

ANCESTRY CONNECTION.

Ancestry Link Point being the sisters Elizabeth and Sarah Ellen Copeland.

John (Jack) McCarthy married **ELIZABETH COPELAND** - sister of - **SARAH ELLEN COPELAND** (married **Richard Growney**) – Parents of **Maurice Growney**

Letter from Marg and Allan Dale: Brisbane Australia. Part 1:

Today, on a cold miserable day (rare!) in Brisbane, Australia, we have been once more trying to find out something about Allan's Mother's family. This search has been going on spasmodically for about 10 years. Here is what we know:

Allan's Mother, Elizabeth Ann McCarthy (Therefore Cousin of **Maurice Growney**) was born on 18th May 1899 in Liverpool to **John (Jack) McCarthy** and **Elizabeth (nee Copeland)**. (Therefore the aunty of **Maurice Growney**)

Mum told her family that her Mother died when she was very young - we assume only 1 or 2yrs old. It seems that Jack McCarthy later either married or lived with another lady, and Mum was not very happy growing up but we don't know why! The one thing she did tell was of being asked if she was "orange or green", by other kids, and being scared of saying the wrong thing and being bashed!

We obtained Jack & Elizabeth's marriage c/t and from this we know she was the daughter of Samuel Copeland, a porter. We checked the Census lists and believe that we have the right family:

- 1881: at 62 Vernon St. Liverpool:
- Samuel, age 35, Dock Porter, Born Rathfriend, Ireland
- Norra(should be Laura?), age 32, Born Holyhead, Wales
- John, age 7, born Liverpool
- Elizabeth, age 4, born Liverpool
- Sarah, age 1, born Liverpool.
- By 1891 they are at 20 Lowndes St. Liverpool, with Elizabeth aged 14, Sarah E, aged 11, and Robert aged 5.
- In 1895 there is the death of Laura Copeland aged 42, in Liverpool.
- In 1901, we did find a Samuel Copeland, Elizabeth (but it does not say McCarthy) married, and Robert aged 5 and Richard aged 15.

We can't figure out why Elizabeth would be there if her child, also Elizabeth, is not listed..... and we have not been able to find a death record of Elizabeth (Copeland/McCarthy).

Allan's Mother came to Australia in the early 20's to marry a chap she had known in Liverpool, but that didn't happen. In 1927 she returned to Liverpool with the intention of seeing her father, and then to return to Australia. However, on the ship she met a chap from London, Gordon Durlacher. He had been in Australia for a few years also but was returning to live in UK. Plans changed! They both returned in 1928 and were married in Melbourne. They had 4 children, Doris, Les, Richard and Allan. In 1947 their family name was changed by deed poll to Dale. We have had a marvellous time over the last 10 years discovering some amazing things about Allan's extended family, when he had always only known his Mum and Dad and siblings. In 1950 he and his Mum went to England, but her Dad had died shortly before they arrived. Allan was 10 years old. In 2001 and 2 we visited Liverpool and were thrilled to find - by fluke really, a first cousin of Mum's, Harry Midghall. In 2002 we met his son, Derek and his family, and daughter Sheila (and Tom Cleator). But the maternal side has been an unsolved mystery.

Just today, with a free bdm search we figured that Sarah Ellen Growney may well be the sister of Elizabeth Copeland. We found the birth record of Maurice and of Laurence. Then a google search found - wow - all these wonderful photos including one of Sarah Ellen!

If we are related and we do hope so, it would mean that Maurice and Allan's Mum, Betty, were first cousins.

Sorry to give you such a long email to read! We look forward to hearing from you!

Kind regards

Allan and Margaret Dale

Ph (7) 32848820

Part 2:

Hi Gerry

It was great to get your email and thank you very much for sending ours on to Pat and to Mike - we are looking forward to hearing whether they remember any mention of the Copeland family and if indeed we are on the right track!

We really hope so as we would love to be related to you all!! We have had a great time looking at all the photos in your website - wow, what a job! It is excellent though and very easy to follow. Well, Sarah Ellen (must have been known as Ellen) had 11 children it seems - and she lived a good long life. I wonder if she stayed in touch with her siblings - the brothers who were younger for example. I think I got them around the wrong way in my last email - Robert would have been 15 in 1901 and Richard was just 9, and then there was a John who was older. Allan's Mum, Elizabeth (Betty) Dale died in 1988. aged 89. She thought she was born in 1900 but our search at the library in Liverpool solved the mystery of not being able to find her birth record - she was born on 18th May 1899, and her parents were married shortly after that. Like many of us, Allan

regrets not asking his Mother about her childhood, and what she could tell him of her family. They always knew that her Mother was Elizabeth Copeland though. Allan and I have been together some 17 years only and we married in 2001. I am a bit of a nut on family history and since I retired in 2000, we have had a bit of time to follow some trails - and have found some marvellous stories. Now he has more relatives than me! My own Mum is still alive but in the past couple of months she has become quite confused - still knows us though. She was born in 1913, the same year as your Dad. I guess that Pat was named Laura after Sarah Ellen's Mother - and probably the Laurence was also after her - that is lovely. Hopefully Laura and Samuel Copeland will turn out to be the great grandparents you all share!

