
FREDERICK JAMES ONGLEY

Frederick “Fred” Ongley was a passenger on the sailing ship “Edwin Fox” on her voyage from England to New Zealand in 1873, during which he wrote a daily journal of his experience.

This is Fred’s biography, written 150 years after his voyage by his great-great-grand nephew Jay Glanville who knew people who knew Fred, and who had talked about him and to whom Fred had given his journal and they in turn passed it onto Jay.

Fred’s father was James Ongley born illegitimately around 1821 in the Reigate/ Redhill area of Surrey England but only baptized in 1831 at Horley, Surrey. His mother was Sarah Ann Ford born around 1826 and baptized at Cliffe, Lewes, Sussex in 1826, from a line of Fords resident in the Lewes area for a number of previous generations.

Fred’s parents married at the St Thomas at Cliffe parish church, Lewes on 24th Sept 1846 where they recorded their ages as 24 and 21, and both made their Mark in the register rather than Signing it; they were almost certainly illiterate. The marriage register omits the name of James’ father, and records James’s occupation simply as Labourer.

His parents marriage in the parish of the bride was typical of the time, and James and Sarah resided in the Lewes area for a couple of years after marrying, their first son and daughter being baptized there, but by 1850 they had moved to West Green, Ifield, Sussex where Fred was born on 14th Sep 1850 and where the family continued to reside.

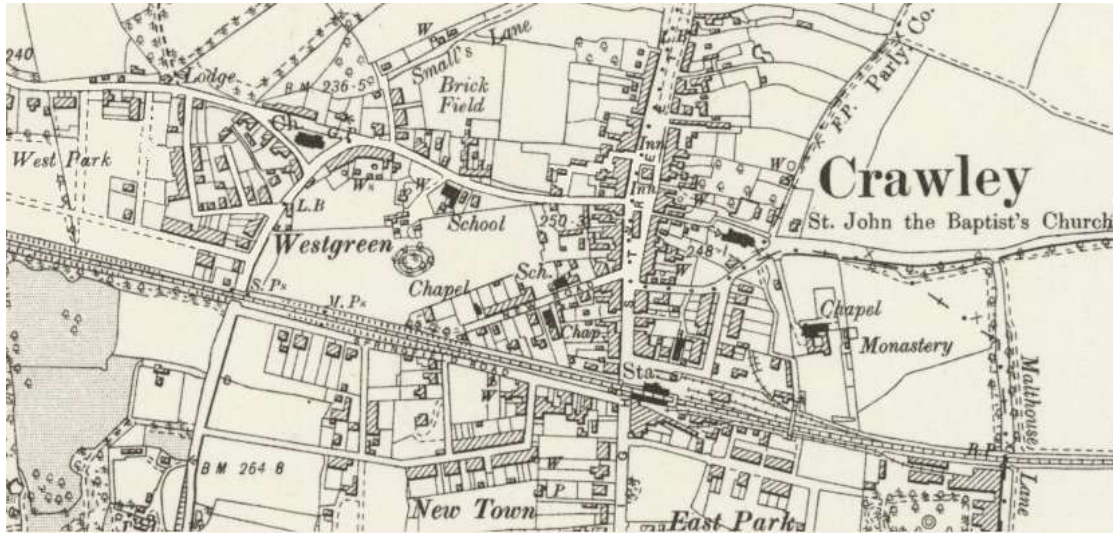
Fred’s baptism, along with those of all but one of his younger siblings took place at the parish church, West Green, Ifield, his on 1st Dec 1850 and where his abode was recorded as West Green, both his parents names were recorded and his father’s occupation was given as railway labourer.

The census of 1851 taken just a year later recorded Fred with his parents at West Green, his father a Rail Lab(ourer) and the family were still there in the 1861 census, their address more accurately recorded as Gate Railroad Crossing, Snellhatch, Ifield and his father a platelayer on railway and Fred a scholar. (Snell Hatch Cemetery is all that remains of the name today, and is further to the West)

From the birth certificate of Fred’s brother Ernest in 1860, the address as Snellhatch Railway Cottage, Ifield allows an accurate identification of their residence. The railway crossing was gated and manually opened and closed by a crossing keeper still in the 1960s, but by today has automatic barriers lifting and lowering to stop road traffic when trains are due.

On the West Green map of circa 1890 below, it is the leftmost road/rail junction shown, with the station further Right (East).

Platelayers were railway workers who were responsible for a specific section of track (the Permanent Way), tightening bolts, repairing and replacing steel rails, wooden sleepers and adjusting the stone ballast beneath the track to ensure the lines remained level and at the correct gauge (width) for the trains to pass safely along. Hard physical work, but a permanent position with job security.



West Green, Ifield near Crawley, circa 1890

Virtually all children were recorded as Scholars in the census, regardless of the amount of schooling they received. If his father had been an agricultural labourer, it would have been certain a ten year old son would have abandoned schooling to assist with busy times such as harvests, but as the son of a platelayer he would not have been assisting his parents but be in the last couple of years of formal schooling.

Moving on ten years to the 1871 census, Railway Crossing Ifield is the address of Fred along with siblings and both parents. James was a plate layer still, but Fred's occupation was given as gardener, but not recorded as Domestic Gardener.

