

Michael Walter DELANEY

Born 15th September 1855 in Golden Square, Sandhurst (Bendigo) Victoria Australia.

Died 1 8th September 1937 in Onehunga, Auckland, New Zealand - aged 81.

Buried Lot 126 Waikaraka Veterans Cemetary Auckland - plot and wall memorial.

Golden Square Victoria

Was baptised in a tent on the goldfields of Bendigo which served as St.Kilians Catholic Church and on a recent visit there I was able to obtain a copy of his Baptism Certificate. Incidentally, the baptism was performed by Rev. Father Backhaus on 18 November 1855 and according to later reports by Michael the Priest went on to build a cathedral from his own funds and it is one of the most magnificent I have seen in this country. The Rev. Dr. Henry Backhaus D.D. of German origin was also a smart investor and left sufficient funds to complete the cathedral during period 1896-1977 see article and photo of Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Michael sailed with the rest of the family to New Zealand from Melbourne in 1865 aboard the Claud Hamilton, a steam ship of some 668 tons in command of Captain Ponsonby arriving Auckland 10 January 1865.

After first living at Albert Barracks he moved with his family to Tauranga where he attended military school with John and William and also children of the 12 and 18 Royal Irish Regiments.

Military Service in Waikato Regiment. - see separate document re service in militia

From Richard Stowers List of Medals to Colonials 1998.

He was discharged in Opotiki on the 23 January 1877 after 10 years service and was believed to be the youngest veteran of the Maori Wars. During his period in the militia the family was living at Waioeka about 20 klms south of Opotiki.

See article -the New Zealand Biographies Vol.14 pp 435A -436.

After discharge he took up sprinting and also riding in the Saleyards of Mr.Segar Buckland at Gisborne and worked as a surveyors assistant for Mr. McIvor in Keri Keri in the Bay of Islands. He also spent time at Petone Rail Workshops and at a Defence Store for Boer War supplies and later still worked as a messenger at Parliament House.

Around 1898 he married Ophelia Teresa **POTOKY** also known as Oppelia Denesa POTOKY.

Ophelia was the daughter of Francis Potoky and Harriet **EADE** and was born in Auckland 7th October 1865.

She left Michael and New Zealand in 1912 and brought her family of 3 boys and 3 girls to Sydney where she died on the 12th December 1932 aged 67. She is buried in the Anglican section of Woronora Cemetary Sydney. AD12.

Her sister Isabella born about 1861 in Mauritius off the coast of Africa , married Michael's brother John 2 and and their details are shown in another document.

Children of Michael and Ophelia Teresa

Francis Patrick DELANEY, born abt 1892 in Opotiki - died 29th October 1967 in Campbelltown Aust.

Mary Aileen - born abt 1895, Wellington R3774 - died 1949, Sydney.

Annie Maria - born 5th January 1900, R503 Wellington - died 8nd August 1965, Sydney.

Walter Edmund - born 1898, Wellington R4003 - died abt 1970.

Eleanor - born February 1903, Wellington R1951 - died 17th March 1942, Sydney.

Michael 1 - born 1907 and died 1908 also in Wellington - *see photo 1908*

Michael Dormer (Don) born 13th January 1909 Wellington NZ, - died 9th October 1993 Oatley, Sydney.

Not much is known of Michael's life during the period 1912 until his death in Auckland in 1937 but his notes mention various happenings whilst a resident of Ranfurly House Veterans Home Mt.Roskill including invitations to visit London as a distinguished veteran.

A letter exists re medal stolen whilst in care of an Elizabeth Flanagan in August 1900.---a friend ?

There is also a 25 page account of Michael's times in the militia and for a period afterwards when he and William Dormer evidently ran foot races for bets and prizes in various parts of New Zealand.

Michael was due to be presented to the Prince of Wales but was sidetracked by Ernie Delaney and Jack Garrod and was heartbroken that he missed the ceremony. He was photographed on the Renown battleship.

Note:- The stories of the above children are told other documents.

Ophelia was living at 22 Highgate St Bexley at time she died from cancer aged 74.

Note:- There is a record of a daughter Eleanor b.2/1902 with Michael Walter as father and who died 10 May 1903. At that time the family was living at Mitchelltown, Melrose in Wellington.

None of the above are now alive