THE JAMES C STEWART MELBOURNE CONNECTION

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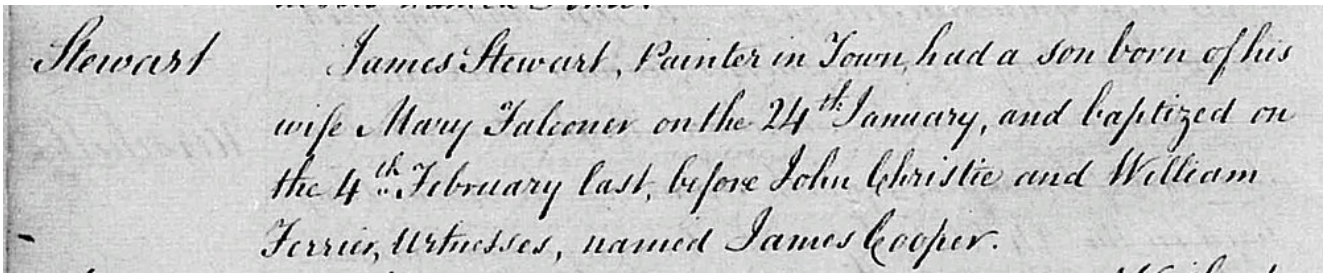
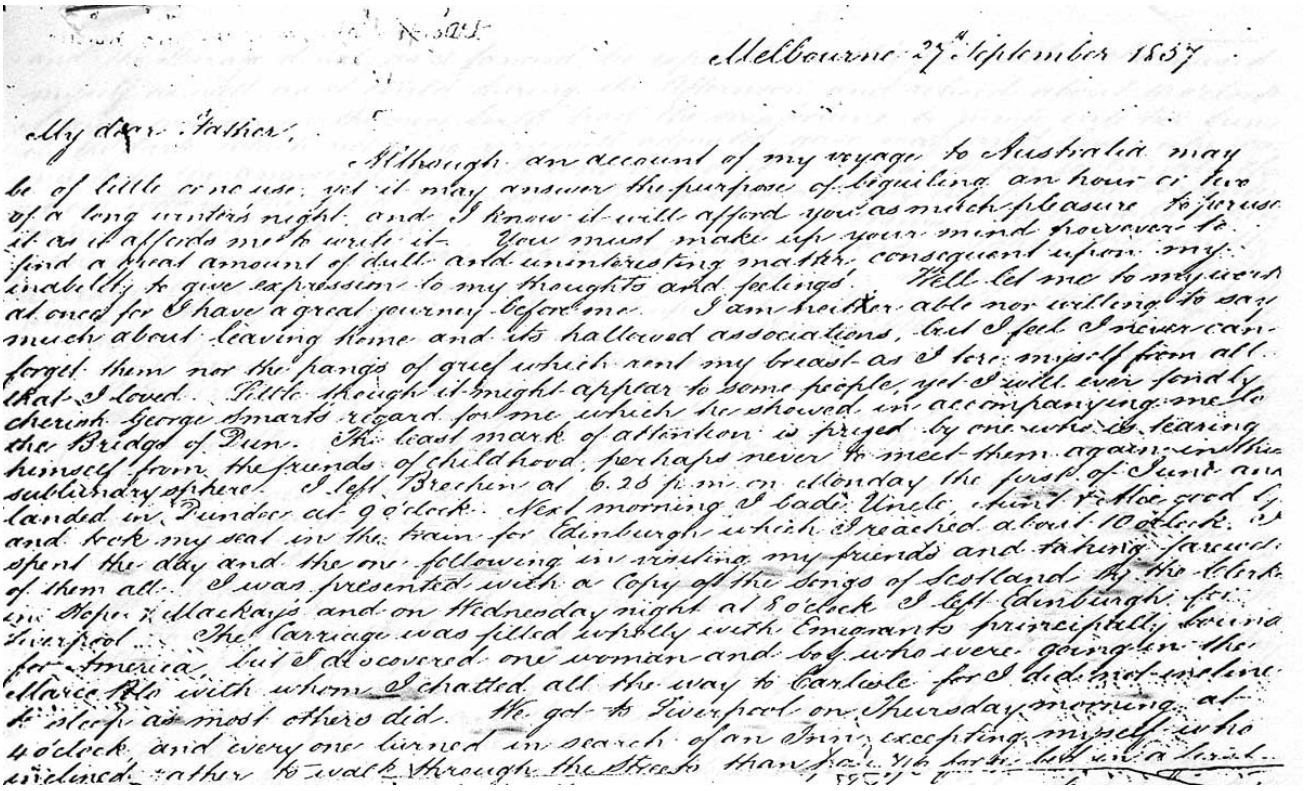
James Cooper Stewart (1836 – 1919 (83)) was the son of another James Stewart (a master house painter) and his wife Mary (May) (Falconer) who lived in Brechin, north of Edinburgh. Their names appear in the 1841, 1851 and 1861 (without James jnr) Scottish censuses and we have managed to trace hand written registry records of some of their ancestor births, marriages and deaths back to 1777. The Stewart's brownstone residence at 62 High Street, Brechin, is now a dilapidated boarded up shopfront which can be driven past via Google Earth. This is the record of James Cooper's birth in Brechin in 1836.


Stewart James Stewart, Painter in Town, had a son born of his wife Mary Falconer on the 24th January, and baptized on the 4th February last, before John Christie and William Ferrier, Witnesses, named James Cooper.

"Cooper" was May Falconer's mother's maiden name.

Stewart emigrated from Liverpool to Melbourne ("for his health") as a paying first class passenger aboard the famous sailing clipper "The Marco Polo" ("The Fastest Ship in the World") in 1857. Melbourne was then 22 years old, the gold rush had been on since the early part of the decade and Victoria itself had been created in 1851. During this voyage he kept a diary and we have both a photocopy and typed transcript of this as well as a copy of part of the passenger list. The original diary has not been located yet.

The diary is written in the form of a letter dated 27 September 1857 to James' father back in Brechin:


Melbourne 27th September 1857

My dear Father,

Although an account of my voyage to Australia may be of little or no use, yet it may answer the purpose of beguiling an hour or two of a long winter's night, and I know it will afford you as much pleasure to perusse it as it affords me to write it. You must make up your mind forever to find a great amount of dull and uninteresting matter consequent upon my inability to give expression to my thoughts and feelings. Well let me to my work at once for I have a great journey before me. I am neither able nor willing to say much about leaving home and its hallowed associations, but I feel I never can forget them nor the pangs of grief which rent my breast as I tore myself from all that I loved. Little though it might appear to some people, yet I will ever fondly cherish George Smart's regard for me which he showed in accompanying me to the Bridge of Dun. The least mark of attention is prized by one who is tearing himself from the friends of childhood, perhaps never to meet them again in this sublunary sphere. I left Brechin at 6.20 p.m. on Monday the first of June and landed in Dundee at 9 o'clock. Next morning I bade Uncle, Aunt & the good [illegible] and took my seat in the train for Edinburgh which I reached about 10 o'clock. I spent the day and the one following in visiting my friends and taking farewell of them all. I was presented with a copy of the songs of Scotland by the Clerk in Hope & Mackays and on Wednesday night at 8 o'clock I left Edinburgh for Liverpool. The Carriage was filled awfully with Emigrants principally bound for America, but I discovered one woman and boy who were going to the Marco Polo with whom I chatted all the way to Carlisle for I did not incline to sleep as most others did. We got to Liverpool on Thursday morning at 4 o'clock and every one turned in search of an Inn excepting myself who inclined rather to walk through the streets than [illegible] in a land.

The opening paragraph covers leaving home in Brechin on Monday June 1 1857 and “the pangs of grief which rent my breast as I tore myself from all I loved”. Trains conveyed him from Dundee to Edinburgh and thence to Liverpool in a carriage full of emigrants principally bound for America.

More diary extracts will appear in the fullness of time. James Stewart disembarked in Melbourne on 3 September 1857, aged 21 ½.

At the end of the diary are some “Hints to Emigrants” – in particular relating to bringing you own food as “our food (supplied by the boat) was not eatable”. Was this, one wonders, really supposed to last for 3 months?

Bring a ham with you sufficient for the voyage - eggs well packed so as not to break or rot - cheese - biscuit (not water ones) 4 or 5 pots of jelly - buns - gingerbread, and any other little tasty thing of which you are fond. Bring also some oatmeal and flour if you like, gruel etc., as well as baking soda, brown sugar (several pounds), brandy or whisky - a quarter of a pound or so of good tea or coffee, perhaps a whole pound would be nearer the mark. Pack all these in a box (as small a one as possible) and you can keep it in your berth with the other box, as no objection will be made to that by the Doctor if your mate agrees, and you can easily arrange that. If possible don't let your boxes go into the hold, or they will be tossed and broken very much.

