

Honora Hogan (c.1834-1910)
Orphan Ship *John Knox*

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Honora Hogan was born circa 1834 in Mitchellstown, County Cork. Her parents, John Hogan and Johanna Londrigan (1807-1877), were married in Mitchellstown on 19 February 1828. It is believed Honora was one of six (possibly seven) children: two or three males and four females. The male children have not been traced although it is known that at the time of Johanna Londrigan's death in 1877 that there was one male child still living. Honora and her three sisters have been identified.

The exact date of Honora's entry into the workhouse is unknown but it was probably sometime after her father's death (1848-49). His death, the impact of the great famine on her family, and knowledge that there were relatives in the colony, may have contributed to Honora going to New South Wales under the Earl Grey Famine Orphan Scheme. Certainly being in a workhouse and having only one parent is consistent with the definition of 'orphan' at that time.

At the time of her arrival in Sydney on 29 April 1850, she had two uncles (John and Patrick Londrigan) and two aunts (Honora and Ellen Londrigan), already in the colony. This was stated on the shipping list of the *John Knox* but they were living in South Australia and Victoria.

Shipping records for Honora show she was 16 when she arrived. No further record has been found before January 1852 when she was sent to Maitland as an invalid, suitable only as 'general house servant or nursery girl'. Sadly, poor health had long-term implications for Honora and she was unable to have children naturally in married life.

Honora married William Harvie Holmes on 15 November 1852 at St Philip's Church of England, Sydney. The marriage was witnessed by Frances O'Brien and Honora Hogan ('not the bride' annotated on record, see below) who may have been a fellow shipmate on the *John Knox* as there was another woman by this name recorded as a native of Fermoy, Cork.

No. *761* *William Henry Holmes* of the Parish *Bachelor* and
Honora Hogan of this Parish *Spinster* were
 married in this *Church* by *Banns* with consent of
 this *fifteenth* day of *November* in the year 18*52* (*fiftytwo*)
 By me *William Cooper*
William Henry Holmes
 This Marriage was solemnized between us *Honora Hogan, her*
mark
 In the Presence of *Frances O'Brien* of *Sydney*
Honora Hogan, her *Sydney* * *Not the Bride*
mark *H.C.*

William Harvie Holmes (c.1827-1884) was a native of London who joined the Catholic Church shortly after his arrival, induced to take that step by Archpriest Therry who held him in the 'highest possible estimation'. He was involved with the parish administration at St Patrick's in Sydney and St Augustine's in Balmain. One of the large stained-glass windows in St Patrick's church, was donated in the 1880s by William and Honora and depicts St Honora and St Theresa.



William was a Master Painter, and a property developer/agent. His Probate records, show him as owning many properties in Sydney, and at his death, he left Honora well provided for.

Honora and William first sponsored her younger sister Bridget (1839-1901) to New South Wales on the *Glen Isla*, which arrived 2 July 1857 (see below), and then her mother (Johanna) and two remaining sisters, Catherine (1844-1901) and Helen Mary (Ellen) (1848-1881), arrived on the *Abyssinia* on 20 September 1859 (see Immigration Board list below).

List of IMMIGRANTS per Ship <i>Glen Isla</i> , as inspected by the Immigration Board, on 1857										
NAME	AGE 18 and under years 12 years	Calling	Native Place and Country	Parent's Name, rank, & office, State Residence	Religious Denomination	Rank or Trade	Relation to the Ship	State of health, limbs, strength, and probable condition	Any complaint requiring treatment on board the ship	REMARKS BY IMMIGRATION BOARD
Argan Bridget	18	do	Mitchellstown Co. Cork	John & Honora Mother not present	do	do	Sister W. Honora Arrived living in Massachusetts	good	none	ditto

The ditto here refers to 'Rem Regs' which is she came under the Remittance Regulations

List of IMMIGRANTS per Ship <i>Abyssinian</i> , as inspected by the Immigration Board, on 1859										
NAME	AGE 18 and under years 12 years	Calling	Native Place and Country	Parent's Name, rank, & office, State Residence	Religious Denomination	Rank or Trade	Relation to the Ship	State of health, limbs, strength, and probable condition	Any complaint requiring treatment on board the ship	REMARKS BY IMMIGRATION BOARD
Argan Johanna	57	Grassdigger	Mitchellstown Co. Cork	John & Bridget Living in Mitchellstown	do	do	Sister daughter W. B. Honora, Honora do	do	do	6/12
Catherine	16	do	do	John & Honora Sister in law	do	do	do	do	do	6/4
Ellen	11	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	6/2

