

Children Of Samuel And Lucy Hassall

ABA – Rowland James Hassall (1820-1820)

*R*owland James Hassall was twelve days old when he died of catarrhal fever and was buried in the same vault in St John's Cemetery, Parramatta as his grandfather, Rowland Hassall, who had predeceased him by six days.

At the same time, his father, Samuel Otoo, lay sick in bed of the same complaint and there were fears for his life also. Samuel's brother Jonathan was also bed-ridden with the same influenza virus. The Hassall house was like a hospital, with two births, three deaths and two serious illnesses within a matter of days.

ABB – Elizabeth Ann Hassall (1821-1860)

*E*lizabeth Ann Hassall was born on 5 August 1821 and married William P. Howell, a nephew of J.J. Howell who married her widowed mother, Lucy.

William arrived in Sydney in 1837 at the age of 18 and went to live with his uncle, where he obviously fell in love with his stepdaughter.

William was an ambitious young man and soon took over the squatting rights of the Hassalls and Howells in the Rye Park area near Boorowa. He had previously purchased 85,000 acres in the Murrumbidgee area and sold it at a handsome profit.

Elizabeth and William lived at *Yabba* in the Riverina before building *Llangrove*, later called *Everton*, at Rye Park in 1843 with the profits of his big sale. *Llangrove*, which still stands, was of 1200 acres and the freehold was obtained in 1851.



Elizabeth Ann (Hassall) Howell and her family at *Llangrove*, later called *Everton* and still standing.



Wambook near Cooma, where Mary (Hassall) Wildash and her family lived for many years with her brother, James Mileham Hassall. This is the view from the Snowy Mountains Highway in about 1885.

They retired there, having done very well for themselves. Elizabeth died at Yass on 21 April 1860. William also died at Yass later the same year.

They had eight children: William Bennett (1841-1913, who married Annie Fletcher), Mary Anne (b1843, who married Robert Edwards), Lucy Mileham (1844-1941, who married Frederick Wilkinson Wild and had seven children), John James (b1846, who married Adeline Wild and whose eldest daughter married into the Halliday family), Lydia (1848-1928, who married W.G. Hayes), Sarah Jane (who married W. Brigstocke and died in 1948), Alice (who married John Body) and Florence Jessie (1855-1956, who married Charles Arthur Brigstocke).

ABC – Mary Susanna Hassall (1823-1877)

*M*ary Susanna Hassall was born on 27 May 1823 and died on 5 May 1877. On 25 June 1846 she married Charles Cobb Wildash, who in 1870 helped his brother-in-law James Mileham Hassall trek across country with two bullock waggon and all their furniture and belongings to *Wambook*, Cooma. He was said to be an excellent bushman and they lived for some time at *Wambook*.



A family group at Wambook.

Their daughter Lucy Elizabeth married her cousin Alexander Campbell, who was the son of Ann Hassall and Robert Mackay Campbell.

To make things more complex, Lucy and Alexander's son Clarence Campbell then married his cousin Florence Gerard Wildash (the daughter of Lucy's brother Charles).

Mary and Charles Wildash had the following children: Lucy Elizabeth (1847-1916, married Alexander Mackay Campbell); Charles John (b1849, married Elizabeth Gerard); Isabella Mary (1851-1916); Anne Howell (b1853, married G. Mackay); Lydia Elizabeth (b1855, married F. Middleton); William Henry (b1857, married Florence Moor); Jessie Mileham (1859-1893); Emily Cobb (1863-1912) and Frederick Alexander (b1865, married Mary Gill).

ABD – Thomas Hancox Hassall (1825-1855)

Thomas Hancox Hassall was born on 3 May 1825 and when his father died in 1830, Thomas inherited the 400-acre *Macquarie Grove* as a 5 year-old boy. He later spent many years on his father's property in the Boorowa district.

