William Joseph and Ellen Josephine Elena Martin



Researched and compiled by Brett and Shellie Cummings 2023. Email: Brett@cummings.id.au

A big thankyou goes out to all the family who have helped by sharing photographs and stories to enable us to put together their life story. While every effort has been taken to accurately record our family's history from oral and factual sources, the passage of time has left many gaps in their life story that may forever remain unknown to their descendants. Brett Cummings (Great Grandson).

William Joseph and Ellen Josephine Elena Martin



William Joseph and Ellen Martin wedding day 1892.

William Joseph was born on 1 December 1865 at Coonatto Station in South Australia and baptised in the Coonatto Station Church on 25 December 1868 along with his brother Benjamin. He was the son of Michael Martin and Caroline McCudden. Michael was born 1841 in Ireland and died on 1 August 1903 at Hornsdale, South Australia. Caroline was born in 1845 in Londonderry, Ireland and died on 8 June 1890 in Adelaide, South Australia.

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William's baptism record from Catholic Church, Adelaide.

Ellen Josephine Elena Callary was born on 8 November 1871 in Gilbert, South Australia. She was the daughter of Philip Callary and Julia McAuliffe. Philip was born about 1834 and died on 19 March 1921 in Jamestown, South Australia. Philip was son of Thomas Callary and Margaret Reilly. Julia was born about 1831 and died on 25 January 1927 in Jamestown, South Australia. Julia was the daughter of Humphrey McAuliffe and Mary Keeffe.



Ellen Josephine Elena Callary baptism record from Catholic Church, Adelaide.

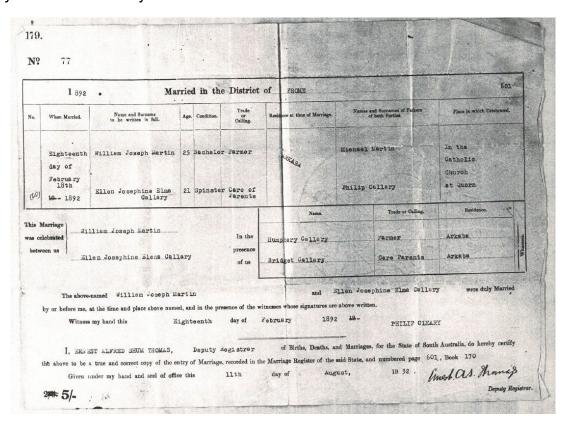


Church on Coonatto Station.



Coonatto Station homestead was about 4 miles north east of Hammond in the Flinders Ranges. Taken about 1860.

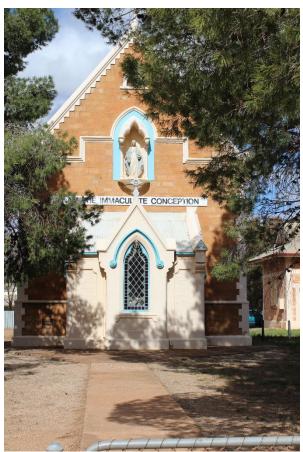
William and Ellen were married on 18 February 1892 in The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Quorn, South Australia. William was 27 years old and Ellen was 21 years old when they married.



William and Ellen's marriage certificate.

Australia Marriage	Index, 1788-1950 about Ellen Josephine Elma Callary
Name	: Ellen Josephine Elma Callary
Father's Name	: Philip Callary
Spouse Name	: William Joseph Martin
Spouse's Father' Name	
Marriage Date	: 18 Feb 1892
Marriage Place	: Quorn
Registration Place	: Frome, South Australia
Page Number	: 601
Volume Number	: 170





Catholic Church, Quorn where William and Ellen married. Photos: Brett Cummings 2012.

A Church member who showed us inside said that the church had not had major renovations since built. Inside there was a new crucifix on wall and the table had been moved away from the wall but other than that it was the same.

