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A post-retirement interest in genealogy has resulted in some interesting discoveries about the family of a maternal grandmother ...

On 15 May 1853 Thomas Hebbert BOYKETT, then aged 47, his two sisters, Mary and Eleanor, and three of his sons, William, Charles and John, boarded the *Gipsy* at Southampton bound for Adelaide. His eldest son, Thomas, listed as 15 years old on the 1841 census, is believed to have remained in England.

Thomas' wife Hannah, whom he married in 1826, had died in 1833 and was buried in the churchyard of St Alphege's, London Wall. William and Charles had both recently married and John subsequently married Charlotte HOLDERNESSE (from Oxford) in Adelaide.

Thomas was the second son of Charles James BOYKETT of London and Mary HEBBERT, who married in St Olave's Church, Southwark in 1804. Mary's parents are recorded as living on Guernsey Island in the 1841 census and her surname has been used repeatedly in the family down to the present day. Thomas was an Attorney of the Court of Queen's Bench with Chambers at 10 Chancery Lane. His two brothers, Charles George, an accountant, and Francis, remained in England. The BOYKETT family originally came from Kent and the name is a variant of BOWCOTT, a long established English surname.

A year after arriving in the colony, Thomas wrote a long letter to a friend back home, the Revd BUNN of Abergavenny in Wales, which gives the only known motive for the decision to migrate. "The object of our Emigration is attained by the prospect afforded to my sons of doing better than they were likely to do at home." He did not post the letter and it is preserved at the State Library of South Australia in Adelaide along with other family documents.

The voyage did not pass without incident. Thomas describes a mutiny by the mate and crew (perhaps attributable to the cramped conditions or the long voyage isolated from the rest of the world) which is quoted in D E Charlwood's *The Long Farewell*. Another passenger wrote about a storm, "There were no seasick pills then. The best remedy was fresh air. The mate very kindly tied her to the mast, so that she wouldn't be washed overboard. So he wasn't all that bad." And Charles BOYKETT's wife Catherine Hannah (née CRONIN) presented him with a baby

boy named Charles Bolton BOYKETT – the Bolton after the captain, Alan BOLTON, as was the custom.

Thomas was appointed Chairman of the passengers and at the end of the trip the captain and passengers gave him a dinner in gratitude for the way in which he fulfilled his duties.

REFERENCES

- Gipsy passenger list
www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/gipsy1853.htm
- Letter to Revd Bunn dated July 1854. SLSA: D 5976(L)
- Early Colonial housing in the Georgian style
www.web-arts.com.au/ARCH/AUST.html
- Letter to Mrs BRUCE and the PM's reply
www.aa.gov.au/publications/research_guides/pdf/bruce/bruce.pdf
- Proclamation of the Town of Port Adelaide mentioning the first Mayor and Town Clerk
www.archivecdbooks.com.au/content/GazettesSA.htm
- The Long Farewell*, D E Charlwood, 1981, Allen Lane, Melbourne

The *Gipsy* dropped anchor near Adelaide on 15 December 1853. Thomas set up his offices in Waterhouse Chambers on the corner of King William and Rundle Streets. The building still stands today, largely hidden by illuminated signs. He wrote that he was "too old to make a fortune here" – "Here I conduct a quiet practice during five or six hours of the day including my attendance at the Court when sitting. I make enough to get me a comfortable living: which is all I wished for when I left England." In 1856, William was appointed Town Clerk of the newly proclaimed Town of Port Adelaide. The new Council didn't make any by-laws until 1857 so the duties of a Town clerk would not have been full-time. A family anecdote suggests that William kept up his legal practice, but this is unlikely.

Charles BOYKETT went into partnership with Edmund WRIGHT, who went on to become the most famous colonial architect in Adelaide, designing the Town Hall, the Post Office and, among others, Edmund Wright House in King William Street. Thomas' sister Mary married George TAYLOR, who was apparently born in Yorkshire although he came to South Australia via America. His occupation is given as Poundkeeper. Thomas' other sister, Eleanor or Ellen, did not marry and kept house for her brother until his death.

Thomas BOYKETT died at his home on the LeFevre Peninsula in April 1857. No death certificate exists, only a formal newspaper announcement. His sons, William and Charles, later moved to Victoria. Charles BOYKETT went to Melbourne where he continued to work as an architect. William BOYKETT was in Geelong in 1861 where his daughter Hannah was born but settled at Smythesdale, outside Ballarat. Among other things, he became correspondent to the Ballarat *Star* newspaper. On his death, the paper published a tribute to him.

