

THE CHILDREN OF FRANZ & CHRISTINA

*the origins of the Kiem and
Kime families of the Hunter Valley*



Paul Kiem & Robyn Whipp

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Kime families of the Hunter Valley*

*To our children
Joanne, Stuart & Mark
and Matthew,
and to the others of the sixth and seventh generations
throughout Australia.*

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This online version, published in 2022, is a largely unrevised copy of the original. A fully revised and updated edition is planned.

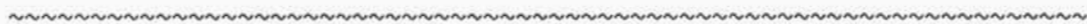
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FRONT COVER: On the cover is a photograph of The Settlers, one side of Bud Dumas' sculpture entitled "First Impressions", sculpted in 1979 and situated in Sydney's Rocks. "First Impressions" commemorates the three groups who established the colony of New South Wales - the convicts, the soldiers and the free settlers.

THE AUTHORS: Robyn Whipp and Paul Kiem are both fifth generation descendants of Franz and Christina. Robyn's great grandparents were Philip and Ellen, her grandparents were George and Nellice and her parents are George (Doug) and Doris Kiem of Waratah. Paul's great grandparents were Frank and Margaret, his grandparents were Michael and Mary and his parents were Leslie and Marie Kiem.

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Preface

In 1849 a German couple arrived in New South Wales. They settled in the Hunter Valley and established a large family. The descendants of this family are now numbered in the hundreds and scattered throughout Australia. This booklet is an attempt to give these people a clearer knowledge of their family's origins.

Our story begins with a brief historical background, followed by a chapter on Franz and Christina, the German couple who were the first generation of the family in Australia. Then there are separate chapters on the families of Franz and Christina's five sons: Philip Kiem, Frank Kiem, John Kiem, George Kime and Sebastian Kime. (The variation in spelling will be discussed in Chapter 2.) Within each chapter the second generation has been dealt with in some detail but there are only brief notes on the third and subsequent generations - it was never the intention to provide an exhaustive "list of names" type of family history. The eighth chapter consists of only a few notes on each of Franz and Christina's daughters. There is still plenty of scope for future branch historians to take up the story.

In attempting to distill the results of research and family discussion into a viable story it was felt that overly imaginative reconstruction should be avoided. Thus, there must remain gaps in our knowledge as well as curious events and issues which available evidence cannot throw any light on. Even so, the factual outline remains inherently fascinating and should provide plenty of stimulus for the interested readers own imagination.

Ultimately this can only be a very small history. Nevertheless, the research and writing of it provided many opportunities to glimpse at the larger history of Australia. In attempting to discover more about the ordinary lives and surroundings of our forbears one also comes to appreciate the rich history of the Hunter Valley, its geography and social fabric. There are the large events, such as the two world wars and the Great Depression, which impinge on our story in very personal ways. Finally, there are occasional insights into more general issues, ranging from urbanization to the changing role of women, and the impact these have on ordinary people. Hopefully the reader will be able share some of this feel for the larger history.

While the authors must take full responsibility for the final result, many family members have offered encouragement and help in the production of this booklet. Kevin Kiem of Scone was the one who really began the search, with his family excursions to Hunter Valley graveyards and initial enquiry to the New South Wales Archives, Joyce Kime of Raymond Terrace provided considerable help with Chapter 6, Nora Gaston of Sydney and Cyril Kime of Wallsend contributed to Chapter 7 and Joyce Wood of East Maitland provided crucial assistance in a number of ways. Many others were involved and they should find their contributions acknowledged within the booklet. All who were approached were eager to share what knowledge they had of the past and some were very generous with offers of documents and copies of family photographs. We hope these people will feel their efforts were worthwhile.

Paul's wife, Judy, assisted with proof reading and is entirely to blame for any remaining errors in spelling or expression.

THE GERMAN BACKGROUND

On Sunday 23 September, 1849, the 670 ton sailing vessel *Harmony* arrived in Sydney Harbour. The next day a notice in the *Sydney Morning Herald* announced that the ship had come from London carrying general cargo, a number of cabin passengers and, travelling below decks, thirty German immigrants. Among the Germans were Franz and Christina Keim and their infant son Philip.

The Keim family came from the Rheingau region of the German state of Hesse. The Rheingau was, as it continues to be, one of Germany's most important wine producing areas, specialising in Riesling. It comprises the banks of the Rhine River along a thirty kilometre stretch where the river has been turned westward by the Taunus mountain range, between the cities of Weisbaden and Bingen. At Bingen the river resumes its northerly direction as it enters that section of its course most popular with tourists, with its numerous castles, hillside vineyards and the famous Lorelei Rock. The Rheingau presents a similarly picturesque scene with vineyards crowded into every space between ancient monasteries, castles and tidy little villages whose names suggest a litany of wine labels.

Franz was born in one of these villages, Neiderwalluf, on 1 September, 1827. His baptismal record tells us that his father was Philip Keim, who lived in the village and worked in the vineyards. Franz' mother was Marguritha Hellerbach. She had been born at Sauerthal in 1794.

Christina and a twin sister, Anna Maria, were born on 19 June, 1826, in Oestrich, a village within ten kilometres of Neiderwalluf. Anna Maria died within four months. Christina's parents were Johann Baptista Bibo, a vineyard worker, and Magdalena Morsch. Some of the Christian names in the Bibo line - including Antonio and Anna Maria (Johann's parents) - may suggest French or even Italian origins, but the Bibo name does appear to have been well established in the Rheingau before 1800. Like Franz' parents, the Bibo's were Catholic.[1]

The modern visitor to the Rheingau might marvel that anyone should want to leave the region. In the middle of the last century, however, there were a number of compelling reasons for leaving Germany. Conditions in Europe as a whole were miserable for many and there was massive migration to New Lands of opportunity. Franz and Christina were merely part of an exodus from the German states which numbered nearly 2,000,000 in the first part of the nineteenth century.

Destabilization and population increases accompanying rapid industrialization in Western Europe created a lot of the pressure to migrate. Along the Rhine population was already dense and the practice of dividing inheritances made for ever decreasing family incomes. The middle part of the century was a time of particular hardship - the infamous potato blight which threatened to empty Ireland of its people was only the most spectacular manifestation of the famine decade of the 1840's which devastated all of Europe.

A final impetus for some Germans may have come with the failure in 1848 of a widespread revolutionary movement which had demanded the liberalization of government. Frankfurt, near the Rheingau, had been

the centre of revolution. However, while there may be some appeal in characterizing Franz and Christina as "emigre German forty-eighters", fleeing from their failed revolution, it is doubtful that the result of these revolutions was a major factor in their decision to emigrate.[2] They were economic rather than political refugees.

Of course the vast majority of Germans, once having decided to make a fresh start in a new land, set forth on a relatively short and well publicised journey to North America. Franz and Christina, on the other hand, embarked on an adventurous voyage to the other side of the world and the still little known continent of Australia. In doing so they would help to set a precedent as part of the first significant influx of non-British Europeans into New South Wales.

An opening for non-British migrants to come to the colony only occurred when some landowners began to experiment with forms of agriculture, most particularly viticulture, for which it was very difficult to obtain experienced British workers. The Macarthurs of Camden had pioneered the introduction of a small number of Germans in 1836, James Macarthur declaring:

... I can have no hesitstion in expressing my conviction of the importance as regards Imperial, as well as local interests, of introducing into this Colony several thousand persons skilled in Vine culture, the making of wine.... and other processes of rural economy, with which the Peasantry of the British Isles are unacquainted...[3]

With these views in mind the Colonial Secretary, Merewether, was approached in the late 1840's by individuals who sought the use of colonial funds to assist the immigration of German workers.

Merewether eventually approved a scheme whereby the government would assist passage with a bounty of \$72 per couple. Only married couples of good character were eligible for assistance and they had to be involved in trades for which British workers could not be found.[4] William Kirchner, a German merchant who was living in Sydney at the time, was enlisted as an agent to act on behalf of those landowners who sought German workers.

Kirchner was an active colonial entrepreneur, later associated with a number of other schemes aimed at settling Germans along Australia's east coast.[5] He seems to have entered into this first venture with enthusiasm, travelling about New South Wales in 1847 promoting the idea and seeking to make agreements with landowners. The *Maitland Mercury* records one appearance by Kirchner at Paterson. Here he addressed a public meeting at Haylock's Inn on 1 September, 1847.

In December 1847 Kirchner left for Germany. Once there he travelled with his proposals to the Duchies of Nassau, Baden and Hesse where, he had advised Merewether, "the best vine dressers in Germany are to be found on the banks of the Rhine." [6] Emigration from this area was already strong and Kirchner would have competed with many other agents and societies who were promoting the virtues of life in North America. Indeed in 1848 there was a gathering of German Emigration Societies in Frankfurt. Amongst the records of this large assembly there is an intriguing reference to "a Sydney merchant". [7]

Within a year Kirchner had been able to persuade enough of his

countrymen to come to New South Wales for him to arrange the departure of two vessels. Thus, in April 1849 the Beulah arrived in Sydney with 170 Germans; in July another 160 arrived on board the Parland. Many of these people were destined for the vineyards of the Hunter Valley. The *Maitland Mercury* reported the arrival of a group by river steamer on 14 April, 1849. From the port of Morpeth they were dispersed by bullock dray to various employers.

The small amount of literature dealing with German migration to Australia invariably makes only passing reference to these two vessels, the Beulah and Parland, and then leaves the topic of nineteenth century German migration to New South Wales. In fact the Harmony arrived in Sydney within a few months of the first two ships and between 1849 and 1856 another eighteen ships carrying Germans reached the colony. This was a very significant influx at a time when the white population was still overwhelmingly British.

The arrival of the Beulah and Parland have perhaps been highlighted to some extent due to Kirchner's enterprise - returning to Germany in 1850 he published the second edition of a booklet, *Australia and its Advantages for Immigration*, wherein he reproduced copies of letters sent home by those who had travelled on the first two ships. Whilst it is unfortunate that Kirchner did not include letters from Harmony passengers, and possibly Franz and Christina, those that he did collect do allow us a special insight into what must have been the common experience of all the Germans. [8]

From the letters we learn that the migrants made the journey in three stages. Firstly, they travelled about 360 kilometres by river barge down the Rhine, the natural highway out of south western Germany, to the great Dutch seaport of Rotterdam. From there they completed a two day crossing to London. Finally, they embarked on British ocean going vessels bound for Sydney. The era of fast clipper ships had not yet arrived and the journey would take at least three months, even with favourable winds.

The Harmony left England in May, 1849, and took four months to reach Australia. [9] Having left behind their familiar European spring, Franz and Christina would have experienced in quick succession both the fierce tropical heat of equatorial regions and winter at sea in the Southern Hemisphere. On the long landless crossing of the Southern Indian Ocean they would have encountered violent storms and there was even the danger of stray icebergs looming out of Antarctic waters. At last there was the entry into Port Jackson and, the letters reveal, ecstatic relief at its tranquil beauty and the pleasant appearance of the township of Sydney. When Franz and Christina arrived in the colony it was spring again but they would not have seen Sydney Harbour at its best for the 23 September was a day of intermittent showers. The week that followed was one of further unsettled weather. Then, in the first week of October, they received a foretaste of what their first summer in the New Land could be like - one day of oppressive heat when the temperature reached 90 degrees Fahrenheit. [10]

From the details taken down in the shipping register upon their arrival we are able to learn a number of things about the couple. Indeed, because the information here matches exactly what has been discovered in German archives, it appears to be very accurate. It is likely that

this information was copied from documents which accompanied the family from Germany and therefore may be the only record in Australia which is reliable where Franz and Christina are concerned.[11]

The first item of interest obtained from these records is confirmation that the family surname was spelt K-E-I-M. Subsequently, of course, this spelling was rarely used in Australia. Variations arose and different branches of the family were to adopt different spellings. This will be discussed in more detail in the next chapter.

On arrival Franz was aged 22 and Christina 23. Four months later Christina gave birth to her second child which means that Philip, the infant who accompanied them, must have been born in Germany in the previous year. (It adds an interesting dimension to the hardships of the voyage when it is realised that Christina was caring for one baby and also pregnant.)

To complete the picture obtained from the shipping register: Franz' occupation was given as "vinedresser"[12], he and Christina belonged to the "Church of Rome", they were both described as literate and it was established that the family's health and "probable usefulness to the colony" was good. As will be appreciated later this last assessment was an understatement. As to the relative literacy of the pair, however, it is highly doubtful that whatever proficiency they had in German was ever matched in English.

Franz and Christina arrived in New South Wales at a time when the colony was still very much a pioneering society. Transportation of convicts had not long ceased and the total of free immigrants had only just exceeded the total number of convicts sent out since the first settlement. It would be more than two years before the discovery of gold and the special significance it had for both population growth and economic development. Another half century would elapse before New South Wales federated with the other colonies to form the new nation of Australia. It was still a rural society where landowners could generate wealth as long as they could secure labour, which was relatively scarce due to limited immigration and the expanding frontier. The white population had been overwhelmingly British from the beginning and in 1849 the Germans from the Harmony, Parland and Beulah accounted for nearly all of the 404 migrants from "foreign countries" for that year. When the census of 1851 revealed a population in New South Wales of 187,243, less than 2% were non-British.[13] Franz, Christina and Philip were among these few but by that year the family already included another two who were "Australian".

NOTES

- 1) The information from Franz and Christina's birth records comes from research in German archives by Dale Wood. See Chapter 4.
- 2) G.Nadel uses the description "emigre German forty-eighters" in his book *Australia's Colonial Culture*, (Harvard University Press, 1957) p. 60
- 3) Macarthur's view found in *Historical Records of Australia*, Series I, XXV p. 511
- 4) Merewether's approval, see *H.R.A.*, Series I, XXV P. 498
Note that all amounts of money have been converted to dollars.
- 5) For detail on Kirchner see L.B.Hoskins' 1976 B.A. (Hons.) Thesis,

Sydney University & Mitchell Library.

6) Kirchner's view, *H.R.A.*, Series I, XXV p. 511

7) Quoted in Mack Walker, *Germany and the Emigration 1816-1885*, (Harvard University Press, 1964) p. 136

8) The Parland and Beulah letters have only been partly translated. These translations or information from them appear in:

i G.Nadel, "Letters from German Immigrants in New South Wales", *R.A.H.S.J.* 39, 1953, p. 253

ii W.S.Parkes, "German Immigration to the Hunter Valley in the mid-19th Century", *Journal of Hunter Valley History*, V.2, No.1, 1986, p. 1

9) Details of Harmony journey from "Colonial Secretaries Register of Vessels Arrived", N.S.W. Archives. There is some discrepancy concerning the actual departure date from London. It may be that the vessel had to wait on favourable winds and therefore did not leave until sometime after the official date given.

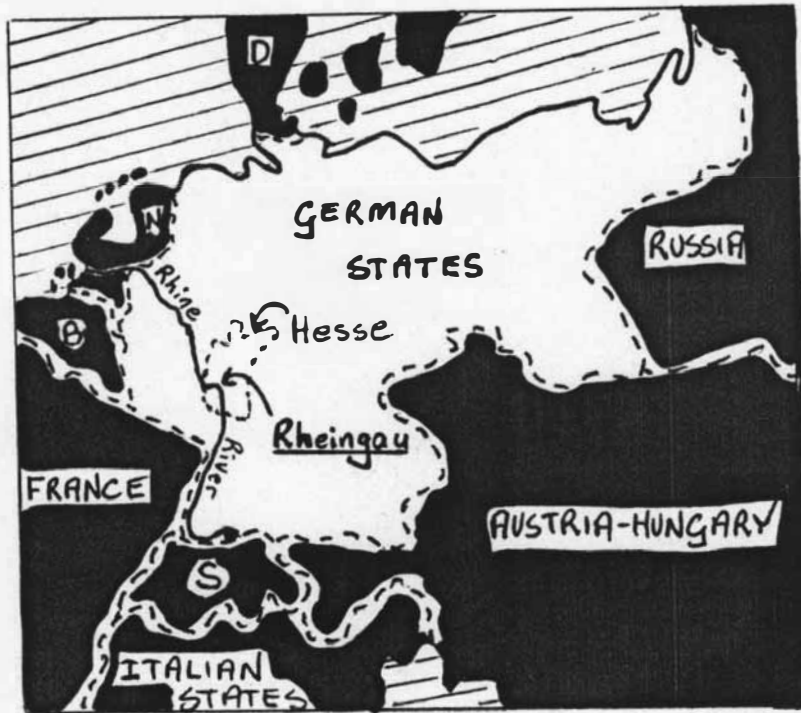
10) Weather, "South Head Meteorological Journal", N.S.W. Archives.

11) Shipping Register: "German Vessels Arriving in Sydney" (Harmony, 1849), N.S.W. Archives. (Ship's List, Reel 2459; Agent's List, Reel 2145) There is an interesting note on the ship's register which suggests that Franz and Christina were not married upon their arrival in Australia. Indeed a similiar note appears beside the names of a number of couples on this ship, with one pair apparently having promised "Mr Kirchner" that they would make good the situation after arrival in the colony. In fact there are marriage records in N.S.W. for two of these couples but there are none for Franz and Christina. Details given on a later birth certificate by Christina imply that she and Franz had been married for some years before leaving Germany but, given the other evidence, this seems doubtful. Perhaps she and Franz did, like the others, make a quick decision to take up Kirchner's offer - only married couples were supposed to be eligible - and left Germany without observing the formalities. Once settled in the colony their family began to grow so quickly that they may have felt it now too late for a marriage ceremony. Certainly such an arrangement would not have been unique in rural N.S.W. in the 1850's. If this was the situation, however, there may have been some sensitivity about it and this could be a factor in explaining an almost complete lack of information on Franz and Christina that was passed down through the family. This issue is pursued at the end of Chapter 2.

12) A vinedresser prunes, trains and cultivates vines. If this is not done correctly the vines will not produce effectively.

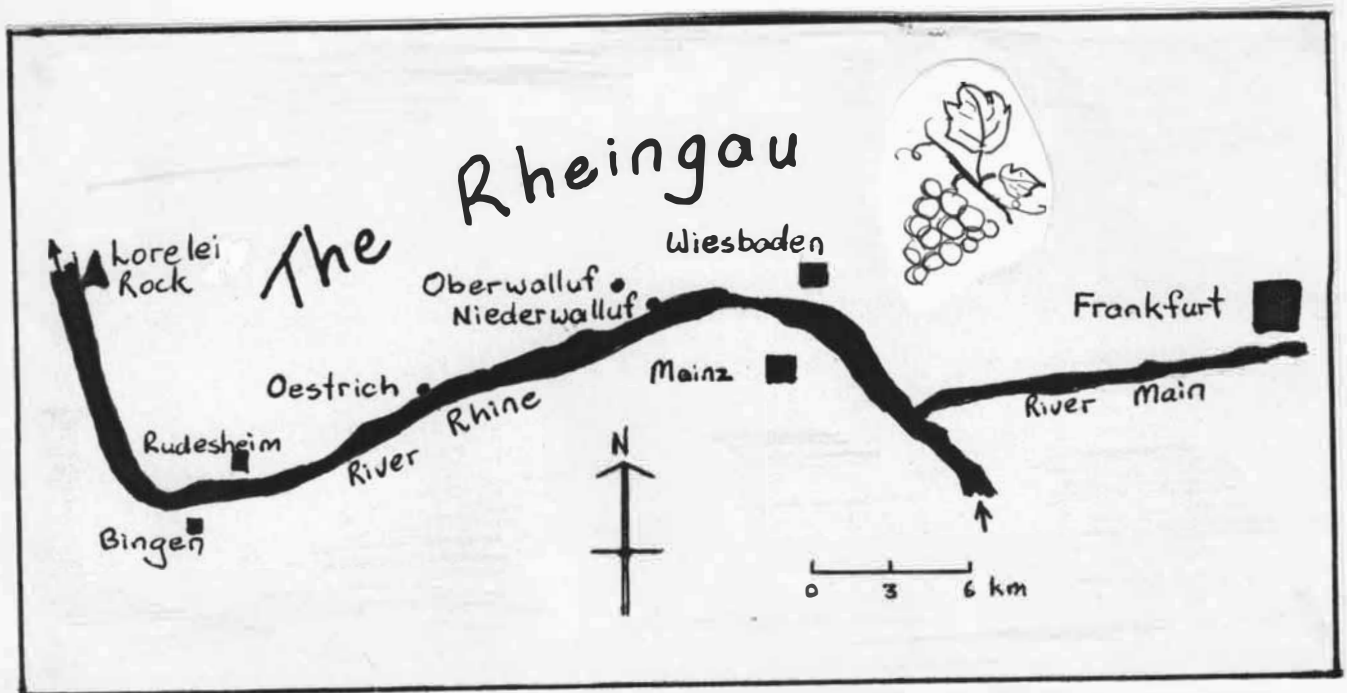
13) Migration & census figures quoted in R.B.Madgwick, *Immigration into Eastern Australia 1788-1851*, (Sydney University Press, 1969), pp. 233-237

CENTRAL EUROPE in 1848.



