

Ernie Kent

One Hundred Years

To May Earl & Dorothy Jordan

Whose ready information

And inspiration

Is hereby acknowledged

Edited by Lee Braden

Revised 27 March 2016

Melbourne was but eighteen years old when William Catt and his two brothers, Charles, the eldest, and Richard arrived. They were the three oldest sons of Richard and Elizabeth Catt of Newington, Southwark, Surrey, England. William was the third of five sons, of whom four came to Australia. Joseph, the fifth, came out after the three, and James the fourth one, elected to remain at home. William became the grandfather of the writer of this history. In his diary William said "I set out from England in the good ship Coldstream (Capt. Adams) on the 16th June 1852 and arrived in Hobson's Bay about the 8th October 1852."

During 1851 gold had been discovered in Victoria and, in consequence, by the time the brothers arrived, Melbourne was in the throes of gold-fever. The population was rapidly increasing, - from 76,000 in 1850 it reached 312,000 in 1854 – and lodging accommodation was in great demand. Ships were arriving in Hobson's Bay, and, owing to their crews deserting to the goldfields, were tied up in great numbers there. What, then, did the brothers find on their arrival in the Colony of Victoria? The colony had celebrated its severance from New South Wales only in the previous year and the Queen had graciously allowed it to be named after her. Firstly they would have to find their way from Sandridge – as Port Melbourne was then called – to Melbourne by foot or via the river, Yarra. It is most likely that they walked for it was but three miles or so through the bush; albeit we are told that highwaymen made a living even then on that sandy track. In those days there was no public transport system, drays and bullock-wagons being the means of carrying goods; alternatively there was the Yarra along which boats plied as far as Queen Street where a natural barrier of rock blocked further

progress. If they walked from Sandridge they would come to Emerald Hill – the name for South Melbourne in those days – and it is likely that, even then, the settlement known as Canvas Town was springing up there. They would reach Spencer Street and, on the hill, at about where the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works now stands, between Collins and Bourke Streets, they would find the long wooden immigration huts which the government had hastily erected to give temporary accommodation to new arrivals.

During the two months or so which William spent before going to the Forest Creek (Castlemaine) Diggings with brother Charles and Thorn Poile, he would walk about the City (for Melbourne had been elevated to that status some four years earlier by the arrival of Archbishop Perry with Letters Patent from Queen Victoria), which depended upon the noble horse for light transport and the bullock wagon for heavy haulage, for the first railway – the first in Australia – had yet to be built. He would be privileged to see the line from Sandridge to Melbourne come into being some two years later. He would use the first Princes Bridge – a one arch, stone structure which had taken over from the privately owned wooden one known as Berrigan's about two years earlier. At the corner of Swanston and Flinders Streets was the newly erected St Paul's Church, built on the present site of the Cathedral, facing Swanston Street where had been the Haymarket and Melbourne's first Weighbridge. Looking southward, across the river he would see then, or soon after, the remarkable Canvas Town which had moved to the high ground of what is now the Kings Domain to escape the swampy conditions brought about by the meandering river which had not yet been straightened. Here, in tents of all descriptions, laid out in streets, was Melbourne's excess population – several thousand souls all told.

Moving across the city from east to west he would have to cross Elizabeth Street, along which a creek ran in wet weather; uncomfortable for travellers to cross it was, at times, positively dangerous. It was called Townend River in the early days but that was probably before his time. It emptied into the Yarra about where Flinders Street Railway Station stands now. It drained the

slopes of Eastern Hill and Western Hill and at times of deluge, people paid draymen to get them across. He would see the common sight of carts bearing large barrels going through the City selling water to the inhabitants. They got the water from Mr. Blackburn's steam pumps at the corner of Flinders and Elizabeth Streets.

On Sunday William might attend Divine Service at St. James Cathedral, for he was brought up in the Established Church and christened at St. Mary's, Newington, where he probably got his schooling for it is stated in the Victoria History of the County of Surrey Vol.4.1912 pp75-76 that a National school was established there, its origin arising from the Charity School "which seems to have been established in 1710 by Richard Cambridge." St. James Cathedral in those days was in the fashionable part of the town in William Street. Later the fashionable centre shifted to the vicinity of St. Peter's Church Eastern Hill – then called Newtown. W.H. Newnham, in *Melbourne – The Biography of a City* says "It was the part which is now Fitzroy and Collingwood and its parades of well-dressed women and men became famous. This displeased Perry, and, as he disliked the surpliced choir he refused to enter the church for many years."

