

Initial Upload 17 June 2012

FRANCIS EDWARD and RITA MAY STONE

Frank first met May in the Air Force at Victor Harbour. She was taken on staff there as Mess Woman on 23 June 1942. At the time Frank was there as a Cook and they worked together for a period of three months until Frank received a posting Townsville in September.



May 1942

May provided the following notes to her son Kevin and his wife Julie about her working life:

"May went to school at Willowie and left during the Depression in 1930 (aged 12). She went to work for 7/6 a week for a Mrs. Gregg doing housework and later to Tilbrooks helping the children with their correspondence lessons for 10/- per week. She was there for 12 months and then went work at the Hall's at nearby Morchard doing housework and looking after their two children. She was there for 2 years.

May went to Adelaide at 16 years of age. She worked as a housemaid for Dr. Trott in a 2 storey house in Edwin Terrace, Gilberton. They had three daughters Lynette and twins Janet and Helen. It was "posh" and she had to dress for the part.

The Trotts were very kind to May. Helen got pneumonia and then her mother got it. May had to look after both of them. The cook then left (they had nine cooks in 18 months) and May had to take on the cooking as well as her other work so she gave notice.

May then worked for a "Mr Horrible" 24 Waroona Tce. Glenunga on a fruit block. She was a house maid and was there for about a year. She then got a job with the Pattersons of Currie St

Brighton. They had 4 sons and one daughter and May looked after one son while all the others worked. There was a cow May had to milk and she was not allowed to clean cobwebs because they kept insects away from the rambling house. She was there for two and a half years.

After two and a half years May went to work for Sven Kallin at Seaview Rd. Henley Beach and looked after their daughter Ingrid. (Sven was married to May's cousin). She worked there until she was 24 and joined the Air Force in May 1942. She went to Victor Harbor No. 4 ITS for about 2 years. May met Frank at Victor Harbor where he was serving meals. One day when getting a cup of tea he asked her to the pictures.

After Victor Harbor, May went to Daws Road Hospital looking after the Air Force kitchen for about a year. She then went to Adelaide Hospital where she was in charge of the kitchen. She was there when peace was declared in 1945.

After the War, May returned to the farm at Willowie and worked. Frank rang and said there was a job available as a waitress at Scot's College. She took the job.

Frank then took May to Ravenshoe, in Queensland. Frank got a job cooking for the cane cutters while May looked after the quarters where the cane cutters lived. Patricia was born in 1946 In Ingham and they all came back to Adelaide.

May went back to Willowie with Patricia while Frank worked as a salesman at Myers Shoe department. In 1947 Frank bought Lot 162 Ayredale Ave. He bought a railway carriage and put it on the block. May came back with Patricia and they all lived in the railway carriage."

The Stone Family¹

May was the fifth child and youngest of three daughters of **John Stone** and **Julia Charlotte Turner**.

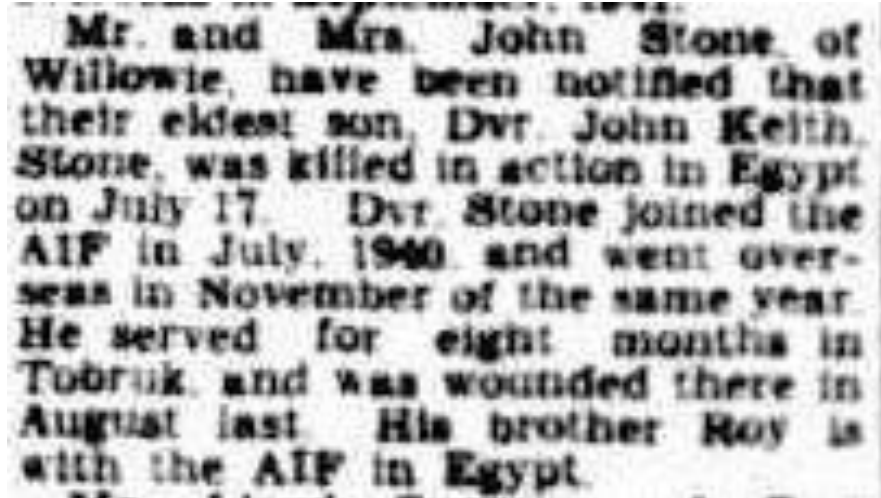
John Stone was born 3 July 1870 at Gawler Hills and was the son of **Samuel Thomas Stone** born 1836 at Germoe, Cornwall, England and **Elizabeth Ann Matthews** (born in 1837, died 1902 at Redhill) They were married at Gawler on 6 February 1858.

