

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

Mary Harriet Sparks

H. B. Moorhouse

TOWSEY TALES

NAME: Mary Amilda Towsey (née Cooper)

aka: *Mary O'Connor*, aka: *Madame Towsey*, aka: *Mamie*.

BIRTH DETAILS: 18 August 1881 Auckland

DEATH DETAILS: 1949 Auckland

CHART REF: Towsey Charts B1 & B2

MARRIAGE DETAILS: 9 August 1911

SPOUSE: Arthur Cyril Towsey

Mary Amilda (often written as 'Imelda') Cooper was always called 'Mamie' within the family. Her father, Charles Augustus Cooper, was born in London in 1846. We do not know a great deal about that Cooper family, firstly, because they came from that swirling mass of mobile humanity called London and secondly, because the name 'Cooper' is fairly common, therefore making it harder to trace family lines.

However you can read what we know about that Cooper family in Towsey Tale 1846 *Charles A Cooper*. You can read about Mamie's mother in her Towsey Tale: 1853 *Mary J Cooper*.

This Cooper family is not related to the other Cooper family, from whom Cyril Towsey's paternal grandmother was descended.



Mary Amilda Cooper circa 1900

Miss Mary A. Cooper (Auckland) and her sister Mrs. L. H. Cunningham, arrived in London by the last Homeward voyage of the s.s. Athenic. They have since been the guests of the Hon. Lady Cunningham, both in London and at Brighton. Mrs. Cunningham will sail for New York next month by the s.s. Caronia, en route for Chicago, but Miss Cooper intends to remain in England until after Christmas at any rate, probably going later to Chicago. 13th Oct. 1906

The first that we know of the life of Mamie, is this photo from when she was about 19 years old. She appears to have been earning money by delivering pizzas, which she carried on her head.

The first record of Mamie, is from when she accompanied her sister, Alice, who had married Laurence Cunningham, to London in 1906.

If the newspaper report of Mamie's trip to London is to be believed, it seems that Mamie's primary reason for going abroad was to have a bit of a look around, rather than to pursue a serious musical career.

Judging by the reviews of her London performances, she seemed to have a voice good enough to be successful, but

when you look more closely at those comments, they might have been complementary, but they were not as fulsome as one would expect for a truly great singer. We should also not place too great an emphasis on the glittering status of her

titled audiences, as these bejewelled socialites were clearly associated with her brother-in-law, Laurence Cunningham, with whose family she had resided during her London years.

A New Zealand singer, new to London audiences, was heard at the Steinway Hall last night in the person of Miss Mary O'Connor, of Auckland, the possessor of a mezzo-soprano voice. Miss O'Connor, by the way, announces vocal recital which she will give at the Bechstein Hall next week, assisted by Signor Alessandro Certani (violinist) and Mr. Derbyshire Jones ('cellist); Mr. Cyril Towsey (Wellington) will be the accompanist. The recital is to be given under the patronage of Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, Julia, Marchioness of Tweeddale, Isabelle, Marchioness of Sligo, Lord and Lady Chicester, Lady Jersey, Lady Ranfurly, Lady Waldegrave, Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson, Lord and Lady Newport, Lord and Lady Carew, Lord and Lady Leith of Fyvie, Lord and Lady Belper, Lord and Lady Lawrence,

the Dowager Lady Lawrence, Baroness von Deichmann, Sir Henry and Lady Cunningham, and the High Commissioner for New Zealand. An overflowing audience is expected at the Bechstein Hall on this occasion. I may mention, by the way, that Miss Mary O'Connor is well known in Auckland as Miss Mary Cooper, of "Armada," Queen-street. "Miss O'Connor," as she is known here professionally, came to England with her sister, Mrs. Lawrence Cunningham, two years ago, and she then received so many favourable opinions about her voice that she decided to remain; and she has since been studying with Mr. Gregory Hast. Her voice is a remarkably sympathetic one, of mezzo-soprano quality

12th June 1908

We know that Cyril's father was not at all happy about Cyril's engagement to the Catholic Mary Cooper, but he does not seem to have done anything as radical as disowning his son. In fact we see on several occasions, Arthur conducting performances

where Mamie was singing. It must though, have rankled Arthur to know that after a lifetime of promoting and defending English cultural values, that his grandchildren would be brought up as Catholics.

