



## Chapter 29 – Jerry’s Plains, Ironbarks, and Beyond

(1848 – 1962)

Up to this point, the history has been directly about the affairs of the Browns, Chisholms, and McMahons/Humphries. It has been very much about affairs of David Brown and the succeeding two generations. It has been about the George and Erskine Streets of Sydney Town; Kissing Point, the Hawkesbury, Jerry’s Plains, ‘Millie’ in the northwest, St Andrews, Goulburn, Watson’s Bay and Brisbane Waters. This history of the colony from the Browns has taken us through most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, it is through the story of the daughter of Thomas and Ann Brown, Ann Emma, and her children, that we follow the colony’s transition into the 20<sup>th</sup> century and nationhood.

**A**nn Emma Brown was one of many great grand children of David Brown the elder, & Mary Brown; and Terence McMahon & Catherine Mooney. It is because of her that this history was attempted.

She was born on 27 March 1848 at Jerry’s Plains, and was baptised on 23 April 1848 in Jerry’s Plains, Church of England.

Unfortunately, for Ann Emma, her father, Thomas, died some three months after she was born. Ann Emma’s mother (Ann Shepherd) took her and her two sisters to Pyrmont - Balmain area of Sydney, some time before her grandfather (David Brown the Younger) made his will in 1856. Ann Emma seemed to have spent at least 12 years of her young life in Sydney. David’s will suggests that her three brothers remained in Jerry’s Plains, in his charge, and that she, her mother, and sisters were by then taken care of elsewhere. It is likely, that by then they were well out of the way, in Sydney.



Ann Emma c1898

Ann Emma was in her eighth year when her grandfather died at Jerry’s Plains on 11 January 1857.

Ann Emma was nearly 13 years old at the time of her brother, David’s death on 25 February 1861 at the Brown’s ‘Millie’ property, north of Narrabri. David worked for, or with, his Uncle David (III) at Millie, and it was his uncle who reported his death. Ann and her brother, John, ‘now living in Sydney’ were the only two beneficiaries the will of her brother, David, made the last few days of his life when he knew he was likely to die. His shaky signature is testimony to his weakened condition. David’s estate was to be expended in their education, ‘and the residue to be divided equally between them when they become of age’.

This chapter follows on from the account of Ann Emma’s marriage to Alfred Haddock on 25 June 1868 and their move to rural NSW as a consequence of his change of profession to one of country schoolteacher. (Chapter 24 - Midwife & Shopkeeper refers). Consequently, when Ann Emma gave birth to her third child, daughter ‘Ada May’, on 5 December 1872, it was at Mudgee. For most of her married life, Ann Emma lived in small NSW rural towns

The towns they lived in tended to be in the general vicinity of other members of the Brown family. However, where and when Alfred taught was very much at the mercy of the wishes of the Colony’s education authorities. To some extent, that can be traced by the birth of Ann Emma’s other children.

Alfred’s entry into a teaching career seems to be linked with the advent of the NSW Public Schools Act of 1866 under the auspices of the then Premier, Sir Henry Parkes.

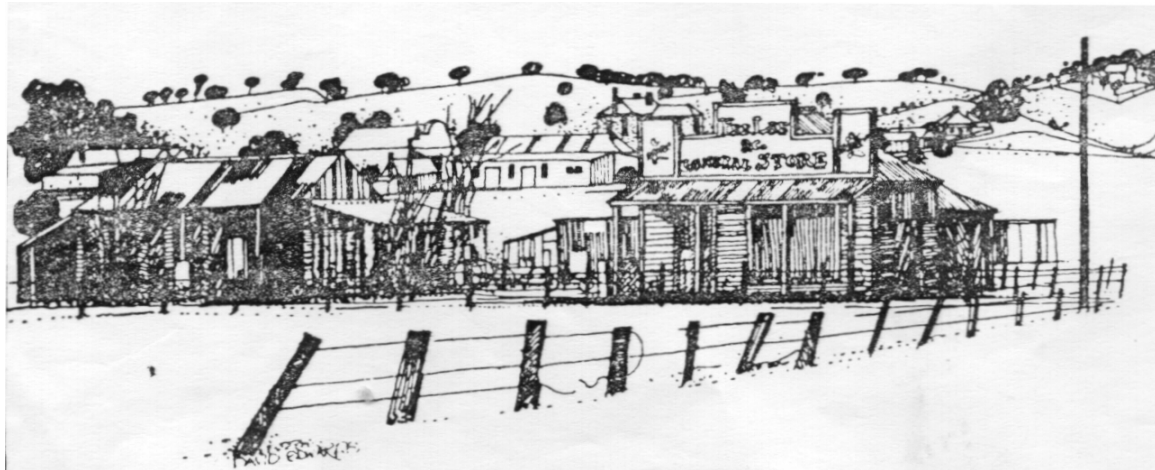


Alfred Edward Haddock



Ann Emma's mother, Ann Brown (nee Shepherd), died on 13 October 1874 at Leather Jacket, near Grafton, while visiting Ann Emma's sister, Mary Midgley. It occurred as a result of a dray overturning. (Chapter 24 - Midwife & Shopkeeper refers).

In 1875 Ann Emma's daughter, Mabel Alice, was born on 15 February 1875 at Dungaree (near Lue?), between Mudgee and Rylstone, before the construction of the railway in that area, when Cobb & Co coaches serviced the area.



