

ANNIE MABEL ELCOX

1897-1951

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ANNIE MABEL ELCOX (nee FARMER)

b. 1897

d. 1951

m. 20 May 1925 = Thomas Richard Elcox

Born the second youngest of the several children to William and Elizabeth (nee Relf) Farmer, of Glen Oroua on 17 November, 1897.

Attended Glen Oroua School.

Learned music from Miss Rawlins who was still living in Palmerston North in late 1970's.

Played organ at Presbyterian Church, Glen Oroua at age nine.

Gained various musical qualifications (certificates for which I have), culminating in ATCL in July 1923.

Taught music in Rangiotu Hall and other places around district.

Courted Thomas Elcox on the backdoor step of the Farmer homestead at Glen Oroua.

Thomas worked for her brother Fred Farmer and had earlier worked at Motua for sister Olly & Jack Tamplin.

After they married, they went to live at Foxton where Joan was born in 1926.

The Manawatu Evening Standard reported their wedding in detail - see Appendix.

It is possible they lived at Marton for a while before Thomas established a truck carrying business at Rongotea.

Children Bill (1927) and Joyce (1929) completed the family.

Thomas was killed in a truck accident on Leens Line near Rongotea on 5 February 1933.

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.

Annie continued the carrying business until shortly after the outbreak of WW II when men drivers were drafted for the war, and bad debtors forced its sale.

Norm Terry bought the business which later was operated by Mr Jamieson and then D.B. Rowe.

Annie bought a 50 acre farm on the corner of Kellows Line and The P.N.- Himitangi Highway for Bill's sake - he was partially crippled. Although he was receiving an invalid's pension he was

able to fence, cut lupin and contribute significantly to running the farm. There they machine-milked 20 Jersey cows, kept a large number of chooks and ran pigs. The milk was separated and the cream taken to the Kairanga Dairy Co. at Longburn.

Joyce recalls that she was 11 (1941) when they shifted to the farm and she returned home on her first morning to Bainesse School because she couldn't find it! She had previously attended Rongotea School to Std.5.

Both girls worked at the Himitangi Store after finishing school.

Joan went on to be relieving manageress at Adams Bruce Ltd. (cake and confectionery manufacturers and retailers) in Palmerston North, while Joyce went on to Hairdressing - training in P.N. at the MacMillan School of hairdressing before working from home.

Joyce met Val Alve in August 1947 and they were married 3 February, 1951.

Annie died a month later on 4 March, 1951 at the age of 53, after a heart attack, pneumonia and a week in hospital. She had been a long term diabetic and regularly had to inject herself with insulin. Earlier health problems had included 3 bouts of Rheumatic fever.

She is buried in the same plot at the Rongotea cemetery where Thomas had been buried 18 years earlier.

After her death, Bill moved to live with Joyce and Val remaining with them until his admission to the Ryder Cheshire Home in Palmerston North about 1990.

Joan married Merle Coward in 1956 and together they ran a dairy then guest homes and boarding houses in Palmerston North, Rotorua and Feilding where they retired. Merle died in 1975 and Joan in 1990 after marrying Bert Page in 1985. They are buried in the Kelvin Grove cemetery, Palmerston North.

Joyce and Val had four children. After their marriage Val worked as a farm labourer and sharemilker before returning to his family farm in 1956. He later bought it before selling it in 1970 and moving to live in Palmerston North where he worked as a storeman until his retirement in 1986. After moving to Palmerston North, Joyce worked as a cook part-time for a period.

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	
	Bridegroom	Bride
Name and surname	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.

Marriage.

ELCOX-FARMER.

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

Wedding

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ELCOX-FARMER.

A wedding which caused considerable local interest was celebrated on May 20th at Glen oroua Presbyterian Church by Rev. W.S. Tremain 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 bridal music was played by Miss. Sanson. The Bride who was given away by her Fater was attired in a fawn satin marocain frock with shoes and stockings to match, and a smart black hat. She carried a sheaf if chrysanthieaums and maiden hair fern. The bridemaids, Miss Ida Farmer, sister of the bride 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 Glen Oroua. The bridegroom was supported by Mr. H. 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 recieved from absent friends. The threetiered wedding cake which was much admired, was made and presented by Mrs. F. Farmer, sister-inlaw of the bride. later the happy couple left for a brief motor tour. Mr.& Mrs. Elcox were the recipients of many brautiful and valuable presents (including several cheques). One gift, 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.

