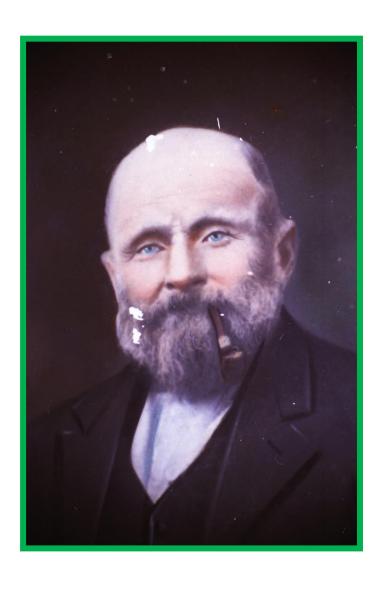
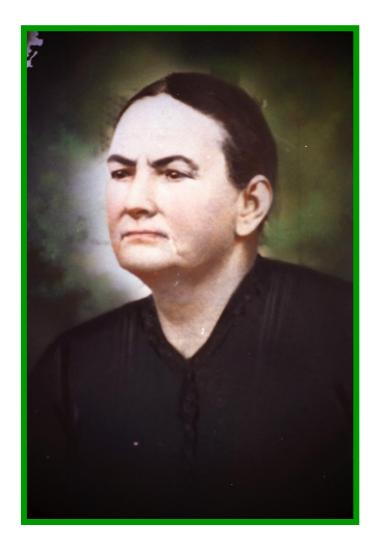
Boorowa Pioneers John Keefe and Charlotte Matilda Gorham





<u>JOHN KEEFE (1852 - 1926)</u> CHARLOTTE MATILDA GORHAM (1859 - 1942)

The 1850's signalled quite turbulent times in the history of the Colony of New South Wales. The colony was beginning to stir with various rumours of new gold finds, especially after Edward Hargreaves showed particles of gold he had found in the Lewis Pond's Ck valley, to drinkers in the Wellington Inn near Bathurst.

The lure of the goldfields attracted large numbers of adventurers, but the pioneer Keefe (O'Keefe) and Gorham families were content to pursue their pioneer farming pursuits in the Burrowa (Boorowa) area at localities such as at Frog's Hole [Frogmore] and Gunnary Creek [a tributary of the Burrowa River].

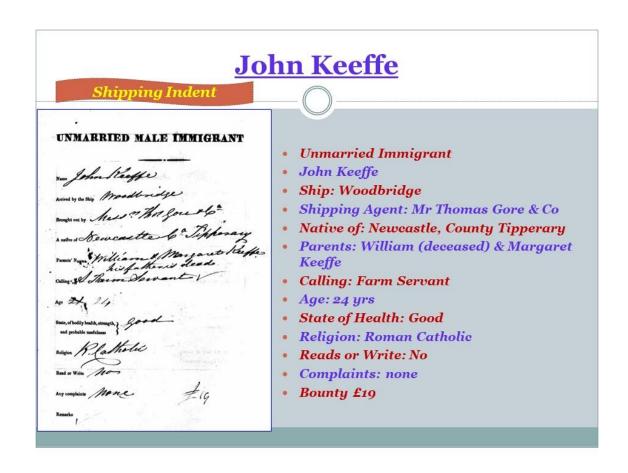
John O'Keefe (later Keefe) was born at Frog's Hole, Frogmore c1852, the son of John Keeffe / John O'Keefe Snr [various spellings] and Catherine Leary.

Separate stories have been written relation to both John Keeffe / O'Keefe and Catherine Leary.

