

Nellie Dean Redstone



b. 1875 - Nellie (Ellen) Dean REDSTONE was born in Napier, the eldest child of John Robert & Clara REDSTONE.



MR. J. R. REDSTONE.

John Robert Redstone, Livery Stable Proprietor, Lowe Street, Gisborne. Bankers, Bank of Australasia. Telephone 70. Mr. Redstone was born at New Quay, parish of Tavistock, Devonshire, England, in 1850, and is the second son of Mr. John Redstone, of Tavistock. He was educated at Mr. Gaud's school, Goldsworthy, was apprenticed as a blacksmith, and after serving his time left the Old Country and arrived in Napier in 1872, per ship "Celæno," via Wellington. Mr. Redstone obtained employment with Mr. Robertson, blacksmith, Taradale, and

subsequently started in business with Mr. Redding, in Shakespeare Road, Napier. Owing, however to an accident which broke his right shoulder in three places, and to the fact of the fracture being treated for rheumatism by a local doctor, Mr. Redstone's shoulder became permanently disabled, and he had to abandon his trade.

But he soon launched out in another direction, and started the first line of buses between Napier and the Spit. The line was afterwards transferred to the Napier Bus Company, but Mr. Redstone became manager and remained as such for six years, when the property was advertised to be sold.

In June, 1891, Mr. Redstone arrived in Gisborne and started in his present business, and has secured one of the best connections in the district. He has a first rate plant, consisting of a waggonette, an English landau, a hearse, several buggies, gigs, and single brakes, and keeps about twenty first class saddle and harness horses, so that the public can rely upon being supplied with first rate turn-outs, and staunch cattle.

Mr Redstone was a prominent member of the Presbyterian Church and choir, and was a performing vocalist of the Gisborne Choral Society.

In 1875 Mr John Robert REDSTONE married Clara DEAN, the eldest daughter of Mr. John Dean, Bilston, Staffordshire, England, and had ten children.

17 Mar 1900

We have received two letters relating to the proposal to despatch Miss Redstone from Gisborne as a nurse for South Africa. One correspondent, "Young New Zealand," asks if applications from nurses had been asked for, and if so, was the young lady named the only applicant, and has she passed any examination showing herself to be fully qualified. He is of opinion that only a practical nurse should be sent, who has had at least two years' hospital experience, and much as he admires Miss Redstone's unselfish offer, he thinks she is hardly qualified for this most responsible position. Another correspondent "Native Born," considers that a better choice could not well have been made. "Miss Redstone," he writes, "is a young lady who, I am sure, will do us credit; she possesses the qualifications that should go to make a good nurse, being of a cheerful and kind

disposition. Her presence in a sick room would have a good effect upon the patients, and if occasion demanded she could cheer the hearts of our wounded boys by warbling some of the songs they know so well, and which would remind them of the land from which they came. Sir, it must be very gratifying to find our native born so ready to go out to serve our Motherland in any capacity, and I hope the efforts of the Committee will be successful, and that Miss Redstone will be attached, if possible, to the company in which our Gisborne boys will be, so that in the event of any of them having the misfortune to get wounded they would have a friendly face to look on."

Mrs Frances Scott desires us to state in answer to the question of "Young New Zealander," that Miss Redstone was not the first applicant from Gisborne for the position of nurse to the wounded in South Africa. Mrs Scott states that as early as January last she applied to Mr Seddon to be sent, and received a reply that her name would be put upon the list of those to be sent if funds were provided. Mrs Scott states that if called on she is still willing to go, and she considers that her past services as head nurse in two hospitals in New Zealand well qualify her for the position.

23 March 1900

At Colonel Porter's request we publish the following, though at the same time we adhere to our previously expressed opinion that there is not the slightest necessity for this district sending a nurse to South Africa, all the latest information from the front being that the military officers are overwhelmed with applications from thoroughly competent and trained nurses on the spot. Without offering any opinion as to Miss Redstone's qualifications, we would state that in our opinion the money necessary for her equipment could be much more usefully applied to the purchase of horses as remounts for our troops now in the field:—