*A view of Ironbarks circa 1875, about the time Ann Emma and family moved there.*



Sybil Searle Haddock c1925

Ann Emma, Alfred and family moved to Isaac Street, Ironbarks (now Stuart Town) for the start of 1877 school year, Alfred having been appointed 'master of the public school'. Alfred's mother, Mary Ann Searle Haddock (nee Heydon), died on 6 January 1877 aged 67 at Mumbil, north of Ironbarks.<sup>939</sup> Her death was registered at Wellington. Whether she was living with them or had come to visit from Sydney is uncertain.

Ironbarks 'was one of the most colourful gold rush towns of the district.' The town was immortalized by one of Australia's foremost poets, A.B. (Banjo) Paterson in his rollicking poem, "The Man from Ironbarks". 'From 1875 to 1914 approximately 140,000 troy ounces of gold were obtained by alluvial and reef mining methods from the area.' 'Today the population of Stuart

Town is about 300.' In the 1870s, Ironbarks was swollen with thousands of people all trying to make their fortune in the finding of gold.<sup>940</sup>

The shingled roof dwelling in Isaac Street that Ann Emma's family had to endure was already declared to the Department of Education by the school board 'as not sufficient to ensure either comfort or health to the occupants.' The board in January of the previous year had requested that a detached kitchen, bedroom and scullery be added to the house. None of this was to be forthcoming from the Department.<sup>941</sup>

Ann Emma's daughters, Sybil Searle, and Elsie Victoria, came into the world in this home at Ironbarks - Sybil on 6 June 1877, and Elsie on 11 June 1879.



Elsie Victoria Haddock  
(Photo c 1899)

<sup>939</sup>BDM 1877 9426. Haddock. Mary A. Mother, Ann

<sup>940</sup> Local History handout leaflet on Stuart Town of circa 1980.



In 1877, the scale of fees at the Ironbarks Public School were:

1 child	- one shilling per week,
2 children	- nine pence per week each,
3 children	- eight pence per week each,
4 children	- nine pence per week each,
Each additional child	- six pence per week.

The schoolroom in which Alfred had to teach an average of seventy children was 40 ft by 16 ft. It was considered suitable by the Department to accommodate eighty children. The school Board complained of the schoolroom being in a ruinous state. The building's tie beams were giving way, causing the building to spread out. The Board was concerned that the beams might fall and cause injuries or fatalities in the 'present crowded state'. It was not until February of 1879 that Alfred was able to report to the School Board that repairs were successfully carried out.<sup>942</sup>

Indicative of employment conditions Ann Emma's husband had to endure, are the following rules for teachers in 1878:<sup>943</sup>

1. *Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys, before beginning work.*
2. *Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and scuttle of coal for the day's session.*
3. *Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.*
4. *Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.*
5. *After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.*
6. *Women teachers who may engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.*
7. *Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.*
8. *Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barbershop, will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.*
9. *The teacher who performs his labour faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of two shillings and sixpence a week in his pay providing the Board of Education approve.*

In view of these 'Dickensian' employment conditions, it seems hardly surprising, that even with a Doctor's certificate, if one could have been obtained, it was next to impossible to be excused from duties at that time.

On one occasion, when unwell, Alfred asked the Department for some days off, but did not receive an answer. Becoming very ill he found he had to close the school, immediately informing the Department of his action. He was promptly informed that he had acted improperly, and that 'a repetition of his action would endanger his position'.<sup>944</sup> This lack of concern for their employee's welfare and readiness to intimidate is indicative of many an employer of the day. It is not hard to understand how such an employment environment stimulated the growth of Australian unionism in that era.

On 24 February 1881, Ann's sister, Sarah Parkhill, living in Balmain, Sydney, was granted the right to administer her mother's estate. Soon after, Ann and her siblings gained some small financial benefit from the division of the estate.

Anne Emma's daughter, Beatrice Rowina, was born on 28 June 1881 at Balmain. She now with five young daughters to care for, and may have gone to Balmain to have her next child with support of family. It is more than likely that she stayed with her sister, Sarah Parkhill, whose husband was a stonemason there. Possibly, some of Alfred's family still were living in Balmain. Alfred would have had to remain at his teaching post in Ironbarks on this occasion.

Throughout Alfred's years as a teacher, Ann Emma, was teaching sewing on behalf of the Department. Specific evidence is said to be on his file indicating 1881 to 1887. In May 1887, the Department informed

<sup>941</sup> Whispers from Ironbarks

<sup>942</sup> Whispers from Ironbarks

<sup>943</sup> Bellbrook School 100 years Souvenir Booklet - published in 1983.

<sup>944</sup> Whispers from Ironbarks



Alfred that ‘... Mrs Haddock’s certificate was not enough to teach needlework....’ What became of that is uncertain, but it was a typical arrangement up till the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, for teacher’s wives in rural districts to teach sewing.

**A**lfred had ceased his duties at Ironbarks on 5 October 1881, and was replaced by a William Tilley. From there Alfred was posted to the Public School at Wallalong, north of the Hunter River, near Hinton and Morpeth.

