

The Carrucan-Hayes Line

by Pam Hayes

The following reminiscences have been written by Pam Hayes (nee Allsopp), the wife of Colin Hayes who is one of the children of Selwyn and Irene Rita Hayes. Colin is a great grandchild of Peter Carrucan and Hannah Woods. She investigates the life of her father in law Selwyn Hayes.

Agnes Mary Carrucan was born 1st May 1881 in Eltham Victoria to Peter Carrucan and Hannah Woods. She was their tenth child, born 21 years after their first born Patrick in 1860. The witnesses to her birth were the Mrs Coleman and Burke. I think these were Margaret Carrucan born 1871 and Bridget Carrucan born 1833. We know very little about her and have no known pictures.

At the age of 13 she was issued with a "Certificate of Exemption from Compulsory Attendance" by the Education Department of Victoria. This was dated 21 March 1894. Her father Peter Carrucan died about a year after this from heart disease so perhaps he was already ailing and she was needed at home.

Peter had already filed for bankruptcy in 1856, citing ill health as a cause. In 1868 he was wrongly accused of capital assault. This court case would not have helped him either.

On 1st December 1900 Agnes married Thomas Albert Hayes in Heidelberg, Victoria. He was a son of John Hayes and Ellen Houlahan and also a tenth child. Witnesses to the marriage were her sister Margaret Carrucan and brother in law William Sloan who was married to Hannah Carrucan.

Thomas and Agnes Hayes had six children, Francis 1901-1965, John (Jack) 1905-1985, Thomas 1907-1954, Percival who died in infancy, Selwyn 1912-1986 and Mary Agnes (Molly) 1914-1991.

June 24th 1917 Agnes Mary was to die tragically. While working in their garden at Eltham Road with Thomas, a menacing brown snake crawled under a fence. Thomas pushed Agnes out of the way down an embankment. She fell and went into premature labour and both she and the baby died. This was the start of Dad's (Selwyn) rather sad childhood. He was only four years old and his sister Molly only two years old. He said in later years that he could always remember his mother's auburn hair and her coffin being carried out the French doors and part of the fence being removed to make way.

He must have had some contact with the Carrucans as he could recall names and occupations. He knew Michael Carrucan had a hay and grain store at Kew. That Patrick was a policeman and Francis (Frank) who had no children had a carrier business in Eltham. Also he recalled that his cousin Peter Carrucan was a Catholic priest in Belgrave.

I think a lot of his childhood was spent with his Auntie Lena (Ellen) Brock (nee Hayes), his father's sister.

Molly, I think, was cared for by her mother's family.

He attended St Thomas' School at Clifton Hill. He remembered chunks of bread with beef dripping or treacle for lunch and being hungry and cold. One of his hunger stoppers was brussel sprouts nicked from the local green grocer (with his knowledge) and boiled in a billy under a local bridge. This was when he was about ten. One gets the impression from his memories that he was a homeless child pushed from pillar to post.

Selwyn always had a way with animals, especially dogs and horses. Two dogs from his childhood were Trixie and Parky. He slept with them sometimes to keep warm. He also had ferrets which he had trained to catch rabbits. He earned some money this way. Ten shillings was the going rate for ferret hire not to mention the added bonus of a roasted rabbit.

He moved to Brisbane in the mid 1930's to get a new start. His father and brothers were to follow.

Plastering was the trade that they pursued.

With the advent of World War 2 and being unfit for regular army duties due to severe psoriasis, Selwyn worked for the American Army as the pay was double what the Land Army was offering.



1932 - Selwyn Hayes age 11 with his dogs Trixie and Parky

He met his wife Irene Rita Hayes (1917-1975) at the Blue Moon Café in Brisbane. They were married in 1939. Four sons were born, Allan James (Jimmy) 1940-2005, Grant Trevor 1945- 2001, Colin John 1950, and Noel Selwyn 1952. There are now 13 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.



1939 - Irene Rita Norris and Selwyn Hayes at the Blue Moon Cafe Brisbane

He built his own house at Cracknell Rd, Ekibin, in the 1940's and later added a block of shops to the

premises. These he rented out for extra income. His twilight years of working were with the National Bank in the maintenance depot. He did a lot of work on the heritage buildings restoring old plasterwork. He also set up a museum in the Brisbane Queen Street branch with articles of historical interest collected and restored by him from National Banks Australia wide. Sadly this museum is no longer there. He sold the Ekibin house in 1971 and moved to Loganholme.

For someone with a very tragic start to life, Selwyn Hayes, grandson of Peter Carrucan excelled himself in providing for his family. It is a pity that we never knew his mother but perhaps we will someday.



1960 - Hayes siblings Selwyn Molly and Tom

The Carrucan family has been a difficult one for me to research as my father in law had very little contact with them. I was so pleased when I found the shipping entry for Peter Caruken on the Nugget into Adelaide.