

Alfred and Margaret Hollow

The third generation of our Hollow family in Australia were three brothers, Alfred Hollow (1868-1943), William Charles Hollow (1870-1936) and Joseph Henry Hollow (1872-1928). The three boys were effectively orphaned in 1873 when their mother died suddenly. She was just 21 and they were five, three and one respectively. The boys' father left El Dorado in 1875, the boys were brought up by family but who exactly we are not quite sure. More of this later.

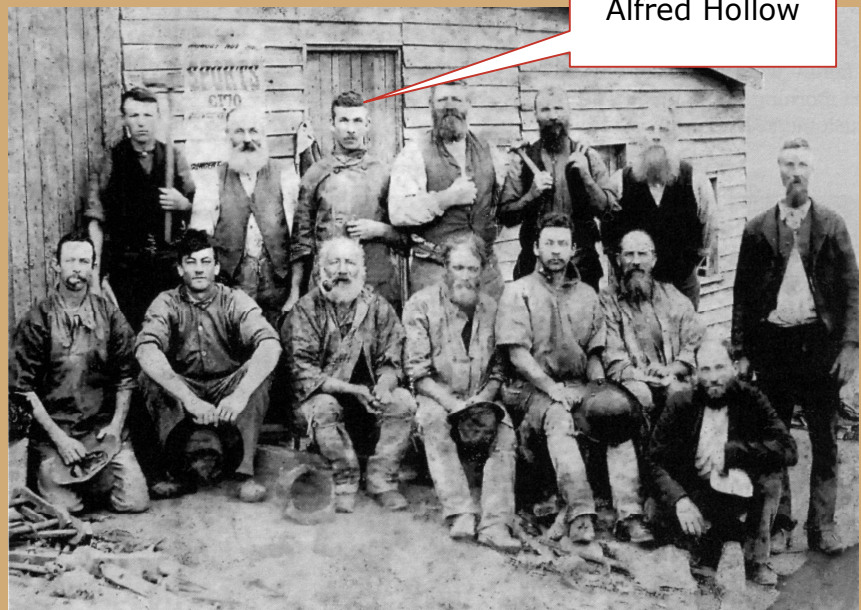
Alfred Hollow (1868-1943)

Alfred's early life is still a mystery. In 1877 he is listed in the local Beechworth newspaper as a prize winner at the Church of England Sunday School in Beechworth. This suggests he was living in Beechworth at the time as it is too far from El Dorado for it to be regular worship place for El Dorado people. The family also were long time worshipers at the El Dorado Wesleyan Church so a prize at the C of E church also suggests he wasn't living in El Dorado in 1877, he would have been nine. This may have been a temporary home as in March 1882 Alfred is listed as having successfully qualified at El Dorado Primary School; he was 13 years, three months old.



Alfred was living in El Dorado around the time of his 21st birthday, 1891. This was the year he joined the El Dorado Oddfellows Lodge and about this time he is included in a photograph of McEvoy miners in Sandra Buchan's book *El Dorado Gold*, although wrongly identified in the book.

Alfred was living at North Prentice three miles from Rutherglen at the time of his marriage in 1899 and was a miner. The manager of the mine at North Prentice was Edward Visick an uncle by marriage of Alfred's. Edward was married to one of Alfred's mother's sisters, Caroline Oates. Edward Visick is standing next to Alfred (to the right) in the McEvoy miners' photograph.



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It is possible he met his future wife Margaret Leitch in Rutherglen at around 1898/99 but maybe earlier in El Dorado.

Margaret was born in Walhalla and lived at Moondarra, ten miles out of Walhalla. Margaret's birth certificate actually gives her name as Marguerite. This may have been a clerical error, or a misinterpretation of the Scottish brogue by the person recording her birth registration, she was always known as Margaret. One of her sisters (Isabella) married Erich Bohnholtzer and their first child Neil Bohnholtzer was born at El Dorado in October 1894. The next Bohnholtzer child, Hilda Mary, was born in Moondarra in 1896 but this family was in Rutherglen in 1898 when Sylvie Violet was born. Margaret may have been sent up to help her sister at the time of Sylvie's birth and presumably that is when the courtship blossomed. Alfred was probably working at Rutherglen at the time as he seems to have left El Dorado around 1896.

