



News and Notes

Frontier photos

Two photos of families who live in remote areas of Australia:



Nola Gallagher has shared this photo of her whole family. They live in the Normanton (Queensland) area - both in town and on a cattle property outside of town.



Family of Pene (Royes) Curtis from the Northern Territory
Back Row : Anthony Long; David Curtis Jnr; Ben Mack; David Curtis Snr; Dena Curtis
Middle Row : Renee Long; Donald Mack; Anita Curtis; Pene Curtis; Elaine Medeiros
Front Row: Umema Curtis holding Gabby Mack; Rhiana Long holding Benny Mack;
Michelle Long hold Thomas Mack Missing : Jordan Long and Leila Mack.

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On the 22nd of June
- Jonathan Fiddle -
Went out of tune.

[In a cemetery in Hartscombe, England]
<http://royroyes.net> > "More" drop-down menu > "Family Humour"

Snippets

December 2012

❖ Rose (Bogtatzis Thorburn) Roy died in Cairns, Queensland, the Sunday before Christmas, peacefully, having gone to sleep the night before and not woken. She was buried beside her husband, Maurie, at Mount Sheridan Memorial Park, Cairns.



❖ Congratulations to Matthew Roy (age 11) who is captain of Canadian Lead Primary School in Ballarat, VIC, in 2013.

November 2012

❖ Alexanda ("Alex") John Trimble born in Mackay, QLD, to Darryl and Hannah - brother for Andrew.

October 2012

❖ "Bill" Grumley, Malanda (on the Atherton Tablelands), celebrates 95 years. He married Edna Royes in 1941 and they had four children.

September 2012

❖ Freya Mary Williamson-Clay born in Perth, Western Australia to David and Claire. Sister for Eli, granddaughter for Daphne and Raymond Clay (Townsville).

❖ Tiffany (Miller) and Michael Tento celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary by renewing their vows and getting all glammed up again. Tiffany writes: "Miraculously I still managed to fit into my wedding dress! Jaala (Cusack nee Miller) and sister-in-law Renee Flynn were bridesmaids and brothers-in-law Trent Cusack and Jason Flynn were best men. "It was a very small and simple ceremony but one filled with lots of emotion. Jaala read out messages from Bill Grumley Jnr and Kay Grumley, both invoking the memory and spirit of our beautiful mum Janine (Grumley) Miller."



Following the Gold

by RON ROYES

The Royes family and their descendants in the 19th century were transients, not unlike many others including the Irish and Chinese immigrants attracted to the goldfields.

When gold was found at Ravenswood around 1868, it proved a magnet to the Royes families.

In fact, twenty-one children of the Royes families were born in Ravenswood.

Ravenswood, a small country town south-west of Townsville in North Queensland, was named after a town in Scotland, popularised by the novelist Sir Walter Scott in his book *The Bride of Lammermoor*.

George Hougham Royes, a son of Edward Hougham and Mary Royes, married Jane Ley Olive in 1873. The first of twelve children was born in Rockhampton:

- ❖ 1875 George Hougham.

Next year, the family moved to Ravenswood. A further eleven children were born in Ravenswood over a period of 20 years:

- ❖ 1877 Charles Hougham
- ❖ 1879 Annie Marie Hougham
- ❖ 1881 Sydney Hougham
- ❖ 1883 Frederick Hougham
- ❖ 1885 Ralph Hougham



Ravenswood about 1890



- ❖ 1887 Eleanor Maud*
- ❖ 1890 Ralph Hougham
- ❖ 1891 Arthur Hougham [*in the group of miners below*]
- ❖ 1893 Jane Elliott* [*in the class photo on the next page*]
- ❖ 1895 John Hougham
- ❖ 1897 Bathurst Hougham.

Interestingly, ten of their twelve children, including one female, carried the christian name of Hougham.

[Eleanor Maud and Jane Elliott are often listed as having "Hougham" as their third name, no doubt because of this name being in all the other siblings, but there is no evidence for this in official records.]*

The impact of the Royes family in Ravenswood was further enhanced by the births of two children of Frederick Hougham Royes, son of George Hougham Royes.

- ❖ 1912 George Frederick,
- ❖ 1913 Claude Evan.

George was originally a carter, but by 1895 he is listed as a miner on his son Ralph's school record and

in electoral rolls from 1903 to at least 1925.

Charles Mordaunt Royes, a younger brother of George Hougham, also moved to Ravenswood in 1878, accompanied by his wife Mary and two children born in Rockhampton:

- ❖ 1876 Jean Stewart
- ❖ 1878 Edward Mordaunt.

Unlike his brother, Charles Mordaunt did not become a miner, rather he opted for a carrying business with bullocks and horses.

