

# Annie Mabel Farmer

1897-1951

A Biography



*Annie 1951*

**Terence V. Alve**

August 2021

## ABSTRACT

Terry Alve's biography of his grandmother Annie Mabel Farmer (1897-1951) notes that she was the second youngest child of William and Elizabeth Farmer (nee Relf) both of whom immigrated to New Zealand from England with their families. They were dairy farmers.

Music was Annie's gift. She studied music to ATCL level, taught music and played regularly in Glen Oroua Presbyterian and Rongotea Anglican churches before her marriage in 1925.

Her marriage to T Richard Elcox<sup>1</sup> resulted in three children and was cut short when Richard was killed in a truck accident while transporting sheep in 1933. Annie was left with three young children, including Bill who suffered from the effects of cerebral palsy.

With family and rural community support, Annie ably continued the carrying business into WWII when staffing became an issue and it was sold in 1941. She moved with the children to a small farm in Kellows Line near Himatangi where she died aged 53 years, a month after her younger daughter Joyce's marriage in early 1951.

Annie's short life was characterised by: her enjoyment and gift of music, Christian faith, grief, business acumen and the joy of children. Her caring nature is expressed especially in her correspondence with her father in law Tom Elcox and his family in the UK after her husband's death and his wife's death.

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[A Card.]

MRS. T. R. **ELCOX**, A.T.C.L.  
Tuitton in  
PIANOFORTE, THEORY AND  
ACCOMPANYING.  
15 Liddell Street, Foxton.

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*A regular ad in the Manawatu Press 1925-1926*

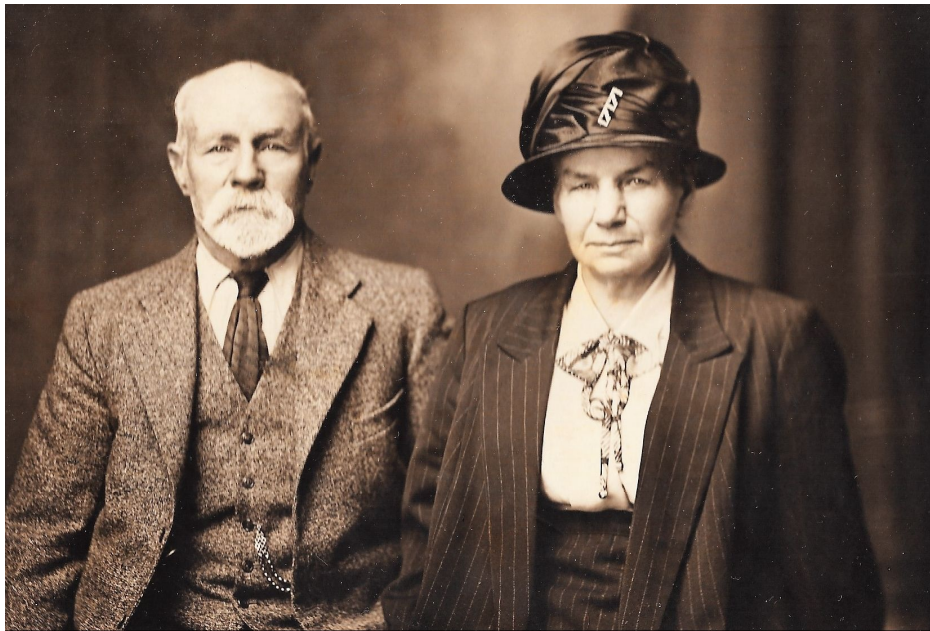
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<sup>1</sup> UK relatives refer to T.R. Elcox as Richard; Annie and it seems NZ family and friends called him Thomas or Tom. In this biography I will refer to him by his second name Richard, or T. Richard, to distinguish him from his Father Thomas Elcox.

## INTRODUCTION

Annie Mabel Farmer was born on 17 Nov 1897 and was the second to youngest and ninth child of William Farmer (1852-1942) and his wife Elizabeth Jane Relf (1856-1931). Both had immigrated with family from England - William from Staffordshire and Elizabeth from Kent. They married in 1881 and lived at Linton before moving to Glen Oroua.<sup>2</sup>

Her eldest sibling was William Farmer (1882-1951) and her youngest Nellie (1900-1977).



*William Farmer and Elizabeth Jane Relf - Annie's Parents*



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<sup>2</sup> Annie's ancestry is depicted as a Fan Chart in Appendix 1

## **YOUTH, SCHOOLING and MUSIC (1897-1926)**

The Farmer family lived at Glen Oroua on a dairy farm. Annie attended Glen Oroua School. In 1906, when she was 9 years old Annie played the organ at Glen Oroua Presbyterian Church. She went on to gain various musical qualifications. We surmise that she finished school about the end of 1912, if not earlier. Her study, playing and teaching of music seem to have dominated her life until her marriage in 1925. She lived at the family home at Glen Oroua and developed special bonds with her younger sister Nellie who married in 1920 and her next older sister Ida who was bridesmaid at her wedding. No doubt she shared in running the house, perhaps even the farm.