An insight into colonial schooling in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century can be gained from this account in The Maitland Mercury of Saturday, 8 April, 1882 (page 5) by the ‘Wallalong’ correspondent:

**Wallalong Public School Feast.**

*(From a Correspondent)*

The annual school feast of Wallalong Public School took place on Friday, the 31st ult. The day was fine, and everything propitious. At an early hour there were pleasing indications of the festive occasion: it was evident that skilful hands and benevolent hearts had been at the spreading of the tables. The shed, too, though a common shelter, had been transformed into a fairy bower, invitingly pleasant. It would be difficult to describe the happy feelings of the parents, and the admiration of the visitors, as they arrived and looked upon the scene. The worthy teachers, **Mr. and Mrs. Haddock**, made everyone feel at home, as if specially invited. It is but just to say that the arrangements were so perfect and so well carried out that there was no delay, no confusion, and no dissatisfaction. Every visitor, on arrival, was led to a seat, when he or she was waited on at once by some matron or Miss, who seemed honored by waiting upon her guests.

Meanwhile, the children presented a happy scene; having had a plentiful repast, they enjoyed themselves as they liked. The District Inspector would have beheld with pleasure the moral tone of these children no approach to larrikinism in their sports, no rude, boisterous, vulgarity in their games. True, it will be said, but the children of this school have always been so distinguished. This speaks well for the parents as well as the teachers which this school has had. Such were our reflections, when a general movement was made for the tables as the order of the day. After doing ample justice to the good things on the table our attention was turned once more to the children as they were marching in military style into the school to receive their prizes – the open doors and windows being the only way through which many could see the distribution, and hear the which many could see the distribution, and hear the elder scholars go through their recitations.

The (sic) Rev. Dr. Boag presided on this occasion, and distributed no less than 69 prizes, which had been all carefully selected. After an address from the Chairman, and after several hearty cheers of three times three for the teacher and other friends of education, the happy company separated, pleased with the day’s proceedings.

**I**n 1883, Ann Emma and Alfred’s one and only son, David Alfred, was born on 14 May 1883 at Wallalong - He was to follow his father into teaching. There is little doubt that the boy was named after Ann’s brother, David, who had provided for her in his Will in his dying moments at ‘Millie’ in 1861.

The Maitland Mercury of Saturday, 1 September, 1883, (page 7), by the Bowthorne / Wallalong correspondent:

**DISTRICT NEWS.**

[From: Our Various Correspondents.]

**BOWTHORNE.**

*‘A very pleasant afternoon was spent last Saturday by the children attending the Presbyterian Sabbath School here, with their friends, both young and old, whose happy lot it was to be invited. ....’*

*‘Miss **Violet Haddock** very sweetly played some of Sankey’s hymns on a harmonium kindly provided by Mrs. Fawcett, which added much to the delight of the occasion. ....’*

*‘The children being again brought together to receive their prizes, Mr. John Fawcett said he had expected Dr. Boag to present them, but he being absent through illness he would ask the Rev. Sydney Hotston to take his place.....’*

The Maitland Mercury of Saturday, 10 November, 1883, (page 7), by the ‘Wallalong’ correspondent:



**Wallalong**

*Wallalong Public School. -The annual festival in connection with, the Public school at Wallalong was celebrated on Friday, 2nd November. The day, though somewhat inclement, did not prevent a large number of children from gathering together, nor a goodly number of the parents and friends. There was provided with much taste an abundance of the good things of this life for the comfort and satisfaction of all present Innocent and healthful games were indulged in throughout the day, such as swinging, rounders, and croquet. Not the least interesting part of the programme took place at the close of the day, when the children, after going through certain exercises in the play ground marched orderly into the school, and entertained the visitors by singing and reciting some suitable pieces, thus acquitting themselves well, and reflecting great credit on the teacher.*

*The Revd. Dr. Boag was then called upon to address the children, and, in a few appropriate remarks, commended them for their progress, and congratulated the School upon the eminence of the teachers who had been placed at its head. He was sure **Mr. Haddock** was not behind any of his predecessors.*

*The proceedings were brought to a close by the presentation of a goodly number of prizes, those to the girls being presented by Mrs. Whytlaw, those to the boys by the Revd. Dr. Boag.*

Sarah Jane Parkhill, (Ann’s sister) passed away during 1884 aged 44.<sup>945</sup>

On 5 September 1884, Alfred was instructed to act as teacher of the school at Hexham. He replaced a teacher who was dismissed due to evidence given by a doctor on behalf of a Pupil Teacher. They wrote to the Department of Public Instruction that the teacher had ‘... Unlawfully held connection with me on the 10<sup>th</sup> April last and on two other occasions about the same time in the school room during dinner hour...’, and the girl was pregnant as a result. On 11 October 1884, the Sydney Morning Herald listed Alfred’s appointment to Hexham and those of other teachers.



Violet Ann (1870-1911)

Ann Emma's brother and sister-in-law, John & Eliza Brown, of Jerry's Plains, named a son, born that year of 1884, 'George Haddock'.<sup>946</sup> Pointing to a continuing association of Ann Emma with the Browns and Jerry’s Plains.

At Hexham, Ann and Alfred were blessed with the births of daughters: ‘Vespera Olive’ born on 24 May 1885 (but unfortunately died 16 February 1887), ‘Edna Alexandra’ born on 9 November 1886, and ‘Ruby Alfreda’ born on 4 May 1889.

On 4 February 1888, Alfred presented himself to the Wallsend Licensing Court to object to a public house being established in the same street as his school in Hexham. He was successful and a License was refused.

