

THE EARLY YEARS OF THE PLOWMAN FAMILY IN AUSTRALIA

PREAMBLE

Those with an interest in tracing their families, and the Plowmans are no different, frequently ask: where did my family come from?; why did they emigrate from their home (in our case Scotland) to a country so far away from their homeland, and very different in every respect?; are the people in Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia or South Australia related?; and what did our early forebears do when they arrived in Australia?

This is an attempt to answer some of these questions. On this website there are links to the early history in Scotland and why the Plowmans might have emigrated to NSW, a family tree that is as complete as we have been able to make it, and a collection of photographs, certificates, newspaper articles and other items about the family of Sinclair Plowman and Margaret Ross who, with their children made the journey from Scotland to Orange in NSW.

The record is incomplete so please let us know if you can add to the story. Should you wish to carry on the story for your branch of the Plowman family please do so and send it to the return address on the front page of our website. The website address is: www.plowmanfamilytree.com

The following is a little about the early history of the Plowmans in Australia.

THE PLOWMAN FAMILY

Sinclair Plowman (born 1816) and Margaret Ross (born 1814)

The eldest son of Sinclair Plowman and Margaret Ross, Daniel (or Donald as the name often substituted for Daniel in the Scottish tradition), was the first to immigrate to Australia. He arrived at Port Jackson, Sydney, on 28 August 1857 on the sailing ship the Vocalist. Daniel was recorded as 18 years of age on the shipping documents, which align with other records sourced from Scotland.

Daniel (Donald) ventured to Orange, where he was farming in partnership with William Clark. William, his wife Grace and two children had arrived on the St Helena in 1854. Two of Daniel's brothers (James and George) were later to marry William Clark's daughters, Janet and Margaret.

On 14 January 1862 Daniel acquired, by Conditional Purchase, 108 acres 2 roods of land in the County of Wellington, Parish of Orange.

On 17 February 1862 he married Jane Budge and had two children, Sinclair Joseph and Mary Ann, by the time the rest of the family arrived in 1864.

Daniel's parents, **Sinclair and Margaret Plowman** set sail for Australia in August of 1864. They sailed from Plymouth on the "Sir Robert Sale" with their children James (22), Mary (19), George (15), Jessie (13) and Roderick aged 10. At the time Sinclair was aged 47 and Margaret was 50.

Soon after their arrival they made their way to Orange and were reunited with Daniel. Father and son farmed together for some time at Towac, then called Plowman's Farm. More land was acquired and the younger sons would also have been involved in farming.

Sinclair worked with each of his sons to help them get established in businesses, initially in and around Orange. However with both Sinclair and Margaret around 50 when they arrived, one can assume they were keen to establish their family and "enjoy their retirement"!!

Prior to leaving Scotland Sinclair was listed as a farm laborer in Bilbster, before moving to the Shetland Islands for a short period. On his return to Wick he was described as a grocer in the 1861 census. He used his skills and knowledge in both of these areas to encourage his family in their pursuits in their new country.

By all reports the children were well read and intelligent. This was noted on the shipping register.

Margaret Plowman (Ross) died in 1897, aged 83 years. **Sinclair** was 85 when he died five years later.

The following obituary appeared in The Orange Leader on Monday 26 May 1902 after Sinclair's death:

It is our painful duty to chronicle the demise of a very old and respected resident of the district in the person of Mr Sinclair Plowman who attained the ripe old age of 85 years and 9 months. Death occurred yesterday evening. Some little time ago the deceased gentleman lost his way when going to visit one of his sons, and the nights air exposure which he underwent no doubt hastened the end considerably. The more immediate causes of death were pneumonia and senile decay.... The deceased gentleman led an honourable and upright life, and was an exemplary citizen

An obituary in the Western Advocate reveals further insights into Sinclair's character:

An old and much respected resident has passed away in the person of Mr Sinclair Plowman, whose death happened at his late residence, Kite and Clinton St... from pneumonia ... The deceased gentleman was a native of Wick, County Caithness, Scotland and came to this colony with his wife and family by the ship Sir Robert Sale in 1864, settling at the Canobolas very shortly afterwards, where he had a very extensive farm. About 1886 he came to live in Orange, and has resided at Kite and Clinton St ever since. He was a man of strict integrity, unassuming in his demeanour, and was a warm hearted

and sincere friend of those whom he regarded as deserving of his confidence. He was for some years associated with the Congregational Church in Orange, in which he held office, but latterly he had attended the Presbyterian Church...