Annie learned music from Miss Rawlins who was still living in Palmerston North in the 1970's. Her music education resulted in the award of ATCL in 1923. In the process Annie, herself became a music teacher. Students whom she coached for music exams in 1925-26 include: Eryl Hope, Pearl Hope, Nancy Bond, Lindon Searancke, Nora Croad, John Gloyn, Marjorie Will, Norman A. Wheeler and Brian Walton. We understand that she taught music in various places around the district, including in the Rangiotu hall. In addition she regularly played music in church services at Glen Oroua, Rongotea and other places.

## **PRE MARRIAGE (1924-1925)**

Her husband-to-be, Thomas Richard Elcox, a farm hand, arrived in Wellington, N.Z. aboard the 'Remuera' from Southampton on 11 Sep 1924. He worked as a labourer at Motua near Foxton for Olive and Jack Tamplin for a period - Olive was Annie's sister. He may have gained an introduction through them to the Farmer family at Glen Oroua.

Richard spent time with the Machine Gun Corps fighting in France during WWI before serving in India on the North West Frontier, with the British Army (1916-1921). After a brief time back home in Areley Kings, Worcestershire with his family, he made a decision to continue his travels by coming to New Zealand. His niece, Myrtle Southall from Worcester understood that Richard and his father Thomas Elcox did not see eye to eye after Richard returned from lengthy war service.

Annie's daughter Joyce Alve commented that Richard lived in Foxton and worked for Fred Farmer (Annie's brother) who lived next door to her family home at Glen Oroua. He would come and sit at the back doorstep and talk to Annie there. It was a short courtship. The couple married eight months after his arrival in New Zealand.

## MARRIAGE (1925 -1933)

At the time of their marriage Richard is described in his Marriage Certificate<sup>3</sup> as a Labourer and Annie as a teacher of music.

### Page 1 - Marriage ELCOX-FARMER <sup>4</sup>

At Presbyterian Church Glen Oroua on May 20th 1925 by Rev. W.S. Tremain. Thomas Richard Elcox, Worcestershire, England to Annie Mable Farmer, Glen Oroua.

### Page 5 - ELCOX FARMER

A wedding which caused considerable local interest was celebrated on May 20th at Glen Oroua Presbyterian Church by Rev. W.S. Tramin of Rongotea. The contracting parties being Annie Mable daughter of Mr & Mrs W. Farmer of Glen Oroua and Thomas Richard only son of Mr & Mrs T. Elcox, Areley Kings, Worcestershire, England.

The Church had been tastefully decorated by friends of the bride and the music was played by Miss Sanson. The bride who was given away by her father was attired in a fawn satin marocain frock with shoes and stockings to match, and a smart black hat.

She carried a sheaf of chrysanthemums and maiden-hair fern. The bridesmaid, Miss Ida Farmer, wore a grey marocain frock and hat and carried a bouquet of autumn shades. Both the bouquets were the gifts of Mrs H.J. Lancaster of Glen Oroua. The bridegroom was supported by Mr. H. (Harry) Morgan of Foxton as best man. A reception was afterwards held in the local hall when the usual toasts were honoured, about 100 guests being present. Numerous telegrams were received from absent friends. The three-tiered wedding cake which was much admired, was made and presented by Mrs F. Farmer, sister-in-law of the bride. Later the happy couple left for a brief motor tour. Mr & Mrs Elcox were the recipients of many beautiful and valuable presents (including several cheques). One gift being a handsome tea set and travelling rug to the bride from the members of Glen Oroua Anglican Church in recognition of her services as organist for a number of years.

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<sup>3</sup> A copy of their Marriage Certificate is in Appendix II

<sup>4</sup> Manawatu Evening Standard June 25 1925



*Elcox=Farmer Wedding L-R: H. Morgan, T. Richard Elcox, Annie Farmer and Ida Farmer*

After their marriage Annie and Richard spent time living in Foxton (15 Liddell Street) where Joan was born, and possibly in Marton. Annie continued with her music - tuition and playing organ and piano in various settings. Thomas and Annie had three children:

The friends of Mrs. T. R. Elcox will be pleased to learn that she has much improved after being severely ill in the Palmerston North Hospital.

Joan Edith (b. 22 June, 1926), William Thomas (9 October, 1927) and Joyce Mildred (19 November, 1929).

*A newspaper notice in Nov 1929 has Annie recovering from serious illness - perhaps relating to Joyce's birth - perhaps gestational diabetes?*

The 1928 Manawatu Electoral Roll has Annie as Married and Richard as a Carrier.

**B**ALED hay for sale, in any quantity, delivered. Apply J. R. Elcox, carrier, Rongotea (phone 14).

Richard developed an agricultural contracting and carrying business at Rongotea.

