

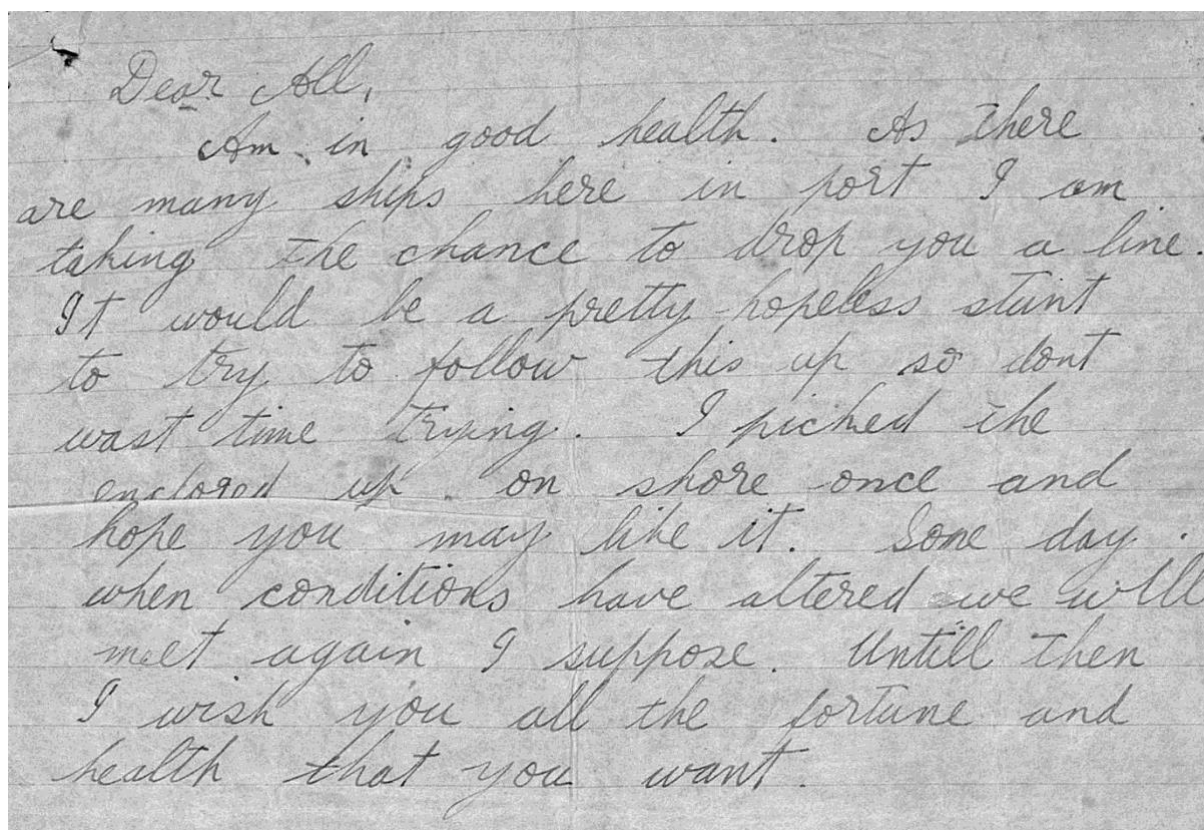
Finding the family of John Coten – data and information

This section, writhen in November 2017, outlines the results of the significant research undertaken by Hilary & Dick Tulloch about John Coten / Maurice Graham. It is intended to provide a more comprehensive view of his history and that of his wider family. The document was written to provide an overview to Ned and Jim, so there are some questions and personal references which we have chosen to leave intact.

Catherine Amelda Coady married an Edward John Graham in NZ in 1927. Catherine's father Maurice emigrated to NZ from Ireland c1870 and married Catherine Mary O'Brian in NZ where they had several children. At least one served in WW1. Maurice Coady may have come from Kilkenny. We have been trying to follow the leads to your father's past from your mother's memoir and have some ideas which we will put into a logical order for you to look at.

In the meantime, the file attached shows a short letter from a young man who appears to have spent at least a short time at sea. How long we don't yet know. Could this have been written by your father? Do you have any letter, for example, that you could compare it with? There won't be an exact match as writing develops over time and this was written when the man was about 20.

Do you know if your father ever applied for Australian citizenship? I assume the answer is no.



