

him to emigrate, a major undertaking for a young man especially in the nineteenth century when the possibility of home leave was remote. There is, in fact, no record of his having ever set foot in his native land again. Nor did he follow either of the two trades mentioned above. He took up employment with the Victorian Paper Manufacturing Company Limited, Barwon Paper Mills, Geelong, Victoria with which firm, or their successors, he remained for the whole of his working life. Stan Coates has defined his job as that of Paymaster. The Fyansford Primary School Rolls and his daughter Nell's marriage certificate describe him as a Clerk. Both descriptions may be true. In a letter to his brother Arthur dated 28th May 1889 Alfred wrote "Anyhow I have a very nice billet and have never any need to take my coat off and I have still better prospects for the future". From this comment I deduce that he had established a secure position at the Mill and was on his way up on the managerial side of the business. One of my correspondents remarked that "Alf Coates had a very dry wit".

On 4th July 1884 he married Mary Anne Sharpe, then aged eighteen, of Herne Hill, Geelong. There were five children of the marriage: William Stanley 1885, Claude 1886, Reginald Norman 1887, Helen Isobel (Nell) 1890 and Irene Dickson 1893.

MARY ANNE SHARPE was born in Australia most probably in 1866. Her mother, Helen Hogg, came from Dunfermline, Scotland. Helen married three times. Mary Anne was one of two children of her second marriage to one Edward Sharpe. Mary Anne's grandmother followed her daughter to Australia where she ran an hotel and rooming house in a gold mining area, probably Ballarat. Mary Anne was a nurse and at one time nursemaid to the Governor's children, possibly in Melbourne. After her marriage she continued working as a nurse and as a proprietor of a small store in Aberdeen Street, Geelong West. The shop still stands. When, within the last few years, the shop was being stripped for painting, the name "Coates" was revealed.

Mary and Alfred were married at ^{from her parents home in Herne Hill, near Geelong} St. Paul's Episcopal Church. On the marriage certificate the Minister, Samuel Day, is described as a Baptist. (Alfred was almost certainly brought up as an Unitarian, as was my grandfather). The witnesses were Matthew Hogg and Isabella Sharpe.

At first Mary and Alfred lived in a cottage at Fyansford near the Mill. It may well have been one of a group of five or six which belonged to the Company. Later they lived in a house in Aberdeen Street attached to Mary's shop. At the time of their daughters' weddings in 1914 and 1915 they were living at Tillamook, Upper Skene Street, Newtown, Geelong. In their later years they moved to Barwon Heads, a seaside resort about twelve miles from Geelong. It was here that Alfred died on 17th December 1937, aged 81.

Towards the end of her life Mary suffered from diabetes which affected her eyesight severely. In her later years she lived first with a friend, and then with her daughter Nell and son-in-law Len Newberry. Mary died on 28th December 1940 aged 75 years.

The Barwon Paper Mill ceased trading in 1923. However, the Mill