Samuel Thomas Stone was the son of **Samuel Stone and Martha Williams** and he migrated to South Australia in 1848 on the "*Westminister*". This was the same ship on which three Goldsworthy sisters migrated one of which, Maria, later married Samuel Harford. The ship contained many people from Cornwall. Samuel Thomas farmed at Willowie and he died there on 31 March 1898.

John & Julia were married on 2 October 1909 at Happy Valley and had seven children one of whom died at birth:

1. **John Keith** Born 24 July 1910 at Wilmington. Died 17 July 1942 in Egypt from wounds incurred in action at Tobruk.

¹ From Oak Tree to Gum, By John Martin-Turner & Robert Turner. A History of the Turner Family



Mr. and Mrs. John Stone, of Willowie, have been notified that their eldest son, Dvr. John Keith Stone, was killed in action in Egypt on July 17. Dvr. Stone joined the AIF in July, 1940, and went overseas in November of the same year. He served for eight months in Tobruk, and was wounded there in August last. His brother Roy is with the AIF in Egypt.

The Advertiser 12 August 1942

2. **George.** Born 6 January 1912. Lived only two hours and died 6 January 1912
3. **Roy Clifford.** Born 23 July 1913 at Reynella. Married on 7 October 1950 at Enfield to **Jean Maria Davis** (born 11 June 1927 at Esher Surrey, England) . Roy died 10 July 1986 at Mount Barker W.A.. Roy and Jean had three children.
4. **Elsie Maude.** Born 26 April 1915 at Reynella. Married 21 May 1942 at Willowie to **Edward Frederick Davis** of Esher, Surrey, England, (brother of Jean) (born 30 May 1906 died 30 August 1966 and buried at Dudley Park). Elsie died on 11 September 2009 at Adelaide. Elsie & Edward had one daughter.
5. **Ruth Evelyn.** Born 5 July 1917 at Orroroo. Married 5 February 1938 at Willowie to **Albert Jack Cella Stagg** (born 25 September 1902 at Thebarton). Ruth died 4 March 2010. Ruth and Albert had two sons and two daughters.
6. **Rita May.** Born 13 October 1918 at Orroroo. Married on 20 April 1948 at the Methodist Manse, Orroroo to **Francis Edward Harford** (born 26 October 1910, died 18 July 2002 at Largs Bay). May and Frank had one son and four daughters.
7. **Leo Eric.** Born 18 September 1921 at Orroroo. Married 29 September 1949 at Streaky Bay to **Hilda May Hillman** (born 2 June 1928 at Streaky Bay died 15 August 1959. Leo and Hilda had two sons and two daughters.

After Hilda's death Leo was married again on 29 August 1962 at Orroroo to **Betty Peterson**. They had one son.

The Turner Family

A book has been produced on the Turner Family titled *"From Oak Trees to Gum. A History of the Turner Family in Devon, Kent and South Australia"*² It was produced from research by John Martin-Turner, Robert Turner and Bernard Thompson with the text written by Robert Turner. This traces the family back to Simon Turner to his birth in South Molten, Devon on 24 August 1675. He became an Innkeeper at Dover and a fairly wealthy man.

The first member of the Turner family to come to South Australia was **Thomas Newman Turner** arriving in Adelaide on the "*Sir Charles Forbes*" on 7 June 1839. He married **Hannah Holbrook** at Trinity Church, North Terrace, on 21 May 1840. In 1853 he leased 40 acres at Section 2256, Hundred of Yatala. The land was located on the north east corner of Kings and Martins Roads, Salisbury Downs.

Thomas Newman and Hannah had eight children and the sixth child was **Thomas Baiss** born 26 August 1854 at Salisbury and died on 28 October 1902. Thomas Baiss married **Harriette Elizabeth Turner** at Hamilton on 20 March 1878. Harriette was born at Munno Para on 28 September 1856 and died 11 February 1933. Their eldest child was **Julia Charlotte Turner** who was born on 4 January 1879 at Hamilton. She was the first of ten children.

Julia married **John Stone** at Happy Valley on 2 October 1909. John was born 7 March 1870 at Gawler Hills. He died on 9 September 1947 at Orroroo and was buried at Willowie with his wife Julia who died at Blair Athol on 29 July 1968. Their children are shown above.



John & Julia Headstones at Willowie Cemetery³

Frank and May

In February 1945 Frank was posted to No. 4 School of Technical Training and in July he applied for a discharge to take up employment as a Chainman with the Electricity & Water Supply Department, where he had worked prior to enlistment. He was transferred to the No.1 Reserve Pool and his request was granted. Frank was discharged on 5 September 1945.