Parents of John Keefe (a summary)

Father: John O'Keefe [John Keeffe]

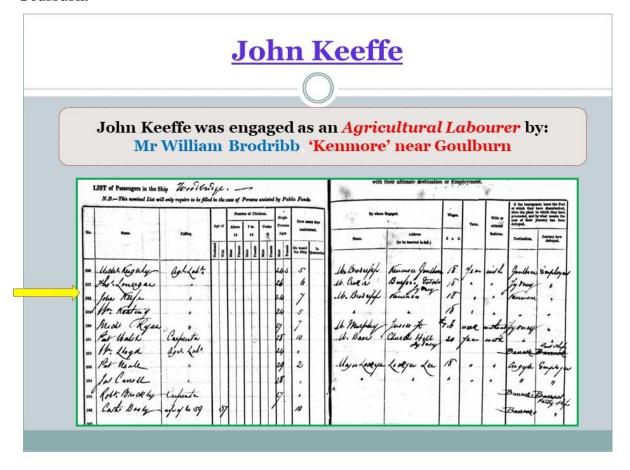
- **❖** Arrived in the Colony of New South Wales on 8 March 1842 at a Bounty Immigrant per the ship "Woodbridge"
- ❖ His sister Margaret Keeffe also arrived on the ship "Woodbridge"



- **❖** Born c1818 Newcastle, County Tipperary, Ireland
- **❖** Son of William Keeffe and Margaret (nee Keating)



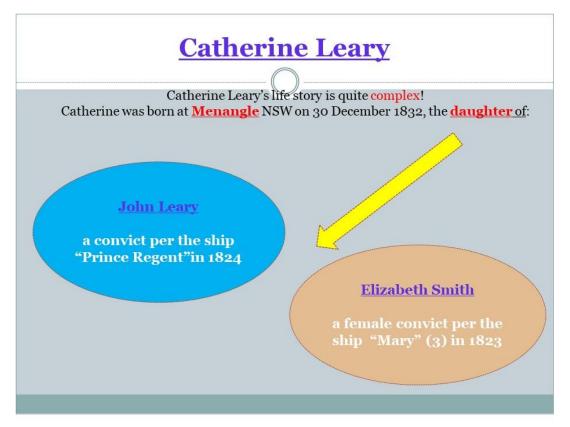
❖ Engaged as an Agricultura Labourer with Mr William Broadribb at "Kenmore" near Goulburn.

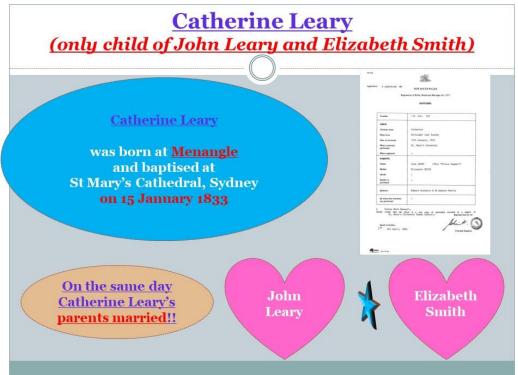


John O'Keefe [Keeffe] later lived and possibly took up land at "Frogs Hole" the early name for Frogmore near Burrowa (Boorowa).

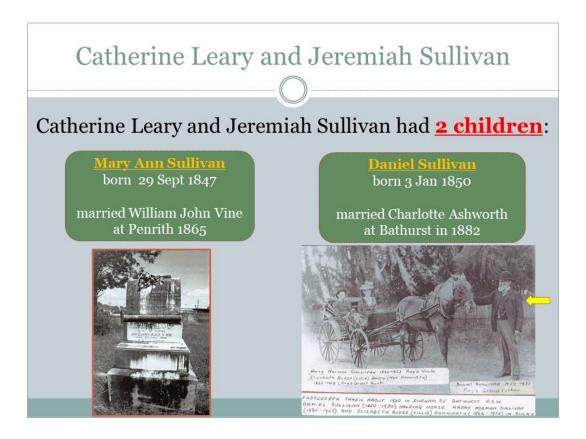
Parents of John Keefe (a summary) Mother: Catherine Leary

(daughter of convicts John Leary and Elizabeth Smith)

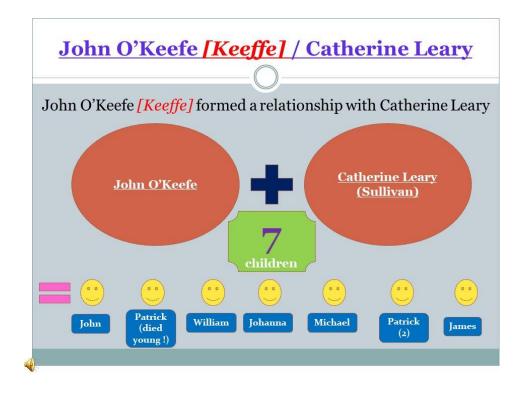




- ❖ Catherine Leary married convict and confectioner Jeremiah Sullivan
- ❖ Catherine and Jeremiah had 2 children, Mary Ann Sullivan and Daniel Sullivan



