

# WILLIAM GEORGE AND AMY JANE WHITING

## PREFACE

This is one of several biographies of my maternal ancestors in Australia whose family tree is shown on the following page. William George and Amy Jane Whiting were my great-grandparents. Both were born in Sydney, New South Wales, where they met, married and had their family. Their story spans the history of Sydney in the post-transportation era, the gold rushes, Federation and WWI.

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)

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

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

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

John Kane Smyth (1836-1891) 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).

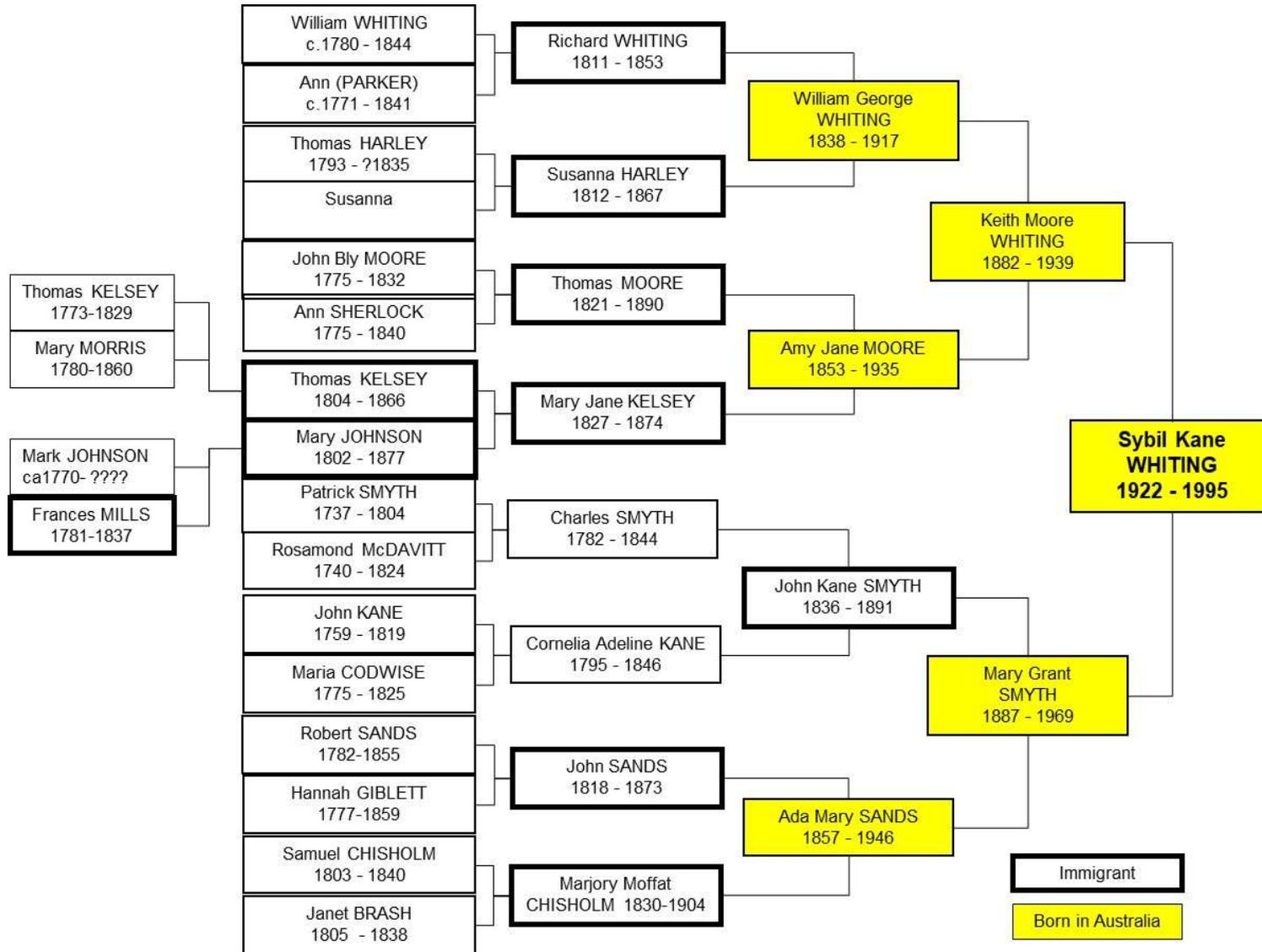
Each of the stories can be read in isolation. Inevitably, there is overlap between them, so some repetition is unavoidable but I have tried to keep this to a minimum. For easy reference, family trees are included at the end of each story.

Many organizations have provided research material for this story. In particular, the National Library of Australia 'TROVE' database and the Sands Directories of Sydney were invaluable resources. Ancestry.com.au provided transcripts of many important records of the Whiting and Moore families. Many aspects of their story have been published previously by Jenny Hawkins in her book "Moore or Less Related", which collected information from several family members. My thanks go to them all. I have included references to important events and facts as footnotes on each page.

Andrew George Connor  
Perth, 2026

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# MY MOTHER'S ANCESTORS



## WILLIAM GEORGE and AMY JANE WHITING

### William Whiting's childhood.

William George Whiting was born in Sydney, New South Wales on 15 January, 1838, the eldest child of Richard Whiting and Susanna Harley<sup>1</sup>. Richard was a transported convict serving a life sentence for stealing as a servant. On arrival in Sydney in March 1833, Richard was assigned to Thomas Marsden, a merchant in Pitt Street. Susanna arrived in 1836 as a free settler, and the couple were married in October that year at St James' Sydney with permission from the Governor. Thomas Marsden agreed to keep and maintain Richard and Susanna at his Pitt Street residence until such time as Richard was granted a Ticket of Leave<sup>2</sup>. Thomas Marsden died in 1837, but Thomas' business partner, Philip Flower, honoured the agreement, and was maintaining Richard and Susanna at the Pitt Street residence, where William was born. Richard must have been a valuable assignee.

Richard Whiting was granted a Ticket of Leave in May 1841 and a Conditional Pardon in January 1842 after serving almost ten years of his sentence – unusually early for one serving a life sentence. He opened a store in Pitt Street.

William was baptised at St James' Church of England on 11 Feb 1838. His two younger brothers, Richard Harley Whiting (born 30 May 1839) and Joseph Charles Whiting (born 8 Aug 1843) were also baptised there. It seems certain that St James' was the Whiting family's parish church and they would have attended services regularly, in part because it was a condition of Richard's assignment and Ticket of Leave that he attended divine worship each Sunday, if possible<sup>3</sup>.

Unlike many of the immigrants and transportees to New South Wales, both Richard and Susanna could read and write, and must have understood the value of giving their children an education. In 1844, a Select Committee on Education reported that only half of the 26,000 children in the colony aged 4 to 14 were attending school<sup>4</sup>. The Committee recommended that *“one uniform system shall be established for the whole of the colony and that an adherence to that system should be made the indispensable condition under which alone public aid will be granted”, and “all the children of whatever denomination they be, are required to attend.”* They recommended adopting Lord Stanley's system of National Education but their recommendations were not implemented until January 1848. So, for their early years of education, William and his brothers had to use the existing denominational or private education systems. Given the family's association with St James' Church, the boys probably attended the St. James' Primary Male School which was in the Old Court-house on the Elizabeth Street side of the church, and then the newly-constructed St James' Grammar School in Phillip Street<sup>5</sup>.

Transportation to New South Wales officially ceased in 1840, and convict assignment in 1841, but there were many attempts by local businessmen to revive transportation up until 1850, and there was 'leakage' of convicts from Tasmania and Western Australia. The anti-transportation lobby, especially in Britain, painted convicts as deplorable, depraved and despicable people, despite the fact that, in only fifty years, they had been largely responsible for building several thriving communities in a challenging country. As a result of this propaganda, *“in a very short space of time, just a few years, the convicts went from being objects of*

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<sup>1</sup> NSW Birth and Baptism Certificate, #301 Vol 22

<sup>2</sup> New South Wales, Australia, Register of Convicts' Applications to Marry. 1826-1851. Ancestry.com

<sup>3</sup> National Library of Australia. Tickets of Leave/ Certificates of Freedom/ Pardons.

<sup>4</sup> Weekly Register of Politics, Facts and General Literature, Sat 7 Sep 1844 pp120

<sup>5</sup> Sydney Herald. Monday 5 July 1841, pp2

*proud rehabilitation to the most obscene people that Victorian society could imagine. From approximately 1850, it became untenable to identify oneself as a convict or someone with convict connections*<sup>6</sup>. All of this was happening while William was at school and, in this environment, it must have been difficult for the children of convicts mixing daily with children of free settlers. It was probably towards the end of his school years, aged about fifteen and soon to enter the workforce, that William decided to try to escape his convict association and invent a cover story. He began to tell people that he was born in Oxford, England and had come to Australia as a free settler. Possibly, he affected a plummy accent to go with the cover story. His capacity to get away with this story may have been helped by the death of his ex-convict father, Richard Whiting, in October 1853, aged 40.

## **A career and respectability.**

On leaving school, William got a job as a junior clerk in one of the numerous trading firms established in Sydney. Through their warehouses passed imports of fabrics, clothes and footwear, hardware, ironmongery, food and alcohol – all the necessities for sustaining a predominantly agricultural and grazing economy. The main export was wool in bales, to London. Clerks were necessary to keep track of the movement of goods and money, and to deal with the many customs regulations.