Catherine Colina PLOWMAN, the eldest child of Sinclair and Margaret

Catherine Colina was born in 1836 in Wick. It seems that she preferred the name Colina for much of her life.

Colina married John Darling in Edinburgh in 1864 before her parents and siblings left Scotland for Australia. The Darling family then sailed on the Samuel Plimsoll, departing Plymouth on 6 August 1875, arriving in Sydney on the 22 October 1875 (John aged 34, Colina 32, Walter 11, Margaret 9, St Clair 7, Colina 4 and Mary 2).

There was an entry in the shipping records;

(Mrs Darling)

Complains that during the voyage there was not sufficient seating for her family to occupy while they ate their meals: that the children have been half starved during the voyage and that the only kind of vegetable to be had was preserved potatoes: that the scale of the provision is not sufficiently liberal. The Doctor states that he has no reason to believe that the rations issued were less than what they should have been.

The ship, built to accommodate 180 passengers, was carrying 360 passengers, leading to the overcrowding. The children all appear to have arrived in Australia hale and hearty, but their father, John, was not well. John, Colina and family proceeded to the home of her parents, Sinclair and Margaret Plowman at Canobolas near Orange, where John died six weeks after their arrival.

Colina remarried in 1882 and she and John Ennis lived in Sydney's northern suburbs. We know that she remained close to her family – her brother James died at her home in Hornsby in 1904 with other brothers in attendance.

Colina's family dispersed across Australia as they sought opportunities in the new land.

Walter moved to Townsville, Queensland.

Maggie married Henry Nicholson, a mining engineer, whose employment took them to a number of mining projects. In 1897, Maggie and her children, James and Walter sailed by steamer from Sydney to join him in Mount Magnet Western Australia. Catherine and Margaret were born in Mount Magnet and Henry (Harry) and Sinclair were born on their return to NSW about 10 years later. The following was extracted from the Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate of the 27 March 1897:

Departures for the Golden West - Amongst the voyagers of last Saturday were Mrs Harry Nicholson and her two fine little boys, bound for Mt Magnet, WA, to join her husband who has been there for the last twenty months or so. Mr Nicholson is head engineer at the New Chum mines, and having entered on a twelve months' engagement, has sent for his wife and children. Mrs Nicholson is also accompanied by her brother, Mr St Clair Darling, who is going to try his fortune in the golden country.

St Clair Darling sailed to Mount Magnet with Maggie and returned to Sydney, where he died in 1910.

Colina Catherine Brown Darling married **William Fear** in Sydney in 1898 and produced three daughters and three sons, Katherine, Beatrice, William, John, Margarett and Henry. The family lived in Sydney and the Newcastle region of NSW with the latter becoming the home base for many of the family.

Beatrice was a nurse and lived in Western Sydney. She married William Penney later in life.

William lived in the Newcastle and was a line technician, married to Evelyn Boyce. They had three children who now all live in south east Queensland.

Henry settled in the Newcastle area and little is known of John, Margarett and Katherine.

Mary Darling married Patrick Quirk. There were no children.

Many of the Darling descendants remained in NSW, while others settled in Victoria and the United States.

Daniel/Donald Plowman – 2nd child and the eldest son of Sinclair and Margaret

Daniel/Donald was born in 1939 in Wick.

After his arrival in Sydney on the Vocalist in 1857, Daniel (Donald) ventured to Orange.

By the time his parents and siblings arrived in 1864, Daniel had selected land at Towac, and was farming with William Clark. Having paved the way for his family's arrival, he no doubt welcomed sharing the farming load with his father and brothers as they acquired more land.

Daniel had married Jane Budge in 1862 and would have been proud to introduce his two infant children, Sinclair Joseph and Mary Ann to his family. Seven more children were born - Margaret, James, Daniel, Janet Sophia, Elizabeth, George and a daughter who died at birth.

Daniel died accidentally when he was run over by a wagon at Towac (see below) in 1877, as he was establishing a saw mill on his land. Jane suffered another loss when the infant George died the following year. These tragedies would have been devastating for Sinclair and Margaret who

had not long before welcomed their daughter Colina, who also had been left a widow so soon after her arrival. No doubt they would have been involved in nurturing eight fatherless grandchildren.

The sawmilling operation was carried on by Daniel's brother George for some years, and members of the family remained on the Towac property until moving their various ways. By the early 1900s the land and business had been sold.

