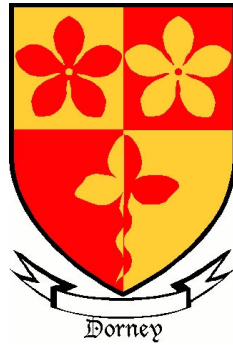


THE DORNEYS OF BLACKROCK
AN EMIGRANTS STORY
By Lynne Pramana of Ballina NSW Australia



My journey to Blackrock started many years ago when I decided I wanted to know about my ancestors. Who were these people and what made them travel from their own homeland to a strange country across the other side of the earth?

I live at Ballina, a beautiful coastal town in Northern NSW. My mother was born here. The women in our family have strength and determination; the men in our family are very placid. Where did this strength and determination gene come from? My journey to Blackrock answered my question.

On 14 September 1863, the ship 'Star of England' arrived at Morton Bay, Queensland carrying assisted migrants from Ireland. On board this ship were John & Catherine Dorney and their six children. John was born at Ballintemple, Blackrock around 1812. His father was Michael, a tailor. Catherine was born about 1819 in Cork City, she was the daughter of a Mr Gorman, a rope maker.

Their children Michael, Stephen & John were born in Cork City, while their other children Joseph Patrick, Catherine & William were born at St Andrew's, Holborn, Middlesex, England.



Catherine Dorney Quail

The Dorney family left Ireland around 1847 and settled in Middlesex, England. The 1851 census shows there were many Dorney families from County Cork living around the same area. John and his son Michael (age 9 yrs) were both working as servants to Lewis Rafihael, an Attorney & Solicitor.

By 1861 John and his family were living at St Stephen, Pancras and he was employed as a servant to another solicitor John Howard.

What made them decide to leave England and come to Australia will never be known. But both Dorneys and Gormans from County Cork had arrived in the colony earlier.

Sometime after their arrival in Queensland, John took on a position as a Shepherd in the remote inland town of Roma. Three of the sons, Michael, Stephen and John travelled to Sydney, NSW to seek work in their fields of employment.

In 1864 their youngest child William only 8 yrs old died. He is buried at Roma General Cemetery. It would have been a terrible shock for John and Catherine and I am sure they thought nothing could be worse; but fate had more in store for Catherine.

Eldest son Michael was making a name for himself as a Pianoforte fine tuner and his services were in high demand. In October 1868 word was sent to Roma that Michael was ill. Catherine set off on her long journey to take care of her son in Sydney. Unfortunately by the time Catherine arrived, Michael had died in hospital of consumption of the lungs. He was buried in the Catholic Section of Rookwood Cemetery. Little did Catherine know that while she was burying her son, her husband lay dying back in Roma. Just five days after Michael died, John passed away. He had been suffering from inflammation of the heart for 6 weeks previous.

On her arrival back in Roma, Catherine was greeted with the sad news of her husband's death. John had already been buried at Roma Cemetery. Catherine decided to take her children Joseph and Catherine back to Sydney so she could be near her sons Stephen and John.

In 1870 Stephen married Caroline Jones and settled down to raise his family in the Maitland area.

In 1873 John, unmarried, also died from consumption of the lungs.

Joseph died at Ryde in 1911, unmarried.



Catherine Dorney Quail &
gdaughters Mary, Catherine &
Madeline

On 15 September 1870, their daughter Catherine married John Alexander Quail, the son of a Ship's Captain from the Isle of Man. They had two sons Edward John in 1871 and John Alexander in 1873 who was still born. They lived at 55 Fleet Street, Carlton, Sydney with Catherine's mother. Catherine Snr died in 1890 from old age.

Edward was a gifted pianist and had an offer to be taken to London to train for the London Symphony Orchestra. Edward, being a very shy person declined the offer. In 1893 he married Annie Maree Richardson, the daughter of William Henry Richardson, an ex convict and Susan Malcolm a lass from County Roscommon.



Catherine Dorney Quail with g-daughters
Madeline Gertrude, Catherine May & son
Edward John Quail

Annie gave birth to six children, John William in 1895, Catherine May (Kit) in 1896, Eileen in 1897 died in infancy, Alfred George in 1900 died in infancy, Mary Philomena in 1902 and Madeline Gertrude (Mal) in 1905 (my Grand-mother). Just three years after Mal was born, Annie died from heart disease.

The raising of the children was taken over by their grandmother Catherine Dorney. She was a strict lady and a very devout Catholic.

As a teenager, Mal showed she had great promise as a violinist. She wanted to play professionally and teach. Her grandmother forbade this, stating that her only job was to marry a good Catholic man and be a good Catholic wife. Catherine died in 1922 but lived to see her grand-son John marry Mary Foley in 1920 and grand-daughter Kit marry Arthur Fripp in 1921.

Arthur (aka Darcy) was the assistant Town Clerk at Hurstville and in 1926 moved his family to Ballina to become the Town Clerk. Darcy and Kit had three children

William, Gwendoline and Desmond.

