

**DESCENDENTS OF MICHAEL HAUGHEY**

**RESEARCHED BY GREG HAUGHEY**

**OCTOBER 2009**

## FOREWARD

This research project began in the early 1980s when I decided to investigate a number of historic claims made by my family. Many, if not all, seem to have been passed down by my grandfather John (Jack) Thomas Haughey. Some have proven to be untrue and for the remainder we will never know as the evidence is equivocal.

As I undertook this journey of discovery it became apparent that we, like all families, have a long history that has brought us all to where we are today. I felt that by sharing this history with other family members, they like me, would have a better understanding of why they are what they are.

This has been a journey of obsession and has involved considerable time and financial expense. Neither of which are overly obvious from my results but ultimately they are the reasons that I have decided to curtail this project. As I exhausted the relatively accessible material it became increasingly necessary to engage interstate and international researchers and undertake in situ research myself. Cost and time increased exponentially and results became harder to achieve. I was now searching well into the past, when records were very sketchy or simply did not exist at all. The law of diminishing returns was staring me in the face and I chose to bring this project to an end. Perhaps in years to come another member of the family will take advantage of the increasing digitisation of early records, in particular Irish birth, death and marriage records and Australia and New Zealand shipping records and add further to my research.

I could not have devoted the inordinate amount of time involved with this project without the deep understanding and very tolerant nature of my first wife Angela, who sadly died in 1997 and was not able to witness the majority of this work, and my current wife Kate. To both of them I am deeply indebted.

I would like to acknowledge my cousin Louise who not only offered words of support but acted as a sounding board for some of my theories and offered me many sensible leads in lieu. I would also like to acknowledge the support of Ellen Hollows, the custodian of the Kelly tree, and Gary Dean the owner of Ned Kelly's World in Glenrowan who assisted me with research into the family's possible connection with Ned Kelly.

Greg Haughey

October 2009

## RESEARCH

My research into my family was triggered by my curiosity around a number of claims made by my grandfather John (Jack) Thomas Haughey, which I learnt principally from my father, and to a lesser extent from my aunts and my cousin Louise. These claims were that:

- the Haughey's were once kings of Ireland and were entitled to a castle in Ireland
- our original settlers were transported to Australia as convicts
- we were related to Ned Kelly the notorious bushranger, and
- we were also related to Charles Haughey the then Minister for Agriculture and later the Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland.

I have listed below the research that I undertook to substantiate each of these claims. Disappointingly, I could not prove any of these claims and in the case of the convict connection I was able to show that the claim was positively wrong. In the case of the remaining claims perhaps more evidence will unfold, as records become increasingly digitised and available for online research that will confirm their status. If some other member of the family later wishes to expand on my research hopefully they will be able to take up where I left off.

### Kings of Ireland

The first claim by my grandfather that attracted my interest was that we had an entitlement to a castle in Ireland. This claim had its origins in his receipt of a letter in the 1960s from Irish lawyers advising him that he may have a claim to royal property in Ireland and that he should send them money to investigate. My grandfather did not act on this letter because he believed that it was no more than a ruse to obtain money from him.

The letter may have been genuine because around this time the Irish Government had decided to terminate any outstanding claims by the descendants of Irish royalty by providing a once only opportunity for claims to be lodged.

The Haughey name is derived from EOCHADHA which was the name of the fifty-first king of Ulster. The name signifies a Mounted Knight or a "Horseman". This seemed to give some weight to the claim that we were related to royalty but any claim to a castle would seem to be unprovable or long ceased to have relevance.

An Irish researcher that I engaged reported that:

“ it is extremely improbable that an entitlement to a castle could be proved. As a result of plantations and confiscations in the seventeenth century, the Gaelic Irish almost entirely ceased to own land outright in Ulster and thus any claim on a castle would have been extinguished.”

## Convict Origins

Another piece of folklore was that the first Haughey's that came to Australia were convicts. This seemed to strike a nice chord with the family who, as Irish Catholics, had a distrust of all things British and a slight disdain for established authority. Whilst not entirely shameful to have a convict past at the time that I first decided to investigate this claim in the early 1980s, it was well short of the cult status that such a connection would bring today.

