

Summary of Cazaly family history

During the persecution of Protestants in France, a French Huguenot family named Cazaly fled to England in about 1745. Conditions must have been unbearable in the province of Languedoc in the central part of southern France for those who were not members of the Roman Catholic faith.

The Edict of Nantes in 1598 created in France a state of partial religious tolerance for the protestant Huguenots under King Henry IV. However this did not last under subsequent kings, and in 1685 the Edict of Nantes was revoked. Vast numbers of Protestants chose to emigrate rather than convert to Catholicism. One such family had the name Cazalet but their connection with the Cazaly family has not been found. For those who remained in France, the following 60 years saw growing persecution and confiscation of property.

As has been well documented by many researchers, there was much secretive Huguenot activity around the locality of Montpellier and the surrounding countryside, including a nearby village named Sommieres (Regrettably the Huguenot church in the village no longer exists and has been replaced by a carpark.)

The Cazaly family owned a chateau on the outskirts of Sommieres, in a locality known as Peuch Bouquet or Pied Bouquet. This quite imposing building still can be seen behind a high fence about 10 minutes drive from the village together with several horses which are permitted to graze in parts of the property. Monsieur Cazaly (we do not know his first name but it may have been Guillaume as the eldest son often was) was probably born about 1700 at this chateau and died at a relatively young age in the same area of Languedoc.

His wife, Madame Marguerette Cazaly, thus became a widow with considerable property. According to family documents, her property was confiscated and she fled to England with twelve children, arriving in London in about 1745. The records of applications to the French Hospital in following years give 43 different Huguenot family surname groups originating in the Province of Languedoc and fleeing to England. This indicates the high level of persecution in the area.

We know little about Marguerette's life in London except that we can imagine the pressure she must have been under to assist and support her family of whom some were still children. There was a very strong connection with the church of St Matthew at Bethnal Green where most of her children had their marriages performed so one can assume that this was the family church at the time and that they lived in the neighbourhood. The poorer areas of Bethnal Green supported many Huguenot refugees and it was felt that there was a need for a church in the area. The church of St Matthew was completed in 1746 and though it has been completely replaced over time, it still exists as a parish church at St Matthew's Row at Bethnal Green.

Marguerette was godmother to several of her grandchildren. She died in 1783 and was buried at Christ Church, Spitalfields, a somewhat wealthier area, indicating that the family had succeeded in settling into the new country.

Nine of her stated twelve children have been identified at this time, and features of their lives will now be described. They are numbered below for clarity but most birth dates are not known so they may have been born in a different order.

Number 1, Gillaume (William) was born in 1728 in Languedoc in France and died at the age of 96 at the same place, having purchased back the family chateau near Sommieres late in his life.

He was seen as an important figure in the family, being godfather of several nephews, and a witness to several of his siblings' marriages. While he initially lived at Bethnal Green, by 1774 he was set up at Spital Square as a stocking manufacturer, weaver of textiles and hosier, and was said to have made a fortune.

For many years he was an Elder of the French Protestant Church, St John Street, Brick Lane. He married twice, firstly to Magdelene Poulain or Polain, who died young after having two children who also died young, and secondly to Anne Louise Duchemin with whom he had twelve children. Of the second twelve, eight of the children died respectively at 7 months, 1 year 5 months, 5 months, 1 year 1 month, 3 years, 11 months, 2 years 6 months, and 10 months, leaving only four survivors - an unimaginably terrible time for them. In a typical month in which one of these babies was buried at Christ Church Spitalfields, in June 1767, there were 65 burials at that church.

He and his wife were buried at the chateau of Pied Bouquet although their remains were later moved to Sommieres.

Number 2, Jean Pierre (John Peter) was the ancestor of the Australian branch of the Cazaly family. He was born about 1733 in Languedoc, and set up as a weaver in London, as did so many other Huguenot refugees. Like his brother William, he was listed as godfather to several young nephews and nieces, and was also an Elder of the French church at Brick Lane, Spitalfields.

He married Jane Poulain or Polain, a member of a prominent Huguenot family in Bethnal Green, formerly from Luneray, Seine Maritime, France. It is possible that Jane was related to Magdelene Polain who two years later married John's brother William. Many of the Huguenot families such as Levesque, Poulain/Polain and Lamy are intertwined in multiple ways. Another occurrence in this generation is that of Absalom Polain who married John's younger sister Jane.

The death of his wife Jane was in 1791 followed by John Peter's in 1806, and both were buried at Christ Church, Spitalfields. Nine children have been identified, all born in London and baptised in the Artillery French Huguenot church.

