

THE TREACYS :
AN ANGLO - IRISH FAMILY IN AUSTRALIA

By Joan Malcolm

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JOHN TREACY (1811-1883)

CHAPTER 1

IRISH ORIGINS

Seven miles south of Carlow, on the road to Kilkenny lies the small town of Leighlinbridge. It is pleasantly situated on the River Barrow beside which are the ruins of the Black Castle built in 1181 by the followers of Hugh de Lacy. Two miles to the west is Old Leighlin, site of a monastery founded in the 7th century by St. Lazerian. Part of its ruins now form the Cathedral of Old Leighlin, in the diocese of Ossary, Ferns and Leighlin. The photograph (1) shows its heraldic banner and the Bishop's chair. The small village of Old Leighlin now consists only of the Dean's house, two other small houses and one general store/post office.

Further to the west, over the hilly farm country of Co. Kilkenny is Castlecomer, a small town where military barracks were built in 1717. In the late 18th century it is recorded that, in addition to farming,

Commercial coal mining was an important agent of change in the Castlecomer district as the increased traffic of people, commodities and money had important repercussions on society and settlement. A distinctive feature was the interdependence of coal and land. The recorded surnames of workers in the industry presents evidence of the presence of a new group of immigrants in north Kilkenny. Names such as, for example, Smithwick, Despard, Savory, Wilde, Close, Bradley, Raines and Boothe were not found here in the 17th century... It may be assumed that they constituted the majority of the eighty Protestant families listed in the Visitation Book of Castlecomer parish in 1781.¹

Coal mining gave impetus to road building and coal was transported from Castlecomer to Leighlin Bridge (as it was called at that time) on the Barrow for shipment downstream and to Kilkenny.

Anne Bradley, daughter of a farmer in this district was born in Castlecomer in 1782. In 1798 at the age of sixteen she married William Treacy, maltster and merchant of Leighlin Bridge.

¹*Land, Settlement and Society in South-East Ireland 1600-1850*, William Nolan, p.92ff.

We know little about the family of William Treacy of Leighlin Bridge. However, two deeds survive, one dated 1826 and a very interesting one of 1833. The former is an Indented Deed of Conveyance dated May 13, 1826, in which 'William Treacy of Leighlin Bridge in the County of Carlow merchant' and several others are named as creditors of Edward Groome deceased. The latter is an 'Indented Deed of Assignment dated October 1 1833 made between Anne Treacy of Leighlin Bridge in the County of Carlow Widow and Administratrix of William Treacy late of Leighlin Bridge in said County Merchant deceased of the first part, George Minchin of Busherstown in the King's County Esquire of the second part and Francis Dillon of Clonburrin in the County Carlow Esquire of the third part.' This deed was witnessed by 'William Treacy gentleman', presumably the eldest son of William and Anne Treacy. William Treacy senior evidently died between 1826 and 1833, the dates of the two deeds. The second deed states that 'Anne Treacy in pursuance of said agreement and with the like consent of said Francis Dillon did grant bargain sell assign transfer set over unto said George Minchin his Executors Administrators and assigns All that and the Messuage House and tenement with one garden orchard Backside Malthouse Barn stable and all other Houses thereunto belonging'. Then follows a long list of various parcels of land in the vicinity of Leighlin Bridge and Old Leighlin, also assigned to George Minchin.²

Why Anne Treacy was selling all this property in 1833 remains a mystery. It may have been that she was realising her assets so that she could distribute the money amongst her children as she, and some of them, made preparations for emigrating to Australia.

According to the Parish Register of Old Leighlin fourteen children of William and Anne Treacy were baptised between 1799 and 1824.

The eldest, William, was baptised in 1799. We know nothing of him except that he was described as 'gentleman' when he witnessed the deed between his mother and George Minchin in 1833. He died before 1853 when he is entered on his mother's death certificate as 'deceased'. He is almost certainly the 'William Treacy of Leighlin Bridge Co. Carlow' whose will is listed in 1837 in the Index of Wills at the Public Records Office, Dublin. Unfortunately the will itself is lost.

The second-born, James, was baptised in 1801 and married Emma (surname ?). They had at least one child, William Bernard, baptised October 19 1828. James is described in the Parish Register, Old Leighlin, as 'merchant of Leighlin Bridge'. James seems to have gone into his father's business rather than his elder brother William.

² Registry of Deeds, Henrietta Street, Dublin, reproduced in full in Appendix.

In 1802 Maria was baptised. She probably died as an infant because in 1804 another Maria was baptised.

Then followed Anne, baptised 1805. We know something of her life because she was one of the children who accompanied her mother to Australia. Anne and her mother with her sister Eliza arrived in Port Phillip on 28 August 1841 on the *William Metcalfe* which sailed from Cork.³ She married William Hovendon, merchant of Belfast, Victoria (Port Fairy) in Melbourne in 1843.⁴

The next child born to William and Anne Treacy is Catherine, baptised 1808 who probably died as an infant as another Catherine is recorded as baptised in 1819.

Then came Isabella, baptised 1809, who arrived with her husband Henry Eager, of Dublin, formerly of Blessington, in Melbourne aboard the ship *Rienzi* on 24 January 1855.⁵ They had six children. All their descendants to this day are shown in the family tree compiled by Doris Rowe held by the Port Fairy Historical Society.

John was baptised in 1811. He arrived in Port Phillip in 1841,⁶ probably on a different ship from the one in which his mother and sisters travelled. On May 2 1843 the Register of Marriages at St. James' Old Cathedral, West Melbourne shows that he married Catherine Budds, born 1814, daughter of a farmer, Thomas Budds of Queen's Co. Ireland (now Co. Laois). They had six children. John is in the composite photograph of 'The Explorers and Early Colonists of Victoria', compiled by T. Chuck.⁷

The next three children born to William and Anne Treacy, as far as is known, remained in Ireland. They were Margaret, baptised 1813, Andrew, baptised 1815 and Jane, baptised 1817.

Catherine, baptised 1819, seems to have married Hugh Mailey, of Port Fairy (see Doris Rowe's family tree). He was a witness on the death certificate of Anne Treacy (his mother-in-law?) in 1853, where his occupation is given as 'shop-keeper'.

³ *Passengers to Port Phillip from southern England and Ireland, 1839-42*, compiled and published by Ian A. Hughes, Northcote, Victoria, 1981. This records the names Miss Anne Tracy, Miss Eliza Tracy and Mrs. Eliza Tracy (sic.)

⁴ Reg. no. 863.

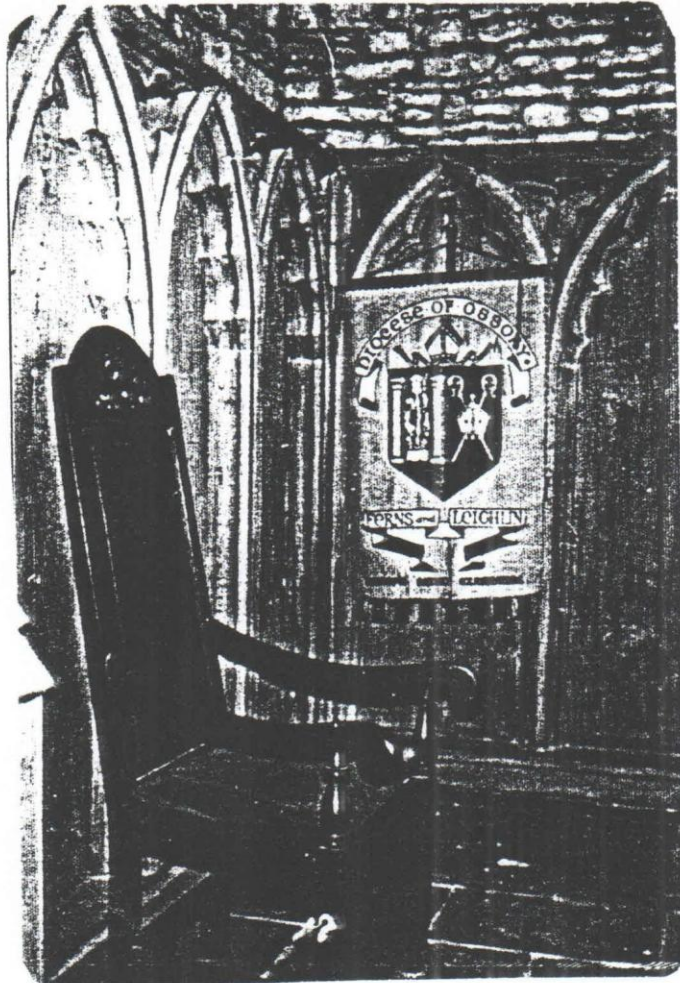
⁵ From Heraldry and Genealogy Soc. of Canberra: Immigration to Victoria April-June 1855, Fiche no. 92.

⁶ Death certificate No. 2005.

⁷ *Old Pioneers' Memorial History of Melbourne*, by Isaac Selby, 1924, pp.416(1) and 417.

Eliza Helena was baptised in 1821 and, as mentioned previously, accompanied her mother and sister Anne to Australia in 1841. She married Thomas Hamilton Traill Osborne on 18 December 1850 at Port Fairy. Osborne's prominent position as newspaper owner and editor and later as a member of the first Legislative Council of Victoria ensures that his life has been well documented. His life story is interesting in that it gives a good background to the social life of the time, as can be seen in the next chapter.

The youngest of the children, Harriet, was baptised in 1824 and, according to Doris Rowe's family tree, married Edwin Lane in Port Fairy.



CHAPTER 2

ANNE TREACY AND SOME OF HER CHILDREN IN EARLY VICTORIA

A crucial factor in the early colonising of Australia is the presence of the Anglo-Irish, most evident in Victoria between 1850 and 1880, but there from the beginning. Patrick O'Farrell defines them as

English speaking and usually but not always of English descent, including those of Norman origin whose lineage went back to the Conquest of 1176; not always of Anglican religion, sometimes Presbyterian, often Methodist, even Catholic. Those who took up land sought to carve out estates for themselves, when such opportunities did not exist in their home country. The lesser gentry sought creative employment, the public servants and administrators sought to run efficiently this corner of a liberal Empire... Their contribution to Australia was to be their concern for education, for religious freedom and for responsible government... Far from wishing to recreate Ireland they were anxious to ensure that its mistakes were not repeated.⁸

The Irish Protestant Ascendancy proved to be the best survivors and the most distinguished in the public life of the new settlement. From the 1850s the Anglo-Irish 'educated men of enterprise' were taking a lead in all aspects of the Victorian professional and cultural scene, founding what they considered to be the basic social organisations and institutions, such as the Agricultural Society, the Benevolent Society, the Cricket Club, the Mechanics' Institute.⁹ Paul de Serville says

It is noticeable how easily the Irish Ascendancy with its sporting tastes, eccentric conduct and interest in literature took to conditions in Australia in both town and country. Its contribution to the style of life in the colonies cannot be emphasised enough.¹⁰

⁸ *The Irish in Australia* by Patrick O'Farrell, UNSW Press, 1987, p.95.

⁹ *Port Fairy: The First Fifty Years* by J.W.Powling, Heinemann, Melbourne, 1980, pp.103-4.

¹⁰ *Port Phillip Gentlemen*, by Paul de Serville, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1980, p.93.

De Serville reports that at a dinner William Meek gave on 16th November 1840 for a number of the Ascendancy one of the guests maintained that 'every Irishman brought out to the colonies a flute and a rifle - of the six Irishmen there were six flutes and five rifles'.¹¹

John Treacy was trying to establish himself and his family in the very difficult period of the depression of 1842-44. Robert Russell wrote to his family on March 30th 1843

Melbourne is no longer Melbourne - no money, no credit - no trade, nothing but failures, the Sherrif's Officer the only active man in the community; even the lawyers scarcely able to get paid.¹²

It was not until 1845-1851 that recovery and consolidation took place.

In 1851 gold was discovered and gazetted on May 10th. The gold rushes changed the character of both town and country of the settlement and gave a new aspect to Victoria from its Port Phillip origins. However, there does not appear to be any sign that the Treacy family were influenced by the gold rushes; there is no mention of any gold boom town in any family references.

It is hardly necessary to say that in such society women held no position in public affairs, but it may be interesting to discover what life was like in the western district of Port Fairy, the town where Anne Treacy spent the last few years of her life and where her daughters Anne Hovendon, Catherine Mailey, Eliza Osborne, Harriet Lane, and from 1855 Isabella Eager settled and brought up their families.

