

Chapter 26 - David's Daughters

(1842 – 1910)

David Brown junior and Elizabeth McMahon had two daughters:

Mary (II) was born on 24 December 1823 at Caddai, and baptised on 29 February 1824 at St Matthew's, Windsor, NSW,⁸⁶⁸ and

Catherine, was born on 22 May 1826 at 'Little Caddie Creek', NSW, and baptised on 2 July 1826 at Wilberforce⁸⁶⁹ - She was known as 'Kate'.

The fate of these two women was indicative of that of their mother, Elizabeth, and grandmother, Catherine, and many a pioneer women in 'the bush' of that period.

For most women in colonial Australia, 'the kitchen was the centre of home life, and of necessity, work. There was considerable physical effort in not only cooking but in maintaining the kitchen area and cleaning all the equipment. Many tasks were mundane and repetitive. In that early colonial period there was no such thing as fuel ovens. The fireplace was where the women were expected to do great feats. Over the fire hung chains, and hooks to support boilers, kettle, and camp oven.⁸⁷⁰ In addition to meeting these challenges, they were caught up in tending to the wide variety of other needs and demands that a husband and often many children might present.

Typical of women of this period their history is very much limited by what can be deduced from births, deaths and marriages and the activities of their menfolk. They tended to get less mentions in newspapers. They tended not to buy property. Often they weren't as well educated as their partner, often they couldn't read or write. Though in the case of most Brown women it is apparent that they could at least sign their name, and certainly some were able to write letters. As indicated earlier, such as in the case of the daughters of Thomas Brown, the Browns seemed to have greater expectations about education of their womenfolk.

Marriages

Kate, at age 16, seems to have been a witness at her uncle, David Humphries' wedding on 13 June 1842 to Jane Mary Daley at St Matthew's, Catholic Church at Windsor.⁸⁷¹ The other witness was a John Daley. The microfiche record of the register shows Kate signing thus:



It is apparent that David Humphries was, at the time, still working for the Brown family - His occupation in 1848 and 1854 was stated to be 'Farmer'. David's marriage at Cattai brought another female into the Brown family. The evidence of the 1841 Census suggests that each of the three Brown households had at least one woman in residence. There is little doubt that that they were expected to keep house for and feed the menfolk. David Humphries marriage meant that Kate was free to go back to Jerry's Plains to take over household duties from her sister, Mary, who was about to be married.

In fact, Mary married Charles Solomon Capp⁸⁷² at 'Mount Loder' a few weeks later on 26 June 1842.⁸⁷³

⁸⁶⁸ BDM Reference V1823 6480 Vol 1B 0. NSWRS Reel 5001, p.334. (NLA 229)

⁸⁶⁹ NSWRS 5002, BDM Reference V1826 491 10 0, NLA mfm NX229 - Reel 5002

⁸⁷⁰ Pioneer Women of the Bush, p.39

⁸⁷¹ BDM V 1842 1642 92 0 refers.

⁸⁷² Charles' parents separated soon after his birth and his mother went to live with Andrew Loder as a housekeeper. She had five sons by him (Loder), the last one, James, born in 1836, the year his father was killed in a fall from a horse.

⁸⁷³ Pioneer Register shows marriage on 25 June 1842 at Mt Loder, near Singleton.

Kate would have been tending to her brothers for just under four years before she herself got married. Kate married Robert Bruce Hobden (born on 5 June 1824) of Jerry's Plains - by banns in the temporary Church on 16 April 1846. She was not quite 20 years old and her brother-in-law, Charles Solomon Capp, gave his consent and acted as a witness. The other witness was 'John Elliott'. Rev. Joseph Cooper, Chaplain of Falbrook and Jerry's Plains performed the ceremony.⁸⁷⁴ Her husband, Robert, was the son of Richard Hobden of 'Great Lodge', and at the time worked as a flour miller. Kate was given the north-east portion (some 30 acres) of David's lot 28 known as 'Elizabeth Fields', as well as two other half acres allotments by her father as part of his sub-division of property, presumably as a wedding present?

A daughter, Charlotte V, was born to Mary and Charles at Jerry's Plains on 24 May 1844.

A daughter, Mary Elizabeth, was born to Mary and Charles at Jerry's Plains on 21 Feb 1846.

On 6 November 1846, Mary was sold land by her father, the price having been 'her Natural Love and affection'. The land was bounded on the north side by land previously given to her sister, Catherine Hobden, Richard Alcorn on the east, and Elizabeth Street (Main Road) on the south side.⁸⁷⁵

Licensing Day, 18 April 1848 saw the licence for innkeeper of her father's inn 'Robin Hood' granted to Mary's husband, Charles Capp.⁸⁷⁶ It had been managed for 4 years by her eldest brother, Thomas, and before him her father.