An insight into Ann Emma’s pluckiness can be gained from this account on page 3 of The Newcastle Morning Herald of 16 May, 1890, by the ‘Hexam’ correspondent:

*‘On Sunday morning last at about 2 o’clock a robbery was committed at the public school of this place, and about one pound, a pair of new boots and a penknife were taken by the robber who was fortunately prevented from taking more by the timely awakening of Mrs Haddock. At the time a small lamp was burning in the bedroom turned up at the full. On seeing the robber, Mrs Haddock sprang onto a sitting position in the bed, thrusting her fist into his face, and demanding to know what he did there at such a time. It is regretted that he made his escape....’*

<sup>945</sup> BDM 2768/1884 Sara J Parkhill aged 42 Balmain.

<sup>946</sup> Birth Registration 1884 30436 Singleton



Violet Ann married Alfred Harvey on 11 October 1890 in Newcastle. She was the first of Ann and Alfred's children to be married.<sup>947</sup>

Alfred was instructed on 24 June 1891 to act as the teacher at Tremarton Public School, Fullerton Cove. Tremarton, typical of many a regional school in those days was a one room school with an attached two room dwelling for the teacher and his family.<sup>948</sup>

Ann and Alfred's last child, Ivy Pearl, was born on 4 August 1891 at Fullerton Cove, where it seems they had taken up residence. It is also said that Alfred *was the Principal* of the Tremarton Public School; however, the only other teaching staff was Ann Emma, and perhaps a pupil teacher or two. About this time, it seems that Alfred's health began to fail him. Coinciding with this state of affairs, he began to be on the receiving end of persistent Departmental criticism.

Mabel Alice Haddock (Ann and Alfred's fourth child) was employed on probation as a pupil teacher 28 January 1892 at Stockton Public Girl's School, and by 1 January 1895 had achieved Class 1 status. At the end of the year, Mabel resigned her position as pupil teacher due to her approaching marriage.<sup>949</sup>

Mabel had ability as a singer and actress. Among the various occasions she is noted to have performed, is a solo at "A Band of Hope" meeting at the Tarro Wesleyan Church. Mabel also played the part of 'Paris' in 'Anenone' at the Temperance Hall, Fullerton Cove May 1892. At the same venue 11 July that year, she appeared as part of a concert. Mabel sang four songs and her sister, Sybil was her accompanist. Her future husband, Joseph Shearman, also took part in a number of performances that night.<sup>950</sup>

Three of Ann and Alfred's daughters married in quick succession: Sybil Searle to Walter George Sutton on 5 December 1894; Mabel to Joseph Shearman on 8 January 1896; and Ada May to Frederick H W Jacobs on 13 May 1896. All three were married at Fullerton Cove.

On 1 January 1898, Alfred was recommended for three months leave of absence prior to early retirement on 3 March 1898. Alfred died on 24 February 1898 at age 52 years after a long and painful illness. He was buried at Anglican section of the Stockton General Cemetery, Fullerton Road, Stockton. His son, David, was the informant. David stated that his father had been in the colony 43 years.

For the last twelve months of his life, the family lived in Stockton. Thanks to a Life Assurance policy and some real estate investment at Ingleburn (near Minto), Anne Emma was left with £180-4-3 after probate on which to live. Ann Emma resided in Stockton for the remainder of her days.

Ann Emma's daughter, Elsie Victoria, then aged 19, a girl from Ironbarks, NSW, married John Griffiths aged 32, on 8 February 1899. John was described then as a 'mail carrier'. He was the son of Welsh immigrants, and was a Sunday School teacher for much of his life. The marriage took place at Ann Emma's residence in Stockton.

Elsie and John seemed to have remained nearby for a while as their first two children: Ann (Annie) Pearl Griffiths was born in Stockton, in 1900; and Milton Thirlmere Griffiths, was born in William Street, Stockton, on 1 August 1902.

<sup>947</sup> Per Peter Roderick 2009

<sup>948</sup> Stockton Historical Society Magazine Vol3, No6 page 7.

<sup>949</sup> NSW Archives per Peter Roderick letter to J I Griffiths 31 Dec 2009.

<sup>950</sup> Peter Roderick letter to J I Griffiths 31 Dec 2009.



Not long after Milton Thirlmere was born, Elsie and her family moved to Sydney, to a residence on the Princes Highway between Rockdale and Kogarah.

Several of Anne Emma's children eventually moved to Sydney. However, there were some who remained in the Stockton/ Fullerton Cove area during her lifetime.

Ann Emma attended the birth of her grandson, Laurington (Laurie) Griffiths at Kogarah 14 January 1905, as she probably did for Annie and Milton. It seems that she did as her mother, Ann Shepherd, had done and travelled to wherever her family needed her in such times.



*Ann Emma with baby grand-daughter, Annie Pearl Griffiths, in 1900*

**B**eatrice Rowena married Richard Llewellyn Thomas on 17 September 1902 at Stockton.

### **Intended for a Gentleman**

Ann Emma's son, David, began his career as a Pupil Teacher:

On probation at the age of fifteen at Adamstown 24 Oct 1898;  
 Removed to Islington 15 Nov 1898;  
 Appointed Pupil Teacher from date of entry on duty 15 Apr 1899; and  
 Removed to Stockton at age 16 (almost 17 years).<sup>951</sup>

David entered training College in 1903, and 'came through very credibly.' The departmental record lists his appointments after that as:

27 Jan 1904 - Temp. attendance at Kogarah;  
 10 February - Relieving at Peakhurst;  
 7 Mar 1904 - Temp. attendance at StPeters;  
 12 April 1904 - Temp. attendance at Kogarah;  
 9 Feb 1905 - Relieving at Peakhurst;  
 15 Mar 1905 - Temp. attendance at Kogarah;

Seems that in 1905 while on placement at Kogarah School David's routine became one of teaching through the day and attending University lectures at night' towards the completion of an Arts degree. In his course he obtained a High Distinction in Chemistry, and at the Examination before graduation in February 1911 secured a unique result.<sup>952</sup>

David 'had attended lectures in English II, expecting to complete his course thus, but a few days before term ended discovered that by regulation he must, in order to graduate, take the Third Year Course as well. He had to cover the year's work in a few days, and not only passed, but was placed first in both lists.'



