

Earliest Australian Russell/Roy ancestors

There are a surprising number of Roys in the earlier records of the Australian colonies. Most came from Scotland, some were convicts from French Canada. There is a page about [early Australian Roys](#) being developed on the web site. The Roys in our family tree came from Northern Ireland (from Larne, County Antrim) in 1923.

They had been preceded by an uncle and aunt on the Russell side. [Hugh Wiley](#) is first known about in Cooktown QLD in 1913. In that year he was joined by his wife [Mary \(Russell\)](#) and their two youngest children, Harriet (15) and Thomas (13). Their youngest child, Samuel Russell, was born at [Rossville](#) near Cooktown in 1915.



The Wiley home at Rossville near Cooktown about 1914



Mary's brother, [Samuel Russell](#) (at left), is thought to have come to Australia, between 1912 and 1918. He died on a visit to members of the Russell family in South Africa in 1918. We know neither his birth date nor his date of emigration nor where he landed. There is [an article](#) on the web site dedicated to finding out more about him.

Their sister, [Jane Russell](#), had her own tailoring/dress-making business at 1 Coronation Terrace, Larne. She married [Thomas Roy](#) (at right) in 1886 in Belfast, but Thomas was killed in a railway accident three weeks after their first child, [Samuel Russell Roy](#), was born.

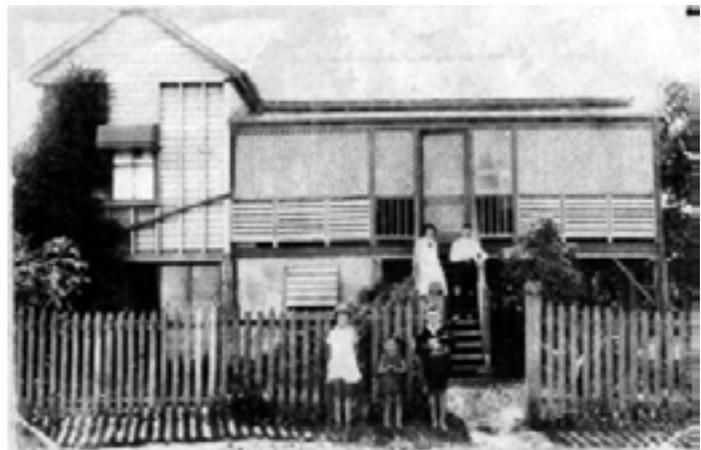


Sam Roy married [Agnes Logan](#) in Larne and four of their five children - Tom, Maurie, Gus, Beryl - were born there. Peg was born three years after their arrival in Cairns QLD.

It seems they were encouraged to emigrate to Cairns on the urging of Hugh Wiley. Perhaps Jane's sister, Mary, was

also keen for her sister to emigrate.

Jane sold her business to help finance the trip. She, Sam and Agnes and family set out on SS DIOGENES and transferred in Melbourne to the WYANDRA for the trip up the east coast. They were under the impression that Hugh was in Cairns and would meet them when they arrived on 23 Oct 1923. But they were disappointed to find that he was in Cooktown.



The Roys first home at 104 McLeod Street, Cairns - about 1930-33

It must have been a challenge for these Northern Irish families to settle into tropical North Queensland, in the wettest region of Australia, with the rain being dumped mainly in Dec-Apr. Not to mention the odd cyclone!

	Mean daily temperatures	Annual Rainfall	Wet days	
	January	July		
Cairns	high 31.4°C	low 17.0°C	2003mm	153
Larne	low 2.0°C	high 18.0°C	846mm	?

We can discuss what happened after they settled in Cairns in a future newsletter.

Contents

Earliest Australian Russell/Roy ancestors	1
People events	2
Found!	2
Statistics	2
Birthday celebrations	3
Room with a view	3
Wanted!	3
Guyana Seawall	3
Change	3
Maps and slide shows	4
Histories and Articles	4

People events

❖ Life Begun

12 Feb: **Logan Jade Cumming** to Kristy (Roy) and Damian in Cairns QLD at 12.25am – first grandchild for Peter and Irene Roy. [Roy]

[I think we broke some kind of record with Logan Jade - her photo and details were on the web site 15 hours after she was born!]

⊗ Lives United

21 Apr: **Matthew Fitzsimons and Nikki Blight** were married in Durban, South Africa [Russell]

† Life Complete

Nobody appears to have died!

"People events" appear on the R~RFL Home page (news column on the right) as they are notified and remain there for approximately 6 months (depending on the number of entries)

Statistics

Did you know that the average life span of people in the family tree data is 57 years 83 days?

This assertion needs to be qualified by the fact that it depends on what is in the data. Sometimes a birth is reported as "before 1752" since we know, say, the date of baptism but are not sure how old the child was at the time. Similarly, a death may be reported as "after 1795". The web site program reads those dates as 1752 and 1795.

Also, the year is often uncertain because of the old calendar - read [the article](#) in the Support section.

