

Charles Towsey of Henley upon Thames in the County of Wexford Gentleman

Mary Harriet Sparks

H. B. Moorhouse

# TOWSEY TALES

**NAME:** Edward ff Francis Ward (senior)

**BIRTH DETAILS:** 21 June 1830, Royle House, Burnley, Lanc.

**DEATH DETAILS:** 28 May 1895 Honolulu

**CHART REF:** Towsey Chart B5

**MARRIAGE DETAILS:** 15 June 1854 Burnley, Lanc.

**SPOUSE:** Elizabeth (Lizzie) Mackay

In June 1854, Jessy Towsey's sister, Elizabeth Mackay married a solicitor, Edward ff Francis Ward, at Burnley in Lancashire. 'ff Francis' is a Celtic spelling of the name.

Edward seems to have come from a prominent north of England family, some of whom, like Edward, were lawyers. At a young age, Edward was a Lieutenant in the 5th Royal Lancashire Militia. This would have been a part-time position.

A couple of months after Edward Ward's marriage, Lizzie's father, Donald Mackay, died in Drumnadrochit and two years later, we find that many of the Mackay family have

accompanied Lizzie and Edward Ward to Melbourne, Australia.

The great attraction to the huge numbers of British migrants to Melbourne at that time, were the recent discoveries of gold in several locations to the north of the new southern town in what was still a part of the colony of New South Wales but, at a later date, became a separate colony: Victoria.

We see mentions of several of Lizzie Ward's brothers digging at different sites around the colony, but for Edward, there would be easier pickings through

dealing with the legal disputes and routine registrations etcetera, at the main centre of mining activity: Sandhurst, which was later renamed Bendigo, to the north west of Melbourne.

Edward ff Ward was in fact, the first lawyer in Bendigo.

Some years ago, I saw a diary that Edward ff Francis Ward had written in 1856, whilst living in Melbourne and then Bendigo, in which there were many references to the Mackay family.

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, he noted that *Mrs. Mackay* (Amelia; Lizzie's mother), had returned from Geelong, not having found her son, *Frank*, (Francis Tolmie Mackay, born 1828).

January 26<sup>th</sup>, *Mrs. Mackay* received a letter from *Amelia* (her daughter Amelia, born 1833, married to Charles Morine, living in Inverness).



Melbourne 1857

February 12<sup>th</sup>: *Lachlan* (Lizzie's brother, born 1831), left this afternoon for his brother Frank's place, via Geelong, with a letter from me to William Mackay (possibly Jessy's uncle or cousin).

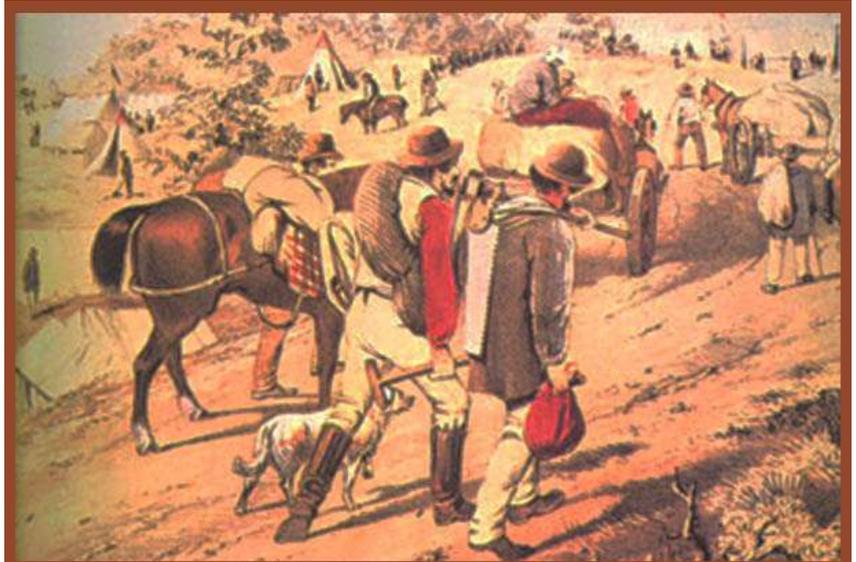
February 13<sup>th</sup>: Posted a letter to Walter Mackay, Ovens. (Lizzie's brother Walter Williamson Mackay, born 1827. Ovens was a small settlement in north eastern Victoria).

February 15<sup>th</sup>: Received a letter and newspapers from Walter Mackay, 3 Mile Creek, Ovens. His hole 160 feet deep has turned out a shizer. Wrote a letter to William Mackay, addressed Clunes Diggings.

