

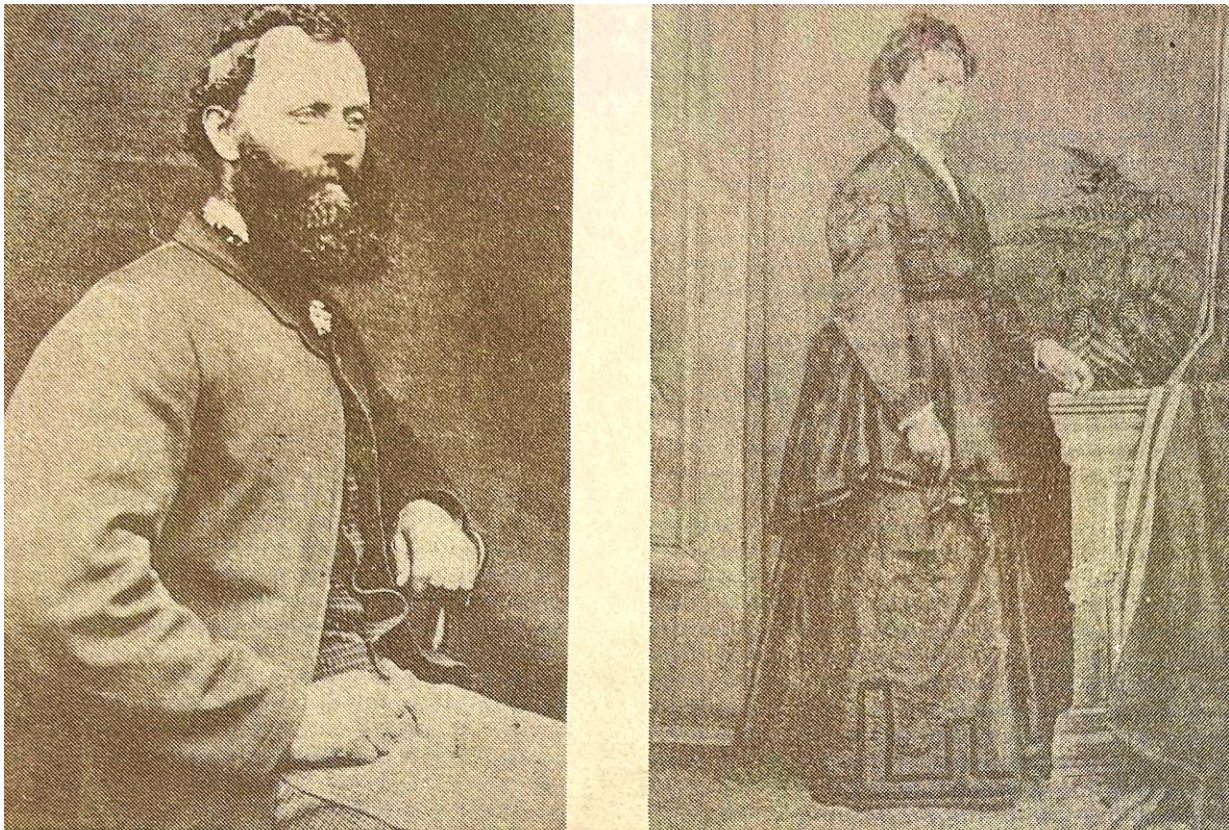
# (WILLIAM) HENRY KIRWAN of MARYSVILLE

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*(William) Henry and Bridget Kirwan nee Cussens were amongst the earliest settlers in Marysville owning and operating the Junction Hotel, one of the four hotels in the town that became unlicensed in the late 1800s and known as The Temperance Hotel. Their sons were involved in gold mining amongst other things and their daughter married William Edward Chester, who found, part-owned and operated the Golden Secret Mine at the Cumberland River.*

*Also in the area was Henry's brother John Kirwan who moved to Alexandra in 1869 where he held the licence for the Shamrock Hotel. The two families were close. Disaster struck when the Hotel burnt down in 1883 and John's mother in law and his wife both died in 1884. John was struggling and became insolvent in May 1885. They moved to Carlton. Their story appears in this document.*

**(William) Henry Kirwan** was the fourth son of **John Kirwan** and **Jane Brookman** who married in Ireland. Several of their sons came to Victoria in the late 1850s. This document starts with William Henry who settled in Marysville. The other siblings and their families follow.



**Mr & Mrs William Kirwan, hosts at The Junction Hotel, Marysville, from the 1860s.**  
**Picture: Mrs A.K. Barry**

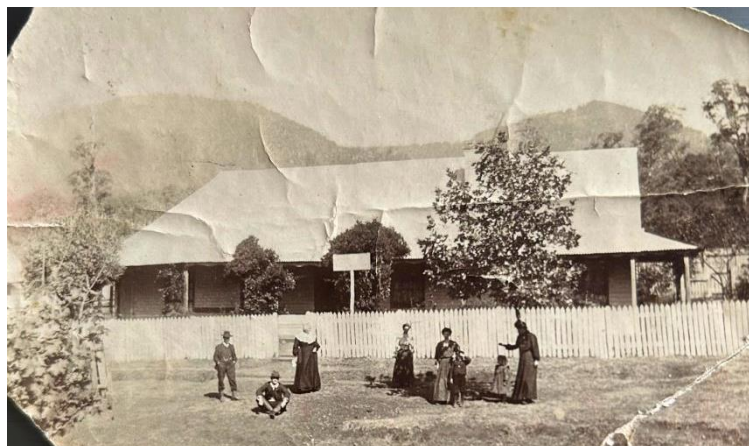
*From "The Last of the Yarra Track Stopping Places, Ann Thomas, 1983.*

4. **William Henry Kirwan** (c1836, Co Galway, Ireland – 1899, Ararat Asylum. Vic).  
In 1861 at St Marys, Inglewood he married **Bridget Mary Cussen** (c1844 Co Limerick, Ireland<sup>1</sup> – 1921, Fairfield at home of her daughter, Belinda). Bridget was the daughter of James Cussen and Catherine nee Dooley. Honoria Kirwan, wife of William's brother John, was one of the witnesses to their marriage.