Following his father's death, William and his family moved to 41 Crown Street, Woolloomooloo. William's two brothers also became clerks after leaving school, but Richard junior could not handle money and quickly ran up debts around town. His first reported encounter with the law, at age 18, was a charge of having obtained money under false pretences. He spent a month in Newcastle Gaol<sup>7,8</sup>. This was considerably embarrassing for the other family members, who had to cover his debts at a time when William, in particular, was attempting to gain some respectability. Susanna put the following notice in the Sydney Morning Herald, "*All moneys owing by RICHARD H. WHITING will be settled with, upon application at 41, Crown-street, Woolloomooloo. S. WHITING. 18th December 1857*".<sup>9</sup>

All the trading companies benefitted from the economic growth associated with the Australian gold rush in the 1850s. A few of them established warehouses in Melbourne also. No doubt William's workload and bank balance increased during the gold rush and, according to the Sands Directories, William was promoted from clerk to accountant. He developed a wide circle of friends and, for entertainment, attended dances and balls at William Clark's dance hall in William Street.

By 1861, the family had left Crown Street and moved to 82 Stanley Street. Despite his brush with the law, Richard junior continued to run up debts and pass fraudulent cheques around Sydney, and the family was forced to warn the public about negotiating cheques and orders with him under any circumstance<sup>10</sup>. In March 1865, Joseph Whiting married Maria Webb and William was a witness. After the wedding, Joseph, Maria and Susanna moved to Emily Cottage in Pitt Street, Redfern<sup>11</sup>. William (with his kangaroo dog *Lula*) was living at 4 Belgrave Terrace in Forbes Street, opposite the Darlinghurst Gaol<sup>12</sup>. In October 1866, Richard junior was charged with obtaining money under false pretences and faking cheques, using the alias

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<sup>6</sup> Babette Smith, 'Legend and Reality: The Genius of Russel Ward: The 2009 Russel Annual Lecture, University of New England, 8 September 2009', *Journal of Australian Colonial History*, Vol. 12, 2010, pp. 171-190.

<sup>7</sup> *Empire* (Sydney) Friday 13 November 1857, pp5

<sup>8</sup> New South Wales, Australia. Gaol Description and Entrance Books. 1857

<sup>9</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 19 Dec 1857 pp 1

<sup>10</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 30 April 1861 pp1

<sup>11</sup> Approximately at 42 Pitt street (south) Redfern, between James and Wells streets.

<sup>12</sup> Belgrave Terrace is listed on the State Heritage Register. Darlinghurst gaol is now the National Art School

Charles Flood. He pleaded guilty to three offences on 3 November and was sentenced to two years imprisonment in Darlinghurst Gaol<sup>13</sup>, ironically, within spitting distance of William's place.

## **William's first marriage**

In 1866, possibly at a dance, William met Emily Jullien Bennett, the nineteen-year-old daughter of James Bennett, who, with his brother, Samuel, had a grocery, tea, wine and spirit merchant business at 480 George Street, Sydney. Emily was born in St Pancras, Middlesex, England on 27 May 1847 and had emigrated to Australia with her family in about 1854. Emily (19) and William (29) were married by special licence at St Paul's Church of England, Darlinghurst on 24 January 1867. Keeping up his cover story, William gave his birthplace as Oxford on the marriage certificate and omitted any particulars of his family from the newspaper announcement. Emily's father James Bennett and brother William were the witnesses, and it's hoped that Susanna was well enough to attend her son's wedding. William and Emily set up their home in Cleveland Street, Redfern.

Susanna Whiting died at Emily Cottage on 2 March 1867, aged 54, of epilepsy and nervous exhaustion<sup>14</sup>. William and Joseph did not include their brother Richard's name in the newspaper notices of Susanna's death and funeral<sup>15</sup>.

Around this time (or perhaps earlier), William joined the firm of William Drynan and Co. which, in 1849, had established a wholesale drapery and clothing warehouse at 391 Pitt Street and offices at No 1 Wynyard Square. The company had prospered during the gold rush of the 1850s but was struggling financially by 1861. After several attempts by the creditors to resurrect the firm and continue trading, it was finally forced into the insolvents' court and its stock in trade, book debts and other assets were put up for sale by tender in November 1867<sup>16</sup>. Perhaps believing that the economy would pick up, the stock valuation was pessimistic and/or that the book debts might be realised, William Whiting bought the assets of the firm in partnership with William Drynan's son, Thomas M. Drynan. The firm began trading again in late 1867 as W. Drynan and Company<sup>17</sup>.

William Whiting was by now well-established in Sydney society as a respectable married businessman. On 23 January 1868, William was presented to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Alfred, at a reception at Government House. William also attended the Sailors' Home Picnic held at Clontarf Beach, Middle Harbour, on 12 March 1868, with Prince Alfred as guest of honour. At this event, Henry James O'Farrell, an Irishman, approached Prince Albert, drew a pistol and shot him in the back from about six feet away. The Prince survived the attempted assassination with the care of several medical professionals who were present, including Assistant-surgeon Isaac Phipps 'Paddy' Waugh of the H.M.S. *Challenger*, who removed the bullet. Thirty-eight years later, Paddy's only son would marry one of William Whiting's daughters.

O'Farrell almost did not survive the day. According to the Sydney Morning Herald, *'No sooner had Mr. Vial grasped the arms of the man who had fired the shots, than Mr. Benjamin Mortimer (an American gentleman), Mr. Whiting (of the firm of Drynan and Whiting), A. L. Jackson, and other gentlemen seized him; and, had it not been for the closing in around them of the police and other persons, they would speedily have placed him beyond the reach of the Law Courts. The people shouted*

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<sup>13</sup> New South Wales, Australia. Gaol Description and Entrance Books. 1866 and 1867

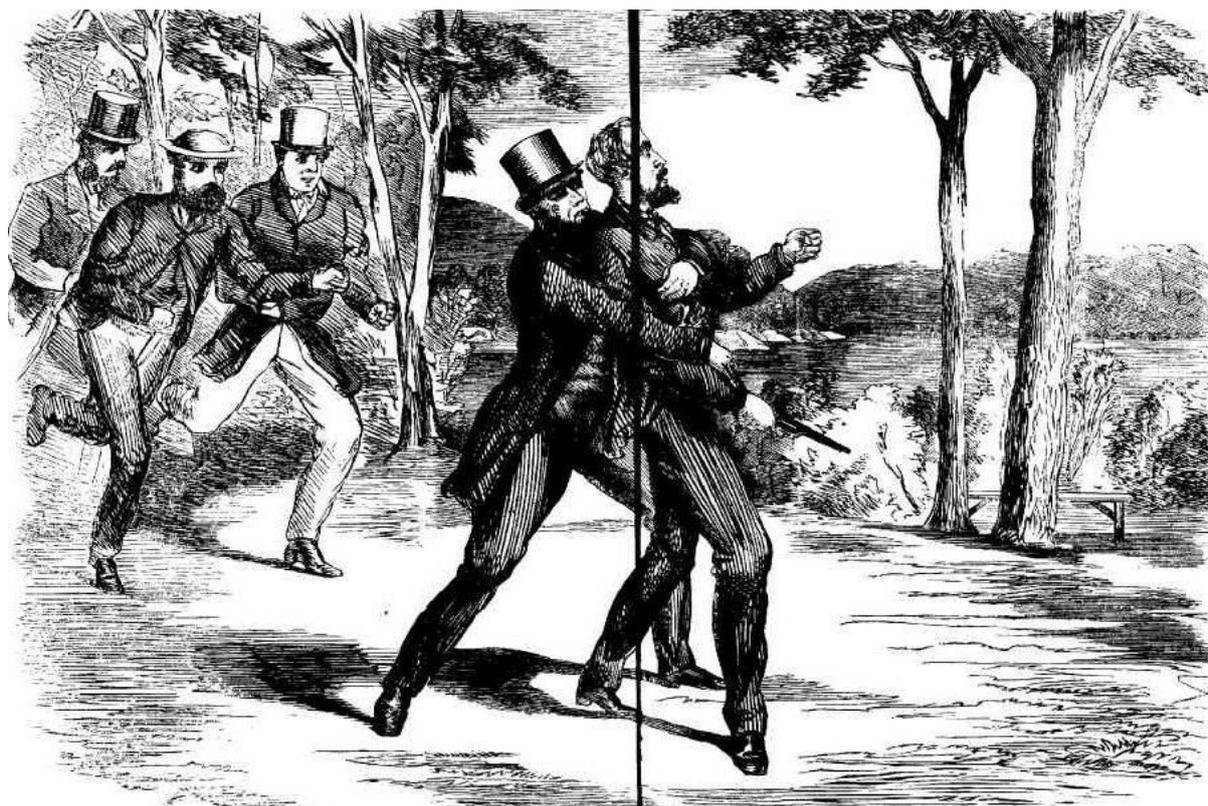
<sup>14</sup> NSW Death Certificate

<sup>15</sup> Empire, 4 March 1867 and 5 March 1867.

