

Residents of 20 Eglinton Road Glebe

Tilbrook family 1909-19

The first family to live in 20 Eglinton Road Glebe were George Herbert Charles Tilbrook, his wife Margaret Louisa, their children and Margaret's youngest sister Pethie Evelyn Nance.

George, 31, a teacher and his wife Margaret, 42, home duties are listed on the electoral rolls in 1909-17. George was also listed in 1909-19 in Sands Directory and in the 1914 Wiese P O Directory.

George and Margaret were from McLeay River and third generation Australians of Cornish descent. They were married on 22 July 1902 at St Stephens Presbyterian Church in Sydney.

Margaret Louisa Nance was the oldest of thirteen children. She was appointed to Willi Willi School as a teacher in 1892. In 1894 she transferred to Redfern Public School to be near her mother, who was severely ill. After her mother died in 1895, she returned to McLeay River to teach. In 1897 she took up a six months temporary position at Surry Hills South Girls School. She returned to Kempsey, where she taught for four years from 1898, retiring on 30 June 1902, a few weeks before her marriage to George Tilbrook.



George was appointed to Gladstone School in the lower Macleay River Valley as a teacher in 1897. He came to Sydney in 1900 when he won a scholarship to the Sydney Teacher's Training College. In 1902, he was appointed as a teacher at Fort Street High School in 1902. In 1907 he returned to the Teacher's Training College as a lecturer in Geography on a salary of £200. He was elected as a member of the Linnaean Society of NSW in 1909.

The Tilbrook family had two children when they moved into 20 Eglinton Road in 1909, George Haine Nivelles, 5 and Florence Violet Nivelles, 3, see right. They had lost two children as infants.

Three more children were born when they lived in Glebe, Trevie Nivelles on 1 October 1909, Tasman Nivelles on 23 April 1912 and Macleay Nivelles Tilbrook born 28 May 1913. All five children were given Nivelles as a middle name.

Margaret's sister, Pethie Evelyn Novell Nance, the youngest of thirteen children, lived in Eglinton Road and helped her sister with the children.

She was married in 1915 *February 6, 1915 at Homebush Congregational Church, Ernest Phillip, youngest son of the late Benjamin Morris and Mrs Morris, of Homebush, to Pethie Evelyn Lovell, youngest (twin) daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Thomas Nance, Kempsey, Macleay River (SMH 20 Feb 1915).*



Residents of 20 Eglinton Road Glebe

All three sons of George and Margaret Tilbrook enlisted in the army during the war. George, the oldest, served in the volunteer defence corps.

Mcley Tilbrook, at right, was a sapper with the 6th Division Engineers 1939-42 and a lance bombardier 2/1 Field Artillery in 1942-45. His brother Tasman, far right, was a bombardier with the 2nd Field Artillery.



Edwards family 1920-21

Henry Arthur Edwards, a labourer and his wife Ethel Louisa Edwards, 30, are listed on the electoral roll in 1921. Henry A Edwards is also listed in Sands Directories in 1920-22.

Henry Arthur Edwards and Ethel Louisa Dring were married in 1916 in Sydney. Ethel was from London and worked as a servant for a family in Wandsworth. She arrived in Sydney in 1915, joining her brother Herbert, who had migrated four years earlier.

In mid 1921 an auction notice was placed on behalf of N Edwards Esquire. *By Order N. Edwards, Esq (who is leaving the State), 20 Eglinton-Road, Glebe Point (opposite Jubilee Park, tram to terminus).*

The auction indicated a well furnished household. The contents listed for sale included *Drawing Room Carpet, 12 x 10, Crimson Ax Carpet, 10 yards, Linoleums, Wool Mats, Mohair Mats, Tea and Dinner Services, Glass, China and Ware Cutlery, Ornaments, Brass Candlesticks, Clock, Watercolours, Paintings and Pictures, Handsome Paris Settee and 2 Easy Chairs (upholstered in Blue Poplin). Rosewood Overmantel, Bijou Fire Irons and Brass Fender, Leather Dining Suite, Dining Table, Occ Tables, S G Chairs Palmstands, Overmantel.*

Bedroom Suite, in Walnut Finish, Combinations, Dressing Tables, Robes, Blk and Brass Bedsteads and Bedding, Double Toilet Sets in Wedgwood. Bow Front Cedar Chest Drawers. Table and Bed Linen and Blankets. Curtains and Blinds. The Kitchen and Laundry is Replete. G E Dresser, Safe,

GLEBE POINT.
THIS DAY, THURSDAY, AT 11 A.M.
 By Order N. EDWARDS, Esq.
 (who is leaving the State),
 20 EGLINTON-ROAD, GLEBE POINT
 (opposite Jubilee Park, tram to terminus).

