

Catharine KNIGHT 1812 – 1876

Catharine KNIGHT was born in St Winnow, Cornwall, in 1812, to parents William KNIGHT and Elizabeth LANGDON. Catharine married William BRAY in 1833. He was probably a miner, but died early, in 1844 aged just 39 years. As Catharine BRAY, she had six children under 11 years of age at that time, but 10 years later, still listed as a widow, she had made the very bold decision to come to South Australia, arriving in 1854 on the ship 'Trafalgar'. What must her life have been like since William's death? Pretty good in Adelaide I would think, for they settled in Carey's Gully, an area of great orchard and market gardening potential.

This is primarily the story of the BRAY family, but it must start with Catharine's family, the KNIGHT's. Catharine's mother, Elizabeth LANGDON, also left an important legacy, when, in 1915, many of the MEINCKE family adopted LANGDON as the family surname, to avoid anti-German sentiment during WW1. Catharine's grandfather, William KNIGHT, is her earliest ancestor I can be sure about, and he was most likely born in Lanhydrock, Cornwall, around 1750. However, I cannot find a baptism record for him. I did discover a marriage record from 1772, where he married Charity COLWELL in Lanhydrock. They had four children, and their second, William KNIGHT, was born in 1778.

Lanhydrock, Cornwall, is marked as '1'. Subsequent generations ended up at St Winnow, to the south.



This William KNIGHT (jnr) was Catharine's father, and he married Elizabeth LANGDON in 1808, in St Winnow. They had five children, the second being Catharine, born in 1812, in St Winnow. The various places listed for their children's births show that the family lived close to, or in, St Austell, during this period. One of the places mentioned, Mount Charles, is notable because Anne and myself stayed there in a B&B for a few nights in 2009, without realising the connection.

Catharine married William BRAY in 1833, at St Austell. The region is notable for its China Clay pits, the fine clay being exported world-wide. It is probable that this was William's mining career, and likely that the fine dust was a contributor to his early death. They had six children, five living to adulthood and travelling to Australia.

Catharine and her five surviving children left Plymouth, Devon, in March 1854, and arrived at Port Adelaide in June 1854. Her eldest daughter, Maria, had married William HAWKE, and they were on the ship to provide support. Sadly, William and Maria's first child died during the trip. They did go on to have another twelve children born in Adelaide though. Catharine's second child was Phillipa, born in 1835, so arrived in Adelaide as a 19 year old.

Philippa BRAY in later life.



Five years later, in 1859, Phillipa married Franz MEINCKE, and went to live with Franz in Kapunda. All five of Catharine's children lived long lives, and there are more than 600 descendants around Australia. Catharine died in Uraidla in 1876, of heart failure and dropsy. This is one of the better known and researched families, due to work done by myself and several other researchers in recent decades. We have previously described the MEINCKE family, including through their surname change to LANGDON, and the story continues there.

Catharine BRAY's (nee KNIGHT) home page is on my website at <https://jansquire.com/tng/getperson.php?personID=133&tree=squire>.

Catharine is Anne's great great great grandmother.

Related Surnames through Marriage

Elizabeth LANGDON

William KNIGHT's wife was Elizabeth LANGDON. She was baptised on 26 December 1784, in St Eval, Cornwall. Elizabeth's parents were Henry LANGDON and Elizabeth AUSTIN, and they married in 1782.

Henry's parents were Thomas LANGDON and Catherine MILLS, married in 1782 in 1742 in St Colum Major, Cornwall.

Charity COLWELL

William KNIGHT's (senior) wife was Charity COLWELL. She was probably born around 1750, but I cannot find any relevant records of her.

Facebook Summary

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Catherine BRAY (nee KNIGHT) was Anne SQUIRE's great x 3 grandmother. The following connections show the relationship of Anne to the BRAY and KNIGHT families.

Anne's mother was Dorothy Joan LANGDON, born 1919 in Adelaide. She married Ray KEIGHTLEY in 1944.

Anne's grandfather was Ernest Gordon LANGDON, born 1886 in Kapunda. He married Effie Blanche BARRETT in 1911.

Anne's great grandfather was Frederick William MEINCKE, born 1859 on a lightship in Port Adelaide. He married Mary Anne WILLIAMS in 1882 in Kapunda. Fred MEINCKE was one of several family members who changed their surname to LANGDON in 1915.

Anne's great x 2 grandmother was Philippa BRAY, born 1835 in St Austell, Cornwall. She came to Adelaide with her mother and family in 1854. She married Franz Ludwig MEINCKE in 1859 in Adelaide.

Anne's great x 3 grandmother was Catherine KNIGHT, born 1812 in St Winnow, Cornwall. She married William BRAY in 1833.

Anne's great x4 grandfather was William KNIGHT, born 1778 in Lanhydrock, Cornwall. He married Elizabeth LANGDON in 1808. This is where the LANGDON surname came from that was used from 1915.

Anne's great x 5 grandfather was William KNIGHT, born around 1750, probably in Lanhydrock, Cornwall. He married Charity COLWELL in 1772.

Catharine KNIGHT

♀ 1812 - 1876 (64 years)

Generation: 1

[More detail](#)

1. Catharine KNIGHT was born on 24 May 1812 in St Winnow, Cornwall, England; was christened on 7 Jun 1812 in St Winnow, Cornwall, England (daughter of [William KNIGHT](#) and [Elizabeth LANGDON](#)); died on 30 Dec 1876 in Careys Gully, South Australia, Australia.

