

Hinuera, was awarded to Charles Henry on 30 April 1869 in the Phoenix Club fours. One trophy was used for clothes pegs at Foxton, before being raked into a bonfire, Moss recollects. Charles studied at Oxford for a medical degree, but left after being struck on the head by a dismembered leg wielded by a fellow student! One night, climbing the wall back to his digs, he gashed his leg badly and retained a large scar in memory of his university days. While at Oxford he rowed for the trial eights.

By 1871 the family had moved to the Isle of Wight. At the time of the 1871 census they were at Braxfield House, The Strand, Ryde. Braxfield House, today converted into flats, was a residence of about 11 rooms, one of a pair, looking out over the sea. A subsequent owner, G.E. Hansford, in a letter to Moss, recounts that early this century the sea used to wash over the ground in front of the house, filling the cellars, before the new sea wall was built. It is hard to see how there could be any truth in the Fred Collins family's story that the young Charles swore at his father who banished him, causing James to travel to New Zealand to find him. James departed on 7 August 1868³ on the fast and stylish American cutter the *Blue Jacket* when, as we have seen in the 1871 census, Charles was still in Ryde. Charles's obituary states that he emigrated in 1870 on the *Queen Bee* but whatever the date discrepancy he certainly did not arrive in New Zealand till after James.

Charles died at Braxfield House, aged 80, on 2 October 1875. Fanny had attended him at his death. In his will, he bequeathed a life interest in Milverton House, Ryde (with a £700 mortgage), and effects to Amelia, and after her death to Fanny. There was no mention of Braxfield House in the will, but a reference to 'Leaseholds' makes me suspect that Braxfield House was leased. Milverton House is a large, somewhat austere two-storeyed house in Appley Rise, Ryde, built in 1874, probably by Charles, who may never have lived in it. It is now the Appley Hotel. Probate was granted to James Mottershead, who was not a beneficiary. Perhaps his sons had already received funds, on their departure to New Zealand or when setting out in business. Charles's concern on his death (his will is dated July 1875) was for his dependent wife and daughter. Amelia died of nephritis on 10 November 1876, at Milverton House, aged 67. The informant was Annie Feast, perhaps a nurse or household servant. Despite the existence of a will (Moss has provided a typed extract), Amelia died intestate. Charles and Amelia are buried together in a plot (grave no.1164 section H old) enclosed by iron railings at Ryde Cemetery, where Stephen Collins recorded their portland stone headstone in 1991:

In
MEMORY OF
CHARLES COLLINS
OF MILVERTON RYDE
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
AGED 80 YEARS
ALSO OF
AMELIA HIS WIFE
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
NOVEMBER 10 1876
AGED 67 YEARS