



ARDLIE John Martin

Parents: John Ardlie and Anne Martin

Siblings:

Birth: 10 March 1793 Kelvedon, Essex, England

Marriage: 16 May 1825 Westminster Mary Ann Leighton, daughter of David Leighton and Eliza. Mary Ann b 1804 London d 28 September 1870 aged 66 years

Immigration: Sydney c 1839 but may not have stayed, then to Sydney in August 1841. Then overland to Port Phillip arriving in September 1841

Children:

1. John Henry b 27 April 1826 d 28 December 1894 m 1865 Marta Matilda Leslie
2. Edward b. 1828 d 1836
3. Robert William b 23 March 1830 m 1852 Elizabeth Jane Lowe
4. Mary Annie b 1832 d 1911 m 1856 John Briggs
5. Elizabeth b 1837 d 1914
6. William b 1843 d 1933
7. Maria Lucretia b 1845 d 1930

Place of Residence: *Wyton*, Warrnambool

Death & Burial: 13 February 1872 at his residence, *Wyton* - buried in Warrnambool Cemetery, Church of England Section, Row 10, Grave 56, along with Mary Ann. There are numerous members of the Ardlie Family buried in Graves 55, 56, 57 & 58.

Obituary:

Warrnambool Examiner Friday 16 February 1872

CAPTAIN J. M. ARDLIE died suddenly at his residence, *Wyton*, Warrnambool, on Tuesday morning last. During Friday he complained of a pain in his chest, and the attention of Dr Loftus was received, but no serious symptoms presented themselves. On Saturday he experienced an attack of spasms, but, although weak, attended church on Sunday last, morning and evening, also the Sunday School in the afternoon. During Monday he was still slightly unwell, but was at work in his garden, and retired to bed in his usual health - excepting a want of appetite. On Tuesday morning he rose soon after six o'clock, and went into the vineyard; and about eight he entered the bath-room. Mr W Ardlie's family having been waiting breakfast, and the old gentleman not appearing as usual, Mr. Ardlie, jun, proceeded to the bath-room, and found the door difficult to open. On pushing it he discovered his father sitting on the floor, with his back against the door. A towel was lying over his knees, and it would appear that the deceased had fallen whilst in the act of drying himself. Efforts were at once made to restore animation, but life was found to be extinct. As one of the oldest residents of the district, and a man very generally respected, a more than passing notice may be expected of the career of the late Captain Ardlie. He was born at Kelvedon, in Essex, on the 10th March, 1793, and was married at Westminster in May 1825. Five years afterwards he became commander of a vessel in the East India Company's service, in which he remained for about eight years. Subsequently he purchased several vessels in England, amongst which were the *Wyton* and *Lord Amherst*. In the former he traded for several years, and about 1839 he left for Australia, landing in Sydney. During 1841, Mr. Ardlie came overland to Victoria with a number of camels (some of which are now at Twofold Bay), also Burmese ponies, &c, and he afterwards became a resident at Moonee Ponds, near Melbourne. In 1850 Captain Ardlie was appointed Clerk of Petty Sessions and Postmaster at

Kilmore, and in 1852 he accepted the former appointment at Warrnambool, being also Clerk of the Peace and Registrar (for some time he acted as Harbour Master in Lady Bay). In 1868 he requested the Government to sanction his retirement under the Civil Service regulations, which was granted - Mr Robert Gibton, of Talbot, being appointed as his successor. A complimentary address, signed by the Police Magistrate and the local Justices, was presented to Mr. Ardlie on his leaving the public service (published in these columns at the time). The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon, and was very largely attended, members of all persuasions thus testifying to the high regard in which Captain Ardlie was held by this community. The body was conveyed into Christ Church and placed in the chancel, when a portion of the burial service was read by the Rev Dr Beamish, and at the Cemetery the following friends acted as pall-bearers:- Messrs F P Stevens, H Kemmis, A W Musgrove, George Barber, C A Cramer, and R Gibton. The Sunday School boys, with their teachers, were ranged inside the gates in single files, as the cortège passed through to the grave, near which were the girls attending the school, with their teachers. At the conclusion of the service, Dr Beamish delivered a feeling address, in which he alluded to the deceased as a pattern to be followed by his fellow-men, in living an active, upright, Christian life, referring to his many works of usefulness in connexion with the Church of England, and concluded by a reference to the young - in whose welfare the aged veteran had ever taken a very warm interest. In Captain Ardlie, the local Bible Society have lost a zealous secretary, and the inmates of our Asylum, with many others who have shared his benevolence, will regret the death, but revere the memory, of John Martin Ardlie.

Life: In 1853 J M Ardlie was one of the patrons of the National School; the school was very popular as the various denominations of religion were fairly represented. In August 1867, popular public readings started at Warrnambool, conducted by several local identities, including Ardlie.

In September 1868, John wrote a letter to the Editors of the *Warrnambool Examiner* stating his fond attachment to Warrnambool and making no apology for his opinion alluding to vessels stranded from neglect, or from want of means to prevent it. In part it reads:-

If the owners of coasting vessel are unable to afford them sufficient equipment, it were better that they disposed of them, that a more substantial class of owners might succeed as managers, men who would feel it their duty, as well as their interest, to have vessels working on this Southern coast well and sufficiently provided with anchors and chains capable of holding them on all emergencies, and that the best chain should not be less than 100 fathoms in length, the second chain of equal quality, half this length, and that no vessel should leave port without a spare anchor ... the holding ground is good, and I have never known a gale blowing home to the shore so strong as to drive a well found vessel on the beach. Nor is the swell so heavy as to endanger her safety, for a bed of kelp off the mouth of the Hopkins River breaks the force of the swell before it reaches the bay.

On 1 June 1869, Captain Ardlie was selected by the aboriginal community to a Committee for the Board for the Protection of Aborigines. John built a home on 9½ acres of land at Spring Gardens and named it 'Wyton'. He had gardens, an orchard and started a vineyard. A skilled and experienced vigneron from Madeira oversaw the cultivation and manufacture of the wines. He manufactured both red and white wines. Following his death, his son sold the property to the Sisters of Mercy to start a school.

Following John's death, Dr Beamish said of him in part: 'he was a religious man and one of the church's staunchest friends; as most of his experiences of his previous life had been on board ship, where for many years he had been in command ... the mellowing of age so softened his manners and his methods that the gruff and grim master mariner became a kindly, gentle, lovable old man'.