Martin Cussen, Bridget's brother was in Marysville prior to the Land Sales of December 1864 with a 7 roomed wooden house with shingled roof and verandah which he had built on Block C Lot11 on the corner of Pack Road and Murchison Street. William Henry Kirwan, Martin's brother in law, purchased this block on 28 April 1865 and William and Bridget ran their Junction Hotel from this building.

Butlers Woods Point Directory 1866 records Wm Kairwen [sic] operating the Junction Hotel. Balliere's Directory 1868 also has William Henry Kirwan as the operator.



*Photos from c1902 & c1906 for details of the people see the Chester Family document.*

William Henry and Bridget ran the Hotel for several years, but struggled to keep the license. William fell from his horse<sup>2</sup> and suffered severe head injuries which he did not recover from and was sent to Yarra Bend Asylum<sup>3</sup>, Kew and then Ararat Lunatic Asylum on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1890 where he lived another nine years.

Bridget ran the hotel as the Temperance Hotel without a license from the late 1800s.

The following inmates of the Ararat Lunatic Asylum have died :

.....William Henry Kirwan, 70 years of age, transferred from Yarra Bend, 26th June, 1890, syncope, following disease of the brain;<sup>4</sup>

*Horsham Times, 7 Apr 1899*

Bridget was very interested in the welfare of the local children, writing<sup>5</sup> to the Education Department in 1892. A petition was being circulated requesting that Mr Sparke, the teacher for over 20 years be retained in Marysville. Bridget was not in support of this, believing that Mr Sparke was not a good teacher.

The Hotel had been delicensed, renamed The Temperance and Bridget ran it as a boarding house with various sons and daughters living with her from time to time.

Electoral Roll entries for 1903<sup>6</sup> & 1909 contain Bridget Kirwan, Marysville, home duties. (Most of the women running accommodation houses gave their occupation as home duties).

By 1915 the Coney family had bought the Kirwan establishment and ran it as the "Carlisle".

Bridget died at her daughter, Belinda's house in Fairfield in 1921 and is buried with 3 of her sons in St Kilda Cemetery (RC A740).

Bridget and William Henry's children were:

4.1. **Andrew James Valentine Kirwan** (1862<sup>7</sup> St Kilda - Died 1944 aged 83yrs).

Andrew Kirwan was involved with gold mining in the area and later specifically in the Cumberland area where his brother-in-law (William) Edward Chester had the successful Golden Secret mine. *See Gold Folder for information on Andrew's various ventures.*



*Andrew Kirwan pumping from the well at the back of the Junction/Temperance Hotel, Marysville. Identified by Jacyntha (Chester), incorrectly identified as Edward Chester.*

*Another photo in Ann Thomas "Yarra Stopping Places" book has Andrew Kirwan cutting palings however this photo resembles another photo of George Locke who was known to be a paler. See George Locke document.*

References in Council reports indicated Andrew was regularly doing road works:

1886 - 16 chns of Marysville to Buxton Road.

1909 repairing the Marysville Bridge.

*Healesville & Yarra Glen Guardian, 2 July 1909.*

From Andrew Kirwan, stating that several drains, including drain from septic tank at Roche's Hotel, all cross road and injure his land.-

Referred to inspector to report to next meeting, on motion of Crs.

Dawborn and Blackburn.

*Healesville & Yarra Glen Guardian, 5 Oct 1918.*

Cr Barton to ascertain whether Mr Andrew Kirwan is prepared to be Clerk of Works Marysville District.

*Healesville & Yarra Glen Guardian, 6 Mar 1937*

## ***Gold Mining on the Cumberland***

Over the years Andrew and his brothers had interests in mining , in particular in the Cumberland region. Their involvement and fortunes fluctuated greatly as illustrated here.

*Healesville & Yarra Glen Guardian, 25 Nov 1905*

In mining matters there are great opportunities for legitimate investors in this district. To give an instance : Kirwan Bros. crushed 20 tons of stone for a yield of 45 ozs. of gold from their claim adjoining the Golden Bower mine near the Yarra Track. This result was obtained in about two months for two men. The stone was crushed at the battery of the Golden Bower Co. The claim is worked very economically, and present indications are very favourable.

*Healesville & Yarra Glen Guardian, 24 Nov 1911*

A Marysville Lease FORFEIT RECOMMENDED On the 20th inst., at Heidelberg, before Mr Warden Morrison, Emile Schlegel. of Melbourne, applied for forfeiture of mining lease No. 4803, Castlemaine, held by Andrew Kirwan, of Marysville and known as the Golden Bower<sup>8</sup> mine. Applicant stated that the lessee had not fulfilled the covenants regarding labour, and that no work had been done on the land for the past 20 months. The ground had some time ago been worked, and a tunnel driven, but Schlegel stated that, owing to caving in, the tunnel would not be of any use to an incoming lessee. He informed the warden that if the present lease were forfeited and a new one issued, he had a syndicate with £1500 capital to work the licence ground.

Below are two later applications for 1933 at Cumberland Creek in Andrew's name.