May was discharged shortly after on 29 October 1945 and they went to north Queensland where they both worked feeding and housekeeping for the workers who were there to cut the cane. Their eldest daughter **Patricia** was born at Ingham Queensland on 18 July 1946, just under nine months from May's discharge.

² Anyone wanting a scanned copy please let me know.

³ Australian Headstones

In 1947 Edna brought a case for divorce from Frank. The case came to Court on 15 October 1947 and the divorce was granted on the grounds of Frank's adultery with Dorothy Short who by September 1946 had become engaged and later married Ian Hamilton Proctor.

During the War, processes such as divorce proceedings moved slowly. They were not a priority. However, with the War over, Edna's case came to Court on 15 October 1947 and the divorce was granted. It was to take effect six months after the Court order on 19 April 1948. Frank and May were immediately married at the Methodist Manse, Willowie, on 20 April 1948.

Frank's Land Transactions

Clearview

Lot 162 Ayredale Ave Enfield Extension

This was the first freehold land bought by Frank. The transfer was dated 3 June 1947 for Lot 162 Ayredale Ave, on the corner of Kent Avenue.⁴ The land was sold by Robert Landsmeer and Frank paid 30 Pounds. The land measured 57 by 150 feet. The land documents contain a signed "Consent to Purchase" under the Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act 1946. This could indicate a government subsidy in the low asking price.

The transfer details Frank's occupation as Salesman and his address as 75 Rose Terrace, Wayville. Frank mortgaged the property (along with others) to the Union Bank of Australia Ltd on 16 April 1951. The mortgage was discharged on 19 November 1953.

Frank sold the land on 17 July 1956 for 300 Pounds to Chrystobel Durand. The Transfer was witnessed by his bank manager friend, William (Bill) Aloysius Pritchard.

Lots 139,140 and 141 Ormonde Ave

Frank bought these three lots in partnership with his cousin Glen Bartlett on 9 September 1948. At the time of purchase his occupation was given as Salesman and his address as Ayredale Ave. Lot 162 Ayredale Ave backed onto Lot 139 Ormonde Ave. By this date Frank was living on the land at Ayredale Ave in the railway carriage.

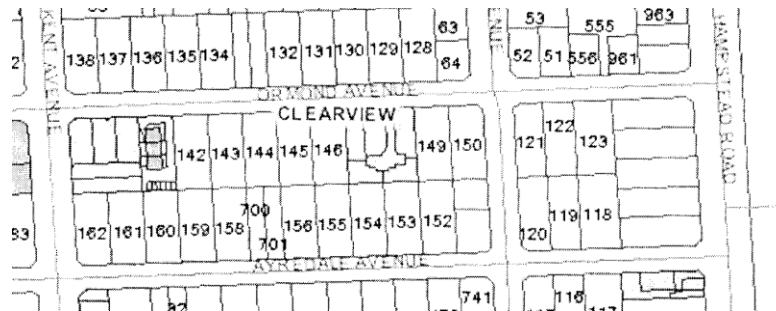
Each of the Ormonde Ave lots was the same size (57 by 150 feet) and they were bought for a total consideration of 75 Pounds implying a price of 25 Pounds each and that Glen and Frank put up 37 Pounds 10 Shillings each.

However, on the same day as the purchase Frank paid Glen 12 pounds 10 shillings for his interest in Lots 139 & 140 and Frank transferred his interest in Lot 141 to Glen for "*no monetary consideration*". This meant Frank had paid 50 Pounds for two lots and Glen 25 pounds for Lot 141.

Frank mortgaged the two properties as well as Lot 162, to the Union Bank of Australia Ltd on 16 April 1951. This mortgage was discharged on 19 November 1953 and on 3 December 1953 a new mortgage was taken out with the Commercial Bank of Australia. This later mortgage was discharged on 21 October 1974.