Family knowledge says Fred trained at the famous Kew Gardens, in Middlesex near London, and as he was then 20 years old, his school education would have finished around the age of 12 and his gardening training would also be completed. Gardeners working for various people intermittently were usually recorded as Domestic or Jobbing Gardeners, so the census would appear to confirm Fred was trained to a higher level – designing garden layouts rather than just grass-cutting, weeding and dead-heading flowers.

This 1871 census also recorded a Jane Knight working as a domestic servant for a gentleman and his wife (Edward and Isabell Baumgarten) at Puckcroft, Rusper, Sussex which is just under a 4 to 5 mile walk from Westgreen, taking about an hour and a half on foot.

Jane had been born illegitimately (7th Dec 1851) as Jane Ellis to Eliza Ellis by William Knight, and Jane was found with her parents in the earlier 1861 census at Charlwood, Surrey her birthplace. Jane's parents did not ever marry each other (William married someone else in 1877), but both her mother and Jane used the surname Knight.

This Jane and Fred Ongley formed a relationship, resulting in a Boxing Day 1872 birth at Charlwood of an illegitimate daughter Alice Jane Knight. The details of what then passed between Jane and Fred is not recorded nor known, but on 24th Jan 1873 (less than a month later) Fred left home for his journey to New Zealand, firstly to London for a night, then boarding the "Edwin Fox" on Saturday 25th January.

The vessel reached Gravesend, Kent the following day, then setting sail on Tuesday 28th January – from where Fred's story is told in the journal until his arrival. The vessel was at Lyttleton Saturday 28th June 1873, a voyage of 5 months, and thence he took the S.S. Maori to Port Chalmers arriving there the following day. His experience on the "Edwin Fox" was eventful, leading to Fred signing off

his journal with the stoic phrase “they that reads this must excuse bad writing and spelling for some of it was wrote under difficulties”.

The passenger manifest shows Fred to have been a gardener from Sussex, and confirms he travelled alone.

Prior to departing, Fred had his photograph taken, something people would try to do in order to leave their memory with those family members left behind. It was taken in Brighton, just down the line from Ifield, before Fred undoubtedly taking an “up” train towards London and departure.

He appeared in another photo believed to be taken soon after arrival, wearing the same jacket but having shaved off his moustache.

Before describing Fred’s New Zealand life, it’s worth noting that he was one of his parents 9 offspring who survived childhood, brother Ernest only living about 3 to 4 months, and all but brother Charles got married.

Of his brothers and sisters, sister Frances (who had the rather dubious “claim to fame” of giving birth to a son Ernest 3 weeks before her 15th birthday. Ernest’s birth certificate omits his father’s name, but his baptism record 5 years later carries a father’s name that may be a pure invention to hide his illegitimacy or may be truthful revealing his uncle Charles was actually his father !!) married at age 23 a first cousin George Towes son of William Towes and Maria Ongley before leaving with their children around 1883 for Canada where they had further family and farmed.

Fred’s brother George married and immigrated in 1888 into the USA through New York before settling in Salt Lake City, Utah, having converted to become a “Mormon” (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints).

Fred’s other siblings remained in Sussex, England.

Four years after arriving in New Zealand, now aged 26 Fred married a Catholic Irish girl of 22, born in County Tyrone named Mary Ann Mullin, whilst working as a gardener. She had arrived a year or so after Fred. Their marriage took place at Father Goutenoire’s residence at Timaru on 26th August 1877, with witnesses of Michael Dunnehy (Warden of HMG Timaru) and Patrick McGovern a fellow gardener. Mary was the daughter of a Michael Mullin and Mary nee Montague.

By Mary Mullin, Fred had eleven children from 1879 to 1892, mostly at Oamaru in Otago, and only their son Cecil died in infancy. All the children were raised as Roman Catholics as per their mother’s religion. The Ongley family in England were not Catholic but Church of England.

His known addresses include the 1882 Return of Freehold listing “ONGLEY Frederick Oamaru county Waitake value £200”, children’s births in Oamaru 1879 – 1892, 1894 Electoral Register for Beach Road Oamaru & 1903 Oamaru, 1905 – 1913 Stones Southland & Otago directory Beach Road & North Beach Road, occupation: gardener.

He is believed to be one of the original gardeners of Oamaru Gardens, with indications he was responsible for the laying out of the gardens, which remain to this day. He travelled all over Otago setting up homestead gardens, and was away from home very often for long stretches of time. Eventually he would move to live with his son, and lay out the gardens there in Wade Street, Wellington.

Although about as far as possible from England, Fred clearly remained connected with not only his English family, but also his illegitimate daughter Alice named him her father and a gardener at her 15th Aug 1893 marriage to her husband William Clayson at South Malling near Lewes, Sussex when William was a grocer. Alice and William’s first house was in Lewisham, London which they named “Oamaru”. So although Fred was un-named at her birth, the connection was known to her and must have been cherished in order for the house naming.

Fred remained on amiable terms for life, of course both outlived him; William living to 75, Alice to 89 but having no children of their own.

Jane Ellis (using the surname Knight) married on 25h Oct 1879 to an Alfred Cox, at St Nicholas parish church, Brighton, Sussex, he being an agricultural labourer. They had a son in 1885 at Old Malling.