William did not do much gold digging but came back to the City and met Miss Mary Flynn whom he married at St. Stephens Church, Richmond, the officiating minister being the Reverend Mr. Perks, and the witnesses the Parish Clerk and the schoolmaster. That was Monday July 11th 1854. Mary Jane Flynn was the daughter of a soldier who was stationed at the island of St. Helena where she was born. She bore ten children, eight of whom reached adult life. She died in December 1902 at the age of 69 years and was buried in Melbourne General Cemetery on 22nd December. William, after breaking his leg at the Anderson's Creek Goldfield, settled in Melbourne and entered the retail Drapery business, in which he was occupied until his death on January 3rd 1886. He was also buried in Melbourne Cemetery.

Before passing to the children of William and Mary, it is of interest to mention the family name of Catt, which was a modification in English of the name Von Katz, as brought by our Ancestor from the Netherlands when the

family migrated to England in the sixteenth century. They were Huguenots who fled the persecution of Philip II of Spain. They settled in Southwick, Sussex, were there for some generations, and then came to Southwark, Surrey. They brought the art of weaving to England in Elizabeth's reign and were honoured for it.

We now pass to the Nineteenth century when, on the 23rd October 1800, Richard Catt was born of Charles and Mary Catt at St. Olaves Southwark. He married Elizabeth Kerry of Thorndon Suffolk on the 30th June 1825. They became the parents of Charles, Richard, William, James and Joseph, all mentioned in the foregoing pages. Now Elizabeth Kerry's mother's maiden name was Kent and so it was Elizabeth Kerry who brought her mother's maiden name into the family of Catt. It does not appear to have been affixed to the name, however, until her sons came to Australia. There we find that Charles was known as Mr. Kent. (I have heard it said that he was sometimes called Dr. Kent) and his sons and his daughters were all Kents. Richard, the second son, was, as far as I know, known as Mr. Catt, but his children kept to Catt in some cases and one (Herbert) was always known as Mr. Kent. William used Catt for himself and christened some of the children Catt and some Kent Catt. His first child, Richard, was variously known as Mr. Catt and Mr. Kent Catt; usually the former. His children were registered as Kent Catt and became known as Kent. We may now, I think, fairly pass to the next of the information which is in the possession of the writer. In that connection it should be explained that whilst a reader of these notes might reasonably expect that as Charles was the eldest son he should be dealt with first, the position arose that the writer had access to notes left by William, whereas information about the families of Charles and Richard is still being sought, and it may be some time before it comes to hand.

The children of William and Mary were as follows:

Richard, born at 44 Cambridge Street Collingwood on 13th May 1855, was christened on 15th June 1855 at St. Peters Church, Melbourne, and died on February 28th 1919. He was buried in Melbourne General Cemetery.

William was born on 16th December 1856 at 40 Cambridge Street Collingwood, was christened on 20th August 1858, and died on May 17th 1893.

John Sunbert Catt was born at 40 Cambridge Street Collingwood on 19th October 1858 and died on 1st December of whooping cough.

Ellen Elizabeth Kent Catt, born on Friday 23rd Sept. 1859 at 40 Cambridge Street, was christened at St. Peters, Melbourne. She was our Aunt Nellie, and, as Mrs. Fred Brose, had two daughters and two sons. She died at the age of 68 years and was buried at Tongala in the Goulburn Valley.

The fifth child, Charles Kent Catt, was born on Wednesday 1st January 1862 at 40 Cambridge Street, and was also christened at St Peters.

The sixth child was named Margaret. Born on Sunday 20th September 1863, she died a week later on 28th September.

Janet Mary Catt was born on Wednesday 9th November 1864 at 40 Cambridge Street. She was the seventh child and was our Aunt Mary. She married Mr. George Moore and went to live in Western Australia.

The eighth child was Stella Jane Kent Catt. She was born in Little George Street Richmond on 8th April 1867 and was registered there. Reference to the present map of Richmond shows a short street, rather like a Cathedral Close or a Court now known as George Street without prefix. Stella married Mr. Purnell and had a daughter, Ethel Estelle. She went to live in South Africa.

Hannah Helena was the ninth child. Born on 15th February 1870, at 13 Errol St. Hotham, where William conducted a Drapery business, she was registered Hanna Helena Kent Catt at Franklin Street, District of North Melbourne. She was our Aunt Annie who, married to Mr. John Webster, had three daughters and a son.