⁴ Vol 1617, Folio 124

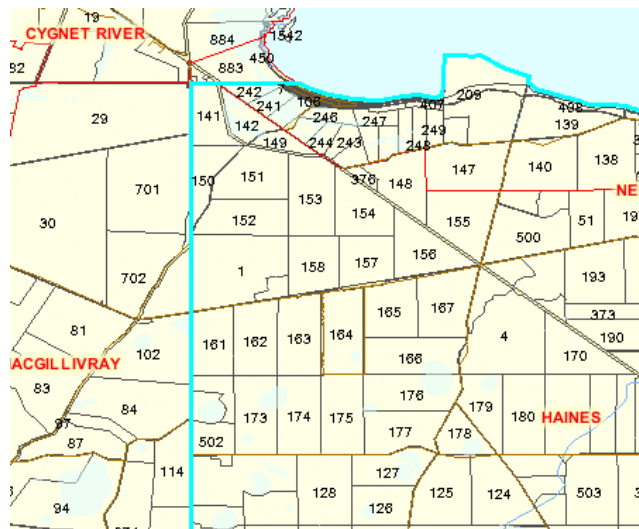
Frank bought Lot 141 from Glen on 23 October 1952 for 100 Pounds giving Glen an excellent return of 75 Pounds in only four years. The transfer notes that at that time the land was still vacant. This was the land that Frank used for a tennis court. Frank's address was given as Ayredale Ave, Enfield Heights (and Glen's was 22 Moresby Ave Broadview Gardens). Frank continued to hold Lot 141 until 21 June 1971 when he sold it to Nicholas Lagonik for 4,750 Pounds.



Plan of Subdivision after sale of Clearview Land

Kangaroo Island

In the mid 1930's Frank had purchased the perpetual lease on 1278 acres Lots 164, 165, and 167 just off the Hog Bay Road at the corner of Wilsons and Halls Roads, Hundred of Haines, Kangaroo Island. He had spent some time clearing the land but it is doubtful that he would have cleared any more than a third of it before he left there to do his Surveying job with Harry Bailey and a short time later to join the Air Force. It seems likely that he would have sub let the property while he was in the Air Force and could have been expected to provide some incentive for the lessee to continue clearing.



Lots 164, 165 & 167 Hundred of Haines

Frank sold this lease on 4 January 1951 for **4,792 Pounds**. This was an extremely large amount of money and it gave Frank a real stake to go forward with other transactions.

With such a large amount of money, Frank still mortgaged his other properties on 16 April 1951. The mortgage would not have been very large as the value of the land (without houses) was only about 150-200 Pounds. Frank therefore needed the money from the Kangaroo Island sale to fund the building of the house.

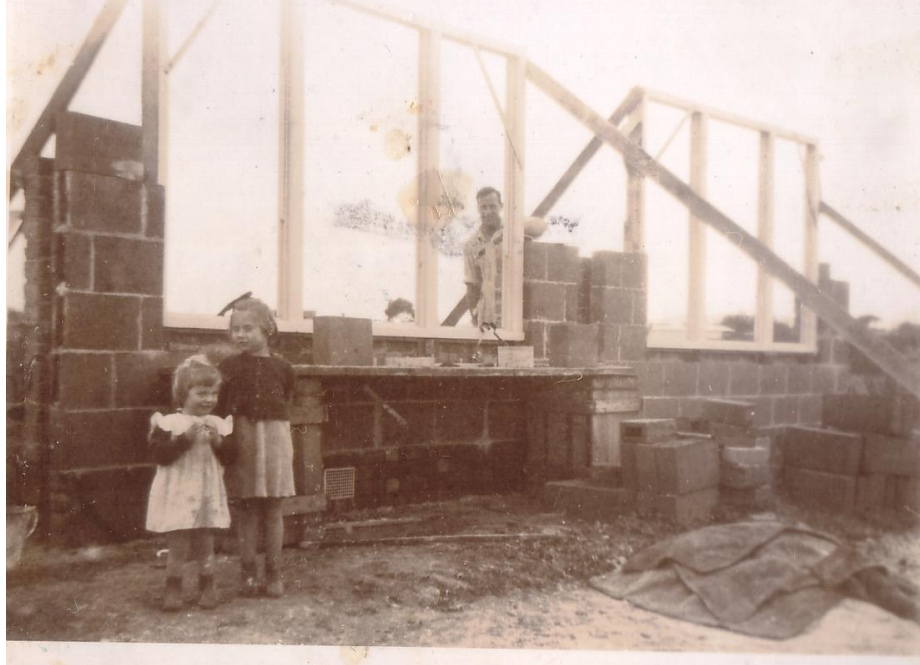
The major purpose of the Ayredale Avenue land was to provide a base for Frank to progressively build his new house. He established the railway carriage as an interim home. We believe he started in about 1950/51 and he commenced by building the garage which also had a separate room at the back.

By mid 1953 Frank and May were still living in garage as Joy Hillier, who was not well expecting her twins, went to stay with them before she went to hospital. Later in August after the twins were born, Joy returned and lived in the railway carriage.



