

Mary Veronica O'Bryan (Sister Veronica)

Hannah Magdalene Sloan, a grand daughter of Peter Carrucan, was born in Clunes on 13th April 1889. She managed the family haberdashery shop until she married Michael O'Bryan who had been a geologist in Bendigo and mine manager in Tasmania. After they married, Hannah ran a grocery store in Middle Park. They subsequently had 3 children

Mary Veronica (Molly) (1911-2001)

Agnes Josephine (Bonnie) (1915-2007)

Kevin Joseph (1919-1987)

Of these three children, the two girls would become Catholic sisters.

Mary Veronica (Molly), the oldest child, went to school at The Academy, a school run by the Mercy Sisters in Fitzroy, then trained as an accountant and worked with her father Mick until he died in 1928. She then worked at Paynesⁱ and cared for her mother in a flat.

After her mother died, Molly entered the Little Sisters of the Poor at the age of 51 and went to their Novitiate in Northcote. After her profession she worked for six months in Finance and trained as a Nurses aid. She did their accounting and was parish organist. Molly learned French at University, then went to New Zealand for 18 months before being put in charge of the Novices in NSW. She was very happy teaching singing and dancing – Irish, Scotch and Tap (she had medals from competitions in her youth).

She died on 21st January 2000 and is buried under the Crucifix in the Sisters' Community Cemetery at Northcote.



Sister Veronica O'Bryan – 1965 (left) and 1976 (right)

ⁱ Paynes bon Marché, a large Melbourne City haberdashery, located in Bourke Street.