

# THE THREE ROSES

ALL SEPARATE AND DISTINCT

PIONEER THOMAS ROSES

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(For "Windsor and Richmond Gazette")

## PART I.

As I have received a vast amount of correspondence and letters of enquiry relative to the genealogy and histories of the Roses, I think at this juncture, an accurate account of the pioneers and their descendants would not be out of place.

One hundred years ago (1825) there was living in New South Wales three contemporary Thomas Roses, who all founded families, as far as I know. Two of those Thomas's, pioneers, were compulsory emigrants—that is, did not come free. The remaining one, and by far the most famous and worthy, was that Mr. Thomas Rose who came as a free settler, with others, by the "Bellona" (Goddess of War) arriving at Sydney with his wife and family on the 16th January, 1793. This Mrs. Jane Rose, whose maiden name was Jane Topp, had with her three English-born sons and one English-born daughter, viz., Thomas (II.), Joshua, and Richard (I.). Mary Rose was the daughter's name. After arrival in the intervening years were born three Australian children, namely John, Sarah and Henry.

For the moment I shall leave them here. As that family of Wilberforce Roses is the most important, as momentous happenings, revolve on the elucidation of various issues, extending to millions in estates and money in England, I will tell their story later, after I have dealt with the two other Thomas Roses. The three Thomas Roses will be designated, for the sake of convenience and association, as Castlereagh Thomas Rose (Emancipist), Mount Gilead Thomas Rose (Emancipist), and Wilberforce or "Bellona" Thomas Rose (Free). I shall deal with the pioneers and their descendants in that order.

My first note relating to the Castlereagh

their descendants in that order.

My first note, relating to the Castlereagh Thomas Rose is an extract from the Church of England register of Castlereagh Church (Nepean River). The entry reads:—"January 14, 1825, solemnization of marriage by banns between Thos. Rose, prisoner, and Elizabeth Brooks, prisoner, and married this day by me,

HENRY FULTON,  
(Officiating Minister).

his  
Thomas X Rose  
mark  
her  
Elizabeth X Brooks  
mark

Witnesses: John Burrah.

her  
Eliz. X Holland.  
mark

Now, to confirm the above entry, which is in the handwriting of Rev. Henry Fulton (and the story of the rescuing of these important Castlereagh registers, which are extremely valuable records, by Mr. Hugh Wright, is a narrative by itself) the one remarkable fact about these Fulton register entries are, that worthy and good cleric in the marriages entries always without variation writes the events as being "by banns," which meant that the propositions were read out to the assembled people for the three preceding Sundays to the marriage. The banns' book entries prove this. It is a matter that I have been unable to solve so far, as to the Government allowing such procedure, as in all other churches in New South Wales for the periods covered the then Governor's "permission to marry" had first to be obtained. This related to the sons and daughters of both free settlers and to prisoner emancipists of both sexes.

In "The Australian" (Sydney) for April 21st, 1825 is a communication, not dated, from Emu Plains (Penrith) Establishment, relating to marriages—prisoners'—wherein it is stated that one named, Elizabeth Brooks arrived per "Mary" March 19th, 1823, discharged same date, married to Chief Watchman, Thomas Rose.

I am of opinion that the couple went to

I am of opinion that the couple went to Castlereagh Church, a few miles down the Nepean River and were married. One thing is quite evident—both of the parties to the contract must have been well conducted individuals, otherwise, one may surely opine that their marriage would not have been allowed while still "bond." From some information I have (but cannot place my hands on at present) I am of opinion that Castlereagh Thomas Rose and his wife soon afterwards went to Pitt Town, near Windsor, where that pioneer farmed some land, and to that couple was born the eldest son, John Rose, who at manhood married Miss Harriet Hobbs, one of the daughters of Pioneer Robert Hobbs (of Hobbs' Millions fame). On the other hand I have been assured by those who say they know (but do not bring proof) that John Rose, of Pitt Town, (Rose-Hobbs) was the founder of a distinct family entirely to the other three Thomas Roses. It may be so. So it will be seen quite easily that the Roses as founders of separate families are very involved in their genealogy. I do know that some of the Pitt Town Roses went down to the Lower Hawkesbury as farmers, and these intermarried with descendants of the free pioneer settler, "Bellona" Thomas Rose, of Wilberforce, some of whose descendants had also gone to the same district.

