

"Fairwinds", 117 Henrietta Street,
Waverley, New South Wales, 2024
Monday, 5th April 1999

Dear Bill, Darlene, James, Ben, and Matt,

Thank you Bill for your letter and attachments nearly a month ago. Very interesting to learn about the relations on my mother's side. Yes I have obtained my mother's birth certificate (copy enclosed) and also enclose a copy of her death certificate. (I think I showed you the "original" when you were here in January.) Isabell and I went to look at 111 Underwood Street Paddington, and found it to be a nicely kept tenement in a long street running parallel with Oxford Street, Paddington in the section which has all the shops in it.

I remember Aunt Maud, of course, but never knew my grandmother Florence. Pictures of her were shown to me and she was very well dressed with a preference for very large hats. I was told she was a real lady. I do remember an Aunt Emily, but only as one of the numerous Aunts in the family, without knowing to whom they belonged or how they fitted in.

I rang Joy, but she cannot remember much. I told her that she was flower girl at the wedding of Rita and Gerald McKittrick, and Joy said it was more likely to be "train bearer". Of course, Joy was very young at the time we visited the Strugnells.

I remember Rita's brother Ray Strugnell with his tanned round face and seemed to be very sports minded and active in boating. My brother Erik spent time with him when he was young.

There are 9 Strugnells in the Sydney phone book including R. S. Strugnell at Killarney Heights (9451 3878). I rang him and it was indeed Ray and for a 92 year old, he has a good memory. We were on the phone for over ½ an hour. He was a major in the Army and mentioned John Lewis (Aunt Irene's husband) as being his jeep driver during the war. I asked whether Irene's mother Emily was a sister of Maud and Florence, and he said yes. I asked him whether his mother Maud had any brothers. "Oh yes", he said, Herbert Hercules Chard, Ira Chard, and Arthur Chard. H. H. Chard has a son also named Herbert Hercules who recently retired from QANTAS

and is living up north (first he said Murwillumbah, then he changed that to Tweed Heads).

I asked Ray whether any of his relatives have researched family history. "Oh yes", he said - Phillip and Kay Strugnell recently went to England for that purpose ("scrutiny") and have traced the family back to 1603!. There is a P V Strugnell in the phone book as phone number 9451 3719, and the address 4 Myra Street, Frenchs Forest coincides with the address Ray gave me.

I mentioned Rita's daughter Suzanne who was living at Turramurra. Suzanne has been in hospital for a while and cannot do much now.

Ray Strugnell and his wife Elva (married 61 years - died 5 years ago) had 3 boys only - Stephen, Geoffrey and Phillip. Phillip lives in Perth (been there about 40 years or more) and one of the other sons died from the Ross River virus near Penrith about 10 years ago.

Aunt Emily married Alf Asbury and had two children, Claude and Irene.

Florence Chard was married to [Albert Webb](#) who was a "Gambler". I said wool classer. Ray said "Yes, but a big gambler." He descended from the Grace family, Albert Webb's mother being one of the daughters in the Grace family.

Ray Strugnell also gave me the name Myra Chard who lived at Waverley (119 Henrietta Street!) and who married Mr Surridge and they had 2 children. I think Myra is another of Maud's sisters. I asked Isabell but she says it is before her time for anybody named Surridge to have been next door. She doesn't know the name.

Apart from other reminiscences, that's about all I got from Ray Strugnell. He was very friendly and invited me to call. He did not want to take my phone no. etc. because he cannot see well enough.

As to the Chards, there are over 50 in the Sydney telephone book.

I had planned to visit Waverley cemetery because of it being a place with a lot of famous people. I will also look for Rebecca Sarah Charsley Chard in the C of E section.

The fact that we may not be a direct descendent of JRM Chard does not concern me. You say he has no descendents. The fact that we are related is sufficient as an item of interest.

Looking through the copies of the family tree I note that you have Isabell's first name as Ester on Family [Chart 1](#). It should be ESTHER. Her birth date is 13 February 1928. The marriage was in the Uniting Church.

Family [Chart 2](#) - my father's name should be shown as John James Anderson (Jim) in both instances. I think Murray was born in a private hospital in Leura.

Family [Chart 7](#) - I believe my mother died in St George Hospital, Kogarah. The family lived at South Hurstville at the time.

Family [Chart 51](#) - Joan Lewis married Stan Stanton, and died a few years later, much to the grief of Aunt Irene of course. ([Chart 53](#)).

I leave to you to adjust [Chart 1215](#). I did not think to ask Ray Strugnell about his grandparents. Sorry about that.

Well I had better finish this letter. I have been writing it, off and on, all day and it is now 9:30 pm.

Sorry to be so late with this reply.

Our plans are still in place to be in Brisbane for the last 2 weeks in May, staying at the Story Bridge Motel, Kangaroo Point until Sunday morning 23rd May. Then we will come to you and Darlene for the night of 23, 24 and 25th May. On Wednesday 26th May the activities start at 10 am firstly at the OFS Project Hall, Kitchener Road, Kedron, but mainly at the Walter Burnett Building, Exhibition Grounds, Gregory Terrace, Fortitude Valley. Isabell and I are booked into the Albert Park Hotel, 551 Wickham Terrace, this being one of the recommended accommodation places. We are booked there from Wednesday to Saturday inclusive. There is some fine tuning going on with these plans which we will explain when we see you.

Congratulations James on earning your "yellow cord". It is good to hear that the three boys are enjoying being part of the Scouting Movement. Also your Karate.

Congratulations Darlene and best of good wishes for your work at the Nursing Home. Now come on Bill; get those examination results.

David and family have been here since Good Friday. They left for the Easter Show (now at Olympic Park) mid morning and they are not yet home. He is doing well at work.

Robyn and her two girls were here for 6 days last week. Kylie comes early in May.

All the best to all of you from

Dad (Grandpa)

Isabell sends you her love I am sure. (She's in bed asleep.)