

This is a brief genealogy of the "Frank and Ada Ellen Summers (nee Acton) family in New Zealand, done from my personal memory of details related to me by my mother (Elsie Isabel Dale (nee Summers) over my lifetime.

Frank was a big man, weighing sixteen and a half stone, and was a Sergeant-major in the British army during the Zulu war. After the war he got a wanderlust and duly arrived in Melbourne in the 1880's. Here he met his future wife, Ada Acton. I do not know whether they married in Australia or New Zealand, but they went to New Zealand, and purchased and settled on a dairy farm in Teneatua (which was the railway terminus in the Bay of Plenty) in 1885. Between them they had eight children, all born in Teneatua. He also set up four dairy companies while there. My cousin Leslie Summers showed me a share certificate in his name for a one quarter share in the Whakatane dairy company for a sum of twenty-five pounds. In the Teneatua days the cows were milked by hand, but when war broke out in 1914 and the four eldest boys joined the army they had shifted and were living in Waimauku where he imported the first milking machine into New Zealand.

The first of their children was:

1. Thomas Acton Summers – born in 1886. At his birth Frank had to ride 40 miles on horseback to get the midwife, and 40 miles back, and they made it in time. In 1914 Uncle Tom volunteered for the Great War and was shipped to Gallipoli, and thus was a true Anzac, where he was shot in the shoulder. From that time to the day he died he received a war pension of two shillings and sixpence (25c) a week. On his way home he met a girl in Australia, who became Auntie Sadie. In 1919 he drew a returned serviceman's ballot farm at Mahoenui in the King Country, where they both lived and died. They had one son, Ronald Acton Summers (born 1920), Ronnie inherited the farm after his father died, and was married to Iris Wainwright, who was a ten pound "pom", who. On her arrival, was assigned a herd testing job in the Pio Pio/Mahoenui district. Ronnie and Iris are now both deceased. Ronnie sold the farm and went to live in Otorohanga. They had three children, Linda, Larry and Owen, born late 1940s and early 1950's. The last I heard of them Larry was married and with her first pregnancy his wife presented him with twins.
2. Their second child was Leonard Summers – Born 1891. He volunteered for the war on the same day as Uncle Tom, and the next two brothers. He fought in Egypt and also in Jericho. He also drew a returned serviceman's Ballot farm in Mahoenui, three properties from Uncle Tom. In the due course of time he married a girl from Morrinsville, Gladys MacKenzie. They had no children, and unfortunately Gladys contracted cancer. Her family sent her sixteen year old sister, Jean MacKenzie to nurse her. Gladys died in 1934, and Uncle Len and Auntie Jean married very shortly thereafter as Jean was already pregnant. They had four children, Leah (1935) Nola (1938) Yvonne (1940) Natalie (1943). Leah Married Michael Wright, and they now live in either Ruakaka or Waipu, south of Whagarei. I know the other three girls are (or were) married.



3. Their third child was Agnes Mary Summers (Auntie Girl) – Born 1893. About 1916 Auntie Mary married John Patrick (Parley) Ryan of Te Puke. Uncle Parley was a union secretary for the printing industry. And converted Auntie Mary to Catholicism despite the very strong Anglican leanings of the family. They had three children. The oldest was Gwen (1917) who married Laurence Singleton of Maketu, they had four children, the oldest is John who is single, and runs the family farm, which has a shorthorn Cattle stud, has a town milk contract for Tauranga city, and is in the middle of the Kiwi fruit growing areas in Maketu. Then two girls Colleen and Pattie, I think were both single and court reporters in Wellington, and Raymond who, last I heard, had a farm in Putaruru. Next of their children was Jack, who at one stage was the youngest Qualified postmaster in New Zealand history, He was appointed to manage Music Point in Howick, the main Post Office communications point. He later married Zita Schaumaker, and was appointed to manage the Post Office Chatham island operation. They have eight children, and last I heard were living in Wellington. I believe Zita was a Hansard reporter. The third child of Auntie Mary was Alan Ryan. He worked for the Te Puke paper, and then moved to Mount Albert in Auckland and worked for the Auckland Star. I don't know Alan's children, but he has a son Kerry, who in his teens was convicted of drug possession.
4. Their fourth child was Arthur Frank (Dick) Summers – born 1896. Uncle Dick volunteered for the war with three of his brothers. Tom. Len and Alan. He fought in a unit called the Dinks. After the war he drew a returned serviceman's Ballot farm of 93 acres in Opotiki in the Bay of Plenty. He married Nancy Duncan and that had one son Johnny.. He inherited the farm, married and died without any children.
5. The fifth child was Edward Alan Summers – Born 1899. Insisted on being called Alan. At age 15 went along with his older brothers to enlist in the army, and was accepted. His mother went and got him out. He ran away and enlisted again and his mother got him out again. His father said to his mother if he is that keen to go let him go,. He ran away again and went away. He later married Cis (I believe her surname was Skinner) and they had two children, Les and Frankie. Uncle Alan volunteered for the second world war. They found out he was six years over the maximum enlistment age, so they sent him to the islands as a quartermaster sergeant. After the war he lived in Tauranga and contracted Parkinsons Disease. Because of this and being confined to a wheelchair, he died of kidney failure in 1956, Last I knew both Les and Frank were living in Tauranga, They both served in WW2.
6. Their sixth child was Walter Fredrick Summers – Born 1903. At age 11 he broke his leg while helping his father on the farm.. When his leg healed his father said "You are not going back to school as you are too useful on the farm". He studied by correspondence and obtained a first class steam engineers ticket and a first class diesel engineer's ticket. While working one day a salesman came around



