Descendants of
Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON

Introduction

I have put together this account of the Rawsons in New Zealand because I have a connection to one of the spouses. I was having difficulty working out whether occasional Rawsons encountered in the records were “family”, and decided the only solution was to produce my own account. I had realised that some of the places where they settled and their chosen occupations were influenced in both families by availability of kin to lend support. Both families produced surveyors as well as dentists, and both had branches in Westport.

As far as I have been able to determine there seems to have been an unrelated group of Rawsons descended from William RAWSON (from Lancashire ?) and Elizabeth Brice HAINES who farmed at Maheno in North Otago, but other than them it appears that most of the early NZ Rawsons are part of the present family.

This work is based almost entirely on articles in Papers Past and the online registration indexes of births, deaths and marriages, and for this reason I have not recorded sources specifically. Other sources were the FreeBMD index to English registrations, NZ Electoral Rolls indexed by NZSG, and the NZSG IndexV5. A great deal more biographical information could be extracted from the newspapers by anyone wanting to build a more detailed story.

There are likely to be additional grandchildren of Dr T E Rawson born before parental names were included in the NZ online indexes, but I have not attempted to speculate on where they fit. There are also likely to be additional children who died in infancy in England.

I would be pleased to make corrections if notified of any errors.

Mary Skipworth
updated 4 Apr 2011
Descendants of Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON

First Generation

1. Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON, MD LSA, was christened on 9 Apr 1810 in Wimeswold, Leicestershire, UK, and died on 14 Dec 1879 in New Plymouth, NZ at age 69 of paralysis.

The family arrived at Auckland by Mary Ann from London on 3 June 1858 - Chief cabin: Mary, Louisa, Alfred, Arthur, Thos., Herbert and Ernest Rawson, Surgeon: Dr Thomas Rawson. On 16 Oct 1858 arrived by Sporting Lass from Auckland at New Plymouth, Dr & Mrs Rawson from Auckland.

Taranaki Herald 20 Nov 1858: Dr Rawson First Gold medallist and medical associate of the London University in attendance at Mr Hood's Devon St every alternate Wednesday for the purposes of practising dentistry.

1 Jul 1859 Dr Rawson appointed surgeon to New Plymouth militia

1862 Dr T E Rawson, Symonds St Auckland, Advertisement First Gold medallist etc MD LSA

Spoke at meeting of Bible Society, Spoke at opening of a Methodist chapel, New Plymouth
Gave a lecture to Mechanics Institute: Earth Air Fire Water

Obituary 16 Dec 1879 Taranaki Herald: On Sunday at about three o'clock in the afternoon, Dr. T. E. Rawson, who has for some time been an invalid, breathed his last. Dr. Rawson had nearly reached the age which is said to be the allotted span of human existence, being in his seventieth year. He was born at Windsolt, in Leicestershire, and, after studying for the medical profession, started in practice in London. He afterwards removed to Kegworth, in Leicestershire, where he had a very large practice. In 1858 he emigrated with his family to Taranaki, and the war breaking out shortly after his arrival, he was appointed Surgeon-Major to the Militia and Volunteers of the District. In 1861, he resigned that position, and went to Auckland, where he commenced to practice his profession. He, however, returned again to Taranaki in 1863, when he was appointed Hospital Surgeon, which, with other offices, he held until a short time ago, when failing health compelled him to resign them. Dr. Rawson was highly respected, and enjoyed a large share of the confidence of his medical brethren.
Descendants of Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON

Thomas first married Mary Catharine PEARSON on 2 June 1836 in Attenborough, Nottingham, England. She died in 1859 in New Plymouth, NZ. Said to have died giving birth to stillborn twins.

Thomas and Mary’s children were

2  i.  Charles Edward RAWSON 1837-1911
3   ii. Henry Freer RAWSON 1838-1879
4   iii. Frederic George RAWSON 1841-1878
5   iv.  Louisa Mary RAWSON 1842-
6   v.  Alfred Pearson RAWSON 1848-1911
7   vi.  Arthur John RAWSON 1850-1894
8   vii. Thomas Harold RAWSON 1852-1904
9   viii. Herbert Pearson RAWSON 1853-1926
10  ix.  Dr Ernest RAWSON 1855-1924

After Mary’s death Thomas remarried a soldier’s widow, Sarah Hannah KING, daughter of Rev J WHITELEY, Wesleyan Mission, on 14 Jul 1866 in New Plymouth. Sarah died in New Plymouth in 1907, aged 73, and was buried with her husband at Te Henui cemetery.