Dear all,
I am in good health. As there are many ships here in port I am taking the chance to drop you a line. It would be a pretty hopeless stunt to try to follow this up so dont wast time trying. I picked the enclosed up on shore once and hope you may like it. Some day when conditions have altered we will meet again I suppose. Untill then I wish you all the fortune and health that you want.

I have based my research on your mother's memory that the name of your father's mother was KATHERINE IMELDA COADY.

After a lot of negative searches, I discovered a CATHERINE AMELDA COADY who was born in Stafford, New Zealand, in 1884. She was the daughter of MAURICE COADY, originally of Glenmore, county Kilkenny, Ireland, who died in Wellington, New Zealand, on 1 September 1914, and his wife CATHERINE MARY O'BRIEN who died in Wellington on 1 October 1933.

The couple, both Roman Catholic, had seven children, two boys and five girls, one of the girls died in infancy. I have also researched the lives of these COADY children and I will provide you with that information later. Suffice to say that some of these histories do have possible connections with your mother's recollections of your father's family.

CATHERINE AMELDA COADY married in 1927 after working as a postmistress at KAWHIA, North Island, New Zealand. Her husband was a farmer EDWARD JOHN GRAHAM, born 1877 in Salisbury, Wiltshire, England, and, after living in various parts of New Zealand, he settled in 1939 at RANGIURI, OTAKI, on the west coast of North Island, about 100 kms north of Wellington.

EDWARD JOHN GRAHAM died on 20 March 1950 having made his will, dated 28 March 1949, which is contained in his probate papers lodged at the Wellington Court in May 1950. The will, after a few bequests, names his wife, CATHERINE AMELDA, as sole beneficiary. EDWARD's will goes on to name their two children, MAURICE JOSEPH GRAHAM and HELEN WISE GRAHAM as beneficiaries in trust should CATHERINE AMELDA predecease him.

CATHERINE AMELDA GRAHAM died on 13 MARCH 1959 in Lower Hutt, a northern suburb of Wellington. CATHERINE's will, dated 23 March 1950, was lodged with the Wellington Probate Court in May 1959. She appoints her daughter, HELEN WISE GRAHAM, and her son, MAURICE JOSEPH GRAHAM, as joint executors and trustees, with the estate to be shared equally between them.

By the time of the Probate HELEN WISE GRAHAM has married and is now named as HELEN WISE MULGAN. In HELEN's affidavit, attached to the probate papers, she confirms that she is the daughter of CATHERINE AMELDA COADY and states that the deceased had only two children, herself and MAURICE JOSEPH GRAHAM.