When Laurance Cunningham died from typhoid in 1909, Mamie's sister either wanted, or was obliged to return to New Zealand. This would probably have brought an end to Mamie's easy access to high society.

From England comes the news, that Mr Cyril Towsey has become engaged to Miss Marie Cooper, the Auckland songstress, who is professionally known as Miss Marie O'Connor. *19th August 1908*



BECHSTEIN HALL.

On Tuesday, June 16th, at 8.30.

**Miss MARY
O'CONNOR**
(AUCKLAND, N.Z.)

WILL GIVE A
Vocal Recital

Under the Management of LESLIE HIBBERD
ASSISTED BY MR.
DARBISHIRE JONES,
'CELLIST.

Accompanist: Mr. CYRIL TOWSEY.

NEW ZEALAND SINGER AND PIANIST.

SUCCESSFUL SONG RECITAL.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

1910 LONDON, 18th March.

Of general New Zealand interest will be the announcement of the betrothal of Mr. Cyril Towsey, the well-known pianist from the Dominion, and Miss Mary Cooper, of Auckland, who has been living in this country for several years past completing her vocal studies. Both have been away from New Zealand for considerably over three years, and both have made arrangements for an early return.

As an accompanist and pianist Mr. Towsey has done very well here. He is thinking of sailing by one of the Tyser liners about the second week in April.

As study was Miss Cooper's chief object in coming to London, she has kept continuously "hard at it," her instructors having been Mdle. Olga Tremelli and Mr. Gregory Haust. To both of these Miss Cooper does infinite credit—a naturally pleasing voice has been well placed and is well produced. Miss Cooper has booked her passage to New Zealand by the s.s. Corinthic, sailing on the 1st April, and she has made up her mind to become a teacher of singing in Auckland. Before settling down, however, Miss Cooper contemplates giving a series of song recitals throughout the Dominion, beginning with Auckland in June. In this tour she will be associated with Mr. Cyril Towsey, who, in addition to playing the accompaniments, will be heard as a solo pianist.

Lately, Miss Cooper has been doing a good deal of "at home" work in London. Engagements of this description are always best liked by the singers themselves, but opportunities for securing them do not always occur.

FAREWELL TO LONDON.

Mention was made a week ago that Miss Cooper intended to give a farewell recital in London. This took place at the Bechstein Hall last Monday afternoon, and the giver of the concert had planned out for herself a programme full of unwonted variety.



Bechstein Hall

Still looking the same today but renamed Wigmore Hall during WW1.

A less accomplished singer would have been fatigued long before its conclusion, but Miss Cooper appeared to be quite fresh to the end. She has a mezzo-soprano voice of beautiful quality and intonation, and she uses it very artistically. She had plenty of dramatic power,

and has learned how to produce with ease a voice that is naturally of sweet quality, and is always delightful to listen to. In her enunciation of German, French, and Italian she is specially good—as musical New Zealanders will soon themselves have the opportunity of judging. This phase ought to prove of great value to her pupils.

Six of the songs on the programme were German, including "Die Mutter an der Wiege," Schubert's "Die junge Nonne," which was a treat to listen to as interpreted by Miss Cooper, particularly in its pianissimo passages; three were Italian, including Gualdo Cappocini's four-century-old "Amarilli," into whose spirit the singer entered thoroughly; four were French, including an encore, which brought the recital to a close. "Le Nil," by Leroux, suited her voice well, and she sang it with much expression, to the sympathetic cello accompaniment of Felix Salmond. After a group of five

English songs, she had to submit to an encore, and she gave, very daintily, "Oh, My Garden Full of Roses." This group included Dr. Blow's two-century-old "The Self Banished," Sibelius's "The Tryst," Hamish M'Cunn's "Strathallan's Lament," Emmoline Brock's "To a Seabird," and Lane Wilson's "The Pretty Creature"—the last was sung with archness and charm.