(See below for Obituaries that give insight into the lives of the early "Plowmen")

Daniel and Jane's eldest son **Sinclair Joseph** inherited Daniel's property and then, in 1886, married Elizabeth Carthew in Orange. They moved to Parkes and set up a farming enterprise. Six of their seven children were born in Parkes, where the family became well known for their innovative approach to farming. Most of the sons were bachelors and remained in the Parkes area.

First daughter, **Mary Ann** married Charlie Wann, a New Zealander, in 1882 in Orange. They travelled by dray with their four children to settle in Western Australia around 1894. Mary Ann died in 1897. Charlie brought up the children and died in 1930. Most of the family has remained in the West.

Margaret married Thomas New in 1921 when she was in her 50s, and she died in Ryde, Sydney in 1935, three years after her husband.

James Budge Plowman followed his cousin Maggie and her husband, Henry Nicholson to Mt Magnet, WA in the 1890s and died there at the age of 30 in 1898.

Third son, **Daniel** married Christina Williamson and initially farmed at Parkes. They later moved to Orange where they established a successful horticultural business. The following is drawn from an obituary that appeared in The Orange Leader on Friday 9 July 1943:

Mr Daniel Plowman passed away at his residence, Pinnacle Road, on Wednesday at the age of 72 years. He was a native of Orange, and spent most of his life in this district. Mr Plowman spent many years on his orchard property, at Pinnacle Road. He was well known and highly respected. He was also a loyal member of the Masonic Lodge.

Daniel and Jane Plowman's two youngest daughters **Janet Sophia and Elizabeth Catherine** lived in the United States - Janet in New York and Elizabeth in San Francisco.

Jane Plowman (Budge) died in Peak Hill in 1911 having followed her sons Sinclair and Daniel to the Parkes area.

James PLOWMAN –3rd child and 2nd son of Sinclair and Margaret

James was born in Wick in 1842. Along with his family James moved from Bilbster, west of Wick, (1841 census), to the Shetland Islands (1851 census) and back to Wick (1961 census). The family then moved to Edinburgh before emigrating in 1864.

While he was listed as a grocer in Scotland, for a few years after arriving in Australia James farmed with his father and brothers at Towac. In 1869 he opened his business as a baker and general storekeeper in Orange. In order to expand his thriving business in 1883 he purchased land in Summer Street and erected a new store.

James married Janet Clark at Bathurst in 1874 and had eight children, Sinclair (1874), Grace (1876), Donald (1878), William (1880), Margaret (1883), Janet (1885), Margaret (1888) and Elizabeth (1891).

James was very well respected as he built up his businesses and worked tirelessly within the Orange community. He was involved in the church, lodge and various sporting organizations. He died just two years after his father, Sinclair, in 1904.

The following obituary was published in the Orange Leader on Wednesday 17 February 1904:

Widespread and intense regret was caused by the news of the death of Mr James Plowman... For a few years he was engaged in farming and other pursuits, and about 30 years ago started baking, and he subsequently also embarked in business as a storekeeper, which he successfully conducted up to the present. A man of exceptionally generous instincts, who did not let his left hand know what his right hand did in the way of charity, his good nature was more than one imposed upon. Of a quiet and unassuming nature, he was always ready to assist any movement for the benefit of the district.

The “whitest man in Orange”, is almost invariable reference to the deceased gentleman, by those who knew him.

In the same obituary the following statements were attributed to Councillors at a meeting held following his death:

Alderman Flannigan: He characterized the deceased gentleman as one of the most charitable and kindly disposed citizens...

Alderman Edye: ...had many business transactions with him always finding him to be a generous-hearted good fellow...

Alderman McNeilly: He had always heard of the late Mr Plowman spoken of “as the poor man’s friend”, and to his knowledge he had carried many a man over the bridge.

The Mayor: He had never gone to Mr Plowman collecting for any fund or charity without meeting a free and generous response. He had been one of their citizens, and although he did not come out prominently in public he had done many kind and helpful acts with his purse.

James' wife, (Janet Clark) died in 1895. Following James' death in 1904, business at the General Store was conducted by his sons **Sinclair, Donald and William**. The eldest, **Sinclair James** carried on the grocery and bakery business expanding the store considerably around 1913. Second son, **Donald Sutherland** later established a business as a mercer.

Sinclair James married **Amy Latty** in 1894 and were the parents of five sons, **Sinclair, George, Magnus, Stanley and Allan**.

Sinclair and Allan had careers in business and banking in various locations in NSW. Sinclair and his first wife Dorothy Danks settled in Sydney. Their children were Moureen, who died in infancy, John and Patricia. John, married to Barbara Rochester, passed away in 2012. Their family of five includes three daughters and two sons.