Thomas adopted Sarah’s two young daughters, and they also had the following sons

11  x.  Harold RAWSON 1869-1941
12  xi. Walter Edward RAWSON 1870-1933
13  xii. Bernard Whiteley RAWSON 1873-1951
Descendants of Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON

Second Generation (Children)

2. Charles Edward RAWSON (Thomas Edward (Dr) ¹) was christened on 22 Feb 1837 in Kegworth, Leicestershire, UK [Baptist] and died in 1911 in Invercargill, NZ at age 74.

   Resident Magistrate and District Judge, New Plymouth for 30 years, then moved to Invercargill.


   Charles and Janes’ children were:

   14  i.  Edward RAWSON 1865-1919 Magistrate Hamilton, m Gertrude Emmeline MOSS
   15  ii. Mary Louise RAWSON 1867- married Dr Henry B. LEATHAM, New Plymouth
   16  iii. unmarried daughter RAWSON

3. Henry Freer RAWSON (Thomas Edward (Dr) ¹) was born in 1838 and died of dysentery in Wanganui on 14 Apr 1879 at age 40.

   Surgeon/Dentist of Nelson 1862-1873, later of Wellington. He was in the habit of residing a few months each year at Wanganui attending to his practice.
   Buller 1863 H F Rawson giving series of lectures on Natural Philosophy and Chemistry
   He was an avowed atheist, which gave rise to some controversy over his funeral at which the Anglican clergyman objected to reading the usual funeral service, refer Wanganui Herald editorial 3 May 1879.

   Henry married Wilmot Elizabeth BORLASE in 1867. She died in 1915, probated estate £6895.
   I have not been able to identify Henry’s children.
   Following Henry’s death, Wilmot Elizabeth RAWSON married Walter Ernest PEARSON in 1892.
   Refer Free Lance 22 May 1909 for account of WEP’s contribution to sport - father of Wellington Hockey, Notts County rep soccer player, etc.

4. Frederic George RAWSON was born in 1841 in Kegworth, Leicestershire, and died on 23 Sep 1878 at Hawera, NZ. Died of epilepsy, having long been subject to epileptic fits.

   Private Fred Rawson, seriously wounded Taranaki wars at battle at Waireka, NZ Medal
   Bank clerk in 1868 according to his marriage record
   1878: F G Rawson, Chemist, Town Bridge advertising Taranaki Herald
   1878: F G Rawson elected to committee Mutual Improvement Society
   1878: Public vaccinator
   Author of letter to paper objecting to excursion train breaking the Sabbath
   1878 August - giving up New Plymouth chemist business to remove to Hawera, also experienced dentist.

   Fred married Rosa Helen HUTTON in 1868 in Hokitika. She died 1940, age 89, buried New Plymouth.
   Fred and Rose’s children included

   17  i.  Frederic Bertram RAWSON 1873-1881
   18  ii.  Lilian Rose RAWSON 1875-, married Henry Arthur LENNON in 1906
   19  iii.  Myra May RAWSON 1877-1906 MA (Cant) 1899, teacher, died aged 29.

5. Louisa Mary RAWSON (Thomas Edward (Dr) ¹) was born in 1842. Emigrated with her parents, but returned to England where she married Edward Henry WALKER, Her Britannic Majesty’s Consul at Cagliari, on 31 Dec 1869 at St Mary’s Church, Mold, Flintshire. [Liverpool Mercury Jan 1869]
Descendants of Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON

6. Alfred Pearson RAWSON (Thomas Edward (Dr)  1) was born about 1848, died on 5 Dec 1911 in Masterton, NZ aged 64, and was buried in Archer St cemetery, Masterton.