<sup>16</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 9 November 1867 pp9

<sup>17</sup> Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser. 12 Dec 1867 pp1

"lynch him," "hang him," "string him up," and so on, and there was a general rush to get at him. The police, headed by Superintendent Orridge, got hold of the assassin, and they had the greatest difficulty in preventing the infuriated people from tearing him limb from limb.<sup>18</sup> O'Farrell was taken in to custody. Along with others, William called on the mayor of Redfern to hold a public meeting, allowing people to express their indignation at the assassination attempt, their sympathy and their loyalty to Prince Alfred. The assassination attempt and subsequent meetings stoked anti-Irish sentiment and violence in the colonies, and also in England when the news reached there. Although Prince Alfred appealed for clemency, O'Farrell was hanged in Darlinghurst Gaol on 21 April 1868. I wonder if Paddy Waugh and William Whiting ever swapped stories about this day.



Mr Vial Seizing the Assassin<sup>19</sup>

In November 1868, William's wife Emily contracted a form of typhoid fever. She was ill for about four weeks and, unlike most other typhoid cases in Sydney at that time, did not recover. Emily Jullien Whiting, aged 22, died at the house in Cleveland Street, Redfern on 6 December 1868, and was buried the following day at the Camperdown Cemetery<sup>20</sup>. William and Emily had been married for almost two years. They did not have any children, but as a result of this marriage, William became close friends with Emily's brother, Edwin Bennett, who later had a significant influence on William's life.

## **William's widowhood**

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<sup>18</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 13 March 1868 pp5

<sup>19</sup> Illustrated Sydney News 28 Apr 1868; Supplement pp1

<sup>20</sup> NSW Death Certificate 2150/1868

Towards the end of 1868, just before Emily died, William became the major partner in the W. Drynan & Co wholesale warehouse business, so it was renamed W.G. Whiting and Company. After Emily's death, William moved his residence from Cleveland Street to Darlinghurst Road.

It appears that W.G. Whiting and Co. struggled to survive through 1869-71. There were numerous large wholesale and retail drapers in Sydney, including George Chisholm and Co, which provided strong competition. Several of W.G. Whiting's customers, mainly country retail and general stores, went bankrupt, owing debts to W.G. Whiting and Co. William, with his accountant's hat on, became a trustee (administrator) for several of these assigned insolvent estates and was charged with liquidating the assets for the benefit of the creditors. On 10 March 1871, W.G. Whiting and Co. was itself declared insolvent<sup>21</sup>. William Whiting and Thomas Drynan assigned all their real and personal assets to the trustees for liquidation and payment of their debts. It appears that all of William's assets were tied up in the business, but Thomas Drynan lost his house and land. The entire stock of the business was sold to Anthony Hordern on 3 April 1871.

One of the trustees of the insolvent estate of W.G. Whiting and Company was Andrew Lyell, an accountant of Melbourne. He and William decided to set up an accounting firm, with William as the Sydney representative. After all, William had first-hand experience on all sides of an assigned insolvent estate – insolvent, creditor and administrator. Lyell, Whiting and Company, Accountants and Trade Assignees, was established and opened a Sydney office at 323 George Street. One of William's first jobs was to distribute dividends to the creditors of William Whiting and Co.

Meanwhile, William's brother, Richard Whiting, had been released from Darlinghurst Gaol after completing his remitted sentence. He headed north looking for work, but it wasn't long before he began obtaining money under false pretences. In December 1871, William and Joseph were again forced to notify the public that *no person has authority to draw orders or any moneyed documents on either of them, and they therefore, desire to caution the public against receiving, or in any way negotiating, same*<sup>22</sup>. Richard was arrested on 29 December 1871 in Grafton for passing a forged cheque and, the following day, was remanded in custody for trial. At his trial in March 1872, Richard was sentenced to four years on the roads and returned to Darlinghurst Gaol.

In early 1872, William introduced his brother-in-law, Edwin Bennett, to Lyell, Whiting and Company. Edwin described himself as a Mining Agent and Stock and Share Broker, involved in promoting and financing new mining ventures. It wasn't long before Lyell, Whiting and Company's name started to appear in the mining notices also. William's titles ranged from Legal Manager, Secretary, Broker and Provisional Director of companies such as the Star of Hope Gold Mining Company, the Great Mogul Gold Mining Company, the Great Australian Gold Mining Company and the Standard Tin Mining Company. William was a shareholder in some of them. His focus on mining ventures did not last very long however, because in May 1872, William joined Prince, Ogg and Company as an accountant. Lyell, Whiting and Company was dissolved on 1 July 1872 through effluxion of time<sup>23</sup>. William stayed on for a while as auditor for various mining companies and as a director of a few, but it seems that, after five years of stress running his own businesses, he opted for the security of a salaried position within a large company. Edwin Bennett continued his career in the mining finance industry, but the two remained good friends.

Prince, Ogg and Company was one of the main wholesale drapery businesses in Sydney at that time. It was established in 1852 and in twenty years had grown to have a staff of about

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<sup>21</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 13 Marc 1871, pp 1

<sup>22</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 14 Dec 1871 pp 1

<sup>23</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 2 July 1872 pp 1

four hundred. Headquarters was their large warehouse at 352 George Street with offices at the back running through to Pitt Street, where William had his office. The company imported cloth and fabrics, from which their own employees and a select group of local sub-contractors manufactured clothing and furnishings. They were exclusively a wholesale business and had a network of country travellers who sold to country stores throughout New South Wales. They advertised often for people to staff their own business, and to help out their country customers - dressmakers, tailors, cutters, drapers, milliners, clerks, book-keepers, and salesmen and women were the main categories. In keeping with their wholesale business model, they never advertised goods for sale. Prince, Ogg and Company also ran an export business to their London branch – mainly wool in bales, but also tin and copper concentrates.

William's role reverted to pure accounting and occasional involvement in sequestration and administration of assigned estates of the company's insolvent customers. During 1873, William and his retriever dog shared a residence at *Fairlight*, Elizabeth Bay Road with Edwin Bennett. The following year, William moved to Waverley Street, Waverley (now in Bondi) where he settled into comfortable obscurity. It seems likely that Edwin also moved to Waverley Street, for his address in January 1875 was also in Bondi. William joined the Freemasons movement in 1874 and became secretary of the Priory of the Knights Templars in Sydney<sup>24</sup>.

On 1 January 1875, William's brother-in-law, friend and house-mate Edwin Bennett married Emily Mary Moore at St John's Church, Darlinghurst. Emily was the eldest surviving daughter of Thomas Moore and Mary Jane Kelsey (known as Jane), both of whom came from families of wealthy Sydney hotel-keepers. If they had not already met, then William Whiting would have been introduced to Emily's younger sister Amy Jane Moore at the wedding – they were both in the wedding party and witnesses to the marriage<sup>25</sup>.

The day after the wedding, William's brother Richard Whiting was released from Darlinghurst Gaol, with six months remission for information supplied regarding trafficking in the gaol. Richard immediately began passing bad cheques again, prompting William and his brother Joseph to renew their public warning not to honour any cheques or orders in their names or to grant credit on their accounts<sup>26</sup>. A warrant was issued for Richard's arrest in March<sup>27</sup> but the law did not catch up with him for some years.

Following their marriage, Edwin and Emily moved in with Emily's father Thomas and sister Amy at 34 Upper William Street North, Darlinghurst. By July that year, Edwin's mining agency business was bankrupt<sup>28</sup>, so it was fortunate that he had married into money and had his family's grocery business as a back-up. William remained at Waverley Street, Bondi, continued working for Prince, Ogg and Company, saved some money and began courting Amy Jane Moore.

## **Amy Moore's childhood.**

Amy Jane Moore was born on 27 December 1853 at the Moore's residence in George Street, Sydney where her father, Thomas Moore, had the publican's license for the City Wine Vaults and Pymont Hotel. Amy was the third child of Jane and Thomas Moore, but their first child, Christiana Harriet Margaret Moore, died before Amy's birth. Amy was baptised on the 15 January 1854 at St Philip's Church of England, York Street, Sydney. St Philip's was a two-minute walk up the Jamison Street hill from their home.

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<sup>24</sup> Sands Sydney Directory 1875, and Sydney Morning Herald 21 July 1875 pp 1

<sup>25</sup> NSW Marriage Certificate 6/1875

<sup>26</sup> Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser, 13 Mar 1875 pp 1

<sup>27</sup> N.S.W. Police Gazette 24 March 1875 pp 85

<sup>28</sup> Australian Town and Country Journal 17 July 1875 pp 9

City Wine Vaults was situated on the east side of George Street opposite Jamison street, next to a narrow laneway which ran through to Pitt Street. It started life in about 1843 as the Star of the East Hotel, and changed its name to the City Wine Vaults Tavern in 1844. The license for the Pyrmont Hotel was attached to the same establishment in 1847. The license changed hands every few years – Amy’s father, Thomas Moore, the fourth licensee, held it from 1847 until 1855. From advertisements before and after Thomas held the license, City Wine Vaults provided short and long-term guest accommodation with a private guests’ sitting room, a business lounge-cum-reading and coffee room, a dining room serving breakfast, lunch and dinner for both public and guests, a bar (of course) and a billiard room. The Moore family lived in a separate part of the three-storey hotel and they employed a nursery maid to help Jane with the two children<sup>29</sup>. In the year Amy was born, there were 53 hotels in George street alone and, given the excitement and activity associated with the Australian gold rush, all of them would have been very busy places<sup>30</sup>. The following year, there were 65 hotels in George Street. A publican during a gold rush had a license to make money and did not have to advertise hard to attract customers. Thomas was already investing his profits in housing and land around Sydney, with the aim of one day becoming a gentleman landlord.