Ellen and William Martin had six children:

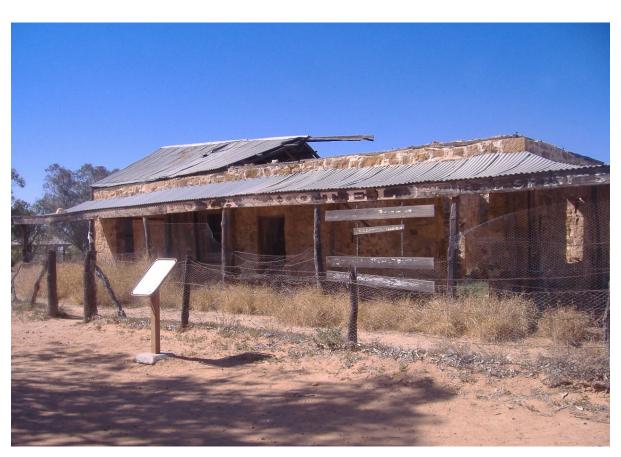
- 1. Philip Laurence Martin was born on 31 December 1892 in Arkaba, South Australia. He died at the age of four on 1 April 1897 in Marianville near Quorn, South Australia.
- 2. Myrtle Nellie Martin was born on 29 January 1895 in Farina, South Australia. She died on 18 October 1973 at Prospect in South Australia. She married Albert (Bert) Charles Wilson on 11 September 1913, in Farina, South Australia. He was the son of John Wilson and Emily Caroline Beer. Albert was born on 27 February 1891 in Gordon, South Australia and died on 5 December 1966 in Kilburn, Adelaide, South Australia. Both are buried in Dudley Park Cemetery in Adelaide, South Australia.
- 3. William Leslie Martin was born on 7 February 1899 in Birdsville, Queensland. He died on 3 June 1973 in Hawker, South Australia. He married Emily Elizabeth Chapman on 19 November 1928 in Farina, South Australia. Emily was the daughter of Charles Kemble Chapman and Elizabeth Ann Gill. Emily was born on 9 December 1906 in Blinman, South Australia and died on 19 February 1987 in Hawker, South Australia. They are both buried in the Hawker Cemetery.
- 4. Thomas Benjamin Martin was born on 19 April 1900 in Birdsville, Queensland. He died on 27 April 1973 in Jamestown, South Australia. He married Evelyn Mabel Reid on 19 September 1929 in Farina, South Australia. She was the daughter of Michael Reid and Sarah Russell. Evelyn was born on 1 October 1911 in Hawker, South Australia and died on 13 November 1980 in Jamestown, South Australia. Both are buried in the Jamestown Cemetery.
- 5. Eileen Elsie Martin was born on 3 August 1902 in Queensland. She never married. Eileen died on 1 January 1950 and was buried in Dudley Park Cemetery, South Australia.
- 6. Alice Lottie Martin was born on 13 July 1904 in Queensland. She never married. Alice died on 17 July 1979 in Port Pirie, South Australia and is buried in the Port Pirie Cemetery.

William worked his entire life out in the station country of South Australia and Queensland. By following where their children were born, it would seem they were working their way north from Quorn up the Birdsville track to Birdsville. Most likely working at different stations along the way. It took them seven years and three children to get there. It is now 1899.

Lyn Rowlands from the Wirrarri Visitor Centre, Birdsville advised that the Inland Mission was the local hospital and where the Martin children were born in Birdsville. It was located on Adelaide Road.



The main street, Adelaide Road, Birdsville. It is the track that all goods and mail arrived in Birdsville from Adelaide.



The Inland Mission on Adelaide Road, Birdsville. Photos: Brett Cummings 2012.



Birdsville Hotel.



William and Ellen's house in Birdsville. Photos: Brett Cummings 2012.

According to Birdsville locals this house was the home of William and Ellen Martin.

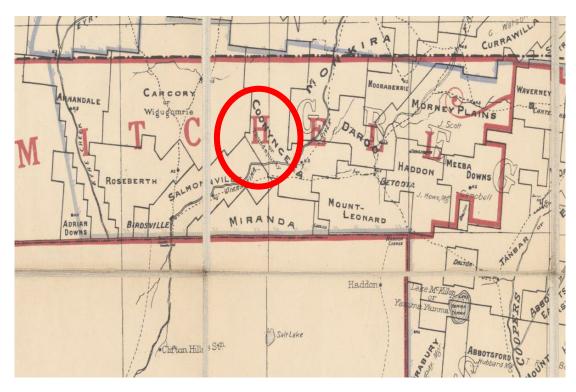
By all accounts William was a coach driver for Cobb and Co in Queensland. Cobb and Co were contracted by the Postmaster to deliver mail to many of the towns in western Queensland, including the Birdsville run.

The first time we find William on an Electoral Roll was in 1903. He was 37 years old, married and by then they had a family of five children. They were in located at Thundapurty Station in Queensland. His occupation was a coach driver and Ellen's was house duties.