Allan retired to Taree after the death of his wife, Margaret Knight. Their sons, John, Donald and Roger each have two children.

George married Amy Brown and worked as a Grocer in Orange all of his life.

Magnus (Max), married to Dulcie Wills, also remained in Orange and conducted an electrical business for many years, while raising their five children.

Stanley, also a grocer, and his wife Lilian Austin drowned tragically in the Murrumbidgee River at Narrandera in 1932, leaving two small sons, Ross and Keith, who were brought up by their grandparents, Sinclair and Amy. Keith (who passed away in February, 2014), and Ross also pursued banking careers.

Descendants now live in NSW, ACT, Queensland, SA, Victoria and England.

The following obituary appeared in the Orange paper following **Sinclair James'** death in 1953:

A noted identity for many years, one of the best known businessmen of Orange and one of its most versatile citizens, died at his residence, 12 Thomas Street, yesterday at the age of 79 years.

He was Mr Sinclair James Plowman, son of a pioneer couple, the late Mr and Mrs James Plowman, who were among the earliest settlers to become associated with the business life of Orange.

James Plowman and his brother, the late Roderick Plowman, a one-time Mayor of Orange, started their business careers in Peisley Street almost a century ago , and played

a big part in the town's early advancement. During that lengthy period the name of Plowman has always been honourably linked with Orange and district.

Sinclair was born at Bathurst, but came to Orange with his parents at a very tender age. His father was founder of James Plowman's general store, corner of Peisley and Summer Streets, and, following his death many years ago, the store was controlled by his two sons Sinclair and Donald. The latter eventually retired from the business to make his home at Manly, where he died last year. Sinclair continued to guide its destinies until 25 years ago, when he relinquished all business activities to live in retirement. The well-known corner store has since been conducted by Sinclair's nephew, Mr Donald Plowman.

Sinclair Plowman, during the greater part of his local activities, was one of the town's most prominent identities.

He was one of the oldest members of the Orange Rifle Club, for which he served as captain for a long time, and, during his younger years, he was one of its most skillful marksmen.

But one of his most distinguishing qualities in his character was his elocutionary attainment. Well read, and with more than ordinary intelligence, he often featured as guest speaker and was noted for his clever interpretations of some of the masterpieces of the Scottish poet, Robert Burns. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge.

Donald Sutherland PLOWMAN, his wife **Laura Barrett**, and family initially resided in Orange working with his brothers, Sinclair and William, in James' store, then establishing a mercery business. He retired to Manly where he later died. His son **Donald James** remained in business in Orange, while daughter **Florence Lillian** married and lived in Orange, then Victoria. Subsequent generations have lived on the central coast of NSW, Orange and Melbourne.

Youngest son **William Clark PLOWMAN** and family also based themselves in and around Orange and country NSW with some members in Sydney and Queensland.

Tragedy struck when William's newly born twin daughters and his wife, **Ruby**, all died in November/December 1913, just 100 years ago, leaving William to raise four young children, **James, Ruby, Edna and Olive.**

The following has been extracted from his obituary published in the Cowra Free Press on Monday 4 September 1933:

The death occurred in Orange District Hospital at the weekend of Mr William Clarke Plowman, 52, a native of Orange, and a member of a highly esteemed family. He was a son of the late Mr J Plowman, who for many years conducted a general business and bakery at the corner of Summer and Peisley Streets, Orange, and for some years was associated in the business with his two brothers, Messrs Sinclair and Donald Plowman.

Later on he took up orchardry at Bloomfield and also farming in the Cowra district, where he married Miss Ruby Anderson, a daughter of the late Mr and Mrs J J Anderson of Back Creek. He had not enjoyed robust health for years, and succumbed to an attack of pneumonia and pleurisy.

Two daughters named **Margaret Ross Plowman** were born to James and Janet and died in childhood. Another daughter, **Grace Mackie**, also died young.

Janet Ethel lived with her brother Sinclair and sister-in-law Amy until her death in 1948.

Youngest daughter, **Elizabeth Catherine (or Katherine E (Kitty))** as she was known, married a journalist, **Frederic Slater**, and lived in Sydney. Frederic previously lived in Charters Towers, Queensland and had numerous published works (including poetry and plays). He was an advocate for indigenous rights. Their only son, **Ederic**, was born in 1923 and is a well known wildlife photographer. He, his son **Ralph Sutherland** and daughter **Kylie Thiele**, live in Canberra with their families.

