great War.

- c. John Officer (1819 - ?) born London and wife Mary Spark (1820 - 1887) and family

They migrated from Kincardineshire and arrived in New Zealand in 1868. Eleven of their twelve children accompanied them to the Invercargill district, one son staying put as he was a master grocer with a good business, but some of his grandsons came out in 1920. Most of his family have farmed. They are numerous and have regular reunions in New Zealand. His father Andrew Officer (1793 - 1855) was born in Glenbervie, died in Montrose where he was a successful master baker and confectioner, as were several of his sons. Andrew was perhaps vaguely remembered by members of my family, for my aunt's claimed that "an Officer had invented shortbread". This may or may not be true, but each Christmas they bought a tin along. This family has kept in touch with their Scots relatives, who include a certain Paul Officer, a former body-guard to Prince Charles. The writer, Colin Officer, has met one family group and has been given details of the whole extended family.

Note: When the writer visited Great Britain in 1956/57 he spent time looking around the various cemeteries, especially the Glen Bervie one where Officer graves are numerous. He also found one Robert Officer, store-keeper at Auchenblae. In 1965 I visited Aberdeen, finding a wine and spirit merchant was an Officer. However, as a born Glaswegian, he knew nothing about the family and had just settled into Aberdeen because he liked it. The name is still well known in Scotland though nearly unknown in London. "That's not a name!" was a common retort.

A sense of extended "family" still exists in Australia, though it is dwindling gradually. It seems strongest in the rural areas. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family.)

## First Generation

1. **James Officiar** was born in 1550 in Nether Pitforth, Scotland and died in 1611

Note: Colin Officer indicates that no clearly established link has been found between this Generation and the Third Generation.

James married Janet White

They had the following children:

2. M i. NN Officer

## Second Generation

2. **NN Officer** (James)

He had the following children:

3. M i. James Officer was born in 1684 and died in 1752

### Third Generation

3. **James Officer** (NN, James) was born in 1684 in Dillevard, Angus, Scotland and died in 1752

We believe our earliest known ancestor was James Officer born 1684, died 1752, described as "Tenant Mains of Dillivairs" and presumably a small farmer. Also buried at Glenbervie is a William Officer, died 6 May, 1756, and likewise "Tenant Mains of Dillivairs", probably a brother. Officers were numerous in the region, and direct connection with the subsequent New Zealand immigrant family must have been in the 17th Century. They mostly lived and died in the Glen of Bervie, gradually spreading into adjacent counties.

This particular James Officer (or perhaps William) had four children, and the family was well documented in 1868 by Elspet Officer. She was then in her 80s and lived a further ten years, dying in her 97th year (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family.)

James had the following children:

4. M i. James Officer
5. M ii. Robert Officer
6. M iii. John Officer was born in 1713 and married Elizabeth Spark

Lived as a crofter at Dunnotar. Married Elizabeth Spark and had four sons. Two were shoemakers, a third a weaver. Grandchildren included fish curers, a farmer and a merchant, who died aged only 28. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

7. F iv. Elspet Officer

### Fourth Generation

4. **James Officer** (James, NN, James)

Lived near Bankhead.

James married Margaret Ritchie

They had the following children:

8. M i. James Officer
5. **Robert Officer** (James, NN, James) was born in Jacksbank, near Dundee, Scotland

Robert Officer, who lived at Jacksbank and married Margaret Walker. They had three sons and two daughters. The eldest (Archibald) became postmaster at Murrkirk in Ayrshire, and had children. The second son Robert 1760-1802 was also a tenant farmer in Jacksbank, and married Isabella Kerr. These two had a son William, a surgeon at Stonehaven, died unmarried about 1821, 4 daughters and a second son Robert Officer (1800-79) who qualified MRCS in London in 1821. It was a lowly degree, and one wonders what struggles this family had to educate the fatherless boys. Previously he had the degree of Master of Arts, Aberdeen, which gave him a classical education. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Robert married Margaret Walker

They had the following children:

9. M i. Archibald Officer

Became postmaster at Murrkirk in Ayrshire, and had children.

10. M ii. Robert Officer was born in 1760 and died in 1802

7. **Elspet Officer** (James, NN, James)

Elspet married Archibald Brand

They had the following children:

11. F i. Isabella Brand. Married to name unknown

12. F ii. Elspet Brand

## Fifth Generation

8. **James Officer** (James, James, NN, James)

A shoemaker

James had the following children:

13. M i. Alexander Officer was born in 1788 and died in 1868

10. **Robert Officer** (Robert, James, NN, James) was born in 1760 in Jacksbank, near Dundee, Scotland and died in 1802

Second son Robert 1760-1802 was also a tenant farmer in Jacksbank, and married Isabella Kerr.

Robert married Isabella Kerr

They had the following children:



Norfolk, Tasmania, Australia. He was buried on 11 July, 1879 in Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

He was born near Montrose on 3 October, 1800, and his father died when he was only two. As his parents Robert and Isabella had six children, we may assume their marriage took place no earlier than 1780s. Robert's elder brother William qualified as a surgeon and practiced at Stonehaven. However, he died young (and unmarried) around 1821. One may well wonder how the family coped economically, unless helped by an extended family of both Kerrs and Officers. Robert, the youngest of the family, was obviously well educated and a brilliant student. He had a phenomenal memory, according to his granddaughter, Theresa Officer (born 5 March, 1868). She remembered meeting him as a young girl, aged maybe 9 years old. No doubt showing off a little, he claimed that once he had read a book it was his forever, there was no reason to re-read it! In much later years, she rescued the large original hand-painted in pastel and watercolour portraits of Sir Robert and his wife Jamima from certain destruction (the latter was signed by Botterill, a well-known artist of that time). They now adorn my sitting room. Copies do not exist in the Tasmanian Club, I'm informed, but perhaps other family members hold them.

Robert qualified MRCS (Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London) in 1821, a very basic type of degree. It is hard to see how he also fitted in his MA (Aberdeen), which gave him the classical education he valued so greatly. Starting his tertiary studies at 15 would have given him a bare six years. How long was the MRCS course in those days? Certainly, he soon decided that the climate and economic prospects existing in the Australian colony of Van Diemen's Land were superior to Scotland. So too did thousands of other young Scots at the time. He embarked as ship's doctor on the "Castle Forbes" leaving Britain on 27 August, 1821, and arriving Hobart Town on 1 March, 1822.

Hugh Officer, his great grandson used to tell people "he came out at his country's expense, but not for reason some of you will immediately conclude..." ("Recollections of a Birdwatcher", 1978, by Brigadier Hugh Officer, page1)

The "Castle Forbes" carried private passengers, amongst whom was a young woman, Jamima Patterson, migrating to VDL, with her parents, Myles Patterson and his wife Katharine née Hunter and some six other siblings, one of whom had arrived the previous year with his aunt. The history of this family, "The Pastoral Pattersons" was written by J O Randell in 1976. Unfortunately, Randell omitted all reference to Robert Officer of "Rocklands", the first son of Sir Robert and Jamima, possibly because of name confusion. (Robert begat Robert who begat Robert etc!) Jamima was "sweet sixteen" on the long voyage, and it is thought a shipboard romance with the handsome ship's surgeon occurred. Their marriage took place at St David's Church on 25 October, 1823. One hopes he was earning more than 3 shillings a day, which was his initial salary as a "supernumerary surgeon" in Hobart.

In 1824, the couple moved to New Norfolk on the Derwent River, and before long, he was caring for the sick and injured along "thirty five miles through populous districts." He also acted a surgeon to the military garrison and families, and had charge of the New Norfolk hospital, of working convicts and the gaol where he attended all floggings. His government pay was now 7 shillings a day, but of course, he would have had his private practice to the free settlers. In 1830, a certain Mrs Fenton wrote in her journal "Very much indeed was I possessed in the Dr.'s favour by his cordial manner and intelligent handsome countenance." And again "The chief means of happiness lay within myself he said, and in this fine climate he had no doubt a great improvement would take place in my health. He spoke with so much spirit and good sense that I listened to him with real pleasure." ("A History of New Norfolk and the Derwent Valley", K R Steiglitz).

In 1823, Dr. Robert Officer was criticised for sending convicts from road gangs to New Norfolk for treatment, thereby interfering with their discipline; his reply to the Governor was that he had "no desire to be known as a mere slave driver". This compassion was also extended to the "sick poor" whom he would have treated free of charge.

The 1830s were restless years for the doctor, who had been given a land grant near Bothwell, but he moved again with his family to Hobart and started experimenting with eucalyptus oil distillation. He sought promotion and was appointed to inspect the entire Colonial and Convict Medical Department. He was temporarily made Colonial Surgeon, but needed confirmation from London.

Meanwhile he "had become infected by the mad Port Phillip transactions", (see ADB 1788-1850) and in partnership with his brother-in-law Captain Wood, he was sending sheep to Geelong as a speculation. Late in 1829, he was considering a move to Victoria, for which he was granted to leave to visit. Wisely, his wife opposed the move. During 1840, he spent large sums importing Scots workmen, buying sheep at high prices and supporting the dealings of another brother-in-law John Hunter Patterson, who became bankrupt, though he later redeemed himself. Although Dr. Officer was left with bills of 3000 pounds, he escaped insolvency and returned to Hobart. Despite this, Dr. Robert remained highly interested in Victoria and the Riverina. He felt Tasmania was too restricted for his sons and perhaps for himself. Robert Officer, his eldest son, accompanied him on a visit to Victoria in 1842, with the aim of investing in a sheep station in the Western District of Victoria. In 1847, Dr. Officer acquired the "Mount Talbot" run of 64,000 acres at Toolondo near Harrow, appointing his son Robert as manager. He also recalled his sons Charles and Suetonius from their studies in Edinburgh in 1848, (not earlier, as the ADB relates), the 21-year-old Charles having to interrupt a medical course and Suetonius though only just turned 18 was studying in the military. Both were well educated and ready to invest their energies in Australia. After their return, they shortly afterwards joined their brother at Mount Talbot. Their father was able from thereon to set them all up on highly desirable sheep stations. Mount Talbot is still held by the Officer family.

He had lost the Colonial Surgeon situation after his return to Hobart and Dr. Officer eventually became Health Officer for Hobart. Each year he censured the city's insanitary situation and each year the Lieutenant Governor informed him that there were no funds to rectify it! The doctor acquired a number of other duties, including the placement of Queen's Orphans Schools' children into jobs, the Court of Medical Examiners and the Immigration Department. In 1850, he resigned from this life and returned with his wife to New Norfolk.

Some three years were spent in private practice, but his interests were now political, notably on the big issue of the transportation of convicts to Tasmania. The doctor's view was popular! "End transportation now and send all the one's we've got to the mainland!" He was a great supporter of the Rev. John West. In consequence, he was elected unopposed in 1853 to the Legislative Council and shared in the drafting of the colony's Constitution. In 1856 he was elected unopposed to the new House of Assembly, occupying the post of Chairman of Committees until he became Speaker in 1861. Knighthood was bestowed on him in 1869. After his death Officer College was named in his memory.

Meanwhile he had served on many bodies, usually in leadership positions. He was interested in mental health and education, the Royal Society of Tasmania (vice-president), the Tasmanian Club (founding member and second president), and was Chairman of the Acclimatisation Committee and the Salmon Commission. He shared in establishing the Salmon Ponds near New Norfolk and was a major personality in the famous introduction of both Atlantic salmon and brown trout to Tasmania. The first successful shipment arrived in the "Norfolk" to Melbourne in 1864, and from there to New Norfolk, where 170 boxes of ova were to be hatched out. Over the next year, some 2000 young salmon were liberated into the Derwent River and a mere 338 trout. 133 brown trout were retained for breeding purposes, the ultimate parents of most if the brown trout now living in Tasmania, the Australian mainland and New Zealand. These grew to a huge size, were probably misidentified as salmon, and may have caused the demise of the latter highly desired fish. The credit chiefly goes to James Youll, a Tasmanian grazier and man of affairs, and William Ramsbottom a young settler. Youll overcame the difficult transportation problems, whilst Ramsbottom was responsible for the hatching and care of the fish. Indeed, he gave them his life, dying of pneumonia whilst working incredibly long hours caring for them - he was only 35 years old. (Ref "Salmon at the Antipodes" by John Clements, 1988). The affair of the importation of Atlantic salmon attracted much publicity including cartoons in *The Melbourne Punch*, various hilarious "news reports" and much versification, some of it by Ramsbottom. Dr. Officer figures prominently in these. Undoubtedly, he enjoyed it all. The Tasmanians did not give up, and achieved a flourishing Atlantic salmon farming industry more than a century later

The Officer mansion of "Hallgreen" is thought to have started about 1823, with new editions made following a fire in 1830. The name was taken from a well-known landmark Hallgreen Castle, near Bervie in Kincardineshire. This had been destroyed when I visited that district in 1956. The New Norfolk house was probably built over a period of time as the family grew. The convict servants lived in a flag stoned basement, where wall-mounted hooks and fittings served culinary purposes but could have other uses too. The upper story was occupied by the family, with four inches of soil between the servant and family areas. I have a picture of Sir Robert and Lady Officer on the front lawn with a daughter and two grand children close to the house. One of the children may have been my Aunt Theresa. My wife and I had the good

fortune to visit "Hallgreen" before the disastrous fire of 1979, which left the top floor a ruin. The owners restored the building almost to its original state.

Compassion is one of his character traits, which I find most attractive, while as a Presbyterian he was highly tolerant of other versions of Protestantism. He worshipped in the Anglican Church in New Norfolk whilst remaining an elder of the Hobart Presbytery and was generous to the Methodists who led the fight against transportation of convicts.

The new colonial elite had come some distance from their more humble origins in the Old Country, and already were moving into a new 'aristocracy' based on wool and wealth. They were also equipping themselves with the insignia of their social rank. Dr. Robert Officer affected a family Crest, a hand holding a dagger and the motto "Deo juvante vinco". This was part of the Officer Coat of Arms, of which I have a photo. It is described as "ARMS Azure on a Bend argent between two Saracens Heads Or a Mural Crown Gules between two Fleur de Lis Sable. CREST a dexter Hand erect grasping a Cutlass Proper". Did it belong to Sir Robert or his cousin Dr. Andrew Murray Officer MD, of the James Officer (of Blankhead) branch of the family. A great deal of Sir Robert's silverware was inscribed with the Crest. The affectation of spelling "Officier" in some of his letters is probably another example of gentrification; he did not use this when signing his Will.

The family can look back on his career with gratitude and some pride. The arrival of Robert and Jamima in the "Castle Forbes" in 1822 has been celebrated with reunions of his descendants in 1922 and again in 1972. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Further information can be obtained at:  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A020262b.htm>  
Australian Dictionary of Biography - Online Edition

#### HALLGREEN

Hallgreen in Montague Street (New Norfolk) now owned by Dr. C. Hartley Rowe (1962), is a delightful old house of two storeys, which looks as if it had never been neglected or lacked a coat of paint since Sir Robert Officer built it. There is not a weed in the flower gardens, which run down the terraced side of the hill to the vegetable garden, on the river's bank - everything being completely spick and span. In the old days, this garden was doubling its present size, row of houses now covering that area. The name is derived from the Officers' connections with Hallgreen in Kincardineshire north of Perthshire. (Hall Green, two words, is a suburb of Birmingham).

Dr. Officer purchased this property from Police Magistrate Mason, and added it to his own grant of 500 acres made to him by Gov. Sorell. (Stieglitz)

In 1908, Hallgreen was again in the possession of the Officer family. Mrs. Mary Officer, the widowed wife of Suetonius Henry Officer, a son of Sir Robert, moved from Melbourne to take up residence there in that year. Becoming unsettled after the death there of her eldest son, Charles Graham Weir Officer on 18 February, 1911 she returned to Victoria to reside prompted largely because of the failing health of her widowed daughter, Mary Lillias Pullen, née Officer. It is not clear if she returned Melbourne in 1911 or 1917 and when she sold Hallgreen as two obituaries at her death state 1911 in one and 1917 in the other. (Forster)

Robert married Jamima Patterson daughter of Myles Patterson and Katherine Hunter on 25 October, 1823 in St Davids, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. Jamima was born on 26 October, 1803 in Edinburgh, Scotland and died on 28 September, 1881 in "Hallgreen", New Norfolk, Tasmania, Australia

They had the following children:

21. M i. Robert Officer was born on 14 March, 1825 and died on 25 August, 1881
22. F ii. Eliza Hunter Officer was born on 7 May, 1826 and died on 8 February, 1867
23. M iii. Charles Myles Officer was born on 14 July, 1827 and died on 1 February, 1904

24. F iv. Catherine Officer was born on 29 July, 1828 in New Norfolk, Tasmania, Australia and died on 24 November, 1893 at "Leura", Toorak, Victoria, Australia. Catherine married Hon Robert Simson MLC on 30 April, 1851. Robert died on 3 November, 1896
- Residence: "Leura", Toorak. No children.
- See also <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A060144b.htm> for his biography.
25. M v. Suetonius Henry Officer was born on 4 January, 1830 and died on 26 July, 1883
26. M vi. Frederick William Officer was born on 14 March, 1831 and died on 2 March, 1832
27. F vii. Isabella Officer was born on 28 August, 1832 and died in 1900
28. M viii. Frederick Officer was born in August, 1834 and died on 1 January, 1835
29. M ix. William Officer was born on 22 October, 1835 and died on 29 July, 1913
30. F x. Jamima Officer was born in 1836 and died in 1836
31. F xi. Margaret Officer was born on 25 May 1837 in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia and died on 24 October, 1847
32. F xii. Jane Wood Officer was born on 3 August, 1838 in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia and died on 4 January, 1839
33. F xiii. Jamima Officer was born on 11 April, 1843 and died on 23 August, 1930
34. F xiv. Mary Reid Officer was born on 2 January, 1844 and died on 9 February, 1855 in New Norfolk, Tasmania, Australia

19. **Elspet Walker** (Elspet Brand, Elspet Officer, James, NN, James) was born in 1781 and died in 1878

Elspet married (1) Alexander Officer son of James Officer. Alexander was born in 1788 and died in 1868

Alexander and Elspet had the following children:

35. M i. William Officer (See #20)
- Elspet married (2) Alexander Murray

## Seventh Generation

20. **William Officer** (Alexander, James, James, James, NN, James) was born in 1826 and died in 1906

William was a lawyer and "Writer to the Signet". (N.B. This is a Scots degree of upper echelon lawyers, comparable to the Fellowships of Medicine). William had 3 daughters and one son John Liddell Officer, also "Writer to the Signet". (Colin Officer's account of the family)

William had the following children:

- 36. Three daughters
- 37. M iv. John Liddell Officer

- 21. **Robert Officer** (Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 14 March, 1825 in New Norfolk, Tasmania, Australia and died on 25 Aug 1881 at "Greenbanks", near Berwick, Victoria, Australia

Robert Officer of "Rocklands". 1825-81. (See "Early Pioneer Families of Victoria and Riverina" by Alexander Henderson.)

