

JEAN BERTHA MEADE

(JAN 1954)
Nee Bird. Born 1910.
111 Portland Road,
Remuera,
Auckland.

My great? grandmother was Anne Bird. She came to Nelson from England on the Fifeshire with her husband and baby.

My grandfather Charles Bird had a Butcher's shop in Trafalgar Street, Nelson. He had gone to school at Nelson College.

My father was Reuben Bird. He had 2 daughters, Jean Bertha and Valmai (now Mrs. Roy Savage of 14 Wilkes Street.)

My father inherited some land from the railway line down to McShane's Road. This land had belonged to his father. Reuben had a dairy farm in McShane's Road. We children had to walk to school though sometimes we got rides on the milk carts. The family later bought 12 acres in Headingly Lane with money Mrs. Bird received from her father.

I went to Richmond Primary School and then to the Girls' College for five years and in 1929 started work at Richmond School as a probationer for one year. I then went to Wellington Training College for the two year training course. Back to Richmond School for the probationary year. It being the depression, we were given one terms work then one term off. Pay was 6 per month. I worked at Richmond until 1935 and then received a permanent position in Gisborne.

I taught at Gisborne for six years and then went to Auckland to continue teaching, eventually specialising in art and craft teaching in intermediate schools. I taught for over 40 years and retired in 1970.

I used to return to Richmond every holiday to see my parents in Headingly Lane. (first house on the left which they had built.)

I married in 1977 Mr. Richard Garthorne Meade, a widower of upper Queen Street.