

Andrew Keane and Bridget Kelly

On 3 June 1865 Andrew Keane married **Bridget Kelly** at St Francis Church Melbourne. Bridget was the daughter of Michael Kelly and Bridget Galvin. Bridget was also from County Clare and it is believed that she also came from the Parish of Ruan. (The birth certificate of her first child, Mary, shows her birth place as "*Ruhawne*" which appears to be a misspelling of Ruan). A search of Griffiths Valuations does not reveal any Kellys living in that Parish in the 1850's as we might expect. However, there was a Michael Kelly living in the adjoining Parish of Dysart which is quite close to Ruan and the parishes have since combined to become the Parish of Ruan-Dysart.

Andrew and Bridget proceeded to have a family. All of their children from the second, also named Bridget, were born at Brighton from 1867 to 1879. The Keanes were clearly Brighton pioneers.

Early Brighton¹

Henry Dendy (1800-81), in England, purchased 5,120 acres (2,070 ha) of Port Phillip land on 29 August 1840, at £1 per acre. Dendy arrived in Melbourne on 5 February 1841 to claim his land. The area was known as Dendy's Special Survey.

The area Dendy was compelled to take was bound by the coastline, North Road, East Boundary Road and South Road. A town was surveyed in the mid 1841, defined by the crescent-shaped street layout which remains today. Subdivided allotments were then offered for sale. The area soon became "the Brighton Estate", and Dendy's site for his own home was named "Brighton Park".

Unfortunately, the land did not have any ready sources of water. Sales were slow at first, and the financial depression came and Dendy's scheme for emigration and land sales failed. The family of his agent, Jonathan Binns Were (1809–85) who had arrived in Melbourne in 1839, bought the land. All of Dendy's business ventures failed, and he died a pauper.

After the depression, sales of land resulted in Brighton, by 1846, becoming the third most populated town in Port Phillip, after Melbourne and Portland. Brighton attracted wealthy residents who wanted generous building sites and the prospect of sea bathing. By the late 1840s stately homes were built in an area known as '*The Terrace*' now called the Esplanade overlooking Dendy Street Beach. The Brighton Post Office opened on 19 April 1853.

By 1850 there was an Anglican church (1843) as well as Wesleyan and Catholic churches (1848) and a Methodist church (1851). Schools were opened by the Anglican Church (1849) and by the Catholic Church (St Finbar's) in Centre Road (1850). In 1854, Brighton had a census population of 2,731.

¹ Wikipedia.org

On 18 January 1859, the municipality of Brighton was proclaimed extending eastwards between Dendy's survey boundaries to Thomas Street and Nepean Highway. Brighton became a borough in October 1863, and in 1870 parts of Elwood and Elsternwick were added. Brighton became a town on 18 March 1887 and became the City of Brighton on 12 March 1919.

Andrew and Bridget's first child, Mary was born on 22 January 1865. While we have nominated Andrew as the father this is by no means certain. Mary's birth was illegitimate and we are not aware of the father's name and in particular whether Andrew may have been her father. Supporting the position that he was not the father is that on Daniel's Birth Certificate Mary is not named as one of their children. However, the important point is that she was accepted as a member of the family and a child of both Andrew and Bridget.

Twenty second January 1865	Mary	Female	Illegitimate	Bridget Kelly
Lying in Hospital	Not			22 years
				Richmond Co. Col.

Mary's Birth Certificate Left Hand Side

<i>W. Matthews</i>	<i>Dr. Fetherston</i>	30 th January 1865	<i>John H.</i>
Resident Surgeon Lying in Hospital		Melbourne North	

Mary's Birth Certificate Right Hand Side

The rest of Andrew and Bridget's children were born at Brighton in Church Street or William Street Brighton between January 1867 and October 1879.