Unable to have children, Honora and her husband adopted Theresa Mary Holmes. Adoptions in those times were rarely formalised. Oral family history suggests Theresa Mary Holmes was born on a ship, which arrived in the colony from Ireland via America c.1876, but equally she may have been born in the colony, in Sydney, as indicated on her marriage certificate. All attempts to trace her ancestry to date have been unsuccessful.

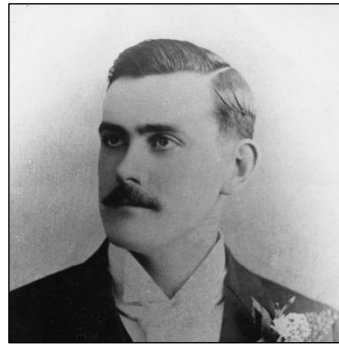
Honora and William's adopted daughter, Theresa Mary Holmes, married William Joseph Murphy (1872-1935), a jeweller, on 11 July 1895, in St Patrick's Church, Sydney. William Joseph Murphy was the son of her younger sister Helen Mary (Ellen) Hogan and her husband, Peter Benedict Joseph Murphy (1846-1898). From 1883, William Joseph (aged nine) lived with Honora and William Harvie Holmes.

They subsequently had ten children together, all born in Sydney:

- William Joseph (Bill) Murphy (1896-1974)
- Theresa Ann (Tess) Murphy (1899-1968)
- Helen Frances (Nell) Murphy (1901-1990)
- Mary Eileen (Marie) Murphy (1903-1978)
- Veronica May (Ron) Murphy (1906-1966)
- Edward Patrick (Ted) Murphy (1908-1996)
- Reginald Murphy (1912-1912)
- Agnes Cecilia (later Winifred Agnes or Win) Murphy (1913-1988)
- Kathleen (Kit) Murphy (1916-1999)
- John Bernard Murphy (1919-1998)



Theresa Mary Holmes
7.7.1876 - 24.4.1964



William Joseph Murphy
30.12.1872 – 22.7.1935

The following three of Honora's sisters have been identified:

1. Bridget Hogan (circa 1838/39-1901) was born in Mitchellstown, Cork. She married **Joseph McGee**, (born c.1836 Jersey, Channel Islands; died 1871 Sydney) a Master Mariner in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney on 27 November 1860. She died at 57 Curtis Rd, Balmain North on 17 June 1901. At the time of her death, her daughter Elizabeth Schneider (nee McGee) was living and there were five deceased male children.

Their children were all born in Sydney:

- John J McGee (1861-1864)
- Elizabeth McGee (1863-1943)
- Patrick James McGee (1865-1869)
- Joseph McGee (1867-1868)
- John Joseph McGee (1869-1875)
- James Stephen McGee (1871-1873)

2. Catherine Hogan (c.1843/4-1901) pictured here, like her siblings was born in Mitchellstown, Cork about 1843/4. She married Master Mariner **Captain Patrick Power** (c.1842-1890) on 2 January 1867 in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. She died on 26 August 1901 at 55 Curtis Road, Balmain North.

They had the following children:

- Mary Power – born Sydney in 1868; died Sydney 1950.
- Johanna (Hannah) Theresa Power – born 1869 Sydney; died 1929 Newtown.
- John J Power – born in Sydney in 1871; death not located.



- Edward James Power –born 10 July 1873 Sydney; died 25 July 1945, 10 Queen St., North Strathfield. He ran a Newsagency in Abbotsford, NSW.
- Patrick B Power – born c.1875 Sydney; died 1956 Perth WA.
- William Stephen Power – born c.1878 Sydney. It is understood that he had a personal and professional interest in automobiles and racing, in particular Indian Motorcycles.
- Catherine Agnes Power – born 10 Aug 1880, Curtis Rd, Balmain.
- Nora Helen Power – born 10 Aug 1880, Curtis Rd Balmain; died on 3 May 1881.

