

The Stanleys of Redfern

A brief account of the family history has been written previously by Elizabeth Stanley (Aunty Bess) and revised after her death by Helen Stanley (Aunty Nell). Parts of the story were also unearthed by Philip Chaplin and other family members. The amount of information that is available has increased over recent times, especially thanks to the help of Pat Silman. Pat's great grandfather was Christopher Patrick Stanley (1856 - 1883), the elder brother of Matthew Stanley, the forebear of our branch of the Stanleys (1864 - 1948), both of whom were sons of Patrick Stanley (1826 - 1915), the founder of the 'Australian family'.

Pat and her sister Sue and brother Peter had contacts with some of the family of Matthew Stanley at different times, especially with Helen Stanley ("Mother Gonzaga") - known to our family as "Aunty Nell". However we had not been in contact with them in recent decades, so it was a pleasant surprise to re-establish contact and to share information over the past few years.

The earliest documented member of the family, Christopher Stanley, was a cooper and farmer in Trim, County Meath. He is known to have had several siblings - as some of their children came to Australia in the 1850s. A brother named Nicholas had three children who came to Sydney, while two sisters, named Margaret and Mary, also had children who migrated to New South Wales. Christopher was born around 1791, having been 30 at the time of the 1821 census in Meath, at which time he was a journeyman cooper and was apparently working in the cooper's workshop of Andrew Duffy. He died, as a young man, somewhere around 1830. His wife was Mary Proctor, whose parents were John Proctor, another farmer from the same area, and Elizabeth Dunn. John Proctor died around 1810 and Elizabeth Dunn then married Andrew Duffy, thus becoming Elizabeth Duffy. Mary was born around 1804, as evidenced by her death certificate which gives her age as 89 in October 1893.

She was aged 20 at the time of her marriage which presumably took place around 1824. She and Christopher had three children (two boys and a girl), before Christopher died. The son, Patrick - born around 1826, and the daughter (also named Mary) survived but no record gives details of their brother, who is presumed to have died in infancy or early childhood? In about 1837 Mary (then aged 33) re-married, to another farmer, Richard Keating. They had one son Thomas, who was born in about 1839. It seems likely that within the



Mary Stanley

next few years Richard Keating also died leaving Mary to bring up her three surviving children Patrick and Mary Stanley and Thomas Keating. The potato famine of 1845 - 50 brought great hardship to many Irish families and led to a mass exodus to other countries, including Australia. On April 12th 1848 three migrants arrived in Botany Bay on the Subraon - Charles Duffy, with his sister Jane and his wife Mary (nee Proctor). Charles Duffy was a half brother to Mary Stanley / Keating, having been born around 1822 and hence aged 26 when he arrived in New South Wales. Charles later sponsored Thomas Keating to travel to Australia and also sponsored his wife's brother John Proctor, who was to be a witness at the marriage, in 1855, of Patrick Stanley. Patrick himself, who was to be the founder of our branch of the Stanleys in Australia, came out in the following year - arriving in Botany Bay on the 2nd September 1849 on the Victoria. His passage was said to have been paid by an uncle, though whether this was Charles Duffy is unknown?

Charles Duffy was about seventeen years younger than his half sister Mary Proctor, but was recorded as being an uncle to Thomas Keating. Their mother Elizabeth Dunn was born around 1784 (being 37 at the time of the 1821 census). It was thought that Andrew Duffy remarried and that Charles's subsequent children Jane, Thomas and Elizabeth Duffy were the children of a second wife (Bridget). However the 1821 census gives Andrew Duffy as being married to Bridget at that time (before Charles was born) and also documents Mary Proctor as being her daughter "by a former marriage". Mary's age was given as 13 in the census, but other information suggests that she was probably 16 at that time? Julia Duffy was also documented in the census, being aged 2 and hence born around 1819. The confusion over the mother's name may be explicable on the basis that in some Irish families the name "Bridget" was used as a nickname for individuals named Elizabeth? If this is the case then Elizabeth and Bridget may have been the same individual and may well have been the mother of Mary Proctor and Julia and Charles Duffy and of the subsequent Duffy children. Thomas Duffy also came to Australia and Elizabeth Duffy was to marry John Proctor (Charles's brother in law) in 1857. John Proctor and his sister Mary (wife of Charles Duffy) were probably also related to Mary Stanley / Keating (nee Proctor), quite possibly first cousins? Their father was Patrick Proctor, who may have been a younger brother of John Proctor (first husband of Elizabeth Dunn and father of Mary Stanley). Thus the relationships between the Stanleys / Duffys and Proctors are probably quite complex, with several intermarriages?

