

Residents of 28 Eglinton Road Glebe

Smyth family 1911-15

The 1911 Sands Directory lists Mrs Clare Smyth at 28 Eglinton Road. Arthur Frank Smyth, clerk and Clare Smyth, home duties, are listed on the electoral rolls in 1913-15.

Arthur Manuel Francis Smyth and Clara Ann Robertson Clinton Neild were married in 1888 in Balmain when they were both 21. Clara was an only child. Her father, who died when she was a child, was a wealthy merchant and her mother held the licence of the Dundee Arms. Arthur's father was a senior customs officer and a friend of Clara's family. Clara had three sons, two of whom died as infants.

In 1900, Clara sued for a divorce from Arthur. *Evidence was given that the respondent had not worked for over twelve years. Respondent and another woman had for some time occupied a cottage together at Woollahra. His Honour granted a decree nisi returnable in a month (SMH 24 Nov 1900).*

In 1908 Arthur Manuel Francis Smyth was called upon to show cause why he should not support his wife, Clara Ann Robertson Clinton Smyth. *He admitted that he was married to the complainant, but stated that she had obtained a divorce. Mrs Smyth said the defendant was her husband. They had three children. Shortly after her marriage she came into £30,000, but that had all gone. The defendant and his people had spent it, and she had to depend on her relations for food and clothing. The defendant was a clerk employed by the North Coast Steam Navigation Company at £2 10/- per week and overtime. She proceeded against him in the Divorce Court, and a decree nisi had been granted, but had not been made absolute. The defendant went back to live with her. The witness had more money left to her, but that was also all gone. She prosecuted Smyth at the Central Police Court, and an order was made against him a month or six weeks ago. The defendant said "you will have to do for yourself. I cannot provide for two. I will allow you 5/- per week." On one occasion she pawned her boots in order to buy a hat. The defendant said he took his wife and his mother to a solicitor's office, and assigned his rights to his wife. That was two years after his marriage, and since then he had not handled his wife's money. All he had was what she gave him of her own free will. She was a spiritualist, and it was in connection with spiritualism that most of her money went. He did not know how many children a woman named Buchanan had to him. After further evidence, an order was made against Smyth for the payment of 15/- per week to his wife (The Advertiser 18 Nov 1908).*

Their financial position remained strained and they advertised for boarders. *Refined, clean home, private family, suit friends, terms 10s. 28 Eglinton rd, opp. Park (SMH 7 Oct 1911).*

In 1912 they again placed notices for boarders *Glebe Pt - Board and Residence, private, homely family soft wash, and mending 28 Eglinton rd (SMH 6 Mar 1912).*

More advertisements appeared in 1913 and 1914. *Glebe Point. 28 Eglinton-rd.-Refined quiet Home, private family, soft washing, mending £1 week (SMH 4 Feb 1914).*

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In 1915 they moved to 300 Glebe Point Road. Clara died *September 7 1929 at Duntroon Private hospital, Clara Ann Robertson Clinton Smyth, dearly loved only child of the late Allen Neild Esq. and Mrs Neild, Cove street Balmain (SMH 14 Sep 1929)*. Frank Arthur Smyth died in 1937.

Lindquist family 1913

Gustaf Albert Lindquist, 37 is listed on the electoral roll in 1913. He was married *on the 21st September, 1912, at St John's Glebe, Gustaf, eldest son of Captain Lindquist, 34 Mount-street, Perth, to Gertrude, eldest daughter of P T Hill, of Georgetown (Advertiser 8 Jan 1913)*.

They moved to Leura. He was a newsagent when he enlisted in 1916. He was 5'2" with hazel eyes and black hair and Presbyterian. He served as a private in the 33rd battalion in France.

William Winton 1914-5

William Winton is listed in Sands Directory in 1914-15

Steenson family 1916-17

Robert Joseph Steenson, 35, a railway employee and his wife Elsie May are listed on the electoral rolls in 1916-17. They were married in 1912 *April 10, at St. Vincent's RC Church, Ashfield, Robert J, second son of Mr and Mrs J Steenson, of Enfield, to Elsie M, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J Ephraim, of Croydon (late of Glebe Point) (SMH 27 Apr 1912)*.

They moved into Eglinton Road with their 2 year old daughter, Iris Veronica. Their son Vincent Joseph was born in 1917 while they lived in Glebe.

They later moved to 3 Surrey Street Stanmore. Robert Steenson died in 1929 and Elsie in 1941.

Frith family resident 1918-33

Joseph Frith, 44, moved into Eglinton Road with his wife Mary Ann Frith and mother Sarah Frith, 79. Joseph is listed a postal officer in electoral rolls in 1922-30 and in Sands Directories in 1918-30.

In 1887 Joseph migrated to New South Wales from Cheshire with his parents and worked for a printer. *Joseph Frith, 16 years of age, a printer's boy... was swinging on the chain of a lift in Clarence-street when he let go and fell on his head. The lad was taken to the Sydney Hospital, where on admission it was found he had received a concussion of the brain (SMH 10 May 1890)*.

Joseph Frith and Mary Ann Vaudrey were married in 1917 and moved into Eglinton Road soon afterwards. His mother, who lived with them, died *January 15 1923 at the residence of her son, Mr Joseph Frith, 28 Eglinton road, Glebe Point, Sarah Frith aged 88 years (SMH 16 Jan 1923)*.

