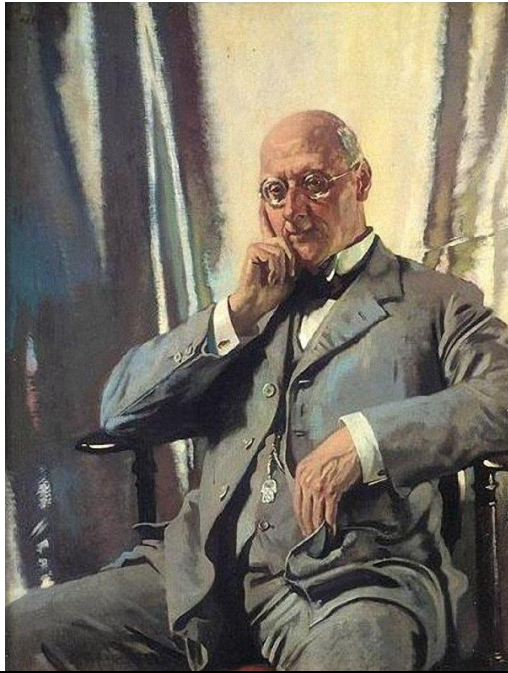


## LIVESAY

Frank Hamilton Livesay arrived in Sydney on 9 February 1920 with his wife Muriel Eddeva Blakeway<sup>1</sup>. His calling was that of a farmer. Although Frank's journey on the SS *Beltana* was unremarkable, his life up until that point was not without its twists and turns.



Francis Henry Edward Livesay by William Orpen. Date unknown. Private Collection

Frank's father was Francis Henry Edward Livesay, whose family came from London. Francis worked in the insurance business and at different times was an insurance agent, an inspector of insurance agents and an insurance broker. He must have achieved some degree of eminence in this profession as his portrait was painted by the well known Victorian artist Sir William Newenham Montague Orpen, one of the official painters in World War I.

Frank Hamilton Livesay was born in 1879 at Potters Bar, north of London, the eldest son of Francis and his wife Elizabeth Mary Edmonds. He had two elder sisters, Edith and Mary. We do not know what the internal workings of the family might have been but it is curious to note that in the 1891 census, Francis and Elizabeth Livesay and their two daughters had moved to Romford in Essex, east of London and Frank was living apart in St Michael's Orphanage in Croydon, South London, aged 11.<sup>2</sup> The school wasn't strictly an orphanage as it was 'intended for sons of the Clergy, officers of the Army and Navy and of professional men whose homes had been marred by

bereavement or by some form of domestic unhappiness'.<sup>3</sup> Francis Livesay may have hoped that his son would follow in his footsteps but Frank had other ideas<sup>4</sup>. In February 1900, he joined the army as a private for a one year term of Short Service, an unusual career move for someone who was from a well connected family. On his enlistment form, he gave his trade as 'clerk'. He sailed to South Africa from Southampton on the RMS *Tintagel Castle* on 10 March 1900 arriving in Table Bay on Saturday 31st March 1900.<sup>5</sup> The Third Officer on this voyage was none other than Ernest Shackleton who became famous for his polar exploration (and who wrote an account of the voyage). He was discharged on 25 May 1901 on 'expiration of (his) engagement'.<sup>6</sup>



The final wave to England: RMS *Tintagel Castle* leaves Southampton on 10 March 1900 © The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association

Not long afterwards, Frank made his way to Canada.<sup>7</sup> He remained there for at least four years where he sought experience on the Canadian Prairies and learned the skills necessary to build a log cabin from hand-hewn timber.<sup>8</sup>

The next record we have of Frank is his marriage to Muriel Eddeva Blakeway in mid-1914. Muriel had grown up in the small village of Horton in Staffordshire, where her father, Bennett Blakeway, was Vicar from 1879 to 1919. The Rev Blakeway is noted for carving the chancel screen in his church of St Michael's and All Angels.<sup>9</sup> Muriel was a cultured woman having taught at Cambridge and elsewhere in England and France<sup>10</sup> and could speak a number of languages<sup>11</sup>. On 19 August 1914, Frank left Muriel behind and set sail for Canada alone on the SS *Lake Manitoba*, just 14 days after Britain declared war on Germany.<sup>12</sup> We have no inkling as to why Frank should go to Canada on his own and at such a dangerous time. There is no record of his return but by May 1915, Frank had joined up again, this time as an officer in The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment.<sup>13</sup> He was commissioned as a Temporary Second Lieutenant on 20 May 1915<sup>14</sup> and promoted to Lieutenant on 1 July 1917.<sup>15</sup>

