

## The Story Project: Sunshine Coast Oral History Pilot Project

**Participants:** Joe Crane and Dorothy Crane  
**Facilitator:** Helen Wilkinson  
**Date:** 10/06/2011  
**Place:** Caloundra Events Centre, Queensland

**Title:** The life and family of Joe Crane's great grandfather, Joseph Millard.

### Summary:

Joe Crane speaks to his wife Dorothy about the life and descendants of his great grandfather, Joseph Millard (born in England in 1828 and died in Australia in 1903).

He first tells of the process by which he discovered his great grandfather's story. He then describes Joseph Millard's conviction in England in 1850 for stealing a chicken and his subsequent transport to Western Australia as a convict in 1852.

He talks of Joseph Millard's later pardon and his move to the Eastern states of Australia. He provides some history of Westbrook Station, Queensland, and tells how, in 1860 Joseph Millard went to work as a fencer and stockman at Westbrook Station.

Joseph's marriage to Jane Underwood is described, then stories of some of Joseph and Jane's descendents are recounted. These include their son, Constable Stephen Millard (b. 1871, Toowoomba, Qld) who had a role in the conviction of bushrangers Patrick and Jimmy Kenniff in the early 1900's.

Stories are also told of Joseph's grandson, John Millard, who received an MBE for bravery in World War 2, and daughter Frances Millard (Joe Crane's grandmother), whose husband Mark Henry Slade was a Cobb and Co Coach Driver and then owner of the first shop in Kin Kin, Qld.

A little of Joe Crane's life and marriage to Dorothy Hoath (b. England) is recounted to finish.

### Transcript:

Joe Crane

My name is Joe Crane and with my wife Dorothy we live in Wurtulla on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland. Today's date is Friday 10th June 2011. We are in Caloundra today making this recording as part of The Story Project's Sunshine Coast Pilot. We are going to talk about My Great Grandfather Joseph Millard and some of his descendants. I'd like to begin by speaking of some of the people who have helped me over the years.

Firstly, I would like to thank the "Story Project Team" and in particular Helen Wilkinson for giving me the opportunity of recording my story. I must also thank my wife Dorothy who has helped me over the last twenty years in researching my families histories. I have been helped by many people from all around the world and the research by Ken Chinnery of Gympie who has supplied me with the names of 300 descendants of the person I will

speak about today, Joseph Millard. My story is about my Great Grandfather who was born in 1828 in England and died in Australia in 1903.

Dorothy Crane How did you get interested in Family History?

Joe Crane The reason is that our daughter Sharon came home from school one day and she had a Family History assignment to do. I soon realised that I did not know very much about my parents' families. I was born in Hughenden in 1933. Hughenden is in North West Queensland and I had lived all my young life in North Queensland. Hughenden had a railway junction and was a centre for transportation of sheep and wool. My sister tells me that I was brought home from the Hughenden hospital in a suitcase. Nearly all my parents' families were born and lived in the southern part of Queensland.

I phoned the Queensland Historical Society to ask for their help. I told them about my father Jeremiah Crane who was born in Rosewood in Queensland in 1884. The lady said she would look up the records and phone me back. She rang back 10 minutes later to tell me that my father had 8 brothers and a sister. Surprise for me! I joined the Society and with their help I gathered family history on the Crane and Callaghan families. This was my father's side of the family.

I next worked on my mother's side. Her maiden name was Slade and I noticed on my Grandfather's marriage certificate that he had married a Frances Millard. I immediately connected this name to Glen 'Millard' McGrath who was about to become a famous fast bowler in Australian Cricket. I found out later that 'Millard' was only a nickname for Glen McGrath as when he moved to Sydney he had lived in a 'Millard' caravan.

Dorothy Crane How were you able to research in England?

Joe Crane I contacted a Family History Researcher in England and he supplied me with a copy of the marriage certificate of Joseph Millard's parents Stephen Millard and Mary Foxwell. The researcher also sent me a copy of their son Joseph Millard's birth certificate. I read that both the marriage and birth certificates showed the year 1828.

The researcher also told me some names were missing on the Somerset Roll and Joseph Millard appears on the Roll only until he was 22 years of age. I was puzzled as to where Joseph and his father Stephen Millard had got to until I received an email to say that Joseph had been charged with stealing a chicken from his neighbour's backyard. Joseph went to jail for stealing the chicken and his father Stephen went to jail for receiving stolen goods. Stephen and Joseph appeared at the Wells, Somerset Court on the 31st December 1850 and were sentenced to 14 years in jail and both were also sent for transportation to Australia as convicts. I also received an email that showed an article from the Somerset Gazette, of the same date about their court appearance: "This

morning in Court No 3 a terrible scene took place when a young Joseph Millard, who had done no worse than to take a chicken from the back yard of his neighbour's house. The chicken was used for the Millard's family Sunday dinner. Both were sentenced by Judge Hawthorn, a stern and strict man of elderly years, to 14 years goal and transportation to the far end of the world, Australia". I was not pleased to hear that I had convicts in the early family but I am now proud of them for the tremendous job they did in raising their many descendants.

