

MackENZIE: David Stuart (Stuart)

Born: 1 Jun 1882, Wellington, New Zealand

Married: 29 Aug 1907, Levin, New Zealand

To: Mabel Helen Bartholomew (1884 – 1966)

Died: 4 March 1952, Levin, New Zealand

Buried: Levin Old Cemetery, Tiro Tiro Rd, Levin, New Zealand

Stuart's parents were:

James Stewart (1849 – 1928) &
Margaret Elizabeth Wilmor (nee McKenzie) (1854 – 1884)

& Step Mother

Annie Elizabeth (nee Wilson) (1863 – 1957)

Stuart had 2 sisters:

Hilda Rebecca Leah Wilmor (1878 – 1969)

Lillian Noble Wilmor (1880 – 1900)

& 2 half brothers & 4 half sisters

Margaret Kathleen Annie (1888 – 1967)

Ronald Francis Wilson (1889 – 1952)

Catherine Elsie Lynette (1891 – 1970)

Jean Elizabeth (1893 – 1970)

James Alan (1895 – 1970)

Sheila Rose Constance (1899 – 1947)

Stuart & Mabel had 6 children:

James Alan Stuart (1908 – 1984)

Emily Margaret (Margaret) (1910 – 1997)

Sybil Bartholomew (Betty) (1912 – 2008)

Joan Stuart (1915 – 2014)

Peter Stuart (1920 – 2018)

Mary Stuart (1922 – 1982)



married Jean Mackinnon

married John Howard Barnett

married William James Macdonald

married Alexander Hugh Armour

married Margery Stacy Barton

married William John (Bill) Hyslop

Education:

Wellington College

Associations:

Founder member: Levin Club 1911

President: Levin Club 1924 – 1925 &
1934 – 1937

Life Member: Levin Club 1943

Patron: Levin Club 1949 –

Member: Plunkett Society

Patron: Play Centre

President; Wellington Dental Assn.

Councillor: Levin Borough Council (1913 – 1915) &
(1917 – 1921) &
(1933 – 1938*)

* Recorded in his obituary but not in Dreaver's book on Levin

Sports:

Formed the first hockey team early 1900's

Represented North Island in hockey

Tennis

Cricket for over 30 years – both United & Levin clubs

Rugby

Golf

Table tennis

Tramping



Stuart's life

David Stuart Mackenzie (known as Stuart) was born at Wellington in 1882.

His father was James Stewart Mackenzie and his mother Margaret Elizabeth Wilmor McKenzie. She died when Stuart was only 2. He had two older sisters.

His father remarried to Annie Elizabeth Wilson and they went on to have six children.

He attended Wellington College where he had a long term friendship with Bernard Freyberg (later Lord Freyberg VC and Governor General of New Zealand). Freyberg actually lived in Levin and worked for Stuart in his dental practice.

Stuart is first recorded as a dentist in Levin in the 1905 Electoral rolls. Levin is where he met (and married in 1907) his wife Mabel Bartholomew. She was a member of the pioneer Bartholomew family, who were timber merchants and farmers.

The Mackenzie family home was situated in Oxford St (where the Levin Club is today). Stuart's work premises comprised a separate annex on the street front, surgery, waiting room, and a large workshop for the making of dentures – a big part of the operation in those days (*where it was rumoured that people actually preferred to have all their natural teeth replaced rather than bother with ongoing repairs*).

He also contracted annual services to rural families.

Three of his children took up dentistry, with the youngest, Peter, taking over the Levin practice.

Stuart, as far back as 1919, took his equipment around all the schools from Koputaroa to Paraparaumu at periodic intervals and for a small annual sum gave constant attention

to the children's teeth. School dental clinics became the norm, however it is fair to say Stuart pioneered them.

On P 213 of Dreaver's book "Levin, the making of a town" it stated that Levin High School had a pioneer dental service, brainchild of dentist and Borough Councillor D S Mackenzie.

He was a family man, much loved and admired by his wife and children. Over the summer holidays the whole family packed up and travelled by train to Plimmerton where, in about 1915, they had purchased a large rambling seaside cottage in Sunset Parade. Complete with all their provisions they walked the mile or so from Plimmerton Station around the beach to the cottage.

There were many sports that he had at one time or other been actively engaged in.

He formed the first hockey team in Levin in the early 1900's and saw it win the Manawatu championship in it's first year.

He was a North Island representative in hockey.

He was a keen and enthusiastic tennis player.

Later he was prominent in district cricket, playing this sport for over 30 years.

The early years saw him prominent in rugby and he later took up golf.

Stuart was a familiar figure at the Levin swimming baths and to encourage children he donated 2 shillings to every child who could swim 25 yards at the baths.

He also helped start table tennis in Levin, the members of the club which resulted, playing in the Century Hall with three tables. They also held tournaments with other clubs and once won the district championship.

He was interested in tramping and joined a party to Waiopahu in 1893 when he was only 11 years old.



During WW1 he joined up as a volunteer fireman because they were short of men.

The Levin Club was formed in June 1911. Stuart was probably the youngest man that met to set up the social club for men. He was appointed to the inaugural committee. He served a term as President from 1924 to 1925 and later 1934 to 1937. He was the only member to have served two separate terms as President.

He also served several positions in the club's administration, including secretary and treasurer.

He was elected as a Life member in 1943 and the Patron in 1949. The new dining room and snooker room were named "The Stuart Mackenzie Room".

Municipal matters interested him. He was elected as a Levin Borough Councillor for the 1913 to 1915 term and then again from 1917 to 1921.

In late 1951 Stuart decided to retire. At this time he offered to sell the family home and land to the Levin Club to be used as their clubrooms. The club members approved this at a Special General Meeting in Mar 1952. Sadly Stuart had died just prior to this meeting.

He died at age 70 from TB contracted from patients at Otaki Sanatorium where he attended their dental needs on a regular basis.

From an Obituary:

"He left a wealth of good service and goodwill behind him. His life will be long remembered as linked with an important phase of the development of the district. He was a true sportsman, an excellent dental practitioner and a fine man"

The old maxim "it is not how long one lives but how one lives" was never better exemplified than it has been by Stuart Mackenzie.

Family History:

The Mackenzie family emigrated to New Zealand in 1858 on the "Robert Henderson". They first settled at St Clair and then moved to North East Valley (both Dunedin).

The patriarch was David Stewart Mackenzie (1817 – 1887) and wife Rebecca (nee Noble) (1817 – 1891). All six of their children were born in Scotland. The oldest was 9 and the youngest 2 when they arrived.

At least two of these children went on to great public service.

James Stewart Mackenzie (1849 – 1928), the 9 year old – Stuart's father, was a surveyor rising to be the Commissioner of Crown Lands and Chief Surveyor of Auckland.

(Sir) Thomas Noble Mackenzie (1853 – 1930), 5 years old on arrival, was an explorer from 1886 to 1903, including Milford Sound, Te Anau, Manapouri among many. He was an associate of Quenton McKinnon of McKinnon Pass. Mackenzie Pass is named after Thomas. He was a Mayor, a Member of Parliament and Minister from 1887 to 1912 and briefly the Prime Minister in 1912. He was the High Commissioner in London from 1912 to 1920. He was knighted for his services.

He was also the first President of what is now Forest & Bird NZ.

One interesting fact. Thomas and James owned a large block of land (a farm) in Karori, Wellington. James had built a large house called 'Rosehaugh' (demolished many years ago) which stood where Rosehaugh Terrace now runs. This site was purchased by the Wellington Borough Council in 1890 and is now part of the Karori cemetery.