Healesville & Yarra Glen Guardian, 25 Mar 1933

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A MINING LEASE. Within twelve days from the 21st day of March, 1933, I shall lodge with the Secretary for Mines Melbourne, an application for a Lease, the particulars of which are: Name (In full) and address of each applicant: Andrew James Valentine Kirwan, Falls road, Marysville. Name by which mine will be known: Kirwan's Reward. Area: About 20 acres. Whether on or below the surface, or both: Both. Full description and precise locality of the land: About two miles east of Cumberland Creek Bridge, and on west side of Woods' Point road. Name of each owner and each occupier of the land, so far as an applicant has been able to learn: Owner Lease covers portion of applicant's prospecting quartz, Area No. 1314. Whether the boundaries of the land include any river, creek, deposit or permanent water, spring or artificial reservoir, small stream. Nature of proposed mining operations: Shafts and tunnelling. Term required: 15 years. Estimated expenditure: £1000. - Metal or mineral to be worked: Gold. Quartz or alluviums: Quartz. Where it is private land, state whether a prospecting area to required: No. General remarks: None. Signature of Applicant: Andrew Kirwan. Place and date: Cumberland Creek, March 21, 1933,

NOTICE OP APPLICATION FOR A - MINING LEASE. - Within twelve days from the 21st day of March, 1933, I shall lodge with the Secretary-for Mines, Melbourne, an application for a Lease, the particulars of which are: Name (in full) and address of each applicant: Andrew James Valentino Kirwan, Falls road, Marysville. Name by which mine will be known: Kirwan's North Extended. Area: - About 20 acres. Whether on or below the surface, or both: Both. Full description and precise locality of the land: Adjoining north end of Kirwan's Reward, thence north for 20 chains. Name of each owner and-each occupier of the land, so far as applicant has been able to learn: Owner --None. Occupier-None. Whether the boundaries of the land include any river, creek, deposit or permanent water, spring or artificial reservoir, small stream. Nature of proposed mining operations: Loaming and trenching and shafts. - Term required: 15 years. Estimated expenditure: £100, Metal- or mineral to be worked: Cold. Quartz or alluviums: Quartz. Where it is private land, state whether a prospecting area is required: No. - General remarks: None. Signature of Applicant: Andrew Kirwan. - - Place and date: Cumberland Creek, March 21.

Of interest is an application advertised in the Healesville & Yarra Glen Guardian, 22 June 1935 by members of the Elmore Family for a mining lease adjoining 'Kirwan's Reward' to be called 'Star of the East'.

Electoral Roll entries for Andrew James Valentine Kirwan  
1903, 09, in Marysville, miner  
1912, 13, 14, 15 Narbethong, contractor  
1919, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 34, 37 in Marysville, miner.

- 4.2. **William Kirwan** (1863<sup>9</sup>, Inglewood - ??), possibly died in infancy because a later son is called William Martin and reference<sup>10</sup> is made to the Kirwans arriving in Marysville with only one son.
- 4.3. **George Martin Kirwan** (1866<sup>11</sup>, Marysville - 1940<sup>12</sup> Healesville). He was a gold miner along with his brothers Andrew and Charles. *See Gold Folder for information.*

George, with other miners, was reported assisting an old resident at Donovans Creek in 1896.

*Healesville Guardian 30 Oct 1896*

A very old resident of these parts named -W. V. Campbell, aged about 75 years, departed this life in a very sudden manner on Tuesday, the 20th inst., at Walker's hotel, Donovan's Creek. Mr. George Kirwan, who lives near deceased's place, found him in a very weak state in his hut on Frenchman's

Creek, and he, with Mr. Andrew Kirwan, Mr. M. Davis, Mr. Thos, Heron (saddler), and others carried him to Walker's hotel, a distance of nine miles, Mr. Walker's sons meeting them two miles from the hotel and assisted in carrying the rest of the way. Campbell was in a very weak state when he arrived

at the hotel. A doctor from Wood's Point was sent for and was in attendance as quickly as possible, but he could do nothing for deceased, who died on Tuesday night. The remains were taken to Marysville in a buggy by the Messrs. Kirwan and Walker, and were buried on Wednesday. Had it not

been for the good heartedness of Mr. George Kirwan the deceased would have died in his hut, away from a living soul, the death, of many a poor unfortunate digger.

George married **Alice Florence Allan** (1890-1963, buried Bulla Cemetery) in 1914<sup>13</sup> while later in 1914 his brother, Gerald, married Alice's sister Emma Elizabeth Allan.

George did not join the soldiers going to WWI.

Ted Carter, aged 83 in 2001, a neighbour in Healesville remembers George taking him out prospecting in the early 1920s when Ted was a lad.

In 1930 Cr Hodges of Healesville Shire asks for work for George who is out of work.

Electoral Roll entries for George Martin Kirwan;

1908, 09, 12	Donovans Creek mining manager
1913 and - 18	Marysville, miner
1920	George day labourer with Healesville Council. <sup>14</sup>
1921 – 28	Westmount Ave, Healesville, miner with Alice Florence
1934	Marysville, no Alice

George died in 1942 and Alice was living in Richmond at this time. Alice died in 1963 and her daughters, Mavis and Grace are buried with their mother as 'Kirwan'.

Alice and George had the following children -

4.3.1. Mavis Geraldine Kirwan (1916-2001),

4.3.2. George ( ? - bef 1988),

4.3.3. Grace Florence Kirwan (1924-2003) of Richmond married<sup>15</sup> Philip James Stercula<sup>16</sup> in 1944 at St Patrick's Cathedral with the celebrations at the bride's mother's house. It was the height of WWII with US servicemen in Melbourne on R&R. Philip was in the US Navy on board USS 'Amycus' aged 24 and Grace was 20<sup>17</sup>. Like so many WWII marriages to US servicemen the marriages did not succeed as the men were required to return to US. Grace went back to using her maiden name by 1954<sup>18</sup>.

4.3.4. Jack (1916, registered Healesville-1988, Alfred Hospital) served in WWII in the Aust Rly Constr Coy (Mech Egypt) married Gertrude Brettner<sup>19</sup> in the 1960s in the Registry Office. Jack worked with the railways and lived in Hawthorn East near the railway line. He died in the Alfred Hospital and donated his body to science. There were no children.

4.4. **Frances<sup>20</sup> Walter Kirwan** (1868<sup>21</sup>, Marysville – 1926, buried in family grave at St Kilda) in 1891 was a witness to the Narbethong double murder having seen the murderer Colston pass as he worked on the road.<sup>22</sup>

1903, 08	Marysville, farmer
1909	Marysville, miner
1912	Marysville, labourer.
1914, 17, 19, 22	41 Franklin St, Melb, labourer
1926	Gilderoy, Warburton, labourer

4.5. **John Kirwan** (1870<sup>23</sup>, Marysville - 1900<sup>24</sup> in Prince Alfred Hospital). He died from typhoid fever. Buried St Kilda cemetery. His mother and two brothers later added to the grave – RC A 740.

