

## Some notes on the family of Herbert J. Stebbeings and Sarah Stebbeings (nee Ralph)

See also [All Saints History Collection : Individual : Herbert J Stebbeings \[P035\]](#)

and [All Saints History Collection : Individual : Sarah Stebbeings \(nee Ralph\) \[P036\]](#)

The content of these pages is copied here, but not the links to the memorial objects.

Herbert J Stebbeings (1861-1941) was born on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1861 at Deloraine, son of James Stebbings, a farmer, and Sarah Anne, formerly Dixon, who both arrived in Tasmania from England in July 1857. Herbert was given a local education and worked for many years on his father's holding at Westbury. On 27<sup>th</sup> April 1885 he married Sarah Ralph, daughter of Thomas Farmer Vilder Ralph and Caroline, formerly Stuart. The family moved to Launceston and lived a few years in White Street. About 1900 Herbert was appointed sexton at the Cypress Street Burial Ground, and when it was closed in 1905, he became caretaker at Carr Villa Cemetery and moved to a cottage provided there. On the day of the opening, the first funeral there took place, for which he dug the grave, and from that day until he retired on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1936, he saw the interment of 10,303 persons. He also supervised the planting of many shrubs, gardens and lawns about the cemetery. For many years, every Sunday, Herbert and Sarah made the long journey on foot from Carr Villa to St. John's Church to attend service. Their children were involved in the activities at St. John's and several of them married there. Herbert died on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1941 aged 79 and in his memory stained- glass window depicting 'The Good Shepherd' was placed in the south ambulatory next to his wife's memorial. A credence table was also given in memory of Herbert. The inscriptions read:

### **Window – The Good Shepherd**

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF  
HERBERT JAMES STEBBINGS 1861 – 1941

### **Credence Table**

"IN MEMORY OF HERBERT JAMES STEBBINGS 1861 – 1941

Sarah Stebbeings (nee Ralph) (1862 - 1954), grew up in Westbury before marrying Herbert James Stebbeings in 1885 and moving to Launceston. Her husband was sexton at the Cypress Street Burial Ground in Launceston, and later, caretaker at Carr Villa Cemetery.

Sarah was born on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1862 to Thomas Farmer Vilder Ralph and Caroline, formerly Stuart. Sarah married Herbert Stebbings in 1885, and bore several children who later settled in Launceston. Further information about her life can be found in the linked biography of her husband, Herbert Stebbeings.

Sarah lived for thirteen years after her husband died and she died on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1954 aged 91. In her memory a stained-glass window portraying 'St. Luke' was erected in the south ambulatory at St.

John's, inscribed:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF  
SARAH STEBBINGS 1862 -1954  
THE GIFT OF HER CHILDREN

The following materials were kindly provided in 2026 by Margaret Dakin, granddaughter of Herbert and Sarah Stebbeings.



*Carr Villa caretaker's house - home of Herbert and Sarah Stebbeings from 1905 (date uncertain) to 1936*

*Family of Herbert and Sarah Stebbeings – circa 1910*

*from top:*

*Ralph Stebbeings (born 5 Feb 1904 at 33 Cypress St. Launceston)*

*Caroline (Frances), Mavis Cotton*

*Grandma (Sarah) Stebbeings, Edith Jacobson, Grandpa (Herbert) Stebbeings*

*Maria "Myra" Christmas, Herbert Stebbeings, Sarah Gilbert*



18 By Brought forward L

Thomas. Farmer bided Ralph  
 died 15 July 1907. at no 7  
 Baffour Street & was buried at  
 Carr Villa 17 July 1907  
 Herbert. J. Stebbings went to  
 Westbury on 15 July 1908 to  
 see his mother who died on that  
 day & was buried at Westbury  
 14 July 1908. Father came  
 home by the last train Friday  
 night. Caroline Frances Ralph  
 died 28 July 1908 at no 7  
 Balfour St & was buried at  
 Carr Villa 31 July 1908

Carried forward L

Recollections about some deaths in the Stebbings family.