Interestingly, the ship’s Master, James Clarke, certified on the passenger manifest that he had sufficient provisions for 390 “statute adults” for 83 days.

JAMES BAINES AND COMPANY,

"BLACK BALL" LINE OF BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN CLIPPER PACKETS.

SCHEDULE B.—FORM OF PASSENGER LIST.

Ship's Name.	Master's Name.	Tons per Register.	Aggregate Number of Superficial feet in the several compartments set apart for Passengers other than Cabin Passengers.	Total Number of Statute Adults, exclusive of Master, Crew, and Cabin Passengers, the Ship can legally carry.	Where bound.
Marco Polo	Clarke	1625	6095	405½	Melbourne

I hereby certify that the Provisions actually laden on board this Ship are sufficient, according to the requirements of the Passengers' Act, for 390 *Statute Adults, for a Voyage of* 83 *days.*

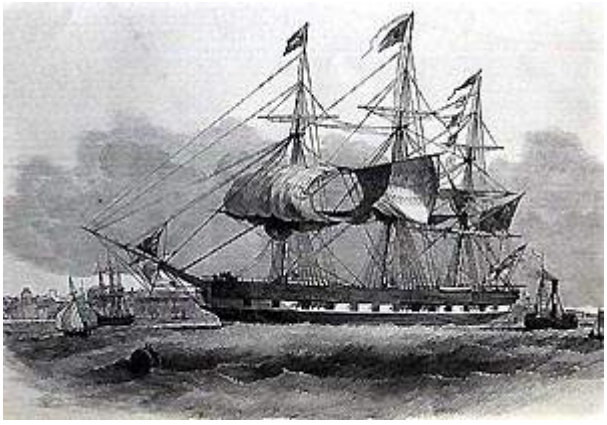
James Clarke Master.

Date 10 June 1857

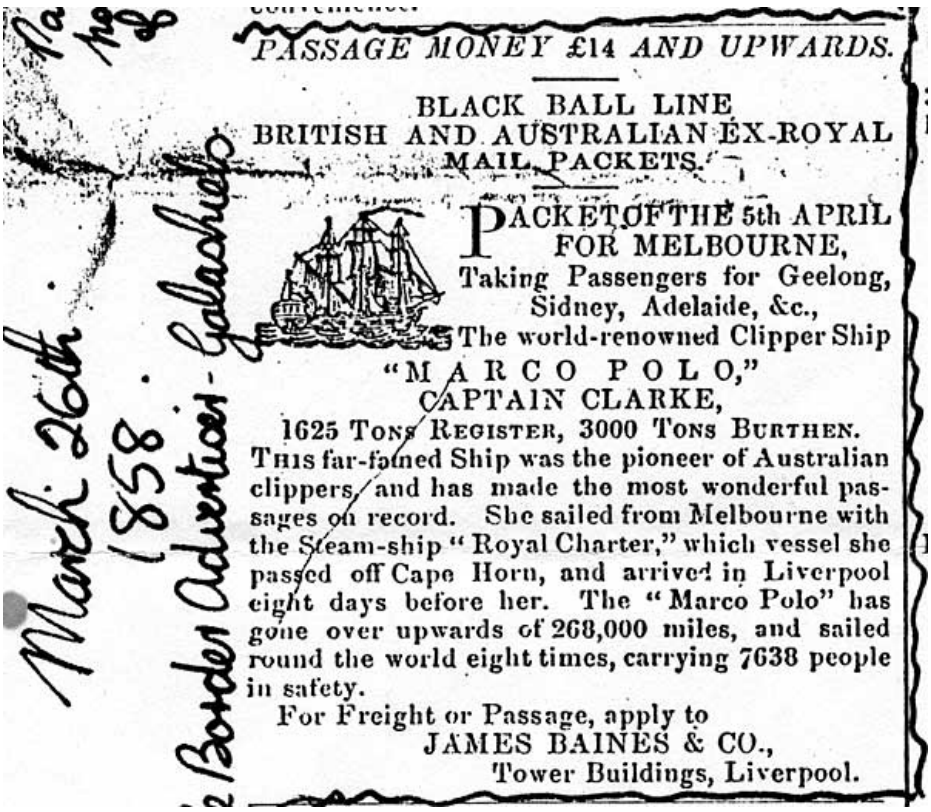
NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF PASSENGERS.

Port of Embarkation.	Names of Passengers.	Age of each Adult, of 12 years and upwards. Married. M.	Married. F.	Single. M.	Single. F.	Children between 1 & 12. M.	Children between 1 & 12. F.	Infants. M.	Infants. F.	Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passengers.	English. Adults.	English. Between 1 and 12.	English. Infants.	Scotch. Adults.	Scotch. Between 1 and 12.	Scotch. Infants.	Irish. Adults.	Irish. Between 1 and 12.	Irish. Infants.	Other Parts. Adults.	Other Parts. Between 1 and 12.	Other Parts. Infants.	Port at which Passengers have Contracted to Land.
LPOOL.	J. L.																						
	Thos Wiseman			18						Labourer	1												Melbourne
	Jas R Jones			25						Boatbuilder	1												"
	Thos "	35								"	1												"
	Hannah "		26							Wife	1												"
	Jas B Stewart			25						Clerk	1												"
	Wm Lyon			27						Mechanic	1												"
	Rich[illegible]			24						"	1												"

The “Marco Polo” was a remarkable sailing clipper because whilst she had not been built for speed she turned out to be as fast as the famous sleek clippers like the Cutty Sark, and in her most famous first voyage she beat a steam ship returning to Liverpool from Melbourne. The story goes that when she was launched at Marsh Creek (near St Johns in Canadian New Brunswick) she got wedged across the river she was launched into and the keel buckled slightly – fortuitously creating a humped keel profile that slid through the water much faster. I have photos of a painting (Yarmouth County Museum, Nova Scotia) and of a model (Merseyside Maritime Museum, Liverpool) of the boat. This illustration is from the Illustrated London News of February 19 1853. The painted white strip along the side contains square boxes which look like gun ports but were in fact not even openings – just black paint – possibly a pirate deterrent or maybe just fashionable as lots of ships did it!



The Marco Polo’s first round trip to Australia in 1852 took under six months – the first time this had been achieved. Her early trips cut one third off the previous typical journey time of four months each way, in part because in addition to her inherent speed her experienced captains pioneered a new “great circle” course which took them well south of Africa. The Marco Polo made 17 voyages to Australia between 1852 and 1867, bringing nearly 15,000 people to its shores. .



March 26th 1858 · Border Advertiser - Galashiels

PASSAGE MONEY £14 AND UPWARDS.

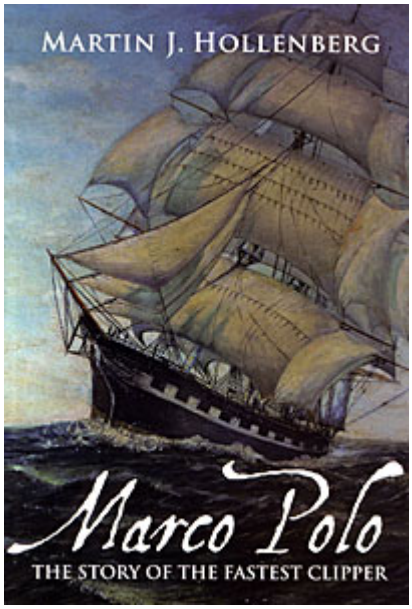
BLACK BALL LINE
BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN EX-ROYAL MAIL PACKETS.

PACKET OF THE 5th APRIL FOR MELBOURNE,
Taking Passengers for Geelong, Sidney, Adelaide, &c.,
The world-renowned Clipper Ship
“MARCO POLO,”
CAPTAIN CLARKE,
1625 Tons Register, 3000 Tons Burthen.

This far-famed Ship was the pioneer of Australian clippers, and has made the most wonderful passages on record. She sailed from Melbourne with the Steam-ship “Royal Charter,” which vessel she passed off Cape Horn, and arrived in Liverpool eight days before her. The “Marco Polo” has gone over upwards of 268,000 miles, and sailed round the world eight times, carrying 7638 people in safety.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
JAMES BAINES & CO.,
Tower Buildings, Liverpool.