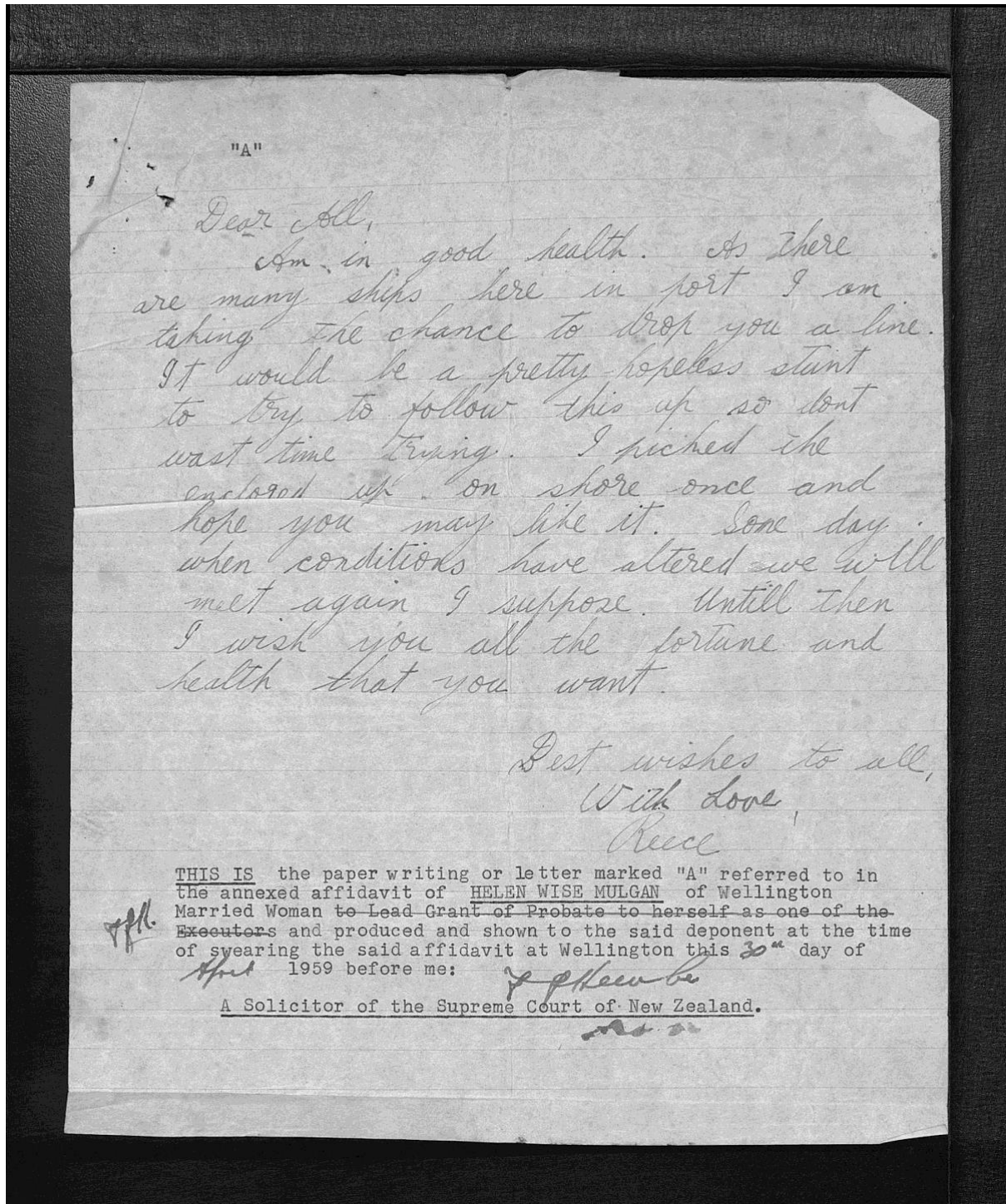
In this affidavit, dated 30 April 1959, HELEN WISE MULGAN goes on to say:

'That the whereabouts of my said brother are not known. He was born in 1928. He suffered Asthma from childhood and after secondary school education he was not able to take up regular employment on this account. He wished to take up open-air life on account of his ailment and went to Australia in the beginning of 1948. He wrote regularly to us at the family home until about the end of that year and then his letters ceased. It has always been his intention to travel about the world and I verily believe that if still alive he has been travelling in various parts of the world ever since.

'That the only communication that either myself or my mother has received from my said brother since about the end of 1948 (*the lawyer has noted, yet the will is*

dated 1950) is a letter which he sent her enclosing a small gift namely an ivory paper knife engraved in Oriental characters and in which letter he suggests that we could not locate his address. I say that I would know of any further communication which had been sent to my mother from my said brother since the year 1948 and that this is the only communication. I have found the said letter (which is undated) among my mother's papers after her death and the same is annexed hereto and marked "A".

The letter is attached as a separate file.



The whole probate bundle can be seen at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7S-JPQB?i=834&cc=1865481>

MAURICE JOSEPH GRAHAM (born 1928)

On 18 August 1948 MAURICE JOSEPH GRAHAM departed Bluff, on the southern tip of New Zealand, for Sydney on board SS *Eastern* and the ship's manifest records:

GRAHAM, MAURICE JOSEPH, age 20, General Labourer, born New Zealand, destination port Sydney.

There is a record of a MAURICE GRAHAM travelling from Wellington to Sydney on SS *Wanganelle* on 3 June 1954 which list the passenger as:

GRAHAM, MAURICE, age 26, occupation Naval Rating, born in New Zealand.

It is not possible to confirm if MAURICE JOSEPH GRAHAM and MAURICE GRAHAM are the same person.

I have currently found no other traces of a MAURICE JOSEPH GRAHAM, born c.1928 in New Zealand, in available genealogical sites or newspaper archives.

Catherine Amelda Coady and her siblings

Since meeting you in London, we have been trying to find clues to your father, John Francis Coten, and his possible ancestors.

Looking for Coten's, like you we too had very little success, only finding reference to your father's marriage and death registrations. Similarly, we had no success in finding Edward John Coten, whom we understood to be John Francis's father, despite searching records worldwide.

Your mother's memoir gave your father's mother the name Katherine Imelda COADY so we started to look for evidence of her life. This research led Dick to CATHERINE AMELDA COADY in New Zealand.