Mention must be made of the accompanist, Mr. Towsey, who played with great expression and sympathy—to the evident appreciation of the audience, judging by complimentary whispered comments to be heard all round.

Two cello soli were played by Felix Salmond, who is a 'cellist of deserved repute. He gave with much feeling Gabriel Faure's "Elegie," and with rare delicacy Frank Bridge's sparkling little "Serenade."

Miss Cooper ought to have been gratified by the warmth of the reception accorded her. The hall was well filled. Several New Zealanders were seen among the listeners, including Mrs. Holmwood, Mrs. A. S. Ballance, and Miss Halse, all of Wellington.

LONDON, March 18.

Miss Mary Cooper, of Auckland, has been studying in London for the last three years with Mdle. Olga Hionelli and Mr Gregory Haust. She gave a farewell concert on the 14th inst, and sails for New Zealand on April 1st. She is giving concerts in all the large centres, and will probably be associated with Mr Cyril Towsey, another well-known New Zealander referred to in many former letters, in some of them. Miss Cooper had the honor of appearing before Princess Henry of Battenberg, Princess Christian, the Duchess of Bedford the Rance of Sarawak and many other distinguished people. She has been living in London, with her sister at the residence of her father-in-law, Sir Henry Cunningham, and she tells me she can never suitably express her thanks for the wonderful kindness and appreciation she has received everywhere in London. She leaves it with the greatest regret and earnestly hopes to return again. She had the honor of being shown all over the private departments at Windsor, and the Mausoleum at Frogmore by Sir Dighton

lucky enough to get tickets for the opening of Parliament. The recital on Monday took place at the Bechstein Hall, with Mr Cyril Towsey at the piano, and Mr Felix Salmond, solo violoncello, assisting. Miss Cooper set herself to carry through a programme of considerable length, which called, by reason of the variety of music it embraced, for a wider range of expression than an artist of somewhat limited experience could well be expected to have at command. In her favor is a mezzo-soprano voice of pleasant quality, and a decided sympathetic method of interpretation which serves her particularly well in songs of a quiet mood. She was able to render justice to the loveliness of Brahms's "Von Ewiger Liebe," which figured in her first group of songs, and she did not miss the old-world spirit of Cappocini's "Amarilli" while she sang Leroux's beautiful "Le Nil" with evident appreciation of its atmosphere. Curiously enough, in the German numbers of her choice, the singer's diction was clearer than in the English examples. All her items were excellently received. 18th March 1910

Mamie, as you can see in the 'Towsey Tale' of her father, had quite a large family back in New Zealand, so all in all there would have been little desire to stay on in London without her sister. Cyril also seemed to be missing his home and would probably have chosen to return, even without Mamie's influence, though whether he would have stayed put in that remote colony is open to speculation.

What this demonstrates, is that when trying for a musical career of global fame, an important factor is whether one's desire for the roar of the crowd is fervent enough to override attachments to family, friends and the familiarity of your home town.

OPERA HOUSE, HAWERA.
FRIDAY, JULY 1.

GRAND MUSICAL RECITAL.

**MISS MAY
COOPER
AND
CYRIL
TOWSEY**

(Direct from London).

PROGRAMME.