The first mention of any member of the Treacy family in Port Fairy (or Belfast as it was called then) seems to be in 1848 when Anne and William Hovendon had their third child baptised at St. John's church. They had been married in Melbourne in 1843 and their first two children were born in Collingwood: Horace Nicholas in 1844 who died aged one year and Frederick Augustus in 1846. Annas their third child was baptised 2nd June 1848 and Gramus William baptised 4th November 1849 in St. John's Church. Their father's occupation was given as store-keeper and merchant. In 1849 he was advertising in the *Belfast Gazette* what was probably the first substantial store in the town, the 'Sydney Store', which had

a very large choice stock of goods of most recent arrivals from Britain...containing almost every variety of hardware, crockery, slops, haberdashery, hosiery, groceries, also wines, spirits, ales, flour, oats, bran.

¹¹ *ibid.* p.54.

¹² *ibid.* p.156.

He added that colonial produce would be taken in exchange. William Hovendon died on 4th July 1850 aged forty-one years, and it may have been that Eliza and perhaps her mother went to Port Fairy from Melbourne to help Anne bring up the three fatherless children.

On 9th October 1850 Eliza Treacy married Thomas Hamilton Traill Osborne at St. John's church, Port Fairy. An outline of Osborne's life in the colony gives an idea of the variety and opportunity offered at this time for a man of enterprise.

T.H.Traill Osborne was a native of Belfast, Ireland, where he received a liberal education, studying under John Stavelly, Professor of Natural Philosophy¹³ He has been described as a 'rather touchy person' and as having an 'overbearing manner' and appears to have had many disagreements with his contemporaries. However it is evident that he suffered from many difficulties during his life in the colony, not least in the tragic events which occurred in his first marriage.

He describes his arrival in Van Dieman's Land in 1835 in a letter to his uncle, Rev. Samuel Watson of Temple Brook Valley, Co. Down.¹⁴ From the letter it would appear that Thomas was an ordained Unitarian minister. He asks his uncle to obtain for him a certificate of his License from the Moderator of the Bangor Presbytery : 'It is not for a Congregation for there is not one yet established of Unitarian principles', but to enable him to apply for a position as tutor in an 'Academical Institution'. Several references are made to his desire for secrecy as to his whereabouts and a hint is given that he had had some personal difficulties with relatives in Ireland. "However neither then nor at any time since I left Ireland regretted I had left it. There I must have remained a poor dependent - perhaps despised by relations and former friends suffering upon the rack of Falsehood and Slander'.

After spending some time in Van Dieman's Land Thomas crossed to the mainland, arriving in Port Phillip on 3rd. March 1840 in the 117 foot schooner *Tamar*.¹⁵ On this small vessel were 8 passengers, 750 sheep and 3 horses.

In April 1840 it is reported that Rev. Thomas Osborne delivered the first lecture for the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute.¹⁶ Shortly afterwards he became its

¹³ *The Portland Bay Settlement* by Noel F. Learmonth, Historical Committee of Portland, 1934, p.174.

¹⁴ See Appendix for full text.

¹⁵ *Sliding Gunter* ed. Betty Beavis, Warrnambool, 1993, p. 1.

¹⁶ *ibid.*, Addenda.

first salaried secretary and, as such, succeeded in obtaining for the Institute two valuable blocks in Collins Street.¹⁷

In 1841 Thomas married Mary Kiely at St. Francis' Roman Catholic Church Melbourne, surely a courageous step showing independence of spirit in the religious atmosphere of the time. Their first child Mary was born on 15th October 1842. By September 1842 Osborne was the editor of the *Melbourne Times* and possibly assistant editor of the *Port Phillip Herald*. In January 1843 he moved to Portland where he became the first secretary of the Portland Scientific and Literary Society and on 22nd July 1844 he is registered as proprietor of the Portland newspaper, the *Portland Gazette and Belfast Advertiser*. However in February 1849 he announced that he would leave Portland and set up a journal in Port Fairy. On March 23rd the press and plant of the *Portland Gazette* were placed on a dray and made the extremely rough journey overland to Port Fairy. In early April the *Belfast Gazette and Portland and Warrnambool Advocate* was first issued.¹⁸

Meanwhile tragedy had struck in Osborne's personal life. Two years after the birth of their first child Mary their first son Thomas was born to Thomas and his wife Mary. Both children were baptised at Portland by Archbishop Polding of Sydney on 4th November 1844. But on 9th September 1845 Thomas's wife Mary died (in Geelong at her mother's residence) and just a few days later on 20th September their son Thomas died, also in Geelong, aged one year and a quarter.¹⁹ Their daughter Mary Emma Clark Osborne died on 15th June 1849 aged seven years.²⁰

On 9th October 1850 Thomas Osborne married again, 'by special license at Belfast, Victoria, Eliza Helena, the daughter of William Treacy of Leighlin Bridge, Co. Carlow and his wife Ann née Bradley. Rev. Dr. Braim performed the service'.²¹ In her obituary, published in the *Portland Guardian* on 24th July 1885 Eliza is described as 'a devout member of the Church of England, a lady universally esteemed, possessed of many amiable traits and true benevolence'.²² Eliza is said to have been well educated, having been at the same seminary as Professor John Tyndall (who was born one year before Eliza), the well-known scientist and Cardinal J (sic.) the Roman Catholic Bishop of Sydney, both of whom are natives of the

¹⁷ *ibid.* For further details of Osborne's association with the Mechanics' Institute see *Old Melbourne Town before the Gold Rush*, by Michael Cannon, p.314ff.

¹⁸ *ibid.*, pp.1-2.

¹⁹ Register of NSW Roman Catholic Burials 1845, nos. 40269 and 40273.

²⁰ See photograph of tombstone of the Osborne family at Port Fairy.

²¹ *Portland Guardian*, 2/10/50.

²² Her obituary was also published in the *Belfast Gazette* on 21/7/85. See *Early Ship Talk*, ed. Betty Beavis Warrnambool 1998, p. 127.

parish of Leighlin Bridge, Co. Carlow.²³ If indeed Eliza did receive such an education it was surely most unusual for a girl of that time. Thomas and Eliza had two children, Thomas Hamilton Treacy Osborne born 9th September 1851 and Annabella Harriet Eliza Osborne born 3rd October 1853. His photograph is taken probably from a copy of the Belfast Gazette shortly before he died.

Thomas Hamilton Traill Osborne was elected to the first Legislative Council of Victoria in September 1851, as representative for the Belfast-Warrnambool district. He resigned owing to ill health in 1852 and died in the following year on 28th May 1853.



*Thomas Hamilton Traill Osborne
Pioneers' Board, City of Warrnambool Archives*

²³ *ibid.*

CHAPTER 3

PORT FAIRY IN THE 1840s AND 1850s

Port Fairy was named after the cutter *Fairy*, a small sealing-boat, when her captain James Wishart and his crew took refuge in the bay during an equinoctial gale in 1810. After serving as a humble trading-post for the whaling industry in Bass Strait in the 1820s and 1830s Port Fairy was becoming a prosperous town in the 1840s, supplying the needs of the squatters and the small farmers in the surrounding district and as a port for the shipment of their produce, livestock and wool.

Two men had an enormous influence in the development of Port Fairy. They were James Atkinson and William Rutledge; both came from northern Ireland. The Port Fairy district came under the system of Special Surveys. In 1840 the Colonial Office in London, 'probably still reeling from the implications of Batman's deal with the aborigines [not recognised by the British Government] decided as a more dignified way of opening up the land, to extend to Port Phillip the benefits of a system...under which any person who paid the sum of £5120 into the Treasury could thereupon obtain an order to be given as many acres or eight square miles in the Colony'.²⁴ Under these regulations James Atkinson, an attorney from Sydney, obtained his Special Survey in 1843 and became virtually the owner of all the town, which he leased to tenants in allotments usually of one acre, although as an absentee landlord he continued to live in Sydney. However, the colourful William Rutledge, 'Terrible Billy' as he was known, who arrived in 1843, was very much a resident of the town. He first opened a little store on the river bank and his business expanded rapidly.

In historical accounts there may appear to be some confusion as to the name of the town: Port Fairy or Belfast. Port Fairy was the original name for the bay. In 1843 when Atkinson secured his Special Survey it was for 5120 acres 'in a parish un-named at Port Fairy'. When he laid out his town adjoining the harbour it was named Belfast and proclaimed a municipality on 1st July 1856. In 1887 the town's name was changed to Port Fairy but the shire remained Belfast.

William Learmonth of Etrick mentions in his journal that in 1844 there were 'two good stores, several shops, two public houses, a custom's office, police and court'.²⁵ Although there only 525 people living in the town, settlers in the

²⁴ *Port Fairy The First Fifty Years*, by J.W. Powling, Heinemann, Melbourne, 1980, p. 29.

²⁵ *ibid.* p.83.

surrounding districts were being joined by their wives and by 1845 an active social life could be enjoyed by the residents of Port Fairy.²⁶

In 1847 Atkinson first began selling land on a freehold basis.²⁷ In 1849 T.H.Traill Osborne bought an allotment from him in Gipps Street²⁸ and also in 1849 took out a building lease from Atkinson on an acre of land in Sackville Street 'for the period of 31 years or for the term of the natural lives of the lessee and his daughter [Mary] whichever should be the longest, at a rental of £ 6 per annum.'

Several small private schools were opened, the most notable being the Classical School started by Thomas Henry Braim in 1847. Braim had become Principal of Sydney College (later to become Sydney Grammar School) in 1841. He returned to England with his family where he received his Doctorate of Divinity, Lambeth, from the Archbishop of Canterbury. From 1845 he settled in Port Fairy and in 1849 he was ordained as a priest at St. James' Church (later Cathedral) in Melbourne. Dr. Braim became Port Fairy's first resident clergyman.

In 1848 Port Fairy had a population of 900 of which approximately half were Anglicans, one-fourth Roman Catholics and one-sixth Presbyterians. It is in this year that we first hear of a member of the Treacy family in Port Fairy when two children of William and Anne Hovendon were baptised in St. John's Church.

In 1849 there was a Roman Catholic school with 58 pupils and a girls' school conducted by Mrs. Edmonds with eight pupils. In March that year a move was made towards the erection of an Established Presbyterian Church when Atkinson gave two acres of land for the church and manse.²⁹ Among the trustees of the land was Andrew Kell, one of Rutledge's staff and later an estate agent and father-in-law of Annabella, daughter of Thomas and Eliza Osborne. The three children of Thomas and Annabella Kell, Helena, Mildred and Stanley were baptised in the church.

Two more essentials for a growing town were added in 1849 - a Benevolent Society (first named the Strangers' Friend Society) and a Cricket Club. Both T. H. Traill Osborne and William Hovendon were founding Committee members of the Benevolent Society. At the inaugural meeting of the Society it was resolved that 'the relief to be afforded to the sick or the bereaved shall at all times be extended without the slightest reference to the religious sect or denomination to which they belong.'³⁰

²⁶ *ibid.* p. 84.

²⁷ *ibid.* p. 48.

²⁸ *ibid.* p. 49.

²⁹ *ibid.* p. 99.

³⁰ *ibid.* p. 104.

Osborne was also on the Committee of the Port Fairy Cricket Club. The subscription was fixed at five shillings per annum and playing days were to be Wednesdays and Saturdays. The landlord of the Merrijig Hotel was given charge of bats and balls and the rules of the Marylebone Cricket Club were adopted. The difficulty was to find opponents, as Portland was the only other town in the Western District to field a side. However this was overcome by having most of the games between sides of their own club - married v. single, smokers v. non-smokers and so on. In one year Total Abstiners v. The Rest was planned but the Abstiners were unable to raise a team.³¹

It is not surprising, given the Irish origin of many of the residents, that the twin recreations of hunting and horse racing were very popular. As early as 1843 fox-hounds were bred by John Cox on his property at Weerangourt and brought down to Port Fairy for the hunts. On 20th April 1845 William Learmonth, living then at Portland, wrote in his journal:

Left home and with Stephen Henty put to sea in the *Midge* to go to Port Fairy to attend the first meet of the Mount Rouse Hunt. But the wind coming round to the south'ard we put back and started on horseback about quarter past six; arrived in Port Fairy about 11 a.m. Met the hounds going out, but they waited till we changed horses. So we joined them and had a splendid run of about twelve miles. In the evening we attended a ball given by the Hunt, which for its excellence, its sprinkling of beauty, its perfect order, could not be surpassed at a country meeting in the Old World.³²

At the January races in 1846 William Rutledge rode his horse 'Freedom' to victory in the sweepstakes of 50 sovereigns, when the Belfast correspondent of the *Portland Gazette* wrote that 'all the beauty and fashion of our pretty little settlement were there'. In April that year there was a two-day meet of the Mount Rouse hounds, followed by a ball at the Merrijig Hotel and races on the flat and over hurdles which were run the next day.³³

On 14th July 1850 William Hovendon died, leaving his wife Anne with three small children. On 9th October the same year Thomas Hamilton Traill Osborne married Eliza Helena Treacy at St. John's Church.