When he discovered that this woman, the daughter of MAURICE COADY, married an EDWARD JOHN, Dick became more interested. Your mother had said that your father's father was called Edward John and, with this coincidence, we thought that Dick should spend time researching this COADY family.

The logic was to see if any of this family had married a COTEN (or COTTON) or if an adoption of a COTEN had occurred. We considered adoption/fostering as a possibility because CATHERINE AMELDA COADY did not marry EDWARD JOHN GRAHAM (NZ BMD Ref. No. 1927/2858) until 1927 when she was 40 years old.

Dick continues:

Sources:

In tracing the COADY family, I will give you the New Zealand Birth, Marriage and Death Reference Numbers (NZ BMD Ref. No. YEAR/XXXXXX) where I have them. This online source

(<https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search>) has been invaluable but availability is limited to Births prior to 1916, Marriages prior to 1936 and Deaths prior to 1966. Other confirmation that I have used are the New Zealand Electoral Rolls for many of the years between 1853 and 1981, which are available on the Ancestry subscription website (www.ancestry.com).

My searches followed the usual routes to find CATHERINE AMELDA COADY's parents and her siblings. I have discovered many additional pieces of information about the members of this COADY family but in this note I will concentrate on the vital records of the family.

Catherine Amelda's Parents:

MAURICE COADY married CATHERINE MARY O'BRIEN in 1872 (NZ BMD Reg. No. 1872/3607).

MAURICE COADY was a miner in the gold mining town of Stafford on the main West Coast road, eight miles from Hokitika on the South Island of New Zealand. I have not yet discovered when he first came to New Zealand. I also want to research further to try and discover where CATHERINE MARY O'BRIEN may have originated from.

MAURICE COADY died in 1914 (NZ BMD Reg. No. 1914/5448) shortly after the couple had retired, in about 1911, to live in Kaiwarra, Wellington. He was buried in the Karori Cemetery and a transcription of the memorial on the headstone reads:

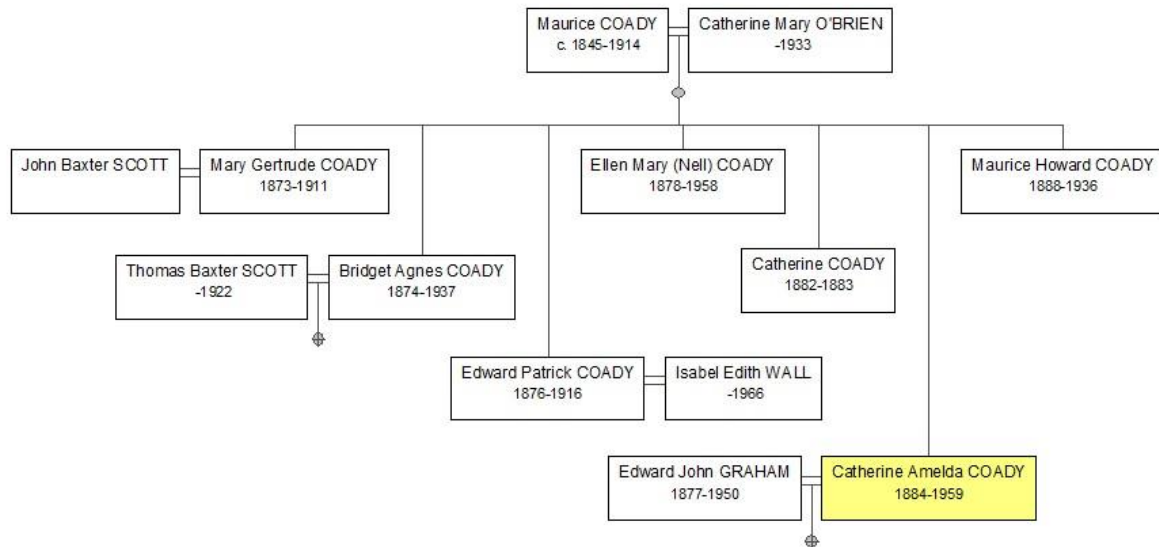
MAURICE COADY native of Glenmore, County Kilkenny, Ireland, died at Wellington 30 August 1914. Also CATHERINE MARY his wife died 1 October 1933.

ELLEN MARY (NELL) COADY daughter of the above died 15 April 1958.

As you see from this memorial, CATHERINE MARY died in 1933 (NZ BMD Reg. No. 1933/20448).