1954 Blanche & Frank with Joy & Twins

By mid 1954 it appears that the house had been completed, or at least it was at a stage that part of it could be occupied, because Frank had moved the railway carriage to his land at Swede Flat.



Frank, Patricia & Jennifer. Start of building the house

Lots 139 & 140 were held until they were sold by Frank's Executor, the Public Trustee, to De Palo Homes Pty Ltd for \$351,000. The Transfer is dated 13 May 2003.

Today, the properties have all been subdivided into much smaller parcels.

Land at Swede's Flat

While still engaged building his house Frank made three purchases of land at Swede Flat, near Padthaway. Most of the land was part of Perpetual Crown Lease 4753. The land was essentially uncleared and Frank having the experience of a substantial increase in value from the clearing of his Kangaroo Island land was about to repeat the experience.

In this particular case, we know that Frank enlisted the assistance of members of his family and we know that John Hillier helped with Joy staying in the railway carriage cooking meals. Also, we have heard from Patrick Overend that his father John had made trips there to help in the clearing process. This was a difficult and dirty job with the scrub and trees first being burnt off and then the stumps grubbed out and also burnt.

Parcel 1: Section 51 (28 acres), Section 89 (4103 acres), Section 90 (562 acres). Hundred of Parsons. Total area 6343 acres.

The transfer was dated 19 October 1953 although it is clear that there was a long delay in the issue of new titles perhaps by as much as a year. Frank paid 792 Pounds for 6343 acres or 2 shillings and sixpence per acre.

While this was a very low price Frank quickly reduced his risks by selling 4500 acres. The sale transfer to Stuart Peter Florence, Contractor and Grazier, was dated 10 August 1953 but it

refers to an agreement of 12 September 1952 and there is a handwritten note indicating stamp duty was *"Assessed on full consideration of 8062 Pounds 10 shillings"* indicating that a deposit of 562 pounds had previously been paid, probably at the time the agreement was made almost a year before. The overall price per acre was about 1 Pound 15 Shillings.

Frank had recovered substantially in excess of his outlay and still had 1843 acres remaining in this parcel. However, given the increase in value there must have been agreement for the clearing or at least partial clearing of some of the land.

Subsequent sales

Later sales of the remaining parts of Section 89 took place in three transactions

- 20 October 1956 to John Alfred Bell 250 acres for 812/10/- or 3 pounds 5 shillings per acre.
- 20 October 1956 to Eldrich Domeschenz of 250 acres for the same price as Bell paid.
- 17 April 1957 to John Benjamin Hoare of 1150 acres for 3,800 Pounds or 3 Pounds 6 shillings per acre.

This left a balance of 193 acres which was sold on 16 December 1960 to Lindholme Investments Pty Ltd for 2395 Pounds 12 Pounds 8 Shillings per acre. (The area was not shown on the transfer and has been deduced. As a consequence there may be an error in the calculation.)

Frank had seven years use of this land and he ran a farm there. We believe he used to graze pigs as he had done on Kangaroo Island.

Overall on this parcel Frank had outlayed **792 Pounds** and recovered **15,320 Pounds**. However, we need to take account of the costs of clearing to determine the net profit.

Parcel 2: Section 56 (306 acres), Section 63 (2028 acres), Section 64 (797 acres) Hundred of Parsons. Total area 3131 acres.

The transfer for this parcel is dated 7 October 1953 and Frank purchased the above sections for 2750 Pounds from AH, RW and HA Burns the last two from Enfield. Shortly after on 26 October 1953 Frank sold 1000 acres, 478 acres from Section 63 and 522 acres from Section 64, to Sven Kallin for the full amount of his initial outlay, 2750 pounds. Frank had paid 17/6 per acres and the price to Sven Kallin was 2 Pounds 15 shillings per acre, a 57% profit in three weeks, with Frank retaining 2131 acres cost free.

About twelve months later Frank sold another 1000 acres to Sven for 3000 Pounds or 3 Pounds per acre. This twelve months would have given him some time to complete more clearing and enhance the value of the land.

Subsequent sales

After the above sales Frank had 1131 acres of Section 63 remaining. These were sold as follows:

- 20 December 1960, 30 acres to Uppland Ltd for 800 Pounds. Uppland was a company of 140 Gawler Place, Adelaide, the same address as Sven Kallin. The price was 26/13/4 per acre.

- 25 November 1963, 200 acres to Sven Kallin and members of his family for 1800 Pounds or 9 Pounds per acre.
- The final parcel was sold on 30 August 1965 to Murray Gladstone Coleman. The price was 5361 pounds for 901 acres or 5 Pounds and 17 Shillings per acre.