4.6. **James Kirwan**(1872<sup>25</sup> - 1873), 2 months old<sup>26</sup>.

4.7. **Charles Joseph Kirwan** (1873<sup>27</sup>, Marysville – 1935, Alexandra)  
1917 Wolfram Mine lease with Sherman Gates:

*Healesville & Yarra Glen Guardian, 5 May 1917*

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A MINING LEASE. - WITHIN twelve days from the 27th day of April. 1917, we shall lodge with the Secretary for Mines, Melbourne, an application for a Lease, the particulars of which are: Name in full and the address of each applicant-Sherman Gates, Marysville; Charles Joseph Kirwan, Marysville. Name by which mine will be known: The Wilks' Creek Wolfram Mine. - Area - About 30 acres. Whether on or below the surface, or Full description and precise locality of the land:-gully with steep sides covered with undergrowth. Locality at head of Wilkes' Creek, five miles south of Marysville. Owner - Crown: Name of each owner and each occupier of the land, so far as applicant has

been able to learn - Occupier-None. Whether the boundaries of the land include any river, creek, deposit of permanent water, spring, or artificial reservoir -- Small creek. Nature of proposed mining operations - Tunnelling and stopeing, and the erection and operation of concentrating machinery. Term required:- Fifteen years. Estimated expenditure.-£1000. Metal or mineral to be worked:- Wolfram quartz or alluviums - Quartz. Where it is private land, state whether a prospecting area is required:-Crown land, and no prospecting area required. General Remarks:- None. Signature of Applicants:- Sherman Gates, Charles Joseph Kirwan. Place and date:-Marysville, 27th April, 1917.

1909	Donovans Creek, miner
1912 - 34	Marysville, miner

4.8. **William Martin Kirwan** (1875 –1939, East Camberwell, buried at St Kilda cemetery with mother and 2 brothers). William lived with his single brothers in Falls Road Marysville and like them was a miner. He had been suffering for several years from Nephritis and Arteriosclerosis and finally died from heart failure in Nazareth House, a private aged care facility run by the Sisters of Nazareth and still operating in 2025 in East Camberwell. The Kirwans and Cussens were Irish Catholics who practised their faith. He never married.

Electoral Roll entries:

1903, 1909 Marysville, farmer

No Electoral roll entries found after 1907 for William Martin. Possibly using the name Henry Kirwan.

1907 W Kirwan has 10,000 good palings for sale on the Main Road one mile from Marysville.

4.9. **Maria aka Ria Catherine** (1877<sup>28</sup>, Marysville – 30 Dec 1967, Parkville<sup>29</sup>).

Maria married (William) Edward Chester (1871, Acheron river near Marysville - 1961, Fitzroy) in 1899, for wedding details see article below. Note - Maria's cousin Henry who gave her away and bridesmaid Nonie Kirwan were Uncle John Kirwan's son and daughter. Other cousins from Frances Kirwan's family in Stawell and John Kirwan's family attended.

*For information on Maria and William Edward Chester, their life and family see the Chester family document in the Gold Folder.*

*Healesville & Yarra Glen Guardian, 24 Nov 1899*

**WEDDING CHESTER-KIRWAN.**

A very pretty wedding took place at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, on Monday, the 20th November, the contracting parties being Mr. W. Chester, of Chesterville, Yarra Track, and Miss (Ria) Kirwan, of Marysville. The wedding was performed by the Very Rev. Dean McKenna. The bride, who was given away by her cousin, Mr. Henry Kirwan, who also acted as best man, wore a becoming gown of white figured silk, the usual wreath and veil, and carried a lovely bouquet. She was attended by Miss (Nonie) Kirwan, of Carlton, who looked very nice in white silk, flowers worn in the hair, and she carried a bouquet of white carnations and lilies of the valley. The bride groom's gift to the bride consisted of a gold opal brooch, and the bride's gift, to bridegroom, a beautiful bound prayer-book. The gift of the bride groom to the bridesmaid was a diamond and ruby brooch. The bride's travelling dress was a grey costume, with hat to match. Amongst the guests were Miss Kirwan, of Carlton; who was dressed in a costume of black silk. Miss

Kitty Kirwan, of Stawell, pale blue silk blouse, peaky skirt, blue straw hat. Miss Kelly, of Clifton Hill; grey and white silk hat to match. Miss Woods, navy blue costume. Mrs. Stevens, of St. Kilda, grey costume. Miss Kennedy, check silk and pink hat. Miss Ruby Cannon, of Carlton, brown and pink dress. Miss Julia Kirwan, black and white dress. Miss Janie Kirwan, pretty frock of white spotted muslin. Miss Ethel Stevens, pink frock. Miss Janie Kelly, black silk, and black and white hat. The wedding tea was served at residence of the bride's uncle. The bride received many useful presents. The happy couple left by the evening train for Bendigo, where the honeymoon is to be spent.

*Argus, 21 Nov 1924*

CHESTER-KIRWAN. –Silver Wedding –

On the 21st November, 1899, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, by the late Ven. Archpriest McKenna, Geelong, William Edward Chester, of Chesterville, to Maria Catherine Kirwan, of Marysville.

(Present address, 47 Queen's parade, Clifton Hill.)

4.10. **Gerald Cussen Kirwan** (c1881, Marysville – 1943, Fairfield). Gerald married Emma Elizabeth Allan (1895-1956, Richmond) in 1914. His brother George had already married Emma's sister Alice earlier in 1914. Gerald was working the Wolfram mine with his brother.

1903, 09, 12	Marysville, miner
1914	South Melbourne, rubber worker
1916	Marysville, miner

Gerald was a tunneller in WWI in France. He gave his occupation as miner and next of kin Emma Elizabeth Kirwan.