Mary Plowman - 2nd daughter of Sinclair and Margaret

Mary, born in Wick in 1845, was described as a “needle woman” in the Scottish census. Mary remained in the Orkney Islands after her family returned to Wick but was reunited to emigrate. She married **John Muir** in Orange in 1868 and moved to Sydney soon afterwards, where her five children were born. They were, John, Clair, Alexander (died in infancy), Margaret and Barbara.

Clair Muir worked for a Sydney jeweller and in Canberra operated a government supply store. **Margaret** died in her late 20s and **Barbara** remained single and lived with her brother Clair for a time in Sydney. Barbara was the last of the family to die in 1956.

The family appears to have lived in the inner western suburbs of Sydney. We have little further information about Mary’s life and family.

Mary died in 1915 and John in 1914.

George Plowman – 3rd son of Sinclair and Margaret

Born in 1849, George initially farmed with his father and brothers at Towac.

George married Fanny Pearsall in 1867 and had a son George in 1869. In 1876 he married Margaret Clark, sister of James’ wife, Janet and they produced four children, Grace, Donald, Margaret and Janet They remained at Towac , carrying on the sawmill business after his brother,

Daniel's, death until the early 1900s, then moved to Gunningbland, west of Parkes, farming. Grace married Edwin Gartrell who had been trained in the bakery business by her uncle Roderick, and their family carried on this tradition in Orange and Sydney. From Gunningbland George and family moved to Sydney where Margaret and George died at Randwick in 1917 and 1920 respectively. Their descendants have lived mostly in Sydney, the Newcastle area and in Brisbane.

The following extract comes from the local newspaper clipping from 1920 when George died. It provides an overview of those early years, not only for George, but for Sinclair and Margaret as well as a number of their children:

The many friends of Mr George Plowman will regret to hear of his demise, which took place at his residence, Randwick, Sydney, on Sunday morning, at the age of 70 years. Mr G Plowman will be remembered as one of the pioneers of this district. He, with his father, the late Sinclair Plowman, senr, arrived at Towac in 1862, where they selected, with other members of the family, a large tract of country extending from Roweth's Hill to the foot of the Canobolas. Fourteen years ago he transferred his family to Gunningbland, where he remained a few years, afterwards removing to Sydney. Born in 1850 in the Scottish town of Wick, he was a fine specimen of the Scottish Highlander, and possessed many of the solid traits of that sturdy race – honesty in purpose and straightforwardness in life's dealings. He made a host of friends amongst the old identities of Orange. He was a brother of the late D. and J. Plowman, and of Mr. Roderick Plowman, our esteemed citizens. His wife predeceased him about 18 months ago. All their children survive them, viz, Mrs Edwin Gartrell, of Molong Road, Mr. Donald Plowman, Misses Maggie and Jennie Plowman, residents of Randwick. An older generation than the present knew Towac as "Plowman's farm" long before it was christened "Towac". Plowman's farm was once suggested as the ideal site for a reservoir for Orange, but we now talk of it as Towac. An older generation will also remember that years ago Mr Plowman carried on saw-milling there, and the remnants of the mill can be pointed out by those who know them. In the earlier days of Orange, much timber was cut on the slopes of the Canobolas, and was brought to Orange without passing through a fence or gate. Mr Plowman was as sturdy physique as he was stubborn, as he came of a race which is renowned for its dogged courage, and he was both dogged and genial.

The saw mill was started by Messrs Plowman and Smith, who erected good plant and supplied much of the timber for the building of Orange in those days. The timber they supplied was mountain ash and stringy-bark. The mill was continued in operation until about two years prior to the opening of the railway to Orange. Messrs Watts also has a saw mill at the Canobolas at the same time, but their plant was erected at the gap, now known as the Devil's Hole, while Messrs Plowman and Smith's was located a half mile further on, in what was once upon a time the great crater of the volcano. Mr Plowman lived at this farm for about twenty years. The opening of the saw mill was attended with a fatality. Mr Dan Plowman, the eldest brother, who was Smith's first partner, purchased the machinery in Sydney, and brought it to Orange. While proceeding down Roweth's hill portion of the harness broke, and the horses bolted. In attempting to check

them Mr Plowman fell, with his head under a wheel, which passed over it and killed him. Mr George Plowman then carried on in his brother's place.