In January 1855, when Amy had just turned one, Thomas and Jane sold their interest, fixtures and fittings in City Wine Vaults to George Pike and moved a little farther south along George Street to the Glasgow Arms Hotel<sup>31,32</sup>. The reason for the move is unclear but, according to his successor, Thomas ran the Glasgow Arms in a ‘superior style’ with ‘enviable notoriety’ for the luncheons and ham sandwiches which he served. But this was clearly an interim move because Thomas was already building a family house on the eastern outskirts of Sydney, and a new hotel at the corner of Kent and Erskine Streets, which became the Queensland Hotel.

By June 1858 when Amy was four, the Moore family had moved into their new house<sup>33</sup>, which they named *Chiselhurst*. Amy spent the rest of her childhood at *Chiselhurst*. It was situated at 13 Upper William Street North, at that time the first house along from Darlinghurst Road<sup>34</sup>. It would have been very different from living in the hotel – more rooms, more privacy, a yard and paddocks, with space for playing and for pets. The Moore family had a string of pet dogs over the years, *Pluto* the terrier and *Charlie* the poodle among them, and they kept birds also – parrots and magpies. The house was on a hill with views to the north-east over Rushcutters Bay to the Heads, and to the west over Darlinghurst and Woolloomooloo towards the city. The house had seven bedrooms, drawing and dining rooms, kitchen, laundry and toilets. Jane Moore employed a cook and a laundress to help in the house, which had high-quality furniture and furnishings, expensive china, silverware and decorations. There was always at least one piano in the house, so Amy and Emily almost certainly learned to play, and to appreciate the finer arts.



Amy Jane Moore, ca 1863<sup>35</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 18 Nov 1854 pp 1

<sup>30</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 22 May 1854 pp 3

<sup>31</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 30 Jan 1855 pp 8

<sup>32</sup> Empire 7 Mar 1855 pp 7

<sup>33</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 29 June 1858 pp 8

<sup>34</sup> Re-numbered as 34 Upper William street North in ca. 1866. Street name changed to Bayswater Rd in ca.1888.

<sup>35</sup> “Moore or Less Related”. Compiler Jenny Hawkins. 2007. Goanna Press. pp 197. Courtesy Peter Yeend

The family's move to *Chiselhurst* coincided with the opening of St John the Evangelist's Church of England, Darlinghurst - a short walk along Victoria Street and Darlinghurst Road from their home. The family were regular church-goers and, wherever she lived, Amy became an active member of her local Anglican church. The Darlinghurst Parochial Schoolhouse was attached to the church and it's possible that this is where Amy received her early education, although there were also some private schools for young women within walking distance, including the Australian Ladies' College in Craig-end Terrace, which closed in 1864. Thomas and Jane could afford to give their daughters a private school education, which included piano lessons. Amy and Emily completed their education at the Fort Street (Model) National School, Observatory Hill, which had over 400 girl students. Amy, aged 14, received a prize for good needlework at the school's annual needlework exhibition in 1868<sup>36</sup>.

Thomas and Jane had a son after moving to Darlinghurst. Tom Robert Kelsey Moore was born at *Chiselhurst* on 2 April 1863 and, no doubt, was doted upon by his two sisters Emily (13) and Amy (9). Tragically, Tom died of croup aged two years eight months, leaving Thomas and Jane without a male heir.

The Moore and Kelsey families were both involved in the hotel industry – Thomas' and Jane's generation maintained close business and family ties, which carried through to succeeding generations. Thomas transferred the publican's license of the Queensland Hotel to his nephew Charles Kelsey in July 1865<sup>37</sup>, and became a gentleman landlord, giving himself more time to spend at home with his family. Emily and Amy knew their maternal grandparents but never met their paternal grandparents. Their grandfather, Thomas Kelsey, died in 1866. They had several uncles and aunts, and fifty-five first cousins who all lived in Sydney. They had two cousins living a few doors away, Helena<sup>38</sup> and Edwin Palmer, the children of Benjamin and Emma Palmer, whom they saw often.

Jane Moore died at *Chiselhurst* on 4 August 1874, aged 47. She had been generally debilitated for some years but the immediate cause of death was an effusion on the brain<sup>39</sup>. Jane died before her daughter Emily's marriage, on 1 January 1875, to Edwin Bennett at her local church St John's, Darlinghurst. Amy Moore (aged 21) was the bridesmaid and William Whiting (aged 36) the best man. So began their two-year courtship.

This Marriage was solemnized between us { E. Bennett  
Emily Mary Moore } In the presence of us { W.G. Whiting  
Amy Moore }  
By (or before) me Thomas Hayden Officiating Minister or Registrar

## Marriage and a family.

William George Whiting (39) married Amy Jane Moore (23) on 31 March 1877 at St John's, Darlinghurst. The witnesses were William's brothers-in-law from his first marriage, William and Louis George Jullien Bennett, (Edwin's brothers). William seemed to be closer to the Bennett family than his own. The barest details are given on their marriage certificate, so William avoided disclosing his birthplace, father's name and occupation<sup>40</sup>. After the wedding, William

<sup>36</sup> Empire (Sydney) 17 Oct 1868 pp 5

<sup>37</sup> "Moore or Less Related". Compiler Jenny Hawkins. 2007. Goanna Press. pp 196

<sup>38</sup> Helena married Richard Teece. The Teece and Whiting families remained close.

<sup>39</sup> N.S.W. Death Certificate 1055/1874

<sup>40</sup> N.S.W. Marriage Certificate 460/1877

and Amy rented *Avoca Villa* for about £100 per annum. *Avoca Villa* was situated at the corner of Bondi Road and Avoca Street, Bondi. It had ten rooms, a kitchen-servant's room, wash-house with extensive stabling and about one acre of ground - quite a large and grand residence for a newly-married couple. Bondi Beach was a popular place for picnics and Bondi Road was well-used, but the infamous Bondi trams did not 'shoot through' until 1884. Each day, William travelled the seven kilometres to and from the city using horse power. William and Amy's first child, Enid Emily Whiting was born at *Avoca Villa* on 5 August 1878.

Perhaps *Avoca Villa* was too far from the city because, by December 1878, the Whitings had rented *Ardblair* at 250 Moore Park Road, situated on a hill overlooking the cricket and recreation grounds, and close to steam tram and wagonette routes to the city. *Ardblair* was a large, brick-on-stone residence connected to gas and water, with a large hall and balcony, coach-house, stable and hayloft<sup>41</sup>. Elaine Mary Whiting was born at *Ardblair* on 14 July 1880 and was baptised at St Matthias', Paddington, on 5 August 1880. Amy employed a cook and laundress to help her cope with her two young children.

Earlier in 1880, Thomas Moore transferred about six acres of land, bounded by Frenchman's Road and Avoca Street, Randwick, to his daughter Amy as part of her inheritance. Amy and William immediately began building their dream home on the site. By October 1880, they had moved from *Ardblair* to their new home named *Astolat*, which was to remain the Whiting family home for the next 31 years. It was one of only two houses on Frenchman's Road at that time and was described by some as a mansion. It 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>42</sup>. The family kept several pet dogs. Within the grounds, Amy employed a gardener to establish a large flower garden, lawns, a bush-house, poultry yard and orchard. There were paddocks where they grazed cows for milking, and horses. It was a semi-rural landscape and existence.



*Astolat*, Randwick<sup>43</sup>

Their local Anglican parish church was St Jude's, Randwick, about 400 metres south along Avoca Street. From *Astolat*, you could hear the famous church bells at St Jude's. Slightly closer were the Randwick Town Hall and Council Chambers. These buildings and the church were the main meeting places for the inhabitants of Randwick and it wasn't long before the Whitings became well-known members of the community. William, Amy and the children were regular church-goers. At the Easter vestry meeting in 1881, William was elected a sidesman and the following year, a churchwarden for the people, a position he retained for the next seventeen years.

<sup>41</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 25 Nov 1880 pp 9

<sup>42</sup> Daily Telegraph 27 February 1892 pp 7

<sup>43</sup> "Moore or Less Related". Compiler Jenny Hawkins. 2007. Goanna Press. pp 199. Courtesy Jill Davis

William caught a tram each day to his office at Prince, Ogg and Co. in George Street. His tasks there did not seem to vary much and may have been tedious, so he became involved with other organisations, both in a paid and voluntary capacity. In January 1880, William accepted a position as one of two inaugural auditors for the Metropolitan Permanent Building and Investment Association Limited, a position that he was re-elected to for the next eleven years. William and Amy were supporters of their local branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society – William was honorary treasurer. William was also on the committees of various local institutions, such as the Randwick School of Arts, the Randwick and Coogee Bowling Club, the Mansfield Cricket Club where Edwin Bennett played, the Randwick Musical Society and the Randwick Orpheus Club. When not involved in paid and unpaid work, William indulged his love of reading, learning and poetry. He had a large library at *Astolat* and encouraged his children also to read classical literature and poetry.

More children were added to the Whiting family during the 1880s at *Astolat*. Their first son, Keith Moore Whiting (my grandfather), was born on 5 June 1882 and baptised at St Jude's, Randwick on 27 June 1882. On Keith's birth certificate, William declared his own birthplace as Oxford, England<sup>44</sup>. I wonder if his wife and children ever knew that he was born in Australia, the son of a convict. Sylvia Dorothy Whiting, always known as Dossie, was born on 1 October 1884; Vera Amy Victoria Whiting was born on 6 April 1887, and their last child, William Cedric Campbell Whiting, known as Cedric, was born on 31 December 1890. All of them were baptised at St Jude's, Randwick.