The eldest son of Dr. Robert accompanied him on a visit to Victoria in 1842, with the aim of investing in a sheep station in the Western District of Victoria. Then in 1847, his father acquired the "Mount Talbot" run, 64,000 acres at Toolondo near Harrow, appointing the very handsome young Robert as manager, later joined by his brothers Charles and Suetonius. Robert then acquired "Rocklands Estate", seven miles from Balmoral, apparently in 1853 as his second child (a son) was born there in 1854 and his eldest daughter at Mt. Talbot in 1852. He was a well known flock master, also interested in horse breeding. He and his wife contributed to local affairs with great interest, and were much esteemed.

Having a doctor as his father, he also had a useful knowledge of Medicine and frequently used this in the local interest. He married Martha Read, daughter of Captain G.F. Read in Tasmania on 7th May, 1851. They had seven sons (one died in infancy) and three daughters. Martha (born 1832) long outlived her husband, and died in 1917.

Robert sold "Rocklands" some time between 1861 and 1871, settling at Marathon near Geelong for a time before retiring to "Greenbanks" near Berwick. His two youngest sons and two daughters were born in Melbourne. Such was his prestige as a local identity that the nearby hamlet of "Officer" took his name. Yet he remains the least known of my great uncles, and his early retirement as a grazier suggests some ill health, from which no doubt he died aged only 56. "Rocklands" is now the site of a large reservoir supplying Horsham. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Robert married Martha Read daughter of Capt. George Frederick Read and Margaret Terry on 7 May, 1851 in St John, Newtown, Tasmania. Martha was born in 1832 in Hobart, Tasmania and was christened on 3 June, 1832 in Hobart, Tasmania. She died on 18 November, 1917 in Lindisfarne, Tasmania. She was buried in St Kilda General cemetery, Melbourne.

**NOTE: See 'The Terry and Read Families' Tree, #72 in the Fourth Generation of that line.**

They had the following children:

- 38. F i. Margaret Officer was born on 11 March, 1852 at "Mt Talbot", near Harrow, Victoria, Australia and died on 3 June, 1938 in Lindisfarne, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. Margaret married Dr. William Holdsworth Macfarlane (a Medical Superintendent at New Norfolk Mental Hospital) on 28 Apr 1883. William was born on 11 March, 1852 and died on 2 August, 1915. They had no issue
- 39. M ii. Robert Officer was born on 13 April, 1854 and died on 5 December, 1919

- 40. M iii. George Frederick Officer was born in 1856 and died in 1856
- 41. M iv. James Read Officer was born on 16 June, 1857 and died on 28 November, 1927
- 42. F v. Margaret Jessie Officer was born on 7 October, 1857 at "Rocklands", near Balmoral, Victoria, Australia and died on 11 March, 1858 at "Rocklands"
- 43. M vi. Glenelg Henry Officer was born on 23 April, 1858 and died on 29 January, 1932
- 44. M vii. Frank Suetonius Officer was born on 26 May, 1861 and died on 13 June, 1938
- 45. F viii. Edith Mabel Officer was born in 1868 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia and died, unmarried, on 21 January, 1950 in Tasmania, Australia
- 46. M ix. Kenneth Charles Officer was born on 13 February, 1870 in Caulfield, Victoria, Australia and died in 1945.

Educated Toorak College and Melbourne Grammar. Pioneer farmer of the Mallee. Grazier in Tasmania and Victoria at Leongatha and Shepparton; retired 1929 and died unmarried.

- 47. M x. Alexander William Officer was born on 22 June, 1877 and died on 8 July, 1929
- 48. F xi. Georgina Martha Officer was born in 1875 and died on 31 March, 1942

- 22. **Eliza Hunter Officer** (Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 7 May, 1826 in New Norfolk, Tasmania, Australia and died on 8 February, 1867 at "Mont Alto", Toorak, Victoria, Australia

Eliza married James Blackwood on 29 March 1849 in Hobart, Tasmania. James was born on 23 September, 1820 in Kirkoswald, Ayresshire, Scotland and died on 4 February, 1881 in Toorak, Victoria, Australia

James BLACKWOOD sailed from Leith to Sydney via Van Diemen's Land on the "North Briton", master Captain Fyall. He left 23 December, 1839 and was delayed by grounding on the Goodwin Sands and the "Royal George" towed them into Ramsgate for repairs. This gave him time to look at the "lions" of London.

He arrived at Tasman's Head 16 June 1840 and arrived at Hobart the next day. He had a letter of introduction to Mr. Kennedy of the Union Bank. He took a coach to Oatlands, next day walking 15 miles to visit Mr. & Mrs. MacLanathan of Ballochyle and inspected the new house then under construction. He was offered a situation in the Union Bank, but he had his sights set on Sydney, "a much wider field". Departed 8 July, 1840 for Sydney on the "North Briton" Arrived in Sydney 17 July, 1840. Married Eliza Hunter Officer at Hobart Town, Rev. Lilliee March 29 1849.

See also <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A030169b.htm>

James and Eliza had the following children:

- 49. M i. Arthur Ranken Blackwood was born on 12 January, 1850 in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia and died on 2 February, 1905

- 50. F ii. Adelaide Blackwood was born in 1853
- 51. M iii. George Hunter Blackwood was born in 1855 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia and died 1858 aged 19 months
- 52. F iv. Florence Blackwood was born in 1856 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia and died in February, 1858
- 53. F v. Eleanor Blackwood was born in 1857 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia and died in July, 1857. She was buried Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 54. M vi. Percy Blackwood was born in 1859 in Toorak, Melbourne, Australia and died in December, 1871 at sea
- 55. F vii. Jamima Blackwood was born in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia
- 56. F viii. Beatrice Blackwood was born in 1861 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. She was christened in August, 1861 in Toorak, Melbourne, Australia
  
- 23. **Charles Myles Officer** (Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 14 July, 1827 in New Norfolk, Tasmania, Australia and died on 1 February, 1904

President of the Melbourne Club. Four of his children died in 1868 as a result of a typhoid outbreak (information from Hugh Officer in 1981).

(See ADB 1851-90 "Early Pioneer Families of Victoria and Riverina" by Henderson)

His education was partly in Edinburgh and he had started a medical course before being recalled probably in 1848. He assisted in the management of Mount Talbot, but was partner to his brother Suetonius Henry in several ventures, including Lingmer station (25,000 acres), and notably Murray Downs Station (Swan Hill) and Kallara 998,000 acres on the Darling River. Charles also tried his luck on the goldfields before taking up permanent residence at Mount Talbot, a fine run of 64,000 acres. They were able to buy Mt. Talbot in 1859, but Suetonius moved to Murray Downs and cared for their other Riverina holdings. Mount Talbot was opened for selection in the 1860s, and Charles had a worrying time struggling to maintain an adequate freehold. He eventually retained 16,756 acres.

Moving to Melbourne with his family in 1873, they resided at "Landcox", Brighton. Interested in politics, he eventually won the Legislative Assembly seat of "Dundas" in 1883, and held it till 1895. He served on the Royal Commission on lunatic asylums 1884-86, and had numerous business appointments. He was a lieutenant in the Field Artillery Brigade. He was a councillor of the Zoological and Acclimatisation Society, and president in 1887. Also as a member of the Central Board for Protection of the Aborigines, he is said to have learned the language of the local Mount Talbot tribe. Charles' recipe for the aboriginal question was very simplistic and very British. Teach them cricket. Many other graziers in western Victoria thought the same, and in the 1860s soon found that the aborigines could become very good at the game. Mount Talbot produced two prominent cricketers, "Billy Officer" and "Bullocky", the latter's tribal name being Bullehanach and he played at Lord's in 1868. The former's true name is unknown. (See "Cricket Walkabout" by D.J. Mulvaney, 1967)

Charles and his brother Suetonius were both interested in the rearing of ostriches for leather and feathers for the fashion trade. This enterprise is mentioned in Eric Rolls' "They all Ran Wild", (1984). Some ten or more years were spent with ultimate frustration and no doubt much expenditure. Droughts, the 1892 depression with its labour upheavals led to him becoming bankrupt (in NSW only) in 1897. He had however saved Mount Talbot for his descendants who still live there. Charles married twice and had a very large family. Firstly, he married Christina Susannah Robertson of Launceston in 1854. My grandfather William wrote that she was a very sweet woman, and Charles was buried with her in 1904. Her exact date of death is not known to this writer. His second marriage was to Ellen Agnes Besnard (from NSW) in 1876, who was still alive as a very old lady in the early 1930s. This marriage was only two

years after the birth of his youngest son Sidney in 1874, raising the possibility of death of the first wife from obstetrical causes. However, there are other possibilities. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

See also Australian Dictionary of Biography 1851-1890 Vol 5.  
(<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A050410b.htm>) Officer, Charles Myles 1827-1904 and Suetonius Henry (1830-1883)

Charles married (1) Christiana Susannah Robertson on 24 January, 1854. Christiana was born in 1834 and died on 21 July, 1875

They had the following children:

57. M i. Charles Myles Officer was born on 2 December, 1855 and died in 1910  

Educated Wesley College and Melbourne University, graduating B.C.E. Commissioned, serving under Lord Roberts in India and South African war reaching rank of Major. Administrator at Grahamstown, South Africa, but returned to Victoria where he soon died. Unmarried. Lieutenant in Field Artillery Brigade. He was appointed aide-de-camp to Governor Loch. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)
58. F ii. Margaret Jessie Officer was born on 7 October, 1857 and died on 9 July, 1868
59. M iii. William Officer was born on 3 December, 1858 and died on 29 June, 1925
60. M iv. Suetonius Frederick Officer was born on 7 August, 1860 and died of typhoid on 9 July, 1868
61. F v. Jamima Officer was born in 1861 and died in 1937
62. F vi. Isabella Mary Officer was born on 18 October, 1863 and died of typhoid on 25 May 1868
63. M vii. Percy Hunter Officer was born on 9 July 1865 and died of typhoid on 12 July 1868
64. M viii. Arthur Edward Officer was born on 15 June, 1866 and died in 1947
65. F ix. Catherine Simson Officer "Kate" was born on 7 February, 1868 and died of typhoid on 4 November, 1868
66. M x. Francis Allen Officer was born on 23 November, 1869/1870 and died in 1924
67. M xi. Sydney Linden Officer was born on 9 September, 1874 and died on 21 January, 1941

Charles married (2) Ellen Agnes Besnard on 28 November, 1876

They had the following children:

68. M xii. Rupert Besnard Officer was born on 10 September, 1877 and died on 19 December, 1903

Unmarried. Educated Haileybury College.

69. M xiii. Aubrey Dunbar Officer was born on 5 January, 1879 and died on 19 December, 1903 without issue. Married Isabel Mary Nakivell
- Educated Haileybury College and Melbourne Grammar. Joined Dalgety & Co., but later became a farmer at Kerang. WW1 service:- Enlisted 1915, served Gallipoli and in 6th battalion and 4th Trench Mortar Battery in France. Wounded and taken POW at Bullecourt 1917. Farmed at Templestowe after his return from the War. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)
70. F xiv. Ellen Marion L'Estrange Officer was born on 3 July, 1880 and died in 1952
- Educated Toorak College. Unmarried.
71. M xv. Chester Derwent Officer was born on 5 April, 1882 and died in 1940 without issue. Married Evelyn McPherson
- Educated Haileybury College and Melbourne Grammar. Captained a State hockey team vs NSW in 1913. On staff of Dalgety & Co from 1900. Resided in Lansell Road, Toorak but I never met him. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)
72. M xvi. Stanley Gordon Officer was born on 3 October, 1883 and died on 16 March, 1889
73. M xvii. Geoffrey Talbot Officer was born on 16 February, 1885 and died on 11 April, 1917 in KIA Bullecourt, France
- From CWGC Debt of Honour Register: In memory of Geoffrey Talbot Officer, Private 2003 4th Light T.M. Battery, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on Wednesday 11th April 1917, aged 33. Son of Ellen Agnes Officer of "Talbot", 37 Elizabeth Street, Elsternwick, Victoria and the late C.M. Officer. Cemetery: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Somme, France. Educated Haileybury College. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)
74. M xviii. Herbert Dundas Officer was born on 17 September, 1886. Herbert married Margaret Laing Brown
- Educated Haileybury College. Served 3 years in 16th Battery, AIF. Farmer at Kerang. No issue by mid 1930s
75. M xix. Maurice Norfolk Officer was born on 28 February, 1888
25. **Suetonius Henry Officer** (Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 4 January, 1830 in New Norfolk, Tasmania and died on 26 July, 1883 at "Leighwood", Toorak, Victoria, Australia

Australian Dictionary of Biography 1851-1890 Vol 5.

(<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A050410b.htm>)

Officer, Charles Myles 1827-1904 and Suetonius Henry (1830-1883), pastoralists, were born at Hall Green, New Norfolk, Van Diemen's Land, sons of Robert Officer and his wife Jamima, née Patterson. Charles was born on 14 July 1827 and Suetonius on 4 January 1830; they moved with the family to Hobart Town in 1835 and attended local schools until 1841 when they went to Scotland to the Edinburgh Academy. Charles had begun his medical studies and Suetonius had entered the Military Academy when in 1844 they were recalled to Van Diemen's Land.

Charles was trained in pastoral pursuits in the Bothwell district and for a time grew hops at New Norfolk. In 1848, he moved to the Wimmera in the Port Phillip District to his father's run, Mount Talbot, managed by his eldest brother Robert. In 1852, Charles went to the goldfields where he had little luck, but enjoyed himself, and in 1854 with Suetonius took over the management of Mount Talbot. The run of 100 square miles was some of the best merino country in Victoria, with 15,000 sheep and 500 cattle. In 1856, the brothers took over the 25,000 acre Lingmer station acquired by their father in 1849. By 1859, they were able to buy Mount Talbot and continued as partners, though Suetonius soon went north to manage their Riverina holdings.

Suetonius left the Wimmera in 1862 and bought the rights of Mellool station in the Riverina. He sold it and with Charles acquired Murray Downs, Willakool and the 998,000-acre Kallara station on the Darling River. On the river frontage of Murray Downs Suetonius installed pumps worked by horse, windmills and later steam, and irrigated large paddocks for lucerne and maize as well as orchards and groves of Jaffa oranges.

An avid reader, Suetonius had scientific interests. In November 1878 he read a paper to the Zoological and Acclimatisation Society of Victoria on the ostriches he had introduced at Murray Downs. He was also interested in astronomy and had a good telescope. A member of the Darling District Pastoral Association, a magistrate and a leader in the religious and philanthropic development of the Swan Hill district, he helped to finance the Presbyterian Church and at the school awarded prizes for scripture. On 13 December, 1866 he had married Mary Lillias Rigg, daughter of Dr Adam Cairns; she had laid the foundation stone of the Swan Hill Presbyterian Church and was its first organist. In 1881 Suetonius moved to Melbourne for the education of his four sons and two daughters. He bought Leighwood, Toorak, where after a long illness he died on 26 July 1883. He was widely mourned and left much of his pioneering irrigation unfinished. His estate was valued for probate at £59,000, of which he bequeathed some £8000 to twelve educational and philanthropic institutions. (Ref:- ADB 1851-90; also "Early Pioneer Families of Victoria and Riverina")

After local schooling his father had sent him for further education to Edinburgh with his brother Charles. Suetonius had actually entered the Military Academy but was recalled to the colony of Van Diemen's Land. His father saw great possibilities for his sons on the mainland and in 1847 had bought Mount Talbot. Suetonius and Charles took over the management from his eldest brother Robert in 1854, as Robert was striking out on his own at "Rocklands". This partnership continued until the rather early death of Suetonius in 1883. Named after the famous Roman historian, he seems to have borne this curious Christian name with equanimity. Certainly, many of his descendants are proud to use it as a second name. The brothers briefly owned Mellool station in the Riverina, disposing of it to purchase "Murray Downs", 102,000 acres across the Murray river from Swan Hill for £14,000. They also acquired the huge Kallara station and another run called Willakool in the Darling river district. 11,000 kangaroos were killed in the first six months at Murray Downs, and undoubtedly many dingoes. Over time however, a fine flock of Merino sheep was established.

Murray Downs became a showpiece under his management. The attractive house was built facing the Murray River, with a central square courtyard behind formed by outbuildings. An arched gateway gave rear access. This design was possibly for defensive purposes. Later a tower was added for the use of an astronomical telescope. Suetonius had scientific interests and was a member of the Royal Society in Melbourne and the Acclimatisation Society. The brothers' experiment raising ostriches commercially at Murray Downs has been mentioned. More importantly Suetonius experimented successfully with irrigation for lucerne, maize, orchards and citrus fruits. After his 1866 marriage to Mary Lillias Rigg Cairns, daughter of Dr. Adam Cairns, the couple had an extended honeymoon overseas and collected Jaffa oranges and other material for the property. The irrigation success was of course later implemented on a larger scale at Mildura by the Chaffeys. He had his own paddle steamer built, circa 1865, P.S. "Adelaide", still in existence and working in Echuca, the oldest operative boat in Australia. For many years it had graced the historic area in Echuca before its full restoration.

Suetonius supported all the development of Swan Hill, becoming president of the not long built hospital in 1865 and a generous financial supporter too. He was much involved with his wife in establishing the Presbyterian Church, and the first school. He did however find himself in opposition to Dr. Benjamin Gummow, the strong-minded first medical officer of the hospital, as well as being Chief Magistrate and Coroner and with his wife a founder of the Anglican Church. Dr. Gummow's quarrel with the Committee and Suetonius Officer was over medical administration, as it so often is to this day. A new Hospitals and Charities Act was the cause. The doctor distrusted it, but the majority of the Committee deemed it necessary. The town was bitterly divided. A new Medical Officer was appointed, who took charge of the books,

instruments and appliances. Dr. Grummow claimed they were his property and won his Supreme Court action, with damages of £156 against the Committee. A bailiff was appointed to collect it! The doctor left for Echuca, permanently. Sadly, he died in 1876, just four years after his sacking. (Ref - "Swan Hill" by Arthur Feldtmann)

Suetonius and his family moved to Toorak in 1881 mainly to educate their children, though his health was probably failing too. After his death in 1883, his brother Charles disposed of the estate to Campbell and Felton. It was now 77,725 acres freehold with 20,000 acres of Crown land. Mrs. S.H. Officer died on October 14th, 1931. She had had her own matrimonial plans for my father Ernest Officer, which were foiled by Doris Veale's intervention!