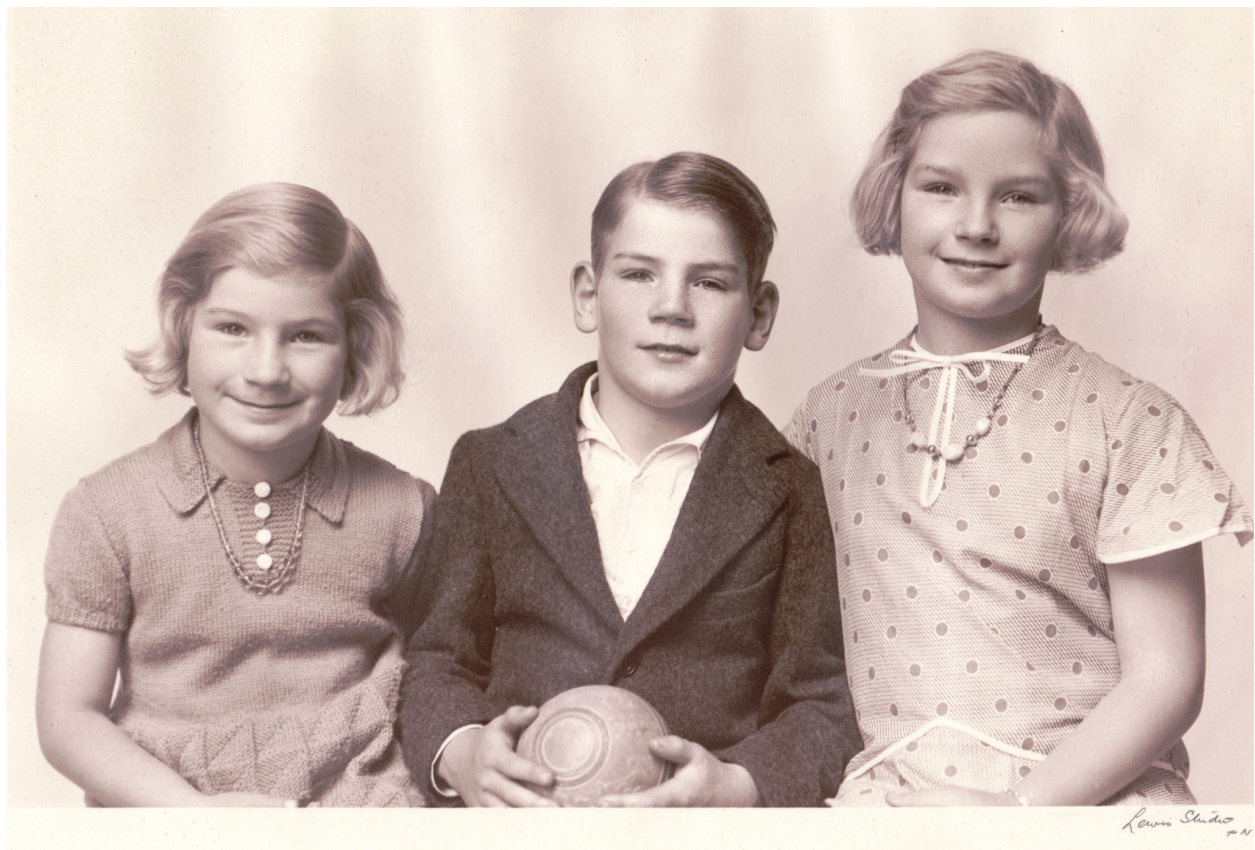
*This 1930 advertisement has 'J' instead of 'T'*

By all accounts their carrying business was going well in the 1930's. In her book "Campbelltown Rongotea" Vera Hunt comments,<sup>5</sup>

"They lived on Rongotea Road between the township and the cemetery... Thomas (Richard) entered into the business of carrier and contractor having a shed for his truck in Mersey Street, being situated on the second section north-east of the Square. His main line of cartage was livestock, ie. bobby calves, sheep and pigs to the Borthwicks Freezing Works, with other local jobs to and from sales..."

Annie's mother Elizabeth died in Jul 1931 at Glen Oroua aged 74. A great sadness for Annie, as she indicates in one of her letters to England after Richard's death.<sup>6</sup>

Joyce, the youngest of Annie's and Richard's children, was a little over three when her father was killed in a truck accident not too far from their home in Rongotea on 4 Feb 1933.



*Joyce, William and Joan Elcox c.1933 after their father's death.*

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<sup>5</sup>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/your-manawatu/feilding-herald/6145144/The-good-news-is-now-out>

<sup>6</sup> Appendix 4 - page 15 "My two best loved ones."

