



## News & Notes

### Family Reunion in Townsville

Queensland's Labor Day weekend saw 53 people gather in Townsville QLD for the first reunion of the descendants of **Thomas Mordaunt Royes** (1879-1958) and **Ellen Caroline Crossley** (1879-1959), married in Georgetown QLD on 4 October 1898.

*[In the following, a person's relationship to Thomas and Ellen is noted in brackets.]*

Those present included 92 year old Clare (Crossley) Crocker *[niece]* - in the Hughenden photo - who travelled all the way from Bundaberg (1000 km), 90 year old Agnes *[daughter]* from Brisbane (1250 km), and 88 year old Kathleen *[daughter in law]* came in her bed and looking very chipper!

The Saturday gathering included presentations from up front by Ron Royes *[grandson]* featuring a video of the life of Thomas and Ellen and families, and Bruce Roy *[great nephew]* featuring the origin of names in the tree, Hougham going back to about the 12th century. There was a lot of conversation around the room and over a meal. The Crossleys provided some delightful Irish music during lunch, and Marion Hastie the celebratory cake.

On the Sunday, many of the group travelled to **Ravenswood**, where Thomas Mordaunt Royes and most of his siblings and some cousins were born. Ravenswood is a historic gold-mining town, now quite a



Ravenswood Cemetery



While the Royes checked out Ravenswood the Crossley descendants visited **William Arthur Crossley's** grave north of Hughenden

small community but with plenty of historic records. Five in the family tree died here, 23 lived here (15 were born and went to school here), and at least one was married here.

**Charters Towers** was the next port of call - also a gold-mining town with a population today of over 9000 but in its heyday had 30,000. It has the distinction of being the only non-capital city in Australia to have had its own stock exchange. It was referred to by locals as The World. This is where Thomas and Ellen died, together with seven other Royes family members (at least). There are several links to Charters Towers in the family tree and there are Royes descendants still living in the town.



The grandchildren had organised for two headstones - there had only ever been a number marking the grave until now - and these were dedicated.

Apart from the organised activities there were many new and renewed and maybe repaired relationships made over meals and coffees.

Congratulations and many thanks to Gladys Elcoate *[granddaughter]* who organised all this so well from her home in Cairns.

## People events

20 May: **Eamonn Clancy** born to Sinead and Stephen in Waterford, Ireland *[Russell-Hogan]*

11 May: **Emily Victoria Grace Young** born to Philip and Sarah in England - another granddaughter for Robin and Janet *[Young-Hougham]*

24 Apr: **Braydon Pollard** born to Allan and Connie in Perth WA - a new grandson for Glenda and Allan Pollard *[Royes-Weatherburn]*.

19 Apr: **Luke Royes married Nicole Dwan** in Brisbane QLD. They are teachers at Noonkanbah in the Kimberley region of WA. Luke is the son of Kerry and Helen in Mackay QLD *[Royes]*

10 Dec: **Tanya Royes married Brett Prince** in Mackay, QLD *[Royes]*

## More News and Notes



**Mandie (Roy) Bloomfield** celebrated 60 years in April. That's husband Ray beside her

Within our new found Russell branch in Australia (see Research notes on p 2), Debbie Myles will marry in Brisbane on 5 July. She is a great granddaughter of **Annie Russell** (1873-1953) and therefore 1st cousin twice removed to Maurie Roy.

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## Research Notes

Re Discovered via Commonwealth Electoral Rolls that **Sam and Agnes Roy** and family first lived (1923) at 82 McLeod Street before living (about 1930) at 104 McLeod Street, Cairns.



But it was the same house! The street had been renumbered. Sam's mother, Jane, would have been familiar with this kind of event - she had lived at 1 Coronation Tce which became 1 Bank Road which today is 50 Bank Road, in Larne, Northern Ireland.

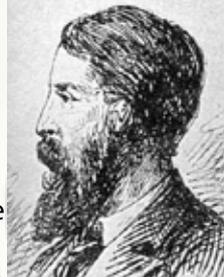
Re Brodnax Moore found us on the web and was able to give us details of the marriages (to Augustus Turner and Joseph Bravo) of **Mary Hougham Royes** (1824-77) - brother of Edward Hougham Royes snr. Her three children via Turner adopted the name of their step-father. Son **Charles Bravo** and wife Florence have been the subject of much speculation in regard to his death by poisoning at age 31: did Florence poison him or was he trying to curb her drinking using small doses of a poison which he accidentally took himself thinking it was Epsom salts? There are several other theories involving other people. Florence died "a broken woman" aged 33 after details of her affair with an older doctor became a sensation. There are several books on the subject. I managed to find Yseult Bridges *How Charles Bravo Died* (1956: London) and James Ruddick's *Death at the Priory: Love, Sex and*



*Murder in Victorian England* (2001: New York) on Amazon.com for just US\$1.64 and 29c respectively - plus US\$12.49 postage for each!!

Re Reading Yseult Bridges proved to be a mine of information about the Bells.