For many years I had wondered how the Officer Creek in north western South Australia obtained its name. It starts in the Musgrave Ranges and peters out in the Victoria Desert. Then I discovered that the explorer Ernest Giles had fought an action with hundreds of aborigines beside this Creek, then full of water. An illustration of "The Battle of the Officer" occurs in his book "Australia Twice Traversed". Giles had named it after S.H. Officer in 1873 in gratitude for his subscription to the expedition, the funding organised by Baron von Mueller of the Royal Society, Melbourne. It seems unlikely that Charles subscribed, as he was heavily involved at Mount Talbot trying to buy enough freehold for himself as the selectors moved in. (See also "Where Australians Fought", by C. Coulthard Clark 1998). (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Suetonius married Mary Lillias Rigg Cairns on 13 December, 1866 in Chalmers Church, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Mary was born on 3 March, 1845 in Cupar, Fife, Scotland and died on 14 October, 1931 in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

Dalgety's Review - for Victoria

The Late Mrs Suetonius H Officer

On the 14th October 1931 there passed away, at the ripe old age of 86 years, the widow of the late Suetonius H Officer, formerly of Mt Talbot, Murray Downs and Kallara Stations, which he owned in partnership with his brother, the late Charles M Officer. The firm was one of the earliest clients of Dalgety, Blackwood & Co. - the predecessor of Dalgety & Co. Ltd. - and of the latter also.

The late Mrs Officer was one of the fast diminishing band of Scottish pioneers, whose strong individuality and sterling character have been such an influence for good in our land. A daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Adam Cairns, she was born at Cupur, Fife, Scotland, in 1845, and at the age of eight, she came out to Australia with her mother and father and the rest of the family in the ship Hurricane (Captain Forbes). Her father, Dr. Cairns, was one of that brave body of Scottish ministers, who for the sake of a principle gave up their homes and their churches, and formed the Free Church of Scotland. With true missionary zeal he had volunteered to go out to Melbourne in the interest of his church. He is to-day recognised as one of the founders of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. On arrival of their ship, the family was unable to get any suitable accommodation in Melbourne owing to the gold mining boom, so Captain Forbes allowed them to remain on the ship, at Williamstown, until Dr. Cairns could get erected the iron house which, with real Scotch foresight, he had brought with him.

The late Mrs. Officer had a very retentive memory, and recalled this fact recently, though it happened 78 years ago. She remembered too, the vivid impression on her young mind caused by the vast collection of tents known as "Canvas Town", situated where South Melbourne now is.

Melbourne was only a city "in the rough" in those far-off days, the streets being mere unpaved roads: Mrs. Officer remembered being carried one wet day, as a child, across Collins street to avoid falling into the dangerous deep gutters running on each side of the street (or road) from Scots' Church hill. As a schoolgirl, she said she frequently watched the men planting the trees in the Fitzroy Gardens.

In 1866, she was married to Suetonius H Officer, then of Murray Downs station, Swan Hill. After a short visit to her future home, she and her husband left Australia for an extended tour abroad, and remained away until 1869, when they took up their residence at Murray Downs. The nearest railway station was Sandhurst (Bendigo to-day), and Mr. Officer always drove four horses in his buggy from that town to Murray Downs, a three days' journey - crossing the Murray by punt at Swan Hill. When he first went to Murray Downs in the early sixties, it was

quite unimproved country, with no fences and no water (except natural waters), and all sheep had to be shepherded owing to dingoes and blacks; while kangaroos were so numerous and destructive of the grass that 13,000 odd were killed in a few months by Mr. Officer's men. In those days, too, snakes fairly swarmed on the Murray Downs river flats, and Mrs. Officer recollected her husband on one occasion, for a wager, killing 60 in an hour.

Mr. Officer was a pioneer in irrigation on the Murray, and had established a fine garden at the homestead, and to this garden, he bought orange trees from the famous orange groves of Jaffa, in Asia Minor, which he and Mrs. Officer had specially visited in their travels. Long before Midura was thought of. The Murray Downs oranges were famous and no doubt the results from this garden were a factor in the original proposal of the Chaffey brothers to found an irrigation settlement at Midura. While residing at Murray Downs, Mrs Officer and her husband took a leading interest in hospital and church work in Swan Hill, and identified themselves with every movement for the public good in that remote district (as it was then).

In 1881 they bought a house in Toorak, Melbourne and came to live there, with their growing family to educate. In the following year Mr. Officer died, and to wind up his affairs Murray Downs was sold at public auction for a high figure to Campbell & Felton. In less than 20 years, Mr. Officer by skilful management founded a well-improved estate, and built up a fine flock of merino sheep.

Murray Downs was by no means Mrs. Officer's only experience of station life. After residing at Toorak and Malvern for many years, with occasional visits to England, then in 1904, 5, 6 and 7, she spent the winter and spring months at Kallara station, on the Darling River, near Bourke, New South Wales, in which she and her sons were largely interested, and which the latter were managing. Here again, she had to travel a three days' journey by buggy and horses from the railhead, and she cheerfully embraced the pioneering life in the back-blocks again, after 20 years of life in the city, and by her wise counsel and energy, gave great encouragement and assistance to her sons in their work in this difficult country.

In 1908 she purchased "Hallgreen", New Norfolk, Tasmania, the former home of her husband's father, Sir Robert Officer, and went to reside there. Becoming unsettled after the death there of her eldest son, in 1911, and because of the failing health of her daughter, she sold "Hallgreen" and returned to Victoria to live. Acting on medical advice, she bought a house at Upper Macedon, and remained there till her daughter's death in 1926, soon after which sad event, she again sold her home and after a short residence in Melbourne, returned to Tasmania, and for a time lived there with her son. But her independent mind would not be satisfied without a house of her own, and so she purchased one in Hobart only a few months before her death there, as stated on October 14th. She was richly endowed with that well-known Scottish vigour of mind and body and to the last read without the aid of glasses, and took the greatest interest in all news of the day.

They had the following children:

76. M i. Charles Graham Weir Officer was born on 2 October, 1867 and died on 18 February, 1911
77. M ii. Henry Suetonius Officer was born on 9 July, 1869 in South Yarra, Melbourne, Australia and died on 3 July, 1948 in Yea, Victoria, Australia. Henry married Eila Aubrey Officer daughter of James Read Officer and Maud Margaret Smith in August, 1928. Eila was born on 11 December, 1889 in Toorak, Victoria, Australia and died on 23 September, 1941

Birthdate is from Graham Officer's birthday book. Educated Toorak College and Melbourne University, graduating B.A., LL.B. Practised at the Bar for some years. Part manager of Kallara station, but finally moved to Yea where he purchased the old Killingworth homestead and some farmland around it, calling the property 'Duneira' (in later years it was changed back to its former name). He married his cousin Eila Aubrey Officer in 1928, who died in the mid 1930's. He then sold up and bought a new 'Duneira', an attractive house and garden at Olinda. He later sold this house to his cousin Hugh Ronald Officer. I remember staying at his Yea farm in 1932 or 33, recalls Colin Officer. He spent his declining years largely at the Melbourne Club and had no issue. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

78. M iii. Edward Cairns Officer was born on 19 September, 1871 at "Murray Downs", Swan Hill, Victoria, Australia and died on 7 July, 1921 in Mt. Macedon, Victoria, Australia. Edward married Grace Eleanor Fitzgerald daughter of Sir Thomas Fitzgerald on 14 December, 1908. Grace died on 1 September, 1948. They had no issue

Landscape painter. Studies: Melbourne, N.G.V. School, 1893-94; Paria, Academie Julian. Officer received advice and help from Harpignies in Paris and exhibited at the Paris Salon, Royal Institute London, and Royal Society of British Artists 1892-1904. He was first president of the Australian Art Association 1912-21, and a trustee of the N.G.V., Melbourne 1916-21. Awards: Wynne prize 1903. Rep: A.G.N., S.W., Sydney. (Smith, Cat. A.G.N.S.W., 1953; ref. and reprdn, A.A., no. 4, 1918; D.H. Souter 'Edward Officer', illust. article in Art and Architecture Sydney, vol 5, no. 2, 1908.) was born at Murray Downs, Swan Hill, Victoria, in 1871. He was the third son of Suetonius Officer and his wife, a daughter of the Rev. Adam Cairns. His grandfather, Sir Robert Officer (1800-1879), was speaker of the Tasmanian house of assembly for many years. Officer was educated at Toorak College and the national gallery, Melbourne. From there he went to Paris and studied at Julien's. He exhibited at leading exhibitions in Paris and London, and in 1903 was the winner of the Wynne prize awarded by the national gallery, Sydney. In 1912 his painting, "The Woolshed", was purchased under the Felton bequest for the national gallery, Melbourne. In the same year, on the foundation of the Australian Art Association at Melbourne, he was elected its president and held the position for the rest of his life. He was appointed a trustee of the public library, museums and national gallery of Victoria in 1916. He died at Macedon, Victoria, on 7 July 1921.

He married Grace, daughter of Sir Thomas Fitzgerald who survived him. Officer who worked in oils did some excellent landscape work, restrained, sometimes low-toned, yet with a feeling for the open air. Three examples of his work are at the Melbourne gallery and he is also represented at Castlemaine. The Argus, 9 July 1921; W. Moore, The Story of Australian Art. His birthdate is from Graham Officer's birthday book.

Educated Toorak College, where Frederick McCubbin spotted his artistic talent, so he took classes at the National Gallery and with E. Phillips Foxe's Melbourne School of Art. He then went abroad to study in Paris and London. Settling in France for two years (1897-99) he was elected to the Royal Society of British Artists, and exhibited in both London and Paris until 1904. He was however Director of the Melbourne School of Art in 1900, after which he went to "Kallara" for more painting. Here he did some of his best work and after receiving the Wynne landscape prize went abroad again. He had a Sydney exhibition in 1908 with fifty works. That year he won first prize in a National Art Gallery of NSW competition for paintings of remote areas of Australia.

He married Grace, daughter of the Melbourne Surgeon Sir Thomas Fitzgerald the same year. No children. They spent the next four years abroad, mostly, before his one man show in Melbourne 1912. With McCubbin and others he founded the Australian Art Association in Melbourne, and was president till his death. He was also a Trustee of the Melbourne Gallery. During the Great War he was unfit for service but raised £2,000 for the Red Cross by sale of his paintings.

Edward Officer is represented by works in the Melbourne and several other galleries, and his work is still much valued. At his best he is very good, and despite his wealth he was accepted by his artistic contemporaries. He died in 1921, apparently from meningitis at Macedon, a favourite area. His grave and monument (a Latin Cross) at Macedon were renovated by a grant in 2001, eighty years after his death. Marilyn has five Edward Officer paintings, four landscapes, one seascape. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

79. F iv. Mary Lillias Officer "Murlie" was born on 11 July, 1873 at "Murray Downs", Swan Hill, Victoria, Australia and died on 12 January, 1926 at "Montpellier", Mt. Macedon, Victoria, Australia. Mary married Hubert William Pullen on 2 January, 1902. Hubert died on 11 August, 1902

80. F v. Jessie Violet Cairns Officer was born on 26 December, 1877 at "Duneira", Mt. Macedon, Victoria, Australia

Birthdate from Graham Officer's birthday book. Unmarried.

81. M vi. Adam Cairns Officer was born on 2 January, 1881 and died on 16 January, 1965

27. **Isabella Officer** (Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 28 August, 1832 in New Norfolk, Tasmania, Australia and died in 1900 in London, England

Married on 6 April, 1851 Richard Blackwood, brother of James Blackwood who married her sister Eliza. He was born in 1827 and died on 21 January, 1881 in London, England

They had the following children:

82. M i. Robert Officer Blackwood was born in 1861. Robert married Constance Hamilton on 23 July, 1881 in St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, Australia.

No children. He was a partner with his two brothers George and Henry in Hartwood Station. He had political ambitions and was highly active in many fields. A director of BHP, he was very wealthy living in a mansion "Landene" in St. Kilda Road opposite the Shrine. I remember several visits there as a child. He died at Landene 22 September, 1940. His wife lived in London "for her health", but was still alive in 1956, aged 98 when I met her there. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

See also <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A070324b.htm> for his biography

83. M ii. George Russell Blackwood was born in 1865. A London barrister with no issue. He married Irene Miller née Russell
84. M iii. Harry Officer Blackwood JP was born in 1868 and died on 2 February, 1932
85. F iv. Elizabeth Hunter Blackwood. Elizabeth married Max Fleming
86. F v. Mary Blackwood died unmarried.
87. F vi. Eleanor Blackwood

29. **William Officer** (Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 22 October, 1835 Hobart, Tasmania, Australia and died on 29 July, 1913 at "Zara", Deniliquin, NSW, Australia

Born Hobart, educated Hutchins School, Hobart, later joined staff of Union Bank. Gained pastoral experience on Mount Talbot station, and in 1860 purchased Zara station, Deniliquin from Tyson. The property was undeveloped, with a very modest stone or brick homestead and some hewn timber sheds. An early photograph of the 1860s compares with one of the 1920s; the garden was by then fully established, and extra weatherboard buildings were added as the family grew.

He married Mary Grace Hebden, daughter of George Hebden and his wife Harriet Spencer, who came to NSW in 1839 and became wealthy through pastoral land acquisition and Sydney

suburban development. The Hebden's were a very ancient family in Yorkshire, and a family tree is in my possession. See Mitchell Library, Sydney for a possibly more complete file.

The name Zara has associations in Turkey and Yugoslavia, but perhaps was taken from Mount Zara, in Greece, where the legendary hero Perseus founded ancient Mycenae. It is of course also an unusual female name. "Zara", the property is very flat! The Billabong" flows through its saltbush plains with native pines on the small rises. An aboriginal tribe camped in the vicinity in the earlier years, and there were thousands of kangaroos, requiring professional shooters until 1890.

William Officer became one of Australia's most successful breeders of fine wool Tasmanian merinos. As such he became prominent in his area (Wanganella) and was a Justice of the Peace. During the 1870s, his close Patterson, Blackwood and Landale cousins had huge sheep runs at Deniliquin, Boonoke, Hartwood and Conargo stations some distance to his east, Windourin to the north west and his older brother Suetonius Officer to the south west at Murray Downs, totalling well over half a million acres of the best sheep country in Australia. These were the glory days and would not last. (See "The Pastoral Pattersons", by J.O. Randell with its maps)

William and Mary Grace had a town house "Herford", Alma Road, St. Kilda, held by the family for many years. It was almost certainly Mary Grace's property and she was often down there. Here their eldest daughter Theresa often resided and held sway over the younger ones when they came down to enjoy Melbourne society. A voluminous correspondence took place between mother and daughter. The father also wrote, but his writing is extremely difficult to decipher. Only one of the eight daughters married, and that was after the parental deaths. Local gossip said that William's erection of an iron garden fence was to keep the daughters inside! Yet they all loved their strict and autocratic parents. Mothers of course could greatly influence their daughters' sexual attitudes and frequently did so. Without contraceptive techniques sexually meant endless pregnancies. Mary Grace's face becomes a hard one in her older photos. A tribe of young daughters meant that domestic help was guaranteed, and there was less expense if they stayed single. All the daughters reached marriageable age during the difficult 1890s. Were they then largely the victims of the economy?

The Depression of the 1890s, the shearers' strike, drought and falling demand for "very fine" wool made life difficult for the "squattocracy" as it was termed. (See "The Shearers", by Patsy Adam-Smith) A good many lost their properties. Mary Grace's letters around 1902-03 make much mention of hard times and financial stringency. (See Australian National Library, Canberra). Their son Ernest's Law studies were terminated and he came home to work at "Zara". When William Officer died in 1913 there was a £58,000 mortgage on the property, and Ernest took over the management. Mary Grace had predeceased William in 1908.

Some anecdotes

W.R.G. Officer - "The old boy stood as straight as a ramrod with his hands in his outside coat pockets, thumbs out."

90 year old Mr. McDonald (Yarraville), kangaroo shooter at Zara in 1890, to Colin Officer (1955):- "He had a habit of speaking to a man, then turning on his heel and walking off. After ticking off a swaggie one day, the latter took advantage and kicked him in the behind! The swaggie got six months gaol!"

William and Mary Grace had twelve surviving children, the only death being one of twins. The relative isolation of the property, it was four or five miles to the homestead from the public road, would have been a useful quarantine factor during the diphtheria and scarlet fever epidemics. Yet it says much for the intelligent parental care of Mary Grace also. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

William married Mary Grace Hebden on 13 February, 1867. Mary died on 28 January, 1908

They had the following children:

88. M i. George Officer was born on 29 January, 1867 and died on 15 January 1927
89. F ii. Theresa Officer was born on 5 March, 1868 and died unmarried in 1955

He (Sir Robert) had a phenomenal memory, according to his granddaughter (and my aunt) Theresa Officer (born 5/3/1868). She remembered meeting him as a young girl, aged maybe 9 years old. No doubt showing off a little, he claimed that once he had read a book it was his forever, there was no reason to re-read it! In much later years, she rescued the large photographic portraits of Robert and his wife Jamima from certain destruction. They now adorn my sitting room. Copies exist in the Tasmanian Club, I'm told, and perhaps elsewhere too.

Educated Faireleigh, East St. Kilda. Very intelligent and a great support for her mother. Her HQ was at "Hertford", east St. Kilda, and she was an inveterate correspondent, and kept all her received letters. An early and active member of the Australian Women's National League of which she was a senior vice-president in the 1930s. She was the original Deniliquin branch member and formed 21 Riverina branches. This seems to have been a conservative political women's organisation, and was probably involved in gaining women's suffrage at Federation. Also a JP, one of the first women to be so appointed. She was a friend of St. James Forrest (later Baron Forrest of Bunbury) and had an inscribed book of his explorations. Theresa kept a file of the family, with names on all photographs, very helpful. Ernest was her favourite brother.

She seems to have travelled a good deal, and would send us postcards, often of tribal aborigines. She had been to the East, both India and China, being full of praise for the Chinese people. Before she became ill with Alzheimer's Disease in the late 1940s we children saw a lot of her and would often be taken out to a good lunch. After Dunkirk, I remember asking her how Britain could win the War. She looked astounded! "But of course Britain will win the War," she replied. She had the first short wave radio I ever saw, so she could listen in to the BBC no doubt. Unmarried. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

90. M iii. Richard Blackwood (twin) Officer was born on 4 July, 1869 and died on 3 April, 1870
91. F iv. Marion (twin) Officer was born on 4 Jul 1869 and died on 8 September, 1932 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Educated Faireleigh. Hon. Treasurer of Free Kindergarten for years. Associated with arts and crafts, and made the first "Bush Nurses" badges of copper and enamel. Unmarried. Died of cancer.