Number 3, Etienne (Stephen) married Sarah Gent or Gehnt, probably from another Huguenot family. They appear to have had five children in London and then dropped out of the known family and trade records, and perhaps may have died quite young or migrated elsewhere.

Number 4, Marguerite (Margaret) married John Toureille, another Huguenot family with many relatives in London. Little is known about this couple other than the baptisms of their nine children at The Artillery French Huguenot Church in Spitalfields, in London. We have evidence that several Tourell descendants in the following four generations made applications to the French Hospital because of the Huguenot ancestry of both of these people.

Number 5, Louis (Lewis) married Susanne Poupard and they had three children. The available migration records indicate that Lewis then departed for the Caribbean island of Grenada. Grenada had a turbulent history at that time, being under the ownership of France, Britain and then France again in the decades around the time that Lewis was presumably there. It is only possible to speculate on his motives for going there (though it is possible that he went to work as a surgeon), but there is no further information about him in England. Susanne lived to a relatively old age of 72 and died in the French Hospital.

No 6, Catherine married Etienne (Stephen) Rive and they had seven children. No information is known about Etienne's family, and there are no associated applications to the French Hospital in this

name. As at so many other times in this family, Etienne stood as godfather for the baptism of two of his wife's nephews.

No. 7, Jeanne (Jane) married Absalom Polain, as mentioned above. He seems to have come from a different branch of the Polain family, originating from Picardie, Seine Maritime 80, France. There is a mention in the Huguenot records of Absalom Polain and Jean Pierre Cazaly (his brother in law) standing as Guarantors for an admission into the "lunatics' house" associated with the French Hospital. They had seven children born in London and baptised at Threadneedle Street, and his burial was in 1799 at a reasonable age of about 67.

Number 8, Jean (John) married Ann Brickman or Bridgeman. Nothing is known at this time about them apart from the names of two children.

Number 9, Madeleine or Magdalene, married Pierre Moise Dumas and died at the young age of 34 having had a family of four children. Subsequent generations of the Dumas family continued to share activities with the rest of the Cazaly family, for example in working with the Huguenot community through the French Hospital, and in the many cross-references of godparents within the extended family.

In following generation, the children of Gillaume Cazaly were fortunate to inherit a significant amount of money from their father, and indeed Mary Ann, his eldest surviving daughter, left the very significant amount of four thousand pounds in 1833, to be distributed to relatives. This contrasts with other members of the Cazaly family who were obliged to request assistance from the Coqueau Charity and the French Hospital.

The eldest son of Jean Pierre Cazaly and Jeanne Poulain, also confusingly named Guillaume, was born in 1759 and lived in Spital Square in the area known as the Liberty of Norton Folgate prior to relocating to Manchester with the occupation of a dyer. The Liberty of Norton Folgate was a small (8.7 acres) administrative unit between the Bishopsgate ward of the city to the south and the parish of St Leonard Shoreditch to the north; Folgate Street and Spital Square were included. Nine of their eleven children were born in Manchester.

Jean Pierre's second surviving son, Pierre, born in 1762, also resided at the Liberty of Norton Folgate, and married Sarah Nash. Peter, as he was known (it was traditional for the first few generations for the baptisms to be in the French language but the marriages to be made with the English translations of the forenames) worked at the Bank of England, in the Bank Note Office. There are some interesting entries in various English newspapers in 1799 regarding the circulation of forged bank notes, but it is unclear whether Peter was an unfortunate victim of this situation. His wife Sarah was fortunate to receive a benefit from the will of the previously mentioned Mary Ann so that she did not have to rely on charity. They had eleven children, all baptised in French speaking Huguenot churches in London.

The ninth and last child of Jean Pierre, Jaques (James), was born in 1779 and married out of the French community to Elizabeth Eagles, who was destined to manage the migration of a significant part of the Cazaly family to Australia. James was an accountant, merchant's clerk and merchant, and worked for upwards of 60 years in the house of Messrs. Doxat and Company, Merchants. They lived at Barrett Grove in the Parish of Stoke Newington and on the death of James, he was buried at Abney Park Cemetery. Abney Park in Stoke Newington is known as one of the 'magnificent seven' garden cemeteries of London, and is a woodland memorial park and Local Nature Reserve, managed by the Abney Park Trust. Many Huguenots were buried there, and in particular, many members of the Cazaly family. The gravestone of James Cazaly is still visible there and has been seen in recent years although it requires some removal of shrubbery to reach it.

Elizabeth and James had nine children, and there was evidently a family decision made that the widow and all but the two eldest children would migrate to Ballarat in Victoria, Australia almost immediately after James' death. Charles and Charlotte, the two eldest, were well established in London and would remain there. It is doubtful that Elizabeth ever saw them again.