## TRAGEDY (Feb 1933)

### Lorry Goes Over a Bank

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#### ACCIDENT NEAR RONGOTEA

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DOMINION SPECIAL SERVICE <sup>7</sup>

**Palmerston North, Feb. 5.**

“ Fatal injuries were received by Mr. Thomas R. Elcox, carrier, aged 35, when his lorry went over a bank on Leen's Road, Rongotea, yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Elcox, left Rongotea yesterday morning for Feilding to pick up a load of sheep, and it was on the return trip that the accident happened. On Leen's Line, about 1½ miles from Rongotea, the lorry went over a bank, about 3ft. 6in. deep, on the right-hand side of the road, completely turning over and pinning the driver beneath. In the overturning of the lorry the sheep were liberated.

The body was brought into Palmerston North by the Free Ambulance. Mr. Elcox, who was about 35 years of age, came out from England ten years ago and was married in Rongotea.”

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## AFTERMATH (1933-1951)

Following her mother's recent death and son Bill's birth with cerebral palsy, Richard's tragic death must have taken a great toll on Annie. An inquest into Richard's death was completed promptly and made no determination other than accidental death, implying that tiredness may have been a partial cause.<sup>8</sup>

Grief upon grief was added when Richard's mother Edith Elcox (née Martin) died a little over two months after Richard died, back in Worcestershire, UK. It seems that the news of his death may have played a part in her death.

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<sup>7</sup> Dominion Newspaper 7 Feb. 1933 p.9

<sup>8</sup> A report of the Inquest into Ricard's death is in Appendix III



Although Annie had not met her in-laws, she made it her business to offer comfort to Richard's father Thomas Elcox. We have copies of letters she wrote to Thomas Elcox.<sup>9</sup> Such caring, while an expression of her grief, perhaps was also a product of Annie's faith. The three letters she wrote to Richard's family in the UK well express the depth of her loss as well as her identification with her overseas 'in-laws'.

Her letters mention Richard's friend Bert Taylor, a close neighbour and friend from Areley Kings who came to New Zealand around the same time and married his English bride Rose. Bert worked on building the Wellington Central Railway Station and contracted pneumonia, dying on 3 July 1937 just after the Station opened in June 1937. Bert had been a pallbearer at Richard's funeral and dear friend to Richard and Annie.

It seems that Annie Elcox, Bert's wife Rose Taylor and Mrs Healey who lived at Bainesse, also a widow, were united by their grief and supportive of one another. Joyce and her family had regular contact with them through the 1950's and into the 1960's. Even today Margaret Weir (née Alve) Annie's granddaughter keeps in touch with Rose's descendants.

As a widow, Annie continued to operate the carrying business into WWII assisted by Stan Port who was manager with Frank Saxton assisting. The business continued to be styled T.R. Elcox & Coy. for a while, although we note that in July 1937 a newspaper notice about bobby calf collection had A.M. Elcox as the carrier. Annie had a Model A Ford car at Rongotea. A weekly trip was made to Palmerston North where she sold eggs to Lambertons in Cuba Street. She had chooks and a white rooster.

Bad debtors became an issue for the carrying business, despite strong support from the local community for Annie to keep the carrying and agricultural business running.

Stanley William Port, lorry driver, appeal by Mrs A. M. Elcox.—Decision reserved. Mr A. M. Ongley appeared for appellant.

When Stan Port was called up to go to the war, Annie appealed on the grounds of public interest and undue hardship at a hearing of the Territorial Service Manpower Committee in Palmerston North on 11 Dec 1940. After the decision was reserved it was then lost and, subsequently, Annie sold the carrying business to Norman Terry in 1941. The business was later operated by Mr Jamieson and then D.B. Rowe.

<sup>9</sup> Three of Annie's letters to her UK in-laws are transcribed in Appendices IV - VI. These letters offer deep insights into Annie's character, her caring nature and her grief response.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

TO

RONGOTEA RESIDENTS.

I WISH to notify the public that I have disposed of the CARRYING BUSINESS known as A. M. **ELCOX**, CARRIERS, to Mr N. Terry. In thanking the general public for their support I trust that my successor will be accorded the same.

(MRS) A. M. **ELCOX**.

I, **NORMAN TERRY**, wish to notify the public that I have purchased the above carrying business at Rongotea, and by maintaining a PROMPT and REGULAR SERVICE for GENERAL CARRYING, trust that I will merit your support.

**N. TERRY.**

In 1941 Annie bought a 50 acre farmlet on the western corner of Kellows Line and the PN-Himatangi Highway. This farmlet gave Bill, who was partially disabled and on an invalid's pension, opportunities to cut lupin, fence and do general farm work. There they machine-milked 20 Jersey cows, kept a large number of chooks and ran pigs. They separated the milk and took the cream to the Kairanga Dairy Company at Longburn.

Annie's father William Farmer died in Feb 1942; another grief on top of all those that Annie had known. Then on 14 Apr 1944 Annie's dear sister Ida Scott (nee Farmer) died.