The book “Marco Polo” by Martin J Hollenberg provides an interesting account of the boat and includes excerpts from the dairies of James Stewart and others



Stewart settled initially in Warnambool, working as a road and quarry labourer. He had been a legal clerk in Scotland, and it was not long before he moved to Melbourne and became a clerk in Muttlebury and Malleson which later became Malleson (1831 – 1892 (61)), England (1831 – 1904 (73)) and Stewart (1836 – 1919 (83)). He was a partner / senior partner for 51 years from 1868 to his death in 1919 at the age of 83. His name lived on though, and it was only in 1966 that Malleson, Stewart & Co became just Mallesons. Later in the twentieth century Mallesons became Malleson Stephen Jacques - one of the largest law firms in present day Australia

Photo courtesy State Library of Victoria, taken from "A History of Mallesons 1852 – 1986" by Ruth Campbell.

This is a 1902 photo of Queen Street, Melbourne – looking north from Flinders Street. The three storey bluestone building on the right was number 44-46, and was Malleson's office from 1858 – 1936. James Stewart worked here all his life.

A biographical review produced by the La Trobe Library said "*he (Stewart) was regarded as one of the best common law solicitors in Melbourne, and in addition to acting as solicitor to some large shipping and commercial institutions, he took an active interest in the management of a number of leading business firms*". A good part of the book "Mallesons – A History, 1852 – 1986" by Ruth Campbell (I have a copy) is devoted to the lives and times of the three founding partners and the Melbourne of the second half of the 19th

Century. James Stewart also played a leading (and at one stage controversial) role in the Presbyterian Church in Melbourne.

On the 19 June 1860, James Stewart married Amelia Waugh (1841 – 1903 (62)) (baptism record no 716 Victoria Register, 1842, though the original record is in the NSW archives as Victoria had not been invented).

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SCHEDULE C.

1860 **Marriages solemnized in the District of** Melbourne

No	When and where Married	Name and Surname of the Parties	Condition of the Parties. Bachelor or Spinster If a Widower or Widow, Date of Decease of Former Wife or Husband	Children by each Former Marriage: Living	Children by each Former Marriage: Dead	Birth Place
714	19 June 1860 Melbourne	James Cooper Stewart	Bachelor	—	—	Buchan Scotland
		Amelia Henderson Waugh	Spinster	—	—	Melbourne

~~do hereby declare that~~ ~~Member of~~

(~~insert Church, Religious Society, or Denomination, as the case may be~~)

Married in the House of Mrs Waugh Collingwood

Registered by the Revd Irving Wetherington

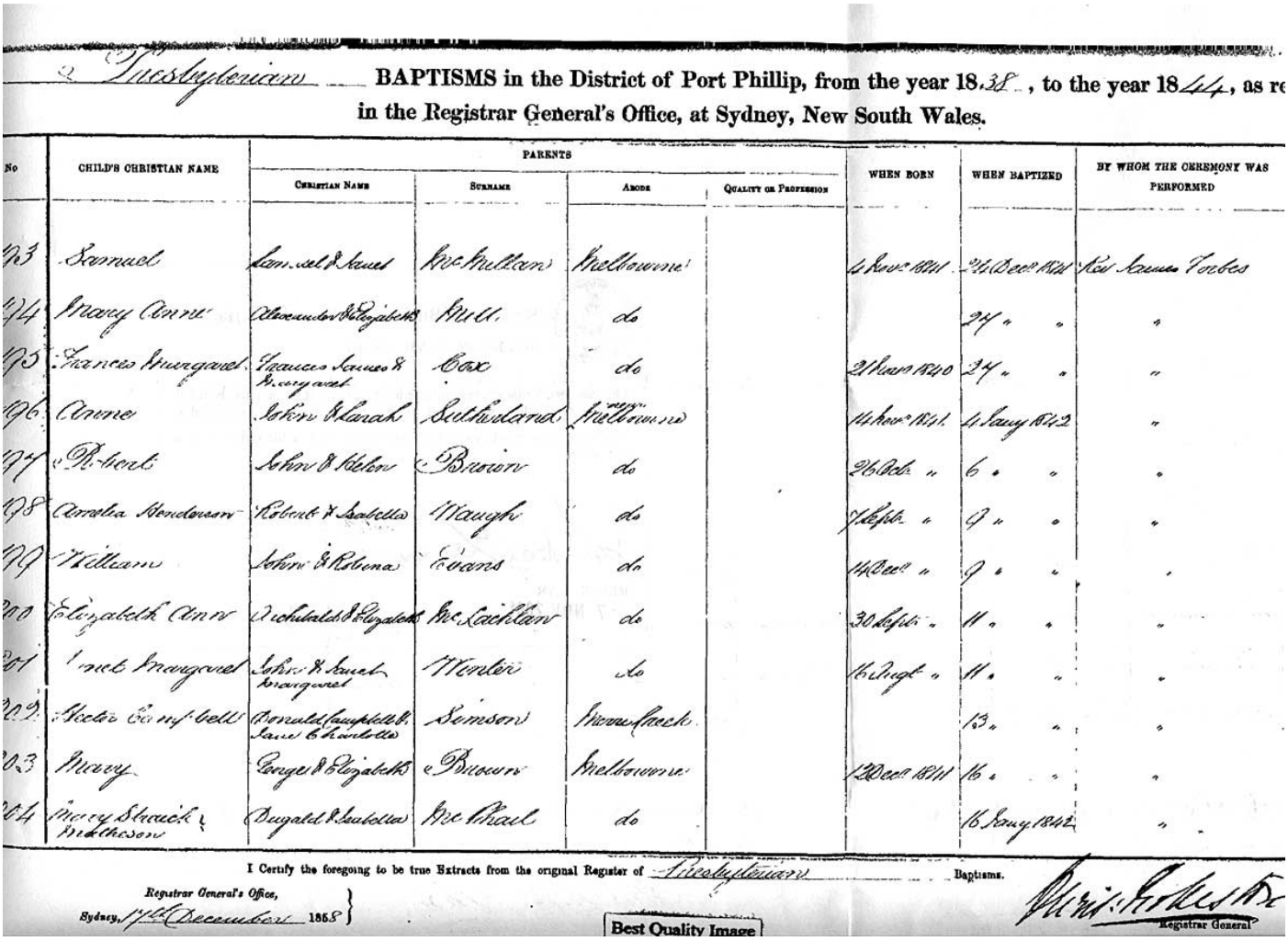
Rank or Profession	Ages	Residence: Present	Residence: Usual	Parents: Names (Mother's Maiden Name.)	Father's Rank or Profession
Attorneys Clerk	24 y/o	Melbourne	Melbourne	James Stewart Mary Falconer	Artist
Lady	18 y/o	Melbourne	Melbourne	Robert Waugh Isabella Henderson	Baker

This Marriage was solemnized between us { James Cooper Stewart / Amelia Henderson Waugh } In the presence of us { James Waugh / Jessie Henderson }

According to the rites of the Presbyterian Church

By (or before) me Irving Wetherington } Officiating Minister ~~or~~ ~~Deputy Registrar~~

Amelia was a daughter of baker Robert Waugh (born c1800 died in 1856 before the wedding) and Isabella Waugh (Henderson) (born 1803) both originally from Belfast. They were married by the Rev Irving Hethrington under the rites of the Presbyterian Church "in the house of Mrs Waugh" in Collingwood (Victorian (Presbyterian) register No 1876 - above). Stewart's house painter father was described rather pretentiously in the marriage record as "an artist".



Presbyterian — BAPTISMS in the District of Port Phillip, from the year 1838, to the year 1844, as re[corded] in the Registrar General's Office, at Sydney, New South Wales.

No	Child's Christian Name	Parents: Christian Name	Parents: Surname	Parents: Abode	Parents: Quality or Profession	When Born	When Baptized	By whom the ceremony was performed
193	Samuel	Samuel & Janet	McMillan	Melbourne		4 Nov 1841	26 Dec 1841	Rev James Forbes
194	Mary Anne	Alexander & Elizabeth	Hill	do			24 " "	"
195	Frances Margaret	Francis James & Margaret	Cox	do		21 Mar 1840	24 " "	"
196	Anne	John & Sarah	Sutherland	Melbourne		14 Nov 1841	4 Jany 1842	"
197	Robert	John & Helen	Brown	do		26 Feb "	6 " "	"
198	Amelia Henderson	Robert & Isabella	Waugh	do		7 Sept "	9 " "	"
199	William	John & Rebina	Evans	do		14 Dec "	9 " "	"
200	Elizabeth Anne	Archibald & Elizabeth	McLachlan	do		30 Sept "	11 " "	"
201	Janet Margaret	John & Janet Margaret	Wenter	do		16 Sept "	11 " "	"
202	Hector Campbell	Ronald Campbell & Jane Chisholm	Simson	Yarra Yarra			13 " "	"
203	Mary	George & Elizabeth	Brown	Melbourne		12 Dec 1841	16 " "	"
204	Mary Struck Hutchison	Dugald & Isabella	McPhail	do			16 Jany 1842	"

I Certify the foregoing to be true Extracts from the original Register of Presbyterian Baptisms.

