

WILLIAM MILDWATER

1817 - 8th Jan 1887

Born : SHERBOURNE, DORSET ENGLAND

Died : MANLY, NSW

Buried : MANLY WEST, NSW



William was born to Thomas and Jane Mildwater (nee Cornick/Gundick) in Dorset in England about 1817. He was baptised at Church of St. James The Great at Longbourne in March 1817. Not a great deal is known about William's parents but the information I have been given is that there were almost two families. Prior to William it seems that there were two sons and two daughters born – George Flight born 1797, Robert born 1803, Mary born 1804 and Sofia born 1805. Apparently there is a discrepancy relating to William's parents as his death records shown Joseph and Jane to be his parents. If this is so Joseph perhaps was another brother to Thomas. After William's birth in 1817, the next children to be born were Mary Elizabeth in 1820 then possibly her twin Joseph in 1820 and Jeremiah born in 1822.

William was the first of the lads to migrate to NSW about 1838, he was said to be about 18. To date no record of his arrival has been found. He lived at Globe Street and Windmill Street in the Rocks area, below the now Harbour Bridge in Sydney. He opened a grocer's shop in Windmill Street.

On 16 July 1840 he married Jane Selby at Scots Church, Jamison Street, Sydney. The witnesses to the marriage were Caroline Selby of 52 Kent Street, Sydney and Flora McDonald.

William and Jane moved from Sydney to North Harbour (Manly) around 1847. By trade William was a carpenter and boat builder. At North Harbour he made clinker style boats featuring external planks overlapping downwards and secured with copper nails. During this period his brothers, Robert and Joseph joined him. The family group camped in calico tents prior to building more comfortable accommodation. It is thought that William probably helped construct the Pier Hotel in Manly in 1856 as well as many other early buildings, including the house called "Wescoe" in Belgrave Street, Manly.

William owned substantial quantities of land in the District and built their two storey home at Lot No. 28 Whistler Street overlooking an aboriginal ceremonial ground, this was where Jane's store was opened. It was below where the stone kangaroo on the cliff overlooks Manly, it was below that in Belgrave Street where the house "Westcoe" was thought to have been built about 1876 on the Belgrave Street/Pittwater Road corner. The Catholic Church now stands on this site.

William became a part of the early history of North Manly when, together with a business partner Thomas Wilson, he applied for a Deed of Grant of property located between Curl Curl Creek (now Manly Creek) and Wyadra Avenue, at a Sydney sale held on 15 December 1853. This land was sandwiched between the John Wheeler estates. William with his son Robert maintained business interests in Manly for many years.

William paid twenty-six pound to bring his brother Jeremiah and family out to Australia in 1858 on the ship "Castillan". Jeremiah was accompanied by his wife Rose Hannah and his children Mary Ann, Rose Hannah, Susannah, Ellen, Emma and Jane.

William died at "Westcoe" on 8 January 1887 and is buried in the cemetery at Manly West with his wife Jane. William's Will did not go to probate until 1917.

MILDWATER FAMILY NAME

There are apparently records of the Mildwater family back to the early 1300's in Herefordshire and subsequently in Gloucestershire, Dorsetshire and London. The spelling of the name altered over the years, perhaps depending on the parish scribe, varying between Milewater (1461 and earlier), Mildwater and Myldwater in the same Will (1560), Myllward (mid 1500's), Myldwaters (1608), Mylwater (1608), Myllwater (1615), Milwater (1623), Millwater (1664), Milwaters (1673), Mildwaters (1769). They are all said to be the same family. The name is probably originally Mill-Water "dwelling by the mill stream".

BIRTH REGISTRATION FACT FILE

NAME	William Mildwater
SEX OF CHILD	Male
DATE OF BIRTH	1817
PLACE	Longbourne, England
FATHER	Thomas or Joseph Mildwater/s
OCCUPATION	Carpenter
PLACE OF BIRTH	England
AGE	
DATE OF MARRIAGE	
PLACE OF MARRIAGE	
MOTHER	Jane Cornick or Gundick
OCCUPATION	
BIRTH PLACE	England
AGE	
NOTES	

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MARRIAGE REGISTRATION FACT FILE

<u>GROOM</u>	William Mildwater
STATUS	Bachelor
PLACE OF BIRTH	Sherbourne, Dorset, England
OCCUPATION	
AGE	
USUAL RESIDENCE	
FATHER	Thomas Mildwater
OCCUPATION	
MOTHER	Jane Cornick/Gundick
<u>BRIDE</u>	Jane Selby
STATUS	Spinster
PLACE OF BIRTH	Liverpool, England
OCCUPATION	
AGE	
USUAL RESIDENCE	
FATHER	
OCCUPATION	
MOTHER	
<u>DATE OF MARRIAGE</u>	16 July 1840
PLACE OF MARRIAGE	Scotts Church, Sydney
RELIGION	Presbyterian
WITNESSES	Caroline Selby, Flora McDonald
MINISTER	Wil McIntyre

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DEATH REGISTRATION FACT FILE

NAME	William Mildwater
DATE OF DEATH	8 Jan 1887
PLACE	Belgrave Street Manly, St Leonards NSW
OCCUPATION	Builder
AGE	69
CONJUGAL STATUS	-
PLACE OF BIRTH	England
TIME IN AUST COLONIES	49 Years
FATHER	Joseph Mildwater
MOTHER	Jane Cundick
PLACE OF MARRIAGE	Sydney NSW
AGE AT MARRIAGE	22
NAME OF SPOUSE	Jane Silvy
CHILDREN OF MARRIAGE	Ann Jane 44, William 42, Mary Ann 41, Robert 39, Teresa 35 (Altered From 45), Emilius 34, Selina 32, Living; 4 Females Dead
INFORMANT	W Johnson, Son-In-Law, The Corso, Manly
CAUSE OF DEATH	Epileptic Hemiplegia (Altered From Nemiplegia)
LENGTH OF ILLNESS	9 Months
DATE OF BURIAL	10 Jan 1887
PLACE OF BURIAL	Cemetery At Manly
MINISTER AND RELIGION	Rev J Olley, Congregational
WITNESSES	A Mclellan, E.A. Morley

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