

Initial Upload 3 Mar 2011
 Latest Update 17 February 2013

DAVID 1851 to 1941¹

WHEREVER RAINBOWS BECKON

David was born at Clare in 1851 the first child of Stephen and Margaret. There is no official record of his birth and there remains a possibility that Stephen was not his father. We have a document on which his youngest brother "Jack Harford" (John Aloysius) is described as his Stepbrother. This is compelling evidence that David was not Stephen's son. A primary source of his birth year is his sister's Rebecca's birth certificate which gives David's age at February 1860 as 8 years 6 months. This would mean a birth in July/August 1851.

In early 1853 the family went to the Back Creek on the Victorian goldfields. These would have been exciting times for an impressionable young boy. Growing up in this environment would have left him with many memories. The family returned to South Australia between late 1860 and early 1863 by which time he would have been approaching 12 years of age. This means that he would have started his schooling on the goldfields in some form of makeshift schoolroom probably a combination of tents and bark.

We have little knowledge of his early years but it is evident that he had a good Catholic education. Unlike others in his family he could read and write well. We thought he may have attended school at Sevenhill but there is no evidence he was ever enrolled there.

David started to write poetry at the age of 15. The earliest date for a poem was in 1866 when he wrote "*A Muse: The Shepherd and the Grass Seed*". He also wrote "*The Old Man Kangaroo*" and noted "*This is written from an incident that happened on the Wallaroo Road in the latter sixties about 20 odd miles from Kadina. Written when a lad. (D.H. writer).*"²

David learned the trade of a Stonemason and probably journeyed around the countryside with his trade. On 14 April 1872 David purchased land, Lot 53 of Section 91 in College Rd in the township of Sevenhill, Hundred of Clare³. The area was 39 perches. Inspection of this land in 2007 showed it was vacant land with no evidence of any previous dwelling being built there. The land was part of a subdivision of the college land by the Jesuits of Sevenhill. There is no record of the purchase price. David sold the land to Hugh Martin on 13 August 1880. The consideration was 7 pounds 10 Shillings.

David seems to have put some money together from his work as a Stonemason and perhaps from selling some of his verses.

On 26 January 1877, David purchased a parcel of land in a recent subdivision of Sections 434, 435 and 622 known as North Parade in Jamestown. The area of the land was one rood and 29 perches.⁴ The land was sold by Albert Trilling and the consideration was 8 Pounds. David sold this land to William Elix on 27 September 1879. He was paid 17 Pounds for the land a good profit in a short period of time.

¹ Written by Marion Argus of Albany, WA, with input from Peter Harford and Jenny Carollo

² Songs and Verses of Australia, "Those Hills All Clad With Gold, by David Harford, Adelaide 1919.

³ Title reference Vol.CCV Folio 39

⁴ Title reference: Vol.CCL Folio 204



Lot 53 College Road 2007

We were initially concerned that another David Harford had bought these parcels because we could not answer the question of where he would have obtained the money. However, there is a very good match between the signatures on his Marriage Certificate and the signatures on the two Sale Transfers.

Marriage Certificate 1884

College Rd 1880

Jamestown 1879

It appears David bought both these lots as investments and certainly in one case he made money.

In 1879 and 1880 when there was drought and depression, David wandered around the Murray and Darling rivers and wrote a number of verses based on his observations. In 1879 he wrote "*Camped on the Murray*", and "*Life upon the Darling*", in 1880 *The Claypan* and 20 poems in all were published in 1883 by the Advertiser Printing Office, Adelaide and called Australian Rhymes by David Harford (a bushman).⁵ Australian Rhymes has been placed on this website.

David has been identified from directories at Orroroo from 1882 to 1885. However, these were usually published well after the information had been collected and also they took time to print and publish so the dates cannot be relied on. It is likely he worked there with Michael Kelly who was also a Stonemason and later a building contractor. Michael was at Orroroo in at least 1879/80 and probably until 1882.⁶ He was involved with a number of new buildings there.

⁵ Mortlock Library, Adelaide S.A.

⁶ Kelly Family History

Michael Kelly was the husband of David's sister Margaret. Three of Margaret and Michael Kelly's daughters were to become Nuns, Sister Rose, Sister Angela and Sister Claude. One of Michael's children died there in Orroroo in 1880, aged 2 years. Another was born there in the same year.⁷ After this the Kelly's moved to Hyde Park in Adelaide.

In 1882 David was proposing to visit South Africa, and wrote "*The Australian's Farewell*," the journey did not take place, perhaps because he had met his future wife Susan Ann Wise who he was to marry in 1884.

Susan Ann Wise

Susan was six years old when her father a German emigrant, Charles Wise (Carl Weis) died in 1877. Her mother remarried to Samuel Runeld (original German spelling Runholm). The family lived near Blanchetown, South Australia.

Susan was in domestic service in Adelaide at a young age and by the time she was 16 she was betrothed for two years to David Harford a man 13 years her senior. We believe Susan was in service with David's sister Margaret Kelly. They were married in Adelaide on 4 January 1884. Susan was protestant, converting to Catholicism for her marriage to David.