Catherine Amelda's Siblings:

MAURICE and CATHERINE MARY had seven children, all born in the Stafford area, five daughters and two sons. As you will see from the girls' employment, two teachers, one nurse and a postmistress, the family valued education.



1. MARY GERTRUDE COADY's birth was registered in 1873 (NZ BMD Reg. No. 1873/16580). In 1900 she was a nurse at the Mount View Asylum in Wellington.

In 1901 she married JOHN BAXTER SCOTT (NZ BMD Ref. No. 1901/5837), a farmer at Kawhia, North Island.

The couple have no children and she died in 1911 (NZ BMD Ref. No. 1911/5690).

There is a memorial to her in the Kawhia Cemetery (attached).

2. BRIDGET AGNES COADY's birth was registered in 1874 (NZ BMD Reg. No. 1874/36379). In 1893 she passed her Civil Service Junior Exams, qualifying as a teacher. She was living in the area of Greytown, north of Wellington at the time.

In that same year, 1893, she married THOMAS BAXTER SCOTT (NZ BMD Reg. No. 1893/2432). By 1900 the couple are living in Kawhia, where THOMAS BAXTER SCOTT is a farmer.

I have yet to discover if JOHN BAXTER SCOTT and THOMAS BAXTER SCOTT are brothers but I suspect that is the case.

It was probably BRIDGET AGNES COADY's marriage that drew her sister MARY GERTRUDE COADY to the Kawhia area and we will see later that her move and marriage also attracted her other sisters.

BRIDGET AGNES COADY and THOMAS BAXTER SCOTT went on to have ten children over the years 1894 to 1916, all born in the Kawhia area. I will return to these children in my next note when I tell you about the descendants of the MAURICE and CATHERINE MARY COADY living in the 1960's, and who might be alive today.

THOMAS BAXTER SCOTT died in 1922 (NZ BMD Ref. No. 1922/8435) and BRIDGET AGNES SCOTT (née COADY) died in 1937 (NZ BMD Ref. No. 1937/15161). The couple are buried in the Kawhia Cemetery where there is a memorial to them both (attached).

3. EDWARD PATRICK COADY's birth was registered in 1876 (NZ BMD Reg. No. 1876/1299).

In 1896 he was living on Cuba Street, Wellington, and employed as a torpedoman.

In 1914, EDWARD PATRICK COADY joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force as a Lieutenant (Quartermaster) in the Canterbury Mounted Rifles. In December 1914 he travelled with them to Egypt but, by March 1915, he has returned to New Zealand, with promotion to Captain (Quartermaster). However, he chooses not to remain in New Zealand, away from the fighting. He resigns his commission in April 1915, sails to Sydney, and enlists with the Australian Imperial Force as a private soldier under the name EDWARD COADY.

In June 1915, EDWARD PATRICK COADY married ISABEL EDITH WALL (Registered in Sydney NSW Ref No. 1915/14132).

By November 1915, EDWARD COADY, is a Sergeant in the 30th Battalion, AIF, and after six months training in Suez, from December 1915 to June 1916, he is posted to France.

He joined the 30th Battalion, part of the 5th Australian Division, in early July when they are preparing for the ill-fated attack at Fromelles on 19 July 1916. EDWARD COADY was one of the 400 unidentified Australians killed in the attack. His name is recorded on the screen at V.C. Corner Australian Cemetery, Fromelles.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records state:

In Memory of Sergeant EDWARD COADY, 137, 30th BN., Australian Infantry, A.I.F., killed in action on Thursday 20 July 1916 aged 38. Sergeant COADY, son of MAURICE and CATHERINE COADY; Husband of ISABEL E. COADY, of 171, Jones St., Ultimo, New South Wales. Native of New Zealand.

EDWARD PATRICK COADY and his wife ISABEL EDITH (née WALL) had no children. ISABEL EDITH COADY died in 1966 in Randwick City, NSW.

4. ELLEN MARY COADY's birth was registered in 1878 (NZ BMD Reg. No. 1878/1716). By 1905 she, recorded in the Electoral Rolls as Eileen, is a schoolteacher in Kawhia. She had also passed her Civil Service Junior Exams in Greymouth but in 1896, three years after her sister Bridget.

ELLEN MARY COADY would remain a spinster and returned to look after her parents when they retired to Wellington in 1911. She died in 1958 in Wellington (NZ BMD Ref. No.

1958/34128) and, as we have seen earlier, was buried alongside her parents in the Karori Cemetery in Wellington.