B - Belgium
D - Denmark

N - Netherlands
S - Switzerland

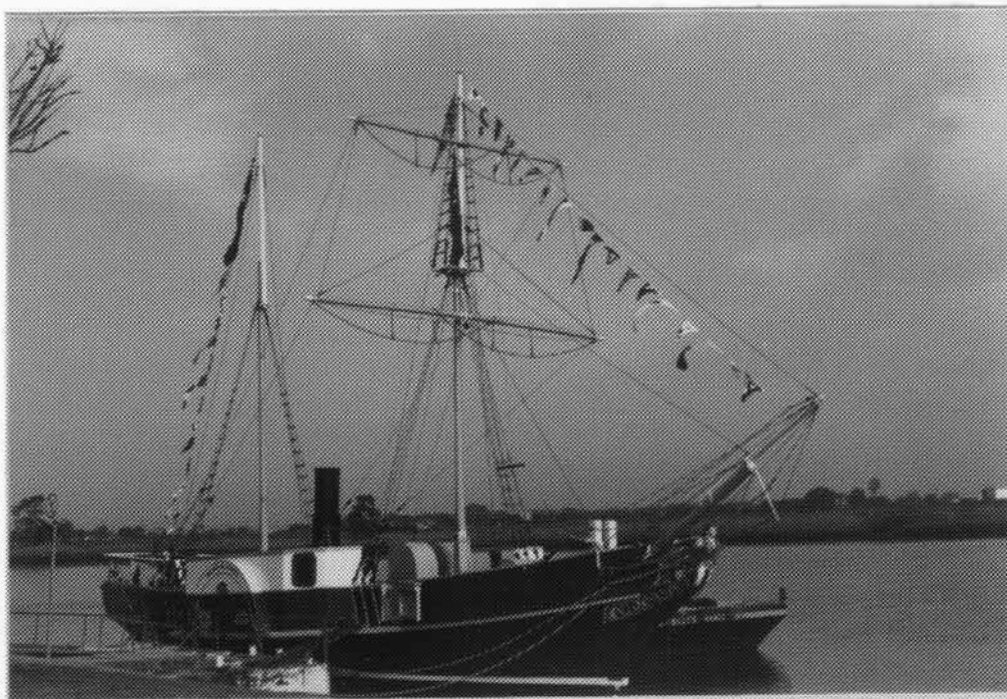




A Rheingau scene today: A village on the Rhine with a monastery in the background and a hillside covered in vines. (Photo by courtesy of the West German Tourist Bureau.)



Corner of George and Hunter Streets, Sydney, in 1849. (Copy from a watercolour by A. Torning in Dixson Galleries, State Library)



WILLIAM IV replica on the Hunter River at Raymond Terrace. Millers Forest, where many Kiem's once lived, is in the background.

FRANZ & CHRISTINA

How Franz and Christina fared immediately following their arrival in Sydney is not clear. Within a few months we find them settled in the Paterson area of the Hunter Valley but the details of their journey there and engagement by an employer are lost. What does seem likely, however, is that they travelled to the Hunter, like the Beulah Germans, by steamship. Such a ship would have been similar to the William IV, a replica of which was built and launched at Raymond Terrace in 1987 as a Bicentennial Project.

A steamship journey from Sydney to the Hunter strikes one now as a not unpleasant introduction to a new land - a short voyage from Sydney along the beautiful coastline; into the Hunter estuary at the small coal town of Newcastle; along the "broad shining river", so described by famous countryman Ludwig Leichhardt; past rich farmland and on to the bustling river port of Morpeth. If Franz and Christina did come this way they may have found some comfort in the seemingly circular nature of their long journey which ended as it had begun, with a river voyage. Perhaps as they passed A.W.Scott's Ash Island Estate they may even have caught a reassuring glimpse of their first grape vines since leaving the Rhine.[1]

Some idea of Franz and Christina's experiences and feelings once they were settled may be gained by referring once again to the letters of other Germans. That they were immediately able to enjoy a vast improvement in their material standard of living is obvious. Friedrich Diehl, who came on the Beulah and settled at Seaham, wrote home to Germany as early as May 1849,

We have more than enough to eat and wish you could have everything we leave over. A dog here devours more meat in one day than you would probably eat in 14 days, for there are not poor people here.

Other letters echo this perception of a marked improvement in living standards and emphasise the complete contrast with the economic, social and political situation in Germany. A recurring theme is the sudden opening up of opportunity. Engelbert Hahn wrote home from a Carcoar property,

...compared to Germany, our work is child's play...Here we work as human beings, and not as beasts...Come all of you who can possibly arrange it. Leave Germany, for there you are and remain slaves...There are too many in that narrow space to make a livelihood...

Because Kirchner collected these letters for the purpose of promoting his scheme he may well have excluded those which told of bad experiences. Nevertheless, it seems that it was easy for him to put together a collection of letters which are remarkable for the picture they paint of fulfilled dreams. Adding to the credibility of this picture are many exhortations to leave Germany and join the lucky ones in the new land. And of course this was just what many did.

Even given the overwhelmingly positive tone of the letters it is also possible to discern some of the difficulties of the migrant experience. The horrors of the voyage itself were not easily forgotten. Nor were the scattered settlements of New South Wales in any way similar to the

close communities of German villages - "There are altogether very few people here as yet, because where we are there are two houses, at some distance another house and so on ..." We are constantly reminded of the distance from Germany - "...it takes always 4 months to receive the news from Germany..." - and the loss of family and familiar things - "Could, perhaps, someone be kind enough to put some roses on my mother's grave until next Corpus Christi day?"

Overall the letters convey the impression of a people already firmly committed to the new land by virtue of the great separation in time, distance and every ordinary aspect from the old one. More importantly, their faith has been confirmed by their relative success. There are inevitable tinges of regret but one can imagine these diminishing with time. As Peter Norgardt wrote, "... not everything is provided just to one's taste; however, one knows what one works for." [2]

In the absence of existing letters from Franz and Christina the first record we find of them after their arrival is in the Baptismal Certificate of their second child, Francis, born on 3 January 1850 and baptised on 11 April 1850. This certificate tells us the parents lived in the Paterson area. Paterson was a centre of the early Hunter wine industry and quite a few landholders engaged Germans. Unfortunately there is no reliable record of what property Franz and Christina settled on. Subsequent Baptismal Certificates mention Gresford, "Greenbank" and "Summerhill" as places of residence. "Summerhill" probably refers to the area around the church where the baptism took place. This church, situated on the "Summerhill" property, was first built in 1842 and actually predates the Paterson Catholic Church. There is no record of a vineyard on "Summerhill". "Greenbank" seems an obvious misspelling for "Creebank", a property on Summerhill Road close to the church. It seems possible that "Creebank" did have a vineyard and Franz and Christina may have settled here. Alternatively, they may have moved around in the area just north of Paterson, not necessarily always working on vineyards. [3]

During this time the family began to expand. It was a family which, even in an age of large families, would be remarkable for its size and also, at a time of high infant mortality, for its good health. Eventually, these were the children of Franz and Christina:

Philip	born in Germany
Francis	born 3/1/1850
John	born 30/9/1851
Catherine	born 25/8/1853
George	born 17/7/1855
Mary	born 8/3/1857
Francisca	born 17/3/1859
Christiana	born 30/9/1860
John Sebastina	born 22/7/1862
Elizabeth	born 1864
Selina	born 1867
Philipine	born 1868
Anna Marie	born 10/6/1870

On 9 December, 1872, Christina gave birth to her fourteenth child. It was a female, born prematurely, and it lived only five minutes. All of the other children would survive to marry.

The Christian names used for the children are of some interest. Philip

was obviously named after Franz' father and Francis after Franz himself. Francis or a female equivalent recurs as a family Christian name down to the fourth generation in Australia. The fourth child was probably named for Christina's father, Johann Bibo. A measure perhaps of the speed of assimilation to British ways that Franz and Johann became Francis and John so quickly! Anna Marie, the last name used, had been that of both Christina's short lived twin and her maternal grandmother. Mary, Christiana, Francisca and John Sebastina appear to have been named after godparents Mary Millar, Christiana Stolt, Francisca Hiller and Sebastina Smith respectively. These sponsors were able to be drawn from what must have been a substantial German community around Paterson at the time.[4]

The reason for John Sebastina being christened thus is puzzling; he was known throughout his life as Sebastian or "Boss". What is possible is that there was simply some confusion in the recording of the name on the baptismal certificate. Indeed this brings us to an issue which has been the cause of much speculation within the family, the spelling of the family name.

Kiem's and Kime's who have their roots in the Hunter Valley have always suspected they were originally from the one family. Most of us were brought up adhering to one of two theories as to why there were two spellings:

(i) the correct spelling was K-I-E-M but some branches changed this to K-I-M-E during the Great War of 1914-18 in order to avoid the German connection.

(ii) our forbears were illiterate and simply adopted whatever spelling came more easily.

The first theory can now be totally discounted. As we have already seen, K-I-E-M was not the original spelling. Moreover, the K-I-M-E branches of the family were well established at least a generation prior to the outbreak of war. The second theory is much closer to describing what actually happened.

The shipping records in Australia accord with birth records in Germany, which show both Franz and his father spelling their surname K-E-I-M. However, even though Franz and Christina were described as being literate, they had little success in establishing a uniform and correct spelling of the family name in Australia. In fact there is evidence to suggest they were not especially literate, certainly not in English.

It must be assumed that as non-British newcomers with an awkward accent and probably quite deferential manners, the Keim's were at the mercy of whoever happened to be recording their name. Thus we find the eight children born at Paterson having their surnames recorded on baptismal certificates variously as: KENIE, KYME, KYME, KEIN, KIME, KEINE, KIME and KINE. All of these baptisms were performed, at fairly short intervals, by the one person, Dean J. Lynch, a pioneering Catholic priest of the Maitland district. Accuracy in spelling may not have been one of the venerable Dean's many accomplishments. Nevertheless it could also be argued that the recorded results of any communication between an Irishman and a German with poor English were always going to be a little haphazard. Even today many family members, particularly those with the K-I-E-M spelling, will testify to the seemingly insurmountable difficulty the four letters of our family name can present to

experienced clerks who attempt to put them together after we have patiently spelt them out.

The most common spellings on early documents are K-I-M-E and K-I-A-M. In time Franz' youngest sons, George and Sebastian, settled on K-I-M-E as the consistent spelling for their families. It was convenient and it may have been seen as some advantage that it was a recognizably English name. [5] Why did K-I-E-M emerge as the preferred spelling for the other branches of the family? This is a little more difficult to understand, especially as this was not one of the common early misspellings. Nevertheless, from the late 1860's Franz abandoned all other spellings and adopted Kiem as the family name. His three eldest sons did likewise. It may be that after nearly twenty years in the country, and with a greatly improved grasp of English, Franz felt a desire to assert a correct spelling. However, perhaps because he was unfamiliar with the written word, he may have mistakenly settled on K-I-E-M as being the original spelling. It was at least an obviously German spelling. A further consideration is that the sons' wives, who invariably brought literacy to the family, may have helped to establish a consistent, if not strictly accurate, spelling for their branch.

In summary, the original spelling K-E-I-M is thought to have been lost in a welter of misspellings due to the difficulty Franz and Christina had in communicating. From amongst the various versions of the family name appearing on official records two eventually began to be favoured. When they began to establish their own families the first three sons followed Franz and opted for Kiem. The younger sons chose Kime; this occurred well before the Great War and so had nothing to do with the outbreak of anti-German sentiment at that time. These two spellings became locked into both common use and official records. Today the descendants of Philip, Francis and John bear the name Kiem while the descendants of George and Sebastian are Kimes.

To return to our story, we find one of the first appearances of the K-I-E-M spelling coinciding with an important move. The baptismal record of the tenth child, Elizabeth, gives the father's name as "Francis" Kiem of Windermere. Windermere is the name of an historic house and property near the township of Lochinvar. Thus, sometime between the births of children in 1862 and 1864 the family moved from the Paterson area to Lochinvar. Such a move really anticipated the gradual shift in the focus of the lower Hunter wine industry, from the Paterson-Williams River area to Branxton and Lochinvar and, eventually, on to Pokolbin. It is therefore no coincidence that from this time on we begin to find Franz and his sons closely associated with the early development of some of the Hunter's most well known vineyards.

The first of these was Windermere. As Cecily Mitchell tells us in her book *Hunter's River*, the present house on this estate is a smaller version of one destroyed by fire in 1882. The original house had been built in the 1820's by Thomas Winder, one of the early "merchant princes" of the colony. He sold out to another famous colonial figure, W.C. Wentworth, who planted a first vineyard of some 30 acres. In 1854 the property was sold again, this time to Peter Green who retained it until the early 1870's. [6]

It was Peter Green who, along with Lochinvar storekeeper Matthew Palmer, attested to Franz' good character when, on 9 March 1871, he

submitted an Application for a Certificate of Naturalization. [7] Therefore, and this conclusion is well supported by other evidence, it seems probable that Franz worked on the Windermere estate from the early 1860's until Peter Green sold it. This brings us to some interesting detail which may finally allow us to add some substance to our picture of Franz and his daily life.

Quoting a *Maitland Mercury* auction notice of 4 January 1868, Cecily Mitchell has illustrated the success of Windermere's operation under Green. She points out that whereas "most of the old vines planted by Wentworth had subsequently died from neglect", in 1867 "over 1900 gallons of wine had been made from 13-15 acres of 5 year old vines". [8] Who planted this second vineyard and brought it to a successful harvest? Given the coincidence of dates it seems certain Franz was this person. He may have been engaged by Green when the latter, on finding himself with a run down vineyard, decided to seek the help of one of the expert vinedressers who had come to the Hunter Valley. With Franz he would also have acquired at least three young boys to assist with planting and pruning and many hands for the eventual harvest.

The present owner of Windermere, Peter Capp, has been kind enough to show me around the house and property. The grapes have long gone; no longer is it feasible for Hunter Valley landholders to dabble in everything from tobacco to wheat, as their pioneering predecessors were wont to do. But I was shown some of the surrounding paddocks which used to be covered in vines and, across the river bend, an entire hillside which is beyond flood reach and still bears the faint contours of cultivation from last century. Peter also has a collection of old ploughs, some of them once used in the vineyards. One of these is a German plough, specially fashioned for the steep hillsides of the Rhine Valley. One imagines the laborious task it must have been to bring it on the journey from Germany; then the disappointment at finding that it was not particularly efficient on the gentler slopes of the Hunter. There is no evidence to suggest that this was Franz' plough but he may well have used it or any of the others - there is a tantalizing sensation of being very close to your roots when you imagine your hand on the same elemental piece of equipment your great-great-grandfather may have laboured over.

Some time in the early 1870's, quite possibly when Green sold Windermere, Franz moved his family to Dalwood. This is the place of residence given on the birth certificate of the fourteenth child, the one who died at birth in 1872. Dalwood was one of the most successful of the early Hunter vineyards. Established by George Wyndham, it was taken over by his son John in 1870. Today of course "Wyndham Estate" is one of Australia's most well known wine labels.

Little is known about Franz and Christina's time at Dalwood but it did mark the beginning of a new era. There would be no more additions to the family and, though there would be small children to look after for many years to come, the eldest sons were beginning to leave home and make their own way. By 1873 Philip was working at Fernhill, a property adjoining Dalwood, and Francis had married. Moreover, the Dalwood period was to be a relatively short one for not long after the move Franz fulfilled what must have been a long cherished ambition, he acquired his own land.

On Franz' Application for a Certificate of Naturalization it had been stated that he was "desirous of purchasing ground for farming purposes". He accomplished this on 11 December 1873 when he purchased, for the sum of \$400, 88 acres on Black Creek, Allandale.[9] From 1873 this property would remain within the family for three quarters of a century.

Franz' naturalization gave him not only the right to purchase property but also a place on the recently democratized New South Wales Electoral Roll. From here we can see that he did not immediately move onto the new property. Because of the time taken between the planting of vines and a first grape harvest, the family continued to live and work at Dalwood while a vineyard was being established at Allandale. Finally, the 1877-78 Electoral Roll shows the family residing at Allandale. This coincides with the time at which the vines would have become productive.

Unfortunately for Franz, however, too much time had elapsed. In only a few more years we find him abandoning the property. A deed dated 14 May 1881 tells us that "Francis Kiam", farmer of Cessnock, sold the Allandale property to "George Kime", of East Maitland, for \$400. [10] The two different spellings occur within the one sentence.

Why did Franz sell out to his son so soon after purchasing the property? Buying a property and establishing an independent living had been a dream of all the German migrants. And in the pioneering society of New South Wales this was a realistic ambition. Labour in the developing rural areas was generally scarce and therefore wages relatively high. Many have seen this as an important factor in developing the rough equality that is often said to characterize Australian society. It also meant that the purchase of land was always a viable option - not only could the worker believe he was as good as his master, if he worked hard and saved money he could become his own master. Returning for a moment to the letters of the Parland and Beulah migrants, it can be seen that the feasibility of buying land was a strong theme. Engelbert Hahn of Carcoar calculated, perhaps optimistically, that he could save \$830 in five years while Joseph Horadam wrote from Lochinvar:

I think in 6 years I shall have saved enough to buy myself a nice property, as it is true to say here, that what one earns one can save. [11]

One suspects there is a certain timeless quality about this observation and that hardworking migrants to Australia are still writing such letters home. In any case we will see later that Joseph Horadam certainly made good his boast and chose his "nice property" in a location which would be very significant for three of Franz and Christina's grandchildren.

It took Franz over twenty years to accumulate \$400 to purchase his first property. Perhaps things were not quite so easy as Hahn and Horadam had anticipated. Possibly Franz was held back by his large number of dependents. Whatever the reason, it would appear Franz left his run a little late if he meant to establish himself as an independent vigneron. By the time he could finally bring the property into production both he and Christina were nearing fifty. They had already filled those years with much hard work. Moreover, by 1880 the

four eldest sons had already married and moved away. Only Sebastian was left to help his father. Catherine had married and some of the other girls may have moved into domestic service, virtually the only work available to them, but this still left Franz with a large female household to support.

Quite apart from these considerations Franz had chosen a difficult path. His expertise was in a field which required considerable time and cost in establishment. The final product hardly had the vogue market it enjoys today. Nor did the property embrace the diverse range of activities which sustained larger landholders. In short, it is likely that a number of factors combined to bring Franz to the quick realization of what generations of "small men" in Australia have had to accept: it is one thing to acquire a property, it is quite another to make a reasonable living from it.

There is one other element which may help to explain Franz' short stint as a vigneron. His signature on the Deed of Sale to George is quite awkward when compared to the signature on his naturalization application. This may indicate a feebleness as a result of either general ill-health or the onset of arthritis in the hand which had for so long wielded the pruning shears. On the other hand it could simply be the signature of someone who wrote very infrequently.

Whatever the reason for Franz' quick sale an undoubted beneficiary was George. If we assume that Franz had planted vines and done some work in establishing a vineyard, then George made the first of his many astute deals in only reimbursing his father for the purchase price of the property. Where the father had failed the son would succeed. George would go on to become one of the genuine pioneers of the Cessnock wine industry. Nevertheless, Franz does deserve recognition as the one who selected the Allandale property which, as we will see in a later chapter, always remained at the centre of George's many enterprises.

Once having sold out to George, Franz and Christina moved to Branxton and eventually onto Belford, where they were to spend the remainder of their lives. At Belford there was an unusual arrangement whereby two sons, John and Francis, acquired two five acre lots for their father. The deed outlining this purchase is a complex document; it indicates that John provided the money for the deal while Francis was to act as trustee for his father. All of which adds to the theory that Franz may have been in ill-health. Exactly what was done with the land or where precisely it was situated remains unclear. Francis was living at Belford at the time and may have intended to farm with his father. In fact he soon moved away and only Sebastian, the youngest son, remained with his parents. There is some evidence to suggest that Sebastian may have established a small vineyard while Franz kept a market garden.[12]

Whatever the state of Franz' health, he lived on for a number of years at Belford and it was Christina who passed away first. She died at the age of sixty eight on 15 July 1894, after a ten day battle with winter pneumonia. It then comes as something of a shock to find that in early 1895 Franz was re-married, to a woman called Mary Lysaght. When Franz himself died, on 8 April 1903, Mary Lysaght disappears into the same obscurity from which she briefly emerged into our story. Beyond the official record we know nothing about this marriage.

Indeed there is a great deal of irritating obscurity surrounding the later lives of both Franz and Christina. They were after all the patriarch and matriarch of a now extensive clan, with at least five of their grandchildren surviving into the 1980s. And yet it has been extremely difficult to unearth anecdotes, material items or even vaguely plausible hearsay relating to their daily lives. There almost seems to have been a conspiracy of silence down the generations so that the subject of the family origins in Australia was either disregarded or confused in pure speculation.

Even the official records, ultimately dependent upon the co-operation of family informants at the time, are not as helpful as they might be. Christina's death certificate, for example, is more significant for its inaccuracies and number of "unknown" details than the truth it reveals. It demonstrates a very careless approach to the past and the beginning of a trend whereby knowledge of Franz and Christina was very quickly lost within the family. Franz' death certificate presents us with a similar problem.

Fortunately, while research for this booklet was proceeding there were a number of instances where information or material touching directly on the lives of Franz and Christina did come to light from within the family. By far the most exciting was the discovery of a photograph of the couple. There was a sense in which before this moment we had been in pursuit of ghost figures who were occasionally mentioned on documents but who had never really come to life. Now we suddenly had our great-great-grandparents staring back at us. In this photograph we see a couple in their thirties, wearing clothes which would have been fashionable best wear in the 1860's and adopting a stiff studio pose. Franz has large workers hands and the style of beard later favoured by his son Philip. He is not an overly large man but has a physique which one family member was quick to recognise as being characteristic of the early males of the family, "long back and short legs".[13] The seated Christina has strong, even severe features and is possibly pregnant. This photograph was given to Robyn Whipp by Cynthia Ogilvie, a descendant of both Philip Kiem and Sebastian Kime. It came with a caption suggesting that the couple was Franz and Christina and this has since been authenticated by Robyn.[14]

Cynthia Ogilvie's family is also in possession of what may turn out to be the single oldest family treasure. She has a cedar cabin trunk which, it is believed, accompanied Franz and Christina from Germany. Jack Kiem, a grandson of Philip, feels there were two such trunks and believes the other one was once somewhere within his branch of the family.