John Henry Catt was the tenth and last child. He was born on 16th September 1872 at 40 Cambridge Street, East Collingwood. (The word 'East' here is of interest because it indicates a possible change to Municipal

boundaries; I remember my parents saying that Collingwood was on the edge of the Bush when they were young). Uncle Jack married but had no children. He lived most of his life in Western Australia.

Richard Catt was born at 44 Cambridge Street, Collingwood on 13th May 1855 at about 7.45 am. He was christened at St. Peter's Church, Melbourne on 15th June of that year. A footnote to Grandfather William's diary entry of that event is in my mother's handwriting. It says "Known as Richard Kent Catt. Signature of S. E. Catt". Immediately following, in our father's handwriting, is: "Wife of Richard Kent Catt. Memo. Each of our children has, by mutual consent dropped the name of Catt and is now called Kent". Signed. R. K. Catt (Father) S. E. Kent Catt (Mother)".

Although Richard was born and lived opposite where the Cambridge St. State School now stands, it is unlikely that he ever attended it. I am informed that the State Education Act came into force in 1872 whereafter the Government took over education. A small diary which he kept in his teens showed that he attended the Model School. It says: "I commenced school on the 16th March 1868, at the Model School, as I am going to have 6 months of it." The next entry, on the same page, is: "Left school on the 8th April 1868." The handwriting is quite good. No explanation is made as to why he did not complete the period contemplated, but times were hard in the Colony then, and it is reasonable to assume that his earnings were required in the home, for by that time there were seven youngsters there who were dependent. In a small cash book which he used to enter expenses there are entries showing varying amounts given to his father. His father's diary indicates that business was not flourishing and a number of people for whom he worked either retrenched staff or compounded with Creditors. That had the effect of the father changing jobs frequently. In some cases he went back to the same people when their business brightened. At all events, young Richard left a school (unnamed) in September 1867, and commenced working at a little more than twelve years of age for a Mr. Dalley in Smith Street, Collingwood, for 6/- a week. He next worked for Mr Bellis, a Dentist, in Gertrude Street, Collingwood, for a month but only received one week's

wages. He then went to Mr. Coupland of Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, at 5/- weekly until going to the Model School, and from there he went to Robinson and Moffat at 7/6 per week. He told me that he was a Cash Runner between Counters and the Cash Desk and that there was a continual cry of "Cashboy" or "Cash" which kept him very busy running to this counter or that. He was considered a smart boy by the firm, and, knowing him in his adult life, I would say that he doubtless was so. Later they installed elastic-sling and wire cash transporters – those rather fascinating fast-moving objects which held children's rapt attention in the shops. He stayed with Robinson and Moffat for fifteen months and then commenced with J. F. Treadway at the corner of Drummond and Faraday Streets, Carlton on 19th October 1870 at 10/-, and later was apprenticed "by word" for twelve months with Peter Merry, Draper, of Erroll Street, at arranged wages of 5/-; 7/6; and 10/- per week. In his diary he reproduces Peter Merry's costing and selling marks, which doubtless he had to memorize.

A fateful period of Richard's life was ushered in when, on 5th February 1873, he commenced working for Mr. G. Maggs, Furniture Retailer, of Erroll Street. The wages were £1-0-0 per week.

While at Robinson and Moffatt's he went to Mrs Bramley's school in Gipps Street; the entry 1/- is alongside. Presumably it was a night school. In all his writing there is evidence of an endeavour to improve his calligraphy and in this he was successful, for when I knew him he was a careful and rapid writer. I see him now, in my mind's eye, with pen in hand, hand poised over the writing paper, flexing his wrist before putting the nib to the line. In 1873, on a Sunday, he wrote in his diary "turned over a new leaf. By God's help and held Family Prayer with M. S. and myself R. Catt in Geo. Maggs and may God bless our prayers." (He kept it up as his family increased and I remember the regular Family prayers at breakfast time.) He left Maggs that year and went to work at Radford's, Tinsmiths, at 27/6 per week. This is interesting because William Radford later married his wife's mother, Elizabeth Maggs. (When I was a boy in the City of Melbourne, nearly sixty years ago, Radford's Tinsmiths business was still operating in Post Office Place. It is possible that

the building is still there. It was, not very many years ago as I remember. It was on the corner of a lane which is immediately east of Myers Emporium on the north side of Lt. Bourke St. / (P.O. Place). After Mr Radford's death the business was carried on for a time by Mr. William McKenzie – my wife's late father – and Mr. Arthur Hall – my uncle on mother's (Sarah Catt – nee Maggs) side.

