

1. Introduction

The name O'Donnell is an old one in Ireland:

“O'Donnell comes from the Irish Ó Domhnaill, "descendant of Domhnall", a personal name meaning world-mighty. Given the popularity of this name, it is not surprising that the surname based on it arose simultaneously in a number of areas, among them west Clare and east Galway, where they were part of the Uí Máine, the sept grouping under the control of the O'Kellys. The most famous O'Donnells, however, are undoubtedly those based in Donegal. The O'Donnells were not prominent in early times, inhabiting a relatively small territory around Kilmacrenan. From the late middle ages, however, their power and influence grew steadily until, by the 14th century, they were undisputed lords of Tír Conaill, roughly identical to modern Co Donegal. Their dynasty continued for more than three centuries, culminating with their involvement in the Nine Years' War, in which Red Hugh O'Donnell (1571-1602) and his brother Rory, First Earl of Tyrconnell (1575-1608) played a famous part, almost inflicting a decisive reverse on the progress of English rule. The defeat suffered by the alliance of the remaining pre-eminent Gaelic families was the beginning of the end for the old order in Ireland. Rory O'Donnell was one of those who took part in the "Flight of the Earls", the departure from Lough Swilly in Donegal in 1607 of the most powerful remaining Irish leaders.” (from the web)

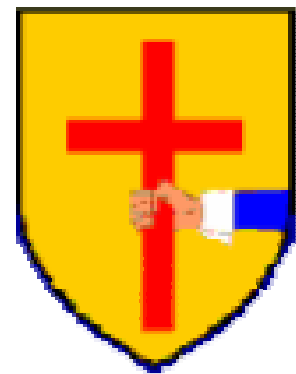
We do not know where *our* branch of O'Donnell's comes from. The earliest we can get back to is to a village called Golden, near Tipperary, in the South of Ireland, and only back to around 1790. Given the distance from Donegal, it is unlikely we came from there. Or if we did, we are most likely from the peasant side of the clan.

Vincent O'Donnell, a clan historian, mentions that there is a distinct clan of O'Donnells in the Clare/Tipperary region, who took the same name, but marking descent from a different Domhnall. He says:

“It is difficult to know whether the O'Donnells in the south of Ireland are descendants from the Clare/Tipperary clan or are descendants from a 'northern' O'Donnell who 'lost his way' on his journey to or from Kinsale.” (O'Donnell 1997)

Kinsale was the site of the last great battle of the Irish Earls against the English, in 1601. The O'Donnells of Donegal were part of this battle. Unfortunately, the Irish lost. The path to Kinsale, near Cork, took the O'Donnell army within 70 Km of Golden.

So, whether we are descended from the O'Donnells of Donegal, or those of Clare/Tipperary, we do not know. The rest of this document will focus on what we do know.



The O'Donnells of Donegal Family Crest

2. Golden, Tipperary

Our earliest actual records trace the O'Donnells back to a village called Golden, in Tipperary, around the start of the 1800s.

2.1 The Locale

Tipperary is a county in the centre of the south of Ireland (Figure 1). It is now split into North and South Tipperary, for administration purposes (see figure 2).

Golden is a small village in South Tipperary, located on the River Suir. It is close to the town also called Tipperary. Cashel, an important city in the county, is a short distance away. Athassel Abbey, now in ruins, is one of the historic monuments in the area (see figure 3). Golden, originally *Gabhailin*, got its name from the way the river branches out in the shape of a fork as it nears the bridge, *Gabhailin* is Gaelic for *fork*.

Golden Vale is a region which includes Golden, Tipperary and parts of neighbouring county Limerick (e.g., Adare).

Tipperary (The Town): The Gaelic *Tiobrad Arann* meaning the Well of Ara is where Tipperary takes its name from. It is in the heart of the Golden Vale, located on the main Limerick-Cashel road and one of the main towns of County Tipperary.

Near the end of the 12th century King John built a castle here, and an Anglo-Norman settlement grew up around it. Edward II made a grant available to build walls around the town, but Tipperary is one of the few towns that chose not to build any walls. The town was burned by the O'Briens in 1339 and in 1598 after the Desmond wars Tipperary was listed as waste.

Today, due to the rich soil of the Golden Vale, Tipperary is a thriving agricultural centre and market town. (from: <http://irelandnow.com/tipperarytown.html>).



Figure 1: County Tipperary

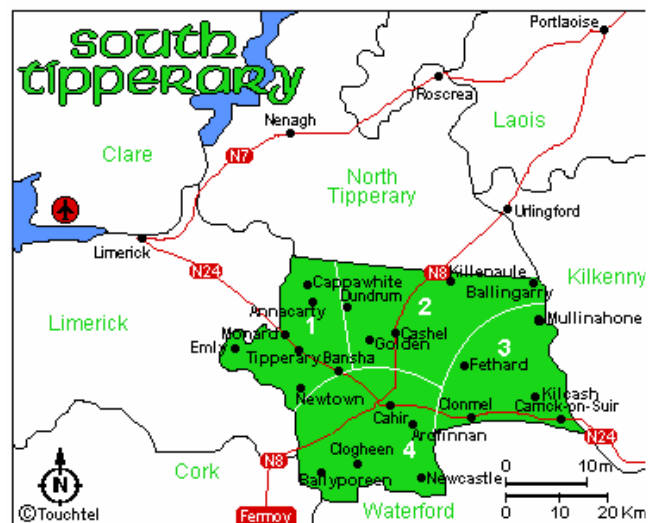


Figure 2: South Tipperary

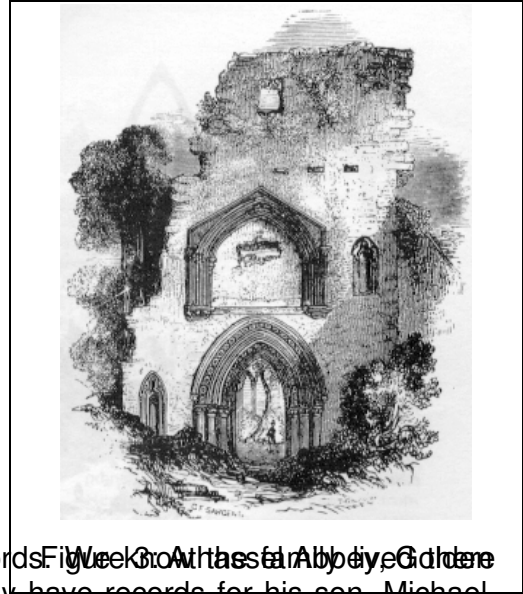
2.2 Richard O'Donnell

Richard O'Donnell was born in the village of Golden¹, Tipperary in the 1790s.² We know nothing about him, but might guess he was a tenant farmer. I would guess he was not one of the poorer (potato) farmers, given that his son started as a teacher in Australia, and turned to station manager.

He married Mary (maiden name unknown) perhaps around 1816.³ The wedding was possibly in Golden, as that is where they lived afterwards.⁴ We do not know whether they had other children.

We know that Richard was dead by 1841⁵, and that Mary was still alive, a widow.

The records surviving⁶ in Ireland which tell us about this period are very limited (a fire wiped out the Dublin Archives in the early 1900s). However, Griffith's Valuation is a country-wide list of who was living on what land around 1850, and one record⁷ for Golden Village shows a Mary O'Donnell being the tenant farmer on a 22 acre plot⁸ in



¹ This is just supposition, as we have no birth records. We know he was in Golden later. He may have moved there after birth. We only have records for his son, Michael. Michael's death record (NSW) lists his father as 'Richard'.

² Again supposition. Given his son Michael was born in 1817, the early 1790s is a good estimate of his birth, if he fathered Michael at 23 to 27 years of age.

