

SAMUEL STEPHEN (Young Steve) 1859 to 1930

By 1873 Steve's brothers William and James were at Yarcowie. Neither were married and it is clear that their younger brothers were also there helping them to establish the newly acquired farm at Mt Sly some two and a half miles from the town on the road to Jamestown. In March 1876, their father Samuel sold 80 acres of his land at Armagh and in September 1877 sold the remainder. He and Maria joined their sons at the Mt Sly property.

In November that same year George Francis bought 410 acres at Gumbowie about ten miles to the north and we believe that Steve and John Joseph moved from Yarcowie to help him with his new property. William married Katie O'Brien married in 1877 and had a child at Yarcowie in 1878. However, by 1880 their second child was born at Lancelot. This indicates that by this time William was more interested in his Carrier and Teamster activities and had moved to Lancelot.

Some of this is difficult to confirm especially in relation to the timing. However, by 1881 the directories were indicating that James and Samuel were at Yarcowie and Stephen and George were at Gumbowie. Given the data collection and production issues with these publications, lags of a year or so could be expected.

On 19 September 1881 Stephen married Catherine Hanora Madden at St Simon & Jude's Whyte Yarcowie. The witnesses were John Harford, Stephen's younger brother and Kate Smith who was later to marry Stephen's brother George Francis. Immediately prior to the wedding on 18 September Steve was baptized in the Catholic Church.

1881. Married in the District of <i>Clare</i> .							
No. When Married	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Trade or Calling.	Residence at Time of Marriage.	Name and Surname of Fathers of both parties.	Place in which celebrated.
<i>September 19th</i>	<i>Stephen Harford</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Bachelors</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Gumbowie</i>	<i>Samuel Harford</i>	<i>St. Simon & Jude's Yarcowie.</i>
	<i>Catherine Madden</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Hundred of Whyte</i>	<i>James Madden</i>	<i>Yarcowie.</i>
1881.							

This Marriage was celebrated between us.	<i>John Harford</i> <i>Catherine Madden</i>	In the presence of us	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name.</th> <th>Trade or Calling.</th> <th>Residence.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>John Harford</i></td> <td><i>Farmer</i></td> <td><i>Gumbowie</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Kate Smith</i></td> <td><i>—</i></td> <td><i>Hundred of Whyte</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Name.	Trade or Calling.	Residence.	<i>John Harford</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Gumbowie</i>	<i>Kate Smith</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>Hundred of Whyte</i>
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<i>John Harford</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Gumbowie</i>												
<i>Kate Smith</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>Hundred of Whyte</i>												
<i>Witness to mark John E. Pallhuber, S.J.</i>														

I, above-named *Stephen Harford* and *Catherine Madden* were duly Married by me, before me, at the time and place above-named, and in the presence of witnesses whose signatures are above written

Witness my hand this *nineteenth* day of *September*, 1881. *John E. Pallhuber, S.J.* Officiating Clergyman.

Marriage Certificate Stephen and Catherine Hanora (Nora)

Catherine (Nora) was the daughter of James Madden and was born in Galway Ireland in about 1860 and was aged 21 when they married. The Certificate indicates Steve was living at Gumbowie. The Celebrant was Fr. John Pallhuber a Jesuit from Sevenhill who was essentially a roving Parish Priest for the area north of Clare.

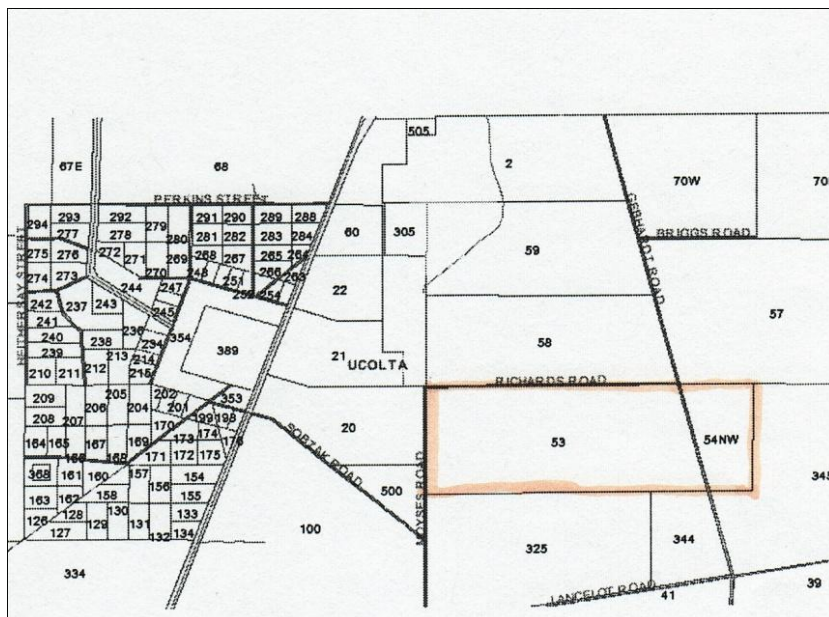


Catherine Hanora (Nora) Madden

On 4 February 1884, Stephen purchased Section 53 Hundred of Gumbowie, County of Kimberley. He was aged 24 and at that time he and Catherine had one child born in June 1882 at Yarcowie and Catherine was expecting a second who was born in May 1884 at Lancelot just a couple of months after buying his land. Having started a family it was clear that they needed to establish their own home and build their lives together,

