

doc OSBORNE 1

OSBORNE ANECDOTE

This article comes from the Public Service Journal, 10/12/1901. It was written by the Editor, John Osborne, formerly a Wesleyan minister, son of Robert Osborne and Rebecca Musgrave, who was born at Wollongong on 25/9/1842 and died at Double Bay on 1/9/1908. It was sent to me by his grand-daughter Cecily Osborne.

"The old gaol, already referred to as situated at the corner of Harrington and Essex streets, was demolished in 1839. It stood some little distance back from George street, from which it was fenced off by iron palisades. In the open courtyard were three or four sets of stocks, where the overnight revellers were afforded an opportunity to ponder over their misdeeds and listen to the caustic gibes of the ribald school boy.

"In those days (i.e. first half of the century CO) , and for many years afterwards, executions took place in public, and these were of frequent occurrence. The editor of the Journal relates that when his father landed at Sydney Cove , from the ship that had brought many immigrants from the old country, the first sight he beheld was six criminals being hanged in front of the gaol. It produced such an unpleasant impression upon his mind of the land to which he had come, that he felt a very strong inclination to embrace the first opportunity to return to England. During the first few years of his long residence in the colony, he was brought into frequent contact with convicts - indeed he had many of them in his employ - and adjusted himself as well as he could to the extraordinary conditions that existed, but he never forgot the awful sight he witnessed on Gallows Hill."

It must be remembered that this article was written 42 years after the death of John Osborne's father, Robert (1808-1859). By this time John may have thought that his parents came from England, whereas they came from the vicinity of Dromore in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. Perhaps "England" was used as a generic term for the British Isles? Robert and Rebecca (c. 1808-1844) arrived in Sydney aboard the *Adam Lodge* on 13/7/1837, part of a group of 379 immigrants who survived the voyage. A search of the Sydney newspapers of that week failed to find any reference to a mass hanging.

A similar story was related in her diary by Elizabeth Davies who arrived in Sydney on the *Portland* on 18/12/1838. On that occasion eight men were left hanging all day, perpetrators of the Myall Creek massacre. See Ward, Barbara: *A Lady in a Thousand*, 1994, p. 13

Frank Osborne.

ANEC2

Osborne Anecdotes.

CENTENARIANS (1)

Having studied and identified family photographs, I finished up with one of a very old lady whom I could not identify. Some time later, looking through the collection of one of my sisters, I came across an identical photograph on the back of which, in our Aunt Lil's handwriting, was this inscription:

"Mother's Aunt kitty Osborne. Lived to 100"

At the time I had no idea who my grandmother's Aunt Kitty could be, but one night while giving a talk on family history I mentioned the nicknames and diminutives that plague family historians, and suddenly the penny dropped: Kitty was short for Catherine! The lady in the photograph could be none other than Catherine Osborne, nee Thompson, wife of John Osborne who was half-brother to my great-grandfather Robert Osborne. In the Wollongong library, the Illawarra Family History Group's index to BDMs in the Illawarra Mercury gave the date of her death (27/2/1878) and an obituary (1/3/1878) which read in part:

"The deceased was the relic of the late Mr John Osborne, who was brother to Mr Robert Osborne, father of George Osborne, the present Mayor of Wollongong. It may also be stated that she was sister to the late Mr William Thompson, for many years postmaster at Bathurst, and aunt to the gentleman of the same name who presently holds that office. She survived her husband twenty-one years, and when it is stated that her age was not less than 98 years, it may scarcely be said that she enjoyed good health to the very last."

Hats off to a good journalist who was not only brief and accurate but informative as well! The word "less" was in italics, indicating that nobody really knew exactly how old she was. Perhaps she had reached the century as family folk-lore indicated.

Her husband John had died on 10/5/1857 "in the 63rd year of his age" and like his brother Robert was buried in the old Methodist cemetery south of Swan Street in Wollongong.

