

WILLIAM GORDON POWELL AND HIS FAMILY

About a year ago I bought from ebay, a number of sympathy cards addressed to a local Maryborough family, and so the mission began to find out about the Powell Family.

William Gordon Powell died on 22nd January 1913. William was born to Emma Catherine Munro (*spellings vary throughout various records- Monro, Munro, Munroe*) and William Powell in 1880 with the birth registered in Maryborough. (BDM only has William as his name)

This is the story of the Powell and extended family and their unfortunate lives.

Emma Catherine Munro was born in Birmingham on 1st October 1840 to William Munro and Sarah Adderly, baptised 4th January 1842 at Saint Martin, Birmingham. The 1841 census show Emma living with her paternal grandparents with her mother so assumed that William had died soon after Emma's birth. Her mother remarried in 1847 to Charles Richardson.

Emma came to Australia some time after 1851, as she appears on the 1851 British census, and before 1859 when she married, but haven't confirmed shipping records, but hospital patient register says she arrived on Carrier Dove arriving 1858. Emma married James Francis Crumpton in 1859 and started their family: Frederick Munro, registered 1859, North Melbourne, William Henry registered 1862 Maryborough and George Francis registered 1863 Maryborough who died one year later from dysentery and is buried in the Maryborough cemetery.

The local rates index show that James Crumpton, wheelwright, was paying rates on a wooden house in Napier Street up until 1864 when his name was stuck out and "now Harkness" written beside.

After searching all the various state BDM's, I tried a search of Familysearch online and found a James Francis Crumpton who died in New Zealand 3rd June from pneumonia and is buried in an unmarked grave at the Bolton Street Cemetery in Wellington, New Zealand. A further search found that there was also a Frederick Munro Crumpton who died on 3rd May 1865 aged 6 and is also buried there. As the name was so specific it had to be Frederick Munro, the eldest son of James and Emma Crumpton. There was also the birth of John Joseph Thomas Crumpton in May 1865 to parents Emma and James Crumpton.

On the NZ death record of James Francis the informant was Thomas Crumpton, brother to deceased. James and Emma must have either followed or accompanied Thomas and his wife Cath and their family to New Zealand in 1864. Thomas had married Cath Thompson in Victoria in 1853 and had four children in Victoria: Martha b 1855, Cath Ellen b 1859, Mary Elizabeth b 1857 and Charlotte b 1861. No place of birth appeared on the Victorian marriage index of either James or Thomas or the death record of James.

Around 1866 Emma returned to Maryborough with a young William and baby John (Joe) and continued to pay rates on the Napier street property until 1872

A search of the Victorian BDM found that Emma Catherine Crumpton married William Powell on 26th December 1872 at Christ Church, Maryborough:

SCHEDULE D.					SCHEDULE D.				
1872. Marriages solemnized in the District of <i>Maryborough.</i>					in the Colony of Victoria.				
No. in Register	When and where solemnized.	Name and Residence of the Parties.	Condition of the Parties.		Residence.	Residence.		Parents.	
			Single or Widower. If a Widower, of what date of Death of former Wife or Husband.	Single or Widower. If a Widower, of what date of Death of former Wife or Husband.		Present.	Deceased.	Name (Mother's Name first).	Father's Rank or Profession.
300	26 December 1872 Christ Church Maryborough	William Powell Emma Catherine Crumpton	Bachelor	Widow (since 1865)	Maryborough	Maryborough	Maryborough	William Powell Esq. (Carpenter)	Emma Cath. (Clergy)
<p><i>I, Benjamin John Walker, being incumbent minister, do hereby certify, that I have this day, at Christ Church, Maryborough, solemnized Marriage between William Powell and Emma Catherine Crumpton after Notice and Declaration duly made and published, as by law required (and with the written consent of</i></p> <p>Dated the <i>twenty-sixth</i> day of <i>December</i> 1872. Signature of Minister, Registrar-General, or other Officer <i>B. J. Walker</i></p>									
<p>Marriage of <i>William Powell</i>, was solemnized between <i>William Powell</i> and <i>Emma Catherine Crumpton</i> according to the rites of the <i>Anglican Church of England</i> by <i>Ben. J. Walker</i> Minister.</p> <p>Witness <i>Anna Davies</i></p>									

There were four children from this marriage, Annie registered 1874, Minnie registered 1876, Alfred registered 1877 and William registered 1880 (known as Gordon as there was already a William in the household) with all births registered in Maryborough. Alfred died 25th August 1877 aged 3 months and is buried in the Maryborough cemetery.