*David A. Haddock (1883 -1917) on graduation 1911?*

Somehow in 1911 David also managed to fit in a marriage to Edith A Wray at St Peters, Kogarah on 17 April 1911.

David's sister, Ivy Pearl, married Reginald Walter Favelle the same year, 26 December 1911.<sup>953</sup> David & Ivy's sister, Ruby, was to marry Edith's brother, Frederick Wray, two years later on 19 July 1913 at Kogarah. Kogarah seemed to for many years have been where things happened for the Sydney branch of the Haddock family. For Edna Alexandra had married Charles Sydney Smith at Kogarah on 30 December 1908.<sup>954</sup>

From Kogarah, David 'was sent as first Assistant Master to Hay District

<sup>951</sup> Teachers Rolls

<sup>952</sup> The Sydney Morning Herald... Wednesday 8 February 1911, page 14

<sup>953</sup> NSW BDM Reg 1911-14604



School' commencing on 20 May 1911. His headmaster there said of him that he was 'the best man in front of a class that I have ever seen.'

On 15 July of 1912, David began teaching at Fort Street Boys School as Assistant Master, where he remained. His classroom skills were highly regarded by his contemporaries.

David once laughingly said "I think I must have been intended for a gentleman of leisure" explaining that he liked a bit of painting, a bit of music, a bit of sport, and in short a life of many interests.<sup>955</sup>

When David died on 21 October 1917 at Brighton-le-Sands, an obituary published in the Fort Street magazine said of him that:

*His 'many gifts were exercised not simply for self-gratification but in rendering justly, skillfully, and magnanimously the service by which he found a livelihood.'*

*'It means much to Fort Street that such a master was with us for over five years, enriching the school with his quiet, forceful, effective personality. We mourn our dead comrade, who never spoke ill of another, who modestly keeping in the background, was ever ready with efficient service when needed, who could not skimp anything he undertook, and of whom it can be truly said:*

*'His life was gentle; and the elements  
So mixed in his nature that nature might stand up  
And say to all the world "this was a man"'*<sup>956</sup>

No doubt, much of this was written with the student readership in mind. David was seen as a good example to offer up to young minds as worthy of emulation.

David was survived by his wife, Edith (aged 28), and four daughters under six years of age. The youngest, Beatrice, was born 2 weeks before his death, on 8 October 1917.

### **More Hard Times**

Young David's early death was but one of the considerable of unfortunate events that seemed 'dog' the family. Perhaps the frequent premature deaths in her family were typical of the times?

Ann Emma's son-in-law, Alfred Harvey died on 6 May 1908 at Wallsend Hospital as a consequence of a mining accident:

*"...he was employed as a Deputy in Back Creek Mine, Minmi, died in Wallsend Hospital yesterday from injuries received through a fall of coal in the mine on Tuesday evening. It appears that the deceased was holding a light for a miner named Arthur Odges, when a portion of the roof came down, pinning deceased to the ground. Dr. Sproule, was at once sent for, and ordered the injured man's removal to the hospital, to which institution he was admitted by Dr. H. K. Bean, who found that the right leg was so badly crushed that amputation was necessary. The operation was performed, but deceased who had other injuries, never rallied, and died as stated...."*<sup>957</sup>

<sup>954</sup> Per Peter Roderick 2009.

<sup>955</sup> Obituary, The FORTIAN, November 1917

<sup>956</sup> Obituary, The FORTIAN, November 1917.

<sup>957</sup> Newcastle morning Herald & Miner's Advocate, Friday, May 8, 1908, p.5 c.6





Edna Alexandra  
(1886-1925)

The now widowed Violet Harvey (Ann Emma's eldest daughter) only a brief three years later, passed away on 8 April 1911 leaving seven children orphaned: Alfred 19 years; Frederick 17; Arthur 15; Herbert 13, Lillian Violet 9 Mabel Lenore 7, and Dulcie May 1 years old. It is understood that the children were separated, each one going to a different aunt for upbringing. Mabel was sent to Beatrice for care, Dulcie was entrusted to Sybil.<sup>958</sup>



Ivy Pearl Haddock  
(1891-1953)

**R**uby Alfreda Haddock was appointed on probation as Pupil Teacher to West Hurstville Public School on

11 March 1907. On 23 November 1908, she was appointed to Kogarah Public School. On 31 December 1909, Ruby had been declared ineligible for admission to Training College due to ill health. On 8 January 1910, she was posted to Cardiff Public School; and on 5 September 1912, Ruby transferred to Blakehurst Public School. End 1912 and early 1913 she was absent for four months from teaching due to ill health - Three of those months was on account of 'heart disease'.<sup>959</sup> Ruby married Frederick Wray in July 1913 and after six short years of marriage, she died. It was at Bellevue Hill on 20 June 1919, that Ruby passed away, leaving behind her husband and two very young children: Alfred C. aged 5 years; and Frederick David Haddock born 10 May 1918 (*Frederick was eventually awarded an MBE*).