³ This is assuming Michael was their first child, and they had the child soon after marriage, as was common in those days.

⁴ Note: no wedding records are available for Tipperary, and much of Ireland, at that period.

⁵ Their son's immigration record states the mother to be a widow at time of immigration, in early 1841.

⁶ Another source of information is called the Tithe Applotment books (compiled between 1823 and 1837), which show how large a tithe (church-tax) land-occupiers should pay to the Church. However, grasslands for grazing (richer farmers) were exempt, while potato plots (common for the poor) were not exempt. This list thus tends to show the poor more than the well off. However, the list does show one Richard O'Donnell listed for Relickmurry and Athassel Parish, living at Mantle Hill Nth, with 3 acres, value £0.6.8. However, the name Richard was reasonably common, and other O'Donnell's are also listed. Also this Richard was not living in Golden.

⁷ Griffith's Valuation for Relikmurry and Athassel Parish (which contained Golden) lists nine O'Donnells renting property. By this year, Richard was dead, but there is one entry for Mary O'Donnell. Of course, this might not be THE Mary, who may also have been dead, or passed the tenancy on to one of her sons (if any).

⁸ Entry reads:
Mary O'Donnell of Comerford's Lot
Landlord: H. White Esq.
Holding: House, Office, Land
Ac.r.ph : 22-3-23
Valuation: £22.15.0

Comersford's Lot (1851), which is within the town lands of Golden Village. This quantity of land was actually a reasonable tenancy in those days, suggesting they were not poor farmers. This is supported by the success of their son in Australia as an estate manager. Comerford's Lot is located right near the centre of present day Golden village, on the left as you come into the village from the East.

2.3 Michael O'Donnell & Sarah Meade

Michael O'Donnell, son of Richard and Mary, was born around 1817.⁹ It is likely he lived his young life in Golden,¹⁰ where he worked on a farm (possibly his parent's).¹¹ He was educated enough that when he later went to Sydney, he could take a job as a teacher.

At some point, he met **Sarah Meade**, from Cork.¹² Sarah was born in Cork, probably in 1821¹³, the second daughter of Richard and Mary (née Murphy) Meade. Both parents were probably born in Cork, probably in the 1790s.¹⁴ Richard was a farmer.¹⁵ Richard was probably still alive in 1840, when Sarah and Michael left for Australia, as he is listed as the father on the embarkation record, while for Michael, his mother's name is given.

Michael and Sarah married on 14th October 1840, in the Church of St. Finbarr, Dunbar St. Cork. Their marriage certificate shows two witnesses, Margaret Meade and Mary Meade. Mary was no doubt the mother. Jim's database suggest Margaret is the sister's name (but possibly he just assumed this was a sister). It was a Roman Catholic ceremony. The reverend was William Delany, who seven years later was made the Bishop of Cork, so they were probably not poor people.¹⁶

Sarah left at least one sister or brother behind in Cork when she went to Australia.¹⁷ Jim's database names Margaret Meade as her older sister, but I have seen no evidence of this, except a Margaret Meade was witness at their wedding.

Ac.r.ph means acres-rood-perches, old measures, an acre is an area of 65 x 65 metres square. An average house-block in Sydney is a quarter acre.

⁹ His landing record into Australia states he was 23 on embarkation on the ship, which would have been January or early February 1841. This means he probably turned 23 in 1840, and thus was probably born in 1817. Note though that Peter Daly, who wrote an article on Frank Arkell in 1974, placed Michael O'Donnell (Frank Arkell's great grandfather) as being born in 1815).

¹⁰ His landing record states that he was "a native of Golden, C^o. Tip."

¹¹ The landing record states: "Calling: Farm ..." (last part illegible).

¹² Her Landing Record states "A native of Cork".

¹³ She was 19 on Emmigration.

¹⁴ Assuming they were in their twenties when they had Sarah.

¹⁵ Sarah's Landing record states "Daughter of Richard Meade, a farmer". Jim thought that Richard was a Church of Ireland bishop. However, the landing record makes this look unlikely. Also, professional researchers hired by Jim offer other arguments that this wasn't so.

¹⁶ The marriage certificate shows the reverend as Wm. Delany. A web search shows him to be the Bishop of Cork from 1847 until at least the 1870s. See <http://homepage.tinet.ie/~ridgeway/cecc.htm> for date of consecration.

¹⁷ Miss Richards (whoever she is) in Australia sent a letter to Walter Rahilly (in Cork), the great-nephew of Sarah Meade. She was asking for a copy of the marriage certificate of

3. References

Hibernian Research Company Ltd. Report Ref: I.846/AB?DMG. O'Donnell. May 30 1994.
O'Donnell, Vincent 1997 "A brief history of the O'Donnells (Clan Dálaigh)". *O'Donnells of Tír Chonaill: A concise history of the O'Donnell clan*. V. O'Donnell (ed.).
Griffith's Evaluation. National Library of Ireland.
Tithe Applotment List. National Archives of Ireland.

4. Notes to Aide Future Research

To access BDM in the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly, one needs permission from the diocese bishop. Once granted, one can search the records kept in Dublin. Golden is a parish in this diocese, and thus permission is needed. I think writing to The Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Cashel and Emly, Tipperary would be adequate. Note however that the local priest in Golden showed us his printout of the church records without bishop approval.

Various information about Tipperary family history can be obtained, over the web, from <http://www.iol.ie/~thu/thuform1.htm>. However, I did this and merely got a list of records I could check in Dublin, plus some easily obtained history of the O'Donnell clans in Ireland. Bit of a rip-off, but in future years, with increased entry of information currently on microfilm, this might improve.

Golden parish was called Rathduff in the 1700s until 1801 when a catholic church was built in Golden.

Parish of Golden-Kilfeade formed by the joining of two parishes in early 19thC.

Check if the Newport near Tipperary is where O'Donnell's of Newport are based.

Golden is on the banks of the River Suir.

Relick-Alt had 2,647 people in 1861, 2244 in 1871 (354 in Golden)

1220 people in Golden now, similar to 100 years ago. A quarter of these in Golden village itself.

The ruined church next to the bridge was a Norman church.

There is a family of O'Donnells still in Golden (location). Go to the pub across the bridge, and turn immediately left. Go up for 2 miles or so. I don't know which house it is. You will pass the Abbey on the way, on your left. Nice to explore.

I checked the Graveyards in the Abbey and also in the old church in Golden Village. This latter church has been closed, and a new church opened nearby, but the graveyard of the new church is too new to be any use. The parish priest (Father Dywer) mentioned two other graveyards, which might be worth checking, one at Thomas Town. There is also a cemetery not far from Golden on the way through Thomas town, then the next real village (on your right on the way out).

Sarah and Michael, which he returned. We have the letter he sent with the certificate. I believe a great-nephew must be descended through Sarah's brother or sister. He also mentions that his Aunt, Ellen Morley, went to Australia before he was born. Looking at Jim's database, I think that Miss Richards must be Celistine Richards, who (apparently) never married (thus the "Miss"). She was born in 1898 and died 1981, so was 47 when she sent the letter. She was daughter of Clara O'Donnell, one of Michael's descendants.

5. Misc. discoveries (to check)

The following regard O'Donnells in the Golden region. These may or may not be related:

- Birth: 1835 2 25 O'Donnell Michael from Abbey. Father: William O'Donnell Mother Eliza Devreux. Mary O'Donnell witness.
- Per genealogy library reference book, the following individuals owned one or more acres of land in Co. Tipperary, Ireland, the latter part of the 1870s. Richard O'Donnell, address Carrick-on-Suir, owned 359 acres. (Ref: Posted by Jean Rice <jeanrice@cet.com> on Mon, 10 Jul 2000).
- Maybe Griffith's valuation. O'Donnell Richard 19 April 1854 Tipperary. See also Sale of Land and County books.
- Deaths Mary O'Donnell Cashel age 80 (index 8 383). See record which I forgot to check. Year = 1866 I think.

