

Finding the Family of John Coten – An Introduction

As outlined in sections of Meg's memoir, many parts of John Coten's life remained a mystery. It was known that he had lost contact with his family, and in the years that followed, much of his early story remained unknown—even to Meg.

Over the decades, Meg and John built a remarkable life together. But after John's death in 1970, the lingering question of where his family might be stayed with Meg, and with her sons Ned and Jim as they grew older.

Throughout their childhood, Ned and Jim heard various stories about their father's background. Yet these tales left many gaps. There was always a quiet hope that one day, more might be known. For much of their lives, they wondered about the family that must surely exist somewhere.

Indeed, part of the motivation for publishing Meg's memoirs has been to tell this part of the story—to bring full circle the circumstances of Meg's life and the life of the family she and John created. The story you are about to read is remarkable in its own right, and it adds depth, interest, and a sense of mystery to the rich tapestry of Meg's life.

The sections in this appendix have been written from various perspectives, each adding its own insight to the unfolding story:

Section 1. The Search to Find John Coten's Family

An overview written by Hilary and Richard Tulloch, providing the background to the remarkable circumstances under which John's family was found.

Section 2. Finding John Coten: Hilary and Richard Tulloch's Journey

Again written by Hilary and Richard, this is a more personal account of their search, offering insight into their own experiences along the way.

Section 3. John Coten's History as Told to Ned and Jim

A summary written by Meg as a record for the boys, outlining the version of their father's life that Ned and Jim grew up with.

Section 4. Finding John Coten: Ned and Jim's Perspective

A retelling of how the discovery unfolded from Ned and Jim's own point of view—deeply personal, as they were discovering the truth about their own father.

Section 5. Overview of Findings about Maurice Graham

A structured summary of the findings about Maurice Joseph Graham (John Coten's original identity), compiled by Hilary Tulloch. This section provides a genealogical record to ensure clarity and accuracy.

Section 6. Remembering Meg by Helen Mulgan

A moving reflection by John's sister, Helen Mulgan. It captures the emotional impact of being reunited—after so many decades—with the family of her long-lost brother.

We hope you find this appendix as fascinating and moving as we have. It has been an extraordinary journey for Ned and Jim—and, of course, for Meg during her lifetime—to discover this part of their history and to finally meet their husband and father's family.

Most importantly, those new family connections have blossomed. At the time of writing, Helen is still alive at 95 and living in Lower Hutt, New Zealand. Ned and Jim have visited her and maintain a close relationship with her family—including Roderick, his wife Sarah, their daughters Emily and Julia, and Helen's adopted daughter Kitty and her son Christopher.

It is a joy to see this story come full circle—one more remarkable chapter in the life of Meg Coten and her family.