**Susan Ann Wise (age 17) and David (age 31) c1882
Before their marriage on 4 January 1884**

The marriage certificate shows that her first name was altered to Laura. We do not know the reason but Laura has become a family name with Vida Laura their first daughter, Valma Laura,

⁷ Kelly Family History

a great, great grandchild, and Laura Hunt, Valma's grandchild. From here on we shall refer to Susan Ann as Laura.

1884		Married in the District of <i>Adelaide</i>						
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Trade or Calling.	Residence at Time of Marriage.	Name and Surname of Parents of each Party.	Place in which Celebrated.
	<i>14th January</i>	<i>David Harford</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>single</i>	<i>Mason</i>	<i>Worley</i>	<i>Stephen Harford</i>	<i>St. Peter's</i>
	<i>1884</i>	<i>Laura Susan Ann Wise</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Miss</i>			<i>Charles Wise</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>

This Marriage was celebrated between us *David Harford* and *Laura Susan Ann Wise* in the presence of us

Name.	Trade or Calling.	Residence.
<i>David Harford</i>	<i>Mason</i>	<i>Adelaide</i>
<i>Elizabeth Harford</i>		<i>M. Adelaide</i>

The above-named *David Harford* and *Laura Susan Ann Wise* were duly Married by *me*, at the time and place above-named, and in the presence of witnesses whose signatures are above written.

Witness my hand this *14th* day of *January* 1884

David Harford

Laura Susan Ann Wise

Principal Registrar

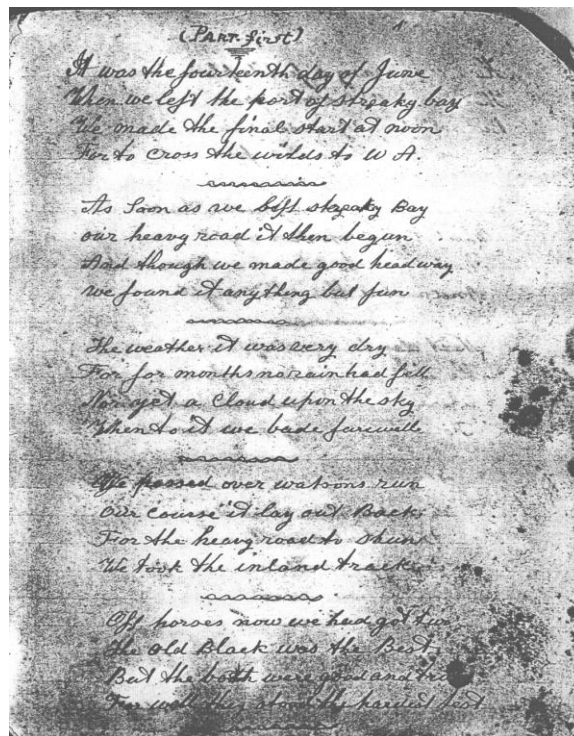
BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION OFFICE
ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
I hereby certify that this is a true copy of an Entry in a Register kept in this office in the State of South Australia. Given under my hand and seal
Nov 3 93
Principal Registrar

Marriage Certificate David & Laura Susan Ann. Note the addition "Laura"

Laura's life was to become one of a great adventure and endurance. Like many pioneer women of the times, Laura has to be admired for her strong constitution to bear and raise many children under the most difficult circumstances. However, with David her life was more than this.

Crossing the Nullarbor 1886

Two years after their marriage in Adelaide the couple set out on their epic three months' journey to cross the harsh Nullarbor to Esperance, and then on to Albany. David kept a journal for the journey which is written in verse and gives us an insight into the courage, hardships and durability of our pioneering ancestors. A typed version of the Journal has been placed on this website.



First Page of Journal

David and Laura took a boat to Port Lincoln and then walked to Eyre Peninsula where he worked on a station to buy the two horses and cart that was to carry them the 1400 miles across the Nullarbor, one a black mare named Bess and the other Tom. David chose well his animals for they were to forever impress him with their strength and endurance. We know that David wrote two poems at Streaky Bay in 1885 and 1886 so it is apparent that they were there at least 6 months before they commenced their journey.

The journal begins at Streaky Bay on (Monday) 14 June 1886 when even a few days out "*they found it anything but fun!*" Passing through Laura Bay and Denial Bay, to supplement their diet they shot turkey and duck.

At two weeks on the road, they passed Chara Station arrived at Fowlers Bay where the manager, Mr Murray told them they would never make it. David says "*he thought it rot*". After spending a trying time in heavy sand they decided to spell the horses, Bess with hobbles and let Tom the black with just a bell. A fearsome camel visited them at midnight and frightened the horses, consequently they took off into the darkness leaving poor David and Laura stranded.

As soon as daylight was upon them David, leaving Laura with the cart, gave chase and managed to capture and mount Bess following the tracks of the stampeding Tom. He caught up with the absconder, guessing 23 miles from camp. It was 3 o'clock in the afternoon before he returned.

The camels continued to be a nuisance for some time along the track but he made sure the horses were properly tethered from then onwards. David was later to discover that camels were left behind by the Afghans to spell and were picked up on the return journey.



Wild Camels on the Nullarbor

Reaching the station at the Bight, they came upon a camel team with the mail and on inquiring of the road ahead were told there was little water to be had 140 miles from Eucla. The weather was now hot and dry with water scarce. They reached the 12 mile gate at the Bight arriving at midnight (perhaps it was easier on the horses and themselves to travel at night) coming upon a boring plant seventeen miles from the bight which found water at 100 feet.