³¹ *idem*.

³² *ibid.* p.85.

³³ *ibid.* p.89.

In 1850 momentous news came to Melbourne which would affect all the residents of the southern colony. On Monday 11th November a Port Melbourne publican brought the news of the passing of the Separation Bill by the British Parliament, galloping his coach over the new Prince's Bridge, blowing his trumpet and waving a Union Jack.³⁴ Even though it would be another seven months before the District of Port Phillip became officially the Colony of Victoria on July 1st 1851, in no time the bunting was out and the bonfires ablaze. The town of Belfast held a sports meeting on the cricket ground to celebrate and the programme of events ran:

1. Long game of quoits, 21 yards.
2. Putting the stone, 28 lbs.
3. Blindfold wheelbarrow race, 200 yards.
4. Hurdle race, 450 yards, 9 leaps of 3 feet.
5. Hop, step and jump.
6. Standing jump.
7. Sack race, 50 yards.
8. Climbing the greasy pole for a new hat set on top.
9. Boys' race, 150 yards.
10. Catching the pig with the greasy tail.³⁵

In 1851 the new colony of Victoria had its first parliamentary election. There was to be a Lieutenant Governor (La Trobe), an Executive Council of four members nominated by the Crown, and the making of laws was to be by a single chamber, the Legislative Council. William Kerr, the Town Clerk of Melbourne described the first Council:

I regard them, taken as a whole, as a rowdy lot, and I auger but poorly of the wisdom of their deliberations, indeed I do not see three men whom I consider able to frame a Bill on any subject whatsoever...They are a motley group.³⁶

Among this group T.H.Traill Osborne was elected for the seat of Belfast-Warrnambool, and William Rutledge for the seat of Villiers-Heytesbury. According to the *Argus* Rutledge arrived at the place of nomination escorted by 'about 160 horsemen, chiefly his own tenantry, well-dressed and well-mounted'.³⁷

³⁴ *ibid.* p.106.

³⁵ *idem.*

³⁶ *ibid.* p.111

³⁷ *idem.*

In 1852 Osborne appears to have been involved in land speculation : he bought five lots (four acres) at the first sale in the government township of Belfast East in September that year.³⁸

By 1853 the population of Port Fairy had grown to nearly 2000 with more than 300 houses. 'It had its own newspaper, its own small hospital and the beginnings of a small library. There were doctors, lawyers and a mail service. There was a Resident Police magistrate, a Clerk of Courts, a Chief Constable and five ordinary constables, a Coroner, a Collector of Customs, a Government Surveyor, a Harbour Master, an Assistant Engineer and Architect and an Inspector of Roads and Bridges. And there was William Rutledge and Co. with its multifarious activities, an influence on the whole district.'³⁹

Trade by sea was expanding, 19 overseas ships and 56 coastal traders anchoring in the bay in this year. Customs duties totalled £12,000; exports included 4199 bales of wool, 1773 ounces of gold and 24,340 bushells of wheat.⁴⁰

In this year on 28th May T.H.Traill Osborne died, aged 47. His mother-in-law Anne Treacy died later this year on 10th September. On 24th January 1855 Isabella, the fifth daughter of Anne and William Treacy of Leighlin Bridge arrived in Melbourne on the *Rienzi* with her husband Henry Eager of Dublin and their children.

At the big three-day meeting of the Port Fairy Race Club in 1855 horses came from Sydney and Geelong to compete. The main events were the Town Plate (three times round the course for £80.), the Port Fairy St. Leger and the Steeplechase. There was a Gold-diggers' Purse for a sweepstake of nuggets. And there was a Ladies' Bag, for gentlemen riders specially invited by the ladies, the prize being 'a bag containing such items as fancy-work slippers, embroidered smoking caps and gorgeous cigar-cases, all made by the fair hands of the dames and damsels of the district.'⁴¹

A successful year was reported by the Cricket Club. They challenged Portland to a match and the *s.s.Champion* ran a special trip to Portland for supporters. Belfast was beaten by one run. As several members of the original 1849 club were now living at Warrnambool the Belfast club enlisted their help and gave out a challenge to the Melbourne Cricket Club. The 'Melbourne Cracks', as the *Gazette* called them, arrived by steamer for the Saturday game but were all so

³⁸ibid. p.118.

³⁹ ibid. p.121f.

⁴⁰ ibid.

⁴¹ ibid. p.137.

seasick that it was decided to wait until Monday to start play. A very large crowd watched the MCC defeat Belfast-Warmambool by thirty-one runs.⁴²

The Annual Regatta was a very festive occasion, under the supervision of Captain John Mills, former whaling captain and the town's first Harbour Master and Pilot. Races were held for five-oared whaleboats, sailing lifeboats, first-class sailing boats, second-class sailing boats and one-man dinghys.⁴³

In the town there was some confusion about the correct time. The clock at the Post Office differed from those at the banks, which differed from the watch-makers and they differed from each other. The church bells rang at different times and Rutledge and Co. store bell and office clocks were independent of all the rest. To solve the problem Captain Mills announced that in future the town would take its time from the Harbour Master's clock.⁴⁴

In 1855 Rutledge and Co. were purchasing wool for shipping direct to London, the journey taking 120-125 days. Ships were always in the bay, sailing ships, from schooners to full-rigged clippers, and also paddle-steamers and screw-steamers.⁴⁵

An engraving by S.T. Gill shows Belfast in 1856, almost entirely denuded of vegetation. James Bonwick remarked in 1857 that 'the naked appearance of the country around, without trees or flowers, and nothing but fences, open fields and houses, is really most unromantic and dull; it was far otherwise when the forest came right down to the water's edge'.⁴⁶ By that time there were approximately 2200 inhabitants; the Crimean war was being fought and the Gazette was printing dispatches from Lord Raglan and other news from the battlefield. The local Volunteer Regiment had been formed with the motto 'Defence not Defiance' on its brass buttons.⁴⁷

In 1856 the Port Fairy Mechanics' Institute was established. The Mechanics' Institute deserves special mention as an educational society, branches of which were established in every major town. The first Mechanics' Institute was founded in Glasgow in 1823 when its aim was stated to be 'to impart instruction to workmen in the rules and principles which lie at the basis of the arts they practise'. Thirty years later, in the 1850s, there were 700 Institutes throughout Great Britain and about 120,000 members. By this time their character had changed so that, rather than

⁴² *ibid.* p.138.

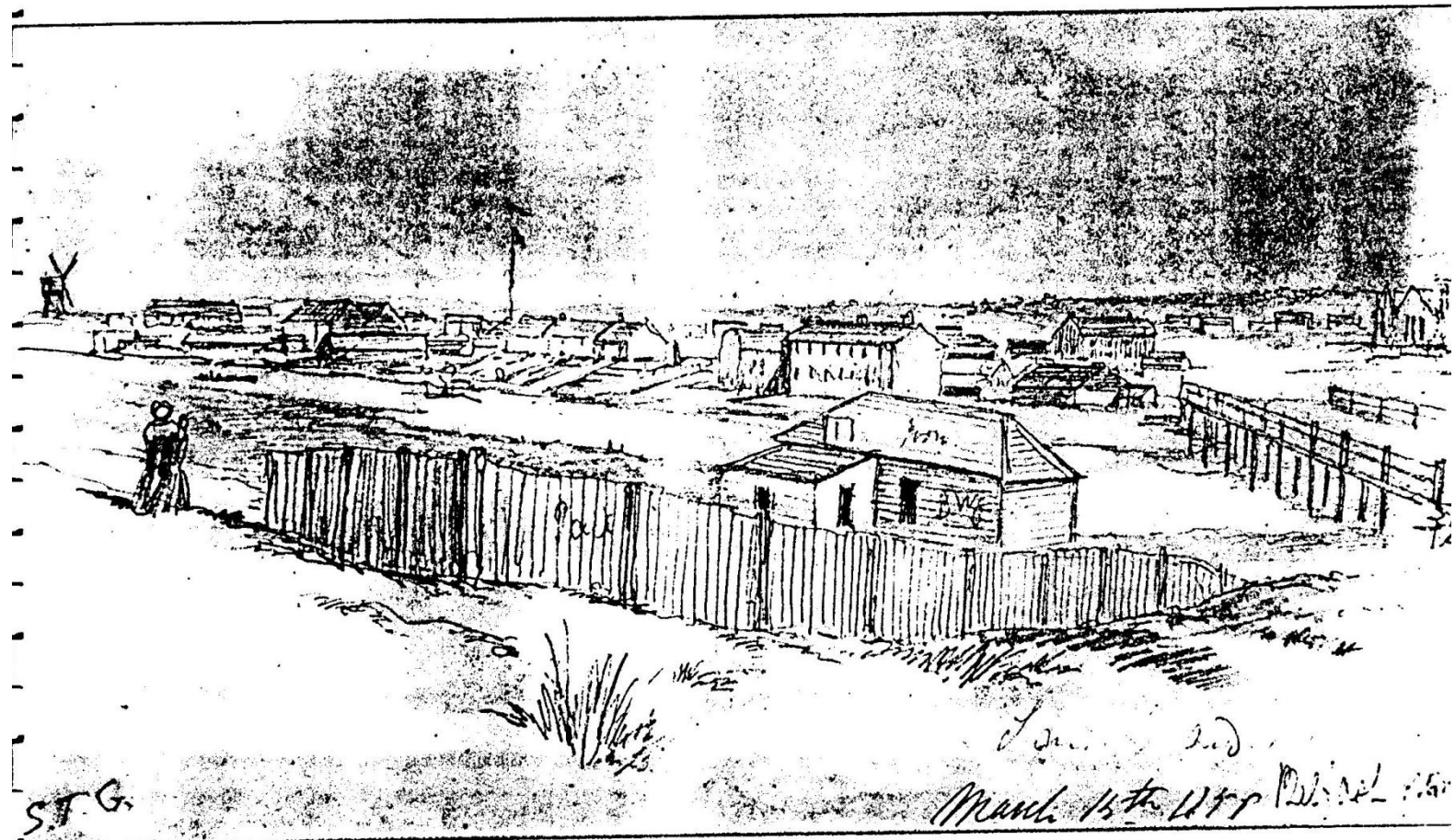
⁴³ *idem.*

⁴⁴ *ibid.* p.139.

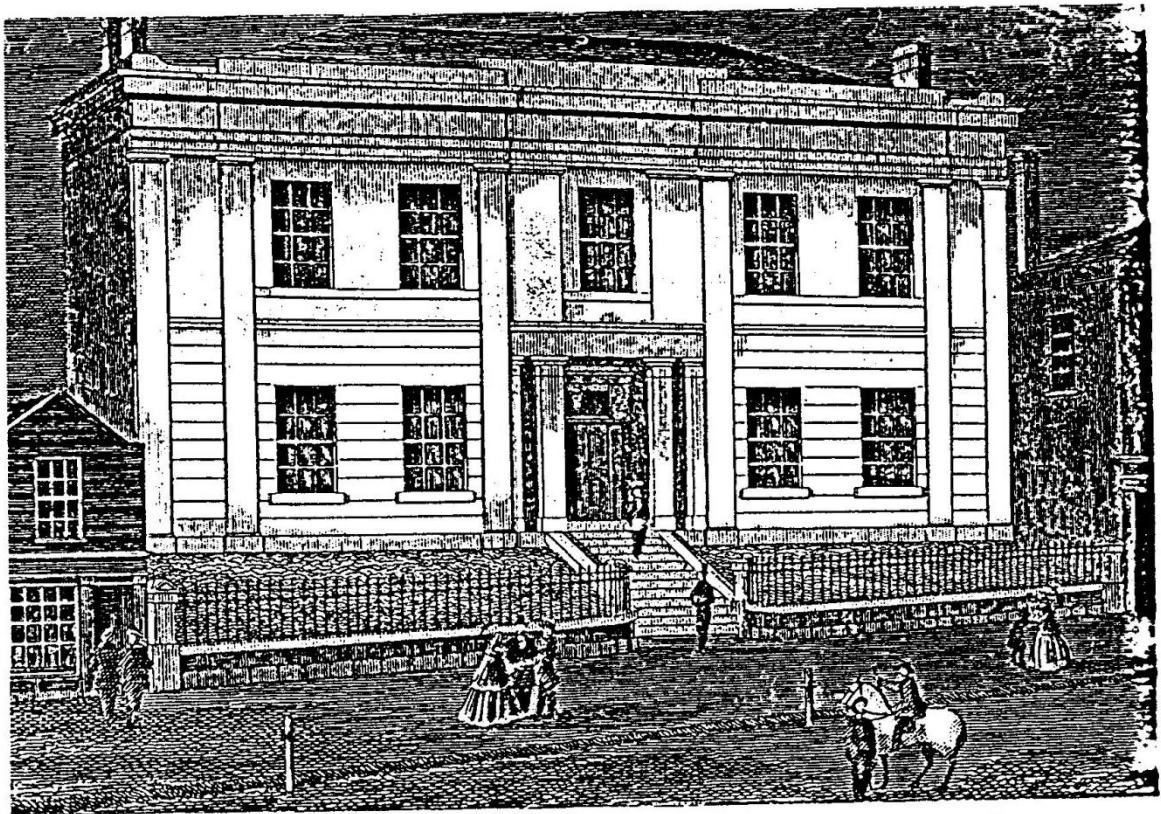
⁴⁵ *ibid.* p.134.

