## **KING, Whitfield**

Whitfield King was the son of Henry James & Lydia Knapp King.

He was baptised on 30th November 1880, at the Anglican church of Rockhampton, Gloucestershire, England.

Their abode was Moreton Farm, Thornbury, where Henry was a farmer.

The large King family arrived in Australia in May 1883 from London aboard the ship *John Elder*.**1**

On 27th March 1905 Whitfield King, of Sydney, and eldest son of Mr H. J. King (manager for H. Prescott and. Co, Orange) was married at Manildra to Miss Lucy Manildra Miller, sixth daughter of Mr. Christian & Charlotte Miller, of Church Hill Farm, Cumnock, N.S.W. **2**

Children of the marriage were:

1906 – Frederick H., Glebe

1909 – Raymond H., Drummoyne

1912 – Whitfield V., Drummoyne

1916 – Laurie M., Drummoyne

1919 – Lilian P., Hornsby**3**

In February 1919 Whitfield King and family were living at Lauriston, Beecroft-road, Cheltenham. They continued to live there for many years.**4**

In August 1934, Lucy King’s mother, Charlotte Miller, late of Fairfield (from c1900) and previously Cumnock, died aged 84 years, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. King, of *Lauriston*, Cheltenham. She was a member of a pioneering family of the far south-western districts. Her husband had predeceased her.**5**

In January 1939 Whitfield King’s father, Henry James King, died.

His obituary reads:

‘Henry James King, who died at Orange on Saturday, after a brief illness, was one of the town's business pioneers and best citizens. Born in England 85 years ago, he came to Orange in 1893, acquiring extensive property. Later, he became western manager for Prescott's Ltd., produce merchants, retiring from the position five years ago.

He was an alderman at Orange for 14 years, and an enthusiastic member of the Chamber of Commerce. He always supported any movement for the advancement of the town of his adoption.

He is survived by a widow, three sons— Whitfield (manager of the wool department, Winchcombe, Carson Ltd., Sydney), Frederick (manager of Prescott's, Ltd., Orange); Philip Henry (manager of Prescott's Ltd., Dubbo) — and three daughters— Mrs. Carter (wife of Mr. H. G. Carter, president of the Ku-ring-gai Shire), Mrs. Cook (wife of Colonel Cook, colonel in charge of the Scottish Regiment, Melbourne) and Sister Emily King (in charge of the Orange Baby Health Centre).

The funeral, which was largely attended, took place to the Church of England section of the Orange cemetery on Sunday.’**6**

On 6th September 1949 Whitfield King died at his home in Cheltenham.

His obituary reads:

‘Mr. WHITFIELD KING, Wool Department Manager and Chief Valuer of Winchcombe Carson Ltd., died at his home at Cheltenham on Tuesday, He had been associated with the company for 54 years.

He was a notable figure in the wool trade and well known throughout New South Wales. His services, not only to his company, but to the trade generally, will long be remembered. Many men occupying prominent positions in the wool business were trained under his guidance. He was a veritable "tiger" for work, but despite his industrious character, he was consistently cheerful and pleasant to his associates and all those with whom he came in contact.

Probably no man was better versed in the conduct of the wool trade than Whitfield King. He joined Winchcombe, Carson, as a lad, subsequently working his passage to England and back in order to gain practical experience in the Yorkshire mills. Few men have worked harder to attain seniority in the trade, and "Whit," as he was affectionately known, successfully reached his objective.

He was not only a wool expert, but served, the industry faithfully at the Technical College, and also attained a valuable knowledge of sheep breeding. At the initiation of the war-time Appraisement Scheme, the late Whitfield King was called in as an advisor to assist in compiling the Table of Limits under which the wool clip was subsequently acquired by the British Government.

The late Mr. King leaves a widow, three sons and two daughters. A private cremation took place at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium on Wednesday.’**7**

His widow, Lucy Manildra King, died in 1973, in the district of St. Leonards.**8**

**Bibliography**

1 Ancestry.com

2 Molong Express and Western District Advertiser (NSW: 1887 - 1954), Saturday 1 April 1905, page 5

3 NSW Births Deaths & Marriages

4 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 22 February 1919, page 7

5 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Friday 24 August 1934, page 10; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Thursday 30 August 1934, page 4; Biz (Fairfield, NSW: 1928 - 1972), Friday 7 September 1934, page 4

6 Land (Sydney, NSW: 1911 - 1954), Friday 9 September 1949, page 3

7 Land (Sydney, NSW: 1911 - 1954), Friday 9 September 1949, page 3

8 NSW Births Deaths & Marriages