

WW1 – Patrick Carrucan

Patrick Carrucan, the fourth child of Patrick and Mary Carrucan, was born circa 1864. On 5th April 1885, he married Ellen Carroll at Hawthorn.

Patrick and Ellen had 13 children: John, Christopher, Mary, Patrick, Charles, Frances, William John, Myles, Ann-Marie, Leo, Michael, Joseph and Ellen (Nell) between 1885 and 1907.

On 19 July, 1915, Patrick enlisted in the army, joining the 8th Battalion. He told them he was eight years younger than he actually was. He and Ellen lived at Vera St. Abbotsford at the time and he said he was 43 yrs old and a nurse and warder at the Kew Asylum. He was 51 years old, 5ft. 8ins tall, had blue eyes, fair hair and fresh complexion and weighed 18 stone. He was invalided out on 29th August 1915 with adiposity (obesity) and was discharged on 7th September 1915 weighing 19 stone.

Patrick's life was characterised by an early marriage and many children; and he was known for his drinking. His work life would have been difficult and involved moving the family several times. Three children (Pat, Charles and Leo) died young and one (William) died in the war. This must have impacted on the family and the marriage. On the other hand, he was known to love music and dancing.

The World War I records of his children **William and Michael** state that Patrick and Ellen were not living together when Michael enlisted, nor when William died. The army made a note to ensure both parents were informed separately of William's death and any other matters arising. We can suppose that when Patrick attempted to enlist in the army, he was not living with Ellen at the time.

His son **Myles** served in the Second World War. This is discussed elsewhere.

One of their children set him up in a house in Melbourne and he eventually died on 22nd September 1928 in Prahran, aged 64. His daughter Mary (Girly) cared for him at her home in Malvern in his last illness. He had diabetes and an enlarged prostate.

Another of his sons, **Myles**, served in WW2, enlisting 18 Aug 1941 and being discharged 29 Aug 1944. He served with the 3rd Garrison Brigade, rank sergeant. His surname is spelt Curracan in WW2 Nominal Roll.