The land consisted of 527 acres and he paid 540 Pounds 3 Shillings and 6 Pence¹ or 1 pound and 6 Pence per acre, a little over the minimum upset price of one pound per acre. Stephen did not participate in the credit selection process. It appears he paid cash for the land and did not take out a mortgage on the property to assist in its purchase. This raises the question of where he obtained the money for the purchase. The logical place would have been from Samuel and/or James.

Just over a year later, on 25 July 1885 Stephen purchased Section 54 NW which was land adjoining Section 53 although today there is a road separating the two sections. Section 54 contained 113 acres. He paid 113 pounds bringing his total outlay to 653 Pounds 3 Shillings and 6 Pence for 640 acres, very close to a Pound per acre. This land was quite close to the town of Lancelot.



Lancelot Town Plan and Sections 53 and 54 NW

¹ (Title Ref; CCCCXLV/27)

For some time we were confused as to which Stephen owned this land and whether it may have been owned by Old Steve (Stephen's half brother) who had sold his land at Wandearah in 1883. He would have had the money to buy at Gumbowie and the timing was right for him to do this. However, there are a number of reasons for settling on Young Steve as the owner:

- Young Steve's daughter Margaret, born in 1885, and son Stephen, born in 1891, are both buried in Lancelot Cemetery and the death records show his occupation as farmer and residence at Lancelot
- All except his first child were born at Lancelot or have birth places and baptisms given as Peterborough.
- There is no evidence showing Old Steve was at Lancelot or Gumbowie and by 1895 he was at Broken Hill where his wife died. On the other hand, Young Steve was at Lancelot at that time.
- In 1889 there was a storm and it was recorded that *"in Lancelot Township some roofs were blown off, but the houses in each case were uninhabited. Mr. Steve Harford, who has a farm adjoining the township, had the roof of his house blown off and parts of the walls forced in, he with his wife and family, having to take refuge in the township, which they reached with great difficulty"*². In 1889 Old Steve's youngest living child was 20 years of age and probably had long left home.
- The Sale transfer and Mortgage documents have Stephen's signature. It is doubtful Old Steve could write.
- Marion Gardner has confirmed her grandfather's farm was at Lancelot.

We believe there is an overwhelming case for Young Steve to be the owner of Sections 53 and 54.

The timing of this purchase is very interesting. In the three years prior to 1884 there had been a serious drought and this had an immediate impact on land purchases with the demand for land slowing considerably. As well, there was a very large increase in land being surrendered as was the case with Steve's brother George in September 1883.

Stephen must have had all these facts prior to the purchase would also have known that the land was north of Goyder's Line of Rainfall. Therefore he would have been aware of the risks he was taking.



Section 53 Gumbowie looking towards Lancelot

² Shadows of the Past by Denis & Pamela Parker p8

Stephen and his wife had a total of eight children, seven of them born at Lancelot after he had bought the farm. Three were to die very early and two, Margaret and Stephen Isadore, are buried at the old Lancelot Cemetery. The last born Michael lived only two days in 1898.

Four of the older children have been identified as attending St Celestine's Church School at Lancelot. In 1893 Steve owed a little over 4 Pounds in school fees which for two children represented more than two years of fees. As well, the children attended about 65% of the available days indicating that they were required to do work around the home.

Lancelot

Lancelot was the planned township for the Hundred of Gumbowie. It was located about 13km east of Peterborough and was the closest town for George and was very close to where Stephen bought his land. The town was situated on a flat plain and commanded a panoramic view of ranges of hills in every direction with an ever changing pattern of colours from sunrise to sunset³

It was named by Lieutenant Governor Samuel Way after Sir Lancelot Stirling MLC who, two months prior to the gazettal of the town was appointed Lt Governor Way's private secretary and had a long and distinguished career as a member of parliament.⁴

The town was proclaimed on 19 July 1877 and there were initially high hopes for it. Land was set aside for parklands, schools and reserves. It lay adjacent to the surveyed line of the railway although this had not been authorized. When the sale of the township was announced it read "*Township suburban lands of Lancelot on the surveyed line of railway about seven miles south by west of Eldoratrilla Head Station of 2 Roods 0Perches.*" (These were half acre allotments)⁵

Lancelot was probably the last northern township to be surveyed and was intended to be the next stop after Terowie on the proposed line to the NSW border. While debate on the proposed route was continuing in Parliament, bullock trains left Terowie regularly and Lancelot was an important stop on the way to the North, the Hotel being the last outpost of civilization before the long dry haul to the Barrier.⁶

William Harford was a Teamster as was his half brother Stephen. All of them would have made the trip between Terowie and Broken Hill many times bringing supplies to the ever growing population of the mining town.