**9424 SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 10 AUGUST, 1918.**

<p>The undermentioned temp. Lts., from Trg. Res., to be temp. Lts. 2 Mar. 1918, with seniority specified against their names:—</p> <p>J. S. Golding. 1 July 1917. C. W. Stephenson. 15 July 1917.</p> <p>Temp. 2nd Lt. W. Sheward is dismissed the Service by sentence of a General Court-Martial. 20 June 1918.</p> <p><b>INFANTRY.</b> <i>Service Battalions.</i> <i>R. W. Surr. R.</i> Temp. 2nd Lt. F. H. Livesay to be temp. Lt. 1 July 1917.</p>	<p>A. L. Kemp, from a Garr. Bn., Yorks. L.I. 25 Apr. 1918, with seniority 16 Sept. 1917. G. Trickett, from Durh. L.I. (attd.). 26 Apr. 1918, with seniority 28 Nov. 1917. A. P. McInness, from a Garr. Bn., Yorks. L.I. 25 Apr. 1918, with seniority 13 Dec. 1917. T. Hyndman, from a Garr. Bn., Yorks. L.I. 25 Apr. 1918, with seniority 18 Dec. 1917.</p> <p><i>R. Fus.</i> Lt. (actg. Maj.) W. C. Smith, M.C. (K.R. Rif. C., Spec. Res.), to be actg. Lt.-Col. while comdg. a Bn. 22 June 1918.</p>
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Frank's mother died in 1902 and his father remarried a young daughter of a farmer, Lily Rebecca Cox from Whittlesea, on 20 August 1918. Francis Livesay was 69 years old and Lily, 41 years his younger!<sup>16</sup> No member of the family acted as a witness, in fact, it was the Vicar's wife who stood in to sign the register. Was it this second marriage which finally brought Frank and Muriel Livesay to emigrate a year later?

1918. Marriage solemnized at Christ Church in the Parish of Hampstead in the County of London

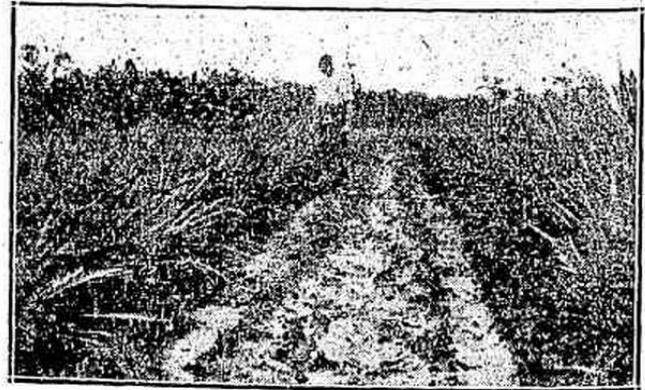
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
51	Sept 2 <sup>nd</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> 1918	Francis Henry Edward Livesay	69 years	Widower	Innkeeper Isleham	Holy Mt Village of Health Hampstead	George Nathaniel Livesay (deceased)	Master Mariner
		Lily Rebecca Cox	28 years	Spinster	—	Bassinghall Lodge Whittlesea	Willie Cox	Farmer

Married in the District Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by Licence or after ——— by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { Francis Henry Edward Livesay } in the Presence of us, { Thomas Henry Haseldine } J. Brasco Dales Vicar  
 { Lily Rebecca Cox } { Alice M. Brasco Waters } 5<sup>th</sup> Sept 1918



After Frank and Muriel's arrival in Queensland in 1920, they were encouraged by William Richer Moon, a member of the Brookfield pioneering family, to take up a bush land block.<sup>17</sup> Accordingly, they purchased 40 acres of farm land in Moggill under the Soldier Settlement Scheme set up in the State by the *Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act, 1917*.<sup>18</sup> The land had previously been owned by William Weekes (portion 16), Robert Cribb (portion 128) and others.<sup>19</sup> A comfortable log cabin was built with a dining room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. A second bedroom, lounge and veranda were added later.<sup>20</sup> In 1922, Mr Francis Xavier Heeney of the Land Court, determined that the price to be charged for this land if sold or closed was £5 per acre.<sup>21</sup> The next we hear of Frank and Muriel Livesay is on the electoral roll in 1925. Frank was described as a fruit grower but no address is recorded in Moggill.<sup>22</sup> Three years later, an article entitled "Picturesque Moggill" written by Thos J McMahon, appeared in *The Brisbane Courier* with a grainy photograph of Frank's pineapple plantation in Moggill.<sup>23</sup> The article adds nothing further about Frank Livesay only to say that 'the pineapples have yielded a generous summer crop and promise a bountiful winter crop'. The list of prominent dairymen, farmers and fruit growers in the article reads like a *Who's Who* of Moggill pioneer families: Aitchison, Twine, Lather, Sinnamon, Greer, O'Brien, Shields, Sugars, Anstead, and Sexton.