Amy and William seemed to run a Victorian-style household. The children were seen and not heard, except at meal times, and there were housekeepers, maids, nannies and tutors to maintain the separation for most of the day. The children probably received their early education at *Astolat* from a governess. A letter written (downstairs) by six-year-old Keith Whiting, to his mother (upstairs), gives some insight into the relationship between the parents and children.

*Astolat*  
May 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 bat. I have a shilling left it is in my pocket. Did you hear the dogs barking the other morning. 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 say a new piece of poetry. I like play time we never have any now. I hope we have treacle pudding today.*

*Your loving son,*  
*Keith Moore Whiting*  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Amy had been brought up in a household where music was very important, and she was determined to make sure that her own children learned to play. Enid and Elaine were taught piano by a Miss Gertrude Palmer and became very proficient, performing as a duo and soloists at concerts. They were also taught to play the violin by Herr Wentzel, and performed at various charitable concerts.

In 1887, Amy's father, Thomas Moore, decided to move from *Chiselhurst*, Darlinghurst to a new house that he built on about two acres of land at the corner of Frenchman's Road and St Mark's Road, Randwick. Like *Astolat*, just a short walk away across Frenchman's Road, the

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<sup>44</sup> N.S.W. Birth Certificate 7654/1882

new house was a mansion which he named *Caerleon*. Thomas, Edwin and Emily Bennett moved in during 1888, so Thomas saw his grandchildren more often, and Amy and William introduced Emily and Edwin to the Randwick community.

Barely two years after moving to *Caerleon*, Thomas Moore (69) died there on 28 December 1890 of non-specific heart disease, just three days before his grandson Cedric was born. He was buried at Camperdown Cemetery on the 30 December. With Amy and William otherwise occupied, Edwin Bennett made the funeral arrangements and registered the death. Thomas left an estate valued at £28,981 (for probate purposes) to be held in trust and divided approximately equally between his two daughters, Emily Bennett and Amy Moore<sup>45</sup>. He appointed his nephew, Benjamin Palmer, and son-in-law, William Whiting, as trustees. Notably, Edwin Bennett was not an executor of the estate, indicating that he did not have Thomas' full trust and confidence.

William took his role as trustee for Amy and Emily very seriously and set about managing the various properties which Thomas had built and bought over the years. This increased his workload at a time when his regular job was becoming less secure. In August 1890, the offices of Prince, Ogg and Company were resumed to make way for the building of the new General Post Office. The Company sold its entire stock of drapery etc. and moved its offices next door to 70 Union Chambers, Pitt Street<sup>46</sup>. By this time, William was a very senior employee of the company and indispensable, so he moved to the new offices as well. However, with no stock to sell and no warehouse, the future of the company was in doubt. On 27 May 1891, the partners decided to dissolve Prince, Ogg and Company and so, after nineteen years of service, William (aged 53) was out of a job<sup>47</sup>.

Australia went through its most severe depression and financial crisis between 1891 and 1893<sup>48</sup>. Many building and land investment companies, including the Metropolitan Permanent Building and Investment Association Limited, of which William was an auditor, collapsed as land values fell and creditors called in loans. For an accountant like William, the depression brought increased business as a trustee of insolvent estates – mainly country stores ranging from Inverell in the north to Tumut in the south of the state. It was not a seller's market and William probably sold assets at a fraction of their pre-depression value. The magnitude of financial company failures and loss of confidence in banks forced the New South Wales and Victorian Governments to introduce emergency legislation regarding bankruptcy procedures. The aim of the legislation was to give financial institutions more time to resolve their difficulties by placing limits on creditors' rights to press for liquidation. William had to keep track of the rapid legislative changes, understand the new regulations and follow them. He kept an office at 70 Union Chambers, Pitt Street, and worked from there.

With trust income from their father's estate, Amy Whiting and Emily Bennett were financially independent from 1891 onwards. The contents of *Caerleon* were sold at auction in February 1891<sup>49</sup> and the house was rented out. Emily and Edwin Bennett moved to a smaller house and it's possible that they did not stay together. Edwin Bennett died of liver cancer at his residence at 116 Dowling Street, Moore Park, in December 1894, leaving Emily as a childless, wealthy widow. Naturally, Emily grew closer to Amy and her six children, who called Emily 'Auntie Ben'.

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<sup>45</sup> N.S.W. State Archives, Deceased Estate File 19/10187

<sup>46</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 8 September 1890 pp 1

<sup>47</sup> Daily Telegraph 28 May 1891 pp 2

<sup>48</sup> Reserve Bank of Australia RDP 2001-07. A History of Last-Resort Lending and Other Support for Troubled Financial Institutions in Australia. 6. The 1890s Depression. Bryan Fitz-Gibbon and Marianne Gizycki, 2001.

<sup>49</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 7 February 1891 pp 14

*Astolat* was also offered for a two-year rental lease from February 1892, but it seems that the Whitings could not find a tenant and stayed put<sup>50</sup>. The property portfolio that William managed (as trustee) was quite large. Apart from *Astolat* and *Caerleon* in Randwick, there were several houses in Darlinghurst (*Chiselhurst*, *Nardoo Cottage*, *Estelle* and *Carlton*), two shops and the Queensland Hotel in Erskine Street, and a house in Bourke Street. As trustee, William also built two new cottages, which he named *Avalon* and *Oenone*, on the block of land next to *Caerleon* in St Mark's Road and rented them out. As well as ensuring that the properties were well-maintained and produced rent, William also had to deal with multiple councils concerning water, roads and drainage matters, and with the State Government concerning land tax assessments. The experience added another set of skills to William's C.V.

In 1895, William dabbled in the mining industry again. Possibly to help out his friend John See M.L.A., William established the Walter Scott Gold Mining Company N.L, which had a gold mine at Cangai Creek near Grafton. John See and his brother were the major shareholders. William was the Company Manager for legal purposes and held 1000 contributing shares, paid to 2s 6d. Emily Bennett held 500 contributing shares. Although the ore was high grade, as the mine got deeper the gold could not be extracted economically from the ore and the company failed in 1898. William's and Emily's investments were worthless.

Amy had always been a supporter of local charities but, after 1890, she and Emily increased the scale and range of their charitable work. *Astolat* was offered as a venue for fundraising meetings, concerts and garden fetes. Amy encouraged her children to contribute and participate in these events<sup>51</sup>. The charities they supported were mainly involved in helping disadvantaged and sick children – The Children's Hospital, The Sick and Poor Relief Society of Randwick and Coogee, the Sydney City Mission, the Fresh Air League and the Kindergarten Union. Amy, Emily and/or William were on the committees of most of these, sometimes as an honorary secretary, treasurer or auditor.

As the Whiting children grew up, they were sent to school for a formal education. Enid and Elaine went to Ascham School at Darling Point. Neither went on to university but, when almost eighteen, Enid and Elaine made their debuts at the annual St Paul's College (Sydney University) dance, the first of many dances that they attended. Both Keith and Cedric attended Sydney Grammar School and went on to Sydney University to study arts and medicine. Dossie went to St Catherine's as a day pupil in 1893 and Vera in 1894. They both left St Catherine's at the end of 1895 and went to Ascham School to finish their education, alongside their good friends and cousins, Linda and Gladys Teece<sup>52</sup>.

## **The restless years**

In July 1897, the Whiting family decided to leave *Astolat* and Randwick. Amy auctioned her furniture and effects in August and the family moved to a house named *Llandilo* in The Boulevarde, Strathfield. The parishioners of St Jude's, Randwick, presented William and Amy with an illuminated address on their departure<sup>53</sup>. William had been a churchwarden at St Jude's for seventeen years. The Whiting's new local church became St Paul's, Strathfield, where William was elected a churchwarden at the Easter vestry meeting in 1898<sup>54</sup>.

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<sup>50</sup> Daily Telegraph 7 February 1892 pp 7

<sup>51</sup> e.g. Evening News 9 May 1890 pp 6. Sydney Morning Herald 7 Dec 1894 pp 2

<sup>52</sup> Ascham School Archives

<sup>53</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 4 September 1897 pp 10

<sup>54</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 16 April 1898 pp 10

In 1898, William became a Director of Henry Bull and Company Limited and, after a short period of having an office in the Equitable Buildings in George Street, he moved to Bull's Chambers at 14 Moore Street (which later became 28 Martin Place). William took his nephew Charles Joseph Whiting into his accounting practice.

Both William and Charles were founding members of the Corporation of Accountants of Australia (C.A.A.) which was conceived and had its inaugural meeting in August 1899, with the objectives, among other things, of elevating the status and advancing the interests of the accounting profession.<sup>55</sup> This was a forerunner of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, established by Royal Charter in 1928, with its coat of arms. Charles Whiting was elected as the first honorary auditor of the C.A.A.



William was appointed a Justice of the Peace for New South Wales on 20 August 1899<sup>56</sup>. This meant that William could notarize contracts and transfers of title etc. With this appointment, plus his accounting background, experience in wholesale drapery, property management and his high standing in the Sydney business community, William was a valuable asset for Henry Bull and Company Limited. Henry Bull established a wholesale drapery warehouse in Sydney in 1868, a competitor of Price, Ogg and Company. By the time William joined the firm in 1898, it had transformed into a London-based limited liability company and had accumulated a large portfolio of properties in New South Wales. William was the director charged with selling some of these properties in Mosman and Mudgee, but his main role seemed to be overseeing the accounting and reporting activities and standards of the company, advising the board on changing regulatory conditions, including changes to government tariffs and rail freight charges, and lobbying the government. During his time there, Henry Bull constructed a new ten-storey warehouse and office building at the corner of Market and York Streets, but William remained with Henry Bull at Bull's Chambers in Moore Street until he retired.

