

THE FAMILY OF PATRICK BURKE

From South Australian Biographies, available Ballarat Australiana Room and GSV

BURKE, Patrick, occupation Labourer

Resident of: Dry Creek, Islington, River Light and Bagot's Gap – see maps

Note: Dry Creek still appears on maps, north west of the city centre

Islington appears on map from the 1960's, nearer to the city than Dry Creek

We think River Light and Bagot's Gap would have been just to the north east of Kapunda, now marked as Bagot's Well. The River Light flows through the Kapunda region.

Married 20.8.1846 in Adelaide to Mary LANDRIGAN, religion R.C.

Their children:

Ellen 1847

John 1848

Ja.. 1849

Margaret 1851

Patrick 1852

Wm 1855

Mary Ann 1857

Patrick, born 1852 married Christina Ross of Bulla, their daughter Annie Evelyn Burke or Bourke, married Daniel James Walsh, their son Maurice married Vera Lillian Matthews, their son Maurice Allen married Janet Garside.

FAMILY NAME: ROSS

ROSS/BURKE

Christina Ross, born 1855, Bulla, Victoria, married **Patrick Burke**, born 1852, Adelaide, South Australia, at Bulla, Victoria.

Their children:

1. Christina, b. 1875, married Alf Armour
2. William, b. 1877, married Millie Morris
3. **Annie Evelyn**, b. 1879, married Daniel James Walsh
Maurice Walsh married Vera Lillian Matthews
4. Alexander, b. 1880, married Jean Kingshott
(this is Elsie Bendall's family)
5. Adeline, b. 1880 married George Gillon
6. Twins Rupert John and Hurtle Thomas, born 1883, died as infants
7. Hurtle, b. 1887 married Ethel Harrison

TWINS

ROSS/HEAGNEY

Alexandrina Ross, b. 1863 married **James Heagney**, July 25, 1888 at the Presbyterian Church, Hotham (North Melbourne)

Their children:

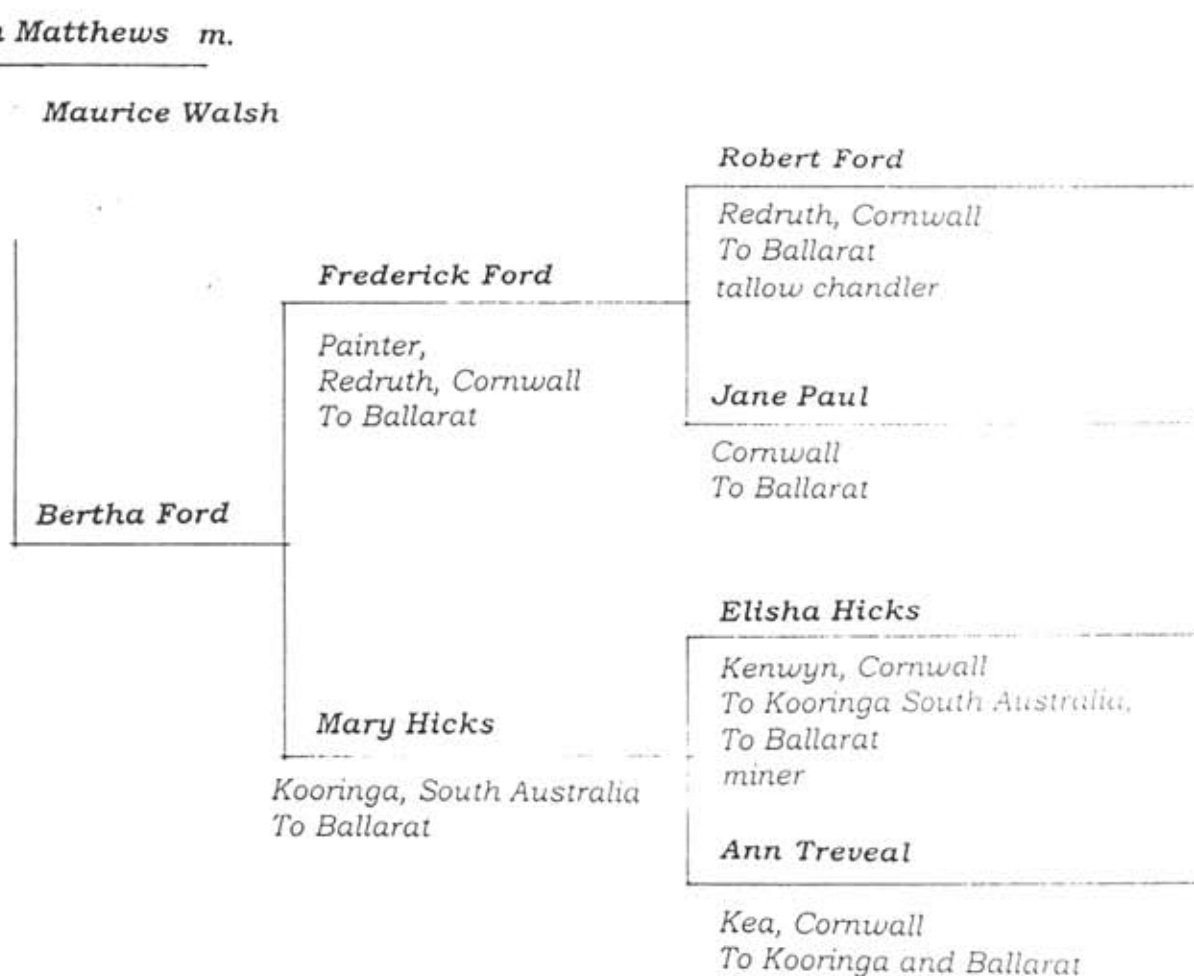
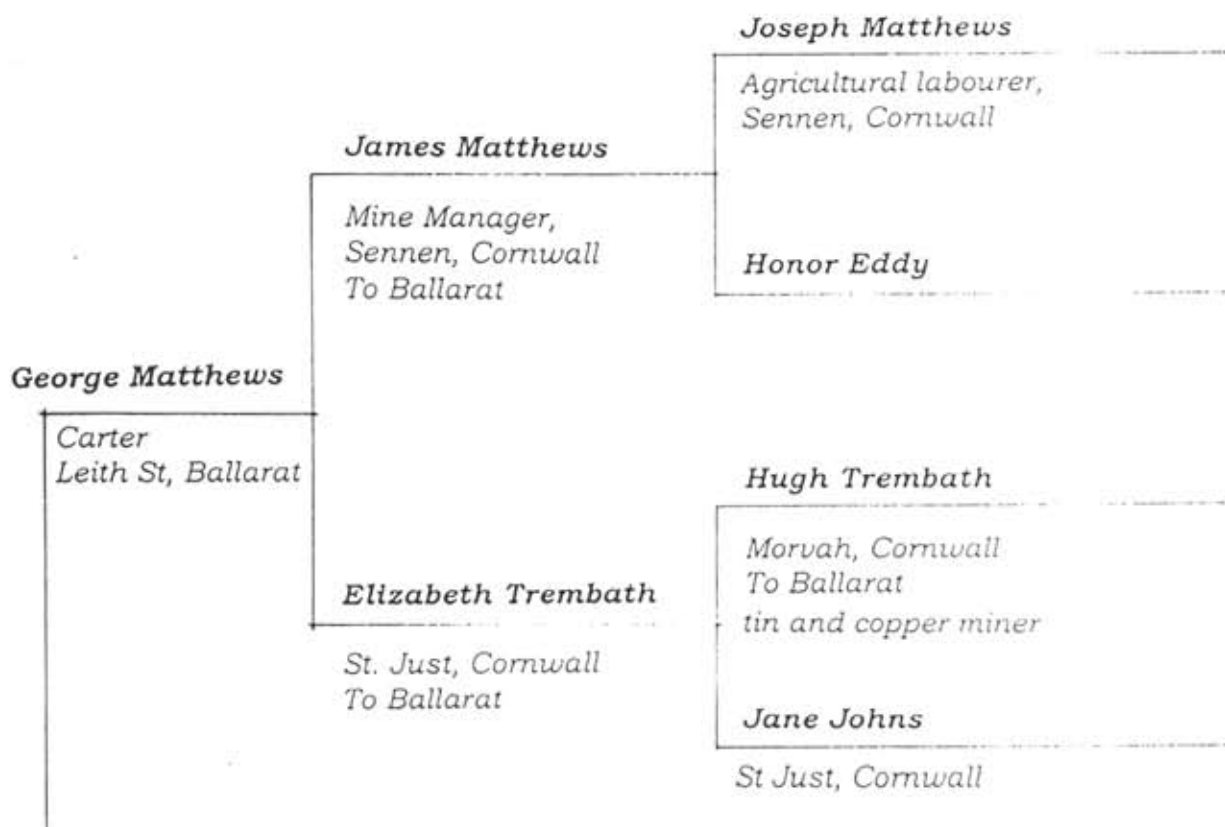
1. William James (Willie), born 1889, married Jean Shrimpton
2. Alexander (Bub), born 1890, never married.

