

George Smith

Henry Smith used James Long's name

■ **James Long's** mother was **Eliza** (*nee* **Smith**). Her nephew **George**, aged "81 years and 5 months, penned some notes on October 17, 1914:

"As I, **George Smith**, Inspector under the *Sewers Act*, have been in this Colony of **South Australia** for over 32 years, who knows nothing of (his) Father's and Mother's life in dear old **Ireland**, I think it is advisable to leave on record some information regarding our family history as far as I know.

"But I am afraid that I shall fail in giving anything like a faithful history for two reasons, viz. (namely), first, that I have left the writing of this record to a very late period in my life when I have forgotten a good many things that would be useful and interesting to my children; and secondly, when at home in **Ireland** with my Father and Mother I did not pay much attention to what was spoken between them about their family.

"My Father (I have heard him say) was born in a village (I think) called **Tynagh** in the **County of Galway, Ireland**, where **Sir D. Daly's** (a late Governor of **South Australia**) family resided.

"My father's name was **Joseph**. He had one brother **Benjamin**, and two sisters **Eliza** and **Fanny** (or **Francis**). An elder brother of my Father died before I was born. (His name was) **Thomas**.

"My Grandfather was a carpenter and I believe all my granduncles were artisans or mechanics.

"They (that is the family) were staunch **Protestants, Church of Ireland** or **England**, and as I have often heard my Father say, may (have) come over from **England** with **Cromwell's** ironshoes or in the reign of **Charles I**.

"My Grandmother's maiden name was **Haskett**. She outlived my Grandfather nearly to my birth. And, of course, I never saw her or my Grandfather. It appears that my Grandmother came and resided in **Borrisokane, Co. Tipperary**, after her husband's death.

"I have heard my Father speak about the dangers he has undergone when he has been returning from **Tynagh** to **Borrisokane** after collecting the rent of the property left to my Grandmother at **Tynagh**.

"I visited **Borrisokane** when I

about five or six years of age with my **Aunt Fanny** first visiting a place called **Lorrha** where my **Aunt Eliza** was living with her husband **James Long** [the tutor]. By trade he also was clerk in the **Church**, being a good scholar and a man of ability.

"At **Borrisokane**, my uncle **Benjamin** resided; he carried on the business of a painter and glazier, having several good houses in the town.

"The only other person I remember seeing that (he) was related to me was **Aunt Hill** and her daughter. **Mrs Hill** was my Grandmother's sister.

"It appears that my Grandmother died during the terrible outbreak of cholera, which visited **Ireland** in 1832-33.

"My Mother and Father (came) down from **Dublin** to see her and in fact to attend to her, as her other children were so frightened of the infection that they almost deserted her, and left my Mother (being in the family way with me) to look after Grandmother alone.

"From **Borrisokane, Aunt Fanny** and I travelled to **Roscrea** and **Templemore** where my Mother's people were living. My Mother's maiden name was **White**, and from what I remember her speaking about, were at one time wealthy people, in fact **Gentlefolk**, but her part of the family came down in the world. I believe her Father was a **Master Saddler** by trade.

"My uncle **Joseph White**, my Mother's only brother, was when I visited **Templemore**, a **Master Painter**. He died before my Mother, of **dropsy**.

"He had several children but I cannot remember them. It was reported to me that one of his daughters had come to this Colony, but I never could find any tidings of her.

"There was a son also, named **Sydney White**, but I do not know what became of him.

"Now some information I have been given about **Henry Smith**, may be of interest.

"He was the eldest son of **Benjamin Smith** and his wife **Eliza** (*nee* **Powell**) and arrived at **Port Adelaide** from **Plymouth** on **S.S. Caucasian** on December 25, 1857, under the name of **James Long**.

He took the name of his cousin who had used his name (that is,

Henry Smith), when he came out on the *Hydaspes* in 1851 with **Benjamin** and **Eliza Smith**, and the rest of their family.

[Editor notes: One family historian says that a check at the **Maritime Museum** indicates **Henry Smith** arriving, using his own name.]

"It seems that **Henry** was considered unfit for assisted passage - he had a hump back said to have been caused by a fall in infancy when his step sisters threw him up and failed to catch him.

"**Henry** resumed his true name after arrival in **South Australia**. He died at age 68 on September 30, 1905, a lawyer.