This was a difficult claim to investigate in the early 80s as shipping records in Australian libraries were microfiche based and were of limited readability due to poor reproduction and handwriting. They were also poorly indexed.

The Irish Prime Minister (none other than Charles Haughey) gave the then Hawke Government in 1988 a complete list of Irish convicts transported to Australia as a bi-centennial gift. This list was available at the National Library of Australia in Canberra. A short two years later I moved from Darwin to Canberra and was able to access this data base. Needless to say there were a number of Haughey convicts but I could not find any connection to our Haughey's.

I later came across the mention of Michael Haughey and Catherine Cromie in the Biographical Index of SA 1836-1885 during a visit to the New South Wales Genealogy Society's headquarters in Kent Street Sydney around the same time. The Index indicated that Michael and Catherine were assisted immigrants to South Australia, arriving at Port Adelaide on 7 July 1840 on the William Nichol from Greenock via Dublin. I later confirmed that they were sponsored by the South Australian Government as free settlers. This put the claim that we were of convict origin well out of contention.

## Ned Kelly Connection

One of the other claims in the family was that we were related to Ned Kelly. I did not really pursue this line of research until by chance, during a visit to Kelly's World in Glenrowan, I learnt from the owner that he had the entire Kelly family tree and it was available online through his portal. I then joined Kelly's World and downloaded the tree. I followed this up by borrowing a number of Kelly history books from various libraries but I was unable to find any mention of the Haughey's.

My initial research centred on a possible connection through Ned's mother Ellen Quinn or the Ryan's who were also connected to the Kelly's by marriage as we had both a Quinn (Owen's wife Anne Quinn) and a Ryan (Daniel's wife Mary Jane Ryan) in our family. There were lots of Kelly's, Ryan's and Quinn's but no obvious connection to the Haughey's. This proved to be a very elusive line of inquiry involving numerous e-mails with Ellen Hollows, the Australian expert on the Kelly's (she has records of the 750 most direct descendants of Ned Kelly).

I then switched my research to Owen Haughey who accompanied Michael to South Australia as I had initially thought that they were brothers and I thought that there may be a connection to the Kelly's through Owen Haughey's wife Ann Quinn as Ned's mother was Ellen Quinn. This proved to be a false lead as Ellen Hollows confirmed that there was no Ann Quinn in the Kelly tree.

I then turned to Gary Dean from Ned Kelly's World as I knew that he was very obsessed with his family's connection to Ned Kelly (his grandfather made the Kelly gang's armour from plough shears) and was jealous of the high ground taken by those who laid claim to blood connections to Ned. He willingly reviewed the research that I had undertaken in trying to establish a connection between Ann Quinn in our family and Ned's mother Ellen Quinn and to the Ryan's through Mary Jane Ryan in our family.

Gary believed that the most likely connection was through Mary Jane Ryan as her grandfather was Patrick Gorman and a Patrick Gorman was known to be a close friend of Ned's father Red Kelly. The Kelly's initially lived in Beveridge (30 miles north of Melbourne), where 10 of their 12 children, including Ned, were born. The Gorman's later moved to Avenal near Benalla in about 1865 and persuaded the Kelly's to join them. They did so and this was to become the home base of the Kelly gang.

Gary informed me that the Gorman's lived in Woodford so I then switched my research to establishing if Mary Jane's Gorman's lived in Woodford or not. This appeared to be the case as eight of Mary Jane's siblings were born in Woodford or the surrounding region between 1857 and 1878. The Haughey's also seemed to have been in the same area as various children of Michael and Catherine's were born in the Warrnambool or Woodford areas, or close by, between 1866 and the early 1880s. This proved, however, to be a false lead as Mary-Jane's mother's maiden name was Hanley, whereas the maiden name of the Mary Gorman who was friendly with the Kelly's was Cahill.

My Auntie Beryl believed that the connection was through Mary-Jane Ryan. This led to numerous telephone calls to Noel Ryan in Western Australia who had produced a book on his part of the Ryan family which included our Mary-Jane. I later found a Peter Brown in Canberra who had a very comprehensive data base of the Ryan family going back to the Kelly's but he was unable to find any Haughey's.