HENRY BOXHALL,
AUCTIONEER AND VALUATOR,
WILL SELL AS ABOVE, WITHOUT RESERVE.

**THE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE
 AND EFFECTS, INCLUDING
 DRAWING-ROOM CARPET, 12 x 10.
 CRIMSON AX. CARPET, 10 Yds.
 LINOLEUMS, WOOL MATS, MOHAIR MATS.**

**TEA AND DINNER SERVICES,
 GLASS CHINA & WARE CUTLERY,
 ORNAMENTS, BRASS CANDLESTICKS, CLOCK,
 WATERCOLOURS, PAINTINGS, AND PICTURES,
 HANDSOME PARIS SETTEE AND 2 EASY CHAIRS
 (upholstered in Blue Poplin).
 ROSEWOOD OVERMANTEL.
 BIJOU SET FIRE IRONS AND BRASS FENDER.
 LEATHER DINING SUITE.
 DINING TABLE, OCC. TABLES, S.G. CHAIRS.
 Palmstands, Overmantel.
 BEDROOM SUITE, in Walnut Finish,
 Combinations, Dressing Tables, Robes,
 BLK. AND BRASS BEDSTEADS AND BEDDING.
 DOUBLE TOILET SETS, in Wedgwood.
 BOW FRONT CEDAR CHEST DRAWERS.**

**TABLE AND BED LINEN AND BLANKETS.
 Curtains and Blinds.
 THE KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY IS REPLETE.
 G.E. Dresser, Safe, Tables,
 Linen Linen and Clothes Baskets,
 Wringer, Tinware, and Sundries.
 ENAMEL and ALUMINIUM WARE.**

ALL IN SPOTLESS CONDITION.

**HENRY BOXHALL,
 ADAM-CHAMBERS, 482 GEORGE-STREET.
 'PHONE, CITY 318.**

Residents of 20 Eglinton Road Glebe

Tables, Chairs Linen and Clothes Baskets Wringer, Tinware, and Sundries. Enamel and Aluminium Ware (SMH 21 Aug 1921)

Henry and Ethel Edwards had moved to Hornsby by 1930. Henry was a locomotive driver in 1958

Gray and Austin families 1922-23

Alice Mabel Gray, 41 and her husband, Walter James Gray, 46, a storeman are listed on the electoral roll in 1922. Their only child, William Charles Gray, was 14 when the family moved into Eglinton Road. He enlisted in 1940 and was a sapper in the 2/6th Field Company. He was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese and died on 7 September 1943 in Thailand.

The Grays shared the house with Alice's younger sister Ruby, her husband and children.

Alexander John Austin, 32, a chauffeur and his wife, Ruby Wesley Austin, 33, home duties are listed on the electoral roll in 1922. Alexander J Austin is listed in Sands Directory in 1923. They had two daughters, Mavis Jacqueline who was 3 when they moved to Glebe, and Eileen.

They had moved to Edward Street Glebe by 1930. Ruby died in 1939. *Relatives and Friends of Mr Aleck Austin, Mavis and Eileen are invited to attend the Funeral of his beloved wife and their mother Ruby Wesley Austin to leave ... for the Methodist Cemetery Rookwood (SMH 28 Sep 1939).*

Alexander John Austin married Avonia Lenore Huntington, a widow in 1944. He died *May 8 1946 at his home Penrose, Jarocin Avenue, Glebe (SMH 9 May 1946)*. Suspicion was aroused about his death. *The police today went to a mortuary and seized the body of Alexander John Austin, taxi driver, who died at his home at Glebe on Wednesday. A death certificate had been issued by a doctor and arrangements had been made for the funeral when the police intervened. The contents of the stomach were removed and sent to the Government Analyst after which the funeral was permitted to proceed. Detectives questioned a number of people and said there would be no further action at this stage (SMH 11 May 1946)*. In 1949, his widow advertised that she *formally and absolutely renounced relinquished and abandoned the use of my surname of Austin (SMH 8 Feb 1949)*.