Ralph Stebbings – circa 1910

In the State of  
**Essex.**

Reg. No. 223

**CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.**

DISTRICT, Yamscott Register No. 223  
 on the 1st of September 1915 at 138 Frederick St. Yarmcote

Marrage by  licence was celebrated between us according to the (\*)  
 usages of the Methodist Church

Name (in full) Herbert Thomas Stebbings  
 Residence, Present - Carr Villa Usual - Carr Villa  
 Age (last Birthday) 22 years  
 Profession or Occupation Carpenter  
 Condition (Bachelor or Widower) Bachelor  
 If Widower (Former Wife deceased in year)       
 Children living      ; dead       
 Birth-place Waratah  
 Father's Name (in full) Herbert James Stebbings  
 Occupation Teacher  
 Mother's Name (in full) Sarah Stebbings nee Ralph

Name in full Ida Emily Chugg  
 Residence, Present - Franklin Village Usual - Franklin Village  
 Age (last Birthday) 20 years  
 Profession or Occupation Home Duties  
 Condition (Spinster or Widow) Spinster  
 If Widow (Former Husband deceased in year)       
 Children living      ; dead       
 Birth-place Franklin Village  
 Father's Name (in full) William May Chugg  
 Occupation Gardener  
 Mother's Name (in full) Louisa Caroline Chugg nee Frost

This Marriage was celebrated between us  
Herbert Thomas Stebbings  
Ida Emily Chugg

In presence of us Witnesses  
Victor Gilbert Address Longy Town  
Ida Chugg Address Yarmcote

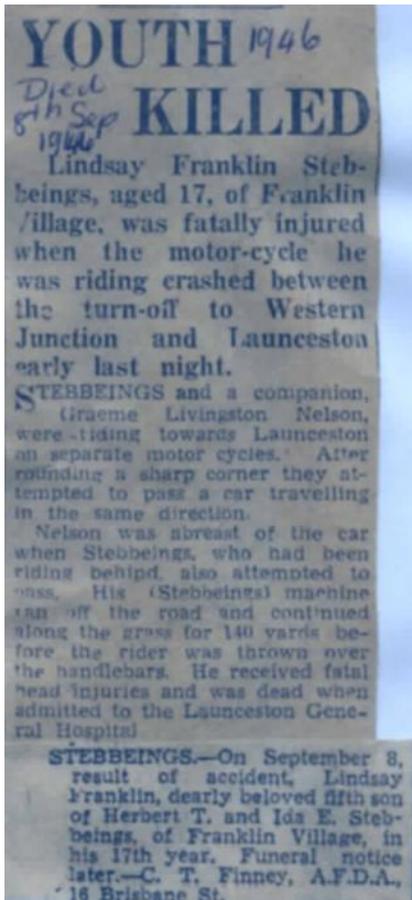
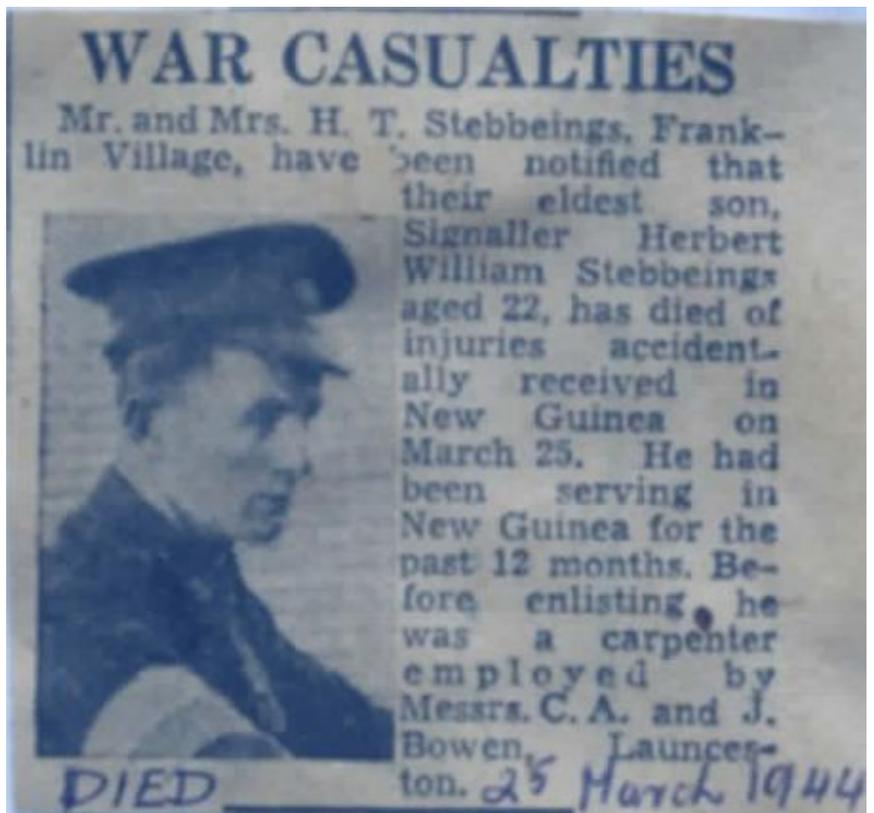
The above Marriage was duly celebrated by me at the time and place above named, and in the presence of the Witnesses whose signatures are above written.