⁴⁶ James Bonwick, *Port Phillip Settlement*, quoted by Powling, *ibid.*, p. 29.

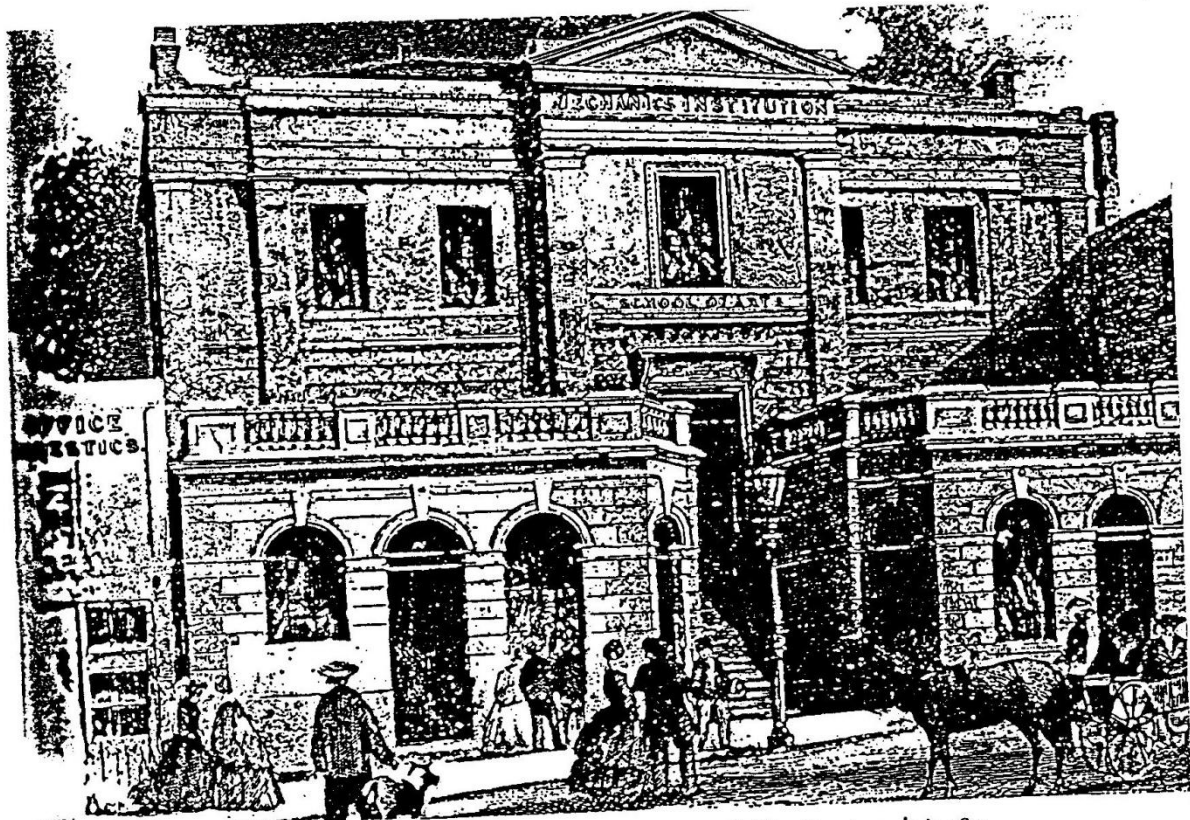
⁴⁷ *ibid.* p.135.



Belfast from the Sandhills (1856), by S. T. Gill



The Mechanics' Institute in Collins Street (now the Athenaeum building), as originally built in 1842. Ham Bros. engraving in Illustrated Australian Magazine.



Additions to the frontage of the Mechanics' Institute in Collins Street made in 1853. Engraving in Victoria Illustrated.

scientific issues, their interests focussed on literary, dramatic and musical affairs, and often included a debating club. Of prime importance was the formation of libraries and a rule was made that matters of a controversial religious nature should not be discussed.⁴⁸ The first Australian Mechanics' Institute, the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts was established in 1833 and the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute in 1839. As we have seen, in 1840 T.H. Traill Osborne delivered its first lecture in Melbourne. Shortly afterwards he became its first salaried Secretary. However when the Port Fairy Institute was founded in 1856 Osborne was not there to support it, having died three years earlier.

In 1854 a number of merchants from Melbourne, Warrnambool and Port Fairy banded together to form the Western Steam Navigation Company. (Thomas Hamilton Treacy Osborne, son of TH Traill Osborne was later to become the Secretary of the Company in Warrnambool). Because of the state of the largely unmade roads, travel by sea was usually preferred by the residents of Portland and Port Fairy. In the 1850s the cabin fare from Melbourne to the West was £ 7, steerage £3. 10s. by sailing ship.⁴⁹ By the end of the fifties four steamers were on the regular return run. Many shipwrecks continued to bring tragedy to the district, however. On a stormy night in August 1859 the steamer *Admella* was wrecked near Cape Northumberland with the loss of eighty-three lives. 'In a ride that became famous the poet Adam Lindsay Gordon galloped to Port Fairy with the news, his thoroughbred mare falling dead under him as he reached the outskirts of the town'.⁵⁰ Bushmen and townsmen alike idolized Gordon for his feats of horsemanship and it was he in particular who made steeplechases popular.

The firm of Rutledge and Co. reached the height of their prosperity in the late 1850s, when they were the suppliers of virtually all the needs of a growing town and a surrounding agricultural and pastoral district. They were ship owners, importers and exporters, gold buyers, stock and station agents, warehouse and bulk-store operators, insurance and commission agents, wine and spirits merchants, wool and produce buyers, mail contractors and merchant bankers. They even issued their own currency in the form of notes payable on demand, which were regarded as legal tender over most of Australia.⁵¹ However in June 1862 the entire firm collapsed and filed its voluntary petition in insolvency.⁵² This disaster had great repercussions on the district of Port Fairy and was followed by a financial depression. But 'Terrible Billy' again made good and eventually paid 20s. in the pound to all his creditors.⁵³

⁴⁸ *Men of Yesterday*, by Margaret Kiddle, Melbourne University Press, 1961, p. 454f.

⁴⁹ *ibid.*, p. 436.

⁵⁰ *ibid.*

⁵¹ Powling, *op.cit.*, p. 65.

⁵² *ibid.* p.70.

⁵³ Kiddle, *op.cit.*, p. 435.

CHAPTER 4

DESCENDANTS OF ELIZA AND THOMAS OSBORNE AT PORT FAIRY

The first child of Thomas and Eliza Osborne was born in Sackville Street, Port Fairy on September 4, 1851, three days after his father's election to the Legislative Council. He was named Thomas Hamilton Treacy Osborne, however he was not yet two years old when his father died in 1853. His mother survived her husband thirty-two years and died on July 18, 1885. She was described as 'a very genial lady, universally esteemed, possessed of many amiable traits and true benevolence' ⁵⁴

Tom, as he was known to his friends, was educated at an 'excellent grammar school which flourished in Port Fairy in old times [Dr. Braim's ?]. Upon leaving school at fifteen he entered the local Customs House as a very junior clerk. Here it was that the boy first became imbued with that love of ships and all things nautical which was his leading and lasting characteristic and which shaped his life.' ⁵⁵ He then spent some time as a clerk in an auctioneering business and in 1874 was promoted as chief clerk in their office at Warrnambool. In May, 1875, aged twenty-four, he sailed to England in the ss *Great Britain* where he spent some time with family affairs. His return journey was in the *Julia Percy* on her maiden voyage to Melbourne where she arrived on March 29, 1876. *The Age* reported that Mr. Osborne had imported four highly-bred greyhounds intending to auction them in Melbourne. ⁵⁶ Either during or after the voyage he painted the water-colour titled 'ss *Julia Percy* off St. Paul's', now in the Warrnambool Art Gallery.

On his return Thomas eventually became Secretary to the Warrnambool Steam Navigation Company, owners of the two fine coastal steamers *Julia Percy* and *Nelson*. The younger Osborne is said to have possessed a more equable temperament than his father. He enjoyed a large circle of personal friends amongst whom he was exceedingly popular. In his obituary the *Warrnambool Standard* stated

Despite being so conspicuous a figure in nautical circles for many years and though he did not take a prominent part in public matters, he always had the welfare of the town and district deeply at heart, and many of the suggestions he made through the medium of the press were carried out

⁵⁴*Sliding Gunter*, op.cit. p.3.

⁵⁵*Port Fairy Gazette*, December 12, 1902.

⁵⁶ Also reported in the *Warrnambool Standard*, April 4, 1876. See Appendix for description of the ship and voyage.

and resulted beneficially.⁵⁸

Thomas does seem to have inherited the literary skills of his father and is remembered for his many articles under the pseudonym of 'Sliding Gunter', most of which were first published in the *Warrnambool Standard* from 1877 to 1901, and many reproduced in two books edited by Betty Beavis, *Sliding Gunter*, 1993 and *Early Ship Talk*, 1998.

The photograph of Thomas Hamilton Treacy Osborne, wearing his characteristic nautical cap, comes from Geraldine Hegan of Comber, Co. Down, Northern Ireland, a member of the Osborne family. It is an authentic photograph, unlike the one which has been erroneously been inserted in *Sliding Gunter*, facing page 1, in which the person shown is unknown. A sharp resemblance can be seen between Thomas and his father, shown in the photograph in Chapter 2.

