

A Resumé of the Catt Family in Australia

(Agnes King – nee Catt : 1895 – 1963)

Alfred Catt was born at Newington, Kent, England on December 19th., 1833, the sixth child of Charles & Sarah Catt. Charles was one of six boys, and the family had been living in Kent for some generations, and many are buried in the Church yard of Thurnham Church.

Charles Catt was born in 1795 and died at Brompton, England in 1844, and was buried at Gillingham Church yard.

Alfred's mother, Sarah, (nee Knott) was born in 1798 and died in the Bugle Ranges in South Australia in 1863, and was buried in the Strathalbyn cemetery.

The family of Catt are probably of Norman origin, and the name was written as Le Chat. The records of Norfolk show that the name of Le Chat, Le Cat or Catt existed at or about Newingham from the time of King John until the 15th century.

Newingham as Alfred remembered it, was an old fashioned country village on the direct road from London to Dover, with one long straggling street down which the Royal Mail Coach with mail & passengers for the continent passed daily. The sight of the splendid team of horses and handsome coach with driver and guard in scarlet coat and blunderbuss, sounding it's horn as they neared the inn where the horses were changed, and the bustle and excitement, was a source of never-failing interest to the villagers, young & old.

The Catt's were a large family of five boys and four girls, all born at Newingham. In the year 1840 the family moved to Brompton, a small town with fortifications erected in the reign of George II and George III to protect Chatham Dockyard from attack from the French and other foes. In 1844 his father died, which, as there were 3 younger children to educate, ended his school days.

The family was as follows :-

Mary Ann born February 27th, 1826 – died Brompton UK in 1845

Charles, born November 26th, 1826 – died Brompton in UK 1840

Sarah Elizabeth, born October 30th 1828 – died Brompton UK 1840

Harriet Penelope, born Jan 5th, 1830 – died Parkside SA 1907

Henry, born October 4th, 1831 – died Clare SA 1876

Alfred, born December 19th, 1833 – died St Peters SA Oct 28th, 1919

Isobel, born May 23rd, 1835 – died Clare SA 1877

Jesse, born September 18th, 1836 – died Meadows SA Aug 19th, 1919

Alexander, born March 17th, 1837 – died Adelaide, 21 Aug, 1872

Some 2/3 years after the death of his father, his mother married again to a Mr Thomas Hall, and the family left for Australia on the ship "Posthumous" in 1847.

The family settled at Balhannah,

Harriet married W Gosling

Isobel married Edward Smith, they left for California shortly after, but returned to Clare with their three children in 1859.

The four sons, Alfred, Henry, Jesse & Alexander were each given by their mother, a section of land, soon after arriving in South Australia

Alexander died early, Jesse married Luisa Jury, Henry married Emma Gome, and lived at Meadows & Clare.

Alfred (my mother's grandfather) married Mary Martin and settled in Strathalbyn.. They had three children, Catherine, Alfred Clifford, (my mother's father) and Isabel Clifford. Catherine married William Langsford, and Isabel remained single.

In 1876 Alfred's family moved to Gladstone, where he ran a grocery business in the main street. He immediately became involved in community affairs, being a Councillor and chairman of the Booyoolie District Council, and was elected Chairman of the Gladstone District Council at it's first meeting in 1881. After two years as chairman, he resigned to enter the House of Assembly as one of the two seats for the seat of Stanley. He was Commissioner for Lands in the Bray Ministry from June 1881 – June 1884, and Commissioner for Works in the Playford Government from 1887 – 1889. He was gazetted as Honourable in 1884., and remained in Parliament until 1907. He died in St Peters in 1919.

Alfred Clifford Catt commenced his own business as an auctioneer & estate agent in Gladstone, and married Kate Sinclair from Green Patch, Port Lincoln. He was very involved in community affairs, and was Mayor of the Corporation from 1891 – 1895. He was a keen member of the rifle club and captained the team that won the Smith Challenge trophy. In 1903 he retired from the volunteer forces of the army with the rank of Colonel.

They had seven children, one son , Charles (1889), and six daughters, Mary Isabel (1885), Edith (1891), Muriel (1893), Agnes (1895), (my mother), Vida (1898) & Mary Kathleen (1902).

In 1904 the family moved to Adelaide where Alfred had accepted a position with Bagot, Shakes & Lewis, and subsequently started the real estate business of A.C. Catt & Son in Pirie Street, Adelaide.

They lived at a large home, Glenburnie in Mitcham.

Charles married Edith Ferguson & had three children – Fred, Betty & Mollie

Mary Isabel married Howard Langsford & had two children, Stuart & Mary

Edith married Laurence Davies & had three children – Frank, Katherine & Donald

Muriel married Charles Sutton & had two children - Ron & Jack

Agnes married Charles Leonard King & had two children – Roy & Brian (Ed)

Vida married Tom Puckridge & had three children – Kathleen, Donald & Robert

Mary Kathleen never married

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Ed. Brian King March 2002.