

THE AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION - C.W.G.GRAYDON 1st



Having established this quite impressive background of family history, we come to the Australian connection. Charles Wallace Gordon Graydon 1st (1837-1885) must have been a courageous youth because he was supposed to be only 18 year of age when he set out for

Australia. He also must have had an above-average education because he held positions in this country that required brains, and managerial ability. In some notes written by Elsie McCormack Graydon she suggests that C.W.G.Graydon 1st.came out to Victoria on the S.S. Almora, the same ship on which Eliza Richardson (Figure 10) and her family arrived on New Years Day 1875, and that he may have met another brother Robert in Victoria. I wonder what became of Robert? Evidently C.W.G.G.1st. must have retained fond memories of a young fourteen year old girl named Elizabeth Richardson who travelled from Scotland with her Mother and family. Her Father had arrived earlier because three years later at Kyneton they were married. It was December 26th 1860, and Elizabeth was just seventeen. (Ref 14). As the bridegroom's age is written as 24 years on the wedding certificate he certainly must have been more than eighteen when he sailed on the "Almora" in 1856. I understand that C.W.G.G.1st. brought furniture and other household items out from Ireland with him. Alice Graydon always spoke of the round cedar table at "Deeside" as belonging to the first Charles Graydon. The newly married couple went to live at Taradale, Victoria, and they made a good life for themselves in that town which was then a thriving gold mine. They lived in a large two-storied house in Survey Paddock, and it was there that four daughters - Susan Emily (1861-1906), Elizabeth Constance (1863-1945) (Figure 2, standing), Amelia Amy (1865 - 1952)(Figure 2 right), Ada Mary Maude (1867-1901)(Figure 2 left), and one son Newenham Edward Eustace (1869-1945) named after his Irish Grandfather, were born.



Figure 1



Figure 2

On his wedding certificate C.W.G. Graydon, is described as a foreman. His father-in-law, Robert Richardson was employed as a time keeper on the Melbourne to Bendigo Railway works, and

he and his family lived first in Prahran, then Kyneton, and then Taradale. Perhaps Charles Graydon worked on the railway with him. In Taradale however, he worked for a gold mining company in a surveying capacity. C.W.G.G.1st was to become Shire President of the Shire of Metcalfe (Ref 15). That particular year the Graydon Family entertained the visiting English cricket Eleven at their home in Taradale. A really great tribute was paid to our relative in the Taradale Express, and Metcalfeshire Mercury on Feb 15th 1871(Ref 16). He was certainly regarded as an important man in the district when he was requested by a great number of the residents to nominate for the Legislative Assembly election. The original paper is very frail so it will have to be photo- copied.

About 1876 the Graydons left Taradale, and went to live at Sandhurst, now Bendigo, at Barkly Place East. There is a photograph in the back of the big album which may be that house in Sandhurst. The Richardsons had also left Taradale to go into the grocery business in the same town. C.W.G.G.1st. became legal manager of mines, and a well-known and popular resident. Sad to say he became ill with a lung infection, and on June 4th. 1885 he died (Ref 17), and was buried at Sandhurst, now Bendigo Cemetery, Back Creek Rd. In 1985 Charlie and I went to look for his grave, and although we had the number of his burial plot we could not find the grave. That particular section has been turned into a lawn cemetery. Unfortunately the sexton of the cemetery was not there when we visited. It must have been a very difficult time for Elizabeth Graydon and her children. I think Susan must have married about this time, but Newenham was only sixteen when his Papa died. Luckily the large family of Richardsons were at hand to help, and comfort the bereaved family.

ELIZABETH RICHARDSON (1844-1921)



Elizabeth Richardson was born in Parliamentary Road Glasgow on Feb 5th 1844 (Ref.18), one of four daughters and six sons born to Eliza (McDonnel) and Robert Richardson. Eight of their children were born in Glasgow, and two in Australia. Only six of the family survived - Amelia (Ramage) 1842, Elizabeth (Graydon) 1844, Helen (Rosan) 1846, James (1849), Sarah (unmarried) and John (born at Taradale 1861). He lived in New Zealand. Robert Richardson, a potter (1817 - 1895) was born in Fifeshire, Scotland, and married Eliza in Glasgow in 1839(Ref 18).He left Scotland on the "Balmoral"

in 1853 to make a home for Eliza and the children who arrived on the "Almora" in 1857.

