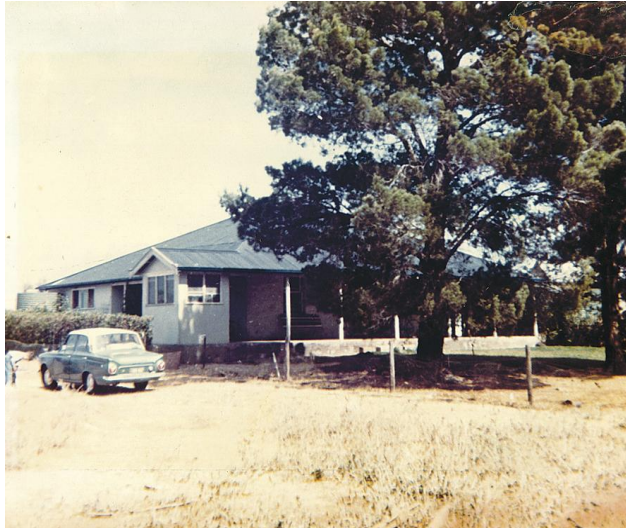


## North Descendants History Book: Mary Ellen North

Mary was born on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1901 at Hero & Rosina's home, Newland Grange



Homestead at Colton on the Eyre Peninsula.

**This photo [1] Newland Grange Circa 1970.**

At the time of her birth, she had seven older siblings, Alex 15yo; Myrtle 13yo; Olive 10yo; Monica 8yo; Clarrie 6yo; James 4yo and Michael 2yo.

So she was the eighth child of eleven and spent her early years at home with her mum and elder siblings and when she turned five in 1916 she started school at Colton School along with her siblings.

The North children all walked to school from Newland Grange along the Flinders Highway which was a four mile trip each way.

**This photo [2] the Colton Schoolhouse Circa 2009 now a private residence.**



When she was old enough to leave school, she helped her mum at home and spent her some of her teenage years helping her elder brother Alex and his wife Agatha

and also her elder sister Myrtle and her husband Alec McEvoy when they started their families.

**This photo [3] Mary & her brother James (Jim) North, Circa 1922.**



When Mary was about twenty three years of age (from Evie Nelson's book "Getting By, a South Australian Story") she was asked by Alec and Myrtle to go and stay with them at Little Swamp near Pt Lincoln, where they were the licensees for the Sportsmans Arms Hotel. Mary was to work in the hotel, helping Myrtle with the cooking and keeping the rooms clean and tidy. Mary had never had a paid job until now and wanted to earn some money for herself.



She was also interested in a young school teacher, Eric Kelly who had worked at Colton School for a couple of years. He had been transferred to a school on the Lower Eyre Peninsula and so he visited Mary frequently at Little Swamp.

**This photo [4] Eric Kelly, Circa 1920.**

Mary worked at the hotel with Myrtle and also travelled to Colton when Rosina needed her help until her marriage to Eric in 1925. It is now January of 1925 and Hero and Rosina refused to pay for the wedding unless it was held at Colton, but Mary wanted the wedding at Pt Lincoln, so Myrtle and Alec provided the food and the venue at their hotel after the wedding ceremony at Pt Lincoln Catholic Church.



**This photo [5] Mary & Eric Kelly, Circa 1925.**

None of Mary or Eric's families attended, Eric having broken a promise to his dying mother a few years earlier that he would never marry a Catholic girl, his family had not forgiven him. Mary's family had obviously not forgiven her for not wanting her wedding at Colton. Myrtle had wanted the wedding to be special for Mary and Eric, so she had decorated the main dining room of the hotel and set the tables with her finest tableware and friends had supplied fresh flowers from their gardens.

Eric's first teaching appointment when he was just eighteen years old was at Lyndhurst, north of Copley, he then taught at Colton for two years and now Eric with his new wife Mary were on their way to Winulta on the Yorke Peninsula.

The following year on the seventh of April 1926,

their first child Sheila Mary was born at Ardrossan Hospital, which was about fifteen miles south of their home at Winulta on the Yorke Peninsula.



**This photo [6] Rosina North and Shiela Kelly, Circa 1927.**

A few years later on twelfth of October 1930 their second child Brian James was born at Port Lincoln Hospital.

We presume that Eric & Mary had been transferred back there at the time as it would have been a long drive from Winulta for a woman in labour.

We know that Mary also became a teacher and presume that she would have gained her qualifications with Eric's assistance. As teacher's salaries were very low at the time and rental accommodation was expensive, the second income would have helped considerably. Because teachers were posted to towns all over South Australia, it was not considered a good

option to buy a house and so they had to pay the inflated rents wherever they went.

**This photo [7] Brian Kelly, Circa 1931.**



Mary and Eric both had numerous teaching positions after their children were born, among them were the townships of Stirling North, Hallett and Mount Bryan.

Meanwhile their children were growing up and in 1939 Sheila was enrolled at Cabra or Mercedes Catholic College in Adelaide as a boarding student.

That same year, in April 1939 Mary received word from her sister Myrtle that their mum Rosina was dying. Hero & Rosina had sold up the farm at Newland Grange and moved in with Alec and Myrtle at their Cheltenham home when Rosina became frail with diabetes and heart problems. They had only been there a few months when Rosina became critical and Myrtle and Mary were at her bedside when she passed away. Hero stayed with Alec and Myrtle and was almost blind when he died in December 1940.

A few years later in 1943 Brian was enrolled at Rostrevor Catholic College in Adelaide, also as a boarding student where he remained until 1946 to earn his intermediate certificate.

Brian's first job in 1947 after leaving school was at the Lands Title Offices in Adelaide as a trainee draughtsman while he was living at a boarding house in North Adelaide. His career as a draughtsman was short lived as he said it would take many years to get anywhere in the Lands Title Offices because he would have to wait for all the older blokes to retire.