- Catherine and Jeremiah Sullivan separated
- **❖** Catherine then commenced a relationship with John O'Keefe
- **❖** The relationship produced 7 children



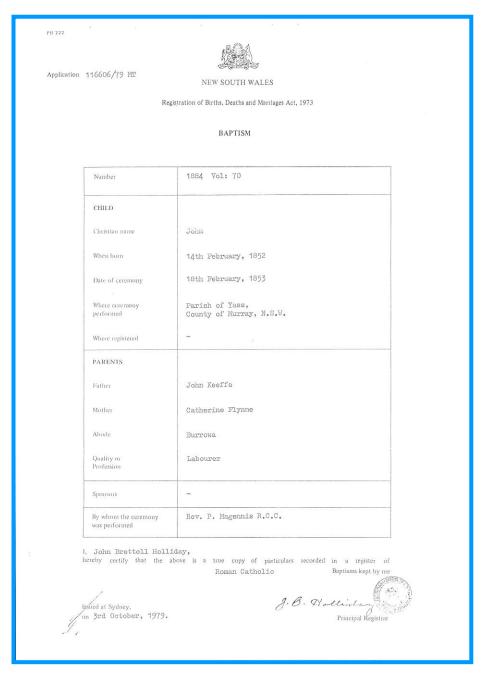
JOHN KEEFE (1852 - 1926)

John Keefe was the first child of the relationship between John O'Keefe [Keeffe] and Catherine Learv.

John Keefe was born on 14 February 1852 and baptised by Yass Catholic Priest Rev Patrick Magennis just over a year later on 18 February 1853. Father Magennis travelled through the district on horseback and would call in on various families as he passed through to baptise children and record such an undertaking in their Catholic Church records.

In the church record (below), John Keefe's father was listed by the correct spelling of John Keeffe and mother listed as Catherine Flynne.

❖ The Flynne name was given because, Catherine was still legally married to Jeremiah Sullivan and so the name Flynne was given because her mother Elizabeth Smith (m John Leary) was also separated from her husband and was in a relationship with another convict Matthew Flynn.

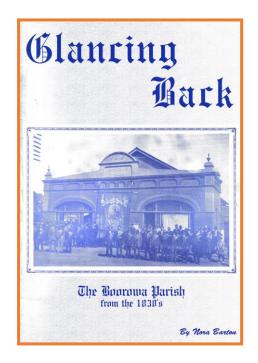




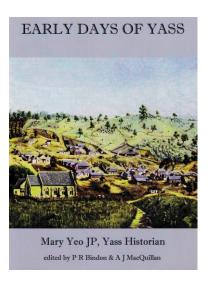
Rev Patrick Magennis was to baptise John Keefe. Patrick Magennis was attached to the Catholic Church at Yass (1849- 1857) and had replaced the first resident priest ay Yass, Rev Charles Lovatt (1839-1848).

At that stage there was no church in Burrowa. Dr Polding and Abbot Gregory visited Burrowa in 1853 and commissioned Father Magennis (Yass) to build a church there for the early Catholics in the district. The new church, St Patricks, was ready for the celebration of mass in 1855 and was the only one of its kind from Yass to Kilmore, in Victoria, serving both as a church and a school until 1877, acting as a school on weekday and a church on Sunday.

