

3rd Draft

Profile

Reynolds.alb  
update Aug.90

CHARLES ALBON REYNOLDS  
1862 - 1948

Charles Albon Reynolds was the second son of Richard Reynolds and Eleanor Reynolds nee Hinde, English migrants who married in Bendigo at the Forest St. Wesleyan Church 23rd Dec., 1858. Richard was born in Islington (London) registered Pentonville. Eleanor was born in Warton Lancashire.

The elder brother of Charles was Richard and his younger brothers were William and Harry and his sisters were Mary, Louisa and Amelia. Charles was born on the White Hills goldfields in a tent. His birth was registered at Huntley, some miles from what is now the city of Bendigo.

At the time of his birth, 25th May, 1862, his mother was a . 24 years

and his father app. 31 years. In London his father had worked for many years as a die-caster in a London foundry and had been promised work in the Melbourne Mint as soon as it commenced production. Richard sailed out from England in the ship "George Marshall" in 1856. Four years later this ship was wrecked off Flinders Island in Bass Strait but was beached at what is now called Marshall Bay. (ref. Flinders Island Museum) In the meantime Richard joined the throng at the goldfields at Bendigo. All the children of Richard Reynolds were born in the Bendigo area. The last child Amelia was born four months after the death of Richard at Eaglehawk. (Bendigo). Richard died 18th July, 1872 and is buried in the Eaglehawk Cemetary. A letter of appointment to the Mint arrived shortly after his death. Charles was ten years old at the time of his father's death and his brother Richard thirteen.

For the next four years it would have been mainly Charles' job to assist his mother looking after his baby sister Amelia. There was always a very strong bond between these two children. Eleanor remarried 27th May, 1876 Archelaus Opie a miner from Redruth, Cornwall, England. at St. Paul's Cathedral, Bendigo. Two sons were later born, William Robert and Arculus James, half brothers to Charles.

The cost of school education was 6d. per week and the four older children shared this by spending a week each month at school. Charles continued to self educate himself where-ever possible. It was necessary for his stepfather to travel in search of work and Charles often accompanied him. Fortunately Charles and his step-father got along quite well. Amongst other places he accompanied him to Mt. Lyell, Tasmania. It is probable that his brother Richard left home at the time of his mother's marriage if not before. He remained a batchelor wandering around mining or shearing, the original type of swaggie. Finally he settled in Beechworth. He died aged 91 and is buried in Beechworth. Charles had the responsibility

together with his step-father of providing for the family, in those early years. His step-father was a lot younger than his mother, there was only about fifteen years between Charles and his step-father.

Charles was very mechanically minded but what training he had in this field is unknown. In 1887 Charles was in Queensland tin-mining when he met Ellen Kemp who was working for her sister and brother-in-law who were running a hotel known as Gibbons Commercial Hotel near Herberton. They were married on the 25th January, 1888 at Herberton in the house of the Reverend Gilbert White, C.of E. Ellen was born in Ballarat, Vic., her parents were Irish migrants. It appears to have been a happy time for them. Charles paid ten pounds to have a log cabin built and later their two daughters were born in this area. Amelia was born in 1890 at Eureka Creek and Louisa in 1892, at Herberton. John Napoleon Reynolds was in Queensland at this time also and his son and daughter were born there also. It is possible that John Napoleon was a first cousin to Charles.

Perhaps Charles decided to return to Victoria when he lost his savings in the Queensland bank crash or perhaps work was no longer available.

Ellen

was not happy about coming back to Victoria. Eleanor Reynolds did not particularly welcome Ellen, her first daughter-in-law, as she considered her Irish and she had expected her son to marry an Englishwoman.

On their return from Queensland Robert was born in <sup>1894</sup>~~1896~~ at Lalbert and Hugh (decd. infant) was born 1897 in Bendigo. After a few brief stops at other places Charles purchased the Mandurang vineyard. This unfortunately turned out to be a great disappointment as a vine disease was supposed to be in the area and all vines were required to be removed. As the property could not be run as a vineyard Charles had to find work elsewhere and Ellen looked after the fruit trees, animals etc. while Charles was away. Mandurang is about five miles from Bendigo. The Opie's were living in Bendigo. In 1896 Charles's sister Amelia married Thomas Jorgensen, son of Pedro Jorgensen from Denmark. Also William Reynolds married Anne Jorgensen, daughter of Pedro. This family were very talented especially in mining design and in the beginning of 1900 Charles accompanied them to Fiji to set up and build a gold mine there. They were there about three months. The Jorgensens also designed the Bendigo mine. After his return from Fiji Charles accompanied Arculus Opie to Western Australia. However Charles returned probably for the birth of his son Hector Baden, who was born at Mandurang. Sadly, Arculus was killed by a train while he was following the train line near Boulder and he is buried in W.A. At one time Charles went to Melbourne to sit for an exam which he passed with the qualification of a mine engine driver. ref. postcard. Education was very important to him and he sent his eldest child Amelia to Melbourne to stay with Ellen's sister to further her studies. Amelia I think stayed a year at Albert Park school



then became homesick and returned. Later Amelia and Louie came to Melbourne, shared a rented room and went to work in Melbourne. Charles and Ellen decided to sell the farm and came to Melbourne and purchased a house in Albert Park. Robert worked as a clerk, and during volunteer army training caught pneumonia and died at the age of twenty-one, in 1916, on Australia Day. The Albert Park house was then sold and they moved and rented a home in Burwood Road Auburn (now demolished) then purchased c.1918 a home in Lingwell Road, Auburn.

In 1925 Ellen Reynolds died - six days before the birth of her third grandchild June Reynolds. In 1948 Charles Reynolds died ~~a month~~ <sup>10 days?</sup> after the birth of Janine, daughter of June Reynolds. <sup>2nd gr grandchild</sup>

Mar. of 3 ch.  
descriptn: looks temperamental  
8 o'clock - little finger

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