Thomas had made a request that he be buried at sea, from the decks of the *Julia Percy*, five miles due south of the Warrnambool lighthouse and that the sailors of the port and jettymen should go with the vessel on that sad journey.⁵⁹ Accordingly Messrs. Howard Smith and Co. placed the *Julia Percy* at the disposal of the relatives and after the service at Christ Church on December 12, 1902, the funeral cortege made its way to the breakwater. A Union Jack covered the coffin and above the flag lay an imposing floral anchor, to which were attached a broad knot of red, white and blue ribbon and a tribute 'From the captain, officers and crew of the *Flinders*' in the form of a purple satin streamer inscribed in gold. In front of the hearse, two abreast, walked about twelve jettymen while possibly thirty vehicles followed in line along Henna Street. Captain Rattey was in command as the *Julia Percy* slowly crossed the bay under a blue sky and in brilliant sunlight to her mournful destination.⁶⁰

At Port Fairy there is a headstone memorial of Thomas Hamilton Traill Osborne, his daughter, his wife and son. It bears the following inscription:

Sacred to the memory of THOMAS HAMILTON TRACY
OSBORNE First representative of the united towns of
Belfast and Warrnambool in the legislative council and
proprietor of the Belfast Gazette died 28 May 1853 aged
47 years and MARY ERIN CLARK his daughter who died 17th
June 1849 aged 7 years and his wife ELIZA OSBORNE died

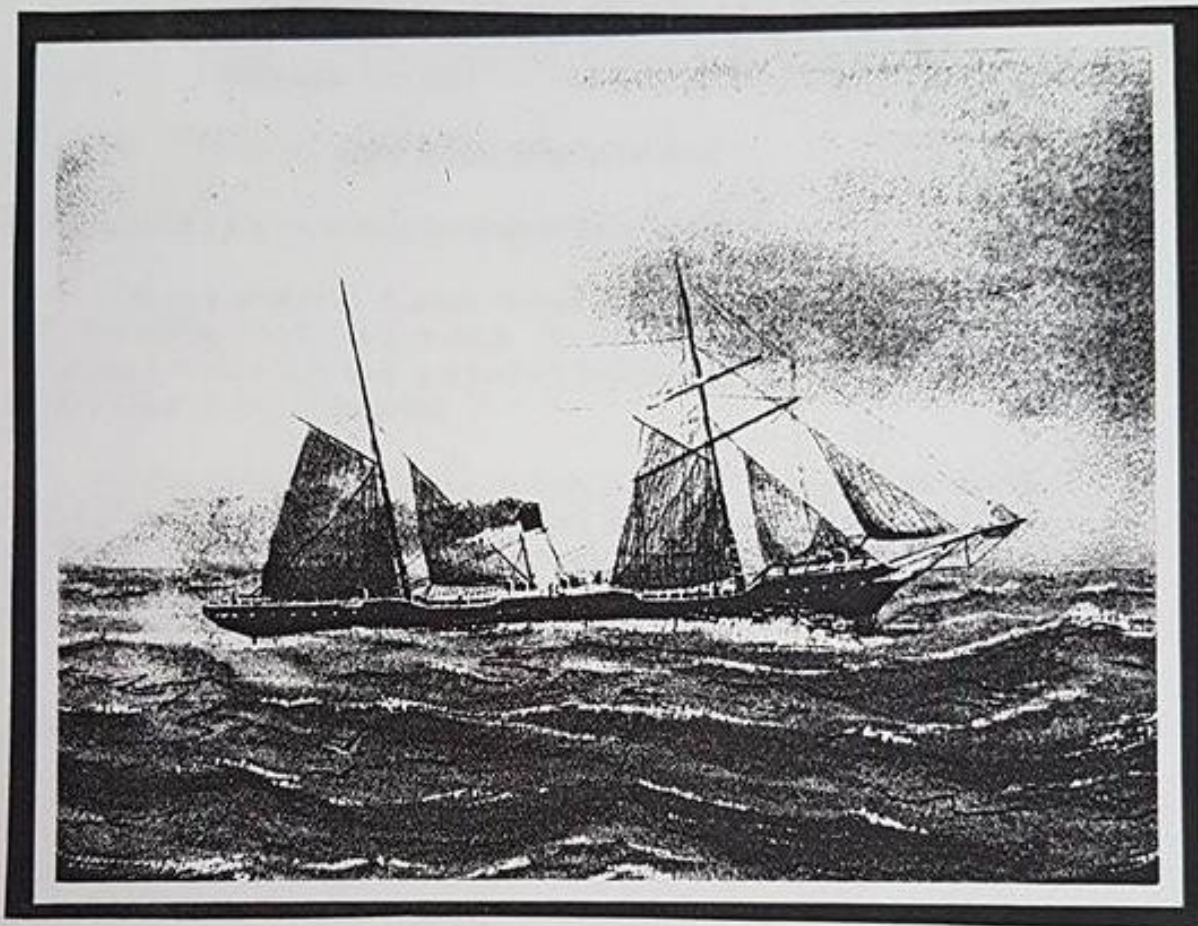
⁵⁸ *Warrnambool Standard*, December 13, 1902.

⁵⁹ *Sliding Gunter*, op.cit., p. 8.

⁶⁰ *ibid.* p.9.



THOMAS HAMILTON TREACY OSBORNE 1851 - 1902



SS JULIA PERCY

Water colour by Thomas Treacy Osborne 1876

Warrnambool Art Gallery

18th July 1885 aged 63 years also of their son Woodford (buried at sea) THOMAS HAMILTON TRACY OSBORNE who died December 11th 1902

When the sea gives up her dead

(Obvious errors are in the spelling of names of father and son).

The second child of Eliza and Thomas Osborne was born on December 10, 1853, five months after her father's death. She was named Annabella Harriet Eliza. She married Andrew Kell, clerk and produce merchant of Port Fairy, about 1880. Andrew was a member of the Militia.

Before Federation there was no Regular Army in Australia : the British Units had long departed for home. Each colony had its own militia units, part-time volunteers. In 1884 the Western Garrison Artillery was established, the Port Fairy Battery being in the Second Brigade. Lieutenant Andrew Kell had been promoted at this time to the command and was now gazetted as Major.⁶⁰

Annabella and Andrew Kell had three children : Helena, born April 30, 1881, Isabel Mildred, born April 29, 1885 and Stanley.⁶¹

⁶⁰ *Earle's Port Fairy*, ed. JW Powling and CE Sayers, 1973, p.61.

⁶¹ From Obituary of Mrs. A.H.Kell, *Port Fairy Gazette*, March 31, 1930; see also Doris Rowe's family tree.

CHAPTER 5

MELBOURNE IN THE 1840s and 1850s

The settlement of Melbourne in the Port Phillip district was formally named after the Prime Minister of England in March 1837. A general description of the town in 1840 is given by George Arden in his *Latest Information with regard to Australia Felix*. He writes of

a straggling town, not over picturesque... The town has its public balls, public dinners, annual races, amateur boat clubs, cricket clubs and freemasons' lodge. The number of mercantile houses and agents exceed thirty; the professions are well stocked with parsons, doctors, lawyers, architects, auctioneers and printers. The trades are supplied with plenty of blacksmiths, tanners, fellmongers, house and ship builders, sailmakers, masons etc., not to forget confectioners, saddlers, gun makers, milliners, tobacconists and hairdressers ! ' 62

In 1841 the population of Melbourne was between 5000 and 6000. The picture shows how in 1843 stock still grazed in the main streets, Flinders Street and Swanston Street. These were the conditions found by Anne Treacy and her daughters Anne and Eliza and her son John when they arrived there in 1841.

Early in 1842 however the town was beginning to show signs of a depression. George Arden thought that the distress was due to 'the exportation of capital and the excessive importation of goods.' 63 Town land had fallen to one quarter of prices paid during the boom of 1839-40. Throughout 1843 asset values continued to drop and the number of insolvencies increased. But by 1845 the worst effects of the depression eased and government land sales resumed with slowly improving results. 64

On 2nd May 1843 John Treacy married Catherine Budds, daughter of Thomas Budds, a farmer of Queen's Co. Ireland, at St. James' Church in West Melbourne. 65 The witnesses at the ceremony were Eliza Treacy of Collingwood and Thomas Budds Payne of Melbourne, a cousin of Catherine. 66 The officiating priest

62 *Latest information with regard to Australia Felix*, by George Arden, Arden and Strode, Melbourne, 1840, p. 6.

63 *ibid.*, p. 72.

64 *idem.*

65 Marriage certificate of John Treacy and Catherine Budds (no. 577)

66 From the Journal of Irish Memorials Association. Baptism, May 15, 1819,

was Rev. Adam Compton Thomson, who had been appointed as resident minister in 1840 when the stone church was still under construction, an earlier wooden building having been removed. It was still unfinished in 1843 when Bishop Broughton of Sydney wrote in his Journal of Visitation :

St. James is a large structure substantially built of dark coloured stone found in the neighbourhood...with the exception of the smallness of the chancel it is very satisfactory in its architectural character. It presents the appearance however of only bare walls and is in a most incomplete state both within and without. ⁶⁷

The picture shows the church in the Forties. It was not consecrated as St. James' Cathedral until 1853.

Eliza Treacy, and presumably her mother Anne and sister Anne were living then, in 1843 at Collingwood. George McCrae wrote that in 1841 the whole Fitzroy - Collingwood area was still largely 'one dense gum forest...cows grazed at leisure on the green sward which stretches up to every door.' ⁶⁸ He writes that the area had 100 houses and 600 inhabitants. Anne Treacy and her husband William Hovendon who were also married in 1843 evidently settled in that area as their first two children were born there in 1844 and 1846. Later they moved to Belfast (Port Fairy).

It seems likely that John and Catherine Treacy set up their first residence in Richmond, as that is the area given on the baptism certificates of their first three children, Kate 1844, William 1845 and Richard 1847. Described in 1839 as 'thickly wooded Richmond' by Daniel Bunce in his *Australasiatic Reminiscences* ⁶⁹ the suburb of Richmond began as portions of roughly 25 acres each, sold at government auctions on 1st August and 3rd October 1839, with an average price of £543. On 3rd June 1846 another government auction sold narrow portions of approximately 26 acres each running down to the river on the far eastern corner, which had been known as the 'Survey Paddock' because surveyors' horses grazed there, and on 14th March 1849 six more blocks averaging 25 acres were sold at auction. ⁷⁰ To enable the settlers the best route into town a punt service was established near the site of today's Hawthorn Bridge. In 1851 a public timber bridge was built with government

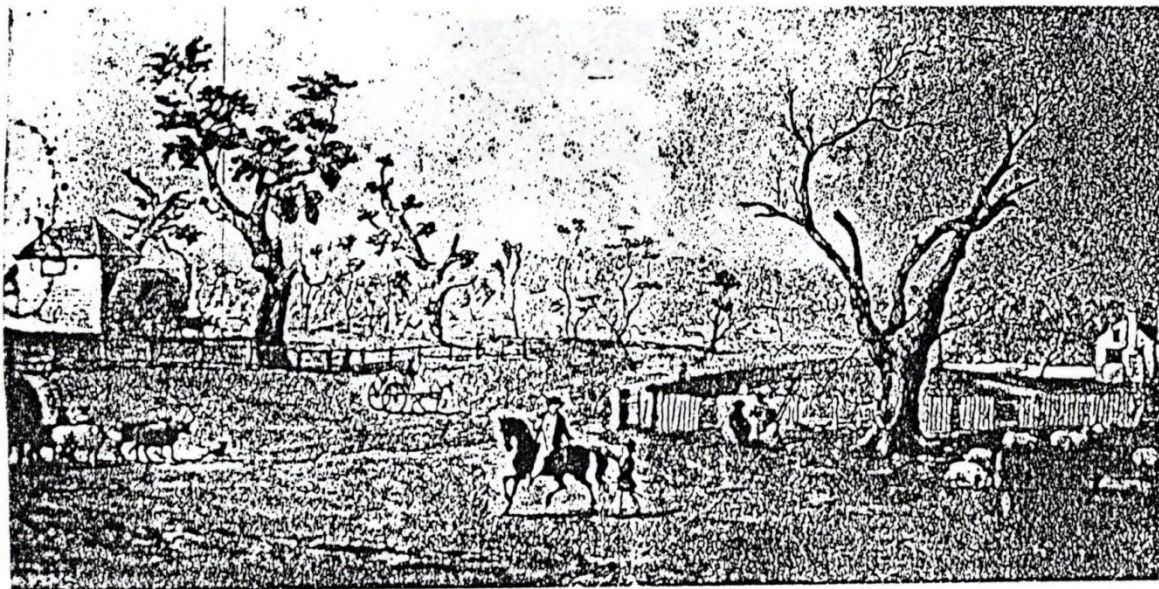
Thomas Budds Payne, son of John and Mary (nee Budds) Payne, farmer of Leighlin Bridge.

⁶⁷ *A History of St. James Old Cathedral Melbourne*, by Hilary Lewis, Acorn Press, 1982, p. 11.

