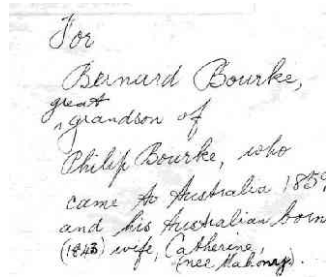


THE BOURKE FAMILY CONNECTION

This article is based on notes written by Kitty Sawyer (nee Bourke) in March 1986 to accompany a Bourke genealogical table that she produced in 1986. This copy, for her nephew Bernard, was passed onto me by Sister Maureen Kelly, and Kitty has handwritten to Bernard as follows



*To
Bernard Bourke,
great
grandson of
Philip Bourke, who
came to Australia 1859
and his Australian born
(1843) wife, Catherine,
(nee Mahony).*

Philip Bourke (born 1839, County Tipperary), came to Australia on “Unassisted Passage” in the S.S. Argonaut in 1859 and settled in the Templestowe-Eltham area. The voyage would have taken about four and a half months and it is worth noting that he could both read and write, as many in those days were unable to do so.

In 1861, he married Catherine Mahony (born 1843), the Australian born daughter of Irish settlers, so her family were very early settlers and pioneers. Records show that Philip Bourke rented a house in Templestowe Shire in 1865, rented a shop in 1870, had a Beer shop there in 1871 and owned a house there in 1875.

Four of his children attended State School there in 1874 – James (known as “Philip”) born 1864, Deborah (“Lizzie”) born 1866, Mary Ann born 1870 and Margaret born 1872. Edward was born later in 1876 and it is to him and his descendants that this article is particularly related as he later married the daughter of another pioneering family at Eltham.

As few records exist of their early days in Australia, perhaps these family trees will be of interest to present and future generations.

Philip Bourke and his wife then moved to Gippsland where Catherine died in 1880 after the premature and unattended birth of a baby girl, named Catherine on her birth certificate. This certificate is No. 6 in the Shire of Buln Buln so these were early days in the settlement of that area also. She is buried in Warragul.

Philip died about the same time as his wife and is buried in Templestowe. As there is a gap in the cemetery records covering the relevant period, I am unable to confirm this but other family “word of mouth records” have been accurate so we must accept this as reliable.

The family was split up. James (“Philip”) went his own way and we have no record of his life. The three girls were put into a convent; Deborah (“Lizzie”) later married and lived in Melbourne but died young. Mary Ann and Margaret went to Western Australia and married and Margaret lived there until 1962, officially dying aged 87, but she may have been 90. The younger son Edward (“Ted”) was reared by relatives at Eltham. From the age of 12, he earned his living driving horses.

In 1901, at St John's Catholic Church in Heidelberg, Edward married Margaret Theresa (“Therese”) Carrucan, one of the children of Patrick Carrucan and his wife Mary (nee O'Brien). The union produced 5 children as follows

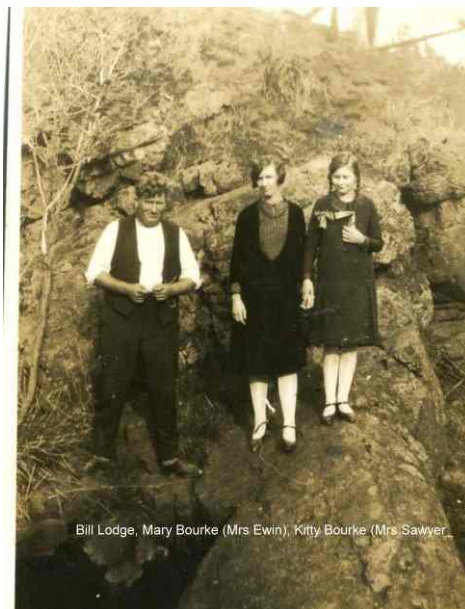
Patrick Leo Bourke (1902-1961)
Philip Edward Michael (Mick) Bourke (1904-1971)
Francis James (Frank) Bourke (1906-1987)
Mary Bourke (1908-?)
Kathleen (Kitty) Bourke (1914-1995)

Edward's wife Therese died in 1920 and he subsequently married Ellen Grace and fathered two further children, Gerald and Shiela. He died in 1945, aged 79.

The following photo, taken in 1915, shows Edward Bourke and his wife Therese (nee Carrucan) with their children (from L to R) Phillip (Mick), Mary, Patrick, baby Kathleen (Kitty) and Francis (Frank).



A later photograph, dated around 1926, shows Mary and Kitty with Bill Lodge, one of their relatives.



Kitty, who died in 1995 at 81 years of age, signed off her research

*K. Sawyer
(nee Bourke)
March, 1986*

Tim Erickson
30 September 2010