Registrar General's Office, Sydney, 17th December 1858

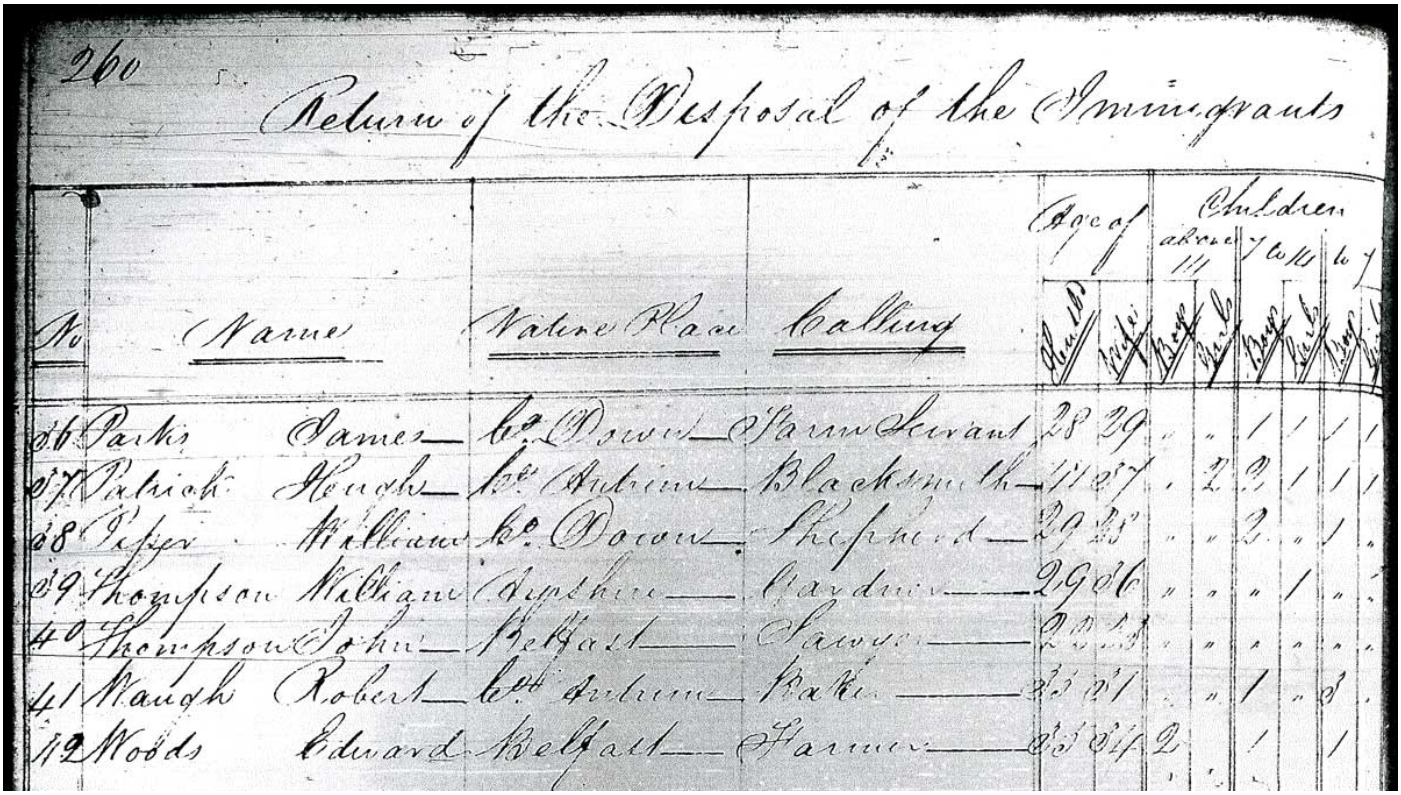
Registrar General

Best Quality Image

The Waughs from Belfast had been early assisted immigrants – sailing from Belfast to Sydney on the maiden voyage of the 500 ton Barque Garrow in 1838-39, and then transferring to the John Barry (300+ berths, one bath tub, two loos) for the last leg to Melbourne. The passenger list (extract below) includes (though not for Robert) the names of employment sponsors and the wages the sponsoree was to receive (and whether such wages included rations). One wonders whether Robert or Isabella knew anyone in Melbourne? In 1836 the settlement that was to become Melbourne had just 13 buildings! By 1841, after the Waugh's had arrived, Melbourne had a population of 4,479 and in 1847 it was incorporated as a town by the Legislative Council of New South Wales.

From the early 1800s the Colonial Government promoted the idea of migration to Australia from Britain, latterly especially to the free settler area in the south (as opposed to the more "robust" convict based societies of New South Wales and Tasmania). Transport to Australia was controlled by strict government regulation and because of this was a much safer proposition than attempting the completely unregulated trans-Atlantic journey. Migration schemes resulted in 58,000 people voluntarily coming to N.S.W. between 1815 and 1840 (Victoria was not established as a separate State until 1851, coincidentally the year the gold rush started). Well over half the migrants who came were assisted financially by the government. NSW stopped taking convicts in 1852 and convict transportation to Australia ceased altogether in1868 by which time 160,000 convicts had been transported.

Garrow arrival manifest – Sydney Quarantine Station 2 March 1839 – Left hand side of ledger:



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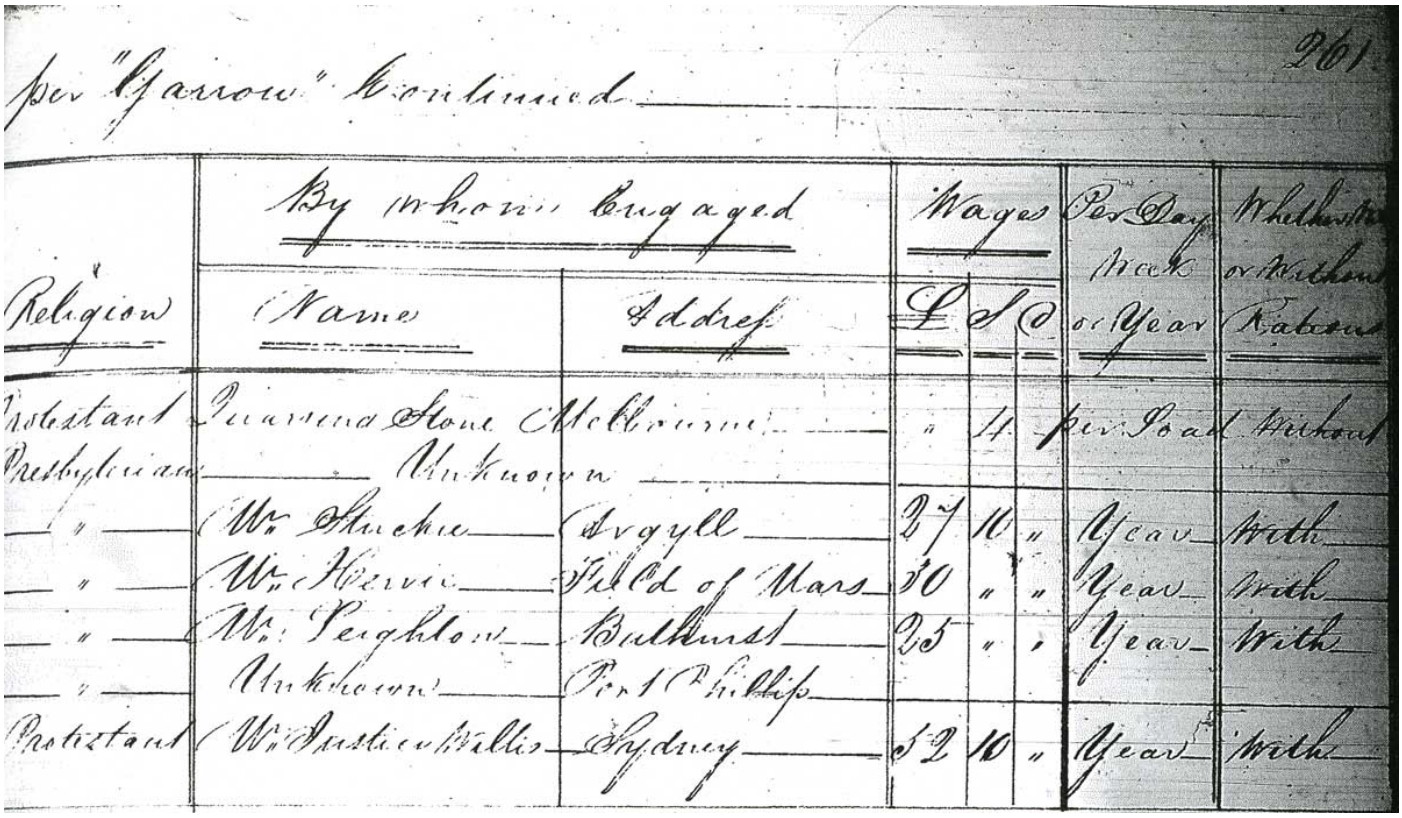
Return of the Disposal of the Immigrants