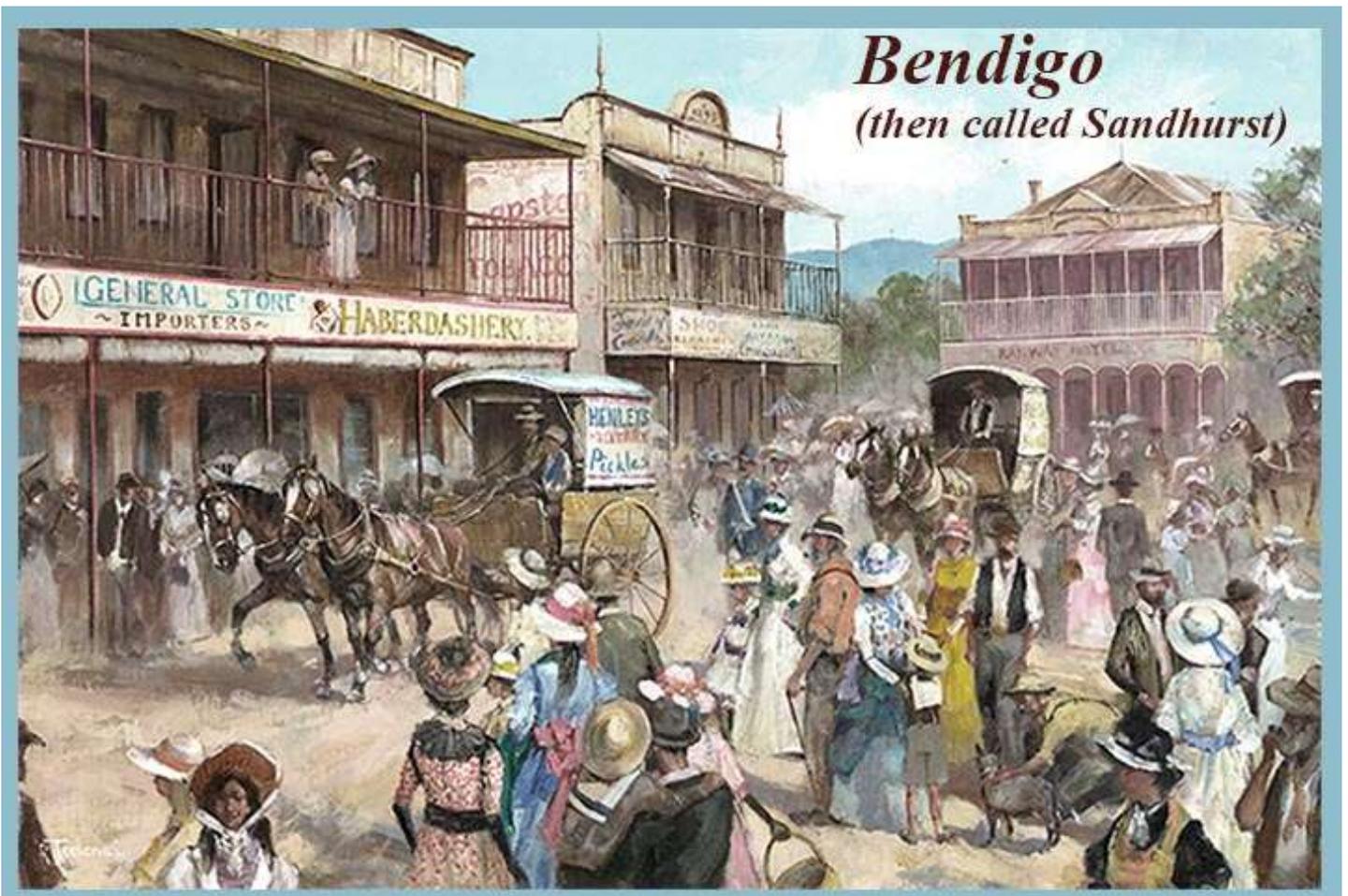
February 23<sup>rd</sup>: Sent a letter written by Lizzie to Mrs. William Mackay, c/- Dr. Bois esq, St. Croix, West Indies.

March 5<sup>th</sup>: Some Inverness friends Mrs. French and Mrs. Stuart, called on Mrs. Mackay. The former is a most genteel lady.

March 10<sup>th</sup>: Received a letter from Walter Mackay, Beechworth, reporting his prospects now good, having struck some gold.



**The flood of hopefuls to Bendigo.  
Where a lawyer was bound to strike gold.**



March 15<sup>th</sup>: Posted a letter from Lachlan to John Mackay, Texas. (John McAndrew Mackay, Lizzie's brother, born 1823).