On the same generation, another Guillaume of note is the son of Louis (Lewis) and Susanne Poupard, born in 1769. We are unable to find any further details of Lewis after he departed for Grenada in 1774. Guillaume took to the sea as a career in the East India Company in about 1792 and his Will which was registered in 1793 was written on board the 'good Ship Thetis' but whether he was sick at the time or whether this was a normal precaution, is unknown.

In the following generation, a pattern of international migration started to emerge. Children of sister and brother Marie Anne Louise Cazaly and Guillaume Jean Cazaly (whose parents were Guillaume Cazaly and Anne Louise Duchemin) lived in France and other parts of Europe and presumably have many Cazaly descendents there. Daniel Cazaly, born in 1794 to William Cazaly and Marie Lamy, was killed in 1819 at the Battle of Bojaca under Simon Bolivar at New Grenada, South America (now Columbia). Other migrations took place to Australia, New Zealand and America.

Some family members fell on very hard times. The French Hospital (La Providence) has been mentioned several times. This was an institution founded in 1718 as a charity for the benefit of people requiring financial assistance or hospital services if they were able to prove that they were of Huguenot descent. In order to qualify, it was necessary for each applicant to submit a petition which included the applicant's name, address and parents, their date and place of birth, their Huguenot descent, their occupation, their reason for application, and any other details relevant to their applications. Since these records have been kept and published, we have a rich source of information about the Cazaly family history. For example, Louisa Rachel Nettlefold née Cazaly, born 1786 and daughter of William Cazaly and Marie Lamy, applied to the French Hospital in 1846 with the statement confirming her descent: "On both father & mother's sides, her father's grandparents were natives of France, and Protestants, and his grandmother, when a widow, had considerable property, which was confiscated at the [Revocation of the] Edict of Nantes, and she became a refugee to England. She fled with twelve children, among whom was Peter Cazaly, grandfather of your petitioner."

There is a reminder at this time of the brutal justice sometimes delivered which was usual for the time but appears appalling to us now. Jaques (James) George Cazaly, who was born in 1798 and the ninth child of Peter Cazaly and Sarah Nash (most of the families were very large) was the victim of a burglary in 1820. The report in the cases at the Old Bailey describe the crime of the defendant, Lazarus Barnet, as being theft and simple grand larceny; the object stolen was one pair of stockings, value two shillings, the goods of James George Cazaly. The defendant denied knowledge of the goods but was sentenced to transportation for seven years. Lazarus was transported to Australia as a convict, arriving in Sydney Cove in 1821, and finally received his Certificate of Freedom in 1827. What a very extreme punishment this was.

On the same generation as the previous examples were the children of Jaques (James) Cazaly and Elizabeth Eagles who elected to migrate to Australia following the discovery of gold in Ballarat and surrounding areas in 1851. Within months approximately 20,000 had rushed to join in the gold boom and within several years Ballarat had become a large tent city which rapidly grew into a prosperous trading centre. It is clear that by the middle of that decade, the widow Elizabeth and her children Peter, Henry, Owen, John Foy, Catherine, James and Elizabeth had all arrived in Ballarat, the older boys first, followed finally by Elizabeth and the younger children.

Before describing the life of those children to Australia, there are some low points in the story of the family in England that are worth mentioning, if only to show that no extended family is immune from crisis.

The first example is that of a curious character. The marriage of Alfred William Jarvis Cazaly (born 1870, son of Thomas Peter Cazaly and Emma Jarvis) was one that came to the attention of many journalists in 1913 after Alfred, described as a Nonconformist Minister, was charged with "deserting his wife and children, and failing to pay arrears of maintenance amounting to 6 pound 7 shillings due to his wife Rose Hortense Cazaly". He was convicted and sentenced to two month's imprisonment, half with hard labour. This received extensive newspaper coverage. In the 1911 census, Alfred had the unusual occupation of Lecturer, Anti Socialist Union. In later years Rose migrated to Canada, remarried, and died in very old age in Ontario.

The second is the heroic death of Herbert Peter Cazaly in the Thames at Kew in 1889. Herbert was a son of Peter Cazaly and Charlotte Whatley, and was only 30 years at the time of his death. A number of small boats had been on the water, and one capsized with two passengers due to another boat coming too near. As they struggled in the water, Herbert, together with another man, threw off his coat and waist-coat and jumped in after them. Unfortunately in his efforts to save Joseph Geraty, both drowned. The other two survived. There is a plaque in the area with the inscription "Herbert Peter Cazaly Stationer's Clerk who was drowned at Kew in endeavouring to save a man from drowning. April 21 1889".