Witness my hand this First day of September 1915  
 (Signature) Charles Fowler  
 (Designation) Methodist Minister

Marriage certificate – 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 1915

Herbert Thomas Stebbings b. 2 March 1893, son of Herbert and Sarah Stebbings, married Ida Emily Chugg, daughter of William May Chugg and Louisa Caroline Chugg (nee Frost) b. 14 June 1895.

War Casualty  
Herbert William  
Stebbeings, son of Herbert  
Thomas Stebbeings and  
grandson of Herbert and  
Sarah, died 25<sup>th</sup> March  
1944 on active service in  
New Guinea.

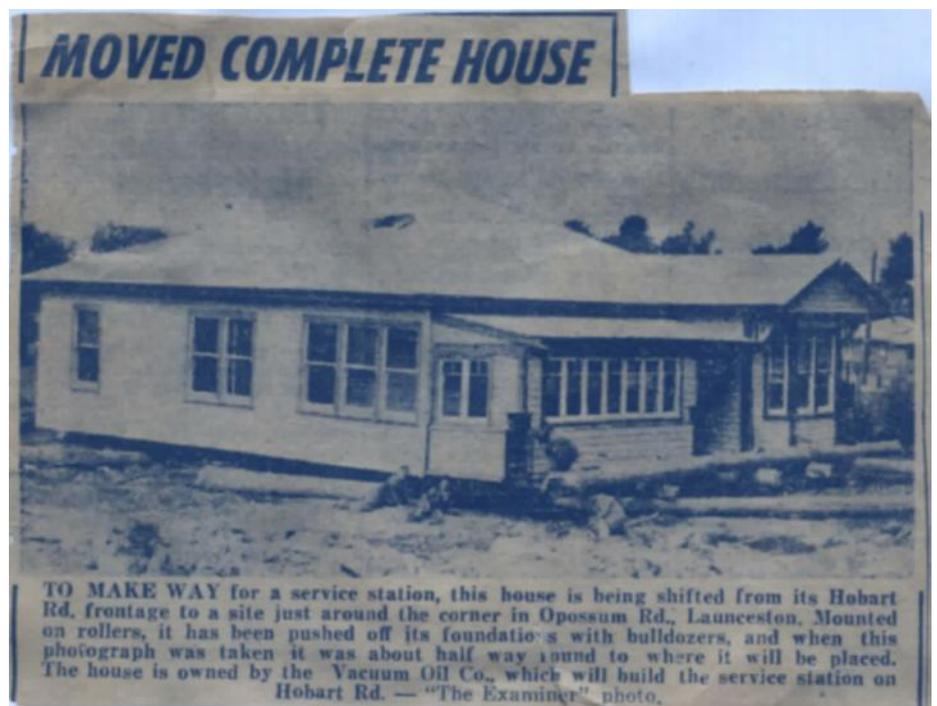


A tragic death in the family—  
Lindsay Franklin Stebbeings  
(17), son of Herbert Thomas  
Stebbeings and Ida (nee  
Chugg), died in a motorcycle  
accident, 8<sup>th</sup> September 1944.