The blended Crumpton Powell family lived in the Napier Street house with William Powell (Mason) as the rated person and owner until 1888 when the rated person and owner changed to William Henry Crumpton, the eldest surviving son of James Francis and Emma Munro.

BOROUGH OF MARYBOROUGH

AN ASSESSMENT to the BOROUGH RATE for the period ending the
our Lord 1888, after the Rate of *Fifteen* ——— Pence

No. on the Rate.	Surname of Person Rated.	Christian Names of Person Rated.	Trade or Occupation.	Is Person Occupying Owner, Lessee, Assignee or Occupying Tenant.
<i>✓ 934</i>	<i>Crumpton</i>	<i>William Hy</i>	<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>C</i>

On 1st November 1899 Emma's son John Joseph Thomas Crumpton died, aged 34, at his home in Raglan Street. His body was found by a young William Gordon Powell, who had gone to check on his half brother as his sister, Annie had left a note (on the back of an envelope which was include in the inquest papers)

Gordon ~~When~~ when did you
see Joe last I have not seen
him all the week go up
tomorrow & see how Joe is
I feel anxious ask him
down to have tea with
you. Have you answered
mother's letter yet -
I have written & sent -
the paper
good night dear
brother hope you
are quite well
Annie

“Gordon, When did you see Joe last. I have not seen him all the week. Go up tomorrow and see how Joe is. I feel anxious. Ask him down to have tea with you. Have you answered mother yet. I have written and sent the paper. Goodnight dear brother hope you are quite ll...Annie”

It turns out that Annie had reason to be anxious. Annie was working and possibly living at the Albion Hotel at the time. Emma was away from home in Melbourne at the time of her sons death.

The inquest returned a finding of death by natural causes. Sadly Joe's wife Isabella Louise Whitelaw had died on 17th April 1899 aged 39

He died on 20th May 1910 and he is buried in Footscray Cemetery with his infant son. His wife, Mary died 23rd July 1930 aged 52 and is also buried at Footscray.

Mrs Emma Powell was the rated person in a wooden house owned by John Thornhill in Carlyle Street from 1901 through 1908. The Higham Street home continued to be rated to William Henry Crompton until 1901.

The 1903 Electoral role lists Emma, Annie, Minnie and William Gordon all living in Carlyle Street.

Minnie Powell died at Sunbury Asylum on 17th June 1908 with the inquest finding that she died of exhaustion brought about by brain disease. Emma and Annie had visited a few days earlier. Minnie is buried at the Maryborough Cemetery.

Emma moved to a house in Burke Street in 1908 after the death of Minnie where she remained until her Death in 1920. Emma, Annie and William Gordon were on the 1909 Electoral role at this address.

On 22nd January 1913 tragedy again struck the family- William Gordon Powell died at home in Burke Street at the age of 32. Gordon had worked at Fred Fishers local grocery as a grocers assistant. He had been involved with the firebrigade and the Stanley Lodge of Druids. He had been a fine footballer until an injury. A newspaper article described him as a doughty player and pedestrian until his injury. He was admitted to the Maryborough hospital in 1902 due to an accident-perhaps this was the injury that stopped his football playing. He was known for his charitable works as well as a vocalist. There was no inquest, so the circumstances of his death must have been known. One newspaper item mentions “ after a short illness”

POWELL.—On the 22nd January, at Maryborough, William Powell, beloved son of Emma Catherine and the late William Powell, and loving brother of Annie Powell, aged 32 years.

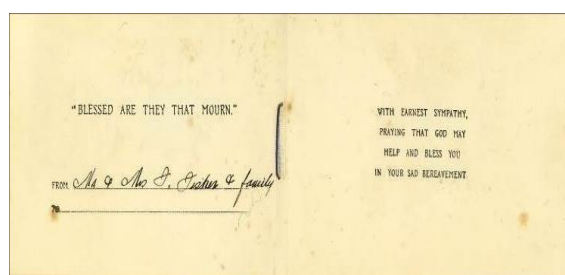
The sympathy cards reflect the esteem in which William Powell and his family were held. A hand written letter addressed to Mrs Powell from the Hon A R Outtrim Labour Member for Maryborough expressing his sympathy.