92. M v. Ernest Officer was born on 29 December, 1870 and died on 1 December, 1936
93. F vi. Edith Officer was born on 19 December, 1872 and died on 4 August, 1908

Educated privately, then at Burnley Horticultural School for Women. Edith and my father Ernest were most interested in Australian native plants, and Edith certainly grew them at Zara around 1900 or earlier. She was still remembered for this in Deniliquin in quite recent years. (Deniliquin Historical Society). Edith was strong minded enough to overcome the patriarchy (or was it matriarchy?) and start a nursing course at the Alfred Hospital. Here unfortunately she developed an infection from which she died. Unmarried. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

94. F vii. Adelaide Blackwood Officer was born on 21 April, 1874 and died in 1965

Educated privately, and like her younger sisters looked after the domestic side of Zara as her mother aged. She is prominent in family picnic photos. Rather short and plump. The sisters were a problem for my mother after her marriage in 1923, for they were not going to give up Ernest to his wife! This was solved by the sale of Zara in 1927, after which my parents had their own domicile. The unmarried younger sisters, four of them, went travelling, especially to France. They wrote regularly with lots of stamps for our collections, usually exceeding the required postage I am sure. Periodically they returned to Australia, but three of them were marooned in England after a hasty escape from Paris in WW2. They left quite a lot

of luggage behind in the hotel. It was still there, they said, quite untouched by the Germans after the War ended! Adelaide and Isabel cared for Theresa in her long illness. I once tried to get Adelaide and Mary to talk about Zara but they would not. "We couldn't do that," they said giggling. My story of the swaggie kicking their father horrified them. "Only six months goal," they said, "it should have been twelve!" Unmarried. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

95. F viii. Clara Officer was born on 24 August, 1875 and died in 1937 in a street accident in Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Educated privately. That probably means a governess. One of the "French" aunts, they particularly liked the French Riviera. "You could hire young men to dance with you," one said innocently. Unmarried. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

96. F ix. Florence Officer was born on 10 January, 1877 and died in 1945 in London, England

Educated privately. One of the "French" aunts. She was tall and thin. My brother said she was "sweet" to him in the War. Unfortunately she developed cancer and died in 1945. Unmarried. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

97. F x. Isabel Officer was born on 23 July, 1878 and died in 1952 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Educated privately. A "French" aunt. She was sweet and good looking and my favourite. She concealed her ovarian cancer until she was dying of it. The "French" aunts had rather strange religious views about "healing". But surely, she was a victim of the parental actions discouraging suitors. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

98. M xi. Richard Blackwood Officer was born on 26 September, 1880 and died on 17 April, 1930

99. F xii. Mary Grace Officer was born on 25 December, 1881 and died on 9 January, 1965

100. M xiii. William Gerald Officer was born on 8 March, 1883 and died in 1957

33. **Jamima Officer** (Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 11 Apr 1843 in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia and died on 23 Aug 1930 in Crowborough, Sussex, England

Jamima married Dr. John James Clarke (Surgeon-General) on 12 June, 1866. John died in February, 1895. They resided in England

John and Jamima had the following children:

101. M i. Harold Officer Clarke was born on 4 February, 1873

102. M ii. Mervyn Officer Clarke was born on 22 December, 1878

103. F iii. Beatrice Clarke

104. F iv. Julia Clarke. Julia married J von Bramm

Lived in Brussels, and after the war she arrived in Australia. She lived as an old woman in Hobart. A fitness fanatic - at 70 she still did strenuous exercises such as standing on her head. (Information from Mollie Bailey)

- 105. F v. Esme Clarke was born in 1882
- 106. F vi. Gladys Clarke was born in 1882 and died in 1890

## Eighth Generation

- 37. **John Liddell Officer** (William, Alexander, James, James, James, NN, James)

This J.L. Officer made excellent copies of what he called "The Pedigree". He married a Carmichael and had one daughter (Mildred) and three sons (Adrian Charles, William Jason and Jack). (Colin Officer's account of the family)

John married Carmichael

They had the following children:

- 107. F i. Mildred Officer
- 108. M ii. Adrian Charles Officer an Optician
- 109. M iii. William Jason Officer was born in 1903 and died in 1989

William had a very distinguished medical career rising to Major-General in the RAMC. "Willie" Officer (Appointed honorary Surgeon to the Queen 1961-63) was a war-time friend of Brigadier Hugh Officer, brother to Sir Keith, and visited Melbourne for the celebrations held on March 1st 1972, the 150th anniversary of Sir Robert Officer's arrival in Van Diemen's Land. He himself had 3 daughters, but a nephew Adrian Charles Officer, an artist, came to Australia in the 1960s on an extended visit. Hugh Officer commented that Willie's not having a knighthood was due to his very forthright speech, which offended the influential. During WW2 he had been Deputy Director Medical Services to Wingate's Chindits in Burma. (Colin Officer's account of the family)

- 110. M iv. Jack Officer

A major in the RAMC who was drowned in a Japanese prison ship off Hong Kong in World War 2.

- 39. **Robert Officer** (Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 13 April, 1854 in "Rocklands", near Balmoral, Victoria, Australia and died on 5 December, 1919

Educated at Geelong College. Business training Union Bank, then a pastoralist near Forbes, NSW.

Robert married (1) Frances Marion Macleod. Frances was born in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia and died on 18 November, 1917

They had the following children:

111. M i. Donald Gatenby Officer was born on 21 August, 1901 and died on 21 Jun 1952
112. M ii. Francis Read Officer was born on 9 February, 1912 and died on 9 March, 1954

Robert married (2) Jessie Cairns Muir on 20 Sep 1881 in Moncrieff Place, Richmond, Victoria, Australia. Jessie was born in 1857 and died on 23 January, 1883 in Moncrieff Place, Richmond, Victoria, Australia

They had the following children:

113. M iii. Robert Cairns Officer was born on 13 January, 1883 in Moncrieff Place, Richmond, Victoria, Australia and died, without issue, on 19 November, 1952 in Albury, NSW, Australia. Robert married Una Muriel Wybalene Lohrey on 10 April, 1923 in Sydney, NSW, Australia.

Served in Camel Corps and Light Horse WW1, then became a pastoralist.

41. **James Read Officer** (Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 16 June, 1857 in "Rocklands", near Balmoral, Victoria, Australia. He died on 28 Nov 1927 in "Warwilla", Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia.

Educated Wesley College. Well known pastoralist, with a series of properties in western NSW, including "Billilla" 1910-21. He retired to "Worrough" near Seymour in 1921, and died 1927. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

James married Maud Margaret Smith daughter of Captain Alexander John Smith and Sarah Aubrey Read in 1887. Maud was born on 15 September, 1859 and died on 3 June, 1946

**NOTE: See 'The Driver and Read Families', #33 in the Fifth Generation for Maud Margaret Smith.**

They had the following children:

114. M i. Mervyn Officer was born in 1888 and died on 27 January, 1889
115. M ii. Philip Langley Officer was born on 10 March 1894 and died in 1963

Served 1st AIF in WW1 in artillery, and commissioned lieutenant in the field. Became managing partner of "Billilla" (on Darling River) for many years. (See Liber Melbourniensis). Unmarried. Very highly regarded in the family. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

116. F iii. Lorraine Maud Officer was born on 6 September 1891 and died in 1963
117. F iv. Eila Aubrey Officer was born on 11 December, 1889 in Toorak, Victoria, Australia and died on 23 September, 1941. Eila married Henry Suetonius Officer son of Suetonius Henry Officer and Mary Lillias Rigg Cairns in August, 1928. Henry was born on 9 July, 1869 in South Yarra, Melbourne, Australia and died on 3 July 1948 in Yea, Victoria, Australia. They had no issue.

43. **Glenelg Henry Officer** (Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 23 April, 1858 in "Rocklands", near Balmoral, Victoria, Australia and died on 29 January, 1932

Educated East St. Kilda Grammar School. Pastoral experience on "Murray Downs", owned by his uncle Suetonius. Rabbit proof fence inspector, but then purchased "Kergunya" station near Cobar, NSW, selling up in 1918. Retired to Parramatta. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Glenelg married Donella May Mackay, a grazier's daughter. Donella died on 17 October, 1917

Glenelg and Donella had the following children:

118. M i. Frank Henry Officer was born on 6 January, 1911
119. F ii. Donella Mabel Officer
120. F iii. Barbara Isobel Officer
121. F iv. Florence Marion Officer was born in Dubbo. Unmarried

44. **Frank Suetonius Officer** (Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 26 May, 1861 at "Rocklands", near Balmoral, Victoria, Australia and died on 13 June 1938 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Educated Wesley College, Melbourne he joined Union Bank of Australia for a period. Later established the accountancy firm of Officer and Smith, Collins Street, Melbourne, which is still in existence today. Married Ethel Marzetti Umphelby, daughter of Charles Umphelby, (who had settled in Hobart in 1841) and Lydia Marzetti, (of "Cawood", Tasmania). Frank bought a 400 acre section of "Worrough" (near Seymour) from his brother James Read Officer in 1924. This section was named "Zintara", probably in honour of his son Hugh. The original Zintara was the name of a fortified block house in the Khyber Pass, India, where Hugh had served. Frank and his wife used it as a weekender initially, with his unmarried daughter Elsie in residence running the farm. (Ref:- "Trawool on the Goulburn, a History", by J.G. Jennings and Helen McCall, editors). "Zintara" was sold after Elsie's death in 1932. Ethel Officer, Frank's wife, lived into her 101st year, and died in England where she had lived for many years with her eldest son Keith.

Jean Forster, their younger daughter, related that at Frank's engagement party, which was of course heavily weighted with wool-growing "landed gentry", my grandfather William loudly made expression:- "They say that young Frank is marrying into "trade"! Ethel was standing quite close by and quietly made answer that she was Ethel Umphelby, and yes the family were in business.

Frank and Ethel had 2 sons and 2 daughters, all of whom might be described as colourful characters. My father Ernest Officer was very friendly with them, and we all stayed at "Zintara" in 1930, judged by a photo, for I seem to be about two at the time. He is dressed as usual for riding, with jodhpurs, leggings, boots, Harris tweed coat, tie and tweed cap, all the uniform of the "squatocracy." (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Frank married Ethel Catherine Marzetti Umphelby 5 December, 1888. Ethel was born on 11 March, 1869 in Malvern, Victoria, Australia. She died on 13 Jan 1970 in England aged 101 years. She was the youngest of 6 children of Charles Washington Umphelby (born 5 September, 1826 in Surrey, England and died 20 February, 1892 at Rosedale Victoria and buried Melbourne General cemetery) who married on 2 September, 1852

in Portland, Lydia Marzetti (born 28 December, 1830 at "Cawood" near New Norfolk Tasmania and died 26 August, 1933 Toorak). Lydia the second youngest of 8 children whose father was Thomas Frederick Marzetti (born 4 December, 1796 in London and died in Collingwood, Melbourne on 15 November, 1852) and who married at the Parish of St Dunstan, Middlesex 14 December, 1817 Catherine Little or Littel (born about 1796 London and died at Aberdeen Street, Prahran Melbourne on 6 February, 1869 aged 73 years). Ethel's ashes are at St Andrews Brighton

**NOTE: See 'The Umphelby Family' #43 in the Seventh Generation for Ethel Catherine Marzetti Officer née Umphelby and her husband Frank Suetonius Officer and their children Sir Frank Keith Officer #73, Elsie Margaret Officer #74, Jean Catherine Officer #75 and Brigadier Hugh Ronald Officer #76.**

**NOTE: See 'The Marzetti Family' #110 in the Fifth Generation for Ethel Catherine Marzetti Officer née Umphelby and her husband Frank Suetonius Officer and their children Sir Frank Keith Officer #228, Elsie Margaret Officer #229, Jean Catherine Officer #230 and Brigadier Hugh Ronald Officer #231.**

Frank and Ethel had the following children:

122. M i. Sir Frank Keith Officer was born in Toorak, Victoria, Australia on 2 October, 1889 and died on 21 June, 1969. His Ashes are at St. Andrews, Brighton, Victoria, Australia

To obtain a copy of the 2009 biography of Sir Keith "Trusty and Well Beloved" by Alan Fewster see:  
<http://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/keithofficer090820/index.html>

He was born in Toorak in the Victorian era, when the British Empire was at its height of power and Kipling its poetic spokesman. The 1890s were difficult economic years, but he was able to be educated at both Melbourne Grammar School and Ormond College, University of Melbourne, graduation LL.B. in 1912 with honours. He was briefly associated with Mr. Justice Higgins and admitted to the Bar 1914. Enlisted in 8th Light Horse Regiment (AIF) 1914 as Trooper. No doubt because of his legal degree he was soon commissioned as a lieutenant and transferred to 6th Infantry Brigade, serving on Gallipoli June to October 1915, when promoted staff captain. Transferred to France as DAQUMG 2nd Division, and in 1917 deputy assistant adjutant general and promoted major. Decorations:- MC (1917), OBE (1919), MID 3 times.

During 1917 he advised his brother Hugh, who was a gunner in 107 Battery 1916-17, to apply for an Indian Army commission, which he was successful in obtaining. New Indian Army regiments were being raised and the War Office wanted subalterns, suitable ones being in short supply. General Birdwood had commented that the Dominion Armies were "chock-a-block with officer material!" So Hugh, already a veteran of Messines, started a long military career in the Indian Army 1918-48. He served in the 3rd Afghan War 1919, NW Frontier operations 1919-22 and 1937. Mentioned in Despatches. He also had a posting to Tibet in 1930. Served in WW2 in China, Arakan, Manipur State and Burma MID (his 2nd). Staff officer GHQ India and Defence Department, New Delhi. Promoted Brigadier before retirement 1948.

Keith joined the British Colonial Service and was posted to Nigeria for a couple of years before returning to Melbourne in 1923. This coincided with the elevation of Stanley Bruce, another Old Boy of Melbourne Grammar to Prime Minister. He worked in his father's firm Officer & Smith before beginning his long career with the Department of External Affairs in 1927. Bruce was Prime Minister from 1923-29 during which period Keith Officer gained significant experience including attendance at the 9th Assembly of the League of Nations. He became a permanent member of the Commonwealth Public Service in 1933, when sent to London where he was kept busy establishing networks and attending League of Nations assemblies, securing Australia's place on the League's Council. Disarmament was

in 1933 a major issue, though hardly effective when Germany was no longer a member. Bruce as the prestigious Australian resident minister in London (1932) and High Commissioner 1933-45 was in a perfect position to dovetail Australian foreign policy with that of Britain. Casey and Officer largely executed that policy. The three were all highly decorated veterans of the First AIF, and "British to their bootstraps". Casey and Officer were contemporaries at Melbourne Grammar School.

Keith was sent to the British embassy in Washington in 1937, with the rank of Australian counsellor. He began discussions with the USA to prepare the ground for a trade agreement. The new Australian legation was established in 1940 by R. G. Casey, under whom he worked for some months. However he was sent to Tokyo late that year as a counsellor. Becoming chargé d'affaires late in 1941, it fell to him (in Sir John Latham's absence) to receive the Japanese formal declaration of war. Not until eight months later were he and his staff at liberty again in Australia.

His next posting was to Moscow in early 1943, where after the Australian minister William Slater's departure he became chargé d'affaires. He spent just over a year at Kuibyshev, Russia because of the German invasion, and later confessed to hating the place and the supervision to which he was subjected. He tried to look after Polish interests while in Moscow. He liked long walks in the woods, but always had to have suspicious Soviet detectives to accompany him. Generally too he found the atmosphere oppressive.

Within a year he was sent to Chungking as chargé d'affaires. Few Britons had an understanding of the mighty forces building up in that country, or more than a superficial one of its history and culture. He used to mention the relaxation he obtained here from gardening. That may have been just small conversation! His brother Hugh, also in that city for part of the war, said that the Japanese tried not to bomb south of the river where the diplomatic residences were situated, but occasionally made mistakes! The end of WW2 in 1945 enabled Keith to have conversations with Mao Zedong and Chou En-lai, which were perhaps of significance later on in 1949. Two years later, Clement Atlee nominated him to represent Britain, Australia, New Zealand and India on the Allied Council for Japan. Dr. H. V. Evatt however wanted him in South East Asia with a grudgingly overdue promotion to Minister. He was involved in the questions of the Indonesian settlement with the Dutch, a peace treaty with Thailand and discussions with Singapore. Not surprisingly, he was transferred in 1946 to The Hague as Minister, a favourite post for him as it was also good for yachting. Here he would also bring his mother from Australia and his niece. But Evatt soon decided to appoint the conservative diplomat again to Moscow without consultation! He was unable to get away with it, for a couple of medical certificates about "bronchitis" cemented Keith Officer in The Hague! He had very good relations with Queen Juliana, for Keith's famous Golden Labrador Crumpet was a full sister to the Queen's dog. Both had impeccable breeding from a famous kennel in America. Alas, poor Crumpet had a fall from grace in Paris, Frank Forster told me, being seduced by a local mongrel.

As first Australian Ambassador to (Nationalist) China at Nanking in 1948, Keith saw history being made as the People's Liberation Army took the city in 1949 during the civil war. He moved to Shanghai to do his best for Australian diplomatic staff and citizens there. He was also making his own shrewd assessments of the new communist regime and the Chinese people themselves. After October 1st 1949, with Mao's new government all over China it was necessary that he leave the country from Hong Kong. A Chinese friend, an official of the Party, pointed out the Chinese difficulty of being cordial to the Imperialists at this period of time!

Time must pass. His status was now simply Australian External Affairs Officer in Hong Kong. He was soon home again and through the Department of External Affairs strongly recommended that Australia recognise Red China. With the 1949 election looming however, Chifley decreed that the question must wait until that was decided. Public opinion was now violently anti-communist. It was to be a long wait of twenty three years before another Australian Ambassador was appointed.

He was pleased to be made Ambassador to Paris from 1950 when he was knighted, till his retirement in 1954. In Paris he was joined by his mother Ethel, and she acted as his hostess. Ethel was then over 80, but outlived her eldest son, dying

when she was 101. They lived in Blackfield, near Southampton till his death (intestate) in 1969.

Keith never married, but he had a photograph of a most beautiful dark haired lady on his chest of drawers in a bedroom so small that it was comparable to the cabin of his yacht. My wife and I asked his mother Ethel about the mysterious lady, but he had maintained perfect secrecy. The sitting room was however full of the usual autographed photographs which important people give to one another. "To Keith, with best wishes from Ike", that sort of thing.