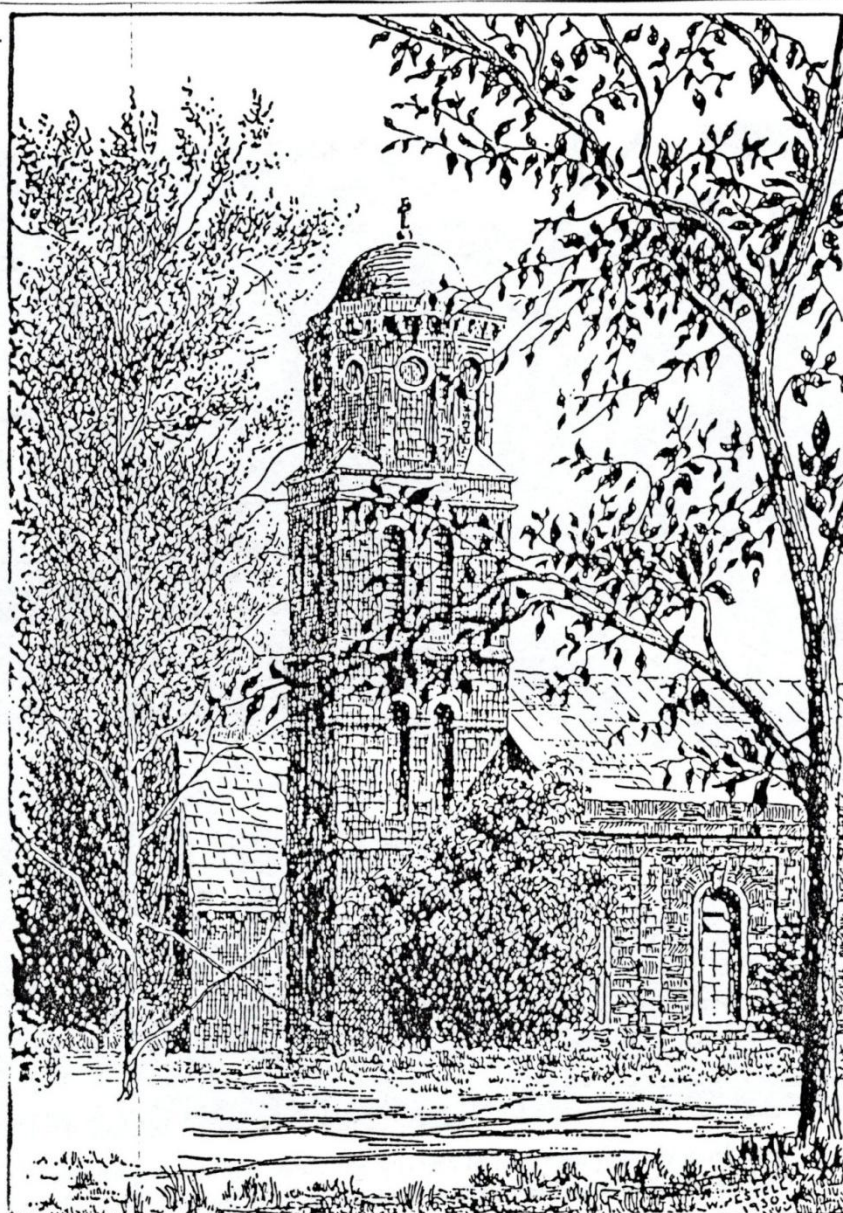
⁶⁸ *Recollections of Melbourne and Port Phillip Bay in the early forties*, by George McCrae, n.d., p. 176.

⁶⁹ pub. J.T.Hendy, Melbourne, 1857, p.6.

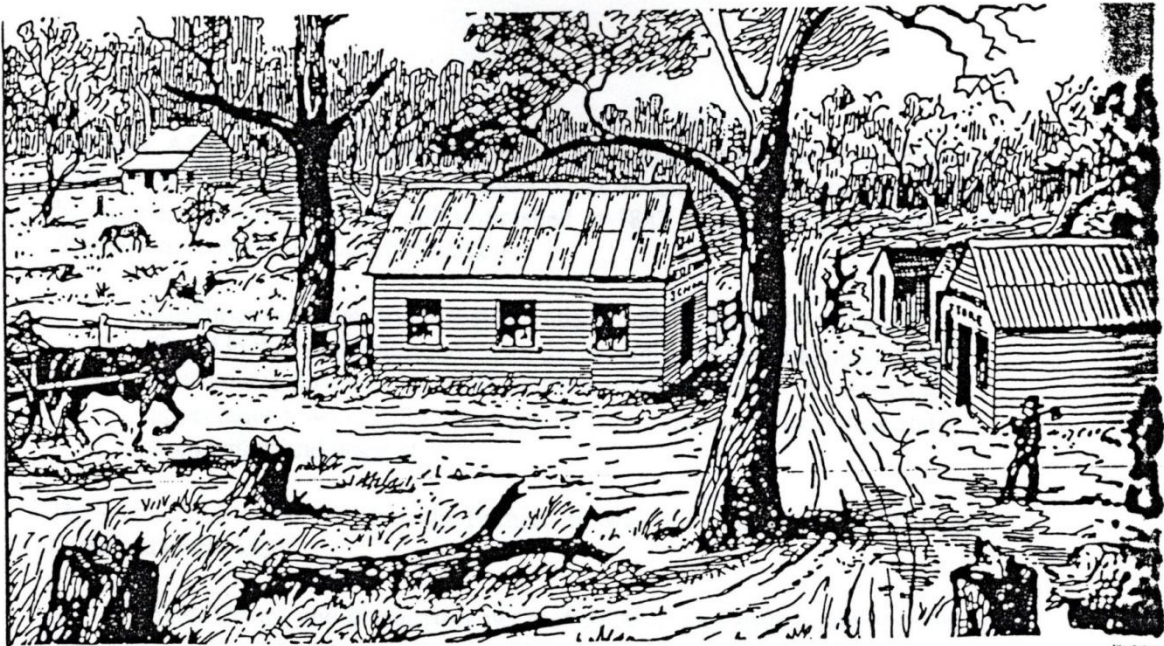
⁷⁰ *Old Melbourne Town before the Gold Rush* by Michael Cannon, Loch Haven Books, 1991, pp. 179-80 and map pp.56-57.



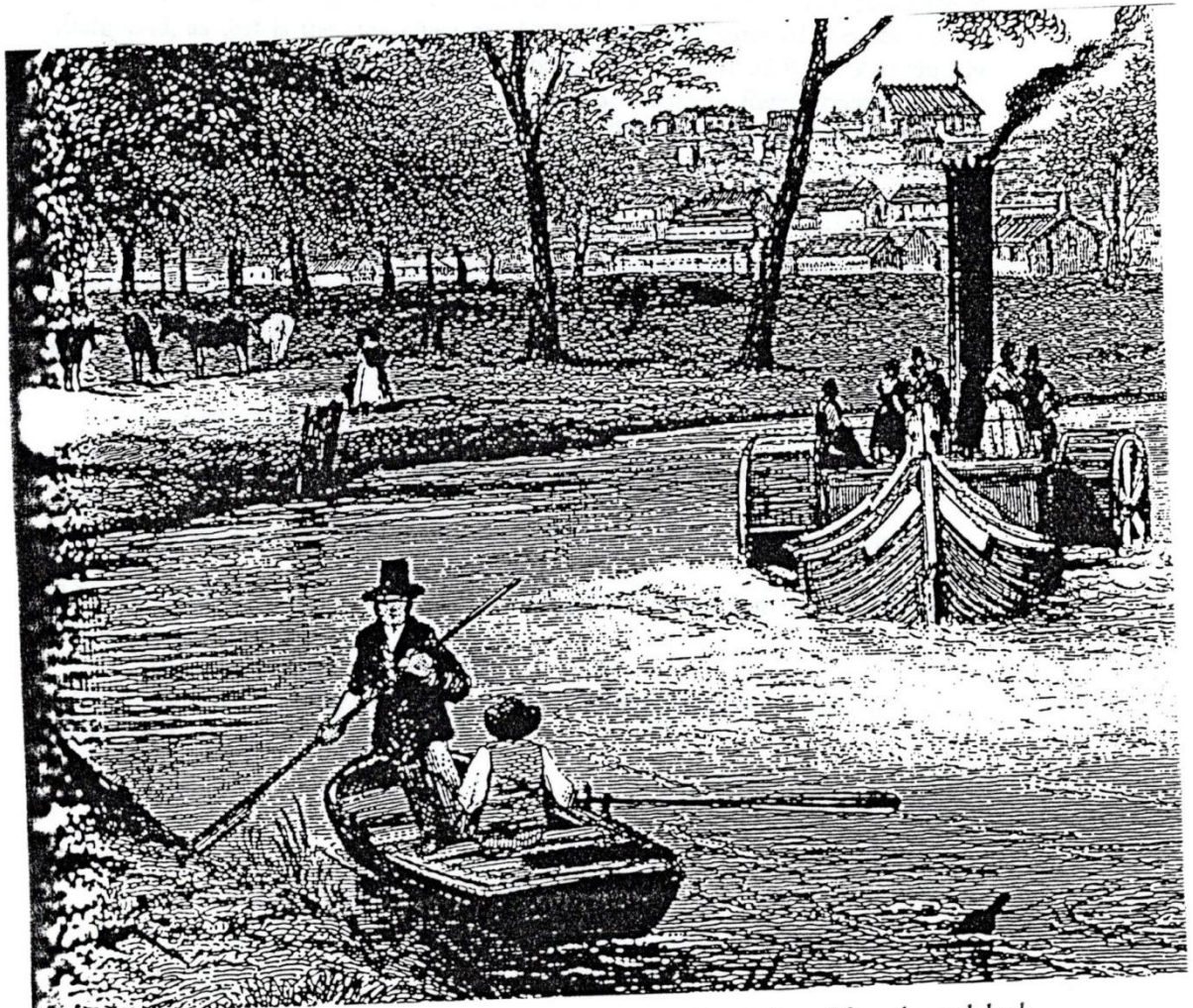
This painting of the Flinders Street end of Swanston Street in 1843, by an unknown artist, shows how stock still grazed in the main streets. The area at left centre, then a hay and corn market, was soon to be occupied by the first St Paul's Church. The area on the right, slightly nearer the river, became Flinders Street railway station. (La Trobe Collection).



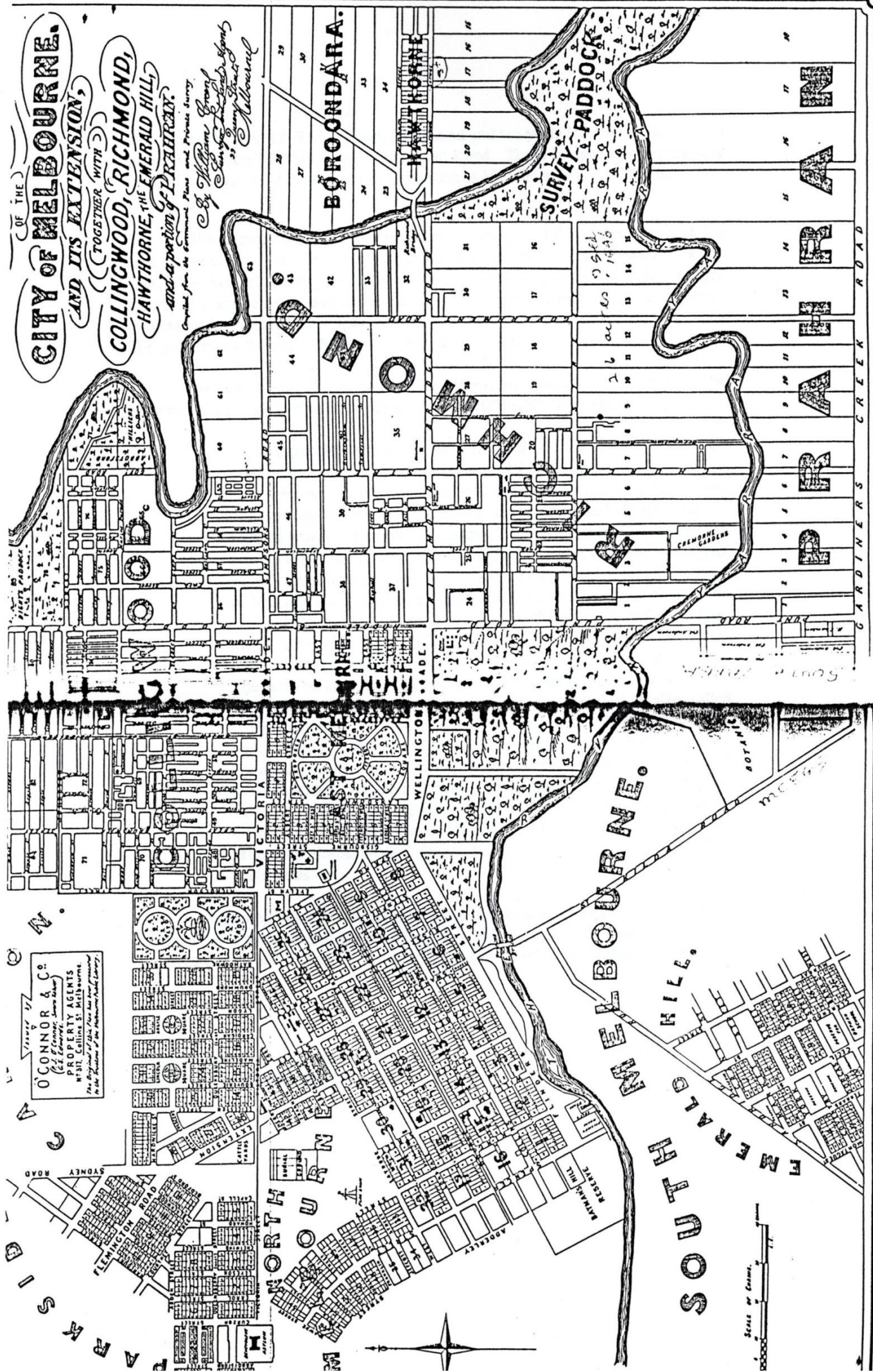
OLD ST JAMES'S CHURCH, MELBOURNE, IN THE FORTIES
From a pen-drawing by W. Pestell



Parts of Fitzroy had been cleared of native bush when this scene was sketched in 1842. The horse and cart at left are travelling along what became Brunswick Street. At the intersection of Moor Street is the weatherboard Wesleyan School.



