

# KEITH MOORE AND MARY GRANT WHITING

## PREFACE

This is one of several biographies of my maternal ancestors in Australia. Keith Moore Whiting (1882-1939) and Mary Grant Smyth (1887-1969) were my grandparents. Both of them were born, married and died in Australia. Mary is my only grandparent of whom I have clear memories.

The biographies in this series are;

Frances Mills (1781-1837) and her Many Partners

Thomas Kelsey (1804-1866) and Mary Johnson (1802-1877)

Richard Whiting (1811-1853) and Susanna Harley (1812-1867)

John Sands (1818-1873) and Marjorie Moffat Chisholm (1830-1904)

Thomas Moore (1821-1890) and Mary Jane Kelsey (1827-1874)

William George Whiting (1838-1917) and Amy Jane Moore (1853-1935)

John Kane Smyth (1837-1891) and Ada Mary Sands (1857-1946)

**Keith Moore Whiting (1882-1939) and Mary Grant Smyth (1887-1969)**

George Boyd Connor (1919-2014) and Sybil Kane Whiting (1922-1995).

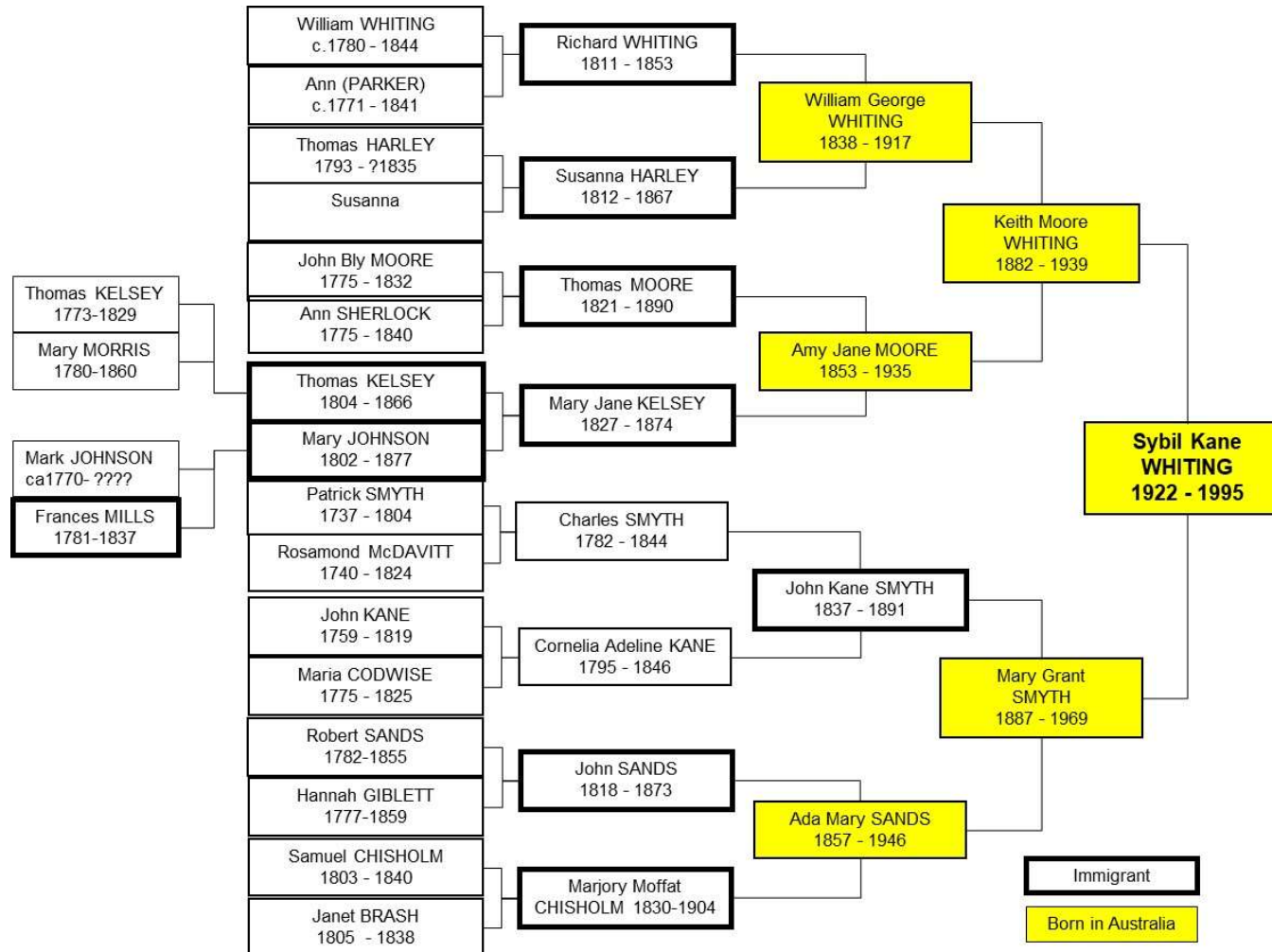
Each of the stories can be read in isolation. Inevitably, there is overlap between them, so some repetition is unavoidable but I have tried to keep this to a minimum. For easy reference, family trees are included at the end of each story.

Many organizations have provided research material for this story. In particular, the National Library of Australia 'TROVE' database was an invaluable resource. Ancestry.com.au provided transcripts of many important records of the Whiting and Smyth families. The archivists at St Catherine's School, Waverley, Sydney Grammar School and Presbyterian Ladies College, Croydon provided information on Keith and Mary's education, and Whiting family members contributed their reminiscences. The National Archives of Australia and the Australia War Memorial provided military records. My sister, brother and cousins have contributed their own memories of our grandmother. My thanks go to them all. I have included references to important events and facts as footnotes on each page.

Andrew George Connor  
Perth, 2018

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## MY MOTHER'S ANCESTORS



## KEITH MOORE AND MARY GRANT WHITING

### Keith Whiting's childhood.

Keith Moore Whiting was the third child of William George and Amy Jane Whiting; their first son and the first of their children to be born at the Whiting's new family home *Astolat* in Avoca Street, Randwick, New South Wales<sup>1</sup>. Keith was born on 5 June 1882 and baptised on 27 June 1882 at the family's local Anglican church, St Jude's Randwick, where his father was a church warden<sup>2</sup>. Keith's elder sisters were Enid Emily and Elaine Mary Whiting. Three more children followed, all born at *Astolat*; Sylvia Dorothy 'Dossie' (1884), Vera Amy Victoria (1887) and a brother, William Cedric 'Cedo' Campbell Whiting (1890).

The Whiting family was relatively wealthy, thanks to Amy's father Thomas Moore who had built the family fortune as a publican during the Australian gold rush. William had earned respectability in the Sydney business community as an accountant for Prince, Ogg and Company, one of the city's large wholesale clothing and drapery warehouses. But the six-acre *Astolat* estate was Amy's alone, a gift from her father. The *Astolat* mansion had a drawing room, large dining room, library, ballroom, six bedrooms and three servants' bedrooms, hot and cold water system, large kitchen and scullery, house maid's pantry, storeroom, larder and dairy, separate laundry, extensive cellars, coach-house, stables, and other outhouses<sup>3</sup>, including a carpenter's workshop. The family kept several pet dogs. Within the grounds, Amy employed a gardener to establish and maintain a large flower garden, lawns, a bush-house, poultry yard and orchard. There were paddocks where they grazed cows for milking, and horses for riding. It was a semi-rural landscape and existence – an adventure playground for a growing boy, who came to love being outdoors.



Young Keith Whiting,  
with that dreamy, faraway, slightly vulnerable look that endeared him to so many.

<sup>1</sup> N.S.W. Birth Certificate 7654/1882

<sup>2</sup> Sydney Australia Anglican Parish Registers 1814-2011. St Jude's Randwick (Ancestry.com).

<sup>3</sup> Daily Telegraph 27 February 1892 pp 7

Amy (and William) kept an upper-class, formal Victorian household. There were maids, nannies, cooks and gardeners to help around the house and to keep the children amused and occupied. They employed a tutor to educate their young children at home. The following letter from six-year-old Keith Whiting to his mother upstairs gives some insight into the relationship between the parents and children.

Astolat  
Mary 10  
1889

My dear Mother  
Have you been very sick I will be so glad to see you. I bought some toy ducks (I swim them in water), and a boat I have a shilling left it is in my pocket. Did you hear the dogs barking the other morn-

ing I was in school so I could not stop them. Father gave me two hundred and forty marbles at the sale of work. I have a new exercise in my music and can sing a new piece of poetry. I like play time we never <sup>have</sup> any now. I have we have treacle pudding today.  
Your loving son  
Keith Moore Whiting  
X X X X X X X X X X

The letter gives the impression that Keith would have much rather spent the days outside playing with the dogs, counting his marbles, riding his horse or mucking around in the carpenter's workshop than doing his schoolwork. This was a trait that never left him. The letter says he was reading and learning poetry, which would have been encouraged by his father William, who had an extensive library at Astolat. William had a fondness for romantic legends and poetry - the names Astolat, Avalon and Elaine come from Arthurian legends and Tennyson's poems - and it seems that Keith also developed a romantic streak. Learning music would have been encouraged by his mother Amy. Keith's elder sisters learned piano and violin and became very proficient, but there is no indication that Keith had a talent for music. Perhaps he sang in the choir at St Jude's, Randwick on Sundays when the family attended church.

Keith's only surviving grandparent, Thomas Moore, lived nearby at Caerleon, St Mark's Road, Randwick with Keith's Aunt and Uncle, Emily and Edwin Bennett. Amy and her sister Emily (Keith's 'Auntie Ben') were very close and Keith visited Caerleon often as a child. Thomas Moore died at Caerleon in 1890 when Keith was eight, just before Keith's brother Cedric was born. Thomas left a large portfolio of land and property in trust to Amy and Emily, with William as the main trustee. With this inheritance, Amy could afford to give her children the best education possible.



From 1891 to 1895, Keith attended the Misses Macaulay Boys' Preparatory School in St Mark's Crescent, Darling Point<sup>4</sup>. His elder sisters Enid and Elaine attended Ascham School nearby, so they travelled together each day to and from school. In 1896 aged 13, Keith started at Sydney Grammar School<sup>5</sup>. According to the school's archives, Keith was an unremarkable student. There are some early records that he participated in intra-school cricket matches as a batsman but with surprisingly little success, considering his later sporting achievements. Towards the end of his five years at Sydney Grammar School, it looked as if Keith would not pass the matriculation examination for Sydney University without extra help. His parents arranged for Keith to have private coaching from Mr W.H.W. Nicholls, an ex-Sydney Grammar School classics master, and from H.E. Whitfield who was one of the top students in Keith's final year. With their help, Keith managed to pass the Matriculation Examination in March 1901<sup>6</sup>, aged eighteen.

## **University Years.**

Keith did not go to university immediately. During 1901-1902, William Whiting tried to interest Keith in the world of business, introducing him to the accounting practice and cousin Charles Whiting. Using his father's business contacts, Keith was sometimes employed in country real estate dealings<sup>7</sup>; and he returned to compete in the Old Boys' race at the annual Sydney Grammar School athletics meeting. Probably with Amy's strong encouragement, he entered Sydney University Faculty of Arts at the beginning of 1903, maybe with the intention of becoming an accountant like his father. In the same year was John Sands Smyth, always known as Jack, who became Keith's greatest friend<sup>8</sup>. The Whiting and Smyth/Sands families both lived in Randwick and were acquainted with each other, although they attended different churches. Keith Whiting and Jack Smyth would meet most mornings on the tram, get off at Moore Park and walk along Cleveland Street together to the University.

Both Keith and Jack passed the Faculty of Arts First Year Examination<sup>9</sup> and decided to enrol in the Faculty of Medicine in 1904. Keith joined the Sydney University Rowing Club, and became a crew member of the VIII which represented Sydney University at the Intervarsity Rowing Match in Melbourne that year. In 1905, the event was held in Adelaide and was won by Sydney University. In 1906 in Sydney, Keith again rowed in the Sydney University VIII and also in a IV, with some success. This crew went on to compete in various regattas around Sydney, but it seems that Keith gave up competitive rowing after 1906 to concentrate upon other pursuits, and his studies.

During 1906, Keith Whiting and Jack Smyth joined the Sydney University Scouts, the precursor of the Sydney University Regiment. Both of them found that they were excellent marksmen and joined the Sydney University Rifle Team, competing successfully against other universities in the inaugural intervarsity match in 1907 and again in 1908. Keith also attended training camps and School of Infantry courses, becoming a Colour-Sergeant in March 1906<sup>10</sup>. By August that year, Keith had been appointed Second Lieutenant (provisionally and supernumerary), which appointment became part of the establishment in November 1907.<sup>11</sup> By January 1909, Keith had been promoted to Lieutenant<sup>12</sup> and was appointed as Adjutant of the Sydney University Scouts.