He was pondering his future and wanted to see his parents and so he decided to go to Mount Bryan for the weekend to see Eric and Mary, when the car he was a passenger in rolled over, severely injuring Brian. The doctor worked frantically for fourteen hours to relieve pressure on Brian's brain and had to cut away some of his fractured skull, eventually replacing it with a stainless steel plate. He was not initially expected to survive, but his determination prevailed and in time he recovered, six to twelve months we believe.

After his recovery in 1952 he did not return to his previous job and started a new job at Farmers Union Head Office in Adelaide as an office clerk. While working here he met Pearl Craker who worked at the GPO nearby, after being introduced at a local dance.

Pearl was the first of three children of Alan and Daphne Craker, born in 1932 at Norwood in South Australia. Pearl grew up in the Magill area, living firstly at St Morris and then at 26 Jervois Street Magill and going to Magill Primary School and then Norwood Technical High School. Her schooling was put on hold early in 1946 when her mum Daphne was diagnosed with cancer. There being nothing more that the doctors could do, Daphne was sent home and Pearl did not want to leave her side. Daphne passed away in August of that year at the very young age of thirty three years. The following year Pearl did go back to Norwood Tech for a further twelve months and then in 1948 she enlisted at Peacock's Comptometer School in Adelaide for a twelve month course in comptometer training. On gaining her certificate she was employed at John Martins in Rundle Street Adelaide in the costing department. After about three years she moved on and went to work in the pay office at the G.P.O in Adelaide, where she worked until her marriage to Brian.

**This photo [8] Mary & Eric Kelly, Circa 1950.**



Meanwhile Eric and Mary moved to Gilles Plains in Adelaide to be closer to their children but Eric had not been feeling well recently and was soon diagnosed with cancer, he passed away on thirteenth January 1953 aged fifty two years. He was laid to rest at Cheltenham Cemetery.

Brian and Pearl were married the same year on twentieth June 1953 and later that year their first child Michael was born in Adelaide.

In 1954 Brian and Pearl moved to Gawler where Brian worked as an agent for T & G Insurance selling insurance door to door. Their second child Annette was born the following year at Gawler. Pearl did not really like Gawler very much, it was too far away from family and friends, she felt isolated, so they moved back to Adelaide soon after.



**This photo [9] Brian & Pearl Kelly, Circa 1953.**

Brian then got a job at Cottées driving a delivery van while he and Pearl lived with Mary who had moved from Gilles Plains to Seaton Park. Their third child Karyn was born in 1956 and the following year their Housing Trust home became available in Flemming Crescent at Mansfield Park.

Mary was working at the Spastic Centre of South Australia in the mid 1950's, teaching arts and crafts to disabled children. She also kept busy visiting and looking after her grandchildren. She was a competent pianist and many special days can be remember by her grandchildren when they sat around her piano singing all the classic old songs that she loved and knew. Mary's sisters Rose Holton, Cecilia Womersley and Monica Dowden would visit from Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania whenever they could and she often met up with local siblings Myrtle and Alec McEvoy from Semaphore, Olive Porter from Kapunda, Jim and Doris North from Adelaide, Mick and Mavis North from Findon and Iris and Bill Jackson from Enfield.

Brian started a new job in 1957 and eventually working his way up to leading hand at the Philips television factory at Hendon. He used to walk to work from Mansfield Park and back home daily for almost six years. While living at Flemming Crescent, Brian and Pearl welcomed another three children into their family, Dianne in 1958, Pauline in 1960 and Linda in 1962.

They then moved to a new home in Hampshire Street Mansfield Park and Brian started work for Peters Ice Cream driving a truck delivering ice cream to shops throughout Adelaide metropolitan area. But there was something missing in their lives after moving to a bigger home, so they decided to have some more children, six more to be exact, Julie in 1963, Rosemary in 1966, Anthony in 1967, Joanne in 1968, Peter in 1970 and Christine in 1974, their brood was now complete, an even dozen.

About 1968 Brian bought a truck from the local milk vendor (Mr. McEvoy) and he started working for himself, buying and selling scrap metals which he continued until debilitating asthma and back/neck injuries forced him to stop in the late 1970's.

Mary eventually succumbed to Alzheimer's disease and moved into Acacia Court Aged Care Home in 1981 where she remained until her death in 1991 aged ninety years. She was laid to rest with her husband Eric at Cheltenham Cemetery, not far from her parents Hero & Rosina North.

Brian and Pearl made one last move in 1985, this time a bit further afield, to Craigie a suburb in the northern metropolitan area of Perth in Western Australia. Here they purchased a four bedroom home and lived there with their children Anthony, Peter & Christine. Eldest daughter Annette was already living in Western Australia with her family at the time, in a suburb nearby called Kingsley. Julie and Rosemary also joined the west clan eventually, leaving Michael, Karyn, Dianne, Pauline & Joanne and their families in Adelaide and Linda and her family moved to St. Helena a suburb of Melbourne.

**This photo [10] Pearl Kelly with her 12 children, Circa 2004.**



Brian passed away in 2004 aged seventy four years after a lengthy stay in a nursing home, he also suffered from Alzheimer's disease. He was survived by his wife Pearl who now lives in a retirement village at Kingsley, Western Australia and their twelve children, twelve in-law children, forty three grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren.

Written & researched by Mario Jaspers. December 2010

Information supplied by Pearl Kelly, Dianne Jaspers and Evie Nelson.

**[1][3][5][8] photos supplied by Shekhinah Morgan**

**[2][10] photos supplied by Mario Jaspers**

**[4][7][9] photos supplied by Pearl Kelly**

**[6] photo supplied by Kay Lennell**