



THE WHITES

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The Whites.

On the 9th July 1833, the S.S.Eliza, a 291 ton British merchant vessel sailed from Dublin, arriving nearly 4 months later, on the 3rd November of that year in Hobart Town, Van Dieman's Land. It carried the first Whites to settle in this Country.

The passengers included, a young Wexford man, Patrick White, then 34 years of age. The two Kinchela girls, Anne Grace and Mary Ann, accompanied by their brother, Thomas. Anna Grace was 26, and her sister 24. The latter, Mary Ann maintained a very close relationship with the family, being generously provided for in Patrick's will, and living to the ripe old age of 90 years. The Kinchelas were the children of a Kilkenny farmer, their mother having been a Murphy.

I have no exact details of the marriage of Patrick and Anna Grace, nor of when they travelled to, and settled in Bathurst. Their first child, Edward John was born in 1835, and was followed by seven further siblings over the next few years. Mary Magdalen, (to become Mrs. Charles DtApice), Peter, my great grandfather, James, Anna Therese, (later, Mrs. William Sheldon), Daniel O'Connell White, Patrick Kinchela White, and Joseph Murray White.

Whether he was the eldest, or not, Edward was the only one buried with his parents. Patrick had left Bathurst, and retired to the "Grange", in Liverpool Street, Darlinghurst, when he died in 1858. Anna Grace passed away in 1870, and Edward in 1884. They were originally buried in the Devonshire Street Cemetery, which was situated on the site where Central Railway Station now stands. The remains were all moved to other Cemeteries, and the Whites were re-located to Botany Cemetery. The headstone still stands to evidence this fact. There was, however, quite a furore at the time, as to whether the right remains had been deposited in the right places.

Patrick, during his Bathurst years, was referred to in some references as, "gentleman", in some as "Grazier", and in others as "Contractor". Maybe, he was a combination of all three. I have seen documents bearing on the construction of the Bathurst gaol, referring to the contractor, Mr "Paddy" White. This coincides with a lot of family anecdotal evidence.

There is an interesting slant on Edward John, in an article written in a Bathurst newspaper at the time of a visit by my grandfather to do a case in the Circuit Court. It stated:

"His grandfather was in the fifties one of the best known and most respected citizens of Bathurst, and in the sixties his father was Clerk of Petty Sessions in the City of the Plains. His uncle, Mr.Murray White, (who has now a lucrative practice in Sydney) commenced his career as a Solicitor in

Coonamble, and another uncle, Mr. "Ted" White, will be remembered by old Bathurstians as one of the most prominent and enthusiastic of politicians. To him, the late Mr. Richard Driver owed his first step. Mr. White's influence in West Macquarie was in 1860 or thereabouts, paramount. He secured the seat for Mr. Driver, who subsequently became Minister for Lands".

A sad little postscript to that little homily was the fact that Murray took his own life by jumping off the cliffs at Coogee in 1913.

An old daguerrotype photo of Patrick shows a thickset man with a face that looks like the map of Ireland, his features being such that he could have emanated from no other race.

Patrick, and the Kinchelas, must have had some means, having been listed as Cabin passengers on the "Eliza's" shipping manifest. There is still no evidence to explain the considerable wealth he amassed during their relatively short time in the Colony. In his Will, Patrick left the following property to be split between his children and his sister in law, Mary Ann Kinchela, the latter living to the ripe old age of 90, dying at Liverpool Street in 1898.

The property devised under his Will, included the following:

"The Grange" in Liverpool Street Darlinghurst. A house, shop and premises, (now occupied by Corbett), on the South Head Road in Sydney, together with a house and premises adjoining the last-named.

A house and premises on the corner of Dowling and Liverpool Streets, in Sydney.

A Farm of about 200 acres at Rayham, near Bathurst.

Land at Coogee, and a farm of about 29 acres on the Wardell Estate, Dulwich Hill.

Land and premises, presently occupied by a Mr Murphy, situated in Liverpool Street, Darlinghurst.

12 cottages in Howick Street, Bathurst, together with a house and shop, and an area known as the "Pound", also in Bathurst.

Partly, no doubt, due to this prodigious amount of realty, Patrick's estate was sworn in at about thirty thousand pounds, (\$60,000). Where on earth did it all go?

When researching the issue of Patrick and Anna Grace, I struck a few problems. Two Whites bore the name Patrick Kinchela White, one of Patrick's sons, and my grandfather, the latter being the son of Patrick's son Peter. My great grandfather, Peter, in turn, muddied the waters a little further, by marrying a woman by the name of Kinsella. I could clear these facts up fairly

easily, but I have been unable to solve the problems surrounding the date of birth of some of Patrick's children.

To the best of my knowledge Anna Grace produced ten children, two of whom were females who appeared to have died in childbirth. I have placed what I consider to have been their order of birth below, guided by the documentary evidence of death certificates. I have placed an asterisk beside the names of those of whose place in the order I am uncertain.

Edward John. Born. 1835. Died 1884.

Mary Madeline. Born 1837. Died 1911.