Although Frederick henceforth lived his life in New Zealand, he is known to have revisited England three times (at least) in his lifetime:

1. Firstly in 1902, when he visited his illegitimate daughter Alice, then living at 23 York Road, Canterbury, Kent, and was photographed with Jane Ellis / Knight now Cox – so clearly any past differences must have been reconciled. By the time of Frederick's 1902 visit Alfred and Jane Cox had been running the Hare and Hounds Public House, Malling Street, Lewes for about 4 years (and Jane would continue running it after the death of Alfred in 1914). Frederick's son-in-law William Clayson through Alice had been a grocer manager in the census taken one year before this visit, and a hotel proprietor in Maidstone Kent at the 1911 census.

During this visit it is inconceivable that he did not also meet with his parents again, in fact that may have been the purpose of his visit as his mother Sarah passed away 12th July 1903 (aged 77), cause of death being Senile Decay which may have come on slowly enough for Frederick to plan and execute this visit. His father James passed away on 26th February 1904 (aged 83, just 7 months later), still living in Ifield. His death was attributed both to Heart Disease and Senile Decay, so Frederick may well have been trying to say goodbye before they lost their failing faculties. He was certainly not estranged from his father as at death James left Frederick an equal share of his estate, shared between his living children.

Frederick left England on the vessel Oruba departing 18th July 1902 calling at Gibraltar, Marseilles, Naples, Port Said, Suez, Colombo, Fremantle, Adelaide then Melbourne & Sydney from where Frederick picked up another steamer to complete his return passage. Travelling by regular steamer, considerably shortened the journey from his original five month sailing passage.

Following their meeting Frederick wrote to daughter Alice on 9th July (prior to sailing), and then mid-voyage on 29th July 1902 and again April 1903 after his return. He acknowledged letters (now lost) from her to him, and expressed close sentiments saying "I almost wish I could make my home here in England so as to be able to see you some times but I wont forget though I am so far away..", "You must not feel afraid of me anymore after thousand miles cant stop any one from thinking I know it never did in any case I always though of you and wonder how you got on..." and "...if it is possible for me to see you again before I go it would please me very much". Possibly his final letter to her was written 16th December 1940, acknowledging a long letter from her – his reply makes references to New Zealand wartime preparations "The Government have taken over our railway, no passenger trains till after the war...".

2. On 26th July 1909, he disembarked again in London, England, from the vessel Oroya, Orient Royal Mail Line which had sailed from Brisbane, he boarding at Port Said, Egypt. He had travelled alone First Class, name listed Fred Ongley, and probably broke the journey at Port Said for some sightseeing.
3. His last known visit to England started 15th May 1923 at Southampton when he disembarked from the vessel Corinthic, White Star Line which had sailed from Wellington where he had embarked as a Third Class passenger (he was now in his 70s

and probably not able to afford First Class again). He listed his occupation as Gardener, and gave an address of 21 Ellen Street, Brighton (this was the address of his widowed sister Alice who had married James Martlew in 1889 but James had died in 1916). This was a long visit of nearly two years as he departed 8th Jan 1925 from Southampton, bound for Wellington New Zealand on the vessel Ionic, Shaw Savill & Albion Co. Ltd Shipping Line. He was a fairly recent widower at this stage in his life, retired and his youngest daughter had reached 21 so his time was his own. He gave an address 14 South Street Lewes Sussex (his mother had lived in this street prior to her marriage, and her relations were known to reside in the same street just fourteen years prior to Frederick's visit, and may still have been there.

It was during this visit that Frederick left his journal with his English relatives, and strongly expressed the view that in England, girls were not being educated as well as in New Zealand (a time when English views on the value of female education were generally still rather conservative). He was no doubt comparing his English family's lack of achievements, with those of his own family in New Zealand. None of his siblings nor their children held professional jobs, but were railway clerks, railway labourers, signalman, railway porters, or had married the same – in fact the Ongleys and their spouses appear to have staffed the entire railway !! One member of the family not in the railway business was Rose, the daughter of his brother Alfred – but she was only married to a house painter, with a daughter also named Rose working at an abattoir at the age of 24, holding the bullocks heads whilst they were slaughtered, having had to leave school early as the family needed her wages. Hardly comparable with Frederick's own family !

What is interesting about Frederick's departure from this visit is his final address of 14 South Street in Lewes. Following the death of her husband in 1914, Frederick's former lover Jane (now Cox) moved in with her son Alfred John Cox and his wife Annie, who from 1922 lived at 14 South Street (which was a 14 room property, where lodgers were taken in through to the 1930s). So aside from being somewhere convenient for Frederick to reside, it put him under the same roof as his old lover ! Jane's grandson (born 1916) remembered their lodger as "the old man from New Zealand", so he probably resided there for a significant time in his two year visit.

Fred's wife Mary Mullin had remained with him until her death in Wellington 27th Mar 1920 from Pthisis and Heart Failure over 9 months, so she must have been aware of and accepted his relationship with his earlier daughter by another woman.