Headstone in the cemetery at  
Westbury, for the grave of James  
and Sarah Stebbeings, parents  
of Herbert J. Stebbeings.

This house was a  
residence of one of the  
Stebbeings families. It was  
moved, perhaps in the  
1950s, to the adjoining  
site, No. 3 Opossum Rd,  
and seems to be still there  
in 2026. At the time, the  
Hobart Rd. site was being  
cleared to build a service  
station which was  
demolished to allow  
McDonalds to open their  
first Launceston store in  
the early 1990s.



1011.

## RETIRING SEXTON

### Work at Cemetery Praised by Aldermen

The splendid manner in which Carr Villa Cemetery has been conducted by Mr. H. Stebbeings since it was opened more than 30 years ago was eulogised by aldermen last night, when the City Council accepted his resignation as sexton. Much of the credit for the present beautiful state of the grounds was given to Mr. Stebbeings, who will act as consultant to the new sexton, when an appointment is made.



Mr. Stebbeings

Alderman A. W. Monds, chairman of the works committee, moved—"That Mr. Stebbeings' resignation be accepted with regret from the date his successor takes up duty; that a record of appreciation be placed on the minutes of the excellent service he has rendered as an employee of the council for a period of 30½ years; that the usual allowance in respect of long service be granted, and that he be appointed consulting sexton from the date mentioned for a period of 12 months, and that he be paid for this service the sum of £50."

Mr. Monds said that all aldermen joined with him in voicing appreciation of Mr. Stebbeings' work. Mr. Stebbeings had taken a great pride in Carr Villa, and the manner in which it had been conducted was a great credit to him. It would take time for the new sexton to acquire the necessary knowledge, and it had been deemed wise to ask Mr. Stebbeings to act as consultant.

In seconding, Alderman J. F. Ockerby said that Mr. Stebbeings had done splendid work. Carr Villa had been kept like a park. They could only hope that the council would be able to secure a sexton who would maintain the high standard set by Mr. Stebbeings.

Aldermen A. Hollingsworth and W. Hogg added similar tributes. The Mayor (Alderman E. E. von Bibra) said that Mr. Stebbeings' work and courtesy had been appreciated not only by the council, but by the public.

Examiner article:  
 Retirement of  
 Herbert Stebbeings  
 - 30<sup>th</sup> April 1936

Funeral notice:  
 Lindsay Franklin Stebbeings  
 Died 8th Sept. 1946  
 See above for details  
 of his accidental death

Obituary:  
 William Jacobson - husband of  
 Edith (nee Stebbeings)  
 Died 16<sup>th</sup> August 1949

Inserted by his sorrowing son and daughter, T. and E. Ralph, Westbury.

## FUNERALS

### MR. L. F. STEBBEINGS

The funeral of Mr. Lindsay Franklin Stebbeings at Carr Villa Cemetery yesterday afternoon was attended by a large gathering of relatives, friends and workmates from Jacksons lockworks. Scholars of the Young Town State School preceded the hearse from the cemetery gates to the graveside.

Captain R. H. Newin, of the Church Army, conducted the services at the home and graveside.

Chief mourners were Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Stebbeings (father and mother), Mrs. H. Stebbeings (grandmother), Messrs. John, David, Lloyd and Boyer Stebbeings (brothers), Misses Edith, Bernie, Sarah and Margaret Stebbeings (sisters), Mr. and Mrs. M. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Gill, Mr. and Mrs. L. Cartledge (brothers-in-law and sisters), Mr. F. H. Ralph (uncle), Mr. and Mrs. F. Christmas, Mr. and Mrs. H. Cotton, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Stebbeings, Mr. and Mrs. Ramskill, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Jacobson (uncles and aunts), Messrs. C. and Eric Chugg (uncles).

Pallbearers were Messrs. E. Scott, R. Atley, D. Whyman and A. Butler (workmates from Jacksons lockworks).