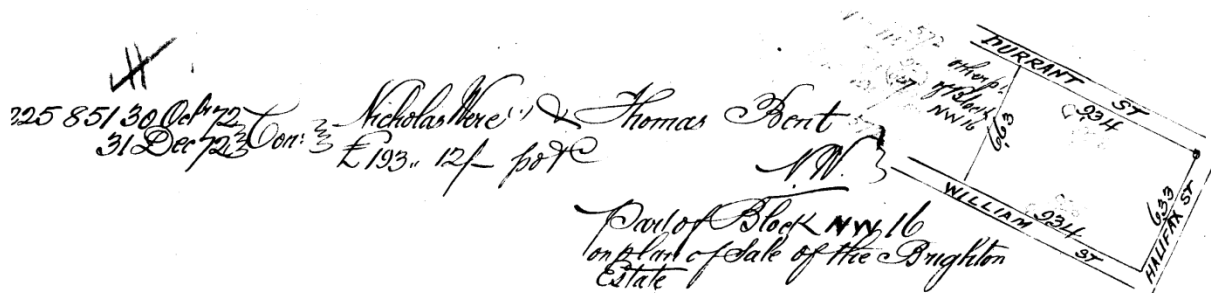
We know from the birth certificates that Andrew and the family initially lived in Church Street and **Bridget (Bedelia)**, **Sarah Jane** and **Andrew Michael** were all born there between January 1867 and October 1871. Subsequent births were at William Street with **Margaret Helen** born in September 1874, **Martin William**, 1877, and the last **Daniel** in April 1879.

Elizabeth's mother, Lil, wrote notes about her grandfather for her children. These were close to the truth but not necessarily fully correct. Some of the notes, which follow, have provided good guidance for our research:

"Andrew Keane lived in a small cottage in William Street near Hampton Street. He had dairy cows which grazed on the common opposite known as "Keane's Paddock" and is now a park."

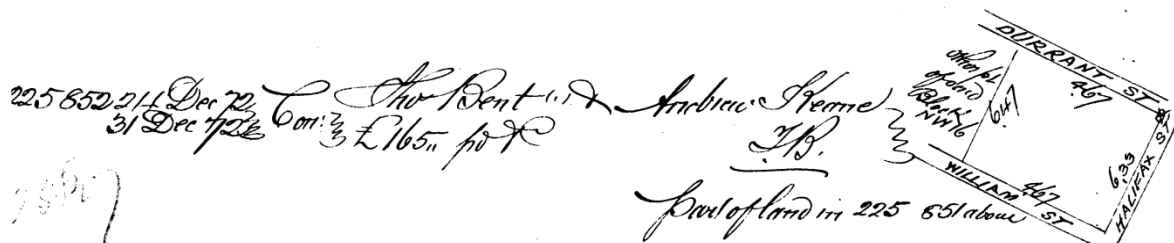
Keane's Paddock, referred to in William Street, is now a recreation and sports grounds. Sands and Macdougall directories show from 1876 and in later years that Andrew's land in William Street was also bounded by Halifax and Durrant Streets and so on the opposite side of William Street to today's recreation grounds. We would have expected Andrew to graze cattle on this area but we have always understood that his land was used as a market garden, growing vegetables that would have supported his family and also provided income.

Title searches have indicated that Andrew bought his land in Brighton on 31 December 1872. The land was part of the Brighton Estate and part of this estate had been owned by Nicholas Were who had sold a parcel to Thomas (Tommy) Bent on 30 October 1872 for 193 Pounds 12 Shillings. Bent's land was located at the corner of William and Halifax Streets and the north side was bounded by Durrant Street. This parcel was relatively large and measured 9.34 Chains wide and 6.33 Chains deep on one side and 6.63 Chains and the other. This meant the land was about 6 Acres in area.



Details of Land Transaction Nicholas Were to Thomas Bent 31 October 1872²

Two months later Tommy Bent sold half of this parcel to Andrew Keane for 165 Pounds yielding him a handsome profit in a very short time.



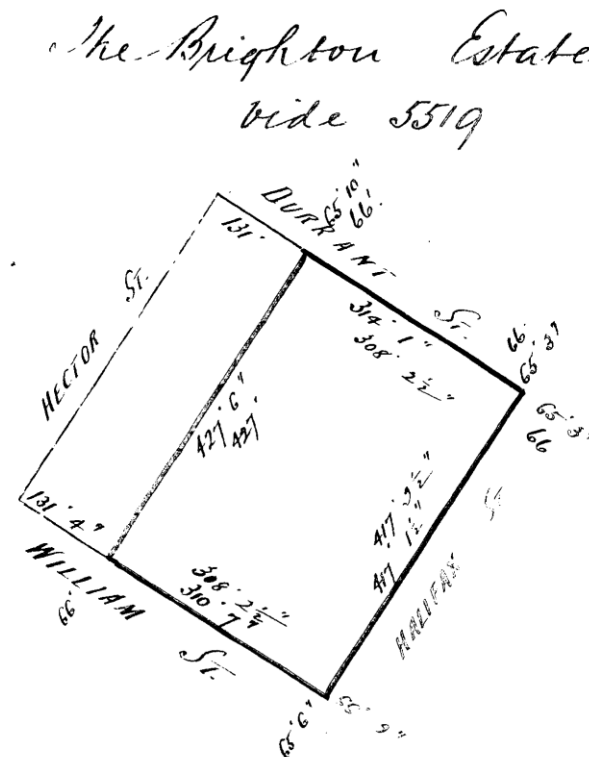
Details of Land Transaction Thomas Bent to Andrew Keane 31 December 1872