Fred himself lived to the age of 93, passing away in Wellington on 4th June 1944 with an obituary in the Wellington "Evening Post" newspaper (with some inaccuracies) transcribed: -

5th June 1944
MR. F.J.ONGLEY

The death occurred yesterday, in his ninety-eighth year, of Frederick James Ongley, one of the early settlers of New Zealand. The late Mr Ongley was born in Sussex, England. As a young man he decided to emigrate to New Zealand and he set sail while the Franco-Prussian was still in progress. The vessel on which he emigrated was wrecked in the Bay of Biscay and Mr Ongley was rescued after spending two days clinging to one of the ship's masts when they were then half-submerged. He spent some time in Spain and France before he eventually resumed his voyage to New Zealand in the Edwin Fox, a popular passenger ship of those days. Mr Ongley arrived in 1872 and settled in Oamaru where he lived for over fifty years. In 1929 he came to Wellington to reside with his son, Mr F.W.Ongley, of Wadestown. The late Mr Ongley leaves a family of three daughters and four sons, Messrs F.W. Ongley, of

Wadestown, A.M. Ongley, and R.C. Ongley all well-known members of the legal profession, and Mr M.C. Ongley M.A. M.Sc Government Geologist. One son, Mr P.A. Ongley was killed in action in the last war. The late Mr Ongley's wife died 25 years ago. The funeral will take place on Wednesday.

The reason Fred had been critical of his brother Alfred's failure to educate his children was his comparison with his, Fred's own children and their accomplishments...

- Frederick's first New Zealand child was a son Frederick William born in 1879. He married in 1912 in St Joseph Cathedral's Vestry, Dunedin. Frederick William became a solicitor and then a judge, and of his seven children, all born Oamaru, the eldest became an accountant and the others all medical doctors. This Frederick lived to the age of 90.
- Not much is known about daughter Alice Maude Ongley, born in 1881 and dying in Christchurch in 1955 after marrying William Hayes in 1921, but it is believed she was a boarding house keeper.
- His next son born a year after Alice, Arthur Montague Ongley O.B.E. was a crown prosecutor lawyer, was Mayor of Fielding, Palmerston North, had Ongley Park in Palmerston North named after him, and represented New Zealand both in Rugby and Cricket – being the only person ever to have been both President of NZ Rugby Football Union and President of the NZ Cricket Council. Arthur lived to the age of 92. One of Arthur's sons, Joseph Augustine Ongley became a Supreme Court Judge and received a Knighthood.
- Twins Cecil and Cecilia Elizabeth were born 23rd Jan 1884, in Wellington. Cecil only lived 3 years, but Cecilia is believed to have died in 1958 in Dunedin.
- Monica born in 1885 passed the Trinity College Music Examination in 1900, becoming a district nurse by 1937 having married dentist James Sullivan in 1928, and they later owned a small-holding before her somewhat early death in 1942 at Wellington.
- Daughter Esther Ellen Ongley was born in 1886. Esther was a tiny woman, known for needing help managing the huge books of old land titles in her job as a lawyer – in fact she is believed to be only the second woman to practice law in New Zealand, graduating from the University of Otago with a B.A. in 1916 and with LL.B in 1919. Esther never married, and lived in Lower Hutt, passing away in 1968 at the age of 82.
- Another son Robert Campbell Ongley (1887 – 1959) became a lawyer on North Island, graduating LL.B. in 1912 (University of Otago). He and his first wife Catherine (who died at the age of 28 in childbirth in 1918) had a son Augustine Patrick who graduated with multiple degrees from the University of Birmingham, in England. Robert later remarried to have three more children, one of whom (Robert Anthony Sinclair Ongley) became another Ongley medical doctor.
- Montague Ongley (1888 – 1976), the only son never to marry, was a Geologist of eminence, and conducted surveys which eventually supported the Wairekei geothermal power station. Between 1911 and 1916 he graduated from the University of Otago at Dunedin with B.A., M.A and B.Sc degrees. He worked internationally and became a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. He is remembered as a controversial figure, even eccentric. Alan Mason's biography in 2000 said that after retirement "He worked as a night-watchman because he could 'read all night and get paid for it'."
- Sadly, as so many did, Frederick James lost a son in the Great War of 1914-18. This was Second Lieutenant Patrick Augustine Ongley, an unmarried teacher, born 1890, he was

in the Otago Infantry Regiment, killed in action 27th Aug 1918 at Bapaume, France – less than three months before Armistice Day. The following year, Patrick's eldest brother Frederick James named his own son, born in April 1919 as Patrick Augustine – clearly in tribute to his deceased younger brother.

- Frederick's last child was Dorothy Rose born in 1892 who became a Catholic Nun, taking the name Sister Mary Cyprian. As a nun, she never married and lived to the age of 81.

Fred's siblings who did not emigrate remained in Sussex, including his brother Alfred who was a police constable for about 20 years after starting out as a railway platelayer as per his father until 1884 when he joined the police at Old Scotland Yard on 21st July, leaving West Green for Beckenham, Belvedere and Erith (all in Kent) for his new occupation employed by R (or Greenwich) Division. Alfred had attempted to educate his daughters (despite brother Fred's belief and disapproval), so was not best pleased when his elder daughter Rose married a "mere housepainter" William Cheesman. Rose however remained deeply in love with William throughout their marriage. The Ifield connection remained strong though as Albert and his wife returned to Spencers Road in Ifield at his retirement on 22 Feb 1905 (almost exactly a year after his father's death) until his own death there in 1925 at age 70.

A contemporary map of Ifield shows Spencers Road to be adjacent to the railway crossing where James Ongley had his family. James died at "New Road, Ifield" which appears on maps of circa 1890 to 1940 but is lost in the post war expansion/redevelopment of Crawley New Town; Spencers Road did not exist on the map of circa 1890 but records show the Salvation Army had a "barracks" in Spencers Road in 1902, so Albert moved into a newly built property very close to his father's old house.