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<sup>4</sup> Medical Journal of Australia, 11 Feb 1939, p. 243

<sup>5</sup> Sydney Grammar School Archives

<sup>6</sup> Sydney Morning Herald, 22 Mar 1901 p.8

<sup>7</sup> Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative 27 Feb 1902 p. 15

<sup>8</sup> Dr. J.C. Storey, in Medical Journal of Australia, 11 Feb 1939, p. 245

<sup>9</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 24 Mar 1904 p. 4

<sup>10</sup> Australian Star 31 Mar 1906 p. 8

<sup>11</sup> Commonwealth of Australia Gazette Issue No 12 7 Mar 1908 p. 585

<sup>12</sup> Commonwealth of Australia Gazette Issue No 9 13 Feb 1909 p. 556



Sydney University Crew. Intervarsity Rowing Match, Melbourne 1904

Front Row (L to R). G. V. Portus, F. O. Stokes, H. S. Eland (cox.), V. V. Nathan (stroke), F. C. Cell.  
Back Row (L to R). A. Morrison. E. A. Brearley (bow), H. W. Kendall (coach), A. M'Killop, K. M. Whiting.



Sydney University Crew. Intervarsity Rowing Match, Adelaide 1905

Back Row (L to R): H. B. Fitzhardinge (coach). G. B. Lindeman (emergency). L. K. Woodcock (No. 5). F. Craig (No. 7). K. Smith (bow)  
Seated (L to R): O. A. Ireland (No. 6). C. H. Cropper (No. 3). A. Morrison (stroke). G. Howatson (No. 4). K. M. Whiting (No. 2).  
Front: E.H. Rutledge (cox).



NCOs, Sydney University Scouts, March 1906

Sgt Keith Whiting back centre; Sgt Jack Smyth with marksman's badge, front left



Lieut. K.M. Whiting of the University Scouts, and a good shot.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Referee, 16 Oct 1907 p. 9



Sydney University Inter-varsity Tennis Team, 1909

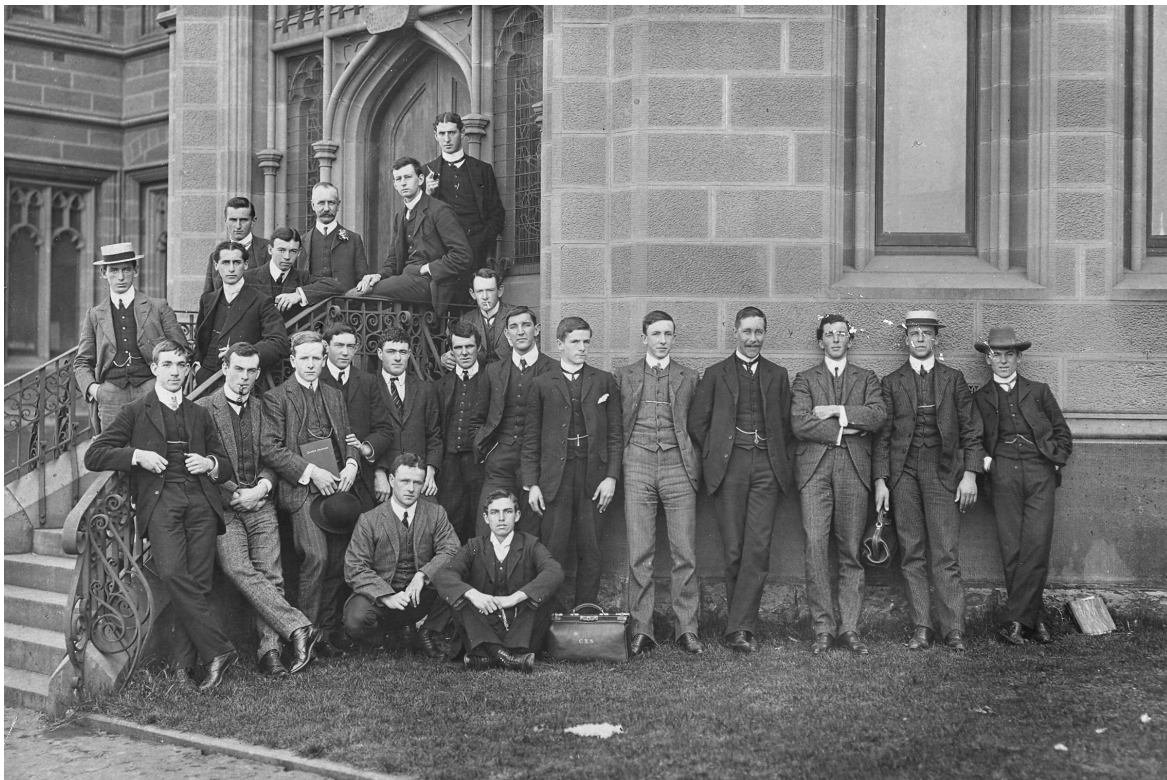
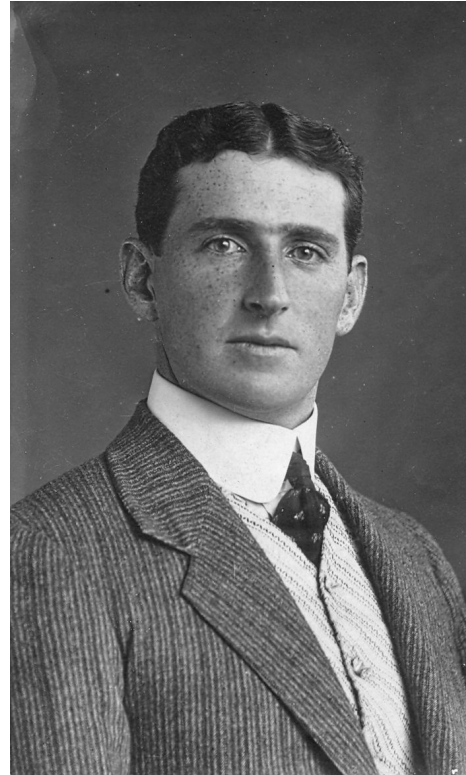
Keith Whiting front right. Others; C.N. Pitt, E.N.B. Docker (centre back), L.R. Parker, H.S. Utz and V. Macken.

Keith continued with rifle shooting, competing in various N.S.W. open events along with Jack Smyth, both of them winning an occasional cash prize. Keith took up tennis as a summer sport and, in March 1909, was selected to play for the Sydney University Tennis Team against Melbourne and Adelaide University teams in Melbourne, and won most of his matches. Keith also took up boxing, winning the middleweight division of the 1908 Sydney University Boxing Tournament<sup>14</sup>. Three of Keith's sisters and several of his friends were married during his university years. Keith was a groomsman at both Enid's and Elaine's weddings at St Jude's, Randwick in 1905. Dossie was married in January 1908 at St Jude's with Keith as best man to the groom W. Leslie Moore, and Jack Smyth as a groomsman. With his parents, he attended the funeral service for Jack's uncle, Arthur J. Sands in October 1908.

When not engaged in sports and studies, Keith also had a healthy social life at University, being popular and near the top of the invitation list for dances and debutantes' balls. He was an attractive man and, as his university contemporary and friend Dr. John C. Storey wrote: "*Of commanding presence, he always was punctilious about his attire, without any evidence of personal conceit. He was 'of' the university as well as 'in' it*". and "*He was happiest when everyone around him was joyful*". Another contemporary, Dr. Lindsay Dey wrote: "*In those days it was a big year; but he was soon known to all, and his geniality and good fellowship made him a friend of all in the year*".<sup>15</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Evening News 4 Nov 1908 p. 2

<sup>15</sup> Medical Journal of Australia, 11 Feb 1939, p. 245



Sydney University Medical Students, 1909

Keith Whiting top-most on steps, Jack Smyth standing at front, second from left. Both are smoking pipes.



Keith did not breeze through his university studies, which is unsurprising given his many other interests. At the end of 1905, he passed the first-year examination in medicine, except for organic chemistry. He passed this subject at a deferred examination the following March. Keith and Jack passed their second-year examinations in March 1908<sup>16</sup>, and their third-year examinations in August 1908<sup>17</sup>, so second year was extra-long. Keith passed his final examination for Bachelor of Medicine (M.B.) at the end of 1909<sup>18</sup> and was registered as a legally qualified medical practitioner in New South Wales on 20 January 1910<sup>19</sup>. Jack Smyth did not graduate M.B. until July 1910.

Keith may have been acquainted with the Smyth sisters, Mary, Marjorie and Sybil before he went to university but, if not, then he certainly met them soon after he formed his friendship with their older brother Jack Smyth. Marjorie Smyth was a contemporary of Keith's at Sydney University, entering in 1906 and graduating as a Bachelor of Science with Honours at the end of 1909. Keith and Marjorie were mixed doubles partners in the 1906 and 1908 university tennis tournaments. But it was the eldest sister, Mary Smyth, that caught Keith's eye.

As required of all new medical graduates, Keith spent a year as a resident in a hospital. He chose Toowoomba General Hospital, Queensland and took up the position of Resident Surgeon on 1 February 1910. During that year, Keith easily fitted in to Toowoomba society, playing tennis and cards, going to dances and to movies with the nurses, as well as endearing himself to the many patients that he treated. In April 1910, Keith took the train back to Sydney and returned with his mother Amy and a "Miss Smyth", presumably Mary. They stayed with him in Toowoomba for a month. It would have been during this time that Keith and Mary became engaged, and that Keith, Mary and Amy came to an agreement for Keith to buy a house in Mary's name, with funds from Amy Whiting.

In September, while Amy was visiting Japan, Keith's father William came to stay with him for the remainder of 1910. In December, Jack Smyth came to visit Keith and reconnoitre Toowoomba as a place to complete his own residency. With Keith's introduction and recommendation, Dr Jack Smyth was appointed in his place<sup>20</sup> and took up the position on 23 January 1911.

After a short holiday at Southport, Keith returned to Sydney and joined his brother-in-law Dr Richard Waugh (Elaine's husband) at the Parramatta District Hospital, where Keith was put in charge of the outpatients' department, treating the many cuts, abrasions, burns, bruises, sprains and fractures that came through the hospital's doors. Richard had already established a private practice at his home, *Caerleon*, in Marsden Street Parramatta, and was keen to hand over some of his public responsibilities to newcomer Keith. One of these was to replace Richard as a medical officer for the Laurel Lodge, No. 289, United Ancient Order of Druids<sup>21</sup>.

After William Whiting's retirement and his move to live with Elaine and Richard Waugh in Parramatta, Keith and Richard replaced William as trustees of Thomas Moore's estate, for the benefit of Amy Whiting and her sister Emily Bennett. They were soon involved in a court case against the Municipal Council of Sydney over the value of a property, *Nardoo*, that the Council had resumed. They were successful in increasing the level of compensation received<sup>22</sup>.

And in between all of this activity, Keith began planning for his wedding to Mary.

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<sup>16</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 21 Mar 1908 p. 14

<sup>17</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 29 Aug 1908 p. 8

<sup>18</sup> Daily Telegraph 23 Dec 1909 p. 5

<sup>19</sup> Evening News 20 Jan 1910 p. 4

<sup>20</sup> Darling Downs Gazette 20 Jan 1911 p. 5

<sup>21</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate 7 Oct 1911

<sup>22</sup> Evening News 12 Sep 1911 p. 11

## Mary Smyth's childhood and education.

Mary Grant Smyth was the second child of John Kane and Ada Mary Smyth, nee Sands. She was born at the Smyth family home, *Minnesota*, Redan Street, St Kilda, Victoria on 8 March 1887, and was named after John's sister of the same name, who died in Albany, New York in 1882. Also born at the St Kilda home were her older brother, John Sands 'Jack' Smyth and younger sister Marjorie Kane Smyth.

Soon after Marjorie's birth in 1888, John Smyth suffered a mild cerebral haemorrhage<sup>23</sup>, which incapacitated him mentally, but not physically. John resigned his business directorship and his position as U.S. Vice-Consul in Melbourne, and the family moved to Sydney to stay with Ada's family, the Sands, at *Marmion*, Waverley while John convalesced. By March 1889, John had recovered sufficiently to take a holiday back to the U.S.A. and introduce Ada to his relatives. Their three children, Jack (3), Mary (2) and Marjorie (six months), remained behind at *Marmion* to be cared for by their grandmother Marjory Moffat Sands, great aunt Jane Grahame, uncles, aunts, nurse and servants.