Jessie Plowman – youngest daughter of Sinclair and Margaret

Jessie (or **Margaret** as she later became known) was born in the Shetland Islands, in 1852, when the family lived there briefly. She was 12 when the family sailed to Australia. In 1872 she married **James Grant**, a miner from Hill End, in the Orange/Bathurst region. Their only child, Lillian, was born in 1874 in Sydney. After James' death falling from a horse at Hill End in 1885, Jessie lived in Sydney with Lillian.

Jessie, by then known as **Margaret Plowman**, worked as a companion for the wife of one of the David Jones family.

Lillian married **George Parsons** in 1890 and had seven children, Gladys (1899), Gwennyth (1900), Neanie (1901), George (1903), Noel (1905), Lloyd (1908) and Ewan (1912). Gladys and Neanie died as young women. Gwennyth did not marry and lived in the family home at Haberfield, a Sydney suburb. George had one daughter and Ewan had 2 sons. Their families now live in Sydney and Newcastle .

Roderick Sinclair Alexander Plowman – youngest son of Sinclair and Margaret

According to official records Roderick Sinclair Alexander was 10 when the family arrived in Orange. He married Elizabeth Jane Jones from Bathurst in 1875 and nine children were born - Margaret (1876), Sinclair James (1878), Roland (1880), Louise (1882), Roderick Donald (1885), Agnes Mary known as Ness (1888), Henry George known as Harry (1890), Colin Ross (1892) and Elizabeth Jessie known as Jessie (1896).

They built a house and lived at 21 March St, Orange known as "Staxigoe". Later another house was built on the corner of the block for daughter Louise and her husband Ken Finch. This is the corner of March and Samson Streets in Orange.

The following obituary was published in The Orange Leader on Friday 21 September 1934, following Roderick's death:

With the death of Mr Roderick Plowman, on Wednesday, there passed an old resident who was one of the most prominent in his prime and who was a link with the pioneering families of the district. A native of Wick, Scotland, he was eight years of age when brought to Australia and direct to Orange, where they took up land in the Towac Valley,

about three miles east of Canobolas summit. On attaining to manhood Mr Plowman left farm life for the town of Orange, and established a successful baking and general store business at the corner of Hill and March Streets. Later he changed to a bigger enterprise as fuel merchant in Peisley Street, success once more attending upon his venture. He was assisted by his sons to develop a big trade, from which he retired about 16 years ago, selling the business and retiring, while his sons chose fruit growing for their future labours. Politics, both of the municipal and wider Commonwealth field, keenly interested Mr Plowman, who became Mayor of Orange in 1906, after about five years membership of the Council, and he proved himself worthy of the honour. A learned man with fluency of thought and speech, he was both liked and respected to a high degree. His zeal for the welfare of the country was apparent from his interest, enthusiasm and grasp of the questions of the day, when elections transpired. He was an efficient member of the old Volunteer Corps at Orange. An honest and frank man, his passing will leave a blank.

Roderick's wife, **Elizabeth Jane Jones** was born in Bathurst in 1854. She was a strong, loving and intelligent woman who in time became a matriarch to her large family. She died in 1946 aged 92. Her mother Agnes Lamont remarried in 1871 after the death of her first husband Ro(w)land Jones (d. 1867), to Joseph Hicks in Orange. Photos survive and are on this website of Agnes Hicks and of her mother Leitch (Agnes) Lamont, father Archibald Lamont and brother Alex Lamont. All are buried in Orange.

Roderick and Elizabeth's children travelled widely and settled in many areas of Australia specifically a branch in Queensland and Western Australia.

Margaret married Joseph Clint and remained in Orange. In 1916 their son Roderick accidentally and fatally shot himself with a pea rifle when he was 16 years of age. The second son Hector known as Charlie was a baker and lived, and died in Orange.

Sinclair James and wife Francis Smith moved to Queensland and produced eight children. Roderick Sinclair (1905), Jessie Amelia (1906), Elsie Elizabeth (1907), Hilda Warner known as Bonnie (1911), Wallace Gladstone (1914), Beryl Margaret (1917), Joyce (Jackie) and Faye Plowman. Their descendants have settled in Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast. Sinclair was a member of the 1st NSW mounted rifles and saw service in the Boer War. He was awarded the Queen's South African Medal with two clasps for duty at Driefontein and Cape Colony. Sinclair was one of the returned soldiers who took part in the unveiling ceremony of the Boer War Memorial in Orange in 1905. His father, as Alderman Plowman had been active in deciding its design and location. Sinclair appears in a book *Orange Remembers Boer War 1899 – 1902* by Heather Nicolls, published by Orange City Council 2005.