Head of the Bight

Crossing the Nullarbor they had a couple of day's rain which had filled the tanks from a water shed. There was good land and feed for the horses with timber belts everywhere. David and Laura toiled all day plucking and boiling turkey for the supplies. Here they crossed the border leaving their South Australia behind them.

Leaving the tablelands they descended to Muir's station where they had sightings of blacks and they found some water high upon some limestone cliffs in the rock face. There was a deserted hut with the door open and some yards. A few days were spent there to recover whilst it rained quite heavily. This was a much needed respite for poor pregnant Laura. David hardly mentions his wife in his writings. The horses feature more than she.

Whilst at the Muir's outstation they met with a black who laughed till tears came in his eyes, his name was Anthony! Anthony thought they were reincarnated friends came to visit him. David mentions travelling into the night quite often---how he saw the track makes one wonders.

Along the way they enjoyed the company of a brave old pioneer named Mr Kennedy for 2 days who supplied them with some mutton for a nice change of diet. Two days later they came to another Station owned by the Pastoral Association, the date was August 7th.

Here they meet the limestone cliffs running West in a mighty chain, travelled for days along the base to the Graham Tank. Coming to Eyre daunted them, fearing for the worst having to face the great sandy mass of sand hills. Here David speaks of poor Mazzine, a couple who nearly perished out there sometime before them and of finding the remains of their camp. There were dazzling white sand hills everywhere. They came upon "*Graham's place*" where they were made very welcome and invited to share a meal. There were some completely nude blacks here.



Cliffs of the Nullarbor

For a time their course lay by the wild sea shore where they found many a handsome shell. Then to higher ground where the track became quite faint and occasionally they see the Telegraph line. Along this track they met a chinaman, the journey not being as lonely as one would imagine. Around this area they found water tanks and some grass for the horses. There were more sand drifts on top of the cliffs here then they descend 400ft or more. They are near Point Culvar, where *“no track marks the way”*.

David is forced to wade through lagoons waist deep. By this time the horses are becoming a concern their flanks quite sunken and their bones so bare, it grieves him but he sees the defiance in their eyes as the brave animals tackle the beach ahead-- the only route they can take. There is a storm raging, bringing in thick seaweed in its wake, making it necessary to dash between the receding waves drenching poor Laura in the cart. David writes *“my wife she is quite glum”*!! After reaching some higher ground they were then sandblasted by the gale. Respite came when they found “Wattle camp” where at last the horses could be spelled and fed, spending three days here.

David mentions Isralite Bay being a rough group of shacks where they bought some supplies . Driving through heavy storms and driving rain they come to Point Malcolm where David sank some shallow wells for water which turned out to be salty. Whilst on the coast they fished for many hours without result, David having a mishap on the rocks which nearly cost him his life.

Now they were in country which was experiencing spring rains and the lagoons and swamps were filled with water. At Point Malcolm they came across a shepherd who was driving sheep for the Campbell Taylors who at this time had settled on Thomas River Station. The shepherd offered to lend them a horse but David declined as he thought his two were improving. The shepherd told them where to find feed and water along the track and enjoyed many hours yarning in his company by the campfire.

The route was now upward winding between hills and rises, amongst Yate trees much like mallee. They came upon poor Mazzine’s camp, some short distance between evidence of there being of a struggle to survive. David writes *“we are drawing near to civilisation”*, as the Thomas River Station came into view. They camped alongside a brook where the horses fed happily on fresh grass. Mr Dunn the overseer and his wife gave them a hearty welcome. After leaving Thomas River, David and Laura came upon the spot Mazzine had lost his horses. They witnessed the bogged, dead horses, a very sobering sight indeed.

Crossing a narrow blackboy bridge over a stream, the Harford’s cart toppled over spilling all their worldly goods far and wide. It was quite a struggle to right it and repack. Passing through

some country void of trees they were glad to finally find a running brook with long waving grass, like hay. Laura boiled the billy only to find the water once again salt. The road was getting rough and the country hilly but they sighted some deserted huts where they rested. Near here David found traces of copper in the soil.

After spending a night camped at the Duke of Argyle (Argyle) passed by some granite hills lying to their right and some dwarf like stood up like stooks of hay. Another shepherd crossed their path with a large herd of sheep, a pair of Blacks bringing up the rear. Here David speaks of birds singing and the beautiful West Australian wildflowers as its spring time.

Journeying through heavy sand they know that Esperance Bay is close at hand –5 miles away. The diary entry is September 4th and David writes that he could not describe the joy of reaching civilisation. On the outskirts of Esperance he meets a Mr Anett and his wife who tell them of the shearing at Esperance Station. At the station David sees a sight he cannot believe – blacks were working in the shed with a shirt and nothing else but a red handkerchief on the heads! Mr Dempster told David this native had never seen the sea until he came to work the shed. He was a Bardock black which was a fiery tribe that remained untamed.

That night amongst friends there was much talking and singing at the Dempster's home. Reluctantly David and Laura had to leave this warm happy place after a few days respite to continue the journey to Albany for there are still a few hundred miles to go.