No	Name	Native Place	Calling	Age of Male	Age of Female	Children above 14 Boys	Children above 14 Girls	Children 7 to 14 Boys	Children 7 to 14 Girls	Children 1 to 7 Boys	Children 1 to 7 Girls
36	Parks James	Co. Down	Farm Servant	28	29	"	"	1	1	1	1
37	Patrick Hugh	Co. Antrim	Blacksmith	47	27	"	2	2	1	1	1
38	Piper William	Co. Down	Shepherd	29	25	"	"	2	"	1	"
39	Thompson William	Tipperary	Gardener	29	26	"	"	"	1	"	"
40	Thompson John	Belfast	Sawyer	[illegible]	[illegible]	"	"	"	"	"	"
41	Waugh Robert	Co. Antrim	Baker	35	21	"	"	1	"	3	"
42	Woods Edward	Belfast	Farmer	25	24	2	"	1	"	1	"

Garrow arrival manifest – Right hand side of ledger – Waugh entry is the "unknown" employer name:



per "Garrow" Continued

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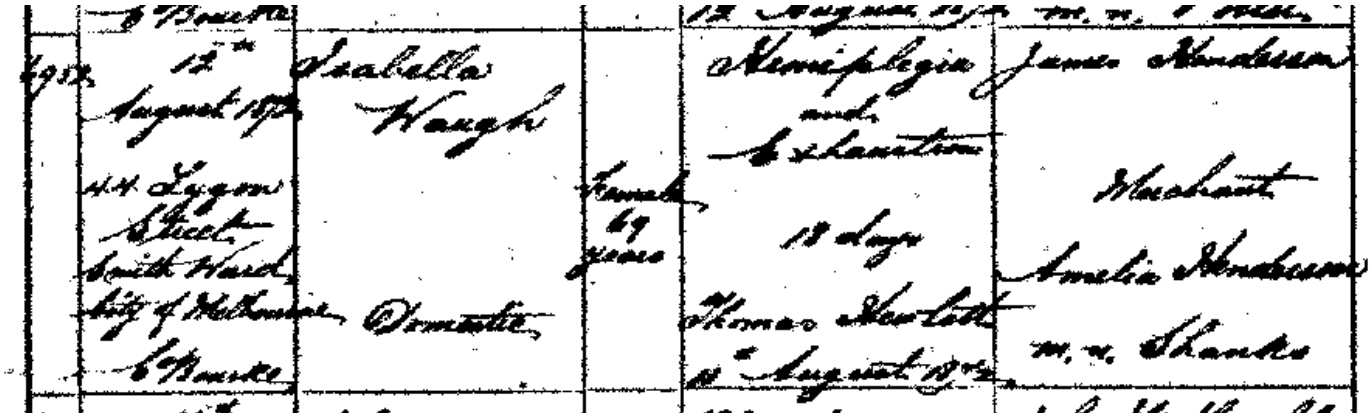
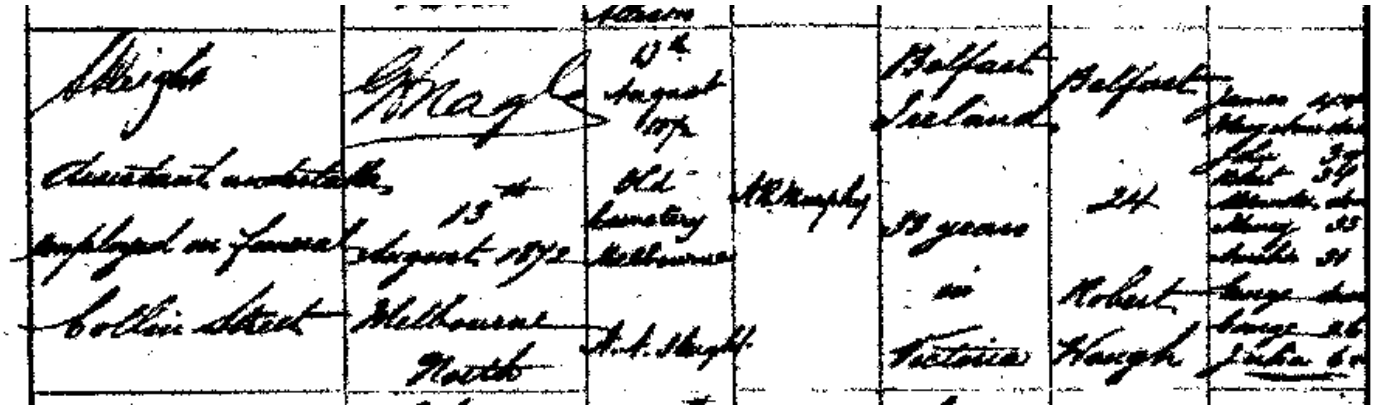
Religion	By whom Engaged: Name	By whom Engaged: Address	Wages £	Wages S	Wages D	Per Day Week or Year	Whether with or without Rations
Protestant	Duncan Stone	Melbourne	"	14	"	per Week	Without
Presbyterian	Unknown						
"	Wm Sluchie	Argyll	27	10	"	Year	With
"	Wm Hervie	Field of Mars	30	"	"	Year	With
"	Wm Leighton	Bathurst	25	"	"	Year	With
"	Unknown	Port Phillip					
Protestant	Wm Justice Willis	Sydney	52	10	"	Year	With

The Waughs boarded the boat in Belfast with three children and disembarked with four. The ship's surgeon was Harry Goldney, and his log of the voyage is available at the UK National Archives (ADM 101/77/2). Three or four more of the Waugh children who survived infancy were to be born in Australia. Isabella's family, the Hendersons, were a leading Belfast family of newspaper proprietors and Presbyterian clergymen. Interestingly a cousin of Amelia's was Mayor of Belfast shortly before she became Mayoress of Melbourne.

Robert Waugh died on 10 July 1856 according to the register of the Old Melbourne Cemetery where he was buried – there seems to be no state record of his death. Isabella died at 44 Lygon Street, Melbourne in August 1872 (Vic register entry 7300 - below) aged 69, and was also buried in the Old Cemetery. Their bones are probably still rattling around under Melbourne's Victoria Market which was later built over the Old Cemetery with many of the bodies left "in situ" (and there is no record that their bones were amongst those moved).





Australian death records of that time were wonderfully informative – parents, spouse, children, length of time married, time in Australia etc. If Robert's record were to be located we would also have a fix on his parents – from the Australian records his dad was Robert Waugh, Farmer and Land Steward, of The Park (*Belfast*), Co Antrim.

James Stewart was a councillor (1870) then alderman (1872) representing the Smith Ward (which included the now popular Lygon Street) on the Melbourne Council. He agreed (reluctantly it was said) to serve as the Mayor of Melbourne from 1885 – 1886, refused an offer of unanimous re-election in 1886, and was fined a token one shilling! During this time as mayor he organized for wife Amelia to lay the foundation stone for the Princes Bridge on 7th September 1886. It was unheard of for a "native" (she was said to be the first Australian born Mayoress of a major town) to be given this sort of honour, as opposed to a member of the English squattocracy, and the latter, from the governor (Sir Henry Brougham Lock) down, boycotted the ceremony. The foundation stone can still be seen today -

Photo by Emily Bradburn (Fletcher), December 2009

Ceremonial trowel given to Amelia by the Builder of the Princes Bridge, David Munro, in 1886.