Peter. Born 1840. Died 1865.

Ann Theresa. Born 1843*. Died 24.9.1907.

Daniel O'Connell. Born 1845*. Died 12.10.1919.

Patrick Kinchela. Born 1846*. Died 10.12.1914.

James. Born 1847*. Died 1882.

Joseph Murray. Born 1851. Died 1913.

To run through what information I have on my great grand uncles and aunts will not take that long as there are some fairly lengthy blank spaces.

I have referred to the extract referring to Edward John as having been a leading politician of his day, certainly throughout the Western District. Being a politician, I am sure, that unless the nature of the beasts has changed radically in 150 years, which I seriously doubt, there should be fairly prolific accounts of his comings and goings in the press of the day. I have nothing to add except to repeat my earlier observation that Edward found his final repose alongside his parents, only to be temporarily disturbed by the advent of Sydney's Central Railway Station. Edward's death certificate shows that he married a Catherine Jones of Bargo and produced nine children, eight of whom survived him. They were Minnie, Ada, Edward, Clara, Patrick, Alice and Sydney.

Mary Madeline was to marry Charles D'Apice. Carlo Francisco Luigi D'Apice was born in Naples and came to the Colony in 1859. He was a Professor of Music. Charles and Mary had eight children, Charles, Louis, Livia, Diane, Clementine, Joseph, William and John. He died in 1888 at Hunter's Hill, Mary living until 1911. I am indeed grateful to their lineal descendant Richard D'Apice for most of the valuable archival material that I have been able to assemble for these Memoirs.

The next in line was my great grandfather Peter. I shall deal with others before I come back to Peter in some greater detail.

The next was Anna Therese. She became the second wife of William Sheldon. William was a Doctor, coming to Australia in the 1850s as a ship's surgeon, and settling into practice, originally, at Tenterfield in New South Wales. Shortly after his arrival his first wife died at a tragically young age. In the fulness of time William entered into a long and fruitful marriage with Anna Therese. The Sheldons became quite well to do, including in their progeny the well-known business baron of his day, Sir Mark Sheldon. They, also, played a major role in the developing influence of the Sacred Heart Nuns and their beautiful Convent at Rose Bay, Sydney. One of their descendants, Mary, became a very celebrated member of the Order, and a book was to be written about her role in the order.

The next in order of birth was Daniel O'Connell White. It can be seen from his name that Patrick was still very interested in the politics of the land of his birth. Interestingly enough, Daniel was the only one of the Whites to have been buried according to the rites of the Church of England. Daniel settled in the far north of Queensland at Port Douglas. In those days Port Douglas would have to have been described as one of the most far-flung parts of the British Empire. I would have thought that it would have consisted of a man and a dog, with, maybe, an aboriginal settlement thrown in. He had married a Mary Jane Berryman in Bundaberg, Queensland sometime in the 1870s. They had eleven children, Mary, Maud, Daniel John, Joseph Patrick; Blanche, Edward Peter, Francis James, Edith May, Annie Alberta, William Andrew and Murray Royle. Notwithstanding the tyranny of distance, a fairly close relationship seemed to have been maintained between the cousins. Edith May was, with her cousin, one of the Sheldons, the signatory to some of the legal documents I was shown by Richard D'Apice. Some, were documents giving land to the Church, others, applying to have property brought under Torrens Title, and Deeds disentailing certain estates.

It is interesting to note that Daniel would have not long inherited his share of his father's estate, following the death of his mother in 1870, when he repaired to Bundaberg for his nuptials in 1873.

The next one down the list is the one that bore the same name as my grandfather, Patrick Kinchela. Under his father's will, he was bequeathed a row of 6 houses in Howick St. Bathurst, to which he would have become beneficially entitled upon the death of his mother in 1870. Yet, when he died at the age of 69 in December 1914, his death certificate describes him as, old-age pensioner, and cattle station employee. As his place of residence at the time of his death was given as St. John's Crescent, East Sydney, he was certainly a long way away from any cattle station. It would be interesting to know what happened to the 6 houses and what circumstances would have reduced him to the comparative penury of the old-age pension.

Of James I know very little, almost nothing. I have estimated his date of birth as having been in 1847. His date of death was most certainly 1882.

Under his father's will he received a devise of house and premises situate on the South Head Road. There is no available information to indicate whether he ever married, and certainly no evidence of issue.

Joseph was the youngest, having been born in 1851. He would have only been about seven years old when his father died in 1858. He was unmarried, and according to the newspaper entry to which I made earlier reference, he practised as a solicitor at Coonamble and then in the city of Sydney. In his father's will he was devised a remainder in Patrick's dwelling house in Liverpool Street, following his mother's life estate. He took his own life, in 1913 at the age of 62, by throwing himself off the cliff at Coogee. This information was contained in the report of the City Coroner on the 12th August 1913. It transpired that he was buried in the Roman Catholic section of Waverley Cemetery, following a funeral conducted under the rites of the Catholic Church. For some reason that has not been explained anywhere, Joseph always went by the surname Murray-White.