He married Elizabeth Moore Hume, the eldest daughter of Francis Rawdon and Emma (née Mitchell) Hume, then living at Frankfield near Gunning, in 1852. Francis Rawdon Hume was the brother of Hamilton Hume, the great explorer, who had no children of his own. Elizabeth's grandfather was Gabriel Louis Huon de Kerrileau, a French Huguenot who sought refuge in England and met Capt John Macarthur, who brought him to Australia as tutor to his children at *Elizabeth Farm*.

Elizabeth ('Lizzy') was the second-eldest of 14 children and married when she was 18 years old. She died a year after her marriage giving birth to her daughter, Elizabeth Emma Lucy, who also died six months later.

Thomas was clearly affected badly by this double tragedy as he died 18 months later after a drinking binge of four or five days with his uncle Charlie Hassall in Victoria (see Chapter 4).

Thomas's death caused something of a family dispute over his property, *Milford* near Bathurst, which Thomas had inherited from his father. The will said that if Thomas died with no issue it would then go to his brother, James Mileham, who duly took over. But one of his Hume brothers-in-law challenged the will in court and it was decided that, although Thomas had no children when he died, there had been issue, so James was forced to leave and the property was sold.

ABE – James Mileham Hassall (1826-1896)

James Mileham Hassall was born at *Macquarie Grove* on 5 November 1826 and was only three years old when his father died. He was educated in Goulburn.

At the age of 20 he went to *Arkstone Forest*, Boorowa to assist his mother on the death of her second husband. He remained there until 1853 when he married 18 year-old Anne Isabella Hume, his brother Thomas's sister-in-law, at her home *Castlesteads*.

James was known as "Gentleman Jim" and the couple lived first at



Anne Isabella (Hume) and James Mileham Hassall.



Macquarie Grove as it looks today, although it is considerably different than in the time it was owned by the Hassalls. It was extended after James Mileham Hassall sold it in the 1870s.



Milford, the Bathurst property he took over after the death of his brother Thomas. However, the Humes successfully contested Samuel Otoo's will, forcing Jim and Anne – a Hume herself! – to quit the property. (See previous section for details.)

The young couple then took over *Macquarie Grove*, the family property at Camden which James inherited on older brother Thomas's death. In the late-1850s they built a new home on the property (which is still standing) and James' mother, Lucy Howell, took over the original cottage (still standing and known as *Hassall Cottage* since 1934) as her dower and called it *Lucyville*.



Anne Isabella (Hume) Hassall
(1835-1879)

James and his family lived at *Macquarie Grove* until 1861 when it was leased out to W. Gordon as a school for £150 a year for seven years. That year, James told his friend James Macarthur in the UK that he was very depressed, having lost 200 acres of crops in the floods. He said he was letting the property out to Mr Gordon while he took the family to "the interior".

James leased *Llangrove* near Boorowa from his brother-in-law William Howell for two years and then rented *Collingwood* near Gunning (where he ran 5000 sheep) for seven years after the murder of his wife's uncle, John Kennedy Hume, the brother of Hamilton Hume, the explorer. He was murdered at *Collingwood* by members of the Whitton gang of bushrangers in 1840.

James had mortgaged *Macquarie Grove* for £3800 in 1867 from "Honest Tom" Laidlaw of Yass and when Laidlaw died in 1876, James was unable to repay the debt and so had to sell the old family property to his friend, Henry Dangar MLC.

With the money from *Macquarie Grove*, James bought a huge run called *Wambook* at Cooma and



James Mileham Hassall established this fine property near Cooma called *Wambook*. The stone wall was built by Chinese miners thrown out of work when the local gold mine closed. In the far distance on the left is the flour mill built and operated by one of the sons, Bert. This photo is from 1885 and it looks much the same today.

he and the family finally settled there in 1870, having set off from *Collingwood* when the lease had expired.

Moving was a huge operation, as described by one of the children, Albert Edward (Bert):

"We left Collingwood with all our sheep, horses and cattle, about December 1868, with mother, father and ten children, one bullock waggon, one horse waggon with all our furniture and equipment, one bullock driver with his wife and family of two, Uncle Charlie Wildash, one governess, and one lady help, 25 all told.