This beautiful ceremonial trowel is now in the hands of Museum Victoria.

Photo courtesy State Library of Victoria

Even though Stewart had refused a second year as Melbourne Mayor in 1886 (some said because a knighthood was not involved, unsurprisingly after "the bridge affair"), he remained as an alderman until 1895 and was then appointed City Solicitor, a position he retained to his death in 1919.

An oil painting of Mayor Stewart (shown below), painted by Arturo Jose de Souza Loureiro (friend of Tom Roberts) and paid for (£200) by public subscription, was said by “The Bulletin” of 19 March 1887 to be “one of the best portraits ever painted in Australia”. It’s now in Melbourne Town Hall. Lourerio taught at the Presbyterian Ladies' College, and Stewart, himself a leader of the Presbyterian community, was one of his patrons. When, one wonders, was the last time a mayor’s portrait was paid for by public subscription!

Image courtesy of the City of Melbourne Art and Heritage, photographer Louis Porter

There were two or three newspaper portraits of James Stewart as a 50 year old very good looking mayor. This one comes from the Australian Sketcher of 21 October 1885.

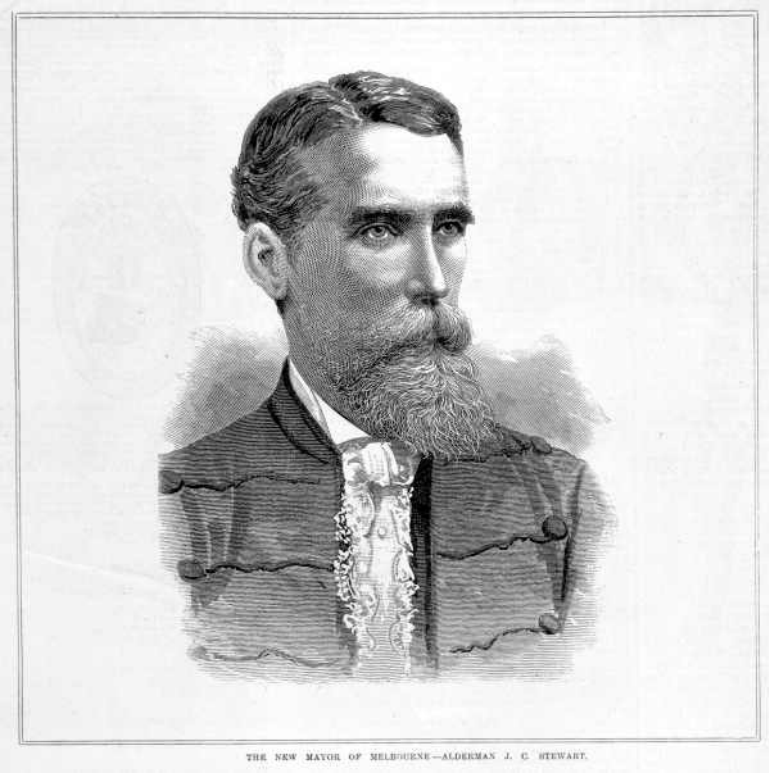


Image courtesy State Library of Victoria

The Stewarts had 12 to 15 children of whom tragically only 6 survived beyond the age of 2. The survivors are shown in this c1885 family portrait (location of original unknown).

Family portrait when James Stewart was Mayor of Melbourne (1885 - 1886) – location of portrait unknown.
Standing: Gordon (1862 - 1906 (44)), George (1864 - 1938 (74)), Isabella (Aldous) (1865 - 1938 (73))
Seated: Ethel (Staples) (1880 - 1950 (70)), Amelia (née Waugh) (1841 - 1903 (62)), James (1836 - 1919 (83)), May (Watson) (1877 – 1957 (80)), Fred (1872 - KIA 15 Sep 1916 fighting as a private in the 19th Canadian Regiment)

The three girls all ended up living in England. Isabella (my great grandmother) (standing at the rear right of the family group) married an English doctor (George Aldous (1861 – 1937 (76)) and settled in Plymouth. How they met is a mystery – was it when she had accompanied her dad and mum on a "Grand Tour" to Europe plus Ireland and Scotland in 1881 – 1882? Or when he was employed as a surgeon by the Orient Steamship Navigation Co in 1886/7 (not really enough time there!). The Stewarts returned to London in September 1887 for the wedding at St Stephen's, Gloucester Road, though as yet we have not located the ship they travelled on or a trip diary.

May married an English Royal Navy officer, Cecil Watson. He had been posted to the RN's "Australian Station" in Melbourne and was married to May in December 1900 in St Johns, Toorak (Melbourne) by a Rev Drought. By 1911 the Watsons were also in Plymouth whilst Commander Cecil commuted to HMS Gibraltar, a 7,770 ton coal / steam driven Edgar class cruiser with a complement of 544. After the end of WW I they were in Southsea (next door to the main Royal Navy base at Portsea), and it was here that her father James died on a visit in 1919.

Ethel married Melbourne man Cyril Staples in London shortly before the birth of their first daughter in October 1900. Cyril was a stockbroker and also kept (cricket) wicket for Surrey and the English Gentlemen. "Ma" Amelia died in Barnes in 1903 whilst on a visit to the Staples. Unusually, they are recorded as resident in separate houses in Park Avenue, East Sheen, in the 1911 census. After Cyril died at their Jersey (Channel Islands) home in 1936, Ethel lived in both England and Australia and eventually died in Melbourne in 1950. In 1986 my mother and I met up in Sydney with her daughter Bluebell, a sprightly 83 year old with a colourful past!

Of the three boys, Gordon joined his father's law practice, but sadly died in 1906 aged just 44. James Coper stepped in to keep the family financially afloat. There are presently a large number of descendants of his three daughters from his marriage to Belle Galbraith – Eileen (Chapman), Ruby (Strachan) and Nell (Wood) - living in Australia. George married Isabella Rutherford and they had just one daughter – "Aunty Aimee" - who did not marry. Fred went to Canada, and was KIA in France on 15 Sep 1916 fighting as a private in the 19th Canadian Regiment.

More about the descendants of James Copoper Stewart.

Back with the Stewarts senior, in 1868 they lived in Lygon Street, Carlton (Melbourne). In 1887 they were living in Barker Road, Kew and in the early 1890s they built a large Palazzo at 76 St Georges Road, Toorak. It was filled with stuff only a seriously successful lawyer could have afforded, such as double sets of monogrammed hand blown poinkish Venetian glasses, some of which is still around. An aunt told us that old man Stewart used to curse his coach driver if he swung his horse into the drive too sharply and caused his fur rug to dislodge!

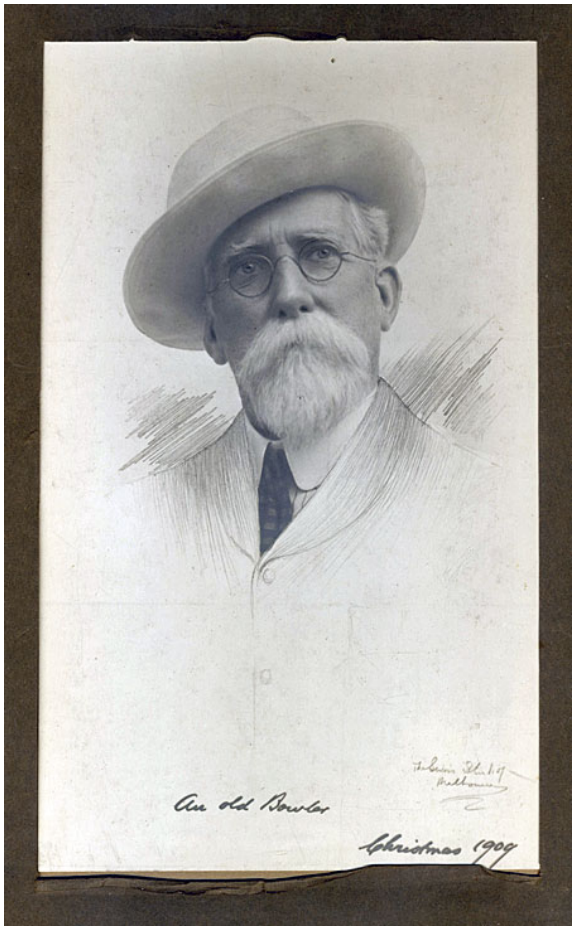
Edzell (Toorak, Melbourne) 2008 - Photo by "Dean-Melbourne" on Flickr

The house was sold in late 2008 to a buyer whose intent was to restore it from large apartments to to its former glory. Both the Barker Road and the St Georges Road houses were named Edzell - the Scottish village / castle of Edzell, which lies near Brechin between Strathmore and the Howe of the Mearns, is described as the 'Jewel in the Crown of Angus'.