A story is told about Father Magennis, which is typical of the frustrations of the fund-raising priests of the day. Father Magennis had begun the preparations for the collections, and subscriptions for the church, and was pleased when a fund-raising jubilee was held throughout the countryside. Everyone turned up at Burrowa for mass and celebrations, and the outlook was very rosy indeed. But the following Sunday he had empty benches in the church, and an enquiry revealed that the congregation had gone to watch a fist fight in the backyard of the hotel across the town. Very disgruntled, he left on his horse, but was overtaken a few miles out by an agitated rider, sent to ask him to come back and tend one of the combatants, injured in the bout. He told the messenger what he wanted to tell the town and rode on. The fighter was not badly hurt, but Dr Holding was informed, and Father Magennis was transferred to Berrima, where hopefully he got a better deal. (Extract from "Glancing Back" - The Boorowa Parish from the 1830's by Nora Barton)



The Book "Early Days of Yass" by Mary Yeo provides a very positive slant on the life story of Father Magennis who: "in August 1857 received a testimonial amounting to £146 from the townspeople of Yass, Burrowa, Bogolong, Binalong etc, in which all classes and creeds joined. He happened to be at Gundagai during the 1852 flood and narrowly escaped being drowned. He seemed to have been very popular."



CHARLOTTE MATILDA GORHAM (1859 - 1942)

Little is known of John Keefe's early life until his marriage to Charlotte Matilda Gorham at St John's Church, Boorowa on 30 January 1878. Witnesses to the marriage were Charlotte's sister Amelia Gorham and her husband Henry Smith.





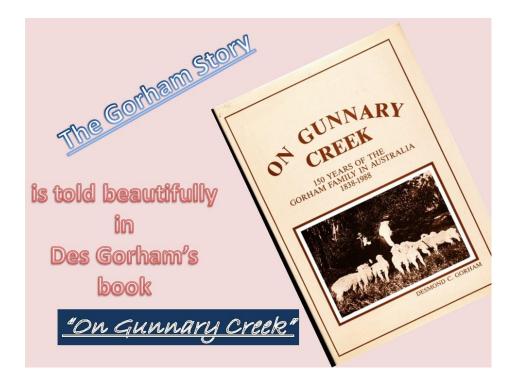


Young Charlotte

Charlotte Matilda Gorham was the youngest of 12 children of English Emigrants James Gorham and Jane Amelia Jarman.

James Gorham married Jane Amelia Jarman at Wittersham, Kent, England on 21 April 1837 and one year later on 26 June 1838, they arrived in the Colony of New South Wales per the ship "Westminster"

Charlotte Matilda Gorham was born on 23 July 1859 at Gunnary Creek, a locality located 14km from Burrowa (Boorowa)



<u>JOHN KEEFE (1852 - 1926)</u> CHARLOTTE MATILDA GORHAM (1859 - 1942)

The following story is taken directly from Des Gorham's - 'On Gunnary Creek'

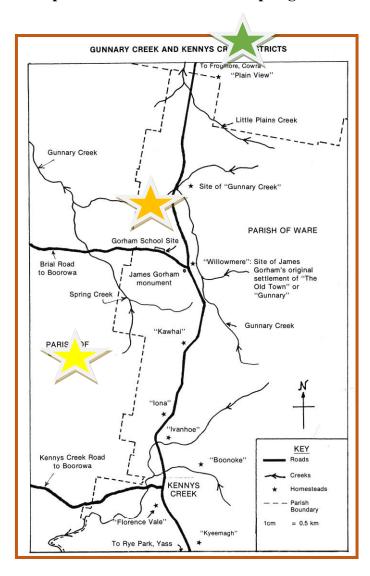
It also includes information derived from 'interviews' conducted by Des Gorham and others such as Ron Clarke, well over 30 years ago especially from John and Charlotte Keefe's children:

- Sarah Ann 'Sally' Hazell (nee Keefe) (1893-1983) their youngest child
 - William Patrick 'Bill' Keefe (1903-1996) 'shrapnel wounded' survivor of World War 1

Charlotte and John Keefe began farming at 'Spring Creek' ['Spring Vale'], where they were close neighbours of the Gorhams of 'Gunnary' and the Bartons at 'Little Plains.

The first few children were born at Gorhams 'Gunnary' homestead, where Charlotte's mother Jane Amelia Gorham was possibly able to act as a mid-wife until her death in 1890.

The remining children, except Sarah Ann are believed to have been born on the property 'Spring Vale' which I presume was also known as 'Spring Creek'.