Roland married Alice Watterson. As a young man he worked at his father's fuel depot in Peisley St. By 1933 he was a foundation member of the Orange Base Hospital board. Later he and Alice

lived in Campsie, Sydney and he died in the early 1990s. Their son Gordon moved between Sydney and Orange, and daughter Lillian married in Atherton, Queensland. Roland appears in a history of Orange called *In Sickness and in Health, how medicine helped shape Orange's history* by Elizabeth Edwards, Orange City Council, 2011 on page 92 -100.

Louise and her husband, **Kenneth Neil Finch**, a principal at the Orange Rural School (1940-1950), married in Sydney in 1912. Their son Kenneth was born in Orange, and daughter Edna in Narrandera. Louise and Kenneth lived on the North Shore in their later years, both dying in 1974. The son, Kenneth had four children many of whom are in Sydney and Darwin. Edna who married Harold Martin had two children who live in Sydney and the Byron Bay area.

Roderick Donald Plowman married **Mildred Love Rosen** who died aged 42 years in 1934. Their three children, Roderick, Doreen and Neville had a close relationship with their grandmother Elizabeth Jane who lived with her son Roderick at 76 Summer St, Orange until her death in 1946. He was in partnership with his brothers Harry and Colin. The business was called Plowman Bros, fruit and vegetable wholesale merchants. The partnership owned premises on the corner of Kite and Peisley Streets, an orchard called "Gowrie" on Clergate Rd, and for two years (1931-32) a property called "Argilla" at Combara near Coonamble. Roderick married Hannah Thorpe. When she died he moved to the Albany district, Western Australia, with his third wife, Sylvia and ran a property in partnership with Neville. Later they moved to Bulli where Roderick died in 1974. His first son Rod graduated as an orthopaedic surgeon and settled in Newcastle with his wife Elaine and four daughters. His daughter Doreen graduated as a teacher and later married a school principal Horry Ford. They had three children and settled in the Wollongong area where Doreen became a teacher /librarian. She currently lives in Thirroul. Neville in his teens was captain of the Orange Emu Rugby Union team and was a representative player for NSW. In 1954 he moved to Western Australia where he was farming and discovered a gift for crafting beautiful furniture from native timbers. He and his wife Stephanie had six children. Neville and Stephanie live in the Denmark area and their children and families are all in Western Australia.

Agnes Mary known as Nessie and her husband, Charles Overy lived with her parents at "Staxigoe", 21 March St Orange. Charlie worked with the Plowman Bros in the fruit and vegetable shop on the corner of Peisley and Kite Streets. In the 1930s they moved to Hurstville where they had a corner shop. They had one child, Colin who with his wife Betty had two children. The family was last heard of in Sylvania Waters Sydney.

Henry George known as Harry and his wife Margaret (Annie) Henrys were parents to four sons – Max Osbourne, Ross Henry, George and Colin George. Harry was in a partnership called Plowman Bros. which was a fruit and vegetable wholesale merchants with his brothers Roderick Donald and Colin Ross. The partnership owned a premises on the corner of Kite and Peisley Streets, Orange, an orchard called "Gowrie" on Clergate Rd Orange and for two years (1931 -32) a property called "Argilla" at Combara near Coonamble. Harry and family lived at "Gowrie" for

some years. Then in 1931 Harry, wife Annie and his sons moved to Combara to run the sheep property. When they returned to Orange Harry went to work in the Peisley St shop. In 1944 the house at "Gowrie" was blown down by a tornado and was rebuilt. By the 1950s Harry and Annie were living at 65 Sale St Orange. Harry died in 1967. Harry's son Max, moved to Sydney after the war with his wife Joyce and raised two children. He worked at OPSM until his death in 1986 in a traffic accident. The second son Ross took over the family orchard "Gowrie" which he worked until he sold it in 1977. From this time "Gowrie" ceased to be an orchard and is now a residential area in North Orange. Unwell Ross, his wife Val and three children moved to Sydney in 1977 where he died in 1994. Two of his children are in Sydney. Harry's third son George died at 4 months in 1924. The youngest son Colin George, a retired university administrator had a daughter and a son with his first wife Enid and two daughters by his second wife Ann. Colin lives in Canberra where his daughters and families live, and his only son is in Sydney with his family.