A daughter, Emma Maria, was born to Mary and Charles at Jerry's Plains on 10 October 1848. The use of 'Emma' coincides with her cousin Ann 'Emma' born in March that year.

About 1849 Mary and Charles moved to 'Coghill' in the Wee Waa region. Mary was one of the first pioneering women of that district.⁸⁷⁷

A son, Joseph Ivory, was born to Mary and Charles at Coghill on 22 Oct 1850 though not registered until 1851 in the Jerry's Plains parish. Seven of the children subsequently born to Mary and Charles were registered at Wee Waa. Mary and Charles ultimately had 13 children but only 8 survived to adulthood. They lost four of their children to typhus.⁸⁷⁸

Mary and Charles gave birth to a son, Walter Charles at Mount Loder on 13 August 1853.⁸⁷⁹

The resources available for raising a family in what was undoubtedly a harsh, difficult, and remote location for those days were severely limited. The fact that the family did as well as they did says much about Mary as a strong and resourceful person.

Kate and Robert Hobden

While Mary and Charles were braving the remote Namoi region, Kate and her husband remained in the Hunter area.

A son, William John, was born to Kate and Robert on 16 Jan 1847.

⁸⁷⁴ (NSWSR Reel 5009) per Philip Booker. And Vol 3 No 545 - Bathurst Library per Marie Tattam

⁸⁷⁵ Book 72 No 88. Deed not completed until 8 April 1861

⁸⁷⁶ The Maitland Mercury, Hunter River District News, 26 April 1848. NLA, mfm NX27. Roll No3.

⁸⁷⁷ A History of Wee Waa to 1865

⁸⁷⁸ Per Merryll Hope and Marie Tattam

⁸⁷⁹ However, this does not readily appear in the BDM register.

A son, Robert Alfred, was born to Kate and Robert on 14 May 1848.

To Kate and Robert, Mary Elizabeth born 22 Aug 1850

Kate's father-in-law, and her father's long time neighbour, Richard Hobden of 'Great Lodge', died on 20 July 1851 at the age of 63 and was buried in Jerry's Plains on 23 July.⁸⁸⁰

On 4 November 1851, a replacement for the office of 'Pound Keeper' at Jerry's Plains was appointed in lieu of Kate's husband, Robert, who had resigned.

#A daughter, Sophia, born to Kate and Robert on 6 Oct 1851.

Kate and Robert tragically lost two daughters in the one year: Sophia on 16 Aug 1854 age 22 months), and Mary Elizabeth on 29 Nov 1854 aged 4 years.

The Maitland Mercury of Wednesday, 20 February 1856, included the following advertisement concerning the Hobdens:

<i>'To Let, on terms to be agreed upon, 40 acres of good agricultural LAND, on Great Lodge, cleared and fenced in - three convenient paddocks. Apply to 1021'</i>

Mary and Kate's father, David Brown, died on 11 January 1857 at Jerry's Plains.

More of Mary and Charles Capp

#A daughter, Jane Catherine, was born to Mary and Charles at Wee Waa on 31 July 1855.

#A son, John Thomas, was born to Mary and Charles at Wee Waa on 18 Apr 1857 and died the same year.

#A daughter, Emily Rachel, was born to Mary and Charles at Narah on 19 August 1858 and died the following year.

A son, Charles George Milton, was born to Mary and Charles at Coghill on 25 November 1859.

Charles bought 'Coghill' with permanent water in 1865 having had association with that property since about 1849. Charles older brother, Thomas some years before, had owned Coghill.

#A daughter, Clare Slyman, was born to Mary and Charles at Coghill on 16 April 1863.

Mary and Charle's daughter, Emma Maria, aged 15 years, died 18 Jan 1864.

The Sydney Morning Herald of Friday 3 March 1865 included the following:

MARRIAGES. On the 21st February, at Mille Station, Namoi River, by the Rev. E. Price, of Wee Waa, G. A. Murray, Esq., Bucklebone, to Mary Elizabeth, second daughter of Charles Capp, Esq., of Mille.
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⁸⁸⁰ BDM V1851 1231 37B

A son, Sydney Mark, was born to Mary and Charles at Coghill on 18 March 1865.

A son, Wallace, was born to Mary and Charles at Coghill on 27 May 1868.

The Maitland Mercury of Thursday 22 July 1869 included the following:

Died at Quigga Station, Namoi River, on the 9th of July, Charlotte, the eldest and beloved daughter of Chas. S. and Mary Capp , and relict of the late W. C. Slyman, aged 25 years; deeply lamented. 4881
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Mary and Charles son, Sydney Mark, also died during 1869.

