

Rose Sherry on the *John Knox* to Sydney, arrived 29 April 1850
From Carrickmacross, County Monaghan



Rose Chamberlain, née Sherry, provided to Trevor McLaughlin by descendant for inclusion in his book *Barefoot and Pregnant? Irish famine orphans in Australia, Volume 2*, the Genealogical Society of Victoria, Melbourne, 2001, p.96.

Summary

Rose Sherry, left the Carrickmacross workhouse to join a total of 97 Monaghan orphans who had left the County Monaghan workhouses of Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Monaghan under this Irish famine emigration scheme. Thirty-eight were from the Carrickmacross workhouse: fourteen on the *Roman Emperor* to Adelaide in 1848 and 24 including Rose Sherry, on the *John Knox* which had sailed from Plymouth on 6 December 1849 bound for Sydney. The shipping list shows Rose as Catholic, aged 17 and her occupation of laundress indicated a skill perhaps learned in the workhouse. Both her parents, Patrick and Catherine, were dead.



Carrickmacross Workhouse in May 2015, picture Perry McIntyre

Unfortunately the dispersal list of the *John Knox* does not survive so the first we know of Rose is when she married in St Mary's Catholic Church, Sydney on 29 October 1851 to William Alexander Chamberlain of Rushcutter's Bay on Sydney harbour. Here, and at nearby Double Bay, they had eleven children, nine of which are listed on her death certificate [with asterisks]. Those verified by the NSW birth indexes are indicated in brackets:

- *Charles H. [b.1853 2471 39]
- *Susan R.J. [b.1855 990/42]; married Henry John Pearce
- *William H. [b.3548/1857 at Paddington; d.11217/1905 Woollahra]
- *Richard J. [b.3383/1860 at Paddington; c. 4441/1903 Woollahra]
- *Emily R. [b.3816/1864 at Paddington]; married Henry Adams 2854/1883 Paddington
- Charlotte E. [b.3991/1866 at Paddington]; married Henry A Burton 3158/1885 Woollahra
- Edward A. [b.4359/1869 at Paddington]
- *Eliza S. [b.4667/1871 at Paddington]
- *Nellie
- *Arthur
- *one deceased is unidentified.

Cemetery, Gore Hill. By order. J. BYRNE, Secretary.

CHAMBERLAIN.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. CHARLES CHAMBERLAIN are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their late beloved MOTHER, Rose; to move from her late residence, Clara-terrace, William-street, Double Bay, THIS (Monday) AFTERNOON, at 3 o'clock, for South Head Cemetery. CHAS. KINSELA, Funeral Director, Paddington, Darlinghurst, Oxford-street, and George-street.

CHAMBERLAIN.—The Friends of Messrs. WILLIAM, RICHARD, and ARTHUR CHAMBERLAIN and the Misses MINIE, ROSIE, and FLORA CHAMBERLAIN are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their dearly beloved GRANDMOTHER; to move from her late residence, Clara-terrace, William-street, Double Bay, THIS (Monday) AFTERNOON, at 3 o'clock, for South Head Cemetery.

CHAMBERLAIN.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. PEARCE are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their beloved MOTHER, Rose Chamberlain; to move from her late residence, William-street, Double Bay, THIS (Monday) AFTERNOON, at 3 o'clock, for South Head Cemetery. C. KINSELA.

CHAMBERLAIN.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. ADAMS are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late beloved MOTHER, Rose Chamberlain; to move from her late residence, William-street, Double Bay, THIS AFTERNOON, at 3 o'clock, for South Head Cemetery. C. KINSELA.

CHAMBERLAIN.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. VEROVICH are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their dearly beloved MOTHER, Rose Chamberlain; to move from her late residence, Clara-terrace, William-street, Double Bay, THIS (Monday) AFTERNOON, at 3 o'clock, for South Head Cemetery. C. KINSELA.

CHAMBERLAIN.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. BURTON are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their dearly beloved MOTHER, Mrs. Rose Chamberlain; to move from her late residence, William-street, Double Bay, THIS (Monday) AFTERNOON, at 3 o'clock, for the South Head Cemetery. CHAS. KINSELA.

