

"Aunt Ella's Writings"

For the benefit of my nieces and nephews, I am putting down in writing Dad's family history. (*Francis Clement Villiers Sanderson*).

He was born at Newcastle on Tyne Durham, County of York on August 5th, 1840 and was the youngest of a family of 7 - 5 boys - Henry, Fred, George, William and Francis, and 2 girls Jan and Annie. They lived in Killingsworth and their house was called Killingsworth Hall or House. His father was the owner of the Iron and Steele works at Newcastle on Tyne, now owned by Armstrong. In those days it was Sanderson & Son. Armstrong bought it from Dad's father. Grandfather decided to come out to Australia, so he sold the works, and his home, and came out to S.A. In 1852.

He was Squire of Killingsworth in those days, and entertained a lot, for the house was a big place of 30 rooms. Dad was Christened in St. Thomas Church, Killingsworth, and had two god-fathers - his Uncle, The Hon. Rev Francis Clement, Vicar of Norton Stanton-on-Lees and Sir Robert Stephenson (son of George Stephenson of Railway fame - a friend of the family). The Uncle was his mother's brother, who owned Croxwell Hall, which was to have been Dad's, but the Uncle married and had a son.

When the family arrived in Adelaide it was very different to what it is now.

Henry, the eldest went over to Sydney; he was already married and had a family of 7, but they lost touch with him. 3 boys, Henry, John and Fred, 2 girls; Florence and Beatrice. Fred the second son was Collector of Customs in S.A. For a number of years and married miss Youngusband. Hon. Youngusband was a very wealthy squatter in those days. Another daughter married Governor Daly's son.

George died in England before leaving. William became Manager of the Bank of Adelaide in Gawler for many years - he never married.

Father was the school boy 12 years old. He went to school for a long time and then as a day boarder at St. Peter's College.

Annie married Captain McCoy and had two sons, Francis and Arthur, both dead. Frank was a lawyer and Arthur was a surveyor.

Uncle Frank (Frank Clement) the Vicar, had two sons, 3 daughters, Francis and William, both Surveyors, and Annie, Edith and Nell. Annie married Capt. Haggard. Edith - Mr. Mayne. Nell never married.

Dad's sister was a very talented musician and painter in oils. I saw many of them when staying with Aunt Annie (Mrs McCoy). They were paintings in oil of the woods around Killingsworth by Moonlight. They were lovely. She also painted Miss McCoy in her Ermine Robes which she wore when attending any public function with two of the Princesses of the Russian Court for whom she was their English Governess. It was a real masterpiece. She herself was engaged to a Russian nobleman, but she had to flee from Russia. She had written a book "A Woman's Life in Russia" which caused a stir in the Court and she had to get away secretly - or she would have been shot.

So she came back to her brother Capt. McCoy - Aunt Annie's husband, instead of going back to Scotland. Aunt Jane or Jean as she was called never married - she was only 30 when she died.

She hated Australia and could not settle down like Aunt Annie. The life was so different to her English home. She spoke 5 languages - German, French, English, Italian and Spanish and sang in them all. I had many of her songs but they were destroyed. Dad said she had a beautiful voice. The Doctor said she was too clever and had no scope in the new World. Therefore she fretted and went into a decline and died young. Dad was very fond of her.

I wish I could have met her. Grandfather did not start any business on his arrival in S.A. As he went stone deaf on the voyage out, so he and Grandma just lived on the money they brought out.

Dad's mother came from Cumberland, her family was titled. Clements was the family name, and their Crest is a Boar's head. I do not know the motto. Of course we do not use Grandma's Crest. Our Motto is "Sans Dieu Rien" meaning "Without God Nothing". The colouring on the Shield is silver and pale blue bands, circles on cross band on Shield - gold. Also spray under Crest. The Crest is a "Bloodhound". The shield and the Crest together is the "Coat of Arms".

Frank Sanderson married a Victorian lawyer's daughter and she had two uncles in Adelaide. Judge Boothby and Sherrif Boothby. Guy Boothby the Author was a cousin. William Daly was another cousin. He was Governor Daly's grandson. His mother and Frank's mother wer sisters. Hon. Younghusband's daughters - one married Uncle Fred and one Governor Daly's son. They only had one son. Younghusband gave his daughters 20 pounds when they married. Mrs. Daly put hers aside for her son when he came of age. He was educated at St. Peter's and went to one of the English colleges. When he became of age he thought he would do some travelling about before settling down. He made his will before leaving and left his money to Frank and Edith Sanderson, his favourite cousins. Nell and Annie did not get any. He had a big amount for interest and had been accumulating all those years at school. So he left and went abroad and was having a good time. While in Paris he met with a very tragic end. On leaving his bedroom to go down to dinner he stepped out thinking the lift was up but it hadn't com and he fell and broke his neck. It cast a gloom in Adelaide when the news came, as he was so popular.

Dying overseas swallowed a lot of his money. Probate duties etc., took a lot off the amount when finally settled. Frank and Edith had a nice little income all the same. Frank had 3 daughters and one son. Marjorie (Mrs. Lucas, Renmark) Valerie (Mrs. Davenport, her husband being a son of Sir Davenport) and Audrey (single), Kenneth, now Judge Sanderson, Adelaide. Frank's wife was a niece of Judge Boothby and Sherrif Boothby.

Just a little is known of Mother's family as no correspondence was kept up after coming to Australia. Grandma married against her people's wish and they wanted her to stay and they would keep her children, because they did not want to come out to Australia, but she said "no". They said write and let us know how you get on, and she said "I will if I am happy". She was never happy and so did not write, and of course her people did not know where she was going to settle. On leaving England and Uncle gave mother a Bible with his name in it. Grandma's maiden name was Mallet, her father was a lawyer in Holbeach, Lincolnshire. He died and left her with 4 girls - Emma, Beatrice, Susie and Agnes.

Grandma's maiden name was Stanton. They were well to do farmers. Grandma, being a very proud woman would not let her people help.

She took in sewing to help keep her children, and she was a very religious woman. She attended church regularly, and was leader in the choir for she had a nice voice. Here is where she met her husband, he too was in the choir. His name was John Sutton Tortois, there should be no E at the end but when they came out to Australia it was added and never altered. They just did not care in those days. He was a brick contractor and doing well. He had a business of his own and had 20 men working for him building homes, and Grandfather did all the ornamental work, fresco work etc. himself. He was clever at it.

He was well off and had a nice home, 2 storyes, which mum used to speak of. But the gold fever took him like many more and he gave up home and comfort to come out here which was his undoing for he was leader of the Band and could play every instrument in it. This was in Norwich. They left Plymouth in 1854 and arrived in 1858, February 27th at Port Augusta. On arrival at Port Adelaide, instead of going on to Ballarat as intended it was found out that he was a Band Conductor and I think it was the opening of the Salisbury Railway and he was taken there to play and it altered his career in life, for while there he met a Mr. Ragless (a squatter) who was wanting stations built. So it ended in him going out building, but as he said he wasn't used to stone masonry. Brick laying was more in his line, but they did not mind, so he built in Arden, Carrieweloo and one or two others. He then drifted to the point where he built the first Western Hotel and went from bad to worse, for when he left England he never drank. It broke poor Grandma's heart.

When they left England, Grandma had an Aunt, a Mrs. Eldred, who married a Bank Manager and went to to America. Basse's of Stout Fame were another family connection that would be in London.