

A LIFE IN ORDER

Timeline

George Silvester & Ellen Stewart, year by year

Old roots & a Hampshire boyhood (to 1850)

DATE	WHO	PLACE	EVENT	IN THE WIDER WORLD
1700			<i>Deep Silvester roots in east Hampshire farming country (Froxfield, Priors Dean, Hawkley), traced to a Richard Silvester of the mid-1600s.</i>	<i>Deep Silvester roots in east Hampshire farming country (Froxfield, Priors Dean, Hawkley), traced to a Richard Silvester of the mid-1600s.</i>
1789			<i>The Clarke-Jervoise baronets of Idsworth held the estate the Silvesters worked from 1789.</i>	<i>The Clarke-Jervoise baronets of Idsworth held the estate the Silvesters worked from 1789.</i>
1807	Harriet Wield	East Meon, Hampshire	Harriet Wield baptised, East Meon, Hampshire	—
1809-11-26	James Silvester	Blendworth, Hampshire	James Silvester baptised, Blendworth, Hampshire	—
1828-10-08	James Silvester, Harriet Wield	Portsea St Mary, Hampshire	James Silvester married Harriet Wield, Portsea St Mary	—
1830			<i>The Swing Riots sweep Hampshire — labourers rise against low wages and threshing machines; brutal repression follows.</i>	<i>The Swing Riots sweep Hampshire — labourers rise against low wages and</i>

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				<i>threshing machines; brutal repression follows.</i>
1834-11-22	George Silvester	Blendworth, Hampshire	George Silvester baptised, Blendworth (father James, labourer)	Born into a hard Hampshire farming economy of subsistence wages.
1839-05-25	Ellen Menia Stewart	Ireland (Dublin?) / Glasgow?	Ellen Menia Stewart born — place CONFLICTED: Ireland/Dublin (her own evidence on children's certs) vs Glasgow, Scotland (death cert & Sarah's marriage cert)	Most likely out of post-Famine Ireland.
1841	George Silvester, James Silvester, Harriet Wield	Blendworth, Hampshire	George (age 7) in family of origin, 1841 census — James 30, Harriet 30, Jesse 11, Jane 8, George 7, Sarah 4, Henry 1	A farm-labouring household on the Idsworth estate.
1845			<i>Working life of a Hampshire agricultural labourer: subsistence wages (~9–12s/week), seasonal, hungry winters once threshing went to machines.</i>	<i>Working life of a Hampshire agricultural labourer: subsistence wages (~9–12s/week), seasonal, hungry winters once threshing went to machines.</i>
1846	James Silvester	Blendworth / Pyle Farm, Hampshire	James Silvester awarded a 'third premium' of £3 for supporting six children without parish relief — recorded as aged 36, in the employ of Richard Gale, 23 years at Pyle Farm, and a member of the Buriton Friendly Society	—
1848			<i>Ireland's Famine drives mass emigration; assisted schemes carry thousands of single Irish women to NSW (Ellen's likely strand).</i>	<i>Ireland's Famine drives mass emigration; assisted schemes carry thousands of single Irish women to NSW (Ellen's likely strand).</i>
c.1843	Ellen Menia Stewart	Sydney, NSW	Ellen arrived in NSW (death cert: 76 years in NSW → c.1843; no passenger record found)	How she came is unknown — assisted or not; either way little record survives.

The poacher & the crossing (1850–1856)

DATE	WHO	PLACE	EVENT	IN THE WIDER WORLD
1850			<i>The game laws of Victorian England — landowners' sport protected; poaching the commonest rural crime.</i>	<i>The game laws of Victorian England — landowners' sport protected; poaching the commonest rural crime.</i>
1851			<i>Gold transforms NSW — population leaps from ~200,000 (1851) to 357,000 (1861); self-government and reform follow.</i>	<i>Gold transforms NSW — population leaps from ~200,000 (1851) to 357,000 (1861); self-government and reform follow.</i>
1851-12	George Silvester	Winchester (Hants County Prison)	George committed to Hants County Prison, breach of Game Laws, 2 months	The game laws bore down hard on the rural poor; poaching was the commonest offence.
1852-03	George Silvester	Winchester (Hants County Prison)	George committed to Hants County Prison, breach of Game Laws, 1 month	Repeat offence — the winter hungry season drove poaching.
1853			<i>Emigration England → NSW in the 1850s: ~300,000 left England & Wales; unassisted travellers leave little trace.</i>	<i>Emigration England → NSW in the 1850s: ~300,000 left England & Wales; unassisted travellers leave little trace.</i>
1853-04-12	George Silvester	Petersfield, Hampshire	George charged (twice) under the game act on Sir Jervoise Jervoise's estate, Petersfield Petty Sessions — fined £1 10s + 10s 6d & costs	The magistrate, Sir Jervoise Jervoise, was the estate's own landowner.
1853-08-20	George Silvester	Widley / Havant, Hampshire	PROBABLE: George Silvester of Widley named as assault victim, Havant	—
1853/1855	George Silvester	Sydney, NSW	George emigrated to NSW (no passenger record found; arrival 1853–55)	Most plausibly leaving after one scrape too many; the 1850s exodus eased the passage (the gold rush as means, not motive).
1855			<i>The Scots Church and colonial Presbyterianism — Ellen 'a member of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland'.</i>	<i>The Scots Church and colonial Presbyterianism — Ellen 'a member of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland'.</i>
1855-10-15		Redfern / Scots Church, Sydney		Married in the Presbyterian Scots Church, Sydney.

