

Wilfred Hercy Whitlock  
(aka "Gerry")

**Born:** 1<sup>st</sup> May 1898, at Georgetown (or possibly Chatswood) Western Australia  
**Married:** ↗ 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1941, to Mary Ena Colquhoun, divorcee aged 33, in NSW  
**Died:** ↘ 25<sup>th</sup> May 1978, in Alice Springs (Obituary in *Centralian Advocate*, placed by "Roma & Dick")

Emigrated to England with brother and sister, Dorothy and Lawson, soon after the turn of the century, placed in an orphanage in London?

Emigrated to Alberta, Canada, circa 1911, enlisted in the 113<sup>th</sup>. Battalion in Calgary circa 1915 at age 17, army number 736712, Private (Scout/Sniper), demobilised in 1919. Worked as a Surveyor in Lethbridge, Alberta, and later as a Licensed Surveyor in California, (until it was discovered that he had no USA Citizenship).

Returned to Australia circa 1936, moving from Sydney to the Northern Territories in 1938. Surveyed roads from Alice Springs to Darwin. His proposed route from Katherine to Darwin was not used at first, as it missed out Pine Creek, but later it was adopted, as it needed only one bridge, and was 18 miles shorter. During the war, he was responsible for grading a track from Tennant Creek to Western Australia.

His homestead "Frewena" was established on a Grazing Licence in 1946, using the name Wilfred Hercy (Gerry). (The name "Frewena" is derived from his property that included the headwater of the "Frew" river, and his wife's name "Ena") Frewena was 55Km west of the Tablelands Highway, on the Barklay Highway. It was demolished in 1986, and only the windmill and water tower are still standing.

From 1948 onwards he was contracting and mining, later he was "hotel keeper and gardener" at Frewena.

The Barklay Homestead Roadhouse, at the turnoff to Borroloola on the Barklay Highway replaced that at Frewena, and also one at Barry Caves, in the late 1970s.

He held Agricultural Lease no.606 in the Emily Gap area, east of Alice Springs, from 1963 to 1976, when he sold it for £3,000. He lived at 45, Priest Street, (PO Box 111) Alice Springs; he contracted for building work, earthmoving, and road construction on stations, also selling and hiring out heavy equipment.

He was a member of the Labour Party, and joined the Royal Ancient Order of Buffaloes in 1965. In October 1971 he was Patron of the Returned Servicemen's League in Alice Springs, being then the oldest surviving member. His friend and accountant in those last days, was Helen English (PO Box 1155, Alice Springs, N.T.5750).

He died in Alice Springs, either in the hospital, or in the Old Timers' Home, (PO Box 2103)