Kindest regards
Allan and Marg

Part 3:

Hello Gerry

Great to get your email and the lovely attachments! Sorry we didn't get to reply straight away - we had a friend staying with us, and have just taken him to the airport to fly to Norfolk Island where he will be working for the next 6 mths. It's a beautiful place but for many convicts who were taken there back in the early 1800's, it was of course a bit like hell on earth.

Please thank Maurice, Shaun and Pat for us - to read their accounts was fantastic. Pat (you surely must be named after your great grandmother Laura?) - thank you for such a lovely word picture of Sarah Ellen and of your childhood memories of her, and life in Liverpool. For Allan, it did sound rather like you were describing his Mum at times and his sister Doris at other times! Doris passed away in March this year - she was 80 and had suffered from emphysema for quite some time. She knew it was a legacy of years of smoking (she said she started when she was nursing and didn't stop till she was forced to). Doris, like her Mum was tiny. She would have been no more than 5 ft. I'll send a photo of Allan, Marg and Doris when we visited her in Perth, WA, in Nov 08. Now Allan is about 5'4" these days, and Marg would be 5'3" (we are shrinking fast!!) so you can how small Doris was. You could definitely say she was feisty! She loved painting, books, poetry and travel. When she was in her mid 60's she spent 6 mths in the UK, bought a car, and travelled around staying in YHAs. A real goer who didn't have it easy in earlier life, but who had a ball as she got older! She has 4 children, Neville, Chris, David and Elizabeth (Libby) so the Elizabeth name lives on. All the kids are tiny, but Libby and David especially are just lovely.

Allan also has a lovely brother, Les who is 79 and lives in Geelong - he is the tallest of the siblings (about 5'7) and he is such a nice gentle man. We are going to send on your email to him via his granddaughter (as you do!) Les has been battling cancer for the last 18 mths and things are not good, but he is stoic. He is very keen to read what we

discover! There is another brother, Richard (Dick) who still lives in the old family house in Geelong and is very much a hermit. He is very tiny - would be less than 5ft.

Allan says his Mum had a great sense of humour. She was 4ft 11 and a half - and don't forget the half! She would say "there's not many people my size much bigger"! She had curly red hair and we can see that your Katherine also has lovely red hair, Gerry.

The story goes that Dad (Gordon) followed this shapely pair of legs up the gangplank and that was that! It is only really since Doris went to England that the family got to know that Dad must have been Jewish. His identical twin brother, Les, had come to Australia as a 16 yr old in Dec 1912 and then joined up in WW1. Dad was still in London, and he too joined up in 1915 but in the British Army. They both served in France and we have a photo of them taken in Paris in 1917. Les died from influenza in Feb 1919 and is buried in a war grave in Willesden Jewish Cemetery. Their parents were both dead by then (but that is another story) and Dad came out to Australia to meet his brother's friends and to try to cope with the death. When he met Betty and they came back to marry here, he never said a word of his Jewish upbringing to his kids. It was like they just started their lives anew. Since then we have found out so much, including that he had half brothers and sisters, two from his Mother (that he would have known of) and six from his Father (that he never knew of). The Mother had remarried before her early death at 32 - to a Gentile named Gus Webb. The 2 little children she had were Olive and Henry Webb - both became actors but Olive changed her name to Rita Webb. Luckily we have now been able to see this raucous, short, plump aunt in various old comedy shows! Maybe Betty & Gordon made a pact to put religion aside and just lead good honest and loving lives, which they certainly did

Just on denominations - it must have been dreadful for everyone who had to bear the brunt of the Protestant/Catholic thing and we thank goodness that most of that is now in the past. Pat, your own memories of this must have been so like what Betty experienced and your words have given us such an insight into life in Liverpool pre and post war. We think that maybe Jack McCarthy was Protestant - or maybe the Copelands were? We have obtained the marriage c/t of Elizabeth Copeland to Jack McCarthy - and it was at St. Jude's Church which we think must have been Anglican. It is not there any more and we found the information with the help of librarians at the Liverpool library. That's when we found out that Betty was a year older than she ever knew she was, having been born in 1899 and not 1900 - in fact she was christened the day before her parents were married. We loved reading of Sarah Ellen's life - a hard one for sure, but surrounded by a loving family, she in turn was obviously much loved. Boy, they made them tough in those days. Bread and dripping were highlights in many homes here too - my Mum says that was a special treat! We owe that generation so much, don't we? Thank you for telling us also, where Sam Copeland came from in Ireland - that had been another mystery for us - and we would like to be able to visit there. The Census records state that Laura Copeland was born in Holyhead, so the Welsh have got a good look in there too! Just on ages - there is a Sarah Copeland born in Liverpool in 1880 which would tie in with the 1881 and 1891 census records. There is a Sarah Ellen Copeland born in Auckland in 1879 - but do you think the first record is

your Sarah Ellen? But then, was she born in Wales you think? Or maybe that was Laura?

PS Allan says to tell you that when his parents changed the surname from Durlacher to Dale (and we only have theories why that name) they didn't do him any favours - as a kid then everyone knew the Robin Hood story. His name is Allan Arthur Dale so he is Allan A Dale as in the wandering minstrel. Quite the butt of a few jokes!

Date Of Last Entry: July 20th 2010