

The Butler Family

account written by Ida
Mary McAulay nee Butler
granddaughter of Gamaliel
Butler.

Gamaliel Butler, great grandfather of Leicester, Mollie and Ida McAulay on their mother's side, left England with his wife Sarah nee Payne on Jan. 29th 1824 in the ship Prince Regent, arriving in Hobart Town July 2nd 1824.

His wife's brother - Payne who came out earlier, was drowned in North West Bay, the boat overturning, and as there was no one to settle his affairs, Gamaliel, an English solicitor living at Chelsea, came out intending to return to England when this was accomplished.

Finding so much legal business (outside his own) to be done in Hobart Town, as then called, he decided to remain there especially as land at that time could be so easily purchased.

Gamaliel and Sarah Butler left behind them several children at school and in the care of aunts who remained in England for some time coming out by degrees to join their parents in Tasmania (then called Van Dieman's Land) where another family was growing up.

On Sunday in 1846 probably Charles Butler when sitting in the family pew at St. Georges Church, Battery Point, not far from Stowell, the home of the Butlers, noticed sitting in a pew near him the widow of his late Headmaster, Mr. Wilmot, and with her a tall, graceful girl with dark brown hair and hazel eyes whom he discovered to be the little girl Georgie whom he had known when he was a schoolboy. She was the eldest child of Mr. and Mrs Wilmot.

He often told his children that he fell in love with her at

first sight - saying to himself, "That pretty girl shall be my wife".

On August 5th 1847 they were married at St. George's Church, he being 27 years old and she 17. Their marriage was a life long happy one. The chief part of their married life was lived at their own home ~~Ellerslie~~ Ellerslie in Hampden Road, and before that in one of the two stone cottages opposite Stowell field. In the other cottage lived for some time their great friends Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, another young married couple. They also lived for a time at "Loyala" in Davey Street.

In December 1840 Gamaliel bought Stowel, a fine residence with large gardens and fields (now a Hospital) (later, 1951, C.S.I.R.O. research Lab.). A wide drive off Hampden Road led to a house which was partly surrounded by a high stone wall. This wall still exists. Gamaliel died in 1852.

His second son Charles, the grandfather of Leicester, Ida & Mollie, and of other grandchildren, was born at Richmond, England, on July 1st. 1820. He died July 8th 1909, aged 89.

He came to Tasmania in the "Augiga" arriving Dec. 1835 when nearly sixteen years old. He went for two or three years to a school, "Longford Hall", at Longford, the Headmaster being a young Englishman of great ability, a Mr. Henry Wilmot. When he left school he studied law and later became a partner in his father's firm.

Stowel was very much a family home and meeting place of their sons and daughters with their wives and husbands and children.

Sarah, who was called by her children and grandchildren alike "Mother", lived many years after the death of her husband. She liked the sons and daughters with their families, many of whose homes were in the country, to spend Christmas day with her at Stowel. The children

mostly had had their dinner at Ellerslie, the home of the Charles Butlers after which they all went to Stowel for dessert and the rest of the day. They played cricket and other games in the big field and had snapdragon and a Christmas Tree in the evening.

The children of Charles and Georgina Butler were -

- 1 Georgina Kate, born Dec. 6th 1849, died Oct. 1929
She married ~~the~~ Major G. Aled. Cox, who died
- 2 Edward Henry, Solicitor, married Amy Clerk, died 1928
- 3 Lucy Madeline, born 1852, married Edwin Bean (died Brentwood, Hobart, 1940?)
- 4 Charles William, Solicitor, married Beatrice Travers
- 5 Leicester Francis, English barrister who won the Tasmanian Scholarship and went to St. John's College, Oxford, and died in London 1885
- 6 Ida Mary (born 23rd Jan 1858 - died 15th Oct. 1949) married Professor Alexander McAulay
- 7 Leila Chalmers, died 22nd July 1936
- 8 May Maria, (Born 3rd Nov. 1861, died at Ellerslie, Sandy Bay, Nov. 1951)
- 9 Herbert Maxwell, surveyor, died 1925, married Amy Rogers.
- 10 Montague Howard, solicitor, died of typhoid at Coolgardie 1895.

Note It will be noticed that May Maria Butler died in Nov. 1951, almost one hundred years after the death of Gamiel Butler, her grandfather.