The BOYKETT surname seems to have died out in Charles' line. Ken (1899-1972), a son of John and Charlotte (HOLDERNESSE) BOYKETT, became CEO of the Victorian Chamber of Manufactures. Boykett Hall at Scotch College is



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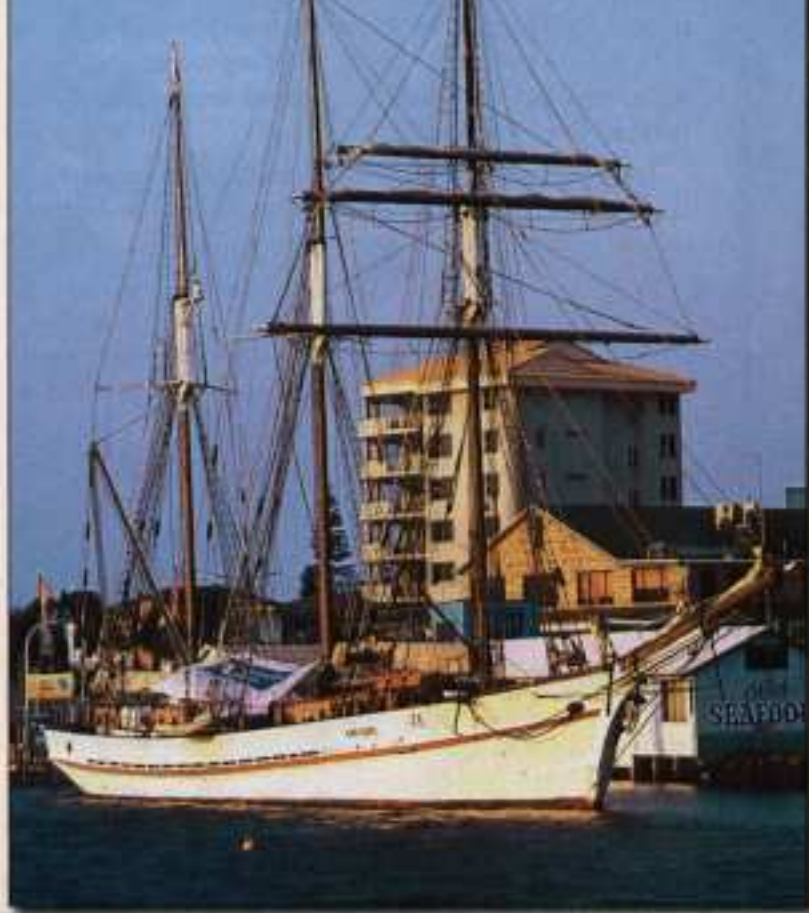
Births, Deaths and Marriages Transcriptions from \$18.50

Census Details from \$12.50

Other records available on request

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The Alma Doepel at Lady Nelson Wharf in Port Macquarie

ALMA DOEPEL

The 3 masted topsail schooner *Alma Doepel* was built in the Bellinger Valley and launched in October 1903. 13 years later she was bought by Henry Jones & Co and for many years was part of the Jam Fleet.

In the mid-1970s she was bought by David BOYKETT and Michael Wood and the Alma Doepel Supporters' Club was formed to enable her full restoration. On Bicentenary Day, 25 January 1988, the *Alma Doepel* proudly led the Parade of Sail up Sydney Harbour.

The *Alma Doepel* was a Sail Training Ship in Melbourne until late 1998. In 2001 she was taken to Port Macquarie where she is open to the public at the Lady Nelson Wharf.

www.almadoepel.com.au/serv02.htm

and

www.almadoepel.com.au/

named after him and all the Melbourne family that I know about are descended from him. Ken's son, David, rowed in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

William and his wife, Mary Ann née LUCY, had five children. A son, John George, married Emily May JARVIS of Smythesdale. Their daughter Esther Irene May (1889-1972) born at nearby Scarsdale, was my grandmother. Her brother, William, married Florence ARMSTRONG, who named all her children after her husband's siblings

Commonwealth cars to the Defence Department. As a result, two drivers were retrenched and William BOYKETT was one of them. His wife, Florence, wrote to the PM's wife as one woman to another, asking her to use her influence with her husband to find him alternative employment. In the official account of the BRUCE ministry it is called a letter of complaint, however it does not criticize the retrenchment at all. The PM's secretary replied giving her a name for her husband to contact but whether he did so is unknown.

THE PM'S WIFE

Stanley Melbourne BRUCE was Australia's 8th Prime Minister 1923-1929.

He and his wife, Ethel (ANDERSON) BRUCE, were the first occupants of The Lodge, the then newly-built official prime ministerial residence in the nation's new capital, Canberra.

<http://primeministers.naa.gov.au/>

A search engine will return most results for BOYKETT to Dr Tim BOYKETT, another of the Melbourne family, a prominent mathematician now working in Europe. I have an interactive web site as a step towards compiling a family history. Family members can register there and contribute information.

PASSENGER INFORMATION

Three web sites which give shipping and passenger arrival details in South Australia are

Family History South Australia

www.familyhistorysa.info/

The Ships List

<http://tinyurl.com/3e34rt>

Bound for South Australia

<http://tinyurl.com/2jmkzv>

CONTACT

Doug LAIDLAW was born in Melbourne and grew up in Geelong. A retired solicitor now living in Bendigo, he became interested in genealogy a few years ago. Since establishing his web site, he has been contacted by quite a few BOYKETT descendants.

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