There are other [statistics](#) in the data base. If you are into zodiac signs there are also two [Reports](#) giving zodiac information.

Thanks for contributions: Peter & Irene Roy, Marion McNeill, John Hogan, Jack Hogan, Eamon Brennan - and the many who sent in adjustments to the web-site data.

Found!

A poignant story of lost and found relationships

Until 12 March this year we knew nothing of **Patrick Hogan** other than what his first born, Jimmy, had been led to believe: that Patrick had been born in New Ross about 1894 but did most of his growing up in Dublin; Patrick was a shoe cutter and had moved to Ballymena, County Antrim, to find work; he married Sarah Hamill who died in child birth; Jimmy was raised by his grandparents; Patrick married a Dublin woman and left her; he announced that he was going to Canada; his parents told him not to darken the door again!

That was the end of the story - it was assumed that Patrick had migrated to Canada or the USA and that we had lost all contact with him.

But on 12 March Bruce Roy received an email from someone who thought Patrick may have been his father - **John Hogan** of Bendigo, Victoria, Australia. He based his case on the fact that [1] his father was born in New Ross, [2] he maintained their footwear and had a full kit of tools for such, [3] his father maintained that they had relatives in the USA, and [4] a brother of his father had died young - and in our data Patrick's brother John died young. So did Thomas (apparently after eating wild berries).

After a flurry of emails between Bruce, John, Jack Hogan and Eamon Brennan, we have confirmed that Patrick is indeed John's father. Sadly, his step-brother James died



in January 2005 never knowing his father nor that he had step-brothers and a step-sister. And they were just across the water in England!

It is possible that the story about his marrying a Dublin woman may refer to an event in which he turned up at Cabra Lodge (his parents' house near

Dublin) with a woman, perhaps Fanny Mapes. Did he plan to go to Canada? It seems that he didn't go except maybe for a visit to relatives in the USA. What was the basis of his being told not to come back? Was it Fanny who was Church of England? Was it simply the fact that he was intending to marry - we now know that he did not marry Fanny. Did he expect the grandparents to continue to raise Jimmy?

We know that his first child by Fanny Mapes (Maureen) was born in July 1922 in Shipton Bellinger, Hampshire, England - and the



Patrick with wife Fanny and two youngest - John standing and James

subsequent four boys were born there also in 1925, 1927, 1930 (John) and 1940 (named James, the same as his first born by Sarah Hamill). And whilst the family had always believed their parents were married Patrick admitted later on that they were not. (It is possible that if he were married to a woman in Dublin that he may not have sought divorce either for religious reasons or

because this would have revealed his whereabouts.)

Both John and James migrated to Australia (1952 and 1956, respectively). John and a number of his children served in the Australian Army (in Survey and Catering corps).

Birthday celebrations

Up in FNQ (Far North Queensland for the uninitiated) the Roys have been celebrating Trevor's 21st birthday on 5 May and Louise's 50th on 21 May - which brought the family together from Melbourne, Hughenden, Cairns and Mareeba. In the photo, the five siblings, children of Tom and Phyl Roy (both deceased), are almost in chronological order if you start with Tom, seated, and go anti-clockwise to Anne, Peney, skip to Peter and then back to Louise.



Room with a view

When Nikki Bright and Matthew Fitzsimons were married in Durban on 21 Apr, guests stayed at a motel with this view - very South African! You can see a photo of the wedding party by going to their family file - use the link in People Events on page 2.



Wanted!

A Roy Raymond Royes died on 30 July 1929 in Queensland. His parents are given as George Hougham Royes and Annie Maria Weiershauser. He *has* to be a family member! Neither Roy nor Annie are in our data and we have three George Hougham Royes (grandfather, father, son) all married and with families and none with a son Roy. Did one of them marry twice?

Links to the three George Hougham Royes can be found next to this item in [the Most Wanted item](#).

Two poems from family members...

Guyana Seawall

Looking out over the seawall,
I absorb the huge expanse, the frontierland —
and absolve my white ancestors.
I forgive all hurts and grievances
and lay to rest the relicts of my injury.

My grandfather, fiery, robust,
Sephardic, galloping across his estate,
impregnating mulatto women
from Phillipsburg to Marigot
as well as his own wife
(thirteen – the lucky number!)

My grandmother, at eight years,
in bonnet, prim, high-topped, laced boots
and stockings, clinging
to the rails of the schooner
from Demerara to Port of Spain in 1903.
Tight-lipped,
she remembered the riots, the fire,
the death of her parents; and her sister, last seen,
running across the roof, nightdress ablaze.

What lives they led,
wandering up and down the islands.
What legacies they left, nomadic,
hot tempered, passionate in the belief
of their indistinguishable tribe.