Mary Grant Smyth  
November 1888



Mary Grant Smyth  
May 1892

In February 1890 after eleven months away, John and a pregnant Ada returned to Sydney. Their last child, Sybil Rosamund Smyth, was born at *Marmion*, Waverley three months later.

On 14 April 1891, John Smyth suffered a massive stroke which paralysed and killed him. He had just turned 54, and had been married for only six years. When her father died, Mary was just four, so she and her sisters would not have retained strong memories of him.

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<sup>23</sup> N.S.W. Death Certificate 15547/1891

Ada and her young family stayed on at *Marmion*, supported by their extended Sands family and by investments that John had made during his lifetime. Uncles Robert, John, Herbert, Arthur and Joseph Sands became father figures for Mary and her siblings, and their grandmother Marjory would have provided strong moral guidance and Scottish Presbyterian values. The Sands home, *Marmion*, where Ada had spent her own childhood, was a mansion with nine bedrooms, two bathrooms, hall, dining room, library, ballroom, stables, coach-house, servants' quarters etc. on a large estate. Mary and her siblings would have led a fairly sheltered childhood there and wanted for nothing. There were servants to help around the house, clean, and to cook their meals. Their early education, which included piano and violin lessons, was provided by a tutor at home. On Sundays, they attended the Grahame Memorial Presbyterian Church Waverley, where their great aunt Jane Grahame was the Sunday School teacher.

Although apparently a wealthy family, the life insurance payments and the income from John's estate all but dried up as a result of Australia's severe economic depression during the early 1890s. In 1896, Ada was forced to declare herself insolvent in the Victorian courts, and declared "*I have four young children born of my marriage with the said John Kane Smyth to support and on my limited income I should, if it were not for the help rendered to me by me (sic) relatives, find it almost impossible to support such children.*"<sup>24</sup>



The Smyth family, circa 1895.  
Ada Smyth with (clockwise from top) Jack, Mary, Marjorie and Sybil.

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<sup>24</sup> Affidavit of Ada Mary Smyth to the Court of Insolvency, Melbourne, 26 Oct 1896. Public Records Office of Victoria VPRS 761/P0 unit 231, item 90/2633

In Term 1 1900, Ada entered her daughter Mary (12) to St Catherine's Clergy Daughters' School, which was an Anglican girls' school conveniently situated across Albion Street from *Marmion*. At the end of that year, all the children performed at a dramatic and musical concert at *Marmion*, in aid of the Children's Hospital.<sup>25</sup> Marjorie and Sybil joined Mary at St Catherine's in Term 1, 1901 but, probably because of financial hardship associated with the insolvency, Ada took them all out of St Catherine's for most of 1901<sup>26</sup>. Ada's debts were finally paid off at the end of 1901 and, with the family's finances settled, Mary was sent to Presbyterian Ladies' College as a boarder from Term 1, 1902, while Marjorie and Sybil returned to St Catherine's.

Mary boarded at Presbyterian Ladies' College (P.L.C.) Croydon for two years<sup>27</sup>. She must have enjoyed the experience and formed a strong attachment to the school because Mary was actively involved in the Ex-Students' Union for several years after leaving. At school, Mary was active in the Christian Union and was talented in art and music, winning special prizes for pianoforte and drawing at the end of her school career. In June 1903, Mary passed the Junior University Examination with an A in geography, Bs in English and English history, and Cs in French and Arithmetic.<sup>28</sup>



Mary Grant Smyth, circa 1904

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<sup>25</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 22 Dec 1900 p. 14

<sup>26</sup> St Catherine's School Archives.

<sup>27</sup> P.L.C. Archives.

<sup>28</sup> Daily Telegraph 22 Jul 1903 p. 4

Mary left P.L.C. at the end of 1903 aged 16, but she returned to the College as a guest on 'Anniversary Day' in 1904<sup>29</sup>. Mary created a bas-relief map of North America and presented it to the college that year. Later, she created bas-relief maps of South America and Africa, all of which were hung in the College hall.<sup>30</sup> In December 1905, at the inaugural meeting of the Presbyterian Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union, Mary was elected to the committee for the ensuing year.<sup>31</sup>

Mary's grandmother Marjory Sands died in April 1904, leaving Ada and her family a sizeable inheritance, which included the family home, *Marmion*. With this inheritance, Ada sent Marjorie and Sybil to board at P.L.C., so Mary and Ada had *Marmion* largely to themselves. Ada and Mary threw themselves into supporting causes associated with women's and children's health. Mary became a member of the Guild of Helpers supporting the Y.W.C.A., and discovered that Vera Whiting was also a member. Vera and Mary were the same age and became friends, thus establishing a female Smyth-Whiting family connection.<sup>32</sup>

Mary was a strong Presbyterian and participated in many activities organised by and for her local church, the Grahame Memorial Presbyterian Church, Waverley, named for her great-aunt Jane's late husband. Mary and Ada ran stalls at the numerous church fetes, bazaars and floral fairs. With her aunt Jane, Mary attended the 1906 Presbyterian General Assembly at St Andrew's College. Mary was more conservative than her sisters Marjorie and Sybil – quite a serious person, very kind, compassionate and considerate of others. Unlike Keith Whiting's sisters, Mary's name did not appear often in the social columns and perhaps it was her friendship with Vera Whiting that helped bring Mary to Keith Whiting's attention.

While Keith was doing his residency at Toowoomba Hospital during 1910, his mother Amy visited him for about a month and was accompanied by "Miss Smyth". The two were seen attending the Toowoomba Race Meeting and the opening of the Toowoomba Tennis Club season. None of the several newspaper articles specify which "Miss Smyth" visited Toowoomba, but it was probably Mary,<sup>33</sup> and if so, Mary and Keith were probably engaged by then, although there is no record of an announcement. "Miss Smyth" (probably Mary) also accompanied her brother Jack Smyth to Toowoomba in January 1911, when he was replacing Keith at the hospital.

Vera invited Mary and Keith to the Butterfly Dance at the Parramatta Town Hall in 1911<sup>34</sup>. They were both on the guest list again for the August Dance at the same venue<sup>35</sup>. On 28 October, Ada and her daughters held a dance at *Marmion*; Keith was among the guests.<sup>36</sup> This was the last dance they attended before their marriage.

In October 1911, one month before Keith's marriage to Mary Smyth, Amy Whiting sold her family home, *Astolat* at Randwick. Then, one week before his marriage, Keith Whiting arranged for Jack Smyth's future brother-in-law Lindsay T. Crouch<sup>37</sup> (a solicitor) and another friend Ralph W. King<sup>38</sup> (an accountant) to purchase almost one acre of land and a large house in Marsden Street, Parramatta, to be held in trust by them for the benefit of his future wife

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<sup>29</sup> P.L.C. Archives. *Aurora Australis* March 1904 p. 16

<sup>30</sup> P.L.C. Archives. *Aurora Australis* March 1905 p. 4

<sup>31</sup> Daily Telegraph 20 Dec 1905 p. 5

<sup>32</sup> Daily Telegraph 26 May 1908 p. 3

<sup>33</sup> Darling Downs Gazette 18 Apr, 23 Apr, 14 May 1910

<sup>34</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate 24 Jun 1911 p.11

<sup>35</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate 19 Aug 1911

<sup>36</sup> Daily Telegraph 31 Oct 1911 p. 4

<sup>37</sup> Lindsay Thomas Crouch, brother of Nellie Crouch. Nellie was a bridesmaid at Keith and Mary's wedding, and married John Sands 'Jack' Smyth on 27 Feb 1912.

<sup>38</sup> Ralph William King, was a groomsman at Jack and Nellie's wedding



Mary Smyth.<sup>39</sup> The money would have come from Amy's sale of *Astolat*. There must have been a pre-nuptial agreement to secure Mary's future, and the convoluted ownership structure would have been to minimise future tax. Keith and Mary then leased the house from the owners at a peppercorn rent, and established their home and medical practice there. Perhaps at Amy's request, Keith named the house *Astolat* to carry on the Whiting family tradition, acknowledge where the money had come from and, maybe, preserve his romantic childhood memories.

## **Marriage and family.**

Keith Whiting married Mary Smyth at the Grahame Memorial Presbyterian Church, Waverley on 22 November 1911. Mary's long-term pastor and friend, Rev. John Macaulay conducted the ceremony. Mary was given away by her brother Jack Smyth; the bridesmaids were her sisters Marjorie and Sybil Smyth, Vera Whiting, Nellie Crouch (engaged to Jack Smyth) and Mary 'Molly' Parks; Dr Rupert Furber was best man. The reception was held at *Marmion* in a large marquee on the lawn.



Mary and Keith Whiting, 22 November 1911, *Marmion*.

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<sup>39</sup> Historical and Archeological Analysis of the Site for the Proposed Commonwealth Government Office Block at Parramatta N.S.W. Compiled by Edward Higginbotham. March 1985. Appendix 1. Title Search



Whiting-Smyth Wedding, 22 November 1911, *Marmion*.

Bridesmaids (L to R); Misses Molly Parks, Marjorie Smyth, Sybil Smyth, Vera Whiting, Nellie Crouch  
Best man; Dr. Rupert Furber

For their honeymoon, Keith and Mary went on a driving-camping holiday along the coast and up to the tableland south of Sydney. Unfortunately, they rolled their Model T Ford when descending Clyde Mountain, between Braidwood and Bateman's Bay. Luckily, only pride was hurt and they returned to Parramatta and *Astolat* safely.



Honeymoon adventures, December 1911

*Astolat* was a large, two-storey brick residence with seventeen rooms and a tennis court, situated on the western side of Marsden Street, between George and Macquarie Streets, Parramatta. It straddled two or three lots, but the address was 119 Marsden Street. One of the downstairs rooms became Keith's surgery for his private medical practice. The Parramatta District Hospital was in the next block to the north along Marsden Street, and Dr Richard Waugh's surgery was even closer, on the corner of Marsden and Macquarie Streets.



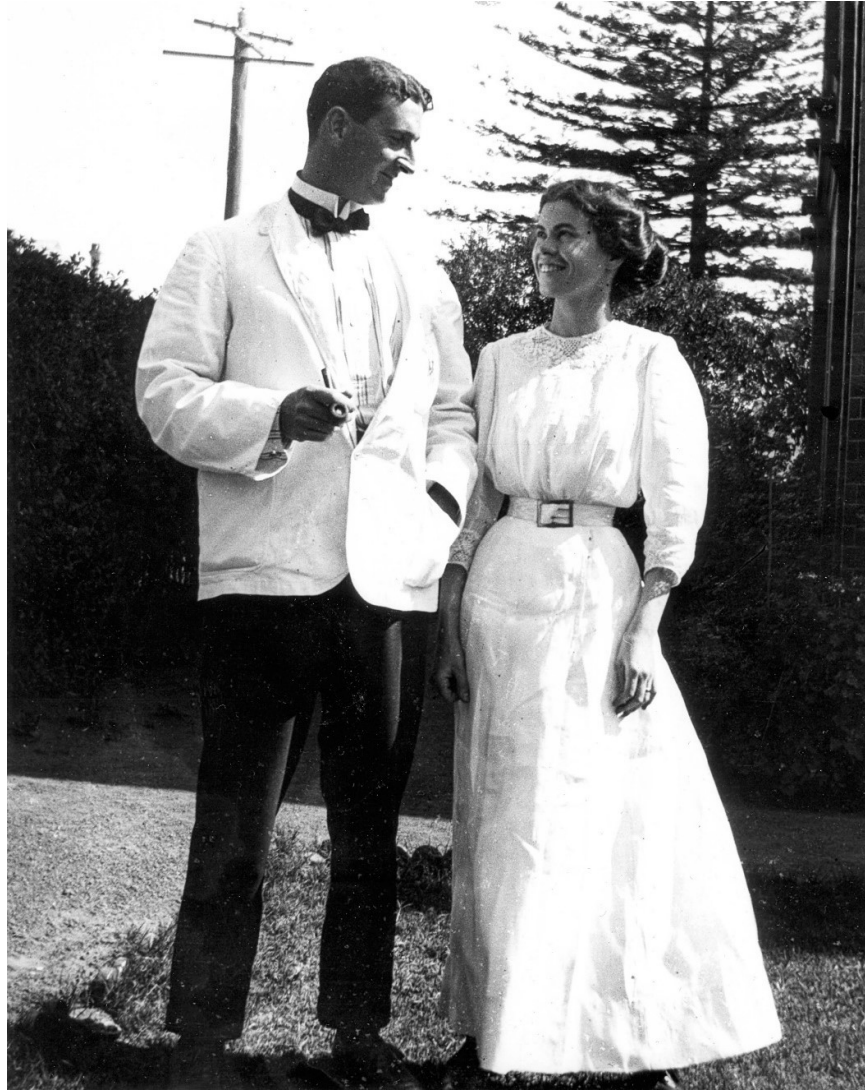
*Astolat*, 119 Marsden Street, Parramatta.