The only written source concerning Franz and Christina which has been discovered within the family is in the possession of Dorrie Todd, a grand-daughter of Frank and Margaret Kiem. Dorrie has an old novel, *Kitty Bright*, the inside cover of which Margaret Kiem used to list the birth dates of Frank, herself and their children. On another page it is simply observed,

Mrs Christina Kiem	Francis [Franz] Kiem
Burried(sic) at Branxton &	Burried at Branxton
July 16th 1894	April 9th 1903

Christina's grave can still be seen in Branxton Catholic cemetery. The headstone bears the spelling K-I-M-E, probably because the funeral arrangements were handled by son George Kime. There is no surviving headstone for Franz even though his death certificate confirms Margaret Kiem's observation. In fact there is an obvious space at the bottom of Christina's headstone which may have been intended for Franz' inscription but never used. A possible explanation for this could lie in the only piece of anecdotal information we have on Franz. Jack Kiem, Philip's grandson, recalls a story about a dispute between Philip and the priest who buried Franz over the \$6 fee. As a result Philip was supposed to have banned his family from attending mass. (He subsequently turned a blind eye when his wife regularly invented excuses for taking the family off on Sunday visits to Singleton.) A result of this dispute may have been the lack of an inscription or headstone for Franz.

A further consideration is that the family may have been estranged from Franz in his last years because of his late marriage. There is no evidence for this but if it were the case then it might help to explain both the lack of an inscription and the way in which nearly all knowledge of both Franz and Christina seems to have been so quickly lost within the family. On the other hand, of course, it may simply be normal for a family's collective memory to stop short at the most recent three generations. If this is the case then this booklet may be timely.

*

At the time of his death Franz had forty one grand-children and four great-grand-children bearing the name Kiem or Kime. His daughters' families are more difficult to account for but, even if they had smaller families than those of the sons, the third generation certainly totalled sixty by 1903. Whatever else we may conclude about Franz and Christina they were substantial pioneers simply in their contribution to the population growth of the Hunter Valley. Moreover, as solid German stock, they played a significant role in what was one of the very first major additions to the dominant Anglo-Celtic gene pool of the white population in Australia. Only in recent times has the size of this German influence in the Hunter Valley begun to be recognised.[15] In the past it may have been masked because, in marked contrast to the South Australian experience, assimilation was rapid. It was so rapid that we will find only one of Franz Christina's children marrying into another German family. Nevertheless, the presence of Germans in numbers in Hunter Valley towns meant that many German names would be linked to later generations of Kiem's and Kime's. Such names were: Sternbeck, Hoffman, Horadam, Muzenberg, Edstein, Trappel, Bendeich and Gaudron.

The special contribution of the Germans was to the early wine industry of the Hunter region and there does seem to be general agreement that they were a strong force in its successful establishment.[16] Franz and Christina were a part of this themselves and they had sons who continued the influence. Through their deeds, example and advice, the old knowledge and skills of the Rheingau were infiltrated into the Hunter Valley and adapted to new conditions. In large and small ways the next generation would remain associated with the wine industry and then there would be a gradual dispersal into other areas of the new

Australian society. This process we will briefly outline in the following chapters.

NOTES

1) Ash Island information from T. Edstein, "Monumental Sculptors: J.J. Edstein and his Sons 1855-1941" in *Student Research Papers in Australian History*, (University of Newcastle) No. 4, 1979, p. 1

2) Letters quoted in Nadel, pp. 260-261

3) Baptismal Certificates: Roman Catholic Parish of West Maitland, County of Northumberland, pre-1856 records (and some beyond this date) are held in the N.S.W. Archives. Consult the following (Volume, Entry No.): 67,848; 68,1943; 70,1495; 72,2705; 121,3258 & 3410, 3508, 3672.

The present owner of "Creebank" has told me that he has found possible signs of early cultivation. This may indicate a vineyard and therefore the early home of Franz and Christina. The other locations mentioned on baptismal certificates may have been only very general descriptions of their place of residence.

4) German numbers were large enough at the time for a "Deutscher Ball" to be advertised in the *Maitland Mercury* in 1866; see W.S. Parkes article in *Journal of Hunter Valley History*, V.2, No.1, p.1

5) It must be remembered that Kime is an English name, not uncommon in Lincolnshire. Moreover, most of the Kime's one might encounter in N.S.W. beyond the Hunter Valley are likely to be the descendants of Sam and Maria Kime, who arrived in N.S.W. from England during the Gold Rushes. Sam and Maria and their numerous enough descendants have no connection with the "Hunter Valley Kime's". Sam and Maria's family have had their story written by G. Jones: *The Kime Family Story 1856 - 1979*, (1979, private publication)

6) C. Mitchell, *Hunter's River*, pp. 122-125

7) Naturalization Certificate No. 7133, N.S.W. Archives

8) Mitchell, p.124

9) Franz' Title of Purchase, Old System Deeds, N.S.W. Registrar General of Land Titles, Book139, No.488,

10) George's Title of Purchase, Book220, No.281

11) Nadel, letters, p.262

12) Title of Purchase for this land, Book373, No.510; Franz is described as a gardener on his death certificate and Sebastian is described as a vigneron when he later purchased land. The Belford property was situated somewhere near where the New England Highway crosses Jump Up Creek.

13) Jack Kiem of Narrabri recognised the long back and short legs.

14) Authentication: The caption on the photo and Cynthia Ogilvie's own knowledge of it both suggested that the couple were Franz and Christina. The fact that the same photo turned up in other branches of the family, without the people being certain who the couple were, seemed to confirm this. Robyn was also able to date the photo - it is a copy of an earlier one - and the clothing.

15) See W.S. Parkes' article in *Journal of Hunter Valley History*

16) See W.P. Driscoll *The Beginning of the Wine Industry in the Hunter Valley*, pp. 61-62 & M. Lake *Hunter Winemakers*, p. 26



CHRISTINA AND FRANZ

1.—The Memorial of *Francis Hime*
of *Lochinvar N.S. Wales* respectfully sheweth,
that your Memorialist is a native of *Germany*

2.—That your Memorialist is *forty five* years of age, and
is *a wine dresser*

3.—That your Memorialist arrived in the Colony of New South Wales, by the
ship *Harmony* in the year *eighteen hundred & fifty*
and has been resident therein since that date.

4.—That your Memorialist begs to refer your Excellency to the annexed
Certificate of character, and of the correctness of the statements herein contained, from
respectable persons, to whom your Memorialist has been known since his arrival in the
Colony.

5.—That your Memorialist *is desirous of purchasing*
ground for farming purposes

; and that on these grounds your Memorialist is
desirous of availing himself of the privileges granted to Aliens by the Act of Council,
11 Victoria, No. 39, and 17 Victoria, No. 8.

6.—That your Memorialist therefore respectfully requests that your Excellency
may be pleased to grant to your Memorialist a Certificate under the provisions of the said
Act, conferring upon your Memorialist the priveileges of a natural born British Subject,
with such restrictions as to your Excellency may seem meet.

And your Petitioner will ever pray.

Signature *Francis Hime*

Date *March 9th 1871*

Franz' Application for Naturalization, 1871. Note the signature.

near first written written
ed by
in the *Francis Hime*
of
sailor
1871
Francis Hime

Franz' signature on the Deed of Sale to son George, 1881.

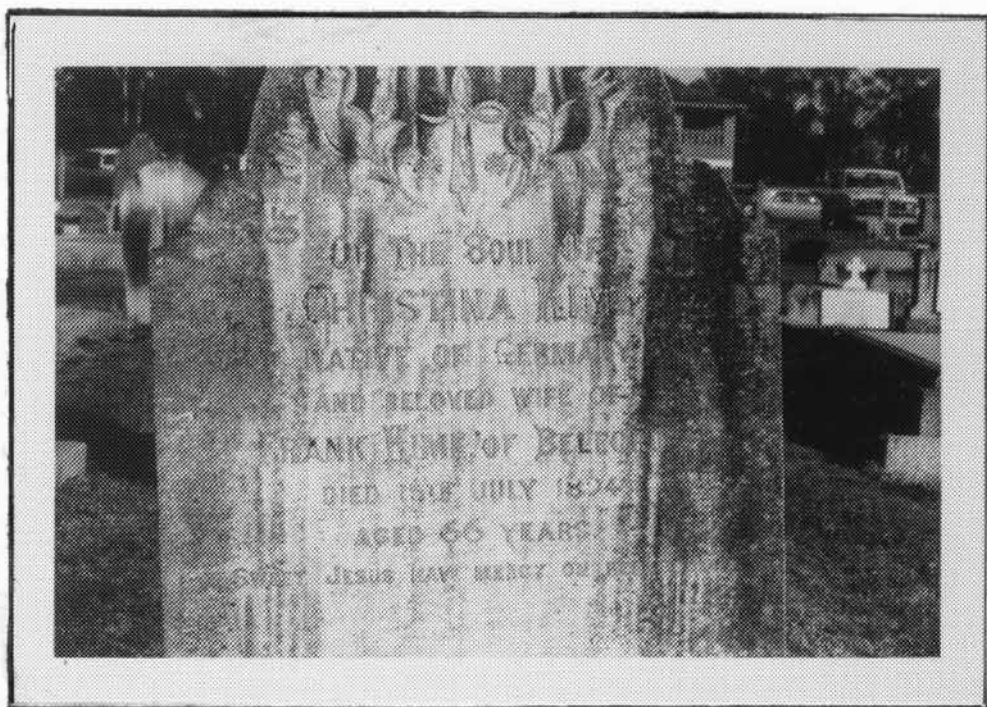
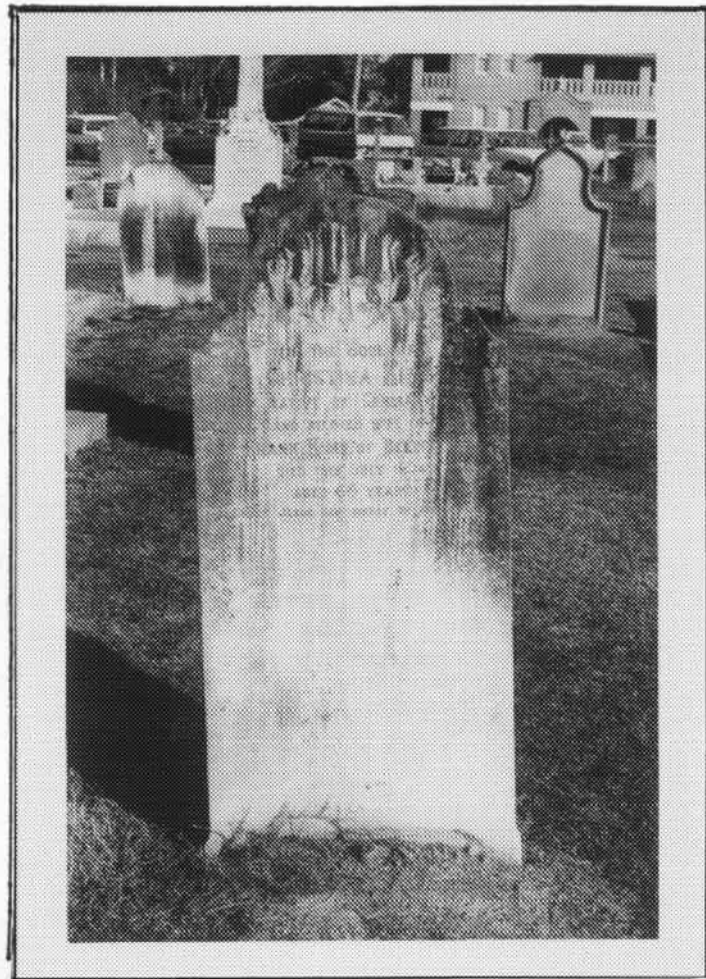
No.	Date and place of birth of child	Name and whether present or not	Sex	Father's name, occupation, age and birthplace	Date and place of marriage - previous issue	Mother's name and maiden surname, age and birthplace	Informant	Witnesses	Particulars of registration	Name if added after Registration of birth
425	10 th June 1870 at Schinar	Anna Maria Anna	Female	(1) Philipp - 1 st married Schinar - 1870 (2) Philipp - 1 st married Schinar - 1870 (3) Philipp - 1 st married Schinar - 1870 (4) Philipp - 1 st married Schinar - 1870	(1) Philipp - 1 st married Schinar - 1870 (2) Philipp - 1 st married Schinar - 1870 (3) Philipp - 1 st married Schinar - 1870 (4) Philipp - 1 st married Schinar - 1870	Christina Maria Schinar - 1870	Christina Maria Schinar - 1870	(1) Mrs. King Schinar (2) Mrs. King Schinar (3) Mrs. King Schinar	Christina Maria 10 th June 1870 Mrs. King Schinar	

Anna Maria's Birth Certificate. This was the most informative of the early certificates, perhaps because the informant was Christina, but it does contain errors and inconsistencies.

DEATH REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

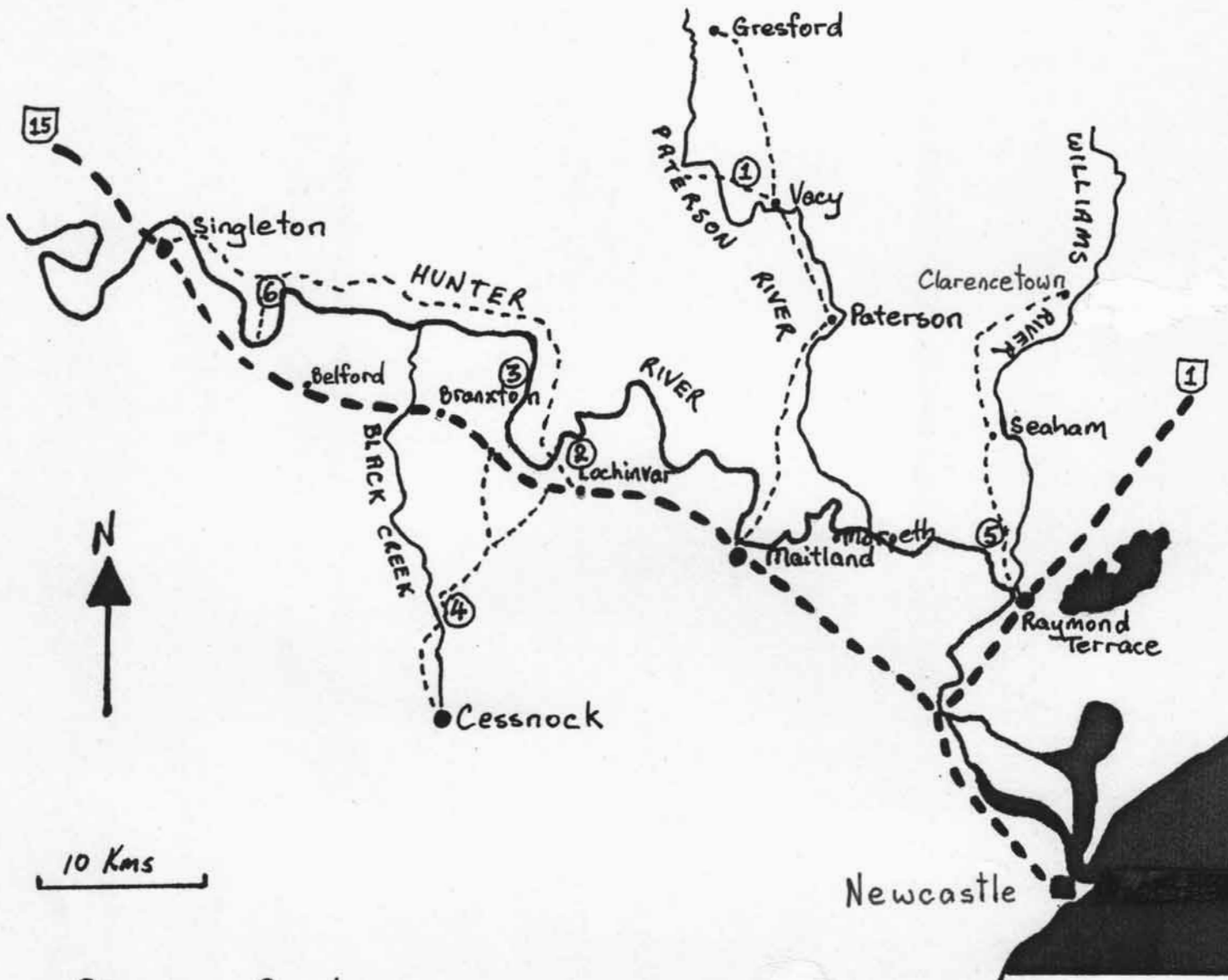
No.	Date and place of death	Name and occupation	Sex and age	Cause of death Duration of last illness; medical attendant; when he last saw deceased	Name and occupation of father Name and maiden surname of mother	Informant	Particulars of registration	When and where buried; name of undertaker	Name and religion of Minister and names of witnesses of burial	Where born and how long in the Australasian Colonies or States	Place of marriage, age, and to whom	Children of marriage
50	15 th July 1894 at Bellford Near Singleton	Christina King	Female 68 Years	(1) Pneumonia (2) 10 Days (3) Richd. Reed (4) 14 th July 1894	(1) Unknown (2) Unknown (3) Unknown	Christina King Near Singleton	(1) J. King Near Singleton (2) J. King Near Singleton (3) J. King Near Singleton	16 th July 1894 Roman Catholic Barrington Near Singleton	None W. Baywell & King	Germany Unknown	(1) Germany (2) 18 Years (3) Christina King	Phillip - 45 Years Francis - 44 " John - 42 " George - 39 " Christina - 34 " Living 1 Female deceased

Christina's Death Certificate. (There are a number of omissions and errors)



Christina's headstone

The Lower Hunter Valley



Rivers & Creeks

Highways

Other Roads

Other Locations:

Summerhill Road

Windermere

Dalwood

The Black Creek Property

Millers Forest

Glendon & Scotts Flat

①

②

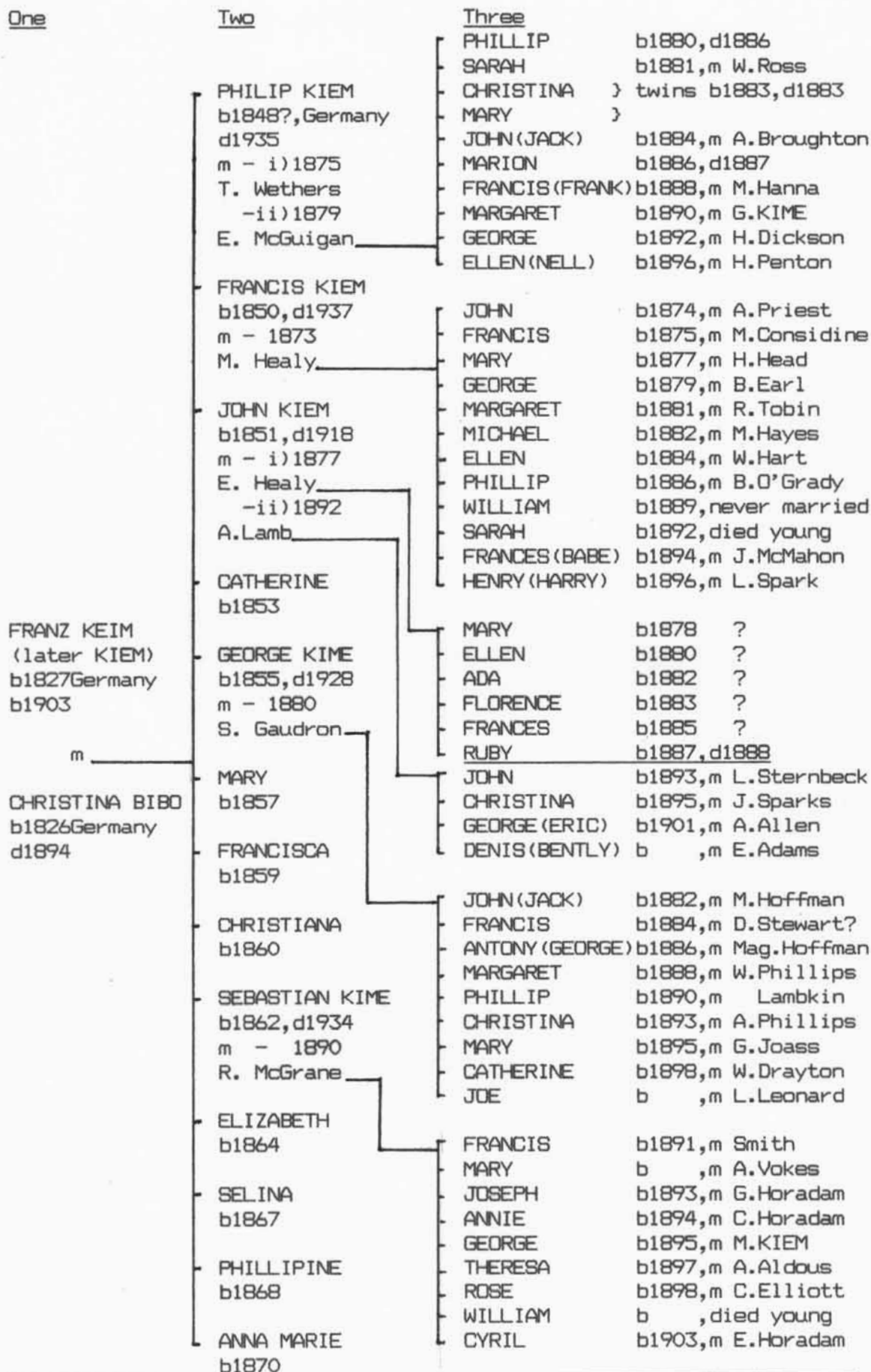
③

④

⑤

⑥

~~~~~ THE FAMILY TREE ~~~~~  
THE FIRST THREE GENERATIONS



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\*\*\*\* The first and second generations of the family tree are complete. The third generation is complete for the male line, that is for the children of the Franz and Christina's five sons. It was felt that it would be too unwieldy, and probably impossible, to follow the female line. The fourth generation is substantially complete but a number of possible gaps in our knowledge have been indicated: "?" shows doubt over a name and "... " shows a possibly incomplete family list. Present generations should be able to remedy these and continue their branch of the tree on to the sixth, seventh or even eighth generation.

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#### THE FOURTH GENERATION

##### Philip Kiem's Grandchildren:

Sarah's family- Minnie, Eileen, Marjorie, Edna, Muriel, Daphne, Jean, Betty, William, Harold(John), Richard & Robert.

John's family- Leslie, Ellen, William, Dorothy, Jack, Robert, Roy, Ronald, Eric & Vera.

Frank's family- Phillip, James, Joseph, Gertrude, Irene, Frances Raymond & Mabel.

Margaret's family- Kevin, Cynthia, Owen & Keith.

George's family- George(Doug) & Helen Alice(Nellice).

Ellen's family- Albert, Kingsford, Beris & Donald.

##### Frank Kiem's Grandchildren:

John's family- Margaret, Mary, ...

Francis' family- Patrick, Catherine, Molly? and Michael?...

Mary's family- Dorothy and Henry.

George's family- Muriel (Elsie), Carl, Arthur, Joyce, Ron.

Margaret's family- ...

Michael's family- Irene, Percy, Dulcy, Leslie and Frank.

Ellen's family- William ...

Phillip's family- Marie, Rita and Jack

Frances' family- John(Jack)...

Henry- no children.

##### John Kiem's Grandchildren:

Mary, Ellen, Ada, Florence & Frances' families: no information.

John's family- John(Jeffrey), Noel, Ken, Cyril, Maree.

Christina's family- Heather...

George's family- Max...

Denis' family- Pat, Neville, Des, June, Michael, Barry.

##### George Kime's Grandchildren:

John's family- Mary, Josephine, Leo, Vince, and Bede.

Francis' family- Francis, Arthur, Joyce, George, ...

George's (Antony) family- Kevin, George, Eileen, Monica, Imelda, Dorothy, and Cleve.

Margaret's family- ...

Phillip's family- Lindsay, Cecil, Alfonse, Joan, Ron, and Ray.

Christina's family- ...

Mary's family- ...

Catherine's family- Walter (Leslie), Neville and Maxwell.

Joe's family- Theresa, Michael, Ken, Bonny, Bess and Lucy.

##### Sebastian Kime's Grandchildren:

Francis' family- John, Dot, Wallie, Aub, Joan, Nora, Lorna, and Bernie.

Mary's family- Harry, Stanley and Dorothy.

Joseph's family- Colin, Edna, Dulcie and Neville.

Annie's family- Gordon, Stanley, Clifford and Gloria.

George's family- see Margaret's family, listed under Philip.

Theresa- no children.

Rose's family- Lorraine.

Cyril's family- Ray, Marjorie, Shirley, Norma and Donald.

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## PHILIP

Philip, the eldest of Franz and Christina's children, is believed to have been born in Germany in 1848. Although some of his descendants have passed on the story that he was born at sea, just before arriving in Sydney, this is impossible as Christina was pregnant with her second child at the time. In any case the information provided on his Death Certificate by son George shows Germany as being Philip's birthplace.

Philip's early life was one of little luxury, his parents fully occupied in establishing themselves and an ever growing family in their new country. His mother busy with younger brothers and sisters as they came along, Philip would have been expected to help around the home from an early age. Eventually he would go on to help his father and in this way be taught the trade the men of the family all followed at one time or another, that of vinedresser. There was little opportunity for more formal education. The British education system was well behind that of Germany and in New South Wales schooling was a haphazard affair. Philip never learned to read and write.

Presumably Philip remained with his family at Paterson, Windermere and Dalwood. The first independent record we have of him is in the 1873-74 New South Wales Electoral Roll, which lists him as "Kiam Philip, resident Fernhill". By this time he was twenty-four and had left his family, who remained at Dalwood. The following year, 1875, we find Philip marrying a girl called Theresa Wethers at Cessnock Catholic Church. [1]

There is some mystery surrounding Theresa. From her Death Certificate we know she was born in Singleton, the daughter of Joseph Wethers and Sarah Outhess. However, her birth and marriage records do not seem to exist and no other information about her can be discovered. Tragically, Theresa died on 30 January 1876, at the age of twenty three. An inquest was held and it was established that she died from "convulsions in childbirth". The baby did not survive. Theresa was buried in the Catholic Cemetery at Lochinvar and her grave is marked by a distinctive headstone which is in very good condition despite its age. It reads:

SACRED  
TO THE MEMORY OF  
THERESA  
THE BELOVED WIFE OF  
PHILIP KIEM  
WHO DIED 30th JANy. 1876  
AGED 23 YEARS

So lately wedded and so early taken  
Yet have I comfort in my heavy loss  
Why mourn my soul thy partner fled  
O'er the dark river of the dead.  
Rather antisapate[sic] the day  
When God shall summon thee away  
To meet and part no more.  
Requiscat in Pace Amen.

This headstone, with its poignant verse, is the earliest surviving family memorial in Australia. [2]

Following Theresa's death Philip was on the move, working on a number of properties during the 1870's. Towards the end of the decade he moved to Seaham where he probably worked with his younger brother, Frank, on the Porphyry Estate. Then, on 21 May 1879, we learn that Philip "Kime", labourer of Seaham, married Ellen McGuigan at Saint Brigid's Catholic Church, Raymond Terrace. Witnesses to this marriage were Bridget Healy (possibly a sister of the Healy sisters who married Frank and John) and Patrick McGuigan, Ellen's younger brother. Ellen, born on 19 September 1855 at Hinton, was the first of three children born to Bryan and Ellen McGuigan.

It was after Philip and Ellen's marriage that a uniform spelling of the surname emerged. Kiam had been used on the Electoral Roll, Keim on Theresa's death certificate - and Kiem on her headstone! - and finally Kime on Philip and Ellen's marriage certificate. After this the Kiem spelling was invariably used. Possibly this was due to Ellen's literate influence. The births of all Philip and Ellen's children were registered as Kiem.

Their firstborn, Philip Patrick, arrived on 8 February 1880 while the couple were resident at Ellisfield, on the Wollombi Road. A daughter, Sarah Ellen, followed on 19 August 1881. But twin daughters, Mary and Christina, who were born in 1883 died in the same year.

By the mid-1880's Philip and Ellen had moved to Harpers Hill, an area located around a steep rise in the present New England Highway, between Lochinvar and Greta. It is a spot which affords panoramic views of the Hunter Valley from Windermere to Dalwood. This was to be the birthplace of the remainder of the family. Sadly it also saw the deaths of two more children. Philip Patrick died in 1886 and the sixth child, Marion, was born in 1886 but died the following year. Thus, in eight years of marriage six children had been born and only two survived: Sarah and John Francis, born in 1884. Fortunately the last four children all survived. They were Francis James Bernard (born 1888), Margaret (born 1890), George Joseph (born 1892) and Ellen (born 1896).

The family remained at Harpers Hill for nearly 15 years before moving to Pokolbin, where Philip worked on a farm. Little more is known of his working life. Various descriptions as a labourer, vinedresser and farmer, he worked hard all his life and photographs depict a strong looking man with broad worker's hands. It appears that he never owned his own property but, like his next brother Frank, was able to trek about the lower Hunter and earn his living in a number of locations which were relatively distant from one another.

Sarah was the first of the children to move away from home. She obtained employment in the Gosford area as a housemaid. Here she met William John Ross, a local butcher. They married and had twelve children: Minnie, Eileen, Marjorie, Edna, Muriel, Daphne, Jean, Betty, William, Harold (John), Richard and Robert.

Philip and Ellen's eldest son, John Francis (Jack), was the only one to maintain some contact with the land. Although he worked on the railway for several years after his marriage to Annie Broughton in 1909, he moved back to the land during the World War I years. The family worked a dairy farm around Bulga until 1924, when they moved to the Wambo and



Warkworth district. Here Jack and Annie's older children were living close enough to school to be able to attend regularly for the first time. They were also close enough to be able to visit grandparents Philip and Ellen, who had retired during the war years and moved to a house at 9 View Street Singleton. Jack and Annie's son, Jack Jnr, has some vivid memories of Philip and Ellen's time at Singleton:

Although they were on the pension of about 7/6 per week, and paid rent of about 3/6, they seemed to manage, growing their own vegetables and keeping poultry. Granny Ellen always seemed to have a penny and lollies put by for the grandchildren when they visited.

We often visited Singleton, always on Tuesday as that was market day. Grandad seemed to be always present at the market when we arrived - I think he must have had a job there as he seemed to be showing people where to display their wares. They called it the Farmers Union, the auctioneers were Graingers and Faulkners. Fruit and vegetables were sold in the morning and in the afternoon bolts of material and other wares.

Across the river from where we lived was a mixed fruit orchard. We helped with the harvest and although we did not receive payment for our work, at the end of the harvest the owner of the orchard would tell us to bring over mum's washing tubs in the horse and dray. We would fill them to overflowing. Next, Grandma would appear from Singleton. How she got the message and how she got there I don't remember. We children were put to the task of washing all the bottles we could find. Mum and Gran seemed to have an endless supply of preserving jars and bottles.

About the same time of year Gran would be ready to make a supply of Christmas puddings (nobody could make Christmas puddings like Gran). She cooked them for all the family: mixed them in mum's big jam pan, measured out the amount for each pudding with a dipper on to a square of calico, tied them at the top and cooked them in the copper.

Rum, threepences and sixpences seemed to give Gran's puddings a very special flavour. After they were cooked and had cooled we hung them from the rafters of the wash house. Generally about eighteen puddings were cooked, although one year there were twenty six. [3]

Jack and Annie Kiem moved to Randwick Park, near Denman, in 1931 but these were difficult times and Jack was eventually forced off the land and finished his working life with Denman Council. However, two of Jack and Annie's sons, Jack Jnr and Robert, were able to re-establish links with the land when they qualified for the Soldier's Land Ballot after service in World War II. Jack Jnr has now retired to Narrabri but his brother Robert is still on his property near Aberdeen. As will be seen from later chapters, Robert Kiem and his family are now rare amongst Franz and Christina's hundreds of descendents in still being on the land.

Frank Kiem, Philip and Ellen's next son, married Marguerite Sophia (Daisy) Hanna. Daisy came from a "railway family" and she and Frank also built their lives around his work on the railway. For some time Frank was part of a "flying gang" which meant that he was always on short notice to travel to distant breakdown locations. Their children were Phillip, James, Joseph, Gertrude, Irene, Frances, Raymond and

Mabel. The children's birthplaces reflect the family's movements up and down the main north western line: East Maitland, Tamworth, Farley, Telarah and Narrabri. In 1933 the family moved back to East Maitland where Frank was ganger on the same section of line he had started out on. After Philip's death Ellen spent some time with Frank's family at East Maitland and was with them when she died.

Margaret, Philip and Ellen's fourth child, worked as a telephonist at the local Post Office during World War I. She also corresponded regularly with friends and relatives who had gone overseas. Two of these were her younger brother George Joseph and cousin George Patrick Kime, son of Sebastian. The two Georges, along with another of Sebastian's sons, were fighting in France but were in different battalions. At the end of the war George Patrick and Margaret began courting and were married in 1920. Margaret Kiem thus became Margaret Kime.

The couple moved to the Newcastle suburb of Mayfield after their marriage, joining quite a number of relatives who had moved to the city in search of work. After working in the steel industry for some time George became a builder's labourer. As a dogman he worked on the construction of some of Newcastle's tallest buildings including the T&G Building, Newcastle Cathedral and the Sun Building, at the east end of Hunter Street. On completion of the Sun Building, George and Margaret were offered employment as resident caretakers. They were given a comfortable roof top home with some of the best views in Newcastle. Of more relevance at the time, they were fortunate to have steady employment during the Depression.

George and Margaret remained in their unique home for more than 40 years and they raised a family of four, Kevin, Cynthia, Owen and Keith. Like his father in the previous war, Kevin enlisted when World War II broke out. Again, like his father, he went overseas with a cousin, Jack Kiem, although it is possible that this time the two may not have known each other. Here the parallel comes to a tragic end. Unlike his father Kevin did not return, nor did his cousin. Jack was killed at the fall of Singapore (see the next chapter) and Kevin, who was taken prisoner, died on the Burma Railway. Cynthia lives now in Newcastle and she was the first to pass on to us the picture of Franz and Christina contained in this booklet. We believe Cynthia also has one of the sea chests the couple bought from Germany. Her two younger brothers, Owen and Keith, both settled in Tasmania.

Philip and Ellen's youngest son, George Joseph (Puddin George) had been friends with cousin George Patrick (Long George) Kime for many years. They had worked together as fettlers on the Branxton to Singleton railway line before World War I. The cousins had planned to enlist together but due to illness George Joseph had to wait until 1916, when he joined the 53rd Battalion. Posted to France, he fought in many of the now historic battles. George was wounded three times and during a convalescence was able to visit Scotland. Whilst there he met his future wife, Helen Alice (Nellice) Dickson. Their courtship, which was to last for several years, was conducted mainly by letter because George went back to the front and was then quickly shipped back to Australia at the end of the war. In November 1920 Nellice finally left home and family and followed George. She arrived in Sydney in January 1921 and the couple were married. George was working in Newcastle at

the time and they made their home in Mayfield, eventually buying a house at 22 Arnold Street.

George and Nellice were to have two children, George Douglas (Doug) and Helen Alice (Nellice also). George worked at Vickers Commonwealth Steel until the Depression, when he was thrown out of work. The next years were very hard. There was little work and the family had to battle on, with an occasional break relieving Margaret and George Patrick when they took a holiday away from the Sun Building. In 1935 there was celebration when George was able to obtain work once more as a steel dresser. Sadly, the good fortune did not last long. In July 1935, only two months after his father's death, George died of pneumonia and meningitis.

George and Nellice's son, Doug Kiem, has many memories of his grandfather in old age. Philip was handy in making useful household items out of scrap materials with only a few basic tools. He would get used fruit and grocery boxes (wooden in those days) and make them into things such as cutlery trays, tool boxes, meat safes and children's table and chairs. He even produced a spacious adult arm chair, strongly cross braced and with an angle back, which was in constant use on the front verandah of Doug's boyhood home for 34 years. Philip could also work in sheet metal, producing his own hinges, and a wooden tool box he made over 50 years ago is still in use. It seems he was seldom idle.

Like her older brothers, Philip and Ellen's youngest daughter, Ellen Elizabeth (Nell), obtained employment with the N.S.W. Railways. She worked in the old style refreshment rooms throughout the Hunter and as far afield as Goulburn. In 1922 Nell married Horace Penton, a railway boilermaker. When work became scarce during the Depression they returned to Singleton and the Penton Family Bakery. They then settled at Jerry's Plains in 1932 and ran their own bakery until 1940 when they bought the Jerry's Plains General Store. Selling up in 1951 they moved to Victoria where Horace worked in open cut mines. The couple died together in a car accident in 1962. Nell and Horace's children were Albert, Kingsford, Beris and Donald.

As their children grew up Philip and Ellen kept busy, going back and forth, helping where needed. By the late 1920's a number of the family were living in Newcastle suburbs. So Philip and Ellen made their last move, to 33 Bishopgate Street Wickham. Here they were within visiting distance of two of their children - George at Mayfield and Margaret in the city. Philip's brothers, Frank and Sebastian, were also nearby, as was John's widow, Agnes.

Philip's health deteriorated but Ellen, who was partly deaf due to a childhood accident, coped well with the help of her children and grandchildren. The grandchildren can clearly describe Philip and Ellen in their later years. She was round, rosy and plump, "the way a grandmother should look", and when she laughed she "shook all over". Philip, on the other hand, with his pipe and long white beard, seemed very stern. But, while he was very strict with his grandsons, the girls were able to twist him around their little fingers.

Philip's life ended peacefully on 4 May, 1935. He was 86 years old. Ellen lived for several more years, spending periods of time with each of her children in turn. She passed away in 1939. Despite a life of

constant toil, Philip and Ellen raised a strong family. And, although some of their descendants have moved far afield, many have continued to live and work in the Hunter Region, each contributing in their own way to the valley their grandparents helped to pioneer.

#### NOTES

1) Wethers may possibly be Withers. The Death Certificate is not clear.

2) As will be seen in a later chapter, Philip's brother John also lost a young wife and he erected another prominent headstone. In addition John inserted a memorial notice in the *Maitland Mercury*. Apart from being the only time any early member of the family seems to have made such use of a newspaper, this notice is significant for the quality of the verse it uses - it is similar to the verse used on Theresa Kiem's headstone in being genuinely poignant (see page 43). It is interesting to speculate therefore on how the illiterate young brothers managed to convey such feelings in the written word. Perhaps the verses were variations on stock lines used by monumental masons but it is also possible that they were composed orally by Philip and John. What is unmistakably revealed, however, and a hundred years does not diminish the impression, is the depth of feeling which motivated the brothers to go to such lengths to commemorate the tragic deaths of their young wives. Unfortunately, and this is borne out a number of times in our story, the loss of a young wife or child was not an uncommon experience a hundred years ago.

3) Younger readers may need some help with Jack Kiem's wonderful snatches of social history:

7/6 (7 shillings and 6 pence) = 75 cents, 3/6 = 35 cents; the pre-decimal silver coins were traditionally put in Christmas puddings. This all stopped in 1966 when the new coins came in and we were told they were toxic.

A washtub, a dipper (like a jug and used for tipping water into the tub) and a copper (a large copper tub with a gas or wood fire underneath and used for heating the water) were all needed to do the washing before we had hot water on tap and push button machines.