My cousin Louise recalled that our grandfather Jack had said that the Haughey cousins helped Ned elude the police by providing fresh horses while they were being pursued. This is unlikely as the Haughey's lived in the Warrnambool area around the time of the Kelly's exploits and there is no evidence to support their physical presence in the Kelly's area of operation around Glenrowan.

It now appears that if there was any connection with the Kelly's it probably was not in Australia and more likely it was in Ireland. It may have been through the Ryan's as they came from Tipperary, the same county the Kelly's came from. I have not pursued this possibility due to the high cost of Irish research.

I found that in researching this claim, that to have a connection to Ned Kelly was very prestigious and that a number of people jealously guarded their connections. They were quick to put short shrift to any interlopers such as myself. They also jealously guarded their records and this made it impossible for me to engage in random searches in the hope of picking up a clue that might eventually lead to the Holy Grail. I cannot adequately summarise the inordinate amount of going backwards and forward between myself and these privileged people in an attempt to weasel out of them some gem or two.

## Related to the Prime Minister of Ireland

A further claim was that the Haughey's were related to Charles Haughey who was the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic on three occasions in the 1990s. This claim followed my grandfather Jack claiming that he was related to Charles and had written to him when he was Minister for Agriculture from 1964-1966. Charles was reportedly caught using his office to assist the Irish Republican Army (IRA) with gun running. This pleased my grandfather no end as he was a staunch Catholic and sided with the IRA in their quest to remove the British from Ireland.

Despite the extensive information on Charles Haughey on the Internet I was not able to establish a connection. Charles was also born in County Mayo which is well removed from the County Armagh/County Down area that our Haughey's came from. While not totally conclusive it is unlikely that we are directly related to Charles despite my grandfather's claim.

## General Research

Although much of my early research was to establish the above claims none in the end were able to be substantiated. Frustrating and disappointing as it was, it did provide me with the building blocks for the family tree. I also have no doubt that had I not been challenged to pursue the basis of these claims I would not have had the motivation to undertake the extensive research required to document the family tree.

My initial research started in the late 1970s at the New South Wales State Archives, as I was living in Sydney at the time and it centred on immigrant shipping records to Australia, and New South Wales, South Australian and Victorian birth, death and marriage records. This research was based on my original ancestors Michael Haughey and his wife Catherine Cromie arriving in Australia from Ireland in the early 1800s.

Shipping records proved to be notoriously difficult to research due to poor reproduction, difficult to read handwriting and poor indexing. I found a Michael Haughey arriving in Sydney as a free settler around 1840 and a Catherine Cromie arriving separately around the same period. They were the right names and they arrived around the correct time but like a lot of my early discoveries it proved to be very wrong and distracted me from the right line of research for many years.

In the early 1980s I moved to Canberra and I joined the ACT Genealogical Society. I investigated the birth death and marriage records of New South Wales and Victoria and found a large number of records for Haughey's including Victorian death records for Michael Haughey and Catherine Cromie.

I obtained Michael and Catherine's death certificates which proved to be my first real breakthrough. Michael's death certificate showed him living in South Australia for 20 years (1840-1860), New Zealand for two years (1860-1862) and Victoria for the remaining 20 years of his life. Catherine's was very similar but it did not include any reference to living in New Zealand. Despite this information I continued to believe that they had arrived in Australia as convicts.

Much of my initial success was on the family's presence in Warragul with various death records being found relatively easily as many of the family died in this area and were buried here. Birth and marriage records proved to be more elusive as it was necessary to know the year and place to locate the appropriate record.

A breakthrough came during a visit to the New South Wales Genealogy Society's headquarters in Kent Street Sydney where I came across the mention of Michael Haughey and Catherine Cromie in the Biographical Index of SA 1836-1885. The Index indicated that Michael and Catherine were assisted immigrants to South Australia, arriving at Port Adelaide on 7 July 1840 on the William Nichol from Greenock via Dublin. I then searched the South Australian birth, marriage or death records but was unable to find any records relating to the family.