Contemporary 2020s map of same area, Ifield near Crawley

Parts East of West Green (meaning east of the railway crossing) are much changed as part of Crawley New Town's development after World War II

Note the proximity of Leopold Road, off Albany Road opposite Spencers Road. Number 2 is the location of the infamous 1943 "Acid Bath Murders" by John Haigh who was hanged for murdering six people (whilst he claimed nine !) and disposing of the corpses in oil drums filled with acid. This was the talk of the neighbourhood following the trial.

A right turn out of Spencers Road, a left turn into Alpha Road, followed by a right turn into the unnamed Prospect Place on the above map shows the red-highlighted Number 6 – the end terrace of

four houses on the left.

It was here that Alfred's daughter Rose and husband William were living by 1921 and where she remained as a widow after his death in 1957 until 1964 when she moved to live with her married daughter and son-in-law.

Around 1940 the house at Prospect Place had electricity installed for the first time, as Rose had a fear of it and this prevented them installing it sooner.

The house continued to have an outside lavatory, with a roofed over walkway from the house put up by William, so as to avoid getting wet when going out in the rain

In the early 1960s Prospect Place was a grassy cinder road (not tarmac/asphalt as per today) still with the roofed over part to the outside lavatory at No. 6. The present day modern housing between No. 6 and the top of the road had not been built; at that time there was a church hall on the corner, and allotments between there and number 6.

During Fred's last known long visit of 1923 – 25 it is inconceivable he didn't visit his niece and her husband living here, and this is most likely the location of the handing over of his journal of his 1873 voyage.

So in summary, from humble beginnings Frederick had the drive and tenacity to give up a potential family life and instead seek out a new existence half a world away, surviving a traumatic journey to get there. He changed his religion. He fathered a dynasty of doctors and lawyers living and working in New Zealand to this day, yet he himself remained a gardener. He was able to revisit and reconcile himself with his English family not once but multiple times, and although he may not have seen the end of the Second World War, he lived almost to the age of 94.

To use the common idiom "The Boy Done Good" !!



Fred in Brighton around 1872



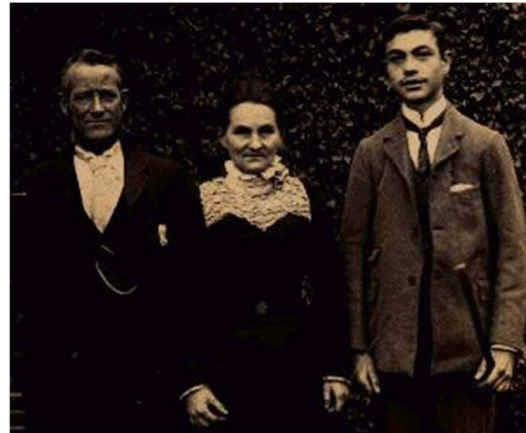
Fred soon after arrival in New Zealand



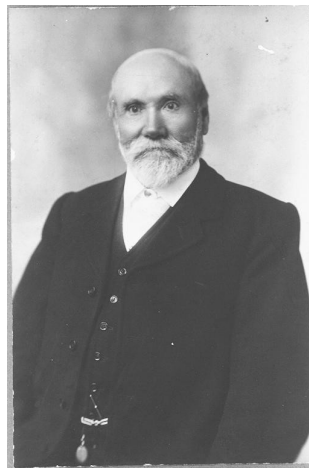
Fred, annotated :
"This was snap as I walked the streets of Christchurch not thinking of getting your photo was being taken"



Mrs Jane Cox, (mother of their illegitimate daughter Alice) with Fred on his 1902 visit to England



Mrs Jane Cox with husband Albert and their son circa 1900



Fred in later life

The following are transcripts made from photocopies of letters received in England 1902 – 1940 by his daughter Alice from Fred, following his first visit and meeting with Alice and her mother. There must have been other letters, but those are lost.

One is an undated extract and MAY be the end of the 29th July 1902 letter.

Missing / illegible words are replaced one for one by a triple asterisk.

Oruba from London to
Melbourne. Australia
F Ongley
Oamaru
New Zealand
Wednesday July 9/1902

Dear Alice,

I received your letter and Books and Glasses by yesterdays post it was very kind of you to think of me after I was gone many thanks for them all I have been here several days now and am getting a bit tired and for a change I almost wish I had stayed with you another day and had a further look round Canterbury my time is getting so short now that I cannot go far from home I was in London on Monday and took my passage back to New Zealand I leave home Early on Friday morning 18 and I think we sail the same day in the Steamer Oruba for Melbourne and then get another Steamer to New Zealand I don't know the name of that Steamer yet and I cannot find out until I get there but I wont have to wait long so not be anxious about me I will get there alright going on the sea is not so dreadful as you think I almost wish I

could make my home here in England so as to be able to see you some times but I wont forget though I am so far away at present I want you to send me your photo when you get them I hope they will make a good job if I get mine done I will send one to you I have not got the boys yet and dont know what is wrong I had letters and papers from Home on Monday everything was well at that time the photoes may come yet You must not feel afraid of me anymore after thousand miles cant stop any one from thinking I know it never did in any case I always though of you and wonder how you got on so write to me when ever you think and I will be very pleased to get the letters and I will tell you all the news I have of New Zealand don't forget your mother at any time it was her who had all the trouble and be kind to her always remember me to your Husband I think he is good to you if it is possible for me to see you again before I go it would please me very much. I think that is all I have to tell you this time so goodbye for the present. I remain yours always Uncle as anything else F Ongley