1. Piano Solo, "Sonata in C sharp minor" (Moonlight).....Beethoven (Adagio, Allegretto, Presto.)
CYRIL TOWSEY.

2. Songs—
(a) "In Questa Tomba"...Beethoven
(b) Three songs from R. L. Stevenson's "A Child's Garden of Verses" Graham Peel
(c) Die 'Junge Nonne' (The Young Nun) Schubert
MAY COOPER.
3. Piano Solo, "Ballade in A flat"..... Chopin
CYRIL TOWSEY.
4. Recit. e Aria, "O Mio Fernando" (La Favorita) Donizetti
MAY COOPER.
5. Piano Solo, "Adagio from Fantasia in C (Wanderer)...Schubert-Liszt
CYRIL TOWSEY.
6. Songs—
(a) "Mon Coeur s'ouvre a ta Voix" (Samson et Dalila).....Saint-Saens
(b) "O Divine Redeemer".....Gounod

- (c) "The Pretty Creature"
Arr. by Lane Wilson
(d) "Annie Laurie".....Liza Lehmann
MAY COOPER.
7. Piano Solo, "Scherzo in B flat minor" Chopin
CYRIL TOWSEY.
8. Songs—
(a) "A Summer Night"
Goring Thomas
(b) "Aime Moi" Bemberg
(c) "The Tryst" Peter Cornelius
(d) "Mattinata" Tosti
MAY COOPER.

Piano used at this Recital: Schiedmeyer and Sohn, supplied by Dixon and Bates.

Box plan now open.

Prices: 3s, 2s, 1s.

1st July 1910

Having already been engaged for two years before returning to New Zealand, it is interesting to note that it was still another fifteen months before Mamie and Cyril married, in August 1911.

What is also interesting about this wedding, is that the only mention of it in the newspapers, is several lines in the Auckland Star

Marriage Announcements. One would have expected articles to at least appear in the Wellington and Auckland papers. But then, perhaps the wedding was a small, quiet affair.

In the photo of Mamie and her baby, Arthur Charles Towsey, known as "Binki", is her mother, Mary Josephine Cooper (née O'Connor: from whence Mamie took her stage name), and Ellen Cooper (nee Meaney), the wife of Charles Cooper's son, Daniel Joseph Cooper.

Cyril and Mamie were living in Hamilton, south of Auckland, at this time. It is most likely that Cyril and Mamie moved to Hamilton at the time of their marriage there, because