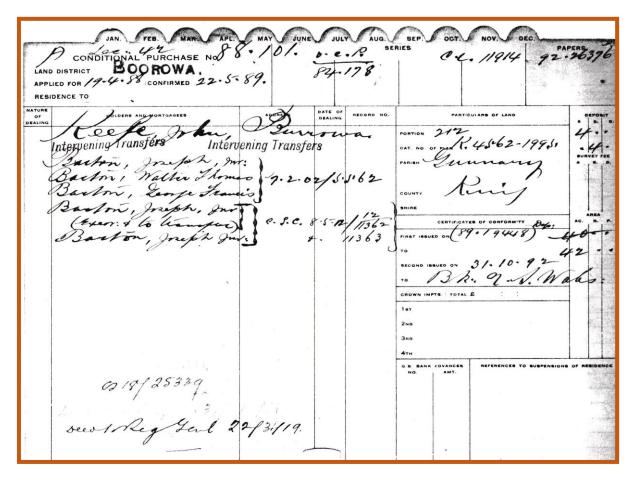
Barton Family - 'Little Plains' on Little Plains Creek

Gorham Family - 'Gunnary Creek'

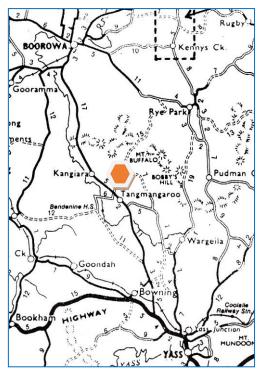
John & Charlotte Keefe - 'Spring Vale' on Spring Creek

OF CREEK

Economic difficulties brought on by depression and drought, saw many banks foreclose on their bank property loans and forced many farmers off their land. Among them were John and Charlotte Keefe who had to sell their "Spring Vale" property. On this occasion, in 1902, their neighbour Joseph Barton Snr was able to acquire the property of John and Charlotte Keefe.



John and Charlotte made a new start on their selection, "Klondyke", on the Rye Park-Tangmangaroo Road.



According to Sally Hazell, "Klondyke" was 8 miles (14km) from the turnoff at Tangmangaroo along the road to Rye Park.

Rye Park (along the road from Boorowa to Crookwell)

Tangmangaroo (along the road from Boorowa to Yass)

"Klondyke" was 640 acres of raw scrub country, and John, assisted by Charlotte and the younger children, commenced the slow and arduous task of fencing, ringbarking and clearing the land. Many of the older children had by this time left to work elsewhere or were married.

These were hard times for John and Charlotte and in order to supplement their income and "keep the pot boiling", John had to work away from his selection.

John Keefe was a blade shearer and shore on many occasions at "Little Plains" owned by the Bartons. He owned a little dray on which he would quite often cart 3 or 4 of his Barton grandchildren home for a weekend or for holidays.

Both Charlotte "Mother", and John Keefe "Daddy Klondyke", were a loving and gentle couple and it was always a great pleasure for the Barton and other grandchildren when they were allowed to visit.

The Keefe's house at "Klondyke" was a slab and bark construction with five rooms. The exterior was made of vertical slabs, with newspaper lining the walls to keep out the elements. The floor was mainly earthen, and doors led off from a large kitchen into the bedrooms.

There were no kitchen cupboards, but instead, pots and pans and other cooking implements hung on the wall. Beside the large kitchen table, there was another small table for cooking and kneading dough, and a fireplace equipped with a camp oven was where all cooking was done.

A reliable spring above the home was the source of all water for washing, cooking and drinking. Water was brought to the house on a 'slide' pulled by a horse. Washing was taken up to the spring, where there were a number of flat rocks. Water was boiled in a kerosene tin and used to do the washing. The washing was then brought back to the house where it was hung on the clothesline. A very productive orchard and a garden kept the family supplied with fruit and vegetables including peaches, potatoes and marvellous watermelons.

Charlotte Matilda always sat at the end of the table where she carved the meat. Charlotte herself, after carving, would most likely eat the leftover cold meat from the previous meals.

Charlotte Matilda had always enjoyed good health, her only handicap, suffering from poor eyesight, which affected her in later years. On several occasions c1913-1914, accompanied by Harriet and Joe Barton to Sydney, she journeyed to Sydney to seek specialist treatment from Dr Pockley, but little could be done to arrest the deterioration in Charlotte's sight.