William and Amy did not stay at Strathfield for very long. By 1900 they had moved to *Tehama*, 71 MacLeay Street, Potts Point and then again, in August, 1900, to *Longwood* at 9 Thornton Street, Darling Point, with views to the north over the harbour<sup>57</sup>. At St Mark's Anglican Church, Darling Point, Amy and William would have rubbed shoulders with the elite of Sydney society: judges and lawyers, businessmen, professionals, politicians and pastoralists. At some point, William and Amy began to care for Mary Bennett, Emily's aging mother-in-law, who died at *Longwood* on 3 September 1901. Perhaps Emily was also living with them. In December 1901, the Whitings rented a cottage in Bowral for six months, but *Longwood* remained their home base until early 1903.

Amy and Emily continued their charitable work. Amy was honorary secretary of the Fresh Air League, which arranged for disadvantaged children in Sydney to spend time in country retreats (such as Bowral), away from the city atmosphere. They also joined the Women's Branch of the British Empire League, whose aim was to promote loyalty to the Empire within Australia.

In April 1902, *Astolat* and its surrounding four acres of land were offered for auction, either in a single lot or split lots. It appears that Amy did not receive a satisfactory bid because by April 1903, the family had returned to live at *Astolat*, and William had been re-elected as a churchwarden at St Jude's, Randwick.

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<sup>55</sup> Evening News 21 August 1899

<sup>56</sup> New South Wales Government Gazette 29 October 1899

<sup>57</sup> "Longwood" is now the name of an apartment tower at the same location.

Enid, Elaine and Dossie Whiting joined Amy and Emily to support the Free Kindergarten movement. In 1905-1906 they decided to assist working mothers by providing day care for pre-kindergarten children. They first established a Sydney Day Nursery at Woolloomooloo, with Dossie and her cousin, Linda Teece, as vice presidents. Before long, they had established two day-nurseries, with Dossie managing the Randwick one. Vera was a bit younger but helped to raise money at fete stalls.

Over the next five years the three eldest Whiting girls attended many dances and became belles of the Sydney social scene. Enid and Elaine in particular were much admired and often mentioned, sometimes pictured, in the social pages. They became engaged and all were married at St Jude's, Randwick, with receptions held at *Astolat*. Enid became engaged in December 1904 to Edward Needham Waters (known as Needham) and was married on 22 February 1905. Following their marriage, Enid and Needham moved to Melbourne, where Needham had a flourishing patent-law practice. Elaine became engaged in October 1903 to Dr Richard Andrew Phipps Waugh and was married on 23 August 1905 (see photograph on page 18). Richard had a general practice at the corner of Marsden and Macquarie Streets, Parramatta and his residence was next door. Dossie became engaged to Wilfred Leslie Moore (known as Leslie) in 1903 and waited five years before they were married on 2 January 1908. Leslie and Dossie settled in Sydney. By this time, Keith had met Jack Smyth at university; William and Amy had met the Smyth/Sands family who lived nearby at *Marmion Waverley*, and the link was well-established between the Smyths and Whitings.

## A Scandal

In 1907, Edward Ellas Moss charged William Whiting with slander. William had written a letter to one of Henry Bull and Company's suppliers, saying that Moss' reputation was not good amongst the warehouses in York Street and that it would be detrimental to the supplier's business to retain Moss as an employee<sup>58</sup>. As a result, Moss was dismissed and had struggled to find other work. William pleaded not guilty to slander on the basis that the letter and information was privileged. William won the case but Moss remained aggrieved and decided to fight William in the court of public opinion.

In late 1906 at about the same time that the charge of slander was made, Moss' marriage finally broke down and his wife left him, taking the garment-making business with her. Moss accused his wife of having affairs with several businessmen, including William Whiting, in order to secure contracts for manufacture and supply of garments to the major warehouses. He had hundreds of leaflets printed alleging that these men were conspiring to take his business away and were persecuting him through his wife. He distributed the leaflets widely, sent one to the N.S.W. State Premier, and called a public meeting in the Protestant Hall to denounce his wife and her alleged lovers. All of this scandal was raked up again in 1912 when Moss' wife eventually filed for divorce<sup>59</sup>. During the divorce trial, Moss' lawyer withdrew charges of infidelity against his wife for lack of evidence, but the trial re-awakened the doubts and painful public allegations made by Moss in his leaflets of 1907. Whether there was any element of truth in these allegations, we will never know - they seem rather far-fetched - but there is no doubt that they had a negative impact on William's and Amy's standing in the Sydney community and strained their marriage.

In 1908, not long after Dossie's marriage, William and Amy moved down to the harbour again, to *Booreen* in Darling Point Road, Darling Point. *Astolat* was rented out and became Caerleon College, a boarding and day school for girls<sup>60</sup>. William was still working for Henry Bull and

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<sup>58</sup> Evening News 19 March 1907 pp 4

<sup>59</sup> Truth 21 April 1912 pp 4. Private Edward Ellas Moss was killed at Gallipoli in August 1915.

<sup>60</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 25 Mar 1908 pp 14

Company and attended their annual picnics. He joined a committee to welcome the American Battle Fleet and became Vice President of the New South Wales Property Owners' Defence Association, a body formed to resist taxation. In December 1908, Charles Whiting, William's nephew and partner in the accounting practice, died aged 39. At age 70, William probably did not relish the thought of finding a new partner to continue the practice and began to consider retirement.



WEDDING GROUP of Dr. and Mrs. R. D. WAUGH, of Parramatta

Back Row: Mr. Moore, Miss Vera Whiting (bridesmaid), Captain and Mrs. Waters, Mr. Whiting senior, Archdeacon Abbott, Mrs. Bennett, Dr. H. Kendal, Mr. Watson, Mr. Keith Whiting and Mr. Cedric Whiting.

Front Row: Miss D. Whiting and Miss Waugh (bridesmaids), Mrs. Whiting, the Bride and Bridegroom, Mrs. Waugh, Miss Teece (bridesmaid). Dr. Waugh, and Miss Freda Lamb (bridesmaid).

Punch (Melbourne), Thursday 31 August 1905, page 2. Reproduction by Howard Harris

## Retirement and grandchildren

Between 1906 and 1914 when WWI began, William and Amy's children produced ten grandchildren for them, of which nine survived infancy. Enid and Needham's children were both born in Melbourne, so William and Amy did not see them often. Elaine and Richard had a son (Richard Bryan Phipps Waugh, born 1907) and a daughter (Sheila Patricia Phipps Waugh, born 1910) both living at Parramatta. Dossie and Leslie had two sons (John Franklin Moore born 1908, and Richard Franklin Moore born 1910) both living at Woollahra.

In August 1910, William retired from his accounting practice and directorship of Henry Bull and Company, selling his office furniture and effects from Bull's Chambers<sup>61</sup>. He was seventy-two. Amy, Vera and Emily Bennett took the S.S. *Aldenhams* to Japan via Manila, Hong Kong and Shanghai. Cedric stayed behind as he was at Sydney University studying medicine. While they were away, William went to visit his son Keith, who was Resident Surgeon at the Toowoomba General Hospital. They returned to Sydney on the S.S. *St Albans* on 30 December 1910, William having joined the boat at Brisbane.

Upon their return, Amy and William moved in with Elaine and Richard Waugh and their two children at *Caerleon*, Marsden Street, Parramatta. Amy seemed to take over running of the domestic side of the household. In October 1911, Amy again put her furniture and *Astolat* on the market, and most of it was sold for £3213. The remainder of the *Astolat* estate at Randwick, including the mansion, sold a year later for £1028. The Whitings were the first owners of *Astolat* and had lived there intermittently for 31 years. Nowadays, the only relic of *Astolat* is a cul-de-sac named Astolat Street at the same location.

On 22 November 1911, Keith Whiting married Mary Grant Smyth (my grandmother), the sister of his good friend Jack Smyth. The lavish wedding took place at the Grahame Memorial Church, Waverley, and the reception was held at the Sands/Smyth home, *Marmion*, Waverley. Keith graduated in medicine in 1910 and, before he was married, purchased a large house in Marsden Street, Parramatta, in his future wife's name<sup>62</sup>. He named the house *Astolat* also, perhaps to acknowledge that sale of the Randwick *Astolat* paid for his new home. Keith set up his practice from home, only a stone's throw from brother-in-law Richard Waugh's practice.



Amy Jane Whiting (left) and Ada Mary Smyth at the wedding of their son Keith Whiting and daughter Mary Smyth, *Marmion*, 22 Nov 1911.