S. T. Gill's engraving of the 1850s shows the approach to Richmond from the north bank of the Yarra. The land, first sold in 25-acre portions in 1839, had been heavily subdivided and built over by the time Gill arrived.



Map of Melbourne and near suburbs by William Green in 1852 shows the original numbering of city and suburban sections and allotments. To the north, the location of Flagstaff, Old Melbourne Cemetery, cattle yards, Benevolent Asylum, and Russell Street gaol buildings can be clearly seen. Easterly are St Peter's Church; the original

layout for East Melbourne; Dight's Paddock; Richmond Bridge over the Yarra; and the Survey Paddock. To the south is shown Cole's Wharf cut into the Yarra bank; the alignment of the first Princes Bridge; the beginnings of South Melbourne; the Botanic Gardens; and Colonel Anderson's large land purchases in today's South Yarra.

money near the end of Bridge Road, Richmond and ten years later at the same site a stone bridge joined Bridge Road to Burwood Road. These bridges opened the way to rapid occupation of the eastern suburbs such as Hawthorn in the 1870s and 1880s.⁷¹

We know nothing of the financial circumstances of the Treacy family at this time in the colony. In 1847 John is described in the baptism certificate of his son Richard as 'tanner'. During the economic depression enterprising pastoralists sought means of revenue as an alternative to the declining wool industry; five tanneries processing hides and tallow were operating in the South Melbourne area by 1848. The map shows the city of Melbourne and its near suburbs in 1852.

An article and illustration in *The Illustrated London News* dated 24th November, 1855, gives the following account of Melbourne, Port Phillip.

A correspondent whom we have to thank for the above View of the present appearance of the capital of Port Phillip, emphatically writes : - "Let it be remembered that the site upon which the city stands was, only nineteen years ago, the resort of the untutored savage, and the feeding ground of the wild kangaroo". ...An interesting resume of the present aspect of the city is given in *The Land and Banking News*, No. 41, whence we select a few items : - The city of Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, comprehending a municipality and suburbs, is situated on the banks of the river Yarra Yarra, and on the shore of Hobson's Bay, in the harbour of Port Phillip. The municipality extends over 9000 acres, upwards 3000 of which are public parks, squares and reserves. The suburbs comprise 7000 acres....Part of the municipality is divided into wards: the first four form the old city; the last is also called Collingwood, or the New Town. The suburbs are East Collingwood, Richmond, and Prahran. At a greater distance, but still in measure suburban, may be likewise mentioned the seaport town of Williamstown, and the thriving and beautiful rural township of Brighton, situated on opposite shores of Hobson's Bay; a number of villages, such as Hawthorn, Flemington, Brunswick, Footscray, &c., &c., may almost be said already to form part of the rapidly spreading metropolis.

A photograph of John, shown in the frontispiece, is included in the shield compiled of 'Explorers and Early Colonists'; he is number 296 and his name is incorrectly spelt as Tracey.⁷² He was apparently sufficiently affluent from 1860

⁷¹ *ibid.*, p.118.

⁷² Reproduced much diminished in *The Old Pioneers' Memorial History of Melbourne* by Isaac Selby, 1924, pp.416 l and 417.

Nov. 24, 1855.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



THE CITY OF MELBOURNE.

onwards to enrol his first three sons at the Melbourne Church of England Grammar School - William in 1860, Richard in 1861 and John in 1863.⁷³ The school, originally called the Diocesan Grammar School, opened in 1849 with Richard Hale Budd as headmaster and moved in 1858 to the corner of Domain and St. Kilda Roads, where it still stands. One wonders how the Treacy boys travelled from Richmond, or perhaps Hawthorn, to South Yarra. It could possibly have been by a circuitous route; at the end of 1859 there was a railway line from Princes Bridge to Richmond, Cremorne Gardens, South Yarra and Windsor, and in 1861 it was extended to include Hawthorn.

Hawthorn was another eastern suburb which was becoming popular in the late 1840s as the bridges were built to replace the punts. In 1846 some well-known investors entered the scene including Thomas Budds Payne (witness at the marriage of John Treacy and Catherine Budds, his cousin) who bought 35 acres for £ 173⁷⁴. Other land purchases also made by Payne show how good investments could be made by enterprising speculators. He bought a ten acre allotment on high ground at South Melbourne in 1849 for approximately £ 275⁷⁵, and in 1850 a half-acre lot at Port Melbourne when prices ranged from £ 25 to £ 65.⁷⁶ By 1872 Payne was sufficiently prosperous to be able to lend money at low interest to the Mechanics' Institute when the original building at 87, Collins Street was almost entirely rebuilt.⁷⁷ At a special meeting on 10th February, 1873, members voted that the Mechanics' Institute be named the Melbourne Athenaeum, and as such it survives today.

It is not known when John Treacy moved to the Hawthorn district, but we know that he died there at Powers Street, on 14th March 1883.⁷⁸ His widow Catherine died on 11th May 1894 at Ingoldsby Road, Camberwell.

⁷³ *Liber Melburniensis 1848-1936* by J.B.Kiddle, 1937.

⁷⁴

⁷⁵ *ibid.*, p.185.

⁷⁶ *ibid.*, p.181.

⁷⁷ *ibid.*, p.320.

⁷⁸ Death certificate no. 2005.



TAVIUNI, WAVERLEY



ERNEST STEPHENS d.1954



RUBY BEATRICE STEPHENS nee TREACY (1880-1954) [2nd L.]
&
ADELINE VERA TREACY (1885-1950) [R.]



HAROLD BRADLEY TREACY (1881-1943)



ROY HUGH TREACY (1890-1967)



ANNE ISABEL TREACY neé RITCHIE (1893-1970)



*E. W. Proctor
Photographer.*

*The Royal Studio
90, Edgware Road W.*

PETER RITCHIE (1860-1921)



SARA ISABELLA RITCHIE nee HARRIS (1872-1952)



ROBERT AND JOAN MALCOLM neé TREACY

CHAPTER 6

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN AND CATHERINE TREACY

John and Catherine Treacy had six children. The eldest was Kate who was born in 1844. She never married and died at her home "Suva", Broadway, Camberwell on 6th October, 1924.

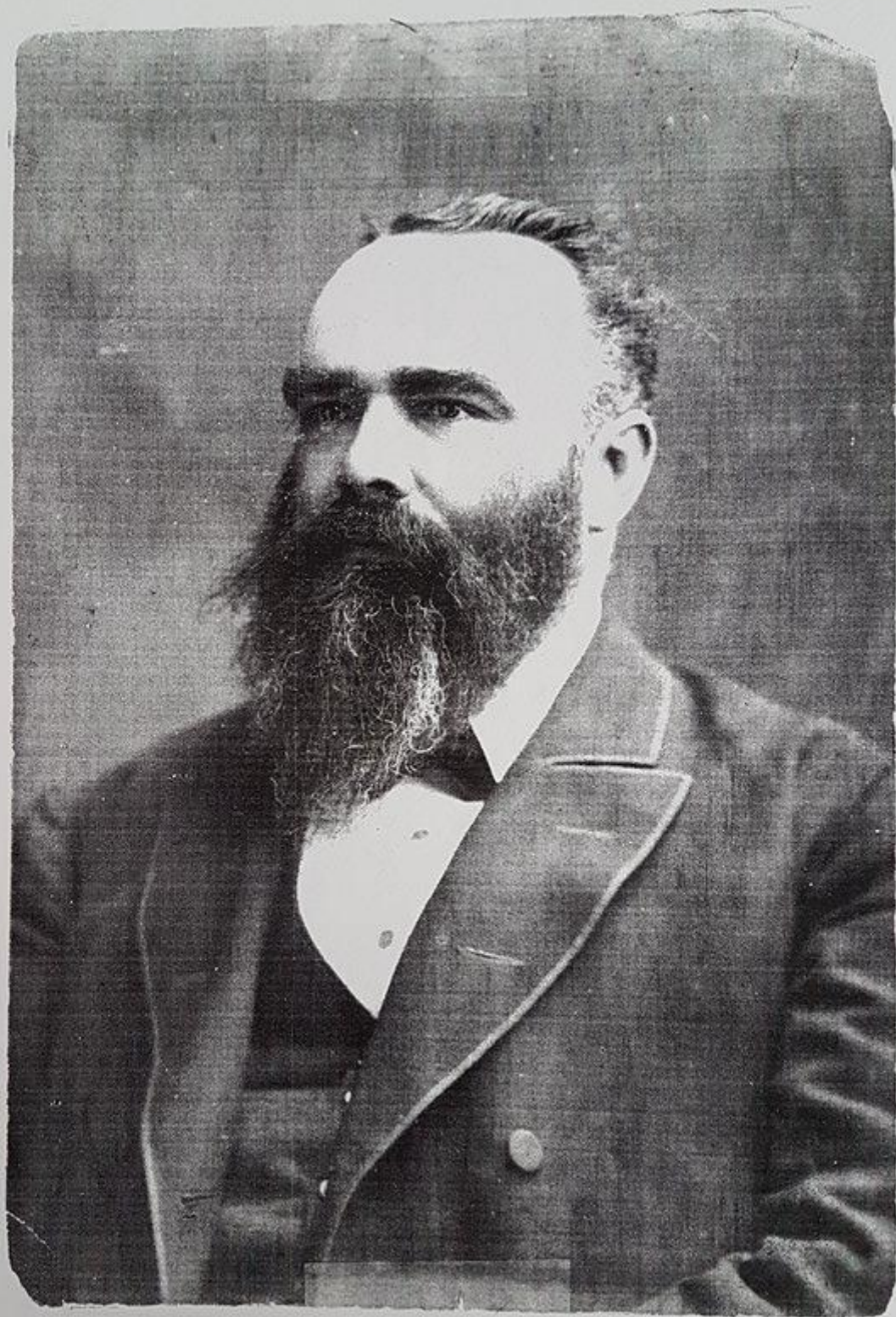
William was born in 1845. On 9th March, 1878 he married Marian Bartlam of St. Kilda. He died on 8th October, 1918 at Loloma, Camberwell. His obituary reads

One of the oldest shipping men in Melbourne, Mr. William Treacy, who resided at Loloma, Fermanagh Road, Camberwell, died on Saturday evening. He has been connected with the lighterage business for over 56 years, was manager for Henry Moss for 40 years, and was well known and much respected in shipping circles. He was an old Melburnian, entering the Melbourne Grammar School under Dr. Bromby in January, 1860. Until recent years Mr. Treacy was a prominent bowler, and he represented Victoria in several interstate matches. He leaves a widow, one daughter and three sons, one of whom has returned recently from active service.⁷⁹

Richard Bradley Treacy was born in Richmond on 1st. September, 1847. He married Alice Jack who was born in Hobart Town on 15th January, 1852. The photographs from Hobart are presumably members of her family but unfortunately we do not know who they are. Richard's obituary reads

On Saturday the remains of the late Mr. Richard Bradley Treacy were interred in the Waverley Cemetery. The deceased gentleman, who was well known in insurance and commercial circles, died at his residence, Taviuni, Nelson Bay Road, Waverley, after a long and painful illness at the age of 56 years. For upwards of 36 years he had been connected with insurance companies, having entered the service of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company in Melbourne. In this position he quickly rose to the position of chief clerk,

⁷⁹ Newspaper source and date unknown.