ELLEN MARY COADY died intestate and her probate records of 1960 are the basis of much of my discovery of the surviving descendants of MAURICE and CATHERINE MARY COADY who might be alive today.

5. CATHERINE COADY's birth was registered in 1882 (NZ BMD Reg. No. 1882/11441). Sadly this child only survives a short while and her death is registered in 1883 ((NZ BMD Reg. No. 1883/6269). She was buried in the Old Stafford Cemetery but there would appear to be no memorial.
6. CATHERINE AMELDA COADY's birth was registered in 1884 (NZ BMD Ref. No. 1884/20036) and by 1905 she was the postmistress in Kawhia. By 1911 she is back with her sister, Ellen, and her parents at Kalwarra, Wellington.

As I told you in my last note, CATHERINE AMELDA married EDWARD JOHN GRAHAM in 1927 (NZ BMD Ref. No. 1927/2858).

Since the New Zealand Birth records online do not cover the years after 1927, it was from my later discovery of EDWARD JOHN GRAHAM's and CATHERINE AMELDA GRAHAM's probate records, from 1950 and 1959 respectively, that I discovered that the couple had any children.

It was only from CATHERINE AMELDA's probate papers that I discovered, first the letter from their son MAURICE JOSEPH GRAHAM and second that he had been out of contact with the family since about 1948.

EDWARD JOHN GRAHAM and CATHERINE AMELDA GRAHAM (née COADY) are buried next to each other in the Catholic Cemetery attached to St Mary's Church, Otaki. This is not far from the area of Rangiuru where Edward had been farming for at least the last ten years of his life. The memorials on their graves state (copies attached):

In Loving Memory of Edward John Graham, Born at Salisbury, England. Died at Otaki 20th March 1959. The King of Love my Shepard is. RIP

In Loving Memory of Catherine Amelda Graham Born at Stafford Westland Died at Lower Hutt 13 March 1959 RIP.

I have not had any success in tracing EDWARD JOHN GRAHAM's parents. In his attestation papers in 1916-18 they are listed as JOHN HANSON GRAHAM, born Tamworth, Herefordshire (Tamworth is actually in Staffordshire), and HELEN MARY (maiden name not given), born Ely, Cambridgeshire. I am continuing to search for clues about these two.

Now we come to MAURICE and CATHERINE MARY COADY's seventh and last child.

7. MAURICE HOWARD COADY's birth was registered in 1888 (NZ BMD Reg. No. 1888/18501). Prior to 1916, according to his NZ Expeditionary Force attestation papers, he had been working in New Zealand as a machinist engineer with the Metropolitan Dredging Company of New York. Like his brother EDWARD PATRICK COADY he gave his next of kin as Mrs C M COADY of Kiawarra, Wellington.

After his basic training he was drafted to the New Zealand 21st Specialist Machine Gun Corps and spent part of 1917 in France. Sickness saw him posted back to England in February 1918 and he remained at the Corps Depot in Grantham, Lincolnshire, for the rest of WWI.

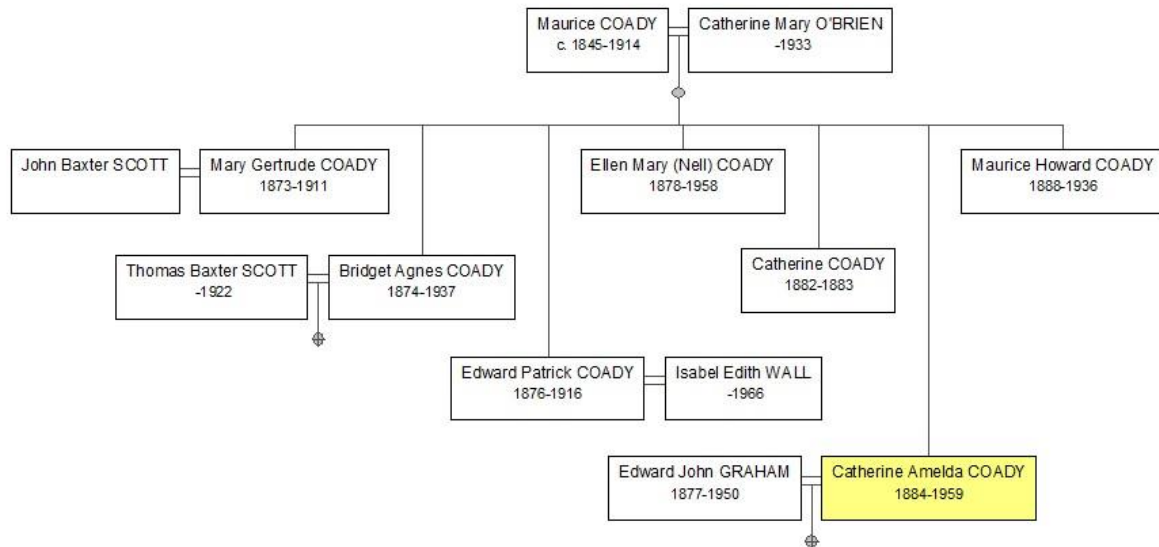
On his discharge in May 1919 he returned to New Zealand but by December that year he had left the country, joining the Merchant Navy serving as an engineering deck officer, sailing mainly out of American ports.

