



# Mahala Johnson

Cuthbertson / Maxey / Kerr

22 January 1845 – 9 January 1906

Her name was spelt in various ways : Malla / Mala / Maylor / Mahal / Malahar / Mahalah

<u>Birth</u>	1845	Hayton, Yorkshire, England to Isaac Johnson and Diana Walker
<u>Christening</u>	1845	23 Feb Pocklington, Yorkshire, England
<u>Marriages</u>		
1/	1862	3 March to Robert Cuthbertson in York City, England
2/	1880	8 September to John Maxey in York, Yorkshire, England
3/	1889	19 Decemberto James Kerr in Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand
<u>Death</u>	1906	9 January Died at Dunedin
<u>Buried</u>		11 January. Oamaru Old Cemetery with her first husband Robert Cuthbertson and her father Isaac Johnson

- ◆ Mahala was the second child of Isaac and Diana Johnson of Yorkshire.
- ◆ Her father came to Australia and then New Zealand presumably seeking a better life.
- ◆ His wife and 2 daughters, Mary and Mahala, stayed in England.
- ◆ After working in the goldfields Isaac settled in Oamaru in New Zealand.
- ◆ In 1863 Mahala came to New Zealand with her husband Robert Cuthbertson and infant son Thomas.
- ◆ They took up residence at Mt Pleasant, Oamaru, North Otago where her father Isaac owned property and they went into partnership with him.
- ◆ This farm was sold and they moved to a new home at Richmond, North Otago.

In 1873 Mahala's husband Robert died leaving her with 6 small children & her seventh child Annie was born 2 ½ weeks after her husband died. She was 28 years of age

Mahala kept the farm but she shifted to Dunedin and became the Licencee of the Royal George Hotel Moray Place, in Dunedin

1876 The Royal George Hotel was sold and Mahala took all 7 children to England. She did try to lease the farm at Richmond but it is believed she left it in the care of a relation. I believe her husband's older brother George.

1876 -1881 At some stage during these years Mahala was known to have a shop for Women's fashion wear in Liverpool. She was both shop owner and dressmaker.

1884 Mahala had returned from England to New Zealand, taking up the licence of the Auld Hotel in Stuart street, Dunedin It is now known as the Lawcourts. Scotland  
The farm at Richmond was leased to her two eldest sons Thomas and Isaac.

1889 With her husband James Kerr they ran the North Dunedin Hotel in George Street and then the Captain Cook Hotel in Great King Street, Dunedin.

## Mahala

- ◆ Mahala was unable to read or write
- ◆ When she married she signed with her mark – a cross
- ◆ In 1876 in a court case in Dunedin the judge noted that she was unable to read writing but could merely write her name - he described her as an intelligent woman

Mahala had 9 children.

To Robert Cuthbertson :

Thomas, Isaac, Mary Ann (Polly), Elizabeth (Lizzie), Robert, Phoebe Anna, Ann Eliza (Annie)

To an unknown father (possibly John Maxey):

Florence

To John Maxey: Ernest Edward Cuthbertson Maxey

Prepared by her great granddaughter Janette Susanne Carmen Cuthbertson Clarke

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