1. The Trip to Australia

Michael and Sarah migrated to NSW only two or three months after their wedding, possibly starting late January 1841.¹⁸ They sailed from Queenstown, Cork to Plymouth, England, where they boarded the S.S. Moffat, to Botany Bay, Sydney, arriving there on 31st May 1841.

They travelled under the "Bounty System"...

2. The Bounty System

Michael and Sarah went to Australia under the bounty system, a system whereby the NSW government paid for the travel of poor workers to Australia. See the boxed excerpts below explaining this system. They were sponsored by Nicholas James and Co., a Sydney Trader.¹⁹ Note that Michael and Sarah left Ireland at an opportune time, 4 years before the potato famine started, where large numbers of Irish died of hunger.

Bounty Immigration to Australia (from:
<http://www.home.gil.com.au/~bbiggar/india5.htm>)

By the end of the first quarter of the 1800's conditions in Britain/Ireland and in Australia emerged which resulted in a massive wave of migration to Australia.

Australia's settlement by the British was outgrowing its convict origins and the country was expanding at a rapid pace, creating an acute shortage of labour. It was desperate for farm labourers, carpenters, bricklayers, etc. Following the convict years there was also an imbalance in the male/female ratio.

At the same time in England/Ireland there was widespread poverty. The harsh conditions of the industrial cities also added to the misery. Migration to Australia became an attractive option for many but few had the resources to pay for even a berth in the steerage costing in the order of 17 pounds.

The colonial Australian government was forced into paying to assist the passage of migrants to obtain the people they so desperately needed. They funded this assistance by selling land. The parishes of England were only too pleased to take up this arrangement as they were able to ship out paupers which were a great burden on their rates. The Australian Government continued with various forms of assisted immigration from this period through to the 1970's.

The "bounty" system of immigration was the favoured method of assisted passage in the years 1837 to 1843. Ship-owners were responsible for recruiting migrants, in conjunction with the Board of Immigration, and delivering them to Australia where they were paid on a per head landed basis. Upon arrival immigrants were processed by a Government officer. No bounty was paid for any person who was not considered suitable due to age, health or occupation, or who had died on the voyage. The ship-owners therefore faced considerable risk. The ships surgeon was usually given the responsibility of selecting fit and healthy immigrants and for keeping them in that condition for their arrival in Australia.

¹⁸ Jim's record say ship arrived 31/5/1841). Since journeys from Ireland to Sydney typically took around 120 days at that time, we can assume they left Ireland somewhere towards the end of January or early February, 1841, 2 -3 months after their wedding).

¹⁹ From the Embarkation record.

In 1840 the bounties were increased for persons from the United Kingdom, agricultural labourers, shepherds, carpenters, smiths, wheelwrights, bricklayers, masons, female domestics and farm servants. The sum of 38 pounds would be paid as a bounty for any married man of the foregoing descriptions, and his wife, neither of whose ages, on embarkation, to exceed forty years, 5 pounds for each child between the ages of one and seven years, 10 pounds for those between seven and fifteen, and 15 pounds for each above fifteen years. 19 Pounds would be allowed for every unmarried female domestic or farm servant, not below fifteen, nor above thirty years.

The colony of Port Phillip commenced assisted immigration in 1839. In a census in March 1841 the population stood at 16,671 consisting of 11,254 males and 5,417 females. Some 40 vessels carrying bounty immigrants arrived during the remainder of the year increasing the population to 20,000 by the year's end.

Jobs were immediately available on arrival for all, with pay and conditions far superior to any similar work in England.

Over one million people travelled safely to Australia during the 19th century. Only a small number lost their lives on the way through shipwreck or disease. The potential for danger, ever present on these voyages, was not widely publicised in England at the time.

IMMIGRATION - The Bounty System. Extracted from the:- "Concise Guide to State Archives of New South Wales"

Few free settlers were attracted to the penal colony of New South Wales during the first thirty years of its existence, despite the free passages, land grants and other incentives offered at various times during this period. As settlement spread and the proportion of emancipists and native-born increased during the 1820s, however, immigrants began arriving in greater numbers. With increasing prosperity came a growing demand for skilled labour, and the Government responded to this need (and to the problem of the great numerical inequality between the sexes) by introducing a number of assisted immigration schemes from 1832 onwards.

The first of the assisted migration schemes began in 1832 when eight single women and eight mechanics and their families left England aboard the "Marianne". Each single woman received a bounty of £8 and each mechanic was advanced £20 against his future wages. From 1832 to 1835, 3074 people received assistance at a cost to the colony of £31,028-6-9. They were selected and ships chartered for them by Emigration Commissioners in the United Kingdom, and during the voyage they were in the charge of the ship's master. In Sydney, emigration was administered by the Colonial Treasurer, Collector of Internal Revenue (and, for a short time) the Superintendent of Emigrants and the Immigration Board.

Female immigration was not persevered with and the Colonial Government sent Surgeon-Superintendents to act as Commissioners' selecting agents; while in 1835, employers acting through agents and the Commissioners brought out people with special skills.

The Government (or Wakefield) and Bounty systems operated unchanged until the establishment of the Immigration Office and the appointment of the first Immigration Agent in Sydney (James Pinnock) in 1838. The Government system operated until 1840, and the Bounty system until 1845; and their costs were defrayed from funds raised by the sale of waste Crown land in the colony (augmented by the sales of debentures against future land sales from 1842) and by parishes and workhouses in the United Kingdom.

In 1847, the second Bounty system of immigration was set up. The Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners were entrusted with the selection and conveyance of migrants, while the Immigration Board in Sydney decided whether or not shipping companies were entitled to payment for immigrants brought to the Colony.

After 1852, most immigrants who received assisted passages did so through relatives and friends. For a short period after 1859, ship-owners bore the costs of conveyance and were remunerated by the Board, and the small amount of government assistance that was provided was allotted by Legislative vote. In 1861, the Immigration Office was abolished and unassisted immigration which had been growing apace over the previous 10 years came into its own. People were, however, still receiving assisted passages in 1896.

Immigration became largely a federal matter during the twentieth century, and although New South Wales was involved in administering some immigration schemes (such as post World War II British immigration), overall policy decisions (and the majority of archival records) remain with the Australian Government.

3. The Journey

Jim's records show that the couple travelled on the *Moffat*, which arrived in Botany Bay (see appendix 1 for more details on the *Moffat*). The *Moffat* was a bounty ship, meaning that all the passengers had their trip paid for by the Australian government. See boxed insert on the Bounty Immigration system.

The *Moffat*²⁰ started from Queenstown (Cork Harbour), from where they sailed to Plymouth. From there, the *Moffat* sailed on 28/1/1841, to Botany Bay, one report²¹ saying the ship stopped at no port on the way.

The journey from Ireland to Botany Bay took, in those days, roughly 4 months. Figure 4 shows the route these journeys took. This was before the Suez Canal was opened (1869), which reduced the travel time. Steamers, which were much quicker, were only just beginning to make their appearance on long-distance runs.

Note that Sarah conceived very close to the departure date (their first child, Francis, was born 31/10/1841). She would have thus been suffering from morning sickness throughout much of the trip.

To give some idea of the nature of their trip to Australia, see the included excerpts which log similar journeys at that time.