Andrew's land measured 4.67 Chains or about 308 feet by 6.33 Chains or about 417 feet on the shorter side and 6.47 Chains or 427 feet on the longer side. It was 3 Acres in area, a good size providing ample space for a market garden.

² Application 225851 Land Victoria

Andrew's wife Bridget left him and their family in about 1880/1 and returned to Ireland. At the time her youngest child Daniel was still only about two years old, being born at Brighton on 7 April 1879. We have been told that she returned there with a young child but we have found no evidence of another birth that would support this. Andrew had the large task of raising and caring for his seven children the eldest of whom was sixteen and four of whom were ten or younger. We believe that Sarah Jane played a large part in caring for the younger children.

Andrew sold his land during the Land Boom on 30 July 1888 to Charles Forrester for 2800 Pounds. This provided a very significant profit on his original outlay and gave him with ample funds for a new house. He was about 48 years old at the time.



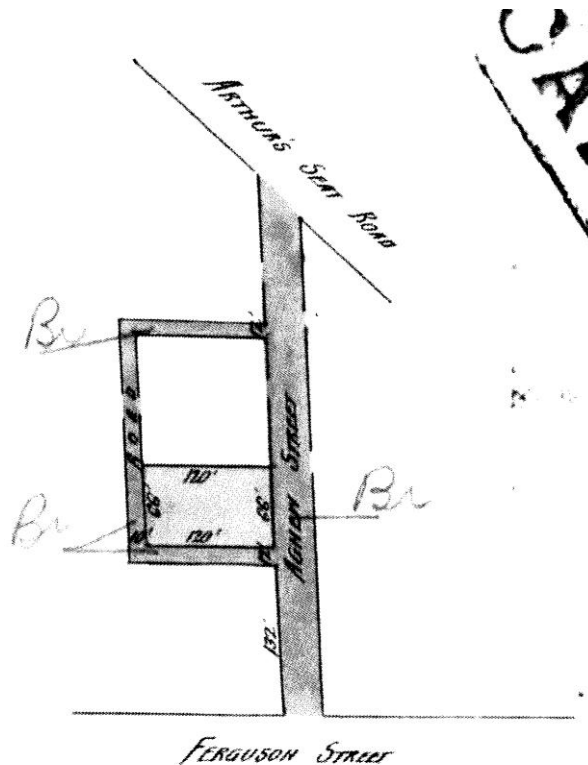
Drawing of Keane Land on Sale Document to Chas. Forrester³

We have been told Andrew bought three houses one "wooden" and the other "brick" in Agnew Street. When he died he also had a house in Camperdown Street, Brighton and we presume this was the third house. We would expect that these purchases would have totalled about 1000 pounds. Lil's notes also refer to Andrew buying other houses in Ferguson and Binnie Streets but we have no details of these. He may well have bought them and sold them before he died. We are not aware that he did any further work and the houses would have provided rental income for him.

³ Application 25827 Land Victoria.

Following the Land Boom there was a Depression and a collapse of a number of banks. This was major issue for many people who lost their funds. We have been told that Andrew at one stage went to the bank but found it had closed its doors. However, he does not appear to have lost anything or, if he did, he seems to have recovered well. The sale of his land was quite timely and allowed him to avoid the significant issues of the day. It seems that the timing of his house purchases was also well before the collapse.

On 4 July 1888, shortly before Andrew sold his land, his brother Michael's wife Bridget also bought property in Agnew Street Brighton. This had a frontage of 198 feet to Agnew Street and was 120 feet deep and contained six cottages. On 20 November 1888, a parcel containing two cottages, measuring 66 by 120 feet, was transferred to Andrew. The parcel adjoined the lane or right of way just north of Ferguson Street and today Andrew's cottages are numbered 29 and 31 Agnew Street. Both cottages were on the same title.