Days later they came to Muir's fence at Fanny cove, passing numerous salt lakes. It was here they met with the unfortunate Mazzine's, David's diary recording that poor Mazzine looked pale but his wife and baby well! The couple were hoping to get two more horses to carry on the journey. From here there were miles of barren looking land and they travelled near granite hills, some to the right and some to the shore. (Mt Barrrens at Hopetoun). David speaks of an inky pile of rocks with jagged peaks 20 mile to the right.

The country greatly changes now and the road is hard to follow through the stony ranges. They crossed some rustic bridges to arrive at Cocanarup and reached the Dunn homestead near Ravensthorpe where they were made welcome and were told the story of the raiding blacks (Bardocks) who speared one of their brothers. His grave is not far from the homestead. During the night David and Laura were disturbed by some curlews who had gathered around the grave in their hundreds and what a noise they make. David writes, they stayed two days in this romantic place, pleasant fellows were the Dunns.

The next stop was the Hassell farm at Jerramungup, 80 miles away where they spelled the horses and found a good season and the stock in good condition. Next was Salt River Station country where they shot duck and kangaroo. They passed between lofty hills (Stirling Ranges) seeing Jarrah trees for the first time, journeyed through the Chester Pass. They crossed the Kalgan River at Kamballup and stayed the night at the King River.

They were soon to see King Georges Sound, the two granite hills and peaceful looking bay lay glistening in the sun. David fancies he hears distant church bells welcoming them. (Probably was St Johns). David writes of mingled feelings of the struggle over and the victory won. The Journey in the spring cart took them three months to reach Esperance. On arrival in Albany October 1886 their first child David Bernard was born in the cart at the foot of Albany's main street, York Street. Years later when submitting a document to the Canberra War Museum with information on her son David who was killed in WW1, Laura wrote this information as a post script.

Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum.

- Name (in full) of Fallen Soldier *David Bernard Harford*
- Unit and Number (if known) *5th Battalion No. 39421. Pre-war.*
- With what Town or District in Australia was he chiefly connected (under which his name ought to come on the Memorial)—
Town (if any) *Ravensthorpe Phillips State Western Aust*
- What was his Birthplace *Albany W.A.*
- Date of Death *March 31st 1917*
- Place where Killed or Wounded *at 5th Australian field ambulance France*
Buried at Pozieres

Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories

- What was his Calling *Miner and other Labour.*
- Age at time of Death *30 years & 5 months*
- What was his School *Public School - Day Dawn. W.A.*
- What was his other Training
- If born in Britain or Abroad, at what age did he come to Australia *Born in Australia.*
- Had he ever served in any Military or Naval Force before Enlisting in the A.I.F. (Please state particulars)
won several prizes in Rifle club shooting.
- Any other biographical details likely to be of interest to the Historian of the A.I.F., or of his Regiment—
he was born in a spring cart at Albany after doing a journey of 14 hundred miles.
- Was he connected with any other Member of the A.I.F. who died or who distinguished himself. (Please state Relationship)—
- Name and Address of the Parent or other person giving this information—
Name *Susan Anna Harford*
Relationship to Soldier *Mother*
Address *Berri River Murray South Australia*
- Names and Addresses of any other persons to whom reference could be made by the Historian for further information—
Name *William Simpson*
Address *Phillips River Goldfield Mandip. W. Aust*

NOTE.—This Folder is Addressed to the Secretary, Department of Defence, Melbourne. Please fold in four, and stick down gummed flap so that the addressed portion is outside. The information is required urgently.

Roll of Honour Submission

ALBANYSOUTH WEST

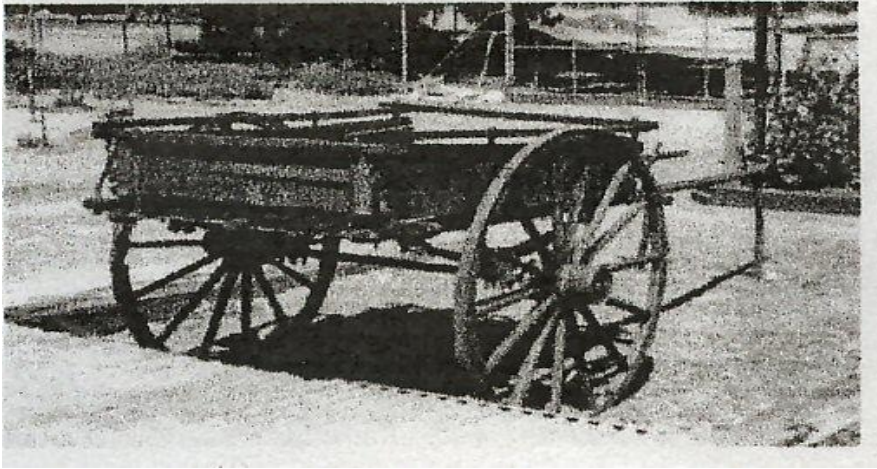
In the year Harford's arrived, 1886, much was going ahead in the little town of Albany. The Town Hall was being built as was the courthouse and the impressive Hassel residence up on Mt Melville. David could well have been employed in one of these projects as his trade was a stonemason.

Apart from David Bernard's Baptism record the only other record I could find of their time in Albany was a document for registering for a gun license in W.A.