Mr. F. H. Livesay's pineapple plantation at Moggill.

T. J. McMahon photo.

From *Picturesque Moggill* Thos J McMahon *The Brisbane Courier* 25 February 1928

The Livesay family continued to farm in Moggill for many years as attested by reports in the local paper. In 1936, a case of theft was reported: one Frederick Domford had stolen property from Frank Livesay valued at £1. Domford was planning to go to Sydney where he thought 'the articles would come in handy'. He was fined £1.<sup>24</sup>

### "ARTICLES WOULD COME IN HANDY"

Frederick Domford (20), labourer, before Mr. W. Simpson, P.M., in the Police Court yesterday, pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing cutlery and other articles, valued at £1, the property of Frank Livesay.

The prosecutor said the defendant had told the police that he was going to Sydney, and as he intended to back there he thought the articles would come in handy.

Domford was fined £1. in default imprisonment for seven days.

Detective Senior Sergeant T. M. Brannelly said the defendant had been employed by the complainant at Moggill. He left the place and took the property with him

By 1943, Frank and Muriel's land holding had been reduced to one block of 24 acres, namely Portion 116, subdivision 2, fronting Moggill Road opposite the Anglican Church. They had advertised this block of land for sale but a subsequent advertisement appeared in *The Courier-Mail* withdrawing the block from sale.<sup>25</sup> We have no idea why the land was on sale or indeed, why it should have been withdrawn from sale. A contemporary map of land holdings shows this plot measuring 23 acres 3 roods and 19 perches.<sup>26</sup>

Frank Livesay took an active interest in the local community and beyond: he was a keen member of Moggill Bridge League formed to champion the case for a bridge over the river and became chairman of the League in August 1927. Earlier in the year, *The Brisbane Courier* had opined: the 'antiquated' ferry was 'probably the most out-of-date in Queensland', the ferry man taking 15 minutes to pull the ferry across with his hands on a wire rope.<sup>27</sup> Frank was chairman of the local branch of the Country-Nationalist Party<sup>28</sup>, a committee member of the local producers organisation<sup>29</sup> and supporter of the Ipswich Ambulance Centre.<sup>30</sup>

**PINEAPPLE MARKETING.**

Sir,—I see from the letter under the heading Pineapple Marketing in your issue of October 28 that I have still not made clear my criticism of the C.O.D. in this matter, and I write once more to ask you to state my case. Owing to a decision of the Committee of Direction, the growers were prevented from sending any but "specials" (10 to the case) direct to the factories. This threw all the first and second grade pineapples on the fresh fruit market, where they were bought by the canneries (direct, or through the Committee of Direction) at glut prices. The statement made by Mr. Ranger in your issue of October 19, that "4/a case had been paid for all pineapples suitable for canning purposes," is misleading, as evidently the canneries got a large proportion of first-class fruit at the low prices mentioned. This cannot be considered satisfactory from the growers' point of view, and shows that the Committee of Direction did not hold the canneries to their agreement as regards the winter crop.—I am, sir, etc.,

**MURIEL LIVESAY.**

Moggill.

His wife Muriel was equally involved in the pineapple farm and a vociferous correspondent with the papers over the buying of first and second grade pineapples by the canneries at 'glut prices'<sup>31</sup>. She was a keen artist, exhibiting at Wilkinson's Gallery in Queen Street in 1927<sup>32</sup> and a poet, having her poem *Automation: The Dispossessed* published in 1966.<sup>33</sup> She also showed an interest in photography, attending the Fourth International Kodak Exhibition in 1930.<sup>34</sup> She was a founding member of Moggill CWA in 1934.<sup>35</sup> The Silkstone-Booval CWA had chosen Moggill for their annual picnic and had found 'a ideal spot on the banks of the Brisbane River ... with perfect weather conditions and delightful surroundings'. 'Arrangements were made for the formation of the Moggill branch with nine ladies subscribing to the new branch. Later in the day, Mrs Livesay won a prize for the drawing of an animal'!

Frank and Muriel had two adopted children, a son, Roy Kenneth, and daughter Joan Rosamund. In 1963, they were all living in the eponymously named Livesay Road and working on the farm.<sup>36</sup>

Frank died in 1963 and Muriel in 1976. Their family home had been modernised and the building which currently stands on the site retains the same roof lines as the original log cabin.