In 1920 he is granted American Citizenship. He continues to sail the seas up to the time of his death in Baltimore in 1936, from 'Heart failure Cardiac Asthma'. MAURICE HOWARD COADY is buried in Mount Olive Cemetery, Baltimore. He did not marry and there is no record of any children.

This outlines the basics of the COADY family in New Zealand. Also attached to this note is a diagram of the family tree, which I hope is helpful in understanding this new family, and photos of some of the COADY graves.

As I said earlier, ELLEN MARY COADY died intestate in 1958 and the subsequent probate papers list her surviving nieces and nephews in 1960. These will be the source of determining who of this COADY family might still be alive today.

In all our research to date, we have not found any reference to the name COTEN (or variant) in connection with the COADY family. However, we will keep looking.



I agree. This is Helen Wise Mulgan nee Graham. Her husband was David Kennaway Mulgan, a journalist who died in 1999.

Helen has lived at [6 Taungata Road Lower Hutt](#) since 1969. I believe that of their 4 children 2 are still living.

We do not know why Maurice never wanted to make contact.

There are other descendants through the Scott marriage though we haven't yet got their addresses. However, Helen is most likely to be able to answer your questions. I hope she still has a good memory: she is 87.

Good luck and best wishes from us both,

Dick and Hilary

Descendants of

MAURICE COADY (c 1845- 1914) and CATHERINE MARY O'BRIEN (c 1850- 1933)

alive in 1960

Your COADY cousins

The following research is based on the probate records of ELLEN MARY COADY (1878-1958), who died intestate. During the probate process, her siblings, nieces, and nephews surviving in 1960 were listed, see <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7V-QTF7?i=689&cc=1865481> .

These are the people included in these probate papers, some of whom may still be living or have surviving descendants. They all come from one of two families.

Children of EDWARD JOHN GRAHAM and CATHERINE AMELDA COADY

Your Father

1. Her nephew, MAURICE JOSEPH GRAHAM, born c 1928.

Your Aunt

2. Her niece, HELEN WISE MULGAN (née GRAHAM), born c 1930, the widow of DAVID KENNAWAY MULGAN (1915-1999).

Children of THOMAS BAXTER SCOTT and BRIDGET AGNES COADY, your 1st cousins once-removed. This couple had ten children, however four had died before the probate in 1960. These were:

John Baxter Scott (1898-1930), James Leo Scott (1903-1936), Thomas William Scott (1906-?) and Hilda (Mary) Grace Ward née Scott (1910-1942) who had issue, see later.

The children alive in 1960 were:

3. Her niece, MARY AGNES GILBERT (née SCOTT), born 1894. She was the wife of ERNEST MONTAGUE GILBERT.
4. Her nephew, EDWARD MAURICE SCOTT, born 1896.
5. Her niece, EILY CATHERINE RANDALL (née SCOTT), born 1901. She was the wife of ARTHUR HENRY JAMES RANDALL.
6. Her niece, KATHLEEN GERTRUDE WARD (née SCOTT), born 1908. She was the wife of WALTER LEWIN WARD.
7. Her niece, PATRICIA MARY SCOTT, born 1913.
8. Her nephew, ARTHUR WALLACE SCOTT, born 1916.

Hilda (Mary) Grace Ward née Scott (1910-1942), who had died before 1960 left one child who was mentioned in the probate, *your 2nd cousin*. After her death, her widower, WALTER LEWIN WARD, married her older sister KATHLEEN GERTRUDE.

