

WILLIAM 1849 to 1929

William was the eldest of Samuel and Maria's children born 15 July 1849 we believe at Burra. He was baptized at Clare (Court) on 9 January 1850 and the baptism is recorded in the Sevenhill Parish Register of baptisms. The sponsors were William and Mary O'Mealey and at the time Samuel and Maria's "Abode" was Undalya which is between Auburn and Riverton in the Clare Valley.

On 21 March 1873, William entered into a Lease Agreement for the lease of Section 281, Hundred of Whyte, County of Victoria for a period of seven years.¹ At that time William was 24 years of age and he was not married.

The Hundred of Whyte was declared in 1869 and it was south of Goyder's Line of Rainfall. The land had originally been released as a land grant purchased by Hampton Carroll Gleeson on 21 October 1871 for a consideration of 352 Pounds 10 shillings or 1/3/6 per acre. Gleeson later sold this land to Alexander Thomas Magarey.

Review of the lease document indicates that the transaction was more than a lease. It was in fact a time payment purchase arrangement. The 1873 lease had been prepared in the name of James Harford but for some reason James' name was crossed out and William's substituted. At the time James would have been 19 years of age and it is possible he could not raise the 50 pounds deposit or there may have been some objection his young age and being a minor perhaps was unable to enter the contract so William took out the lease instead.

The lease was for seven years from 21 March 1873 with a yearly rental of 42 Pounds payable half yearly on 21 March and 21 September. The lessee was to pay all outgoings. There was also a requirement to enclose the whole area of the land with a post and rail or iron wire fence within 24 months and to work the land in a *"proper and husband like manner not taking more than two successive white crops from any portion of it."*

The document also required purchase the land on 21 March 1880 for the sum of 525 Pounds with the payment of 50 Pounds on execution of the lease, 25 pounds on 21 March 1874, a further 100 pounds on 21 March 1875, and the balance of 350 Pounds on 21 March 1880. As the progress payments were made the rent was to reduce proportionately by 8% per annum on the amount of the purchase money paid. On our calculations the total amount outlaid could have been 767 Pounds, or 2/11/- per acre. However, Use of the land for seven years prior to payment almost 50% of this amount would have offered significant value.

The land comprised 300 acres. Leaving aside the annual rent the price paid 525 Pounds or One pound 15 shillings per acre. This price looks high as it was set seven years earlier as part of the 1873 lease. Compared with the price of 352 pounds paid by Gleeson in 1871 it represents an increase of about 50% and when one considers there were ongoing lease payments the price looks high. However, it does need to be seen in the context of the rapidly increasing and widespread demand for land in the growing colony that was leading to surveys and opening up of land further to the east and north beyond Goyder's line of rainfall.

On 21 March 1880, the land was ultimately purchased by James rather than William. This together with the change in the lease document raises a number of questions. Was James always the intended purchaser? Who had worked on the farm since 1873? James and William? James alone? William alone? All four of the brothers? At that time George was close to 16 and Steve was close 14 both old enough to help on the land. John Joseph was

¹ Vol. CLIX Folio 208, Lease 44257

still only 9 and probably too young to play too big a role. However, even he by 1880 would have been old enough to work.

Whatever the reason for the change in the original lease document, if James had originally intended to buy the land as indicated on the original then one could understand why he ultimately did buy it and it is highly likely he worked the land from the beginning in 1873 either by himself or with William and even possibly the other two boys. Over the seven years of the lease they had all grown to be adults.

Another factor of relevance, is that **Samuel** sold his land at Armagh, the first parcel Pounds in March 1876 and the second in September 1877. He was also recorded in Boothby's Almanacs for each year from 1877 to 1886 the year of his death as "Farmer Mt Sly Yarcowie." It would be logical to assume he and Maria joined the rest of their family at Yarcowie after the initial sale of land at Armagh.

The land had been worked for three years and improvements were well underway. The land was located very close to Mt. Sly some two and a half miles from the town on the road to Jamestown. It is quite possible that **Samuel** could also have contributed some funds to the ultimate purchase of land by James. Despite his age he would have been very fit and would have helped out on the farm.

William married Catherine O'Brien on 8 December 1877 at Mt Sly. William was 27 and Katie was 23. His occupation was shown as "Farmer" and hers as "Servant". Katie was the daughter of Michael O'Brien and Catherine Sexton. Katie signed her name but William signed with a mark as was customary for those who could not write.

The Marriage Certificate does not mention St Simon & Jude's the Catholic Church at Yarcowie and indicates that the marriage was at Mt Sly. This most likely means it was celebrated on the property. The celebrant was Fr. John Pallhuber SJ and the witnesses were his brother George from Mt Sly, Labourer, and Mary Willis from Terowie.