I return now to my great grandfather. Peter was born in 1840 in Bathurst. So, as Edward was shown to have been born in Hobart, the White's move from Van Dieman's Land to Bathurst must have taken place sometime between 1835 and 1840.

I have two photos of Peter. One that I obtained from Cousin Stuart shows a very stern and forbidding young man, somewhat along the lines of the image of a strict Dickensian schoolmaster. The other, obtained from Richard D'Apice, is entirely different. It shows a very handsome young man, with a most handsome and pleasant countenance. Although the Irish strain is present, it differs from Patrick. Whereas Patrick was thickset and heavily jowled, like a country squire, Peter had an open clean cut countenance, not dissimilar to that of the famous Irish-Australian boxer, Les D'Arcy.

Peter was a Clerk of Petty Sessions. In those days these functionaries performed a multitude of duties. They worked under the control of the Minister for Lands, as well as the Minister for Justice. They were Crown Land agents, the grantors of mineral leases and gold assayers amongst other things. It is interesting to speculate as to whether there could have been some clandestine connection between big brother Ted's fostering of the political career of Driver, who subsequently became Minister for Lands, and Peter landing what, in those times, would have been a fairly plum job.

Peter married Mary Kinsella in Queanbeyan on the 19th November 1864. Mary was the daughter of a local farmer, and as far as I am aware, was not related to the Kinchelas of Peter's mother's family. It is likely that Peter travelled to Queanbeyan to marry. That town, unlike Bathurst, would not have been big enough to carry a Court staff, with a Clerk of Petty Sessions. Peter died in Bathurst on the 22nd November 1865, leaving Mary with the 3 month

old Patrick Kinchela, who had been born on the 22nd September 1865. From there, the story takes some unusual twists.

It seems that Patrick was virtually raised by his Aunt Anne Sheldon. Certainly, the Sheldon family played a very significant role in his upbringing. His mother re-married Robert Franklin French, settled in Sydney, and had two more children who either died in childbirth, or early infancy, or died in Concord on the 30th May 1908 at the age of 68. She was buried according to the rites of the Church of England. She apparently changed faiths after marrying French. Whether the latter fact was related, in any way, to the apparent removal of my grandfather from her care and control, I don't know.

Patrick certainly left Peter very well provided for. He was devised, the 200 acre property at Rayham, near Bathurst. Land at Coogee, and the 29-acre farm on the Wardell estate at Duiwich Hill. If that realty had stayed in his family, we would be included in the most wealthy in the Country today. Still, family histories are studded with the stories of what might have been. My Uncle Cecil would have been able to enlighten us about the part played by Mary French in the family history. I believe he used to visit her regularly in her later years, as he lived in the adjoining suburb of Burwood. Cecil was shown as the informant on Mary's death certificate.

My grandfather became a very well known and successful Barrister. He was admitted to the Bar on the 30th April 1894, and went on to assume the rank of King's Counsel early in the next century. In those days, before picture shows, and long before television, the trials and cases coming before Country Circuit Courts had all the popularity of theatre, and were always very well attended. The Barristers came to be endowed with thespian qualities. Long flowery speeches and thundering perorations to juries were the order of the day.

Patrick had quite a solid practice in the South, particularly at Wagga. It was also customary in those times for the Counsel to travel by coach to the Circuit Court, accompanied by their family. It often served the purpose, also, of providing matchmaking opportunities between their eligible daughters and Country Graziers and Lawyers.

This may have happened in reverse in my grandfather's case for he married a Wagga girl. Elizabeth Agnes White was the daughter of a Wagga Grazier, Matthew Callaghan. Her mother was a Mary Ann Rudd.

Elizabeth, my grandmother was the first of the long line of ancestors who I was privileged to have met. My memory is most dim, as I would have been barely 4 years old. I often visited my father's family on access days and week-ends at their house in Redmyre Road, Strathfield, and I have a vague, but, at the same time, definite recollection of being shown into a dimly lit bedroom where an elderly lady was propped up on a pile of pillows. My

grandmother died on the 20th January 1932. Coincidentally, the funeral director was my wife's grandfather W.N.Bull.

Patrick had died on the 27th June 1919. He, like my father, died of Pneumonia. His death certificate referred to "Pneumonia and Influenza", so it is more than probable that he was a victim of the great flu epidemic that swept the world in 1919, following on the Great World War.

From all accounts my grandfather had very improvident and impractical characteristics. My only photo of him shows a man with a very kind, but at the same time, wistful look. Maybe, he spent too much time living in the dream world that was created in the rather histrionic style of advocacy of the day. From all accounts, the kindest that could be said was that he had little capacity to fill the role required of him as the head of an Edwardian household. Stories are told of him being found playing chess or draughts with a group of old men in the local park, when the family was concerned about his failure to present at an appointed hour. I believe my Uncle Cecil, from a very young age, assumed the mantle that normally falls on the patriarch. My Aunt Muriel, undoubtedly, inherited some of his traits, as she had a great sense of imagination and imagery. I believe from what my Aunt Rita, Cecil's wife, used to tell me, my father also possessed these qualities.

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