**D**uring this early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Sydney was inundated by plague carrying rats. Poor sanitation in the city, and inadequate controls on ship led to rats breeding in plague proportions and spreading disease. Photographs exist of rat catchers standing by a mountain of dead rats as testimony to their efforts and the magnitude of the problem at the time.

One evening, early July 1914, Ruby and Violet's sister, Elsie Griffiths, was diagnosed as having pneumonia. Soon after, that night, she was carried in a covered stretcher through the rain, from her home on the Princess Highway, several blocks to Kogarah Hospital (*For-runner to St George Hospital*). When Elsie had begun to approach full recovery after some seven weeks in hospital she was (as was normal in those days) given boiled used bandages to roll. This apparently was normal practice on the part of the hospital at that time towards covering the cost of less well-off patients. Unfortunately, during this time of recovery in hospital Elsie caught typhoid fever, and died nine days later on 1 September 1914.

At the time of her death in 1914, Elsie's children were: Annie 14 years, Milton 12, and Laurington 9 years of age. Elsie's husband, John, and children were dependent on support from her sister, Ivy Pearl and husband Reginald Favelle. They moved to Bankstown when Ivy and her husband took up residence there.

When John Griffiths died on 5 March 1921, Annie was 21 years old, Milton 18 years, and Laurington 16 years. All three children 'moved in' with their Auntie Ivy. At that time, the Favelles already had four of their own children to care for: Elsie May (1912-1966), Walter Edward (1914-1999), Arthur Kitchener (1916-1987), and Jean Jocelyn (1920-1982). A fifth child, Peggy Joan was born in 1923 (d. 24 June 2006).

Ann Emma's sister, Mary Elizabeth Midgley passed away on 9 Mar 1922 in Brisbane.

<sup>958</sup> Peter Roderick. Email to J I Griffiths 3 Nov 2007.

<sup>959</sup> NSW Archives per Peter Roderick letter to J I Griffiths 31 Dec 2009.



**Ann Emma** died in her 81<sup>st</sup> year on 16 November 1928 at 48 Fullerton St, Stockton. She was buried along side her husband at Stockton General Cemetery, Fullerton Road, Stockton. Only four of Ann's twelve children survived her.

**Children of Ann Emma Brown and Alfred Edward Haddock were:**

- |                                 |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| I. Eva Jane (1869–1869),        | VII. Beatrice Rowina (1881 -1950), |
| II. Violet Ann (1870–1911),     | VIII. David Alfred (1883 - 1917),  |
| III. Ada May (1872 -1957),      | IX. Vespera Olive (1885 - 1887)    |
| IV. Mabel Alice (1875 -1921),   | X. Edna Alexandra (1886 -1925)     |
| V. Sybil Searle (1877 – 1938),  | XI. Ruby Alfreda (1889 -1919)      |
| VI. Elsie Victoria (1879- 1914) | XII. Ivy Pearl (1891 -1953)        |

Their children were not favoured with longevity. Ada May stands out as the exception in that regard, lasting some 85 years.

At the time of Ann Emma's death, she still had close relations in Jerry's Plains. With her passing, the Griffiths / Haddock collective memory of, and association with the Brown family, faded rapidly.

**Milton Griffiths – A Link to the Past**

Reginald Favelle ran a bus service and thought he was on a good thing letting his enthusiastic under-age nephew drive his buses. For Annie it meant food and lodging in return for assisting Ivy in the running of the house, companionship, and spinsterhood. Not long after the death of his father, Milton had an argument with his aunt and left. Milton is said to have resented what he perceived to be his aunt's exploitation, wild ways, and rough language. The recent death of his father, and a crowded household, and independent youthful nature might have added to his discontent.

Milton camped on a nearby block of land in William Street that he had purchased, and begun attending a congregational church nearby. There he met, a then rather petite Hannah Weaver Robinson. Milton was married to Hannah on 25 August 1923 in Bankstown. It was in William Street that Milton built their first house, and where he and Hannah began to raise a family with the birth of son, Bruce, on 24 June 1924.

The accuracy of Milton's perceptions of his aunt also has to be considered in the light of Milton's intriguing Victorian values. Indicative of this, Gordon, (his youngest son) recalls being made by his father to avert his eyes from the shapely legs of a piece of Chippendale furniture. A short sided tablecloth on such furniture was deemed as especially immodest, and consequently a young mind vulnerable to corruption by the viewing of same.<sup>960</sup> Nevertheless, Milton and his Aunt Ivy maintained close contact over many years.

Milton's trade was as Bookbinder between 1916 and 1951. During that time, he also worked as a Paper Classifier, Guillotine Operator, and Foreman, with Offset Printing Company. Milton had the distinction of having to sack the well known Sydney eccentric identity of the 1920-60s, Bea Miles (17 Sep 1902-3 Dec 1973), because of her disruptive activities.

Between 1926 and 1928, Milton took up farming in Seven Hills (now a suburb of Sydney), where he built the second of three houses that he was to construct in his life time. His eldest son, Bruce, recalled that Milton named the farm 'Elsievale', probably in honour of his mother, Elsie Haddock. The house certainly carried the name. The third house he built, it seems, was at Westmead. The mode of transport for Milton and his young family was by horse drawn Sulky. On one occasion while a passenger in the Sulky, Hannah, was thrown from it when its wheels struck a rock. Fortunately, for Hannah, she wore her hair in a bun at the back of her head. That saved her from serious injury. Doubly fortunate, was that Hannah had been nursing their toddler, Bruce, and maintained a tight grip on him as she fell to the ground, and managed to cushioned him

<sup>960</sup> Gordon who loved and remembers him fondly, has discussed this with the author on several occasions.



from injury. Despite having invested considerable effort in the farm, things did not work out well, and Milton and his family had to give up the farm.