Keith's father William Whiting moved in to *Astolat* in 1912. By that time, William and his wife Amy were estranged, so perhaps Amy stayed at daughter Elaine Waugh's place nearby. In any case, Amy went to Europe in January 1913 for two years and, upon returning, separated from William completely.

Keith proved to be a very effective and popular general practitioner. According to various testimonials, Keith treated people and his patients with *straight-forward honesty, thorough care and kindliness*. He had a *keen sense of humour, genial smile and charming personality* which endeared him to women and men alike, so despite having plenty of competition from his brother-in-law Dr Richard Waugh and other doctors along Marsden and George Streets, Keith was in high demand and his general practice grew quickly. In those days, a general practitioner's workload involved many house calls, requiring him to drive all over the district. Keith's practice eventually extended as far as Penrith to the west and Pennant Hills to the north. It is just as well that Keith enjoyed cars and driving. He keenly followed all the latest technical innovations and was an early adopter. One colleague said that Keith appeared to be *always busy hunting for something*. Keith was appointed on the indoor staff of the hospital in May 1913<sup>40</sup>, which required him to do the rounds of in-patients. Sometimes, he was required to give evidence at inquests and court hearings, and to perform an autopsy. He was very busy.

<sup>40</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate 17 May 1913 p. 6





Keith and Mary Whiting, *Astolat*, early 1912

The doctors of Parramatta were a close-knit group – an informal club, whose families often met socially. The Whitings joined the Brown, Bowman, Hall, Kearney and Waugh families as part of that club. Sons of Drs Brown and Bowman followed their fathers into general practice in Parramatta. It wasn't long after her marriage that Mary had a circle of friends and became involved in arranging social functions. Her first was as a joint hostess of the Matron's Ball,<sup>41</sup> with her sister-in-law Elaine Waugh, who was a natural driver of many social and charitable functions. There was a winter dance and ball season each July-August in Parramatta, usually at the Town Hall. Mary and Keith attended many of them, but particularly, the annual ball in aid of the Parramatta District Hospital. Mary became close friends with Dr. Keith MacArthur Brown and his wife Ayesha. Keith joined the Parramatta Bowling Club in 1912 and soon became a strong competitor at both bowls and billiards. These sports, and tennis, occupied his time during weekends.

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<sup>41</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate 12 Jul 1912 p. 6

Keith and Mary's first child, Terence Keith Smyth Whiting, was born at *Astolat* on 12 October 1912. Both Keith and Mary had grown up in Victorian households and *Astolat* followed that tradition. They employed maids, a cook and a nanny to mind the children, leaving the parents relatively free to pursue their own agendas. The family met at meal times and for outings. Mary was a stickler for good table manners and etiquette and taught her children how to behave around adults and in social situations. Mary could be quite stern in her appearance and strict when necessary. She dearly loved her children but was not a strongly affectionate parent. Keith was more hands-on and loved taking his children, especially his sons, on adventures.

Mary was brought up in a strong Presbyterian family and instilled Christian values in her children. Their local church was St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Parramatta, which they attended every week. There was a right-of-way directly across Marsden Street from *Astolat* which provided access through to Church Street, the main shopping centre and St Andrew's. The Rev. John Paterson, a Scotsman, had been the pastor at St Andrews since 1893 and became a close friend of the Whiting family. All the Whiting children were baptised and went to Sunday School there, and Mary supported the church in its fundraising ventures whenever possible.



St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the "Auld Kirk",  
Church St, Parramatta<sup>42</sup>

Keith and Mary's second child, Ivan Moore Whiting was born at *Astolat* on 31 July 1914, four days before Australia's decision to enter World War I.

On 30 November 1914, the Whitings almost lost *Astolat* to a fire which broke out at 12:45 a.m. in the Meggitts Oil Seed Mill, located on the allotment behind *Astolat*. Despite the attention of five fire brigades, the mill was burned to the ground as thousands of gallons of linseed oil caught fire, and the fire brigades concentrated on preventing the fire from spreading to surrounding houses.<sup>43</sup> The mill had been a target of complaints by local residents for its smoke and odours. Despite objections by Drs Waugh and Whiting to the Parramatta council the mill was rebuilt.

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<sup>42</sup> As erected in 1843. In 1925-1928, this building was dismantled and re-erected at Wentworthville.

<sup>43</sup> Evening News 30 Nov 1914 p 4



## First World War

There was a general rush to enlist in the Australian Imperial Forces (A.I.F.) following the declaration of Australia's support for Great Britain against Germany. Cedric Whiting, who graduated in medicine at the end of 1913 and was the Resident Medical Officer at the Camperdown Children's Hospital, was the first of the Whiting family to enlist. He joined the Navy and Military Expeditionary Force (N. & M.E.F.) to New Britain, which departed for Rabaul aboard the S.S. *Eastern* in January 1915<sup>44</sup>. Keith Whiting enlisted at about the same time and was assigned as a lieutenant to the A.M.C. Militia (the reserve for the Army Medical Corps). Richard Waugh, an accomplished horseman, had served fourteen years in the Parramatta Lancers and was a member of the detachment that represented N.S.W. at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in London in 1897. Richard enlisted in April 1915 and was immediately posted overseas. Keith was at the wharf to wish Richard and his family plus sister Vera Whiting<sup>45</sup> bon voyage when they sailed from Sydney aboard the S.S. *Mooltan* on 15 May 1915.<sup>46</sup> Keith (with assistance of a *locum tenens*) had arranged to take over Richard's practice in his absence, leading to a considerable increase in Keith's workload.<sup>47</sup> Keith was promoted to the rank of Captain (provisionally) in the Australian Army Medical Corps (A.A.M.C.) on 25 May 1915 and went on a training camp for several weeks, returning to his practice at the end of June.



Capt. (prov.) Keith Moore Whiting. 1915

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<sup>44</sup> National Archives of Australia. Military Record.

<sup>45</sup> Vera had quietly (secretly?) married Dr Fergus McIntyre on 2 Feb 1915. Fergus left for active service on 6 Feb 1915. Vera was following him.

<sup>46</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate 22 May 1915 p. 6

<sup>47</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate 8 May 1915 p. 6

Life in Parramatta continued almost as usual, except that the level of fund-raising for the war effort increased significantly – the Belgian Relief Fund, Australia Day Fund etc. The Parramatta Hospital Ball was held later than usual that year, but still proved to be a success. Strangely, Keith was elected vice president of the Parramatta and District Poultry, Pigeon and Canary Society – the first and only indication that he had any interest in birds. But, as people began to hear the bad news from the Gallipoli campaign, watch the growing lists of weekly casualties and understand the gravity of the war, the mood at home became more sombre. Mary's mother Ada Smyth and sisters Marjorie and Sybil decided to volunteer and sailed for Egypt in September 1915.

In February 1916, Cedric Whiting returned from duty in Rabaul with his new wife, an English nurse, Mary Frances Knox, known as 'Bobbie'. In March 1916, Cedric was posted for duty with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Casualty Clearing Station (3 A.C.C.S.) in France and he left from Melbourne on 5 June 1916 aboard the S.S. *Wandilla*.<sup>48</sup> Bobbie stayed in Sydney with the Whiting family. Mary's brother Jack Smyth, now married to Nellie with one daughter, had enlisted in November 1914 and, like Keith, had been made a Captain in the A.M.C. Militia. Jack was also posted for duty with the 3 A.C.C.S. in France and accompanied Cedric aboard the *Wandilla*.<sup>49</sup> Only Keith was now left in Australia and he must have wondered if he would ever see active service.

Word was received in October 1916 that Richard Waugh would soon return from Europe to resume his active partnership in the Parramatta practice. At the same time, Keith Whiting finally received his call to active service. Keith was recommended as a Captain in the A.A.M.C. on 8 November 1916 and, after many farewell parties, he boarded the S.S. *Port Napier* at Sydney on 17 November 1916<sup>50</sup>. He left behind a very pregnant Mary. Their third child, Philip Sands Whiting was born on New Year's Day 1917, while Keith was still in transit to England. Keith disembarked at Devonport, Plymouth on 29 January 1917, the same day that Richard Waugh returned to Parramatta.

Keith's voyage to England was unusually long, with a two-week stopover in Durban and shorter stops at Cape Town, St Helena, and Sierra Leone. Upon arriving in Devonport, Keith was sent to the Devonport Military Hospital with mild (unspecified) sickness, probably influenza, and spent almost a month in hospital. From February to June 1917, Keith was at the Parkhouse Training Camp on Salisbury Plain, with occasional trips to the nearby Lark Hill Camp for ambulance training. It would have been a bleak, muddy place in winter.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C01 224

Parkhouse No.2 Training Camp, Salisbury Plain

<sup>48</sup> National Archives of Australia. Military Record W.C.C. Whiting

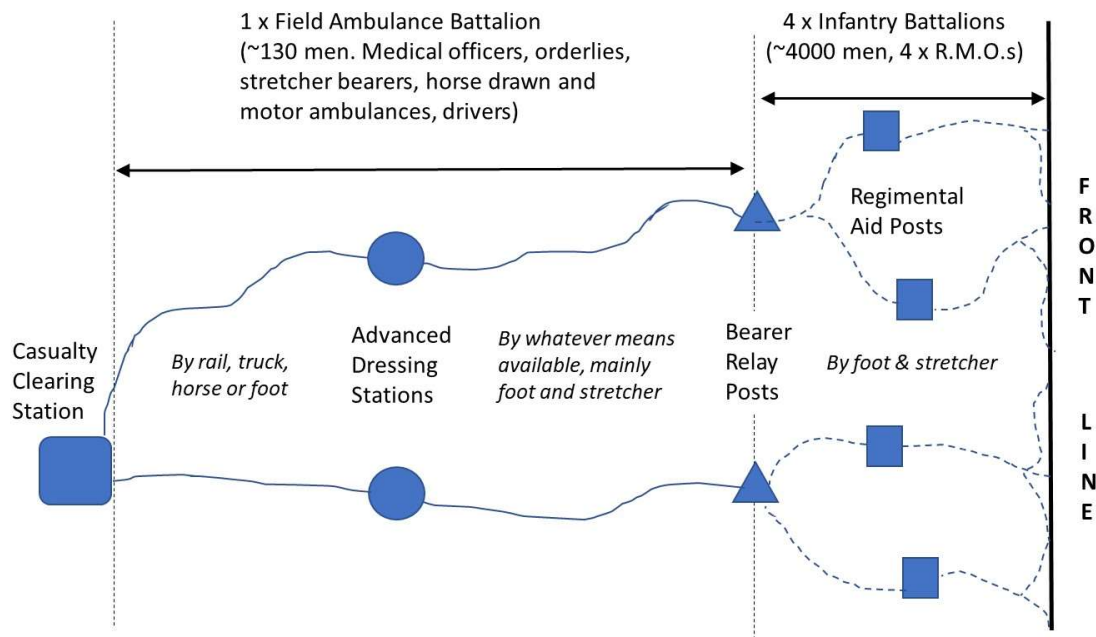
<sup>49</sup> National Archives of Australia. Military Record J.S. Smyth

<sup>50</sup> National Archives of Australia. Military Record K.M. Whiting

On 28 June 1917, Keith was posted to the No. 11 Stationary Hospital in Rouen, France as a surgical specialist. Rouen was many miles from the front line, so Keith would have been operating on the most serious casualties from various hot-spots along the Western Front. The Battle of Messines (the start of the Passchendaele offensive) began before dawn on 7 June 1917 and involved the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Australian divisions. This battle was a success for the Allies but the price was 26,000 casualties, of which 13,500 were ANZACs. When Keith arrived at Rouen he would have been treating the most serious casualties from this battle.

On 10 August, Keith reported for duty with the 4<sup>th</sup> Division, 13<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance, which was moving through Divisional Rest Stations towards the front line near Ypres, under the command of Lt Col J.B. St Vincent Welch. They were tasked with casualty evacuations for the whole of the line held by the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade. Upon relieving the 12<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance Battalion at Keeresbrom, Keith found that his brother Cedric was the officer he was relieving.<sup>51</sup> They had not seen each other for eighteen months.