Colin Ross (Col) married Daisy Payne from Guerie, Wellington. According to his obituary in the local newspaper, Colin was best remembered as a champion footballer. In the early 1900s he was initially in Rugby Union as a "utility back" but switched to Rugby League when the new code appeared. He played in the Waratahs, represented the country in state matches and played with international representatives such as Larry Dwyer. Colin was in partnership with his older brothers Roderick Donald and Harry. The business was called Plowman Bros. fruit and vegetable wholesale merchants. The partnership owned a premises on the corner of Kite and Peisley Streets, Orange, an orchard called "Gowrie" on Clergate Rd Orange and for two years (1931 -32) a property called "Argilla" at Combara near Coonamble. Colin and Daisy lived at "Gowrie", Clergate Rd, Orange until 1943 when Colin's arthritis prevented him from working on the orchard and he went into the shop. By 1944 Col and Daisy had moved to 52 Sale St with their two children, Heather and Patricia. From his early 60s Colin was bed ridden with psoratic arthritis and was cared for by Daisy, a nurse until his death in 1964. Daisy appears in a history of Orange called *In Sickness and in Health, how medicine helped shape Orange's history* by Elizabeth Edwards, Orange City Council, 2011 on page 76. The elder daughter Heather, one of the first female bank tellers in Orange, married a local optometrist, Bob Hansen, raised a family of four in Orange and died in her late 50s of lymphoma. All her family are in Sydney except for one son Mark Hansen who inherited his father's practice in Orange. Patricia graduated as a teacher and while in Broken Hill met and married a fellow teacher, Howard Carey. They moved to Sydney and raised a family of 10. This family is scattered across Sydney and NSW.

Elizabeth Jessie married Charles Gressier, living initially in Orange, then moving to Sydney to establish a business. They returned to Orange 12 months before the death of Elizabeth at the age of 36, leaving a young daughter, Leclsie.

The following is drawn from the obituary was published in The Orange Leader on Monday 31 July 1933:

There passed away in Dudley private hospital on Saturday afternoon, Mrs Elizabeth Jessie Gressier, wife of Mr Charles Gressier of Orange, and daughter of Mr and Mrs R Plowman, who are amongst our oldest residents.

Mrs Gressier, prior to her marriage 12 years ago, was a popular member of the Orange younger set, and did much to espouse the cause of charity through assisting at those entertainments which took place from time to time in aid of worthy causes.

Two years after marriage she and her husband left Orange and took up their residence in Sydney, where they were in business for a number of years...Endowed with a kind and benevolent temperament and charitably disposed to the world in general, Mrs Gressier was at once a devoted wife and loving mother, and one we could ill afford to lose.

Leclsie married **John Salkeld Hardy** a senior master at Wolaroi College (now Kinross), 1933-43 in Orange. After World War 2 they moved to Ipswich the home town of Hardy where he taught at the local Grammar School. They had three children including Robert John Salkeld Hardy. Leclsie married Trevor Turner after the death of her first husband and moved to Western Australia in the 1960s.

CONCLUSION

Within 50 years of their arrival Sinclair and Margaret had established their family in NSW as farmers, saw millers, bakers, grocers and business people. We owe much to their foresight in seeking a better life in a new land.

Daniel died first, tragically, establishing his saw mill on the land they had selected. James, George and Roderick carried on and members of their families continued to flourish in Orange and beyond. Colina, Mary and Jessie were typical of the strong pioneering women embracing their new country. Some descendants have followed in the path of their forebears in the agriculture field – as farmers, horticulturalists, engineers or scientists. Others have capitalized on the business acumen of the early Orange Plowmen, using their skills as tradesmen, bankers, and community leaders. There have been careers in medicine, nursing and allied health, teaching, administration, academia, information technology and mining. We have artists, photographers, musicians and even an astronomer, perhaps exploring the boundaries of future Plowman migration!

Many members of the family served their country at home and abroad, from the Boer War to more recent conflicts. Some did not return resulting in challenging times for families left behind.

We are now a global family. As we look at our Tree we can see that we have had members on all continents, either permanently or temporarily. We have people from all walks of life and

professions, who have suffered joys and sorrows, while contributing to communities all around the country and beyond.

Those early traits of doggedness, resilience, loyalty, determination, resourcefulness and adventure remain with us as we celebrate 150 years. There are now and over 1000 Australian “Plowpeople” on our family tree, including those who have married or partnered into our family, strengthening its many branches and ensuring its healthy growth.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The information provided in this record of the early years of the Plowmans in Australia was drawn from many sources. The notes prepared by John Plowman (died in 2012) have been extensively used as have contributions from many Plowmans who have recorded the early history and been prepared to share it.

We have drawn heavily on information published in newspapers and similar sources. It is expected this source of information will grow as early editions of country newspapers are scanned into the national archives.