The third is the dreadful sinking of the Titanic which occurred during the night and early morning of 15th April 1912 in the north Atlantic Ocean. Of an estimated 2224 people on board when she struck an iceberg, more than 1500 people died. Among the passengers who were drowned were John George Sage, his wife Annie Elizabeth née Cazaly and their entire family of nine children. Annie was born in 1865, a daughter of Francis Wilmott Cazaly and Sophia Luker. The father John and his eldest son George had been in Canada where they worked as dining car attendants for the Canadian Pacific Railway. Subsequently they put a deposit on a farm at Jacksonville, Florida, and returned to England to make further arrangements prior to setting out with the entire family on the Titanic to relocate to Jacksonville. The only family member identified was Will (Anthony William) who was subsequently buried at sea.

Almost 60 years before this time, as described previously, Elizabeth Cazaly nee Eagles and most of her children, Peter, Henry, Owen, John Foy, Catherine, James and Elizabeth, had migrated to Ballarat, in Victoria, Australia, in approximately 1856, in search of gold and a new life in a fresh country. Elizabeth died in 1863 and is buried in the Ballarat Old Cemetery. This cemetery, also known as the Ballaarat Old Cemetery with a nod to the original spelling of the town, was officially opened for burial in 1856, however, records show that burials took place in the vicinity of the old cemetery from the late 1840s. The cemetery is well kept and rich in reminders of Ballarat's history, and many family members were buried there.

Peter, who was born in 1832 at West Hackney, London, married Elizabeth Waters in 1862 in Ballarat and they had eight children, all born in Ballarat. Peter was a prominent Ballarat citizen and lead a multi-faceted life, much of which is in the public record. After a brief association with a gold mining company, Peter took up the position in 1865 as the first paid Secretary of the Benevolent Asylum in Ballarat. Another interest which Peter brought from England was that of rowing, which he did for the Ballarat Club together with several brothers. He was also the Honorary Secretary of the Alfred Memorial Bells Fund in Ballarat in 1868.

He also managed some musical events, together with his sister Catherine (Mrs. William Little); for example in July 1869 an event was held in association with the Benevolent Asylum and reported in the Ballarat Star: "Mr Peter Cazaly, the secretary had the direction of the musical portion of the

entertainment in this ward. Mrs William Little (his sister) presided at the piano, and several ladies and gentlemen of the Glee and Madrigal Union were also present, and performed during the evening". In later life Peter was known as a music teacher and died in 1922 at Croydon, an outer suburb of Melbourne, his wife Elizabeth dying eight years later.

Henry William was born in 1834 at West Hackney, London, and was probably the first of the immediate family to come to Australia, as there is a call for him in The Argus of 31 July 1855 to write to a neighbour from Stoke Newington in London who had also migrated. There are land records showing that Henry purchased a five acre block of land at Mount Weatherboard near Ballarat which is the locality that his mother was identified with in one of the family documents. In 1867 he married Helen Smee Watson, and from then until his death in 1908, little information is available.

Owen Frederick, born 1835 at West Hackney, London, was another one of the rowers in the family team, as can be seen by his entry into the Royal Thames National Regatta in August 1855, just before he migrated to Australia. After his marriage in 1862 to Mary Ann Robson, they travelled back to London and during this time had the stress of the birth of a baby girl at sea who presumably died young as she did not return from England with them when they returned within a year.

Owen called himself a miner and goldseeker on different documents, and by 1865 was a shareholder in a number of mining companies, as can be seen in various Government Gazettes. The couple had three more children, born in Ballarat. After Mary Ann's death in 1901, Owen's second marriage in 1908 was to Florence Diana Heither, and they died in Melbourne respectively in 1920 and 1921.

John Foy was born in 1837 at West Hackney, and after some rowing activity in Ballarat, he moved to Melbourne as a gardener, dying unmarried in 1921 at the age of 84 years.

Catherine Walford Cazaly was born in 1839 in West Hackney, the exact address being Barrett Grove, Stoke Newington. The middle name is intriguing as its derivation or connection to anyone else is not known by her descendants. Family documents state that Catherine (known as Kate) and her two younger siblings arrived with their mother in Ballarat in 1856.

Kate married William Little in 1862, and she and her husband were leading citizens of Ballarat during their lifetime. Kate was a concert pianist, organist and teacher of the piano. Her contributions to the musical life of Ballarat were significant and provided an example of musical excellence to her family, all of whom became accomplished musicians. She was the first organist at the Wesleyan Church, Lydiard Street, was organist for 42 years with the Ballarat Philharmonic Society and an active worker with the South Street Competition. At one period Kate also played the organ at an Anglican church. For more than 20 years Kate was also the accompanist for the Ballarat Liedertafel. Their presentation to her on her retirement was a solid gold brooch in the form of a lyre overlaid with precious jewels, which is still in the hands of the family.

