



WILLIAM (BILL) ROBERT ANDERSON

Bill was born in Christchurch, New Zealand on 27 September 1887^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}. His parents were Robert Augustus Anderson (1852-1927) who was born in Alderney in the Channel Islands and Edythe Alice Box (1863-1948) who was born in Maidenhead in Berkshire.

Robert Augustus' parents were originally from Alloa, Clackmannanshire, Scotland and only moved to live in Alderney so that Robert could assist with the construction of a large breakwater there. The family migrated to New Zealand on 24 December 1862 on board the Echunga and settled at Pleasant Point near Timaru. They had 8 children in all –

1. William (Bill) Robert Anderson 1887-1963
2. Henry/Harry Leslie Anderson 1889-1975
3. Gladys Emma Berry Anderson 1892-1975
4. Ernest Edward Anderson 1895-1977
5. Robert Anderson 1896-1898
6. Dorothy Joyce Anderson 1900-1971
7. Edythe Marjorie Anderson 1902-1978
8. Lily Anderson 1905-1972

Bill was a mechanic by trade and following WW1 was a chauffeur for a government department. In 1911 he is living at 3 Manor Place, Dunedin and is a motor driver.

Ellen Mackay Sutherland was born on 20 March 1890 in Porirua¹. Her mother was Ellen Lloyd aged 26 from Waikouaiti, Otago and her father Andrew Sutherland aged 30 (born c1860) from Wick in Scotland but whose profession at the time of her marriage was an Asylum Attendant at the Seacliff Mental Institution north of Dunedin. Ellen was ¼ Maori through her mother's line, and Scottish through her father.

Bill and Ellen married on 23 August 1912² in the First Church, Dunedin. They had the following children -

1. William (Bill) Robert Anderson 1913–
2. Garfield (Gar) Sutherland Anderson 1915–1970
3. Jessie Noeleen Anderson 1916-1998
4. Ellen Edythe (Birdie) Anderson 1917–1988
5. Lesley (Les) Anderson 1918–1978
6. Norma Annabelle Anderson 1919-1923
7. Andrew (Barnie) Anderson c1922–1990

¹ NZ Birth registration # 1890/6395 entry no. 499 Registration # 200900772292-printout held

² NZ Marriage registration No. 1912/5273 entry No. 172 folio 8881-printout held

Bill tried quite hard to enlist in the army during WW1. There is information on his service records that he first went to enlist on 23 December 1915, and was rejected due to a ruptured Inguinal hernia.

When his daughter, Brenda was born in 1916 he and Ellen were living at 26 Bridgeman Street, St Kilda, Dunedin and he was employed as a motor mechanic.

On 8 June 1917 he volunteered again and this time was considered fit for service in NZ – class C2 (Permanently unfit for Active Service but fit for service in NZ) – in the Military Police. On 2 July 1917 when living at 13 Plunket Street, St Kilda he completed another Attestation for General Service form. This time there was no mention of if or how they utilized his services. His application for service state that he was a small man – just 5’ 4” tall, with a ruddy complexion, grey eyes and brown hair – and a Presbyterian.

By 1935 Bill and his family have moved to Christchurch and are living at 54 Cleveland Street. Bill died on 8 January 1958 of a heart attack while living at 12B Draper Street and he was buried at the Ruru Lawn Cemetery, block 23, plot 129.



Ellen died on 21 October 1973 in Christchurch and was buried at the Bromley Cemetery.