From late August 1917, Keith's unit was supporting Australian front line troops. The role of the Field Ambulance battalion was to collect casualties from one infantry brigade (four battalions of about 1000 men each), transport them to an Advanced Dressing Station (A.D.S.), treat them during transport and at the A.D.S., return the healthy to their battalion or transport the severely injured to a Casualty Clearing Station for further treatment. The A.D.S. had to be quite flexible, and was usually within enemy artillery range so did not have capacity to provide care of patients for more than a day or two. It was usually in a farm building or fortified position. The C.C.S. was usually stable, outside artillery range but not bombing range. An ideal casualty evacuation arrangement is shown in the following diagram.



The 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Division began an attack on 20 September, which became known as the Battle of Menin Road and Polygon Wood. The Australians faced strong resistance from entrenched and bunkered German positions and, although they achieved their objectives, there were 10,783 Australian casualties in a little over a week<sup>52</sup>. The conditions were very difficult throughout, with rain and constant shelling by the enemy delaying and disrupting the

<sup>51</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate 12 Dec 1917

<sup>52</sup> Australian War Memorial <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/E97> 'Battle of Menin Road' and E153 'Battle of Polygon Wood'

evacuation lines for walking wounded and stretcher cases. Orders changed rapidly as the battle ebbed and flowed.

It is difficult to imagine what Keith's first experience of battle was like. Although he had been well trained in what to expect and how to react, it would have been impossible to fully prepare himself for the sheer number of severe casualties and deaths that were presented to him in the first days and weeks. Major Harvey Cushing, an American neurosurgeon, recorded his experience of working at No. 46 Casualty Clearing Station near Ypres during early August 1917, and the following extracts from his diary could also describe Keith's experiences, except that Keith was closer to the front line in an A.D.S.

*"Thursday 2nd August 2.30 a.m. Pouring cats and dogs all day---also pouring cold and shivering wounded, covered with mud and blood. Some G.S.W.'s of the head, when the mud is scraped off, prove to be trifles---others of unsuspected gravity. The pre-operation room is still crowded---one can't possibly keep up with them; and the un-systematic way things are run drives one frantic. The news, too, is very bad. The greatest battle of history is floundering up to its middle in a morass, and the guns have sunk even deeper than that. Operating from 8.30 a.m. one day till 2.00 a.m. the next; standing in a pair of rubber boots, and periodically full of tea as a stimulant, is not healthy. It's an awful business, probably the worst possible training in surgery for a young man, and ruinous for the carefully acquired technique of an oldster. Something over 2000 wounded have passed, so far, through this one C.C.S. There are fifteen similar stations behind the battle front.*

*Thursday 2nd August 10.30 p.m. We 're about through now with this particular episode. Around 30,000 casualties, I believe---a small advance here and there, and that's about all. Doubtless there are many prisoners---we've seen a lot of wounded ones, big husky Hun boys. But I do not believe it has been other than a disappointment. Much ground has been lost (e.g., at St. Julien) in counter-attacks. Operating again all day, and finished up an hour ago with an extraction of a large piece of shell from a man's badly infected ventricle with the magnet---then dinner, and now to bed. It still rains. A lot of wounded must have drowned in the mud. One of to-day's cases was a fine young Scot having frequent Jacksonian attacks from a glancing sniper's ball through his tin hat, a piece of which was driven into the brain. He had lain, he said, in the protection of a shell hole with one or two others---the water up to his waist---for twelve hours before they were found. But there has been scant time to talk to wounded, to prisoners, or to "brass hats," and I know little of what has gone on."*<sup>53</sup>

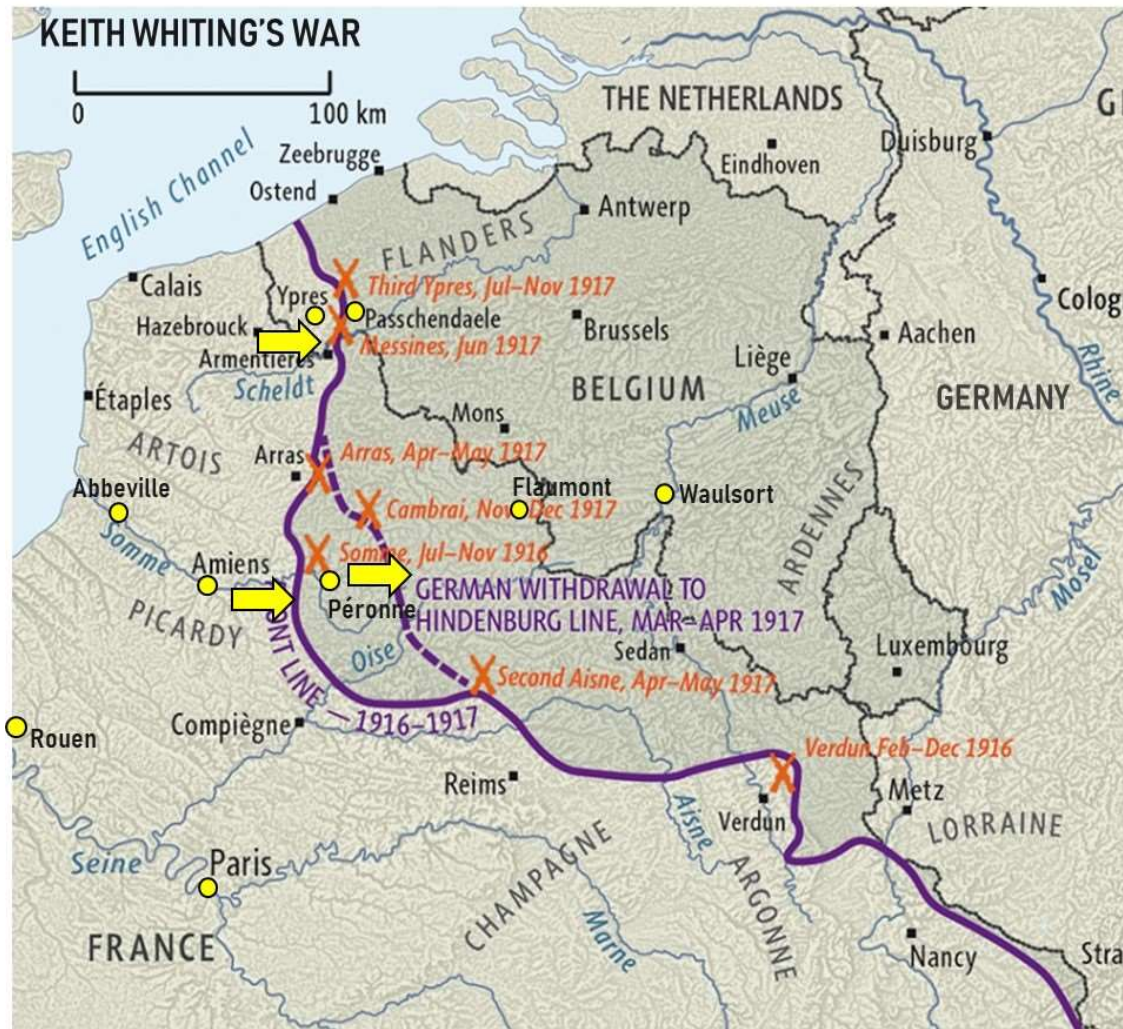
The staged offensive continued into October with the Battle of Broodseinde Ridge, where the Australians held their objective at a cost of 6,500 casualties. This was followed on 12 October by the Battle of Passchendaele, again with thousands of casualties. The 13<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance was severely stretched as they found themselves servicing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Infantry Division as well as the 4<sup>th</sup>. The A.D.S., then at Ypres and a long way behind the front line, was shelled for seven hours on 21 October and had to be abandoned.<sup>54</sup>

On 24 October, the 13<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance was relieved and withdrew from front line positions back to the Abbeville-Dieppe area. Keith went on leave to England from the 9 November, and returned to his unit on the 28 November, only to be temporarily assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Pioneer Battalion as Regimental Medical Officer (R.M.O.) until 22 December. It was normal for officers in Field Ambulance units to relieve R.M.O.s who went on leave, or became sick or casualties. Over Christmas 1917, Keith heard from home that his father, William Whiting, had died at *Astolat*.

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<sup>53</sup> From a Surgeon's Journal 1915-1918. V. The Passchendaele Offensive. By Harvey Cushing. Little, Brown and Company, Boston 1936. <http://www.vlib.us/medical/Cushing/journalTC.html>

<sup>54</sup> Australian War Memorial AWM4 26/56/ War Diaries of the 13<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Battalion



During January 1918, the 13<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance again moved towards the Belgian border and the front line, staying at Kemmel for most of January and February. Keith filled in for other officers as they took leave, or attended a training school. On 22 February, Keith was transferred permanently to the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Pioneer Battalion as R.M.O., and found them establishing and refurbishing defensive positions, laying tram tracks and digging communication trenches near Hollebeke, south-east of Ypres. When Keith joined, the effective strength of the battalion was 36 officers and 970 men.

A Pioneer Battalion is different from an infantry battalion in that it has specialist units for tunnelling, rail-laying, bridging, road-building, etc – which means that personnel are often widely dispersed on different tasks. Its main role was to prepare and maintain defences, trenches, strong points, machine gun positions, wire entanglements and communication lines, sometimes within sight of enemy positions, which often required men to work at night. It did not have the normal medical and ambulance support of an infantry battalion. Keith had to rely on his own skills and the help of medical and ambulance staff in other battalions to treat the serious casualties which arose, mainly from artillery fire. Keith maintained his R.A.P at or near Battalion H.Q. One of his routine jobs was to hold a sick parade each morning, where he would be presented with a variety of complaints ranging from influenza to trench foot to scabies to venereal disease. Every battalion had its few malingerers which Keith had to identify and treat firmly.



A month after Keith joined the Pioneers, the German Army, with reinforcements from the Eastern Front, started a major series of attacks along the Western Front, known as the Spring Offensive. The Allies began building defence lines to hold these attacks. During March, the 4<sup>th</sup> Pioneers moved to positions south-west of Ypres and began refurbishing defences – trenches, concrete pill boxes, barbed wire entanglements etc. Enemy shelling became heavier during the month until, on 24 March, orders were given to move away from the front to a position near Albert. Here the battalion began building defences across the Albert - Amiens Road, under occasional artillery and gas attack.

By early April, the German troops were pressing hard along the Dernancourt-Buire railway towards Amiens and the battalion camp at Henancourt received heavy shelling. Tunnellers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Pioneers were caught up in front line fighting at Dernancourt on 5 April and acquitted themselves well. The battalion fell back (west) to establish a defensive line from Bazieux to Franvillers. At the end of April, the battalion moved west again to Blangy-Tronville, a small village on the banks of the River Somme, near Amiens, and began work on the Aubigny to Villers-Bretonneux Defence. Battalion casualties for April 1918 were seven men killed, 48 wounded and 28 missing. On 20 May, the battalion was relieved and moved a short distance to the village of Bussy-les-Daours on the other side of the Somme, only to be bombed by enemy aircraft.

In June, the battalion moved forward (east) again, relieving the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion at Corbie, farther east along the north bank of the Somme. They immediately began improving the defences along the Somme canal. During June, the battalion had one man killed and seventeen wounded. On 13 June 1918, Cedric Whiting returned to Sydney having completed his service.

On 1 July 1918, Keith was promoted to Major and on 4 July, the Allies began a series of offensives to push the enemy back. The first attack was on the town of Hamel on the south bank of the Somme. It was a complete success, the first of Lt General John Monash's major victories. Although the 4<sup>th</sup> Pioneers were 'in the line' during the attack, they took no part in it. They reported that there *was very little work to do and a remarkable absence of hostile artillery fire*<sup>55</sup>, probably because the attack was so well planned. Following the battle, on the 10 July the 4<sup>th</sup> Pioneers were relieved and returned to the camp at Bussy-les-Daours, where they relaxed and played sports. That month, Keith reported that the battalion had ten men killed or died of wounds, 28 wounded and 317 reported sick. At the end of the month, the battalion again moved to the front in the Boves area, south of Amiens.

After working on defences near Boves, occasionally under artillery fire, the battalion moved east again on 15 August to Harbonnières where they were clearing and repairing roads and railways, at a cost of twelve deaths and 27 wounded. On 24 August, they moved west again, out of harm's way, to Longueau on the southern outskirts of Amiens. After a pleasant break from hostilities, on 8 September the battalion moved east to Vraignes-en-Vernandois, a three-day march. This followed a major victory by Australian forces at the Battle of Mont Saint-Quentin and Péronne on 1 September, at a cost of 3000 casualties. As a result of this victory, the German Army was pushed back to the Hindenburg Line.