Charles Capp is known to have acquired a 22,000acre property in 1869 on the Namoi River originally established by George Druitt. It was originally known as Milli and Coolga. Milly was variously spelt Milly, Millie, and Mille. It has been often confused with the 'Millie Run' owned by the Browns to the north east that straddled Waterloo Creek.



A timber house indicative of the pioneer homes of the 19th century. This photo is of a home in the Daintree area Queensland 1869.

Charles' grazing enterprise at Milli was known as the 'Ace of Clubs'.

Intriguingly this name had potential for over-branding stock carrying a 'Clover Leaf' brand, with a rectangle, to look like an ace of clubs. The 'Clover Leaf Company' was name of the company 1838 by John Brown, John Hector, and Edward Trimmer. The John Brown of the Clover Leaf Company would have been 'John Edward Brown' who had the licence for nearby 'Bugglebone' run from 1840 for many years

In 1870, Mary and Charles moved their family to the milder climate and better facilities of the Maitland region. This was accomplished when Charles purchased "Windermere", near Maitland, from Peter Green. The two storey house had been built for W.C. Wentworth and a vineyard was included in the grounds.

#A daughter, Minnie Cora, was born to Mary and Charles at Windermere 26 April 1872 and registered at Maitland.

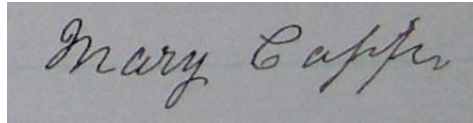
Windermere' burnt down in 1882 and only two wings were rebuilt.

Charles Capp died on 12 October 1884 at Lochinvar aged 61, and left the Coghill property to Mary.⁸⁸¹

Mary died on 17 August 1910 at Lochinvar and is buried in Lochinvar Cemetery with her husband, Charles Solomon.⁸⁸²

⁸⁸¹ A History of Wee Waa to 1865. p54.

⁸⁸² Hawkesbury Pioneer Register Vol I, Contributor – Merryll Hope



Children to Mary and Charles were:-

Charlotte V. (24 May 1844 – 1869)
 Mary Elizabeth (21 Feb 1846 – 1896)
 Emma Maria (18 Oct 1848 - 18 Jan 1864)
 Joseph Ivory (22 Oct 1850 - 5 Nov 1920)
 Walter Charles (13 Aug 1853 –1854)
 Jane Catherine (31 Jul 1855 – 1921)
 John Thomas (18 Apr 1857 – 1857)

Emily Rachel (19 Aug 1858 – 1859)
 Charles George Milton (25 Nov 1859- 5 Feb 1940)
 Clara Slyman (16 Apr 1863 – 1947)
 Sydney Mark (18 Mar 1865 – 1869)
 Wallace (27 May 1868 – 1939)
 Minnie Cora (26 Apr 1872 -1949)

More of Kate and Robert Hobden

After the death of her father, Kate and her husband continued in the Hunter for some years before eventually moving to Newcastle. Unfortunately, their history from this point on is little more than an account of births and deaths:

Walter James born to Kate and Robert 16 January 1858 and died 31 Mar 1858

Matilda Jane born to Kate and Robert 9 Jul 1863 and died 1866

#Edwin Francis born to Kate and Robert 14 Dec 1864

Richard Charles born to Kate and Robert 30 Aug 1866 and registered at Patrick Plains

Kate and Robert's child, Matilda Jane age 3 years, died 1866

Emily Ada born to Kate and Robert 1 Aug 1868 and registered at Patrick Plains , and died 4 November the following year.

Robert Hobden died at Waratah, Newcastle, on 3 June 1900.

Kate died on 13 May 1905, also at Waratah.

Children born to Kate and Robert were:-

William John (16 Jan 1847 -)
 Robert Alfred (14 May 1848 - 30 Jun 1947)
 Mary Elizabeth (22 Aug 1850 - 29 Nov 1854)
 Sophia (6 Oct 1852 - 16 Aug 1854)
 George Henry (20 Oct 1853 - 23 Jan 1934)
 Arthur Alexander (10 Feb 1856 - 2 Mar 1946)

Walter James (16 Jan 1858 - 31 Mar 1858)
 Isabella Kate (5 Dec 1858 - 21 Jul 1934)
 Matilda Jane (9 Jul 1863 – 1866)
 Edwin Francis (14 Dec 1864 - 5 Jul 1939)
 Richard Charles (30 Aug 1866-)
 Emily Ada (1 Aug 1868 - 4 Nov 1869)