

## John Avery WATTS & Mary Josephine KENNY

### John Avery WATTS

1<sup>st</sup> Child of John WATTS & Ann Nancy AVERY

John Avery WATTS was born 14 March 1836 at Bethnal Green, London, England. He was 5 months old when his parents emigrated to South Australia on the South Australian Company's Chartered Ship, the '*Coromandel*', departing Blackwall Dock, London on 1 Sep 1836.

John Avery WATTS was baptised 17 Dec 1837 at Adelaide, most likely at Holy Trinity Church on North Terrace as it was the only church in Adelaide at that time. As he grew up, his father was making bricks from clay mined from the banks of the River Torrens. Many of the WATTS boys worked in the brick making business over the years, and it is likely that John Avery WATTS was one of them.

In 1852, at the age of 17, John Avery WATTS left for the Victorian Gold Fields. In 1854, there was an uprising on the Ballarat goldfield centered around a small structure called the Eureka Stockage. John Avery WATTS was involved.

In 1858, John Avery WATTS married Mary Josephine KENNY. On several of the children's birth records, she was Mary Josephina Augustina KENNEY

Their first child, Ellen Ann was born in Melbourne in 1859. They moved to Wangaratta soon after and in August 1860, John was under financial difficulties and was listed as insolvent. At this time, he was living at Chiltern, Victoria, about 40km from Wangaratta and his occupation was blacksmith. In 1862, John Charles Kenny WATTS was born at Indigo, which is about 15km from Chiltern.

By 1863, John and Mary had moved back to Melbourne and Mary Jane was born there. They moved to the Hamilton area of western Victoria after Mary Jane was born and on 15 Feb 1865, John was arrested by the police at Hamilton and charged with deserting the service of John HAMMOND. Alfred Albert was born in 1866, most likely in Coleraine, Victoria.

In 1867, the family was in Mount Gambier and John was again working as a blacksmith. Three children were born in Mount Gambier, Anastasia in 1867, Jessie Teresa in 1869 and Celia Agnes in 1871. The family was again struggling financially, and in 1869, John Avery WATTS was again declared insolvent.

John moved back to the Horsham area in Victoria, but it seems that financial issues were still plaguing him. On 20 May 1873, a meeting of creditors at Horsham. He was still listed as a blacksmith. In 1874 he was declared insolvent at Horsham. In 1874, Winifred Lucy was born in Horsham. Also born in Horsham was Ambrose Henry Sylvester in 1876, Ethel Sylvia Evangeline in 1876, Margaret WATTS in 1880 and Catharine Lelia in 1885. John must have changed his occupation, but his financial trouble did not abate. On 14 Dec 1880, John was listed as an insolvent Veterinary Surgeon at Horsham.



There was trouble brewing in 1886. John A. WATTS was 'a prohibited person' and Mary had charged James KENNY, the licensee of the Farmers' Union Hotel at Horsham with supplying him with liquor. When this matter came to the court, John A. WATTS was referred to by the magistrate as an unfortunate man who could not restrain himself. Of some interest here is that Mary's maiden name was KENNY. One wonders if James KENNY was a relative of Mary KENNY.

Around 1890, John Avery WATTS visited his parents at Littlehampton (at that time, he was from Warracknabeal, which is about 60km from Horsham. In 1895, the obit of his mother Nancy has him living in Horsham.

On 8 May 1900, at the Horsham Police Court, John A. Watts proceeded against John Anderson to recover £2 10s on account of services alleged to have been rendered and 'medicine supplied to a sick horse. As to the medicine 14s 6d was paid into court, and the defence to the complaint as to the balance of the claim was that, the complainant not being registered under the Veterinary Act, was, by Section 24 of thle Act, disentitled to practice as or recover the fees of a veterinary surgeon. Mr. Twycross, J.P., who adjudicated, upholding the contention of the defence, made an order for the amount paid into court, with 14s 6d costs, the costs to be payable out of the money paid into court.

John died 1908 at Warracknabeal Victoria.

Mary died 1911 at Heidelberg, Victoria

Several fascinating things have come up while searching John Avery WATTS.

- He was declared insolvent in 1860 at Chiltern, Victoria. A newspaper report dated 7 Aug 1860, mentions the 'Insolvent Estate of John Avery WATTS'. This is usually a reference to a person having died in an insolvent financial situation. The Public meeting for creditors for this was held in Melbourne 5 Sep 1860. This does not match our belief that John lived until 1908.
- Some sources have a company operating out of Horsham (and Perth) called J.A. Watts & Co. selling herbal medicines. One of John's daughters, Agnes, married Augustus GUHL at Horsham on 22 Feb 1897 and they are reported to have moved to Perth to work for the J.A. Watts & Co Herbal Medicines Company. Agnes died 22 Feb 1915 at Perth. Her sister Jessie WATTS was living at Perth in 1917. Also in the obit for Mary, the widow of the late John Avery WATTS, John was described as a specialist, of Perth & Victoria.