Catharine married [William BRAY](#) on 9 May 1833 in St Austell, Cornwall, England. William (son of [William BRAY](#) and [Grace PENHALE](#)) was born in 1805 in St Austell, Cornwall, England; was christened on 4 Aug 1805 in St Austell, Cornwall, England; died on 8 Aug 1844 in St Austell, Cornwall, England; was buried on 11 Aug 1844 in St Austell, Cornwall, England. [[Group Sheet](#)]

Children:

- i. Maria BRAY was born on 8 Oct 1833 in St Austell, Cornwall, England; was christened on 3 Nov 1833 in St Austell, Cornwall, England; died on 10 Nov 1904 in Uraidla, South Australia, Australia.
- ii. Phillipa BRAY was born on 7 Nov 1835 in St Austell, Cornwall, England; was christened on 6 Dec 1835 in St Austell, Cornwall, England; died on 4 Aug 1920 in Kapunda, South Australia, Australia.
- iii. [Catherine BRAY](#) was born on 16 Aug 1837 in St Austell, Cornwall, England; was christened on 3 Sep 1837 in St Austell, Cornwall, England; died on 13 May 1840 in St Austell, Cornwall, England.
- iv. [William BRAY](#) was born on 22 Feb 1839 in Mt Charles, St Austell, Cornwall, England; was christened on 7 Apr 1839 in St Austell, Cornwall, England; died on 21 Aug 1907 in St Arnaud, Victoria, Australia.
- v. [Grace BRAY](#) was born on 1 Jan 1842 in St Austell, Cornwall, England; was christened on 6 Feb 1842 in St Austell, Cornwall, England; died on 27 Aug 1928 in Bordertown, South Australia, Australia.
- vi. Catherine BRAY was born on 27 Aug 1843 in Mt Charles, St Austell, Cornwall, England; was christened on 1 Oct 1843 in St Austell, Cornwall, England; died on 2 Apr 1928 in Prospect, South Australia, Australia.

Generation: 2

2. [William KNIGHT](#) was born in 1778; was christened on 1 Nov 1778 in Lanhydrock, Cornwall, England (son of [William KNIGHT](#) and [Charity COLWELL](#)).

[William](#) married [Elizabeth LANGDON](#) on 29 Dec 1808 in St Winnow, Cornwall, England. Elizabeth (daughter of [Henry LANGDON](#) and [Elizabeth AUSTIN](#)) was born in 1784 in St Eval, Cornwall, England; was christened on 26 Dec 1784 in St Eval, Cornwall, England. [[Group Sheet](#)]

3. [Elizabeth LANGDON](#) was born in 1784 in St Eval, Cornwall, England; was christened on 26 Dec 1784 in St Eval, Cornwall, England (daughter of [Henry LANGDON](#) and [Elizabeth AUSTIN](#)).

Children:

- i. Dorothy KNIGHT was born in 1809 in St Winnow, Cornwall, England; was christened on 7 Jun 1809 in St Winnow, Cornwall, England.
- ii. 1. [Catharine KNIGHT](#) was born on 24 May 1812 in St Winnow, Cornwall, England; was christened on 7 Jun 1812 in St Winnow, Cornwall, England; died on 30 Dec 1876 in Careys Gully, South Australia, Australia.
- iii. [Elizabeth KNIGHT](#) was born in 1814 in St Winnow, Cornwall, England; was christened on 28 Aug 1814 in St Winnow, Cornwall, England.
- iv. [Charity KNIGHT](#) was born in 1816 in St Winnow, Cornwall, England; was christened on 15 Sep 1816 in St Winnow, Cornwall, England.
- v. [William KNIGHT](#) was born in 1819 in St Winnow, Cornwall, England; was christened on 16 May 1819 in St Winnow, Cornwall, England.

Generation: 3

4. [William KNIGHT](#)

[William](#) married [Charity COLWELL](#) on 10 Oct 1772 in Lanhydrock, Cornwall, England. [[Group Sheet](#)]

5. [Charity COLWELL](#)

Children:

- i. Mary KNIGHT was born in 1773; was christened on 10 Oct 1773 in Lanhydrock, Cornwall, England.
- ii. [William KNIGHT](#) was born in 1776; was christened on 7 Apr 1776 in Lanhydrock, Cornwall, England; died on 22 Nov 1777 in Blisland, Cornwall, England.
- iii. 2. [William KNIGHT](#) was born in 1778; was christened on 1 Nov 1778 in Lanhydrock, Cornwall, England.
- iv. [Thomas KNIGHT](#) was born in 1782; was christened on 12 May 1782 in St Winnow, Cornwall, England.

6. Henry LANGDON was born in 1757; was christened on 10 Jul 1757 in St Columb Major, Cornwall, England (son of **Thomas LANGDON** and **Catherine MILLS**).

Henry married **Elizabeth AUSTIN** on 5 Jan 1782 in St Eval, Cornwall, England. [[Group Sheet](#)]

7. **Elizabeth AUSTIN**

Children:

- i. 3. **Elizabeth LANGDON** was born in 1784 in St Eval, Cornwall, England; was christened on 26 Dec 1784 in St Eval, Cornwall, England.
- ii. **Philip LANGDON** was born in 1790 in St Eval, Cornwall, England; was christened on 12 Jan 1790 in St Eval, Cornwall, England.

Generation: 4

12. Thomas LANGDON

Thomas married **Catherine MILLS** on 15 Feb 1742 in St Columb Major, Cornwall, England. [[Group Sheet](#)]

13. **Catherine MILLS**

Children:

- i. 6. **Henry LANGDON** was born in 1757; was christened on 10 Jul 1757 in St Columb Major, Cornwall, England.

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<https://jansquire.com/tng>