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Joseph and Mary Ann Frith had two sons, John Edward born on 3 July 1918 and Colin Joseph born on 16 May 1920. Their only daughter, Doris Mary, was born on *September 25, 1922, at Nurse Farrell's private hospital, Glebe, to Mr and Mrs J Frith, of 28 Eglinton-road Glebe Point - a daughter (Doris Mary) (SMH 30 Sep 1922)*

Mary Ann's brother, Charles Armand Vaudrey, 27, plasterer, is listed on electoral rolls in 1922. He applied to enlist in 1916, described as 5'11" with brown eyes and hair and Anglican. He was rejected on medical grounds because of epileptic fits caused by an injury to his head in a fall from a horse. Charles married in 1922 and moved away from Glebe.

Joseph Frith advertised a phonograph and records for sale in 1924. *Edison Standard Phonograph 100 mixed records, cheap, J Frith 28 Eglinton Glebe Pt (SMH 3 Dec 1924).*

Mary Ann Frith died January 11, 1933, *at her residence 28 Eglinton-road, Glebe Point, Mary Ann (Polly) eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs E Vaudrey of 12 Kardella-avenue, Killara (SMH 12 Jan 1933).*

Joseph Frith moved to Burwood and re-married in 1948 in Glebe. He died in 1951.

Both of his sons served in the army. John Edward Frith served with the 2/10th battalion in 1940-44 and Colin Joseph Frith with the 2/4th Pioneer Battalion in 1941-42.

Hopwood, Corkett and Ross families 1934-54

James Hopwood, 26, carpenter and Joyce Margery Hopwood, 25, home duties are listed on the electoral rolls in 1934-54.

James Hopwood migrated to Australia from London and married Joyce Margery Corkett, a stenographer, in 1932. They lived with her mother and younger brother and sister.

Martha Mary Corkett, 52, was widowed. Her son Mervyn Harold Corkett worked as a storeman.

Martha's younger daughter, Ethel Mary Corkett, a shop assistant, married Walter Allan Ross, a carpenter, in 1936. He moved into Eglinton Road after their marriage.

All three men in the family enlisted in the army. Walter Allan Ross enlisted on 9 May 1941 and served as a craftsman in 1st AA workshop. After the war ended, he moved with his wife to Lidcombe.

James Hopwood enlisted on 27 December 1941. He was described as 5'9" tall, with blue eyes and fair hair and as an Anglican. He served in New Guinea with the 9th Field Company. He caught malaria and was discharged from the army on 20 November 1945.

Mervyn Harold Corkett enlisted on 5 November 1942 and was a driver in the 4th Australian Armoured Brigade. He was discharged on 3 January 1946 and lived at Eglinton Road again briefly, then moved with his mother to Ashfield.

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Martha Mary Corkett died *February 3, 1953, at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, of 107 Bland Street Ashfield, relict of the late George Robert Corkett and loving mother of Leonard (deceased) Joyce (Mrs Hopwood), Ethel (Mrs Ross), and Mervyn, dear mother-in-law of Eileen, Jim, and Wally, and fond grandmother of Leonard, Janice, Marie, Marjory, and James (SMH 4 Feb 1953).*

James and Joyce Hopwood had four children. Their daughter Dianne Louise died *May 26 1949 dearly beloved daughter of Mr and Mrs James Hopwood of 28 Eglinton Road, Glebe Point and dearly loved sister of Janice, Margery and James, aged 3½ years (SMH 28 May 1949).*

Michael Kelly, who also grew up in Eglinton Road, recalls that when the Hopwood children had a birthday, James Hopwood would load all the children in the Eglinton Road into his Fargo truck and take them down to Bay Street for an ice cream treat.

The Hopwoods moved to Greenacre in 1954 but continued to stay in touch with their former neighbours in Eglinton Road.

Scappatura family 1954-83

Vincenzo Carmelo Scappatura migrated to Australia from Italy in the 1950's and purchased 28 Eglinton Road in 1954. He worked on the railways. He spoke English but his wife, Maria Caterina, had limited fluency in English.

The Scappaturas had five children, Joe, Roy, Maria, Kay and Frank. In 1967, Joseph Scappatura purchased 26 Eglinton Road, the adjoining terrace.

Vincenzo Scappatura died *June 26 1983 late of Glebe, beloved husband of Maria, loved father of Joseph, Rocco, Maria, Caterina and Francesco. Sadly missed by all his relations and friends in Australia and Italy (SMH 28 June 1983).*

The Scappatura family rented the house out after their father died. .

Rental property 1984-88

In 1984-88, the house was a rental share house. The electoral rolls in 1984 include Gregory Stephen Ansen, electrical technician and Theodore Masselos, technical officer

Cathleen Sherry and Alanna Sherry 1988

Beverley and Shaun Sherry purchased the house in 1988 when their daughters were studying at the University of Sydney. Cathy Sherry graduated in law at the University of Sydney in 1992 and is a senior lecturer in law at the University of NSW. Alanna Sherry joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as a diplomat after she graduated.

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Rental property 1990-96

The house was rented out for several years until it was sold in 1996.

Rogers family 1996-2001

Jonathan C M Rogers and Megan Deirdre Webb, both from New Zealand, purchased 28 Eglinton Road in 1996. Their daughter Hannah and son Fergus were born while they were living in Glebe.

The house was sold in 2001.

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/>

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/>

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