Richard married Sarah Elizabeth, eldest daughter of George and Elizabeth Maggs, on May 6th 1874, and on July 4th went back to work there at a wage of 32/6 a week. He entered the Hotham Volunteer Fire Brigade on April 15th 1875 – another fateful date, for what then became a hobby was later to be his life's work. His first fire was at Dangerfield's Foundry in Capel Street, North Melbourne, on April 17th. He was a good organiser and on July 24th, 1877, he was appointed captain by Mr. Randall, to form a new brigade. People are heard to speak of the "Good old days", but from my observation and impressions gained, they were days of arduous toil, short life, and, very often, hard times and hardship. My mother told me that as a little girl of five years or so she had to sit on a stool outside the furniture shop and keep an eye on the goods displayed on the footpath on Saturdays; I think she said that they did not close until about midnight. She used to find it hard to keep awake and sometimes dropped off to sleep.

In his notes Richard mentioned early closing first in Melbourne. He wrote: "In the year 1869 Feb. 27th. 7 o'clock on Saturdays by R. & M. Buckley and Nunn." Another note says: "Early closing commenced in Hotham on the 1st. August 1873," Mother used to mention Mr. Mattingly's school there. It must have been very popular and filled a need because it was often the subject of conversation among my elders when I was young. Part of the social life of Melbourne included public Spelling Bees and she used to go. She was very quick at breaking a word up for spelling and quick at figures too. Altogether, Richard and Sarah were a keen and efficient business couple. Grandmama Elizabeth used to speak of the miners coming to town to spend their money in the early days. They would buy all sorts of things, and one day a miner came into the furniture shop and asked for a couple of "Handsome Charlies".

She did not understand so he pointed them out and she sold him two chamber pots and he took them into the street where he filled them with beer and, holding one in each hand, he drank for a wager. The miners were fine men from all parts of the world with the usual lot of cranks and daredevils amongst them.

The Maggs came from Bristol, England, when Sarah was about three years old. All her life she used to come out with quaint English sayings and couplets. On the voyage out a little sister was born and they named her Bessie Oceania and called her Oshie for short in memory of her berth at sea. She died when five years old on October 14th 1865. George Maggs used to go to the country for weeks at a time selling goods, and at such times his wife Elizabeth used to keep the shop. Gradually Richard took up the responsibility and later, after George Maggs died, he acquired the business. Elizabeth married Mr. William Radford as mentioned above.

This all took place while I was a little star in the Firmament, as they used to tell me, and in consequence of Mr. Radford and Elizabeth both having children by their previous marriages, and then one child by their union, and these various people meeting one another from time to time – for Melbourne was small – I never quite knew whether I was speaking with an Aunt, Uncle, Cousin or what. And even now when a familiar name is in the paper it will start me thinking out a possible relationship.

The social life of Richard, Sarah, the Maggs, Radfords and their friends, was centered in the Baptist Church in West Melbourne. As I write, it is about to be pulled down and the site will be used for (guess what!) a petrol station. Shades of the Pioneers! Richard had an alarm installed there and it was not unusual for members of the fire brigade to be called out during the service. This was one of the many reminiscences of my parents when I was a boy. When the electric alarm went off the firemen in the church made no bones about getting out. They took the shortest route and although my sister – who attended until she was seven – objects that the minister would not have allowed it, my memory is that I was told they took the shortest route even to going over the pews and scrambled for the fire reel which was housed in a

shed at the rear of the Town Hall in Errol St. Names which come readily to me are Willie McKenzie – Lieutenant, George Gay, and Jack McAllister.

The Rev. Charles? Bunning was Minister. He was greatly liked and much respected. At first the fire reel was pulled to the fire by a Cab or any horse which happened to be handy. There was no dearth of willing helpers. Then Richard, who was a good judge of horseflesh, bought a pony stallion which he named Snider. Although small, he was tough and quick and he entered into the excitement of fire brigading as enthusiastically as his owner. Many were the tales told of Snider's sagacity and, recalling them, I feel that the pony could do about everything except talk. In those days all Brigades were manned by volunteers and some represented business interests such as Insurance. There was rivalry between the brigades which sometimes led to serious clashes such as bouts of fisticuffs while the fire raged; cutting the oppositions hoses and so on. It became scandalous and finally a Melbourne and Suburban Fire Brigades Union of 14 Brigades was formed. It had E.L. Zox Esq., M.L.A., as President, Captain Catt of North Melbourne Brigade as Chairman, and no less than eleven influential men headed by Mr. Justice Higginbotham as Patrons.