Preserving fruit was the way dessert was made. It is no longer essential because we can now buy most fruit in any season after it has been transported long distances. Or it has already been preserved for us in cans in the supermarket.



Theresa Kiem's headstone, Lochinvar.  
(highlighted with chalk)



Ellen and Philip Kiem



John F.Kiem & Annie Kiem c.1905



George Joseph Kiem c.1920



Family gathering:(c.1926, l to r) George J. Kiem, Mrs Hamilton (family friend) Nell Penton, Kevin Kime (child), Margaret Kime, George P. Kime, Theresa Kime, Doug Kiem (child), Helen (Nellice) Kiem, Horace Penton, Bert Penton (child).

## FRANK

Frank Kiem first met his future wife when he moved with his parents to Windermere. Here the already large family of Franz and Christina encountered the growing Healy family which was settled on Luskintyre, the estate adjoining Windermere. John Healy and his wife Mary were Irish immigrants. He was a farm labourer and she a domestic servant; they had arrived from County Clare in the early 1850's. Margaret, their first child, was born at Luskintyre on 24 March 1853. She was baptized by the same Dean Lynch who had baptized Franz and Christina's children at Paterson.

The two families grew up together and, as occurs many times in this story, when it came time for marrying the children did not look far afield. Both Frank and his brother John married Healy girls. Frank married Margaret at Saint Brigid's Catholic Church, Branxton, on 6 May 1873. John was the bestman and the bridesmaid was Margaret's sister, Mary. On the marriage certificate all four made an "x" mark in place of a signature. This is interesting because Margaret was certainly quite literate. Were the girls merely trying to save the boys from embarrassment? In any case here is a reminder that Franz and Christina were not able to educate their children in colonial New South Wales to the same standard they themselves had attained in Germany.

At the time of his marriage Frank was working at Dalwood. In the mid-1870's, while his father was setting up his vineyard, Frank moved his family quite a distance to Seaham. Here he worked as a vinedresser on Felspar, part of Dr. Henry Carmichael's famous Porphyry property. (Carmichael had been one of the founding members of the Hunter River Vignerons' Association, formed in 1847.)

While a number of Frank and Margaret's children were born at Seaham they did not remain there for a long period. In contrast to his younger brothers Frank was to lead a relatively mobile life, trekking about the Lower Hunter Valley and working in a variety of occupations. In the mid-1880's he was farming at Belford, where his parents had settled after they sold the Black Creek property to George. The next decade we find the family at Raymond Terrace with Frank working as a vinedresser and labourer at Orange Grove, a property located near the present Grahamstown Dam. Then, in the early years of this century, there was a shift to the township of West Maitland. Frank and Margaret remained here for some time. Family members can still recall the household they established in the vicinity of the southern end of the present Maitland bypass. Frank worked as a labourer and dairyman on surrounding farms while Margaret maintained her own "small farm" around the house and made money from the sale of eggs, poultry and vegetables.

There is an interesting anecdote surrounding Margaret's "egg and vegetable money". Mrs Irene Mulhearn, a grand-daughter of Frank and Margaret, can recall Margaret once lamenting the past loss of \$200, a sum carefully accumulated over a number of years from the sale of eggs and vegetables. One day it had been appropriated by Frank as a loan for his brother. There the story might end but for the implications of a document which turned up during the research for this chapter. In 1898 John Kiem sold a property at Morpeth for \$180. The Deed of Sale is peculiarly worded, stipulating that the purchaser is to pay the \$180

not to John, the vendor, but to Frank Kiem. The reason given is that John was in debt to his brother to the tune of \$200.[1] Whether Margaret ever became aware of it or not it seems her money was eventually returned!

Frank and Margaret had a large family. The first son, John, was born in 1874. He married Annie Elizabeth Priest and they had four daughters: Margaret, Mary, Grace and Enid (There is some doubt about the accuracy of these names). In the early days John and his family accompanied his parents in their movements around Raymond Terrace and Maitland. While Franz worked at Orange Grove, John was a vinedresser at Kinross, an historic property to the immediate south of modern Raymond Terrace. But by 1915 John and Annie had started out in a new direction for the Kiem's - they had begun work at the "Moontown Hotel" in East Maitland. A little later, during the Great War, they graduated to their own hotel when John took on the management of the "General Roberts Hotel" in the Newcastle pit top township of Lambton. For a very short time he must have been quite the dapper young publican - I have been given a walking cane he used which has a silver tipped handle and signature. Unfortunately, however, John contracted the virulent strain of influenza, known as the "black 'flu", which swept through communities at the close of the war. He died in 1918.

Francis, Frank and Margaret's second child, married Matilda Considine at Saint Brigid's Catholic Church, Raymond Terrace, in 1896. The couple remained around Raymond Terrace for some time. Firstly Francis worked with his father at Orange Grove and then, by virtue of a temporary inheritance from Matilda's side, he became a farmer at Millers Forest, on the opposite side of the Hunter River from Raymond Terrace. In the years before the Great War this farm appears to have been almost a second home for many of Francis' brothers and sisters and their families. The Electoral Rolls of the time show many of them residing at Millers Forest.[2] By the 1920's, however, this large group had dispersed. Francis and Matilda had relinquished their farm and, after a brief stint in the Lochinvar area, settled into a house beside Frank and Margaret at West Maitland. Eventually their family numbered four: Patrick, Catherine, Mollie and Michael. (Again, there is some doubt about the accuracy of these four names.)

Next in Frank and Margaret's family was a daughter, Mary, born in 1877. She married Henry Head and had two children, Dorrie and Henry. It was Mary, later settled in the Newcastle suburb of Tighes Hill, who looked after Frank and Margaret in their old age. As a result Mary's daughter, Dorrie Todd, is now one of the richest sources of information on Frank's branch of the family. It was she who passed on to me John Kiem's walking cane, which had been used by Margaret in her last years. Dorrie is also in possession of the old novel *Kitty Bright*, the inside cover of which Margaret had used to copy down the brief notes referring to the deaths of Franz and Christina. (See page 18)

Dorrie Todd has memories of an idyllic childhood shared between Francis and Matilda's farm at Millers Forest and her grandparents' house at West Maitland. She can recall travelling the distance between the two in a dray with her Uncle Francis cheerfully oblivious after a day's drinking but the old horse still capable of completing the journey safely. Francis was a jovial, likeable character who sometimes adopted an Irish brogue and often spoke of himself as "an Irishman". Apparently he



preferred the accent and background of his maternal grandparents rather than those of Franz and Christina!

Frank and Margaret's fourth child was George. He had a limp, caused by a fall from a horse, and this led to the nickname of Hoppy George. (This helped to distinguish him from first cousins Puddin George, son of Philip and Ellen Kiem, and Long George, son of Sebastian and Rose Hannah Kime.) Like the others George spent time at Raymond Terrace and Millers Forest. He may also have worked on his Uncle George Kime's vineyard at Allandale, for he married Beatrice Earl of Allandale. The Earl family is mentioned in Max Lake's *Hunter Winemakers* as keeping an early wine saloon along Allandale Road.[3]

George and Beatrice had six children: Muriel, Elsie, Carl, Arthur, Joyce and Ron. It was a wonderful coincidence that Joyce's son, Dale Wood, happened to be in Germany at the time the research for this book was in progress. Dale, along with wife Arlene, visited the Rheingau armed with information we had been able to pass on from Australia. And, in a remarkable day's work for an English speaker in a German Archive, he was able to discover all the details of Franz and Christina's births and extend our knowledge of the family back another generation. The results of Dale's research have been outlined in the first chapter. At this time it must be assumed that Dale is the only descendant of Franz and Christina to have knowingly returned to their birthplace and wandered the streets of Walluf and Oestrich.

Michael, born at Seaham in 1882, was the sixth child of Frank and Margaret. According to the Electoral Rolls, Michael and his wife Mary (nee Hayes) were the first couple from any branch of the family to make the break with rural life. In 1913, at which time various branches of the family were centred on the Hunter Valley towns of Maitland, Singleton, Branxton, Cessnock, Raymond Terrace and Seaham, the first Kiems appeared on the Electoral Roll for a Newcastle suburb. Michael and Mary are listed as living at Henry Street, Tighes Hill. They were thus well situated to play their small part in what would be the rapid development of Newcastle from a town of pit tops to a major industrial city. Accelerated by the impact of war and the establishment of the steelworks in 1917, this was the period of the birth of Newcastle's industrial workforce. Michael and Mary were part of an influx which increased the population of Newcastle by one third of its 1911 total of 54,000 in only ten years.[4]

Michael established a new tradition for the descendants of Franz the vinedresser - that of the urban industrial worker. It is a tradition which has now seen three generations of Kiems making their contribution to Newcastle's steel industry. (Kime's seem to have been involved to a lesser extent, their rural roots being slightly stronger.) Michael himself was the archetypal industrial worker. He lived by his physical strength and ability to cope with the demands of any of the jobs along the wharves, on the railway or in the steel mills. In the tough environment of the burgeoning inner suburbs he was known as "Big Mick" and commanded a respect which still seems to be able to inspire awe in the memory of old-timers. At the same time Michael had a generous and likeable nature, as is illustrated by the following two stories.

One of those old-timers recently encountered my brother, John Kiem, as

he made his way through the wire mills at Rylands. This man was keen to tell the story of "Big Mick's soup kitchen", which operated at Rylands during the Great Depression. On afternoon shift Michael would organise those who could to bring in a rabbit, a chicken or various vegetables. Then, as the shift progressed, he would oversee the making of a thick soup in old kerosene tins. By "crib" time an irresistible aroma would be competing with the many other formidable smells of the steelworks and attracting men to the spot in Michael's mill where he would preside over distribution. Those who had contributed ingredients would be satisfied first with a "thick" helping but eventually everyone would get some share of the broth.

The second story is told by Michael's daughter, Irene Mulhearn. She once encountered a clerk in Newcastle who, upon recognising her maiden name, asked her to thank her father for having saved his job in the past. This man explained how during the Depression he had been obliged to take on a job loading wire coils onto railway waggons and found he simply could not cope with the physical demand of it. Working beside him was Big Mick Kiem who, when he recognised the man's plight, began to do the work of two men. It was enough to save the other man's job, and his family's desperately needed income, until he could find something more suitable.

Other members of the family soon began to follow Michael and Mary to Newcastle so that, as Dorrie Todd recalls, there was once quite a Kiem network in the Tighes Hill area where she still lives. As early as 1918 she remembers Mary nursing Michael and his brother William through the 'flu while also attempting to do something for their eldest brother, John, who died in a nearby house. Eventually there were Kiem's and Kime's stretched from Carrington to Waratah. It seems that younger members of the family would come to Newcastle in search of work and, once they were settled, their elderly parents would follow. This was the case with the families of Philip, Frank and Sebastian. Often there would be an extended family network living in the same or adjoining houses.

In all, Frank and Margaret Kiem had twelve children. In addition to the five already mentioned there were Margaret, Ellen, William, Phillip, Sarah, Frances and Henry. Apart from Phillip we have only a small amount of information on each: Margaret married R. Tobin; Ellen married William Hart, a Mayfield butcher; Sarah died while still young; William, who never married, was for a time a N.S.W. policeman but later moved to Queensland; Henry (Harry) married three times but had no children, he died in 1986. Frances (Babe) McMahon is, in 1988, one of only three surviving grandchildren of Franz and Christina.

Mrs Rita Delaney Robinson has given us a considerable amount of information on her father, Phillip Kiem. He married Brigid O'Grady, one of the large Millers Forest Irish community, just before the outbreak of the Great War. After working on the O'Grady family farm for a short time he decided to take his family to Sydney, where he remained until 1920. This appears to have been the first move beyond the Hunter Valley for any of the family branches. In Sydney Phillip had his own dray and team of horses and carted kegs for Resch's brewery. He developed such a reputation for being able to handle horses that he was often called upon to break in other teams for the brewery. He also did his own leather work. It seems he did quite well in the big city in an

occupation which allowed him to keep in touch with his rural origins.

Nevertheless, Phillip was eventually persuaded to return to the Hunter Valley and help with the O'Grady farm. While there he also worked on the tunnel which takes Newcastle's water supply pipeline from Chichester Dam underneath the Hunter River at Millers Forest. This project was completed in the early 1920's. A little later Phillip and his family left the farm for good because of difficulties created by floods. They moved to Newcastle and lived in a house behind Michael and Mary Kiem at Tighes Hill. Phillip obtained work at the steelworks but unfortunately it was not long before the Depression struck and he was laid off. Rita recalls her father's reaction to unemployment: he put on his best suit, took a cart to the markets and, when he had stocked up with fruit and vegetables, wandered the streets selling them. It was a scheme which worked well until many other desperate men began to do the same thing.

After the Depression the family moved to Wollongong. Phillip and Brigid had three children: Marie, Rita and Jack. During World War II Jack was sent, with 8th Division reinforcements, to help defend Singapore against the Japanese. A fortnight after his arrival he was killed, officially listed missing in action, during the final Japanese takeover in February 1942. (As outlined in the previous chapter, a second cousin, Kevin Kime, was also lost at Singapore.)

As can be seen, most of Frank and Margaret Kiem's family eventually settled in Newcastle. In the end Frank and Margaret left West Maitland and followed their children. This was a reversal of the earlier pattern whereby the sons and daughters had followed their parents about the Hunter Valley creating little communities of Kiem's. Finally the parents followed the children but the result was similar, with an extended family network being established around Tighes Hill.

Frank died in 1937 at the age of 87. He and Margaret had been married for sixty four years and they had spent a lot of their youth together as well. Margaret inscribed Frank's headstone in the belief that they would soon be re-united. In fact she lived on for many more years at Mary Head's home at Tighes Hill. Family members recall Margaret in old age as a venerable grandmother and a "fine, straight-backed" woman. During her lifetime she had brought up a large healthy family, delivering two of the children herself when in remote places, and she remained vigorous and independant throughout. When, after a sickness in her last years, doctors had advised that she would never walk again, she had replied simply "I will" and was soon getting about with the help of her late son's walking cane. She finally passed away in 1952. Within the family there is a tradition that she lived to be over 100. Nevertheless, reference to Margaret's birth certificate, marriage certificate and her own handwriting in *Kitty Bright* indicate that she was aged 99 years and 6 months at the time of death.

#### NOTES

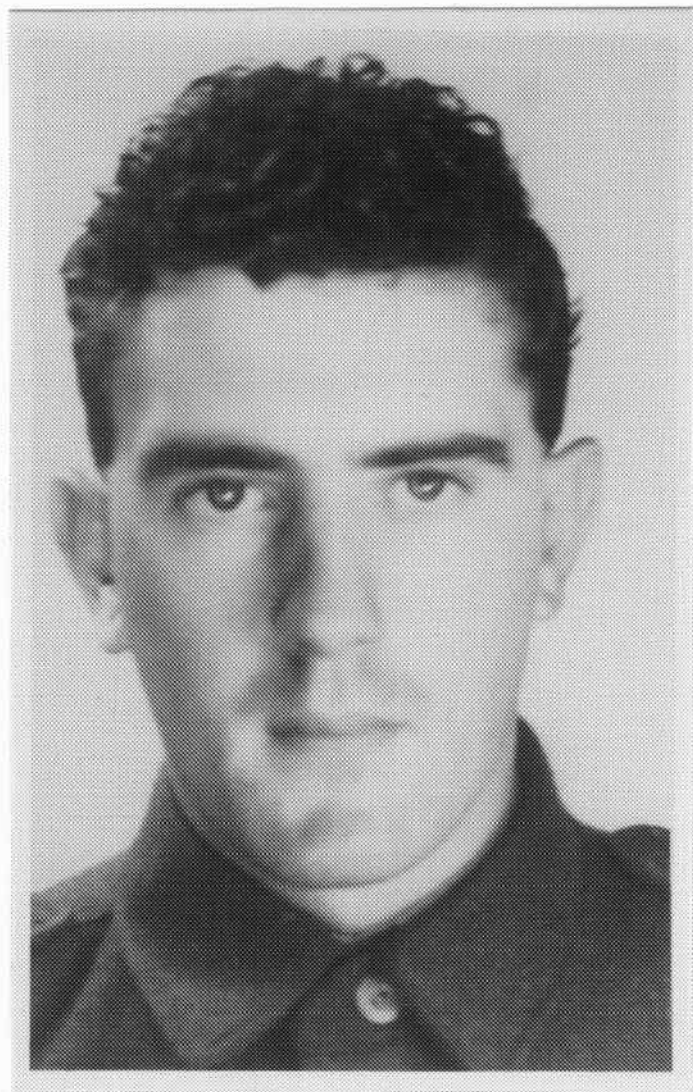
- 1) Old System Deeds, Book 618 No. 195
- 2) A woman recorded as "Janet Kiem-Keasey" on these Electoral Rolls remains a mystery figure at the moment.
- 3) Lake, p.41
- 4) figures from J.C. Docherty, *Newcastle, The Making of an Australian City*, p.4



Frank and Margaret Kiem's family: (l to r) back John, Ellen, Michael, Margaret Phillip, Mary, Francis; middle Frank and Margaret; front William, Frances and Henry; inset George.



Brigid and Phillip Kiem



Jack Kiem (8th Div. 2/19 Batt.)  
Killed in the Fall of Singapore



Michael and Mary Kiem's family:(l to r) Percy, Frank, Mary, Michael,  
Irene and Leslie.

JOHN KIEM

On 9 May 1877, four years after Frank had married Margaret Healy, John married her younger sister, Ellen, at Singleton Catholic Church. At the time John was working at Greenwood, a property which had recently been planted with vines by Alexander Munro, Singleton's first mayor. (Coincidentally, Munro also owned Bebeah, another Singleton property which would eventually be purchased by George Kime.[1]) It is likely that John had gone to Singleton in pursuit of Ellen for it appears her family had moved there from Lochinvar.

Even though the *Sand's Country Directory* of 1881-2 still shows a John "Kime" living at Singleton, it was about this time that the couple moved to Seaham - Ellen was there in October 1882 to witness the birth of her sister's sixth child. John and Ellen had followed Frank and Margaret to Carmichael's Felspar Estate. The two brothers and two sisters who had grown up together around Lochinvar must have remained very close during this early period of their married lives, with their own young families now growing up together.

Unfortunately, however, tragedy soon struck. In March 1888, less than a year after the birth of her last child, Ellen passed away. She was thirty years old, had been married just ten years and left John with six daughters whose ages ranged from only ten months to scarcely nine years. A year later the following notice appeared in the *Maitland Mercury*:

In Memoriam

In loving remembrance of my dear  
wife, Ellen Kiem, who died at Seaham  
on the 10th March, 1888.

I go and search that lone churchyard,  
And view that lonely sod,  
My Ellen dear is sleeping there,  
I hope she is with God.

A tender mother she has been  
And many troubles she has seen,  
But now her sorrows are all past,  
I hope she is with Christ at last.

Inserted by her loving husband, John Kiem, 1889.

Thus, amidst the details of auction sales, steamship departures and local happenings which cluttered the columns of the *Mercury's* front page, there is evidence of a profound personal grief which speaks out across a hundred years. [2]

How did John manage to both work and care for his six daughters following Ellen's death? By this time Frank and Margaret had moved away and so would not have been able to help. Nevertheless, there is evidence to suggest that Frank and John's sister, Elizabeth, came to Seaham to live with her brother and help look after his family. She eventually married a Williams River resident, which indicates she must have been some time in the district. Even with his sister's help, however, it must have been a very difficult time for John. The youngest

daughter, Ruby, passed away within a few months of her mother's death.

