

Thorne Family

The newly-wed William and Jane (nee Ladner) Peak arrived at Brisbane on the "Ascendant" in June 1858. They had emigrated from Penzance in Cornwall. William Peak who died in 1921 aged 90 years, was the inaugural Chairman of the Drayton Shire Council and history accords him the title "Father of Drayton". Brothers Joseph and William Thorne arrived at Brisbane on the "Sultana" in November 1862. They had emigrated from Meriden in Warwickshire, England. The immigrant families moved to Drayton on the Darling Downs, where they set about the establishment of new lives in a land of opportunity.

In about 1865, Jane Peak arrived to join her brother and sister in law. She married William Thorne at Drayton in 1866. The couple were to raise seven children - five boys and two girls. The family farmed until William's death in 1904; his widow Jane died at Toowoomba in 1923.

Three sons, Charles Ringham, Henry Hyam and Thomas, were to be early settlers of the Curramore area. On 2nd May 1906, they were each awarded adjoining selections of 300 acres, and the back-breaking task of clearing timber began. Thorne Brothers' sawmill operated through the 1920s.

Tom Thorne was accidentally killed in an argument over a horse in 1913. The surviving brothers contended that since the three men had worked together to develop their selections, fairness demanded that Tom's selection should pass to them if they met the future development obligations. The bureaucrats of the day agreed, and thus it came to pass that "H.H." and "Charlie" Thorne each eventually came to own 450 acres of freehold title at Curramore. Charlie also later bought an adjoining farm on Upper Cedar Creek Road, Conondale.



Charles & Matilda (Burton) Thorne 1908

The timbered hills of Curramore eventually were cleared sufficiently and the fertile soil sowed with grass for the dairy cows to follow. Charlie Thorne married Mathilda ("Mattie") Roumie Burton in 1908 and H.H. Thorne married Augusta Ida Sommer in 1916.

Charlie and Mattie Thorne had two children:

-Edna Sarah (1909-1969) who married James Valentine Rapp on the farm at Curramore in 1932. Jim dairied and then was a carpenter. Jim and Edna were to have one child, Coy Cynthia (born in

1935) who married Ian Kenneth Grigor in Maleny in 1957. The Grigor family, with origins in the Stanley River district, worked in the timber industry. Ian and Coy moved to Geebung in Brisbane and raised three children: Bradley James, Rixon Stanley and Kellie Maree. Coy was widowed in 1987 but the family retains ownership of the farm on Upper Cedar Creek Rd., Conondale where daughter Kellie lives.



Ian & Coy (Rapp) Grigor 1957

Fran Webster (left) & Mattie Thorne (right)

- Jack Burton Raymond (born in 1913) who married Margaret Elizabeth Cranney at Brisbane on 18th April 1949. They were to have two children: Charles Grant (born in 1950) and Jean Margaret (born in 1957).



Margaret with her Father Albert Cranney



Margaret & Jack (Cranney) Thorne 1949

Harry and Ida Thorne had four daughters:

- Joyce Ida (1918-1952) who married Walter Edmund Bristow in Maleny on 7th February 1948. They had one son: Lyle Edward
- Lorna May (1918-1982) who married Leslie William Ritter in Maleny on 26 June 1948. They farmed at Curramore were to have one son: Wayne Hyam
- Rita Nell (1923-2007) who married Arthur Henry Grundy in Toowoomba on 29th January 1949. They lived in the Toowoomba region and were to have six boys: Lloyd, Noel, Earle, Barry, Raymond and Owen.

- Merle Edna (1925-1995) who married (in a double wedding ceremony with her sister Lorna) to Clarence George Edmonstone on 26th June 1948. They farmed at Curramore and were to have two children: Arnold and Delwyn.

After H.H. Thorne's death in 1949 and Ida's death in 1960, ownership of the Curramore farm duly passed to their daughters Merle and Lorna. Although the Ritter portion of the land was eventually sold, Arnold Edmonstone and his family continue to dairy on the other block.

Charlie Thorne died suddenly in 1944 and Jack, who had left the district in 1935 to take a selection with his mate Arthur Robert ("Bob") Read at East Funnel Creek returned to farm at Curramore. Eventually, Mattie would move the farmhouse to Tamarind Street. Edna and Jim Rapp lived with her; and Jack and Margaret would build their one and only home of more than fifty years next door.

If you lived at Curramore, it was impossible to ignore the thin ribbon of road over which all supplies must pass. It commanded Charlie's attention in the 1920's and was a focus for Jack during his time as a Shire Councillor fifty years later. Not much has changed - the road is wider but the potential precipitous falls are no less, and the cars are faster.

With the help of a succession of trusted and loyal sharefarmers, Jack Thorne and his family dairied at Curramore until December 2001, when the milking herd was moved to the smaller but flatter "Cedar Park" which had been developed by the Collard family. The kikuyu, or "Collard's



Jack Thorne with his parents & sister Edna on his 21st Birthday 1934

curse”, was as prolific as ever but the scale of operation was not sufficient to survive de-regulation of the industry and dairying ceased there in 2004.

Jack and Margaret Thorne were held in very high regard by the community. Jack died in 2002 and Margaret in 2004. “Curramore Hills”, as the Curramore property is now named, remains in the Thorne family after one hundred years and now provides grazing for beef cattle. It is home also to a flourishing Moreton Bay fig that shades Jack and Margaret’s ashes. Their memorial plaques testify “*A farming son of the land who carved an enduring legacy for his family to follow. His spirit free to roam the hills he loved so much*” and “*A loving woman whose beauty and zest for life inspired her family and all who knew her. Partners in life and hand in hand for all eternity.*”



Landsborough Shire Councillors 1975

Jack Thorne, third right

Both Grant and Jeannie Thorne attended Maleny High School.

Grant, a mineral processing engineer, married Robin Kyle Thompson of Aspley in Brisbane in 1971. They raised four children and moved frequently as Grant followed a career in senior executive roles with Rio Tinto in the global mining industry.

- Deborah Robin Thorne (born 1972) who married Jamie Peetz of Broken Hill in 1999. Debbie is the principal veterinarian of Maleny Veterinary Services. Debbie and Jamie have one daughter.
- Steven Charles Jack Thorne (born 1974) who married Melinda Elizabeth Taylor in 1997. Steven is an environmental engineer and the family live at Valdora, Sunshine Coast. They have two sons, having lost their eldest son Regan Charles Kenneth Thorne in 2007.

- Craig Grant Malcolm Thorne (born 1974) who married Kathryn Ann Neish in 1998. Craig is an air traffic controller and lives in Brisbane. Craig and Kathy have a son and a daughter.
- Edwina Kate (born 1980) who married David Andrew Kelly in 2012. Edwina is a brand consultant and graphic designer. They have one son and are building their new home at Golden Beach, Caloundra.

Grant married a second time to Kerrie Lee Gilliland in Maleny in 2004 and, after retiring from Rio Tinto in 2011, serves as a non executive company director and breeds Santa Gertrudis beef cattle at Jandowae and Eidsvold.

Jeannie, a school teacher, married John Weston Leadbetter at Caloundra in 1980. They have one daughter, Katherine Jane, born in 1989. Katie attended Maleny High. Jeannie married a second time to Tom Richter, music teacher, in 2000 and the couple live in Maleny.



Thorne Family in 1970

Jack & Margaret with Jeannie & Grant