1861-62  Attended Nelson College, the 3 Rawson brothers being entered as the first boarders
1876  Govt Surveyor, Karamea, surveyor of Masterton from about 1898
1877  applied for 50 acres land at Karamea adjacent to his future wife’s uncle GCP Jennings
1881  El Roll Residence Westport Freeholder

Obituary  Wairarapa Times  Mr A P Rawson
The death occurred at his residence Donald Street at 1.30 o’clock this morning of Mr A P Rawson, a highly respected citizen of Masterton. The deceased gentleman had been ill for some considerable time and was making steady progress towards recovery when he suffered a relapse which ended fatally.

The late Mr Rawson was 64 years of age and with his parents came to NZ 50 years ago, arriving at Auckland. His father Dr Rawson was honorary surgeon of the home forces which came to the colony. Dr Rawson and family removed to Taranaki shortly afterwards but returned to Auckland again with the troops when the Maori war broke out. Subsequently the late Mr Rawson and his brothers engaged in farming pursuits in Taranaki and had many exciting experiences in those strenuous times. Some thirty years ago Mr Rawson went to Nelson, where he studied for a surveyor and passed his examination. After practising successfully in Nelson for many years Mr Rawson came to Masterton, this being about thirteen years ago. He had an extensive practice and surveyed and subdivided a large number of the important estates in Wairarapa, including Jean’s estate, Wrigley’s estate, Yates’ estate, Lenz’s estate and Cole’s estate.

Though he took no active part in public affairs, the late Mr Rawson was always keenly interested in matters which had for their object the advancement of the town and his advice was often sought by public men. The deceased gentleman, who was of a kindly disposition and very popular, leaves two brothers (Dr Rawson and Mr H P Rawson, dentist, of Wellington), a stepbrother (Mr Walter Rawson, judge of the Native Land Court) and two stepsisters, who reside in England, five children (Mrs F W Dunn, of Ballance, Miss C E Rawson and Messers Harry, T and G Rawson) and a widow to mourn their loss, and they will have the sympathy of a wide circle of friends in their bereavement.

Alfred married Sarah Isabel WILSON on 4 Jan 1879 in Motueka, NZ, daughter of Joseph Foord WILSON and Madalena “Madge” SINCLAIR. Sarah was born in 1859 in Motueka, and died in Wellington on 6 Apr 1932 at age 73. She was buried in Porirua cemetery.

1893 Motueka  Electoral roll

20  i.  Wilmot Mary RAWSON  1879-1963  marr Frederick William DUNN of Ballance
At Nelson College 1896-97, staff Bank NSW 1899-1946
Prominent in the formation of the Association of Bank Officers in 1919
22  iii.  Emily Constance RAWSON  1883-1975  unmarried (died at Porirua Hospital)
23  iv.  Thomas Frederick RAWSON  1886-  nothing further known
24  v.  Geoffrey Frere RAWSON  1889-1977 married Doris Elinor Margaret HINDELSMITH (1892-1988), née BEARD. He was a farmer of Waikaraka and Whangarei

7. Arthur John RAWSON (Thomas Edward (Dr)  1) was born about 1850 in Leicestershire, UK, died in Oct 1894 aged about 44, and was buried in Karori Cemetery.

1861-62 - boarder at Nelson College, sent from Taranaki to the safety of Nelson
Descendants of Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON

Obit Wairarapa Times 15 Oct 1894: We regret to have to record the death of Mr Arthur J Rawson, which occurred this morning at Wellington after a somewhat prolonged illness. Mr Rawson was originally on the Government Survey staff, retiring in 1879 to take up a private practice on the West Coast. About nine years ago he came to Masterton and resided here until within a few weeks of his death. The deceased was a brother-in-law to Mr C E Bremner, engineer to the Wairarapa North County Council, and has several brothers holding prominent positions in various professions, amongst them being Dr Rawson and Mr Herbert Rawson of Wellington, and Mr T Rawson, Engineer to the Westport Harbour Board. The deceased, who was the fourth son of Dr Rawson of New Plymouth, leaves a widow but no family.

Arthur married Ella Frances BREMNER in 1881. They had no children

8. Thomas Harold RAWSON M I C E (Lond) (Thomas Edward (Dr) 1) was born about 1852 and died on 4 May 1904 in Dunedin, NZ aged about 52.