John and Catherine had married in Ireland in 1817. If Catherine really lived to 100 there must have been a difference of about 16 years in their ages which may account for their having no children. They had both made little deductions to their ages to qualify as assisted immigrants on the *Clyde* which arrived in Sydney on 7/2/1836, accompanied by Catherine's brother William Thompson with his wife Jane and their four children, Margaret, James, Henry and William, all under 12 years of age.

Also included in the assisted immigrants on the *Clyde* were Henry Osborne's cousin James Osborne with his wife (Jane on the shipping list but always known to her family as Isabella) who was Henry's sister, and their six children, making ten Osbornes on the *Clyde*.

As if ten were not enough, on that same day arrived the *James Pattison* with Dr John Osborne as Surgeon Superintendent with his wife Mary and their six children, bringing the Osborne influx to a total of 18 in one day, not to mention one named Joseph who has not been identified as part of the family connection.

Also aboard the *James Pattison* as one of the immigrants was nineteen-year-old Eliza Cochrane who became Robert Osborne's second wife after Rebecca died in 1844. Eliza was collected from the ship by her aunt Mrs Thompson who could have been Jane Thompson from the *Clyde*.

Frank Osborne.

ANEC3

OSBORNE ANECDOTE

123456

CENTENARIANS (2)

Back in Ireland, my mother's great-grandparents were James White, a weaver, and Sarah Nelson; but my mother had no idea which part they came from.

Their daughter Sarah White married James McPaul, a blacksmith, who brought her to Illawarra where he set up in business as a blacksmith at Charcoal which later became Unanderra. Their first child, James, was born at Charcoal in 1848. Their fourth child, Robert, (1854-1859) was drowned in Charcoal Creek on new year's day, 1859. About 1860 the family left Charcoal and went farming at South Wolumla in the Bega district.

Their eighth child (1861-1947) was also named Robert. This Robert married Catherine Annie Bright Osborne, thus providing a second Osborne/McPaul connection. It was a case of my mother's uncle marrying my father's sister.

When Sarah McPaul (nee White) died in 1910, aged 86, her place of birth was entered on the death certificate as *Faulien, Londonderry*, but there's no such place in the whole of Ireland.

Some years ago, the late Stan Fackender showed me a copy of the passenger list of the ship *Hyderabad* on which Robert and Sarah arrived in Australia in 1848, showing Sarah's birthplace in lovely copperplate writing as *Fann*. So back to the map I went, only to find there's no *Fann* either! However there is a place called *Fahan* which presumably could be pronounced that way.

More years went by before I received from Kerry Keusemann a copy of the death certificate of Sarah White, nee Nelson, which showed she was born at *Fahan* in the District of Letterkenny, County Donegal, which is next door to Londonderry. When she died on 25/12/1888 the informant was her daughter Jane Shiels who signed with a cross, giving her mother's age as 110 years.

The fact that the informant was illiterate immediately raised the suspicion that the age given was simply a wild guess, especially as I had found errors in death certificates before. On examining the DC in conjunction with the family records, one finds that she bore her third-last child at the age of 54, twenty-five years after the first one. As to her real age, I think your guess would be as good as mine.

A POSTSCRIPT ON DROWNINGS.

I have already mentioned how my maternal grandfather James McPaul lost a little brother through drowning on 1/1/1859 when not yet five years old.

My paternal grandmother Mary Jane Cochrane also lost a younger brother through drowning on 26/2/1859 (less than 2 months later) at the age of 9 years "accidentally drowned whilst bathing in the Salt Water Lagoon, Five Islands Estate." (Illawarra Mercury, 28/2/859)

ANEC4

AN ENGLISH FLOWER.

When Annie Gregg, aged 16, became pregnant to her tutor, Frederic Flower, their families combined to ship them off to Australia, but for some reason this didn't happen until 1850 when their daughter Emily was two years old.