In 1892 John remarried. He was 41 and his wife, Agnes Lamb, was 27. Elizabeth Kiem was a witness at the wedding. Within a year a second family had been started. And, against the background of what must have seemed like a sustained family tragedy, there was cause for special joy with the birth of John's first son, christened John Junior. A second child, a daughter, was born in 1895 and she was named Christina. (Christina, John's mother, had died the previous year.) John and Agnes completed their family with two more sons, George Eric and Denis.

John's male descendants by his second marriage established themselves as the "Williams River Kiem's". Descendants can still be found along the river in towns such as Dungog, Clarencetown, and Raymond Terrace. The present butcher at Clarencetown is a son of John Junior, who began the business. An interesting feature of this branch of the family is the extent to which there was a re-linking of German bloodlines. Both John Junior and another of his sons, John Jeffery of Raymond Terrace, married into families of German descent, Sternbeck and Trappel respectively. This is a reflection of the extent of early German settlement along the Williams.

What happened to the daughters of John's first marriage? The five eldest girls, Mary, Ellen, Ada, Florence and Frances all survived to adulthood. Beyond this fact little of certainty is known. As late as 1915 the Electoral Rolls show Ellen to be living at Seaham with John and Agnes. She would have been 34 at the time. Some twenty years later an Ellen Rushworth of Telarah is mentioned as a creditor in Agnes' will. This could be Ellen, married late in life to a John Rushworth. We know nothing of the other girls.

John remained at Seaham for the rest of his working life. He plied the trade his father had passed on to him and eventually became cellar manager on the Carmichael's Porphyry Estate. This was the position he held until the last vintage at Seaham in 1915 when, Cecily Mitchell tells us, the name Porphyry was sold to Lindemans.[3] A story has come down through the family that at this time Dixon Carmichael made a decision to both plough his vines into the ground and enlist in the A.I.F. Before he left for France, however, he left instructions that John and Agnes were to be allowed to remain on the property for the rest of their lives. Carmichael was killed in France a week before the Armistice in November, 1918. When his affairs were settled back at Seaham the instructions relating to the Kiem's were not found. At the same time, however, John had pre-deceased Carmichael, passing away in August 1918. It was probably for this reason that Agnes left Seaham and settled for the remainder of her life in Mayfield, a Newcastle suburb.

In his will John left everything to Agnes. In fact there was little to pass on, this despite the fact that John had owned two properties in his lifetime. As pointed out in the previous chapter, he was obliged to pass on to his brother Frank the \$180 he received in 1898 for the sale of a property at Morpeth. There is something of a mystery surrounding this property as it has been impossible to trace its purchase and it is difficult to know what plans John had for it; he lived at Seaham for the entire time he held it. John's other property was the two five acre lots at Belford which had been purchased for Franz in 1887. (See Chapter 2) John sold this land in 1915. Quite possibly he would have

needed the money because of the demise of his livelihood at Seaham at this time. Nevertheless, he only realised \$260 in the sale, the same amount the property had been purchased for almost thirty years previously!

Agnes lived at Mayfield until her death in 1932. Both John and Agnes were buried beside Ellen. The grave site, in Raymond Terrace's old cemetery, is substantial and well preserved. It appears to have been well looked after until very recently and the current preservation efforts of the Raymond Terrace Historical Society will now ensure that this monument to the Williams River Kiem's will survive until well into the future.

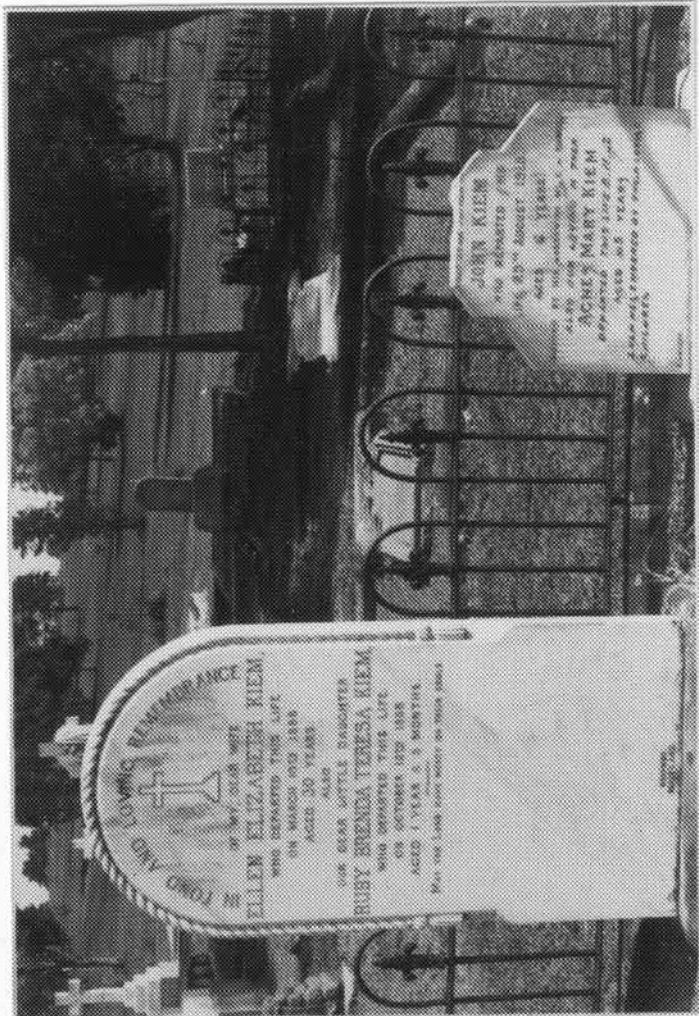
#### NOTES

- 1) Donald & Hungerford, *Exploring the Hunter Region*
- 2) *Maitland Mercury*, 19 March 1889. See also note 2, Chapter 3.
- 3) Mitchell, p. 77. It may be remembered that Lindeman's "Sparkling Porphyry Pearl" was one of the first commercial labels to lead the popularization of wine drinking in the 1960's.



MARRIAGE REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

| No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Date and place of marriage            | Names and surnames of parties | Conjugal status      | Birthplace | Usual occupation    | Age | Usual place of residence | Father's name and mother's name and maiden surname | Father's occupation |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------|---------------------|-----|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1009                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 9 <sup>th</sup> May 1877<br>Singleton | John Kiem<br>Ellen Healy      | Bachelor<br>Spinster |            | Laborer<br>Domestic |     | Greenwood<br>Singleton   |                                                    |                     |
| <p>Married in the Catholic Church, Singleton</p> <p>According to the rites of the Catholic Church<br/>The consent of John Healy was given to the marriage of Ellen Healy with John Kiem, the<br/>Ellen Healy being under the age of twenty-one years.<br/>Patrick O'Keary witness to his marriage<br/>By (or before) me Patrick O'Keary Officiating Minister</p> |                                       |                               |                      |            |                     |     |                          |                                                    |                     |



John Kiem and Ellen Healy's Marriage Certificate.  
Note the "x" used as a signature.

\*

The Kiem's gravesite in Raymond Terrace old cemetery.

## GEORGE KIME

Even though George Kime was destined to become the most prominent of Franz and Christina's children, his early life is as obscure as that of any of his brothers. Born at Paterson in 1855, we lose sight of him until 1881 when he purchased his father's Black Creek property. The Deed of Sale shows that for some time prior to this date he was farming at Pitnacree, near Maitland.[1]

The year before he purchased Franz' property George married Sussanah Gaudron, the daughter of a German couple who had arrived from the Rhineland in 1855 on board the Cateau Wattell.[2] George was thus the only one of the second generation in Australia to marry the immediate offspring of German immigrants.

George was twenty five and Sussanah twenty when the couple moved onto the Black Creek property. Their first child, John, was born there on 4 August, 1882. Another eight children were to follow over the next twenty years, the familiar family Christian names being well represented. There was Francis, Antony (known as George throughout his life and hereafter referred to as George A. to distinguish him from both his father and his own son), Margaret, Phillip, Christina, Mary, Catherine and Joe.

Along with raising a large family, George and Sussanah established a tradition of hard work. Together they turned the Black Creek property into both a successful vineyard and a prosperous farm with a diverse range of produce. Their efforts gradually made them into wealthy citizens of the Cessnock district. Much of the wealth was invested in more land so that eventually George became the owner of a remarkable number of properties, spread out in a small empire between Cessnock and Singleton.

In his book, *Hunter Winemakers*, Max Lake mentions a number of vineyards owned by Kime's. Unfortunately it is not clear if he is referring to George or one of his sons, nor is the information very specific about dates. In fact George did not really begin to accumulate property until the turn of the century. Thus, in 1898 an article in the *Maitland Weekly Mercury*, entitled "A Trip Through the Vines and Orchards", refers only to the Black Creek, or Bess Hill, vineyard. This article provides us with a valuable contemporary picture of the Black Creek operation:

A by-road leads on to Bess Hill, George Kiem's (sic) 80 acres, divided into three paddocks. There is 16 acres under vine on a chocolate soil, with lime underneath. A large dam which never goes dry and good fencing are the main points, but vigorous measures are being undertaken to prepare a larger area for more vines.[3]

The "good fencing" was perhaps evidence of George's hard work and the "vigorous measures" soon bore fruit for within a short time greater diversification occurred and profits became available for the purchase of more properties.

Even though the original 88 acres on Black Creek have now been subdivided, the remains of George's homestead can still be seen today. It was located about 500 metres past the recently built "Allandale

Winery", on the right hand side of the road if one is travelling from Cessnock to Lochinvar. Just before the road begins to climb the small rise of Bess Hill there is a cattle yard and ramp surrounded by a number of pepper trees. On the Bess Hill side of the yard is a flat area of land with a number of rapidly decaying wooden posts protruding from the ground. These were the wooden supports of George and Sussanah's house. There are also the remains of a water tank and some neglected shrubs. Running into a small rise beside the house site is a large rectangular depression, the location of George's front wine cellar. (See map and photos, pages 55 & 56)

With the present owner's permission, and the eager help of their historically attuned young son, I was able to wander around this spot. We turned up a number of small bricks, likely to have been used in the cellar, and a wine bottle manufactured by the N.S.W. Bottle Company in 1918. Recalling Max Lake's reference to "old George" consuming a bottle of wine each evening as he sat outside his winery after work, I wondered if I had unearthed one of George's ancient empties! [4] It also occurred to me that I was wandering in the same spot where Franz and Christina had attempted to establish their vineyard more than one hundred years before. It is even possible that George used or extended upon some original dwelling of theirs.

The Black Creek property (also known as Bess Hill, Allandale Road Vineyard and Lower Flat, Rothbury) always remained the centre of George's operations, even after he started buying up other land. It really became a busy village in its own right and was always the location of the family homestead. Not only did George and Sussanah's own family remain tied to the original vineyard but it was also something of a mecca for Kime's and Kiem's from other branches of the family. As a result there are quite a number of stories around concerning the marvels of Allandale Road, especially of Sussanah's hospitality and pride in her well-laden table.

Fortunately there are also two Cash Books from the property still in existence. These books cover the years 1898 to 1922 and provide us with a fascinating glimpse of life along Allandale Road during this period. The books were kept by Sussanah who recorded, in a meticulous copperplate handwriting, those items on which money was either spent or received. This is a reminder that she not only supported George in the practical affairs of the property but was able to compensate for his lack of a formal education.

Above all George was a successful vigneron and in early years the receipts and expenditures were mostly related to the wine trade. Regular amounts were received from wine companies, including the Busby Wine Company, Pellegrine, Penfolds and Lindemans. In 1917, for example, a single payment from Lindemans amounted to \$2174. Money was spent on rope, wire, stakes, bungs, casks, sulphur, arsenic and bricklayers' wages for the construction of cellars. (Eventually there were three cellars in use.) A regular expenditure was on wages for grapepickers at harvest time, which occurred around March each year. George's own children and their husbands and wives were often pickers, as were a number of nephews. Occasionally wages were paid for work done by brothers-in-law: J. Daniel, J. Smith and W. Ingall. And in one year ten wine casks were purchased from Sebastian Kime for \$22.

Notwithstanding the main business of wine production, it is also apparent that George took every opportunity to diversify. Gravel and logs, for "telegram poles", were sold off the property, a distillery was built, wheat was grown and milled locally and cattle were bred and sold. By 1908, as well as the large income from wine, money was made from the sale of butter, cream, horses and cattle. There was also a small profit from the distillery and the beginning of rental receipts from three cottages which had been purchased in Cessnock. In addition to the farm produce which was sold, Sussanah maintained a vegetable garden, chickens and pigs for home use.

Quite apart from the clear evidence of George's financial success, the Cash Books also tell us a little about everyday life. The Kime's regularly purchased the *Singleton Argus* and *Maitland Mercury*. Presumably Sussanah perused them for useful farming information and some social contact. For the few items and services in which the household was not self-sufficient, they dealt with some of the old business names of Maitland and Cessnock, including O.K. Young, auctioneers; J. Dimmock, printers; Kerr's Drapery and Lever and Pryor's grocery store. The Catholic Church and school at Nulkaba were well supported with donations of as much as \$10 at a time to Father Rogers and purchase of the inevitable school raffle tickets from Mother Mary Marcellus. During the Great War two war loans were taken out - perhaps this may have helped to secure the family against widespread anti-German feeling at the time. Finally, as an example of George and Sussanah's priorities, we see that the house was not "sealed and lined" until 1910, when it was done at a cost of \$20.

If they were not fussy about comfort and appearance, however, it seems characteristic of George and Sussanah that they kept abreast of anything relating to improved efficiency. Hence the Cash Books are quite a good reflection of technological changes which began to have an increasing impact on rural Australia in the new century. We see that up until the outbreak of the war money was regularly spent on waggons, sulkies and such expenses as fees for a "horse doctor". Suddenly, in 1918, there was the purchase of a first motor car. At the same time \$30 was spent to "put on lights" in the Cessnock cottages. The very next year a motor lorry was bought. From then on there was regular expenditure on "benzine", tyres and vehicle repairs.

The car cost \$420 and the lorry \$700. This contrasts with the family's last horse and sulky which was purchased in 1914 for \$58. We can get some idea of George and Sussanah's relative prosperity from a comparison with the farm wages they themselves were paying at the time. In 1917 these were about \$4 per week. Obviously even a horse and sulky was still an ambitious target for the average farm worker! Not surprisingly there are family members who can still recall George and Sussanah creating quite an impression in the Cessnock district as early owners of motor vehicles.

Whatever prosperity George and Sussanah enjoyed there is no doubt they earned it through unstinting effort. A grandson, Cecil Kime of Warilla, recalls that George was "interested only in work". He ran a very strict household where all the children had to make their contribution. The boys took their turn at ploughing from the age of eight. The wife of another grandson, Caroline Drayton, remembers Catherine Kime describing one of her duties as being to help Sussanah drain pigs'

blood to make the family's black pudding. Such chores were done in addition to the children's daily ten kilometre walk to Nulkaba school.

Relatives from other branches of the family can also relate stories of the extraordinary range of activities which went on at George's property. Joyce Wood, a grand daughter of Frank and Margaret Kiem, is one of a number who can recall visits around 1930 when a deep pool in Black Creek was very popular with Cessnock folk on hot days. It was widely known as "Kime's swimming hole". A deep pool can still be seen in the creek, near the road, just before it flows away from Bess Hill. Other visitors recall Sussanah's busy supervision of all that went on around the house and her ability to cater well for any number of visitors.

On one occasion in the late 1920's Cecil Kime remembers visiting the homestead with his father and finding George in the kitchen with the table piled high with sovereigns. He was preparing to pay in cash for yet another property. In fact this was probably one of the last in a series of purchases which had extended over nearly thirty years. Whether he saw property as the best investment of profit, as continuing development or as a long term plan for settling his sons, George seems to have had a knack for choosing locations with long term potential. Of course it is impossible that he could have anticipated developments in our own time; nevertheless it will be seen that wherever he invested there is now tremendous activity. Appropriately this activity is principally in the wine trade and associated tourism but it also extends to coal mining, farming and the urban development of Cessnock and Singleton.

To list all of the properties which made up George's empire is a formidable task. The clearest outline can be gained by turning to the arrangements he made in his will. Firstly, the homestead property on Black Creek was to be kept by Sussanah but used by the youngest son Joe, who would inherit it on his mother's death. In addition to the homestead Joe was left a 63 acre vineyard at Rothbury which had been bought from a German family, the Kaysers. The eldest son, John, was to inherit a property at Mount Thorley, near Singleton, which had been purchased in 1902 for \$3000. Francis was left Bebeah, situated on the outskirts of Singleton and mentioned in the previous chapter. Phillip and George A. were to acquire five pieces of land between them in the Pokolbin and Rothbury areas. All five sons also received equal shares in a property on the Coney Creek subdivision, Quarrybylong. Finally, each of the daughters received an allotment in Cessnock and a number of other allotments were kept for Sussanah.

George's will was a very detailed document. In addition to the property settlements there was the division of \$6000. But the most meticulous instructions were reserved for the things which George valued most, his wine making plant and equipment. Joe was given the use of the front cellar at Black Creek, Phillip and George A. could use the middle and back one respectively, or they could remove them. The wine casks were to be divided equally between the same three. Finally, Joe was left the iron wine press and Phillip and George A. a wooden one each, "my trustees to select these presses in case any dispute arises".

On 26 June 1928, within a year of making this will, George died. His estate was sworn at \$42,236. This of course was an enormous sum for

the time and the obvious question is what happened to it all?

Shortly after George's death the sons began to sell the land he had acquired. The Quarrybylong property was immediately sold and the assets divided. Joe's 63 acre vineyard was purchased by Dan Tyrrell and later by Dr Max Lake, who set up the present Lake's Folly winery. (In his book Max Lake records a view that "some of the best wine in the valley" came off his property when the Kime's owned it.[5]) Phillip and George A. soon relinquished their interests around Pokolbin and Rothbury. One of their properties, Baulkam Hills, was bought by Alan Hungerford. When he later sold out and moved across to Allandale it was his name which was retained for the present winery and tourist complex at Hungerford Hill.[6] It is not known how long Bebeah remained in the family but only John's property at Mount Thorley was retained until relatively recent times.

The fate of the homestead was dependent upon unlikely circumstances. In 1947 Sussanah died and the property was meant to go to Joe. In the same year, however, Joe was killed in a timber accident. Because Joe had named as his heir his brother-in-law, C. Leonard, the property suddenly passed out of the family. This occurred seventy five years, three generations, after Franz' original purchase. Why Joe named his brother-in-law as heir is not clear but it may not have been intended as his final will. Leonard subsequently sold to H. Ellwood in 1959 for \$3600. This was the first sale since George had paid \$400 to his father for the property in 1881. The land has since been divided into smaller lots.