### **The Great Depression Years**

Milton would have had little time dwell on his grandmother's passing in 1928. Typical of life in Sydney for many, he was constantly trying to find a way of putting a meal on the table for his expanding family. One example of this was as a shoe salesman between 1929 and 1934 in Sydney, during the Depression, Milton sold shoes with Hannah's uncle Jim Robinson. The shoes were produced in the shoe factory owned and operated by Jim and George Robinson.

When the family were living at Kogarah in the early 1930's Hannah would encourage her young family to visit her mother and father at Melrose St, Croydon Park. They would walk the entire 5? Miles on the Saturday afternoon; up Bexley Rd from Kogarah, through Campsie Beamish St, Brighton Ave, to Melrose St. They would stay overnight and walk back the same route after Sunday lunch.

Like many an Australian of that period, even though life was difficult, he still managed to fit in time for his sporting interests. Milton was an enthusiastic sportsman. He was a keen amateur wrestler - His status as Amateur State Champion of NSW about 1933 testifies to this<sup>961</sup>. He played tennis to a high standard (A Grade) and built a tennis court at some time to accommodate that interest. Milton was also very active in Kano Ju Jitsu, Martial Arts. Once on Arncliffe railway station at night he came to the assistance of a lady who was being threatened by a man - Milton sent him on his way.

Milton was noted as being 'a reasonable hand' at the violin. However, he had occasion to extend his musical talent producing a musical piece for Hannah. It was a musical score sheet that had been composed by a friend to which Milton wrote the lyrics.

At one time, Milton built himself a bicycle from spares to accommodate his local transport needs, for example, to go to 'Professor' Russell's gymnasium at Ramsgate. Having got to enjoy the benefits of this hard won convenience, Milton exchanged his precious bike for a tennis racquet for Hannah so that she could go back to her regular mid week daytime social matches.

In addition to these activities, he was lay preacher and 'Sunday School' teacher at the Kogarah Methodist Church 1934 - 1938.

Sometimes in those still difficult days of the post Depression era, Milton managed to take his family away on holiday. He would get home earlier than usual in summer, that is, about 5pm so that the family could catch an electric train to Sutherland. They would walk to Prince Edward Park and collect a boat and key from one of the boatshed owners. They would then row for some two hours upstream past Jacky's Cap, Cathedral Rock, and other landmarks that identify bends in the river. They would put ashore at Grey Sand Beach and unload for a ten minute walk up a gradual grade to Aunty Elizabeth's (Hewish) holiday cottage. The cottage was on piers and overlooked the river – It was high at the front (where the kitchen was). Elsie, the youngest of Milton and Hannah's children at that time, slept in the bedroom with them. The boys, Bruce and Keith, were accommodated in the 'sleep-out' extension of the veranda.

Typical fair for the family during the Depression years was corned beef and cabbage, mashed potatoes and sausages, or 'Toad-in-the-Hole', for the main meal. Plum jam was cheaply available as a spread to the family to the point where Bruce came to loath it in later years. Ginger syrup and Cockies Joy (Golden Syrup) were also occasionally available.

Bruce, remembered Milton taking him and his brother and sister shopping to buy groceries on Fridays. Boiled lollies were part of the deal. The family kept 'tick' (account) with Miss Ray's corner store - She

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<sup>961</sup> This achievement has yet to be verified. But Milton's wrestling prowess has often been honoured in wrestling matches between the Author and his (the author)'s grandson over many years in the wrestling matches in the Wrestling Room (lounge room) at the authors home - One or other combatant has invariably adopted the name "The Mighty Mil 'T'" for the occasion.



would shout the children a bag of broken biscuits when 'tick' was settled. Milton bought 'spec' (marked) fruit from Arena's fruit and veg store in Kogarah.

Milton and Hannah would occasionally take the children crab fishing at Botany Bay - Brighton-al sands at the end of Presidents Ave. Each would have to put a string line out in water with some reasonable hope of catching a sand crab.

After returning home from school the Bruce and Keith would make their way to the local blacksmith in Kogarah 'Mr Parr' to watch the wonders he performed in shaping steel into tools and equestrian equipment such as horse shoes. They were always eager to assist in the process by pumping the bellows - On cold winter afternoons this was considered an extra special treat.



*Ivy Pearl Favelle (nee Haddock) (centre left) and her daughter, Jean?, on the left, Annie Pearl Griffiths (centre right) and Hannah Griffiths (right) c1938.*

Elsie help boys collect coal for household fuel from beside the railway line where it dropped off the steam-train bunkers when they lurched. Wood was often collected from the base of trees on nearby vacant blocks of land.

As many people did not live close shops in those times, and private transport was a rare phenomenon, 'Fruit and Veg' vendors came offering their goods by horse drawn cart. The Butter, Eggs, and Honey Man came round in a smaller cart, and the 'Rabbitto' roamed the streets on a motorcycle with outrider filled with dead bunnies. The Clothes Prop man came round with horse drawn cart. The milk cart came twice a day. Housewives or their children would go in the street to have milk ladled out of large churns into their billy-cans or whatever was use for the purpose.

house next to Milton's in-laws at Melrose Street, Croydon Park, while Hannah was ill with a nervous breakdown and depression that followed on from the birth of Gordon.