If I could locate where Castlereagh Thomas Rose died, no doubt I would be able to settle the matter—whether John

#### Rose—Brooks family.

However, I shall here leave Thomas Rose, of Castlereagh, for the present, and turn to that Thomas Rose (late of Mt. Gilead) who arrived as a "Government man" at Sydney in the year 1798, and by good conduct early received his freedom and made good as the famous founder of a family of Roses, and was one of the best practical settlers that adopted the cultivation of the soil as a means of subsistence. This Mr. Rose first started a bakery in the year 1806 at Sydney. Four years later, on July 21st, 1810, he obtained a license to sell colonial ale. The

tained a license to sell colonial ale. The place was first called the "Crown Inn," and later the "Rose and Crown" was its name, the site of which was a lease, and the inn stood at the corner of King and Castlereagh streets, Sydney, (where the massive building of the Sydney "Daily Telegraph" stands nowadays). The property stood on the aristocratic side of Sydney's lazy stream. Officers walking to Hyde Park cracked old-time jokes with the jovial, round-faced, well-read publican.

When the park became a racecourse he performed the duty of officers' clerk by keeping the track clear of intruders. The Rose and Crown grew into a sportsmen's rendezvous; its commercial room had all the latest news from London, every ship's captain bringing a special mail for the proprietor—there could be read the pros. and cons. about racing, hunting, fighting, rowing, highway robbery, court scandal, home politics, the newest books on agriculture, cattle-breeding and deforestation. Mr. Rose kept racehorses, of a sort, as his Leadbeater won both events in the Subscription Plate, run on August 14, 1821. He remained clerk of the course until racing ceased in 1822, when its memory, linked to the years of Macquarie's administration, found voice in song and speech over a champagne dinner given by him to the patrons of that royal sport introduced by officers of the 73rd Regiment. For a few years Hyde Park was known as Rose's Paddock, as he ran 30 head of cattle there under an agistment lease.

Among his activities was a lease of Palmer's Mill, in the Domain, June, 1813. He relinquished baking in 1815. In April, 1827, Mr. A. Hill, of the Hyde Park Tavern, took over the Rose and Crown, the original licensee having grown land-hungry, indicating colonistic health. He became a squire of broad acres when Governor Macquarie resumed a block of land adjoining the hotel, and used as a sale yard, allowing in exchange 1300 acres of land at Airds, about 30 miles from Sydney.

In October, 1818, he purchased from Reuben Uther, the first maker of furry hats in Sydney, a farm of 400 acres, named Mount

Sydney, a farm of 400 acres, named Mount Gilead, on the Appin-road. His inside knowledge prompted the purchase of 50 acres on the road side, just north of Campbelltown, to which he soon added an adjoining 40 acres on the bank of Bow-Bowing or Boro-Borang Creek. Here, 32 miles from town, he built Woodbine Cottage, which even now is conspicuous within its leafy dell of fruit and flower and scented cedars.

Mr. Thomas Rose (1798) made a further purchase of 104 acres of land on the Nepean River, and in June, 1823, he received a grant of 300 acres on the river. This alluvial, breathing perfumes from honey-giving native flowers, contrasted with the barrenness of Gilead, where forest leaves hung faint from summer heat, and drought so gripped the land that its skin cracked and gaped for water. The drought predicted by Sir Thomas Brisbane spread around Gilead, so Mr. Rose decided, in 1829, to build an embankment across the dried-up pond on Gilead, and form an artificial reservoir for rain when it came. This proved a blessing to distant farmers who were compelled to use Rose's dam or go to the Nepean ford for water. Sixpence a quart was their distributing price.

"Rose's Mill" erected in 1836, stands on a slight prominence. It is the most beautiful relic of a wind-driven mill to be found

throughout Australia. Its story has been often told by imaginative writers. A picture postcard tells us it was built in 1812, and of such history is built. For about ten years the mill ground merrily, then a rust in wheat cut short its usefulness. It is a landmark that should be cared for by a trust as a survey reserve. Lawrence Kendal was the miller. This historic mill was struck by lightning on the night of the fateful storm that wrecked the ship "Dunbar" on the cliffs near Sydney Heads, August 20th, 1857.