RICHARD BRADLEY TREACY (1847-1904)



ALICE TREACY nee JACK (1852-1936)

which he filled with credit till August 1875, when he entered the service of the Imperial Fire Insurance Company, and subsequently came to Sydney as manager. The company at that time was under the agency of Messrs. Fanning, Griffiths, and Co. For 16 years the late Mr. Treacy held this position, and in 1891 he accepted the position of country inspector for the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company. In December 1898, owing to a severe illness, he retired from active service with the company. During his 36 years connection with insurance and commercial matters Mr. Treacy interested himself in societies in the various States, and for some years he occupied the position of secretary to the institute in Sydney. The deceased gentleman also took an active part in bringing about a uniform tariff between the various companies. Mr. Treacy possessed considerable musical talent, and for some years he was secretary to the Sydney Philharmonic Society. Four or five years since the deceased lost his sight, but notwithstanding this affliction and his advanced age he succeeded in learning to read the Braille type, and he also became expert in the use of the typewriter. The funeral was held at Waverley on Saturday, being attended by representatives of all the insurance companies. The Rev. C.E. Amos officiated at the grave. The deceased gentleman leaves a widow and grown up family.⁸⁰

John George Treacy, born 26th June, 1849 was, like his two older brothers, educated at the Melbourne Grammar School, in the records of which his profession is described as 'clerical'.⁸¹ He died on 11th December, 1882.

Henry Alfred Treacy was born on 4th January, 1851. According to family legend he spent most of his life in Suva, Fiji, where he died on 13th July, 1911.

Walter Budds Treacy was born on 12th February, 1854 and died on 19th March, 1887.

⁸⁰ Sydney Morning Herald, 30th January, 1904.

⁸¹ *Liber Melburniensis 1848 - 1936*, op.cit.

THE CHILDREN OF RICHARD AND ALICE TREACY

Ruby Beatrice Treacy was born on 27th January, 1880 at Balmain, Sydney. She married Ernest H. Stephens on 29th April (year unknown, before 1921) and spent the rest of her life, with frequent visits to her original home, in South Africa where she died in Maseru, Basutoland, on 16th March, 1954. A description of the wedding is given in this newspaper item.

STEPHENS - TREACY. St. Mary's Church, Waverley, was the scene of a wedding on April 29, when Mr. Ernest H. Stephens, of the Premier Diamond Mine, Transvaal, South Africa, was married to Ruby Beatrice, elder daughter of Mrs. R.B.Treacy, of Taviuni, Waverley. Rev. R. M'Keown officiated, and the church had been decorated by the bride's girl friends. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. H.B.Treacy, wore white satin designed with a square train, while her Brussels lace veil held in place by sprays of orange blossom was over 50 years old. Pearl and diamond earrings and a posy were the bridegroom's gifts. Miss Vera Treacy (sister) attended as bridesmaid, wearing a dainty gown of pale pink crepe-de-chine, and a black hat. Her pink bouquet and diamond ring were presents from the bridegroom. Mr. J.H. M'Laughlin acted as best man. A reception was held at Taviuni, the bride's mother wearing black charmeuse and a black military hat with a feather mount. Her bouquet was of violets. The guests included Dr. and Mrs. Carruthers, Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Legoe, Dr. and Mrs. Prior, Mr. and Mrs. D. Carment, Mrs. W.H.Lee, aunt of the bridegroom, Mrs. and the Misses Finlayson, Mrs. Madrell, Mr. and Mrs. Vero Read, Dr. and Mrs. Donovan, Miss J. Smith, Adelaide, Mrs. and Miss Curtiss, Dr. and Mrs. Worrall, Mr. and Mrs. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Donovan, Rev. R. M'Keown, Mesdames Church, M'Elhone, Harper, MacCullum, M'Laughlin, Lawry, F. Badgery, Nicholls, Misses Moors (3), Carment, Maddrell (2), Bruce, Levigne, Campbell, Johnson, Lawry, Read, Steel, Baber, and Messrs. R.H.Tepper, H. Steel, E. Carruthers, Du Prez, and R.H.Treacy.⁸²

⁸² Details of the year and identity of newspaper unknown.

Ernest Stephens was awarded the OBE for services to South Africa, which included the gift of a library to Maseru. The photograph shows the presentation by King George VI at Pretoria.

Harold Bradley Treacy was born on 9th August, 1881 at Balmain. He was a representative of Dalgety's. He died on 1st January, 1943.

Adeline Vera Treacy was born at Taviuni, Waverley on 25th September, 1885. She died on 6th January, 1950 while on a visit to her sister, Ruby, at Maseru, South Africa.

Roy Hugh Treacy was born on 2nd January, 1890 at Taviuni, Waverley. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 28th September, 1916 proceeded overseas, landing, via Southampton, in France on 20th June, 1917. He served with the 5th Division M.T. Company as driver with the 8th Field Ambulance. In January 1919 he was transferred to A.A. Pays Corps and spent the next year in England, where he met Anne Isabel Ritchie, whom he married on 6th July, 1921 at Waverley Sydney.

Anne was the only child of Peter and Sarah Ritchie of Manchester. The photograph of Sarah, her mother, was taken in Sydney where she lived after her husband's death from 1924 until she died in 1951.

Roy Treacy returned to Sydney on 6th May, 1920 on the *Ceramic*, where he was the Librarian and a member of the committee which issued the souvenir magazine of the voyage, the 'Ceramican', q.v. His career in the business world was with Bradford Cotton Mills, and later with the company he himself formed, Sydney Cotton Mills.

Anne and Roy Treacy had two children, Joan Barbara born 8th July, 1922, who married Robert Humphrey Malcolm, a Merchant Navy officer in Melbourne on 16th May, 1949; and a son Peter Bradley, a nuclear scientist who while completing his post graduate studies (Ph.D. Cantab) met and married Grace Barbara Mills, a biochemist (Ph.D. Cantab) in Cambridge in 1951. Both of them were engaged in research at the Australian National University, Canberra. Their descendants are six children and fifteen grand children as recorded in the family tree.

APPENDIX
[Deed, October 1, 1833]

To the Register appointed by Act of Parliament for Registering Deeds Leases and so forth in Ireland.

A Memorial of an Indented Deed of Assignment dated the first day of October one thousand eight hundred and thirty three and made Between Anne Treacy of Leighlin Bridge in the County of Carlow Widow and Administratrix of William Treacy late of Leighlin Bridge in said County Merchant deceased of the first part George Minchin of Busherstown in the King's County Esquire of the second part and Francis Dillon of Clonburrin in the County Carlow Esquire of the third part. Reciting that by Indenture dated thirteenth February one thousand eight hundred and twenty seven made between Thomas Gregory George Cooke and Edward Jones Executors of Mary Anne Nixon Widow of the first part William Treacy of the second part and Francis Dillon of the third part the said Thomas Gregory George Cooke and Edward Jones did in consideration of one thousand and forty one pounds seven shillings and elevenpence with the consent of said Francis Dillon assign unto the said William Treacy a certain Indenture dated seventh July one thousand eight hundred and four made between said Francis Dillon of the one part and said Mary Anne Nixon Widow deceased of the other part whereby certain Lands in the County of Carlow were granted in Mortgage to said Mary Anne Nixon for securing the repayment of a certain sum of Five hundred pounds together with a Decree of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer in Ireland for a foreclosure of said Mortgage and Sale of said Lands for payment of the principal Interest and costs due on foot of said Mortgage. And further reciting that said Lands were not sold under said Decree and that a Receiver had been appointed under said Court of Exchequer and that various payments had been made to said William Treacy during his lifetime and that said William Treacy was dead and Administration to said William Treacy was granted to said Anne Treacy his Widow by his Majesty's Court of Prerogative in Ireland. And further reciting that said George Minchin at the request of said Francis Dillon had agreed with said Anne Treacy to pay her the balance due on foot of sale and Assignment of said Mortgage and Decree said indenture witnessed that in pursuance of said agreement and in consideration of the sum of Forty Eight pounds to her the said Anne Treacy in hand paid by said George Minchin being the balance due on foot of said Mortgage and Decree said Anne Treacy by and with the consent of said Francis Dillon testified as therein did grant release and confirm unto said George Minchin in his actual possession thm being as therein recited All that and those Lands of Conicaribee and Monakibee formerly in the possession of William Lecky being part of the lands of Quinagh containing by estimation Ninety seven Acres plantation measure be the same more or less situate lying and being in the Barony of Carlow and County of Carlow. And further for the considerations aforesaid said Anne Treacy in pursuance of said agreement and with the like consent of Francis Dillon did grant bargain sell assign transfer and set over unto said George Minchin his Executors Administrators and assigns All that and those the Messuage House and tenement with one garden orchard Backside Malt house Barn Stable and all other Houses thereunto belonging formerly held by Mister Christopher Ramsay late of Old Leighlin deceased together with a parcel of Land lying on the north side of said orchard and Garden commonly called Calf Ox [?] alias Moneybeg and Cavinsagh mearing with the said Orchard and Garden on the South side the Lands of Moonesostrara and Montra on the West the Lands of Rahinglass on the North by the Highway leading from house

towards Seskin on the East the Lands of Curraghgare and Coolenehewran being bounded on the West by the ditch joining Kilsandoff and with the Lands of Seskin in the North and also three acres of land lying and being between the aforesaid land Carraghgare and Coolenehewran also the field or parcel of land commonly called by the name of upper part of Berrenquin meared and bounded on the East with a quick set ditch made by Christopher Ramsay aforesaid adjoining to the Bog part of Berrinquin on the South with the Bishop's Meadow on the North with the lands of Seskin on the West with the lands of Dunacre and the Archdeacon's Meadow excepting that of said demise ten acres of the said parcel of land commonly called by the name of Boorrenquinage to be set on as should be judged to be most convenient to be made a communication between the two parcels of land which are Demesne Land one of them formerly in the possession of Richard Guinness of Old Leighlin Gentleman and the other in possession of John Dempsey Keeper at Leighlin Bridge which said ten Acres the Lord Bishop reserved and kept for Demesne Lands for the use of himself and his successors for which there was an abatement made to Mister William Sleator in his rent and also one Acre of Meadow commonly called by the name of Archdeacon's Meadow also another parcel of land commonly called or known by the name of Dunacre aforesaid also the town and lands of Knockbrammer on the South East with the Baneragh and Veneragh as also a parcel of Land surveyed by John Ham under the name of Huginny consisting of several parks and parcels of Land bounding on the West with the Mountain of Old Leighlin on the North with a Garden or Croft belonging to Mister Dean and Mister Thompson which did formerly belong to one Dowling on the East with the Highway leading from Old Leighlin to Barringagole and on the South with a quick set hedge on the lands of Barringagole aforesaid together with all the Messuages lands tenements and Garden plots lying in the town of Old Leighlin aforesaid and formerly possessed by Christopher Ramsay and tenants to the said Lord Bishop and his predecessors all which aforementioned land and tenements and Garden plots are situate lying and being in the Manor of Old Leighlin Barony of Idrone West and County of Carlow - And said Indenture further Witnessed that for the like considerations the said Anne Treacy did bargain [?] sell assign transfer and set over unto said George Minchin his Executors Administrators and assigns the said before recited Decree and the said sum of Forth Eight pounds therein mentioned and all Interest and Cost [?] then due and thereafter to grow due thereon and all and every sum and sums of money whatsoever now hereafter to become due upon or by virtue of said Decree. To Hold the said beforementioned granted and leased parts of the Lands of Conicaribee and Monakibee unto the said George Minchin his Heirs and assigns from thenceforth for and during the natural lives of the several cestui que vies named in the said therein in part recited Indenture of twenty seventh day of August one thousand seven hundred and ninety three and of the survivors and or survivor of them and for and during the natural life and lives of all such other person and persons as have been at any time theretofor named or should at any time thereafter be named as cestui que vies in any renewal of said last mentioned Indenture contained and [?] said Messuage lands tenements and all other premises demised by said therein by said therein in part recited Indenture of Lease on the nineteenth day of one thousand eight hundred and four with the appurtenances for and during the rest residue and remainder of the

Signed and Sealed by the within named Anne Treacy in the presence of
 William Treacy Anne Treacy
 Thomas Richardson Francis Dillon

Sworn before me at Carlow in the County of Carlow this 23rd Day October 1833 by virtue of a Commission to one directed out of his Majesty's High Court of Chancery in Ireland in aforesaid County as a Master Extraordinary and I know the Deponents the [?] and Francis Dillon having been here written in the margin

Two Grantors
Fourteen Denominations &
Twenty four Folios

A. J. Humfrey 31 October 1833

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