"We could only travel about 10 miles or less a day, and had to milk two cows ... kill our own mutton and bake our own bread..."

The family toiled tirelessly for years turning the tough land into pastures suitable for wheat and grazing. James also installed a threshing machine and built a flour mill and saw mill on the property. The leased property was 20,000 acres, heavily timbered and had no fencing when the family arrived. They gradually fenced the entire property into paddocks.

Wambook was described in 1888 as *"one of the finest in the district"*, but was soon lost through a combination of circumstance, stubbornness, a refusal to listen to advice and a desire to do the right thing.

James was a Justice of the Peace, which might have explained his determination to act within the spirit of the law when everyone else was doing otherwise. He was described by his grandson Hector Hassall as *"a fine, honourable man, but stupidly obstinate over this, as in many things"*.

New land acts allowed free settlers to take up 40-60 acre blocks on the big runs and, while most of the graziers consolidated their properties by having the choice parts of their land taken out in the names of their wives and children, James refused. This allowed 'selectors' to move in and take all the best parts.

James could have secured most of it through his numerous children. Instead, *Wambook* was white-anted. Eventually they tried to secure it by having the six boys each select 640 acres on condition that they were fenced and had buildings erected. James was forced to borrow £12,000 from the bank to fund the improvements and when he died on 25 August 1896 (of an enlarged



James Mileham Hassall

(1826-1896)



Lucy Mileham Hassall (left), the eldest child of James and Anne, brought up the big family from the age of 25 after the death of her mother. At right she is photographed as a young girl with four of her younger sisters.



liver), just as the improvements were completed, the bank called in the loan. *Wambook* was sold and the family was given four months leave.

Anne and James (who are both buried in the Boloco churchyard) had 14 children, all born without the aid of a doctor or nurse, and all lived to adulthood, but she did not live to see it. On 4 June 1879, less than four years after the last child was born, she died aged 43, leaving the eldest daughter, Lucy Mileham, to look after the family from the age of 25.

James and Anne's children were: Lucy Mileham (born *Milford Vale* 1854, married Henry Wallace late in life, lived at *Glen Wallace*, Cooma and had no children, died 1934); Grace Garland Kennedy (born Boorowa 1855, married Thomas Heriot, died 1944); Emma Mary (born



Three of James Mileham's children: Emma, Frank and Beatrice, who worked in Palestine as a missionary.

Bathurst 1856, married Edmund Proctor); Macquarie Hume (born *Macquarie Grove* 1858, did not marry and was killed aged 27 in a deep well by a falling piece of timber); Laura Australia (born *M.G.* 1859, married Edwin Litchfield, died 1890); Frank Stuart (born *Castlesteads* 1861, married Ada Philcox, died 1944); James Samuel King (born *Llangrove* 1863, married Ada Geary, died 1944); Albert Edward (born *Collingwood* 1864, married Marian Saunders); Anne Nina Cordelia (born *Coll.* 1866, married her bother-in-law George Litchfield, died 1900); Frederick de Kerrileau (born *Coll.* 1868, married Anne Reynolds); Fanny Florence Jessie (born *Wambrook* 1870, married first John Pring and second Arthur Fraser and had no children, died 1944); Clara Eugenie (born *Wam.* 1872, married James H. Hall); Percy Herbert (born *Wam.* 1874, married Olive Minerva Hart, died 1952); and Beatrice Isabel (born *Wam.* 1875, did not marry and joined the Church Missionary Society staff in Palestine, died 1955).



James Samuel King Hassall.

ABF – Samuel Otoo Hassall (1830-1881)

Samuel Otoo Hassall was born on 4 August 1830, six weeks after his father's death. On 11 June 1858 he was granted an auctioneer's licence. Very little else is known about his life other than he remained a bachelor.

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