Alfred and Margaret were married at Moondarra on 27th. December 1899. The couple were married by George Samuel Lloyd a Wesleyan minister; the marriage taking place in the bride's family home at Moondarra. Margaret's father, Neil Leitch, had died only three months previously in September. Her mother, Mary, was 61 years of age at the time of the wedding.

After they were married the family seemed to live in El Dorado at first when their first two children were born there Joseph William in 1900 and Ivy Esme in 1901. The next child, Alfred Mervyn was born in Rutherglen in 1902. The next child, Walter, was born in El Dorado in 1904 but died in Rutherglen before he was one. All the subsequent children were born in Rutherglen.

In December 1914 the family was shocked by the loss of their eldest child, Joseph. He died after an appendix operation at the Corowa hospital. Newspaper reports say he attended a military drill on Wednesday and ate some green fruit on the way home where he later fell ill. He was taken to hospital on Saturday



Alfred and Margaret Hollow's wedding portrait

Alfred HOLLOW, born 22/05/1868 at Eldorado (died 10/08/1943) married 27/12/1899 at Moondarra Vic. to Margaret LEITCH (died 19/01/1959).

Children;

1. **Joseph William HOLLOW** b 12/11/1900 El Dorado
2. **Ivy Esme HOLLOW** b 29/10/1901 El Dorado
3. **Alfred Mervyn HOLLOW** b 05/12/1902
4. **Walter Angus HOLLOW** b 13/05/1904 El Dorado
5. **Colin Charles HOLLOW** b 14/08/1905 Rutherglen
6. **Lillian May HOLLOW** b 11/11/1906 Rutherglen
7. **Hilda Gwendoline HOLLOW** b 01/09/1908 Rutherglen
8. **Robert Keith HOLLOW** b 10/02/1914 North Prentice (Rutherglen)

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morning where he was operated on but it was too late. Reports describe him as *"a particularly bright and promising boy,"* Ironically a few days later a local paper listed him as achieving his Merit Certificate at the Rutherglen School. Joe was always spoken about with admiration by his siblings.

Alfred Hollow was active in community life in Rutherglen. In 1914 he was Vice President of the Rutherglen Federated Mining Employees Association, the next year he was elected to President and held that position through 1915-1917. The association also ran an annual sports day and Alfred was a handicapper and judge for the foot racing events. The accompanying photograph was found by his granddaughter Heather amongst Aunty Ivy's photographs. It shows him within a group at some celebration. I believe it is of the men from the Rutherglen Federated Mining Employees Federation.



In late 1918 or early 1919 the family moved from North Prentice to Wangaratta. In June 1818 Gwen was still a student at North Prentice Primary School. In November 1918 Alfred was the foot racing handicapper at the El Dorado Sports. Possibly he had shifted his employment to El Dorado by that time. When the family moved from Rutherglen to Wangaratta, they firstly lived in Baker St. and then moving to Ovens St. They lived in two houses in Ovens Street; their eventual home was at 45 Ovens Street.



Alfred's working life alternated between El Dorado and Rutherglen. Alfred had returned to working in El Dorado. He apparently rode his bike to El Dorado on a Mondays and back home to Wangaratta on the Friday of each week a distance of 21km (13 miles). He had somewhere to stay out at El Dorado, possibly the old family home which was opposite the primary school.



After the 1895 McEvoy mine disaster below ground mining was finally deemed too dangerous in El Dorado. Mining changed there to an open cut sluicing method. The Cock's Pioneer Electric Gold and Tin

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Sluicing Company began operation about 1899/1900. It was to this company Alfred would have worked for when he was in El Dorado and after leaving Rutherglen for Wangaratta returned to Cock's Pioneer again.

In 1936 he had a rather serious accident at work resulting in a broken hip. It would have taken some time to recover and it may have been then that he took up work at Irving's Timber yard in Wangaratta although it is doubtful if this was fulltime employment. (I think my Dad told me about the timber yard.). Ailsa's recollection is of him always being around the house or next door talking to the men at Porter's garage. Maybe he also frequented Irving's Timber Yard for a yarn too. His obituary suggests he didn't work much after the accident. The photo shows him quite advanced in age, possibly taken in the early 1940s after he had retired.

MINER INJURED.—Mr Alfred Hollow, of Wangaratta, who is employed at the Cock's Pioneer Mine, Eldorado, met with a serious accident on Monday afternoon. He was inserting blasting charges, and called to his assistant who was cutting fuses, to throw a knife to him. Mr Hollow was on a ledge about six feet up, and as he stooped to pick up the knife, portion of the bank fell away. He was thrown down, falling heavily. He was carried to the surface, and then conveyed by ambulance to Wangaratta, suffering from a fracture of the right hip.