"I have been told that the **James Long** who came out with the **Benjamin Smith** family was the son of **Catherine** and **Thomas Long**, and that he *never* changed his name back to **James Long**, but kept the name **Henry Smith**, adding the name **Augustus** to avoid confusion in the family.

"**Henry Augustus Smith** married a **Mary Amber** of a well-known family involved in municipal affairs in **Campbelltown, S.A.**; he was a sawyer.

"**Catherine** (*nee* **Powell**) and **Thomas Long** came out to **South Australia** on the *Birman* in 1840 with baby **William** and **Fanny Raugham**, aged 13 years, leaving their eldest son **James** in **Ireland**.

"**Thomas** may have been a brother of **James 'Lolly' Long**. He was a confectioner and miller by trade but farmed at **Dry Creek, Stockport** and **Peachey Belt (S.A.)**.

"It is believed he was sent to **Australia** by his father in an effort to manage alcoholism. He died aged 46 in 1860. At inquest, the cause of death was given as alcohol.

"**Benjamin** and **Eliza** (*nee* **Powell**) **Smith** had seven children. After arrival here they farmed at **Dr Creek, Stockport**, and later at **Minlacowrie** on **York Peninsula**. By August 15, 1986, they had 1305 descendants.

"**Benjamin** died at **Minlacowrie** in 1879 and his wife at **Telowie** in 1905, aged 95; she married **Benjamin** in 1835. I wonder whether she was sister to **Catherine Long**?

George Smith

“She out-survived her sisters **Mrs James Way** (of Buxton St, North Adelaide); and **Mrs Thomas Watson** (of Dry Creek, Stockport). Did **Catherine Long** re-marry to **Thomas Watson**?

“Another sister to **Benjamin** and **Joseph** (? **Mary**) married a **Mr Post**. They had a son, **John G Post**, born in Australia, who later settled and married in **Newark, New Jersey, USA**, and died January 20, 1919.

“**George** was witness to the second marriage of his father **Joseph** to **Catherine Arnold** in **Dublin**, March 27, 1854. He sailed from **Liverpool** on May 14, 1854, on **Carpentaria**, arriving at **Melbourne** on August 1, 1854.

“He sailed from **Melbourne** on August 13, and arrived at **Port Adelaide** on August 23, 1854.

“He apparently sailed out with his father and stepmother. They were met by **Benjamin Smith** at **Port Adelaide** in a bullock wagon.

“It was said that **Catherine** was not impressed. She expected a ‘hansom cab’, according to members of **Ben’s** family.

“It is believed that they initially stayed with **Thomas Long** and family at **Peachey Belt**. Later **Joseph** bought a house at 16 Hansen St (now Pultney St), **Adelaide**. He was my great great grandfather.

“He died January 5, 1871, leaving his wife and seven children.

“His eldest son by **Catherine**, **William**, C.E. (Civil Engineer?), moved to **Sydney** and lived at Abigail St (later Spencer St), **Summer Hill, Ashfield**, until about 1914.

“I am descended from his third son, **Sydney James** (1859-1900), whose daughter **Gertrude Maud Margaret Smith** (1889-1979), married by grandfather **Daniel Poon Num** (1972-1928) in 1908.

“**Daniel Num** was a wholesale banana merchant from some years in **Adelaide**. He left (at death) his wife with eight children, of whom seven are living. My father is a farmer 50 miles from **Mt Gambier**, and my brother is also a farmer, 20 miles from **Mt Gambier**.

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“I find since I wrote the first portion of the history that a very strange, I might say a romantic, revelation of my Mother’s pedigree has been revealed to me by a first cousin of mine who lived in **Liverpool, England**, and who died there some 10 years ago.

Family feud over funeral costs

George Smith drafted an angry letter to **James Long** on November 15, 1877, and may well have caused an irreversible breach between the cousins. **James** wanted a contribution of £10 towards the burial expenses of their **Aunt Fanny**.

George mentions that his father **Joseph** was host in **Dublin** (possibly at 148 Abbey St where he lived at the time of his second marriage to **Catherine Arnold** in March 1854) to **James Long Snr** and **Jnr**, **Fanny Long** and **Eliza Long Snr**.