As the above account shows, Sir Keith led an exceptionally active and significant life, serving his country as an ANZAC on Gallipoli and throughout WWI. As a diplomat he was involved in critical circumstances in the hot spots, Tokyo, Moscow, Chungking, Indonesia, Nanking, during great historical moments. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gordon Freeth said of him that he was "a man of great resolution and judgement in situations that were delicate and dangerous." Ella Knibbs in her BA (Hons) thesis called him "genuinely liberal" and "a truly conservative and peculiarly Australian colonial gentleman." (Australian/Chinese Relations 1944-49; an Analysis of the Keith Officer Years, 1980, by Ella Knibbs). See also:- "Who's Who in Australia 1962"; ADB 1940-80; Liber Melbourniensis; "Maygar's Boys" (8th Light Horse 1914-19) by Cameron Simpson. A major obituary was in "Quadrant" and Allan Fewster (Department of Foreign Affairs) is currently writing a biography.

My own relationship with these two distinguished brothers was mostly with Hugh Officer, who always came to visit my mother on his furloughs from India. She was then a widow, and we children always looked forward to these meetings. As a second cousin, I thought of him as more like an uncle and he had the glamour of a regular Army officer. (My father was dead and my two surviving uncles were overseas.) After his retirement he bought his cousin Harry Officer's residence at Olinda and became famous as an ornithologist writing two books "Australian Honeyeaters" and "Australian Flycatchers", the proceeds going to the Bird Observers Club of Australia, as well as two books of birding reminiscences. The two brothers saw each other regularly, often twice a year for extended periods. At Keith's suggestion, they had in 1949 joined forces and walked the Cradle Mount - Lake St. Clare National Park though "hardly in good walking trim" with heavy packs. In "Recollections of a Birdwatcher", Hugh's account suggests that their diet and cooking were rather simplistic, perhaps because both were more used to the ministrations of professionals.

My first remembered meeting with Keith (already a family legend) was at Geelong Grammar School, where he gave an address to the more senior boys. This was in 1946, and he spent extra time with those who were considering or might consider a diplomatic career. Quite a number did indeed do so, before and after that visit.

In his retirement, Sir Keith had annual visits to Australia looking into the affairs of two companies of which he was a director, the ES&A Bank and Australian Estates. He undertook each company visit on alternating years. On such visits he travelled light, and the once elegantly tailored diplomat was usually seen in a light badly crushed travelling suit of a pale colour. He and his brother always visited my wife and me in Seymour on these occasions. We saw him on his home ground in Britain in 1956-57 and again briefly in 1965. His nephew Frank Forster kept me in touch as well, for Frank had spent a good deal of time in Britain as an obstetrician in training, and was later my main teacher in that art.

Both brothers were certainly "characters" though of different types. Keith liked the life in southern England, and spent much time in his yacht. He was a member of the Royal Cruising Club (or Squadron), membership requiring minimum long distance cruising. He like the high life, which his career as a diplomat had opened for him. I remember him describing an occasion celebrating the centenary of "The Charge of the Light Brigade", graced by descendants of Lord Lucan and Lord Cardigan in the original uniforms! As my sister Jean broadly put it, Keith collects Duchesses", whilst "Hugh collects Bishops in northern Australia. He borrows their boats." Certainly, to see the wildlife on remote off-shore island, one needs access to a boat.

Though he lived in England, still the centre of the old empire (or Commonwealth) he loved and served, Keith remained an Australian. He made a minor headline in

"The Sunday Times" (or was it the "Sunday Observer") when at a function an Englishman had referred to "their Queen." "She's our Queen too!" said Sir Keith. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

#### Croix de Guerre

This following note was written by his brother, Brigadier Hugh R Officer on 26 September, 1982:

As the date for K.O's departure from France, en pension, approached he was informed that the French Government wished to appoint him the Legion of Honour. The policy of the British Diplomatic Service was that representatives were not permitted to accept foreign honours.

The Queen mum is reported to say that they did not like their dogs to wear other people's dog collars.

This rule was generally waived when an ambassador was holding his final appointment before retirement. K.O. informed the Australian Government of the offer and got the reply that they would not permit him to accept the honour!

The above was explained to me at the Club (Melbourne) by Monsieur Rocher, French Ambassador to Australia, for he said he would not like me to think that the French Government had not appreciated the fine work K.O. had done. He added incidentally that Dr. Evatt has actually suggested to the French Government that they might like to give him the Legion of Honour! Hypocritically he said that of course he was not asking for the Honour as a member of the Labour Party but as President of the United Nations Security Council.

When K.O. had his farewell audience with the French President he informed him they were disappointed that they couldn't give him the Legion of Honour, but they had looked up the rules and discovered that they could give him the Croix de Guerre without getting the prior approval of the government concerned. He said he considered that the giving of the Croix de Guerre was fully in order by reason of K.O's service to France in the AIF in World War One and his great service to France as ambassador.

Keith informed the Australian Government of what had occurred and their reply was that though it was correct that they could not object to his being given the Croix as it was according to protocol but they could and did forbid him to add the medal to his array of medals!!!

It is hard to guess why they were so bloody minded but perhaps it was because he was such a close friend of Bob Menzies and Dick Casey and they feared political comment.

K.O's comment to me when he told me of the incident was rather typical - that at least they have saved him the considerable expense of having to have his bar of medals all rearranged.

So now you know why the medal still rests in its case. Incidentally you may wonder why in view of all the above K.O. accepted the resplendent Moroccan Star. As French Ambassador he was also Ambassador to Morocco. He visited Morocco only once I believe. He could not hurt their feelings by refusing the decoration but wore it in when in Morocco.

123. F ii. Elsie Margaret Officer was born in 1891 and died on 21 April, 1932 at "Trawool"

Educated Toorak College. Unmarried. Elsie had the help of Mr. Philip Uren on the farm; a gentleman who became a patient of mine many years later when he had bought his one place in the district. Elsie was still well remembered for her religious instruction in the Trawool School and for taking Sunday School. However, she did get into trouble with the police for carrying a loaded shotgun to Church on Sundays, which was then breaking the Law. The police sergeant was very apologetic but could not ignore the complaints of certain of the public. Miss Officer declared she

would take the matter higher as the prevalence of snakes on her walk to the Trawool bridge made a gun necessary in self defence! An exchange of letters took place between Miss Officer and Police Commissioner Tom Blamey. Finally permission was given for the gun to be carried on the Sabbath, provided it was in a case. I don't remember meeting Elsie of course, but like the rest of the family she was not easily forgotten. This anecdote was related by Brigadier Hugh Officer. (From Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

124. F iii. Jean Catherine Officer was born on 12 June, 1895 and died on 11 April, 1959. Her Ashes are at St. Andrews Church, Brighton, Victoria, Australia. Jean married Dr. Cameron McDougall Forster in 1919 in Melbourne. The marriage ended in divorce

Jean was educated at Toorak College and University of Melbourne where she graduated B.A., Dip Ed. in 1918, majoring in psychology. She was employed at the ground-breaking remedial clinic established by psychiatrist, Dr John Williams, at the Children's Hospital. Her ability to teach handicapped and backward children and the moral support she provided to families through her home visits was recognised by paediatricians such as Dr Elizabeth Turner of the Queen Victoria Hospital who referred patients to her.

**NOTE: See 'The Forsters of Warenford and Berwick', #100, Thirteenth Generation for the continuation of this line.**

125. M iii. Hugh Ronald Officer was born on 31 January, 1898 in Toorak, Victoria, Australia and died on 6 April, 1996. His Ashes are at St. Andrews, Brighton, Victoria, Australia

His life-long love of birds and "birding" was encouraged by his father. Educated Melbourne Grammar School on a scholarship, he enlisted in the 1st AIF the day after leaving school. As mentioned, he was posted to Quetta, India, after service in France for an officers' training course, graduating as second lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion, 64th Sikhs Frontier Force. He served in the 3rd Afghan War, 1919 and in North West Frontier operations 1919-22 and in 1937 with much distinction. In the winter of 1920/30 he took his Company to relieve another in Tibet, a most interesting excursion despite the season. Staff College 1933-34, promoted Major 1936. GSO1 GHQ New Delhi 1941-42. His WW2 experiences started in the China Mission, 1940-41, going to Chungking via the famous Burma Road. Commanded 14th Battalion Frontier Force Regiment on the Arakan Front, Burma 1942-43, and became Brigadier in Manipur State, India, along the Burmese frontier 1944-46. After a further spell at GHQ, New Delhi, he was retired in 1948.

When Hugh had come home from India after WW1, he became engaged by a "subaltern with doubtful prospects", the young lady's father intervened and killed the romance. She visited him some seventy years later after he was obliged to enter a nursing home because of arthritis.

Hugh described his Indian Army career as "thirty wonderful years." He always carried binoculars as part of his attire when leading his Sikhs, thus managing some good bird sightings. Despite his love of birds he had no qualms about shooting ducks for the table. "They were born to be hunted," he would say, "that's why God gave them so many offspring!" His book "Recollections of a Birdwatcher" gives one a real feeling about "the Brig" as a man, soldier and birdwatcher.

He was a born raconteur, full of humour. His earlier book "Walkabouts and Birds" deals with his Australian birding trips 1954-67, trips which showed other "birdos" the rewards for travelling the far outback areas with good planning. His favourite area was the Cape York district with its 25 endemic species. It was in North Queensland that I saw a large group of Americans leave a bus, all of them carrying his "Australian Honeyeaters."

During these many expeditions Hugh became recognised as perhaps the first person to have had field experience of all the Australian Honeyeaters. The Eungella Honeyeater had not then been described. Hugh's favourite birds were

however the Grasswrens, and in 1971 he pulled off a tour de force by locating the Dorothy (Carpentarian) Grasswren which had been seen only once before, in 1913!

Hugh lived at "Duneira" in Olinda after his retirement, in a garden of rhododendrons, his home being a treasure house of Indian and Tibetan souvenirs, a library with all of Kipling's works, and numerous framed prints of Australian birds by John Gould, which he purchased in London. A dedicated club man, he also spent much time at the Melbourne Club where he was assured of seeing many friends. The Anglican Church was also a most important part of his life, and he was a generous donor to innumerable charities. He was President of the RSPCA (Victoria) 1953-57. (Ref - "Who's Who in Australia 1962"; and obituaries in "The Age", "Australian", "Wingspan" and "The Bird Observer" all testify to the great affection and respect in which he was held. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

47. **Alexander William Officer** (Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 22 June, 1877 in South Yarra, Victoria, Australia and died on 8 July, 1929 in North Sydney, NSW, Australia

Educated Toorak College. Studied law but went to the backblocks of the Darling, taking up Wyarra, north of Broken Hill. Sold up and bought another property near Molong, NSW, also called "Wyarra". Wood grower. Grazier of "Nandillyan", Molong, NSW. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Alexander married Hazel Mary Quin in 1908 in Fern Tree Gully, Victoria, Australia. Hazel was born in 1886 in Fern Tree Gully, Victoria, Australia

Alexander and Hazel had the following children:

126. F i. Edith Wyarra Officer was born in 1910 in Dandenong, Victoria, Australia. Edith married Idrisyn Frederick Jones in 1933 in London, England
127. F ii. Hazel Daskein Officer was born in 1911 in South Yarra, Victoria, Australia. Hazel married Charles Lawrence Durant on 31 January, 1936

48. **Georgina Martha Officer** (Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born in 1875 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia and died on 31 March, 1942

Georgina married Harold Hale on 23 December, 1901. Harold was born in 1867 and died on 2 August, 1947. He was the son of Bishop Hale of Perth. Harold and Margaret resided at New Norfolk.

Harold and Georgina had the following children:

128. M i. Harold Matthew Hale was born on 28 September, 1902
129. M ii. Robert Blagdon Hale was born on 14 October, 1906
130. M iii. Edward Macfarlane Hale was born in Aug 1911
131. F iv. Margaret Georgina Hale
132. F v. Muriel Constance Hale Muriel married James Arnot Langlands

49. **Arthur Ranken Blackwood** (Eliza Hunter Officer, Robert Officer, Robert Officer, Robert Officer, James Officer, NN Officer, James) was born on 12 January, 1850 in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia and died 2 February, 1905 in Malvern, Melbourne, Australia. He was buried in Melbourne General Cemetery, Australia

Arthur Ranken Blackwood, who had interests in the silver mines of Broken Hill, had one child who died and then his wife died. After his death in 1905, his friend Mr. E. Sutherland, I think, was his beneficiary. He employed Mrs. Le Guir as a housekeeper/travelling companion. She had a daughter, Helen who, on one of the trips, met a British soldier named Hazzard whom she married on their next trip to England, and together they lived in Williamstown and had no children. Now both dead, but it was from Mrs. Hazzard I got the family story. So you have it right, only the girls had issue, and both, I believe, lived overseas, and were visited by Arthur Ranken Blackwood on his trips. (Ref Marilyn Pedrick)

Arthur Ranken Blackwood (1850-1905) was born on 12 January 1850 at Hobart Town, only son of James Blackwood and his wife Eliza, née Officer. He was educated at Melbourne Grammar School (1858-64), Harrow School (1865), and Balliol College, Oxford (B.A., 1873; M.A., 1888) and was called to the Bar of the Middle Temple in 1875. In Melbourne on 15 October 1885 he married May Cunningham; their only child died young. Admitted a partner in 1879 in the firm of Dalgety, Blackwood & Co., in 1884 he became joint managing director with James Aitken of Dalgety & Co. Ltd. He was first chairman of directors of B.H.P. in 1885, but resigned next April after disagreements with G. McCulloch. He was also director of the Silverton Tramway Co. Ltd and of several other companies. In 1889 he was appointed colonial superintendent of Dalgety & Co.; in 1900-05 he was a member of the company's local board of advice.

Blackwood was a partner in Nyang, near Deniliquin, and Talawanta, on the Darling; he was also part-owner of the Morven Hills estate in New Zealand where he used to go deer-shooting. He was a member of the Melbourne Club and chairman of the Victoria Amateur Turf Club in 1884-85; his horse Vengeance won the Caulfield Cup in 1890. He died at Malvern on 2 February 1905 of cerebral haemorrhage and was buried in Melbourne general cemetery. His estate was valued for probate at £4606. (Author Margaret Carnegie - <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A070324b.htm>)

Arthur Married May Cunningham on 15 October, 1885

They had the following children:

133. Name unknown, died young.

50. **Adelaide Blackwood** (Eliza Hunter Officer, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born in 1853 in St. Kilda, Melbourne, Australia. Resided in England.

Adelaide married a Cole

They had the following children:

134. M i. Lowry Cole. Lowry married a Grizel

59. **William Officer** (Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 3 December, 1858 and died on 29 June, 1925

Educated Wesley College, Hawthorn Grammar and Melbourne University, graduating LL.B. He travelled widely for two years, but went into partnership with his father in Mount Talbot, later acquiring the whole property. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

William married Alexandra Katherine Rose Wilson on 15 January, 1885. Alexandra died on 2 March, 1918

They had the following children:

135. M i. Leslie Wilson Officer was born on 13 January, 1886 and died on 17 February, 1958

136. M ii. Errol Myles Wilson Officer was born on 18 March 1891 and died after 1972

61. **Jamima Officer** (Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born in 1861 at "Mount Talbot" and died in 1937

Jamima married David Brown of Kallara NSW son of Rev. C J Brown D.D. David was born in 1845 and died in 1911

They had the following children:

137. F i. Jane Kathleen Officer-Brown was born in 1894

Unmarried. Educated Toorak College and Melbourne University, graduating M.A., Dip. Ed. On teaching staff Huntingtower School, Malvern.

138. F ii. Christina Officer-Brown was born in 1896 and died in 1986

Unmarried. Educated Toorak College and Melbourne University, graduated B.A., Dip Ed. On staff of Toorak College for many years, becoming Chief of Staff and finally Principal. Came to 1972 reunion I think. Died at the age of 90. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

139. M iii. Sir Charles James Officer-Brown was born on 24 September, 1897 and died in 1984

140. F iv. Dorothy Officer-Brown was born in 1899

Unmarried. Educated Toorak College. Nurse training at Children's Hospital. Member of Royal Victorian College of Nursing.

141. M v. David Officer-Brown was born on 22 July, 1901. David married (1) Dr. Janet Bowen and (2) Doreen Dawborn. The marriage ended in divorce.

Educated Scotch College and Melbourne University MB, BS 1925, MD, MS, FRACS. Plastic surgeon at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney

142. F vi. Margaret Officer-Brown was born in 1904 and married Roland Alers Hankey

Educated Toorak College. Married Roland Hankey of British Columbia, Canada.

64. **Arthur Edward Officer** (Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 15 June, 1866 and died in 1947

Educated Toorak College and Hawthorn Grammar. Pastoralist Western Victoria and Gippsland.

Arthur married Marion Charlotte McDonald on 10 June, 1891. Marion died on 30 April, 1905

They had the following children:

143. M i. Roy Arthur Somerled Officer was born on 10 January, 1893 and died in 1987  
144. F ii. Lorna Marion Officer was born in 1901 and died in 1974

66. **Francis Allen Officer** (Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 23 November, 1869/1870 and died in 1924

Educated Toorak College and Melbourne University. Pastoralist at Goroke and later at Berwick.

Francis married Lilian Essington Anstey in 1908. Lilian died in 1924

They had the following children:

145. F i. Patricia Lillian Allan Officer

67. **Sydney Linden Officer** (Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 9 September, 1874 and died on 21 January, 1941

Educated Toorak College. Experience in viticulture, Tongala. Pastoral experience at Goroke in partnership with his brother Francis Allan Officer. Purchased Oakbank near Heywood. Rejected WW1 for active service, but served on State recruiting staff. Joined staff of Graziers Association (then Pastoralists Union), and secretary of Graziers Association 1928 and for some years. Served on Portland Shire Council (president 1911) and Hamilton Borough Council (Mayor 1915-17). Justice of the Peace. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Sydney married Margaret Swan Edgar on 19 June 1901. Margaret was born in Harrow, Victoria, Australia and died in July 1944

They had the following children:

146. M i. Charles Sidney Edgar Officer was born on 11 November, 1902. He died on 5 November, 1906  
147. M ii. Vyvyan Mervyn Officer was born on 4 December, 1906 and died on 6 August, 1974

Educated Hamilton and Western District College and Melbourne Grammar. Drawing and Painting course Melbourne Art Gallery. Painter and commercial artist. Unmarried. Served WW2 in 6th Division HQ.

148. M iii. Vernon Wicker Officer was born on 2 August, 1908 and died on 3 March, 1982

75. **Maurice Norfolk Officer** (Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 28 February, 1888

Educated Haileybury College. Farmer at Kerang, then Stock and Station agent at Moulamein, NSW.

