

## ANDREW O'CONNOR – EMERALD HILL

Andrew O'Connor arrived on the boat Medway on 19 December 1857. He was with his wife Margaret (Fynes) whom he had married in Sheffield England on 5 October 1854. They had their one year old son Michael Joseph O'Connor with them. Also on the boat were Andrew's mother Ellen (Hayden) and his sister Ellen who was 18 years old.

They, together with Andrew's three brothers on the same boat, had emigrated as Assisted Migrants although more research is required to clarify whether they were all classified the same way.

Andrew O'Connor and Margaret Fynes had the following children:

- John O'Connor. Can't find any local records other than mention on his mother's death certificate that he was one of the seven children. Record found of his christening 9 Sept 1855 in Sheffield, Yorkshire. Given that he wasn't on the ship with his parents, it is assumed that he had died before they emigrated.
- Michael Joseph O'Connor was born in 1857 in Yorkshire and arrived on the Medway with his parents and the rest of the extended family. He never married and lived his whole life in Emerald Hill/South Melbourne, initially with his parents and siblings and then with his sister Ellen until his death in 1939.

Then after they settled in Emerald Hill, the following children were born:

- Mary Ann O'Connor was born in 1859. She died in 1861.
- Margaret O'Connor was born in 1862. She married John Mitchell on 8 July 1883 at Sts Peter & Paul's South Melbourne. He was a 28yo wool classer from Yorkshire who lived in Spencer Street Melbourne. Interestingly, her marriage certificate shows one of the witnesses was a Margaret O'Connor but no other Margaret of that era/age appears in the currently known family tree.

Margaret died on 15 April 1904, aged 42, in the Alfred Hospital Prahran. She had six children:

- Lena (deceased)
- Margaret (deceased)
- Jane (14yo)
- Mary (12yo)
- Annie (8yo)
- John (6yo)

Her death notice (The Age 19 April 1904) said that they lived in Bell Street Coburg.

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- Andrew Thomas O'Connor was born on 05 May 1864 in 7 off Bank Street Emerald Hill and died in 1942.

He married Elizabeth Jane Rafter, daughter of Joseph Henry Rafter and Bridget Ryan on 08 Apr 1896 in Sts Peter & Paul's South Melbourne. She was born on 01 Dec 1869 in Dover Street Williamstown. She died on 05 Jan 1951.

- Ellen Mary O'Connor was born in 1867. She died in 1944 in the house at 412 Coventry Street South Melbourne.
- Sarah Ann O'Connor was born in 1870 in Emerald Hill. She died in 1879.

Andrew Snr lived all his life around Emerald Hill/South Melbourne. He died on 04 Oct 1895 in 107 (now 412) Coventry Street South Melbourne. He was survived by four of his seven children, with Michael and Ellen (Nellie) continuing to live in the Coventry Street house with their mother. Margaret died there on 27 Aug 1910 of apoplexy, congestion of lungs and brain.

**O'CONNOR.—The Friends of the late Mr. ANDREW O'CONNOR are respectfully invited to follow his remains to the place of interment, Melbourne General Cemetery. The funeral will leave his late residence, 107 Coventry-street, South Melbourne, on SUNDAY, the 6th inst., at half-past 2 o'clock.**  
**JOHN DALEY, Undertaker, Latrobe and Spring Streets, Melbourne. Telephone E27.**

Another funeral notice identified that Andrew had been a member of the Ancient Order of Foresters.

**A. O.F. COURT KING of the FOREST, No. 347.—**  
**A. The Members of this Court are respectfully requested to follow the remains of our late Brother, ANDREW O'CONNOR, to the place of interment, the Melbourne General Cemetery. The funeral will leave his late residence, 107 Coventry-street, South Melbourne, on SUNDAY, the 6th inst., at 2.30 p.m.**  
**JAMES MURPHY, Sec.**

## ANDREW O'CONNOR – EMERALD HILL

Friendly Societies were established in Australia in the 1830s and were traditionally founded on mutual self-help ideals. These societies grew as ordinary Australians – labourers, miners, carpenters, bricklayers, stonemasons, blacksmiths, shop workers, railwaymen and others -banded together to provide, by their own exertions and from their own slender resources, some of the medical and other essential services they lacked. They sought help from no one but each other and received none from either government or from the more affluent.

Devoid of clinics and hospitals, with few trustworthy chemists and doctors, early Australia was fruitful soil for the mutual aid organisations that were and are friendly societies. Friendly Societies with such unusual names as The Independent Order of Oddfellows, The Independent Order of Rechabites, the United Ancient Order of Druids and, the one that Andrew joined, the Ancient Order of Foresters have, since European settlement of this country, became a part of the history of Australia.