Orient-Pacific Line
Between
ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA
On way to Port Said from Naples
ON BOARD THE R.M.S. Oruba
July 29/1902

Dear Alice got your letters at Naples alright many thanks for them it helps to make the journey go better I am in the very best of health could not be better have never been feeding the fishes yet and I don't mean to so you can rest about that alright I

have never missed a meal am quite
ready every time they put it down
so you must know that I am alright
some of the poor beggars was very funny
the first Sunday out in the Bay of Biscay
I would not care to be them I think
I ought to be a Sailour for the sea
suits me and then I could see you all
oftener and that would suit me to
live outside if everything was alright
which its not worse luck and then
you would see enough of me I am sure
as for your talking about me I don't mind
I am sure you don't talk any more than
I think so you have not got it all your
own way But I am awfully sorry about your
mother
she is none to strong at the best and she
would not take enough care of herself after
getting them out its me again I know that
alright - I hope she will soon get will
that place is to hard for her looking after the
house and bar and b***
and having to look pleasant at everybody
no wonder she is not strong I hope it will
all comes to an end some day and they
come as they should be (Just come back
from geting some afternoon tea we have
borrowed a tea pot and stole some sugar
and some cups we have plenty of tea my mate
and myself make a cup of tea every afternoon
our selves and then I stop and get my
fortune told by a young Staffordshire

girl it was real good I am to be married
in two months and have two woman
wanting me one dark and one fair I don't
[most of line not photocopied] a wi(n)dow
and a lot of money is coming to me and some
clothing and I am to have my wish I did not
tell her what it was I hardly know what is my
self
any way I am to have all the good fortune
that ever a man got of course it made every
one laugh and I suppose that will do some
good if nothing else but mine was a a real
good
fortune if only half comes true I ought to be
satisfied I have real good times here have got
acquainted with most of the people on board
one is going within four hours ride of home
and there are plenty going to different parts of
New Zealand I hope you will have a good
*** when it comes and get your mother
out and see if you can make her well
again and you can talk about me on the
2 x 7 or any other way that will please her and
yourselves I will be home by the 5 or 7 of
September
and I will just feel my ears pretty often
to find out if you are talking about me so
be carefull what you say only the worst of it
is I may be sleeping while you are talking
unless you do it late at night and then it will
be morning with me and then I will find out
alright.

Oamaru April 12 /1903

Dear Alice.

Just a few lines to
let you know how we are geting
on this is Easter Sunday and
one of our great Holiday times
most people left off work on Thursday
night and keep holiday untill next
Tuesday and we have Sports on Friday
and again on Monday and tennis
matches ever day we have all the
tennis players in the South Island
here and the same with Bowls
you cant walk down the street
but what you hear tennis

and bowls and then the Shooting
Season as commenced and a
good few all away at that
Fred went away Thursday night
and come back this morning
he as a good few hares and rubby
Ducks and some waters hen as had
his times and he is off again
they have a horse and cart and
they go to the Wailaki river about
16 miles away they have and old
Loch House to go to and no doubt they
have a fine Picnic I went Shooting
on Friday but didn't get much
was not very anxious going to
Sports on Monday will have a

go for some of the prizes bob
on two races on Friday at the
Amature Sports will get a couple
of medals and I will see what
I can do on Monday Sis as gone to
Timaru don't know when she
will be back
We have had you cricketers here and
they are away again they was to
good for our cricketers but they
got a good going over in Australia
Joe played against them twice
and did pretty well and now Cricket
is just over and they will be starting
football emediatly we have
had nice Weather for the Harvest except
two or three days since last week but if
it is fine for another week or
two it will all be saved and
then the farmers should be rich
for they have big crops and good
prices work is very plentiful here
just now but expect it will fall

off a bit when the Harvest is
finished a great number of men
came over from Australia and I
think they all found work most
parts of australia are very poor
just now the whole country
seems to be dried up and New Zealand
is rather the other way this last year
anyhow it is now nearly a year ago
since I started for home wouldnt ***
if I was starting again for our
winter will soon be here I have been
a little white once or twice early in
the morning and it smells Frost
but then our sun soon comes
out and puts it all away
I think that is all the new this
time hoping you are all well
and got the weekly ** alright
I remains Yours Truly
F Ongley

Oamaru August 16/1903

Dear Alice

Just a few lines
to let you know that I
am still living and in
pretty good health we have
had a rather severe winter
and no end of Frost every
night when I wrote last we
had just got over a fortnight
summers weather in the midst
of winter and it broke up
with a snow storm and
very heavy for this Country
although it dont lay here
more than a day at the most
it gave them all a chance
to play snow balling for a time
but away in the back country
the snow is very thick and
not all away yet after 5 week
and in some places the sheep have
been burried all that time
and they have been paying as
much as £1-0-0 per day per

man to go geting the sheep
out but rather dangerous
work in the mountains
where the snow as drifted 20
feet deep We have a very high
range of mountains running
right through New Zealand
and most times when it rains
down here it snow up there
although only 40 miles away
and you can see snow on them
nearly all the year round
that was where the party of hunters
had got to that you read
about in your English papers
and people who go up there must
always be prepared for that kind
of thing I knew all that party
most of them belong to Oamaru
Our Aclimatisation Society have a
lot of Deer up there and you
can get a permit to go and
shoot a certain number each
year but you want a week or
more to be able to do it right
and then you have nothing but