Frank had the use of this last parcel for about twelve years.

Overall, Frank had outlaid **2750** Pounds for this parcel and received **13,711** Pounds from sales.

Parcel 3: Section 58 (318 acres), Section 59 (48 acres), Section 60 (360 acres), Section 61(153 acres, 2 roods), Sections 62 (324 acres) Hundred of Parsons. Total area 1203.5 acres.

This smaller parcel was also a part of Pastoral Lease 4753. Frank obtained title to this parcel of 1203.5 acres on 13 February 1957. Unfortunately, we are not aware of the purchase price but as it was part of a Crown Lease the price would be low and possibly more clearing would be required.

Frank immediately set about reducing his risks by selling some parcels the first of which was transferred on 24 October 1956 before the title had been produced. The purchaser was John Digby and the price was 1033/10/- for 318 acres and the price of 3/5/- was the same as a number of other transactions on the same date.

Other sales were:

- 25 June 1957, 500 acres to David Rowley for 1750 Pounds or 3/10/- per acre.
- 9 February 1959 100 acres to Christine Rowley for 500 Pounds or 5/-/- per acre
- 16 December 1960 the balance of the land estimated at 285.5 acres was sold to Lindholme Investments for 2395 Pounds or slightly more than 8 Pounds per acre.

Because we do not have details of Frank's outlay on this parcel the return cannot be assessed. The purchase was a couple of years after the first two parcels so the price could be expected to be higher. However, we doubt whether it would have been above 2 Pounds an acre and using this price Frank's outlay would have been about 2400 Pounds with sales of **5,678** Pounds he would have netted 3272 Pounds.

Other Clearview Land⁵

Later in the late fifties Frank purchased about 8 to 10 blocks of land in Clearview which he progressively sold off. The money was probably from the proceeds from the sale of the Swede Flat land. He also started to build four shops on land at the corner of Ayredale Avenue and Hampstead Road opposite the Northfield Hospital. The council stopped Frank from proceeding with the building because he was using his own home made clay bricks for the foundations. Frank sold the land and it remained vacant for a number of years.

The purchaser continued the building work using Frank's foundations. The buildings are still there today as a bike shop, Laundromat and a shop selling home brewing products.

⁵ Kevin Harford & John Hillier

Other Investments

Frank's investments were not confined to land transactions. In the early 1950's there was a boom in the exploration for oil and gas. Share prices began to rise and there were opportunities for speculators to make good returns.

West Australian Petroleum Pty Ltd (WAPET) was a pioneer oil and gas exploration and processing company in Western Australia. Formed in March 1952 as a joint venture between Caltex and Ampol, the company discovered Australia's first flowing oil in November the following year, at Rough Range on the North West Cape. After its initial success, the company was also successful at Barrow Island this has led extensive off-shore exploration and a series of other finds on the north west coast.

In 1953, Frank tried to influence John Hillier in Wapet, but John only recently married with twin babies, saw a washing machine as of greater importance. As a young boy, I was also aware of this activity and Frank's interest in it. Other companies to gain Frank's interest were AOG and Santos.

Frank and May's Family

Frank and May had five children:

Patricia May. Born 18 July 1946 at Ingham, Queensland. Married **Hugh McNichol Harkins** (born 18 Jul 1944, Glasgow, Scotland) on 16 November 1968 at Adelaide. Patricia was a Nurse and Hugh was Painter and Decorator as well as a Musician.

They have four children:

Christine Lee born 10 May 1970 at Adelaide
John Anthony born 3 May 1971 at Adelaide
David Mark born 4 March 1974 at Adelaide
Carolyn Ann born 10 March 1977 at Adelaide

Jennifer Maude. Born 4 May 1949 at Adelaide. Married **Bruce Townsend** (born 16 November 1943 at Adelaide) on 16 November 1968 at Adelaide in a double wedding with Patricia. Bruce was an Air Traffic Controller.

They have three children:

Karen Louise born 4 August 1970 at Adelaide
Stephen James born 30 September 1972 at Adelaide
Bradley Stuart born 24 October 1977 at Adelaide

Rosemary Kaye. Born 11 May 1951 at Adelaide. Married **John McCarthy** (born 20 June 1950 in England) on 8 January 1972 at Adelaide.