By 1849, one year after arriving in the colony, Charles Duffy was living and working with John Baptist who ran a nursery and market garden in the Redfern area. It was here too that Patrick Stanley found work (perhaps through the influence of Charles Duffy?) in the early years after he arrived. Thus, by the early 1850s, there were a number of family members in Australia and more were to follow over the years that followed. Mary Stanley, Patrick's

sister, arrived on the "Wilson Kennedy" on 27th December 1852. She married William Wales in 1860, and died in 1868, leaving three young children. Mary Stanley / Keating (Patrick's mother) probably arrived in late 1853 or early 1854 - her fare being paid for by Patrick. Patrick's half brother Thomas Keating, along with John Proctor and Thomas Duffy all arrived on the Rodney which reached Botany Bay on March 15th 1854. Supposedly Mary Stanley / Keating (Thomas Keating's and Patrick Stanley's mother) had already arrived by a different ship, either earlier that year or in the previous year?

A young Elizabeth Regan arrived in October 1853 on the Ellenborough, being then aged 19 and described as a "farm house servant", also from Trim. She was recorded as having an aunt in the colony - Julia Duffy, who was probably the same Julia, Charles Duffy's sister. If so she may also have had a family connection to Mary Stanley / Keating? Her father was another farmer, Matthew Regan, and her mother was named Bridget (surname not known).

At any rate Elizabeth (Bessie) Regan and Patrick Stanley were married in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney on 19th Feb 1855, with Mary Stanley (Patrick's sister) and John Proctor as witnesses.

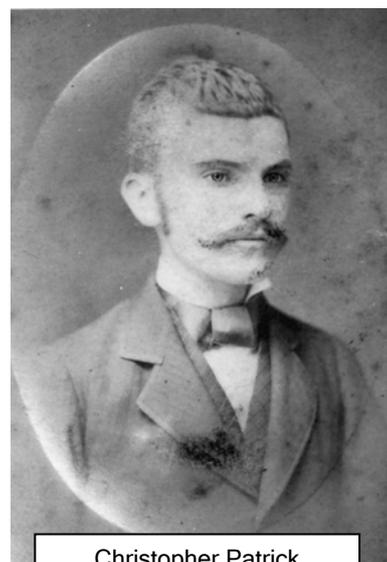


Patrick and Bessie Stanley

Both Charles Duffy and Patrick Stanley sponsored many other migrants over the following years - Stanleys, Regans and many more. Pat Silman, a great great grand daughter of Patrick and Bessie, who has done much of the research about the many family members who came from Meath to Sydney, suggested that "I think between Patrick and Charles, they brought out the whole of Trim?" John Baptist's nursery and market garden was evidently a substantial and very successful business and no doubt played a pivotal role

in shaping Patrick's future in the colony and in Redfern in particular. He acquired land and several properties and became established as a fruit merchant and later a shipping providore. The family business started in around 1864 and, at various stages, involved Patrick and his half brother Thomas and his eldest son, Christopher Patrick Stanley (b 1856).

By 1880, if not earlier, it had acquired the name "Stanley and Co", with Christopher Patrick Stanley and Thomas Keating as the two partners in the venture. Christopher Patrick Stanley died in 1883



Christopher Patrick Stanley

after a short illness and his father (Patrick) ran the business in the years that followed. Thomas became a publican after Christopher Stanley's death and died in 1888.

A grandson, Christopher Patrick Bede Stanley (1883 - 1969), was taken into the business after he left school at the age of 14 - purportedly by "his uncles", Patrick Scahill and Jack O'Brien (husbands of Mary and Catherine Stanley), both of whom became partners in the business in the late nineteenth / early twentieth century. He continued both as a fruit merchant and as a shipping providore, but changed the name of his business to "Christopher Stanley Shipping Providore". The original company "Stanley and Co" seems to have continued under the same name - perhaps run for a time by the 'uncles'? A company of the same name was in existence until recently, but whether it was the successor of the original Stanley company is not clear? Christopher (1883 - 1969) continued as a fruit merchant throughout his working life and was given