After finishing their schooling at Bainesse School, Joan and Joyce both spent time working at the Himatangi Store. Joan became a relieving manager for Adams Bruce in Palmerston North. Joyce trained at the McMillan School of Hairdressing in Palmerston North before working from home as a hairdresser.

Joyce got to know Val Alve, who lived with his parents on the farm he grew up on at Rangitane about 10km away. They met at a Young Farmers' Club card evening at Bainesse Hall in Aug 1947. They were introduced by Joe Healey who lived with his mum and brothers nearby at Bainesse. They courted for over three years before marriage.



*Joyce with brother Bill Elcox on her wedding day 3 Feb 1951*

Annie died on 4 Mar 1951 aged 53, a month after Joyce's wedding following a heart attack, pneumonia and a week in hospital. She had poor health previously with rheumatic fever, sugar diabetes and breast cancer. Annie was laid to rest beside her husband Richard Elcox at the Rongotea Cemetery, adjacent to the graves of her parents William and Elizabeth farmer.

Annie's life was an incredibly full one. It is a tribute to her that she was able to share her music talents liberally with her community and the church, including tutoring several people in music theory and playing socially. After actively supporting their agricultural contracting and carrying business after her husband's death, she proceeded to oversee it from 1933-1941. The ways in which she actively promoted and managed her growing family, plus music and contracting businesses, speaks of a woman who, for over twenty five, years knew her mind and refused to be a shirker (to note Richard's earlier concern)<sup>10</sup> - she honoured herself, her husband and family in all her endeavours.

Then, she spent her last ten years 1941-1951 securing a future for her son William and her daughters Joan and Joyce through establishing a farm at Bainesse. One senses that Annie rested easy at the marriage of her youngest, Joyce, in 1951. It was now time for her to take her rest and go to be with the Lord her God. The One to whom she had devoted so much of her life through her music as she led God's people in Church praise and worship.

As we have noted, her life was characterised by several griefs beginning with son William's birth with cerebral palsy in 1926; her mother's passing in 1931; husband Richard's fatal accident, and his mother Edith's death soon after, in 1933; friend Bert Taylor's death in Wellington 1937; Richard's sister Emma's UK death in 1938; having to sell the carrying business in 1941 during WWII, due to manpower shortage; her father's death in 1942 and her sister Ida's early passing in 1944.

While we her family, two generations on, no longer grieve her passing we do greatly honour her memory and give thanks that we have in Annie a relative who lived well and faithfully.

## POST ANNIE (1951-1956)

*Joan married Merle Coward in October 1956 at the Rangitane Alve Homestead where Joyce lived. By that time Joyce was mother to three children: Terence, Margaret and Gordon who was a young baby. This wedding is one of the author's<sup>11</sup> earliest memories! By this time Joyce and her husband Val Alve had taken Bill, her brother, into their growing family and he was well employed child minding, helping housekeep and managing the extensive flower and vegetable gardens and orchard and fowl house at Rangitane.*



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<sup>10</sup> See Appendix VI

<sup>11</sup> Author Terry Alve remembers sitting at a small table during Joan's and Merle's wedding reception with his sister Margaret and Merle's brother's children - children will be seen but not heard was the clear message to us little ones that day!



***1st cousins meet at last: Myrtle Marsden (née Southall) (Left) with Joyce Alve (nee Elcox) - Easter 1996 in Palmerston North. Myrtle's mother, Ethel Southall, was T. Richard Elcox's sister.***

## POSTSCRIPT

Annie is survived today by three of her four grandchildren; seven grandchildren; and thirteen great grandchildren.

This biography of Annie Mabel Elcox is a work in progress. While there are few people alive now who knew Annie personally, there will be stories, anecdotes and facts to be gleaned that can fill out this picture of an intelligent, pioneering, hard working, creative and strong woman of faith, even a perfectionist.