Dorothy Crane What did you find out about Joseph?

Joe Crane Joseph and his father were imprisoned and later put on the ship the "William Jardine" which sailed from Plymouth, England on May 3rd 1852 bound for the Swan River Colony in Western Australia. The "William Jardine" arrived in Fremantle with 102 passengers and 212 convicts on the 1 August 1852. The convicts had been kept chained in the hull and the voyage took a horrifying 88 days. Surprisingly no deaths were recorded on this voyage. The Millards worked on Government jobs in Perth and helped construct the Fremantle Prison of which they were later inmates. Both Joseph Millard and his father Stephen Millard were given a pardon in 1859.

I was invited to visit the Fremantle Prison on the 2 June 2003. It was the Descendant's Day for the families of the convicts. It was interesting to see that the certificate which I received was signed by Doctor Geoff Gallop who was the Premier of Western Australia at the time. I also read that the Great Grandfather of Dr Gallop's wife also a convict in Perth who had received 10 years in England and transportation for committing arson in Kent, England. Stephen Millard moved north to become a shoemaker in Geraldton, Western Australia and we presume that he died there. Joseph Millard came to the Australian Eastern States when he sailed on the ship the "Northam" from Western Australia to Sydney on the 6 February 1860 and arrived in Sydney five days later.

Dorothy Crane Tell us a little about the land he settled on?

Joe Crane In 1841 "Tinker" Campbell had been one of the first squatters to settle on the Darling Downs taking up a large run of 50,000 acres which he named Westbrook. He had earned the nickname "Tinker" because of the large number of tin cans and tin pots that he exchanged with the Aborigines. It is interesting to note that the Queensland Government passed laws to break up the large runs. There were also several subdivisions of this fine land. Westbrook Station is now only 23 hectares (about 60 acres) of land.

In 1846 Charles Underwood was employed as Manager at Westbrook Station by the then owners Hugh and F.W. Isaacs. Charles Underwood was born in 1812 in the Isle of Wight, England and died at Westbrook in 1868. He had moved with his wife and their first three children to Westbrook from Sydney. The Underwoods went on to have eight other children in Queensland. In 1854 Charles Underwood bought land in Toowoomba and in 1858 Mary Underwood (wife of Charles) also bought considerable

land in Toowoomba. Underwood Crescent was named in their memory by the Toowoomba Council. On her death Mary Underwood left a large amount of money to the Catholic Church.

While in Sydney Joseph Millard was befriended by a wealthy man John D. McLean who I think may have paid for Joseph's boat ticket from Western Australia. McLean is listed as a squatter and politician who had been born in Scotland. McLean had pastoral experience in New South Wales and bought Westbrook Station of 50,000 acres in 1853. Westbrook Station is about five miles from Toowoomba in Queensland.

Dorothy Crane Did Joseph marry?

Joe Crane Joseph Millard was sent by John D McLean to Westbrook Station, now owned by McLean, in 1860 to work as a fencer and stockman for Charles Underwood. In 1865 Joseph married Charles Underwood's second daughter Jane who was born in Sydney in 1842. They had eight children. Their sixth child Frances, born in 1873, was my Grandmother. Frances married Mark Henry Slade in Toowoomba in 1895.

Dorothy Crane Tell us about Joseph's children?

Joe Crane I am quite proud of Joseph's descendants. Joseph Millard's third son Stephen, born 1871 in Toowoomba, joined the Queensland Police Force in 1900 and died at an early age of 30 years and left a wife and ten young children. Stephen Millard had been promoted to Police Sergeant in 1925. He served mainly in inland Queensland and was noted for his bravery in rescuing three people in the Thomson River floods at Longreach in 1902. He was transferred to south western Queensland where he met up with the Kenniff Family who were bushrangers.

On Friday the 4th April 1902 Constable Stephen Millard and landholder James Burke came across a Police troop horse "George". With Burke's help Millard lifted the two police saddle bags off the horse. Millard opened the flaps of the saddle bags to find them packed with human bones and the remains of a fire. The horse belonged to Constable George Doyle and they assumed the bones belonged to him and his friend a property owner Johannes Dahlke. They also assumed that the two bushrangers Jimmy Kenniff and his brother Patrick Kenniff had murdered Police Constable Doyle and the landowner. The Kenniff brothers were arrested and after a lengthy trial in Brisbane, at which Constable Stephen Millard was a key witness, they were found guilty. Patrick was hung and Jimmy received fourteen years in Prison. Patrick Kenniff was the last person to be hung in Boggo Road Prison, Brisbane. Mike Munro who is a presenter and show host on TV Channel 9 writes an interesting story. His great grandfather who was part of the Kenniff family had changed his name from Kenniff to Munro which was the name of the farm they once lived on. Mike Munro revealed all this in the Brisbane Sunday Mail printed on the 10th January in year 2000.