Mr Gerald C. Kirwan, of the wolfram mine, Marysville, who enlisted and went into camp on the 25th September last, sailed on Wednesday, 18th inst.; to "do his bit" in assisting his comrades at the front. "Good luck Gerald."

*Healesville & Yarra Glen Guardian, 28 Oct 1916*

Mrs Emma Kirwan has received word from the Defence Department that her husband, Sapper G Kirwan, has been wounded in the head and

shoulder in France, and is now in hospital in England.  
*Healesville & Yarra Glen Guardian, 30 June 1917*

1918	Emma Elizabeth, wife Castella St. Lilydale.
1918	Gerald Cussen, Marysville, miner
1919	Richmond, labourer with Emma Elizabeth
1922, 25	Fairfield, labourer, no Emma
1942	Alphington, storeman

4.11. **Belinda** (1883<sup>30</sup>–1949<sup>31</sup>, Fitzroy) would have assisted her mother at the Temperance Hotel as she grew up.

1908,09 Marysville, home duties

In 1910 she married William Thompson Hodgkinson (1887, Richmond-1927). They do not appear to have had any children.

1912, 14, 15, 17, South Melbourne, home duties with William Thompson Hodgkinson, driver

1919, Alphington, home duties with William Thompson Hodgkinson, labourer

1921, 22, 24 Gillies St, Fairfield, home duties with William Thompson Hodgkinson, labourer

1928 – 42 Gillies St, Fairfield no William

1949 listed and crossed out.

Sadly William Thompson Hodgkinson died in 1927<sup>32</sup> in a nasty accident.

*The Age, 21 Mar 1928*

#### **Laborer's Unlucky Accident**

CRUSHED BY LIFT. The death of William Thompson Hodgkinson, labourer, Gillies-street, Fairfield, the singularly unlucky victim of a lift accident, was investigated yesterday by the acting coroner, Mr. D. Grant. Evidence showed that at 8.2 a.m. on 14th inst. Hodgkinson was on the first floor of premises at 250 Flinders-street, Melbourne, where he was working, he was seen leaning over the lift well, and while in this position the lift descended, and inflicted fatal injuries to his head.

Hodgkinson was leaning over a wooden door 3 feet in height. Until 4 p.m. on the previous day there had been a screen of wire mesh attached to the wooden part of the door, forming the normal lift door, which would have rendered an accident of the kind impossible. The wire mesh had been removed in order to allow for the painting of the inside of the wooden frame to which it was attached. The lift that struck Hodgkinson contained a carpenter, who had just picked up his tools, and was on his way to reattach the mesh to the wood work. The Coroner found that death was received accidentally.

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The following pages detail William Henry Kirwan's brothers and their families.  
Of note is John who ran the Shamrock Hotel in Alexandra for a time.



# KIRWAN FAMILY in Victoria

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*John Kirwan married Jane Brookman in Ireland. Several of their sons came to Victoria in the late 1850s. Their youngest William Henry settled in Marysville and his family information appears on the previous pages.*

1. **Francis Brookman Kirwan** (c1828, Rockview, Co Tipperary, Ireland – 1903<sup>33</sup>, Dunolly, Vic). In Inglewood in 1859 he married **Catherine/Kate Cussen**<sup>34</sup> (c1838, Co Clare, Ireland<sup>35</sup> – 188236, Dunolly, Vic). Catherine's sister Bridget married Francis brother William Henry in 1861.

Their children were:

- 1.1. Jean Kirwan (1861, Inglewood<sup>37</sup> – 1958, Caulfield<sup>38</sup>), Mrs Jean Burns.
- 1.2. Ellen aka Nellie Kirwan (c1863, Inglewood - ?) she married Martin John Minogue in Stawell in 1896 at which her cousins from Alexandra and Marysville were present. Katie Kirwan, ex Alexandra and John's daughter was a bridesmaid and amongst the presents you will find other names of John's daughters. An aside - there were two unusual presents from a couple of gentlemen of a bag of flour and Mrs. Beaton's household book.  
Martin Minogue, a Clerk of Courts had worked at Nhill and Benalla prior to his death aged 44 in 1912<sup>39</sup>.
- 1.3. Frances Honora Kirwan (1865, Inglewood - 1868<sup>40</sup>).
- 1.4. James Kirwan (1867, Dunolly - ?). James gave away his sister Ellen at her wedding in 1896.
- 1.5. Kate aka Kitty Kirwan (1874, Dunolly - ?) Kitty Kirwan of Stawell attended cousin Maria Catherine Kirwan's wedding in 1899. *See Maria's entry in this document.*
- 1.6. Francis Kirwan (1876, Dunolly -?)
- 1.7. Augustus William Kirwan (1880, Dunolly - ?).

*Table Talk, Fri 24 January 1896*

**MINOGUE-KIRWAN.**-A very large assemblage was present at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Stawell, on January 15, to witness the marriage of Mr. M. J. Minogue, Clerk of Courts at Stawell, and eldest son of the late Mr. John Minogue, of "Estcourt," Wangaratta, with Miss Ellen (Nellie) Kirwan, second daughter of Mr. Francis Kirwan, of Dunolly. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father Shanaghan, of Hamilton, assisted by the Rev. Father Lynch. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. James Kirwan, was attended by four bridesmaids, Misses Kitty and Fanny Kirwan, sisters of the bride, Miss Annie Minogue, sister of the

bridegroom, and Miss Katie Kirwan, cousin of the bride, Mr. J. Kirwan acted as best man, and Miss Swan played the "Wedding March." The bridal toilette was of rich cream brocaded silk made with court train. The bodice had the double box pleat back and soft frills of chiffon were used as a trimming, with sprays of natural orange blossom. The large sleeves fell in wide puffs to the elbow, finishing off with prettily fashioned bows of the brocade. A coronet of orange blossom was worn on the head, and over it was arranged a long tulle veil, which reached to the end of the train. She carried a beautiful shower bouquet composed of white flowers veiled in fronds of asparagus and other delicate ferns. The first bridesmaid, Miss Kitty Kirwan, (sister of the bride)