Alexandrina died at Bub's birth, Bub and Willie were raised by Catherine Ross, (Aunty Kate) who never married.

James (Jim) Heagney was born at Bulla in 1860. Parents: Edward, farmer, and Catherine. Jim was a notable sportsman. In 1888/90 he was Licensee of the Nelson Hotel in Malop St. Geelong, and in 1891/2 of the Red Lion Hotel in Moorabool Street. Aunty Kate held the Licence in 1893/4. The Hotels would have been bought with his winnings from the Botany Handicap (a foot race) in 1888.

MATTHEWS & FORD FAMILIES

From Cornwall, England



THE CORNISH FAMILIES, FORD AND MATTHEWS

Two branches of our family come from Cornwall, at the very south west tip of England, the families of James and Elizabeth Matthews, and of Robert and Jane Ford.

James Matthews was born in Sennen, Land's End, as far west as you can go. It's a bleak sort of place, on a high windy cliff. Below the cliff is Sennen Cove which is now a popular beach with surfers, and has ice cream shops and holiday souvenirs, in James' time it was a fishing village and the boatshed and fishing harbour are still pretty much the same, at the end of the beach, but since James' father, Joseph was a farmer, we are assuming that the family lived in Sennen itself. Behind the Methodist Chapel in Sennen, the most chilling and uninviting church I have ever seen, stretch potato fields even today. Nobody seemed to be flocking to live there in 1998, despite its proximity to the Land's End theme park.



Sennen Cove, July 1998

Cornwall may be lovely these days, and so crowded in the summer months that you can barely move, but life in Cornwall in the early part of the 1800's would have been a very grim struggle. The tin mines, which had brought employment to all, were in a bad way, and emigration would have looked like a good proposition. As far back as the 1840's advertisements were appearing in Cornish publications, encouraging people "of good character" to emigrate to South

Australia where workers were needed in the Copper mines at Burra, north of the Barossa Valley, towards the Flinders Ranges.

James was a carrier in his mother's business at the age of 18, but when he and his wife and young children emigrated to Australia at the age of 33, he gave his occupation as Miner. Cornish miners with experience of mining in rock were sought after and actively encouraged to come to Ballarat after the alluvial gold ran thin and the mining companies were forced to mine the deep leads. James' experience stood him in good stead; he became Manager of the Band and Albion Mine at Redan, which followed the bank of the Yarrowee Creek, along the route of the present day Leith Street. The family home still stands in Leith Street, and is steadily being restored.

James Matthews died in 1888, of chronic bronchitis and pneumonia. His lungs were affected, as most miners' lungs were, by the ever present dust in the mines, which brought about the condition known as "Miners Phthisis" – congestion of the lungs.