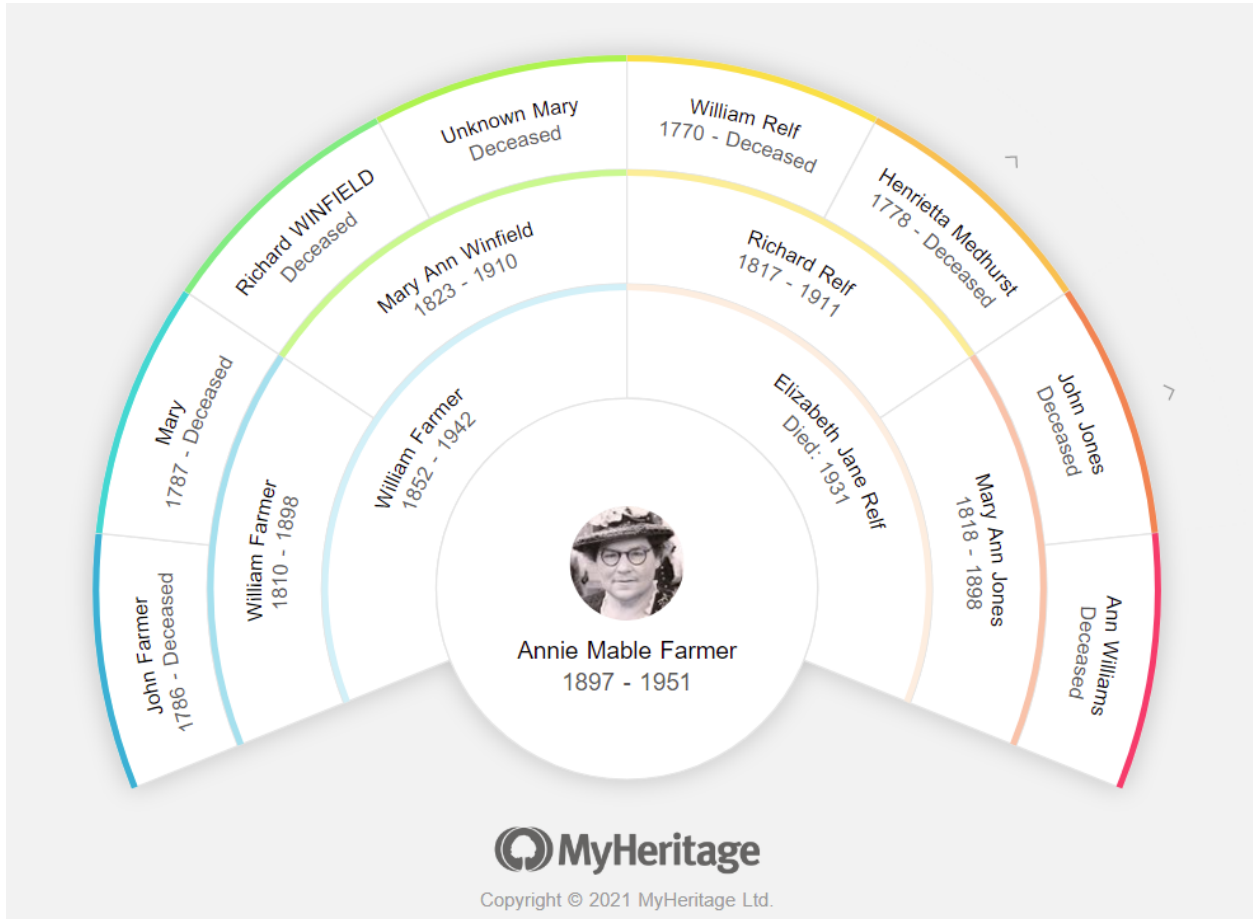
If you would like to suggest corrections or additional information please contact:

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# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX I. ANNIE MABEL FARMER ANCESTRY



APPENDIX II. MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

R.G. 117

Nº 11382

NEW ZEALAND

**CERTIFIED COPY OF ENTRY OF MARRIAGE**  
in the Registrar-General's Office

Number	69	
When married	May 20th 1925	
Where married	Presbyterian Church Glen Oroua	
Name and surname	<b>Bridegroom</b>	<b>Bride</b>
	Thomas Richard Elcox	Annie Mabel Farmer
Age	25	27
Profession or occupation	Labourer	Teacher of music
Conjugal status (bachelor, spinster, widower, widow, or divorced)	Bachelor	Spinster
Birthplace	Areley Kings Stourport Worcestershire England	Palmerston North
Usual residence (in full)	Foxton	Glen Oroua

Certified to be a true copy of the above particulars included in a marriage entry in the records of the Registrar-General's Office.

Given under the seal of the Registrar-General at Wellington, this

25th day of June 19 74



The fee for this certificate is \$1

**CAUTION**—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this certificate, or (2) uses it as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution under the Crimes Act 1961.

APPENDIX III. INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF T.  
RICHARD ELCOX

## Inquest on Death of Motor Lorry Driver

### VEHICLE OVERTURNS ON LEEN'S LINE.

Before the Coroner (Mr A. J. Graham) in the Palmerston North Magistrate's Court yesterday, an inquest was held to determine the circumstances surrounding the death of Thomas Richard Elcox, carrier, of Rongotea, who was killed on February 5 by the overturning of the motor lorry he was driving along Leen's line, Rongotea.

Formal evidence of identification was given by Constable Blaxland, of Rongotea. He said that he had proceeded to the scene of the accident to find that the lorry had overturned on the side of the road. Deceased had been found pinned down by the cab of the vehicle. With help the machine had been raised, but deceased had been found dead before this had been completed. Witness added that marks on the highway indicated that the lorry had zig-zagged twice across the road after emerging from a cutting. Deceased had been a married man, 34 years of age, and had resided at Rongotea.

On the afternoon of February 5, a man with a lorry had called at her house requesting something to eat, stated Mrs Josephine Blake. Food had been given and, after eating it, the caller had gone to sleep for an hour

and a-half. He had appeared to be very tired and had remarked that he had been up all night.