"A sum of £125 being required to equip and despatch Miss Redstone, selected by the Government as a nurse to proceed to South Africa, subscription lists have been opened to raise the required sum. The amount of £30 has been already promised, Mr Loisel, of Waihau station, generously heading the list with £5. Many persons who may have been averse to subscribing to the various war funds will, it is hoped, now contribute to so laudable an object as

the equipment of one sent to relieve suffering. Subscriptions may be addressed to Colonel Porter, marked 'Nurse Fund.'" The following instructions have been received by Miss Redstone:—"The Premier has selected you as one of the nurses to proceed to South Africa. A letter of introduction will be sent to you. You should be fully equipped, and all expenses paid by the district.—R. H. Owen, Captain, Staff Officer." The necessary introduction to the Chief of the Medical Staff in South Africa has also been received by Miss Redstone as follows: 'Defence Office, Wellington, N.Z., 3rd March, 1900.—Sir,—This will serve to introduce to you Nurse Nellie Deane Redstone, of Gisborne, and I am directed by the Right Hon. the Premier, of New Zealand, to state that Nurse Redstone is one of the nurses who have been selected for service in South Africa in accordance with the acceptance by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, of the offer of the staff of nurses from this colony.—I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant, ARTHUR P. DOUGLAS, Under Secretary Defence.—The Chief, Army Medical Staff, South Africa.'"

30 May 1900

By the s.s. Zealandia Miss Redstone, of Gisborne, left for South Africa. She is one of the nurses accepted by the Imperial Government.

15 Sept 1900

GISBORNE, Last night.

Advice has been received by Mr J. R. Redstone from South Africa that his daughter, who went out as a nurse, is lying seriously ill at Durban of gastric ulcer.

17 January 1901

When Nurse Redstone last wrote from South Africa, she was on duty at the Winberg Military Hospital, and expressed herself in enthusiastic terms about her work, the charm of which did not seem to have lessened. She writes with reference to her intention, when free from South African duty, to seek an appointment in the same department in India; but just before writing had received word that she would be required to go Home in a transport with wounded soldiers.

23 Jan 1901

Nurse Redstone, of Gisborne, who has been in South Africa for some time past, has received orders to go Home in a transport with wounded soldiers.

11 Sept 1901

At the distribution of medals last week to the Imperial Yeomanry, Western Australians, colonial officers, and nurses and nursing sisters, the King and Queen honoured two colonial nursing sisters, Sister Nellie Redstone, of the N.Z. N.R., and Sister Craw, by a special command to an interview with them after they had received their medals. Both Their Majesties had a long conversation with the two colonials, speaking in appreciative terms of their good work in South Africa, and wishing them an enjoyable holiday in England. Sister Redstone came Home on special duty with a wounded Australian officer, badly battered by Boer bullets, took him to Netley Hospital and then to London for an operation by Mr Victor Horsley. She has enjoyed her visit immensely but is looking forward to getting back to her work in South Africa soon.

14 Sept 1901

NEW ZEALAND NURSE DECORATED.

The Premier received a letter from Nursing Sister Nellie Redstone who left New Zealand to serve in the South African military hospitals stating that she had the honour of being one of the six nurses selected for presentation to the King for the war medals.

After the medals had been presented the King sent for Sister Craw and the writer and both the King and Queen had a long conversation with them.

Nurse Redstone is returning to South Africa shortly from England,

16 July 1902

Nurse Nellie Redstone, now Mrs Wilcox, eldest daughter of Mr J. R. Redstone, is expected home by the Waihora to-day. Her marriage to Captain Wilcox took place several months ago, and on news being received of Mrs Redstone's recent serious illness, she set out on the return journey to New Zealand after an absence of two years. Owing to the effects of a chill obtained after passing through the Red Sea, Mrs Wilcox was delayed at Colombo for some time until she recovered her health.

Abt. 1901 - Nellie Dean REDSTONE married Hagar Wallace Thomas WILCOX (occ. Merchant Mariner)

Their children are:

b. 9/9/1901 - Ronald Wallace Nolan

Ronald married Tiripa Toko-i-te-Rangi Matenga

He died 1978 in Gisborne aged 76 yrs

b. 7/3/1913 - Wallace Godwyne Dean

d. 1984 in Auckland aged 71 yrs

21 October 1932 - John Robert Redstone died in Gisborne

MR. J. R. REDSTONE

[BY TELEGRAPH—PRESS ASSOCIATION]

GISBORNE, Friday

The death has occurred of Mr. John Robert Redstone, aged 84, who was once the owner of an extensive coaching service operating between Wairoa and East Cape. Mr. Redstone settled in Gisborne 44 years ago. He developed a substantial business before motor competition drove the coaches off the road.

30 March 1952 - Hagar Wallace Thomas WILCOX died in Auckland aged 77 yrs

1 Oct 1954 - Nellie Dean WILCOX died in Auckland aged 79 yrs