In the early nineties, after formation of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, Richard decided to make fire fighting his vocation and was placed in charge of the Williamstown District. Then, about 1894, he was transferred to the eastern side of the Metropolis with a district station in Hoddle St. Abbotsford – a ward of the Collingwood Municipality – with subordinate stations from Fitzroy eastward about 12 miles, and Clifton Hill, Northcote, Preston to Heidelberg to the North. It was an important industrial and suburban area involving much detailed administration, many fires large and small, and was very suited to his temperament. He continually inspected the growth and changes which were taking place, interviewing principals of large commercial and industrial establishments, impressing on them the value of fire prevention and suggesting suitable action and installations to bring that about. He was tireless in the service of the public and was greatly respected.

A Deacon of Hoddle Street Baptist Church, he preached the sermon on occasions. After 20 years he received a transfer to the quieter Brunswick District and it was from there that he retired from the service after having strained his heart while carrying a heavy person out of a fire. He died in his 64th year on February 28th 1919 and was buried in Melbourne General Cemetery, Carlton, in grave 303, C. Compartment, Baptist Division. Sarah, his wife, lived a long, useful life. She was a devout Christian who believed in the Inspiration of the Bible as God's Holy Word and by her tireless devotion to the uplifting of the unfortunate ones – and there were indeed many such in the early days of this Century – and the encouragement of others she was a shining example of what a Christian social worker should be. Her work for the less privileged never caused her to neglect her family. She was a good wife and mother, and many a poor person called her Blessed. I mention this particularly because we are apt, in the very material atmosphere of today, to discount good deeds and readily let fall the memory of the Ones who have passed on, leaving a better world for those who came later to live in.

Sarah died in her 80th year on 3rd November, 1935, and was buried in grave 303 as above mentioned.

Issue of the above Richard and Sarah:

[1. Richard Arthur died in infancy,]

[2.] Daisy Elizabeth Kent Catt, born in North Melbourne in 1876, married Arthur Hopkins of Williamstown. Issue: one son, Arthur Kent Hopkins who was killed by gunfire in France in 1917. He was awarded a Military Medal for bravery under fire. Daisy was widowed when Arthur was one or two years old. She married Mr. Edward William Craig, a Civil Engineer, on 18th September 1902. [He had a daughter Amy.] At that time Daisy was Principal of a Day and Boarding School for children which she established at Berwick. She was a lady of great personal charm and, I would add, sound judgement and commonsense. Issue of this union was: Edward Cyril Richard (Cyril) Craig Born on 8/9/1904; married Marjory Cook; issue: two sons, Edward and Donald. Edward Jnr. has four daughters and Donald has one daughter and

one son. Elsie, the second child of Edward and Daisy Craig, married Dr. W.D.L. Farrar; issue: two sons Trevor and Derryl. Trevor has a son. [Elsie Farrar died on 9th June 1963.] Richard Grindley, the third child of Edward and Daisy, married Miss Jean Moseley of Healesville; issue: one son, Neville. Daisy was widowed in 1919 and died in Sydney on 2nd June 1940.

[3.] Elsie May Kent Catt, second child of Richard and Sarah, was born in North Melbourne about 1879. She died in her 34th year and was buried in grave 303 with Richard and Sarah. A very capable and charming lady cut off in the prime of life.

[4.] Jenny Estella Kent Catt. Born in North Melbourne, Jean married Rev. C. E. Marcroft; Issue: two sons; Ivan Charles and Laurence. Laurie has two daughters Julie and Helen.

[5.] Richard George William Kent Catt. Fourth Child. Born in North Melbourne, he married Miss Kathleen Howison. Issue: four sons and two daughters: Olive, Ernest, Gwen, Russell, Richard and Stewart. Olive married Mr William Stainer and has two daughters, Jennifer and Anne. Ernie married and has a son. Gwen married Mr. James McNab and has three sons. Russel married and has a son.

[7.] Ernest James Kent Catt, sixth child of Richard and Sarah. Born in North Melbourne in April 1891. (He is the writer of this record). He married Emily McKenzie (also born in North Melbourne). [Emily died on 31st March 1966 after a long illness.] Issue: two daughters, Inez Emily and Esme Joy. Inez was born at Moonee Ponds and Joy at Healesville. Inez married Mr. Arthur Edgerton and they have two daughters, Ruth and Elisabeth. Joy married Mr. George Braden and they have five sons, Peter; Michael; Lee; Lachlan; and Christopher. [EJK died on 26th April 1971.]