Keith was transferred to the 12<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance which was preparing for a follow-up attack by an under-strength 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Division upon enemy positions near Le Verguier, between Saint-Quentin and Cambrai. Keith found that his brother-in-law Major Fergus McIntyre M.C. was one of his fellow officers. During the attack on the 18 September, Keith had charge of evacuations from the 12<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade sector, while Fergus had charge of evacuations from the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Brigade sector.<sup>56</sup> The attack was a success

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<sup>55</sup> Australian War Memorial AWM4 14/16/ Monthly War Diaries of the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Pioneer Battalion

<sup>56</sup> Australian War Memorial AWM4 14/16/ Monthly War Diaries of the 12<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Battalion

and the battalion was relieved of duty on the 21 September. This was the last action that Keith and Fergus would see during the war, as the German Army began retreating and suing for peace.

Keith was made Acting Transport Officer and arranged for the 12<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Battalion to withdraw to Seux, about 9 miles west of Amiens. Here the battalion rested, continued training, playing in sports carnivals and fraternising with the townsfolk until Armistice Day, 11 November 1918. As officers went on leave, Keith temporarily became C.O. Fergus McIntyre left for Australia on 10 November and two days later, the battalion moved east again to Fresnoy-Le-Grand and prepared for a move into Belgium. By 30 November they were in Flaumont, just in time for a special parade the next day to line the route taken by His Majesty George V on his victory tour with General Birdwood. On 9 December, a new C.O. arrived to take command of the battalion and, the next day, Keith and Captain Ernest Docker were sent on Special Leave to Paris. Ernest Docker was one of Keith's medical compatriots at Sydney University and the two had played inter-varsity tennis (see photograph on page 8). The reason for the Special leave was to enable Keith and Ernest to participate in an international tennis tournament organised by the Tennis Club de Paris. Teams from Australia, America, England and France competed in doubles and singles from 13-16 December at the club's covered tennis courts at Auteuil. An Australian pairing of Heath and Lycett got to the final of the doubles and beat the French pairing of Gobert and Aymes to win the tournament. In the singles competition, Keith Whiting beat Brown of America, but then went down to a younger and fitter Frenchman, Decugis.<sup>57</sup>

While Keith and Ernest were playing tennis in Paris for their country, the 12<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Battalion marched eighty kilometres from Flaumont to Waulsort on the River Meuse in Belgium. Keith and Ernest re-joined them at Waulsort on 25 December in time for the battalion Christmas dinner and dance at the Hotel Martinot. Keith was Mentioned in Dispatches on 1 January 1919 and was appointed temporary C.O. of 13<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance on 13 January. On the 20 January he went on leave to England, returning on the 7 February to a snow-covered Waulsort. Two days later, Keith assumed command of the 12<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Battalion. On the 22 February, the battalion said good bye to their friends in Waulsort and marched for two days (about forty kilometres) to new billets at Gourdinne, Belgium. On the 19 March, Keith was relieved of command, struck off the battalion strength and ordered to report to the Director of Medical Services (D.M.S.) London for educational work.<sup>58</sup> He arrived in Folkestone on 21 March, travelled to Bristol by train and, on 24 March, boarded H.M.A.T. A9 *Shropshire* at Avonmouth for return to Australia.<sup>59</sup>

The *Shropshire* called in at Adelaide on 13 May and Keith sent his family a telegram from there. He disembarked in Melbourne and caught a train to Sydney, arriving at 4 p.m. on 17 May 1919. He had been away from home for exactly two and a half years, and was introduced to his two-year-old son Philip. He and the family went straight to Leura in the Blue Mountains for a holiday. I don't know how much Keith told his family about what happened to him and what he saw during the war. A newspaper reporter tried to interview him, but he did not want to talk about his experiences.<sup>60</sup> No doubt he swapped stories with his fellow combatants Richard Waugh, Cedric Whiting, Fergus McIntyre and others when he met them back in Australia. His only public comment about his war experience was made at a welcome home function<sup>61</sup>, where he spoke *"of the heroism, as he had seen it exemplified, of the Australian soldier; who, when brought in to the dressing-station even in a hopeless condition; asked what the chances were, received the fatal verdict with a smile, and asked for a fag"*. In later years,

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<sup>57</sup> Australasian 15 Mar 1919 p. 24

<sup>58</sup> Australian War Memorial AWM4 26/21 War Diaries Assistant Director Medical Services 4<sup>th</sup> Australian

<sup>59</sup> National Archives of Australia. Military Record. Major K M Whiting

<sup>60</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate 31 May 1919

<sup>61</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate 13 Aug 1919

he played in the annual A.I.F. Golf Days but he never became heavily involved in Returned Servicemen's associations, so perhaps he wanted to forget the war and move on.

## Back to normal

While Keith was in Europe, the medical practice in Parramatta had been looked after by his partner Richard Waugh and, from February 1919, by his brother Cedric who also became a partner. Mary had kept the household together in his absence, with support from family and hired help. Amid many welcome home functions, Keith re-acquainted himself with his practice and patients. In July 1919, Cedric and Fergus McIntyre decided to re-enlist in the Navy and Military Expeditionary Forces for a further two years' service in the Asia-Pacific region. It wasn't long after Keith returned from Europe that Mary became pregnant again, and their first daughter, Rosamund Mary Whiting (known as Ros) was born at home on 17 February 1920. Their second daughter and last child, Sybil Kane Whiting (my mother) was born at *Astolat* on 24 August 1922.



Mary with Ros....



...and Sybil

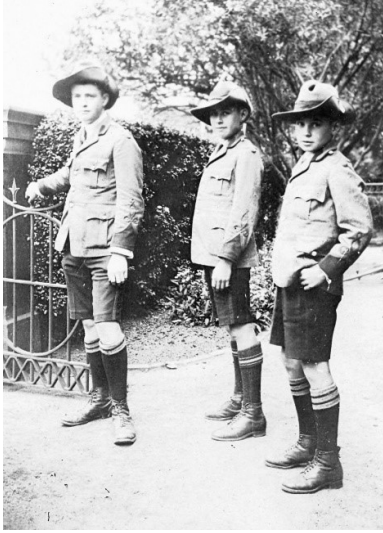
Keith and Mary could afford to give their children the best education possible, just as they had received from their own parents. The boys Terence (known as Ted), Ivan and Philip (known as Pip) all had their primary education at the Tara School at 39 George Street, Parramatta, which was owned and run by Richard Waugh's sisters, Joan and Cassie Waugh. From 1925, Ted (13) and Ivan (11) went to The Kings School in North Parramatta as day pupils. Philip (10) joined them in 1927. By the end of 1934 they had all left school.<sup>62</sup> Terence went on to study medicine at Sydney University, graduating M.B., B.S. in 1938<sup>63</sup>.

Until they were eleven or twelve, Ros and Sybil also attended the Tara School. They attended Meriden College in Strathfield for their secondary education and took the train to and from school each day. Meriden was very close to 55 The Boulevarde, Strathfield where their grandmother Amy Whiting and great Auntie Ben lived, so they would often visit after school. Amy Whiting died in 1935, while Ros and Sybil were still at school.

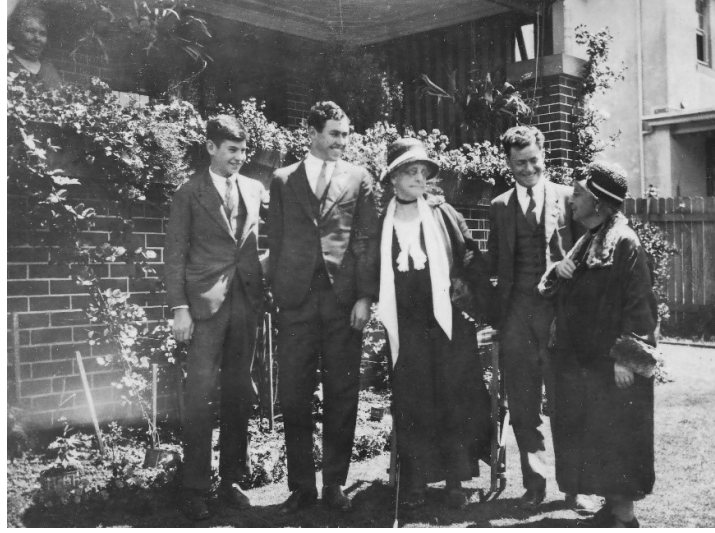
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<sup>62</sup> The Kings School Archives.

<sup>63</sup> Alumni Sidneiens. <https://alumniarchives.sydney.edu.au/as/search.jsp>



Ted, Ivan and Pip  
in Kings School uniform, ca 1928



Pip, Ivan and Ted with Amy Whiting (centre) and Auntie Ben  
Strathfield, ca 1931

After the war, Keith took up golf and, as with most sports involving a round ball, he soon reached an A Grade handicap of four. Most of the doctors in Parramatta played golf, including Richard Waugh, Keith and Cedric Whiting, who joined the Parramatta Golf Club. From 1925, Mary also took up golf, as did Elaine Waugh and Bobbie Whiting, so Saturday evening conversations must have been all about events on the course during the day's play. From 1925 to 1930, Keith Whiting, Richard Waugh and Cedric Whiting were either President, Vice President or Captain of the Parramatta Golf Club. Mary became President of the Parramatta Associates Golf Club in 1928. In April 1929, the Parramatta Golf Club moved to a new course at St Andrews, Blacktown, and Richard Waugh decided to give up golf on Saturday afternoons to follow his love of horse-racing. In 1931, The Parramatta Golf Club relocated again to a course along Archer Creek at Ermington, and became the Ryde-Parramatta Golf Club. Keith and Cedric decided to leave Parramatta and joined the nearby Concord Golf Club, which had a long history and hosted many professional golfing events. Concord must have been a more difficult course because both Keith and Cedric's handicaps increased. Keith continued his membership of the Parramatta Bowling Club, mainly to use its billiards tables in the evening, and the tennis court at *Astolat* had plenty of use.

The tradition of the winter ball season continued after the war. The Parramatta Hospital Ball was always held in August, and was preceded by a Hospital Committee dance in July. There was an annual Golf Club Ball and sometimes, dances at the Bowling Club also. With her three boys at school and her two younger daughters cared for by nanny Edwards, and with a maid and Sophie the cook to take care of housework and chores, Mary had more time to devote to the outside world. As well as golf, Mary joined Ayesha Brown, Elaine Waugh and Bobbie Whiting in fund-raising for various causes, including the Parramatta Hospital, the Red Cross, Crippled Children, the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society and the Free Kindergartens of N.S.W. movement. One of their favourite fund-raising activities was to arrange bridge parties among their friends, where they also held raffles and sold sweets. By 1938, Ayesha Brown was President, with Mary and Bobbie Whiting Vice Presidents of the Macquarie Girl Guides Association<sup>64</sup>, and Mary was also President of the Empire Fete committee in aid of the hospital.<sup>65</sup>

<sup>64</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate 10 Aug 1938 p 18

<sup>65</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate 21 Sep 1938 p 10

The Whiting family did not seem to be affected by the Great Depression. Keith's medical practice remained strong – people always require medical help – and Keith was not one to refuse to help a patient in need, even if they could not afford to pay him at the time. He probably took payment-in-kind on many occasions during the worst of the depression. He was regarded as one of the kindest and most sympathetic medicos in the district, and may have been considered by some as a soft touch. Twice during the 1920s, people sued Keith and other Whiting family members for repayment of loans and interest, based on forged mortgage documents. In both court cases, Keith successfully defended the claims.<sup>66 67</sup>

Keith and Cedric Whiting and Richard Waugh continued their close professional association with the Parramatta Hospital. They were on the doctors' committee during the 1920s and became honorary medical officers of the hospital during the 1930s. Their post-war medical work load increased with the proliferation of motor vehicles and their associated injuries and deaths. Keith could clearly see a need for better indicators on motor vehicles and decided to invest in a start-up business called Traffic Indicators Ltd. Keith had to attend and give evidence at several coroner's inquests into murders, accidental and unusual deaths, including one dental patient who died while Keith was administering chloroform anaesthetic.<sup>68</sup> Closer to home, Keith was involved in a medical emergency when his son Terence was accidentally shot in the foot while on holiday at his cousins' place at Grenfell, and had to have the second toe on his left foot amputated at Parramatta Hospital.<sup>69</sup> A major family tragedy was the death of Keith's mother Amy Whiting at her Strathfield home on 7 September 1935, aged 81. Her son-in-law Richard Waugh was her family doctor and signed the death certificate.