Researched by Maree & Ivan

CARRIER KILLED

From: "The Dominion" (7 Feb. 1933 p. 9)

Lorry Goes Over a Bank

ACCIDENT NEAR RONGOTEA

DOMINION SPECIAL SERVICE.

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.

Box 3.

Kingolia.

Feb 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 were injured but just he had to be taken. He had been sent for on the Saturday evening to go to a place some 20 miles away & get part of a load & on his way home pick up the remainder, but when he arrived at the last place it was quite dark & 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 horses 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 wee kiddies don't know why he won't come home. He thought the children were wonderful & was the best of fathers & was everything to me. We had all been to town together on the Saturday & he took the children for a ride from the back gate around 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 & was one of the bearers. My sister took a photo of his grave with all the flowers on next day & 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 he could not
have found a better lad if he had tried
since the accident. This boy's mother
told me Rodger just seems to feel that
the children & I are his special responsibility.
He is only about 20 & few lads of 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 & nothing seemed to be a trouble
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 any
more just now but in a few days

I shall again write & send cuttings
from the paper & photos of the
grave & 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.



Mr. J. Cleese.
Akeley Kings
Stourport
Worcestershire
England.

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 5 years ago but his was one of Rongotea's largest funerals. I believe over 50 cars attended showing clearly how well loved & respected he was. It seems so hard he was lost 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 & the children as well. I must send you one of Tommy's bill leads to let you know within a little the extent of his business. There are two lorries & two tractors & he was having his own garage built when the accident occurred. That is now finished. I have one of his Almanacs to send you & a table centre. One thing I forgot to mention was that the children & 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: & 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 a woman was called. I went down & thanked her for giving Tommy a meal. She was a complete stranger to us both & was about the last person to see him alive. How my dears I must close for this time but I do wish I could see you & tell you all instead of trying to write. It is dreadfully hard to put it on paper & I feel I could soften things for you a little if only I could talk to you. Best was such a comfort at the time but it is so lonely now. I do hope you are all keeping well & hope Emmie is getting better. Tommy received his tin of tobacco & thankyou so much for the other things too they were lovely.

Best love to you all from the children
& myself. Your affectionately Annie.

Box 3.
Rongoleia
June 13th
1933

My Dear Ethel & All,

I received your letter to-
night & was shocked at the loss of
your dear mother although I half
expected it to come. You have no idea
how I longed for a letter from her
after loosing 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 him
but somehow it always seemed to be
put off, as he was tired at night
but he often spoke of him & you
others but I'm just afraid them

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 & they
thought the world of him & 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 & have it
hanging in the kitchen. I also had

some done postcard size as 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 & forget to pay. If we can get over this winter we should be quite alright. Tom had a lot of friends & there were quite a number who told me if I would keep on, I would have all their support, & as much as they

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've no idea how that helps 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 Ethel 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 kiddies did she Ethel? You know she always asked me for one but I had never had them taken before.

Please Ethel thank Mr Creswell for the letter he sent. Tom often spoke of Bob & Lizzie so of course I knew who had written.

The children are all quite well Joan will be 4 Thursday of next week. She is in primmer 4 so is not doing so badly. We have a wireless set & 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 & Mr Ramsay McDonald. I have
 many times heard Big Ben strike
 nine o'clock. Your morning & our
 bed time. I should dearly love
 to be near you & 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
 Nellie Carter. Now my dear I must
 close but you have my very deepest
 sympathy & fondest love to you all
 from the kiddiest myself.

your loving sister
 Annie XXXXX

X Special for Dad.

XXXXXXX

In Loving Memory OF

THOMAS RICHARD
ELCOX

1899 — 1933

AND

ANNIE MABEL ELCOX

1897 — 1951

LOVED PARENTS OF
JOAN, WILLIAM & JOYCE.