Because she was educated at Gunnary Creek School, Charlotte was able to read the paper and by holding the newspaper very close to her eyes, she would read the news of the day to her husband John Keefe. Despite her eyesight problems, Charlotte Matilda was able to carry out he domestic chores, milk the cows, feed the dogs and attend to the garden.

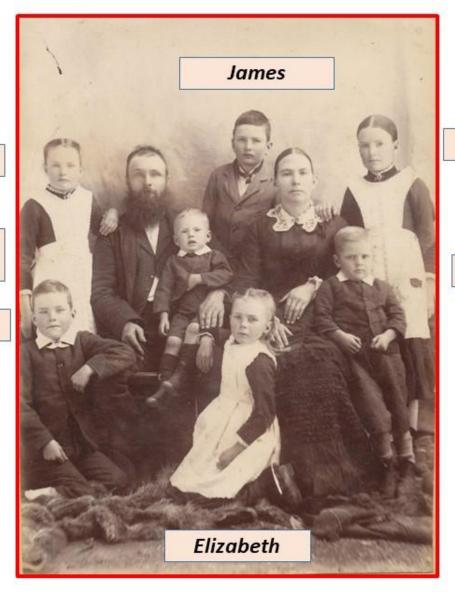
A large family of 12 children resulted in the union of John and Charlotte Keefe. The children were as follows:

<i>1</i>)	James	<i>b</i> 1878	m Mary Ann Gorham
2)	Catherine	<i>b</i> 1880	m Walter Thomas Barton
<i>3</i>)	Harriet	<i>b</i> 1882	m Joseph James Barton
<i>4</i>)	Henry John	<i>b</i> 1883	m Agnes Jane Gorham
<i>5</i>)	Elizabeth	<i>b</i> 1885	m Michael Bernard Hardiman
6)	John	<i>b</i> 1886	m Martha May Gorham
<i>7</i>)	Walter	<i>b</i> 1888	m Margaret Cross
8)	Charlotte	b 1892	m Patrick Joseph O'Malley
9)	William Patrick	<i>b</i> 1893	m Evelyn Moore
<i>10</i>)	Abraham	<i>b</i> 1898	d Killed in Action - World War 1
<i>11</i>)	Maria Jane	<i>b</i> 1900	m George Atkins
<i>12</i>)	Sarah Ann	<i>b</i> 1903	m Terence Reuben Hazell

Harriet

Walter (nursed)

Henry



Catherine

Jack

Yet to be born

- Charlotte Keefe m Patrick O'Malley
- > William Patrick Keefe m Evelyn Moore
- Abraham Keefe Killed in Action France WW1
- Maria Jane Keefe m George Atkins
- > Sarah Ann 'Sally' Keefe m Terence Reuben 'Reub' Hazell

The many Keefe children were given a good education, attending school at the Gorham School, which was renamed Gunnary Creek Public School in 1900, while some of the later children such as Maria and 'Sally' attended Kangiara Creek School near their later property, "Klondyke".

Charlotte Matilda was a very big, tall woman, but she was always very gentle with her grandchildren. She wore a bonnet as was customary for women of that particular era.

John Keefe suffered from arthritis of the leg and walked with a limp (Hip replacement technology was a long way off). A family photo shows him bathing at Moree Mineral Pool, obviously trying to gain some relief from his arthritis.



John and Charlotte Keefe photographed with:

- some of their children
- and
- some of their Barton grandchildren



John and Charlotte Keefe Photo

Standing (back left to right) "Dick" Barton (grandchild), "Sally" Keefe (daughter), Nell Diggins, "Wal" Barton (grandchild))

Seated (front – left to right) Mrs Diggins (wife of James Diggins), John Keefe, Charlotte Keefe (nee Gorham)



Charlotte Keefe (hooded top) at the 80th Birthday Gathering of her brother John Thomas Gorham

Death of John Keefe

John Keefe died on his property "Klondyke" on 30 November 1926 aged 73 yrs. The cause of his death was listed as gastroenteritis and myocarditis.