### **Timeline:**

1836 John Avery WATTS born 14 March 1836 at Bethnal Green, London, England

1837 Arrived in South Australia on 12 Jan 1837 (9mths) on the '*Coromandel*' with his parents.

Baptised 17 Dec 1837 at Adelaide

1852 John Avery WATTS (at about 17 years old) left Adelaide for the Victorian Gold Fields

1858 Marriage of John Avery WATTS & Mary Josephine KENNY

1859 Birth of Ellen Ann WATTS - Melbourne

1862 Birth of John Charles Kenny WATTS - Indigo, Victoria (near Wangaratta)

1863 Birth of Mary Jane WATTS - Melbourne

1865 Birth of Jessie Mary WATTS – Coleraine, Victoria (near Hamilton)

1866 Birth of Alfred Albert WATTS – possibly Coleraine, Victoria

1867 Birth of Anastasia WATTS – Mount Gambier

1869 Birth of Jessie Teresa WATTS – Mount Gambier

1871 Birth of Celia Agnes WATTS – Mount Gambier

1874 Birth of Winifred Lucy WATTS – Horsham, Victoria

1876 Birth of Ambrose Henry Sylvester WATTS – Horsham, Victoria

1876 Birth of Ethel Sylvia Evangeline WATTS – Horsham, Victoria

1880 Birth of Margaret WATTS – Horsham, Victoria

1885 Birth of Catherine Lelia WATTS – Horsham, Victorian

1890 John Avery WATTS visited his parents at Littlehampton. He was from Warracknabeal.

(Warracknabeal is only 60km from Horsham)

1895 The obit of his mother Nancy has him living in Horsham.

1904 J. WATTS from Warracknabeal was one of the veterans of the Eureka Stockade at a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.

## Children of John Avery WATTS and Mary Josaphine KENNY

Ellen Ann WATTS

b. 1859 Melbourne d. Beechworth, Vic.  
m. Patrick Anthony Cogan MONAGHAN  
b. Geevagh, Ireland d. 1934 Fremantle, WA.  
Possibly 5 children

John Charles Kenny WATTS

b. 1861 at Indigo Vic. (nr. Rutherglen)  
d. 1862 (age 1) in Victoria

Mary Jane WATTS

b. 1863 Melbourne Vic. d. 1932 Brighton Vic.  
m. Charles Walter DUMERGUE  
b.c. 1844 India d. 1967 Horsham, Vic.  
Perhaps several children. Perhaps his second wife.

Jessie Mary WATTS

b. 6 Dec 1865 at Coleraine Vic.  
d. 1865 at Coleraine Vic. (less than 1 month old?)

Alfred Albert WATTS

b. 1866 (perhaps Coleraine)  
d. 1877 (age 11) at Victoria (possibly in Horsham Vic.)

Anastatia WATTS

b. 24 Jun 1867 at Mt. Gambier  
possibly m. William PULHAM in 1896 in Victoria

Jessie Teresa WATTS

b. 1 Oct 1869 at Mt Gambier S.A.  
m: ? WHITING 21 Jan 1897 at Registry Office Adelaide S.A.  
2 children?

Celia Agnes WATTS

b. 14 Oct 1871 at Mt. Gambier S.A.  
possibly m. August Heinrich Fridrick Franz GUHL 1897

Winifred Lucy WATTS

b. 1874 at Horsham Vic.  
possibly m. Robert James PEARSON in 1905  
possibly d. 1956 (age 82) in Footscray Vic.

Ambrose Henry Sylvester WATTS

b. 1876 at Hors Vic. (Horsham?)  
m. Hester Pauline NORFOLKS in 1901 in Victoria

Ethel Sylvia Evangeline WATTS

b. 1876 at Hors Vic. (Horsham?)

father John Avery mother Mary KENNY

d. 1878 (age 2) in Horsham Vic.

Margaret WATTS

b. 1880 Horsham, Vic.

d. 1947 Cheltenham, Vic.

m. Reginald Jonathan ORMES (Reg)

b. 1888 St. Kilda, Vic.

d. 1979 Donvale, Vic.

Catherine Lelia WATTS

b. 1885 at Hors Vic. (Horsham?)

father John Avery mother Mary KENNY

d. 1905 (age 20) at Horsham Victoria.