**Royes Bell**, a surgeon and cousin of Charles Bravo, had attended Charles in the days before he died, and **Ann Bell** arrived with Charles' parents at this time.



**Emily Royes** married Hutchinson Bell in Sydney in 1838. They had five children. He died in 1847 and she went back to England. Or so I thought. I could not find them in the 1851 English Census. That's because she went to the Isle of Jersey in the Channel Islands (separate census from England). This would have been just a few years after her parents had died. Sister Adelaide was still there - but sister Mary was not.

The Yseult Bridges book also reported that a sister of Mary Royes Bravo had married a Smith. This turned out to be Emily again, married to **Henry Smith**, a surgeon. Henry attended Charles during his last few days, as did Royes Bell.

Emily died just a few days before the wedding of Charles Turner Bravo and Florence Campbell (Dec 1875).

There were other references in the Bridges book that revealed close links between the Bells-Smiths and Bravos.

Re We have a new contact for the Russell story and find that **John Russell**, brother of Samuel who is Maurie Roy's GG grandfather, had re-married after his first wife died quite young, to Elizabeth Nicholson, and there were children. Our correspondent is a direct descendant and lives near Darwin, NT. There are links to her web site at the appropriate points in our web site.

Re The Royes-Crossley reunion in Townsville (see front page) opened up new information about **Ellen Crossley's** pedigree line, including three convicts! Information about her father William Arthur Crossley's death north of Hughenden, QLD, reveals just some of the conditions our early pioneers endured in isolated areas.

Re The Crossley pedigree takes you back to the **Bailey** family near St Albans in the Hawkesbury region of NSW. But it's a small world. Working on Bev Cameron's McArthur-Preston pedigree brought me to the same name and place!

## More News and Notes

Tom Cooper [Russell] in South Africa tells of his wife's **Cynthia's** recent attempts to strengthen her bones. She was doing gym and taking medication, but decided to return to yoga. Whilst standing on one leg yoga-style she fell and broke her hip, resulting in emergency hip replacement surgery. Tom sent us Happy Easter greetings and reported that Cynthia was home - with discharge instructions to avoid jogging! "We had a glass of champagne to celebrate. Cynthia had more than one..."

I am off to England and Ireland in October and hope to follow up a few family trails and meet people I have been corresponding with. My finance adviser offered his house in London for two weeks, an offer hard to refuse. John Hogan in Bendigo urged me to do it while I can. I guess you cannot tell what the future may hold, so I was convinced!

Did you know that our web site has a "feed" that tells you when changes to the data and articles have been made?

Go to <http://royroyes.net> and click on the RSS image. Read more about the RSS "feed" in the Support section of the web site.

## Royes in Jamaica

We have discovered new information about the first Royes in Jamaica, though some of the information doesn't reconcile easily.

1 Our previous information identified **Charles John Royes**



born in 1813 in London as an emigrant to Jamaica. There is a story that he had an English wife and when their first child died

at about three years of age, she returned to England. Charles then had children by an Indian woman who worked on his estate. We don't know if he married her.

2 Recent research has uncovered a good deal of information about him. We know he died in 1877. His first child, Charles John jr, died November 1905 "in his 74th year" giving us a birth year of about 1832. This is a significant find because, on the assumption he was born in Jamaica, it puts his father in Jamaica by about 1831, aged just 18. Four of his siblings also emigrated within ten years of each other. His brother Sam left for Sydney, Australia, in 1829 at age 23. His brother Edward and sisters Maria and Emily would head for Australia by 1838.

3 Baptismal records in St Ann's Bay tell of three Royes children born 1846, 1848 and 1849, the last two just four months apart. The first two are born on Charles' estate, Windsor.

The third is named Charles! Don't forget we already have a son, Charles. This suggests two different mothers (but may also indicate two different Royes fathers). Did another of Solomon Royes' sons emigrate to Jamaica besides Charles?

Perhaps these notes from Gillian Royes may help:

*Charles John snr was married legally to an English woman who came out to Jamaica. She had a child, who, I understand, died at three years of age. The wife was bereft and returned to England. Charles then took a "wife" (there are various theories about whether he married her legally or not, but I rather think not) who was a woman born in India who worked on his sugar cane estate. Apparently, that's where we all come from in Jamaica. Some of the children intermarried with former slaves, while others married very light-skinned blacks, mulattoes or quadroons. The latter are known in Jamaica as the "white Royeses" and the former as the "black Royeses". Colour and shade have always been very important in Jamaica, but less so now.*

4 There is a Royes Family website at [http://royesfamily.com/family\\_tree.htm](http://royesfamily.com/family_tree.htm) that has information about other children of Charles Royes. Royes Family International has 1200 members. However the site does not indicate any sources and it is not possible to know how accurate the information is.

5 Another find was that Charles Royes snr was extensively involved in the community life of St Anns Parish (= county) - on the board of the local bank, a Lieutenant in the Militia, a member of parliament and the chief magistrate for St Ann's.

He was on Jamaica's Privy Council at one stage. Equally involved were brothers Joseph and Charles Bravo, successful merchants. What is significant about that?