1938 to 1939 Milton and family lived at 24 Hodge Street, Hurstville. Subsequent to that, they moved to a

### **World War II and Other Turns of Fate**

On the eve of World War II, 5 March 1939, and late in their marriage, Milton and Hannah were blessed with the birth of a fourth child, Gordon.

That year, to help support the family, Milton instructed Bruce, who was still not yet 15 years old, that he needed to finish his schooling and get a job. Consequently, Bruce went to work for Herbert Lavington's bakery at Garfield St, Carlton, delivering bread by horse drawn cart. His job necessitated him having to harness the horse in early in the morning, often before sunrise, in preparation for a long and tiring days work. Bruce often found himself nodding off to sleep and depending on the horses knowing their way.

During WWII, Milton served as the Corporal in the 45<sup>th</sup> Battalion Machine Gunners Volunteer Defence Corps with the 10 Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps at their Hurstville depot. It was a machine-gun battalion of the Militia (Later known as CMF, and more recently Reserves). Milton's brother, Laurie was the Lance Corporal, and eldest son, Bruce a Private, served in the same Section – A situation reminiscent of the BBC's TV series Dad's Army.

In the post war years, Milton took to breeding and showing poultry. He was successful on a number of occasions where he entered for competition in Bantam shows, winning prize ribbons. He was also keen on breeding and exhibiting Rhode Island Reds. In the mid to late 1950's, Milton gave a number of his prize birds, Rhode Island Reds and Bantam to his son, Bruce, who took great pleasure in keeping them.

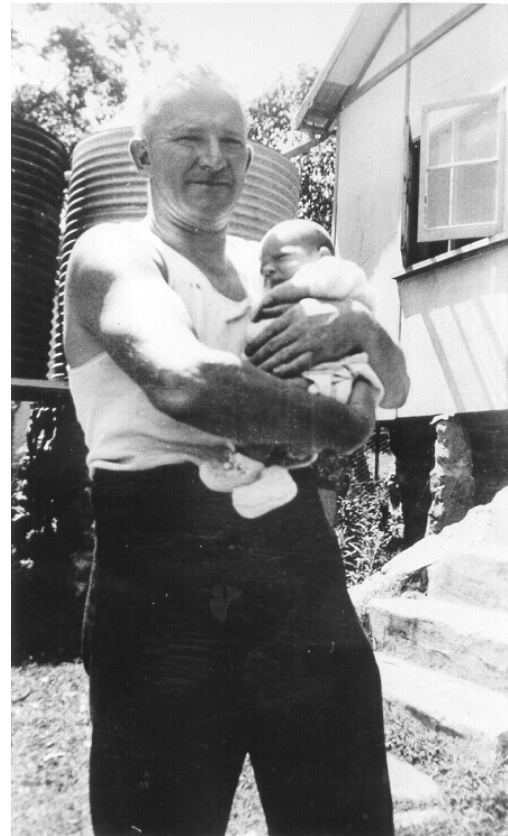


During the years 1948-1950, Hannah and Milton, and their youngest son, Gordon, would take a holiday at Bundeena. The weekender belonged to the parents of Elsie's boyfriend at that time, Alan Lloyd. Other members of the family on occasion would visit them there. In those days, access to Bundeena was achieved by a small ferry from Cronulla, a short walk from the railway station. These days Bundeena is accessible by road through National Park bushland.

When Hannah died on 20 June 1951, Milton was badly shaken by it. This loss had followed closely that his sister, Annie Pearl, who had passed away 27 February that same year<sup>962</sup>. Milton shed considerable weight as a consequence. In attempting to deal with his bereavement, Milton went to Queensland for a brief time.

Between 1953 and 1962, Milton was employed as an overseer for the NSW Egg Marketing Board at the shipping wharf, Pyrmont, Walsh Bay, and Darling Harbour for Egg Cargo consignment.

Milton married again in 1954, to Ina Ling under the rights of the Catholic faith at St Mary's, Cathedral, Sydney, and moved to 24 Pacific Parade, Dee Why. His youngest son, Gordon, lived with them there for a number of years. As a carry-over from his sporting days, Milton still had boxing and weight lifting gear in the shed at the back of the house - It was also the point of considerable interest for his grandson, John.



*Milton T with grandson, John, Australia Day 1947at Bundeena NSW*

Milton's daughter, Elsie died at age 33, with Multiple Sclerosis on 5 Jul 1958, leaving behind a husband and three very young daughters 7, 6, and 1 years old.

On 20 August 1964, Milton died as a consequence of heart failure at Royal North Shore Hospital, Crows Nest.

Milton and Hannah produced four children, one of whom, Bruce, eventually rediscovered the 'Brown connection' and began the research that became the foundation of this history.

**Children of Milton Thirlmere GRIFFITHS and Hannah Weaver ROBINSON and were:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| i. Milton Bruce GRIFFITHS (24 Jun 1924 –10 Nov 2003) | iii. Elsie Gwyneth GRIFFITHS (26 Apr 1927- 5 Jul 1958) |
| ii. Keith Ross GRIFFITHS (20 Jan 1926-21 Dec 1988)   | iv. Gordon Robert Fitzgerald GRIFFITHS (b5 Mar 1939)   |

<sup>962</sup> SMH Death Notice, Thursday 1 March 1951.