

JOHN JOSEPH 1864 to 1931

John Joseph was the youngest of Samuel and Maria's eight children. He was born at Armagh on 9 February 1864. The birth was registered by his mother Maria on 16 March 1864. He was baptized at Lancelot on 14 June 1883. The godparents were his sister in law, Catherine (Nora), wife of Samuel Stephen (Young Steve) and we presume Nora's brother John Madde(r)n.

With his elder sister Harriett dying in 1863, John Joseph was almost five years younger than his nearest sibling, Samuel Stephen (Young Steve). When he was born Maria would have been aged 41 and Samuel 56 years old.

We know little of his early life and the earliest reference we have for him is when he was a witness at his brother Stephen's wedding to Catherine Hanora Madden at St Simon & Jude's Yarcowie in 1881. At that time he would have been 17 years of age. The other witness was Kate Smith who was later to marry John's older brother George Francis.

We believe that John Joseph lived at Gumbowie with his two brothers George and Stephen after George bought his land there in 1877. Stephen was at Gumbowie when he married but he did not buy his land there until after he married in 1881. On the other hand, George had bought his land in 1877 and he did not marry until 1883. One could understand the three brothers living and working the land together and they were a relatively short distance from their other brother, James, and their parents at Yarcowie.

John Joseph never bought any land. The South Australian Lands Office has a good indexed land data base and they were not able to locate an entry for him. However with three brothers having land and he being much younger, it would not have been necessary for him to have his own farm. We believe that he would have worked with all of them at different times and finished up working with Stephen. Significantly, Catherine was his godmother, it is clear that he was relatively close to that family.

However, we know that John farmed around Lancelot as he is shown in the Sands & Macdougall Directories for 1888, 1894, 1896 and 1898. He was also the informant for his mother Maria's death details when she died in 1896. He was 32 at that time.

John Joseph moved to Broken Hill with other members of his family. He first appeared on the 1906 Electoral Roll with the same address of Cummins St as Stephen and Nora. Living with them at Broken Hill provides support for the view that he also lived and worked with them on their farm at Gumbowie.

John appears on subsequent Electoral Rolls up to 1919 at Stephen's address at 48 Cummins St. By this time most of Stephen and Nora's children were reaching adulthood and were also starting to appear on the rolls.

There is an entry on the 1925 Roll for a John Harford, Labourer, at 462 Chrystal St Broken Hill North and this is most likely to be John Joseph. Also on the roll at the same address is a Thomas Clarke with the occupation of "Newsagent" and it seems he was a boarder with them. He also appears on the 1926 roll with the address as 469 Chrystal St but does not appear on 1928 and 1930 rolls.

John Joseph never married and he worked on the BHP Block 14 Mine as a Labourer. He was employed from 30 April 1917 to 25 February 1918 and also from 26 March 1924 to 24 September 1927. He left when the mine closed down. He was 63 at this time. He died at midnight on Saturday 27 June 1931 at the age of 67 years. His Funeral Notice was in The Barrier Daily Truth on 29 June 1931 indicating he came to Broken Hill 40 years ago which

we believe to be incorrect. His funeral left from Mr. P and Mrs C Clarke's home at 481 Argent St where he had lived for a number of years. Fr. Ledlin officiated. The Obituary noted that the cortege was a large one and there were numerous floral tributes. The pall bearers were: Messrs. C. Vassalie, J. Yole, M. Carmody, J. Flynn, B. Hocking, D. McGowan (cousin)

The arrangements were in the hands of Tom J. Mallon.

John is buried in Broken Hill Cemetery and his grave is recognizable by the fact that it has no details other than the name of "Harford". It is in the Catholic Section Suffix R-Row 2 Grave 32. He had a humble funeral at a cost of 23 Pounds 10 shillings.



John Joseph's Grave Broken Hill