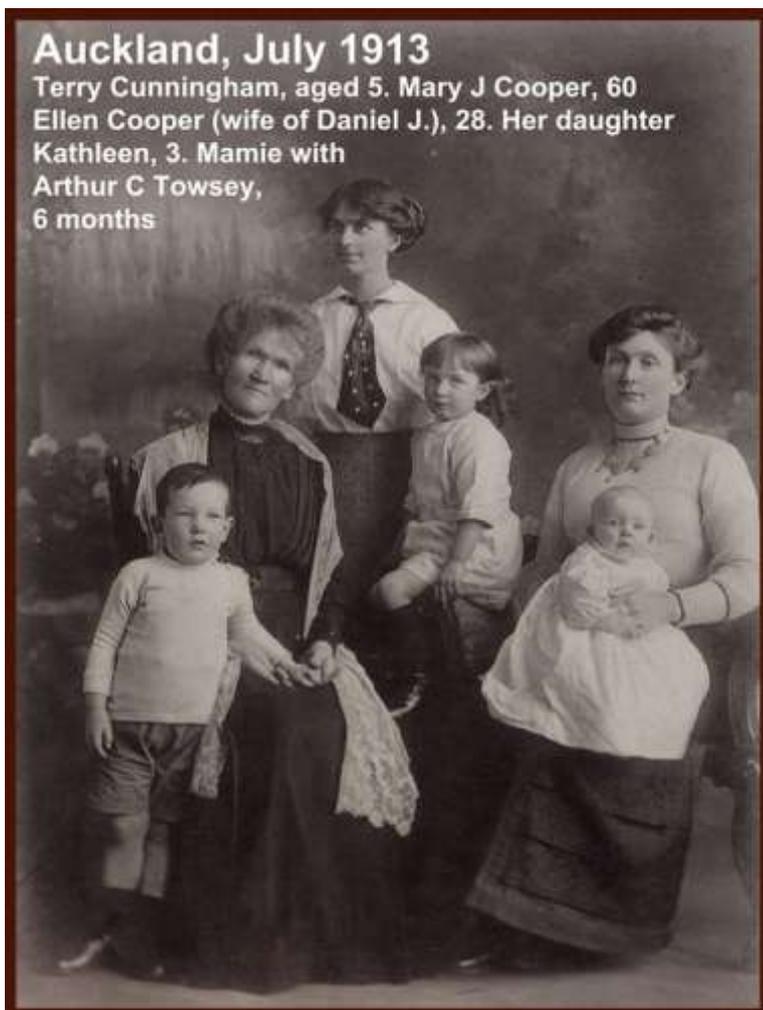


*Mary Cooper
Circa 1910*

Cyril was offered a post as organist.

We see though, that Mamie was also bringing in a small regular income, even when busy with the

MRS. CYRIL TOWSEY, teacher of singing at Hamilton, writes:—"Fluenzol has proved exceedingly useful to me and to some of my pupils. I have confidence in recommending it to anyone suffering from throat affections." Madame Christian, of the famous Garcia School of Music, Sydney, Mr. Hamilton Hodges and other prominent teachers of singing also recommend Fluenzol.



Auckland, July 1913

Terry Cunningham, aged 5. Mary J Cooper, 60
Ellen Cooper (wife of Daniel J.), 28. Her daughter
Kathleen, 3. Mamie with
Arthur C Towsey,
6 months



We see from the article about a concert in Thames, near Auckland, in 1919, that Cyril and Mamie were still performing together.

baby, by sponsoring some sort of probably very dodgy throat medicine. This advertisement appeared several hundred times, in various parts of New Zealand, over about a five year period.

Cyril and Mamie, with young Arthur, moved from Hamilton up to Auckland in 1918, before their second son, Cyril Patrick (Pat), was born.

A final reminder is given music-lovers of the violin recital and concert to be given in the King's Theatre to-night by Mr Arthur Gordon and Mr and Mrs Cyril Towsey, of Auckland. Everyone in Thames knows how Mr Gordon went from Thames to the world's master teachers of the violin in Brussels and how he has made good in concerts in the Old World. To-night in addition to playing music by some of the best known composers, Mr Gordon will play one of his own compositions. Mr Cyril Towsey is a brilliant pianist of established reputation, and Mrs Towsey is regarded as one of the most prominent of Auckland's singers. Owing to the regretted indisposition of Miss Tonge, Mrs Towsey has consented to sing several extra songs, including Schubert's famous "Erl-King."

June 1919

We see also that Mamie had developed a career singing in a range of dramatic productions and operas. Also, whereas in the past Mamie had sung as a mezzo-soprano, by 1924 she was starting to sometimes sing the deeper contralto roles.

It sometimes happens that as a singer matures, her voice can become lower.

The Auckland Choral Society will give its second concert of the season on 4th September, when Sir Edward Elgar's fine work, "The Dream of Gerontius," will be given. The first appearance in this Dominion was given by the Sheffield Choir on its world-famous tour. The Wellington Choral Society, under Mr. Maughan Barnett, also gave it several years ago, and an idea of the difficulty of the work may be formed from the fact that about 80 rehearsals were held before its was performed. The soloists for the Auckland production will be: Mrs. Cyril Towsey (The Angel) mezzo-soprano; Mr. H. Gasquino (Gerontius) tenor, and Mr. Len Barnes (The Priest), bass.