Kit was a gentle, shy person. She was also an avid golfer, winning the Club Championships on many occasions.

Mary was a bit of a rebel and not only decided that she was going to have a career, but also decided she would not marry. She accomplished both. Starting off her career as a Clerk, by the time she retired, she had managed some of the biggest hotels in Sydney. She was a very smart and particular business woman, also very generous. Her speciality was to send us the most beautiful, expensive Easter Eggs she could find...and did we ever look forward to them.

Unfortunately, Aunt Mary was also a crank! Upon her retirement she moved to Ballina to be close to her two sisters. She then proceeded to make her great-nieces and nephews' lives an absolute torment. If they brought friends home, Aunt Mary would put the hose on them and tell them to "scat!" Mary died in 1991, unmarried and still cranky.



Madeline with sister
Mary on wedding day

Mal moved to Ballina after her Grandmother's death to help her sister Kit with the children. It was in Ballina that she met and married Raymond Savage, a wholesale fruit merchant with a County Clare background. Mal and Ray rented the house next door to Kit & Darcy until they could afford to buy their own house just around the corner.

Mal and Ray had two children, Madeline Pamela (Pam) in 1930 and John Dale in 1932. From the age of 9 years and with the threat of a Japanese attack on the coastline, Pam was raised mostly in an inland convent. John was a bit sickly as a small child, so stayed with his parents.

Mal was a very petite, quiet and attractive lady, her family were her life. Nobody ever heard her raise her voice in anger. In 1973 Mal died of cancer, she died as she lived... quietly and with dignity.



Madeline Pamela &
John Dale Savage

John attended Woodlawn Teachers College at Lismore and became a physical education teacher and Sports Master at Ballina High School. He was a surf life saver and later on an examiner & instructor for the Royal Life Saving Association. An avid football player, he was Captain and Coach of the local Rugby League team. Many of our week-ends were spent either at the beach or watching the footy match. John was also a founding member of the Ballina Basketball Association.

In 1959, John married Lida De Paoli, a bank teller from Lismore. They had two children Anthony (Tony) and Kellie.

When John retired from teaching, he became a Director of O'Mara & Savage Real Estate and a Councillor on the Ballina Shire Council. He spent 21 years as a Director of the Ballina Jockey Club. John's devotion and contribution to sport and the community was rewarded. In 2000 John was chosen to take the Olympic Torch through Ballina, part of its long journey around Australia. Then in 2005, John was nominated for the Queen's Birthday Honour List and was awarded the Order of Australia Medal.

Upon finishing school, Pam worked at the Ballina Shire Council as a Clerk. She spent her week-ends playing Hockey for the local team. An avid swimmer, she once saved the life of her cousin Desi Fripp from drowning.

Pam married George Coulter in 1949 and had two children Lynne Patricia and Pauline Rae (Rae). The Coulter family were from County Tyrone. George died in a car accident and Pam later married Ray Marshall, a builder from Sorrento, Victoria. When Ray retired from building they came back to Ballina to live. Pam was a social person and loved going to the Club to play bingo and attend the meat raffles. An extremely lucky person, their freezer was always full with her winnings. She was known in Ballina as being 'the last of the ladies.' Always perfectly dressed and groomed, she was from the old school...always leave the house looking like a million dollars.

Ray died in January this year (2009) and Pam followed two days later. It was Ballina's first double funeral and one of the biggest ever held.

So now we are down to my generation.

Tony Savage, a restaurateur married Deanna Camillo and has two daughters Samantha Marie and Mia Lida.

Kellie Savage, a teacher married Rod Steels and has one son Angus John.

Rae Coulter, a health industry worker married Phillip Guy and has three children Matthew Phillip, Nicole Marie and Jemma Louise.

Matthew has a son Dillon Matthew. Jemma has a daughter Paris. Nicole and her husband Graham Butler have two girls Sophie Maree and Shannay Louise.

Lynne Coulter, an office manager married John Shewring and has one son Christopher John. Chris and his wife Debra Groves have two children Sammi Lee and Kyah Rae.



Photo shows 4 of 9 Dorney descendants today :
From left standing - Sammi Lee Shewring & Sophie Maree Butler
From left sitting - Shannay Louise Butler & Kyah Rae Shewring

I have never been to Ireland but it has always been my wish to go there and see where my ancestors' journey began maybe one day I will be lucky enough.

As I look back at our ancestors, their bravery, strength and determination to succeed in a foreign country, I can only thank them from the bottom of my heart. Without their sacrifices and suffering, none of our family would be the people we are today. They would be proud of us, as we are of them.

Written by Lynne Patricia Coulter Pramana (GGG Granddaughter of John Dorney & Catherine Gorman of Blackrock)



Author Lynne Patricia Coulter & Husband
Bambang Pramana on holiday in Cyprus

Note: Lynne contacted our website www.stmichaelsblackrock.ie hoping to find some family history information which we were gladly able to supply and returned the help given four fold and this family history article is testimony to that.'

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