

Residents of 22 Eglinton Road Glebe

Polglase family 1909-10

Benjamin Polglase, 42 a salesman and his wife Elizabeth Eleanor, 41, are listed on the electoral roll in 1909. They moved into 22 Eglinton Road with their children, Josephine Teague Elizabeth, 18, John Walters, 14 and Benjamin, aged 10.

The Polglase family came to Sydney from Victoria in 1892. Benjamin was often featured as a soloist at church functions. At the Pitt Street Congregational Church in 1900, the choir *sang the chorus from The Creation ... the solo, "In splendour bright," being taken by Mr B Polglase (SMH 11 May 1909)*. At the City of Sydney City Missionaries 36th Annual Tea Festival in 1901, it was noted that *B Polglase will sing My Sweetheart when a Boy (SMH 31 Aug 1901)*.

Benjamin Polglase died on *August 18, 1911, Benjamin, dearly loved husband of Elizabeth Polglase, passed from this life, aged 44 years (SMH 19 Aug 1911)*.

Elizabeth, left to support her children by herself, faced court in 1912. *Bessie Polglase, 44 years of age, was at the Central Police Court, yesterday, fined £15, in default two months imprisonment, for stealing from Hordern Bros goods valued at £29. Defendant, who is a widow, was stated to have been employed at the shop for a number of years as saleswoman (SMH 14 Dec 1912)*.

Bessie moved to Trundle with her son Benjamin and then to Annandale. Benjamin enlisted on 11 July 1916 in the 2nd battalion. He was 5'9" with blue eyes and brown hair, a milk carter and belonged to the Church of England. He was killed in action in Belgium on 22 September 1917. His personal effects, a disc and cigarette cards, were returned to his mother, who was granted a war pension of £2 a week.

Aitken family 1911

Thomas M Aitken is listed in the 1911 Sands Directory. Thomas Meldrum Aitken arrived in Australia in 1880. He married Jemima McVie in 1888 in Balmain.

He died August 9 1939, at his residence, 15 Leonard Street, Bankstown, Thomas Meldrum Aitken late of the Harbour Trust, and beloved husband of Jemima Aitken, aged 79 years (SMH 10 Aug 1939)

Edgar Clark 1912

Edgar Clark is listed in Sands Directory in 1912-13.

Smart family 1913

George Herbert Smart, 36, is listed on the 1913 electoral roll as an insurance superintendent, with his wife Lillian May Smart, 35.

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They moved to Eglinton Road with their sons, Sidney George, 15 and Herbert James, 11.

The family later moved to Palmer Street Darlinghurst where their younger son Herbert died in 1919. George and Lillian were divorced in 1935.

Fraser family 1913-26

William A R Fraser is listed in Sands Directory in 1913-26. He is listed on electoral rolls in 1915-25 as a carpenter with his wife Georgina, home duties. His son Duncan Malcolm Fraser is listed on the electoral roll in 1916 and his daughter Georgina Malcolm Fraser, a bookbinder in 1922-25

William Adam Ross Fraser married Georgina Malcolm in 1884 in Scotland. He is listed in the Scottish census of 1901 as a building manufacturer in Glasgow with his wife, son and daughter.

His son Duncan Malcolm Fraser enlisted on 15 September 1916 at the Sydney showground, his address given as 22 Eglinton Rd Glebe. He was as 5'7½" with brown hair and blue eyes and a tattoo of a thistle and Scotland on his arm. His religion was listed as United Friends. He served with the 53rd battalion in France and was wounded in 1917. When the army wanted to send him back to France before he felt his wounds had properly healed, he deserted. He surrendered in 1920 and was court martialled. He was refused a war gratuity in 1931 and wrote to the army *I was surprised I was not to receive any for services rendered yet others who had not seen service through being in the clink got theirs, I cannot understand it. I was wounded in the right shoulder and it was through that, and with an open wound, that the AIF wished to send me back to France that I went AWL.* Duncan enlisted in the AIF again in 1940 and was a private in the Garrison Battalion. He died in 1943.

By 1930 William Adam Ross Fraser had moved to 103 Edith St Leichhardt with his wife and daughter.

Howlett family 1926-27

John James Howlett, 34, a labourer and his wife Inez Emily Howlett, home duties are listed on the 1926 electoral roll. By 1930 they had moved to 373 Glebe Point Road. They were later divorced.