Why was George's wealth dissipated so quickly? Some might like to see it as an example of the third generation squandering what the previous two had built up. There have also been some stories of dishonesty which saw part of the inheritance misappropriated. In fact there is no convincing evidence to support either of these theories. On the contrary, it is really unnecessary to look any further than the economic circumstances of the time to see why George's sons found it impossible to carry on as he had. Firstly, it must be remembered that no matter how impressive George's legacy was, it was effectively divided eight ways. Ironically he had followed the same practice of divided inheritances which had contributed to the impoverishment of families back in Germany. Secondly, George was successful in relatively good times. Immediately after his death his sons were hit by the Great Depression. Moreover, this roughly coincided with the increasing impact of vine diseases and a number of disastrous harvests due to drought and hail. Evidence of a dramatic downturn in the wine industry is seen in the reduction of the number of acres under vine in the Cessnock region from 2700 in 1922 to 1500 in 1936. The industry went into a decline from which it did not begin to recover until the 1960's.[7]

In such circumstances most small producers could not survive. Cecil Kime recalls leaving for the city in the 1930's because "there was no living in the wine". He explained the problem on the farms as being that of "too much work for one family and not enough to support more than one". With no profit in wine and general economic hardship it was too difficult to run the multi-purpose type of farm George had maintained at Black Creek. Indeed it was already unusual in his time when farmers were increasinly being forced to either establish very large operations or specialize in one successful product. Of the sons

only John at Mount Thorley managed to survive the depression and enjoy a degree of success on the land.

All of George and Sussanah's children married and produced sizeable families of their own. George A. married Magdaline Hoffman and they had nine children. Two sons died in infancy, the others were: Kevin, George, Eileen, Monica, Imelda, Dorothy, and Cleve. When this family left the vineyards they moved to Raymond Terrace and it was here that two of the sons, Kevin and George, became partners in a prominent early business, "Kime and Stephen Garage". When this business was sold Kevin and his wife, Joyce, took over "Florapark Nursery", just outside Raymond Terrace. It was Joyce Kime who lent us the Cash Books kept by Sussanah. Joyce and her daughter, Pat, provided a good deal of help for the writing of this chapter. Kevin and Joyce's sons have built "Florapark" into a major business which, incidentally, re-establishes their family's link with the soil.

John Kime married Magdaline Hoffman's sister, Mary. The Hoffman girls were themselves daughters of German immigrants who had settled at Branxton. John and Mary lived at Pokolbin and then moved to Mount Thorley. Here John established a reputation for shrewdness and hard work to rival that of his father. He built a special type of silo which many local farmers copied and called "Jack's silos". Mary was for a time the operator of Mount Thorley telephone exchange. The couple had five children: Vince, Mary, Leo, Bede and Josephine.

Phillip Kime married a Lambkin, one of the families closely associated with the early vineyards. When George A. moved to Raymond Terrace Phillip took his family to Wollongong. The reason for such a big move was the promise of jobs created by the development of Port Kembla steelworks. One of Phillip's sons, Cecil, was the source of a good deal of information for this chapter. Other members of this family were Lindsay, Alfonse, Joan, Ron and Ray.

For George and Sussanah's remaining children there are fewer details. Francis and his wife Dolly had five children: Francis, Arthur, Joyce, George and another daughter. Joe married Lily May Leonard and their children were Theresa, Michael, Ken, Bonny, Bess and Lucy. Like two of the sons two of the daughters married into the one family. Margaret and Christina married the Phillips brothers William and Alec respectively. Christina died only recently when she was in her nineties. Mary and Catherine also married into local vineyard families. Mary married George Joass and Catherine married Walter Drayton. Catherine and Walter's son, Max Drayton, is a partner in the Drayton Family Winery which has been making wine now for five generations.[8] This seems appropriate - at least one of old George's grandchildren remains involved with one of the oldest and most respected of the Hunter's wine families.

It does seem a pity, however, that there are not more of George Kime's descendants still working in the wine industry for it is an area in which he looms large as one of the major early figures. Perhaps this chapter will go some way towards establishing the recognition he deserves as one of the true pioneers of the Cessnock region and the wine industry it is now widely known for.

## NOTES

1) Pitnacree was the name of a mansion precariously situated on the banks of the Hunter River near East Maitland. Severe flooding in the mid 1870's led to the demolition of the house and subsequent changes in the river course have altered the countryside. In the late 1870's it is likely that George leased some of the valuable farmland surrounding the homesite and this is where he accumulated the money to buy out his father. See also Cecily Mitchell's *Hunter's River* (1973) p. 93

2) The Cateau Wattell is an interesting ship because of the number of coincidences it has with our story. Apart from the Gaudrons it carried the Bibo, Horadam and Edstein families. Bibo, of course, was Christina's maiden name. And these Bibo's came from the Rheingau and were bound for an employer at Paterson. Despite the weight of coincidence, however, there was no stated relationship with Franz and Christina nor did this family appear to have anything to do with Franz and Christina at Paterson. On the other hand the Horadam's and Edstein's, along with the Gaudron's, were eventually to provide marriage partners for later generations of Kime's. Heinrich Horadam brought his family to N.S.W. following the success of his brother, Joseph, who had been one of the Beulah letter writers. The Horadams settled in the same area as Sebastian Kime and there were three marriages between their families. The Edsteins were forbears of the Raymond Terrace family of monumental masons. An Edstein later married a grandson of George and Sussanah.

3) The article appears in *Maitland Weekly Mercury*, 19 March, 1898. Interestingly the *Mercury's* correspondent uses the spelling Kiem but in quoting him Max Lake prefers Keim and the observation that this was later "anglicised to Kime...". (*Hunter Winemakers*, 1970, pp. 32-33). In fact the Kime spelling was already well established in 1898 with all seven of George's children born at the time being christened thus.

4) Max Lake *Hunter Winemakers*, 1970, p. 38

5) *ibid.* p. 38

6) By coincidence Alan Hungerford moved to Allandale Road where he established a dairy almost opposite the site of the Kime homestead. He took the name Baulkam Hills with him and it was the sight of this name, on the front of his dairy, which led to the single most exciting and profitable day in the research for this book.

Cecil Kime had mentioned the name Baulkam Hills and when I spotted it in the area in which I was searching it seemed worth investigating. Things began to fall into place when I found Alan Hungerford at home. He was a little reluctant to talk at first, expressing a complete disinterest in history in general and harbouring, I suspect, a strong suspicion of city blokes who don't look like they have a day's work in them. Nevertheless, he was eventually most helpful and able to direct me to both Kime's swimming hole and the exact spot where the homestead once stood, "beside the pepper trees and cattle yard".

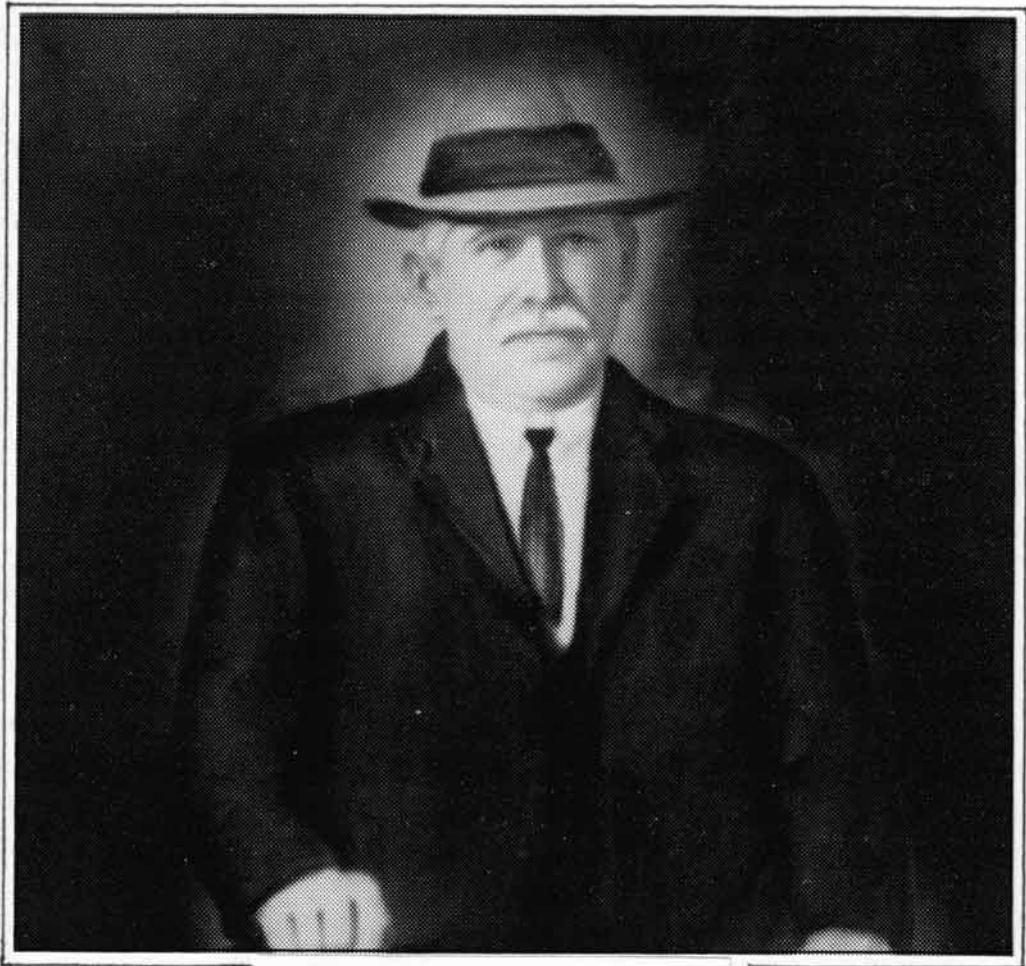
I wasn't game to ask what pepper trees looked like but I was able to find the cattle yard. This led me to make further enquiries with the present owners. Their young son, David Blake, was something of a contrast to Alan in the zealous approach he took to things historical. It was David who conducted me around the old home site, explaining the lay of the land and turning up old bottles and cellar bricks. Finally, and somewhat to his mother's dismay, he insisted on rummaging through the family papers in search of the deeds relating to the property. It was a moment of great excitement when he produced a copy of the one



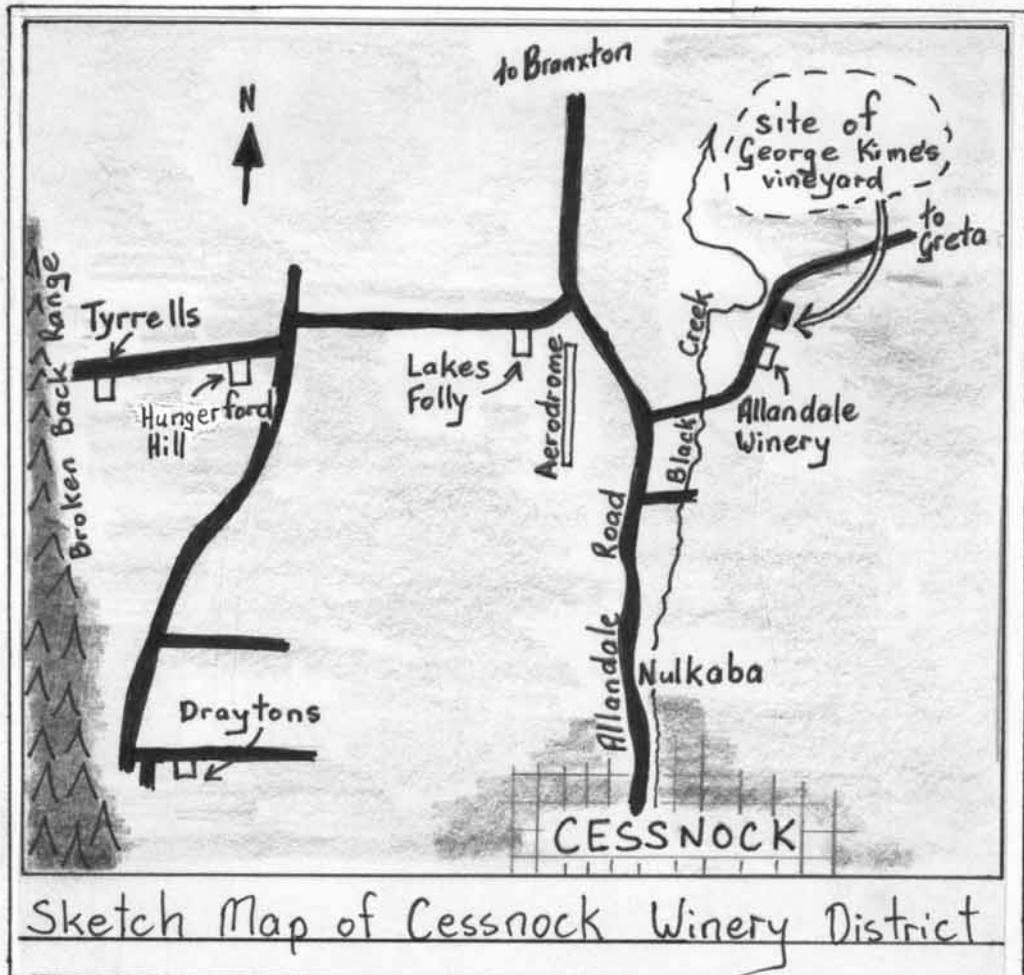
hundred year old deed whereby Franz had sold out to George. This was both the first I knew of Franz being the original owner and the first sighting of his signature.

7) Lake, p. 35

8) Information provided by Max's wife, Caroline Drayton.



GEORGE KIME (1855 - 1928)



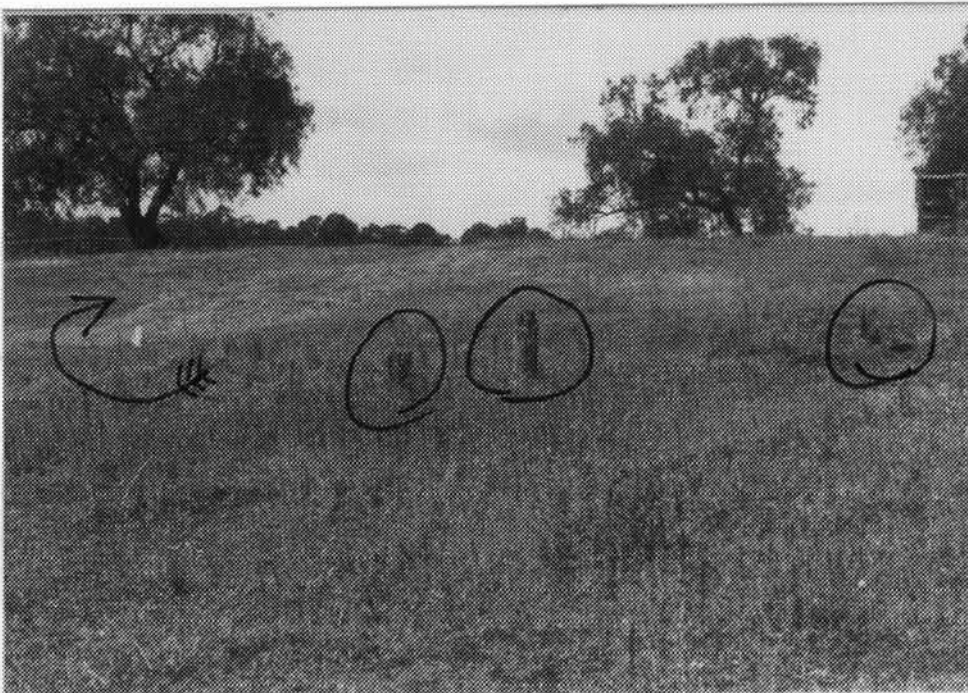
Looking across vines  
to Black Creek today.



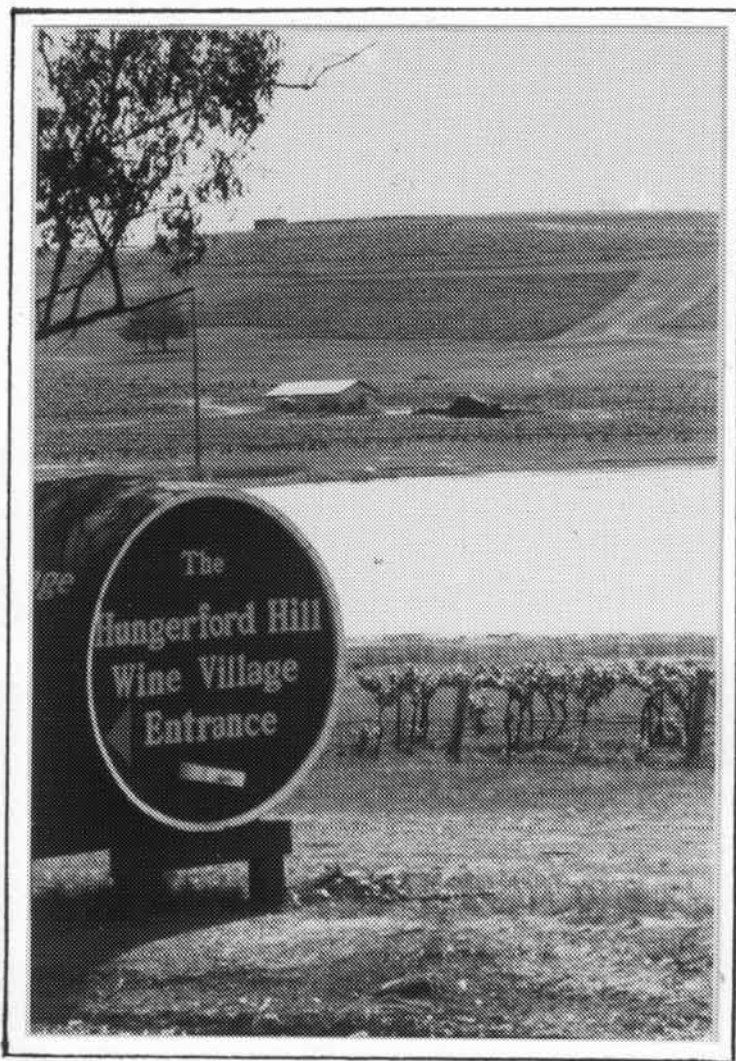
Judy Kiem, the author's wife,  
being shown around George's  
homestead site by local  
guides.



Close view of the  
homestead site. Wooden  
pylons, which once  
supported the house,  
are circled; the arrow  
indicates  
position of the cellar.



The modern sites of two  
of George's properties.



# Payments

| 1919 |    |                             |    |    |    | 563  | 147   |
|------|----|-----------------------------|----|----|----|------|-------|
| July | 10 | A W. Bridge & Co ✓          | 8  | 8  | 11 |      |       |
|      |    | Groceries                   |    |    |    | ✓ 8  | 8 11x |
|      | 15 | H. S. W. Hine & Spirit Co ✓ | 7  | 8  | 6  |      |       |
|      |    | 1 Hine Press                |    |    |    | ✓ 7  | 8 6x  |
|      | 18 | J. & J. Higgins ✓           | 3  | 14 | 8  |      |       |
|      |    | Bread                       |    |    |    | ✓ 3  | 14 8x |
|      | 19 | Water Rate ✓                | 3  | 10 | 0  |      |       |
|      |    | Sewerage Board              |    |    |    | ✓ 3  | 10 0x |
|      | 20 | Lane & Quinn ✓              | 10 | 8  | 6  |      |       |
|      |    | Low of Lorry                |    |    |    | ✓ 10 | 8 6x  |
|      | 20 | British Imperial Oil Co ✓   | 12 | 10 | 0  |      |       |
|      |    | Benzine                     |    |    |    | ✓ 12 | 10 0x |
|      | 20 | N. Fischer ✓                | 6  | 16 | 0  |      |       |
|      |    | Creams                      |    |    |    | ✓ 6  | 16 0x |
|      | 20 | Mrs. Ling ✓                 | 3  | 4  | 5  |      |       |
|      |    | Grape Pickiny               |    |    |    | ✓ 3  | 4 5x  |

## SEBASTIAN KIME

Sebastian was twenty eight when he married Rose Hannah McGrane at Branxton's Catholic Church on 27 May 1890. He was the last of the family to marry, apart from Elizabeth, who was a witness at the wedding. Rose Hannah had been born at Cessnock on 20 April 1858, the daughter of a prominent early landholder and businessman, Bernard McGrane and his wife Honorah (nee Carroll). [1] She and Sebastian were to remain in the Belford area, near old Franz, for the next ten years. During that time their first five children were born.

Around the turn of the century Sebastian finally left his father and moved some distance to Glendon, south of Singleton. In August 1899 he had purchased 29 acres at Glendon from Joseph Horadam for \$790. On the deed Sebastian was described as a vigneron but this presumably meant he had been working as a vinedresser on properties around Belford, or he may have maintained a small vineyard on Franz' farm. [2]

The land Sebastian purchased was originally part of the Glendon Estate of brothers Robert and Helenus Scott, two prominent figures in the early history of the Hunter. Joseph Horadam, it will be remembered, was one of the Germans who had come out on the Beulah. It seems he had been able to make good his boast that he would acquire "a nice property", for he had purchased a considerable portion of Glendon Estate. When his brother, Heinrich, arrived with his family he joined Joseph at Glendon. Thus, Sebastian moved his family in amongst quite an enclave of Horadams.

Glendon is a spot from which the overall structure of the Hunter Valley can be ideally appreciated. The land in the immediate area is flat and dominated by the river which has carved out a deep, sand-banked bed in its journey down from the north west. Hills to the near north rise quickly to Barrington Tops while away to the south west can clearly be seen the ranges which form that side of the valley. Because the Hunter has meandered into a large loop around the location it can only be entered by turning off the back road between Singleton and Branxton. All of this has the effect of making it feel quite self contained. One can imagine this tendency to have been even more marked at the beginning of the century. Certainly a photograph of the local Roughit School's "Class of 1904" gives the impression of a small, close-knit community dominated by a few large families, including the Kime's and Horadam's.

Sebastian's land was situated on Scott's Flat, which extends as a peninsula into the river's loop. Here he and his sons bred pigs and cattle and operated a successful vineyard. The vineyard must have been a considerable operation for during the harvest up to fifty pickers were employed. At such times Rose Hannah and her daughters were responsible for preparing the workers' meals on open ovens in the yard. The family was licenced to sell its own wine which was put into large stone jars, insulated with cane. Examples of such jars are on display at Singleton museum.

Cyril Kime, Sebastian and Rose Hannah's youngest son, recalls that around 1910 his father built a large home, a grocery store and a butchery, for the use of the eldest son, on the property. About five

years later the wine cellars were demolished and replaced with another house. It was about this time that wine production ceased. With one son, Francis, following his own trade as a butcher and another two, Joseph and George, enlisted in the A.I.F., Sebastian found it impossible to maintain the vineyard. The other activities of the farm continued and in later life he chose to describe himself as a "retired cattle dealer" rather than a vigneron.

Around Singleton Sebastian was widely respected for both his hard work and knowledge of the wine trade. Cyril remembers neighbours speaking of "Boss" Kime's feats in earning \$2 a day pruning vines on contract to Penfolds. This was very good money and required work from dawn till dusk. Unfortunately such efforts resulted in a gnarled and arthritic right hand in old age, a condition which may also have afflicted Franz. Sebastian was often consulted by local wine growers concerning problems they had with their vines and wine making. He was also a prominent enough identity in the Singleton Catholic community to have his name recorded as part of the official reception committee which greeted Cardinal Moran when he arrived to open the Convent of Mercy in 1909. [3]

Sebastian and Rose Hannah's family eventually numbered nine - Francis, Mary, Joseph, Annie, George, Theresa, Rose, William and Cyril. Some had their names registered as Kiem and others as Kime but all later adopted the second spelling. William died as a child but the others all married and lived to an old age.

Sebastian paid a local butcher \$100 to take his eldest son, Francis, as an apprentice. Once qualified Francis was able to use the butchery on the farm for a short time before he took his family to Raymond Terrace. Here he established his own butchery. Although it is no longer in the family, "Kime's Butchery" is still a prosperous business in William Street Raymond Terrace. It is situated in a row of shops which Francis had built in the 1950's and left to posterity as the "Kime Building". For a time Francis extended his activities to Salamander Bay and there too, until very recent times, was a prominent building with the family name emblazoned across it. Mrs A. Winterbine, a long time Raymond Terrace resident, can recall Francis often stationed outside his shop in a typical stance, hands clasped behind his back and head slightly stooped. Early photos of both Sebastian and George Kime show them in similar pose - it is a stance which tends to highlight the "long back and short legs" physique which one family member was quick to discern in our photo of Franz. One of Francis' daughters, Nora Gaston, provided some of the material for this chapter. Nora now lives in Sydney but many of her relatives remain around Raymond Terrace. It is a location they have recently shared with descendants of both George Kime and John Kiem, no one ever fully aware of the true family connection. Francis' other children were John, Dot, Wallie, Aub, Joan, Lorna, and Bernie.

Sebastian and Rose Hannah's second child, Mary, married an English migrant, Albert Vokes, a miner. They lived beside the Rothbury Pit where, in the early years of the Depression, police shot at miners during a demonstration. A grandson, Bruce Vokes, can recall their vivid memory and reaction to the resulting death and injury in what came to be known in union circles as "the one-sided Battle of Rothbury". Mary Vokes is buried in the same Branxton cemetery as her grandmother, Christina. Her children were Harry, Stanley and Dorothy.

As we have already seen, George Patrick Kime married Margaret Kiem, the daughter of Philip and Ellen Kiem. Their family has been dealt with in Chapter 3.

Two of Sebastian and Rose Hannah's daughters, Theresa and Rose, worked as domestic servants around Singleton before they both moved to the Nowra district in the 1920's to take up similar positions. In time Rose married Cecil Elliott and Theresa married Alf Aldous. Both were local men. Theresa passed away in 1976 but Rose still lives in Port Macquarie, where she remained an active lawn bowler until well into her eighties. Theresa had no children; Rose had one daughter, Lorraine.

Sebastian and Rose Hannah's remaining children, Joseph, Annie and Cyril, all married Horadams. As Cyril's wife, Elsie, told me just before she died recently, "in those days you didn't marry anyone you didn't know, you married the ones you grew up with". We have seen this illustrated a number of times in our story already, brothers or sisters finding marriage partners in the same neighbouring family.

Joseph had started out by helping his father and other farmers in the district. Then, when the Great War broke out, he enlisted in the A.I.F. Joseph was amongst 3rd Battalion reinforcements waiting to land at Gallipoli when that campaign was finally abandoned and most of the Australian troops diverted to France. He then served for three years in the bitter struggle on the western front where he took part in some of the major battles and also became a victim of gas attack and other chronic disabilities brought on by the terrible conditions of trench warfare. After discharge from the army he obtained work at Ryland Brothers' wire mills in Newcastle and remained there until retirement. Both Joseph and his brother George, who also served on the western front, have their names inscribed on Singleton's ANZAC memorial where, incidentally, many other families of German descent are represented. Joseph's children were Colin, Edna, Dulcie and Neville.

Cyril Kime has helped a great deal with this chapter. He himself left school at the age of fourteen to work in a condensed milk factory. A little later he moved to Sydney where he became a bricklayer and worked on houses which helped to establish the inner western suburbs of Concord and North Strathfield. (Coincidentally, this booklet is being written at North Strathfield.) Returning with his family to Newcastle, Cyril worked with his brother George on a number of prominent projects such as the T&G Building, still a Hunter Street landmark. Cyril and Elsie had five children, Ray, Marjorie, Shirley, Norma, and Donald. They were "all well brought up", one is proudly informed, "despite the Depression". In one of the few remaining tangible links with the now distant past Cyril still tends to a number of grapevines in the backyard of his Wallsend home.

Once all the family had married and dispersed, Sebastian and Rose Hannah sold the Glendon property and moved to Newcastle. This occurred about 1930. From the proceeds of the sale of Glendon Sebastian bought a home in Mayfield and two blocks of land at Tighes Hill, one in O'Mara Street and one in Tarin Street. He then dismantled the two houses he had built at Glendon and transported them in sections to be re-erected on the Tighes Hill blocks. Two of the children, Joe and Annie, bought these houses and one of Annie's sons, Gordon Horadam, is still living in one of them. Thus, a good part of Sebastian's family ended up living



in Newcastle suburbs, very much interspersed with the families of Philip and Frank Kiem. Nevertheless, as elsewhere, the relationship must quickly have blurred so that at the beginning of the research for this booklet there were none, apart perhaps from Cyril, who could connect the various branches.