CHAMBERLAIN.—The Friends of HARRY and SUSAN PEARCE are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their late beloved GRANDMOTHER, Mrs. Chamberlain; to move from her late residence, Clara-terrace, William-street, Double Bay, THIS (Monday) AFTERNOON, at 3 o'clock, to South Head Cemetery.

WHITE, aged 60 years.

In Memoriam.

CHAMBERLAIN.—In loving remembrance of our dear mother, Rose Chamberlain, who departed this life March 12, 1899. Inserted by her loving daughter and son-in-law, Emily and Henry Adams.

CHAMBERLAIN.—In loving memory of my dear wife, who departed this life March 12, 1899, aged 64 years. Inserted by her loving husband, William Chamberlain.

CHAMBERLAIN.—In loving remembrance of our dear mother, Rose Chamberlain, who departed this life March 12, 1899. Inserted by her loving daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Henry Pearce. "Lost from sight, but to memory dear."

CHAMBERLAIN.—In loving memory of my dear mother, who departed this life March 12, 1899, aged 68 years. Inserted by her loving daughter and son-in-law, Eliza and N. Babarovich.

CHAMBERLAIN.—In loving memory of my dear mother, Rose Chamberlain, who died March 12th, 1899. Inserted by her son and daughter-in-law, Arthur and Amy Chamberlain.

CHAMBERLAIN.—In loving remembrance of our dear grandmother, Rose Chamberlain, who departed this life March 12, 1899; also, our aunt, Mrs. Hinchey, died March 13, 1894. Inserted by Susie, Lizzie, and Harry Pearce.

CHAMBERLAIN.—In loving remembrance of our dear aunt, who died 12th of March, 1899, aged 68 years. Beloved by all, disliked by none, Respected far and near: There's many a one will give a sigh To part from one so dear. Inserted by her loving nieces, Violet, Lovetta, Winnie, Jessie Chamberlain, of Berry.

Rose died on 12 March 1899 and seven death notices from various family members appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* the following day [image on left above]. Her husband and family continued to place annual memorials in the paper for about five years after her death [see image on right above]. This also confirms the names of her children and her sons-in-law

and daughters-in-law.¹ This helps identified sons: Charles, William, Richard and Arthur as well as daughters or grand-daughters, Mini, Rosie and Flora Chamberlain. We know from other research that their eldest daughter, Susan married Henry John ('Harry') Pearce and this is also confirmed by these notices. Emily married Henry Adams in 1883 and Charlotte married Henry Burton in 1885, also confirmed by these notices. Eliza and her husband N. Varovich or Babarovich remain unidentified and other relationships also are open to interpretation here by subsequent family members.

Descendants note that Rose had apparently died as a result of injuries from a fall which was perhaps known by the family or cited on the death certificate which we have not yet seen. She was aged 66 and lived at Clara Terrace off William Street, Double Bay. Her husband, William Chamberlain was a fisherman and when he died on 6 November 1902 he was buried with Rose in South Head Cemetery.

The Chamberlain family were clearly a family of sportsmen. Rose and William's second child and eldest daughter, Susan, married local sculling champion Henry John ('Harry') Pearce and a son Henry Robert Pearce won gold at 1928 and 1832 Olympic Games in the single skulls.² Family stories recall he stopped mid-race to allow a family of ducks to cross before making up the time to win. Another of the Chamberlain sisters married a Messenger and her son, Henry Herbert Messenger, was one of the earliest rugby league players. Other members of the Pearce family were also representative scullers and played rugby league for Australia.

Written in September 2015 with the assistance of descendants Margaret Stephens, Gloria Stein, Alan Ball, Kim Connor, Pam Wittingslow and Judy Hinkley who have supplied material and shared their research since Margaret first contacted Trevor McClaughlin in July 1986.

¹ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 March 1899, p.10; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 March 1900, p.1.

² [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bobby_Pearce_\(sculler\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bobby_Pearce_(sculler))