6 **Mary Hougham Royes** married **Joseph Bravo** in Jamaica in 1854. This was her second marriage, the first being to **Augustus Charles Turner**. She had three children by him who eventually used their step-father's surname. Read the item in the Research Note (opposite page) beginning "Brodnax Moore..."

Investigators of the **Charles Bravo** death-by-poisoning case did not seem to know much about Mary and perhaps assumed that the Turners had lived in Jamaica in order for Mary to have met and married Joseph.

Had they known that Mary had a brother in Jamaica and investigated the birth places for her three children, they would have realised that she (and perhaps Augustus Charles Turner - we don't know when or where he died) went to Jamaica after the children were born (1844-49) in England and Jersey. Perhaps for a visit which extended when she met and was courted by Joseph Bravo. See the Most Wanted page on the web site for some speculative proposals.

7 James Ruddick (*Death at the Priory*) reports that **Hutchinson Royes Bell**, Sydney-born son of **Emily (Royes) Bell**, played with his cousin Charles Turner in Jamaica when they were children. For them to be "children" Emily and family would have to have spent time in Jamaica after the 1851 Census (they were then on the Isle of Jersey), when Royes Bell was 10 or more and Charles Turner Bravo 6 or more. That's if Ruddick's information is accurate and is not another assumption, this time to account for the close relationship between the two cousins in London.

The descendants of Charles John Royes snr are now found mainly in Jamaica, the USA and Canada.



## Intra-family marriages

In the October 2007 (#6) newsletter, there was an item about how many potential ancestors you might have - if you go back 34 generations it comes to over 17 billion! As we noted this is not possible and that there must have been a considerable number of marriages that took place "within the clan". I have been asked how many examples there are in our family trees. We can identify the following - and note that half of them are from the 9th-12th centuries....

Family Name	Married	Children	R'ship	Common ancestors	Third cousins have more kids together
Eystein Ivarsson & Aseda Rognvaldsdottir	c9	4	3c	Halfdan Olafsson & Asa Eysteinsdottir	<p>A study of people in Iceland shows that couples who are third cousins have more children and grandchildren than other couples. The research company that discovered this had analysed 200 years of data from the Iceland population. This could be peculiar to the relatively isolated community. One of the issues in changing family patterns in all societies is the move from agrarian to urban living.</p> <p><b>Famous cousin marriages</b></p> <p>Jerry Lee Lewis, Charles Darwin(!) and Albert Einstein married first cousins. Many societies ban such marriage but there appears to be no greater risk than "normal" couples of their children having genetic abnormalities. Some societies also ban marriage with a step- or adopted relative, so such family law was based on more than just genetic risks. Rather, it was the nature of the relationship within a family that was being protected.</p>
Baldwin Comte de Brionne & Albrede Goz d' Avranches	c11	1	Half 5c1r	Rognvald Eysteinnsson & Ragnhild	
Ranulph de Meschines & Maud (Marguerite) d' Avranches	c11	4	Half 6c	Rognvald Eysteinnsson	
Guillaume d' Arques & Beatrice de Bolbec	c11	4	1c	Gozelin de Rouen	
William d' Avranches & Emma de Brion	c11	3	4c1r	Hrolf Turstan & Gerlotte de Blois	
Ranulph de Gernonsr & Maud du Sap	c12	0	Half 3c	Herleve de Falaise	
Richard d' Abrincis & Matilda de Blois	c12	0	Half 2c	Herleve de Falaise	
Robert "the King's son" & Maud d' Avranches	c12	1	Half 2c2r	Herleve de Falaise	
Prince Edward the Black Prince & Joan Plantagenet	10 Oct 1361	2	Half 1c1r	Edward I	
Thomas Huffam & Alice Contry or Cantry	about 1603	9	1c1r	Stephen Hougham & Bennetta Brooke	
Samuel Gotte & Mary Tyssen	c18	0	1c	Thomas Western & Martha Gott	
Solomon Royes & Mary Hougham	25 Feb 1804	13	2c1r	Charles Hougham & Mary	
William Elvery & Sarah Jane Elvery	21 Sep 1887	9	1c	Stephen Elvery & Hannah	
Stephen Andrew Hougham & Christine Hougham	c20	4	1c	William G.W. Hougham & Gwendoline Cavell	
Ernest Hougham & Eliza Jordan	about 1900	1	3c1r	Edward Hougham & Ann Field	
Joseph Barron Black Wiley & Elizabeth Rainey	about 1919	5	1c	Samuel Russell & Margaret Whiteford	
Total: 16					

#c#r = # cousin # removed Eg, 2c1r=2nd cousin once removed • C# = #th century  
The web-site has a page in the **Support** section about classifying cousins



Roy~Royes Family Links has its beginnings 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 research into the Roy and Royes pedigrees. It also includes several areas of interest such as the Normandy dukes; English royalty; the Roy and Royes names in Australia.

If you are interested in the **Houghams**, you should be aware that the largest Hougham/Huffam data base (23,000 people) is by Robin Young: <http://hougham.royroyes.net/>

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