Article below refers to a Martin driving the mail coach in 1903.

The Queenslander (Brisbane, Qld.: 1866 - 1939) / Sat 10 Jan 1903 / Page 63 / COUNTRY NEWS. FARRAR'S CREEK, December 10. There is a nice little party stuck up at Farjar's Oreck by floods. The mail coach. Birdsville, there, Mr. with Mitchell Rabbit Board), Trotman the North Gregory Board), Mr. E. Campbell (of Melbourne, en route to Bedowrie), Mr. Feehan (Dalgety and Co.'s representative), &c. Mr. Watson, of Currawilla, has provided for all under the circumstances. mail is more than a week behind time, and Martin, the coach-driver, reports that he had a very rough trip, and was caught in the rain between Moorriberrie and Currawilla. In crossing over one channel Miss Watson, passenger to Mackay, got her valuable hamper of clothes and other nicknacks washed off the coach and lost. The mails were saved, and as the flood is still rising it has been deemed advisable to stay. Everywhere one looks there are lake-like streams. This is the best rainfall for grass since 1898, and at the time of writing there are indications of further storms.

He worked on or out of Thundapurty Station for many years before moving to Farina. Thundapurty is marked on the map below.

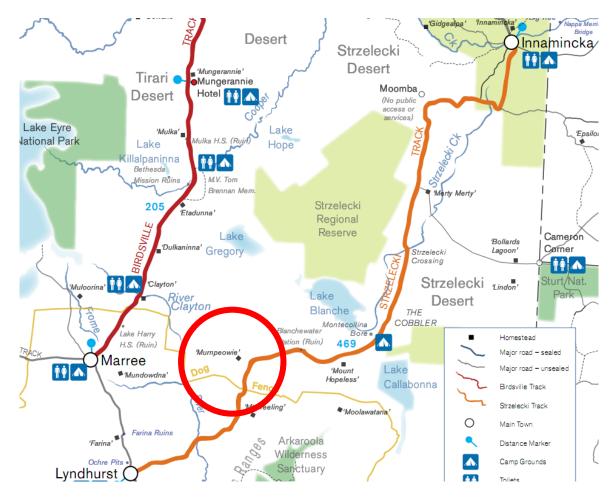


Location of Thundapurty Station north east of Birdsville.



Entrance to Durrie Station.

William and Ellen arrived in Farina around 1911 and soon after became the Mail Driver for Mr James McConville in January 1912. This job entail delivering the mail to the stations along the Strzelecki track that runs from Farina to Innamincka.



Map of Strzelecki track.

The following newspaper article describes the hardships faced by William delivering the mail.

RAIN, DELAYED MAILS, AND GOOD PROSPECTS.

PROSPECTS. FARINA, March 15.- The Innamineka mail eft here on Manday at 8 p.m. for Murapeowie station, and returned to-night a few hours after schedule time, having made a quick trip and regained all fost time. The contractor (J. Wills) bears a first class reputation as a good timekeeper, and his driver has fully uphend has repurn-tion on this occuse on. Uncontinuately the made north of Murupeowie slatten are not yet down. The service to innamineka coneasts of three cooches, the first running from Farina to Murnpeowie, 90 miles; the second from Murnpeowie to Box Fint, 60 miles; and the third from Box Fiat to Innammeka, 156 miles; making 200 miles in all From June minicka to Hadden Downer, 140 miles, is auother contract, with Coopers Crack in between, right at the Innomineka end. The Innamineka mails have not been received here for two weeks, and the Haddon Downs, Anabury, and Carculto Downs man for three weeks, consequently it is yet all un certainly as to further rain to these parts. Murnpeowie station, however, has had a serviceable fall, registering 84 points at the head station, and up to 100 points on other parts of the run. At Banchewater old stat on 2 in, were reg stered, and at Mount Hopeless 4 in., and the full at this latter place is doubtless what is desaying the topmains; unless the Cooper has come down quicker than expected and flooded Steeleck; Creek, in which case the mail from innamincks to flox Flat would have to make a con-iderable detour in order to get atound the fluod-waters.—Frest in coming on splendidly around Farina, the ground having already taken on a green tint, and the already taken on a green tint, and the growth of summer herbage and grass promisce to be abundant. In the manis stretches of country the feed is a ready long enough for the stock to get hold of. The Paternwana bore ream, fonded with ma-chinery and rations for the bore, made a start to day. Mr. Johnston : men will accompany the team. The eark of works (Mr. H. McCullough) a so less for the bore to fay in a buggy. The copper teams that were camped on the other side of the take have now got across safety, and delivered their landing. The rains will give this industry a great failip. Many promising dustry a great failp. Many promising slows will now be worked which had to be left idie before on account of the difficulty and expense of carting water to them. The country in the Yudnamutna discrict is very rough and macross his in places. In some of the mines the ore has to be packed on the lanks of donkeys, the teams being unable to get within a mile of two miles of the mine. In one particular mine, which is on the summer of a high hid, the proprietor had were caples rigged, and the bags of are were tied on these and thus sent to the foo: of the hill.