The family spent the next seven years moving about the South West of the State. Two more children were born, their birthplaces indicating the family was on the move once again. Martin Bonaventure was born in Donnybrook in 1888 and our Gran, Laura Vida, in Jarrahdale in 1890. The next birth was Mary Virginia born back in Albany in 1893.

Soon after Mary Virginia was born, the family began the long journey to the Murchison Goldfields. Poor long suffering Laura! As if the Nullarbor experience wasn't enough. David was a born wanderer and dreamer and the lure of the "Murchison Rush" called him among thousands of others. The government of the time was paying men an allowance to find gold, an alternative to the massive unemployment in the eastern States in the 1890's Depression. I often question why the distant Murchison when the rush was also on to Coolgardie which was much closer?

The photo below is the type of cart the Harfords travelled in, usually with two horses, one to rest while the other pulled the cart. No doubt some of the children rode the spare horse as well. Our Gran, Laura Vida, recalls walking beside the cart as a small girl and getting to see the ocean for the very first time at the Greenough River crossing near Geraldton.



Typical Spring Cart

DAY DAWN.....CUE

Access to the gold fields was via interconnected tracks to various station properties, the Geraldton to Mullewa track had 30 miles of inhospitable sand plain to navigate through on the road to Nannine.

The track to the new Murchison goldfield, discovered in September 1891, was through Pindar to Warda Warra then on to Coodardy Station, Cuddingwarra. This track was the one most likely used by the Harfords to get to Cue-Day Dawn. By the early 1892 it was a popular route with up to thirty teams a week on the road between Mullewa and Cue.

The journey for the Harfords wouldn't have been as lonely as one would have imagined. It would also have been a tough one, the country was in drought conditions from 1893 to 1896. Dry red sand with much of the scrub dying would have proved very trying for men and horses with some of the waterholes in a bad state of pollution from overuse.

One writer⁸ of the times says: *"This is the most dreary, inhospitable, barren country I have set eyes on and how one can exist in summer passes my comprehension. It would be an act of barbarity for anyone to bring his wife and children into this district."*

1893 found 1000 men camped at Cue, when the town site was declared. Furniture for the hospital was finally supplied in late December. The Harford's were there in 1894.

⁸ The Old Coach Roads to Cue & Beyond, Alex Palmer, Carlisle, W.A., Hesperian Press, Lap Industries

The gold rush had brought hundreds to an area of unreliable water and sanitation. Wells were dug in Cue and Day Dawn later to cope with the influx. In response to a government petition, just two tents for typhoid victims were supplied for a makeshift hospital but it refused to supply bedding and furniture. Such were the conditions people had to endure, along with the dreaded dust storms and flies, with summer temperatures reaching 120 degrees.

The family found work on the Trenton Mine just out of Day Dawn (also named Bundawadra), four miles from Cue. The population in 1898 was only 150 males and 50 females. The Harford's were there in 1894. The Trenton Mine was a fairly rich one run by a Jonathon Bray. Official records show that between 1897-98 produced 5,522 ounces of gold from 7,746 tons of ore.

We assume David Harford was employed there as the Death Certificate of his 5 year old son, Martin Joseph Bonaventure from pneumonia was witnessed by the blacksmith from the Trenton, Day Dawn. Dr Oliver also signed, he had put up his tent "surgery" next to Mr F.F. Wittenoom who had moved in with the gold rush in 1893 to set up a wholesale business- and did very well, supplying the diggers with grog.

Imagine poor Laura's distress when in 1898, just four years after Martin was buried, at a Warden's Court Meeting it was decided that the 20 bodies in the old cemetery be exhumed and moved to a new site to make way for the new Railway Station!

The proposal of the Cue Council to dig up the skeletons of the dead pioneers, interred near the railway station is meeting with opposition and lively correspondence in the local press, the oppositionists being all in favour of fencing the little cemetery and placing an obelisk at the spot commemorative of their fate.

The West Australian 20 July 1898

The cemetery today is sadly neglected with only two other headstones and a plaque placed there from our Simpson family in remembrance of the little boy, Martin Harford, Gran Laura Vida Simpson's brother, in an unidentified grave.