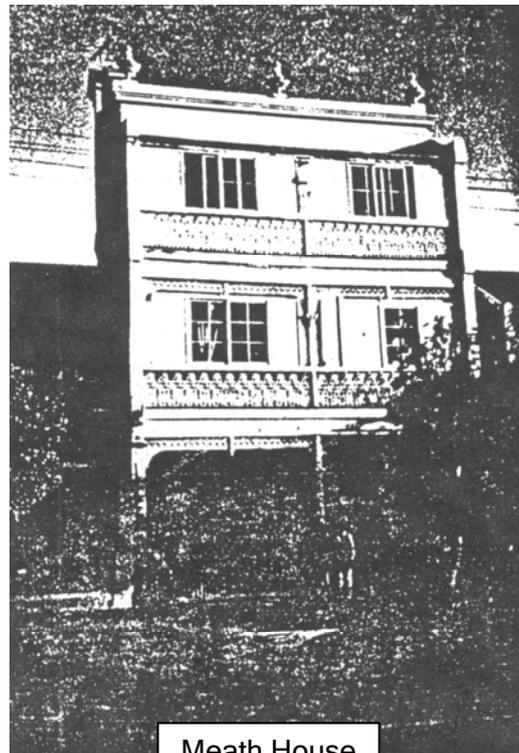
Christopher Patrick
Bede Stanley

the unusual distinction of being allowed to display a Royal Coat of Arms and the sign "Under Vice Regal Patronage" by the Governor General, Lord Denham, in 1912. Patrick Stanley had established himself as a leading citizen in Redfern by the early 1870s, being elected an Alderman of the Surry Hills ward in 1872 and having been Mayor of Redfern in 1876, 1877, 1878 and 1881. He finally retired as an Alderman in

1886, being by then 60 years old.

His half brother, Thomas Keating, married Bridget Geoghegan in 1861 and they had two children, Mary (1864) and Richard (1866). Thomas died in 1888.

Patrick and Bessie lived in Cleveland Street in Redfern in a three story house with wrought iron balconies, typical of the period, named appropriately "Meath House". It used



Meath House

to be no 35 Cleveland St, but now is no 461. The name was changed to "Illoura" and more recently to "Gracelands" (it is now a back packer's hostel). It was originally part of a small terrace of houses called "Stanley Terrace". Here they brought up their family of two sons and five daughters (another son had died during early childhood). The house remained a part of the Stanley family life well into the twentieth century, when grandchildren used to visit there, as recalled by Elizabeth (Aunty Bess) and Helen (Aunty Nell) Stanley, who were both daughters of Matthew Stanley - see "Meath House".

Patrick and Bessie's oldest son, Christopher Patrick Stanley, who joined in the 'family business' and was in partnership with his father's half brother, Thomas Keating, married Elizabeth English when aged 23. She was a mere sixteen at the time of their marriage. They had two children over the next four years, before Christopher died, at the early age of 27. Elizabeth re-married and had several further children subsequently.

The elder of their two children Elizabeth Mary (called Lena) became a well known and talented singer. Her brother, Christopher Patrick Bede Stanley followed his father and grandfather into the family business, as previously discussed.

Patrick and Bessie had five daughters and three sons (one of whom died in infancy). Four of the girls married and had families of their own.

The youngest daughter, Julia, died in early adult life having been crippled by spinal tuberculosis for many years. Bridget, the eldest daughter (1857 -



Matthew and Mary Agnes Stanley



Kincora

1932), married Matthew Keogh. Her next sister Mary (1859-1928) married Jack O'Brien. Catherine (1861-1936) married Patrick Scahill while Anne Elizabeth (1869-1956) married Lionel Bridge.

After Christopher Patrick Stanley died in 1883 (aged 27) his younger brother, Matthew Stanley (then aged 19) was the sole male survivor. It appears that he did not join the family business as a shipping providore but set up his own grocery business on the other side of the street from his parents, at 512 Cleveland Street.

He lived for some time in the family shop, where he and his wife, born Mary Agnes Kelly, reared their own expanding family of four sons and eight daughters, and then for many years just round the corner, at "Kincora", 651 South Dowling Street.

Later in his life Matthew moved to Bondi, where he lived in his later years with three of his unmarried daughters (Bess, Agnes and Marion). He died in 1948 at the age of 83. His children were the last to carry the Stanley name.

Aunty Nell (Helen Stanley) died in 1992 and, with her, sadly the name died out as only one of her brothers, another Patrick (uncle Rick), had children and his only son (William Stanley, 1919-1944) died of TB during world war II, while serving for the Australian Navy in Ceylon.

Two of Matthew Stanley's sons (Bill and Jack) studied medicine at university and qualified as doctors. Tragically both died young, without marrying. Another brother - Kevin, the youngest of the family, was married but never had children. Of the eight daughters four went into the convent, becoming Mercy nuns.

Of the other four daughters only Mary Eileen (b 1904) married (to Arnold Chaplin). She and "Uncle Rick" (Patrick - her eldest brother) had children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, but none have passed on the Stanley name to the current generations.

In the present era there are many descendants of Patrick and Bessie Stanley - great grand sons and great grand daughters and later generations too, bearing the names of the husbands who married the daughters, grand daughters and great grand daughters of Patrick Stanley and Bessie. Sadly though, the surname "Stanley" has disappeared from this family - at least amongst the descendants of Patrick. There are still descendants of his cousins who came to Australia, but none (as yet found) carrying the Stanley name?



Helen Stanley (Nell)
(Mother Gonzaga)
The last to carry the
Stanley surname.