Captain Patrick Power was born in County Wexford, Ireland c.1842. He was a Master Mariner operating sailing vessels up and down the NSW coast. He died on the 9 March 1890 when the schooner *Agnes*, which he was sailing up the coast with a load of ballast, was caught in a violent easterly gale and sunk six miles north of the Brunswick River Heads with all hands lost.

3. Helen Mary (Ellen) Hogan (1848-1881) – was born c.1848 in Mitchellstown, Co Cork, Ireland. She married **Peter Benedict Joseph Murphy (1846-1898)** on 4 September 1869 at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Newtown. She died in Russell St., Bathurst on 24 April 1881. Ellen and her husband had the following four children:

- Mary Theresa Murphy (1871-1876) born and died in Sydney.
- William Joseph Murphy (1872-1935) who (as mentioned above) subsequently married Theresa Mary Holmes (1876-1974), the adopted daughter of Honora and William Harvie Holmes, together they had a family of 10 children.
- Peter Joseph Murphy born 1874 and died in Sydney.
- Honora May Murphy born 8 June 1876 in Kent/Erskine St, Sydney, died in Bathurst on 14 May 1883.

Peter Benedict Joseph Murphy (1846-1898) pictured here, was born in Sydney. He was a tobacconist, a cordial manufacturer and a draper, eventually owning his own drapery store in Bathurst. Following the death of Helen Mary (Ellen) Hogan in 1881 and their daughter Honora in 1883, Peter Benedict Joseph Murphy married Emma Williams (1865-1952) on 10 March 1885.

Peter and Emma had four children, all born in Sydney:

- Jane Beatrice Murphy (1885-1938)
- Martha Murphy (23.9.1887-)
- Ethel May Murphy (1890-1953)
- William Claude Joseph Murphy (later Fox) (1892-1960).

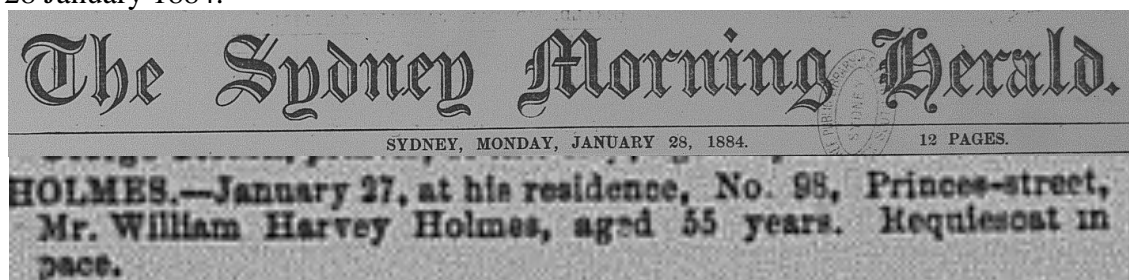


Honora's husband, William Harvey Holmes, died on 27 January 1884 and was buried at Petersham. On 1 October 1901 he was moved to Gore Hill Cemetery where his headstone, near Mary MacKillop notes: 'Erected by Anorah to the memory of her beloved husband William Harvey HOLMES, Native of London England, died 27.1.1884. Aged 55 years.' This headstone, erected by Honora is also inscribed: 'In loving memory of my beloved mother Johanna, relict of the late John HOGAN

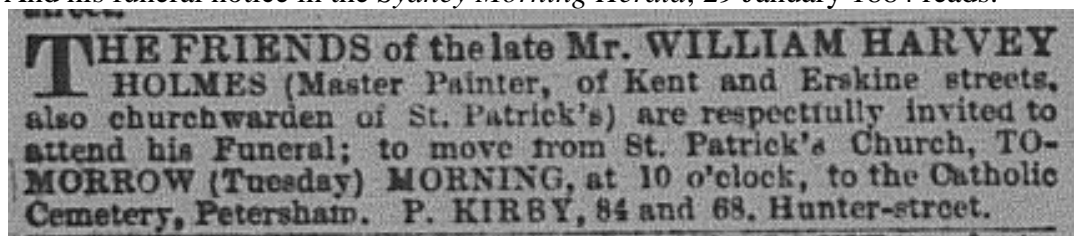
native of Co Cork Ireland, died 27.2.1877, aged 70 years' and 'In loving memory of my beloved sister Ellen MURPHY, died 24.4.1881 at Bathurst, aged 32 years.'