There were many such country windmills, and the last (with two exceptions) is still in evidence at Mount Gilead, between Campbelltown and the old-world village of

AS EVIDENCE OF MOUNT GIBSON, BETWEEN  
Campbelltown and the old-world village of  
Appin, famous as being the place where  
Hamilton Hume spent his boyhood. This  
old mill should be restored. Though this  
mill building is slowly crumbling before the  
ravages of time, its machinery—the whole  
of which is of hardwood—is still in a fair  
state of preservation, and is a tribute to  
the skill and faithful workmanship of the  
early-day craftsmen.

As a relic of the ancient method of grind-  
ing grain, and an interesting link with the  
pioneering past, this Appin windmill should  
be restored, or, failing that, what remains  
of it should at least be protected.

Surely such an ancient building and fa-  
miliar landmark so closely identified with  
the early history of New South Wales, is  
deserving of the interest of the Government.  
The old mill is worthy of restoration.

Thomas Rose, of the "Rose and Crown  
Inn," Sydney (Mt. Gilead Rose) was firstly  
married to a Miss Elizabeth Bartlett, who  
bore him two children, viz., Kezia Jane  
Rose, who later married Dr. John Hen-  
derson, M.D., and a son named James Han-  
nibal Rose, who died unmarried at No. 6  
Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, Melbourne, on Ju-  
ly 20th, 1879, aged 71 years.

Mrs. Elizabeth Rose (nee Elizabeth Bart-  
lett) wife of Mr. Thomas Rose, of the Rose  
and Crown Inn, died at the Castlereagh-  
street residence, Sydney, on the 1st Novem-  
ber, 1826, aged 39 years. The deceased fell a  
victim to the then prevailing disease, ca-  
tarrh, from which, under the care of Dr.  
Bland, she was for a few days almost cer-  
tain of recovery, but unfortunately Mrs.  
Rose prematurely returned to her usual in-  
dustrious domestic habits, and took a glass  
of cold water from the pump on one morn-  
ing, by which means the complaint return-  
ed with rapidity. The lungs were attacked  
most severely, and the patient, after a short  
illness, sank under the attack. Mrs. Eliza-  
beth Rose was long remembered as an af-  
fectionate wife and a tender parent. In  
the old Devonshire-street (Sydney) ceme-  
tery, Church of England portion, once stood  
a very large vault tomb. It is now (1925)  
at La Perouse (Bunnerong cemetery) and  
was removed thither with thousands of

was removed thither with thousands of other memorials during the year 1901. Amongst the many family inscriptions engraved thereon two are recorded as follow:

Sacred to the memory of  
MRS. ELIZABETH ROSE  
wife of Mr. Thomas Rose  
who departed this life November 1st, 1826  
aged 39 years

Another inscription reads:—

Also to  
MRS ANN BARTLETT,  
mother of the above Elizabeth Rose, who  
departed this life July 25th, 1846, aged 90  
years.

After the death of his first wife, Mt. Gilead Thomas Rose married, secondly, a Miss Sarah Pye, (of a very old family that lived at Baulkham Hills, and also at South Creek). Who has not heard of Pye's old "Lamb and Lark" Inn, 4 miles from Parramatta on the Windsor-road. This place will be introduced into a romantic story of the Suttors and the Davisons, founded on facts.

The children of the second marriage of Thomas Rose of the "Rose and Crown" Inn and Mt. Gilead, were four sons and two daughters, viz.,

(1) Charles Henry Jacob Rose, who married Miss Rose Nichols.

(2) Henry Rose

(3) Alfred Mason Nash Rose, who died unmarried, 23rd. April, 1917, aged 84 years.

(4) Reuben Rose, who took up "Boloka" station, Snowy River (N. S. W.)

The daughters resultant by the Thomas Rose-Sarah Pye marriage were:—

Hannah Rebecca Pye Rose, who married Mr. Edward Payten, once of the "Red Cow" Inn, Parramatta, and

Sarah Elizabeth Jane Rose, who married Mr. James Payten (a brother of the above).

Note.—This latter lady, Mrs. Sarah Payten (nee Rose) is still in good health and was 89 years of age during January, 1925. She lives at the old "Woodbine" Cottage, near Campbelltown. At the old place is

near Campbelltown. At the old place is an oil-painting and cherished possession, being a portrait of this good lady's mother (nee Pye).