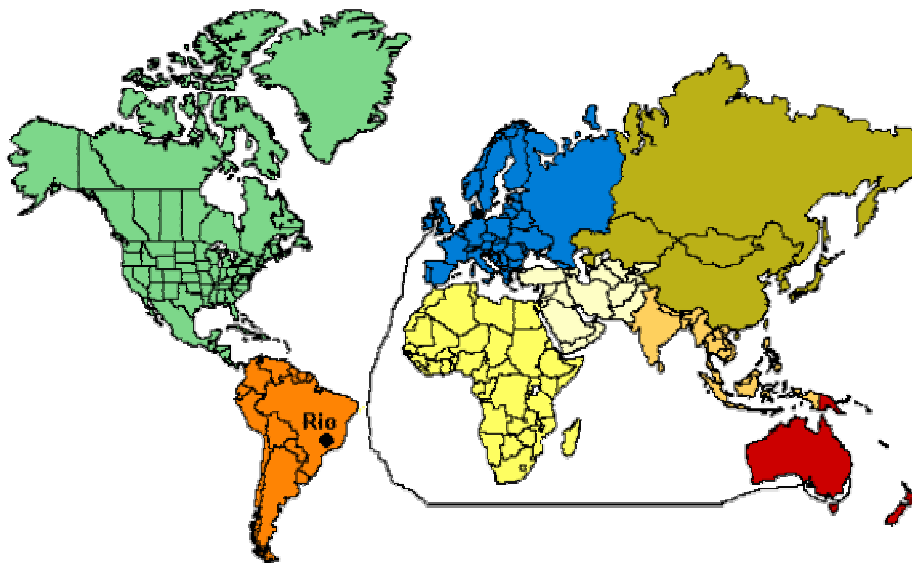


Figure 4: The Route to Australia

²⁰ I can find no evidence that it was the *Moffat* that left Cork to Plymouth, except for a statement in Jim's notes.

²¹ Email on <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/AUSTRALIA/1998-09/0904892497>.

Letter from James Dempsey (on the emigrant ship "Susan") to Captain Stewart Moore, Ballydivity, Dervock, County Antrim. Posted Moville October the 10th, 1838. The Susan sailed from Londonderry on the 19th October 1838 and arrived in Sydney on the 1st February 1839.

Hounord Sir

Being conscious that you would be desirous of entertaining some information consorning us how we are situated I now inform you as it is with us at prasant. The Ship mooved down from Derry the Leath of Culmore on Saturday evening. And the weather being unfeavorable stopped there until Thursday morning and she is now down the Leath of Movill and internds going off the first opportunity this evening. It is serious to behold in all corns of the ship the are sick and women feanting but thank God we are all in good health as yet. The first and second day we went on board there was a great deal of complaints with the emigrants of their rashions being too small and many of them wishing to go ashore and return home but I endeavoured to please any I had any influence with nowing that it was impossible for two hundred and sixty four passengers to be all righter according to there wishes at once. The news reached Captain Ramsy's ears and he came on board at Culmore and called all the passingers on deck and gave free liberty to all that pleased to go ashore and there was one man from Newtown that went home and this is the reason I write lest the word would be carried home that we are ill treated and if it does believe it not. For the hole passingers put into seventeen messes and there is appointed one man head over each mess and I am appointed over one and it is their business to see the meat eaquilly served out according to the number of the mess.

We eat our breakfast about eight o' clock of good tea and one day pork with pea soop for our dinner and the next day beef with flour pudding mixed with suet. There is also rum wine, figs and raisons for those that is sick and everything appears to be carried on in a very judicious manner. There are six men appointed with the doctor for forming Laws and if any is found pilfering from the other or giving insolence the one to the other or refusing to clean their births or scrubbing (soiling?) upper or lower decks the are reported to the doctor and their names entered in the register book and when the arrive at Sidney the will be given up to the government and punished in proportion as their crime deserves. Therefore I expect good order will be carried on.

Now Sir be pleased to give my kind love to my Master Mistress Miss (or Mrs) Ann and Miss Mary and little Stewart and to all the men and let them know that there is no day that the are out of my thoughts let William Pollock know that I wish that he would take word to my people at Fishmills (Bushmills?) and tell them that we are all well. I now Sir remain your kind and affectionate servant til death.

James Dempsey

Let William Polock (sic) know that I forgot my reazor in the house and I wish him to go to John W Kelly as I think he must have it as he was the last I left in the house and keep it for my sake. Sir excuse the bad writing and rolling (spelling?) as the ship was heaving very hard the time I wrote it.



Testimony of Alick Osborne, R.N., Surgeon Superintendent of the ship Adam Lodge, with Emigrants from Ireland, extracted from the British Parliamentary Papers, Immigration Report of 1837 for Australia.

"...I was authorized to charter a suitable vessel on the part of Government, and I did charter the Adam Lodge, a first-class British-built ship of 567 tons, with a height between decks of about seven feet; the owners furnishing the provisions of prime quality at 6£. 10s. Per head, according to the annexed scale for adult males and females, rating children in the proportions specified in the Passenger Act. In this agreement were included rations, bedding, wine, medicines and medical comforts. We also issued potatoes at the rate of 6lbs. Per week, to each adult, in addition to the rations, and the owners were compensated by the consequent saving of bread. The issue of potatoes continued from the 29th of March, the day we sailed from Londonderry, till the 1st of June, and was of the utmost advantage to the emigrants.

The number of emigrants embarked was about 86 married men, 86 married women, 30 single women, and 200 children, equal to $287\frac{1}{2}$ adults, estimated according to Act of Parliament, and which was 13 less than the number the ship might have taken, according to her tonnage, independent of her crew, and which, of course, caused the rate of expense for each emigrant to be higher than it would have been if the number had been complete. This deficiency in numbers is accounted for by my instructions from the Government precluding my entering one individual beyond the prescribed number the ship could take, lest disappointment to such individual should ensue;

... Notwithstanding the high rate of freight at which the Adam Lodge was engaged, the sum of 18£ for each adult, and in the proportions for children prescribed by the Act, will fully cover all the expense of their passage, but not that of my agency and superintendence; ...Of the emigrants embarked, only three adults died of apparent disease; two of consumption, and one of pleurisy; two others sudden death, asphyxia; twelve infants of marasmus, or general decay of nature, one of croup, four of worms, and six of influenza, none of which diseases are, in my opinion, attributable to the confinement in the ship, or to the provisions.

The scale of rations hereto annexed is in my opinion nearly perfect, unless that I think peas and cheese might be omitted, and oatmeal substituted for flour, in, perhaps, Irish and Scotch ships. The rules adopted by me for the preservation of order and cleanliness, when not voluntarily submitted to, were enforced by mulcting the offending parties of a portion of their rations and comforts, for a period proportioned to the offence, and I found the power, thus assumed by me, sufficient and ample for all salutary and necessary control over them."

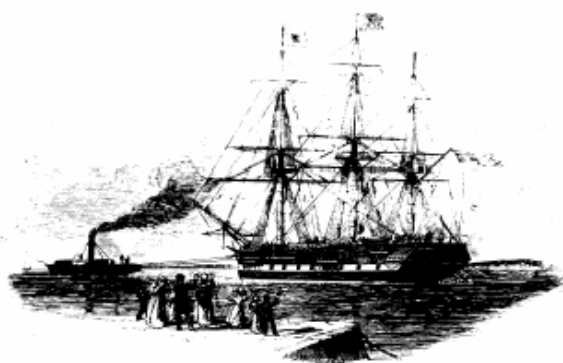
Statement, transmitted from the Quarantine Station, by David Thompson, Esq., R.N., Surgeon Superintendent of the Ship "John Barry," with Emigrants from Scotland, in reply to questions from the Committee. Extracted from the British Parliamentary Papers, Immigration Report of 1837 for Australia.