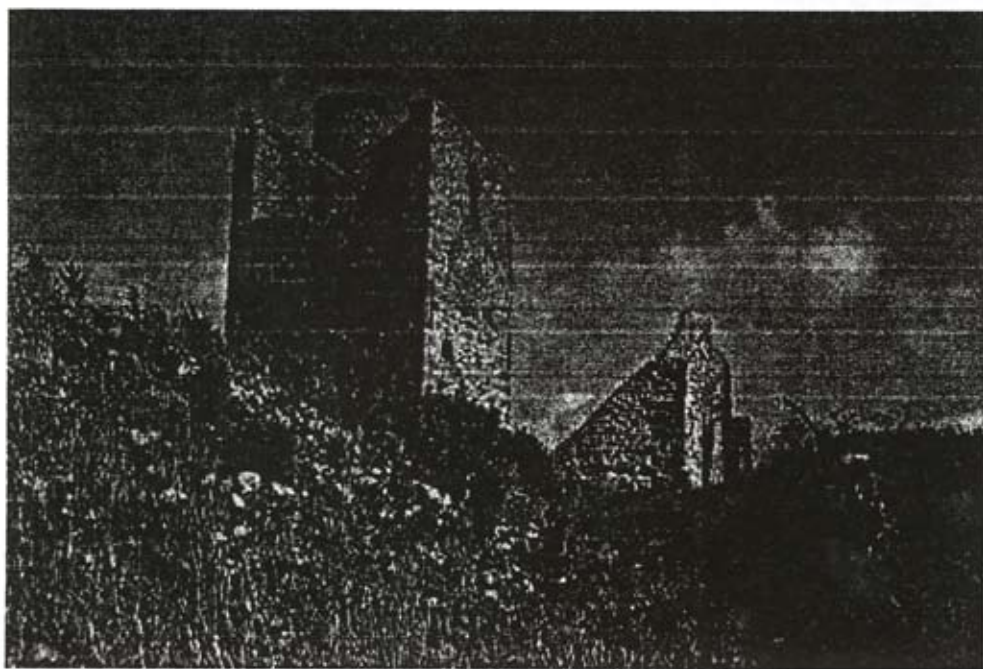


The Matthews family, 1888

The photograph which hung over Nana's sideboard was of the Matthews family, the youngest of the children, George, was only about ten when his father died. He married Bertha Ford, known as Little Nin, in 1901.

The Ford family were not miners, though their tallow chandler's business in Redruth would certainly have depended upon the mining industry. Dad and I went into a tin mine at Geevor, just north of St. Just in 1998, it is a horrible experience, the mine is entirely rock, the tin lies in vertical leads, and the miners

didn't waste their energy in unnecessary rock cutting to get to the lead itself. As a result the entrance tunnel is narrow and low, and since many of the adits drive in horizontally from the cliff face, they were wet also.



Ruins of Cornish Engine House, 1998

The mines had to be pumped constantly, and the most stark reminders of the huge mining industry are the ruins of the 'Cornish Engine Houses', with their chimneys rising out of the bleak landscape. Very picturesque, we think. What outraged me most of all, was that the miners had to pay for their own candles, it seemed so petty, but it would have kept Robert Ford in business. However, with mining on the wane it seems that he decided to try his luck in Australia and left his wife Jane and their young family to come to Australia in about 1852.

Jane and the children arrived in 1858, after a lengthy separation, aboard the "Red Jacket". The family seems to have moved from one goldfield to another in the following years, children were born at Ararat, Moonambel and Majorca. Finally they came to rest in Ballarat, in the Mount Pleasant area, a strong Methodist district. Frederick, who had been about ten when the family emigrated, married Mary, the daughter of another Cornish miner, Elisha Hicks, who had come to Australia in 1848 to the mines in South Australia, and apparently made his way across to Ballarat when they were failing. Frederick was never a miner in Ballarat; he worked as a painter, and lived longer than his mining relatives, dying in 1904 of peritonitis.

Frederick and Mary had eight children, their third daughter, Bertha, married George Matthews, their daughter Vera married Maurice Walsh, their children are Nancy, Allen, Brian and Geoff.