Cards from Mr and Mrs F Fisher and family, the Bristol Hill football Club, his workmates (from Fishers,) as well as neighbours and friends.

Waltham
22.1.13

Dear Mr Powell,
I was so sorry
to hear of the death
of your son,
Please accept
my heartfelt sympathy
in your sad bereavement

Yours Respectfully
A. R. Outtrim

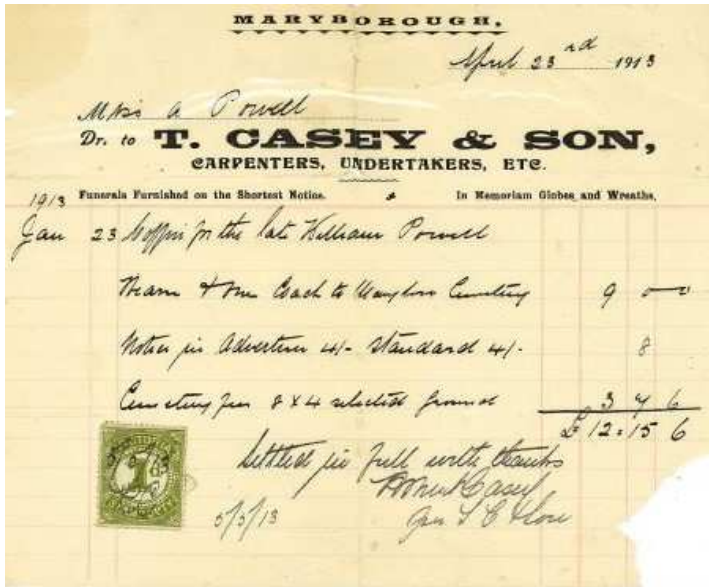


and well-to-do-keeper.

FIREMAN'S DEATH.

Mr William Powell, an active member of the local Fire Brigade, died on Wednesday at the age of 32. Deceased was a good vocalist, and prior to meeting with an injury to his leg was a doughty footballer and pedestrian.





The Maryborough and Dunolly advertiser 22nd January edition carried an article as well as his death notice with funeral arrangements being undertaken by Thomas Casey and Son of Maryborough.

Emma Catherine Powell was found dead in her Burke Street home on 26th March 1920 by her neighbour. She was 80 years old. The local newspaper reported that she had suffered a heart attack.

Both William Gordon and Emma died intestate and the Master in Lunacy instructed Walter Bryant, House Curator of Deceased persons to make application for granting of probate on behalf of Annie Powell as the only living relative of William and Emma and currently an inmate at the Ballarat Lunatic Asylum.

The remaining member of the Powell family, Annie, died in the Ballarat Asylum on 1st October 1940 of Endocarditis and cardiac failure. So sad that she had spent the last 20 years of her life in there with no remaining family.

I have been unable to locate any positive record of the death of William Powell Snr. I have assumed that it was sometime after 1890, as William was admitted to hospital several times the last being on 15th November 1890 and 1898, as Emma was admitted to the hospital 5th December 1898, she was listed as a Widow. There was a William Powell who died at the Prince Alfred Hospital aged 63 in 1892, which fits his birth in 1832 but no parents are listed on the Victorian Death Registration. Information from the hospital admission has him arriving on board Witness about 1854.

Williams parents were William Powell and Ann Griffith who married in Neath, St Thomas Glamorganshire Wales on 12th April 1828.

Emma Catherine Munro Crumpton Powell certainly saw a lot of death and sadness with the demise of her entire family in her life time. There were no children born to any of the Powell Children so this was the end of the family line of William and Emma Powell.

All Research material used for this research is accessible to Group members, using the Group resources and indexes as well as internet access (PRO Vic, NZ BDM, FamilySearch, Trove) and Local newspaper microfilm in the Public Library. There are some instances where I have made deductions from the information available and have been able to construct a reasonable family history record of the Crumpton/Powell Family from easily accessible and available information but as with all family research you need to prove and document sources of what you suppose.

Barb Humphrey

2019