16th August 1924

A strong cast has been engaged for the Auckland Choral Society's performance of "Maritana" on Thursday 30th October. Miss Kate Champion will sing the part of "Maritana," Mrs. Cyril Towsey "Lazarillo," Mr. Arthur Ripley "Don Caesar de Bazan," Mr. Barry Coney "Don Jose de Santarem," and Mr. A. Colledge "The King." *18th Oct. 1924*



Circa 1925: 'Botop' and 'Binki'
Cyril Patrick and Arthur Charles Towsey

Some years ago, when looking at the photo of Pat with his big brother, from circa 1925, with Pat and others, we all had a good laugh. Some things, like the timid-looking little fellow with the big ears, just go on providing amusement down the generations.

Always at the forefront of any new entertainment technology, we see in the radio station 1YA announcement, that Mamie, who was by then old and respected enough to be called 'Madame Towsey', participated in the opening performance for the first radio broadcast in New Zealand, in 1926.

We see right from the start of radio broadcasting in 1926, that Cyril and Mamie are both regular performers on the evening programmes, almost all of which were performed live.

Also by the end of the 1920s, there was not as much harmony on the domestic scene for Cyril and Mamie as there was on stage.

There is never much point in going into the nature of domestic problems, as what they tend to boil down to is two different personalities, whose initial flush of infatuation has passed, for whom the day to day minutia of coexistence has become a bit of a chore rather than the endless series of blissful moments on which their marriage was launched.

The Auckland Choral Society's third concert will take place on the 29th of this month, when Rossini's "Stabat Mater" and Max Bruch's "Fair Ellen" will be the principal works performed. Miss Lois Evans (soprano), Madame Towsey (contralto), Mr. Arthur Ripley (tenor), and Mr. Harison Cook (bass), will be the soloists for the "Stabat Mater," and Miss Evans and Mr. Stanley Holliday will take the soprano and baritone solos respectively in "Fair Ellen." The above-mentioned artists will also be heard in miscellaneous operatic excerpts.

25th October 1925



Madame Towsey circa 1920

Plays - Players - Pictures

An exceptionally strong cast has been engaged for the Auckland Choral Society's concert production of Gounod's "Faust" on 22nd July. The part of Faust will be taken by Mr. Arthur Jordan, the famous English tenor, who is revisiting the Dominion to sing in this production and the Royal Wellington Choral Union's "Carmen" concert here at the end of this month. Mr. Harison Cook, whose singing of the part of Mephistopheles at the Exhibition performance in Dunedin last March was considered to be the finest ever heard there, will take the same part in Auckland. Marguerite will be taken by Madame Cora Melvin, whose lyric soprano voice is ideally suited to the part. The subsidiary roles of Siebel, Martha, Valentine, and Wagner will be sung by Madame Towsey, Miss Muriel Barr, Mr. William Gemmell, and Mr. James de Montalk.

July 1926

We should be able to get a basic idea of the problems by looking at the obvious personality traits of Cyril and Mamie.

He seems to have been quiet, sophisticated, good looking, charming, talented and, thereby, still attractive to women.

She had the strength of character of her ancestors. Wherever in the family gene pool she dropped her fishing line, she was bound to pull out a larger than average trait.

From the little that I have heard of Mamie, she tended towards the practical rather than the waffy. For instance, she apparently never wasted time chatting on that new-fangled telephone; bringing conversations to a speedy conclusion with "yes? What do you want?"

It seems that Mamie was either jealous or suspicious, or both, of Cyril's interactions with all the attractive young women with whom he came into contact. Whether there was any reason for her suspicions, I do not know.

Cyril was apparently always polite and reserved, but would often be busy working in his room, usually with piano students, at family meal times.