Carriers were Messrs. M. Wilson, W. J. Smith, R. V. Gill and L. Cartledge.

Among the many floral tributes were those from the Young Town Parents and Friends' Association, Jacksons brass and lockworks, Wilson's service station, employees of C. J. and A. Bowen, and staff of Jacksons lockworks.

Funeral arrangements were carried out by C. T. Finney and Sons.

The Lord hath made known  
 His salvation. Psalm 98:2.

*Oh, what a glorious place,  
 How suited to our need;  
 The grace that saves poor ruined  
 man,  
 Is wonderful indeed.*

THE funeral of Mr. William Jacobson, of Young Town, who died at Launceston, took place on Thursday afternoon at the Carr Villa Cemetery.

There was a large gathering of relatives, friends and members of the R.S.L. and St. Paul's Church.

Rev. C. G. Williams, of Hobart, and Rev. L. S. Dudley, of St. Paul's Church, conducted services at the home and graveside and Mr. Hugh Bearup the R.S.L. service.

About 50 scholars from the Young Town School, Football and Cricket Clubs preceded the cortege from the Carr Villa gates to the graveside.

Chief mourners were Mrs. Jacobson (widow), Tean (adopted daughter), Mrs. H. J. Stebbeings (mother-in-law), Messrs. Charles and Arthur Jacobson (brothers), Messrs. Robert Jacobson, F. H. Ralph and W. Ralph (uncles), Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Christmas (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Stebbeings (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Messrs. T. Gilbert and H. Stebbeings (brother-in-law), Ralph and Fred Symonds (cousins) and Master George Stebbeings (nephew).

Pallbearers were Messrs. E. Prior, A. Crawford, A. Manning, T. Downey (R.S.L.), Rex Gill, A. Wise, R. Rowlings and A. Fitzallen.

Funeral arrangements were by C. T. Finney and Sons.



Above: The Stebbeings on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

# Herbert and Sarah Stebbeings

Herbert Stebbeings and Sarah Ralph were married on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 1885 at St Andrews Church in Westbury.

Sarah's dress is exhibited here.

Sarah's wedding dress was donated by the family of Elvie Merle Wilson (nee Stebbeings).

Herbert Thomas Stebbeings built the family residence at 420 Hobart Road, Franklin Village, opposite Franklin House.



Above: Sarah's wedding dress

In 1935, Herbert and Sarah celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. This card may well be for an exhibition, but no details are available to confirm this.

1885

MARRIAGES in the Parish Church of *S. Andrew, Westbury, Tessa-mid.*

No.	When Married and Where.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Rank.	Signature and Description of Parties.	Name of Clergyman or Officiating Minister.	When Registered.	Signature of Clergyman or Officiating Minister.
326	April 27 <sup>th</sup> 1885 S. Andrew's Church Westbury	Herbert James Stebbeings Sarah Ralph	Full	Laborer Daughter of a Laborer	H. J. Stebbeings Bachelor S. Ralph Spinster	Frederick Merritt Sharland	April 27 <sup>th</sup> 1885	J. D. Sharland

I hereby certify that the above is a true Extract from the Marriage Register at *S. Andrew's Church, Westbury, Tessa-mid.*

MARRIED in the Parish Church of *S. Andrew, Westbury* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England.

This Marriage was solemnized between us *Herbert James Stebbeings* and *Sarah Ralph*

in the presence of *J. Bonhead*, *J. Ralph*, and *E. Ralph*

by License *J. D. Sharland*

1885 wedding certificate for Herbert James Stebbeings and Sarah Ralph

Herbert and Sarah Stebbeings at the family home, 420 Hobart Rd, Youngtown, circa 1938



Maria May Christmas (nee Stebbeings): See [Maria May Stebbings \(1888–1983\)](#) Maria died on 13 October 1983, at the age of 94, and was buried in Carr Villa Memorial Park, Launceston.

Frank Tasman Christmas: See [Frank Christmas Family History & Historical Records - MyHeritage](#)



Headstone on grave of Frank Tasman Christmas at Carr Villa Memorial Park, Launceston.