Harber family 1926

Harold David Harber, 37, a tailor and his wife Victoria Bellinger Harber, 33, home duties are listed on the electoral roll in 1926. They had recently moved to Sydney from Tasmania with their two children, Peggy Edith Harber, 4 and Peter Haydn Harber, aged 2.

In 1925, Harold Harber, trading as Harber & Parkinson, tailor, of Hobart, had filed for insolvency in Tasmania. Harold had also been fined £20 in 1922 for illegal bookmaking.

Harold was killed on 21 July 1941 at St Peters riding pillion on a motor bike which crashed into a car.

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Victoria re-married in 1946. Her daughter and son also both married in 1946.

Coady family 1929-31

Francis Coady, 28, a greengrocer, his wife Clare Eleanor Coady, 22 and his younger brother, David Coady, 25, a wood machinist are listed on the electoral roll in 1928. F. Coady is also listed in Sands Directory in 1929-31. Francis and Clare had moved to Leichhardt by 1930 and were divorced in 1947.

Cecilia Amanda Gray 1928

Cecilia Amanda Gray, 37, is listed on the 1928 electoral roll as a dressmaker. She moved into Eglinton Road after her divorce from Robin Budd Gray in 1928.

Kelly family 1930-1998

The Kelly family lived at 22 Eglinton Road for 68 years. Bernard Ambrose Kelly, 54 a barman and his wife Mary Ann Kelly, 53 are listed in electoral rolls from 1930. They had both grown up in Bathurst where Bernard had run the Black Horse Hotel before coming to Sydney, where he worked as a barman. He married Mary Ann Shumack in 1909 in Sydney. They had two children, Alexander James and Mary Kathleen and adopted a daughter, Brenda.



The photos show Bernard Kelly with his daughter Kathleen on the verandah at 22 Eglinton Road and his wife Mary Ann Kelly.

They also shared the house with Mary Ann's brothers Alick and Francis Shumack. Francis Shumack is listed on electoral rolls in 1936-38 and Alick Shumack in 1936-54, both as labourers.

Alick Shumack was imprisoned in 1908, described as 5'3½" with grey eyes and brown hair and Roman Catholic. *Alick Shumack, 18, was charged with having used bad language in George-street,*

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Redfern also with having assaulted a constable... Constable Gilbert stated that on May 21 he was trying to arrest a man when Alick Shumack used bad language, and rushed at him, striking him in the face with his clenched fist. The men pushed him into a lane and then pulled him into the back yard of Shumack's house. There Shumack broke away from custody, and threw a billet of wood. He ducked, and the wood passed over his head. Then Shumack picked up an axe and rushed at him. After a struggle he managed to take the axe from him, and threw it down the yard. Shumack then ran into the house. He went up to the doorway of the back room to arrest Shumack, intending to handcuff his prisoners together. Shumack met him by throwing two large ornaments at him... Shumack then got a knife from the kitchen, and rushed at him with it, but his sister caught hold of him, and he took the knife from him. ... Witness seized him and brought him into the yard, but just at that moment Shumack's brother Forbes appeared on the scene, and pulled out a pocket knife. Forbes Shumack said to his brother Alick, "Put the boot into him, and I will help you." When he got his two prisoners into the street, Forbes Shumack picked up two large stones and gave them to his brother Alick, who hit witness with them ... Alick Shumack was sentenced to four months' imprisonment, and his brother Forbes was fined £2 (SMH 27 May 1908).

Bernard Kelly's oldest child, Alexander James Kelly, known as Alick, enlisted in the AIF on 27 August 1943 and served as a warrant officer class 2 with the 319 Light Aid Detachment. He was discharged on 1 January 1946. In 1947, he married Edna Joyce Collison (photo at right). Joyce enlisted in the WAAF in 1944 and served as an Aircraftswoman until her discharge in 1946.



Alexander James Kelly's mother died just before he returned home. *December 25 1945 at her residence 22 Eglinton road Glebe Mary Ann dearly beloved wife of Bernard Ambrose and beloved mother of Alick, Kathleen and Brenda (SMH 26 Dec 1945).*

His father Bernard died *November 21 1947 at 22 Eglinton Road Glebe Point beloved husband of the late Mary Ann Kelly and dear father of Alick, Kathleen and Brenda and father in law of Herb, Grimm and Joyce Kelly, aged 74 years (SMH 29 Nov 1947).*

The photo shows Alexander Kelly, front left and Joyce, front right at a Glebe Rowing Club ball held at the Glebe Police Boys Club. Alex rowed for



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Glebe Rowing Club, a tradition followed by his son. He also kept a horse in the grounds of the Joss House.