## **Palm Beach**

To satisfy his long-held love of the outdoors, in about 1921 Keith bought a house at Palm Beach, the northernmost beach in the Sydney area.<sup>70</sup> The house, named *Kimerikong*, had been built in 1917 on a 1187 m<sup>2</sup> block of land, sloping steeply towards the beach. It was one of only a handful of houses along the beach front at that time, when the small population at Palm Beach was far outnumbered by the herds of wild goats.<sup>71</sup> The house had a lower storey of sandstone block and upper storey of timber shingles, a tiled roof, six rooms, kitchen, offices and garage. The verandah and the front bay windows provided panoramic views south along the beach, and out to sea. The house was quite dark inside because the walls were lined with red cedar, the floors were timber, and the house had the salty, mouldy smell of wooden beach houses and kapok pillows. Sand brought up from the beach on bare feet always found its way into the cracks and crevices, which were a breeding ground for fleas. Mosquito nets over the beds were essential. Among the furnishings, Keith had a wireless set so that they could listen to cricket test matches, and a piano so that the family and guests could entertain themselves, when not reading or playing cards.<sup>72</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 23 Oct 1923 p 6

<sup>67</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 6 Nov 1924

<sup>68</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate 14 Jul 1923

<sup>69</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate 6 Jun 1929 p 14

<sup>70</sup> Palm Beach is now famous as the TV set for the fictitious town of Summer Bay in the series *Home and Away*.

<sup>71</sup> Australian Women's Weekly 12 Jan 1946 p

<sup>72</sup> Estate of Keith Moore Whiting. NSW State Archives Series 13660, Series 4-238514





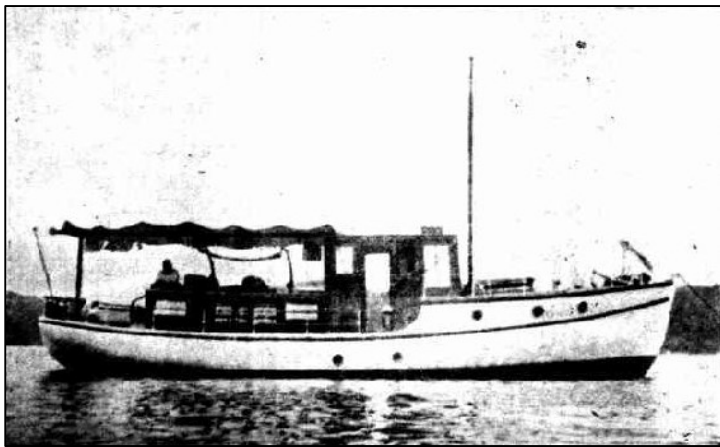
Whiting's house, 2 Palm Beach Rd, Palm Beach; and the view from the balcony of the beach and Howlett's Kiosk, with the family returning from the beach. 1932

The Palm Beach house was used by the wider Whiting and Smyth families for holidays and for family gatherings, but it was vacant for long periods during each year. The family used to drive the 55 kilometres up to Palm Beach on many weekends, tackling the long, winding dirt road in their large Chrysler. The trip took hours, and the roughest stretch of road was between Newport and Palm Beach. Until 1929, there was no store at Palm Beach, so the family had to bring all their food with them.



L to R; Ros with 'Darkie', Philip, Sybil, Peter Waugh and Mary Whiting, Palm Beach c.1928

Keith would take a holiday for a month each summer, but winter was a better time for fishing, so he also took a week's holiday occasionally during the year. Keith's favourite fishing ground was about fifteen miles off the entrance to Broken Bay, a spot which was visible from the balcony at Palm Beach, but he also went in to Broken Bay and up the Hawkesbury River when the whiting and hairtails were running. To reach these fishing spots, Keith bought a motor launch called the *Hirondelle II* which he moored in Pittwater. It was large for the time; at 45 feet long, twelve-foot beam and weighing eight tons it was ideal for coastal cruising. Keith had it fitted out with all modern conveniences and loved taking his friends out overnight<sup>73</sup>. According to his friend and neighbour Keith MacArthur Brown, Keith's "*ideal of perfect bliss was to have a few kindred spirits aboard his 45-foot launch*" ... "*cook all the meals for his guests, rouse them from their slumbers before daylight, and then cruise out to the fishing grounds fifteen miles due east of Broken Bay. Returning home to Parramatta after a long and tiring day, he would occupy himself for most of the evening in the distribution of large parcels of snapper and bream amongst his many friends in the neighbourhood.*"<sup>74</sup> As he grew older, Keith arranged fishing trips farther north to Hayman Island (1936)<sup>75</sup> and Port Stevens (1937).<sup>76</sup>



Keith Whiting in his element at Palm Beach.

Clockwise from top left. Contemplating the ocean from the verandah; preparing *Hirondelle*; hooking a fish; playing with Ros.

<sup>73</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate 6 Jun 1929

<sup>74</sup> Obituary, Medical Journal of Australia, 11 Feb 1939 p 244

<sup>75</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate 4 Jun 1936

<sup>76</sup> Letter from Keith Whiting at *Astolat* to his daughters in Batlow, 25 May 1937.

Following in his father's footsteps, Terence graduated from Sydney University and was appointed a resident medical officer at the Parramatta Hospital on 23 November 1938, which must have been cause for celebration. Having played golf at Concord twice in early December, Keith and the family drove from Parramatta on the 16<sup>th</sup> for their annual holiday at Palm Beach. On the 20 December 1938 at 11 p.m. without any warning, Keith suffered a fatal heart attack. He was only 56. There was a very large crowd at Keith's funeral service at St Andrew's Church, Parramatta on 22 December, with many testimonials and obituaries describing his kindness, friendly nature and straightforward honesty. He was cremated at the Rookwood Crematorium the same day. The following year, Mary presented a font, in memory of Keith, to the new Presbyterian Church at Castle Hill.<sup>77</sup>

## **Widowhood and another war.**

Mary was 51 when Keith died. Terence (26) took up Keith's share of the medical practice; Ivan (24) was engaged to Margaret Shephard (known as Peg) and was preparing for a life on the land; Philip (21) was at home and had a job as a shipping clerk with Burns, Philp & Co in the city; Rosamund (18) was living at home and working at the Kings School as a secretary, and Sybil (16) was entering her final school year at Meriden. According to Mary's sister Sybil Hore, *"Mary's philosophy always was 'The end of a Chapter. Turn the page' so to speak and start a new one. She applied it when you all grew up and left home for the war, got married, even losing Keith - she just carried on so wonderfully."*<sup>78</sup>

Keith's estate had a net value of £17,889 for probate purposes, of which the main assets were shares (£8,244), his third interest in the Parramatta medical partnership (£2,500), the Palm Beach house and land (£2,000), *Hirondelle* (£1,255) and a life insurance policy (£1,700). He left his entire estate (except for his Austin Seven car) in trust for Mary's benefit, and Mary already owned *Astolat* so she was asset-rich.<sup>79</sup> But with little regular income and a large household to run, Mary could not afford to send her daughters to university.

It seems that Mary and her sister-in-law Bobbie Whiting formed a stronger friendship after Keith's death, and together became involved in clubs and organisations. They both joined a new Parramatta music club, and the Ladies' Auxilliary of the Parramatta District Hospital, of which Mary became President in 1940. Ivan Whiting married Peg Shephard at St Andrew's Church Parramatta on 8 August 1939. Peg was the daughter of the Whiting family's solicitor and the sister of Ivan and Philip's school friend Hugh Shephard. Ivan and Peg settled at *Detroit* station near Wagga Wagga where Ivan was the overseer.

On 3 September 1939, Australia declared war on Germany and, eventually, four of Mary's children enlisted. Philip had already joined a part-time militia unit at Parramatta before the outbreak of war, and was the first of Mary's children to enlist in the A.I.F. on 20 May 1940, along with his friends and fellow militiamen Hugh Shephard, John Dibbs and Lawrence Hughes. He joined the 2/6 Field Artillery Regiment and departed for the Middle East in November 1940.<sup>80</sup> Terence was a Reserve Officer for the Australian Army Medical Corps from March 1941. He enlisted for full-time duty in the A.I.F. on 30 August 1941 and departed for the Middle East in November to be R.M.O. with the 7<sup>th</sup> Division Royal Australian Engineers.<sup>81</sup> Ivan enlisted in the 21st Light Horse Regiment militia at Wagga Wagga in October 1941. A year later, he enlisted for full-time service in the A.I.F. and was posted as a Lieutenant with the 12<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Regiment (Artillery). Ivan did not travel overseas, spending much of his war

<sup>77</sup> Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate 6 Sep 1939.

<sup>78</sup> Letter from Sybil Hore to her niece Sybil Connor, 25 Feb 1974

<sup>79</sup> Estate of Keith Moore Whiting. NSW State Archives Series 13660, Series 4-238514

<sup>80</sup> National Archives of Australia. Military Record for NX23887 Philip Sands Whiting.

<sup>81</sup> National Archives of Australia. Military Record for NX76365 Terence Keith Smyth Whiting.

service in Western Australia.<sup>82</sup> Sybil was still at school when war broke out, but left soon afterwards to become a secretary. On turning twenty-one in 1943, Sybil joined the Australian Women's Army Service (A.W.A.S.) and worked at Victoria Barracks until May 1945 when she volunteered for overseas service and was posted to Lae, Papua New Guinea.<sup>83</sup>

With her children, except Ros, away from home for long periods during the war, in 1942 Mary invited Richard Waugh's son Peter and his new wife Patricia to stay at *Astolat* for the duration. Peter and Pat were both 1941 medical graduates of Sydney University. Peter enlisted for full time service in May 1942 and went on overseas service from September, leaving a tense and anxious house full of women.

Throughout the war, Mary continued her work on the Ladies' Auxilliary Committee of the Parramatta Hospital, and helped to organise the annual hospital ball. Mary's mother Ada Smyth and sister Marjorie Burnell lived in Elizabeth Bay and they visited each other often. Mary's sister Sybil Hore lived at Grenfell, N.S.W. and her brother Jack Smyth lived at Warwick, Queensland, so visits with them were less frequent, but Palm Beach remained a meeting place for the family.

Mary's first grandchildren were born to Ivan and Peg during the war years. Margaret Mary Whiting (known as Meg) was born at Tumblong, near Wagga Wagga in 1940, and her brother Michael Ivan Keith Whiting was born in 1943 at the Sanitarium hospital, Wahroonga.

Mary's children all survived World War II. Ivan was demobbed in November 1945, Philip in December 1945, Terence in January 1946 and Sybil in July 1946 and were welcomed home with much celebration. There was one sad event, however, when Mary's mother Ada Mary Smyth died at her apartment in Elizabeth Bay on 11 August 1946, aged 88.



Mary Whiting

## Baby Boom

Terence was the first to marry after the war. He wed Joan Moir, a schoolfriend of Ros and Sybil at Meriden, on 7 September 1946 at St Phillip's Sydney and they lived initially in a flat across the road from *Astolat*. Their first child, Keith Alexander Whiting was born at Parramatta in 1948. Later that year, Sybil married George Connor (my father) at St Andrew's Church, Parramatta and they moved to Broken Hill, N.S.W. where George was employed as a mining engineer.

In July 1949, Ros left Sydney for an extended holiday to the Middle East, United Kingdom and Europe with her friend Helen Lavender. Philip moved to Greenwell Point near the mouth of

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<sup>82</sup> National Archives of Australia. Military Record for NX132889 Ivan Moore Whiting.

<sup>83</sup> National Archives of Australia. Military Record for NF465227 Sybil Kane Whiting.

the Shoalhaven River, where he was working in a fisherman's co-operative, so only Mary, remained at *Astolat*. Two more grandchildren arrived during 1950; Helen Joan Whiting born in Parramatta and Andrew George Connor (me) born in Broken Hill. When Mary decided in late 1950 that she would like to travel to England also, Terence offered to buy *Astolat* from Mary, to help finance her travels. By March 1951, Mary was staying at 27B Primrose Gardens, Hampstead N.W.3 and visiting London landmarks.



Mary Whiting (left) and Eileen B., Trafalgar Square, London March 1951

While Mary was in London, Philip married Margaret Paul (known as Meg) on 5 May 1951 at Roseville. According to accounts, many of the Whiting and Smyth families gathered for the occasion.<sup>84</sup> Mary and Ros departed London aboard the *Orontes* on 8 December 1951, arriving in Sydney on 14 January to meet Philip's bride Meg, who by that time was pregnant. Paul Grant Whiting (known as Grant) was born in 1952. Mary and Ros were also met by Sybil and Andrew, who were staying at *Astolat* and Palm Beach while George Connor was working in Nigeria for nine months.