Maurice married Charlotte Henrietta Wallace in 1923

They had the following children:

149. M i. Geoffrey Wallace Officer  
150. M ii. Maurice Gordon Officer

76. **Charles Graham Weir Officer** (Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 2 October, 1867 and died on 18 February, 1911

Educated Toorak College, Edinburgh University and Melbourne University, graduating B.Sc. Carried out scientific investigations in the Solomon Islands for Melbourne University; practiced his profession of Mining Engineer in W.A. and Tas. Later appointed joint manager of the family pastoral property, Kallara Station, N.S.W., with his brother Henry Suetonius. The Hobart Mercury, 20 Feb 1911 (Personal Notices) - Our obit notices this morning contain an announcement of the death at Hallgreen, New Norfolk on Saturday of Mr. Charles Graham Weir Officer, B.Sc. of Killara Station N.S.W. Son of the late Suetonius Officer and grandson of the late Sir Robert Officer. Deceased who was 43 years of age had been ill for some time. The interment takes place at New Norfolk Cemetery this afternoon. Death Notice - Officer, Charles Graham Weir, B.Sc. on 18 February, 1911 of Hallgreen N.N. dearly loved husband of Muriel and eldest son of Mary and the late Suetonius Officer, aged 43 years. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Charles married Lillie Muriel Smith daughter of Alexander Henry Smith and Emily Josephine Clarke on 1 December, 1909 in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia. Lillie was born on 21 March 1880 at 'Mundara', Laceby, Victoria, Australia. She was christened in 1881 and died on 23 May, 1961 in Stanhope Court, South Yarra, Melbourne, Australia.

Confirmed May, 1897 in St Paul's Church, Glenrowan, Vic by the Bishop of Melbourne. First communion May 1897. She and her twin sister, Pearl, and their parents undertook a trip to Britain and Europe and the Middle East from December, 1905 to May, 1907. Marilyn Pedrick has transcribed Lillie's journals of the trip.

**NOTE: See 'The Driver and Read Families', #72 in the Sixth Generation for Lillie Muriel Smith.**

Charles and Lillie had the following children:

151. F i. Sybil Muriel Graham Officer was born on 28 October, 1911 and died on 16 August, 1984

81. **Adam Cairns Officer** (Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 2 January, 1881 at "Duneira", Mt. Macedon, Victoria, Australia and died on 16 January, 1965 in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

Always known as "Cairns" Officer. Born at "Duneira", S.H. Officer's holiday home at Mount Macedon. Educated Glamorgan, Toorak College, Dumloden and Rugby (Britain), to which he ascribed a lifelong dislike of Shakespeare! Entered Ballarat School of Mines and Royal School of Mines, London. Orchardist Tasmania 1907-16, then in a high explosive factory, Wales, 1916-17. Later farmed in Tasmania, but retired to Melbourne. He lived to a ripe old age and I remember him quite well. His wife Louise Officer distinguished herself in community services in later days and was awarded the M.B.E. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Adam married Louise Playford Sexton MBE daughter of Rev. J H Sexton of Adelaide on 15 January, 1918. Louise was born in 1889 in Adelaide, SA, Australia and died on 31 July, 1968

They had the following children:

152. M i. Dr. John Cairns Suetonius Officer was born on 18 April, 1919 and died on 1 February, 1983
153. F ii. Mary Louise Officer

84. **Harry Officer Blackwood JP** (Isabella Officer, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born in 1868 and died on 2 February, 1932 in KIncurdy, Rosemarkie, Ross-shire, England

Harry served in WW1, his only son being killed on the Somme.  
1. DeBrett's Illustrated Peerage 1951, DEBRETT, John, p.158  
2. Kelly's Handbook 1970, p. 1666

Harry married Isla Jessie MacKenzie daughter of W D MacKenzie

They had the following children:

154. M i. Miles Blackwood died in 1916 in KIA, The Somme, France
155. F ii. Mona Eileen Blackwood
156. F iii. Isla Nesta Blackwood

87. **Eleanor Blackwood** (Isabella Officer, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Eleanor married Rev. Bruce M'Ewan

Eleanor married Rev. Bruce M'Ewan of St. Machar Cathedral, Aberdeen, Scotland. He died as the result of war wounds received in France, where he served as both a machine gunner and part-time padre. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Bruce and Eleanor had the following children:

157. F i. Dr. Majorie M'Ewan D. Sc.

A noted physicist, was involved in DNA research. She was also a very gifted bridge player. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

88. **George Officer** (William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 29 January, 1867 and died on 15 January, 1927

(Ref - "Geelong Grammarians", Vol 1, 1996). Educated Geelong Grammar, where senior prefect, captain of cricket team, champion gymnast and champion athlete. Played VFL football for Essendon and joined Dalgety & Co as a wool-broker. After nearly forty years with Dalgety, he started his own Stock and Station agency, but died after a short illness. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

George Officer was a member of the well-known Officer-Blackwood family of pastoralists, the most prominent being his cousin Robert Officer Blackwood (Melbourne General Cemetery). He was born in Melbourne on 29 January 1867, the eldest son of William Officer (1836-1913), grazier of Zara Station at Deniliquin, New South Wales and Mary Grace née Hebden. Sir Robert Officer (1800-79), medical officer and politician was his grandfather. Educated at Geelong Grammar School where he distinguished himself in athletics, football (later with Essendon in the V.F.A.) and cricket ("being captain of the team that held the reputation of being the best fielding side a public school had produced"), he was also awarded prizes for Divinity (1884), Bookkeeping (1886) and Divinity & Gym (1887). After leaving school he studied in London before returning in 1894 and entered the employ of the pioneering pastoral mercantile firm of "Dalgety & Co Ltd" where he remained for the next forty years as a wool broker ("and for a considerable period was one of their wool experts") before retiring in 1925. He then commenced as a stock and station agent in Melbourne. Married to Julia née Simson (d 1923) on 6 March 1895 at St. John's, Toorak, Officer died from a heart attack as he was leaving the Mitre Tavern, Bank Place, Melbourne after lunch on 15 January 1927. He resided at "Nya-Wi", 24 Tintern Avenue, Toorak. (Brighton Cemeterians)

George married Julia Bertha Simson on 6 March, 1895 at St. John's, Toorak. Julia was from Hay, NSW and died in 1923

George and Julia had the following children:

158. M i. William Roy George Officer was born on 14 January, 1897 and died on 19 January, 1979
159. F ii. Mona Bertha Officer was born on 14 February, 1898

Lived in Blenheim, New Zealand. Before her marriage, Mona Officer met Dr. Doris Veale in Britain and took her up to "Zara" where Doris met her husband-to-be Ernest Officer.

Mona married William Napier or Norris Masefield

A grazier of Ellerton, Blenheim, South Island, New Zealand. William Masefield was champion rifle shot of New Zealand. Their son, similarly talented, was KIA fighting the Japanese in WW2. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

92. **Ernest Officer** (William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 29 December, 1870 at "Zara" Station and died on 1 December, 1936 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

(See "Geelong Grammarians", Vol 1, 1996, by J.J. Corfield and M. Collins Persse, editors). Privately educated till 12, then a brilliant scholar at Geelong Grammar and cox of the "trial eight", he was also assistant editor of the "Corian" as it was later called. Scholarship to Trinity College, University of Melbourne, gaining MA (Honours). Cox of winning University and Trinity

"eights." His studies in Law were unfinished due to the Depression of the 1890s, and he returned to "Zara" in 1894 to assist his father. He managed "Zara" after his father's death in 1913. A knee injury made him unfit for service in WW1. He could make one gesture however, which was to buy the land on which the War Memorial was to be erected and unobtrusively present it to the Shire. On the advice of the famous wool classer, H.C. Pennefather, the Tasmanian stud was gradually wound down and sold, and Peppin rams were used on the Tasmanian ewes with great success. The £60,000 station overdraft was paid off, and with wise investment of income the fortunes of the family were restored. "Zara" was sold to the Falkiner family at the then high figure of £250,000 in 1927, the latter selling the whole stud largely to South Africa. This led to the Federal embargo on selling Australian stud merino rams overseas in 1928, lasting till 1972. (The Falkiner family defaulted on one payment of £25,000 following the stud sale!)

Deeply interested in botany and wildlife, Ernest joined the Michael Terry motorised expedition to NW and Central Australia in 1928, seeing many tribal aborigines. (See - "Hidden Wealth and Hiding People", by Michael Terry, 1931). The Coniston massacres took place during this trip, and he met some of the white men involved, apparently with distaste. On return to Melbourne, Ernest involved himself in various bodies serving the pastoral industry and was co-editor of the "Stock and Land Journal" in 1934 till his death of a heart attack. It was said of him that he was a "servant of the pastoral industry", and that he upheld the interests of the small farmer during the Depression.

Ernest married Dr. Doris Lyne Veale in 1923, an English graduate and daughter of Captain Ernest Veale of the Orient Line. Dr. Doris Officer became very well known for her work in the Victorian Baby Health Centres Association, being Honorary Secretary for 30 years and receiving the O.B.E. Her career is described in ADB 1940-80 and in "Save the Babies" by Cheryl Crockett, the history of the Victorian Baby Health movement. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Ernest married Doris Lynne Veal on 14 May 1923. Doris was born in 1898 in Kent, England. And died on 31 July 1967 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

They had the following children:

160. M i. Dr. John Robert Officer was born on 26 June, 1924 and died in 1992
  161. F ii. Mary Jean Officer was born on 18 November, 1925 and died on 14 June, 1996  

Educated St. Catherine's, Toorak. Musician, interested in Australian folk songs and folk lore, also "birding". Many cultural interests. Member Bird Observers Club, also A.L.P. 1956-76. Unmarried. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)
  162. M iii. Dr. Colin Blackwood Officer, OAM
98. **Richard Blackwood Officer** (William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 26 September, 1880 and died on 17 April, 1930

Educated Cumloden, East St. Kilda, his parents unable to afford boarding schools. Pastoral experience on "Zara" and "Hartwood", the latter owned by cousins, the Blackwoods and later by Hunter Patterson, another cousin. Subsequently managed "Erowanbang", a Hebden property near Carcoar, NSW, where he died at the early age of 50. Richard was a member of the Australian Club in Sydney and Roy Officer had a fund of stories about him in this Club, where he was well known for his irreverent behaviour and a rather smart reply to the Committee when summoned to defend himself on one occasion. "If a gentleman can't get drunk in his own club, then where the heck can he?" Roy Officer wrote that with his brother George, their combined tactlessness led to H.C. Pennefather's resignation from management of the Zara Stud in 1926 when Ernest was abroad with his family. Nothing that Ernest could say would reverse his decision, and in the event the station was sold shortly afterwards. Richard was a godfather to the writer, but I was too young to remember him.

Married Frances Hawker, daughter of E.W. Hawker of Clare, S.A. and granddaughter of Sir William Stawell. Frances Officer lived to a great age, and took considerable interest in her Officer nephews and nieces. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Richard married Frances Melian Hawker daughter of E W Hawker of Clare SA

They had the following children:

- 163. M i. George Hebden Officer was born on
- 164. M ii. William Edward Officer was born on 7 August, 1918 and died on 20 February, 1963
- 165. M iii. Richard Ernest Officer
- 166. F iv. Mary Frances Officer
- 167. F v. Catherine Clara Officer was born on 16 September, 1926 and died on 14 June, 1976
- 168. F vi. Isabel Cora Officer

99. **Mary Grace Officer** (William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 25 December, 1881 and died on 9 January, 1965 in Clermont, Queensland, Australia

Educated privately. She was 31 when her father died in 1913, and of course, her mother had died in 1908. She therefore was free to marry Lindley McMeekin, then the Overseer at "Zara". Presumably, he could get past the iron fence, and anyway her brother Ernest was in command. There was one daughter. Lindley McMeekin who died, it seems, after a rather short marriage. So Aunt Mary, when she came down to Melbourne in the 1950s (after her daughter's marriage) seemed as spinsterish as her sisters. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Mary married Lindley McMeekin

They had the following children:

169. F i. Mary Grace McMeekin was born on 15 January, 1921 and died on 5 April, 1999 in Clermont, Queensland, Australia. She married Duncan Fraser.

She married Duncan Fraser, a grazier near Clermont, Queensland and being a tomboyish type enjoyed the country life. No children.

100. **William Gerald Officer** (William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 8 March, 1883 and died in 1957 in London, England

Educated Cumloden, East St. Kilda. Gerald was clever and favoured, I think, by his mother as he was the last-born. From Melbourne University, he passed British Army Entrance examination and commissioned 5/12/1905. He was posted to the 1st Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding), then in India near Darjeeling. Perhaps his Hebden ancestry got him into this particular regiment (see the Hebden papers in my (Colin's) collection). Qualified in various military subjects, including Hindustani and Persian languages. Adjutant of the Regiment (captain) 1915. Joined 2nd Battalion 1918. Badly wounded in the head, April 1918. Retired from service 1925 with rank of Lt. Colonel.

Married Winnifred Kensington, daughter of Sir Alfred Kensington ICS, Chief Judge of the Punjab.

Gerald Officer lived in Welbeck Street W1 when I was in London 1956-57. We always met at his club, the United Service Club, very military. He had a bony deficiency in the forehead from the war wound. He had wanted to return to settle in Australia after the War but his wife wouldn't let him. She had died some years before, probably in the 1930s. Gerald was lonely and depressed by very likeable and pleased to meet a new nephew. We agreed to disagree over the Suez intervention by Britain!

He had phoned to see if I was "sound", I think, but I wasn't. "You'll never see another many with a wound like mine!" he used to say. However, we did, a curator at the Tate Gallery, working and happy. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

William married Winfred Margaret Kensington daughter of Sir Alfred Kensington

They had the following children:

170. F i. Angela Margaret Officer

101. **Harold Officer Clarke** (Jamima Officer, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 4 February, 1873. Was Lt. Col. Royal Fusiliers.

Harold married (name unknown)

They had the following children:

171. F i. Barbara Margaret Clarke

172. F ii. Elizabeth Corbutt Clarke

102. **Mervyn Officer Clarke** (Jamima Officer, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 22 December, 1878

Mervyn married Judith Paget

They had the following children:

173. M i. Christopher Clarke who became an Anglican monk

174. M ii. Simon Clarke died in a climbing accident in 1969 in Queensland, Australia

175. F iii. Nicky Clarke

176. F iv. Bridget Clarke

103. **Beatrice Clarke** (Jamima Officer, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Beatrice married a Stuckey

They had the following children:

- 177. Daughter
- 178. Daughter

## Ninth Generation

- 111. **Donald Gatenby Officer** (Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 21 August, 1901 in Forbes, NSW, Australia and died on 21 June, 1952 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Established DG Officer Pty Ltd, Stock and Station agents, Melbourne.

Donald married Elsie May Ash on 17 February, 1936 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Elsie was born in 1913 in Caulfield, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia and died in 2002

They had the following children:

- 179. M i. Robert Rupert Officer
- 180. M ii. Donald Francis Officer
- 181. F iii. Rosemarie Officer

- 112. **Francis Read Officer** (Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 9 February, 1912 in Forbes, NSW, Australia and died on 9 March 1954 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

(Ref: Liber Melbourniensis) Educated Melbourne Grammar, "Frank" had 5 years station experience, then entered his brother's firm. Served WW2 1940-1944, in AIF Middle East and Northern Territory (AA regiment). Lieutenant. Both brothers died in middle age of malignant hypertension, then incurable. Betty Officer carried on the firm.

Francis married Helen Elizabeth McMicken

They had the following children:

- 182. F i. Helen Officer, married John Gibbins
- 183. M ii. Phillip Officer

- 116. **Lorraine Maud Officer** (James Read, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 6 September, 1891 in Hermitage Plains, Nymagee, NSW, Australia and died in 1963 in Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia

Lorraine married Hubert Spencer Docker on 30 July 1919. Hubert was born on 8 June, 1881 at "Bontharambo", Wangaratta, Victoria

Educated at Melbourne Grammar and Ormond College, Melbourne University. Engaged in pastoral pursuits on "Bontharambo" property, specialising in the stud breeding of Aberdeen Angus cattle, thoroughbred horses and Lincoln sheep. War service - enlisted 1916, private 5th Battalion A.I.F., served in France until end of War. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Hubert and Lorraine had the following children:

184. M i. Stanley Spencer Docker was born on 5 July, 1920 and died 24 June, 2007 at Wangaratta, Victoria.
118. **Frank Henry Officer** (Glenelg Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 6 January, 1911 in Orange, NSW, Australia

Alive for the 1972 reunion. Grazier "Werrina", Mungindi, NSW.

Frank married Phyllis Muriel Shaw on 23 September, 1937. Phyllis was born on 10 September, 1913 in Moree, NSW, Australia

They had the following children:

185. M i. Robert Glenelg Officer
186. M ii. John Officer
187. F iii. Andrea Officer. Andrea married Ken Montgomery . Ken was born in Queensland.

119. **Donella Mabel Officer** (Glenelg Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Donella married Humphrey George Killen in 1925 in Sydney, NSW, Australia. Humphrey was born in 1902 and died in 1992

They had the following children:

188. F i. Donnella Jean Killen
189. F ii. Jill Marie Killen, married and associated with the Spastic Centre.
190. F iii. Roslyn Lilian Killen. Married

120. **Barbara Isobel Officer** (Glenelg Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Barbara married Leigh Nicholls

They had the following children:

191. F i. Ann Florence Nicholls

192. F ii. Jane Officer Nicholls
193. F iii. Jenifer Eve Nicholls. Married John Docen

In 1972 she was living on the Nullabor Plain at Coorabie, but came to the reunion.  
(Colin Officer's account of the Officer family).

135. **Leslie Wilson Officer** (William, Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 13 January, 1886 in Menzies Hotel, Melbourne, Australia and died on 17 February, 1958 in Horsham, Victoria, Australia

Educated Melbourne Grammar. Pastoralist. Managed Mount Talbot until 1914. In 1925, on his father's death Mount Talbot was divided in half, his brother taking the part named "Changbool", and Leslie taking the homestead portion. This property, once owned by Sir Robert Officer, is still in the hands of his Officer descendants, and the two-storey bluestone homestead is little changed. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Leslie married Dorothy Maud Flowers on 16 September, 1914 in Melbourne Grammar Chapel, Melbourne, Australia. Dorothy was born on 11 January, 1892 in Durban, South Africa and died on 8 October, 1978 in Natimuk, Horsham, Victoria, Australia

Leslie and Dorothy had the following children:

194. M i. Derek Bracey Officer was born in 1920 and died on 31 May, 2007
195. F ii. Cynthia Officer. Cynthia married (1) FCC Fetherstonhaugh and (2) Douglas Gardiner
196. F iii. Pamela Officer. Pamela married Andrew Gardiner
197. F iv. Diana Officer. Diana married PCT Armytage of Mt. Sturgeon

136. **Errol Myles Wilson Officer** (William, Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 18 March, 1891 and died after 1972

Educated Melbourne Grammar. Pastoral experience on Mount Talbot. Called his half of the station "Changbool Bank".