and Miss Katie Kirwan (cousin of the bride), were becomingly gowned in white silk. The bodices had gathered yokes outlined with folds of chiffon, blouse-like fronts and full bishop sleeves. Miss Annie Minogue (sister of the bridegroom), and Miss Fanny Kirwan (sister of the bride), wore eau de-nil silk. These costumes were tastefully embellished with butterfly bows and pleated collar of chiffon, gigot sleeves completed with smart bows at the wrist. They all carried charming posies of white flowers with ribbon streamers, and flowers were also worn in the hair. The first two bridesmaids, Miss Kitty Kirwan and Miss Annie Minogue, wore the bridegroom's gift of gold brooches, the former's set in pearls, and the latter's an amethyst brooch. After the ceremony and nuptial mass, the wedding party proceeded to the Commercial Hotel, where the wedding breakfast was served in the large dining-room, which had been artistically decorated with flowers and evergreens. The table, set off by the wedding cake of three tiers, was done with white carnations and trails of asparagus fern. Later in the afternoon the wedding party drove to the Great Western, where Mr. and Mrs. Minogue took the train en route for Launceston for their honeymoon. The going away gown was fawn faille françoise, with design in pale blue silk, made with godet skirt, and bodice of brown and blue shot brocade, full in front, and box-pleated back. Gigot sleeves of the material were smartened by a gauntlet cuff of the silk. A smart white toque, surmounted with goffern wings and pale pink roses, completed her toilette.

The following is a list of the presents received:-Miss Kirwan (sister of bride), house linen and tea service. Mrs. Minogue (mother of bridegroom), cruet stand, Miss Kitty Kirwan (sister of bride), shaving table set, salt cellars and opal portrait. Miss F Kirwan (sister of

bride), set drawn thread d'oyleys. Mr. James Kirwan (brother of the bride), handsome photo album. Miss C. Kirwan (Carlton), cousin of bride, ruby epergne. Miss K. Kirwan (Carlton), cousin of bride, pair ruby vases and cream lace fascinator. Mr. and Mrs. G. Simpson (Melbourne), cheque. Mr. E. Simpson, slice and fork. Mr. John Cane (to bride) silver hot water kettle, to bridegroom, silver morocco flask. Madame McIntosh, pearl ring. A friend, silver toast rack. Mr. and Mrs. J. Rowan silver mounted salad bowl. Mr. and Mrs. D. McLean silver butter dish. Mr. and Mrs. A. I. Payne, Dresden china ornament. Mr. and Mrs. P. Galbraith pair ruby jewel caskets. Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Crera, silver butter dish. Mr. and Mrs. Bartleman, case of perfume. Mr. and Miss Kinsella, handsome lamp. Mr. and Mrs. Chadwick, pair lace curtains. Mr. and Mrs. Edhouse, silver egg stand. Mrs. and the Misses Robbie, silver marmalade jar. Miss B Robbie (Rupanyup), handsome barvetine plaque. Miss E. Byrne, Japanese teapot. Miss M. Burns<sup>41</sup> (Dunolly) drawn thread sideboard and tray cloths. Miss E. and Mr. C. H. Akins, Dresden cupid vase. Misses Wilson pair drawn thread d'oyleys. Messrs. Wright, Pawey and Mitchell, fire irons and stand. Miss T. Row silver-mounted oak biscuit barrel and cigar tray, Miss J. Vickery, pair Dresden ornaments and plush sachet. Mr. T. Curran, set afternoon tea spoons. Miss F. Leech, Japanese afternoon tea service. K. Keirse, silver egg stand. Mr. T. Hampton, pair silver salt cellars. Mr. W. Frayne, bag of flour. Mr. J. D. Mills, Mrs. Beaton's household book. Mr. W Lindsay, four oil paintings. Mrs. Gardiner, cornet cruet. Misses E. and M. Gardiner, pair serviette rings, Mr. and Mrs. Sack, set carvers and steel. Mr. and Mrs. Garnett, banjo clock. Miss Dorothy Garnett, silver butter knife.

2. **Thomas Kirwan** (c1829 – 1891, Kingower<sup>42</sup>) married Sarah Cunningham. They had three children in Inglewood. Was Thomas part of this family? The brothers had connections with Inglewood in the 1860s. Very little information could be found.

Their children:

- 2.1. Sarah Kirwan (1868, Inglewood<sup>43</sup>, - 1928, Swan Hill<sup>44</sup>), in 1887 married Samuel Pryse<sup>45</sup>.
- 2.2. Joseph Kirwan (1872, Inglewood<sup>46</sup> - ??)
- 2.3. James Kirwan (1873, Inglewood<sup>47</sup> - ??)

The following article in 1888 mentions Inglewood and Kingower connections which would support the fact that this Thomas Kirwan fits with this family.

*Bendigo Advertiser, 2 June 1888*

INGLEWOOD. (From our own correspondent.)

Death in hospital.— An old man named Thomas Kirwan, between sixty and seventy years of age, who was brought in from Kingower by Mounted Constable Madigan and admitted into the hospital on Tuesday, died in that institution on Thursday morning. The cause of death was general debility, from old age and want of proper nourishment. The deceased was an inmate of the hospital some time back, but repeatedly left of his own accord. Two or three months ago the police in consequence of numerous complaints took him into custody, and he was sent to gaol for a month on a charge of vagrancy. Since his discharge he made his way back to Kingower, in which locality, it is stated, he had previously lived for a lengthy period.

# JOHN KIRWAN of ALEXANDRA

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*John Kirwan ran the Shamrock Hotel in Alexandra from 1869 -*

3. **John (Brookman) Kirwan** (c1833 Tuam, Co Galway, Ireland<sup>48</sup> – 1903, Clifton Hill<sup>49</sup> from influenza) married Honoria Shiels (c1843 Naran, Co Meath, Ireland-1884 Alexandra) in 1860 at St Mary's, Inglewood. John Kirwan was a store keeper in Inglewood when he married Honoria.