[6.] A baby boy was born to Richard and Sarah between Richard Jnr and Ernest. He died when two days old and was buried in grave 304 on 29th June 1889.

The second child in the family of William and Mary was William Catt, born on Wednesday 16th December 1856, about 6.45.am, at 40 Cambridge Street Collingwood. He was christened on the 20th August 1858 and died on May 17th 1893. He had Dropsy in his last days. In a photo which I have of Richard, William and Charles he was good-looking. As a matter of fact they all were.

The third child, John Sunbert Catt, was born on Sunday 19th October 1850 about 8.50. pm. at 40 Cambridge Street and died on 1st December 1858 of Whooping Cough.

The fourth child, Ellen Elizabeth Kent Catt was born on Friday 23rd September 1858, about 11.30 am, at 40 Cambridge Street Collingwood and was christened at St. Peter's Church Melbourne – date not stated. She was Aunt Nellie to us and when her mother, Mary, became too ill to manage the home she took the responsibility. In his Will made on 14th December 1885, a few weeks before he died, William bequeathed his estate to her in Trust for herself and the four younger children viz: Mary; Estella; Annie and John Catt. Witnesses to this will of Williams are noteworthy. They were: Charles Catt; William Kent; Elizabeth Radford and Richard Kent Catt. The last signature does not look like that of William's son Richard, and I am inclined to the belief that it was that of William's brother Richard who was living at that time. (He died on 29th December 1888). Richard (son) was named executor. Aunt Nellie married Mr. Frederick Brose on 24th May, 1891. The Following were their children: May, July 7th 1892; Fred, July 19th 1894; Richard, May 6th 1897; Stella, February 6th 18???. May married Reverend Stan. Earl of Melbourne. [Died 14/5/1969.] Fred married Miss Bertha Wheeler of Tongala; Richard married Miss Audrey Dare of Elliminite, and Stella married Mr. Norman Norman of Tongala, previously of Colac. Aunt Nellie died in June 1927, aged 68 years. What a lovely lady she was! I well remember her. None could fail to be attracted to her. Uncle Fred died in June 1937, aged 81 years. They both visited us at Hoddle Street Fire Station.

The fifth child, Charles Kent Catt, was born Wednesday, 1st Jan. 1862, about 11.55 pm. at 40 Cambridge Street and was christened at St. Peter's

Church Melbourne - no date is given. Uncle Charles established himself in business as a Photographer. I remember the name Murrell & Co - Successors to Wood, was printed on his mounts. We thought him a wonderful photographer, and doubtless he was for they were beautiful likenesses which he executed, and I remember the amazement with which we first viewed an x-ray photograph of a human hand which he sent to us. Other photos showed him in sculling rigout on a river. He was one of my heroes. Charles married Elizabeth Lindsay on 20th December 1886. That brings up another family tie with which I became familiar. Mr Charles Lindsay was Officer-in-Charge of the Newport District of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade stationed at Newport. I believe Elizabeth Lindsay was his sister. I knew him well and for some years I worked in the Electrical Department of the Brigade with his son Gordon, who, in the course of time, achieved the same rank as his father and died in action at a Melbourne fire. I was privileged to meet both Uncle Charles and Aunt Elizabeth. Issue of the Union: Milton Charles Lindsay Kent, born on 31st March 1888; Stanley, (deceased.) I knew Stan when he was a Captain in the A.I.F. in France. Clarinda, Mrs Fogelin; Russell and Bailey. Milton married Lillian and they have three children, Gwenneth (Mrs Fred Hall); Freda (Mrs John Trotter); and Lindsay (Son). Milton and Lillian have six grand children; Stanley had a daughter and Russell also had a daughter. [Milton died on 13th April, 1965, aged 77 years]. Uncle Charles died at 57 years of age and Aunt Elizabeth at 96 years.

The sixth child of William and Mary was named Margaret. Born on Sunday 20th September 1863 at 40 Cambridge Street, she died eight days later.

The seventh child was Janet Mary Catt. Born on Wednesday 9th Nov. 1864, about 8.30 am, at 40 Cambridge Street and registered as above. She was Aunt Mary and she married Mr George Moore on June 3rd 1898. They went to live in Western Australia. Issue: three sons; Alan Bell, born on 1st December 1899; died February 20th 1900; Westley George, born December 20th 1900; and Cyril Roland (Roy), born June 24th 1902. Uncle George died in

February 1930, aged 75 years. Aunt Mary died on 2nd September 1947 aged 82 years. [Wesley died 9th November 1966 aged 66 years].