The little township of Lancelot grew steadily and in 1885 it boasted 52 inhabitants – 29 males and 23 females. There were 12 houses, most built of pine and daub, with galvanized iron roofs.

The Lancelot Hotel was a major stopping off point and the centre of town activity. It was completed in 1879 and closed in 1906, at which time all building material that could be salvaged was sold at auction. The hotel was a fine building of dressed stone. There were twelve rooms, the walls were fifteen inches thick, it contained a long passage with walled archways and a side entrance hall. Large windows and doors were built with red brick quoins (angles) on the outside and there were open fireplaces in most of the rooms. Underneath the bar there was a beautifully constructed cellar, which permitted the barman to pump beer direct to the glass, and produce a really cold beer without refrigeration. A rainwater tank was built under the kitchen floor. It was a most impressive building. There were many outside rooms and stables. Roofless, the stonework still stands today 129 years later.⁷ The hotel was a resting place for the Mail Coach horses on the Burra to north east run. Large stables were available at the Lancelot Hotel and facilities were provided for passengers. There were lively scenes when the bullock teams passed by.⁸

³ Glimpses of the North East by Gladys Ward p9

⁴ Place Names of South Australia p245

⁵ Glimpses of the North East by Gladys Ward p10

⁶ Shadows of the Past by Denis & Pamela Parker p1

⁷ Shadows of the Past by Denis & Pamela Parker p1

⁸ Glimpses of the North East By Gladys Ward p23

A major centre of attention for the Harfords was St Celestine's Catholic Church. This was the location for the baptisms for the children of William & Katie, George & Katie and Stephen & Nora. A quick count shows a total of about twenty children were baptized at St Celestine's Church all most likely by Fr, John Pallhuber the Jesuit Parish Priest from Sevenhill.

St Celestine's built under Jesuit care, was completed in 1878. It opened as a school in 1879⁹ The building was a wood and iron structure, the interior of which was very attractive with its tongue and groove wooden paneling, carved sconces between the tall windows to hold lights, and turned wood railing and posts surrounding the altar. The timber was painted in attractive pastel colours. There was a large Catholic community in Lancelot in the early years, mostly Irish colonists who had settled on the land.¹⁰

Lancelot also had a State School. This was three room building of timber and iron and opened in 1878. The average attendance for that year was 19. By 1881 the largest attendance of 42 was recorded. Many children had to walk miles in all weathers to receive their learning. The Harford children may have attended this school.

An encouraging harvest in 1884 was followed by failure the following year and farmers began taking interest in the rumours of occasional mineral "*finds*". The belief that rich minerals lay in the direction of the Barrier had been accelerated after the discovery by boundary rider Charles rasp on Mt Gipps Station in 1883. Teamsters doing the long trips to the pastoral properties brought stories of the mineral wealth of the far north east picked up from the hotels and eating houses.

As Broken Hill developed, ore was carried by camel trains and bullock wagons to Terowie and then by train to Port Adelaide. Pressure built to extend the railway and a number of routes were considered, the major two being Peterborough to Port Pirie or Terowie to Port Adelaide. Fierce competition developed between Peterborough and Terowie and both prepared cases for their towns. Lancelot people were adamant that the Government had made a promise to the settlers when they bought their land on the surveyed railway line. The decision in favour of Peterborough was made by Parliament in 1884.

In Lancelot there was disappointment but not despair. As long as the bullock teams followed the track to the north east, there was life at Lancelot. Stores had to be carted up to the workers constructing the new railway line.¹¹ Thousands of sleepers were imported from Western Australia, brought to Peterborough by train and then hauled by teams to the construction sites. By June 1887 the railway from Peterborough had reached Cockburn on the border of New South Wales. An attempt was made to convince the government to build a loop line from Terowie to join with the new line and save fourteen miles. The proposal was not supported because of the cost and Lancelot lost its last hope for a link with the north east trade. It was the death knell for Lancelot.