In 1881-82 James Cooper, Amelia and daughter Isabella (my Grt Gmother) undertook a Grand Tour of Europe. We still have the originals of JC's 1881-82 "trip diary" which was written in pencil – including the description of the Gentlemen v Australians cricket match at the Oval in June 1882 in which W G Grace and Freddie Spofforth played. In August (after the Stewarts had left) the Australian team were to have their famous encounter with "The Gentlemen and Players of England" which they won (due to Freddie S whose match figures were 14 – 90, a record that was to stand until 1972), and which led to the following notice in Sporting Life" and the birth of the ashes:

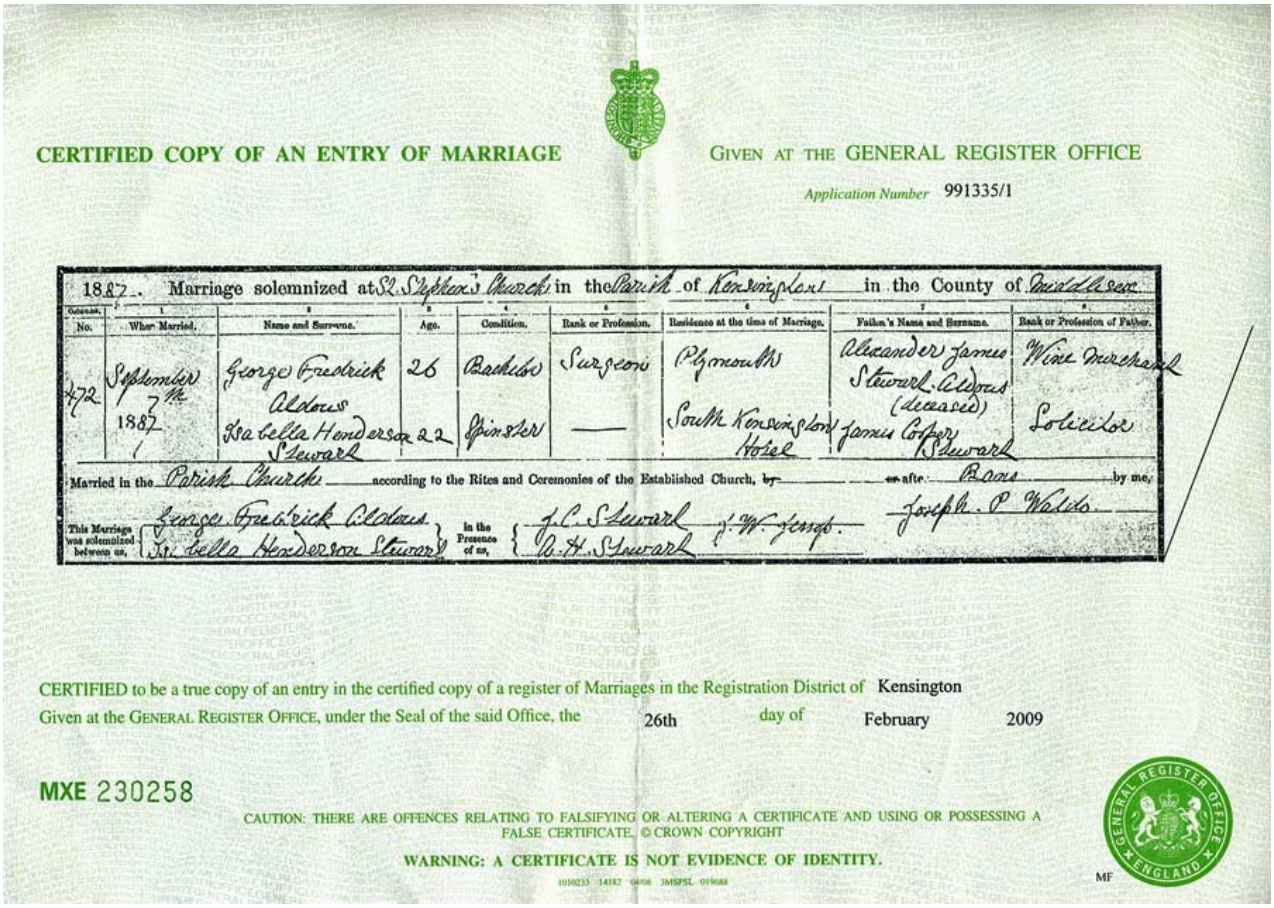
In Affectionate Remembrance
of
ENGLISH CRICKET
which died at the Oval
on
29th AUGUST 1882
Deeply lamented by a large circle of sorrowing friends and acquaintances
R.I.P.
NB - The body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia

James Stewart himself was a bowler of a different type – he was one of the leading lawn bowlers of Victoria. He bowled for the Pennant Team of the Armadale Club, and represented the State of Victoria several times in interstate matches. Interstate "away" matches must have take up quite a few days back then!



This composite photo / line drawing of him is dated Christmas 1909 when he would have been 73.

As mentioned earlier, the original Stewart couple were back in London on 7 September 1887 for the marriage of Bella to Dr George Aldous in St Stephens Church, Gloucester Road, and their names are on the wedding certificate.



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 991335/1

1887. Marriage solemnized at St. Stephen's Church in the Parish of Kensington in the County of Middlesex

Column. No.	1. When Married.	2. Name and Surname.	3. Age.	4. Condition.	5. Rank or Profession.	6. Residence at the time of Marriage.	7. Father's Name and Surname.	8. Rank or Profession of Father.
472	September 7th 1887	George Frederick Aldous	26	Bachelor	Surgeon	Plymouth	Alexander James Stewart Aldous (deceased)	Wine Merchant
		Isabella Henderson Stewart	22	Spinster	—	South Kensington Hotel	James Cooper Stewart	Solicitor

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, ~~by~~ ~~or after~~ Banns by me, Joseph P. Wells.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, George Frederick Aldous, Isabella Henderson Stewart. In the Presence of us, J. C. Stewart, B. H. Stewart, J. W. Jenys.

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of Kensington

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 26th day of February 2009

MXE 230258

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE. © CROWN COPYRIGHT

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

MF

Amelia Stewart died in Barnes (London) in 1903 whilst visiting her daughter Ethel Staples. James Cooper lived a lonely life in his great palazzo, inadequately looked after by his grand daughter Aimee (who was known as Aunty Aimee to me in the 1940s when she sent food parcels from Australia to us in Somerset) and for some time George and Belle, who also moved in with him.

On 26 August 1911 a 75 year old Stewart married Edith Rosa Frances ("Edie") Cowling in the Scots Church in Melbourne. She was a 31 year old childless divorcee from the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney with an ambitious mother. JC had met her before her divorce whilst he was working on a case in Sydney.

George and Belle – who were overseas and whom James had somehow forgotten to tell – were apoplectic when they returned to discover what the old man had been up to. They moved out of Edzell, cut off contact, and, according to Edith later, told the good citizens of Toorak (who probably did not need much telling) to have nothing to do with her! Eventually the lonely Edith repaired to New York to spend JC's moolah in a more congenial environment!

The cash burn lasted for 5 years and eventually ended in divorce (granted in December 1916) on the grounds of desertion (officially) and plundering (unofficially) by her, but not before 8 days of cross examination in front of Victoria's Chief Justice which was eagerly reported by the Australian press and read by Melbourne society (link leads to a 7mb PDF file showing all the reports in the Melbourne Argus).

THE STEWART DIVORCE CASE.

THE PETITIONER CROSS-EXAMINED.