Stella Jane Kent Catt was born on Monday, 8th April 1867, in Little George St. Richmond, and registered in that District. She married Mr. Frederick John Purnell, a Civil Servant, on 18th April 1893, in Melbourne. Issue: one daughter, Ethel Estelle. Ethel married and had a daughter Marie Estelle. Marie married and had two sons, Alan and Michael Stern. Aunt Stella died in Johannesburg in 1925. Ethel married again and lives in Johannesburg. She is Mrs. John Stewart. Uncle Frederick Purnell died in South Africa in 1935 or 1936. By a second marriage Marie is now Mrs Geoffrey Angle, and she lives in Bulawayo [now in Johannesburg 1966 E.J.K.], Southern Rhodesia with her husband and two sons. The ninth child was Hannah Helena Kent Catt. She was our Aunt Annie. Born 15th February, 1870, at 13 Errol Street, North Melbourne, she married Mr. John Webster in 1891. Issue of the union: Agnes; Edith (Mrs Len Paddock), died 1957; Don; Jessie, died 1931.

Uncle John died in 1935 and Aunt Annie in 1940. When we were in our teens we visited them frequently at their Flemington home.

World War I brought about many changes in our habits; families moved or became separated through marriage or re-settlement and so it came about that many have not met together for a considerable time. Our loss!

John Henry Kent Catt was tenth and last child of William and Mary. Born 16th September 1872, on a Monday, at 40 Cambridge Street Collingwood East, and registered as above in that District, he married Miss Sampson (our second Aunt Nell) and went to live in Western Australia where he was in the Public Service. There was no issue to the union. Uncle Jack retired and lived in Sydney for a time. There he died in 1936 or 1937. He was buried in Prospect Cemetery, N.S.W. Aunt Nell lived out her days in or near Kew Melbourne and was buried at Springvale about 1950. She was the sister of the late Mrs James? Menzies, the mother of Mr R.G. Menzies [our present Prime Minister].

Having brought ten very fine future citizens into the world Grandmama's health declined and she ended her days under constant nursing care. I have been told that she lost her memory and did not recognise her son Richard. At all events we may revere hers and the memory of those of our ancestors and relations who have passed on having first done their duty nobly to their fellow men. The short voyage of Mynheer Von Katz from Holland to Sussex or the longer voyage of the brothers from Surrey to Victoria did not end there. They all have left their 'Footprints on the Sands of Time'.

I will now proceed to add such information as I have been able to gather (unfortunately very little) on Charles and Richard. Charles, after accompanying William to the goldfields, appears to have settled in Ballarat. I have been told from one source and another that he was a surgeon in the British Navy before coming here and that gave the right to fly a Naval Pennant; That he at one time conducted a chemist shop in Ballarat and was called Doctor. These things may be correct or have some basis of verity. I have no evidence. However this I know: toward the end of last Century, about 1897 or so there was a big exhibition held in Ballarat and I was taken there by my father (Richard) who was, of course, Charles' nephew, and we stayed at his home on Soldiers Hill. We stayed two or three days I think and the old gentleman let me help him to hoist the Pennant in the mornings, showing me the correct way to fold the bunting and place it in a turn of the rope before hoisting it. Then, when it was clear of the yard arm we pulled on the rope and the pennant fluttered free. I think my father told me that he had an accountant's office in the City at that time.

Charles married – in Australia – Miss Hester Chester of Waltham near Tunbridge Wells, She died on 21st June 1855. there was no issue to the marriage. He next married Miss Christina Reid, youngest daughter of Charles Reid of H.M. Customs Fort William in Scotland. Issue of which (says the record) is two sons and three daughters. I think there may be a mistake of one daughter. I knew only two and cannot find that there was another. I have been unable to obtain any dates of birth and death of his children and I

lack the date of his death. All of that, we will have to obtain later by patient enquiry. His children then, were, Richard; Charles; Lily; and Cissie. At various times I met Charles, Lily and Cissie. I do not think that I met Richard.