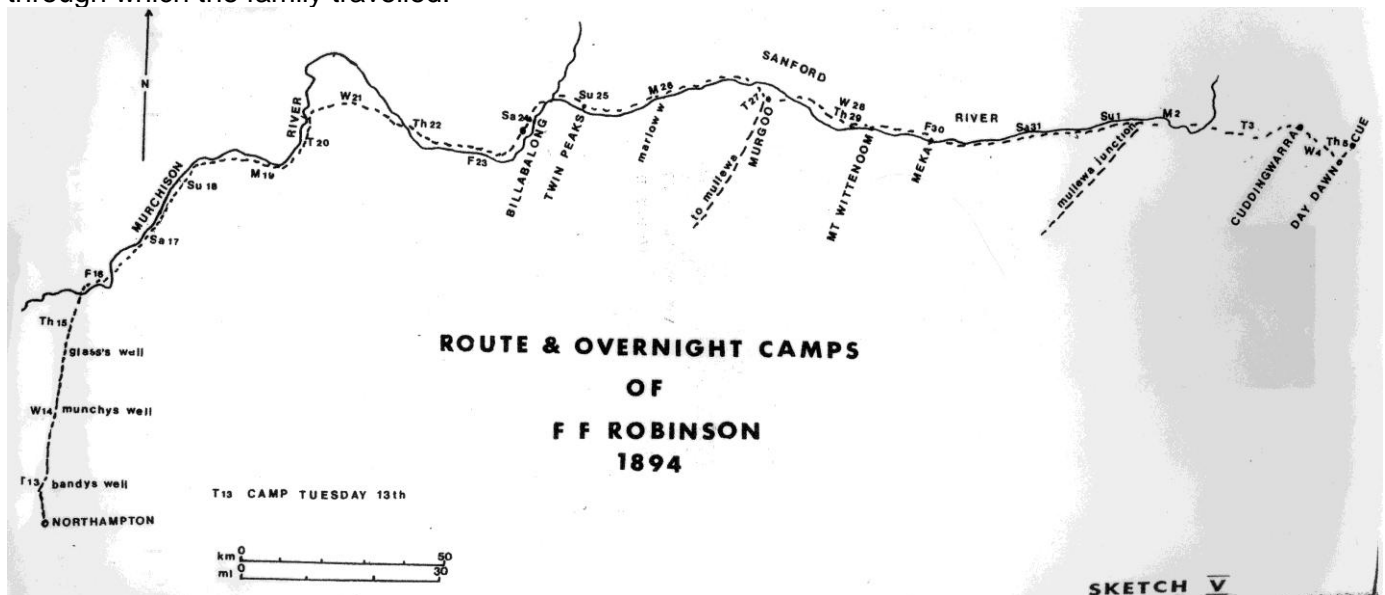


Plaque Cue Cemetery

Three years after the death of young Martin another daughter was born in Day Dawn. She was called Marguerite Eva.

The Harford's spent 6 years in the Murchison gold fields and during this time young David Jnr. and possibly our Gran Laura Vida went to the little Day Dawn school. The family survived the dreaded Typhoid epidemics that came and went with the seasons, when the heavy rains came and washed animal and human waste into water holes used by the diggers.

By 1900 the family was on the move again. It makes sense that the Harfords followed the route F.F. Robinson wrote in 1894 about following the Murchison River to Northampton where another son Mark was born. The track from Cue crossed the Sanford River near Meka Station and past Mt Wittenoom, a journey my husband Lindsay and I took in 2004 to get a glimpse of the country through which the family travelled.



In 2008 we followed part of this route along the Murchison River track and found an old mud rendered homestead called New Forrest dated 1887. It is very likely the family called here on their way to Northampton for the birth of Mark. There were lovely pools and shaded trees along the river course. It makes sense that the family followed this route with its beautiful shady gums and reliable water courses to refresh the horses and themselves. There were several stations along this route that finally got them to Northampton. They were following that golden trail to a newly discovered find south of Ravensthorpe in Kundip.

RAVENSTHORPEKUNDIP

In 1899 Dallinson's found gold and named their mine The Harbour View. In 1901 Kundip was surveyed and gazetted, the residents of the Harbour View moved in. By the end of that year the police records show that there were 89 persons living there. All building material, mining equipment, supplies and goods came by ship to Hopetoun and then transported with horse and cart over rough sandy tracks to the gold field.

By 1905 Ravensthorpe had its first hospital. In 1906 the survey was extended by surveyer Ellis comprising 80 private and business lots. The railway was built from Hopetoun, the nearest port, to Kundip. Copper mining was also featured in the development of the area, a copper smelting plant being built by a German company.

By 1903 Olivia Ethel Harford was born, the sixth child, in Esperance. It makes sense to presume the family came via the coast for them to be found in Esperance for Olivia's birth but we know that they still had the horse and cart so perhaps that was not the case, long journeys they took in their stride! It was quite a journey from Esperance to the newly found gold field of Kundip, which is found along the road to Hopetoun.

They now had seven children, Michael Clare being born in Kundip 1905. David Jr. was 19 years and would have been earning. His enlistment record shows his occupation as a miner. Laura was 15 years of age and was working for the Chester family and another family, the Hobby's, who had a farm 12 miles away. The other school age children went to the newly built little one room school in Stennet Street. Ollie recalls living in the old Batt house, perhaps she meant the mine battery house?

David had two mining leases numbers 70147 and 8165. The following article appeared in the Perth newspaper:

*"Phillips River: **Harford** and party's gold lease at Kundip is spoken of as a property likely to repay systematic prospecting. The owners are sinking to 170ft. before opening out. The bottom of the boiler at the Harbour View mine was recently burned out, and 35 men were temporarily - thrown, out of work. The manager and part-owner, Mr. H. Dallison immediately purchased the boiler, engine, and sheds at the Maori Queen mine and at once proceeded with the work of removal and re-erection."*⁹

This mine must have provided well for we have a copy of a deposit in the bank at Ravensthorpe for 18oz 83 grams which yielded 18oz 77 grams at the Perth Mint in May 1908. The value was 66 pounds three shillings and eight pence, quite a lot of money in 1908 and at today's gold prices worth about \$100,000.

⁹ The West Australian 14 March 1908

387
Rosemary Harford
 ROYAL MINT.
 PERTH BRANCH.
 P.M. Form No. 34.
 Perth, W. A.

MEMORANDUM of the out-turn of Deposit No. 2756, left for coinage on
MAY 5 - 1908 by the Western Australian Bank.

