

## **FIDDIANS WHO WENT TO AUSTRALIA**

Over the past 150 years a number of members of the Fiddian family have chosen to move to Australia and set up home there. Interestingly, the 30 or so individuals that made the journey all come from just two branches of the family. In most cases a male Fiddian emigrated with his wife and children, although they did not always travel together. As a result a sizeable proportion of the Fiddian family now call Australia home. The first immigrant was Samuel Fiddian, born in 1842 who permanently settled in Australia in 1869. He is the great, great-uncle of the most recent immigrant, my brother William Fiddian who arrived with his family in 2004. Apart from Samuel's sister Mary Paull Fiddian all the other Fiddians who settled in Australia in the intervening years come from another branch of the family. In overall chronological order we have:

**Samuel Fiddian** – son of Rev Samuel Fiddian and Grace Paull Burall he had spent 3 years in Tasmania between matriculation and attending St John's College Cambridge. Leaving Cambridge with First Class Honours in Mathematics (Wrangler) he returned to Australia in 1869 and held a number of teaching posts. From 1872 to 1903 he was Proprietor and Headmaster of Creswick Grammar School. He was also a Wesleyan Lay Preacher and Circuit Steward. He married Charlotte Sophia Robin in 1872 at Adelaide and they had several children. Of these only 3 sons survived, James Rowland Fiddian born in 1873, Samuel Fiddian born in 1877 and William de Jersey Fiddian born in 1878, all at Creswick, Victoria. James had only one son who survived childhood, James Moulton Fiddian born in 1911 at Creswick who was killed in Indonesia during WW2, a single grandson and one great-grandson. William had two surviving daughters but no sons. On the other hand Samuel junior had 7 children, 5 sons and two daughters. Between them the sons have in turn produced 9 sons and 6 daughters and similar numbers of grandchildren.

**Mary Paull Fiddian** – Samuel's eldest sister, born in 1836 was a Teacher and followed her younger brother to Australia in about 1870. I can find no evidence that she ever married.

**William Charles Angliss** – born in 1865 at Dudley in Worcestershire to Eliza Fiddian and William Angliss, he had learnt the butcher's trade at his uncle's in London as a boy. In 1881 he emigrated, going first to New York, then Queensland in 1884, before settling in Melbourne in 1886. He would go on to become a very successful businessman, politician and philanthropist but by 1900 was just getting started.

**Jenny Sophia Fiddian** – younger sister of Harry and Samuel Theseus Fiddian (below) she was born in 1884 at Kings Norton, Worcestershire. Her mother had died when she was only 6 and her father had remarried later that year, having 9 more children in the next 9 years. Perhaps influenced by the success of her cousin William Angliss junior she travelled to Sydney in 1900, unaccompanied and unassisted aged only 16. In 1905 she went to New Zealand but there the track goes cold.

**Henry (Harry) Douglas Fiddian** – born in 1868 at Kings Norton in Worcestershire to Arthur Fiddian and Sarah Ann Round, he was the nephew of Eliza Fiddian. He had worked as a general Labourer in England and perhaps inspired by the success of his cousin William Angliss junior overseas he left for Australia with his wife, arriving there in January 1901. Initially he worked as a Police Officer, then later as a Tallow Man and Foreman. Their only child was a daughter.

**Eliza Fiddian** – born in 1843 at Old Swinford in Worcestershire to Richard Fiddian and Sarah Benbow, she married William Angliss in 1862 at Dudley and they had 11 children, losing one in childhood. William Angliss had been a Tailor but in 1903 aged 69 he went to Australia to join his son Sir William Charles Angliss taking two daughters with him. In 1904 Eliza and two more daughters followed him. Eventually all 10 of their children ended up in Australia, with several sons working for William Angliss junior. The latter's refrigerated meat business would eventually make him a millionaire (and in 1950 supposedly Australia's wealthiest person) and gain him his knighthood.

**Samuel Theseus Fiddian** – born in 1865 at Rowley in Staffordshire he was the elder brother of Harry Fiddian. In the 1890s he was a volunteer Sergeant in Ireland and Ceylon, then in 1907 he followed his younger brother and went to Australia taking his wife and a daughter with him. He got work as a Freezing Hand (removing the sheep's skin from its carcass whole) but died in a car accident in 1913.

**Percival Douglas Fiddian** - born in Columbo, Ceylon in 1894 he was the son of Samuel Theseus Fiddian and followed his father to Australia. By 1914 he was a Lance Sergeant serving in the ANZAC Forces during WW1. He married Emmie Newton in 1914 and they had two sons and two daughters. The eldest son Douglas James Fiddian born in 1920 did not appear to have any children, but their other son Thomas Newton Fiddian born in 1933 had two sons and 3 daughters. Between them his children have produced 15 grandchildren for Thomas.