The mail route was broken into three sections, Farina to Murnpeowie a distance of 90 miles, then from Murnpeowie to Box Flat a distance of 60 miles and the last section from Box Flat to Innamincka, a distance of 150 miles. 300 miles in all.

William was the coach driver for the Farina to Murnpeowie section for 14 months. The original track went directly to many of the station homesteads.



The current track has been realigned to go around the homesteads. Murnpeowie station homestead is now 12 kilometre off the original track.

It proved to be a fateful job as he was killed by a lightning strike. How unlucky would you have to be. His death was well recorded in the newspapers of the day.



The worker quarters at Murnpeowie Station.
Photos: Brett Cummings 2012.



Remains of the shearing shed, Murnpeowie Station.



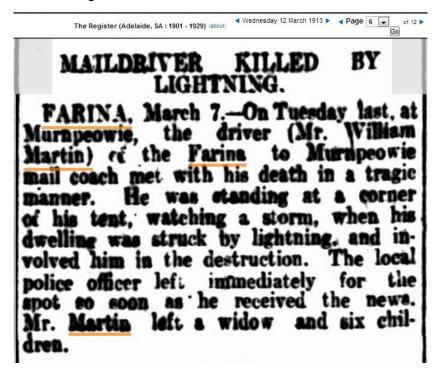
View looking back to the artisan bore behind Workers quarters.

Photos: Brett Cummings 2012.

William was killed near his tent that he had set up outside the worker quarters at Murnpeowie Station. His son, Thomas, told his family that the lightning had struck William's fob watch. The Station Manager told us there was an old tree near where the two small trees now stand at the side of the workers quarters and this was the location of William's tent. For whatever reason he would not sleep in the workers quarters.

The original Strzelecki track which William would have travelled to deliver the mail went straight past the workers quarters. In 2012, the current managers allowed us to leave the Station via the original track. This was a special treat to follow in William's footsteps.

William died on 4 March 1913 on Murnpeowie Station on the Strzelecki Track in South Australia while delivering the mail.





William Joseph Martin.

MURNPEOWIE MAIL DRIVER.

The driver of the mail from Murnneowie to Farina, who was struck by lightning on Friday and killed was Mr. William Martin, of Farina. He had been in the employ of Mr. McConville as mail driver since January, 1912. He was recognised as one of the best drivers in the north, and was about 49 years of age. He was very well-known at Birdsville, at which place he lived and was employed prior to entering the service of Mr. McConville. a widow and six children.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA: 1895 - 1954) (about) Saturday 15 March 1913 Page 41

TRAGIC HAPPENINGS

South Australia.

MAIL DRIVER STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

The Deputy Post - master - General received a telegram from Farina on March 7 stating that the Murnpeowie mail had not arrived at Farina, although 20 hours overdue, and that Mr. Miller, of Yudnamutno, had reported 2.6 inches of rain at the lastnamed place on Tuesday. Later in the day Mr. Waddy received a telegram from Farina saying that the Murnpeowie maildriver had been struck by lightning on Tuesday night and killed whilst in camp. All the mails had arrived safely at 2.45 p.m. by packhorse, in charge of W. Blin-man, a Murnpeowie station hand. The deceased maildriver, whose name was William Martin, was employed by Mr. James McConville, a mail contractor. He was a native of Farina, and was one of the best drivers in the north. He was also wellknown at Birdsville, at which place he lived and was employed prior to entering the service of Mr. McConville. He left a widow and six children.

Newspaper articles recording William's death.

ETURN THANKS.

W. J. MARTIN and FAMILY, of Farina, wish to express their sincere THANKS to all kind Friends and Relatives for letters and telegrams and floral tributes, especially Murapeowie and Lyndhurst and residents of the station, for their kindness to them in the loss they have suscained by the death of their beloved husband and father.