John Kennedy Howe Cowan 1925

John Kennedy Howe Cowan, 64, of no occupation is listed on the electoral roll in 1925. In 1932 a taxi driver was charged that *at Leichhardt on December 21 last by wanton driving of a motor cab he caused bodily harm to John Kennedy Howe Cowan, aged 72 years (SMH 15 June 1933)*.

He died *March 21 1939 at his residence 107 Cardigan Street Stanmore John Kennedy Howe Cowan (late G P O Sydney) dearly loved father of Jock Dargin Cowan aged 78 years (SMH 23 March 1939)*.

Residents of 20 Eglinton Road Glebe

Miss Nellie Heffernan 1924-25

Miss Nellie Heffernan is listed at 20 Eglinton Road in Sands Directories of 1924-25.

Mrs S Wright 1926

Mrs S Wright is listed at 20 Eglinton Road in Sands Directory of 1926.

O'Reilly family 1927-30

William John O'Reilly, tailor, Elizabeth Jane O'Reilly, home duties, and their son John William O'Reilly, an iron moulder are listed on the electoral roll of 1928.

W J O'Reilly is also listed in Sands Directory in 1927-30.

William John O'Reilly and Elizabeth Jane McGuinness were married in 1906 in Broken Hill. Their daughter was married in 1926, while their sons John, Francis and Bernard still lived at home.

By 1933 William and Elizabeth O'Reilly and their three sons had moved to 166 St John's Road.

Costello family 1930-33

Pierce Patrick Costello, 30, an engineer and his wife Nellie Goldie, 39, home duties are listed on the electoral rolls in 1930-33. They were married in 1926 in Glebe and had one child, a son John.

By 1936, they family had moved to Leichhardt where Pierce is listed on electoral rolls as a fitter.

Mrs Phyllis Bradley 1932

Mrs Phyllis Bradley is listed in the 1932 Sands Directory at 20 Eglinton Road.

Caldwell family 1932-34

Alexander Gordon Caldwell, 52, council employee, his wife Blanche Elizabeth Caldwell, 56 domestic duties and their daughter Dorothy Alleyne Caldwell, typist are listed on electoral rolls in 1932-34.

In 1938, Alexander Caldwell was one of five council employees dismissed by Glebe Council. They claimed they had been dismissed because they had refused to join Foley's Labour League. The Municipal and Shire Council Employees' Union took the case to the Industrial Court. Dr Foley argued their dismissal was not for political grounds. He claimed that the *president of the Glebe Cricket Club, whose residence over looked Jubilee Park, had told him that if he went to the park he would see*

Residents of 20 Eglinton Road Glebe

Munro and Caldwell doing very little work ... He thought that Caldwell was most inefficient. It had been heard that Caldwell was lazy. He had made alderman and many complaints had been made about him (SMH 13 Dec 1938). The court ruled against reinstating the men.

In 1940 Alexander Gordon Caldwell was one of only two candidates elected as aldermen who had served on previous councils. He died *on July 27 1947 (ex Alderman Glebe Council) dearly loved father of Dorothy (Mrs Purcell) and father in law of Vincent Purcell, aged 67 years (SMH 29 July 1947)*

De Meur and Bell families 1936

William Leslie Bell, 29, labourer and his wife Lillian Myrtle Bell, 22, home duties are listed on the electoral roll in 1936. They had two children, Noelene and William Bell.

In 1932 William Leslie Bell was charged with the theft of pieces of coal. *On Friday morning last, William Leslie Bell 25, and Harold James Wilson, 24, labourers, filled two bags with small pieces of coal which had fallen from trucks passing along the railway line at Pyrmont. Yesterday, at the Central Police Court, they were each charged with having stolen 2/- worth of coal, the property of the Transport Commissioners. They pleaded guilty, and were fined £1 each ... Bell said that everyone in his home was receiving the dole. He had picked up only pieces that were so small that it would not pay the railways to retrieve them (SMH 17 May 1932).*

They shared the house at 20 Eglinton Road with Lillian's older sister Madeline Victoria De Meur, 33, home duties and her husband Sidney Theodore De Meur, 30, a labourer, who are also listed on the electoral roll in 1936. They had two daughters Jeanne Margaret and Helene Frances.

The Bell and De Meur families moved out of 20 Eglinton Road towards the end of 1936. Madeline De Meur died in 1940 aged 37 and her sister Lillian Myrtle Bell in 1941, aged 27.