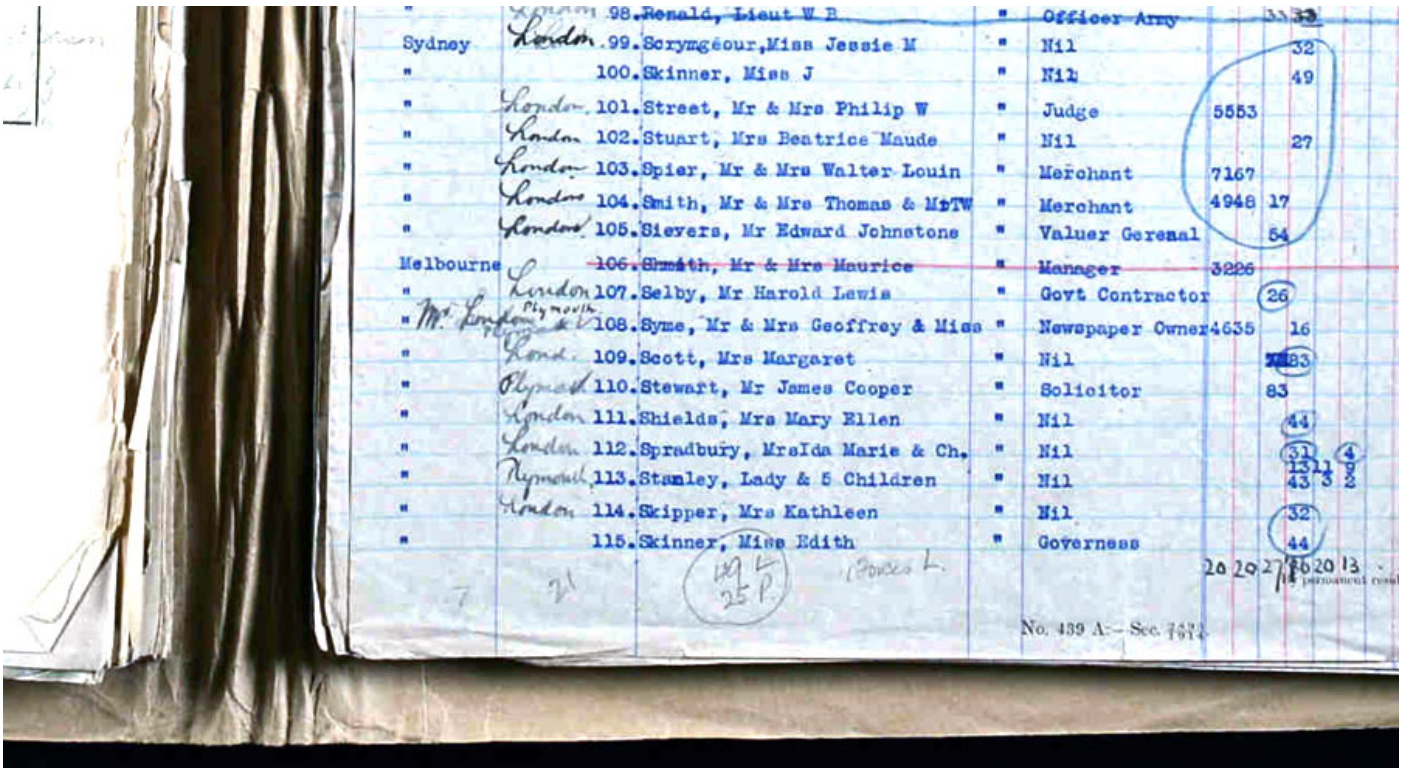
Melbourne, October 2.

The hearing was continued in the Practice Court to-day, before the Chief Justice, of the suit in which James Cooper Stewart (40), of Kensington-road, South Yarra, solicitor, sought a divorce from Edith Rose Frances Stewart (36). The respondent denied the allegations made against her.

James Cooper Stewart, the petitioner, cross-examined, said when his wife came back from her trip to England she was as welcome to come to his arms as if there had never been a word between them. She had entered his room at night time, when he was doing his gymnastic exercises on the bar, and asked him what he was doing. He told her, and she requested him to teach her the exercises, and she did them very well. They only lasted about ten minutes. He was at that time still on affectionate terms with his wife. He used to kiss her good-night, but not always.

The hearing was adjourned.

James Cooper Stewart had just one more (half) trip left in him.



"	London	98. Renald, Lieut W B	"	Officer Army		33	
Sydney	London	99. Scrymgéour, Miss Jessie M	"	Nil		32	
"		100. Skinner, Miss J	"	Nil		49	
"	London	101. Street, Mr & Mrs Philip W	"	Judge	5553		
"	London	102. Stuart, Mrs Beatrice Maude	"	Nil		27	
"	London	103. Spier, Mr & Mrs Walter Louin	"	Merchant	7167		
"	London	104. Smith, Mr & Mrs Thomas & MrTW	"	Merchant	4948	17	
"	London	105. Sievers, Mr Edward Johnstone	"	Valuer General		54	
Melbourne		106. Smith, Mr & Mrs Maurice	"	Manager	3226		
"	London	107. Selby, Mr Harold Lewis	"	Govt Contractor		26	
"	Mr London Plymouth	108. Syme, Mr & Mrs Geoffrey & Miss	"	Newspaper Owner	4635	16	
"	Lond.	109. Scott, Mrs Margaret	"	Nil		83	
"	Plymouth	110. Stewart, Mr James Cooper	"	Solicitor		83	
"	London	111. Shields, Mrs Mary Ellen	"	Nil		44	
"	London	112. Spradbury, Mrs Ida Marie & Ch.	"	Nil		31	4
"	Plymouth	113. Stanley, Lady & 5 Children	"	Nil		13 11 43	9 3 2
"	London	114. Skipper, Mrs Kathleen	"	Nil		32	
"		115. Skinner, Miss Edith	"	Governess		44	
					20 20 27	26 20 13	

No. 439 A:— Sec. 7573

Accompanied by his assistant, the 46 year old Miss Eleanor Conolly, he sailed to Plymouth on the Orient SNCo "Osterley", disembarking on Saint George's day (April 23) 1919 and presumably going to stay with the Aldous family. Hopefully he got the chance to say hello to great grand-daughter Peggy Sproule who was nearly 2. Her dad Jimmy was absent as he was still mopping up the mess in France following the end of WW I in November 1918 (see below). Next daughterly port of call was the Watson household in Southsea

(RN Portsmouth), and it was there that he caught a chill and died on 18 August 1919 aged 83. It is thought that he was buried next to his wife Amelia in Barnes Cemetery.

By this time Dr George Aldous and wife Isabella (Stewart), who lived in Carlton House, Compton Gifford, Plymouth, were busy organizing their retirement years, and in 1921 they moved to a house in Harrow-on-the-Hill (London) – the village with a multi-county view – where they lived until their deaths in 1937-38.

George and Isabella had four daughters of whom only one married. She was Clare (1891 – 1958 (67)) (formally named Claribel!) who married James Sproule (1887 – 1954 (67)) in 1915 during the First World War at Emmanuel Church, Compton Gifford (Plymouth).

Marriage of Jimmy Sproule and Clare Aldous in Plymouth, 28 July 1915.
Fellow officers of groom (x 2), Isabella Henderson Aldous (Stewart) (50 - Melbourne born mother of the bride), fellow officer of groom (later killed), Capt Jimmy Sproule (27 - from Co Tyrone - none of his family were there), Clare Aldous (24), Isabel Aldous (25 - sister), Gerald Aldous (18 - sister), Madeline Aldous (21 - sister), Dr George Aldous (54 – father of the bride).

Jimmy Sproule came from Fintona, Co Tyrone in (Northern) Ireland, and was an RAMC doctor in the British regular army. By the end of WW I on 11 November 1918, he was a decorated acting Lt Colonel in command of No 131 Field Ambulance, which was attached to the 38th (Welsh) Division. Major General Astley-Cubitt, General Officer Commanding the Welsh Division, wrote in Sproule's service record – "*A most energetic, gallant, loyal and reliable officer: Lt Col Sproule invariably visited the most advanced aid posts and dressing stations throughout the fighting. No work was too hard for him, and no day too long. He set a splendid example to all ranks by his personal courage*". How do people sanely survive an experience like that? We have put together some photos and documents relating to his WWI experiences here.

Jimmy Sproule went on to serve with distinction in many parts of the British Empire, including the NW Frontier of India (now Pakistan), Aden and Egypt (Second World War – a CBE and another mention in despatches). He retired as a Brigadier in 1947 after the end of the Second World War, and he and Clare went to live in the village of Somerton in Somerset, in an atmospheric converted medieval inn called Old Bell House.

Clare had a passion for photography and travel and left behind some wonderful extensively annotated photo albums. I am hoping to use two of these as a basis for Paradoxplace pages about Petra and Saint Catherine's

Monastery, and have also realized that Paradoxplace itself is a continuation of the style which she handed down to my mother and me.

"Old Bell House" Somerton, 2005

Jimmy and Clare had two children – Peggy Fletcher (Sproule) (1917 – 2005 (88)) (my mother, who lived near Hythe in Kent) and Brian Sproule (1924 – 2005 (80)) (a doctor who lived in Coldstream, Scotland). More about them anon!

War Memorial and medieval butter market - Somerton, c1950 and 2005