Errol married Lilian Masonie Clegg on 12 March, 1923. Lilian was born in St. Arnaud, Victoria, Australia

They had the following children:

198. M i. Brian William Wilson Officer
199. M ii. Kevin Errol Clegg Officer
200. F iii. Kathleen Edith Officer. Kathleen married Jack Sallman

139. **Sir Charles James Officer-Brown** (Jamima Officer, Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 24 September, 1897 and died in 1984

Knighthood by Queen Elizabeth in 1969. President of the Melbourne Club 1968-1969. Educated Scotch College and (with scholarships) Melbourne University. MB, BS, FRCS, FRACS. Enlistment was denied him as he was a medical student, graduating 1920. He went to England to train in surgery, and his first appointment on return was Honorary Surgeon to Austin Hospital for Incurable Diseases. He was eventually made Honorary Surgeon to Outpatients at the Alfred Hospital (1929) and proposed marriage to Esme Frankenberg. However, he then developed active pulmonary tuberculosis, fortunately recovering over the next year or so. He had to work as a general practitioner from 1932-39 (with Guy Springthorpe) to gain enough money to marry his Esme. Yet he still formed an Alfred Hospital team to tackle the problems of thoracic surgery, and much of this work would later be on TB patients. This team's first successful case (1934) was a lobectomy for bronchiectasis on a 19-year-old girl and started thoracic surgery in Melbourne. WW2 prevented him going overseas to study thoracic surgical developments there as he had planned. Rejected for service in the AIF, his fortunate presence in Melbourne permitted the further local development of chest surgery, much of it on TB cases at the Austin Hospital, where the writer first met him as a medical student. The cuffed endotracheal tube used by anaesthetist Dr. Robert Orton had been the key to these surgical advances. His association with the American thoracic surgeon Paul Gebauer in WW2 was a most fertile one, for Gebauer introduced him to the surgical cure of Patent Ductus Arteriosus, a congenital heart condition. Meanwhile the unit was also operating on battle casualties with chest wounds. As a distinguished thoracic surgeon, who had pioneered thoracic surgery at the Alfred and Austin Hospitals, Jim was appointed Consulting Surgeon to the Tuberculosis Division, and gradually chemotherapy and public health measures reduced this scourge, which became quite a rare disease in this country, though not overseas. Now Thoracic Surgeon to the Alfred Hospital, he shared a ward with physicians and started to study Fallot's Tetralogy, the most common form of congenital heart disease, coarctation of the aorta and valvular heart disease. The last named condition was commonly due to Rheumatic Fever. The shunt operation for Fallot's Tetralogy ("blue babies") made the surgeon famous and likewise the Alfred Hospital. At least half this work was unpaid as it was essentially "honorary." When open-heart surgery was developed, Jim confined himself to being an assistant surgeon and sent younger colleagues abroad to study and introduce it. He himself gracefully retired at 60. He remained at the Austin Hospital for a further ten years, and was active in the College of Surgeons.

A president of the Melbourne Club in 1968-69, he was knighted in the latter year. He and Esme had two daughters, Susan and Caroline and a happy home life. (Reference:- Sir James Officer Brown Memorial. "A Tribute to a Great Man", by Kenneth N. Morris, 29/11/1984) (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Charles married Esme Mai Frankenberg in 1932. Esme was born in 1906

They had the following children:

- 201. F i. Susan Officer-Brown
- 202. F ii. Caroline Officer-Brown

143. **Roy Arthur Somerled Officer** (Arthur Edward, Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 10 January, 1893 and died in 1987

His third name is that of the first chief (about 1000 AD) of the Clan Macdonald of the Isles. Accountant and secretary. Served WW1 Gallipoli, Egypt, France with 1st Motor Transport. Artificer Sergeant.

Roy married Isabelle Collier on 7 April, 1926. Isabelle died on 2 April, 1964

They had the following children:

203. M i. Arthur Maxwell Officer

144. **Lorna Marion Officer** (Arthur Edward, Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born in 1901 and died in 1974

Lorna married Harry Urquart McPherson on 20 February, 1926

They had the following children:

204. F i. Shirley Marion McPherson

145. **Patricia Lillian Allan Officer** (Francis Allen, Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Patricia married (1) Ellis Harvey Davies. Ellis died in 1942

They had the following children:

205. M i. Alan Davies

Patricia married (2) Ernest Porter

148. **Vernon Wicker Officer "Bill"** (Sydney Linden, Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 2 August, 1908 and died on 3 March, 1982

Known as Bill. Same education as his older brother. Joined Graziers Association of Victoria and Southern Riverina 1928, assistant secretary 1934 and secretary after death of father. Served WW2 in AIF, 1940-45, captain of artillery. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Vernon married Hillory Marion Leura Russell on 20 November, 1935. Hillory was born in Toorak, Melbourne, Australia

Vernon and Hillory had the following children:

206. F i. Susan Hillary Officer

207. F ii. Janet Officer. Janet married David Blackburn of New Zealand

149. **Geoffrey Wallace Officer** (Maurice Norfolk, Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Geoffrey married Heather Rae Johansen

Rae was at the Officer family reunion at Kyneton in 2001 and displayed the Knighthood insignia of Sir Robert Officer to all.

Geoffrey and Heather had the following children:

- 208. M i. Maurice Officer, married with children
- 209. M ii. Ian Officer, married with children
- 210. F iii. Elisa Officer, married with children
- 211. F iv. Roslyn Officer, married with children

151. **Sybil Muriel Graham Officer** (Charles Graham Weir, Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 28 October, 1911 at "Langley", Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia. She was christened on 20 December, 1912 in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia and died on 16 August, 1984 in Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia. She was buried in Allambie Gardens, Nerang, Queensland, Australia

Murlie's father died before she was born, and she was brought up at Langley, a lovely property at Wangaratta, Victoria, by her mother and her mother's parents whom she adored. She was much loved and probably spoiled - wearing little soft kid-leather shoes and having her grapes peeled for her! Murlie developed her love of gardening from her grandfather, Alexander Henry Smith, who gave her own garden plot to plant as she liked. Having Rudyard Kipling's "Jungle Book" read to her at night as a small child, gave her the idea of building an elephant trap and seeing who would fall into it. She spent many productive hours digging a hole in the middle of a path in her garden, covering it carefully with twigs and leaves, and then invited her grandmother, nee Emily Josephine Clarke, to inspect what she had planted recently. Of course Gran fell into it and was heard to utter "Oh, oh, oh!", which was obviously the extent of her swearing vocabulary.

When Murlie was 12 her mother married Campbell Chomley, and the family moved to Killeen, Longwood, Victoria, a very beautiful property with a large, cool house and interesting garden. Murlie boarded at St. Catherine's School, Toorak and then at Clyde School, Woodend, where she excelled in music, dancing and drama. Murlie was a very good skier, winning many medals at places like Mount Buffalo, Mount Hotham and Mount Buller. She was also an excellent horse-rider and won prizes at gymkanas.

She travelled extensively in North America, Europe and Britain, and was presented to King George V and Queen Mary at Court in 1930. Her memories of this event were clouded with an excruciating need to "spend a penny", something she couldn't do, owing to the "all-in-one" underwear she was wearing at the time!

Murlie loved India and Ceylon and there are many funny stories about her escapades. She once "escaped" from her chaperone and hired a baby Austin car and a driver and tried to drive to Tibet. She was prevented from doing this as the borders were closed, but she got as far as Kalimpong and came back laden with beautiful Asian wall hangings and carved brass pictures. One of the places she stayed along the way had an enormous centipede on the wall, so she hit it with a golf club (did she really take them on the trip?) and it broke in two, and the two halves were running around!

In Ceylon, after a holiday there, she was due to catch a ship home, and some of the many friends who didn't want her to leave "kidnapped" her and took her to a party far away. As the time approached for the ship to depart, she finally persuaded a young man to drive her to her hotel, where she threw her things into a cabin trunk and they just made it on to the last tender to take them out to the ship. As they scrambled up the gangway, the young man said to someone standing at the rails "Look after this young lady on the trip to Australia, won't you?" and the man said "Australia? My dear chap, this ship is bound for China!!" So the cabin trunk and Murlie were duly off-loaded, and she had to wait for another ship!

Murlie met Morty when she and her step-father, Campbell Chomley, visited Mt. Victor Station, near Yunta, South Australia, on business. Murlie said "His eyes were blue, his shirt was blue and the sky was blue and I just fell in love". But it was their love of music which cemented their relationship. Murlie inherited great talent and love from her Officer forebears and Merilyn

remembers nights when Morty was working at 5AD when Murlie would practise the piano for hours.

After their marriage, Morty and Murlie lived at 34 Prospect Road, Prospect, but Murlie hankered for the big place next door, and in the early 50s they moved into Audley House, 32 Prospect Road, the scene of many wonderful parties for many years to come.

After she and Morty were divorced, Murlie moved back to Victoria and lived in Orrong Road, Toorak. Then, one day as she and her Aunt Amy Gayer were flying home from a holiday in Japan, they passed over Surfers Paradise, and Murlie fell in love with the beautiful place (as it was then prior to development). She went there, and bought a little weather-board house right behind the beach and spent the rest of her life living in her bit of heaven. She walked and jogged and swam and waterskied, revelling in the lifestyle that Surfers offered. Many happy holidays were spent there when Marilyn brought the children up in the September holidays. (Marilyn Pedrick's account of her family)

Sybil married Horace Mortimer Marsh on 4 August, 1937 in St Johns Church, Toorak, Melbourne, Australia. The marriage ended in divorce. Horace was born on 1 August, 1904 in Boulder, Western Australia and died on 6 February, 1982 in Adelaide, SA, Australia. He was buried on 9 February, 1982 in Centennial Park, Adelaide, South Australia

In 1907 the family came to live in Adelaide when Morty was three, and they spent the first few months at the Rectory of St Luke's Church, where his grandfather, Rev. W.G. Marsh was the Minister. The family was then given the use of Thorpe Cottage, Crafers by his Uncle Ernest Ayers (son of Henry Ayers), who married his maternal grandmother's sister Barbara Milne. The family remained at Thorpe Cottage for several years.

Morty's first schooling was with a governess, Miss Rebbeck at "Derrymore", the home of Walter Hawker. His schoolmate was John Hawker. He remained there for twelve months and then started at Miss Collison's School, just below Thorpe. It was mainly a girls school, except for Morty, Tom Barr Smith, Mick Hawker and Bill and Bob Howard. Morty had beautiful golden shoulder-length hair at this time and was teased unmercifully by the other boys, who once tied him to a tree by his beautiful locks! When Morty and Mavis were children at Thorpe Cottage, Roy Milne, who was Kitty's first cousin and Morty's Godfather, used to dress up as Father Christmas and give them wonderful presents. Once, Morty and Mavis found a cigar on the mantle-piece and thought they'd like to smoke it. So they borrowed their father's razor, which didn't cut very well. They smoked their two halves, and Mavis didn't turn a hair. On the other hand, Morty was so sick that a doctor had to be called. Not deterred - on another occasion Morty and Mavis were walking to church (of Epiphany, Crafers) when they found a packet of cigarettes between Thorpe Cottage and the Church. Once again they smoked one, Mavis didn't turn a hair, but Morty fainted in church!

When Morty was eight or nine he went to board at Miss Stanton's School on Broadway, Glenelg. His father was employed by Teasdale Smith & Timms as paymaster when this firm of civil engineers were putting the railway line through Sedan and to the West Coast. Mavis and Kitty used to go and camp there with him during his two-year stay. In 1916 Morty began school at St. Peter's College and boarded with Dr. Fooks, father of his friend Pem Fooks.

Meanwhile the family moved to Sydney when Horace transferred with Teasdale Smith. Morty played in the B cricket team and cleared 5'3" in the Under 14 high jump. On one particular Sports Day, Morty's mother was watching him jump with Mary Price, who just at the crucial moment shouted "Jump, you fool!" In 1921 Morty left school at 17. On the day he left school, Morty went to Birks, a department store in Rundle Street, bought himself a felt hat, then on to Lawrence's Tobacconists where he bought a pipe and a tin of tobacco, and then marched up and down King William Street blowing clouds of smoke everywhere and taking great delight in not tipping his hat to any school-masters he met! A few days later Morty boarded a train and went to Sydney, where he stayed for three years. During this time he was employed by Holt & Thompson, Public Accountants, where he was a trainee accountant. He had a wonderful social life, as young men were in short supply and because he had no money the girls used to pay for dinner and taxi fares.

In 1924 the family returned to Adelaide and Morty joined Edgar Sabine, Public Accountants, where there was the possibility of a future partnership with the son, Rolf Sabine. However, this was not to be, as Morty got the sack! Sometimes he used to sneak off for afternoon tea with Betty Bonython. Once when he was playing in a tennis tournament with Nellie Hamilton (later

Begg, a State tennis player) he stepped on a ball and sprained his ankle, which put him out of action for a week or so, and he was unable to go to the office. Unfortunately he went to the finals of the tennis tournament and found himself sitting next to his boss, Mr. Sabine, who, during a break in play, leant across and said quietly "Don't bother coming back to the office Mortimer".

Morty then chose a life on the land, working for the next number of years on "Anama" and "Kalabity" Stations with the Hawker family, and then "Mount Victor" with his life-long friend John Chomley. Once at "Kalabity", Morty slashed himself while shearing; Walter Hawker cobbled up his arm with twine and a baling needle, and gave Morty half an hour off). After several years working with his godfather Roy Milne in Milne & Co. Morty developed T.B. in his eye, and was unable to do any close work. He had been turned down when he tried to enlist at the beginning of the 2nd World War due to very bad varicose veins, and following his interest in music, Morty left Milne & Co after long months during 1944 trying to shake of the T.B. and joined 5AD to begin a career in radio which lasted for the next 30 years until he retired. The mutual love of music shared by Morty and Murlie led to their famous "jam" sessions with Murlie on the piano and Morty on the fold-up organ he had bought from a travelling preacher when he was working in the bush. The organ finally "died" at a party at the Bob Seppelt's when he played it until it disintegrated! For years afterwards bits of it were found in the flowerbeds!

After Morty and Murlie's divorce in 1959, Morty married Rhonda Weepers, a colleague at 5AD in 1964 and their daughter Lucinda was born in 1965. Morty lived quietly and happily with his new family until he died. (Meryllyn Pedrick's account of her family)

Horace and Sybil had the following children:

- 212. F i. Meryllyn de Guerin Mortimer Marsh
- 213. M ii. Graham Officer Mortimer Marsh was born on 1 March, 1942 in Calvary Hospital, Adelaide, Australia. He was christened on 11 October, 1942 and died in August, 1960 in British Columbia, Canada. He was buried in Banff Cemetery, Alberta, Canada

Graham was the middle child of the family. He was sensitive and sensible, with very fair colouring - golden hair, white brows and lashes and freckles. He was a very good person, obviously too good for this world, as he died at 18. Graham went to St. Cuthbert's kindergarten at Prospect, then to Queens College at North Adelaide, and then on to St. Peter's College. He worked hard and matriculated in 9 subjects. Graham was a very good tennis player, water and snow skier, with a very nice neat style in all the sports he played, and was popular with his friends. He was also a Scout, and loved the outdoors.

When he finished school he went overseas at the time his sister Meryllyn was living in England. He bought himself a motor scooter, and travelled by himself all over Europe in the summer of 1959. By that time Meryllyn and Merv had gone to live in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and so Graham followed them there. Merv was able to get him a job with an oil company, working with a survey team in the wilds of British Columbia, and he had a tough, interesting time. In a letter, Meryllyn received at that time, he said "If I ever get out of this alive I will have some stories to tell".

How prophetic that was. At the end of the summer he was due to return to Calgary, then back to Adelaide, where he would have begun his adult life. He was killed, as the light plane he was returning to Calgary in, hit a log on take-off from a lake. Five others were killed with him. (Meryllyn Pedrick's account of her family)

- 214. M iii. Michael Anthony Mortimer Marsh

- 152. **Dr. John Cairns Suetonius Officer** (Adam Cairns, Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 18 April, 1919 and died on 1 February, 1983

Educated Glamorgan, Hutchins School, Hobart, Melbourne Grammar and Melbourne University. Here he had one of the longest undergraduate careers on record! Known as "Jake" Officer, he had a rather wild youth with much drinking and gambling. Between 1937 and 1941 he had only progressed to a twice-failed "3rd year". It was suggested he gain some military experience, so he served WW2 in AIF as a private in the SWPA. On returning to Melbourne University in 1946 he had settled down and soon graduated MB, BS in 1949. He had made the acquaintance of a female medical student Audrey Adams - always known as "Claude" - at womens College and they married 1950, going to live in Hobart. Jake saw an opening in Repatriation Medicine and eventually reached the top of it in Hobart. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

John married Dr. Audrey Bell Adams MB BS

They had the following children:

215. F i. Diana Louise Cairns Officer

216. F ii. Elizabeth Grace Cairns Officer

217. M iii. Ian Robert Cairns Officer

218. F iv. Fiona Margaret Cairns Officer

153. **Mary Louise Officer** (Adam Cairns, Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Always known as Mollie. As a young orthoptist and very attractive girl, Mollie married Peter Bailey who had a farm near Longford. These Tasmanian Officers are very family minded and keep in touch at least the older ones do. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Mary married Peter Richard Brooke Bailey

They had the following children:

219. M i. Richard Brooke Bailey

220. F ii. Mary Cairns Bailey

221. M iii. John Brooke Bailey

156. **Isla Nesta Blackwood** (Harry Officer Blackwood JP, Isabella Officer, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Isla married Capt. James Rivett-Carnac RN, DSC son of Sir George Clennell Rivett-Carnac. James was born in 1891 and died before 1976

They had the following children:

222. F i. Isla Carolyn Rivett-Carnac

223. M ii. Rev. Sir Thomas Nicholas Rivett-Carnac 8th Bart.

224. M iii. Commander Miles James Rivett-Carnac RN

158. **William Roy George Officer** (George, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 14 January, 1897 and died on 19 January, 1979

Educated Melbourne Grammar, where he had a unique sporting record. Champion athlete 1914 and 1916, runner up 1915; athletic captain two years in a row (not excelled). WW1 service:- Served in France as a gunner, 15th Battery. Jackeroo at Hartwood, then overseer at "Zara". Roy bought "Old Cathundral", Trangie, NSW, where he lived to a great age. A dedicated sheep man, a wonderful raconteur and correspondent, he was greatly attached to his uncle Ernest Officer, who regarded him, I suspect, as the son he had yet to have. He was an executor of numerous family estates, and these duties brought him to Melbourne at least annually. My wife and I were very fond of him, and he was a major source of family information. He remembered his grandfather William well, and was a fount of stories about "Zara". Conservative in his politics, he had been a member of the "New Guard" determined to rid NSW of the Jack Lang government. He married Doris Mackie from Jerilderie. Doris was a keen churchgoer and had the prize garden in the Trangie district with the help and labour of her son Ken. Unlike most country people of her background, she had no desire to see other countries and adored the inland. A very intelligent and able lady, she told me in 1953 that they must replant the valuable Wilga trees of the district, or they would soon all die of old age! She was about twenty years ahead of the times! Doris and Roy had two children. She died in 1995 at a great age. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

William married Doris Noble Mackie on 11 April, 1928

They had the following children:

225. M i. William Kenneth Officer

Assisted his parents on Old Cathundral, retired to Dubbo. He still lends a hand to his nephew at Old Cathundral. Unmarried.