"I am not aware to what extent useful emigrants to these colonies can be procured from Dundee, and other ports in Scotland; but I am of opinion that the port of Leith or of Glasgow would, either of them, be preferable to Dundee, as I think the emigrants would be sooner collected, and from a superior class of mechanics. Of the persons embarked at Dundee, there were 79 married couples, three single men and eight single women, and 150 children of all ages. Three adults have died, one of fever, occasioned by exposure to the hot sun at St. Jago, one of malignant scarlet fever, and lately one of typhus. Twenty-three children have died of various diseases, but mostly of affections of the bowels, arising from unsuitable food. The number of deaths is certainly greater than would likely have taken place had they remained in their native country.

The tonnage of the ship is 524 tons; she is an old ship, not particularly leaky, but admitted water both by leakage and down the hatchways, during the run from the Cape of Good Hope to Port Jackson, the weather having been generally boisterous. She was the reverse of comfortable in her 'tween decks, being encumbered with luggage to such a degree, that in bad weather, when most persons were below, it was difficult to pass from one end of the ship to the other. The provisions and water were wholesome, and served in sufficient quantities. I had the usual medical comforts supplied to convict ships. The allowance of a pint of porter daily to women suckling would certainly be conducive to their health, and that of their infants; but I consider the most dangerous period for young children to be that between the time of weaning and their attaining about the age of three years. The allowance to these latter of half a pint of preserved milk daily, would, I am of opinion, save many lives.

While the weather was warm the 'tween decks were frequently washed, being the mode of cleaning to which the emigrants had been accustomed. The decks were in general scraped and sanded; to assist the operation of scraping, a little sprinkling was necessary, the deck being almost always in a dirty state, from the inveterate habit of the emigrants of throwing all kinds of rubbish, refuse victuals, &c., at their feet on the deck, which, therefore, never remained long in a clean state. The emigrants were almost invariably quiet and orderly. All disputes between individuals were referred to a committee of their own number, elected by themselves; few instances occurred of their interference being required. I had no other ground of complaint than their inattention to cleanliness.

An insurmountable difficulty, in preserving due cleanliness and ventilation, arose from the enormous quantity of luggage they were permitted to bring on board, the whole of which was stowed between decks. Emigrants ought to be restricted, both in the number and dimensions of the chests or packages they bring with them, and this regulation should be most rigorously enforced. I feel a difficulty in suggesting any measures that would give the surgeon-



superintendent useful authority in enforcing cleanliness. The circumstance of their being allowed a free passage appears to create in them a feeling of their own importance, and consequent unwillingness to be directed or advised. It would certainly be preferable that the emigrants should come out under the charge of the agent who selected them, as they would, in that case, be more likely to comply with those terms which they had been previously told would be enforced, than in charge of a stranger who had no acquaintance with them previous to embarkation.

The 'tween decks were frequently sprinkled with chloride of lime in solution; but not whitewashed, as this could not be done without soiling the bed-places and clothes of the emigrants; neither was there on board whiting for the purpose. The hanging stoves were frequently used, but less advantageously, on account of the luggage in the 'tween decks. Sand and scrapers were generally used in cleaning the decks and berths...."

4. Appendix: The Moffat

The Moffat, in which Michael and Sarah O'Donnell came to Australia, was a 3 masted barque of 822 tons, used as a merchant ship. It was built in 1807, and used in the service of the East India Company (1810-1819). Later, it was owned by a London-based company, used for carrying convicts and bounty immigrants to Australia (1834-1842). Eventually, this type of ship was outmoded by new designs, and scrapped.

While the details I could find of this ship did not list the 1841 journey, note that I found two people reporting that their ancestor emigrated on this ship, arriving Sydney, NSW May 1841. There is a reference to Vol. 52 and also [S80].

The following is from the web (Source: ??), outlining its details in the latter part of its life:

Description:	3-mast barque, class Æ1. Doubled, felted and coppered 1832; part iron bolted.
Tonnage:	822/776 tons.
Built:	Bengal, 1807.
Materials:	Teak.
Dimensions:	Length 134'1", breadth 37'2", 6'5" tween decks.
Home Port:	London.
Intention:	London-?.
Owner(s):	T Ward, London (1838).
Master(s):	Jas. Cromarty (1834); Thomas W Bolton (1836...1838); James Gilbert (1839...1842).
Surgeon Supt(s):	Thomas B Wilson (1834); John Smith (1836); Gilbert King (1838); Jas. Smith (1842).

Selected Voyages (Source: ??)

The three masted barque Moffatt sailed (for Halifax) under the red and white striped ensign of the East India Company until the Company lost its privileged position in Canton in 1833. Thereafter the Moffatt made voyages to Australia as a convict transport in 1834, 1836, 1837-38 and 1842, and in 1839 as an immigrant barque.

Sailing from Plymouth on 29 January 1834, the Moffatt arrived in HobartTown on 9 May after 100 days at sea. Six of the 399 male prisoners aboard had died on the voyage; one had been re-landed. The commander on this voyage was J Cromarty.

Starting from London under Thomas Bolton, the Moffatt departed Portsmouth on 7 May 1836 and arrived in Sydney on 31 August after 116 days. Three hundred and ninety-six male prisoners were landed; three had died on the voyage and one had been re-landed.

Departing Sheerness on 9 November 1837, and London on 16th instant, the 820 ton Moffatt sailed via the Cape of Good Hope to arrive at HobartTown on 1 April 1838 after 143 days at sea. She disembarked 397 male prisoners; three had died on the voyage. Her master on this voyage was again Thomas Bolton. The Moffatt arrived in Port Jackson on 25 April 1838 with merchandise, passengers, emigrants forwarded by the Government from Hobart Town, plus 30 prisoners and their guard bound for Norfolk Island. Mastered

by Thomas Bolton, the Moffatt had left Hobart Town on 20 June 1838. Two of the emigrants were William Newell and his son William, originally brought to Australia from Dublin in 1833 for a bounty of £20.

In 1839 the Moffatt came to Australia with no convicts, departing London on 26 August and arriving in Port Adelaide on 19 December under the command of James Gilbert. Several accounts exist for this voyage.

Still commanded by James Gilbert when she made her fourth voyage as a convict ship in 1842, the Moffatt completed the direct voyage from Portsmouth to Hobart in 106 days. She had left Portsmouth on 14 August, arriving in van Diemen's Land on 28 November. Three hundred and eighty-seven male prisoners were landed; two had died on the voyage and one had been re-landed.

Though the earlier Indian vessels were somewhat gloomy and ill-ventilated below decks, they were larger and roomier than the British-built. These old Indian vessels were more durable, seaworthy and faster than contemporary British-built ships. Many, especially those built of teak, were scrapped merely because they were out-moded rather than physically worn out, even though by the fifties newer faster vessels of higher standard were being designed.

5. Notes for Future Research

- According to Jim, Michael and Sarah came out on the Moffat. However, the embarkation record has "Moffat" penned in, from a later date. This thus needs to be verified. Someone should check the passenger list of the ship. See Agent's Immigration Lists, (lists of immigrants in private ships), Microfilm: 2134 from many libraries in Australia. Note that the embarkation note shows arrival on date 31/5/1841. Another ship that arrived on the date, into Botany Bay, was *The China*. Someone could check this ship's passenger list.

1. NSW & Five Islands

Michael and Sarah arrived in Botany Bay on the 31st May 1841. Michael was originally bonded to serve a Sydney Trader, Nicholas James & Co.²² Michael however decided against Sydney as a place of work, obtained release from the bond, and instead they moved on down to Wollongong, where Michael took on a job as a teacher. The population of Wollongong at this time was 841.²³

Daly's "Tracing the Journey" says he took "a position on the Colony's payroll as a School Master at the Catholic day school²⁴ conducted on the site of the present Wollongong Cathedral ... The priest in charge was a Father Rigney, and had been in the district for a period of three to four years at the time of Mr O'Donnell's arrival" (p252).