March 21<sup>st</sup> (in Bendigo on business): Wrote to Lizzie today, addressed 7 Flinders Lane East.

April 1<sup>st</sup>: Lizzy writes that Lachlan left today for the bush.

TO CAPTAIN JOHN McLACHLAN,  
Of the Steamship "Omeo."

DEAR SIR,—We, the undersigned Cabin Passengers per Steamship "Omeo," from Melbourne to Dunedin, avail ourselves of this opportunity of thanking you for the uniform attention we have received at your hands during our voyage, and to express our satisfaction of the manner in which the victualling and general management of the ship has been conducted, conducing much as it has done to our comfort and health during the voyage.

We remain,

Dear sir,

Yours very truly,

Ladies:—Mrs. E. Ward, Miss J. H. Mackay, Miss Jessie Wilson, Miss Flude, Miss Brigg, Mrs. McKenzie, Mrs. R. T. Wheeler, Miss McGrath, Miss Solomon.

Gentlemen:—Messrs. J. L. Smither, Thomas Slater, Judah Myers, Francis John Alderson, Alexander McKinnon, Thomas Hayes, George R. Hyde, Alfred Grut, Alfred Boot, Edward Sellers.  
Dunedin, 29th May, 1862.

from the Cabin (First Class) passengers, was another from all of the passengers in steerage. (Usually third class, on larger ships).

Amelia Mackay died from a stroke, in Dunedin, on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1866.

Edward Ward started practicing law as soon as he arrived in Dunedin. There are



*Violet Ward circa 1881*



a number of legal notices in the papers over the coming years, showing that he was practicing as a barrister and solicitor, at Temple Chambers, Princes Street, Dunedin. Then, by 1871, he had become the Registrar of the Supreme Court and, on July 17<sup>th</sup> 1871, was sworn in as a Justice of The Peace.

In 1880, the five children of Edward Francis and Lizzie Ward, who had survived childhood, were all still alive.

Edward Francis junior was 25 years of age. Egerton was 20. Cecil had just turned 17, Violet was nearly 12 and Livesey had recently turned 9. The only picture that we have of any of the Ward family from that time, is the rather poorly preserved photo of Violet.

You can read about Edward Francis junior and Egerton Ward in their own *Towsey Tales*. Cecil's story is told in the *Towsey Tale* of his elder brother, Edward junior.

Edward Ward senior seems to have trundled along in his role as Registrar of the Supreme Court without making any great splashes, for the next ten years, until about the end of 1881, when he and Lizzie accompanied only by their youngest, Livesey, sailed off to Hawaii.

Edward was then 51 years old and seems to have arranged his own comfortable retirement, as the newspaper cutting below describes.

Edward and Lizzie's first child, Edward Francis Ward junior, was born in Melbourne in 1855. They had another two children whilst in Bendigo, The second, Thomas, died at three years of age. The third was John Egerton Ward, born in 1860.

The family then decided, presumably because Edward's career prospects would be improved, to move over to Dunedin, in 1862. Here they had another three children; Cecil, in 1863, Violet in 1868 and the last, Livesey deLeyland Ward in 1871.

Edward went to Dunedin first, to secure accommodation, in March 1862, with Lizzie, Jessy and their mother and the children following on in May.

This advertisement, in a Dunedin newspaper, from the passengers of the SS Omeo, signed by Lizzie and Jessy, is an expression of gratitude from the passengers to the captain, fairly typical at that time, on the completion of a successful voyage. It is interesting to note that beneath this advertisement

It was at this point that Edward became well known about Dunedin society, though there are no more reports on him, other than the one below, apart from a brief mention at the time of the marriage of his son, Egerton Ward, which describes Edward as: “---fty” Ward, once a well known personality in Dunedin...”

It is most annoying that they did not fully reveal the nickname. The gaps indicate that it might well have been “SHIFTY” WARD.