Alick Kelly was a mechanic. He worked at McCombe's Trailers and later for Fairfax at the Bay Street garage. He helped neighbours with car repairs. In 1950 he advertised *Buick Sedan 1933 excellent condition 8 tyres privately owned Saturday Sunday 22 Eglinton Rd Glebe (SMH 4 March 1950).*

The Kellys had three children, Ann Dorothy, Michael Bernard and Lynne Eunice Kelly, who grew up in Eglinton Road. The photo below shows Alexander Kelly with his son Michael and daughter Lynne in the backyard of Eglinton Road.



Michael Kelly, interviewed by Jeannette Knox in 2011, recalled there were many children in Eglinton Road when he grew up. Families felt safe and often left both front and back doors open. There was always plenty of fun to be made at home and billy-carts were popular. There was a strong sense of community and sharing and old people were respected. On Christmas Day children in Eglinton Road used to show each other the toys they had received.



Jubilee Park was a favourite place to play, preferred by their parents over the back lanes. The park was well-used, especially at weekends and everyone knew each other. In summer, there was cricket in the Park and they would sit in the grandstand and watch players like Richie Benaud and Alan Simpson, who would talk to them. Bands used to play in the Rotunda.

The photo taken in the late 1950s shows Michael, Lynne and Ann Kelly outside 22 Eglinton Road. All three children attended St James Primary School in Forest Lodge where the nuns taught the boys football. Anne and Lynn then went to St Scholastica's in Glebe and Michael to St Brendan's.

Most boys in Eglinton Road had after-school jobs and always gave the money they earned to their mothers.

Michael Kelly used to work at the markets, with a 3 am start and in the holidays worked in Tony Peruch's delicatessen in Glebe Point Road.

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Many of the women in Eglinton Road worked at Max Factors or in Stern's factory, which was previously on the same site at 431 Glebe Point Road.

Michael recalled the tram terminus was outside the Max Factor factory in Glebe Point Road. People dressed up to "go to town". The picture theatre was the Astor and he recalls that in 1960 "two bob" would cover the fare, a drink, the ticket and chips for going home. Church attendance was high and there were six masses on Sundays at St James. Michael served as altar boy at the 6 am mass.

Alexander James Kelly died at home on 23 December 1960, aged 51. His wife Joyce purchased the house in 1961 for £10,000 with a war service loan. She worked at several jobs, including at the timber yards and at Royston Boys Home in Glebe Point Road to support her family.

Joyce also took in boarders. A cousin, Margaret Jean Chapman, a nurse, is listed on the electoral rolls in 1955-58. She took up a position nursing in Lightning Ridge.

Her father, Wilfred Ernest Collison (pictured with his second wife Josie), came to live in Eglinton Road after his divorce and shared a room with his grandson Michael. Wilfred had served in the RAAF in the war. Three of the four children of his second marriage died as infants. Wilfred died in 1969.



Joyce's daughter, Ann Dorothy Kelly, died in a car accident on 19 February 1968, aged 19.

The 1970 electoral rolls for 22 Eglinton Road list Edna Joyce Rout, home duties, her son Michael Bernard Kelly, clerk, daughter Lynne Eunice Kelly, nurse and Albert Edward Rout, 54.

Albert Edward Rout, 54, was an engineer and a captain in the maintenance section of the broadcast section of the army in 1944-48. He was a widower and moved in as a boarder. He married Joyce Edna Kelly in 1972, not long before he died. Joyce continued to live in Eglinton Road until 1998 until she moved to a retirement home in Leichhardt. She died in 2001.

Rental property 1998-2001

22 Eglinton Road was sold in 1998 to John Norman Walton and D Walton, who rented it out. It was rented for some years to Andrew and Caroline. The house was sold in December 2010.

Sources

Photos of the Kelly family reproduced with the permission of Michael Kelly

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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/>

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Max Solling, [Grandeur and Grit: History of Glebe](#), Halstead Press, 2007