Details from Agnew Street Title

Later photographs show that Andrew and his family lived in the timber cottage at No. 29, north of Ferguson Street beside the lane.



29 Agnew Street, Andrew Michael, with Delia & Nellie behind, probably around 1890.



Andrew's Brick House at 31 Agnew Street in 2013. It probably originally had a slate roof.



29 Agnew Street January 2013

According to Lil Keane, Andrew suffered a stroke and was paralysed in one arm for many years. He died on 18 September 1903 of a Cerebral Hemorrhage and Hemiplegia, a total paralysis of the arm, leg and trunk on one side of the body. Andrew was buried in the Keane family grave in St Kilda Cemetery.

Andrew's Will

Andrew left a Will which was dated 3 March 1896 which appointed his brothers Daniel and Michael as executors. The estate comprised real estate not exceeding 1000 Pounds and personal property not exceeding 1211 Pounds 15 Shillings and eight Pence.

Andrew left three houses two in Agnew Street and one in Camperdown Street. His wooden house at 29 Agnew Street was left to Ellen (Margaret Helen). She died in 1908 and she left the house to her brother Andrew Michael who lived there with his wife Grace. Following Andrew Michael's death in 1934 the house passed to Grace and after her death in 1950 it passed to her brother Robert McIntosh.

Andrew's brick house at 31 Agnew Street was left to Sarah Jane who in 1898 had married John Sylvester Holmes and was living at Alma Road St Kilda. Sarah Jane sold the house in November 1937.

The Camperdown Street property was left to Bridget (Delia) who had married William Titford. She rented out the property and when she died in 1919 it was left to her son Sidney

He also left a legacy to his eldest daughter Mary Rennie of 150 Pounds and legacies of 300 Pounds each to his sons Andrew Michael, Martin William and Daniel. (This was probably sufficient to buy a house at that time.) If the estate's funds were insufficient the amounts were to abate proportionately and if there was any residual this was to be shared equally by Ellen, Martin and Daniel.

Andrew and Bridget's Children

Andrew and Bridget had seven children:

1. Mary

Mary was born on 22 January 1865 in hospital in Melbourne. The birth certificate indicates that she was illegitimate and there was no father named.

Mary married **Alexander Rennie** on 17 December 1884 at Holy Trinity Church, Balaclava. Alexander was born in Glasgow, Scotland in about 1860. His parents were George Rennie and Elizabeth Coates. His occupation was a "horse driver" and at the time of his marriage he was living at Balaclava. He died in 1938 in Carlton.

They had four children

- **Alexander George** born 1885 St Kilda. He died in 1965 aged 80 at Yallourn.
- **Maude Elizabeth** born 1886 St Kilda. Married **Irving Leslie Matthews** in 1920. She died in 1955.
They had four children Francis, Patricia, Sheila and Ray Matthews.
- **Andrew**. Born 1889 St Kilda. Married Lilian Bosanko in 1911.
They had three children Albert, Lilian Beryl (born 1913) and Herbert Andrew Rennie born 4 February 1917 at Murrumbeena..
- **Willie** born 1890. Died 1890.



Mary (Keane) Rennie & son Andrew

Alexander died in 1938 at Carlton. Mary died on 28 September 1942 at 14 Hope Street Glen Iris. She had Arteriosclerosis and high blood pressure for fourteen years but died of Cerebral Thrombosis.

2. Bridget (Bedelia)

Bridget was born on 8 January 1867 at Church Street, Brighton. She married **William Titford** at St James Church, Elsternwick on 29 June 1898. William was the son of John Titford and Caroline Carter and he was their third child of nine living children. William's occupation was a Dairyman and Bedelia's was a Domestic. It should be noted that the Marriage Certificate records the name of Bedelia rather than Bridget.

William and Bedelia had three children:

- **William John Andrew** born 1901 at Brighton. He died in 1971 at Sunshine.
- **Arthur Albert** born 1902 in Brighton. Died in 1903.
- **Sidney Charles** born 1904 in Brighton. Died in 1978 at Kew.



Bridget (Bedelia Keane) Titford

Bedelia died on 15 April 1919 at her home at Aitken Street Sunbury. She was 52 years old and her two surviving boys were 18 and 15.