THE NEW 1YA HIGH POWER BROADCASTING TO-MORROW'S INAUGURATION

As announced a few days ago, the first high-power radio broadcasting station to be operated in the Dominion will be opened at Auckland on Saturday next. The arrangements for the opening have now been completed, and the Hon. W. Nosworthy, Postmaster-General, will deliver a speech to listeners after the opening overture. A very fine programme has been arranged, and listeners should enjoy some interesting items between 8 and 10.30 p.m. In addition to that of the Postmaster-General, speeches will be broadcasted by the Secretary, Post and Telegraph Department (Mr. A. T. Markman), the Chief Telegraph Engineer (Mr. A. Gibbs), the chairman of directors of the Broadcasting Company (Mr. William Goodfellow), and his Worship the Mayor of Auckland (Mr. G. Baidon). Included in the programme are several orchestral and band selections, and the artists who will contribute to the enjoyment of listeners are Miss Laura Walker, Mr. Leo Whittaker, Mr. Ernest Thomas, Miss Laura Stone, Miss Grace Johnson, the Moore sisters, and Madame Towsey. 6th August 1926

A Day At The Beach, Circa 1928

Mamie Towsey (centre) with her boys, Arthur and Pat
Ellen Cooper (right) and her eldest daughter, Kathleen



At the Peace Memorial Hall, Cambridge, the oratorio "The Prodigal Son" and a cantata, "Comala" (Gade) were produced by a choir of 40 voices, under the conductorship of Mr. Arthur Towsey. Mrs. Cyril Towsey was soprano soloist. Mr. Arthur Towsey is now over eighty.

Evening Post

2nd November 1929



Mamie Towsey 1930s

The radio programme from February 1930, is typical of the line-up for most evenings, with "Madame Towsey".

Although Mamie had stopped performing on the radio in the early 1930s, in October of 1936, we see that Mamie was performing at the German Club, of which she was a member, at a concert to welcome the new German Consul to

RADIO PROGRAMMES

WEDNESDAY, 19th FEBRUARY 1930

1YA, Auckland (900 kilocycles).—3-4.30: Afternoon session. 5.0: Children's session, conducted by "Uncle Tom." 6-7: Dinner session, records. 7.0: News and market reports. 7.40: Madame Mabel Milne, "Health and Diet." 8.0: Chimes. Band of H.M. Coldstream Guards, record, "Wedding of the Rose" (Jessel). 8.3: Madame Towsey's Quartet, "Silent Night." 8.8: Violin, Mr. A. Gracie, "Ave Maria" (Schubert), "Liebesfreud" (Kreisler—Wilholme). 8.15: Tenor, Mr. J. M'Dougall, "She is Far from the Land." 8.18: Contralto, Miss Aimee Clapham, "Soul of Mine." 8.23: Piano, Mr. Cyril Towsey, "Ballade in A Flat" (Chopin). 8.38: Baritone, Mr. John Bree, "By the Light of the Moon." 8.41: Mezzo-soprano, Madame M. Towsey, "When the Dew is Falling." 8.45: Dramatic episode, J. F. Montague, "Gallipoli, the 8th of August." 8.53: Violin, Mr. A. Gracie, "To Spring" (Gregg). 8.57: Contralto, Miss Aimee Clapham, "Fairy Pipers." 9.1: Evening weather forecast and announcements. 9.3: Vocal duet, Mr. J. Bree and Mr. J. M'Dougall, "Army and Navy." 9.7: Mezzo-soprano, Madame M. Towsey, "Matinata." 9.11: Band of H.M. Coldstream Guards, record, "Hobomoko" (Reeves). 9.14: Humour, Mr. J. F. Montague, "Ode Caravan," "Kicking Strap's Race." 9.22: Baritone, Mr. John Bree, "To Mary." 9.25: Madame Towsey's Quartet, "Fair Shines the Moon." 9.30: A Commentator, "Gramophone Lecture Recital: Latest Recordings.



Mamie at 12 City Road, 1930s

New Zealand. It is a pity that there is no film of her singing boldly in German in front of the Swastika flag. That would have been good for a wind-up, though I doubt that the humour in the situation would have been seen during the remainder of her lifetime.

Although no longer performing on the radio, we see that in 1943, Mamie was conductor of the St. Benedict's Church Choir.