At St. Thomas' Church of England, Enfield, Sydney, a double grave with emblematic tombstone (a scroll with curtain rung down) records

In loving memory

of

C. H. J. ROSE

late of Mt. Gilead, Appin

Beloved husband of Rose Rose,  
who died 10th February, 1908,  
aged 78 years

The Son, the Husband, Father, Friend

Has gone to his eternal rest;  
With such a life and such an end  
To be forever with the Lord.

On the lower portion of stone one reads:

Also, His beloved wife

ROSE ROSE

who died 22nd March, 1914.

Re-united

This Mrs. Rose Rose was a daughter of George Robert Nichols (I.) a solicitor who was a son of Australia's first postmaster, Isaac Nichols. A son of the above, G. R. Nichols, was a clever and capable writer on "Early Australian History," and lived for many years, until his death, at Llandilo near St. Marys.

What nationality the Mr. Thomas Rose of Mt. Gilead was, or where he came from, I have yet to learn. Probably he was an Englishman. However, the records say that "On Friday, March 3rd, 1837, Mr. Thomas Rose died at his Estate, Mount Gilead, Appin, aged 64 years. He was for many years a respectable inhabitant of the colony."

Mr. Rose was deeply regretted by a numerous circle of friends. He was buried on his property in a garth so placed that the evening shadow of the mill empalled his tomb.

We read: "The friends of the late Mr. Thomas Rose are requested to attend his funeral at his residence, Appin, on Monday next, the 6th inst., at one o'clock."

When the Woodhouse family purchased Mt. Gilead, they insisted that the tomb, with the bodies therein, should be removed, which was done and its re-erection took

with the bodies therein, should be removed, which was done, and its re-erection took place in the church of St. Peter's, Campbelltown (N.S.W.).

Mrs. Sarah Rose (nee Pye), the second wife of Thomas Rose, once of the "Rose and Crown" and Mt. Gilead, died at her residence "Woodbine," Campbelltown on June 20th, 1869, aged 68 years. This lady was Australian born.

I wish to make mention of a few more incidents in the life of this pioneer, Mt. Gilead Thomas Rose. I find that he was an overseer of stock at Cattle Point, near the Cowpastures (Nepean) and next at Prospect Hill, near Parramatta, where horses were bred, and his intimate friends John Pye and Nathaniel Payten, who kept the original "Woolpack" Hotel at Parramatta, and his brothers Andrew (I.) and Henry Payten, also had properties nearby. Hence we can understand Rose's two daughters marrying into the Payten family.

The Rose memorial tomb at St. Peter's Campbelltown, reads "In memoriam, Thomas Rose, died 3rd March, 1837, aged 64 years."

"Also Sarah, relict of the above, died 20th aged 48 years. At rest.

"Thy will be done."

Also

Alfred M. N. Rose, died 23rd April, 1917, aged 48 years At rest.

There are any other inscriptions on the vault.

Now, from what I have written readers and students can understand that there was connection between Mr. Thomas Rose, "Bellona," the farmer from Dorsetshire, England, whose wife's nee name was Jane Topp) and the Thomas Rose that came out in 1798, and whose respective wives' names were Elizabeth Bartlett firstly, and Sarah Pye secondly, notwithstanding that Mr. J. P. McGuanne, F.R.A.H.S. (who should have known better) in an article in the Sydney "Daily Telegraph" about two years ago entitled "A Versatile Pioneer," made many errors in mixing up these two Thomas's. Also lately, in Volume XI, Part II. (1925) of the Society's Journal in an otherwise remarkable and splendid essay, Mr. J. F. Campbell (licensed surveyor) and a Fellow of the Society, entitled "The Dawn

a Fellow of the Society, entitled "The Dawn of Rural Settlement in Australia," makes two or three statements anent "Bellona" Thomas Rose, of Wilberforce, which are quite at variance with historical truth. I shall point out these inaccuracies when dealing in my second article of the "Rose" series with the Thomas Rose, of Wilberforce, who is so favorably referred to by David Collins, Judge and Advocate, in his "The English Colony in New South Wales," the one standard authority for Australian History from 1788 to 1802. Collins incidentally says, referring to Mr. Thomas Rose, obit. 15th Nov. 1833, aged 81 years:—"He was the most respectable of the first free settlers, who came out in the 'Bellona.'"

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(To be Continued)