**Samuel Arthur Fiddian** – elder brother of Percival Douglas Fiddian he was born in 1890 at Fermoy in Cork, Ireland. In England he was a Butcher's Labourer and Storeman before the war, then served in the Royal Field Artillery during WW1. He joined his family in Australia after the war and in 1919 married Florence Lecky Witheridge at Footscray, Victoria. They had a son William Samuel Fiddian born in 1920 at Footscray who in turn had a daughter.

**Richard Fiddian** – nephew of Eliza Fiddian (above) and cousin of Harry and Samuel Theseus Fiddian, he was born in 1869 at Rowley Regis, Staffordshire. In 1893 he had gone to Wellington, New Zealand but later returned to England. In 1922 he took a ship to Australia and was followed the next year by his wife and daughter.

**Richard Benbow John** – nephew of Richard Fiddian (his mother being Lottie Adams Fiddian, sister to Richard) he was born in 1891 at Cradley Heath, Staffordshire. He was a Lance Bombardier in the Royal Artillery during WW1 and sometime between 1920 and 1937 he arrived in Australia. He worked as a Labourer for many years and then a Brick Works Manager.

**William (Bill) Graham Fiddian** – born in 1960 at Hyde in Cheshire, the great great-nephew of Samuel Fiddian, who first went to Australia in 1869, Bill followed his ancestor but by plane. He arrived in Perth, WA on Australia Day in 2004 with his wife and 3 children, one of whom another Samuel (Sam) has already produced a grandson. Bill worked as a Quantity Surveyor and Director in the Perth area before retiring last year to Margaret River.

Over a period of only about 50 years from 1869 the bulk of the Fiddian family who migrated to Australia made their move. Most of them settled in and around Melbourne though the two branches of the family would remain quite separate.

I remember going to Melbourne for the first time about 30 years ago and having heard something of my Australian cousins looked up our family name in the phonebook. I was amazed to find as many as 19 entries for adult Fiddians living in the area. As I hadn't wished to spoil the flow when dealing with the family members who actually went to Australia as opposed to being born there I will return to Samuel Fiddian's descendants.

His eldest son Rev James Rowland Fiddian was a Presbyterian Minister who had two sons and two daughters, the oldest son dying within a few days of birth. His surviving son Sergeant James Moulton Fiddian who died in WW2 also had a son Richard Moulton Fiddian who became a Civil Engineer. Richard in turn had two daughters and a son Richard James Fiddian. As the latter individuals are all alive I will refrain from giving further details. Samuel's third surviving son William de Jersey Fiddian was a Bank Manager and he had a son and 3 daughters, but the son and a daughter died at birth. The final surviving son of Samuel Fiddian was his namesake Samuel Fiddian. Samuel junior was an Indentor and Manufacturer's Agent and it appears he had an illegitimate child, Raymond Ward, just before marrying his cousin Margaret Nellie Robin in 1906. They had 7 children, 5 sons and two daughters, and numerous grandchildren.

The oldest son Ian Paull Fiddian was born in 1909 and has a middle name that comes from his great-grandmother Grace Burall Paull. Like Moulton, Paull is another family name associated with the Fiddian family that has been used as a middle name. Indeed it was my grandmother's wish that my middle name would be Paull, but my mother (a Teacher) stood her ground and I lost an 'l'. Ian Paull trained as a Barrister, was Manager of two Melbourne Orchestras, Concert Manager for ABC and Secretary of the Melbourne University Conservatorium of Music. He also spent 10 years from 1942 as a commissioned officer in the Australian Military Forces. In 1935 he married Elizabeth Mary Sweetman and they had 3 sons, Ian Tristan Samuel Fiddian born in 1936, David Edward Fiddian and Geoffrey Paull Fiddian. Between them the sons produced 7 children, 5 sons and two daughters.

The next of Samuel's children was Hubert de Jersey born in 1911 who also had 3 children, Leila Joy Fiddian, Marcus Hugh Fiddian and Juliet Valda Fiddian. Samuel's third son was Basil Fiddian born in 1912 who had 4 sons, Roger Austin Fiddian born in 1943, Andrew Fiddian born in 1946, Malcolm Fiddian and Peter Fiddian born in 1952 who died in 2014. The first 3 of Basil's sons have produced 6 children, 4 sons and two daughters. The next of Samuel's sons

was Geoffrey Lynn Fiddian born in 1916 who had a son Geoffrey Angus Fiddian and a daughter, but I don't know if they in turn had any children. Samuel's final son was William Robin Fiddian born in 1923 who had 3 daughters, Jennifer Ruth Fiddian born in 1958, Margaret Carolyn Fiddian and Susan Fiddian. Samuel also had two daughters Margaret Shirley Fiddian born in 1915 and Ruth Fiddian born in 1921.

Since records in Australia are quite limited I have not been able to include most the latest generation of Fiddians to have been born there. Nevertheless, the website contains 65 Fiddians born in Australia and more than 30 Fiddians (including spouses and children of female Fiddians) have gone there to live, so the likely total of our Australian cousins over time must be more than 100. I also estimate that 20% or more of the worldwide Fiddian family now call Australia home.

Paul Fiddian – June 2015