After a period, he met W.C. Wentworth, the owner of the Five Islands Estate. W.C. Wentworth is famous for his exploration of NSW, particularly the discovery of a route through the Blue Mountains (with Lawson and Blaxland). The Five Islands Estate was a large holding of land, 2,280 acres (880ha), near present day Port Kembla.

Michael and another school teacher from Jamberoo, James Rigney, were offered the management of the estate, and set up the firm of O'Donnell and Rigney for this purpose. Daly says that this Rigney was related to Father Rigney above, possibly a brother.

After a short period, Rigney withdrew and went into business in Sydney. Michael O'Donnell took over the whole concern and ran it successfully until the time of his death. The estate involved both farming and grazing. According to Daly, "Farming such a large parcel involved tenant farmers, engaging in clearing and intensive farming" (p252).

The land was not owned by the O'Donnells, but they had a (roughly) 80 year lease from the Wentworths (the original lease was a 100 year lease in 1827). Michael took over this lease in the early 40s, and his descendants kept the lease until its expiry in 1926, whence the land reverted to the Wentworth family.

Their first child, Francis, was born on 31/10/1841 (Birth Certificate shows Port Kembla), five months after their arrival. The child was conceived very close to the date they left Ireland. During the successive years, Michael and Sarah had a further 7 children, Margaret (1843), James (1847), John (1850), Mary (1852), Richard (1854), Michael (1857) and Clara (1859).

Michael died on 6th March 1861, at Five Islands. He was roughly 46 at the time. In his life, he had made the decision to leave his home in Ireland, travelling across the globe to the unknown Australia, where he established himself firmly. He left 8 children and a wife behind.

Sarah and the family took over the running of the estate. Sarah lived to the age of 66, dying on 28th June 1887, also at Five Islands. She ran the farm successfully, according to reports.

²² From note on embarkation certificate. Also reported in Daly's "Tracing the Journey".

²³ From "Wollongong Timeline", see: <http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/library>. Daly reports a population of 831 at this time, spread over 122 houses. This being for the Illawarra region, which was, he said, "an area extending from Stanwell Park, north of Bulli, to the northern boundary of the Shoalhaven river." (p252)

²⁴ Note a National School was established in Wollongong in 1839.

The family farm seems to have been called the "Five Islands homestead farm" in at least one reference (John O'Donnell's will). By the beginning of the Twentieth Century, the O'Donnell family was known as "one of the oldest families in the Illawarra District".²⁵

According to Daly, the five sons of Michael O'Donnell "followed him into farming and acquired and farmed their own holdings to the north and west of the original farm." (p252).



Three of the Five Island (from Wollongong City Library)



Johnstone Plains & Five Islands from the Green Mountain. From a sketch by R M Westmacott in "Sketches in Australia" (Mitchell Library)

²⁵ Quote from a news clipping in 1906.

Five Islands & Illawarra

The name 'Five Islands' is somewhat ambiguous. Firstly, it refers to a group of five islands off the coast near Port Kembla. These islands were first referred to by George Bass as he explored south of Sydney in a whale boat, 1797. His journal records: ... "and at sunset passed the five islands laying off Hat Hill".

In the main, 'Five Islands' refers to the Five Islands District, which is the tract of land on the mainland close to these islands. Land grants were first issued in 1817. The Five Islands District was later renamed 'Illawarra', an Aboriginal name meaning probably "pleasant place near the sea". Illawarra is the current name of the district.

Another use of the term is 'Five Islands Estate'. One of these early grants was to David Allan. He was granted 2,200 acres (880ha) at Five Islands in 1817. His property fronted the ocean at Red Point and Port Kembla and was between Tom Thumb Lagoon and Lake Illawarra (to the north of the lake). The grant was called "Illawarra Farm". Allan was Deputy Commissary-General of the colony from 1813-1819. He carried on his grazing interests on his Illawarra Farm of which 600 acres were cleared. Produce from the farm was sold to the Government Stores. Allan left the colony in 1822 and he leased the farm "with good cottage and office" (Sydney Gazette, 22 June 1824).

In 1827 the property was sold to Richard Jones who later sold it to William Charles Wentworth in the early 1840s, and it came to be known as "The Five Islands Estate". Wentworth was a famous Australian explorer (Blue Mts), statesman and pioneer publicist. Michael O'Donnell took over the estate on lease in the 1840s, and the estate management stayed in the family until the end of the lease, in 1926. The original Wentworth died, but the land was kept in the family. This was a 100 year lease, starting in 1827, which Michael took up in the 1840s.

However, the land was on a good harbour, and before the end of the lease, much of the land was resumed by the government, 500 acres in 1899 for the Port Kembla Harbour, and a further 1470 acres in 1913.

The same information says that William Wentworth III (the original Wentworth's son's nephew) sold most of the land, partly to the steelworks (Australian Iron & Steel) to enable them to move from Lithgow to Port Kembla and partly to a group of Sydney businessmen called "Heart of Kembla". The Wall Street crash (1929) and subsequent Depression meant that Heart of Kembla became bankrupt. The family had to return from England and the land reverted to William Charles Wentworth III as it had not been paid for. (LAWSON, 1991).

(Information

from:

<http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/library/localinfo/warrawong/history.html>)

and <http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/library/place.html>.)

2. The Children of Michael & Sarah

Michael and Sarah had 8 children, details being:

1. **Francis O'Donnell**: Born 31st October 1841,²⁶ in Port Kembla. This was 5 months after the ship arrived, and about 9 months after they left Ireland. He was normally called 'Frank' rather than 'Francis'.

He married Mary Anne Richards, in 1879.²⁷ Mary Anne was born around 1847 in Winsor, NSW. Her parents were John Richards and Winifred (née Nowlan). She died 19th April 1912, 6 years after her husband.

Frank was physically imposing, being 6ft 3in (190cm), very tall in those days. He was well respected in the Illawarra region: he was a Justice of the Peace, and, at the time of his death, he was Mayor of Central Illawarra. He was also a member of the Licencing Bench, and a trustee of the Racecourse.²⁸ He was also recorded as a Pioneer of Dapto Show.²⁹ Frank and his brother Michael were renown breeders of Ayrshire bulls (See News Clippings in Appendices).

He died on 9th November 1906,³⁰ aged 65, in a riding accident. He was riding home from a meeting, when he passed through the racecourse, a commonly-used shortcut. Unfortunately, the path had recently had a wire fence placed across it, and his horse ran straight into it. He was thrown, fractured his skull, and died in the night. His son and an employer of the Five Islands Estate found his body at 4am. (for a full report, see News Clippings in the appendices).



Photo: Frank O'Donnell (from Wollongong City Library)

²⁶ From Jim's records. No birth record in NSW BDM.

²⁷ Jim's Records: 21/10/1879. Wollongong. NSW BDM Certificate 5261/1879 Husband: O'DONNELL FRANCIS Wife: RICHARDS MARY A.

²⁸ From newspaper report of his death. See Appendice: "News Clippings".

²⁹ Caption attached to Photo of Frank O'Donnell in the Wollongong Library.

³⁰ NSW BDM Certificate 14880/1906 O'DONNELL FRANCIS Fa: MICHAEL Mo: SARAH.

2. **Margaret O'Donnell**: Born 31st October 1843, NSW³¹. She shared this birthday with her older brother. She married *Thomas McCaffrey*,³² on 15th January 1872 at Jamberoo.³³ She died 17th December 1939, just after the start of WWII. She was 96 years old.

3. **James O'Donnell**: Born: 1847.³⁴ Died 1918.³⁵ Nothing more is known.