William and Catherine's first child, Michael Samuel, was born at Yarcowie on 26 November 1878. However, their second child Mary Catherine, born was born on 1 January 1880 at Lancelot. This was about three before the expiration of the lease and indicates that William was not intending to be involved with the purchase. Subsequent births were also at Lancelot up until the 1889 birth of William Leo.

The births of their children were:

Michael Samuel born 26 November 1878 at Yarcowie

Mary Catherine born 1 January 1880 at Lancelot

William John born 1881 at Lancelot. Died 19 September 1883, aged 2 years and is buried at Lancelot Cemetery.

Patrick Joseph 10 March 1884 at Lancelot

Stephen James born 16 November 1885 at Lancelot. Died 2 February 1886 aged 11 weeks and is buried at Lancelot Cemetery.

George Laurence born 1883. Place of birth is not known but it was most likely at Lancelot

Margaret Tryphena born 10 April 1887 at Lancelot

James born 10 April 1887 at Lancelot

William Leo born 1889 at Broken Hill? We believe this birth was at Broken Hill but there is no NSW birth record so there is a possibility it was at Lancelot. Died April 1890 at Broken Hill Buried 24 April 1890 aged 12 months

John Charles Augustine born 1892 at Broken Hill

Leslie Edward Francis born 1894 born at Broken Hill

Andrew Robert 1897 born at Broken Hill

Ellen (Nell) Elizabeth 1900 at Broken Hill

As both James and William were young and single they would have worked the land well and in the 1870's there were quite a number of good seasons. There were no other dependents until William married in 1877 and James in 1883. They were therefore in a position to cover their lease and progress payments and possibly able to put money aside. The Lease by William and the subsequent purchase by James were never the subject of a mortgage and this indicates that they had the capacity to meet their commitments as they arose.

We have not been able to establish that William purchased any other property and consequently we are not aware of where he might have lived at Lancelot. George had purchased his Section in 1877 and was not married until May 1883. It is possible that William and Catherine may have stayed with him although we think this is unlikely. It was more likely that Stephen and John Joseph were with George while Samuel was with James at Yarcowie.

There are some other options and the most likely is that William could have rented. His sister Mary Ann was also in the area and but she did not marry John James until February 1882. However John had already purchased his land just south of Lancelot township in November 1877 and that could have been a possibility. Then there was Tryphena who married at Burra in February 1880. She had a child in March 1881 at Yarcowie and a further child at Lancelot in May 1882. With the rail line from Burra to Terowie being completed in 1880 travel between these places would have been much improved and she also could have been in Lancelot.

William was a Teamster and prior to 1880, the teamster's primary source of work would have been from Burra and require with the carriage of supplies to the north. After the rail was extended to Terowie in 1880, the source of work changed and the main destinations would have been Lancelot, Peterborough and the farmers and the pastoralists up towards the Barrier Ranges.

Teamsters typically used bullocks to pull their wagons. They had forged the first communications into the Barrier Ranges trudging slowly across from South Australia or up from Victoria in the 1870's. Pastoralists depended on the teams for their supplies and for them to cart their wool back to the railheads and delivery to markets. The first roads were simply rutted tracks left by the lumbering wagons. Later the bullock wagons brought in supplies to the early mining camps such as at Silverton from 1883 and later at Broken Hill and took away their bagged ore.

Lancelot was a regular stopping off point for teams and it was not unusual for up to thirty teams to be camped there en route to the New South Wales border and beyond. The

Lancelot Hotel with its soft bush lights remained open late into the night to cater for the teamsters and bullockies.²

There would have been plenty of work for William in the early to mid 1880's. With the decision to build the rail line to the border via Peterborough, there was to be an increase in work available. Men were transported from Peterborough to construction sites and these sites needed to be provided with continuing supplies. Thousands of sleepers were imported from Western Australia and brought to Peterborough by train and then hauled by teams to the construction sites. At the same time as construction was proceeding growth was occurring at Silverton and also Broken Hill with the need to ship ore back to the existing rail heads.

However, the railway line reached Cockburn at the border by September 1887 and it was very evident that activity for teamsters would decline. It seems that William moved to Broken Hill in 1889/90 a move inspired by the need for continuing work to support his growing family.

By 1888, William and Katie had six living children and two others had died. The eldest, Michael Samuel was 10 years of age and the youngest were twins James and Margaret Tryphena who were less than 12 months old. While Katie needed the support of family around her and at Lancelot that support was readily available. William needed to find work to continue to support his family.

