

Footnote to THE PAULSGROVE DIARY

The Paulsgrove Diary is peppered with Osbornes visiting Paulsgrove -- drinking tea, dining, staying overnight, trading in pigs or cattle, going to church with Mr Spearing etc -- but it is sometimes difficult to work out which one of the family is being mentioned.

Two in particular had me puzzled. On 26th September, 1883, a Mr F Osborne drank tea at Paulsgrove. I know I'm not really that old, and I still have no idea who else it could have been. There is only that one mention of this character and I am inclined to believe the "F" could have been a misreading of a carelessly-written "A."

The second one was Mr A Osborne who rated frequent mention. I think Bill McDonald and Edgar Beale both accepted that this was Henry's brother Alick from Dapto. However, when I compared the Diary with my work on Osborne's in Early Illawarra it dawned on me that this Mr A was visiting Paulsgrove while Alick was on the high seas with a shipload of convicts, so it had to be somebody else. I had already picked up the name Archibald Osborne of Wollongong from the Sydney newspapers but had no idea if or where he fitted in.

One of Alick's ships, the Fairlie, which left England on 27th October, 1833, arrived in

Sydney on 15th February, 1834. To catch this ship, Alick must have left Sydney not later than about June 1833, so now let's have a look at the Diary.

On June 18th, 1833, we find Mr Osborne, which usually means Henry, visiting Paulsgrove with his nephew. Could this nephew be Archibald?

On 1th October of that year Mr A Osborne drank tea at Paulsgrove and three days later he is there again. There's a big gap in the diary for November and December, but Mr A is there again on 2nd January, 1834, and again five days later. On this occasion the entry reads:

Mr A Osborne drank tea, in going home rode against a stump and cut his horses leg a great deal returned and slept.

So he lives far enough away to warrant saddling a horse to get to Paulsgrove. Then on 18th January:

Kill'd a bullock for Mr A Osborne.

So he must live reasonably close and presumably has a household to care for as he is unlikely to eat a bullock on his own, especially in January without refrigeration.

It was at this stage of the thought process that Warren Bellamy stirred me up again with the perennial argument about Bustle Hall and Bustle Cottage which induced me to re-read after almost 20 years "An Octogenarian Remembers" by Edgar Beale's mother, Mrs Jean Robertson.

This was published in our Bulletin in serial form between December 1977 and August 1978. From it I rediscovered that Dr John Osborne of Garden Hill had another son, Archibald, the eldest, who was not with the other six children who arrived with John and his wife Mary on 7th February, 1836.

It seems reasonable to assume that Archibald was the nephew of Henry referred to in the diary, and that he has to be the Mr A Osborne of such frequent mention. Henry and Sarah's children were only babes in 1834: their son Alick was only christened that March; and Dr Alick's only son Alick was about 13 at the time. Archibald must have been look-

ing after Garden Hill for his father during the latter's prolonged absences. In March, 1834, Dr John was far away, preparing to sail from London aboard the John Barry on 4th April with 320 male convicts for Hobart.

A very significant entry on "Teusday" 25th March, 1834, finds Dr Alick and Mr A at Paulsgrove together:

Mr Henry and Mr Alick Osborne doctor of the Fairlie dind and slept. A Osborne drank tea.

rest my case.

Frank Osborne