Dorothy Crane Tell us about Joseph Millard's Grandchildren.

The records show that Joseph Millard's grandsons Kevin and Henry listed false dates of birth on their Army enlistment papers and were not of the required age to join up. However, the boys joined the Australian Army in 1939 and sailed overseas and fought in Europe. Joseph Millard's other son [edit: grandson] John served in Egypt. John who was a Warrant Officer died on Friday 21 March 1941 aged 31 and received an MBE for his bravery for diving on an explosive hand-grenade thrown by an enemy soldier into the Australian troops dugout. The hand-grenade exploded killing John but saved the lives of the Australian troops in the dugout. John is buried with over 2,000 Commonwealth burials in a cemetery in Egypt. We received a letter from Buckingham Palace which confirms that John Millard received a MBE for his bravery. John's other two brothers returned to Australia but they suffered for the rest of their lives from mustard gas poisoning which they had received during the War.

Joe Crane Over the years you have mentioned Grandma Slade?

Dorothy Crane Yes, Grandma Slade was a very interesting person. She was always neatly dressed and I remember her well as she always wore a white starched apron when she did any cooking. Her father, Joseph Millard, died in 1903 in Toowoomba. It is interesting to note that his father Stephen Millard and his mother Mary Foxwell are listed as his parents on his death certificate as they were on his birth certificate. Grandma Slade's Mother Jane Millard died in 1923 in Toowoomba. Frances Millard, my Grandmother, who had married Mark Henry Slade in 1895 in Toowoomba had 5 children and the second child, Alice Maud, is my Mother. My Mother married Jeremiah Crane in 1930.

Mark Henry Slade (Frances Millard's husband and my mother's father) had been a Coach Driver for Cobb and Co travelling between Brisbane and Gympie. He resigned from Cobb and Co and set up a shop in Kin Kin near Gympie. Kin Kin was one my Grandfather favourite scenic stops when he drove for Cobb and Co. This was the first shop in Kin Kin and opened by my Grandparents in 1907. In 1909 Mark Slade died and Frances remained in the shop with her young family. Frances later became a travelling sales person in Queensland.

I remember in 1940 when one day Grandma Slade (nee Frances Millard) came to visit us in Dalby in a horse and sulky. Whilst she was having afternoon tea with my mother I got into her sulky pretending to be the driver. Then the horse and sulky took off, luckily it stopped down the road and I led the horse back. I tied the horse back up and Grandma and Mum never knew of my ride. The horse and sulky were used as a taxi to pick up passengers from the Dalby Railway Station and take them to a local guest house. Grandma Slade died in March 1945 and Mum and I put her coffin on the train with us to Gympie. It was organised for her burial next to her husband in the Gympie Cemetery. Her husband, Mark Henry Slade, had been buried there some 36 years earlier.

Joe Crane        Tell us a little about yourself?

Dorothy Crane    As I stated at the start of this recording my name is Joe Crane and my wife and I live at Wurtulla on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland. Our email address is janddcrane@gmail.com and I would like to receive an email from you if you would like any further information from me. As a lad I worked in Queensland for a number of years. I did my National Service at Wacol and after attending Officer Training College in Sydney I graduated to a Sergeant and then a Lieutenant. In 1956 [edit: 1958] I started five years travelling to Canada, United States, Mexico and then on to England, Ireland and mainland Europe.

I married an English lass called Dorothy Hoath in London and we have had 6 children. One of our sons died just after childbirth but the rest of my children and their families are alive and living close to us in Queensland. At the time of this recording we have 5 grandchildren. My wife Dorothy and I recently celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary. Having had experience in computers in Toronto and London I came back to Australia and had 15 years computing with IBM. After leaving IBM I had 11 years owning a Service Station in Redcliffe.

Well, I hope you have enjoyed my story and I would like to thank again all of those people that have helped me over the years. If there are any errors in names used or points of history incorrect I wish to apologise and regret my errors.

### **Tags**

Convict  
The "William Jardine"  
The "Notham"  
Westbrook Station, Queensland  
Charles Underwood  
John D McLean  
Constable Stephen Millard  
Bushrangers Patrick and Jimmy Kenniff  
Cobb and Co Coach  
Kin Kin, Queensland  
Frances Slade (nee Millard)  
Mark Henry Slade  
John Millard  
Dorothy Crane (nee Hoath)  
Joe Crane

### **Picture**

Joe Crane (left) and Dorothy Crane (right)