Later I located through a researcher, Daniel Haughey's baptismal record from 1856 which was held in the Catholic Church Archives in Adelaide. This confirmed that the family had probably lived in SA at least until 1856.

My father later, during a trip to Warragul was able to obtain shire records showing Patrick and Michael as pastoral property owners and Daniel renting accommodation in Warragul in the 1880s. My father also found records confirming a number of Haughey births and deaths in this area during the late 1880s. My initial thinking was that the family had moved directly from SA to here in the 1880s but later this was proved to be incorrect.

I then undertook some further research on the arrival of Michael, Catherine and Owen in SA. The Biographical Index of SA 1836-1885 stated that Michael and Catherine initially lived in Kapunda following their arrival in Australia. They were also not included in the 1841 census which suggested that they lived outside the greater Adelaide census area. The same census showed Owen with his wife Anne and child Bernard living in Gawler.

Michael and Catherine's death certificates showed that they were born in Newry Ireland. I was keen to obtain as much information on their Irish origins as possible and also to confirm Michael and Owen's relationship. I engaged an Irish researcher from the Ulster Historical Society. He examined all available Newry birth, baptismal and marriage records but did not find anything relating to Michael, Owen or their wives. The researcher was of the opinion that these records had been lost or did not exist.

Later I obtained Michael and Owen's immigration applications through Graham Jaunay, a South Australian researcher. These applications showed that they both lived in Killeevy, near Newry at the time that they applied to come to South Australia as assisted settlers. This explained the earlier lack of success with the Newry research. I re-engaged the Irish researcher to search all available Killeevy records. He was unable to locate any records that were conclusively associated with Michael and Catherine, despite many references to a Michael Haughey. He did find, however, in the Lower Killeevy Roman Catholic registers the marriage of Owen Haughey and Ann Quinn on 19 February 1838.

Later I determined that even though Michael and Owen came from the same town in Ireland and sailed to Adelaide together that they were not brothers. Later research based on SA birth death and marriage records showed that Michael and Owen had different fathers. The fact that Owen settled in Gawler on arrival and Michael in Willunga (which are around 80 kms apart) seems to lend credibility to this. Perhaps they were cousins but this is still not proven.

I was also able to confirm from records of Michael's children's baptisms that Owen was never a sponsor for any of them. If Owen had been close to Michael I cannot believe that he would not have made the effort to attend at least one baptism and would have been given the honor of being a godparent as any close relatives would make considerable effort to participate in such an occasion in those days. It appears from all the evidence that I have been able to locate on Michael and Owen that they never saw each other after they disembarked in Adelaide. This does not seem to make sense unless they had a falling out. I wonder what it was as it must have been serious?

Another breakthrough came in 2004 when I came across Kate Allwright, from Apollo Bay, Victoria through my research using an Internet based genealogy site. She is related to my great uncle Daniel Haughey. Her mother, Shirley, had been researching the Haughey family and Kate provided me with shipping information on Michael, Catherine and Owens' immigration to South Australia.

She also brought to my attention Michael's daughter Mary Ann's marriage to Thomas Kells in Dunedin, New Zealand in 1862. I also assumed that from Mary Ann's wedding in New Zealand that Michael and/or Catherine must have travelled to New Zealand with her as no self respecting parent in those days would allow their young daughter to travel to a foreign country unescorted. Michael's death certificate showed him living in New Zealand for two years which gave some weight to my theory. I then searched various Australian shipping records but I was not able to find any record of the Haughey's leaving Australia for New Zealand.

I also rationalised that they must have gone to the South Island of New Zealand as Mary Ann married Thomas Kells in Dunedin in 1861. My father had visited New Zealand in the 1980s and had informed me that numerous Haughey's lived in Christchurch. My initial thoughts were that they may have gone to join the Otago gold rush. Further research seemed to suggest that the gold rush did not occur until after they arrived, however, a staff member from the New Zealand Genealogy Society seemed to think otherwise. I also searched a range of New Zealand newspapers that were available on the Internet for their arrival at various South Island ports but after a considerable time searching these without success I gave up.