226. F ii. Doris Jill Officer

160. **Dr. John Robert Officer** (Ernest, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 26 June, 1924 and died in 1992

Educated Geelong Grammar. Served WW2 in RAAF 1943-45, pilot, discharged as a Warrant Officer after service overseas. Medical course Melbourne University, graduating MB, BS 1951. RMO at Royal Melbourne, Childrens and (registrar) Fairfield Hospitals. Gained DCH, MRCPE, MRCP (London) after study in Britain. Private practice in Toorak Clinic 1958-92. Honorary Paediatrician Alfred Hospital 1958-61. Special outside interests:- socialising, reading, fishing, sport, especially tennis and squash, bridge. After he was killed in a street accident it was recalled that "he was gifted with children and an outstanding diagnostician." He was very widely known, and had served as school doctor to both "Glamorgan" and "St. Catherine's" for around 30 years. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

John married (1) Margot Anne Hardy daughter of Cr. Hardy of Melbourne City Council. The marriage ended in divorce

They had the following children:

227. M i. Jonathan Frederick Officer. Graduated LL.B
228. M ii. David Ernest Officer
229. F iii. Catherine Margot Officer. Graduated LL.B.

230. M iv. Robert Roy Officer

John married (2) Faye (née Buchanan) Middleton

162. **Dr. Colin Blackwood Officer OAM** (Ernest, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Colin married (1) Margaret Helen Nicol. Margaret was born in 1922 and died in 1978

Dr. Margaret Officer did brilliant work on the health infrastructure of Seymour during sixteen years as Medical Officer of Health. Margaret's pioneer ancestry is of special interest. Through her mother, born Grace Turnley, she was descended from the famous Captain John Piper (1773-1851) who was great great grandmother to Margaret. Another great grandmother Georgiana Flaxman arrived as an 8 year old with her parents on Kangaroo Island in the brig "Emma" on 5/10/1836, just before the survey and founding of Adelaide. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

They had the following children:

231. F i. Clodagh Margaret Linden

232. F i. Jenifer Margaret Officer

233. F ii. Zara Doris Officer

234. F iii. Erina Jane Officer

Colin married (2) Marie Heather Jamieson

163. **George Hebden Officer** (Richard Blackwood, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 6 September, 1916

Known as "Hebden". An eccentric unbalanced person. He served WW2 in the CMF (Militia) but was released to study for Holy Orders (Anglican). He married Edith Clements and became Vicar of Wyalong, where it was said he had a minimal congregation, mostly his family. He was relieved of this post and was last heard of working as a gardener in Forbes, NSW. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

George married Edith Sheila Clements

They had the following children:

235. M i. Patrick Officer

236. M ii. Richard Officer

237. M iii. Gerald Officer

164. **William Edward Officer** (Richard Blackwood, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 7 August, 1918 and died on 20 February, 1963

Known as "Ted". Many members of this family have died young or unexpectedly. Served WW2 as Lieutenant in R.A.N. Then had a farm at Scone, NSW. Married Joy Putland. I never met her, but used to see Ted in his naval days in Melbourne. He was short, likeable and smoked a pipe. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

William married Joyce Lynette Putland

They had the following children:

238. M i. Michael Officer

239. M ii. David Edward John Officer

166. **Mary Frances Officer** (Richard Blackwood, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Married Norman Kemp, a farmer, who had family near Heathcote, Victoria. Resided Inlet, Manilla, NSW, but Norman died tragically young in 1956. Mary then went to live in Adelaide. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Mary married Norman Beck Kemp. Norman died on 9 March, 1956 in Manilla, NSW, Australia

They had the following children:

240. M i. Prof. Bruce Ernest Kemp

241. F ii. Patricia Kemp

242. M iii. Richard Kemp was born on 8 July 1950 and died on 16 December, 1999. Richard was a policeman who died suddenly and unexpectedly.

167. **Catherine Clara Officer** (Richard Blackwood, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born on 16 September, 1926 and died on 14 June, 1976

Catherine married Robert Dudley Chisholm Alford

They had the following children:

243. F i. Mary Alford

168. **Isabel Cora Officer** (Richard Blackwood, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Isabel married Felix George Alexander Davidson

Felix and Isabel had the following children:

244. M i. Pete Davidson

245. M ii. Geoffrey Davidson

246. M iii. James Davidson

247. M iv. Rodney Davidson

170. **Angela Margaret Officer** (William Gerald, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

She was a bright young thing and took my brother Sgt Pilot J.R. Officer to the nightclubs of London during 1944/45! She married Godfrey Cavendish, a scion of the famous family. (Colin Officer's account of the Officer family)

Angela married Godfrey Cavendish

They had the following children:

248. F i. Diane Grace Angela Cavendish

249. F ii. Caroline Cavendish

## Tenth Generation

179. **Robert Rupert Officer** (Donald Gatenby, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

(Who's Who I Australia, 2002) Educated Melbourne Grammar and Melbourne University, also Chicago, USAQ, B.Agr. Sc., M.Ag.Econ., M.B.A., Ph.D., Professor of Finance, Melbourne Business School since 1986 (previously Professor Accounting and Finance, Monash University). Has been an economic adviser to PM John Howard and on many financial Boards and Committees. Hobby - Cattle farm near Wangaratta.

Robert married (1) Marion Potter. The marriage ended in divorce

They had the following children:

250. F i. Melissa Jane Officer

251. F ii. Amanda Kate Officer

Robert married (2) Merryl Anderson

They had the following children:

252. M iii. William James Officer

180. **Donald Francis Officer** (Donald Gatenby, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Donald married (1) Louise Winifred Gatacre. Louise was born in 1945 and died in 1992

They had the following children:

253. M i. Richard Charles Officer  
254. M ii. Robert Donald Officer. Robert married Georgina Farquaharson  
255. F iii. Sally Louise Officer

Donald married (2) Sue Bell

181. **Rosemarie Officer** (Donald Gatenby, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Rosemarie married Donald Webb

They had the following children:

256. M i. Michael Webb (adopted)  
257. F ii. Anna Webb (adopted)

183. **Phillip Officer** (Francis Read, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Phillip married Robin

They had the following children:

258. One son  
259. Two daughters

184. **Stanley Spencer Docker** was born on 5 July, 1920 and died 24 June, 2007 at Wangaratta, Victoria. (Lorraine Maud Officer, James Read, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Educated Melbourne Grammar and joined 8th Light Horse Regiment May 1939

Stanley married Patricia Howard Earp. Patricia was born in 1920 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia and died on 15 March, 2007 at Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia

They had the following children:

260. M i. John Spencer Docker

261. F ii. Anne Louise Docker was born in 1952 in Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia. Anne married Peter Stewart Pennington. Anne died.

262. F iii. Mary Lorraine Docker

194. **Derek Bracey Officer** (Leslie Wilson, William, Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James) was born 1920 and died 31 May, 2007.

Pastoralist Mount Talbot, but in his later years handed the management to his son. Educated Melbourne Grammar. Served WW2 (AIF) Darwin and SWPA. Gunner 2/14 Field Regiment. (Liber Melbourniensis)

Derek married Suzanne Jarvie

They had the following children:

263. M i. Robert Derek Officer. Manages Mount Talbot

264. M ii. Sofie Officer

198. **Brian William Wilson Officer** (Errol Myles Wilson, William, Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Grazier, Changbool

Brian married Thelma Goodman

They had the following children:

265. F i. Denise Officer

266. M ii. Charles Officer

267. F iii. Sharon Officer

268. M iv. Peter Officer

199. **Kevin Errol Clegg Officer** (Errol Myles Wilson, William, Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Kevin married Beth Marie Williamson

They had the following children:

269. M i. Dale Officer

270. M ii. Brett Officer

271. M iii. Kent Officer

272. M iv. Mark Officer

203. **Arthur Maxwell Officer** (Roy Arthur Somerled, Arthur Edward, Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Secretary of the Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne.

Arthur married Joy Hirst

They had the following children:

273. M i. Michael Wayne Officer

274. F ii. Kirsty Jean Officer

204. **Shirley Marion McPherson** (Lorna Marion Officer, Arthur Edward, Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Shirley married Donald Sundermann

Donald and Shirley had the following children:

275. Two sons

276. Two daughters

206. **Susan Hillary Officer** (Vernon Wicker, Sydney Linden, Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Has two surviving children, 1 son 1 daughter. Her husband became a specialist orthopaedic surgeon in Adelaide. Divorced Susan and children reverted to the name of Officer. Community Health Nurse.

Susan married Dr. Maris Rozenbilds. The marriage ended in divorce

They had the following children:

277. F i. Kirsten Rozenbilds. Captain (Sigs) Australian Regular Army

278. M ii. Rickard Andrew Officer Rozenbilds

212. **Merilyn de Guerin Mortimer Marsh** (Sybil Muriel Graham Officer, Charles Graham Weir, Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Merilyn married (1) Mervyn Arkell son of Dr. William Joscelyn Arkell and Ruby Lillian Percival. The marriage ended in divorce.

Mervyn and Merilyn had the following children:

279. F i. Miranda Catherine Arkell

280. M ii. Simon Graham Arkell

Merilyn married (2) Roger John Pedrick son of Stuart Giles Pedrick and Phyllis Margaret Groves

214. **Michael Anthony Mortimer Marsh** (Sybil Muriel Graham Officer, Charles Graham Weir, Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

With Meryl (surname unknown), Michael had the following child

281. F ii. Karine Cummins

Michael married Gwendoline Ann Schroeder

They had the following child:

282. M i. William Mortimer Marsh

215. **Diana Louise Cairns Officer** (John Cairns Suetonius, Adam Cairns, Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Diana trained as a psychologist, but now a horticulturalist and artist (sculptor and baskets).

Diana married Ronald David Williams. The marriage ended in divorce

They had the following children:

283. M i. Nicholas Andrew Williams

284. M ii. Peter George Williams. Has a degree in environmental management

285. F iii. Jane Louise Williams

216. **Elizabeth Grace Cairns Officer** (John Cairns Suetonius, Adam Cairns, Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Always known as Liz, she was an environmentalist, bush walker and guide.

Elizabeth married (1) Murray Coombe. The marriage ended in divorce

Murray and Elizabeth had the following children:

286. M i. Benjamin James Coombe

287. M ii. Anna Elizabeth Coombe. A teacher

Elizabeth married (2) Peter Herbert Dombrovskis, the famous nature photographer

217. **Ian Robert Cairns Officer** (John Cairns Suetonius, Adam Cairns, Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Ian married Christine Ann Betlehem.

Ian and Christine had the following children:

288. F i. Caitlyn Anne Cairns Officer  
289. F ii. Hilary Jane Cairns Officer  
290. M iii. Jeremy Peter Cairns Officer

218. **Fiona Margaret Cairns Officer** (John Cairns Suetonius, Adam Cairns, Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Fiona married Geoffrey Stephen Newton

They had the following children:

291. M i. Alexander Jake Newton  
292. M ii. James Robert Officer Newton

219. **Richard Brooke Bailey** (Mary Louise Officer, Adam Cairns, Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Richard married Louise Mary Randall

They had the following children:

293. F i. Sally Jane Bailey  
294. M ii. Peter Robert Brooke Bailey  
295. F iii. Gillian Mary Bailey

220. **Mary Cairns Bailey** (Mary Louise Officer, Adam Cairns, Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Mary married Anthony Preston Vaughan

They had the following children:

296. M i. Samuel William Vaughan

297. M ii. Thomas Anthony Vaughan

221. **John Brooke Bailey** (Mary Louise Officer, Adam Cairns, Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

John married Carmen Elizabeth Youl

They had the following children:

298. M i. George John Bailey

299. F ii. Caroline Bailey was born in 1984 and died in infancy

300. F iii. Kate Bailey

222. **Isla Carolyn Rivett-Carnac** (Isla Nesta Blackwood, Harry Officer Blackwood JP, Isabella Officer, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Isla married Hon. James Richard Scarlett 8th Baron Abinger

They had the following children:

301. M i. Hon. James Harry Scarlett

302. M ii. Hon. Peter Richard Scarlett

224. **Commander Miles James Rivett-Carnac RN** (Isla Nesta Blackwood, Harry Officer Blackwood JP, Isabella Officer, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Miles married April Sally Villar daughter of Major Arthur Andrew Sidney Villar

They had the following children:

303. F i. Lucinda Rivett-Carnac

304. M ii. Jonathan James Rivett-Carnac

305. M iii. Simon Miles Rivett-Carnac

226. **Doris Jill Officer** (William Roy George, George, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Doris married Bruce Irving

Bruce and Doris had the following children:

306. F i. Anne Margaret Irving

307. M ii. Hugh Maxwell Irving

308. F iii. Fiona Jill Irving

228. **David Ernest Officer** (John Robert, Ernest, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

David married Margherita Fogareta

They had the following children:

309. M i. Ned Officer

310. M ii. Flynn Thomas Officer

230. **Robert Roy Officer** (John Robert, Ernest, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Robert married Clara (surname unknown)

They had the following children:

311. F i. Jemima Officer

312. M ii. Max Officer

231. **Clodagh Margaret Linden** (Colin Blackwood Officer OAM, Ernest Officer, William Officer, Robert Officer, Robert Officer, Robert Officer, James Officer, NN Officer, James)

Clodagh married Christopher Norwood. The marriage ended in divorce

They had the following children:

313. M i. Tom Norwood

314. F ii. Lucy Norwood

232. **Jennifer Margaret Officer** (Colin Blackwood Officer OAM, Ernest, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Jennifer married Kim Goodall. The marriage ended in divorce.

They had the following children:

315. M i. Dorian Goodall

316. M ii. Beau Goodall

233. **Zara Doris Officer** (Colin Blackwood Officer OAM, Ernest, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Zara married Stephen McIntyre. The marriage ended in divorce.

They had the following children:

317. M i. Alexander Officer-McIntyre

318. F ii. Asrid Rita Rose Officer-McIntyre

319. M iii. Felix James Officer-McIntyre

234. **Erina Jane Officer** (Colin Blackwood Officer OAM, Ernest, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Erina married Keith Gaston

Keith and Erina had the following children:

320. M i. Henry Nicol Gaston

240. **Prof. Bruce Ernest Kemp** (Mary Frances Officer, Richard Blackwood, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Bruce married Virginnia Sanders

They had the following children:

321. M i. Robert Kemp

322. M ii. William Kemp

323. M iii. Charles Kemp

241. **Patricia Kemp** (Mary Frances Officer, Richard Blackwood, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Patricia married Paul Boucher

They had the following children:

324. F i. Natalie Boucher

325. M ii. James Boucher

## Eleventh Generation

250. **Melissa Jane Officer** (Robert Rupert, Donald Gatenby, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

With Justin Adami, Melissa had the following child:

326. F i. Lola Ros Adami

253. **Richard Charles Officer** (Donald Francis, Donald Gatenby, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Richard married Elizabeth Parke

They had the following children:

327. F i. Zara Louise Officer

263. **Robert Derek Officer** (Derek Bracey Officer, Leslie Wilson Officer, William Officer, Charles Myles Officer, Robert Officer, Robert Officer, Robert Officer, James Officer, NN Officer, James)

Robert had the following children:

328. M i. John Kenneth Officer

329. M ii. James Officer

274. **Kirsty Jean Officer** (Arthur Maxwell, Roy Arthur Somerled, Arthur Edward, Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Kirsty married Keith Lindsay Maitland

They had the following children:

330. M i. Sam Louis Maitland

331. F ii. Ella Nicole Maitland

278. **Rickard Andrew Officer Rozenbilds** (Susan Hillary Officer, Vernon Wicker, Sydney Linden, Charles Myles, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Rickard married Deirbhile O'Byrne

They had the following children:

332. M i. Aengus Rozenbilds (Officer)  
333. F ii. Aisling Rozenbilds (Officer)  
334. M iii. Michael Rozenbilds (Officer)

279. **Miranda Catherine Arkell** (Merylyn de Guerin Mortimer Marsh, Sybil Muriel Graham Officer, Charles Graham Weir, Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Miranda married Christopher Guy Barnes

They had the following children:

335. F i. Jemima Madeline Barnes  
336. M ii. Thomas Robin Gulliver Barnes  
337. M iii. Joslin Guy Mortimer Barnes

280. **Simon Graham Arkell** (Merylyn de Guerin Mortimer Marsh, Sybil Muriel Graham Officer, Charles Graham Weir, Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Simon married (1) Kimberley Ann Schauers

Simon married (2) Jeana Maria Ziroli

Simon and Jeana had the following children:

338. F i. Sophie Jean Arkell

281. **Karine Cummins** (Michael Anthony Mortimer Marsh, Sybil Muriel Graham Officer, Charles Graham Weir, Suetonius Henry, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Karine married Richard John Lane. Separated

With her then partner Peter John (Jack) Jackson she had two sons:

339. M i. Luka Joe Jackson  
340. M ii. Jake Dillon Jackson

303. **Lucinda Rivett-Carnac** (Miles James Rivett-Carnac RN, Isla Nesta Blackwood, Harry Officer Blackwood JP, Isabella Officer, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Lucinda married Valentine Guy Bryan Guinness

They had the following children:

341. F i. Tara Victoria Guinness  
342. F ii. Madelaine Rose Guinness

307. **Hugh Maxwell Irving** (Doris Jill Officer, William Roy George, George, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Hugh married Debra Hohrlach

Hugh and Debra had the following children:

343. F i. Sophie Angela Irving  
344. M ii. Angas Maxwell Irving  
345. F iii. Rachel Clare Irving

308. **Fiona Jill Irving** (Doris Jill Officer, William Roy George, George, William, Robert, Robert, Robert, James, NN, James)

Fiona married Michael Nott

Michael and Fiona had the following children:

346. M i. Hugh Raymond Nott  
347. M ii. Benjamin Maxwell Nott  
348. M iii. David William Nott