Mamie died in Auckland in April 1949, not long after the birth of her son, Arthur's first daughter in Melbourne. Arthur wrote to his mother saying that they were going to call their daughter 'Gabrielle'. Mamie wrote back saying that "no granddaughter of mine will be called "Gabby!" And so it came to pass.

Auckland Star 28 October 1936

GERMAN CLUB FUNCTION.

Members of the German Club in Auckland held a large reception in the German Club rooms last evening to welcome the newly-appointed German Consul for New Zealand, Dr. W. Hellenthal, and Mrs Hellenthal. The first Winterhilfe in Auckland was also inaugurated to support the German winter relief organisation with headquarters in Berlin.

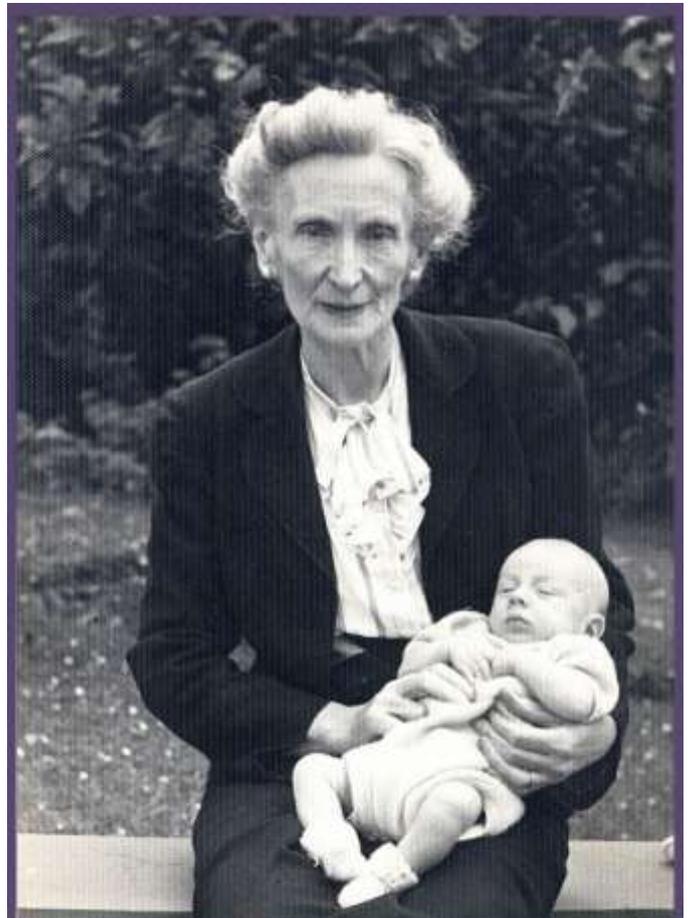
A background for the stage was provided by the swastika flag and across the top of the stage was a large white banner bearing the words "Spendet fuer die Deutsche Winterhilfe." On either side of the stage were the New Zealand and German flags and early in the evening the British national anthem and "Deutschland, Deutschland, Uber Alles" were sung. Roses in shades of red and yellow, and stocks made attractive decorations on the tables placed about the room.

The president, Mr. J. McMillan, received the guests, assisted by Mrs. G. Williams, who was wearing black georgette with metal-starred sleeves. Mrs. Hallenthal was wearing a frock of ivory ribbed crepe with a matching white coat.

Musical items were contributed during the evening by Mrs. C. Towsey, Mrs. Jury, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. McKnight and Mr. H. Engel, and community singing of favourite old German songs was entered into with great zest. The programme was conducted by Mr. K. W. Schmidt. The Dutch Consul for the Netherlands, Captain F. Bauer, was present, and the whole programme, including the speeches, was in German, as a tribute to Dr. and Mrs. Hellenthal.



Mamie with family friend 'Simmo'. 1930s



Late 1948. Mamie Towsey with grandson