Aunt Fanny lived with **George Smith** for nine months of his single life in **Adelaide** (he married **Mary Ann Ferguswon** in **Adelaide** on August 2, 1855), and with him for “at least 17 years” of his married life. Eventually, **George** fell out with his aunt over **George’s** children, despite **Fanny** having given her money to **Mary Ann Smith Jnr** (**George’s** eldest daughter), born Dec. 20, 1858, never married). **Fanny** went to **Ballarat** after sending to **James** for money. It appears she knew she was shortly to die, and would not accept back the money she had given to **Polly** (**Mary Ann Smith Jnr**).

“This cousin of mine was **Ellen Quigley**, maiden name **Tanner**, was the daughter of my Mother’s sister, formerly **Ellen White**.

“This **Ellen Quigley** wrote several letters to me (which are enclosed among some other documents relating to my Mother’s affairs). In these letters she stated that two ladies with whom my Mother (**Mary White**) resided with when a very young girl in the capacity of Nurse Girl, was not in reality a servant but was the step-sister of these two ladies whose names were **Mrs Lelise Foot** of 14 Upper Fitzwilliam St, **Dublin**; and **Mrs Thompson** of Baggott St, same city.

“This information was revealed to **E. Quigley**, her mother, shortly before her death.

“Further it appears that my Mother’s Father (**George White** of **Scotchraath House, Queen’s Country, Ireland**) was married twice. His first wife was a wealthy lady when she died.

“He married his first wife’s lady maid, a **Miss Hennessy**, who was a **Roman Catholic**.

“When she died the first wife’s children were very naughty to the second brood, and treated them none too well.

“I ought to have mentioned that the children of the second marriage were named **Ellen, Harriet, Joseph, Charlotte**, and my Mother, **Mary**, she being the youngest.

“Since writing the above I communicated with the **Irish Times** newspaper in **Dublin**, and from information I received I wrote to a gentleman in the **Queens County** named **Edward Gilbert White** of

Thirahan House, Bellacolla Queens County, Ireland.

“He replied to my letter and it explained all about the **White** family (note all the letters I received are all together in a parcel in deed box).

“All these letters go to show that my Mother’s father was **George White** of **Scotchraath House Queens County**, an estated gentleman and *not* a saddler as I was led to believe.

“**Mr E G White** also signs his last letter to me as ‘Your Affectionate Cousin’, thus acknowledging our relationship.

“**Mrs Sadie Taylor** of the **Square Tinahely, Co. Wicklow, Ireland**, also wrote on many letters (see parcel).

“She is a sister of **E.G. White**. She also acknowledges our relationship and states that the late **Peter White**, her father, and **Mr E G White’s** father, and I were first cousins.

“So if any of my children or grandchildren visit old **Ireland** they can claim relationship with the **Whites** of the **Queens County**, who according to **Burkes Landed Gentry**, owned the greater part of the **Queens County** at one time.

“The first **White** (**Charles**) settled at **Charleville**, having left **Oxford** in **England** about the year 1657 - any further information can be gleaned from a number of letters in parcel already mentioned.

“I have written all the above information, not with the idea of instilling pride in my family because of the gentility of their Grandmother’s ancestry, but to unravel a mystery which often provoked me.

“My Mother and her sisters evidently wanted to conceal their family pedigree from their husbands.”

George Smith

■ The relationship between **George Smith** and **James Long** was strained in later years.

George Smith - in a draft letter taking 21 pages in his letter book - refers to one of **James**' sisters, **Fanny Long**.

George says **Fanny Smith** supported **James** and **Fanny Long** in **Dublin**, before their 1851 journey to **Australia**.

The **Longs** were sent to **Uncle Ben (Smith)**, who came to **Adelaide** on the *Hydaspes* in 1851.

Fanny Smith was said to have given money to **James Long**'s mother when a letter came from **Western Australia**, before she went into **James**'s care at **Ballarat**.

After **Joseph Smith**'s first wife **Mary (nee White)** died in **Dublin** in 1853, his sister **Fanny** took charge of his house and persuaded **George** to come to **Adelaide**, lending him £20 passage money and about £20 expenses.

Joseph disapproved (wanting to go to **America** with his son) and

withheld £30 that **George** had saved from his apprenticeship wages from **Messrs Ross & Murray** of **Dublin**.

George says his aunt also stayed on occasion with her brother **Benjamin**, as well as with **Henry Smith**, and **Kate (Henry's sister?)**

Joseph did not get on with his sister - "it is too well known that he and my Aunt never could agree".

He did not support of her supporting other members of their family, with her 'hard earnings', **George Smith** wrote.