

## BOOKER FAMILY

Henry Booker

b. 1856 d. 1933

James Booker

m. Elsie McSwain

### Photos

Booker property	D000218, 264, 527, 1945, 1946
George Booker	D000035
Booker family	D000161
Booker truck	D000217, 1210
Mrs Booker (1938)	D000235, 1224
Norman Booker (1933)	D000303
Norman Booker (1935)	D000305
Harry Booker	D000175, 373, 1229, 2379
Colin Booker	D000568, 1218, 1412
George Booker	D000035, 1228
Barry Booker	D000576, 578, 1417, 1418
Roy Booker	D002379

### Scans

Booker written history D000329, 826,

**DOCS:** Scans 1,2 & 3 Booker family tree (Booker file),

Scan 4, Booker family of Brighton & Dingley

Booker history (Booker file, See Kingston Local History Article 498).

## ***BOOKER FAMILY OF BRIGHTON & DINGLEY***

### **John & Mary Booker:**

John Booker was born in Surrey, England, on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1819 and employed by Henry Dendy on a farm at Great Millfields about 10 miles from Dorking, Surrey,

He married Mary Lawrence, born 1823 at Capel, Surrey on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1841..

They left England on the ship "Earl of Durham" on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1842 and arrived in Port Phillip Bay at Sandridge (now Williamstown, Victoria) on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1842. They settled in Outer Crescent, Middle Brighton where their family of nine were born.

John served as Verger and grave digger at St. Andrews Church of England for many years until taking up land in Highett Road, South Brighton (now Highett) where Mary passed away in 1901 and where he died in 1906.

Henry Booker, Born 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1856, the 7<sup>th</sup> child of John and Mary, married Isabella McKnight of Cheltenham on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1889. They had four sons - John, Henry, James and Roy. He was market gardening on a leased property on the corner of Warrigal Road & Kingston Road, Cheltenham until he bought a property in Tootal Road, Dingley in 1895, and there they raised their family. Eldest son John Booker passed away at aged 17 in September 1907. Second son, Henry Booker Jnr. stayed at home with his parents, James Booker moved to Cheltenham and Roy Booker moved to Middle Brighton.

Henry Booker Snr. was a lay preacher at the Church of England, Dingley until his death in March, 1933. He was pre-deceased by his wife Isabella who passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1918.

Henry Booker Jnr. Born 1891, went to Heatherton Primary School and was a returned soldier from the 1914-18 war. He served in France and Belgium where he was wounded and returned to Australia in 1919. He married Reata Voigt in June 1927 and had two sons - George Henry and Robert Leslie who passed away aged 21 in 1959.

He retired from gardening in 1961 and spent many years at his retreat at Inverloch.

During his lifelong time in Tootal Road he was a neighbour of the Armstrong and Swallow families, also the Gartside, Souters, Hollands and Mitchells.

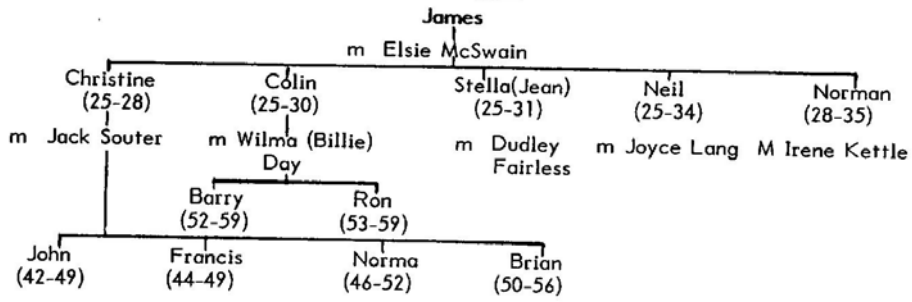
He passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1969.

George Henry Booker was born at Mentone on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 1928 and raised in Tootal Road. He married Lorna McKenzie (born at Mildura 18<sup>th</sup> June, 1928) on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 1948. They had two daughters Shirley and Lorraine. George carried on gardening until August, 1973 when the property was sold to Dinsand.

