

THE McWILLIAM SAGA

IRELAND TO AUSTRALASIA

T H E M c W I L L I A M S A G A

IRELAND TO AUSTRALASIA

'We are always doing', says he, 'something for Posterity, but I would
fain see Posterity do something for us.'

Joseph Addison (1672 - 1719), The Spectator No.583.

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Introduction and Acknowledgements

The task of the family historian is, one supposes, to synthesise and present the facts about the on-going generations. In practice it has been found, in this particular case at any rate, that the main effort is required to be directed towards the reconciliation of information. Sometimes the facts to be reconciled are broad generalisations, such as the relationship of the John McWilliam branch to the main De Burgh-Clauricarde line. Other questions which arise are more specific, like the assertion that John's forebears left Ireland for Scotland in 1653 or the claim that his son, William, was born in 1845 rather than 1844. Where doubt has been found care has been taken to say so.

All this has meant a considerable challenge for the writer and a burgeoning fascination at the Saga's unfolding. Adding to the motivation for the effort of putting it together has been the support, encouragement and interest of so many family members. The co-operation and contribution of the following are recorded with gratitude. Barbara Golder heads the list and Pam Weston comes a close second. They have been tireless and persistent in their help. Equally willing and helpful has been Nell Cohen, as well as her daughter, Janine Hazlett. Joan Lane has always responded with sound advice and assistance when called on. Alaric ('Ric') Havyatt has achieved a fantastic amount of fact-gathering and has spared no effort to trace descendants and their histories. His competent and enthusiastic contribution has been immense. All the above have served unsparingly on the reunion organising committee and deserve great thanks for this alone.

There are many others to whom the family as a whole, and I in particular, owe a large debt of gratitude. Rosina Howells, her brother, Theo Levick, and her sisters Ursula Garden (and her daughter, 'Jo'), and Lois Baker have been meticulous and uncompaining in supplying family details, as have Joyce Reeder Harris, her brother Scott Harkness and Honor Tetzner. Joyce, Scott and Honor have corresponded literally for years, with great generosity and helpfulness. Special words of appreciation are due, too, to Paulette McWilliam, her brother Ian; and Peter McWilliam, his daughter, Tessa Dixon, his sisters, Joan North and Diana Tiede as well as his niece, Amanda Hal-loran. Peter Baird has been extra generous in responding to requests for information. Much encouragement and assistance has come from one of the family's 'Spouses', Pat Walker-Taylor, the widow of Basil. Although on the other side of the world she has shown a supportiveness, interest and willingness to commit herself to paper which has been a joy to the author. All the family owe Pat a very warm 'thank-you'. Caroline Fitzwarryne (Marjorie Hawken's daughter) has supplied useful information also. Very special mention must be made of the enormous help given by Joan Payne. Her keenness and encouragement in the writing of this history has been matched by her readiness to supply information and details about her father, Neville McWilliam, so much of whose work in times past has been the source of the substance of the 'Saga'. Mention must also be made of Gwen Allman (nee Evans) and her sister-in-law, Linda Evans. Gwen has provided much information and has made a real effort to delve into her memory for the story of events which happened a couple of generations ago.

There are a whole host of other relatives who should be warmly thanked. They replied to requests for family particulars with readiness and with the expenditure of much effort. Their trouble is greatly appreciated and gladly acknowledged. Their

names are as follows. Marcia Andren, Ann Armstrong, Philippa Bennetts, Archie Brookes, Andrew Cook, Gary L. Fantham, Peter Covern Fantham, Sandra Faranda, Shirley Green, Jennifer Hollis, Stephanie Metcalf, Duncan Harkness, Carol Hurley, Alison Kelso, Rod-erick Fantham Moore, Phyllis Moxon, Cynthia Nelson, Jackie Randerson, Geoffrey Sim, June Weatherell and John Wills. There are, I am afraid, others whom I have inadvertently omitted; I thank them all. Warwick Havyatt is owed special thanks for the skilful artwork involved in the reproduction of the Coat of Arms.

My sister, Fran Morrisby, deserves a particular word of gratitude for producing, usually most unexpectedly, all kinds of snippets of family tit-bits, as well as broader reminiscences of clan history. She has also been a patient sounding-board and gentle critic. The greatest help of all has come from my wife, Jean. She has uncomplainingly read all the proofs, twice, ie both the type-up and then again the printed material and she has also sympathetically put up with all the disruptions that come from producing a book.

Thus I acknowledge my large debt of gratitude to all these relatives, but I alone must take the responsibility for the inadequacies, inaccuracies and omissions in The McWilliam Saga. I would be grateful to any Readers who might be able to notify me of any errors or omissions. My hope is that The Saga will be of interest to family members and act in the long term as a source reference for further historical study.

H. Ronald McWilliam
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November 1986.

THE GENEALOGY

JOHN McWILLIAM was born in Scotland in 1811, the son of Alexander McWilliam and Anne (nee Boyle). John died on 28 December 1881 in Christchurch, New Zealand. In 1833/4 he married in London Rebecca who was the daughter of Thomas Moss and Rebecca (nee Grace). John's wife was born in 1813/4 in England and died in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 2 August 1901. They had eleven children. They were:-

John McWilliam, born c. 1838, died in London in 1910.