On arrival in Australia they settled on a farm at Five Islands Road which adjoined that of the Cochrane family. Frederic soon tired of farming and accepted a post as a teacher.

In 1858 Frederic became ill and died on 25/6/1858 from what the doctor called "hepatic jaundice" * leaving Annie with five little children of which the eldest was Annie, aged nine. With assistance from the children, Annie made cabbage-tree hats to provide income and in neighbourly fashion William Cochrane Junior helped with the wood and other chores on the farm.

Despite a difference in ages, romance soon blossomed. On 26/7/1859 Annie (27) and William (22) were married in Annie's house. Witnesses to the wedding were William's sister Mary Jane Cochrane and her boyfriend James Osborne. Thus Mary Jane became Emily's Aunt Mary, and when Mary Jane married James in 1864 she became, in the fashion of the day, Emily's Aunt Osborne.

In due course William and Annie had five little Cochranes to add to the five young Flowers, bringing the total number in the bunch to ten. After the first one someone remarked that with a young husband like William, Annie would have another baby every time the peach tree bloomed. After the fifth one, Emily found her mother early one morning hacking away at the peach tree with a blunt axe.

On 22/9/1871 Emily married William's younger brother James Cochrane in the Wesleyan chapel in Wollongong. After this wedding, Emily's mother became her sister-in-law and her step-father became her brother-in-law; and her mother Annie had a son who was both nephew and brother-in-law to her husband James, and so it goes on.

At the wedding of Emily and James, "old" William Cochrane imbibed a little too much and thought he was chasing "Pheeniens" with his shillelah, lamenting he had ever left Old Ireland, but, said Emily, he was the only one who thought that way!

*Could this be what we now know as hepatitis?

Frank Osborne.

ANEC5

Osborne Anecdote

THE OSBORNE-BLAKELEY-LONGMORE CONNECTION

My experience has taught me that reminiscences are usually more reliable with regard to the facts given than they are when it comes to placing them in the correct time frame. This extract from a book written by Vida Martin, a great-grand-daughter of Robert Longmore, lends support to this view.

THE IRISH LONGMORES - ROBERT

The medical officer of the "Adam Lodge" on which Robert and Mary came to Australia in 1834 was Dr. Osborne. Among the passengers were Catherine and James Osborne. James was a nephew of Dr. Osborne and had contracted a runaway marriage with his cousin, Catherine Blakeley. Catherine, Robert and Mary were all grandchildren of John Murdoch, their mothers havin been [Murdoch] sisters. It is natural, therefore, that the four should be close friends. Catherine and James had two children, both of whom died. James also died, and Catherine being then on her own, she and Robert eventually married.

The *Adam Lodge* arrived in Sydney on 13/7/1837

Robert and Mary Longmore were brother and sister.

Dr. Osborne was Alick Osborne of "Daisy Bank", Dapto.

Re. Catherine having two children who died. I thought this was an error until I discovered in Dr. Alick's journal that she had given birth to a premature baby aboard the ship. The journal entry for June 4 reads:

This morning Mrs. Jas Osborne was delivered of a female child premature birth in consequence of a fall. The child was about 7 mths. Lived 2 hrs. I read the ceremony of private baptism for it a few minutes after it was born.

There seems to be no way of verifying the presence of Robert and Mary aboard the *Adam Lodge* as no list of the 20 single female assisted immigrants or any other passengers is known to exist. However a complete list of married couples and their children was included in the surgeon's report to Governor Burke.

Robert Longmore was well known in the Wollongong area where he was a builder. In 1864 he was the contractor for the construction of the kerosene works at American Creek [Mount Kembla] and later for many of the coal jetties along the coast. He has been credited with the discovery of the marine-worm-resistant properties of turpentine piles for jetties. He also owned the steam flour mill in Burelli Street. He was very closely associated with the Osborne family, being an executor of both John's and Robert's wills as well as witness at Matilda's wedding to Charles Musgrave.

Frank Osborne