Victor James Coulter, farm hand of Kairanga, said that he had been driving a horse and cart along Leen's line on the date of the tragedy, deceased passing him travelling in the same direction. Subsequently, witness had noticed the rams—carried on the lorry—about the road and then saw the overturned lorry. He had been unable to lift the lorry and had gone for assistance.

George Saxton, motor lorry driver, testified that he had been in the employ of deceased for three years, last seeing Elcox alive at 10 a.m. on the day prior to the accident. Witness had taken the lorry to Himatangi on that day. When in high gear the gear lever of the machine was apt to jump out of position, but deceased had been aware of this defect. It was quite possible that deceased had fallen asleep while driving.

The Coroner returned a verdict that deceased had been accidentally killed by the overturning of a lorry, it being pointed out that there was insufficient evidence to determine what had actually caused the accident.

#### APPENDIX IV. LETTER 1 TO RICHARD'S FAMILY IN THE UK

Box 3, Rongotea  
February 8th 1933

My Dear Folk

It is with a feeling of deepest regret that I have to write & tell you of our great loss. Poor Dear Tom was taken from us on Sunday night Feb 5th. Just about 3 miles from home his lorry overturned with a load of sheep, down a bank about three feet deep. Not one of the sheep was injured but only he had to be taken. He had been sent for on the Saturday evening to go to a place some 20 miles away and get part of a load and on his way home pick up the remainder, but when he arrived at the last place it was quite dark and the sheep had got out. So he was asked to wait until morning so that is why he had his lorry out on the Sunday. Otherwise he strongly objected to taking his lorries out on Sundays.

He was buried on Tuesday in the cemetery close by where the accident happened. Such a number attended - about 50 cars - but he was thought the world of by everyone. The poor we kiddies don't no why he won't come home. He thought the children were wonderful and was the best of fathers and was everything to me. We had all been to town together on the Saturday and he took the children for a ride from the back gate round to the front as he left on his last journey. I have all the cuttings out of the paper but feel I can't send them this time. I would give anything to be able to comfort you in the loss of a dear son.

Bert Taylor came up from Wellington about 100 miles and was one of the bearers. My sister took a photo of his grave with all the flowers on next day and he lies with his head almost touching where my mother's head lies. My two best loved ones.

I am still going to continue with his work. We have a fine lad who has been with us for 4 years. Tom only said a few days ago that he could not have found a better lad if he had tried. Since the accident this boy's mother told me Rodger just feels that the children and I are his special responsibility. He is only about 20 & few lads his age would take things so seriously. Tom was having a garage built for himself & it should have been finished this week. He was working up a splendid business and nothing seemed to be a bother whether great or small.

I hope you will not mind me not sending a cable but I think they, like telegrams, are too blunt in breaking any news. Well dear folk I cannot write anymore just now but in a few days I shall again write & send cuttings from the paper & photos of the grave and also of the children. Just now I pray God will strengthen & comfort you as he is doing for me.



With my best love to you all & also from the children.

Your loving daughter  
Annie

**Sent to:** Mr. T Elcox, Areley Kings, Stourport, Worcestershire, England. Postmarked: 13th Feb 33

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#### APPENDIX V. LETTER 2 TO RICHARD'S FAMILY IN THE UK

Box 3, Rongotea  
Sunday Mar 12th (1933)

My own Dear People

I have had a letter from Bert Taylor saying he had written to you but I hope my letter arrived first as I would not like you to think I was shirking my duty in letting you know of our great loss. Tommy came to Rongotea as a stranger less than five years ago but his was one of Rongotea's largest funerals I believe over 50 cars attended showing clearly how well loved and respected he was. It seems so hard he was lent for such a short time. I am sending all the cuttings out of the papers, also a small photo of Tom's grave. I have not the best one just yet but will forward one when I can get to Palmerston to get some more printed off. I'm also sending snaps of the children Bert Taylor took all the photos for me. The sun was shining in the children's faces.

I'm still carrying on but there is a great responsibility with the business and the children as well. I must send you one of Tommy's bill heads to let you know within a little the extent of his business. There are two lorries and two tractors and he was having his own garage built when the accident occurred. That is now finished. I have one of his Almanacks to send you and a table centre. One thing I forgot to mention was that the children and I go along with flowers to the cemetery each Sunday - for I hope the kiddies will never forget their daddy who loved them so dearly - and from there we pass by where the accident happened as we go down to my old home. Dad looks for us each Sunday.

You will notice in the inquest that a woman was called. I went down and thanked her for

giving Tommy a meal. She was a complete stranger to us both and was about the last person to see him alive. Now my ideas I must close for this time but I do wish I could see you and tell you all instead of trying to write. It is dreadfully hard to put it on paper and I feel I could soften things for you a little if only I could talk to you. Bert was such a comfort at the time but it is so lonely now. I do hope you are all keeping well and hope Emmie is getting better. Tommy received his tin of tobacco and thank you so much for the other things too they were lovely.