The North Eastern Ensign (Benalla, Vic)
Friday 10 January 1936

My aunty Gwen always claimed he was a powder monkey something I had not realised was necessary in a sluicing operation. From the article it seems she was correct, he did work as a powder monkey at Cock's Pioneer.

The photograph on the previous page shows the house at 45 Ovens street with Roslyn Hollow at the front gate.

Alfred and Margaret continued to live at Ovens Street until Alfred's sudden death August 10 1943 aged 75. He had suffered a heart attack six weeks prior to his death.

Margaret and her daughter Ivy eventually moved to a new home at 3 Johnston Lane Wangaratta next door to another daughter Gwen. Margaret was to die in 1959 aged 86. Alfred and Margaret share a grave at the Wangaratta Cemetery



Obituary

The death took place suddenly at his home, Ovens street, yesterday morning of Mr. Alfred Hollow, aged 75 years. Mr. Hollow was born at Eldorado and was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hollow. He was a miner by occupation and when a young man went to Rutherglen. Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hollow remained in Rutherglen for 19 years, coming to Wangaratta to reside 25 years ago. Mr. Hollow was then engaged with the Cock's Pioneer Mining Coy. Eldorado, but met with a severe accident about seven years ago.

Since then he has resided continuously at his home. Six weeks ago he suffered a severe heart attack, and had been bed until Monday, when he was up for a few hours enjoying the warm sunshine. He got up again yesterday morning and appeared to be in good health, but he had another heart seizure and died almost immediately.

From Wangaratta Chronicle 11 Aug. 1943

Alfred and Margaret's Children

Alfred and Margaret had eight children. What follows is more or less a listing of them and where possible some of my recollections of them. Fleshing out their stories maybe a job one of you the readers might contemplate.

Joseph William Hollow

b. 21.11.1900 d. 30.11.1914

In December 1914 the family was shocked by the loss of their eldest child, Joseph. He died after an appendix operation at the Corowa hospital. Newspaper reports say he attended a military drill on Wednesday and ate some green fruit on the way home where he later fell ill. He was taken to hospital on Saturday morning where he was operated on but it was too late. Reports describe him as *"a particularly bright and promising boy,"* Ironically a few days later a local paper listed him as achieving his Merit Certificate at the Rutherglen School. Joe was always spoken about with admiration by his siblings.



Ivy Esme Hollow

b. 29.10.1901 d. 3.10.1973

Ivy was the eldest daughter of Alfred and Margaret Hollow. She went to the Rutherglen Higher Elementary school until February 1917. Her previous year's results were listed in the paper as:-

"Ivy Hollow—Distinction in physics, and passed in English, French, Arithmetic, geometry, geography and history."

Then, because of lack of subjects, she went to Wangaratta High and then Benalla High. She was a student teacher at Wangaratta High for a year before commencing her training at Melbourne Teacher's College. Her first school was Wilby State School in 1922. In 1935 she was transferred from Rushworth Primary School, where she had spent 8 years, then to Wangaratta. She taught in Wangaratta at Chisholm Street, Wangaratta South and West End for the next 30 years.



She didn't marry, and lived in Wangaratta with her mother, (our grandmother), first at Ovens St then in the 1950s moved to 3 Johnson Lane, next door to Gwen and her family. I remember her as a cook of fantastic apple pies. I had a reputation for loving apple pie and each time I visited Grandma and Auntie Ivy there would be apple pie on the menu.

Auntie Ivy didn't drive for most of her life but very late in life she decided to learn to drive; I suspect it was when she got a job at Wangaratta South Primary, when she was in her fifties. Uncle Stan taught her how to drive and despite the scepticism of those

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around her she got her licence and bought herself a Morris Minor and drove for the rest of her life.

Ivy was the typical spinster aunt; she took an interest in all her nieces and me the only nephew. She used to take Heather and me for a holiday at Aunty Lil's in Footscray during January. One of her greatest tests was bringing us home to Wangaratta by train one year with our newly acquired pets, Heather two goldfish in a big round goldfish bowl and me a galah in a cage. During the trip home, which was at night, our carriage suffered some damage and we had to move to another carriage. This meant having to relocate our entire luggage along with the goldfish in the bowl and the galah in its cage. I am not sure she ever got over that trip.

