

THE PIETERMARITZBURG RUNCIMAN FAMILY.....(PARTIAL)

Two brothers, John and William RUNCIMAN emigrated to South Africa in 1862. They hailed from Glasgow, (according to their grandson) and after 95 days at sea in the 224 ton vessel "Olympia" disembarked at Port Natal (Durban) on July 10<sup>th</sup>. William was sickly and was most likely coming to South Africa for health reasons. He survived the wet and uncomfortable voyage but died soon after his arrival. John settled down and became an accountant, conveyancer and agent in Pietermaritzburg (hereafter PMB), upcountry from Durban. He died 15 June 1900 aged 58 years but his estate papers are not held by either the Natal archives or the Master of the Supreme Court. This is because of the Natal practice, prior to 1914, of placing the matter in the hands of the Executor named in the deceased's Will with no obligation to supply a Death Notice or Accounts to the Master unless a court action was imminent.

John married on 28 November 1866, in the Presbyterian Church, PMB, Emmeline Anderson Buchanan. She was the daughter of David Dale Buchanan and his wife, Mary. David was an attorney and advocate of PMB and also the founder of "The Natal Witness" Newspaper (oldest surviving newspaper in the country in 1988). Her Death Notice tells us that she was born in PMB and her nationality is given as Scotch. She died 18 July 1927 in Queenstown, Cape, a widow aged 81 years & 2 months and eight children's names are recorded. (John and Emmeline had 15 children but 7 had predeceased Emmeline).

HEADSTONE reads:           In loving memory of  
   John Aitcheson Runciman  
   Who died so suddenly  
   June 15<sup>th</sup> aged 58 years  
   A devoted husband, loving father and sincere friend  
   (Verse)  
   Also of our mother  
   Emmeline Anderson Runciman  
   Born 28<sup>th</sup> May 1846  
   Died July 18<sup>th</sup> 1927  
   (verse)

John and Emmeline's 14 children's baptisms were recorded in the PMB Presbyterian Church Records. Child No.15 untraced!

	Born	Baptised
1. Henry David John	11.11.1867	12.1.1868
2. Emmeline Jessie	10.4.1869	11.7.1869
3. Jane Aitcheson	29.8.1870	9.10.1870
4. William Robert	18.4.1872	27.7.1873
5. Annie Isabella	2.3.1874	30.4.1874
6. Alexander Edwin	27.4.1875	6.6.1876
7. May Alice	17.8.1876	12.11.1876
8. Jessie Lilian	23.5.1879	1.1.1880
9. John Acheson	----	23.2.1881
10. Stewart Erskine	5.11.1882	9.4.1893
11. Mina Effie Aitcheson	19.2.1884	9.6.1885
12. Mora Elizabeth	5.5.1887	9.4.1893
13. Kenneth	9.1.1889	9.4.1893
14. Muirella	26.3.1891	9.4.1893

- =====
1. Henry (Harry) b.11.1867: no information at present
  2. Emmeline Jessie b.10.4.1869 married William John GALLOWAY (sic).children: *Moyra, Michael Henry, Sybil Irene, Annie Frances Shelah*
  3. Jane Aitcheson b. 29.8.1870 married Harold John STUART. Known children: Harold Aitcheson STUART 21.11.1902- 12.3.1962, Alistair James STUART 24.12.1906 – 13.10.1911 (other records say she married Harold John STUART and that

- their children were\*: Esme Beatrice, Harold Acheson, Alistair James, Justin Campbell)
- 4.5.6. William Robert b. 18.4.1872, Annie Isabella 2.3.18774 , Alexander William b. 27.4.1875. Three small children who perished in a fire in their home
  7. May Alice 17.8.1876 . Her name appears on STUART Headstone giving her details as b.17.8.1876 d. 9.9.1958 and saying her ashes are interred there.  
*May Alice married Philip Arnold STUART.*
  8. Jessie Lilian 23.5.1879 married1 *Norman Rix CHILD, MD.* He died in New Zealand. married 2: ----- SATCHWELL
  9. John Acheson . Died in Durban 25.10.1954, aged 74 years, unmarried
  10. Stewart Erskine 5.11.1882. Baptism entered thus but family always spelled it Stuart. Married Laura Bridget KIRK. d.o. Wm and Sarah Mildred (nee Brearley) b. Nottingham, UK d. 4.2.1933 aged 47 years'  
children named on Death Notice: Janet Emmeline married CURRY, Laura Mary Mirelle married WISEMAN, Harry Robert William, (Majors)Joan Margaret Stuart marriedFRASER, ,b.22.3.1914, Betty May b. 8.5.1916, Stuart Aitcheson b. 1.11.1919, Edward Erskine b.1.1.1926. Edward "Ted" in answering my questionnaire gave the following: he married Patricia June HALL and children are: Ann Colleen and Shirley June.
  11. Mina Effie Aitcheson *married William John GALLOWEY (sic) child: Rita Nora*
  12. Nora Elizabeth: her Death Notice says she died 23.10.1969 in Durban, spinster.
  13. Kenneth *Comin*: his Death Notice says he died 8.7.1966 in PMB. Married Gladys Amy nee Stanfield. Children: Pixie Gladys married GUEST, Bruce David, Celia Mirelle married NEL, Malcolm John, Elizabeth Mary married SCOTT.
  14. Mirelle: her Death Notice says she died in Durban 7.12.1961 aged 70 years, 8 months. Unmarried.

-----  
HEADSTONE in St Thomas' Old Historical Cemetery, Ridge Rd, Durban. Plot 33

Alistair James STUART  
 Son of Harold & Janet Aitchison  
 24.12.1906 - 13.10.1911  
 Harold John STUART  
 15.12.11871 - 17.8.1941  
 and his wife  
 Janet Aitchison STUART  
 29.8.1870 - 11.7.1960  
 Harold Aitchison STUART  
 21.12.1902 - 12.3.1962  
 eldest son of Harold & Janet  
 Philip Arnold STUART  
 29.4.1876 - 11.3.1946  
 (Inscription in Zulu)  
 May Alice STUART  
 17.8.1876 - 9.9.1958 (ashes)  
 Mirelle RUNCIMAN  
 Youngest sister of  
 Janet & May Stuart  
 26.3.1891 - 7.12.1961  
 (*Info in italics above from Buchanan Family papers – observation of copyright demanded from me*)

-----  
 in 1966 Mrs Monica Sheena GOBLE (probably daughter of Jessie & Dr CHILD) wrote:  
 "All 15 chikldren of the marriage of John Acheson& Emmeline Buchanan now deceased.  
 Surviving grandchildren I am aware of: Sybil HOOPER Shelah TOWERT (?)children of Emmeline );Esme STUART & Justin STUART Children of Jane & Harold; Geoffrey stuart,Helen MAUDELEY, Roy STUART children of ?????; Monica GOBLE, Maurice CHILD children of Jessie; Rita MACK child of Mina(?); Bruce,Malcolm Runciman & Celia children of Kenneth.