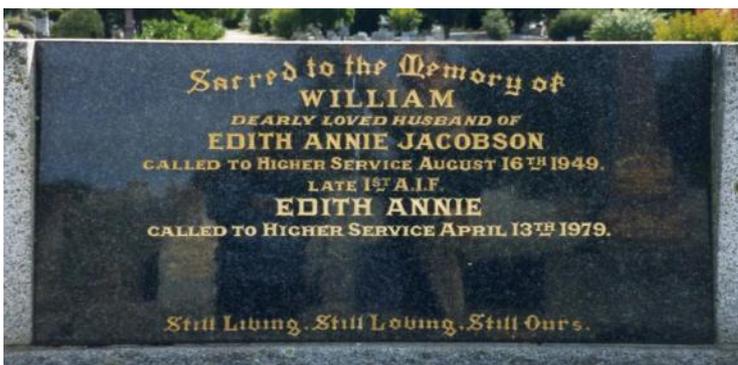
Sarah Alice Gilbert (nee Stebbeings):

See [Sarah Alice Stebbings \(1886–1941\)](#)

She died on 10 January 1941, in Youngtown, Tasmania, aged 54, and was buried in Carr Villa Memorial Park, Launceston.



Headstone on grave of Sarah Alice Gilbert (nee Stebbeings) at Carr Villa Memorial Park, Launceston.



Headstone on grave of Edith Annie Jacobson (nee Stebbeings) at Carr Villa Memorial Park, Launceston.

Edith Annie Jacobson (nee Stebbeings):

See [Edith Annie Stebbeings \(1890–1979\)](#)

She died on 13 April 1979, in Launceston, Tasmania, aged 89, and was buried in Carr Villa Memorial Park.

*Newspaper article about a fairly unique event for the matriarch of the family, Sarah Stebbeings – 4 grandchildren baptised in the same ceremony at St. John's Church in 1947!*

*See also further 2 photos next page.*

**FOUR GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN CHRISTENED** *mid year 1947*

Mrs. H. J. Stebbeings, of Hobart Rd., Launceston, yesterday morning attended the christening at St. John's of four of her great-grandchildren.

THIS is a unique happening in the history of the church. Mrs. Stebbeings' 19 grandchildren and her 13 great-grandchildren have all been christened at St. John's.

Mothers of the children christened were Mrs. Rex Gill, Franklin Village; Mrs. J. Wilson, St. Leonards; Mrs. L. Cartledge, Hobart, and Mrs. Nash, Franklin Village. They are the daughters of ~~the late~~ Mr. H. T. Stebbeings, of Franklin Village, who has had a family of 13 children, 12 of whom are living.

Mrs. Stebbeings, who will be 65 on June 26, has another son, Ralph, and four daughters, Mrs. F. T. Christmas, Mrs. W. Jacobson, Mrs. H. J. Cotton and Miss Frances Stebbeings.

She was married at St. Andrew's, Westbury, and has been a staunch supporter of St. John's, Launceston, for many years. Her husband, who died some time ago, was sexton of the Carr Villa Cemetery for many years.

*Mrs. H. J. Stebbeings who attended the christening of four of her great grandchildren yesterday morning at St. John's.*

1947 – Baptism of 4 grandchildren of Sarah Stebbeings at St. John’s Church



*Back row: Mrs Stebbeings (Margaret Dakin's mother), Merle Wilson (Margaret's sister) with Aileen, Marie Cartledge with Janet.  
Front row: Edith Nash (Margaret's sister) with Maureen, Janice Wilson (child - Margaret's niece), Grandma Sarah Stebbeings, Jean Gill (Margaret's sister) with Vivian*



*Back: Mrs Gill (snr), Rex Gill, Grandma (Sarah) Stebbeings, George Gill, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Stebbeings (Margaret Dakin's mother)  
Front: Jean Gill with Vivian, Merle Wilson (Margaret's sister) with Aileen, Frances Gill with ?,  
Edith Nash (Margaret's sister) with Maureen, Marie Cartledge with Janet, Janice Wilson (Margaret's niece)*