

The Families:

By Jack Algje

Back to the family, **Alexander & Jemima**. They had 6 children, Jemima or Mina and always known as Ma to all the boarders.



Alexander & Jemima

William James Algje, born 1868 April. He married **Annie Jane** Born 1879 (?) They had 2 children.

Doris who married **Harold Edwards**. 2 children.

Athol Samuel Wallace who married **Joy Branscomb**. 3 children.

Sarah Elena Muir (Sissy) Algje, born 4th Sept 1870 who married **Thomas Logan**, born Sept 1874. They had 4 children.

Amy who married **Wright** who was killed overseas during WWII. 1 child.

Claris who married **Lesley Preston**, 3 children (2 drowned).

Iris who married **Alan Wykes** (spelling not accurate). No children.

Mavis who married **James MacCall (Jim)**, 2 children.

John Deerness Algje, 12th May 1873, married **Mary Elisabeth Roose**, born 1875. They had 2 children.

Alexander Mervyn (Merve) who married **Edna (Chips) Lord**. 2 children.

John Torens Stevenson (Steve) who married **Alma Mary Bain**, 3 children.

Amy Alexandrina, born Aug 12th 1877 who married **George Avery**. They had 3 children.

Mima who married **Nelson Burns**, 5 children.

Ronald (Ron) who contracted polio and never married but lived to 38 yrs old.

Vivian (Viv) who married **Belle Robertson**. 4 children.

Viv had a twin who only lived a few days.

Ida Maud, born 1882 who married **Edward Charles (Charlie) Farr**. They had 3 children.

Edward (Ed) who married Helen, 2 children.

Margery (Marge) who married **Malcolm Gray**, 2 children.

Vernon Morton (Vern) who married **Margarete Neve** 3 children, also they lost one.

Lina Mabel born March 1884 who married **Lewis Farr (Lew)**, brother of Uncle Charlie.

They had 2 children.

Leonard (Len), killed in Singapore, WW2.

Lola who married **Bert Thatcher** (real name not known, probably Albert or Egbert, but always known as Bert). 3 children.

I mentioned before that **Sarah Deerness** (married to **George Chalmers**) died 8th Jan 1878 leaving 5 children. **Alec & Mima** raised 4 of them. The names I have don't seem to coincide with some of the ones I know. **Burt Chalmers** (Ian's dad) and **Percy Chalmers** (Arthur's dad).

I can remember all of **Alec & Mima's** children quite well except for **Aunty Sissy** who I can only just remember. I can't remember Tom her husband but I am told I met him.



A short bit of useless history. Whenever the family got together all the men and women hugged and kissed, however Tom Logan also kissed all the men as well. At **Lola's** wedding, **Vern** had just come back from the war and was sitting in front of Mum & Dad and **Steve & Alma**. **Tom** had not seen **Vern** since he had gone overseas in the army. **Tom** coming into church saw him and came along the pew and gave Vern a great big smacker on the lips. It was the talk of the wedding. Mum said **Vern's** ears, face and neck were bright red from embarrassment. Now, there's a bit of useless information for you eh.

It is my intention in doing this to give you some good useless information, OK?

Another bit. **Len**, one of the younger of them, when he got off the steamer with his parents went up to Granma all excited and asked where **Merve** and **Steve** were. She thought they were up by the plum trees. She was right but she didn't know they had been saving up a dozen rotten eggs and as he came round the corner, they pelted him with rotten eggs. He got the sulks and went and got into **Lina & Lew's** bed. The rod was used.

One more story. **Ronny Avery** couldn't walk till he was 8 or so. There was a boarding house picnic to Anchor Beach. That meant the crowd went on the boat Leisure-hour over to Waikare Bay, unloaded the crowd and they walked across Takatu to the ocean beach for their picnic.

Dad was 5 yrs older than **Ron** and **Uncle George** told me (with tears in his eyes) that he was going to wait at Waikare with **Ron**. **Merve** said, no you won't, I'll piggy back him and he carried **Ron** right across to the beach and back. One 12 and one 7.

Uncle George never forgot that. These are some of the people we came from.

I loved **Uncle George**. He always had a story to tell. I might put some more in later. I was actually born in his house in Kingsview Rd, Mt Eden.

Both **Uncle Charlie** and **Uncle Lew** had a lot of fun in them. Lew had a very dry sense of humour.

Charlie worked in a ware house but used to do a lot of preaching during the depression with the down and outs. St David's Church had an outreach referred to as the branch and **Uncle Charlie** preached a lot there. Dad boarded with them when he was at Seddon Tech. **Vern** tells the story of **Merve** and **Ed**. They went to the branch at night and St David's in the morning. They preferred the branch, but suffered St David's in the morning. There was a lady who used to go to St David's that wore a hat with feathers on it. One morning **Ed** and **Merve** sat behind her and during one of the prayers, cut the feathers off with a pair of scissors. **Uncle Charlie** enjoyed the joke but **Aunty Maud** was horrified.

One story **Uncle Lew** told me. He was a fitter & turner all his life for the railways. He told me how they actually built a locomotive there. When it was finished they took it for a test run. A lot of the guys would go out to the toilet for a smoke and a rest. **Uncle Lew's** words were "the foreman called out to the driver," take her around past the toilets Bob, so those guys can see her too". Mind you, he said he didn't use the word toilet and he laughed and laughed about that.

He was always amused about **Aunty Lina** always talked about bird skite on the window. "Look **Lew**, those birds are skiting on the window".

She was getting a little hard of hearing and thought the boys were saying skite where in fact it was shite. He never enlightened her and he and **Vern** used to say to her, any bird skite on the window **Aunty Lin** and then laugh away about it.