As I have mentioned earlier in this history Robert Richardson worked as a time keeper for the Dept. of Railways on the new line from Melbourne to Bendigo. During that time the Richardsons lived at Prahran, Kyneton, and Taradale. When the railway was finished Robert Richardson became a grocer and settled in Bendigo. His son James became the "grocer King" of Bendigo, and he and his sons were in business for many years (Ref 19). Eliza pre-deceased Robert. She went to Torrumbury to visit her daughter Helen Rosan and died suddenly (Ref.18). She was a fine looking lady, and her picture is in the Graydon album. The Richardsons of Bendigo appear to have been most respected people both in the commercial and social life of the town. Their obituary notices (Ref 19) are most impressive. Charlie remembers Aunt Sarah, the last of the original family. Unfortunately she had trouble with a defaulting solicitor and lost most of her money. She owned a block of land at Rosebud, it was in 6th. Avenue and was willed to her nephew N.E.E.Graydon 2nd, and was eventually sold by his heirs, Elsie, Charlie, and Jack. At "Deeside" we still have Sarah Richardson's sea-chest in which, no doubt, she brought out her belongings from Glasgow. Her initials S.R. are printed on the underside. I often wonder what adventures it had when sailing across those dangerous waters on the S.S.Almora. I remember Robert Rosan, a son of Helen (Richardson) and Ferdinand Rosan. He was an undertaker, first in Bendigo and later with John Allison in Melbourne. He used attend to Family funerals. It would be interesting to know if any descendants of Eliza and Robert Richardson still live in Bendigo.

N.E.E. GRAYDON 2nd (1869-1945)

After the death of Charles W.G. Graydon 1st., the family remained at Barkly Place. His only son Newenham Edward Eustace was a clever, hard working young man, and no doubt, the delight of his mother and four sisters. He passed his Matriculation exam at an early age. I think Susan Graydon must have become a teacher, and met her future husband John J. Burston, who was Head Master of Sandhurst State School



(North). J.J. Burston wrote a reference (Ref 20) for his brother-in-law N.E.E. Graydon when the latter was seeking employment. This employment became his appointment as a bank officer at Sandhurst in 1886. The bank was, of course, the State Savings Bank of Victoria and he served that Bank with great credit for 53 years. Newenham Graydon was a genius with figures, and was largely responsible for the success of the Bank's Credit Foncier Dept. Just the other day we had the pleasure of seeing the lovely houses at Garden City built by the S.S.B. guided by N.E.E.G. I remember being told that when the housing estate was opened, the planners wanted to name

one of the streets "Graydon St" but with his usual humility, and lack of ostentation Newenham refused the honour. A pity really. It would have been very nice for his many descendants to see him being honoured, even in such a small way (Ref 31).

After 5.5 years at Sandhurst N.E.E.G. was appointed actuary at Echuca (Ref 21) where he remained for another 5.5 years. A very fateful period of his life, as it happened. His Mother, and sisters Lizzie, Amy, and Ada moved to Echuca and the family became very much a part of the life in that town. The eldest daughter Susan was already married to John J. Burston, a teacher of renown. His Arithmetic Text Book was in use for many years. He was Head Master of St. Kilda State School until he retired. His wife died leaving him with a young family, so his second wife Susan had a daunting task ahead of her. Four children were born to them, one daughter Elfreda, and three sons, Cyril and the twins Graydon and Vincent (called Jack). Sadly. Susan did not have a long life. She died at the age of 45 leaving behind a very sad little family. J.J. Burston later married for the third time, and Barbara (she had also been a school teacher) out lived him. She spent the last years of her life with Graydon and Beatrice Burston, and their daughter Phyllis.