Weight before Melting.	Weight after Melting.	Assay Report.		Standard Gold.	Fine Silver Allowed.
		Gold.	Silver.		
1883	1877	8350	055	1710	
Value: Standard Gold, at £3 17s. 10½d. per oz. ...		66	11	8	
Fine Silver, at 2s. 3d. per oz. ...					66 11 8
Deduct: Mint charges—Ordinary ...			5		
Extra ...			3		
Escort charges ...					8
Net amount due to Depositor ... £					66 3 8

Payable MAY 28 1908

Royal Mint, Perth, W.A.,
 MAY 18 1908
C. S. Dugley
 For the Deputy Master.

Royal Mint Perth Documentation

Poor Laura would have been fairly tired from the continuous tent living, the trauma of losing her son in Day Dawn, more pregnancies and long journeys in the cart, when she was struck another cruel blow. At the age of 18 Laura Vida announced her intention to marry William Simpson a man 19 years older. It is family legend that there was a huge argument where David threatened Simpson with the shotgun. He was incensed that Simpson, a protestant was to marry his Catholic daughter.

David rode off on his horse Neddy for the return journey to South Australia---his own family never to hear from him again. David Harford the strict Catholic, deserted his family leaving them only the cart that had taken them over the many thousand miles. Was it Laura's Christian faith that sustained her through the long monotonous journey's, pregnant, riding the cart amongst the terrible heat, dust and flies? Was it religious bigotry that caused David never to seek his family again and then repeat it again many years later with his own daughter?



David Harford on Neddy c1908

Sadly his own mother never heard from him either for a notice published in The Barrier Miner:

PERSONAL.

*If this should meet the eye of DAVID **HARFORD**, last beard of in "Western Australia, he would hear of something to his advantage by communicating with his Mother, care of BARRIER MINER Office Broken Hill*

Barrier Miner 23 October 1891

David's mother Margaret was unlikely to have had a response and she died in October 1895 long before David returned from the West.

In 1918 David was employed in the Sulphide Mine at Broken Hill. He started on 24 July 1918 and was discharged on 1 August. His age was 67 years and he obviously was too old and/or not suited to the work.

In 1919 more of David's poems were published by the Daily Herald Printer, Adelaide with the title: *"Those Hills All Clad With Gold"*, Adelaide, 11 years after he left W.A. in 1908 to return to South Australia.

The preparatory note to this booklet says: *"The writer of these poems David Harford is a native of South Australia born in Clare 1851. He has traveled extensively in this country, his journeys aggregating over 30,000 miles, from Esperance in the south west of Western Australia to as far as Day Dawn near Cue, from Mt Gambier to Herberton in North Queensland . He has wandered seeing things as others did not see them and accumulating a fund of anecdotes paralleled by few"*.

It seems clear that on his return to South Australia David continued his wanderings and his writing.

We have some snippets of his wanderings from the Acres Family who over the years recall:

- when visiting Broken Hill he would arrive in a horse and cart, rattling down the road with hurricane lamps and billy hanging on the side.
- used to pitch his tent in the backyard and teach the children how to pan for gold
- he also carried a little leather bag containing rubies, emeralds and gold specimens
- he wrote folk songs and played musical instruments
- our family never heard of him marrying or having a family—Aunty remembers him being devoutly religious and never eating or drinking without it being blessed.

In later years he returned to Clare and lived in a cottage there in the late 30's. Dot Acres (widow of George Simmons), in July 2008 recalled to George Acres, her visit to David's hut in Clare with her aunty Jose and husband George Phillips in her young childhood as follows :-

It was a small 2- bedroom wood & iron hut with a very small verandah set among scrub and native bushes, well away from any neighbours. An open-wood fire was all he used for cooking & heating. She particularly remembers being fascinated with David strenuously cutting a slice of very stale, hard, bread from a loaf and then rubbing a clear bottle of *holy-water over the bread* to bless and help soften it for chewing & digesting!

Dot is presently in her eighty second year and is the daughter of JJ Acres, my dad's brother, and is a widow of George Simmons. Their son is single and resides with his mother Dorothy.

Recently newspaper references have been located regarding the sale of what appears to be David's hut.¹⁰ The first of these invites tenders for Allotment 20 Morella:

TENDERS are invited up till August 13, for the purchase of Allotment 20, Morella, near Lochiquin containing 2¼ acres. Abundance of firewood on property, also large quantities already cut. Good building site. No tender necessarily accepted. A. J. DAVEY, Clare.

Northern Argus 29 July 1927

¹⁰ Courtesy of Harford super sleuth Jenny Carollo and more scanned newspapers recently added to Trove.

Obviously no suitable offers were received and some four months this property was advertised for sale naming David Harford as the seller:

At the same place and date.
 On account of Mr. David Harford—
A J. DAVEY
 Will sell Block 20, Morella, containing 2 acres 1 rood and 16 perches, being a portion of subdivision of sections 124 and 125, Hundred of Clare, formerly a part of Inchiquin Estate. Improvements consist of living room and fences. Ideal situation facing Main Road to Blyth, 1½ miles from Clare.
 B.P.A. Title.

Northern Argus 11 November 1927

It appears that the land and hut did not sell because some twelve years later the property was offered for sale again. The newspaper recorded the Land Titles Office Transfer from David George Henry Taylor.