Sebastian died in 1934 and Rose Hannah in 1946. Sebastian left a will which identified him as simply a "gentleman" with an estate valued at \$3000. He had progressed considerably on the social and material scale. At the same time, it seems that neither he nor his family could resist the strong drift to the city which eventually caught up most of Franz and Christina's descendants.

#### NOTES

- 1) Bernard McGrane came to Australia as an Irish convict. Among other things he later ran the Rising Sun Inn at Millfield. There is a street in Cessnock named after him.
- 2) See note 12, Chapter 2.
- 3) See M. Sternbeck *The Catholic Church in Singleton*, p. 142 & 150. Sebastian also donated \$2 to the sisters.



Sebastian and Rose Hannah's family: (c. 1903 l to r) back Annie, Mary, Joe, Frank; middle Rose Hannah, Cyril (baby), Sebastian; front George, Rose, Theresa. In the background is Sebastian's wine cellar, built of dressed cedar slabs and shingled roof.



George Kime c. 1916



Joe Kime c. 1915

CLASS OF 1904



[Argus Photo]

Front row: \_\_\_\_\_, A. Shaddock, W. Badior, Ivy Burns, Coral Stubbings, Teresa Kime, N. O'Shea, Rosie Kime, Mabel Shearer, Bertha Shearer, Vera Badior, Mary Thompson, M. Henry, \_\_\_\_\_, V. Krams, Nellie Thompson, Pat Rowan.

Second row: Mr C. Gould (pupil-teacher), Cyrus Allsopp, Joe Kannar, L. Henry, Rosie Badior, Alice Griffiths, Sarah Krams, Annie Prior, Annie Kime, Katie Smelzer, Sophie Allsopp, Sarah Badior, J. O'Shea, Norman Durham, Sid Durham, Vincent Durham.

Third row: Mr W. Johnson, Nellie Shearer, Beatrice Stubbings, Ella Burns, Stella Durham, Mary Rowan, Alma Kannar, Glad Stubbings, Agnes Ellen Badior, Emily Kannar, Nelly Badior, Mary Badior, Joe Kime, Laurie Badior, Frank Kime.

Fourth row: Mr C. Harris (pupil-teacher), Archie Durham, R. Morrow, M. Thompson, Jim Badior, Les Johnson, Norman Durham, George Shepherd, Archie Burns, Harry Burns, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Frank Badior, Bert Durham, Sam Anderson, Jim Horadam, Roy Prior, Harry Badior, Chris Badior, Tony Smelzer, Alex Badior.

*Recollections — Cyril Kime.*

I was born at Glendon in May 1903. My father followed the occupation of farmer and wine-grower on his property there for many years.

My elder brothers and sisters attended Roughit School before me. I was

enrolled there about 1909 and attended until about 1913, leaving to attend Kirkton Public School.

The teachers about that time, I think, were named McPhee, Dingwall, and later, Muller.

Some of my school mates were as follows:

Scotts Flat: Burns, Crow, Rowan, Thompson, Harris, Morrow.

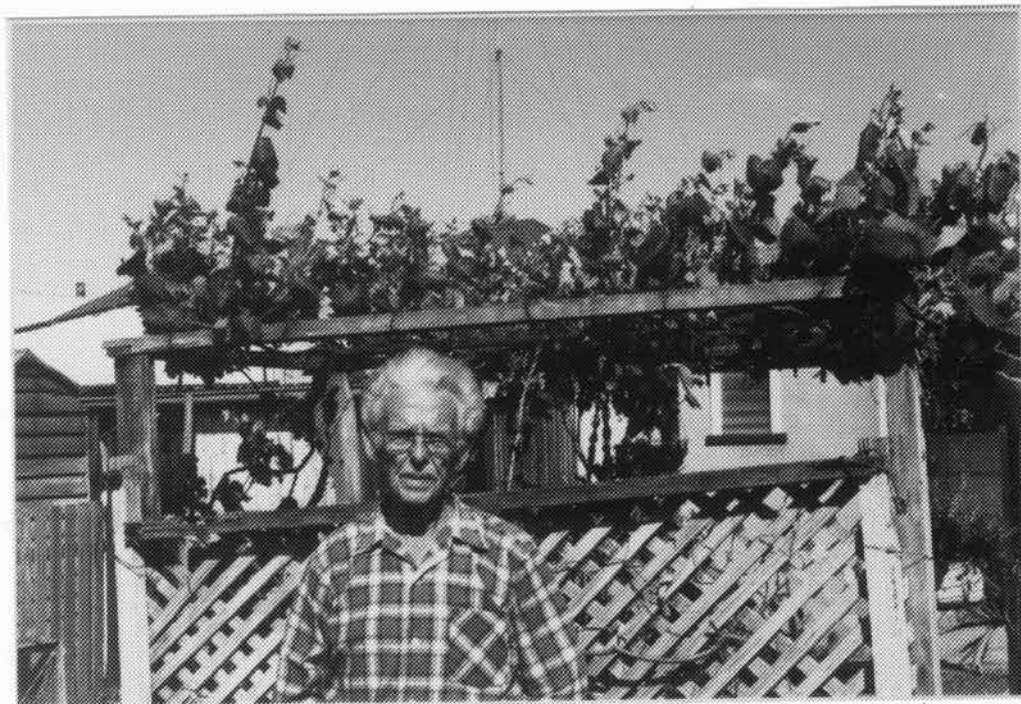
Big Ridge: Harris, Knight, Horadam.

Glendon: Durham, Ward, Badior, Threadgate, Allsop, Franklin, Kime, Shearer, Taylor.

From the booklet "The Centenary of Roughit Public School, 1972"



The "Kime Building", William Street, Raymond Terrace.



Cyril Kime, beneath his vines at Wallsend, 1987.

THE DAUGHTERS

Following are a few notes on each of Franz and Christina's daughters. Unfortunately very little information can be provided. Their marriages can all be traced but beyond this the trail becomes very difficult because, quite apart from the problem created by a change in surname, there is also a sense in which daughters became part of their husbands' families and relinquished ties with their own.

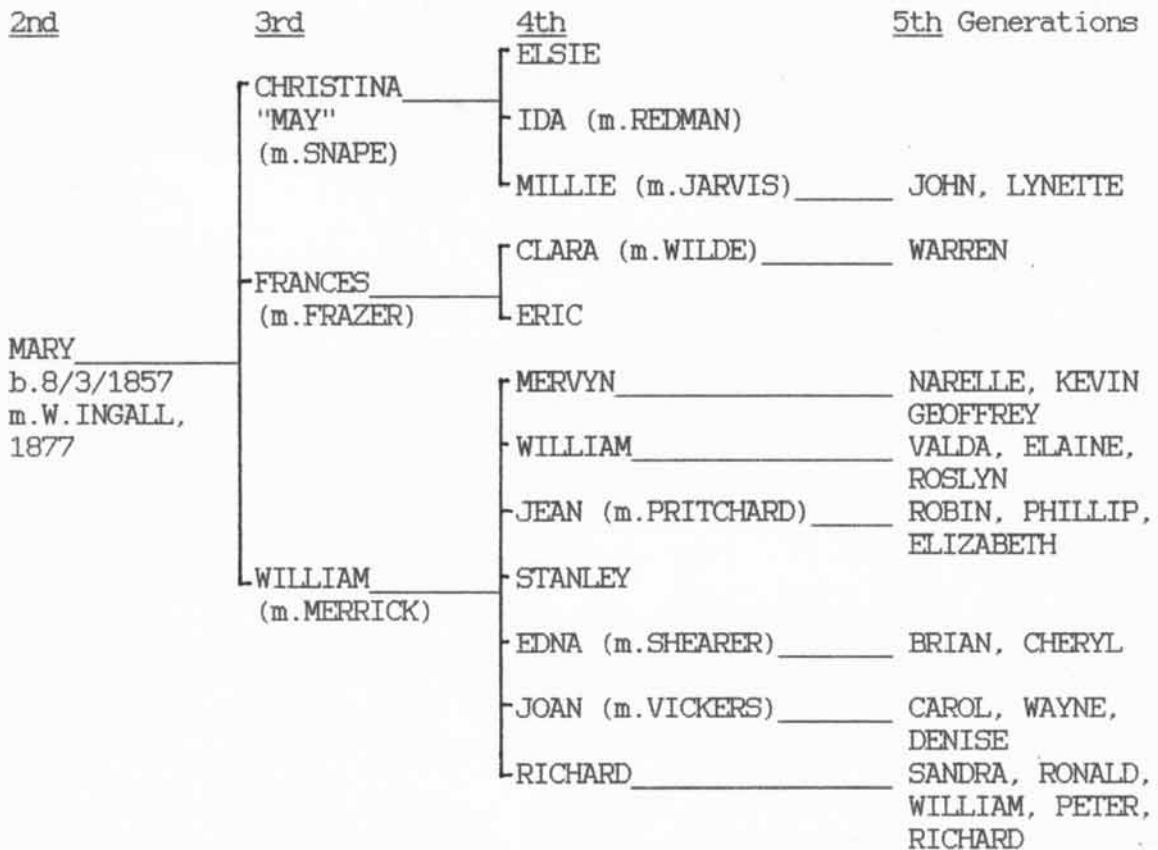
What little we know about a few of the daughters has mostly been given to us by Mrs Millie Jarvis of Branxton. Incidentally, as well as being the burial place of Franz and Christina, Branxton today remains the home of a number of their descendants. These include Mrs Jarvis, Mrs Frances Latter and Mr Jack Ingall.

CATHERINE

Catherine was the first of the girls to marry, in 1879. Her husband was T. Nichols.

MARY

Mary married William Ingall in 1877. The Ingall family seems to have kept in closer contact with the Kiem's and Kime's than the other daughters' families - descendants of both Philip and Sebastian have spoken of an Uncle Bill Ingall and W. Ingall is mentioned in George Kime's accounts. Mary's family tree has been traced by Millie Jarvis:



FRANCISCA

Francisca married James Daniel in 1885. Their names appear on the 1915 Electoral Roll for Maitland and James is described as a carter. They lived in Maitland at the same time as Frank and Margaret Kiem and many of their family. James' name also appears a number of times in George Kime's accounts. There were two children, James William (Billy) and Kathleen.

CHRISTIANA

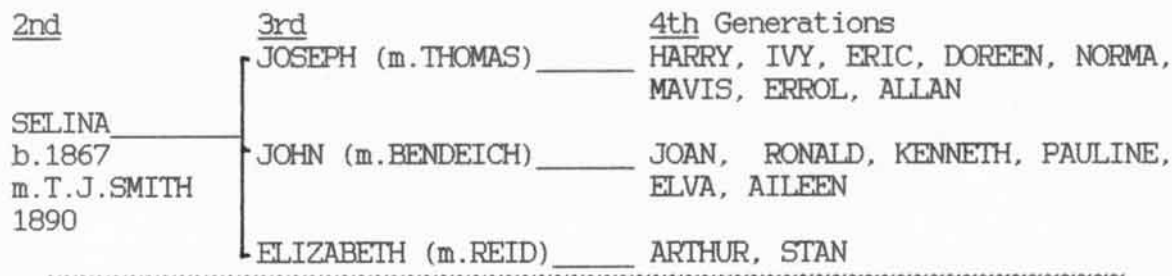
Christiana married E. Huntingdon in 1886. According to the information provided on Franz' Death Certificate, she must have died some time between 1900 and 1903.

ELIZABETH

As outlined in a previous chapter, there is strong evidence to suggest that Elizabeth went to look after her brother John's family at Seaham after the death of Ellen in 1888. In 1892 Elizabeth was a witness at John's second marriage to Agnes Lamb. The following year Elizabeth herself married Patrick Keegan, a resident of the Williams River area. Within a year she had died, presumably yet another young wife who suffered fatal complications in childbirth. It was the same year, 1894, that Christina passed away.

SELINA

Selina married T.J. Smith in 1890. Three generations of her family tree have been provided for us by Millie Jarvis. It is interesting to note that one of her children married a Bendeich, a prominent Branxton family of German origin.



PHILLIPINE

Phillipine married A.Clarke in 1889.

ANNA MARIE

Anna Marie married J. Smith in 1890. The wedding was in the same year as Selina's and the groom possibly from the same family. J. Smith was the informant on Christina's death certificate, where his residence was given as Singleton.

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## FINAL THOUGHTS

It will soon be 150 years since Franz and Christina arrived in Australia. Because they and their children had large families, they now have a large number of descendants, many of them bearing one of two versions of what was once thought to be a very unusual Australian surname. Now, with some sure knowledge of how we have arrived at the present, we hope current generations feel they can take a more personal interest in the past and reflect with pride on the history of a now formidable clan.

In taking an overall view of the family's history it is firstly apparent that there have been a number of major changes. The first of these was the assimilation of a German family into colonial Australian society. All the evidence suggests this assimilation was rapid and occurred within a generation, with all but one of the second generation marrying non-Germans. It seems that, despite a very considerable German migration into the Hunter Valley in the nineteenth century, a separate German community never emerged. This was in marked contrast to the South Australian experience. A number of reasons for the difference between the Hunter Valley and the Barossa Valley can be suggested. Firstly, the number of Germans going to the Barossa was certainly greater. Secondly, whereas the Barossa and its vineyards may have had an insulating influence, the Hunter Valley was larger and offered more scope for movement and diversification. Finally, and perhaps most significantly, while the Barossa's Germans were close knit Lutherans, many of those who came to the Hunter were south German Catholics and they readily inter-married with an already well established Irish Catholic community. Whatever the reason for this rapid assimilation the result now is that it is impossible to discern any obvious element of German culture in Franz and Christina's descendants.[1] Indeed, this seems to have been the case as far back as the second generation. At a time when the multicultural nature of Australian society is being emphasized, this complete assimilation strikes one now as a loss. We, the heirs to one of the very first significant European cultural variations, have nothing to show for it. On the other hand, for those who have fears regarding foreign immigration, it must be encouraging to see evidence of the ultimate inevitability of assimilation - German families who were considered to be decidedly foreign in 1850 nevertheless produced descendants who would consider themselves exclusively Australian within seventy years. The ANZAC memorials of many Hunter Valley towns bear dramatic testimony to this.

Assimilation occurred quickly. Another major change took a little longer but has been almost as complete. Sooner or later most of the children and grandchildren left the land. Those who did not move to the suburbs of Newcastle settled in the small towns of the Hunter Valley. Two descendants returned to the land as soldier settlers and there may even be a few small farmers amongst present generations, but what is clearly illustrated in our story is the strength of the forces which have turned Australia into the most urbanized society in the world. (This transformation within the family did not take place without at least one significant gesture - grapevines were often established in suburban backyards. Cyril Kime still has vines at Wallsend and he and his sons continue to prune them each year, thus keeping alive a skill

which can be traced back through Sebastian to Franz and the Rheingau.)

With the adoption of an urban lifestyle, many of Franz and Christina's descendants swelled the ranks of Australia's early industrial working class. And, even though history tends to highlight the lives of the propertied and business classes and neglect the achievements of its workers, it can be seen that the early decades of this century established a vigorous working class tradition within the family. Hence, while the family can boast the obvious success of a man like old George Kime, we can also point with pride to the contribution of Cyril and George Kime who helped erect buildings like Newcastle Cathedral, to "Big Mick" Kiem and the many who followed him and provided the essential manpower for the heavy industry which has been Newcastle's lifeblood, to Phillip Kiem who worked on such a vital construction as the water supply line from Chichester Dam, to the "Singleton Kiem's" who helped maintain the rail link through the Hunter and to many others whose daily work sustained the community. All contributed in a small way to the development of the Hunter Valley and the creation of a prosperity which we now enjoy.

In talking of achievements, indeed in our story as a whole, we have tended to concentrate on the menfolk. This is because we have been left with little evidence with which to construct an accurate picture of the women's lives. (If history neglects the working class then it almost completely ignores the lives of ordinary women.) All that can be said with certainty is that the women kept the homes running at a time when this must have been an all-consuming task. Without our appliances and prepared food even the basic chores of washing and cooking were never ending. At the same time each household was obviously its own child minding centre!

Nevertheless, what our story does reveal about women is the extent to which their lives have changed dramatically over the last hundred years. Of greatest initial importance in this process were the advances in medicine and public health which have made childbirth a relatively safe experience. Rarely now do we see the tragic deaths of young women in circumstances like those of Theresa, Elizabeth and Ellen Kiem. Likewise we have seen a drop in infant mortality rates so that there is now a reasonable expectation of those children born surviving to adulthood. Accompanying these developments there has been a steady reduction in the average size of families. This is a world wide phenomenon, occurring in affluent and healthy societies where parents no longer need many children to insure an adequate family income and care in old age.

Our increasing affluence, with its obvious impact on the domestic scene, smaller family sizes, the opening up of universal educational opportunity, the changing nature of "work" and shifts in community attitudes and expectations have all combined to effect the great changes in women's lives. No longer totally consumed by home and family, they have far greater freedom generally and the line between "men's work" and "women's work" has become increasingly blurred.

The changes which have had an impact on women and the family in general may prompt comparisons on the nature of family life. In many respects the lives of our forbears were hard but there is also appeal in the apparent simplicity and lack of materialism in those times. Their



entertainments seem to have been more family centred, religious observance was perhaps stronger and there was certainly a greater solidarity within the extended family, whether in rural areas or the working class suburbs of Newcastle. Indeed, if one contemplates one of the old family portraits, the women resplendent in beautiful home made dresses and the men scrubbed and stiff in elaborate formal attire, all surrounding the stern but obviously proud parents, it is possible to be carried away with a vision of decidedly more wholesome times when family life was strong and individuals were imbued with a simpler and more vital morality. This would be a mistake. It is important not to let nostalgia give way to an easy idealization of past generations. There were, for example, aspects of the past, which we have chosen not to highlight, which put matters in better perspective - the incidents of petty bitterness which sometimes occurred when individuals chose to cross the rigidly defended sectarian lines of those times, the occasional tale of a "drunken no hoper" and a number of marriages which were obviously hastily arranged. The details are irrelevant, the point is that whatever we find to admire about our forbears, and there is a great deal, on the whole they were no more nor less worthy human beings than those of the youngest generation of the family. All that can really be concluded by way of comparison is the obvious: the early generations lived in very different times.

It is the different times rather than any inherent difference in human qualities which does lend a larger than life aspect to the early generations. Of course an historian of the future will be able to discern significant events happening today, but somehow we do not seem to be so much a part of them. The fascination of Franz and Christina, their children and their grandchildren is that they were so obviously participants in the events that stand out in our history books. They were involved in the great changes of their times. Thus, Franz and Christina and their infant son Philip were a part of the great nineteenth century exodus from Europe, an unequalled human migration which populated the countries of the "new world". They settled in the Hunter Valley when it was still a pioneering community, Cecily Mitchell's small world of great landowners whose lives were yet closely entwined with the ordinary folk who worked the estates surrounding their stone mansions on the rich river flats. Franz and Christina's children lived through an age of transformation. Born amongst vineyards where their father practised an ancient European trade, at least three of them died literally in the shadow of Newcastle steelworks, where their sons were caught up in the momentous consequences of Europe's recent Industrial Revolution. As children the second generation rode horses but they lived through the great age of steam and in old age saw the coming dominance of the motor car and even the aeroplane. A number of Franz and Christina's grandsons participated in the cataclysmic events of the Western Front in the Great War of 1914-18. Here there was great danger and hardship but also adventure on the world stage and a war time romance and marriage. Unfortunately the veterans returned not to "homes fit for heroes" but to the Great Depression, an event which touched every family and coloured forever the outlook of our parents and grandparents. Then there was Singapore and the tragic loss of two young lives. This was an event which calls to mind a similar pathos surrounding the wives who died so young in the previous century.

That the early generations experienced hardship and tragedy there is no doubt but, it seems from our comfortable position now, they also had a

heightened involvement, a rich vitality about their lives. What of their descendants now? Inevitably, many have succumbed to the relentless "middle-classing" of Australian society and now lead well insulated suburban lives. Today it would be impossible to distinguish Franz and Christina's descendants from the bulk of the population. They do, however, tend to remain in the Hunter Valley. A glance at the Newcastle Telephone Directory reveals lists of Kiem's and Kime's which have burgeoned in recent years. Most live in Newcastle suburbs and there are concentrations around Raymond Terrace and Cessnock but there are families stretched from Wollembi to Dungog and Swansea to Scone. There are even a considerable number of descendants still living in the heartlands of Branxton, Greta and the Williams River area. A number of families have moved beyond the Hunter. There are a number of Kiem's and Kime's in the Sydney area and Wollongong and other coastal centres also contain descendants. What must be remembered, however, is that the further one moves from the Hunter Valley the less likely one is to encounter descendants of Franz and Christina. Kime's found in Sydney and southern New South Wales are more likely to be descended from an English family which came to Sydney in the 1850's and Kiem's found in Queensland are most likely to be descended from a quite distinct German family which migrated to the Toowoomba area in the 1860's.[2] A few Kiem or Kime families are living outside New South Wales and we also know of a number who have lived overseas.

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We hope this booklet has answered questions for people. It may be disappointing that there is still a great deal which remains uncertain. Where, for example, did Franz and Christina settle in Paterson? Why are we unable to discover any more of Therese Kiem, Philip's first wife? Why did Franz abandon his vineyard so soon after establishing it and where exactly did he settle at Belford? Why do family branches know so little of Franz and Christina and why has it been so difficult to find heirlooms, written sources, photographs or anecdotes relating to them? What happened to Franz and Christina's daughters and their families? What was the fate of John and Ellen Kiem's five daughters? These are some of the questions which remain and no doubt many others will have occurred to the reader. The answers may now be lost in time and we left with an element of mystery. On the other hand this booklet may jog a few memories or motivate somebody to search that old trunk in the garage or have one more look through their collection of family photographs and documents. Should new information be found we would be very happy to hear from you and would attempt to keep other readers informed.

Newcastle University's Professor Godfrey Tanner has written, in his foreword to Cecily Mitchell's wonderfully evocative book,

Compared to older settled lands in Europe, Australia tends to be dangerously lacking in a sense of local roots and permanent traditions of habitation and custom. Growing local pride and self-awareness in the few old-established zones of early community like the Lower Hunter is therefore important for national well-being and the future of Australian culture.[3]

We hope this booklet has made a small contribution to this building of a sense of local roots and that it will be of value to those who care about the past and appreciate its continuing relevance. More specifically we hope we have provided a fitting tribute to Franz and

Christina and the early generations of our family and, in doing so, brought present generations together in a shared knowledge and pride in their origins.

#### NOTES

- 1) Somebody once told me that my fondness for Black Pudding was an obvious giveaway for a German background!
- 2) The English Kime's have already been mentioned - see note 5, page 20. The discovery of another German family occurred just as this book was being finished. I became curious about the number of Kiem's listed in the Toowoomba Telephone Directory. Upon making contact with one of them it quickly became clear that this was a different German family. The Queensland Kiem's have always spelt their name this way and, unlike the Hunter Valley Kiem's, pronounce it in the "correct" German way. They are descended from a couple who came from north eastern Germany in the 1860's and settled amongst the sizeable German community around Toowoomba. (Information from Mrs Hilda Ruttley of Kingaroy, Queensland.)
- 3) G. Tanner in Cecily Mitchell's *Hunter's River*, p.5

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