

gibbonsj.fam

GIBBONS HISTORY

James Gibbons married Catherine Kemp who was aged eighteen, at the Catholic Church Gordon Victoria (near Ballarat) in 1876. The bridegroom was born in Tasmania - the Marriage File No.420. James had a brother named Austin, sometimes written as Ostin. Austin married Martha Ann Tipping and their children were - Austin Gibbons born 28.3.1883 Sarah Gibbons born 16.9.1881 - These two children were born in Northern Queensland. There were two other children, one named Annie, Their birthplace unknown.

William Patrick Gibbons was the son of James and Catherine. He was born in Gordon in 1882. Some time later James and Catherine were operating a hotel called the Commercial near Herberton in Northern Queensland. Catherine's sister Ellen left Victoria by ship the "Ellamang" and went to help in the hotel in Queensland. There she met and married her husband Charles A. Reynolds in Jan. 1888 and their first two children were born in the Herberton area. They returned to Victoria in 1894. James and Catherine also returned to Victoria later. About 1903 Amelia, niece of Catherine came from Bendigo to stay with her aunt while she attended school in Sth. Melbourne. At this time James had gone to Western Australia in search of gold. He never returned to Victoria but had a defacto relationship and it is believed there were six children from this liason. Catherine always hoped he would return. Amelia said she always looked for a letter that never came. Catherine died in 1914 - broken hearted and ill. James at some late stage in his life contacted William and asked him to visit W.A. William, to my knowledge, did not do so. I presume James died in Western Australia.

Catherine and James reared a daughter Mary who was some years older than William. She married in 1902 Robert James Shepherd Marriage File No. 904 - at Ballarat. She lived to an old age in Bendigo and had six children. Five are listed below -

1902 Edw. John	Berriwillock
1905 Thirza	W'proof
1906 Bertha	Charl.
1909 Robt. Jas.	Charl.
1911 Leo Thos.	-

At Auburn we were visited by (Alf?) about 1948 who had three children, one named Kathie. This man was a son of Mary. He lived at Ashburton.

As William is born in Victoria - one presumes Mary is born in Vic. also as she is older. I cannot find her birth on the records. I have found a birth entry for a Mary Therese Gibbons born 1877 at Emerald Hill - Father John Mother Johanna O'Brien. Another birth entry is James Ostin Gibbons born Gordon 1882 - Father John and Mother Mary Clossey. Another son same parents

is Francis Joshua born about 1880 place unk. and who died in 1927 in Heidelberg. It is possible that Johanna O'Brien died and the baby Mary was given to James and Catherine. As the Gibbons family is not my particular interest I have not followed this any further. However I have been told stories by Amelia and it makes these people interesting. The Shepherd family at least belong to the Gibbons family if not to the Kemps.

I must add that there are names that do not appear on the m.fische lists for whatever reasons inc. not being registered or accidentally omitted by the transcriber. Mary Gibbons may be one of these. Because I am unsure about Mary I have left her off the list of descendants of Catherine. Nevertheless Mary does look like Catherine in the photo.

Notes to William Robert Gibbons. from Ruth Pendavingh, Eltham.
24th March, 1991.