In 1869, a couple of years after brother William Henry and Bridget came to Marysville, John and Honoria moved to Alexandra where John held the licence for the Shamrock Hotel. The family lived on in Alexandra. Disaster struck when the Hotel burnt down in 1883 and John's mother in law and his wife both died in 1884. John was struggling with expenses and became insolvent in May 1885.

*Leader, 9 May 1885*

John Kirwan, of Alexandra, licensed victualler.

Causes of insolvency: Losses through insolvent's hotel being destroyed by fire in November, 1883, falling off in business as licensed victualler at Alexandra and depreciation of property there owing to decrease of population, having had to incur heavy expenses in consequence of sickness and death in family and paying large interest on borrowed money. Liabilities, £1608 4s. 10d.; assets, £1082 10s. 4d.; deficiency, £525 11s. 6d. Mr. Jacomb, assignee.

John and remaining family moved to Carlton, then North Fitzroy area after his troubles in Alexandra. It is interesting to see that this family was in touch with John's brothers - Francis - with Katie being bridesmaid to Ellen and William Henry - with John's son Henry acting in a senior role and his sisters being mentioned at Maria Catherine's wedding to William Chester in 1899.

The turn of the century brought John's death in 1903 from influenza and a series of premature deaths amongst his daughters from 1899 to 1907, all registered in Clifton Hill. Death Registrations in hand.

John and Honoria's children:

- 3.1. **Marie Theresa Kirwan** (1863, Inglewood<sup>50</sup> - 1922, Richmond). Maria is with her siblings at Portland Street, Richmond when they first appear on the electoral rolls in 1909 at this address. She is with them until her death in 1922.
- 3.2. **Caroline Kirwan** (1865, Inglewood<sup>51</sup> – 1899, Carlton<sup>52</sup> from Phthisis (TB)).
- 3.3. **Peter Kirwan** (pos 1867,? - 1938 Bega, NSW<sup>53</sup>). John and Honoria Kirwan are listed as parents on Peter's death certificate, although Peter is not listed on his father's death certificate in 1903. Birth registration not found. The family were in Inglewood in 1865 and then in Alexandra in 1869. Honoria's children were born every two years which would suggest Peter was born in 1867 when the family was in transit between Inglewood and Alexandra.

Peter left home at a young age. Was there a falling out?



Peter married Bridget Murley in Sydney in 1883, aged 19. He was one of the original settlers on the Bega Village Settlement. Their children bear the names of the Kirwan siblings.

1930-37                      Bega, NSW, farmer with Bridget

Peter and Bridget's children:

3.3.1.    Honora Kirwan (1884, Petersham, NSW - 1928, Bega)

3.3.2.    Possibly Maude who marries in Bega in 1918.

3.3.3.    Mary Ellen Kirwan (1889, Sydney, NSW - ??)

3.3.4.    Bridget aka? Delia Kirwan (1892 - ??)

3.3.5.    Katie Kirwan (1894, Bega, NSW - ??)

3.3.6.    Possibly Annie who was bridesmaid to Maude

3.3.7.    Ellen Kirwan (1900, Bega, NSW - ??)

3.3.8.    John Peter Kirwan (1903, Bega - 1954, Canberra)

3.3.9.    Cecelia Kirwan (1907 - ??)

3.4.    **Julia Helena Kirwan** (1869, Alexandra<sup>54</sup> - 1948<sup>55</sup>) Julia attended her cousin, Maria Kirwan at her marriage to William Chester in 1899.

Julia lived with her brothers - Henry, bootmaker and John, French polisher in Portland St, Richmond from 1912 til 1942 including sister Maria til 1922.

3.5.    **Henry Kirwan** (6 June 1871, Alexandra<sup>56</sup> - 1948, Richmond) There is some confusion because the 1871 birth registration is for John Brookman Kirwan. But there is a brother John Andrew, born 1876.

The page from the Alexandra registration book with entries by John Smith, the registrar is curious as births (December, June & July) are entered on 22 September 1871. John Kirwan, publican's signature is very shaky. Was there confusion and the father's name entered as the child's name? It's unlikely John and Honoria had a copy of the birth entry or checked the entry.

"Henry" is listed on brother John Andrew's birth registration in 1876, aged 5 and on father's death certificate after Julia with a John after Kate. Henry Kirwan cousin of Maria Catherine Kirwan gave her away at her wedding to William Chester in 1899. See entry for Maria Catherine Kirwan.

Henry was a bootmaker. After the death of so many family members, the siblings Maria, Henry, John and Julia Kirwan lived at 4 Portland St, Richmond from 1909.

Reported death for Henry:

*The Age 20 July 1948*

Requiem Mass for Henry Kirwan will be offered tomorrow  
at St Ignatius, Richmond.

*The Age 16 Sep 1948*

HENRY KIRWAN, late of 4 Portland Street, Richmond, in the state of Victoria Retired Boot Maker, deceased. — After fourteen clear days. NATIONAL TRUSTEES EXECUTORS AND AGENCY COMPANY OF AUTRALASIA LIMITED, of 95 Queen street, Melbourne, in the said state will APPLY to the Supreme Court of the said State, for a GRANT of LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION, with the Will (dated October 15th, 1944, annexed of the ESTATE of the above named deceased, the said company having been authorised to make such application by John Kirwan of 4 Portland-street, Richmond aforesaid, French polisher, a brother, and the only next of kin of the said deceased—H H HOARE, 191 Queen-street, Melbourne Solicitor for the applicant.

- 3.6. **Kate/Cath Kirwan** (1873, Alexandra<sup>57</sup> – 1907 Fitzroy<sup>58</sup>, of Phthisis (TB)). Katie was bridesmaid to her cousin Ellen (Francis' daughter) in 1896.
- 3.7. **John Andrew Kirwan** (1876, Alexandra<sup>5960</sup>--1953, Fitzroy) note Henry aged 5 was listed on John's birth registration. John found living in Tanner St, Richmond, salesman in 1919.