Honora died on the 28 January 1910 in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, St Leonards at the age of 76. Of those 76 years, she had spent approximately 59 of them in New South Wales. An inscription in Gore Hill Cemetery records her as 'Nora Homes, died Mater Hospital, aged 76'. Also noted is Catherine Power, Honora's sister recorded as aged 54, of Balmain.

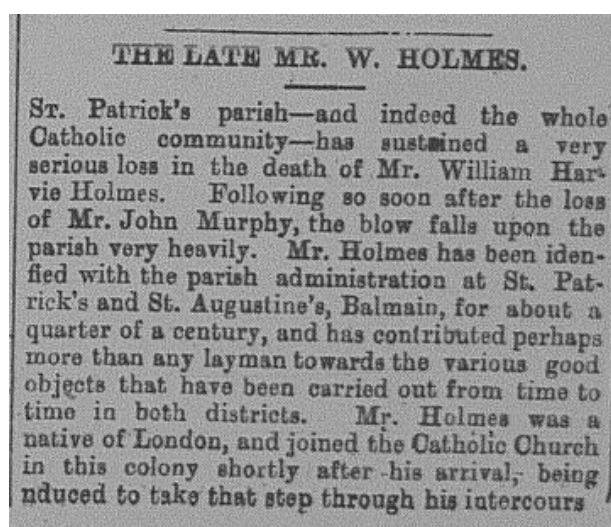
When William Holmes died the follow notice appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 January 1884:



And his funeral notice in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 January 1884 reads:



William's obituary appeared in the *Sydney Freeman's Journal* on 2 February 1884:



With the late Archpriest Therry, who held him in the highest possible estimation. About the same time he married, and went into business as a master painter. A more genial or good-hearted man than Mr. Holmes did not exist, and he combined with these qualities intense Catholicity, strict probity, great punctuality, and close attention to all the duties of religion and charity that he was so fond of imposing upon himself. Such men can ill be spared, but of course the will of the Almighty must be bowed to with submission and the knowledge that all that is ordained by Him is for the best. Mr. Holmes had been ailing for several months, but was not confined to his bed or prevented from attending to his private or parochial business. He was unusually cheerful and well on Saturday, and spent the day with his wife at Manly Beach. On Sunday at 11 o'clock Mass, he was at his usual post in the church, giving receipts for the pew-rents as treasurer of the parish; he dined well; but unhappily he was attacked by an affection of the heart about half-past four in the afternoon and expired almost immediately. The astonishment and grief of the congregation were very great when at the evening service the organ pealed forth the Dead March from Saul, and the announcement was made by Father Piquet in broken accents that Mr. Holmes was dead. A requiem Mass was celebrated at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning, after which the funeral cortege moved from St. Patrick's Church to Petersham cemetery. The clergy present, in the church and at the funeral, which was very large, were Father Le Rennetel, Father Coué, Father Piquet, Father Ginnisty, and Prior Downey, O.S.B. The parish collectors acted as chief mourners. As in all other things, Mr. Holmes was a model giver, and one of the finest stained-glass windows in St. Patrick's Church was lately placed there by him. Mr. Holmes leaves a widow well provided for, and a host of sincerely mourning friends.

Honora Hogan's move to Australia is a poignant example of the type of resilient, family loyal and hardworking people who proved to be the 'foundation stones' upon which the Australian society we know today was built.

To the British Government of the time, the 'Earl Grey Orphan Exodus' was a way to assist the problem of growing numbers of deaths and workhouse capacity issues brought about by the Great Famine in Ireland. From Australia's perspective, the arrival of 'orphans' like Honora in the fledgling colony provided opportunity and scope for a better future for them and a chance to bring suitable domestic servants and marriage partners to the male-dominated colonies.

Despite being unable to read or write, Honora, with the support of her husband, William Harvey Holmes, worked conscientiously to 'rescue' her mother and sisters from the Great Famine that was decimating Ireland and bring them to the other side of the world. Many families in Sydney and country New South Wales today, can trace their ancestry (either directly or indirectly), to Honora and her family.

**Story researched and compiled by Paul Barrett (great great grandson of Catherine) and Kay Sherring (great granddaughter of Honora and Helen) with added information by Perry McIntyre, Great Irish Famine Commemoration Committee.
16 February 2013**