By the late 1890's the town was in decline. Some sporting events continued for a number of years. The *Peterborough Times* on these and other events. For example the Annual Lancelot Catholic Picnic on 31 January 1890 and the Lancelot Sports day at the lake on Christmas Day reported 3 January 1896. At this event the paper records a Harford as third in the Sheffield Handicap, the Hack Race being won by Harford's "*Sunset*", and the Married Side winning the Tug of War. No doubt this included George and his brother Young Steve. There was also an article on 10 January 1896 which refers to the Lancelot Catholic picnic. "*Mrs. G Harford (named with others) was involved in "feeding the hungry"*".

With the advent of the railway to Broken Hill via Peterborough (rather than Lancelot) the town decayed gradually and ultimately to ruins and officially ceased to exist in 1980. Its Post Office was opened in August 1878 and closed in May 1908. The school opened in 1878 and closed in 1912. By 1913 community activity had collapsed. All that remains today are the ruins of a few buildings. These lie to the west of the Barrier Highway between Terowie and Oodla Wirra.

⁹ Glimpses of the North East by Gladys Ward p 77

¹⁰ Shadows of the Past by Denis & Pamela Parker p3

¹¹ Glimpses of the North East by Gladys Ward p 41

The following article entitled "Deserted Village" appeared in 1937:

*"(Its) ruins could tell a story of how it was going to become a great northern town when the railway went through it. But the railway was diverted. (It) was quite important fifty years ago... when the railway went no further than Terowie and all the traffic to and from Broken Hill and Adelaide took the northern stock route... (It) boasted a hotel, post office, blacksmith's shop, store, two churches, and a school. One of the church buildings (St Celestine's) is still in use – as a shearing shed and I believe the one time vestry is the catching pen... What have we in its place? Busy and important Peterborough, a few miles distant from the ruins of Lancelot."*¹²

The Catholic Church has survived the longest of all structures in the little town and even though it is now filling the function of a shearing shed for the land owner, it is still possible to experience a feeling of awe when one steps into the still timber-lined interior. Looking dilapidated? Yes! And rightly so! But for a building of structure such as this to have survived for well over 100 years can only reflect on the ability of the builders of the time¹³



Ruin of St Celestine's Church 2007



Interior St Celestines 2007

¹² Place Names of South Australia p245

¹³ Shadows of the Past by Denis & Pamela Parker p3&5

While Stephen bought his land without a mortgage he arranged one some thirteen years later on 31 March 1897. By this time his family had increased to six living children, four of whom were under ten years of age. We do not know why he arranged the mortgage, but by this time we know that Old Steve and William were at Broken Hill, James had leased his land and had moved to Cockburn and George had sold his land at Gumbowie although he was still in the district. Stephen may have needed money to keep his farm going but he could also have been thinking of the future and a possible move to Broken Hill.

The mortgage was with the State bank of South Australia for Four Hundred pounds which is quite a large sum and represented about 60% of his original purchase price. The terms were that he would repay the loan including interest of 4.5% per annum in **eighty four** equal half yearly payments of Ten Pounds thirteen shillings for forty two years. The first installment was on 1 October 1897. This gave him a continuing annual commitment of 21 Pounds six shillings until he would have turned 79 years of age in 1938. The gross value of the repayments of the loan total 840 Pounds 12 shillings.

Stephen bought a house at 48 Cummins St Broken Hill for 150 pounds on 26 September 1900. The mortgage would have given him the money to do this. It is most unlikely that he would have bought without spending some time there assessing possible places to buy and relative prices.

Stephen did not sell the land at Lancelot until 1903 and this indicates that someone else was running the farm while he had moved to Broken Hill. This would have been his younger brother John..

Stephen and Nora's youngest child was born at Peterborough in September 1898 and sometime between then and 26 September 1900 they would have moved to Broken Hill which was growing very fast and where there was work for Stephen and schools for the children

We have not found any references to John Joseph owning any land in his own right. He was five years younger than Stephen and in 1897 was 33 years of age and unmarried. There are entries in the South Australian Sands & Macdougall Directories for John Harford, Farmer, Lancelot for the years 1888, 1894, 1896 and 1898. It seems that he worked the farm with Stephen from the beginning in 1884.

It is also possible that John contributed financially to the purchase. He was 20 at the time and would have been working without dependents from the age 14 or even younger. We have no evidence that this was the case and it is raised only as a possibility. The land at 640 acres was much larger than James' 300 acres at Whyte Yarcowie and George's 410 acres close by at Gumbowie. Stephen would have needed the extra labour to assist in running the farm.

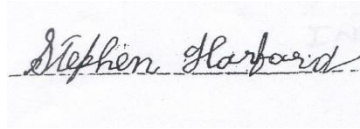
John Joseph ultimately went to Broken Hill but no mention can be found for him until the 1908 Electoral Roll. His address shown on the roll was Cummins St where he obviously stayed with Stephen and Nora and their family.