They have five children:

Shane Daniel born 10 February 1974 at Adelaide.
Lori Jane born 20 January 1976 at Adelaide
Kathryn Lee born 10 June 1977 at Adelaide
Marie Rose born 25 June 1982 at Nanangro, Queensland
Leah Anne born 10 September 1988 at Nanangro, Queensland

Kevin Frank. Born 5 July 1954 at Adelaide. Married **Julie Kaye Helps** (born 10 June 1953 at Gawler) on 28 September 1974 at Adelaide.

They have three children:

Wade James 18 Oct 1979, Campbelltown, SA.

Russell Trent 9 Aug 1981 at Adelaide

Keralie Anne 17 Jan 1984 at Adelaide

Lynette Ann. Born 27 March 1957 at Adelaide. Married **Brian Beattie** (born 9 August 1957) on 27 March 1981 at Adelaide. Brian is a Plumber.

They have two children:

Brett Aaron born 6 February 1985 at Adelaide

Kira Jade born 12 February 1987 at Adelaide

Frank's children were all given a good education at Catholic schools. The girls were all educated at Our Lady of Sacred Heart College at Enfield and Frank was a tireless worker for the school and the nuns. He was involved in leveling of the oval, helping to build playing courts, digging drains and concreting work. He also enlisted Kevin's help in some of these activities.

He was generous with the school and the Church with his money as well as his time and he also got May to drive the nuns around. Ultimately he gave the nuns his Packard car.

My father, Colin, took a particular interest in his older brother no doubt strongly supported by and maybe at the request of his mother, Blanche. Both were concerned at Frank's behavior in his younger years and mainly with him discarding his Catholic religion. Colin made it his mission to get Frank back to the Church and regularly visited him in Adelaide. We believe that Colin was successful.



Frank's Family

Frank's Working Career

Frank's occupation was a Pastry Cook and Baker. He also had experience running kitchens in the Air Force and at Hospitals.

Up until the mid fifties Frank was preoccupied building his house and with his land at Swede Flat on which he had farming activity. The last parcel of this land was sold in 1965. While building his house Frank also worked in the kitchen at the Northfield Hospital. He also worked later at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

In 1972 Frank was working at Kronpuss Cakes Torrens Road, Ridleyton where he stayed for about two years. Subsequently, he got a job as a cook for the survey crew which was surveying the route for the Adelaide to Darwin railway line. Although he was a cook he also had previous experience as a Chainman and this was probably utilized. Frank was away about twelve months. May visited him at least once taking the train from Adelaide to an outback station where Frank met her and took her the 80 kilometres to the Survey camp site.

In 1973 Frank got a job at Woomera cooking for the Americans and Australians who were stationed at the Rocket Range there. Frank only came home once or twice while he was there but was in regular contact with May by telephone. Frank obtained accommodation in a unit there and Kevin and Julie visited him and brought his car and caravan back to Adelaide. May also joined him at Woomera once he had the unit.

Retirement years

Frank retired in 1975 at the age of 65 when he was able to get a pension. He continued to be very active with an extensive vegetable garden

In early 1976 Frank and May set out on a long trip around Australia. He had a relatively new Toyota Crown and he bought a caravan. They made their way to Western Australia and visited May's brother Roy at Mount Barker before working their way up the West Coast to Broome and Dampier.

They stayed for about three months at the La Grange Mission about 200 kilometres south of Broome. This mission had been established by Father Kevin McKelson, a Catholic priest, in the early 1960's where he encouraged aboriginal culture and language while also promoting the merits of western style education.

Frank and May both thoroughly enjoyed their time with the people at the Mission. Frank did a lot of cooking and took great pride in the fact that they spent time helping Fr. McKelson and also teaching the aborigines how to make and cook bread. Both of them spent time fishing and May spent time collecting shells. May really loved the children there.

From Broome they drove through the Kimberley country to Darwin where Joy and John were at the time and they spent some time with them. Their original plans to go right around the country were abandoned and they made their way home to Adelaide via Alice Springs and Ayer's Rock and the centre.

Frank's Cancer

In 1979 Frank had had an episode with cancer. One day while massaging his back Joy found a mole which bothered her and insisted that he get it checked. He did this and a Melanoma was cut out leaving a deep wound and scar.

Subsequently towards the end of 1980, after he and May had holidayed in New Zealand and Fiji, he was found to have Lymphoma and was operated on at Royal Adelaide Hospital. He was told to put his affairs in order as he had a limited time to live. Frank was to prove them wrong.



May & Frank

Frank and May's Final Years

Frank and May left their house and went into a smaller unit at 3650 West Avenue, Northfield in about 1981.

In the 1980's Frank and May made visits to Queensland to see Rosemary and her family. They also set up a caravan at Port Broughton. This was equipped with an oven in which he could bake bread and they made visits there regularly for a week or so each month. They used to walk and fish and look around the area and also relax. Frank also read a lot.