A New Zealand South Island airfare sale in 2006 prompted me to go to New Zealand to undertake further research. My initial research was in Christchurch but this was not overly successful. I then travelled to Dunedin and undertook further research at the Otago Museum of Early Settlers. This proved to be very successful and I was able to find shipping records for Michael, Catherine and their children arriving in Dunedin in the early 1860s from Port Phillip Bay.

I was also able to locate birth and baptismal records for Thomas Kells and Mary Anne's first three children through the Oamaru Museum. The absence of a New Zealand birth record for their next child suggests that they returned to Australia sometime between 1868 and 1870 and settled in Warrnambool as their next child was born there in 1870. They appear to have left Warrnambool between 1880 and 1882 and moved to Warragul as their last two children were born there. Michael, Catherine and their children also appear to have moved to Warragul at this time so it is likely that the combined Haughey and Macallister families moved to Warragul together.

The National Library began digitising its newspaper collection in 2008. The SA Advertiser was one of the early projects and copies of this paper dating from the 1850 and 1860s had



already been scanned when I first reviewed this collection in August 2008. I searched the Advertiser and found an article on Owen Haughey being seriously injured by a horse in Gawler in 1859 and a number of advertisements by Michael in February 1860 announcing the auction of all his personal effects on 2 March 1860.

Michael's selling of all of his effects in March 1860 fits in with his eventual journey to NZ later that year in May. Apparently farming declined in Wilunga from around 1860 as the soil had been depleted by then from 20 years of cropping (European farmers were not aware that the Australian soils were generally very poor and required fertilizers unlike the rich European soils). Was he just lucky to get out just in time or did he know something?

He must have been keen to go to NZ as the possessions that he was auctioning indicate that he was relatively well off for a farmer. Probably he was attracted to the Otago gold rush as a Michael Haughey (miner's right refers to Michael Haughey only so could have been father or son) pegged out a claim in September 1861.

When the National Library digitises the Victorian regional papers we may get some insight into the family's history in Warrnambool and Warragul. Perhaps the Kelly happenings will mention the Haughey's and that mystery connection will unfold. I can't wait.

Extract from The South Australian Advertiser, Thursday 23 February 1860, page 4

**PRELIMINARY NOTICE.**

On **FRIDAY, March 2**, at 12 o'clock.

**ON THE PREMISES OF MR. MICHAEL HAUGHEY,  
MACLAREN VALE.**

**DRAUGHT HORSE AND MARE  
USEFUL HARNESS HORSE  
HORSE-DRAY. FAMILY CART. BULLOCKS  
COWS, CALVES, PIGS, PLOUGHS  
REAPING-MACHINE  
HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND EFFECTS.  
&c., &c., &c.**

**To Farmers, Stockholders, Horsedealers, and Others.**

**G**REEN, PARR, & LUXMOORE have received instructions from Mr. Michael Haughey to sell by auction, on the Premises, McLaren Vale, on Friday, March 2, at 12 o'clock—

**1 Stanch DRAUGHT MARE, in Foal, with Foal at foot**

**1 Powerful Draught Horse  
1 good Roan Harness Horse  
1 Team Bullocks  
10 Cows and Calves  
10 Store Pigs  
2 Ploughs, 2 pair Harrows  
1 first-rate Reaping-Machine  
1 Family Cart and Harness  
1 Horse-Dray, nearly new, by Crimp  
Harness, Farming Implements  
Household Furniture and Effects  
&c., &c., &c.**

**GAWLER TOWN.**—On Friday afternoon last, the 29th ult., a serious accident happened to a man of the name of Owen Haughey, laborer, residing in this town, under the following circumstances:—It appears that he had been out with a dray and two horses, and was returning home along Jacob-street, and when he came to Messrs. Duffield & Turner's mill, the horses, which were rather frisky, took fright at the noise of the machinery, and began to make a bolt. Haughey, in trying to keep them in, got by some means under the horses, one of which trod upon his foot, cut right through his boot, and almost smashed his leg. One of the wheels of the dray passed over his arm above the elbow, and broke it. He is progressing favorably under the care of Dr. Nott, Surgeon of the Lodge of Oddfellows, of which I hear the poor man is a member.