Stephen sold both sections on 2 May 1903 (he bought 48 Cummins St on 26 September 1900). This means he had also made 12 repayments of 10 Pounds 13 Shillings a total of 127 pounds 16 Shillings on his loan to the State Bank of South Australia.

This, added to his original purchase prices, makes the total cost of his land 780 Pounds 19 shillings and sixpence. He sold the both sections for 560 pounds so based on the original purchase prices he lost 93 Pounds 13 Shillings and 6 Pence excluding the loan repayments and 220 Pounds 19 Shillings and 6 Pence including them. However, this needs to be seen in the context that he had the use of the land and the production from it for almost 20 years and the fact that he had also bought his house in Broken Hill for 150 Pounds.

The transfer document for the sale of the land indicates that the consideration is *"the sum of five hundred and sixty pounds inclusive of Mortgage No. 315547 for 400 Pounds"*. It is not immediately clear what this means. We know from the partial discharge of the mortgage in 1907 by Elizabeth Yeo, the purchaser, at that time was responsible for the mortgage repayments and it appears she assumed the responsibility for the mortgage at the time of purchase in addition to paying Stephen 560 Pounds. The balance of the mortgage at the time of the sale has been calculated as 380 pounds after his twelve payments.

It is of interest that Stephen did not sign his name on his Wedding Certificate in 1881 and made a mark with an "X" as was the custom. However, by the time he sold his land he was able to sign his name on the Transfer.

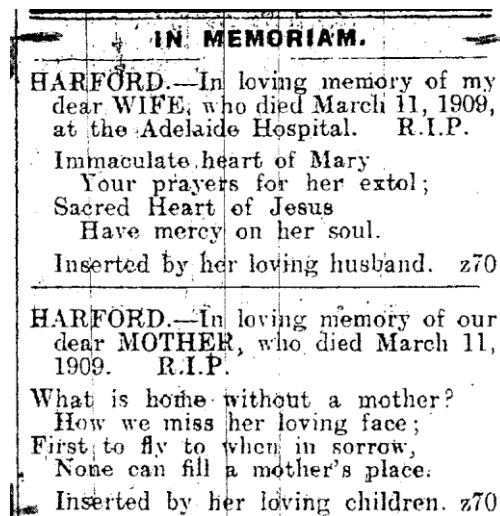


Stephen's Signature 1903

It appears that like George, Stephen had a very difficult time on the land and as time went on people became more aware of the difficulties of farming the land north of Goyder's Line. It was acknowledged that most farms were far too small and undercapitalized. They also were unsuitable for cultivation and much larger areas were needed for grazing of animals.

The decision to move on to Broken Hill was one made with the best of intentions for his family. Broken Hill offered growth and staying at Lancelot offered continuing risks and hardship in a location that was already showing very visible signs of decline and deterioration.

At Broken Hill Stephen found work mainly as a Labourer. We know he worked at the Sulphide Mine as a Surface labourer from 21 September 1914 until 16 May 1917 when he left of his own accord. He lived at their Cummins St house with Nora until she died an untimely death on 11 March 1909 at the age of 57 years. Nora had a heart complaint that was caused by Rheumatic Fever which she contracted some 10 years earlier. Prior to her death she was admitted to Adelaide Hospital.



Barrier Daily Truth 11 March 1910

Stephen died on 1 January 1930 at the age of 70 and he was buried with Nora at West Terrace Cemetery in Adelaide.

Family

Mary Jane Theresa

Born 21 June 1882 at Yarcowie. Baptised 13 August 1882 Whyte Yarcowie

Married at Broken Hill on 18 November 1902 to James Joseph Hoare, born 29 April 1879, Georgetown, South Australia and died on 29 April 1879 at Broken Hill.

Mary Jane died 2 April 1960 at Broken Hill and is buried at Broken Hill Cemetery with James Joseph

James Joseph was a Miner and on the Electoral Rolls for 1909, 1921 and 1926 their address was 72 Wyman St.

Mary Jane and her husband had six Children.

Annie Maria

Born 6 May 1884 Lancelot, baptized 16 May 1884

Died 20 September 1955 at Adelaide, SA

Buried West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide, SA

Annie along with her younger sister Hilda kept house for her father (Young) Steve after his wife (Nora) died in 1909. After her father died the Cummins St property was purchased by Annie Maria Harford (on Transfer B926114 dated 18 Mar 1929, registered 7 Jan 1930) for 100 pounds. Ann Maria sold the property on Transfer C935400 on 14 Aug 1940 for 240 pounds.

Later Annie went to Prospect, SA, to keep house for her sister, Hilda, and her husband Jack Brennan and their son John until Hilda died in 1940.