Charles married Eva. There was no issue to the marriage; Richard married [Miss Bessie Parks] and had three sons and one daughter. They were: Robert; Daphney (Topsy); Richard; and Cliff. Robert married and had a daughter, Brenda; Richard married Violet and they had a daughter, Elizabeth, who lives with her mother in South Camberwell. The only surviving member of this family is Cliff who lives in London and is not married. What a wonderful opportunity is there for Cliff to go down to Sussex and enquire for descendants of the Catt family around Southwick, and to go to Suffolk to enquire about the Kents and Kerrys around Thornden and Bury St. Edmunds. Neither County is far from London as we count distance here. How good it would be if we could hear from him. [Cliff's London address (14-3-67): 34 Brunton St, Mayfair]

Of Richard, second son of Richard and Elizabeth Catt, I have little information. As we have seen earlier in this narrative, he accompanied his brother William to the Goldfields. He also brought William back to Richmond from Anderson's Creek when he broke his leg. William wrote of his great kindness to him at that time. It took two days before they were at the Doctors to get the leg set. William suffered nine months illness after that, a fact which must have had considerable bearing on his fortunes thereafter. It was Richard, I think, who brought out the record of the family history up to the time of the birth and death of his brothers. I never saw him. He died about three years before I was born. His daughter gave me a copy of the record when I was in my teens. Richard settled in Carlton and followed the calling of a Draper. He married Miss Annie Poole from Wiltshire Eng. On February 6th 1861 at Christ Church South Yarra. Issue of which is two sons and four daughters (says the record). Richard was born on August 19th 1827 at 11 Union Row New Kent Road, Surrey, as were all his brothers with the exception of Joseph. He died on December 29th 1888 at Daphne Villa, Amess

Street Carlton North, aged 61. He was buried on December 31st 1888 at Melbourne General Cemetery Baptist Division.

Issue of the union of Richard and Annie: Herbert Richard James Kent, born 1861, died 18/10/1922, aged 61 years; [Annie Hurrell Kent Catt B. 26/4/1865 D. 28/1/1866] Henry Hurrell Kent Catt. Born 1868. Died 16/1/1913. Age 45 years; Maud Catt, born 1875, died 28/7/1953; Elsie Catt, Born 1878, died 27/7/1950; Ethel Catt, born 1882, died 30/5/1952.

Herbert Richard James married Rose [Nieman]. Issue of union: one son, Herbert Richard; daughters, Florrie; Amy; Ida; Violet; and Elsie (Mrs Shackleford).

Herbert Richard Born 1884, Died 20/6/1962 aged 78 yrs. He married Marjorie [La Trobe] and they had a daughter Joan and sons Noel and Ron. There are grandchildren.

Elsie married Mr George Holloway who died and some years later she married Mr. Harold Provis.

Ethel married Mr. Frederick Prior Hodges and they had two daughters, Dorothy Henrietta and Evelyn. [Later she married Walter Scott Hardy] Dorothy married [first Mr Will Holloway (not related to above Holloway)] Mr. William Charles Jordan. There is no issue;

Evelyn married Mr. Barrie Berggy a third generation Australian, in 1937. They had a daughter, Susan Dorothy, and a son, John Francis. Evelyn died on 14th Sept 1951.

Later information;-

Grand children of Ellen and Frederick Brose – page 10 – Fred and Bertha had four children: Bruce Frederick; Joan Amelia; Kevin William; Betty June.

Bruce married Joan Norton. 1950. Children of this union: Denis James; Kent Frederick; Maree Ann; Renea Joan.

Joan married Ron Aitken. 1953. Children are Geoffrey; Robyn Leigh; Colin Ronald [died 1960]; Linda Gaye; Ross Andrew.

Betty married Ron Budge June 1962.

Stella and Norman have a daughter Heather who married Mr. [Alan Green of G?g??ie (schoolmaster), and sons: Alan, who is B. Commerce; Alan married Miss Gloria Neal. Both are high school teachers at Ballarat. Another son is Clive.]

Joseph, fifth son of Richard and Elizabeth followed his brothers to Victoria and when that was we do not know. He was born at 21 Rockingham Row New Kent Road Surrey on 19th Jan. 1841. He married Mrs Francis Walter in Fitzroy, Melbourne on 13th October 1877. They had no children. I do not remember meeting them or being taken to see them. I was told that they conducted an Hotel in Port Melbourne. Sister Jean told me she remembered him visiting Dad at the Hoddle St. Fire Station. He was a gentlemanly person. They all were. He died on Feb 11th 1898 at Barkley Avenue Port Melb. and was buried at Melb. Gen. Cemetery on 16th Nov.

James Catt was the fourth son. Born 6th April 1833, he married Miss Harriet Travener at Marylebone Church London on 1st Jan 1856. There was no issue. Died Sept. 23 1872. and was buried at Nun Head Cemetery.