<sup>61</sup> Daily Telegraph 22 Sep 1910 pp 2

<sup>62</sup> "Moore or Less Related". Compiler Jenny Hawkins. 2007. Goanna Press. pp 203



The Whiting Family, *Astolat* Parramatta, November 1911. (Surgery door at right)

Standing L to R: W. Leslie Moore, W. Cedric Whiting, Mary G. Whiting, Keith M. Whiting, Elaine M. Waugh, Richard A.P. Waugh  
Sitting L to R: Enid E. Waters with E. Edison Waters on knee, Emily M. Bennett, Amy J. Whiting, S. Dorothy Moore with Richard F. Moore on knee,  
In front L to R: John F. Moore, E. Betty Waters, R. Bryan Waugh, E. Needham Waters with Sheila P. Waugh on knee.  
Absent: William G Whiting, Vera A. V. Whiting

In April 1912, the scandal about William's alleged infidelity resurfaced publicly as a result of the Moss v. Moss divorce proceedings, which were published in the *Truth*. Perhaps this was the last straw for Amy because, from this time onwards, Amy and William spent more time apart than together.

Keith and Mary's first child, Terence Keith Smyth Whiting, was born at *Astolat* Parramatta on 12 October 1912. William and (probably) Amy moved into *Astolat*, which had more than enough rooms for them both. In January 1913 however, Amy decided to sail on the *Orsova* to Europe, accompanied by her sister Emily Bennett, daughter Vera and cousins, the Teece family<sup>63</sup>. Amy spent the next two years in Europe, returning via Melbourne in October 1914<sup>64</sup>. The details of her travels are unknown, but the outbreak of war must have impacted her travel plans. While she was away, Dossie and Leslie added another son, Keith Franklin Moore, in August 1913.



Amy Jane Whiting (perhaps during her European travels)

## War Years

Keith and Mary's second child, Ivan Moore Whiting was born at *Astolat* on 31 July 1914, four days before Australia's declaration of support of Great Britain in World War I. Keith and Cedric Whiting, Richard Waugh and Needham Waters had all been involved with militia units before the war, and all of them enlisted from November 1914 onwards. Cedric was the first to go overseas. He was posted to Rabaul in New Britain where he met an English nurse, Mary Frances Knox, known as Bobbie. They were married in Rabaul on 26 June 1915. On 2 February that year, Vera married newly graduated and enlisted Dr Fergus McIntyre, just before Fergus left for overseas service. Unlike Enid, Elaine, Keith and Dossie, the two youngest Whiting children did not have lavish weddings.

With her children mostly settled, Amy decided to complete her separation from William. On her return from overseas in late 1914, Amy stayed at *The Howard*, a boarding house in Bayswater Road, Darlinghurst<sup>65</sup> close to her childhood home. In 1915, she moved more permanently to 6 *Kingsclere* Flats, 1 Greenknowe Avenue, Elizabeth Bay, and listed herself in the Sands Directory (1916) as Mrs. A.J. Whiting. *Kingsclere* was the first high-rise block of

<sup>63</sup> Australasian 25 Jan 1913 pp 17 and 44

<sup>64</sup> Freeman's Journal 5 November 1914 p28

<sup>65</sup> National Archives of Australia. Military Record for Cedric Whiting.

luxury apartments in the Potts Point area, built in 1912. The apartments had views down the harbour to the heads and across Bennelong Point. Each apartment had six rooms plus a kitchen, pantry, two bathrooms, lavatories etc. so it was quite large. Emily Bennett probably shared Amy's apartment because they supported the same charities, with similar sized donations, at the same times. Amy's daughter-in-law Bobbie lived with her from 1916-1918 while Cedric was serving overseas<sup>66</sup>.

William stayed on at *Astolat*. According to some family reports, William travelled abroad at the beginning of the war, but I cannot discover when or where he went<sup>67</sup>. Richard Waugh went on overseas service in May 1915. Before he departed, he and Keith Whiting merged their medical practices and Keith took over in Richard's absence. Richard returned from the Western Front in December 1916 to resume the practice, and Keith departed for France in November 1916 leaving a heavily pregnant Mary at *Astolat*. Philip Sands Whiting was born on 1 January 1917 and Peter Cedric Phipps Waugh was born on 18 August 1917. Amy and William were drawn together by their grandchildren, as the following photographs show, but there are very few photographs of William that have survived, maybe because Amy did not save and treasure them.



Amy and William Whiting with grandson Philip in pram. *Astolat* Parramatta. 1917

William Whiting died of heart failure on 15 December 1917 at *Astolat*, where he had been living while Keith was serving overseas. He was aged 79 and had been suffering from heart disease for about two years. William was buried on 17 December 1917 at the Church of England Cemetery, Waverley. Richard Waugh was William's medical attendant and informant of the death in Keith's absence. William's death certificate perpetuated the myth of his English birthplace<sup>68</sup>.

## **Amy's widowhood**

As the men returned from overseas active service during 1918 and 1919, the Whiting family gradually returned to normal. By 1919, Amy (65) and Emily (68) had withdrawn from active participation on the committees of charitable organisations, but continued to donate cash to worthy causes and to support Amy's daughters in their many charitable activities. Four post-war grandchildren arrived; Margaret Mary 'Margot' Moore (1919), Rosamund Mary Whiting (1920), Gilbert Fergus Kelsey McIntyre (1921) and Sybil Kane Whiting (my mother, 1922), bringing the total to fifteen surviving grandchildren. Amy was by all accounts a doting

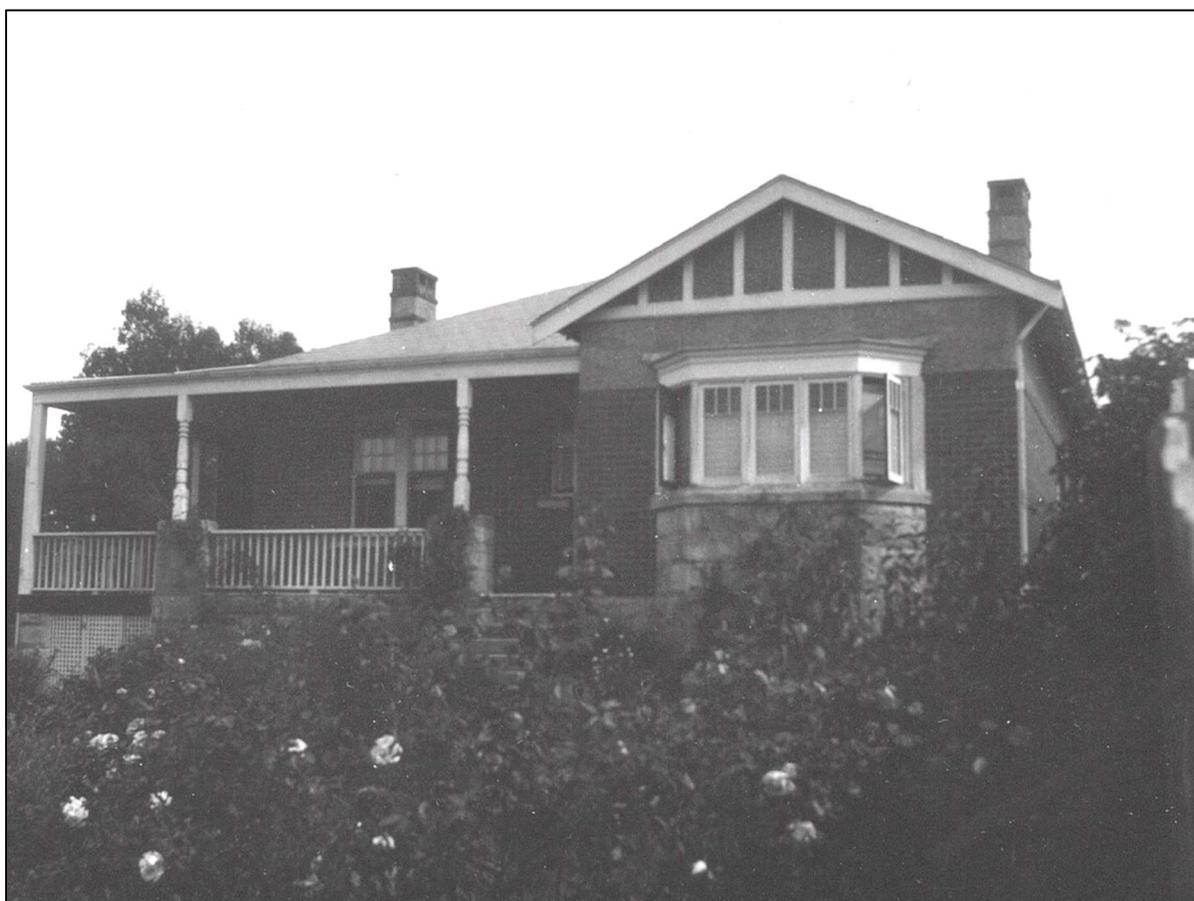
<sup>66</sup> National Archives of Australia. Military Record for Cedric Whiting.

<sup>67</sup> "Moore or Less Related". Compiler Jenny Hawkins. 2007. Goanna Press. pp 199

<sup>68</sup> N.S.W. Death Certificate 17382/1917

grandmother, and Emily Bennett was a supportive 'Auntie Ben' to the twelve Sydney-based children.

By 1922, Amy and Emily were living in an apartment 1/78 Bayswater Road, Darlinghurst and, in June that year, burglars stole a large quantity of jewellery and clothing from the apartment, including several diamond and sapphire rings<sup>69</sup>. It is not known if any of her property was recovered. Later that year, Amy and Emily moved briefly to Boronia Street in Burwood before settling into a seven-roomed, federation-style bungalow named *Kuradui*, at 55 The Boulevarde, Strathfield.