Annie was engaged to a man who went to WW1. He contracted pneumonia during the world wide influenza plague and died. She went to Sydney and leased a guest house at Bellvue Hill . She never married. At the time of Annie's death in 1955 she was living at 13 Churchill Road Prospect.

Margaret

Born 7 August 1885. Baptised at St Celestine's Lancelot on 23 August 1885

Died 3 March 1887 (age 18 months)

Buried in Lancelot Cemetery

Samuel James

Born 26 August 1887 at Lancelot. Baptised 15 September 1887 at Peterborough.

Died 2 May 1965 at Broken Hill

Buried 6 May 1965 Broken Hill Cemetery

Samuel James never married and lived most of his life in Adelaide working for ICI at Port Adelaide in the Alkali Section. He would have attended school at Lancelot and that would have been all the education he received.

Marion's family used to visit him when they were in Adelaide where he lived in a boarding house on Semaphore Road. Nothing was ever said in front of her but Marion believes he had a "Liaison" with the lady who owned the boarding house, (Mrs. Redmond?) She used to call him Samuel and Marion sensed her mother was not impressed.

Samuel often came to Broken Hill and Marion used to go with him to visit friends. Marion was very fond of him. When he retired he had nowhere to go and he returned to Broken Hill and stayed with them for a while. The family also had Irene's brother Vincent Brady staying with them at the time so it was a bit cramped.

Samuel is shown on the 1963 & 1964 Electoral Rolls as living at the Home of Compassion, at 224 Piper St Broken Hill. He died on 2 May 1965 at Broken Hill and is buried in the Catholic Section of Broken Hill Cemetery.

William John

Born 11 February 1889 at Lancelot, SA. Baptised 19 February 1889 at St Celestine's Lancelot.

Married in 1918 at Sacred Heart Cathedral at Broken Hill to Lila Maud Turner (4 September 1900 at Bendigo Vic. to January 1992 at Bronte, NSW)

Died 2 August 1960 at Botany NSW

Bill and Maud lived with his father Stephen after they were married and they looked after him until he died in 1930. After Stephen died they lived at 336 William St.

They had three children Len, Norrie (Hanora) and Peter, and they moved to Sydney in 1945. They lived at 41 Francis St, Bondi.

In Broken Hill Bill worked at Shelley's Soft Drink factory, and the West End Brewery. He also worked as a hotel barman. In Sydney he worked at Shelley's until his retirement. Bill was active in union matters as a delegate to the Barrier Industrial Council, the ALP and Town Employees Union

Stephen Isadore

Born 12 May 1891 at Lancelot. Baptized 25 May 1891 at Lancelot

Died 17 September 1891 age 4 months at Lancelot. Buried Lancelot Cemetery

Edward Aloysius (Dutchy)

Born 21 June 1894 at Peterborough SA. Baptised 8 July 1894 at Lancelot.

Married on 31 Jul 1926 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Broken Hill, NSW to Irene Rose Brady (27 Dec 1899 at Broken Hill to 20 February 1987 at Broken Hill.)

Died 2 January 1961 at Broken Hill, NSW

Buried at Broken Hill Cemetery, NSW.

Electoral Rolls show a number of addresses for Edward:

1916 and 1919 at Cummins St (the family home)

1921 at 159 Mercury St

1922, 1924 and 1926 at 194 Mercury St

1928 at 177 Mercury St

However, he and Irene finally settled at 229 Thomas St, Broken Hill.

The Death Notice in the Barrier Miner read

"Harford, Edward Aloysius, 66

Died suddenly in Sydney, 2 Jan 1961. Born Peterborough SA but had lived in Broken Hill for 60 years. Resided 229 Thomas St. Life Member of West Football Club, WIU of A, Democratic Club, BH Bowling Club.

Mr. S Harford, Mr. V Brady, Father T Brady (Peak Hill), Mr. & Mrs. W Wetherley & Family (Sydney) Mr & Mrs. C Brady & Fams, Mrs. M Harford & Fams. Sydney Brother B-i-L Uncle GT Uncle.

"Dutchy" 66 yrs

Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the late Edward Aloysius Harford of 229 Thomas St Husband of Mrs. I R Harford, Father, F-i-L & GF of Mr. & Mrs. PP Gardner & Family will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral Lane St Tomorrow 9Thurs) at 9am Funeral leaving the church at conclusion of Mass at Approx. 9.30am"



Edward Aloysius and Irene Rose



Irene Rose

We are very grateful for Edward's daughter, Marion Gardner, providing the following details about her father:

My father, Edward Aloysius, (spelt Ellersuis on his birth Certificate!) I don't think Grandfather, Stephen, was very good with Catholic saints! My Dad, however, was very proud of his name and liked to be called Edward Aloysius. My Mother used to say he didn't live up to his Saint as St Aloysius never told a lie!