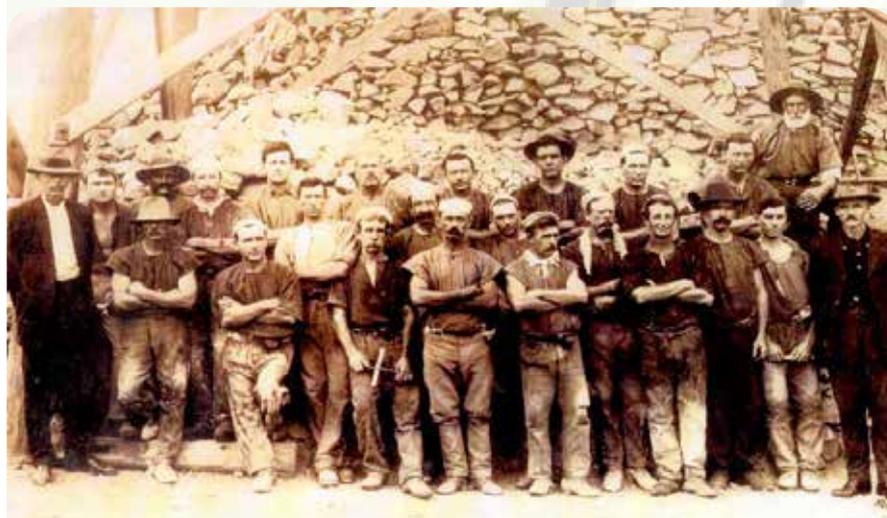
Their family extended by another seven children over a period of 15 years in Ravenswood.

- ❖ 1879 Thomas Mordaunt
- ❖ 1881 Eleanor Etta
- ❖ 1883 Herbert Charles (*he and sister Eleanor were both born on 10 April*)
- ❖ 1885 Isobel May
- ❖ 1887 Willie who died at birth
- ❖ 1888 Robert Luther
- ❖ 1890 Mary Agnes

In 1883, a 30 km. (18 miles) railway branch line was opened from Cunningham (Mingela) to Ravenswood. In subsequent years mining declined, and the railway line was closed in 1930.

Most of the Royes children attended the Ravenswood State School, which is still operative in 2012, with twenty children enrolled.

It was common then for families to maintain goat herds. The Royes families were no exception. The usual size of a herd was around twenty per family. It was sufficient to provide both milk and meat. The boys in the family would have two or four wheeled goat wagons (carts), pulled by as many as seven



Miners at the Ravenswood Duke of Edinburgh gold mine in 1926. Arthur Hougham Royes (1891-1963) is in the front row, second from right.

billy (male) goats. They kept the family supplied with firewood. The leaders knew their job, and kept the road without being led while the shafter (the goat harnessed with a pole) knew his job was to steady the load when going down hill.

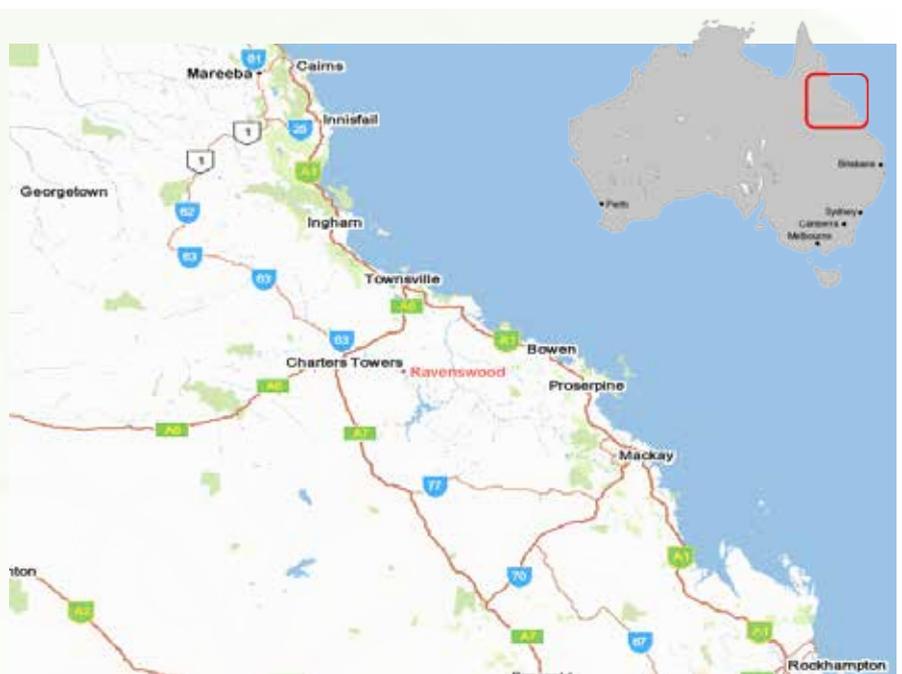
Racial problems developed during the peak of the mining in Ravenswood between the hard drinking Irish and the Chinese miners. The Chinese were referred to as Yellow Agony, the Celestials and Yellow Peril.

