

Henry Anstice

Henry was a blacksmith & coachbuilder. His business was one of the first in Levin, next door & to the south of Marco Fosella.

Henry was born in Nelson in August 1869, one of 13 children of John & Emily. John was a baker.

Henry married Agnes Trivilian in June 1897 in Wellington. She was born in c 1873.

They had three children; Nena (b 1898), Madge (b 1903) & George Edward (b 1909).

Their house (the whole time they lived in Levin) was on a quarter acre section on the cnr of Salisbury St & Stanley St. (I wonder who has lived there subsequently?)

In 1896 he was a blacksmith in Palmerston Nth, moving to Levin and his new business in Oxford St W in the same year.

Originally it was just Henry in the business, however he was joined at some stage by N C Holdaway as a forge & coach building business.

Around late 1910, early 1911 they moved out of the business as we then find the lease on the site has been taken over by the Council and the building put up for sale & removal.

A Mr J Phillips turned the building into a skating rink.

In the meantime, Henry became the manager of Levin Implement Co Ltd.

That lasted only a short before he moved back to being a blacksmith on sections just north of where the old Chronicle building was in Oxford St E (north of the Queen St corner).

During his time in Levin Henry was heavily involved in the Levin Fire Brigade, rising to the rank of Captain. He was also made a fire inspector for the Council.

In late August Henry & Agnes decided to move to Masterton.

The newspaper at the time stated that "Levin loses an estimable citizen & Mrs Anstice's departure also will be regretted...."

Agnes was a prolific collector of prizes at all the shows for her baking & preserves.

Henry gifted an iron seat (presumably he made it) for the recreation ground. It was reported that it was appreciated by all frequenters of the ground, especially the cricketers.

In Masterton Henry became a baker (his father's profession). In 1928 they moved to Wellington, Henry still as a baker & then back to Masterton as a blacksmith again.

Henry Anstice died in Wellington in April 1945, aged 76. Agnes died in Auckland in 1966 aged 93. Good citizens of Levin & hard workers.

Does anyone know of any descendants of Henry & Agnes?

A photo of the Anstice & Holdway business is on P 55 of Anthony Dreaver's book "Levin the making of a town".