

Jackson Family

Henry and Alice Jackson came to Pemberton from Hester near Bridgetown in 1917. Henry applied for two blocks of conditional purchase, one of 57 acres and one of 58. He was a sleeper cutter by trade and took up work at the sawmill to provide income while he cleared his land. Henry and Alice had two children, **Charles Henry** (1915) and **Ettie May** (1917) when they arrived in Pemberton, and the family was made complete by the birth of **Hugh Hilliar** in 1920 and **Alice Elizabeth** in 1923. Sadly, Henry was killed in an accident in 1927, leaving Alice to manage the farm and raise their four children.



Alice returned to Perth for a short time, returning to a run-down farm in the 1930s. She made ends meet by milking cows and making butter which she sold in town. The children helped with the deliveries until Alice sold her milk delivery business to work the farm more fully. **Hugh** left school to work on an orchard north of Perth, finally returning to the farm in 1936.

Hugh worked very hard in these years at a milk round and then at the sawmill as a boiler attendant. Working very long hours, his main job was to clean and care for two 3b class locomotives and a stationary boiler.

Then came the war and aged 20, Hugh joined the 10th Light Horse Brigade in Bunbury. It was around this time that he met his future wife, Margery Stan-Bishop. After training in Northam and Bathurst, he was transferred to the 2/28 infantry battalion of the 9th division and then put on a ship to Moratai, Borneo, eventually sailing to Labuon. It was here in battle that Hugh was badly wounded by a bullet embedded in his neck near his backbone. Following a harrowing time before he could be properly assessed, he was operated on to have pins inserted in his jaw and other procedures. This wound was to cause him terrible trouble for many years to come. During his stay in hospital, Hugh would care for other soldiers in his ward, writing letters, taking messages, shaving and cutting hair. So popular was his activity there, that he was recommended for a medal, which he refused saying that he was only doing his job.

When the war ended, Hugh was discharged in 1946 and returned to the farm in Pemberton. He applied for a loan under the Government Rehabilitation Scheme and applied for a potato licence for two acres. He also worked at clearing land and creating small dams around Pemberton with a small bulldozer belonging to another local man, as well as working the farm and milking.

In May 1946, Hugh married Margery in Albany. The young couple returned to work on the farm, living with Alice, Hugh's mother. They had five children, Hugh Francis, Donald Mervyn, Keith Edward, Garry James and Heather Marguerite.

Hugh was prominent in the Farmer's Union of WA, where he was elected President in the Pemberton region, remaining in that position for some 30 years. Over the years, Hugh increased his herd and obtained a larger potato licence. He bought a motorbike and a one tonne truck and finally a small tractor to replace the horses doing the ploughing, planting, digging and picking.

In 1953, Alice's health declined, and she was confined to her bed. Margery cared for her until she died six months later.

Hugh was very active in the Pemberton community, becoming President of the P & C, and the Farmer's Union Zone Council, and was also a member of the cemetery Board. He was a volunteer ambulance driver, fire brigade officer, RSL Secretary as well.

1992 to 1997

Hugh continued to work on the farm, milking the cows and doing all the things that keep a farmer busy as well as being involved in all his committees. He was very passionate about Anzac Day and made sure there was always a service held to commemorate our soldiers.

Hugh had 17 grandchildren to keep him busy, and as they all lived in the area, he built a wonderful relationship with them. In January of 1997 Hugh went into hospital for a routine hernia repair, but after surgery had a deep vein thrombosis. Tests and scans revealed that Hugh had Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a very treatable cancer. Hugh was in St John of God hospital Bunbury before being sent to Sir Charlie Gardner Hospital for surgery to remove the tumour. However, the lymphoma had been left too long before discovery and had encroached on his kidneys, so Doctors were unable to remove it. Hugh started Chemotherapy but unfortunately it was too much. His kidneys were compromised by the tumour and Hugh passed away with his family by his side singing his favourite hymns on the morning of 5th May 1997. Margery had never left his side, sleeping in a chair beside his bed for the whole duration of his time in hospital. A true testament to their love. Hugh is buried in the Pemberton Cemetery along with his precious Margery who passed away on the 26th April 2015 aged 92.

Hugh's family have continued to operate in Pemberton working the farm and operating a number of successful businesses in the area.



Hugh and Margery Jackson

(The summary of Hugh's life above has been drawn from information provided by the Jackson family, in particular: -

Ryan Peter Jackson Thompson, 'The Life of Hugh Hilliar Jackson', unpublished memoir, circa 1993.)