As the goldfields dried up, many of George Hougham's families left Ravenswood. Some spent their later life in Home Hill, Townsville, Rockhampton and Yeppoon. His wife Jane died (1927) in Ravenswood, as did three of their children (1889-1907), and her brother Thomas Olive (1882). Willie Royes, son of Charles and Mary, was still-born (1887). All are buried in Ravenswood cemetery.

(See Supplement 1 for more detail.)

By 1892, a continual decline in the Ravenswood area prompted Charles and Mary Royes, and their family, to locate to Georgetown in the Etheridge region where reports indicated gold had been found.

The long distance travel was looked upon as normal before



the advent of motor transport. A hundred miles in a day was considered the yardstick distance. Horses were bred for utility, not show, according to the Royes families.

Charles and Mary had a further three children in Georgetown:

- ❖ 1892 Jessie Phoebe
- ❖ 1894 John George
- ❖ 1897 Druce Grantley

They then moved to Mareeaba and their last child was born there:

- ❖ 1900 Winifred Constance

Their descendants are found mainly in Mareeaba, Cairns,

Charters Towers, Normanton, and NW Queensland.

Legacies of the mining days remain in 21st century Ravenswood. There are mullock heaps (disused soils from mine shafts), tall chimneys and discarded mine machinery, all reminders of by-gone days. Racial intolerance is absent, a far cry from the peak of the mining days. So hostile were the gold miners towards Chinese, all Chinese tablets at the Ravenswood cemetery have disappeared.

And there is no evidence of the transient Royes families, except in the Courthouse Museum, where the names and sometimes faces of them and the occupation of their fathers, make fascinating reading. 



A class at the Ravenswood School about 1905. Jane Elliott Royes (1893-1932) is indicated.

Supplement 1 has some data about the Ravenswood and the Royes

Research notes

Transcription

Samuel Tyssen (or Tyson) Royes remains a mystery. We know when he was born in London and details of his trial in Sydney for embezzling 11 shillings and 1 pence from his employer - though it does look like a comedy of errors since his employer originally claimed he had embezzled £8.15.0. He received a three months gaol sentence - and that is the end of his story as we know it.

However, the point in repeating this story is to let you know that the trial documents have been transcribed and you can read them on the web site. Go to Samuel's page and select the link.

Eleanor Maud Royes Foley

On Royes' article on page 2 prompted me (as do your emails!) to do some further checking, in this case on the Ravenswood families. A surprise was that records revealed that two of George Hougham Royes' three daughters do not include "Hougham" in their first names - at least not in any official records.

In the case of Eleanor Maud, we know she married James Henry Foley (in Ravenswood?) in 1913 and that by 1919 they were in Townsville. He disappears from the 1936 and subsequent electoral rolls so we can assume that he died before 1936.

We then have an Eleanor Maud Foley on electoral rolls up to 1963 in Monto (possibly with her son) and then Brisbane. If you can help clarify any of that please get in touch.

Importance of spelling

A number of NZ records (birth and death registrations, electoral rolls) have come on line. While I have not managed to work through all our NZ records a number have been updated.

One find was in respect of the oldest person in our data, Adelaide Elizabeth McArthur. We knew she had married a Kiwi by the name of Humphries (or so we thought). Fortunately, ancestry.com searches for "sounds like" and I discovered that the name was Humphreys.

NZ (and most official Registry) records require correct spelling so now a search for Humphreys showed that not only had she married a Kiwi - they had lived

there after their Australian marriage (1915 in Armidale, NSW). Adelaide Elizabeth Humphreys was still on the NZ electoral roll in 1981. Her year of death is 1982 according to family reports - aged 102.

Royes-Curtis

Pene (Royes) Curtis has updated her family information and provided a photo of the whole family (except for two members). The photo is on page 1. They are descendants of Colin and Clara (Nowland)Royes who spent most of their time in Brisbane, Qld and Darwin, NT. Colin is the youngest child of Percy Hougham Royes, who is the second child of Edward Hougham Royes jr. - a family with its roots in Rockhampton. Pene's family are found in Darwin, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

Russell-McFerran

The Russell-McFerran branch has been updated. Esther Russell McFerran is a sister of Jane, Maurie Roy's grandmother. Search for Hugh McFerran b.1865.