Kate and William and their family were very musical, as were their descendants down to the present day. They provided solo and chamber music in their home for many years as well as at church and in local halls. There are numerous reports in the local papers of their musical contributions at fundraisings and anniversaries at the Wesleyan Church in Lydiard Street and elsewhere. One of the notable Sunday Soirees at their home in 1896, as reported in the local newspaper, was that of the visit and performance by an international artist, Chevalier A. Ritter von Konstki. It is reported that he was so pleased with the performance of the family that he dedicated the scherzo movement from his 10th quartet for violin, viola, cello and piano, opus 412 to the family. Unfortunately, the autographed manuscript has been lost. The Chevalier declared that he was the last surviving pupil of Beethoven.

Kate died 1903 leaving three children, and her passing was reported in the local press. She is buried at the Ballarat Old Cemetery in the Little family grave. As with other important events in his life, William wrote a poem in her memory and published it privately for distribution to family and friends. Kate's total of 27 children, grand-children and great-grandchildren have received an admirable heritage. A Cazaly reunion held in Melbourne in 1993 was most successful and included a large contingent from Tasmania as well as many from around Victoria.

James Charles was born in 1840 in West Hackney and after arrival in Victoria, quickly started to participate in rowing races together with his various brothers. He married Elizabeth Jemima NcNee who was born in Scotland and they went on to have 10 children, the last of whom has become probably the most famous Cazaly in the entire family. James had been a champion oarsman and a physical instructor, but had lost his money in the collapse of the land boom, and was a labourer when his son Roy was born.

Roy was born in 1893 and married Agnes Murtha in 1913. He is arguably the greatest Australian rules footballer of all time. From 1911 to 1920 he played for St Kilda Football Club, winning the club's inaugural "best and fairest" award in 1919 and captaining the side in 1920. In 1921 he transferred to South Melbourne Club, where he was also a captain and best and fairest winner, before further stints playing and coaching in Victoria and Tasmania. He was also a top oarsman and practised boxing, wrestling, swimming and running. There is a large amount of documentation about his life available to the public.

On moving to Hobart in Tasmania, Roy opened a health clinic, which prospered. On 35 acres at Lenah Valley he bred horses. He played the piano and they often had family musical evenings. Roy died in 1963 at Lenah Valley, Tasmania. He was immortalised in an Australian song "Up There Cazaly" due to his ability to catch a ball at a great height, recorded in 1979 by local musician Mike Brady. The phrase "up there Cazaly" was also used as a cry by the Australian troops in World War II.

Elizabeth Jane (Bessy) was the baby of the family and being born in 1845 at West Hackney, was probably barely 10 when her mother made the move out to Australia. Married in 1864 in Ballarat to George Moore, she had an unusual life as the wife of a soldier who became the Crown Surveyor of Fiji. They lived in Fiji for at least 30 years, with short periods in Australia. Seven of their twelve children were born in Fiji. They eventually returned to live in South Melbourne, where Bessy died in 1924 and George in 1925. There is a large memorial dedicated to them at Boroondara Cemetery in Kew.

Other Cazaly individuals from other branches of the family also chose to migrate or to visit Australia. There is a likelihood that there would be descendants still living in Australia and New Zealand from these various migrations.

James William Cazaly was born in 1809 in Shoreditch, a son of James Cazaly and Ann Lorimer. In 1845 he married Clarissa Harrison and James was an accountant in Sydney in the 1861 and 1863 directories. On moving with the family to New Zealand, James tragically succumbed to depression and took his own life. His wife and family returned to Australia where Clarissa died.

William Henry and Charles James Cazaly were brothers, and sons of Guillaume (William) Cazaly and Susanna Brees, born respectively in 1841 and 1843. As young men in 1863 they journeyed to Australia and New Zealand which William documented in a diary of the voyage. Their younger brother Arthur, born 1844, also travelled to Australia and other parts, this time as a member of the Royal Navy; however at the age of 44 he migrated on his own account, and died in Sydney in 1913. Lastly in this group, their brother George Ernest Cazaly, born in 1854, also migrated to Australia,

and died unmarried in Melbourne in 1906. So there was a clear interest in the family to see life in Australia.

In a narrative such as this, it is impossible to clearly describe all of the many branches of the family and the hundreds of Cazaly descendants of many different generations. There are resources available online and there is a family website at the address <http://www.shade.id.au/Cazaly/Cazaly.htm>.

Revised by Libby Shade 2017