

The McCullough Family of 8 Westlake



No 8 Westlake
in 1927
Dad & Mum McCullough & only daughter Mary Ellen & eldest son
with 5th & youngest son Joseph Michael & Catherine
Paul & John

The photograph shows my grandparents, William and Catherine McCullough and their three children, Mary, William and Joseph.

William senior was born in Belfast, Ireland in 1886/7 and came to Australia with the Royal Navy in early 1900s. He was stationed at Garden Island for some time as a Provost Marshall. I do not know anything further about his background other than there are still relatives in Belfast. He also has (had) a brother who lived in Adelaide.

Catherine was the fourth child of Michael Connelly and Margaret Connelly (nee Haley) and was born on 4th February 1886 at Harbor Street Sydney. Michael Connelly was born at Limerick, Ireland approximately 1838. I don't know how or when he came to Australia. Margaret Haley was born at Deniliquin NSW approximately 1862 to Daniel and Ann Haley and at some time in her youth lived in the Queanbeyan area. Margaret Haley died at 94 years of age and is buried at Woden Cemetery.

William Snr and Catherine were married on 29(?) the May 1914 at Marrickville, Sydney. Their eldest child Mary Ellen was born on 11th July, 1915 and she is my mother.

William Sn came to Canberra to work as a carpenter on the construction of the original Parliament House probably in 1915 [work on Parliament House commenced August 1923] and he lived in a camp called Russell [see note at end]. His family remained in

Sydney until 1923 when he obtained accommodation for them. William Snr also worked at some time on the construction of Commonwealth Avenue and after this became a carpenter at the Brickworks, a position he held until he was approximately 72 years old. I vividly recall him riding his bike from Griffith in the later years to and from work. He owned and built a house in Kingston which was next to the present Petrol Station and was subsequently owned by Paddy Pola.

They were among the first of the congregation of the Baptist Church in Currie Crescent and both my mother and William Jnr were married there and so was I.

Mary always claimed she was the girl wearing the white dress and the long white socks in the foreground of the photograph of the opening of Parliament House and we have photographs of her which she said were taken before going to the opening and she is similarly dressed.

When the family first moved to Canberra the three eldest children attended a school which was in the vicinity of the present Olims Hotel [Hotel Ainslie – opened in 1927]. When Telopea Park opened [September 1923] they then attended there.

Sometime in the late 1930s William Snr and Catherine went to live at 8 Roe Street Griffith and lived there until approximately 1960 when they moved to Shell Harbour NSW. They were both in their early 90s when they died and are buried in the Baptist Section of the Woden Cemetery.

Mary McCullough married John (known as Jack) Arthur Unwin, eldest son of Nathan Unwin and Ruth Parker. He was born at Werribee, Victoria in March 1906 and came to Canberra during the depression and worked at the Printing Office. Before his marriage he lived in the Printers Quarters Kingston. They were married on 10th December, 1932. After their marriage they lived in Ainslie in a two storey duplex somewhere in the vicinity of Faveaux Street. They had three children, Rosalind who died shortly after birth and is buried in St John's Cemetery [born and died 20th February, 1934 Ref St John's Churchyard by Jean Salisbury]; Marjorie Ruth (myself) and Joan Robin who were both born in the old wooden Canberra Hospital at Acton. Early in 1938 Mary and Jack moved into a house in Murray Crescent, Griffith. Jack was in the Werrawa Militia and was called up when World War 2 broke out and was posted overseas. Mary went to work at the Hotel Kurrajong and Joan and I went to live at 8 Roe Street. Jack returned to Australia in 1942 and was posted to Osborne House in Geelong and Mary, Joan and I joined him there. The family returned to Canberra in 1946 and has remained here ever since. Both Mary and Jack Unwin are also buried in the Woden Cemetery.

William McCullough Jnr attended Telopea Park School and on leaving went to work with the British High Commission. He went into the army sometime in the early 1940s and saw service in New Guinea. On his discharge he married Marie Carrard who lived at the time at Gorman House and worked in the Public Service. He subsequently became an economist with the Treasury Department of NSW and they lived at Pennant Hills. When he retired they moved to Cootamundra. William Jnr died several years ago and is buried

at Cootamundra. Marie still lives there. They had two children. Geoffrey who lives in Sydney and Clive McCullough who lives in Melbourne.

Joseph McCullough also attended Telopea Park School. On leaving he worked for the Transport Department Canberra. He became a Spitfire Pilot in World War 2 and was shot down, presumed dead, over the Mediterranean. He never married.

I married Robert Bruce Styles at the Baptist Church 19th December 1953 and we have three children, Robert Gregory Styles (known as Greg), Leonie Karen David (nee Styles) and Clinton John Styles who were all born at the Royal Canberra Hospital. They all live in Canberra and their children were also born at the Royal Canberra Hospital.

Joan married Ronald Limbert who grew up in Canberra with his parents and lived in Lockyer Street Griffith. They moved to Sydney and then to Port Macquarie NSW.

I attended St Christopher's School when I was 4. My mother said I was a terrible child and she had to sent to school and that was the only school that would take me at that age. At 5 years old I was then sent to Telopea Park School and I am the child with the angel wings on the Maypole picture showing at page 103 in *A Pictorial History of Telopea Park School*. I was 7 when we went to Geelong returning when I was 11, again to Telopea Park for a few months then to Ainslie Primary School to finish the year before going to Canberra High School. Joan also attended the same school and Campbell High School.

I have some vivid memories of growing up in Canberra in the 1940s and 50s but that is another story.

Marg Styles.

The photograph below belonged to the McCullough family. Their cottage was one of the finished houses in the background. They have the year 1923 marked on the back of the photograph. The cottages were occupied from March 1924.



[In 1928 the McCullough family lived at 63 Russell Hill Settlement. There was a school at Russell Hill and I would think that it is probable that the children first attended Telopea Park and then Russell Hill when they moved there prior to their move back to the south side. In 1935 they lived at 76 Causeway. By 1943 they are on the Griffith Electoral Roll – includes William Jrn]

The Canberra Cemetery Records show that both Catherine and William are buried in the Baptist Section of Woden Cemetery. Catherine was buried on 2nd June, 1966. William died on 9th February, 1972.

John Arthur Unwin died 16th April 1977 and is also buried in the Baptist Section of the Woden Cemetery. Also buried in the Baptist Section is Jennifer Lowise Unwin who died 9th July, 1979. She may or may not be a relation.