

Augustus Brownfield

6. XII. AUGUSTUS BROWNFIELD was born at Ballast Quay on 15th June 1842, when his mother was aged 45, and christened on July 13th 1842, at St. Alphege's Church.¹ In the 1851 census when the family was living at 5 Milton Place, Milton, Augustus was recorded aged 9.²

The Board of Trade records show that he obtained his second mates ticket on 14 October 1861. His first trip was on board the Hyacinth to Calcutta in 1862. In 1864 and 65 he made trips to Ceylon on board a vessel called the 'Wynward'.³ He made a voyage in the Dispatch in 1866 and on 12 December the same year, he was in Melbourne, Australia on board the Red Jacket. He returned in April 1867 in the same ship.⁴

RED JACKET

The "Red Jacket" was built in 1853 by George Thomas of Rockland, Maine and was named after an Indian Chief. She had a beautiful figurehead of this warrior complete with feathered head dress. Her registered tonnage was 2460 tons, length 260ft x beam 44ft x depth 26ft. She sailed from New York on her maiden voyage on 10th January 1854 and reached Lynas Point, Anglesey on 23rd Jan. She left Liverpool for the White Star Line, under the command of Captain Samuel Reid, on 4th May 1854 and made the passage to Port Phillip Heads in 69 days. By the 1870's she was being used in the North Atlantic timber trade from Canada to Liverpool and she ended her days as a coal hulk at Cape Verde. In her day, she was one of the crack passenger ships on the UK - Australia trade and was in competition with the Black Ball Line's "Lightning". This information is from 'The Colonial Clippers' by Basil Lubbock

Dec. 3, 1859: The White Star clipper, Red Jacket, Captain Kirkby, arrived in the Mersey on Tuesday from Australia, with 40,000 ounces of gold. She left Melbourne on the 10th of Sept., and the Pemanbuco on the 3rd of November."

March, 2, 1867: "FEMALE EMIGRATION,

"Miss Rye has received official notice of the arrival at Melbourne of the ship Red Jacket. The ship was reported clean and in good order throughout. The young people landed in good health and expressed themselves satisfied with the treatment they received during the voyage."

While he was in Melbourne in 1868, Augustus married ANNIE WILSON the record shows that Augustus Brownfield was aged 26, born in Gravesend (Augustus was born in Greenwich but moved to Gravesend when he was aged 4 or 5 and may have thought that he had been born there). His occupation was given as Ships Master and his parents as William Brownfield and Mary Ann Munyard.⁵ Annie had been born in Cornwall in 1843; her parents were William Roscoe Wilson and Elizabeth Collins. She must have travelled back to England with him, as their son Charles Augustus was born in the third quarter of 1869 in Whitechapel in London.⁶ Augustus had obtained his First Mates Ticket on June 28 1867, but does not seem to have gone to sea again until 1869 when he set off again, this time on board the 'Winchester' for Calcutta via New York. Annie then travelled back to Australia on board the 'True Briton' on an unassisted passage. The passenger list shows an Ann Brownfield aged 28 accompanied by Augustus Brownfield aged 1, arriving in Victoria in 1871. There

is another reference to a Captain A. Brownfield on the 'Ashburton' in 1876 on the Victoria index of passenger lists. There is no record of Augustus' death in either the English or Victorian (Australia) records so he may have died at sea. However in 1891, Annie Brownfield (spelt Brounfield in the record) married WILLIAM HERDMAN MACLURCAN. William Maclurcan had been born in Belfast. Annie died in Caulfield, Victoria in 1927⁷ and William in 1928.⁸

(i) CHARLES AUGUSTUS BROWNFIELD was born in 1869 at Whitechapel, London.⁹ He returned with his mother to Australia in 1871 and his stepfather William Maclurcan exerted considerable influence upon him. Charles married Annie Jane Kennedy in 1892 at Melbourne, Victoria.¹⁰ Annie had been born about 1873 in Limerick, Ireland, daughter of John Kennedy and Jane Welsh.¹¹ In the marriage record Charles' birthplace is shown as Williamstown although he had in fact been born in London before the start of the voyage to Australia. Williamstown (Hobson's Bay) was the port for large ships docking in Victoria. Charles and Annie had two children. George Augustus was born in 1892 and on his birth record it records "Father unknown" which suggests he was born before they were actually married. Linda Veronica was born in 1894 and died in 1895 aged six months.¹² Charles 'joined up' during the First World War but survived and died in 1945 at Parkville Psychiatric Hospital, Victoria aged 75 years. In their records his mother is given as Annie Wilson but his father as Chas. Mclurcan Brownfield, which is confusing, but given that this information was recorded by the staff in a psychiatric hospital from an elderly man it is not surprising if the information is not strictly correct. He was buried at Fawkner Cemetery, on 2 August 1945.¹³ Annie died at Port Melbourne, Victoria in 1947.¹⁴

George Augustus Brownfield Kennedy was born in 1892 at Williamstown, Victoria.¹⁵ He married Dorothy Ada Alice Harrison in Victoria in 1913.¹⁶ They had two daughters Linda Dorothy and Thelma Lilian. Dorothy died in 1961 in Melbourne, Victoria.¹⁷ and George died in 1967. The death entry for George Augustus Brownfield¹⁸ reads: died Melbourne 1967 aged 74 years. Father: Augustus Brownfield, Mother: Ann Kennedy.

George and Dorothy had two daughters:

Linda Dorothy Brownfield who was born on 14 January 1914 in South Melbourne, Victoria.¹⁹ She married Henry Thomas Robert Sealey in 1936 in Melbourne.²⁰ Henry had been born on 21 April 1911.²¹ Linda died on 12 October 1991 aged 77 and Henry died aged 93 on 14 May 2004. They are buried in the same grave at Springvale Cemetery, Victoria; Gillard Lawn – lawn grave row DG No 32.²²

Thelma Lilian Brownfield who was born on 22 February 1917 at Carlton, Victoria.²³ She married Stewart James Gordon in 1938 in Melbourne, Victoria.²⁴ Stewart had been born on 4 September 1913.²⁵ He died on 22 February 1996 aged 82 and Thelma died aged 85 on 23 September 2002 in Victoria. They were both cremated at Springvale Crematorium.²⁶

Sources

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1. St Alphege Baptismal register, entry for Augustus Brownfield. LMA m/f O94/114
2. 1851 census Gravesend, transcript from Irene Absalom. Personal papers
3. BT 127/4 Certificate No. 24482 The National Archive, Kew
4. Ibid
5. Victoria State Records. Reg. No 4382.
6. GRO I 1869.3 vol 1c p370
7. Victoria State Records. Reg. No 7532
8. Victoria state death records
9. GRO B 3/1869 Whitechapel 1c412
10. Vic Marriage Register
11. Vic Death Register
12. D 1895/3908
13. Fawkner Cemetery records no 7532.
14. Vic Death Register
15. Vic Birth Register (Kennedy) no 18565
16. Vic Marriage Register No 5658
17. Vic Death Register no 9507
18. Victoria State Records .Reg. No 1012
19. Vic Birth Register no 5664
20. Vic Marriage Register
21. Vic Birth Register
22. Springvale Cemetery records
23. Vic Birth Register no 1554
24. Vic Marriage Register
25. Vic Birth Register
26. Springvale Crematorium records