heads which is not very profitable
you cant bring much away with
you the country is to rough
and no train or any other means
without a long carry on horse back
but I think the winter is about over
for we have had a few nice days and
the bird are begining to sing and
I have got some crocuses out in
bloom and the Voilets and primrose
are geting plentifull I have my onion seed
in and must put in potatoes next
week so I will be rather bussy
about home every spare minute

but the ground is all ready so it
wont take so long I get your papers
alright don't know what I do without
them these winter night a fine lot of reading
and seems to have got into the Habit of
looking for them every mail of our schedule
as rare those never come to hand got lost
on the way but never mind will send
you ours as soon as publish
I think that is about all this time
hope you are all well the boys and
girls here are fine
I remain yours truly F Ongley

Manor House
Dec 16th –40
My dear Alice,

It was good of you to write me
such a nice long letter with *** **
but oh dear what a time you have had
I hope things are straightened out a bit
much as I should like to see you, I hope you
wont come and leade your house, it takes
too long, and one never knows what might
happen while you are away, and fire
bombs can be put out.
I think Hitler is a bit quiet now but
what as he got up his sleeve of course
he'll try another ***
The Government have taken over our
railway, no passenger trains till after
the war, no end of soldiers drove there
(gunners) of course we don't know what they
are
doing no end of barbed wire and a
very big gun if it goes off it will
give us a shake up, up till now
we have been quiet no *** near
us lately
Mr Eden only took Park Gate for 6 months
he has left some time now.
The night Mr Churchill inspected the
defences at Ramsgate he was at

Park Gate, & the Sunday before
Lord Balfour was in church so
you see Elham did look up. I expect
Adolf would have liked to have dropped
a bomb, don't you?
Jenny & John came to see me yesterday
week, John looks better and likes
his job on the farm,
Jenny said her mother had a very bad
cold, her heart is still very bad, has
to have a sleeping draught every night.
Jenny cant manage her, still keeps
her will power,
I quite indebted Mrs Burbridges
doesn't know what to do hope she'll keep
a little home of her own, and not
go to her children it never answers
nearly every one have cold & lumbago
I have escaped so far Mrs Blanch Mrs Maguire
and Miss ****, I hope I shall escape
& be at home this Christmas I was out last
I must break off now, and all I can say is I
wish you a very quiet & Peaceful Christmas
and no visits from Adolf. I only
write to you & Jane am ashamed of my
writing, much love to you both from
Aunt Loney
Good wishes from Mrs Blanch

Overleaf is an undated page, which *may* be the last page of his 29th July 1902 letter, particularly as it reveals his intent to return to England again in the future.

...

I have had a talk with our Public Gardener
he is a native of Folkestone
his Father is there and he as two
sisters in Canterbury he is sorry he
did not know I was going there he
would of got me to go and see them
his Father as a large garden at Folkestone
I told him I did not know that I
was going there myself but will let him
no when I am going next time
His name his Burgase