4. **John O'Donnell**: Born 31st July 1850.³⁶ His date of death is unknown, but he was still alive in 1898³⁷ (we have a copy of his will registered on 18/8/1898). At that time, he owned a farm on the shore of Lake Illawarra, with 77 acres. This farm cost 500 pounds on purchase. He also had a share of the Five Islands homestead farm (the family property, as a going concern, not the land itself). John seemed to be very involved with the church, as he left the vast bulk of his estate to the Roman Catholic Church, with small bequests to his brothers and sisters (25 pounds each).

According to Daly, John O'Donnell "disappeared strangely, not to be seen again" (p253). It sounds like there is a story here to be tracked down. John O'Donnell's property was eventually sold as the site of the Port Kembla Steelworks in 1926.

5. **Mary O'Donnell**: Born 27th September 1852.³⁸ She married *George Copas* in 26th September 1896, the day before her 44th birthday.³⁹ This was quite old to be getting married, especially for a woman. She died 12 years later, in 1909.⁴⁰ NSW BDM lists a George B Copas who died in 1922 (Cert. 3442/1922).

6. **Richard O'Donnell**: Born 29/11/1854.⁴¹ He married *Alice Blanche Smith* in 1905.⁴²

Alice was born in 1865 in Charcoal, NSW (23/9/1865). Charcoal was later renamed Unanderra, and is a small town seven kilometres south of Wollongong. When she was

³¹ From Jim's records. No entry for her in NSW BDM. Note however entry for different mother: V18491233 66/1849 O'DONNELL MARGARET Fa: MICHAEL Mo: CATHARINE

³² Jim's records show the husband as McCaffery, but BDM shows McCaffrey, as does the will of John O'Donnell.

³³ From Jim's records. Backed up by NSW BDM 3816/1872 MCCAFFREY THOMAS O'DONNELL MARGARET.

³⁴ From Jim's records. No entry in NSW BDM.

³⁵ NSW BDM Certificate 13630/1918 O'DONNELL JAMES Fa: MICHAEL Mo: SARAH.

³⁶ From Jim's records. No entry in NSW BDM.

³⁷ John O'Donnell owned a property in Melbourne, so he may have lived and died there. We could check Victorian BDM for his death records. Also, To track his death, we could look for a property on the banks of Lake Illawarra, and look for title deed transfer after 1898.

³⁸ From Jim's records. No entry in NSW BDM.

³⁹ NSW BDM certif. 6318/1896.

⁴⁰ NSW BDM certif. 6804/1909 for Mary COPAS (RICHARD Fa: MICHAEL Mo: SARAH.)

⁴¹ From Jim's records. Note the NSW BDM has a record for 1857 for Richard O'Donnell, Father Michael, Mother Sarah. Either Jim's record is wrong, or the birth wasn't registered for 3 years, or there is another Richard with the same parent's names. Would be interesting to check this birth certificate. However, since Michael was born in June 1857, it not possible Richard was also.

⁴² No record of marriage in BDM.

24, she married *James Richard Muir*, in 1889.⁴³ She had two children by him, James Edward, in 1890, and Frederick Warren, in 1893. Her husband then died in 1894,⁴⁴ leaving her widowed, 28, and two small children.

Mary was to outlive both of these children: James Edward died in 1908, aged 18, in Gayndah, Queensland (a small farming community), and Frederick died on the beaches of Gallipoli, aged 22, in 1915. (details from NSW BDM).

Somewhere after the death of her husband in 1894, she met Richard O'Donnell, and they got married, in 1905. The reason for the wedding was possibly that she was pregnant, and she bore Richard's daughter Alice Kathline on the 27/7/1905. They were living in Unanderra at the time. Soon after, in 1907, they had another child, Mary Betty. Alice Kathline, at least, survived to old age, dying in 1986. No details are available on Mary Betty.

It is possible that Alice's mother was living with them at first, as she is recorded as dying in Unanderra in 1907, age 83.

Richard died on 12/9/1916 in Unanderra.⁴⁵ Alice herself survived both husbands, living until the age of 73, dying 6/7/1939.



Unanderra in 1910 (from Wollongong City Library)

Unanderra

Unanderra is situated on part of the "Berkeley Estate" which was granted to Mrs Jemima Jenkins in 1835-36. Unanderra was originally called 'Charcoal' or 'Charcoal Creek'. From 7 April 1881 Charcoal Creek became Unanderra, an aboriginal word meaning the "meeting place of creeks" or the "junction of the two creeks". The two creeks were Charcoal and Allan's Creeks. The original form of the name is thought to have been Unundurra or Un-dirra.

(from:

<http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/library/localinfo/unanderra/history.html>)

⁴³ NSW BDM 5221/1889.

⁴⁴ NSW BDM 14817/1894.

⁴⁵ Death: 14601/1916 O'DONNELL RICHARD Fa: MICHAEL Mo: SARAH.



The Charcoal Store c. 1870 (from Wollongong City Library)



Unanderra, 1893 (from Wollongong City Library)



Unanderra Railway (date unknown) (from Wollongong City Library)

7. **Michael O'Donnell** (our ancestor): Born: 17th June 1857 in Five Islands.⁴⁶ He was baptised on 29th June 1857 in Wollongong.⁴⁷ He married Ada Isabel Smith, on 11th April

⁴⁶ From Jim's records.

⁴⁷ According to Peter Daly (Tracing the Journey) he was christened by Father Sumner.

1894, in Sydney.⁴⁸ She died in 1937,⁴⁹ and Michael remarried in 1939 to Alma A. Atkinson (on 10th July 1939), in Hurstville.⁵⁰ Michael died on 18th March 1945, aged 87.⁵¹

In his life, he was a keep breeder of Ayrshire cattle. See the appendix: "News Clipping etc." for his views on these cattle.

Ada was born 21st November 1860 in West Dapto.⁵² Ada was the older sister of Alice, who married Michael's brother, Richard. Marrying the brother/sister of in-laws seemed to be common then, as Clara also married Francis's wife's brother. John and Paul O'Donnell of the current generations have continued this trend by marrying Ann and Margaret O'Brien.

Ada and Alice were the daughters of Edmund Frederick Smith and Rhonda (nee Hill), who had emigrated from Middlesex, England. He was by profession a school-master, and his father before him a minister. The Smiths came to Australia in 1852, and were in Dapto (near Wollongong) for the birth of Ada in 1860. They soon moved to Charcoal/Unanderra for the birth of Alice in 1865. Alice was however baptised in Dapto. It is likely the family stayed here until the parents death, as Mrs Richards died in Unanderra. Richard and Alice also lived in Unanderra.

Michael and Ada had 7 children in their time: Richard (1895), Reginald (1897), Marcella (1898), Edgar (1899 - father of Peter O'Donnell), Vincent (1901), Margery (1902) and John (1906). Most lived long lives, except for Margery, who died in 1930, aged 28.

8. **Clara O'Donnell:** Born 27th September 1859.⁵³ She married Edwin W Richards, in 1892.⁵⁴ The year of her death is unknown. Her husband, Edwin, was brother to Francis's wife, Mary Anne Richards.

Edwin was born in approximately 1852, to parents John Richards and Winifred Nowlan. He was a tanner and currier by trade. He was an alderman on Wollongong Municipal Council from 1888 to 1897, and later, on the Central Illawarra Shire Council (at least in 1909). Edwin died in 1910, in Wollongong, and was buried in Wollongong Cemetery.

Below are two photos, both from the Wollongong Library. The first was taken in 1897 (from a composite photograph of aldermen). The second was taken shortly before his death, in 1909, also in his role as an alderman, this time on the Central Illawarra Council. Note that Frank O'Donnell was also serving on this council, until his death in 1906.

⁴⁸ From Jim's records. Also NSW BDM certif. 570/1894 O'DONNELL MICHAEL SMITH ADA I.

⁴⁹ Jim's records: 20/11/1937.

⁵⁰ From Jim's records.

