

Brief history of William Charles Rapp Esq. and family.

William Charles Rapp was born on the 28th October 1897 in the Casino, Rappville area of NSW. He moved to Maleny around 1915 with his parents and brothers and sisters. His parents, Charles and Mary Flora Rapp farmed in the Cedar Creek area of Conondale. They passed away in 1943 and 1933 respectively and are buried at Witta. His two brothers and five sisters in order of birth were:

1. Catherine (Doll) 1888-1974. Married Cecile Ekert and they farmed all their lives in Conondale.
2. Margaret (Mag) 1889-1967. Married Harry Shirley and they farmed in the local area, before moving to Brisbane.
3. Mary Matilda 1891-1908. Mary died at 17 years before the family moved to Maleny.
4. John Rapp 1893-1958. Married Rose Smith. He owned a bullock team, worked out of the Conondale area, and lived in Tamarind Street Maleny. They moved to Eumundi.
5. Alice 1895-1980. Married Norman Wallace. They were farmers in the Gympie and Nambour areas.
6. Vera 2001-1964. Married Harold Kyne. He was a motor mechanic and they lived in Brisbane.
7. James 2003-1960. Married Edna Thorne. He was a farmer and builder. He too lived in Tamarind Street Maleny until he passed away.

Bill, as he was known, still a single man, worked for some time as a race horse trainer at Albion Park, before moving back to assist his father on the home farm in Conondale and in house building. Bill and his father and uncle built a number of houses in the Maleny area which are still standing today.

In 1924 he married Thelma Knott in the Maleny Baptist Church, (still in its original position at the top of Maple St). Thelma's father managed Tytherleigh's grocery store, now the familiar Maleny IGA store. With his new wife he moved back to the farm and they started their family. He also did share farming at Witta, and worked at Tesch's saw mill also at Witta, (now owned by the Osberger family).

In 1938 he bought the farm from his dad, and combined this with working at the Hornibrook saw mill at Conondale on Harpers Creek Road. He sold this farm in 1951, moved to Chinchilla to work at Emerson's saw mill, then to Toowoomba where he worked for Western Transport as a truck body builder until his retirement. Bill and Thelma's last move was to Scarborough, where they lived with their youngest son, Billy.

Bill and Thelma's union produced 6 children.

1. Murray 1925-2013. Married Grace Drescher. Murray passed away at Gatton.
2. Enid, 1927 is married to Allan Mear, (of Mear's lane Booroobin). They are now living in Toowoomba.
3. Beverley, 1929 married Klaas Reyne. Klaas passed away in 2002 and Bev now lives in Brisbane.
4. Lawrence, 1938-1958 was killed while working at a saw mill in Chinchilla.
5. Graeme, 1942 is married to Margaret Ford and now lives in Caloundra.
6. William, 1944 (Billy) married Lorraine Horne, who passed away in 2011. Billy now lives near Kilcoy.

William Charles Rapp passed away in 1988 aged 91 years. Thelma Mirian Rapp passed away in 1995 aged 90 years. Both are buried at the Redcliffe cemetery.

Information provided by daughter, Bev Reyne of Runcorn Brisbane, 2014.



Bill and Thelma's wedding and 60th wedding anniversary photograph