She was the one who began my interest in the family's history. She wrote out the family tree as she knew it on a *Miss Prestige* stocking wrapper, I still have it.

Alfred Mervyn Hollow.

b. 5.12.1902 d. 5.6.1962

Alf was born at North Prentice (Rutherglen) 5.12.1902, second son of Alfred and Margaret Hollow. Here he spent his childhood, moving in December 1918 to Wangaratta with the family. He became a teacher, teaching first at Axedale then Wangaratta for many years. Newspaper reports show him as a keen Victorian Teacher's Union member taking part in delegations to local parliamentarians on union business. In 1936 he became headmaster at Glenrowan State School. In 1940 he moved to Silvan South State School where he met Hilda Johns, a sewing mistress at the school. They married in 1941 and moved to Leongatha South where Roslyn Margaret was born in 1942. In 1943 they moved to Kallista where Alf was headmaster for the next six years. Seeking promotions they moved around the State, as was the practise of the times. Four years were spent at Natimuk, then Fish Creek in 1954 and Avoca in 1957. In 1960 they moved to The Basin where Alf remained as Headmaster until his sudden death in 1962.



Walter Angus Hollow.

b. 13.5.1904 d. 1.1.1905

Walter died at 7 months, his death certificate states the cause of death was 'sudden' and from 'exhaustion'. This could have meant as a result of the heat. Two more babies on the same page as Walters's death certificate died of Heat apoplexy.

Instead of a doctor's declaration, this part of the certificate has "John O'Grady J.P. did not deem it necessary to hold enquiry and ordered the burial". There is no evidence that Walter was seen by a doctor.

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Walter was buried at the Carlisle Cemetery, Rutherglen.

Colin Charles Hollow.

b. 14.8.1905 d. 28.2.1977



Uncle Col was a bachelor who lived at Alexandra. He was quite proud of his height, 5 Feet and half an inch (153.67 cms for the younger readers). His army ID photo shows him striving to make the height scale at the side of the photo by tilting his head. To no avail, his army records stated his height as 5ft. ½ ins. That half inch was very important to him. Part of our growing up experience was getting to be as tall as Uncle Col.



In his youth he had been a good swimmer and he loved football. He had also been offered a position as a trainee jockey at the Hoysted stables in Wangaratta. He did not take up the offer. In Alexander he worked for a time as an insurance salesman but in his later years he was a part owner of a super market in Alexander. He was a joker and there were many stories about his exploits.

One story that Dad and Aunty Gwen both recalled was the poem Uncle Col composed and recited when the

family had to bury their pet dog Yippy.

We buried him darkly at dead of night,
The sods with our shovels turning,
By the dim and distant light
And the candle dimly burning.

No useless coffin enclosed his breast,
Not in sheet or in shroud we wound him;
But he lay like a warrior taking his rest
With a little bit of lime thrown round him.

Uncle Col was a keen football supporter. One story had him sitting inside the fence of a ground in front of the timekeeper who had hung the time bell over the fence. The match was tight; Uncle Col's team was just behind and close to making a winning score. Time ran out but when the timekeepers went to ring the bell they couldn't. Uncle Col had a firm hold of the bell's clapper.

Uncle Col actually took this from a longer poem, **The Burial of Sir John Moore after Corunna** Charles Wolfe 1791-1823
The two verses he paraphrased were:-

We buried him darkly at dead of night,
The sods with our bayonets turning,
By the struggling moonbeam's misty light
And the lantern dimly burning.

No useless coffin enclosed his breast,
Not in sheet or in shroud we wound him;
But he lay like a warrior taking his rest
With his martial cloak around him.

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My other story of him was at Heather and Len's wedding. Everyone had collected at the Fleming house in Johnston Lane. It was a "dry" house neither Aunty Gwen nor Uncle Stan were drinkers. Uncle Col prevailed on the sons-in-law, Pat and Brian to go and buy some beer and provided the cash. When they returned and the beer was produced Aunty Gwen was not pleased and berated Col about spoiling the party. Uncle Col professed he had no knowledge of what the boys were up to and if he had known he would have advised against it. Aunty Gwen did not believe him.

