

George Leabourne Wilcox

Born at sea on the sailing ship
"City of Adelaide" Jan 28th 1873 to
George & Anne Wilcox off the Scilly Isles.

Registered at Stepney England as all
British children born at sea had to be
registered there. It happened at sea
because the ship was delayed, having
to call at a different port on the way.

He returned to Adelaide by the same
ship aged one with elder brother Sidney,
and 2 elder sisters Edith & Nellie.

The ship was stranded off Adelaide
& all passengers were floated ashore
with George watching.

As a boy he went to school in Adelaide
where they lived at Gynsbury Lower
Mitcham. A big old house with a tower
& 2/3 stories & lovely garden & orchard.

At sixteen he was put into the company,
then ^{Geo} Wilcox & ~~Co~~ ^{Co}.

By his warden he was sent to the office
in Sydney boarding at Malcolm's Folly -
(Chollerton) Darling Point.

He married at the age of 27 Constance
Havena Welman (Venie) & lived at
Okinya which was built by 1899.

She had come from Wagga & had been
living on Potts Point with her grand-
mother Martha Susannah Scriven; who
had been formerly married to Mr. Bourke
& Mr. Thompson, both deceased.

George & his younger brother Murray
were both in ¹⁸⁹⁶ Wilcox ~~Thompson~~ & they
ventured into brick works at Bondi
which were a failure owing to sally
sand. They also ventured into a rural
property called "Bogalara" not far from
Yass near Wallendbeen.

This about 1907-8 and was not a
success & they lost money when they
sold it.

The company became G. Wilcox & Co.
buying wool, hides & skins

Rabbit skins, possum skins & Koalas.

It also became a large wool firm.

The First World War broke out in
1914 & as George had a nervous
breakdown Venie took him to England

Just before the outbreak of war.

They returned via South Africa in a blacked-out ship the "Moolten" + George arrived home in a much worse condition.

By then they had Rita, Alan, Vera Jean + Jack.

He was a splendid father + dearly loved by Verne + all the children - He used to romp with us + have us to work at wood work + photography with him.

He built the "Cubby House" + twinning etc. About 1904 he bought a Renault car No 257.

His best friend was John Bamton who kept his laundry wash door at Yatalungo + they used to have great parties on the harbour + take us children.

It was John Bamton who went to U.S + took George + Verne there on their honeymoon. At Winnipeg George had to go two blocks up the street to the Parkers to have a bath!

John Bamton was instrumental in bringing out the Bell telephones +

4

97

& Standard Wayford Elevators, & was the first man to install a moving stair way in Mark Toys.

He lived at Pt. Piper & also was the first man in Sydney to make his own ice & refrigerator.

George was very fond of birds & had a round aviary in the back yard full of canaries & native finches.

In late 1914 & early 1915 he was in & out of hospital because of the nervous breakdown & Mother had to have a nurse to be always with him when home at Ollinga or ask me not to leave him alone.

Apparently the continuous depression & worry of the business & the war was too much for him & he thought he was too a big a worry for Venice, so he shot himself on July 15/1915 in the bedroom. Alan found him & Peter was away for the weekend.

He is buried in the family vault at Watsons Bay.