9. Her great-niece PATRICIA MARY CUMMINS (née WARD), born c 1938. She was the wife of MICHAEL JOHN CUMMINS.

Surviving descendants

The question I looked at next was, which of these nieces and nephews of your great-aunt, ELLEN MARY COADY, apart from HELEN WISE MULGAN (née GRAHAM) your aunt's family (she will provide that information), are still surviving and do any of them appear to have living offspring.

1. MARY AGNES SCOTT and ERNEST MONTAGUE ROY GILBERT appear to have had at least three children (source rootsweb). I have not found any probate records for this couple.
 - a. MAURICE GILBERT born 1922 in Kawhia, North Island. He would appear to have died in 1931. **(No descendants.)**

- b. WILLIAM MONTAGUE GILBERT born 1927 in Kawhia. He appears to have died in 1991. ***(Living descendants possible.)***
 - c. PATRICIA GILBERT born 1930 in Kawhia. She appears to have died in 1934. ***(No descendants.)***
- 2. EDWARD MAURICE SCOTT married MONA MARTHA SCHULTZ sometime after 1937 and they appear to have had at least one child, EDWARD MAURICE SCOTT jnr. EDWARD MAURICE SCOTT snr died in 1966 in Kawhia and his headstone lists other possible descendants including Edward MAURICE jnr. They are PETER, PATSY, GRANT, TONI, BRUCE and GINA. I have not been able to determine what the relationships of these names are. I have not found any probate records for this couple. ***(Living descendants likely.)***
- 3. EILY CATHERINE SCOTT married ARTHUR JAMES HENRY RANDALL sometime after 1937. The couple died in 1986 and 1976 respectively but their headstone in Kawhia Cemetery makes no mention of any descendants and the electoral rolls give no indication of any adult children. I have not found any probate records for this couple. ***(Maybe no descendants.)***
- 4. KATHLEEN GERTRUDE SCOTT married WALTER LEWIN WARD, the widower of her sister HILDA MARY GRACE SCOTT, sometime after 1942 but before 1946. The couple died in 1990 and 1999 respectively but their headstone in Kawhia Cemetery makes no mention of any descendants and the electoral rolls give no indication of any adult children. I have not found any probate records for this couple. ***(Maybe no descendants.)***
- 5. We can reasonably remove PATRICA MARY SCOTT from this search because, at the time of the probate in 1960, she was a Sister in Holy Orders. Born in 1913, she is unlikely to be alive in 2017. ***(No descendants.)***
- 6. ARTHUR WALLACE SCOTT married JOY POWELL circa 1946 on returning to New Zealand after a distinguished war service. He was captured at El Alamein in July 1942 and made a prisoner-of-war in Italy. For his actions as an escaped prisoner-of-war in Italy in 1943-5, he was awarded the Military Medal. According to his obituary in the *NZ Herald* on 12 May 2006 he was survived by four children: Rose, Marilyn Trish and Don. ***(Living descendants.)***

7. PATRICIA MARY CUMMINS, the only child of HILDA MARY GRACE (née SCOTT) and WALTER LEWIN WARD, born c. 1938, would appear to have married MICHAEL JOHN CUMMINS in about 1969. The 1981 Electoral Roll for Tarawera, Bay of Plenty, implies that they have at least three children: MICHAEL JOHN jnr; ANNE-FRANCES MARY; and ANTHONY VINCENT. (*Living descendants.*)

Further research

Here are a few links which I have used and they might save you some time in your searches.

Probates:

GRAHAM, EDWARD JOHN (1877-1950) – you will need to scroll to record P.870/50, they are not indexed:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSS6-639B-Y?i=477&wc=7H16-GXQ%3A1045248401%2C1588876956&cc=1865481>

COADY, ELLEN MARY (1878-1958) P.648/60:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7V-QTF7?i=689&cc=1865481>

The New Zealand Probate files on *FamilySearch* are not all indexed and so you might well have luck searching for other COADY files by going into:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7V-QTF7?owc=waypoints&cc=1865481>

and searching through the relevant years. Time consuming but it was how I first found Edward and Catherine Graham's probates.

NZ Army Attestation forms:

GRAHAM, EDWARD JOHN

http://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE9868174

COADY, EDWARD PATRICK

http://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE14013629

COADY, MAURICE HOWARD

http://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE14026237

Other sites

The Archway (New Zealand Archives) simple search page may also get you to other records of interest which I have not looked at:

<https://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/SimpleSearchResults.do>

Additionally I found some interesting photos of the post office and school at Kawhia on this site:

<https://natlib.govt.nz/photos>