selling shares in a new company "Whakatane Board Mills: at ten shillings per share. He bought one share. From then on he purchased shares whenever he could. During the 1930's depression he secured a lot of shares at sixpence each. In 1930 he was admitted to a sanatorium with tuberculosis. In those days TB was a death sentence, but he recovered and was discharged. All the time he owned the shares he reinvested any dividends in new shares. The Board Mill owned a berth at the Mount Maunganui port. At one stage NZ Forest Products were having trouble loading and shipping logs, from the Kiangaroa forest, at Mt Maunganui for the Japanese paper pulp industry. Their solution to the problem was to purchase, by way of a share swap at a premium all the shares in Whakatane Board mills to obtain a permanent berth at the "Mount" wharf. Uncle Walter continued to reinvest all his dividends. In the early 1970's he showed me a letter from NZ Forest Products. It read "congratulations Mr Summers, this is to advise you that you are now the largest individual investor in NZ Forest Products.

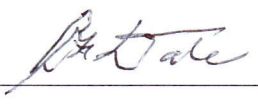
By or before 1910 His parents sold the farm in Teneatua and purchased a farm in Waimauku where they milked 120 cows. Frank and all eight children milked the cows by hand, morning and evening, but after the four eldest boys enlisted he imported a milking machine. The nearest school to Waimauku in those days was 15 miles north at Woodville.

On 26<sup>th</sup> December 1936 his father died in the Auckland hospital of what was then called dropsy (but is now called Odema). He had been there since October. Late in the 1930's he purchased dairy farm at Meadowbank (6 miles from the Auckland GPO) which was milking 45 cows and had an Auckland City town milk supply contract with Ambury's Milk Company. He was still single and his mother came to live there. In 1940 he volunteered for service in ww2. He was rejected as medically unfit. At that time the Government reserved the right to manpower rejected volunteers to essential jobs if they had qualifications. Because of his steam and diesel engineering he was manpowered to look after the boilers at the Kawakawa hospital, about 140 miles from Auckland. Fortunately at the same time the council wished to purchase the property to build State Advances Corporation housing. He kept the house and enough land alongside to build a milk bar and a grocers shop. At this time my father had gone overseas to Egypt with the second New Zealand expeditionary Force in March 1940. Uncle Walter's Main concern was his mother's welfare, so he contacted my mother and suggested that she sell her house and move into his house and look after their mother. In return she could run the milk bar and retain the profits for herself and her mother. Unfortunately at this time Granny Summers was 75 years of age and within twelve months had contracted cancer and spent several months in a private hospital in Remuera, where she died in 1942.

In 1945 he returned to Auckland and worked at the Knox Home in Howick, where he met his future wife Vera Lloyd, who was a sister, who had qualified in Wales, where she was born. They had a daughter, Angela, who was born in 1949. She

was slightly retarded at birth. Uncle Walter died in 1988 and Aunty Vera has since died. I believe Angela is in an institution for handicapped persons in Auckland.

7. Ada Cicely Summers – Born – 1904. Married Leonard Walter Wightman, who inherited the family farm in Fletchers road Waimauku. Uncle Len died of cancer in the Auckland Hospital. They had four children. The oldest was Leonard (Tord) who married Audrey. They had two children Craig and Audrey. The second child was Jean, who married Jack Clarke, at the Parnell Rose Gardens, Jack was in the NZ Navy during the war. The last I heard Jean was living in Fielding and had two sons, The third child was Maurice James, who married Mary, their only children I know are Paul and Brya. The fourth child was Maureen, who married John Jefferis. Aunty Ada died 27 January 1987. I know at this stage Tord and Maurice and Jack Clarke have died. At her death Aunty Ada had 11 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.
8. Elsie Isabel Summers – Born 18-12-1907 – Married George Melville Dale on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1930. Died (Elsie) 6<sup>th</sup> February 1990, (George) 8<sup>th</sup> December 1954. Three children – Douglas George (27/5/1931) (Died 15/3/1981) Married Colleen Joy Kirwan of Adelaide and had two children. Stephen James still single (born 1971) and Caroline Joy (1961) Caroline is married to Duncan Ryan and they have three children.  
Lionel Frank Dale – born 17<sup>th</sup> March 1934. Married Shirley May Tibbits 18<sup>th</sup> May 1957. two Children – Brett Lionel Dale 12/8/1960 married Gaylene Hansen 1990 and they have three children Tobia, Austen and Cyrus.  
Gillian Eleanor Dale 3/4/1962 married Paul Dampney and has three children.
- Married Megan MacDonald Bevan 21<sup>st</sup> May 1986  
Two children Lisa (34 days) and Melissa (61/2 months) died of cot death.  
Caitlin Jade Dale – born 30<sup>th</sup> July 1999

Lionel Frank Dale,  15<sup>th</sup> August 1917  
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