FO

Parents, Siblings, his Children & their Spouses

- James ONGLEY**, b. circa 1821 Reigate, SRY, ENG, d. 26 Feb 1904 Ifield, SSX, ENG
- +**Sarah Ann FORD**, b. between 1824 and 1826 Lewes, SSX, ENG, m. 26 Sep 1846 Lewes, SSX, ENG, d. 12 Jul 1903 Ifield, SSX, ENG
- **Charles ONGLEY**, b. 22 Jan 1847 Lewes, SSX, ENG, d. circa Aug 1869 registered Horsham, SSX, ENG
- **Frances Ann ONGLEY**, b. 30 Sep 1848 Near Crawley, SSX, ENG, d. circa 25 Dec 1895 Faraday, Hastings Co., ONT, CAN
+**George TOWES**, b. 29 Jan 1848 West Hoathly, SSX, ENG, m. 6 Apr 1872 Crawley Down, SSX, ENG, d. 22 Aug 1922 CAN
- **Frederick James ONGLEY, b. 14 Sep 1850 Ifield, SSX, ENG, d. 4 Jun 1944 Wellington, Wellington, NZ**
- +**Jane ELLIS**, b. 7 Dec 1851 Charlwood, SRY, ENG, d. 9 Dec 1935 Lewes, SSX, ENG
- **Alice Jane KNIGHT**, b. 26 Dec 1872 Charlwood, SRY, ENG, d. circa Feb 1962 Maidstone, KEN, ENG
+**William CLAYSON**, b. 16 Feb 1870 Elham, KEN, ENG, m. circa Aug 1893 Lewes, SSX, ENG, d. 6 Jun 1945 Maidstone, KEN, ENG
- +**Mary Ann MULLIN**, b. 1855 TYR, IRL, m. 26 Aug 1877 Timaru, Canterbury, NZ, d. 27 Mar 1920 Lower Hutt, Wellington, NZ
- **Frederick William ONGLEY**, b. 23 May 1879 Oamaru, Otago, NZ, d. 28 Jun 1969 NZ
+**Annie MILNE**, b. 29 May 1886 Canterbury, NZ, m. 10 Apr 1912 Dunedin, Otago, NZ, d. 7 Aug 1961 Wellington, Wellington, NZ
- **Alice Maude ONGLEY**, b. 22 Mar 1881 Oamaru, Otago, NZ, d. 11 Sep 1955 Christchurch, Canterbury, NZ
+**William Hugh James HAYES**, b. 26 Apr 1890 Christchurch, Canterbury, NZ, m. 1921 NZ, d. 30 Jun 1972 Christchurch, Canterbury, NZ
- **Arthur Montague ONGLEY O.B.E.**, b. 21 Jun 1882 Oamaru, Otago, NZ, d. 17 Oct 1974 Palmerston North, Manawatu-Wanganui, NZ
+**Nora Crina LYNCH**, b. 27 May 1891, m. 26 Mar 1913 Palmerston North, Manawatu-Wanganui, NZ, d. 15 Feb 1986 Palmerston North, NZ
- **Cecil ONGLEY**, b. 23 Jan 1884 Wellington, Manawatu-Wanganui, NZ, d. 3 Sep 1887 Oamaru, Otago, NZ
- **Cecilia Elizabeth ONGLEY**, b. 23 Jan 1884 Oamaru, Otago, NZ, d. 1958 Dunedin, Otago, NZ
- **Monica ONGLEY**, b. 5 Jun 1885 Oamaru, Otago, NZ, d. 14 May 1942 Wellington, NZ
+**James Edward SULLIVAN**, b. Jan 1889 Wellington, NZ, m. 1928 NZ, 17 Jul 1964 Wellington, Wellington, NZ
- **Esther Ellen ONGLEY B.A., LL.B.**, b. circa Feb 1886 Oamaru, Otago, NZ, d. 8 Oct 1968 Wellington NZ
- **Robert Campbell ONGLEY LL.B.**, b. 23 Nov 1887 Oamaru, Otago, NZ, d. 30 Nov 1959 Palmerston North, Manawatu-Wanganui, NZ
+**Catherine MCKEOWEN**, b. 14 Mar 1890 Wellington, Wellington, NZ, m. 27 Sep 1915 Wellington, Wellington, NZ, d. 21 Nov 1918 Wellington, NZ
- +**Irene Katherine WALDRON**, b. 19 Sep 1895 Omakau, Otago, NZ, m. 1921 NZ, d. 18 Feb 1971 Paraparaumu, Wellington, NZ
- **Montague ONGLEY B.A., M.A., B.Sc., FRSNZ**, b. 10 Dec 1888 Oamaru, Otago, NZ, d. 6 Mar 1976 Wellington, Wellington, NZ
- **Patrick Augustine ONGLEY B.A., M.A.**, b. 27 Mar 1890 Oamaru, Otago, NZ, d. 27 Aug 1918 Baupame, FRA
- **Dorothy Rose ONGLEY**, b. 29 Dec 1892 Oamaru, Otago, NZ, d. 5 Feb 1974 Palmerston North, Manawatu-Wanganui, NZ
- **George Samuel ONGLEY**, b. 16 Nov 1852 Ifield, SSX, ENG, d. 11 Mar 1910 Salt Lake City, Salt Lake Co., UT, USA
+**Alice ATTEWELL**, b. circa May 1851 Nuneham Courtenay, OXF, ENG, m. 28 Aug 1875 Reigate, SRY, ENG, d. 14 Oct 1909 Salt Lake City, Salt L. Co., UT, USA
- **Alfred ONGLEY**, b. 10 Mar 1855 Ifield, SSX, ENG, d. 10 Jun 1925 Ifield, SSX, ENG
+**Alice PUTTICK**, b. 1 Jan 1857 Wisborough Green, SSX, ENG, m. 6 Jan 1879 Wisborough Green, SSX, ENG, d. 6 Mar 1946 Crawley, SSX, ENG
- **Ellen ONGLEY**, b. 28 Sep 1857 Ifield, SSX, ENG, d. 16 Nov 1930 registered East Grinstead, SSX, ENG
+**George ROSER**, b. circa Jan 1857 Godstone, SRY, ENG, m. 30 Aug 1879 Reigate, SRY, ENG, d. circa May 1923 registered Reigate, SRY, ENG
- **Ernest ONGLEY**, b. 11 Jan 1860 Ifield, SSX, ENG, d. circa May 1860 registered Horsham, SSX, ENG
- **Rose ONGLEY**, b. 17 Feb 1861 Ifield, SSX, ENG, d. circa Aug 1941 registered Battle, SSX, ENG
+**Edward STYLES**, b. 1859 Worth, SSX, ENG, m. 15 Jul 1882 Ifield, SSX, ENG, d. 1917 registered East Grinstead, SSX, ENG
- **Alice ONGLEY**, b. 4 Aug 1863 Ifield, SSX, ENG, d. 4 Oct 1944 registered Hove, SSX, ENG
+**James MARTLEW**, b. circa Feb 1864 Boxgrove, SSX, ENG, m. 26 Oct 1889 Ifield, SSX, ENG, d. circa Nov 1916 registered Steyning, SSX, ENG
- **Oliver ONGLEY**, b. 17 Aug 1866 Ifield, SSX, ENG, d. 16 Feb 1950 registered Horsham, SSX, ENG
+**Annie KNIGHT**, b. 21 Apr 1865 Ifield, SSX, ENG, m. 14 Sep 1889 Horsham, SSX, ENG, d. circa Feb 1946 registered Horsham, SSX, ENG