During 1952, Terence Whiting decided to sell *Astolat*, in part because he believed that emissions from the adjoining Meggitts Ltd linseed oil mill were a health hazard to his family<sup>85</sup>. He decided to build a new home at 5 Gollan Avenue, Parramatta North, and so Mary and Ros needed to find a new home also. Mary bought a weatherboard cottage at 14 Katia Street, Parramatta North and moved there in late 1952. The funds came from Mary's interest in her

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<sup>84</sup> Letter from S.K. Connor to M.G. Whiting in London, 8 May 1951

<sup>85</sup> Helen Romeo pers. comm.



mother Ada Smyth's marriage settlement.<sup>86</sup> *Astolat* was put up for sale in March 1953 – the end of an era for the Whiting family.<sup>87</sup> *Astolat* was demolished soon after the sale, the land was re-subdivided and it became Legacy House and a specialist eye clinic. I know that Mary (I called her Gran) had fond memories of *Astolat* and was sad to leave, but it was no longer hers to manage as she liked and she was pragmatic about moving to a smaller, more practical house and regaining her independence. Mary took with her as much as she could fit into her small two-bedroom cottage. The tiny garage was full of memorabilia, and other furniture was stored off site. From Katia Street, Mary could take the bus down to Parramatta for shopping and to visit the library, or call on friends. Mary and Ros were supporters of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and rarely missed a performance. Visits to the city were also an excuse to have lunch with her sister Marjorie at the restaurant in the David Jones store.

Five more grandchildren arrived after her move to Katia Street: Catherine Mary Connor (1953), Ross Philip Whiting (1954), Valerie Jane Whiting (known as Jane, 1956), Richard Kane Connor (1956) and Morna Isobell Whiting (1957), bringing the total to nine grandchildren. Only Keith and Helen lived nearby and saw their grandmother regularly. The others lived in country New South Wales and used to visit when they came to Sydney for an annual holiday, usually at Palm Beach.



L to R; Ros Whiting, Mary Whiting, Marjorie Burnell at the Bogey Hole, Palm Beach. 1958

<sup>86</sup> N.S.W. State Archives. Series 13660 Items Series 4-68760. Probate Packet for Mary Grant Whiting.

<sup>87</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 21 Mar 1953 p 28.

Out of long habit, Mary wrote letters as her preferred form of communication with family and friends, although Sunday evenings were set aside for long-distance telephone calls to Broken Hill (Sybil), Nowra (Philip), Gundagai (Ivan), Grenfell (Sybil Hore) and Warwick (Jack Smyth). Mary made one trip out to Broken Hill to visit the Connor family. From 1963 onwards, Mary saw more of her Connor grandchildren as they came to secondary boarding schools in Sydney, and occasionally visited Gran and Auntie Ros on a Sunday leave pass. The Katia Street cottage was full of small and precious curios which Mary and Ros had inherited and collected over the years, mostly encased in glass cabinets. Gran gave me the impression that she did not entirely trust me to be around these ornaments, but there was a music box which I was allowed to play with gently, a Chinese checker board with cats-eye marbles (I usually played against myself), books galore, and playing cards. Ros and Gran introduced me to bridge, but without much success. I was always welcomed there and fed well, although Gran was a rather formal person and didn't show me much open affection. Gran liked to give books as gifts and, for Christmas 1962, gave me one called *Parramatta Pageant* containing many historical photographs on which she had marked the location of *Astolat* in blue pen.



L to R; Ros and Mary Whiting, Catherine, Richard and George Connor  
Katia Street, December 1964

Mary began to have health problems in 1964 and required some in-home nursing help while Ros was at work.<sup>88</sup> In late 1965, Mary had a stroke which incapacitated her, so she could no longer write letters. Ros was working and could not care for her full time, so Mary moved to the Chesalon Church of England Nursing Home at Harris Park. Terence was her doctor and visited her every day, as did Ros at every opportunity. As time went by, Mary developed dementia and struggled to remember things and recognise people, even Terence. Grandchildren were discouraged from visiting her. Mary's brother Jack Smyth died in 1967, and her first great grandchildren were born in 1968 and 1969, but it is doubtful that Mary met them or understood the significance.

Mary Whiting died in the Chesalon Nursing Home on 10 December 1969, aged 81. She had heart disease for about four years leading up to her death, but the cause of death was pneumonia.<sup>89</sup> Mary was cremated on the 12 December at the Rookwood Crematorium. In her Will, made out in July 1961, Mary left the house and furniture at Katia Street to Ros, and the remainder of her estate, valued at \$128,886, was divided equally between her five children. The Palm Beach house and the remaining shares from Keith's estate, which had been held in trust for Mary during her lifetime, passed to her children. The children agreed to sell the Palm Beach house soon after Mary's death.

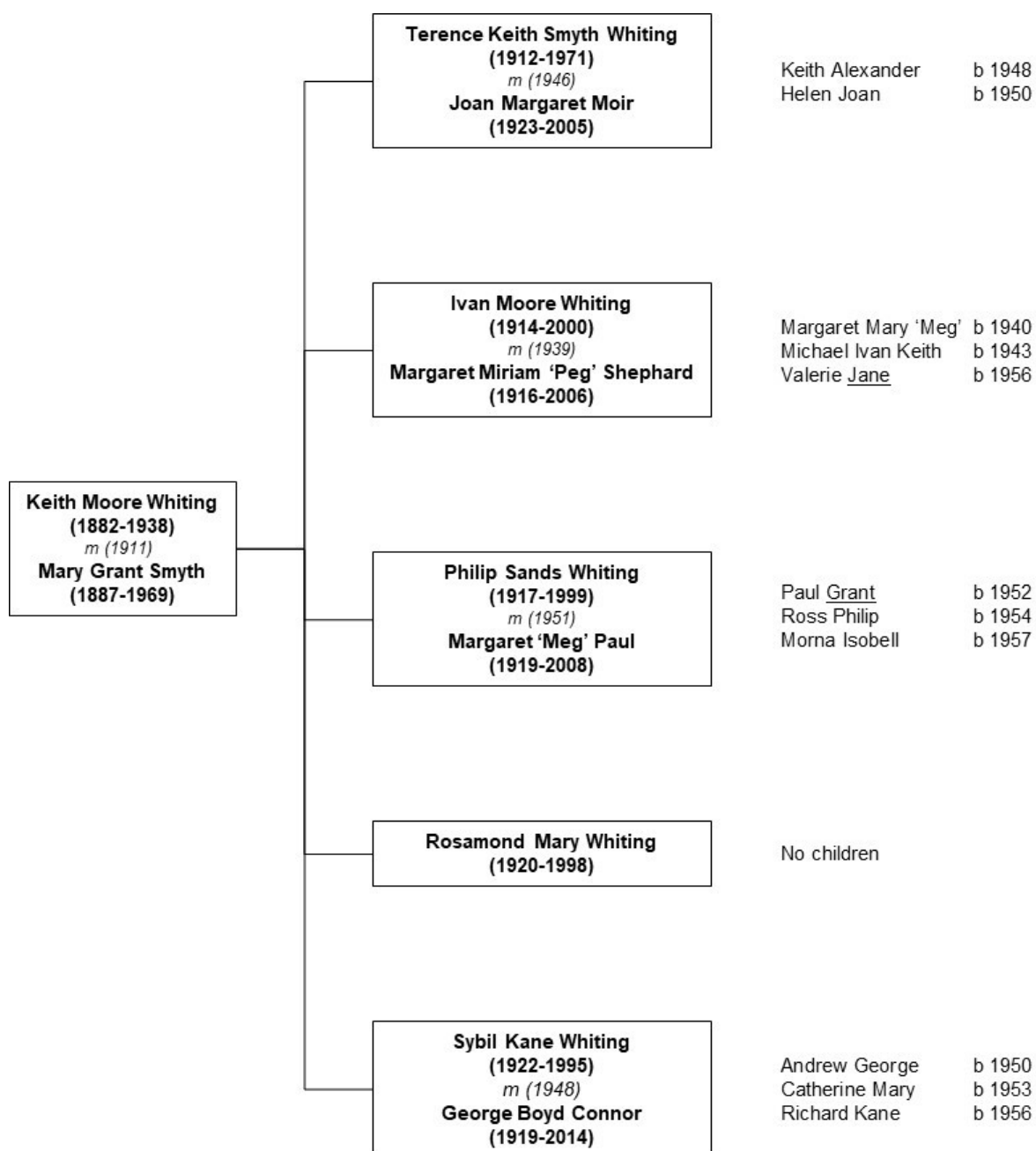
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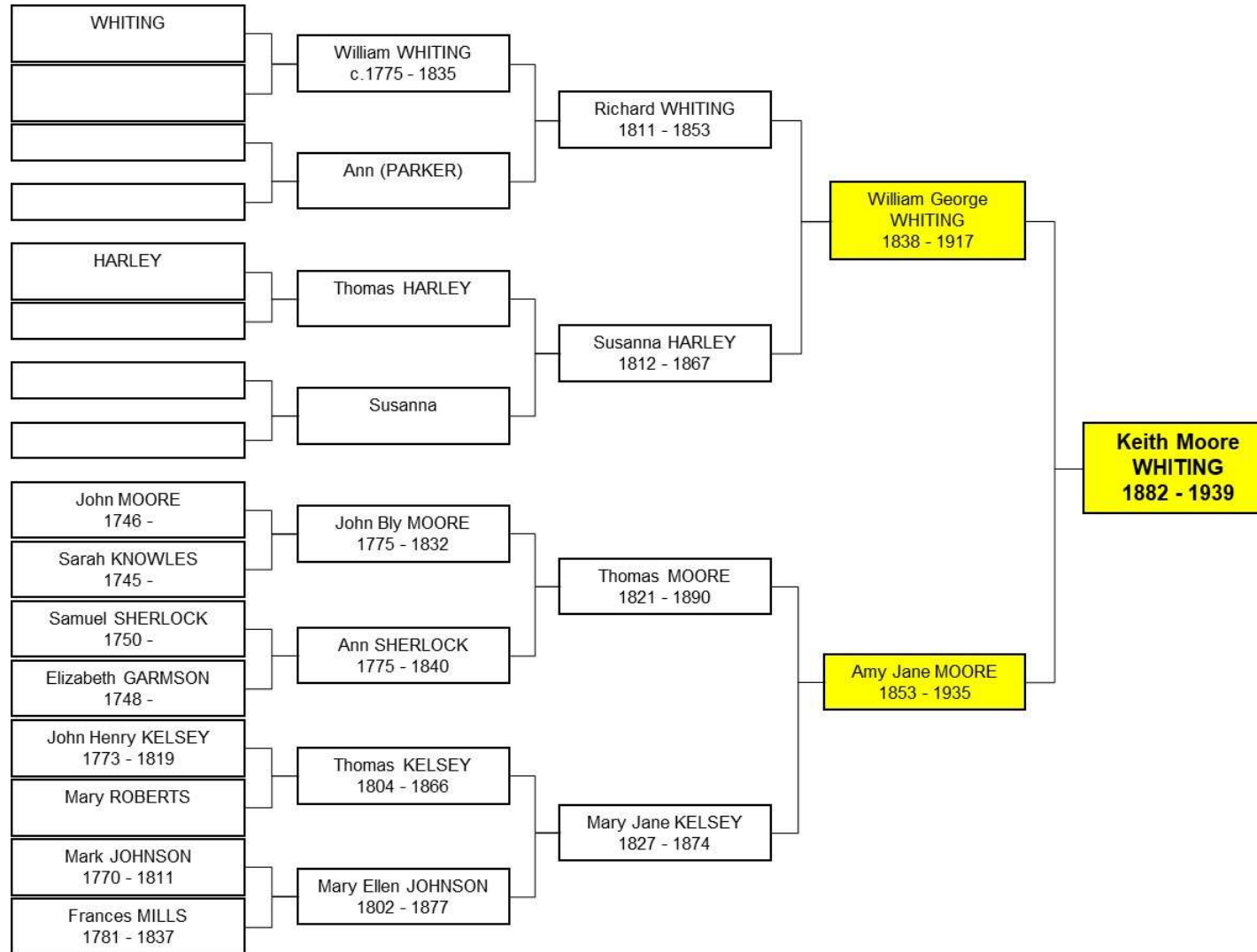
<sup>88</sup> Letter from Mary Whiting to daughter Sybil Connor in Broken Hill. 10 Jul 1964

<sup>89</sup> N.S.W. Death Certificate 42288/1969

## KEITH MOORE AND MARY GRANT WHITING'S FAMILY



## KEITH MOORE WHITING'S ANCESTORS





## MARY GRANT SMYTH'S ANCESTORS