Mary ('Maria'/'May') McWilliam who was born in England on 10.4.1842 and died in Christchurch, New Zealand on 6.2.1919. In 1865 at Christchurch she married Arthur Albert Fantham (1842-1904). He was the third child of William Fantham (1772) and Mary (1783) who arrived in New Zealand in 1852 from Wendover, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England. Mary and Albert had eleven children who were:-

1. Frances Louisa ('Fanny') Fantham (1866-1948) who married in 1888 Frederick Bayly (1857-c.1934).
2. Emily Constance Fantham (1868).
3. Joseph Henry ('Harry') Fantham (1869).
4. Arthur Albert ('Bert') Fantham II (1870), who married Martha Richardson.
5. Mary Ellinor (or Eleanor) ('Ella'/'Spin') Fantham (1872-1954) who married c.1892 Ewen Macrae.
6. Lucy Mildred Eliza Fantham (1873-1961) who married in 1907 John Brown Sim (1878-1960).
7. Frederick Charles Fantham (1874-1954) who married Witcherley Caronne Cownern.
8. David Edward ('Ted') Fantham (1876).
9. Walter George Fantham (1878).
10. (Violet) May Fantham (1880).
11. Richard Andus Gwynne ('Dick') Fantham (1881).

William McWilliam born at Roscommon, County Connaught, Ireland on 17.1.1844 and died on 7.10.1930 in Sydney. In 1870 near Greymouth, New Zealand he married Rosina Barnett (1852-1924), the daughter of Edwin Frederick and Charlotte Pell (nee Hall?). They had eleven children who were:-

1. Frederick William McWilliam (1871-1941) who married (Alice) Maude Jackson 1875-1964) in 1896 at St Thomas's, North Sydney.
2. Lucy McWilliam, died in infancy.
3. Annie McWilliam (1874-1912) who in 1900 at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, married (Rev.) Hugh Walker Taylor (1856-1928). After her demise he married in 1917 Winifred Margaret Satchell (1887-1953).
4. Mortimer McWilliam, died in infancy.
5. (Rev.) Horace McWilliam (1877-1961) who in 1909 at Grafton Cathedral married Ruth Marchant Barnes (1872-1955), and then after her demise in 1956 at Hobart Cathedral Ella C. Baxter (nee Jorgensen).
6. Daisy McWilliam (1879-1915), died unmarried.

7. Elvira Lillian McWilliam (1881-1962) who in 1907 at Christchurch, Lavender Bay, Sydney, married (Rev.) Alfred Manning Levick (1882-1971)
8. Neville Gilbert McWilliam (1883-1960) who in 1914 at St Mark's, Darling Point, Sydney, married Agnes ('Nessa') Watt (1877-1956).
9. Walter McWilliam, died in infancy.
10. Ruby Catherine McWilliam (1887-1973) who in 1912 married Hallen Bielby Evans (1888-1963) at Christchurch, Lavender Bay, North Sydney.
11. Norman Carrington McWilliam (1890-1959), died unmarried.

Emily McWilliam, born in Roscommon, County Connaught, Ireland, in 1849 and died in Auckland in 1923. She married (1) in c.1867 at Christchurch, New Zealand, James Cunningham from Ulster and they had ten children. She married, on his demise, (2) his brother, Richard Cunningham, in c. 1897. There was no issue from the second marriage. The children of the first marriage were:-

1. Frederick Cunningham, born c.1870.
2. Leonard Cunningham.
3. Etta Emily Cunningham who married in 1895 Frank (Francis) James Wall (1870 or 1871-1908).
4. Violet May ('Vie') Cunningham (1878-1969) who married Edward Stanley ('Eddie') Brookes (1872-1956).
5. Hilda Rosina Cunningham who married in 1903 Philip Skeates.
6. Reginald Cunningham (c.1882) who married Norah Gladys Timewell (1889-1956).
7. Cecil Cunningham.
8. Ivy Rebecca Cunningham (c.1884-1954) who in 1907 married James Jabez ('Jay') Sharman (c.1877-1959).
9. Edith Crowe ('Edie') Cunningham (1885) who in 1908 married Charles Irvine Harkness (1883).
10. Lovina Aveline Phyllis ('Vena') Cunningham (1891-1938) who married (1) Archie Howard Brookes (c.1888-1918), brother of the husband of her sister Violet. On his demise she married (2) in 1920 John Weatherell (1883-1950).

Rebecca McWilliam (c. 1854-1878).

Lucy McWilliam (c.1858) who married a man by the name of Kennard.

'Maggie' (Margaret?) McWilliam (c.1860) who married a man by the name of Moore.

The remaining four of the children of John and Rebecca McWilliam are untraced.

THE COAT OF ARMS
of

Burke (Earl of Clanricarde, Viscount Burke, Baron Dunkellin etc., chief of the House of Burke, anciently De Burgh.)

Or, a cross gu., in the dexter canton a lion ramp. sa. Crest - a cat-a-mountain, sejant gard. ppr. collared and chained or. Motto - Ung roy, ung foy, ung loy.

(Meaning: or = gold; gu. = red; dexter canton = the right hand quarter; ramp = on hind legs, right paw raised; sa. = black; cat-a-mountain = a leopard or puma; gard. = gardant = looking at viewer; ppr. = proper = natural colour; sejant = sitting. Motto: one king, one faith, one law.)

The above is quoted from Sir Barnard Burke's General Armory which is a Registry of Armorial Bearings of England, Ireland etc.

