



BURKE Robert Bartlett

Parents: William Ulick Burke and Mary Christian Bartlett

Siblings:

Birth: c 1817 Versailles, France

Death: 18 June 1892 Casterton

Marriage: to Sarah Louisa Montgomery, on 1 August 1843 at St Francis Catholic Church, Melbourne.

It appears a second wedding ceremony was held in St James' Anglican Parish Church of Melbourne and Geelong, as Sarah had been brought up as an Anglican. Sarah died in 1891 at 76 years, the daughter of Robert Montgomery and Sarah

Immigration: Left Southampton on the *Fairlie* and arrived at Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land on 6 January 1837. He then came to Melbourne on the *Eagle* in 1839

Children:

1. Margaret Alicia (Meta) b 1844 d 1905
2. Mary Christina b 1845 d 1885
3. William Ulick b 1846 d 1883
4. Jane Deodata b 1848 d 1930
5. Sarah Louisa b 1850
6. Edmund Ludlow b 1852

Place of Residence: 294 Cardigan Street, Carlton

Death & Burial:

The Argus, Monday 20 June 1892

BURKE.- On the 18th inst, at Carlton, Robert Bartlett Burke, aged 74 years. Buried at Melbourne General Cemetery, Church of England Section Y, Grave 118.

Life: Robert Burke was educated at a French military college and then later at Bruce Castle in Tottenham, London. It was here, at the age of nineteen, he met two Archer brothers from Van Diemen's Land who gave him glowing accounts of bush life in the colony. He persuaded his father to allow him to return with them to Van Diemen's Land. Robert spent two years, possibly learning farming techniques, in Van Diemen's Land before coming to the mainland.

From 1842 Robert had land in partnership with Mr Greenwood at Muddy Creek (Casterton?). He married Sarah in 1843 and their first child was born there. When their second child was born they were at *Chetwynd Station* or *Muntham* (the original home of the Henty family). Their next four children, William, Jane, Sarah and Edmund were all born at Mount Shadwell Mortlake, the property of James Webster.

Robert Burke's license of *Mount Shadwell* run was gazetted in the Portland Bay District on 23 February 1849, the year the Websters departed for Scotland. According to Billis & Kenyon, the licence of Mount Shadwell run of 42,700 acres did not appear in the Burke name until 1853.

Robert associated himself with the activities of the Church of England after its formation in the Parish of Mortlake in 1850.

He became a Justice of the Peace in 1854.

Electoral lists show Robert Burke having freehold property in Timor Street, Warrnambool, and Hopkins River freehold, in 1854. He was elected to the Warrnambool District Road Board in this year. Later in the year he was elected chairman of the Board, only to retire in 1855. A jury list indicates he also held freehold property at Wangoom in 1855.

In August 1857 Robert was appointed Territorial Magistrate. He sold Hopkins River land in May 1861.

Robert became chairman of the Mortlake District Roads Board in 1861 and resigned in 1863.

In 1862 Robert was appointed Aboriginal Protector for Mount Shadwell. He was also acting Police Magistrate for eighteen months at this time. In 1864 Robert laid the foundation stone of St. James' Church on 20 acres of land that he gifted to the church. He was a liberal contributor to its funds.

The Burke family left Mortlake in 1866. Robert was presented with a silver teapot engraved with the words: *Presented to Bob Burke Esq JP as a mark of esteem on leaving the district of Mortlake January 18th 1866.*

After leaving Mortlake they had several places of abode shown in the Sands and McDougall Melbourne Directories: Hotham, St. Kilda, Carlton and Parkville.

The University of Melbourne's Calendar in the 1880s and 1890s shows that Robert Burke first worked there as an assistant in the Registrar's Office and then as secretary to the Medical School. His occupation at the time of his death was 'librarian'.

Burke Street in Mortlake recalls Robert, one of the district's earliest settlers.