William's Funeral Notice in January 1929 says that he "*came to Broken Hill 45 years ago as a Teamster. Old Mt.Gipps Station. Worked Silverton Tram Company 30 years.*"

Taking the reference to Old Mt Gipps Station first would give the year as 1884. Therefore we can assume that this station was one of those that he used to service as a teamster.

The reference to 30 years with Silverton Tramway Company has been far more helpful and more precise. We know that this company was formed in 1886 to build a connecting rail line from Broken Hill and Silverton to the South Australian border at Cockburn. The railway was built between 1886 and 1888.

William's employment record³ shows he commenced work with the company as a Labourer on 16 January 1888. He was approaching 40 years of age. It was in this month that the railway line opened so he does not appear to have been involved in the construction of the line. This date of commencement tends to indicate that he was in Broken Hill prior to bringing his family there.

William finished work with the Silverton Tramway Company on 29 January 1920 at the age of 71 and after 32 years of work with the company

The family lived at 100 Thomas St. The Broken Hill Council Rate Records show that this is Weatherboard and Iron 5 room house on land of 66 by 165 feet. In 1923 the Rate Book showed it had an Unimproved Capital Value of 66 Pounds and an Improved Capital Value of 170 Pounds. These values applied for the three year rating period. On today's numbering the house was at 142 Thomas St and it has been replaced by a new house.

² Glimpses of the North East by Gladys Ward p 41

³ Silverton Tramway Company Employee Records

Katie died at Broken Hill on 9 July 1928 at the age of 73 years. Her Death Certificate shows the cause of death as (a) Cerebral Haemorrhage, for 10 days and (b) Myocarditis, Hypostatic Pneumonia. The informant was her son Andrew who at that time was living at 155 Harvey St Broken Hill.

William died on 5 January 1929 at the Broken Hill and District Hospital. The cause of death was given as Arteriosclerosis. He was 80 years of age. The Death Notice in the Barrier Daily Truth read:

"Harford William

*Mr. M Harford (Adelaide) M/M J Fairclough (Ade), M/m L Harford (Ade) Mr. J Harford(Ade) M/M A Harford, Miss N Harford Mrs. G Harford Children G Children
100 Thomas St Catholic Cemetery*

He died in hospital age 80, Born Clare SA Came to Broken Hill 45 years ago as a Teamster Old Mt Gipps Station. Worked Silverton Tram Company 30 years. Family of 6 sons 2 daughters 27 Grand children. His wife died last July."

There were two funeral Notices in the Barrier Daily Truth on Saturday 5 January 1929 one from the family. They read:

HARFORD- The relatives and friends of Mr. M Harford and Family of Adelaide, Mr. and Mrs. J Fairclough and Family of Adelaide, Mr. and Mrs. P Harford and Family of Adelaide, Mr. and Mrs. J Harford and Family of Adelaide, Mr. and Mrs. L Harford and Family of Adelaide, Mr. J Harford and Family of Adelaide, Mr. and Mrs. A Harford and Family, Miss N Harford and Mrs. G Harford and Family are respectfully informed that the funeral (motor) that the funeral of their late beloved Father, Father-in-Law and Grandfather (WILLIAM HARFORD) will leave his late residence 100 Thomas St TOMORROW (Sunday) at 2.30pm arriving at the Roman Catholic Cemetery at 2.45pm.

TOM J MALLON

Funeral Director 190 Argent St."

The other was from the union of which William's son Andrew was a member:

"TOWN EMPLOYEES' UNION

Members of the above are requested to attend the funeral of Member A Harford's late father (WILLIAM) leaving his late residence, 100 Thomas St, TOMORROW (Sunday) at 2.30pm for the Roman Catholic Cemetery.

Car leaves Trades Hall at 2pm

R. DALY President"

There was a report of his funeral in the Barrier Daily Truth on 7 January 1929.:

"Funeral of Mr Harford

The funeral of the late Mr William Harford (80) took place yesterday leaving his late residence at 100 Thomas St at 2.30pm. The interment was made in the R.C. portion of the cemetery when Rev. Dean Brennan officiated. Amongst the tributes was a dome wreath from the domestic staff of the hospital. The bearers were Messrs Linkson, J.A. Hoare, J. Beerworth, J. Kelly, F. Harvey and M. Rivers. Mr R. Daly officially represented the Town

Employees' Union. Several of the deceased's family arrived on Saturday night from Adelaide to attend their father's funeral which was conducted by Mr Tom J Mallon."

Following his death William's family home was left to his daughter Nellie (Ellen Elizabeth) who at that time was unmarried. She later married Les Knott in 1934.