Ellen's acknowledgement of support after William's death.

Nº 2618	SOUTH AUSTRALIA
	The Office of the Principal Registrar
Fee: 3/-	of Births, Deaths, and Marriages,
	Adelaide, S.A.,
EXTRACT FROM DI	EATH REGISTRATION, Book No. 372 , Page 473
Name William J	Joseph MARTIN Age 46
	Farina Died on 4th March, 1913.
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William's death extract.

It is such a tragic story. William had only just established himself and family in Farina when his life was suddenly ended.

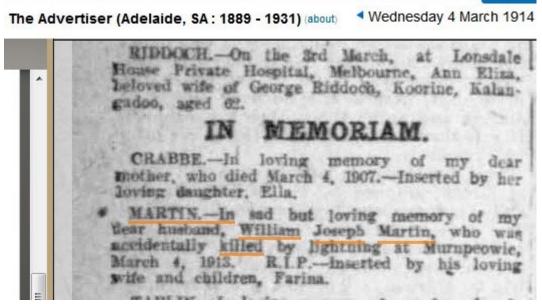


Farina Cemetery. Photo: Brett Cummings 2012.

According to sources including "Farina Gibbers to Ghost Town" by Rob Olston, William Joseph Martin is buried in an unmarked grave in the Farina Cemetery, South Australia.

Life would have already been hard for Ellen and with the loss of William it would have become much harder. The challenges ahead for Ellen raising a family of six in Farina must have seemed insurmountable at times. However, Ellen was up to it and with the help of the Farina community she made a life for herself and her family.

Her love for William endured as evident by the newspaper memorials she placed in later years.



Memorial to William in 1914.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA: 1889 - 1931) (about) Monday 17 April 1916 I

MARTIN.—In loving memory of William Joseph Martin, killed at Murropeowie on March 4, 1913.

R.I.P.

I think of him still as the same; I say,

He is not dead; he is just away.

I have spent many a lonely hour,

And shed many a tear as well.

—Inserted by his loving wife and family.

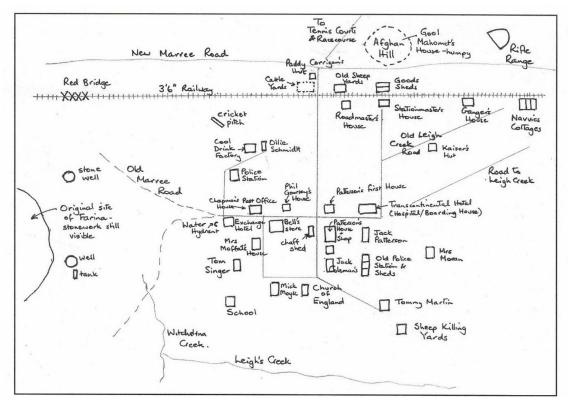
Memorial to William in 1916.

Ellen remained in Farina raising her children and was an active member of the community.



Ellen at Farina.

Farina townsite as recorded on a town map drawn by J Patterson taken from Farina from Gibbers to Ghost Town by R Olston.



Farina townsite.



Hunt family (Evelyn Reid's sister, Jane) Farina

Life was not easy for Ellen after William's death and it got a lot harder for her as she was diagnosed with breast cancer in December 1913.

A search of Admissions to Adelaide Hospital online, confirmed that Ellen Martin was admitted on the 29 December 1913 with breast cancer. Ellen was 36 years old. Ellen was discharged on the 13 January 1914.



Extract from Adelaide Hospital Admissions 1913.

What a year 1913 was for Ellen and her family.

In March the death of her husband, in September the marriage of daughter Myrtle and then in December Ellen had breast cancer and one breast removed. Ellen's world had forever changed.

Imagine returning to Farina, excited to be reunited with her children but she must have been in pain and uncertain of her future. Reading medical papers for back then, there was no follow up services for Ellen and success rates were very low. How amazing it is that Ellen lived until she was 77.

Ellen remained in Farina raising her children and was an active member of the community.

It is understood that Ellen survived by providing catering services and by being a greengrocer, providing provisions to locals and travellers.

In 1924, Ellen is recorded in the newspapers as providing supper for a family farewell and again in 1928 she is recorded as providing the supper arrangements for the Leap Year Ball. She was listed in the Sands and McDougall 1926 -1929 South Australian directory as a Greengrocer at Farina.