He was born in Petersburg, later Peterborough, on 21st June, 1894. He lived on the farm at Lancelot until they went to Broken Hill at the turn of the century. He was educated by the Sisters of Mercy at Mica Street School until he left at the age of 13.

He was born with short sightedness which wasn't diagnosed until much later in his life. At school, because he couldn't see the blackboard and thus was slow with his learning, he was placed with all the other slow learners at the back of the class whilst the clever ones were placed in the front!. However, he was far from "dumb" and was very good at maths. He could add a string of four figure numbers in his head.

He worked at the Silverton Tramway Co. for several years, starting as a youth labourer at 2 shillings and threepence per day. There is a book at the Tramway Museum recording his employment, holidays and pay rates etc. This time when I was in B.H., I wanted to look it up but the fellow manning the Museum couldn't find it and wasn't very interested in helping me. I have some of those records here.

Dad was not interested in going to WW1 as he thought it was England's war. I think he was what we now call a conscientious objector. He hated war and always boasted that he had "*Never shot out of a gun in my life*". There was the story of how he was walking along Argent Street when a "*Military Person*" who was recruiting for the War, accosted Dad and asked him why a strapping young man like him wasn't away fighting for his country. Dad's reply was to put up his fists and say "*Any fighting that is to be done will be done right here!*"

Dad also worked on the NSW Railways laying track on the "north coast" of NSW. I don't know just when this was, whether during the War or during the "Big Strike", but he spoke of living in tents, constant rain, and having to chase and catch a rabbit to cook for his evening meal.

At the time of my birth in 1932 he was working on the South Mine as a Steam Winder Driver on the wooden shaft at the top of South Hill. However, when I was born the new shaft was opened and it was driven by electricity. Dad did not have an electric "Ticket" and he was out of work for six weeks. The only time he lost work during the Depression.

He then worked as a miner on the South until he met with an accident in a fall of ground in September, 1947. He suffered a compound fracture of both bones in his leg and was off work for 12 months. He was in hospital for 3 months and had several complications including infections, paralysis of the arm caused by ill-fitting crutches.

When he returned to work he was unable to work as a miner and started underground cleaning drains etc. Later he gained a job as Changehouse Keeper. This was a two shift job but his mate was crippled up with arthritis and couldn't do much at all so Dad worked all day shift and the other man's afternoon shift. Dad did all the work and his mate only had to "*Switch on the lights*".

Dad took great interest in Union affairs and helping his fellow workers. He represented the WIU of A at a conference in Melbourne in 1956 and was president of the "Job Committee" which used to negotiate with Management to find work for men with disabilities either from sickness or industrial injuries.

There were always men calling at our home to see Dad about work. I remember one of his cousins, Kevin Harford, who came from Adelaide to get work when the lead bonus was high. Kevin was "B" Grouper and Dad schooled him up on what to say when he was interviewed he obtained a job.

When he was a little boy one of the local doctors christened him "Dutchy" because of an impediment he had in his speech at the time. The nickname stuck to him all his life and he was known all over by it. My Mother didn't like being called "Mrs. Dutchy" though.

He never drove a car because of his poor eyesight - he wore very thick glasses all his life. He was 6 feet tall and well built.

He loved sport and played Aussie Rules for the Barrier Ranges Football Association and later, the West Football Club. He was the first Life Member of the BRFA and was also a life member of the Wests.

After Mum & Dad were married (26 July 1926) they lived in Mercury Street, Railwaytown. One year when the Wests won the Premiership they "borrowed" Mum & Dad's little goat because they wanted to drink whisky & milk. They put a red & black jersey on her and had her out all night. Next morning they set her free outside St Mary's Church and she ran into the church right up to Mum & Dad during Mass. My mother was not amused!

Dad could not play cricket because of his eyesight and he thought he would not be able to play bowls. However, after Mum took up bowls, he had a go and found he was able to play. He said you didn't have to be able to see - it was all judgement. He was very upset that he had lost so many Saturday afternoons when he could have been playing bowls with his brother-in-law Jim Hoare.

Dad liked his West End and often came home wobbly on a Saturday afternoon! He loved to help the Nuns and was always doing odd jobs for them. He was a member of the Catholic Schools Association which saw him, Jim Hoare and two other men, working each Saturday morning at the schools. Dad & I would call at the Convent one Sunday per month for "the list" and they would complete the jobs until the next list. I often brought home a broom to have a handle put on!

My Mother had a lot of zz"*****"Gynie" trouble and had several miscarriages. Their first baby, a boy, Thomas, died two days after birth. He was a breach birth and the staff at the hospital neglected her. He was born with a broken arm and the long labour strained his heart. I believe he was a lovely baby. After another miss I came along without any problems. Mum said she put everything in the hands of Our Lady!. So I am lucky to be here.