KIRWAN. — JOHN KIRWAN. brother of the late HENRY and JULIA KIRWAN, of 4 Portland-St. Richmond, desires to sincerely THANK all kind friends for their help and sympathy received in his recent sad bereavement.

*The Age, 7 Sep 1948*

- 3.8. **Honorina Kirwan** (1879, Alexandra<sup>61</sup> - 1900, Clifton Hill<sup>62</sup> of Meningitis). Nonie was bridesmaid to her cousin Maria Kirwan in 1899 when Ria married William Chester.
- 3.9. **Jane Kirwan** (c1881 – 1904, Clifton Hill<sup>63</sup> of Phthisis (TB)).

Siblings Julia, Maria, Henry, bootmaker, and John, French polisher, then lived together at 4 Portland St, Richmond.

## **END NOTES**

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- <sup>1</sup> From Marriage record 21 April 1861 in Inglewood between William Kirwan, 31, a Reefer from Galway, Ireland, parents John Kirwan, gentleman & Jane Brockman and Bridget Cussen, 17 (she required her mother's permission) from Limerick, Ireland parents James Cussen, farmer & Catherine Dooley (copy of record in files)
- <sup>2</sup> Joan Mahoney, descendant through Maria Chester nee Kirwan, William Henry's daughter.
- <sup>3</sup> In these times the only places people could be sent to for care when they had health issues, eg strokes, was asylums.
- <sup>4</sup> Syncope = unconscious.
- <sup>5</sup> Letter in Marysville School Folder.
- <sup>6</sup> Australian Electoral Rolls have been used throughout this document
- <sup>7</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 5295
- <sup>8</sup> The Golden Secret Mine was found, worked and part-owned by William Edward Chester.
- <sup>9</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 14866
- <sup>10</sup> 'Yarra Track - The Last of the Stopping Places', Thomas Ann, self-published 1980. Ann has the Kirwans arriving in 1864. William did not buy his Hotel block til 28 April, 1865.
- <sup>11</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 9390 says 'Melbourne' Birth was registered in Marysville and father said born Melbourne, but no address is given or reference to doctor or family member in Melbourne. He was most likely born in Marysville as per the other 5 entries on this page.
- <sup>12</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 17611
- <sup>13</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 5661
- <sup>14</sup> From local newspaper
- <sup>15</sup> The Advocate 19 Apr 1944
- <sup>16</sup> The only Stercula family found on ancestry were from Trenton, New Jersey Philip's hometown.
- <sup>17</sup> Marriage Certificate in hand.
- <sup>18</sup> Checking Electoral Rolls Grace Stercula in 1949 is at the family home 1 Abinger St, Richmond. In 1954 it is Grace Kirwan.
- <sup>19</sup> Sister of Bert Brettoner who is father of Dawn Brettoner, who provided information on her Uncle Jack's life. The Brettoner family were from the Woods Point/Jamieson area then they moved down to Old Thornton.
- <sup>20</sup> Frances Kirwan and Catherine Cussen who married in 1861 in Dunolly are William's brother and Bridget's sister. William and Bridget had their own son Frances. JV 2017
- <sup>21</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 10354
- <sup>22</sup> The Age, 3 Apr 1891
- <sup>23</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 24347 listed as Maryborough should be Marysville.
- <sup>24</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 3329 John Kirwen's death registration in hand.
- <sup>25</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 25261
- <sup>26</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 10272
- <sup>27</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 10573
- <sup>28</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 3810
- <sup>29</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 4601 registered in 1968 as death occurred on 30<sup>th</sup> December.
- <sup>30</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 24745
- <sup>31</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 6666
- <sup>32</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 2728
- <sup>33</sup> Vic BMD Reg No 9413V
- <sup>34</sup> Some considered the Cussens related to Sir Leo Cussen (1859-1933) son of Maurice Cussen and his wife Margaret, née Finn. Father Maurice Cussen had been head tenant at Creveen House on the Rattoo estate in County Kerry, Ireland. (The Australian Dictionary of Biography) This family were

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mostly in the Western District and are not close relatives. Catherine and Bridget did have a nephew Leo Cussen (1886-1948), son of Martin Cussen who became a well-known barrister. See Cussen document JV 2017

35 From Marriage record 22 April 1859 in Dunolly between Frances Kirwan, 31, a store keeper from Rockview, Co Tipperary, Ireland, parents John Kirwan, farmer & Jane Brockman and Catherine Cussen, 21 from Limerick, Ireland parents James Cussen, farmer & Catherine Dooley (copy of record in files). Note information as provided by the participants.

36 Vic BMD Reg No 5093

37 Vic BMD Reg No 16234, as Jane

38 Vic BMD Reg No 4291

39 Benalla Standard, 2 Apr 1912

40 Vic BMD Reg No 958

41 Possibly sister Mrs Jean Burns

42 Vic BMD Reg No 6809

43 Vic BMD Reg No 3136

44 Vic BMD Reg No 17458

45 Vic BMD Reg No 3047

46 Vic BMD Reg No 16851

47 Vic BMD Reg No 24590

48 From Marriage registration

49 Vic BMD Reg No 12935, certificate in hand

50 Vic BMD Reg No 2658

51 Vic BMD Reg No 9124

52 Vic BMD Reg No 8848

53 NSW BMD Reg No 25089, parents John & Honora

54 Vic BMD Reg No 12751

55 Vic BMD Reg No 9137

56 Vic BMD Reg No 13353 copy in hand

57 Vic BMD Reg No 13779

58 Vic BMD Reg No 1259

59 Vic BMD Reg No 13241

60 Notice of birth of son in Alexandra & Yea Standard, 1876

61 Vic BMD Reg No 6471

62 Vic BMD Reg No 12364

63 Vic BMD Reg No 967