



# Orphan Profile:

## Bridget Reynolds from Drumdale, Leitrim

### *Early Life in Ireland*

According to immigration records taken in 1850, Bridget's parents, James and Ann were deceased.

Nothing is known of any other siblings, nor which workhouse Bridget was residing in when selected for emigration to Australia.

There are three possibilities; Carrick-on-Shannon, Manorhamilton or Mohill.

Generally, an assumption can be made depending on which workhouse was closest to the place of birth.

### *Voyage to Australia*

The *Tippoo Saib*, the last of the Earl Grey scheme ships bringing Irish orphans to the colonies of New South Wales, including Port Phillip, Moreton Bay, and South Australia, left Plymouth on 8 April 1850.

The ship contained 249 immigrants, commanded by Captain Morphew, with Dr. Church as Surgeon Superintendent.

The *Tippoo Saib* arrived in Sydney on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 1850. According to the immigration records, Bridget could

### *Marriage & Children*

Not much is known of the work Bridget did after she arrived, although she didn't work for very long. In February 1851 permission was given by the Orphan Board for her to marry Timothy Sheehan.

The marriage took place in St. Marys Cathedral, Sydney on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1851. Sheehan, a farm laborer and native of County Cork arrived in 1836 aged 20 on the ship *Surry* (8) sentenced to 7 years transportation for stealing a pig. In 1841 he obtained a Ticket of Leave issued for the Carcoar area and a Certificate of Freedom in 1843.

The couple had two children, John born in 1852 and according to Bridget's death record, another son named Timothy who died at an early age, although there is no record of

However in Bridget's case the place of birth recorded by the immigration agent in Sydney as 'Drumdale', is also yet to be confirmed making the narrowing down of workhouse difficult.

There are many towns and parishes beginning with 'Drum' in Leitrim but none that could easily be recognized as being similar to Drumdale.

Bridget was one of 32 orphan girls travelling from the workhouses of Leitrim on the *Tippoo Saib*.

not read or write and her occupation in Ireland was a dairymaid.

As was the practice, all the orphans were housed at Hyde Park Barracks until they had found employment, which was estimated to happen within about one week.

The employment disposal registers for the *Tippoo Saib* have not survived so it is not possible to know how long she stayed there or to whom she was assigned.

Timothy's birth or death.

At this time they were living in Petersham, NSW. However, their marriage didn't last long as Timothy Sheehan died in 1854, aged 40.

As was the custom of the time Bridget didn't stay single for long. She married Owen Ludlow, on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 1854 at St. Thomas's at Petersham.

Ludlow was born about 1817 in Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan. He was charged with assault and robbery in June 1840 and transported for 15 years, arriving on 12 December 1840 on the *Egyptian* (2). In March 1853, after serving his time, he went to Victoria for a few months and then in June 1853 he came to Sydney.

### Snapshot:

- One of 32 orphans selected from Leitrim workhouses to emigrate to Australia
- Arrived per *Tippoo Saib* in July 1850
- Married aged 19 to Timothy Sheehan of County Cork
- Married age 24 to Owen Ludlow of Ballyjamesduff, County Cavan
- Went to the Goldfields of Victoria at the height of the gold rush
- 2<sup>nd</sup> husband implicated and acquitted of suspected murder
- Hardship encountered following death of 2<sup>nd</sup> husband - two children made Wards of the State.
- Lived to age 70, died in Whroo, Victoria
- Son Owen Ludlow became well respected Cheese Maker in Loddon region.

*Reynolds Bridget Drumdale Leitrim*

Extract of Bridget's details from the *Tippoo Saib* Immigration Register, showing 'native place'

## Children:

1. John b. 1852 in Sydney
2. Timothy b. prior to 1854 (not registered) in Sydney
3. Mary Ann b. 1855 (not registered) in place unknown
4. Jane b. 1857 in Beechworth, Victoria
5. Ellen b. 1859 in Whroo, Victoria
6. Michael b. 1861 in Rushworth, Victoria
7. Owen b. 1863 in White Hills, Whroo, Victoria
8. Alice b. 1866 in Red Jacket, near Bendigo, Victoria
9. James b. 1867 in place unknown - possibly Ballieston, Victoria

### Descendants Researching Bridget Reynolds[@2012]:

Kevin Dudeney  
kdudeney@hotmail.net.au  
Descended from Jane Ludlow

## Goldfields

Once married, Bridge and Owen went to the goldfields of North Eastern and Central Victoria. Alluvial gold finds in 1853, brought thousands of hopeful diggers to the areas of Beechworth, Rushworth, Whroo and Bendigo where Bridget had seven children to Owen.

Once again not much is known of Bridget's life at this time. However based on contemporary reports of life on gold field diggings, it is fair to assume that Bridget would have endured considerable hardship, living in these environments with her family.

At one stage in January 1869, while they were living at Campaspe near Bendigo, Victoria, Owen was the co-accused in a coroner's hearing into a murder.

### THE SUSPECTED MURDER AT THE CAMPASPE.

On Wednesday morning, at the Sandhurst Police Court, two men named Owen Ludlow and Jacob Steffani were brought before the Bench, there being a suspicion that they had acted foully towards a man named John Wilson, a wheelwright by trade, at the Campaspe on Monday last, and they were remanded for seven days so that Wilson, who was missing, should be searched for in the interim. It was at that time suspected that he had been thrown into a large hole in the Campaspe River, which was in the mean time being dragged. A fight it appears first arose in Mrs Avery's house, on Monday, between Wilson and the two prisoners, and immediately afterwards

In the newspaper article the owner of the hotel stated Owen Ludlow had been drinking all day and she had sent for his wife, who came and took him 'away at 8 o'clock, thereby proving

## At Rest

No further details of Bridget were recorded until her death.

It appears she settled in Whroo which in its gold mining heyday, was home to many thousands of miners and their families. In the 1870s it still consisted of a large township, but with the winding down of mining activity in the 1890s the town rapidly went into decline. Today little evidence of it remains other than the old cemetery



Whroo Cemetery, Victoria

his innocence.

It is not sure what happened to Owen, as there is no record of his death. It would appear he died between 1869 and 1876. There is a record of an Owen *Laidlaw* dying in Bendigo in 1875 but it is yet to be proven whether this is the same person.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1876, Owen jnr. and brother Michael were taken as State Wards. It appears they had been frequently reported to the police for petty thieving at White Hills, near Rushworth, Victoria.

Unfortunately, the report regarding the boys wasn't kind to Bridget, 'Condition on Admission: Lousy and dirty clothes, rugged and unfit to be kept', and 'Previous History: Father dead. Mother Bridgetina (*sic*) Ludlow, a housekeeper, poor, address White Hills, she is quarrelsome and of a violent temper'.

Michael was 'Licensed Out' on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 1877 to Morris Lonergan of Bendigo and Owen was 'Licensed Out' on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1877 to Mr. Michael Bourke, Farmer of Woodstock on Loddon, near Bendigo, Vic.

As an adult Owen Ludlow jnr. went on to become a well-respected cheese maker in that area of Victoria.

made up of about 350 graves.

Bridget died, of 'Old Age and Failure of Heart', on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1900, at the age of 70. She was buried at the Whroo Cemetery on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1900.

The receipt, presumably issued by the Cemetery Trust, states, 'No. 33, Bridget Ludlow, 70, Catholic, 11/6/1900 £1.10.0, 5/- fees emitted as deceased possessed no funds.'