L.T.O. Transfers—From M. B. G. O'Toole to Stephen and Mary Elizabeth McNamara, old roads dividing lots 3 and 15 from lots 4, 16, 26 and dividing lots 5, 17, and 27, 6, 18 and 28 of subdivision of Sec. 131; from David Harford to George Henry Taylor Block 20, Morella; from P. H. Taylor to J. J. Ross & Sons, Sec. 378, Pt. Sec. 376 and 61 except one acre. Assessment books to be so altered.

Northern Argus 24 March 1939

George Taylor did not have the property long and offered it for sale in July 1939.

Also on Account of Mr. G. H. TAYLOR, of Clare:—
 Allot No. 20, being subdivision of portion of Sections 124 and 125 laid out as Morella, containing 2 acres 1 rood 16 perches, and previously known as Harfords.

Northern Argus 14 July 1939

The sale of David's property was about six months after David had been admitted to the Enfield Receiving House for destitute pensioners on 4 October 1938. His admission form records two witnesses' comments:

- J.C. Sangster:
Allegations that he has been stabbed in the back. That he is of royal blood and has been wrongfully treated. He is in a perpetual state of filth and is on account of his age and mental condition totally unable to look after himself and has no responsible relatives to look after him.
- Mr S.H. Pascoe and Mr R.K. Gray of Clare:
The said David Harford has for the last few months steadily become less able to look after himself. And has lived in a constant filthy and alleges he is in constant communication with the spirit of his dead father and mother who dictate all his actions.

It is clear that David's state developed over a period of time and quite some time before his admission and the above indicates the likely condition of his hut. One would have expected that the Clare Council would have become aware of his circumstances and ensured that he moved to a place where he could be properly cared for.

David was then transferred to Parkside Mental Hospital (later Glenside Hospital) on 6 October 1938. He was transferred Northfield Mental Hospital (later Hillcrest Hospital) on 15 August 1939 where he died in 28 November 1941, aged 90. David is buried in an unmarked pauper's grave in West Terrace Cemetery, South Australia .

SUSAN ANN (LAURA)- - -Final Years

Susan, as we will now call her, dropped the name Laura given to her by David. Susan Ann witnessed the wedding of her daughter Vida held at the Simpson home in Kundip. Her daughter Ollie (Olivia Ethel) told us she did not know why she did not go to the wedding but does remember some wedding cake coming home- a real treat!

The family was stranded in fairly desperate circumstances when their father left the family. Olivia recalls her mother taking in washing and having to collect offal from the abattoirs and wrap it in leaves to bring home for her mother to cook .They also had to drink muddy water from holes in the ground and to eat up her dry bread crust washed down by black tea *because "it would make your hair curl"*

In Barmera 90 odd years later Olivia recalled digging in their father's hole in the ground hoping to strike gold to survive on. During this time Susan was friendly with Jack Ellis who became the father of their half sister Daisy. Olivia says he was kind to them all and perhaps it was with his help the family returned to South Australia.

Leaving in 1910 from Hopetoun on *the "Ferret"* a small coastal steamer for Albany before getting another ship, possibly the *"Wollowra"* (as these are the names Olivia remembers as a child) back to Adelaide. Olivia told us she spent her 7th birthday in Morgan and her half sister Daisy was born in August in Morgan.

Years later when obviously demented, Susan wrote from Glossop to the Victoria Barracks asking why the Harfords were under criminal surveillance? The years of trauma had taken its

toll, deserted by her husband and losing her first born in the war after all the thousands miles of hardship in their horse and cart..... chasing rainbows!

(Laura) Susan Ann Harford died at Magill hospital 22 March 1946 aged 75 yrs she is buried in a nice grave in Cheltenham Cemetery, Adelaide.

Glossop
June 24. 1931

To Base records,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne
Victoria

Sir

I have asked you for an explanation of the reason why our passports of Peter and now of Glossop are put under criminal surveillance while living in our own houses quite honest and decent it is done by bad people for spite. We had eight years had people murdered old David Harford. Also his daughter Jane Harford on the River Murray year after that I have been placed into a mad house at Perthside near Adelaide and kept myself shut up for three months.

Part of the letter poor demented Susan wrote to Canberra.

It was an absolute thrill to discover Susan's only remaining daughter and Gran's sister Olivia was still alive in Barmera, South Australia. We spent a memorable afternoon with her. Olivia recalling the family found a small shack on the banks of the Murray River and lived there amongst the bullrushes drinking filthy water from the river because it was drought time. She contracted typhus and typhoid while living there but lived to the admirable age of 100 years, passing away in February 2004.



L-R Mary, Rita, Mark, Olivia, Mother Susan nursing Daisy, Michael seated.
Circa 1911

RAINBOWS

I followed many rainbows
My heart and dreams I sold
I searched alone for the magic place
Where hides a crock of gold

Wherever rainbows beckoned
I went in wild desire
To seek the yellow glinting lode
In a crescent of purple fire

But rainbows golden treasure
Will ever glimmer free
As I grow old in my selfish mould
There's no rainbow's end for me

For a rainbow's end is a peaceful mind
That can't be bought or sold
Tis a fool who'll barter his dreams or love
Or his soul for a crock of gold

BY NED EGAN