Quorn Mercury (SA: 1895 - 1954) / Fri 1 Feb 1924 / Page 3

the town.

On Friday evening, Jan. 24, Mr. and Mrs. Moffatt and family were the guests at a farewell social. Mr. Moffatt is an old resident of Farina, and has been transferred to Bowman's as leading packer, and the chairman (Mr. Buraton), in making a presentation of a cheque on behalf of the townspecple, and Mr. W. Russell, who presented Mr. Moffatt with a case of pipes on behalf of No. 3 Flying Gang, said what a

what a ross pirs. Prost would on to

songs were rendered by Mrs. Justin, Misses Danielsen and Davis, and Messrs. Payne, Hastings, Caldwell, and Helmes. The supper arrangements were ably carried out by Mrs. Martin.

loss Mr. and Mrs. Moffatt would be to Farina. Between the dances,

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA: 1895 - 1954) / Sat 10 Mar 1928 / Page 73

LEAP YEAR BALL

the most successful balls in the history of Farina was held on Friday evening, when a leap year ball, convened by Mrs. L. Payne and the Misses E. and A. Martin, took These ladies were assisted by dames R. M. Bell, E. J. Martin, and T. Dav.es, who took charge of the supper arrangements. Visitors were present from Maree, Mount Lyndhurst, Lyndhurst Siding, Copley, and Beltana. The surrounding stations also supplied their The hall was decorated in colored streamers, with a bell-shaped arch directly over the centre. Accordeon music was all was available, and those who supplied it were Messrs. A., M., and A. Johnston, Tom Bunting, J. Kite, L. Payne, M. Reid, and J. Parkin.



Alice Martin, Harry?, Eileen Martin and Ellen Martin at Farina.

Ellen's family grew up and eventually moved away from Farina.

It is told that Ellen moved to Jamestown with her youngest daughter, Alice in 1936 after a fierce storm hit Farina destroying much of the town including Ellen's house. The hard decision not to rebuild was made and she moved on.

Ellen's parents and some of her Aunts and Uncles on the Callary side already lived in the Jamestown and Belalie areas, so the move would have been very logical.

It is believed she initially moved in to a tin house on Gloucester Street, Jamestown before moving to a house on Vohr Street, Jamestown. Later she and Alice lived in a flat behind the Butcher shop in Ayre Street where they stayed for many years.

Ellen inherited a house in Cockburn Road from her Aunty Catherine Callary in 1941. Ellen never actually lived in the house. She let her son Thomas Martin and family live there. This was a very kind gesture. Ellen preferred to keep to herself and was not very involved with her children or grandchildren.



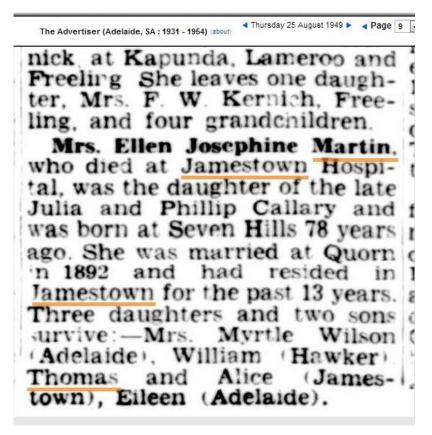
Captain Neale and his plane Satin Bird at Farina racecourse 1927.

It is likely that Ellen and some of her family are in this picture as it was sourced from Alice Martin collection.



Ellen with her mother Julia and unknown person in Jamestown.

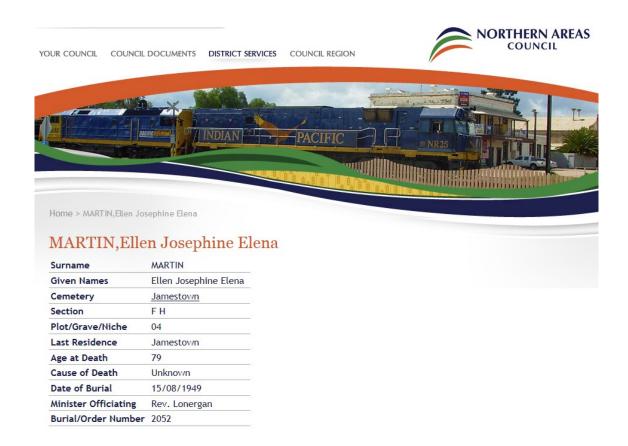
Ellen died 13 August 1949 in Jamestown, South Australia. She is buried in an unmarked grave in Jamestown Cemetery.