*Kuradui*, 55 The Boulevarde, Strathfield

In 1925, Dossie's husband Leslie Moore deserted his family. Amy and Emily supported and sheltered Dossie with her children John (17), Dick (15), Keith (12) and Margot (6) at *Kuradui* until the family could get on its feet again. Dossie's divorce became absolute in May 1926<sup>70</sup>.

Amy and Emily lived the rest of their lives at *Kuradui*. They remained fairly active, attending church and local meetings of interest to them, and entertaining their grandchildren as often as possible. Amy's eldest daughter, Enid Waters, died in Melbourne in December 1929 aged 51. Amy's youngest daughter Vera, who spent much of her married life overseas, visited Strathfield briefly to see her mother in August 1935.

Amy Whiting died of heart failure, aged 81, at *Kuradui* on 7 September 1935. Her son-in-law, Dr Richard Waugh, was attending her on the day. She was cremated on the same day at the

<sup>69</sup> New South Wales, Australia, Police Gazette. 21 Jun 1922, page 343. Ancestry.com

<sup>70</sup> Sydney Morning Herald 26 May 1926

Rookwood Crematorium, according to Church of England rites. Amy left her entire estate and half share in *Kuradui*, valued at £1641 for probate purposes, to her sister Emily Bennett, who stayed at *Kuradui* until her death in 1939.<sup>71</sup>

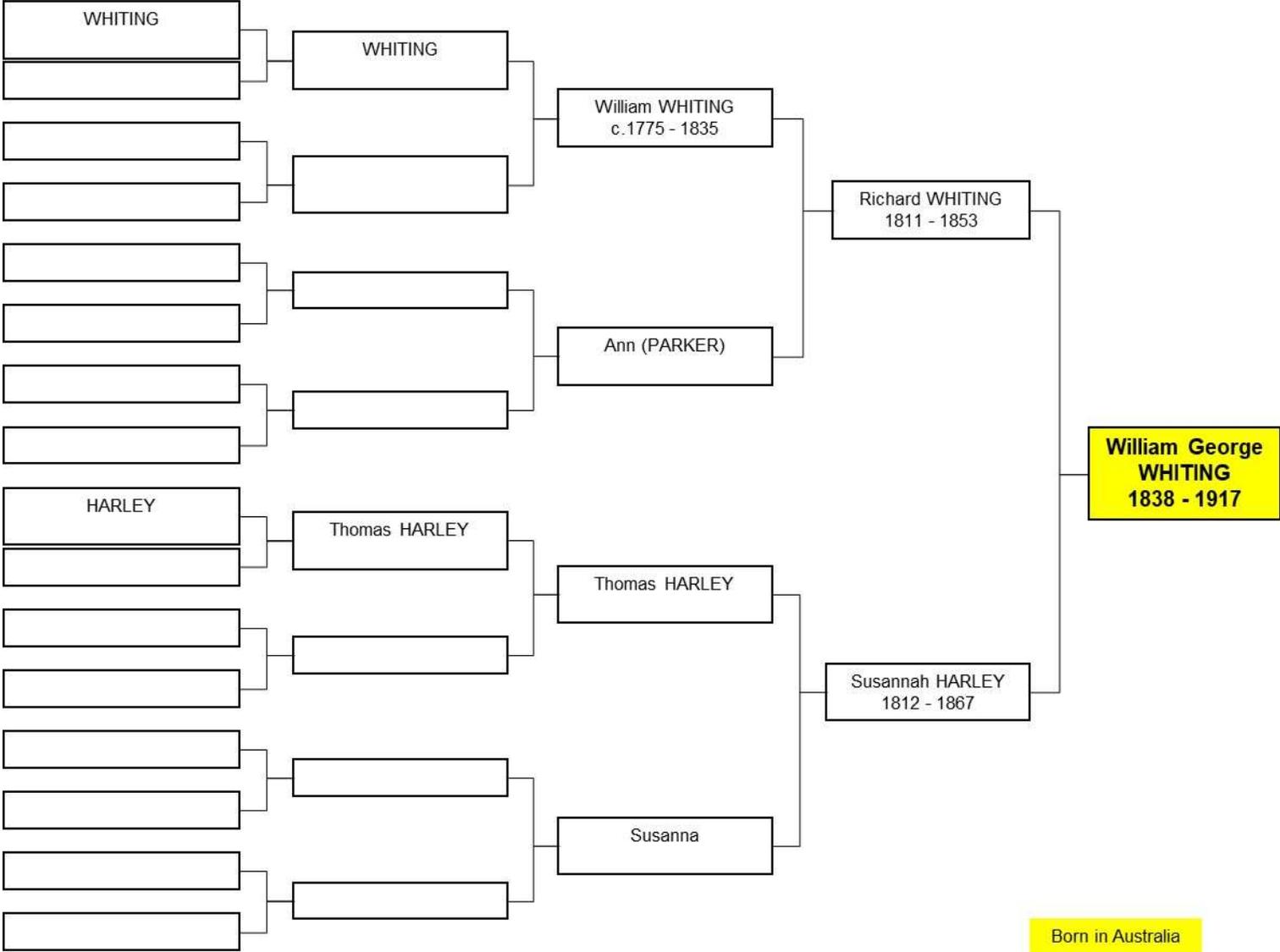


Amy Jane Whiting (front) and Emily Mary Bennett,  
*Kuradui*, Strathfield ca 1930.

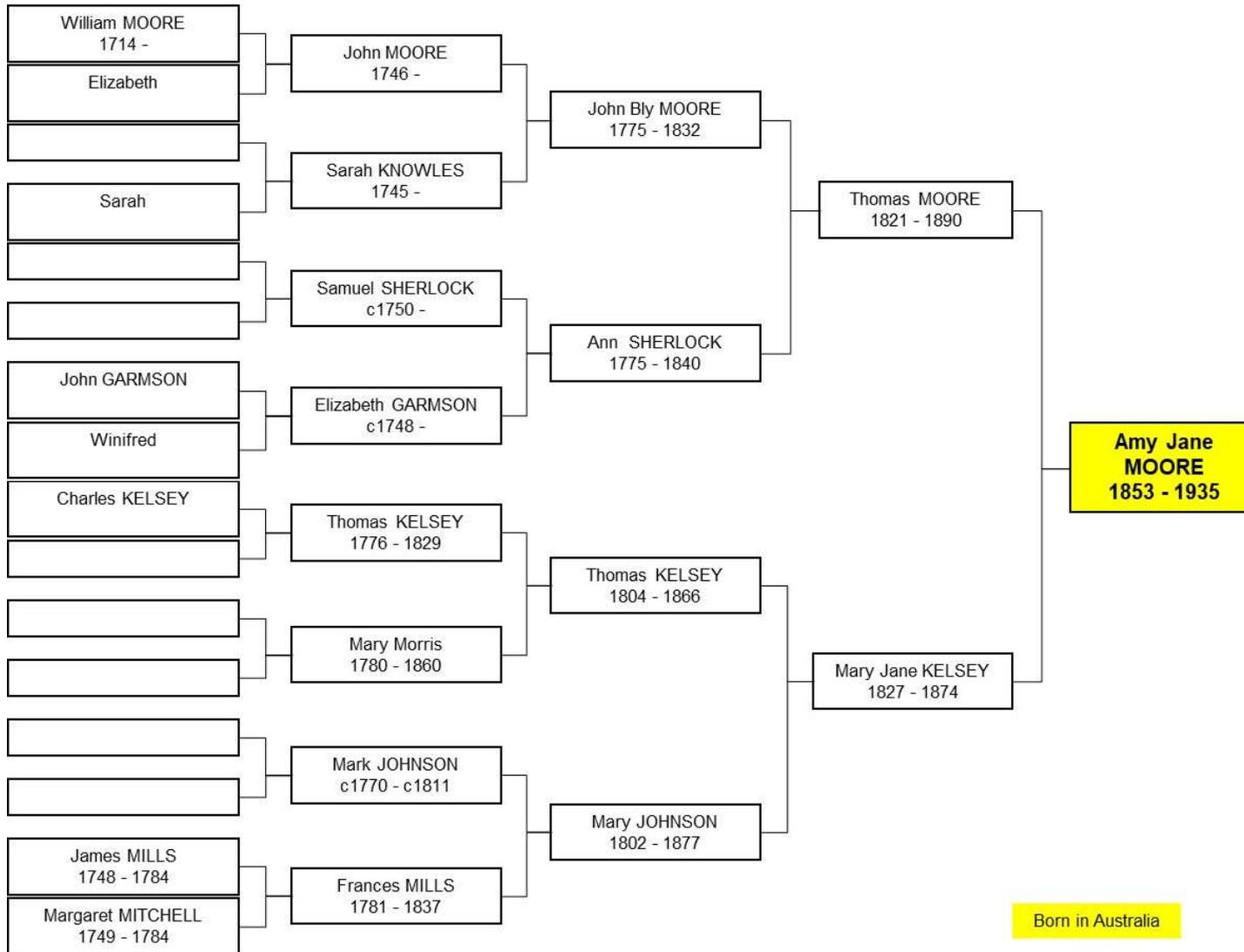
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<sup>71</sup> N.S.W. State Archives Deceased Estates. Item Pre A 099395 (20/2073)

# WILLIAM GEORGE WHITING'S ANCESTORS



## AMY JANE MOORE'S ANCESTORS



## WILLIAM GEORGE AND AMY JANE WHITING'S FAMILY