Frank Livesay's log cabin  
© Joan Porritt

**Livesay Road** runs from its junction with Moggill Road in Bellbowrie, in a southerly direction for 1.36 km. ending in a no-through road. Formerly known as Pipe Track Road<sup>37</sup> and Moggill Ferry Road, in 1885 Livesay Road connected through to Prior's Pocket Road at its junction with Stratford Street. The line of the old road can still be seen as an electricity easement.

Neville Marsh

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<sup>1</sup> New South Wales Government State Records, Shipping Master's Office, Inward Passenger Lists, Series 13278, March-April 1920.

<sup>2</sup> National Archives of the UK, 1891 Census, Class RG12/1367 folio 168, p 40 and RG12/595 folio 112, p. 23.

<sup>3</sup> St Michaels Preparatory School website; <http://www.stmichaels.kent.sch.uk/school-visitors/12/history-of-the-school/>; accessed 19 April 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Wager, Libby, 1988: *Mud Maps of Moggill* published in association with the Pullenvale Field Study Centre. The page entitled *The Livesay's Canadian Log Cabin*, written from an interview with Joan Porritt, p.96.

<sup>5</sup> W. Mclean and E. H. Shackleton, 1900: *O. H. M. S. or How 1200 Soldiers went to Table Bay*. Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton and Kent, London.

<sup>6</sup> National Archives of the UK, Class WO97: Chelsea Pensioners British Army service records.

<sup>7</sup> Government of Canada, Library and Archives Canada, Passenger Lists 1865-1935 (RG76), Quebec 1865-1921, Roll T-483.

<sup>8</sup> Wager, Libby *ibid*.

<sup>9</sup> Horton St. Michael and All Angels Church website: <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/parish/200296/>; accessed 20 April 2014.

<sup>10</sup> Wager, Libby *ibid*. Note that there is no record of a Muriel Blakeway in *Alumni Cantabrigienses*.

<sup>11</sup> *Personal communication*, Don and Margaret Greer, 15 April 2014.

<sup>12</sup> National Archives of the UK, Board of Trade: Commercial, Labour and Statistical Department, 1895-1916, Outwards Passenger Lists. Class BT27.

<sup>13</sup> National Archives of the UK, Class WO 339/35490: War Office: Officer's Services, First World War.

<sup>14</sup> *The London Gazette* 21 May 1915, p.4900.

<sup>15</sup> *Supplement to The London Gazette* 10 August 1918, p. 9424.

<sup>16</sup> London Metropolitan Archives, Christ Church, Hampstead, Register of marriages, P81/CTC, Item 010.

<sup>17</sup> Libby Wager *ibid*.

<sup>18</sup> Cameron, Ian. 1999. *A green and pleasant land. An account of the Pullenvale-Moggill District of south-east Queensland*, p.96. Published by Ian Cameron, Pullenvale. Note however, no record of this purchase can be found in the Registers of Selections, 1/1/1885-31/12/1981, Series 13955 at Queensland State Archives.

<sup>19</sup> Helen McMonagle pers comm

<sup>20</sup> Wager, Libby *ibid*.

<sup>21</sup> *The Queenslander*, Saturday 1 July 1922, p.35

<sup>22</sup> Queensland Electoral Roll for 1925, Moggill Division

<sup>23</sup> *The Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 25 February 1928.

<sup>24</sup> *The Courier-Mail*, Wednesday 9 September 1936.

<sup>25</sup> *The Courier-Mail*, Wednesday 30 June 1943.



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- <sup>26</sup> Queensland State Archives: location to be added
- <sup>27</sup> *The Brisbane Courier*, Thursday 1 September 1927, p.9; see also Friday 24 June 1927, p.18 and Wednesday 14 March 1928, p.20.
- <sup>28</sup> *The Brisbane Courier*, Friday 23 April 1926.
- <sup>29</sup> *The Brisbane Courier*, Friday 24 June 1927.
- <sup>30</sup> *Queensland Times*, Friday 13 May 1938
- <sup>31</sup> *The Courier-Mail*, Wednesday 25 October 1933 and Tuesday 7 November 1933.
- <sup>32</sup> *The Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 10 September 1927.
- <sup>33</sup> *The Realist*, Winter 1966, no. 23, p. 22.
- <sup>34</sup> *The Brisbane Courier*, Tuesday 8 April 1930, p. 25.
- <sup>35</sup> *The Courier-Mail*, Saturday 20 October 1934.
- <sup>36</sup> Queensland Electoral Roll for 1963, Ryan Division.
- <sup>37</sup> Westaway, Joan, Johnson, Mary and Gillett, Dawn (Eds), 1966: *Moggill State School 1866-1966 Centenary Souvenir Brochure*, p.13