

Bio: Vincent Mathews Wylly

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2018

Vincent Mathews Wylly was born about 1810 in Nassau, Bahamas, the son of William Wylly and Matilda (or Martha) Mathews. Several questions remain, related to his identity. His birth year given here is speculative – it assumes that he was the youngest child of William Wylly and Matilda Mathews, and that he was born when his mother was in her early forties. Information supplied at the time of his death (Australian Death Index) in 1885, suggests that he was born about 1822, but this would be much too late. It remains uncertain whether all the notes included here relate to the same man.

Vincent Mathews Wylly's father, William Wylly, served the British government in the Bahamas for most of his adult life, but toward the end of his life he removed to England and in 1828 he was buried at All Saints Church at East Budleigh in Devonshire. A note related to his burial states, "His remains are interred under this tomb erected by his son Vincent Mathews Wylly." Considering the possible birth years for Vincent Mathews Wylly, in 1828 he might have been as young as age six, or perhaps around the age of eighteen. It seems likely that the tombstone was erected many years after William Wylly's 1828 death.

Family researchers suggest that Vincent Wylly married Elizabeth Mary Boulton. She may have been the daughter of George Boulton and Phoebe Bailey; baptized in 1834 at St Marylebone Church, Westminster (London), England. This identification remains in question. No record of a marriage between Vincent Wylly and Elizabeth Mary Boulton has been located.

At an unknown point in time, Vincent Mathews Wylly left England for Australia. Several articles appear in newspapers, placing him in the town of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia by 1864. It seems likely that he was there earlier.

Real Property Act – Notice is hereby given that Vincent Matthew Wylly, of East Melbourne, corner of Gipps and Powlett streets, printer, has applied to have brought under the provisions of the Real Property Act . . . so, proceed to bring such land under the provisions of the Act. Dated the 11th day of February. 1864. The Land referred to: Part of allotment 11, of section 13, Melbourne East, having a frontage to Powlett street of 73 feet 6 inches, by a depth of 39 feet.

[source] The Age (Melbourne, Victoria, Australia); 15 Feb 1864; located at Trove website.

At the District Court yesterday, Vincent M. Wylly summoned Thomas Greenwood for an assault, for which plaintiff sought to recover £20 as damages. The parties lived as neighbours in Gipps-street, East Melbourne, and it appeared that for some time some unpleasant feeling existed between them, arising in

some way from the fact that plaintiff had been a depositor in the late Provident Institute, and that Sawell, one of the directors, had been living in defendant's house. Plaintiff's statement was to the effect, that on the evening of the 5th inst., he was going home from his work in the Government Printing office, and on passing defendant's house the latter came out to him. He applied some very offensive name to witness, and said that if he would repeat what he had said some time ago he (defendant) would lay him in the dust . . . The Bench considered that the case was one of a gross character, and awarded plaintiff the damages claimed, with £2 2s. costs.

[source] The Australasian (Melbourne, Victoria, Australia); 14 Jan 1865; located at Trove website.

St Kilda Council – From Mrs VM Wyllly, East Melbourne, asking for the permanent levels of a piece of land at the corner of Park-road and the Marine-parade, as it was her intention shortly to build thereon. On the motion of Cr Tullett, the surveyor was instructed to prepare the necessary levels.

[source] The Telegraph, St Kilda . . (Victoria, Australia); 12 October 1872.

Toward the end of his life Vincent Mathews Wyllly was living in the St Kilda “neighborhood” of Melbourne in Victoria. He died there on the 14th of August 1885. His wife had, for some time prior to his death, been institutionalized at the Kew Asylum in Melbourne, suffering from “insanity”. There is no evidence that Vincent Wyllly and Elizabeth Mary Bolton had children.

Following the death of Vincent Wyllly a suit was raised in the Equity Court related to his Will, and it was widely reported in Melbourne newspapers. In brief – There was a dispute over two Wills that appeared - one presented by trustees who had been appointed by Vincent Wyllly, and a second presented by George Bolton, brother of Elizabeth Mary Bolton Wyllly. A detailed picture of the dispute can be found at this website in the sketch titled – Two Wills for Vincent Mathews Wyllly. The trustee company ultimately won the case, and a significant portion of Wyllly's estate went to his housekeeper, Sarah Irons.

Little further information has been found related to Elizabeth Mary Bolton Wyllly after her husband's death. She outlived her husband by more than twenty years, dying in 1908.

Wednesday, 1st April [1908] . . . No 11 Gale (Late Wood) Street, East Brunswick, off Victoria Street and Close to Lyon Street; Administratrix sale of WB Cottage, in the Estate of Elizabeth Mary Wyllly, Deceased . .

[source] The Age (Melbourne, Victoria, Australia); 28 March 1908; from the National Library of Australia; Trove Collection.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Vincent Mathews Wylly in database](#)

[Sketch: Two Wills for Vincent Mathews Wylly](#)

Biography of Vincent Mathews Wylly; written by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for Markham of Chesterfield website; 2018.