OBITUARY

MR. JOHN KEEFE

In our last issue we briefly referred to the death of a highly respected resident of the Burrowa district in the person of Mr. John Keefe, "Klondyke," Rye Park, on Tuesday of last week. The late Mr. Keefe, who was 73 years of age, was a native of Frogmore and during the greater part of his industrious life had been carrying on farming pursuits in the Boorows district, first at Gunnary Creek, and for the past 24 years at Rye Park. Forty-nine years ago he married Charlotte Matilda Gorham, a member of the wellknown family in this district, who curvives him, together with a family of five sons and five daughters. The sons are, Messrs. James, Henry, John. Walter and William Patrick, the latter serving with the Australian coldiers in the Great War. The daughters are: Mrs. Joseph Barton, Mrs. Bernard Hardiman, Mrs. P. Hardiman, Mrs. P. O'Malley, Mrs. G. Atkins, and Miss Sarah Anne Keefe. All the sons and daughters reside in the Burrowa district.

The deceased is also survived by two brothers, Patrick, of Dubbo, and Michael, of Rugby, and one sister, Nrs. P. Corkery, of Gunnary. There are 41 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

On the Wednesday the remains were interred in the Church of England Cemetery at Rye Park, the Rev. Mr. Rettic conducting the burial service, and the funeral arrangements being carried out by Mr. O. J. Stuart. The following article appeared in the *Burrowa News*, *Friday 10 December 1926*.

Obituary

Mr JOHN KEEFE

In our last issue we briefly referred to the death of a highly respected resident of the Burrowa district in the person of Mr John Keefe, "Klondyke" Rye Park, on Tuesday of last week. The late Mr Keefe, who was 73 years of age, was a native of Frogmore and during the greater part of his industrious life had been carrying on farming pursuits in the Boorowa district, first at Gunnary Ck, and for the next 24 years at Rye Park. Forty-nine years ago, he married Charlotte Matilda Gorham, a member of the well-known family in this district, who survives him, together with a family of five sons and five daughters.

The sons are Messrs James, Henry, John, Walter and William Patrick, the latter serving with the Australian soldiers in the Great War. The daughters are: Mrs Joseph Barton, Mrs Bernard Hardiman, Mrs P O'Malley, Mrs G Atkins, and Miss Sarah Ann Keefe. All the sons and daughters reside in the Burrowa district.

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It was only a few months later on 9 May 1927, that Parliament met for the first time in Australia's new capital, Canberra.

When John Keefe died, their daughter Sarah (Sally) came home from where she worked as a domestic to live with her mother. In 1930, Sally married Reub Hazell and as Charlotte would not have wanted to leave her old home, Reub and Sally lived with her at "Klondyke".

In 1939, Charlotte was to suffer a stroke, and was nursed at "Klondyke" by her four daughters, Harriet, Elizabeth, Charlotte and Maria, who took it in turns to leave their own home and family to help nurse their mother. Sarah by this time had two small children and was expecting a third.

Reading two or three chapters of the Bible every Sunday afternoon was always an accepted ritual with Charlotte. When her eyesight became too poor to read herself, some of the family did so when possible. In later years, her teenage granddaughter

Ella O'Malley used to spend holidays at "Klondyke" and read the Bible to her "Gran" every day and both gained great enjoyment from it.

Charlotte Matilda was given a party on her 75th birthday with all the family coming home. From then on it became an annual event and was more or less a family reunion enjoyed by all. Charlotte Matilda lived 15 years after the death of her husband and died at her daughter Sally and son-in-law Reub Hazell's property "Strazele" at Boorowa. Charlotte died on 4 June 1942 aged 82

Brother and sister - John Thomas Gorham and Charlotte Keefe (nee Gorham)

• With mother Jane Amelia Gorham (nee Jarman)

years from heart failure and cerebral haemorrhage.

• At John Gorham's 80th birthday party





Death of Charlotte Keefe (nee Gorham)

OBITUARY

MRS. CHARLOTTE KEEFE

The death occurred on Thursday, 5th June, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. R. Hazell, "Stazel," Boorows, of Mrs. Charlotte Keefe, aged 82 years, and wife of the late Mr. John Keefe, of "Klondyke," who predecessed her 15 years ago.