We always remembered Tommy on his birthday and, Dad, who was a real softie, was always very moved. Dad would cry with emotion at times - like when he had to speak at my 21st birthday and

wedding. He used to get teary when he said goodbye to billets we had Newball etc. and they were only there for a weekend!.

However, he was strong when it was needed, especially when he had the mine accident. The opening to the stope was blocked and rescuers and the Dr had to go down to him via ladderways. His leg was just hanging by a bit of skin & he told the doctor *"It's moments like this when you need Minties"*. (That was a newspaper advertisement at the time.) After his accident Dad kept his usual lifestyle. No one knew about exercise, diet and cholesterol and he gained weight. He had several "incidents" but ECGs show no problems. While he and Mum were on holidays in Sydney over Christmas and New Year, 1960/61 He had a coronary occlusion and died suddenly at mums sister's home, in Eastwood, Sydney on 2nd January, 1961. He was aged 66 years. I just loved my Father and I miss him so much. I don't think a day goes past without me thinking of him.



1918 CC Barnes, RG Barnes and EA (Dutchy) Harford



1918 Premiers West Broken Hill Team. Dutchy next to trainer on Right Hand Side

Also George Norbert Harford 3rd from left 2nd last row back, next to Bill Pell married Ann Theresa Harford 4th from Left both Trainers

Hilda Agnes

Born 28 September 1895 at Lancelot. Baptised 29 September 1895 at Lancelot

Married on 22 September 1923 at Broken Hill to John Benjamin Brennan (13 September 1891 to 1 July 1981 at Adelaide)

Died on 13 June 1940 at Adelaide.

Buried West Terrace Cemetery Adelaide SA

Jack worked for the SA Railways and for a time was stationed at Peterborough while he worked as a conductor on the sleeping car of the Adelaide Express. Later when they moved to Adelaide they lived at Prospect. They had one child, a boy John Joseph Brennan.

Michael Vincent

Born 8 Sep 1898 at Petersburg. Baptised the same day and died the following day 9 September 1898.

STEPHEN and CATHERINE'S GRANDCHILDREN**Children of Mary Jane Theresa and James Joseph HOARE**

Hilda Mary Born 5 March 1905 at Broken Hill, NSW

Married 7 October 1942 at Broken Hill to David Edward Coffey (1902-)

Died 9 June 1977 at Broken Hill, NSW

Buried at Broken Hill Cemetery, NSW

Thelma Christina

Born 7 April 1908 at Broken Hill, NSW

Married to George Mitchell

Died 8 November 1984 at Adelaide, SA

Noreen Catherine

Born 8 August 1911 at Broken Hill

Married 20 February 1939 at Broken Hill to Henry Cyprian Coffey (1905-1978)

Died 24 September 1966 at Wyong, NSW

Buried at Broken Hill Cemetery, NSW

James Leonard

Born 14 Dec 1912 at Broken Hill, NSW

Married 12 March 1938 at Broken Hill, NSW to Audrey Mary Kersten

Died 11 September 1993 at Broken Hill, NSW

Buried at Broken Hill Cemetery, NSW

John Thomas

Born 22 December 1913 at Broken Hill, NSW

Married 24 September 1938 at Broken Hill, NSW to Emily Louise Kite

Died 22 July 1996 at Melbourne, Vic.

Kevin Joseph

Born 13 March 1917 at Broken Hill, NSW

Married 5 November 1944 at Broken Hill, NSW to Mary (Molly) Courtney

Died 20 August 2004 at Melbourne, Vic.

Children of William John and Lila Maud (Turner) Harford

Hanora Mary

Born 25 March 1919 at Broken Hill, NSW

Married 26 June 1941 St Mary's Cathedral Sydney, NSW to Owen Doernier

Leonard Joseph

Born 7 October 1921 at Broken Hill, NSW

Married 1946 at Sydney to Patricia Murphy

Children:

Peter Ernest

Born 13 April 1943 at Broken Hill, NSW

Children of Edward Aloysius and Irene Rose (Brady) Harford

Thomas

Born 7 September 1930

Died 9 September 1930

Marion Nora

Born 18 November 1932

Married 14 May 1955 at Broken Hill to Philip Patrick Gardner (1930 to 21 October 2007, Cudgen NSW)

Philip was an Engine Driver and they lived next to her parents at 231 Thomas St Broken Hill.



Philip & Marion Gardiner

Children of Hilda Agnes and John Benjamin Brennan

John Joseph Brennan

Born 30 May 1929

Married on 8 September 1951 at Holy Rosary Church Prospect to Elma Veronica Von der Borgh

Died 21 June 2010 at Tununda, SA