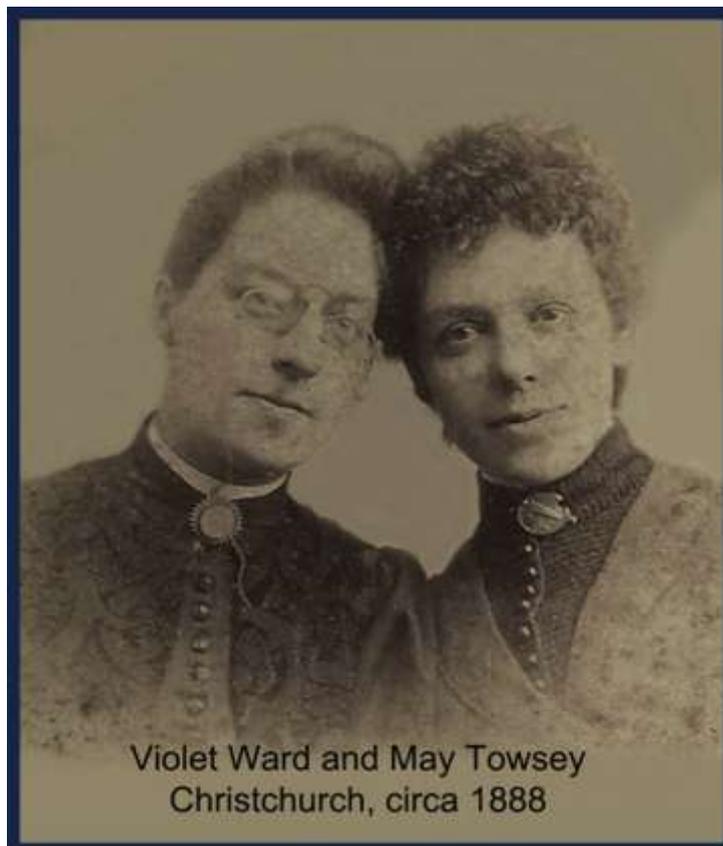
There is nothing of public interest in the papers laid on the table to-day, or in the reports of the Committees with the exception of the following Public Petitions Committee's report on the case of Stephens v. Stephens, the petitioners being the solicitors of persons residing in England who are interested in the will of the late J. S. Douglas and appear by the Hon W. H. Reynolds as their agent. “Their case is a peculiarly hard one. The petitioners represent that the widow of the late J. S. Douglas is left destitute in consequence of the estate having been misappropriated by the Trustee appointed by the Supreme Court, wherefore

they pray for redress. The Public Petitions Committee last session found that £1226 had been received by Edward Francis Ward as trustee and not accounted for, and they recommended the Government to take action against Ward. This has not been done and the Committee express their regret that the Government did not act on the recommendation of last session, but as Ward has now left the colony, they recommend that the Government should make good out of the public revenue the large deficiency missing through Ward's misappropriation.”

20th July 1882

We see in November 1882, moves by the Law Society to have Edward struck off the register of barristers.

May Towsey (seen in the photo with Violet Ward), was teaching at Sacred Heart Convent in Christchurch, by the late 1880s, when Violet had finished her studies, possibly in England or Europe and was teaching music at the Lohse-Bowen School, also in Christchurch.



Violet Ward and May Towsey  
Christchurch, circa 1888

There is a strong possibility that Arthur Towsey had some hand in arranging both of these positions.

The Lohse-Bowen School was a private day and boarding school ‘for the higher education of gentlemen's daughters.’ “The great aim of the school is to assist girls to prepare themselves for home life in the future by self-discipline and by the cultivation of sensible interests which can be pursued in after life...”

It is hard to say which of these two schools would



Mary & Cyril Towsey, 1887, inscribed for Livesey

have been the more excruciating for an unfortunate young lady to have had to attend, but I expect that there would have been less emphasis on the eternal fires of Hell at Miss Lohse's fine establishment.

In the photograph of Violet and May, Violet would have been no more than 21 years old. Perhaps it is the severe hair style and the *pince-nez* spectacles that make her look older. Perhaps the look was calculated to keep her young lady students in line.

Violet stayed on at the school, until 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1899, when she died suddenly from food poisoning, at just 31 years of age.

Eleven days later about fifty of her friends and old music students met to discuss a way by which they could perpetuate her memory.

It was decided that they should seek a sufficient subscription to endow a musical scholarship.

There are records up to at least 1940, of the Violet Ward Scholarship being awarded to the student each year who had achieved the highest possible marks in all theoretical and practical examinations. And speaking of examinations; there was, ironically, an announcement in the newspaper, three months after Violet's death, that she had passed her St. John's First Aid examination.

Speaking of the Ward family; the lovely picture of Mary and Cyril Towsey from 1887, was inscribed "for Livesey". It was presumably meant to be sent to their cousin, Livesey Ward, in Honolulu.

Livesey stayed on in Hawaii, where he became a school master. He married Polly Eliza Rickard, with whom he had a daughter, Violet, in 1904. Violet lived long enough to marry, but apparently did not have any children. Livesey then died in 1910, at just 39 years of age.

Edward Francis Ward senior died in Honolulu in 1895 and Lizzie died there in 1901.