Bedelia left a Will dated 18 November 1918 naming her Executrix as Sarah Jane Holmes, her younger sister. The value of the estate was sworn as 713 Pounds nine Shillings and fourpence. The estate was her own separate estate and represented part of her share in the estate of her father Andrew.

Her real estate was valued at less than 350 Pounds which was the house left to her by her father at Camperdown Street Brighton. Her personal property was valued at 363 Pounds 9 Shillings and 4 pence. Bedelia would have benefitted from rents from Camperdown Street and also she received almost 200 pounds from Ellen's estate after she died in 1908.

The estate papers also contained an affidavit that indicated that Bedelia's true and correct name was Bridget but she was usually known and had adopted the name of Bedelia. There was also a savings bank account in the name of Bedelia.

The beneficiaries of her estate were her two sons William and Sidney. Both were less than twenty one and Sidney was three years younger than William.

Sidney was left the Camperdown Street property when he attained the age of 21. In the meantime it was to be leased and the rent was to be used for his maintenance. If he was to die before 21 the property was to go to William. The residue of the estate was to pay for any upkeep of the property.

Bedelia had two life assurance policies and her boys each were to benefit from a specified policy on attaining the age of 21.

William was to receive the remainder of the estate (aside from the property) on reaching 21. In the meantime the funds were to be placed in a trust account with a bank and William was to receive at least 10/- per week towards his maintenance until he is 21 when he was to receive the balance of the account. If he died before he was 21 the balance was to go to Sidney.

The Trustee was empowered to provide a larger amount than 10/- in any particular week or number of weeks if thought fit. The amount paid to Sidney in his minority was not to exceed 50 Pounds in addition to the rent.

William Titford died in May 1945 aged 72. The Argus carried a thank you from the family.

3. Sarah Jane

Sarah Jane was born on 16 April 1869 at Church St Brighton. She married **John Sylvester Holmes** on 4 May 1898 at St James Church Elsternwick.

A separate story will be written about Sarah Jane and John Sylvester Holmes.

4. Andrew Michael

Andrew Michael was born on 9 October 1871 at Church St Brighton. He married **Grace Rebecca Russell McIntosh** on 1 January 1917 at St James Church Elsternwick.

A separate story will be written about Andrew Michael.

5. Margaret Helen

Margaret Helen (Nellie) was the fifth child and fourth daughter of Andrew and Bridget. She was born on 12 September 1874 at William Street Brighton. Her father was 35 and her mother 33 years old. She would have attended school locally.

Nellie would have been about six years old when her mother left the family and returned to Ireland and from that time would have been called on to do a lot of work around the house.

Nellie never married and she is shown in the two photographs of Andrew's house in Agnew Street which were probably taken when it was purchased in the late 1880's.



29 Agnew St. Andrew with Delia & Nellie



Andrew Delia & Nellie

After her father died in 1903 Nellie was left the family home at 29 Agnew Street. At that time Sarah Jane had been left the brick cottage next door and a subdivision of the properties created two separate titles. Nellie lived only a short time later. She developed Tuberculosis and died in the Albert Ward of the Alfred Hospital on 19 October 1908 at the age of 33. Her death certificate showed her usual residence as Ferguson St, Brighton.

Nellie died Intestate and Letters of Administration were granted to her brother Andrew Michael of Dandenong Road St Kilda. Her estate contained the property at 29 Agnew Street and personal estate of furniture valued at 3 Pounds and 4 pounds 2 shillings and 9 pence in her bank account. Expenses were claimed from the estate which was administered by the solicitors over a period of 15 months. Overall about 25 Pounds was paid to the solicitor.

Significantly there was a payment of 17 Pounds 8 shillings to a Mrs. Harcourt for maintenance of Nellie for the period 13 August to 9 October 1907. This appears to have been a period when Nellie was ill and needed looking after. The estate also incurred funeral expenses of 12 Pounds 3 Shillings and paid for the grave at Brighton Cemetery the cost of which was 5 Pounds 8 Shillings.



Nellie Keane

6. Martin William

Martin was born at William Street Brighton on 17 August 1877. He married **Elizabeth Garsed** on 24 April 1902 at St Mary's East St Kilda.

A separate story will be written about Martin William Keane.

7. Daniel

Daniel was the youngest child of Andrew and Bridget Keane. He was born in William Street, Brighton on 6 April 1879. Daniel never married and went to live in New Zealand.

A separate story will be written about Daniel.