Bonnette family 1936-37

20 Eglinton Road was advertised for rent in November 1936. *Glebe Point Cottage renovated 4 rooms kitchen rent 30/- 20 Eglinton rd (SMH 30 Nov 1936).*

George Sydney Bonnette, 31, wharf labourer and Hannah Jane Catherine Bonnette, 26, home duties are listed on the 1937 electoral roll. They moved to Eglinton Road with their sons William George Avery Bonnette, aged 3 and James Charles Bonnette.

George Bonnette and Hannah Avery were married in 1932. Hannah, known as Dolly, grew up in The Rocks. In 1929, she entered the Queen of the Harbour contest, sailing on the 18-foot Keriki.

Residents of 20 Eglinton Road Glebe

Shortly after they moved to Glebe, George placed a notice in the Herald *I will not be responsible for any debts contracted in my name without my written authority from this date George Bonnette, 20 Eglinton-road Glebe Point (SMH 23 Dec 1936).*

George and Hannah moved back to the Rocks from Glebe and lived with her mother.

Pierre Marc de Sers 1937

Pierre Marc de Sers, 51, is listed on the 1937 electoral rolls as a wharf labourer. Pierre was the only son in a family of six and named after his father. He grew up in Sydney, where his father, who was from Madagascar, held the licence of the Bayswater Hotel in Rushcutters Bay. Pierre did not marry. He died in 1938, aged 52 *Pierre Marc de Sers passed away November 28 1938 (SMH 3 Dec 1938).*

Hopkins family 1937

Charles Hopkins, optical technician and Patricia Elsie Hopkins are listed on the 1937 electoral roll. They moved to Darlinghurst and then to Woollahra.

William Purtell 1938

William Purtell is listed as a labourer in the 1938 electoral roll.

Sharp and Ballard family 1939-61

William Aitken Sharp, 42, carpenter and his wife Adeline Mabel Sharp, 42, are home duties are listed on electoral rolls from 1939. They were married in 1920 in Murrumburrah. They did not have any children of their own and often took the next door Kelly children on outings.

They also took in boarders and found space for relatives. Their nephew, John Campbell Sharp, 27, a fitter is listed on the electoral roll of 1948.

William Aitken died *October 11 1956 (suddenly) at his residence 20 Eglinton Road Glebe, beloved husband of Adeline Mabel Sharp, aged 59 years (SMH 13 Oct 1956).*

Adeline's older brother, Robert Leopold Ballard, 72, is listed on the electoral roll of 1958 and Robert Baldachino, body builder in 1958. Adeline died in 1964.

Residents of 20 Eglinton Road Glebe

Priest family 1965-68

Harley James Priest, 53, timber worker and his wife Coral Elizabeth Priest, 52, home duties are listed on the electoral rolls in 1965-68. Harley and Coral both grew up in Nyngan and were married in 1936. They had two daughters, Sue and Ann and a son, John Garnsey Priest.

Harley James Priest served as a corporal in the RAAF in 1941-45.

George Victor Waldemar Brandt 1970

George Victor Waldemar Brandt is listed as a clerk on the 1970 electoral roll.

McLeod family 1974-77

Neil Ross McLeod, a doctor, and Jennifer Gordon McLeod are listed on electoral rolls in 1974-78.

Euan MacLeod and Susan Jarvis 1983

Euan MacLeod and Susan Jarvis lived at 20 Eglinton Road in 1983. Euan moved to Sydney from New Zealand in 1981. He won the Archibald Prize in 1999 for a painting *Self portrait/head like a hole*. Susan Jarvis was a teacher of English as a second language and later an academic at UTS.

Peter J McDonald 1988-98

Peter J McDonald is listed on the electoral rolls from 1988. He sold the house in 1998

Sources

Commonwealth and NSW Electoral rolls, [State Library of NSW](#)

Glebe Council Rate books, [City of Sydney Archives](#)

Sands Directories, [City of Sydney Archives](#)

Digitised Australian newspaper from 1803 to 1954 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Family trees, shipping and census records <http://www.ancestry.com.au/>

Australian war memorial biographical data bases <http://www.awm.gov.au/research/people/>

Residents of 20 Eglinton Road Glebe

NSW births deaths and marriages indexes <http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/>

Ryerson Index to contemporary death notices and obituaries in Australian newspapers
<http://ryersonindex.net/>

World War 1 records <http://naa12.naa.gov.au/>