9. Herbert Pearson RAWSON (Thomas Edward (Dr) 1) was born about 1853 and died in 1926 aged about 73.

10. Dr Ernest RAWSON, MRCS, LSA (Thomas Edward (Dr) 1) was born about 1855 in Leicestershire and died in Wellington on 20 Mar 1924 aged about 69, buried at Karori cemetery.

- 6 -
Descendants of Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON

11. Harold RAWSON was born in 1869 in New Plymouth, and died in 1941 aged 72.
   1893: Surveyor’s cadet of New Plymouth. 1941: Surveyor of New Plymouth

Harold married Frances Mary CHATTERTON in 1907. She died in 1968, aged 94.
They had a son:
   33  i.  Thomas Whiteley RAWSON 1910-1993  MSc (Vic) 1952

12. Walter Edward RAWSON (Thomas Edward (Dr) 1) was born in 1870 and died in 1933 aged 62.
   Judge of Maori Land Court, New Plymouth

Walter married Ellen Letitia MARSHALL (1880-1948) in 1902. Their children were:
   34  i.  Leonard Taniora RAWSON 1903-
   35  ii.  Joan Whiteley RAWSON 1910-1992  unmarried, MA (Vic) 1934

13. Bernard Whiteley RAWSON (Thomas Edward (Dr) 1) was born in 1873 and died in 1951 in Auckland, clerk.
   rescued from possible drowning when aged 7
   1885 attended Nelson College
   1890 assistant in music shop New Plymouth
   1908 "of Auckland" on holiday in New Plymouth
   Staff member Auckland Star

Descendants of Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON

Name Index

ABBOTT
John William.................................  6

BEARD
Doris Elinor Margaret.......................  5

BORLASE
Wilmot Elizabeth .............................  4

BREMNER
Constance Ellen Hamilton....................  5
Ella Frances .....................................  6

CHATTERTON
Frances Mary ....................................  7

DAVISON
Francis ............................................  6

DICK
Eliza Gladys ....................................  6

DUNN
Frederick William .............................  5

GINGER
Jane ................................................  4

HARGREAVES
Mary Annie ........................................  6

HINDLESMITH
Doris Elinor Margaret ........................  5

HOLMES
Mathew .............................................  6

HUTTON
Rosa Helen ........................................  4

KING
Sarah Hannah ....................................  3

MARSHALL
Ellen Letitia ......................................  7

PEARSON
Mary Catharine ..................................  2
Walter Ernest .....................................  4

PICKETT
Olive Annie .......................................  7

RAWSON
[daughter] .........................................  4
Alfred Pearson .................................  3, 5
Alice Wilmot .....................................  6
Arthur John ........................................  3, 5
Bernard Whiteley ...............................  3, 7
Charles Edward .................................  3, 4
Edward .............................................  4

Elsie Beatrice ....................................  6
Emily Constance ................................  5
Ernest (Dr) ........................................  3, 6
Ernest Herbert ...................................  6
Frederic Bertram ...............................  4
Frederic George .................................  3, 4
Geoffrey Frere ...................................  5
Gilbert Allen ......................................  6
Harold .............................................  3, 7
Henry Foord "Harry" .............................  5
Henry Freer .......................................  3, 4
Herbert Jack .......................................  6
Herbert Pearson .................................  3, 6
Joan Whiteley ......................................  7
Leonard Taniora ..................................  7
Lilian Rose .........................................  4
Louisa Mary .......................................  3, 4
Mary Louise ......................................  4
Myra May ..........................................  4
Olive ...............................................  6
Sidney Herbert ....................................  6
Thomas Edward (Dr), MD LSA..................  2
Thomas Frederick ...............................  5
Thomas Harold ....................................  3, 6
Thomas Whiteley ..................................  7
Violet Marie .......................................  6
Walter Edward .................................  3, 7
Wilmot Mary .......................................  5

SINCLAIR
Madalena "Madge" ..............................  5

SYMONS
Agnes Beatrice ...................................  6

TYLER
Doris ...............................................  6

WALKER
Edward Henry .....................................  4

WHITELEY
Sarah ..............................................  3

WILSON
Joseph Foord .....................................  5
Sarah Isabel .......................................  5

WOOD
Constance Courtney ............................  6