⁵¹ Jim records NSW BDM 15813. 1945 records are not yet on the web.

⁵² From Jim's records. He states NSW BDM 116814053. Web: 14053/1860. Ada was christened 9/12/1860 Dapto.

⁵³ From Jim's records. Also NSW BDM certif. 14210/1859 O'DONNELL CLARA Fa. MICHAEL Mo. SARAH.

⁵⁴ Jim's records: 6/1/1892. NSW BDM certif. 7778/1892.



Photos of Edwin W. Richards (From Wollongong Library)

Appendix: NSW BDM Record Indexes

The following BDM records are available in NSW BDM registry, on the web:

Name	Birth	Marriage	Death
Michael O'Donnell	-	-	5233/1861
Sarah O'Donnell	-	-	9579/1887-
Francis O'Donnell	-	5261/1879	14880/1906
Margaret O'Donnell	-	3816/1872	-
James O'Donnell	-	-	13630/1918
John O'Donnell	-	-	-
Mary O'Donnell	-	6318/1896	6804/1909
Richard O'Donnell	12246/1857	-	14601/1916
Michael O'Donnell	-	570/1894	-
Clara O'Donnell	14210/1859	7778/1892	-

BDM also shows some other records, but must be another family. (Michael died 1861)

Birth: 13748/1867 O'DONNELL MARY Fa: MICHAEL Mo: SARAH

Birth: 15610/1869 O'DONNELL BRIDGET Fa: MICHAEL Mo: SARAH

Death: 13556/1929 O'DONNELL BRIDGET Fa: MICHAEL Mo: SARAH

Death: 7249/1929 O'DONNELL HENRY H Fa: MICHAEL M: SARAH

Appendix: Newspaper cuttings etc.

Illawarra Historical Society Bulletin May 1979 p22

The O'Donnells: The O'Donnells were early settlers on the Five Islands Estate. Michael O'Donnell first was a teacher in a Wollongong Roman Catholic School in the 1840s. Later he resigned teaching to take over the management of the Five Islands Estate which was originally a large share of Andrew Allan's Illawarra Farm. He had five sons and they all lived around the Five Islands area and Unanderra. Mrs. Richard O'Donnell was postmistress at Unanderra from about 1900 to 1930.

One son, Frank, was a prominent figure in the milk industry activities and local government. He was alderman of the former Central Illawarra Council and was mayor on eight occasions.

Our present Lord Mayor of Wollongong, alderman Arkell, is a member of the O'Donnell family. The O'Donnells, like the Lindsays, were great exponents of the Ayrshire breeds of dairy cattle. They bred and exhibited this breed of cattle with considerable success.

The History of Illawarra p86? (regarding 1897)

I believe this to be "The History of Illawarra and its Pioneers" by Frank McCaffrey, c. 1922, Sydney. Note Thomas McCaffrey was the husband of Margaret O'Donnell, he may be a relative.

[The Michael O'Donnell quoted below is the one born 1857, son of Michael and Sarah. Given he refers to 40 years breeding Ayrshires, it is probably from a period roughly sixty years after birth, so 1920 is a good estimate of its date.]

The late Frank O'Donnell evidently followed up success after success with his Ayrshires. The Illawarra "Mercury" of May 27th, 1897, states "Mr Frank O'Donnell, of Five Islands, has sold two bulls by champion Ayrshire bull, 'Sir James', and two Ayrshire heifers by the Ayrshire bull, 'Noble', to a northern district buyer. Three years previous to this the same buyer took away a few head of 'Noble's' heifers, and pooled the shows in his district. 'Sir James', after 5 years service at Five Islands, went to McKenzie's herd at Moss Vale. At Moss Vale Show, he lowered the colours of the South Coast champion. Hugh Dudgeon, of Hill View, Jamberoo, having purchased heifers by 'Noble' and found them so good that he came back for more, and secured 'Noble' for his Hill View stud. About the breeding of 'Noble', there hangs a doubt. At the time 'Noble' was sired, the Woodhouse's of Mount Gilead, Campbelltown, had a noted Devon bull of superior dairy quality named 'Nobleman', and a herd of Ayrshire cows that were kept to provide milk to feed stud Shorthorn calves for show purposes. There may be nothing in the name, but the colour of 'Noble' and the colour of his progeny, especially the reds, account for much suspicion."

...

With regard to Michael O'Donnell's experience of Ayrshire cattle, he frankly states: "I have been breeding and using Ayrshire cattle for forty years, and I have not any desire to change for other breeds, nor do I aim at world records. I just demonstrate year in and year out their ability to produce for a longer period of years than any other breeds of dairy cattle. I am at the present time keeping 40 Ayrshires on a back run where 20 Shorthorns failed to get a living. In proof that Ayrshires remain productive over a long period of years (the cow '...nty' (unreadable), whose photograph I enclose with others for illustration), was photographed at the age of 21 years. She is still hail and hearty, and looks as if she will be useful for some years to come. She is one of a number I have in use who have reached this age."

The foregoing statement is made by a gentleman whose veracity no Illawarranian would for a moment doubt. An honourable exhibitor and a modest winner.

The founder of the family, Michael O'Donnell, was reared and educated for commercial ?? [word unreadable] in the County Tipperary, Ireland. His wife, whom he married in 1840, was a native of County Cork. In January 1841, the young couple decided to try their luck in Australia, sailing from Queenstown for Botany Bay. They arrived in Sydney in the following May. Business not being too bright in Sydney, Mr O'Donnell got a position in the Education Department at Wollongong. This country was in a disturbed state owing to the large number of convicts and ticket-of-leave who were becoming masters of the situation. Mr. O'Donnell's Wollongong experience caused him to relinquish teaching. He formed the acquaintance of W.C. Wentworth, the owner of the Five Islands Estate; was joined by another school teacher from Jamberoo named James Rigney, and the firm of O'Donnell and Rigney took over the management of the estate, comprising ? 2280? as a farming and grazing proposition. After a short period, Rigney withdrew and went into business in Sydney. Michael O'Donnell took over the whole concern and ran it successfully until the time of his death, 1861. His widow and her fine family took charge. She was a very superior woman and carried on successfully until her death in 1887. ...

Newspaper Cutting, (paper unknown, possibly Illawarra Mercury), 9/11/1906

Riding Fatality

Mayor of Central Illawarra Killed

Wollongong Saturday

Mr Frank O'Donnell, J.P., Mayor of Central Illawarra, while riding home last night, was killed. Mr O'Donnell, who was a member of one of the oldest families in the Illawarra district, was a splendid man physically, standing about 6ft 3in, and enjoyed the best of health. He attended a meeting of the Wollongong Agricultural Society last night, and left before 10 o'clock for his home, on the Five Islands Estate. On the way, he had to go through the racecourse, which has been recently fenced in. He was riding a spirited animal, and was proceeding along a well-beaten track, across which a wire fence had recently been erected. Neither the horse nor the rider appeared to have noticed it in the darkness, and the animal crashed through it, throwing Mr. O'Donnell and fracturing his skull. The deceased's wife and son, becoming anxious through the night, the latter set out accompanied by one of the employees on the estate to make a search; with the result that they came across the body at 4 o'clock this morning.

Deceased was universally respected, and in addition to being Mayor of the borough of Central Illawarra, was a member of the Licencing Bench, and was a trustee of the Racecourse on which he met with such a tragic end. An inquest was held this afternoon at the courthouse before Lieutenant-Colonel Chisholm, P.M. The Coroner found that there was no evidence to show how deceased met his death.

References

Daly, Peter 1974 "Tracing the journey!". From some Wollongong Historical Journal.

McCaffrey, Frank c.1922. *The History of Illawarra and its Pioneers*.

O'Donnell, John 1898. *Last Will and Testament*.

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