Heather Royes

in *Days and Nights of the Blue Iguana*
2005: Leeds, UK, Peep Tree Press

Change

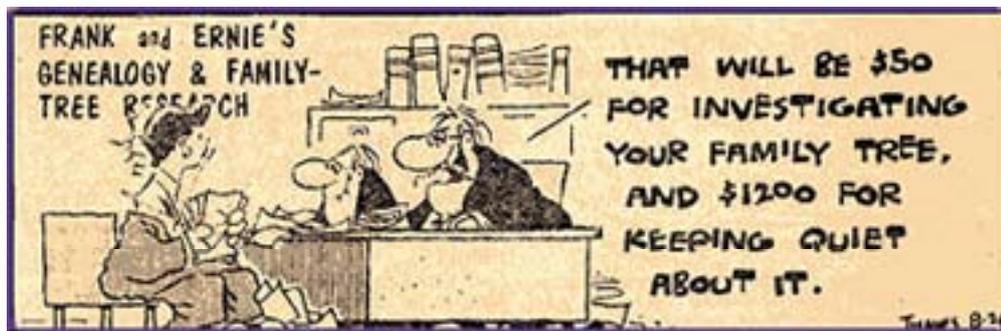
There's a little house by an orchard side
Where the Spring wears pink and white;
There's a garden with pansies and London Pride,
And a bush of Brides Delight.
Through the sweet-briar hedge is the garden seen
As trim as a garden can be,
And the grass of the orchard is much more green
Than most of the grass you see.

There used to be always a Mother's smile
And a Father's face at the door,
When you clambered over the orchard stile,
So glad to be home once more.
But now, I never go by that way,
For when I was there of late.....

A stranger was cutting the orchard hay,
And a stranger leaned on the gate.

Marion McNeill

Written after visiting the town land and the now derelict house where my grandmother was reared at a place called "the Caddy" near Randalstown, Co. Antrim. My grandmother was Lizzie Weir, married Hugh Wiley



*Roy~Royes Family Links has its origins in the marriage of Maurie Roy and May Royes in Cairns, Queensland, in 1940. It has grown to over 6000 people including those from parallel branches such as the **Russells, Hogans, Logans, Girvans and Wileys** on the Roy side, and the **Houghams** (or **Huffams** and several other variants), **Youngs** and **Theoffs** on the Royes side. It is not possible to list all branches here but you can check on all surnames at <http://royroyes.net/genealogy/surnames.php>*

The scope of the data is based on several guidelines.

1. *The first is to concentrate on the Roy and Royes pedigrees.*
2. *The second is to focus on those branches of the families that emigrated to Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Jamaica.*
3. *The third is to include several areas of interest: the Normandy dukes; English royalty.*

*If you are interested in the **Houghams**, you should be aware that Robin Young's site will give you a much wider coverage: <http://hougham.royroyes.net/>*

Web site users

Maps and slide shows

A recent upgrade to our web site software includes two new features.

Places can now be integrated with Google Maps. Personal and family (and some other) pages now include a map at the bottom with places associated with that family/person indicated on a map (an example is illustrated below). Click on the balloon and you will be taken to a closer view of that location. You can zoom in and out for different perspectives. However, it will take a while to put the latitude and longitude for each place into the data!

All the media items can be viewed as a slide show. Once you click on an item in a collection of photos/documents/etc you will be given the option of viewing them as a slide show. You can set your own time interval between views. You can pause an item as you scan through. This also applies in personal and family files where there is a collection of photos associated with the one name.

You must be logged in!

It is not enough to register with the web site. You need to log in for each session. Guests (those not logged in) see only the surname and initials of "living" people.

Histories and Articles

Documents listed under Histories or Articles have undergone some change on the web-site, partly to increase security and partly to integrate these better into the site software.

One implication of this is that if you have these listed in your bookmarks or favorites you will get an error message from the old address. It will not affect normal browsing of the site, nor the links to people as appropriate.

You can tell if you are using the wrong address because (1) you will get an error message, and (2) your address will read `.../genealogy/histories/...` instead of `.../genealogy/showmedia.php?mediaID=` followed by a number.

Event	Date	Location
Birth	20 Mar 1967	Roma, QLD, Australia
Residence	20 Mar 1967	Roma, QLD, Australia
Baptism	Abt 1 Apr 1967	Roma, QLD, Australia
Residence	Jun 1968	Maryborough, QLD, Australia
Residence	Dec 1969	Townsville, QLD, Australia
Residence	Jun 1971	Puckapunyal, VIC, Australia
Residence	Dec 1973	Kapooka, NSW, Australia
Residence	Dec 1974	Stondal, QLD, Australia
Married	7 Nov 1992	Oatley, NSW, Australia
Residence	Dec 2003	Albany Creek, QLD, Australia
Employment	Jan 2004	Aspley, QLD, Australia
Residence	Feb 2007	Warner, QLD, Australia

If you cannot remember your R~RFL log-in details, you can ask the system to send them to you. Click login on the family tree home page. The log in window gives you the option of asking for your log in name and password by typing in your registered email address. If you cannot remember which email address you used, I can help you with that. And with your user name. However, I am unable to tell you what your password is.

Family Links Editor:
 Bruce Roy
 45 King Street
 Wollstonecraft NSW 2065
 Australia
 admin@royroyes.net