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	George Silvester, Ellen Menia Stewart		George Silvester married Ellen Stewart, Scots Church (Presbyterian), Sydney — both of Redfern; both signed with an X	

Newtown years (1856–1900)

DATE	WHO	PLACE	EVENT	IN THE WIDER WORLD
1856-10-06	Harriot (Henrietta) Jane Silvester, George Silvester, Ellen Menia Stewart	Parramatta Road, Redfern	Daughter Harriot (Henrietta) born, Parramatta Road, Redfern	—
1858-12-02	Augusta (Gussy) Silvester, George Silvester, Ellen Menia Stewart	Newtown, Sydney	Daughter Augusta born, Newtown	—
1860-12-20	Sarah Ann Silvester (later Clarke), George Silvester, Ellen Menia Stewart	Newtown, Sydney	Daughter Sarah Ann born, Newtown (reg. 1861)	—
1863	George E Silvester, George Silvester, Ellen Menia Stewart	Newtown, Sydney	Son George E born, Newtown	—
1865	Lavinia Silvester, George Silvester, Ellen Menia Stewart	Newtown, Sydney	Daughter Lavinia born, Newtown	—
1867	Henry J Silvester, George Silvester, Ellen Menia Stewart	St George, Sydney	Son Henry J born, St George district	—
1870		St George, Sydney	Son Alfred Ernest born, St George district	—

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	Alfred Ernest Silvester, George Silvester, Ellen Menia Stewart			
1873	Arthur George Silvester, George Silvester, Ellen Menia Stewart	Newtown, Sydney	Son Arthur George born, Newtown	—
1875			<i>Working-class Newtown & its building trades: cheap brick terraces, brickyards and the Eveleigh workshops — George's labourer/bricklayer world.</i>	<i>Working-class Newtown & its building trades: cheap brick terraces, brickyards and the Eveleigh workshops — George's labourer/bricklayer world.</i>
1876	Edith Florence Silvester (later Parker), George Silvester, Ellen Menia Stewart	Newtown, Sydney	Daughter Edith Florence born, Newtown	—
1887-04-14	James Silvester	Deadman's Cottage, Horndean, Hampshire	James Silvester made his will — all to wife Harriet for life, then equally to four children (James jr, Henry, Ellen Spiers, Susan Spencer); George and others omitted; estate later sworn under £300	—
1888-05-02	James Silvester	Deadman's Cottage, Horndean, Hampshire	James Silvester died at Deadman's Cottage, Horndean, Hants (probate-confirmed) — family/newspaper account: suicide by drowning in a well, amid mental distress & money worries	An estate labourer's long life ended in tragedy at Deadman's Cottage.
1891	George Silvester	31 Bedford St, Newtown	George, householder at 31 Bedford St, Newtown — 1891 NSW census (2 male, 3 female)	Working-class Newtown — a suburb of cheap brick terraces.
1892			<i>The Rookwood Asylum for the Aged & Infirm — the colony's main home for the aged poor (a State Hospital from 1913).</i>	<i>The Rookwood Asylum for the Aged & Infirm — the colony's main home for the aged poor (a State Hospital from 1913).</i>

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1893	Harriet Wield	Littlehampton, Sussex	Death of George's mother, Harriet Wield	—
1893-02-23	Sarah Ann Silvester (later Clarke), George Silvester	North Annandale / Leichhardt	Daughter Sarah Ann ('Annie') married John Clarke, Hunter Baillie Presbyterian Church, North Annandale — George recorded as 'bricklayer'; Sarah b. Glasgow	—

Provider to the last (1900–1924)

DATE	WHO	PLACE	EVENT	IN THE WIDER WORLD
1901	George Silvester	113 Bedford St, Newtown	George at 113 Bedford St, Newtown (directory/census reference)	Long-settled in Newtown's terrace streets.
1916	George Silvester	113 Bedford St, Newtown	George at 113 Bedford St, Newtown (Sands Directory)	Still at 113 Bedford Street, Newtown.
1918	George Silvester	Lidcombe (Rookwood Asylum)	George resident at Lidcombe (Rookwood State Hospital & Asylum for Aged & Infirm Men)	—
1918-02-01	George Silvester	113 Bedford St, Newtown	George made his will (protective trust for wife Ellen & invalid daughter Henrietta), 113 Bedford St	—
1919-01-28	George Silvester	Lidcombe (Rookwood Asylum)	George Silvester died, Rookwood Asylum, Lidcombe — senility; septic absorption from gangrenous toe; age 84	Died at the Rookwood asylum for the aged poor.
1919-01-30	George Silvester	111 Bedford St → Rookwood	George's funeral, from 111 Bedford St, Newtown, to Rookwood (Church of England cemetery)	—
1919-02-07	George Silvester	113 Bedford St, Newtown	E. A. Turtle & Co. valued the estate for probate — the semi-detached brick house at 113 Bedford St at £525, and the household furniture,	The whole house inventoried for probate — a five-room home

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			itemised room by room, at £18/1/6 (agent's market value; probate later swore £538)	furnished plainly, much of it listed 'old'.
1919-05-27	George Silvester	Supreme Court NSW	Letters of Administration (c.t.a.) granted to the Public Trustee for George's estate	—
1919-09-01	Ellen Menia Stewart	Braeside Hospital, Stanmore → Rookwood	Ellen Menia Silvester died, Braeside Private Hospital, Stanmore/ Petersham — broncho pneumonia, heart failure; age 80; buried Roman Catholic cemetery, Rookwood	—
1924	Harriot (Henrietta) Jane Silvester	Newtown, Sydney	Death of daughter Harriot/Henrietta Jane (life tenant, unmarried invalid)	—
1924-10-23	George Silvester, Harriot (Henrietta) Jane Silvester	113 Bedford St, Newtown	Probate affidavit: estate funds exhausted, 20-ft allotment unsaleable under council rules; whole of 113 Bedford St ordered sold; Henrietta an invalid	—

Drawn from the family's own documents and the public records, with the wider history woven in.