In 1987, Kevin and Julie bought their property at Long Plains and Frank helped Kevin, for example, digging his septic tank pit and planting about a hundred trees.

Frank continued to maintain his vegetable garden at Ormond Avenue. The house had been rented out but Frank was not happy with the tenants and asked Kevin and Julie to occupy it. Later their boys lived there. Frank regularly attended to the garden where he had a wide variety of vegetables. He also built up the garden beds so that he no longer had to bend down to them.

Frank developed Dementia. Initially he was looked after at home by May but ultimately needed a higher level of care and he went to the Philip Kennedy Centre at Everard Street, Largs Bay in about 1990 when he was eighty. He died on 18 July 2002. The cause of death was stated as

"Dehydration and Cardiovascular Collapse due to severe Dementia" He was buried at Enfield Memorial Park Cemetery



May moved into Mt Carmel Hostel at Rosewater and she died there on 21 June 2009 at the age of 90. She was cremated. Her daughter, Jenny, collected her ashes.

Franks Will

Frank's Will is dated 8 December 1992 at which time he was living at 50 West Ave, Northfield. The Executor appointed was the Public Trustee of Adelaide. The executors were May and Kevin.

1. Residence 29 Ormonde Ave, Clearview

The house was to be held in trust to allow Kevin to have the use and occupation during his lifetime. He was to pay all rates and taxes and other outgoings and insure it in the name of the trustee to its full value against any risk and liability deemed necessary by the trustee.

On Kevin's death the trustee was to sell the house and distribute the proceeds in equal shares to all of Frank's grandchildren..

2. Rest of estate

The Trustee was to call in and convert to money Frank's residual estate and pay all funeral and testamentary expenses and all debts and duties payable in respect of the estate. The residue was to be held in trust for May and after her death the estate was to be shared equally between his daughters Patricia, Jennifer, Rosemary, and Lynette and if any of them were to die before then their children were to be substituted for their parents share.

Frank's Will has been controversial in the family and has created some division. The first element of controversy was the distribution of the proceeds from the sale of the house. Leaving

the proceeds to his grand children meant that those families with the most children received the most money. Also, Kevin's share was to go to his children.

The second element of controversy was the lifetime estate for Kevin to occupy the house. This would have meant that the sale could have been delayed for many years as Kevin was only 49 when Frank died. In addition there was no indication that Kevin ever wanted to live there.

The third element was Kevin's exclusion from the residual part of the estate.

Clearly, Frank believed that Kevin as a relatively young man he would have the use of the house for a very long time. As a consequence, he would avoid the cost of buying his own house. Obviously Frank thought that this was a sufficient advantage to offset Kevin not to have a share in the residual amount of the estate.

However, the house was not in good condition. John Hillier said the last time he was there (Frank's funeral) it looked unfinished and also looked as though it had been condemned. Also, May and Kevin had an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) and in February 2002 met to discuss a request they had received from Lynette to move into the property to minimize its deterioration and with a long term view of buying it.

Kevin's family was the last to live at the property, at Frank's request, taking over the lease from Southern Cross Homes. This was from February 1988 until about 2000.

The EPA reviewed the condition of the house and found it needed \$5000 and \$10000 to clean it up and to make it safe for occupation. This would have involved new electrical wiring and plumbing as well as non essential items of complete carpet replacement, full repaint, wall tile repair or possible replacement to kitchen, bathroom and laundry.

The EPA, correctly, was concerned to act in Frank's interest and to be arms length and thought the only way for Lynette to buy the property was at public auction and they thought this should be done with the proceeds being invested. Legal advice had been sought in reaching this view.

Frank's Will was not known at this time so all potential beneficiaries were requested to advise their views. It appears the matter was unresolved as Frank died in July 2002. The property was sold 13 May 2003 so it is clear that Kevin never occupied it after Frank died and he did not receive any proceeds from Frank's estate because his share of the sale of the house was to go to his children.

An important omission from the Will is that Joy was not mentioned or left anything. One would have thought that Frank should have recognized her in some small way. Joy believes the omission was caused by the fact that she changed her name from Harford to Florance at the insistence of her mother and stepfather on 3 November 1949. She believes Frank was hurt by this. Joy always deeply regretted making the change and she has recently changed her maiden name back to Harford.

Frank had a full and colourful life. He was very clearly a hard worker, very friendly and with a great ability to mix well and get on with people. He was a very good family man and very good to his children.