The passing of this grand old lady removes yet another member of our pioneer families.

Formerly Miss Charlotte Gorham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Gorham, pioneers of the Gunnary Creek district, she was loved and respected far and wide. No task was too great if that task meant helping a neighbour.

An exemplary wife and mother, the late Mrs. Keefe suffered for many years with impaired eyesight, but her wonderful patience and endurance enabled her to fulfil the many duties of a home and large family.

During the last years of her life the late Mrs. Keefe was cared for with loving devotion by her daughter, Mrs. Reub. Hazeil. A devout member of the Church of England during her illness, she had received the full consolation of her religion, Rev. H. S. Brown being in constant attendance.

After a short service in St. John's Church, the large and representative funeral moved to Rye Park, where interment took place in the Church of England portion of the Rye Park cemetery, Rev. H. S. Brown officiating at the graveside.

The deceased lady is survived by five sons—Messr. James, Henry, Jack, Walter, William—and five daughters—Mrs. Harriett Barton, Mrs. Elizabeth Hardiman, Mrs. Patrick O'Malley, Mrs. George Atkins and Mrs. Rueben Hazell.

One brother, Mr. John Gorham.

One brother, Mr. John Gorham, of "Willowmere," also survives her. A daughter (Kate), Mrs. Walter Barton and a son (Abe) who was killed in the Great War, predeceased her.

Among the many floral tributes which covered the casket, were those from the following:—

J. T. Gorham and family; Tottie and family; Charlotte, Paddy and family; Jim and Mary, Ann, Jack and Sid; George and Marie and family; Walter, Peg and family; Jack and Martha and family; Harriet and family; Herry, Argie and family; Billie and Ev; Reub and Sarah and family; Fibel Anthers of the casket which was and family; Fibel Anthers of the casket, which was and family; Fibel Anthers of the casket, which was and family; Fibel Anthers of the casket, were and family; Fibel Anthers of the casket, were the c

The Burrowa News on Friday 3 July 1942.

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Boulding and family; Annie and Victor, Caryl and Brenda; F. G. Wilson; W. Noakes and family; Reg, Gertie and family; Jim and Olive; Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Dwyer; The Clifton family; Jane Vera, Os and

family; Ethel, Arthur and family; Gladys and Max and family; Mrs. O. Walters and Emma; Arnold and Jim and family; Mr. and Mrs. J. Butt; Clem. Ollie and family; Mr. and Mrs. Pitches and family; Ether and Jack and family; Paddy and Alice; Mr. and Mrs. W. Connuest Jur.; Elaie, Harry and family; Harry Doris and family; R. J. and Mrs. Martin; Mick, Harty, Maud and Sid; George and Eva; Reg. and Areile and family; Annie and Victor, Caryl and Brenda; F. G. Wilson; W. Noakes and family; Reg. Gertie and family; Jim and Olive; Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Dwyer; The Clifton family; Jane Vera, Os and family; Ada, Stan and family; Mrs. H. Jackson; Ton and Jack; Mrs. R. Burns; Jack and Elima and family; Doris, Trever and Francie; Mr. and Mrs. Ron Edwards; Len and Gertie Taylor; N. and H. Bapks and family; Archie and Mrs. Pollard; Dick and Thelma and family; Mr. and Mrs. T. Crawford; Frank and Maud and family; Arthur, Stan, Clem and Gwen; Clive and Chris: T. and T. M. Perceval and family; Mrs. E. M. Geod, Tiny and Jack.

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John & Charlotte Matilda Keefe – Rye Park Cemetery





James Keefe m Mary Ann Gorham



Harriet Keefe m Joseph James Barton

Catherine Keefe m Walter Barton



Henry Keefe m Agnes Jane Gorham



Elizabeth Keefe m Michael Hardiman



John 'Jack' Keefe m Martha Gorham



Walter Keefe m Margaret Cross



Charlotte Keefe m Patrick O'Malley



William Patrick Keefe m Evelyn Moore





Maria Jane Keefe m George Atkins



Abraham Keefe KIA WW1 - France



Sarah Anne Keefe m 'Reub' Hazell