From there Mrs. Reata Booker moved to 122 Centre Dandenong Road, Dingley until she passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 1977, and George and Lorna moved to 3 Rudolf Court, Dingley until moving to Surfers Paradise in 1981.

Shirley (Mrs. Bertie) lives at Noble Park with husband Peter and son Andrew, and Lorraine (Mrs. Campbell) lives in Port Macquarie, N.S.W. with husband Noel and two sons, Luke and Mark.

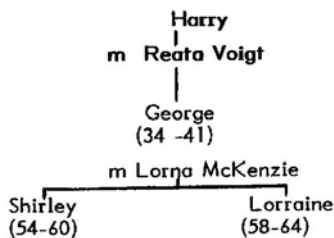
**THE BOOKERS**



Back Row L to R: Christine, Colin, Jean,  
Front Row: Norman, Neil



Back Row L to R: Norman, Neil, Colin,  
Front Row: Jean, Mr. & Mrs. Booker, Christine



Picture at right, from left to right-  
Harry, Lorraine, Reata, George, Shirley  
and Lorna. December, 1966.



No family group can boast of greater parental involvement in the school committee than the Booker family. With 31 years of involvement in 38 years, between 1925 and 1963, the only years in which a member of the family was not represented on the committee was between 1946 and 1953(inclusive)

James and his brother Harry worked the market garden together until 1930. While Harry remained on the Tootals Road property, Jim went to work for Laurie Barnett; and later for other gardeners until the family moved to Cheltenham.

James had five children at the school (four commenced on the day the school opened) during his term of office, which commenced when he became a member of the original committee, and ended with his resignation in 1936. Both he and his wife Elsie were deeply involved and set a fine example for the children and his brother to follow.

It was not surprising that no sooner had James left the scene than his brother Henry was elected to the committee in 1937 and remained a member until 1945. Both parents, once again, very involved in school activities, as Henry's wife Reata continued to attend the joint meetings until the Mothers' Club was formed in 1947. It should be noted that no Booker attended the school from 1942 to 1951 yet the family continued its interest.

In 1954 Colin Booker (son of James) joined the school committee as his sons Barry and Ron attended the school. At the same time his wife Billie was

involved in the Mothers' Club. Colin had to resign from the committee when Billie was employed as the school cleaner. George (son of Henry) followed his father's footsteps and served as a member of the committee for four years from 1960. He did not seek re-election from 1964 as his daughter Lorraine completed her schooling that year. Thus the school lost the services of a deeply involved and concerned family.

#### Booker recollections of their school associations include:-

- \* Four Bookers enrolled on opening day at Dingley State School.

- \* Neil, to the best of his recollection never wore shoes or boots to school. He used to play football bare footed.

- \* Jim was M.C. for the dance and Euchre nights.

- \* Jim worked hard for the school and was given a brass jardiniere for services rendered.

- \* Wilma (Billie) can recall travelling to the school sports in market gardeners' trucks. The children were given raspberry drink and buns supplied by the Mothers' Club.

- \* Points for placegetters in the races at the sports were 1st - 3 points, 2nd - 2 points and 3rd - 1 point.

- \* Wilma can recall the day Heatherton won the sports by 1 point and while the points were being checked, a Heatherton Committee member "grabbed the cup and

ran off". It was in Heatherton State School before anyone realized it was gone!  
\* The night after Wilma started cleaning the school the toilet block was burnt down.

\* Neil can remember sleeping amongst the coats on the desks at the school dances while Mrs. Pattersen played the accordian. After the dance time he was woken and had to walk home.



*Back Row: Jim Booker, \_\_\_\_\_, Harry Booker*

*Partly hidden: Ruth Penn, Glad McSwain.*

*3rd Row: Chris Booker, Jean Penn, Elsie Booker, Reata Booker*

*At front: Jean Booker*

*Outside Dingley State School about 1930.*