Lilian May Hollow.

b. 11.11.1906 d. 24.12.1996



Aunty Lil married Bill Ednie in 1931 and they had two daughters Beth and Joy. The story I heard of Lil and Bill meeting is that Lil was dressing the window of the shop she was working in and a young Bill Ednie walked past and winked at her. The rest is history; they were married for 55 years before Uncle Bill passed away

My memory is of their house at 71 Summerhill Road, West Footscray. Heather and I began to holiday at Aunty Lil's in Footscray with Aunty Ivy taking us down by train. There we were introduced to television, the city, travelling to the city by tramways buses, movies at Hoyt's cinemas, drives to the Dandenongs. We had a magic time. The first year we went Lil and Bill didn't have a TV so we would go to their neighbours, the Brudenells, to watch of an evening. The next year we came down Lil and Bill had purchased a TV of their own. Neither of us had television at home at the time.

Uncle Bill was a joker; he was a State Electricity Commission linesman before starting his own business with his brother building electricity lines and putting in traffic lights. He claimed he never had to stop at traffic lights that he installed, they always turned green when he approached. One big job was putting in the power lines up to the summit of Mt Dandenong to supply the TV transmission towers that were built there in the mid 1950s. The track went straight up the middle of the mountain and was visible for miles around. If you could see the Dandenongs from the city or suburbs you could see the track. He called it the "Ednie Way".

It was always a very happy and welcoming house. Lil and Bill moved from Footscray to Blackburn, then eventually in retirement to Wonthaggi, then Beechworth.



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Hilda Gwendoline Hollow. (Gwen).

b. 1.9.1908 d. 1.4.1996

Aunty Gwen married Stan Fleming in Wangaratta in 1933; they lived at 5 Johnston Lane and had three daughters, Ailsa, Neilma and Heather. Aunty Gwen was a keen sportswoman and played tennis and later she converted to bowls. Uncle Stan was head mechanic at the Holdenson and Neilsen Butter Factory in Wangaratta. Some of my best holiday memories were when staying with the Flemings. I often went with Uncle Stan to his work. Sometimes he would take me out with him if he was called to fix a factory cream truck that had broken down. He drove an old Blitz truck. These were big ugly trucks that were army surplus from WWII. So I saw some of the country around Wangaratta. He also introduced me to the butter room. The room where a big cubic churn was filled with cream, then it commenced rolling to produce the butter. From the churn it was shaped into blocks and eventually cut into 1 pound blocks. I was able to wrap them and pack them into cartons to go to the shops. My Dad used to work in the factory before he went teaching.

The big activity for us kids in Wangaratta was swimming. Not until half an hour after a meal though. Before the Olympic Pool was built we went off to Meriwa Park where the swimming pool was built in the Owen's river. I got my Herald Certificate there. You had to swim 25 yards to get the certificate.

Another great memory is Aunty Gwen and the girls making dresses. The lounge/dining room would be taken over, patterns laid out material pinned, cut and finally sewn. I also remember the large back yard and the walnut tree which was great to climb in. Aunty Gwen had a rotary clothes line out there too. No ordinary one but one that Uncle Stan had made her. Instead of winding down it tilted over to allow clothes to be pegged to it.

These rocking horses were, I am pretty sure, an Uncle Stan creation too. That is Heather on one and me on the other. It could be Heather in the corner of my pic.



Carrie Hollow with Gwen and Stan Fleming during a holiday at Caloundra, Qld.



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Robert Keith Hollow

b. 10.2.1913 d, 24.1.2006

My Dad was the last child in the family, he called himself "Lucky Bob" and I think that started when he was young because I think he was quite spoilt by his brothers and sisters. He became a teacher too and he said that his siblings Alf and Ivy supported him through Melbourne Teacher's College. He married Carrie Judd in 1941 just before he left for further training in Canada and England as a pilot in the R.A.A.F. during WWII.

Carrie and Bob were to have five children, Colin, Carol, June, Kaye and Dot. A sixth child was stillborn. Not long before he died Bob wrote down his memories of growing up in Wangaratta and of his war experiences. His sisters had quite a few more stories of him that he didn't commit to paper.

See the menu to find his story.

This Hollow family too moved about the state. Not quite as much as his brother Alf though, Dad was happy staying for a long period in the one place. He met Mum while teaching at Neilborough East near Bendigo. After the war he returned to teaching at Llanelly, then moved to Gellibrand, St James, and Dunolly and finished his teaching career at White Hills in Bendigo.