Ellen's death notice.

The Office of the Principal Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages,
9
Adelaide, S.A.J. 6 M1954
ATION, Book No. 744 , Page 4076
TIN Age 79
Died on 13th August, 1949
A. W. BOWDEN, Principal Registrar.

Ellen's death extract.



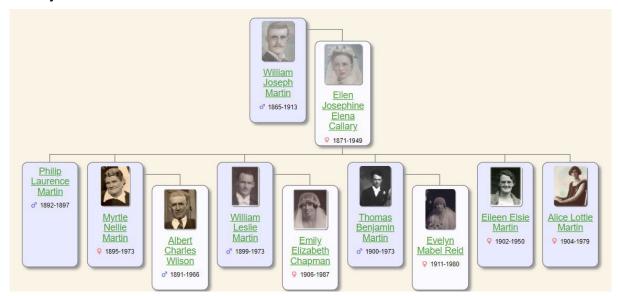
William was a true pioneer of central Australia where he lived and worked. He blazed trials across the outback moving and caring for animals, people and the mail as he went. Tragically, his life was cut short during a thunder storm on one fateful day in March, 1913.

Ellen was a pioneer in her own right. She lived and prospered in the harsh conditions that faced so many of the women of that time. She raised her family in a very harsh environment, often alone while William was away working and then after his death.

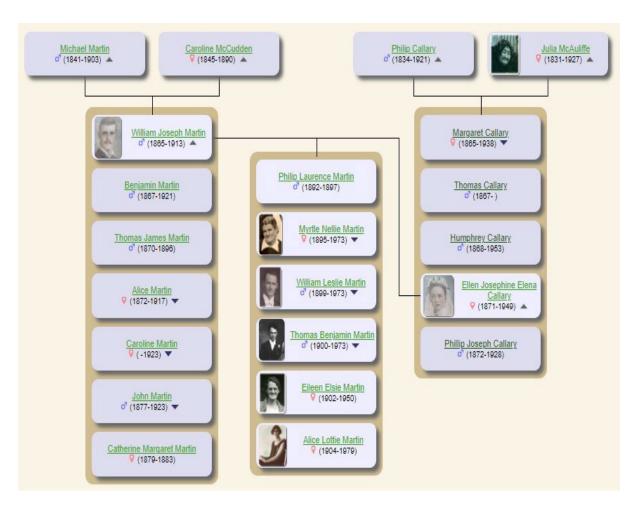
William and Ellen's pioneering spirit are great role models for those of us who follow.



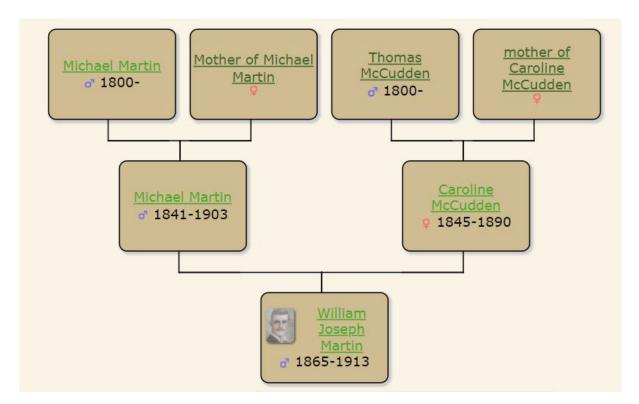
Family Trees.



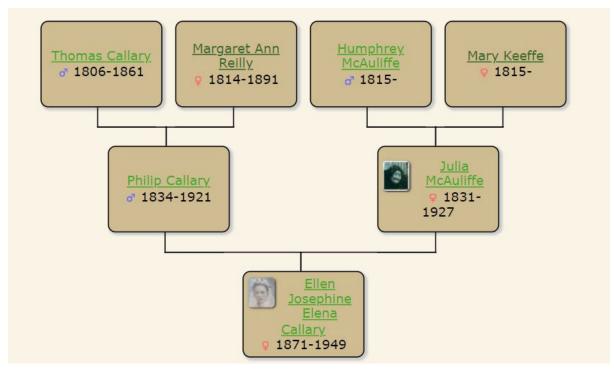
Family of William and Ellen.



William and Ellen's children and parents.



William's ancestors.



Ellen's ancestors.

End