Web site notes

On line 50 years on

Ah, the weavings of the web and the advantages of having the family tree on line.

In October I had an inquiry from Moira C. (English) who had discovered, she suggested, a former 1963-65 Paris flatmate Toni (Australian) in our family tree. (She could see only the initials since she was looking at living people.)

Moira worked for NATO and Toni for the Australian Embassy. A few emails around the globe confirmed that "our Toni" was "her Toni" and the two flatmates are now back in communication after 50 years, and from opposite sides of the globe.

New registered users

Registrations since mid-September last year:

- ❖ Geraldine (Russell) Andrews
- ❖ Stephen Thomas Russell (Northern Ireland)
- ❖ Sharon Symons (Aust)
- ❖ James Karney (USA)
- ❖ Moira Creek (UK)
- ❖ Paul Cowan (Aust)
- ❖ Carol Irwin (NZ)



Family Links is produced by Roy-Royes Family Links

(<http://royroyes.net/>).

This family tree has its roots in the marriage of **Maurie Roy and May Royes** in Cairns, Queensland, in 1940. It has grown to almost 6000 people. Apart from Royes and Roy, the most common surnames in our data are Hougham/Huffam, Hogan, Weatherburn, Girvan, Bailey, Robinson and Smith. On the web site are help pages: "Using this site" (there is a link in the footer of every page). These pages also explain our privacy policy and the scope of our research.



There are two Facebook groups associated with our family tree - [Roy-Hogan-Russell](#) and [Royes-Hougham](#). These are designed to be community forums - so join in!



While we have 350+ Houghams/Huffams by name, you should be aware that the largest Hougham/Huffam data base on the web (almost 28,000 people) is by Robin Young at <http://hougham-huffam.org/>. Robin provided much of the information we have on the Houghams.

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This newsletter is available on the web at <http://royroyes.net/newsletters.php>

More about Ravenswood

Some Facts about Ravenswood:

Road distance from Townsville (km)	129	Hotels at peak	48
Gold discovered	1868	Hotels today	2
Silver discovered	1880	Railway closed	1930
Peak population (early 1900s)	5,000	Operational gold mines today	2
Population today	less than 500		

Royes deaths/burials in Ravenswood

All are related to Jane Olive Royes - relationship indicated in brackets

- ❖ Nov 1882, Thomas Olive, b. 1853, Bendigo, VIC - age 29 (brother)
- ❖ 9 Oct 1887, Willie Royes, b. 8 Oct 1887, Ravenswood - died at birth (nephew)
- ❖ 26 May 1889, Ralph Hougham Royes, b. 16 Jul 1885, Ravenswood - age 3 (son)
- ❖ 13 Oct 1904, Annie Maria Hougham Royes b. 15 Apr 1879, Ravenswood - age 25 (daughter)
- ❖ 23 Nov 1907, Ralph Hougham Royes, b. 11 Dec 1889, Ravenswood - age 17 (son)
- ❖ 10 Jun 1927, Jane Ley (Olive) Royes, b. 10 Apr 1859, Raglan, VIC - aged 65



Royes emigrations from Ravenswood

Charles Mordaunt Royes family	1892	Georgetown, <1900 Mareeba
daughter Eleanor (married James Henry Foley 1913)	<1919	Townsville
George Hougham Royes sr	1920s	Home Hill
son Sydney	<1903	Townsville
son Charles	<1913	Ayr, then Cloncurry, Mackinlay
son George jr	<1915	Rockhampton, Yeppoon
<i>[There is no actual evidence that George jr was with the family in Ravenswood.]</i>		
son Bathurst	<1919	Brisbane
son Arthur	<1919	Home Hill-Ravenswood-HomeHill
son John	d1921	Home Hill
daughter Jane (married Leslie Harvey in Home Hill)	1920s	Home Hill, <1930 Rockhampton
son Frederick	<1925	Home Hill



Ron Royes' first ever visit to Ravenswood in 1969 was to record a television story for the B.B.C. about two Irish spinster sisters Kathleen and Maureen Delaney, then in their 70. Their brogue was, says Ron, as thick as the River Liffey.

They were licensees of the Imperial Hotel (*photo at left*) and were descendants of an Irish miner who had ventured to Ravenswood seeking his fortune. They indicated that Charters Towers and Ravenswood were known as the 4G's: Gold, Goats, Girls and Glassbottles.

Weatherburn pedigree

Ethel Ruth Royes, known as Ruth or Bunny, married Bill Weatherburn in 1933 in Mareeba, Queensland. They both have extensive and well-documented pedigrees. This is Bill's. It is a pedigree chart - that is, it works up the tree from the person concerned to their ancestors. Siblings for each generation are also shown.