Best love to all from the children and myself.

Yours affectionately Annie.

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#### APPENDIX VI. LETTER 3 TO RICHARD'S FAMILY IN THE UK

Box 3, Rongotea  
June 13<sup>th</sup> (1933)

My Dear Ethel and All

I received your letter tonight and was shocked at the loss of your dear mother although I had expected it to come. You have no idea how I longed for a letter from her after losing dear Old Tom. It is hard to write this tonight since I lost my own mother. I have looked on yours as my own. Tell your dad Tom was often going to write to him but somehow it always seemed to be put off as he was tired at night but he often spoke of him and you others but I'm just afraid mum came first.

We take flowers along for Tom's grave every Sunday as I'm hoping the children, although they are young, will never forget him - he worshipped his kiddies and they thought the world of him and were great pals. No my dear there are no more children on the way. Don't change the initials in my address - still keep Tommy's letters in, for we are carrying on the business in his name. Somehow if we do this I feel Tom is still with us. It's just 18 weeks today that he was buried although it seems about as many years. I had the enlargement of him taken off the wedding photo and have it hanging in the kitchen. I also had some more postcard size so if I can find an envelope postcard size I shall send one on. The children are really far too stern in that snap but my sister is to take them

again so whenever she does I will send them on. I don't think I have sent the best photo of Tom's grave so shall send that.

The business seems to be going on not so badly although the farmers seem to be short of money and forget to pay. If we can get over this winter we should be quite alright. Tom had a lot of friends and there were quite a number who told me if I would keep on I would have all their support and so much as they and as much as they could from other people for me. So I thought if they were going to do that it was up to me to do my share. Whenever I feel like giving up I always remember what Tom always said, never let your mother think she'd bred a shirker. You have no idea how that helped me for I should hate to let him think he'd married one. I do believe they who have gone before are watching over us while we are left behind.

I'm so sorry Em is still not home. Mother told me of her before poor dear she has had her share of trouble. Yes I have the photo of Myrtle - she is a lovely child. Sorry I did not thank you for it before but it arrived only a few days before the accident. Mother did not see the photo of the kids, did she Ethel? You know she always asked me for one but I have never had one taken before. Please Ethel thank Mr Cresswell for the letter he sent. Tom often spoke of Bob and Lizzie so of course I knew who had written.

The children are all quite well - Joan will be seven Thursday of next week she is in primmer 4 so is not doing so badly. We have a wireless set and so she is having her birthday called over the air tonight. She listened to the broadcast from England of the opening of the World Economic conference of the speech given by King George and Mr Ramsay MacDonald. I have many times heard Big Ben in your morning and our bedtime. I should dearly love to be near you and have a good talk, writing is a very poor substitute. I shall write tonight to Bert Taylor (he is such a good chum) also to Nelly Carter. Now my dear I must close but you have my very deepest sympathy and send love to all from the kiddies and myself.

Your loving sister  
XXXXXX XXXXXXXX

X special for dad

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APPENDIX VII. T RICHARD ELCOX DEATH CERTIFICATE

R.G. 112 NEW ZEALAND N<sup>o</sup> 20398

**Certified Copy of Entry of Death in the Registrar-General's Office**

Place of Registration: PALMERSTON NORTH

1. When died	5th February 1933
2. Where died	Leen's Line Rongotea
3. Usual place of residence	Rongotea
<b>Description of Deceased</b>	
4. Name and surname	Thomas Richard Elcox
5. Profession or occupation	Carrier and Contractor
6. Sex and age	M. 34
<b>Causes of Death</b>	
7. Causes of death and intervals between onset and death	Verdict of Coroner Accidentally killed through overturning of motor lorry
8. Medical attendant by whom certified and date last seen alive	
<b>Parents</b>	
9. Name and surname of father	Thomas Elcox
10. Name and surname of mother	Edith Elcox
11. Maiden surname of mother	-
12. Profession or occupation of father	Farmer
<b>Burial</b>	
13. When and where buried	7th February 1933 Rongotea
<b>Where Born</b>	
14. Where born and how long in New Zealand	Stourport, England 9 years
<b>If Deceased was Married</b>	
15. Where married	Glen Oroua
16. At what age married	26 of 25 on age cert.
17. To whom married	Annie Mabel Farmer
18. Age of widow	35
19. Ages and sex of living issue	M. 5 <span style="float: right;">F. 6,3</span>


Certified to be a true copy of the above particulars included in an entry of death in the records of the Registrar-General's office.

Given under the seal of the Registrar-General at Wellington,

the 24th day of June 1974

The fee for this certificate is  
**\$1**

**CAUTION**—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this certificate, or (2) uses it as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution under the Crimes Act 1961.



38263F—200 hrs./12/73 W