

Catharine KNIGHT 1812 – 1876

Catharine KNIGHT's webpage is at: <https://jansquire.com/tng/getperson.php?personID=133&tree=squire>.

This narrative is primarily of the BRAY family, but it starts with Catherine KNIGHT, born in 1812 in St Winnow Cornwall. She married William BRAY in 1833, but he died quite young, aged just 39 years, in 1844, in Cornwall. Catharine came to South Australia in 1854 as a widow with five living children, one having died.

Catharine KNIGHT was born in St Winnow, Cornwall, to parents William KNIGHT and Elizabeth LANGDON. Catharine married William BRAY in 1833. He was probably a china clay miner, but he died early, in 1844 aged just 39 years. As Catharine BRAY, she appeared in the 1851 English census as a widow with five children under 9 years of age, but still in St Austell. Three years later, with her five children, she had made the very bold decision to come to South Australia, arriving in 1854 on the ship 'Trafalgar'. The family must have been fairly well off to be able to live as a single parent family in Cornwall. What must Catharine's life have been like since William's death? What were the drivers for the family to come to Adelaide at this time? Catharine was 42 years of age when she arrived in South Australia, and she never remarried.

We know that Catharine settled quickly in Carey Gully in the Adelaide Hills, on land that delivers excellent market gardening produce. Her descendants still have land in the area today. While this narrative is primarily the story of the BRAY family, we will look first at Catharine's ancestors in Cornwall, as there are some important stories to be told. One important story is that Catharine's mother, Elizabeth KNIGHT nee LANGDON, had a memorable surname. In 1915, many of the MEINCKE family adopted LANGDON as the family surname, to avoid anti-German sentiment during WW1. Catharine's daughter Philippa, had married Franz MEINCKE, and he had come from the border area of Denmark and Germany/Prussia as a sailor, but he 'jumped ship' in Adelaide to avoid wars and conscription in Prussia.

Catharine KNIGHT is the great great great grandmother of Anne SQUIRE. Anne's mother was Joan KEIGHTLEY nee LANGDON.

Origin of the Surname KNIGHT

Status or occupational name from Middle English knight 'retainer, attendant' (Old English cniht 'boy, youth, lad'). The specialized feudal sense 'a high-ranking tenant bound to serve his lord as a mounted soldier' is not known to have ever given rise to the surname, although it is not out of the question that it may occasionally have been used as a nickname, perhaps for someone who played the part of an armed knight in a local pageant.

Origin of the Surname BRAY

Habitational name from any of the places in Berkshire and Devon. The former is probably named with Old French bray 'marsh', the latter from the Cornish element bre 'hill'.

William KNIGHT b c1750

William KNIGHT is the earliest ancestor I can be sure about, and he was most likely born in Lanhydrock, Cornwall, around 1750. However, there are two possible baptism records, and I cannot be sure which is his. 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, in Lanhydrock Cornwall.

Lanhydrock, Cornwall, is marked as '1'. Subsequent generations ended up at St Winnow, to the south, and then around St Austell, still in Cornwall.



William KNIGHT b1778

This William KNIGHT (junior) was Catharine's father, and was born in 1778, in St Winnow. 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 nearby in a Bed and Breakfast for a few nights in 2009, without realising the connection. The LANGDON surname was adopted by most MEINCKE family members in 1915, during WW1, because of anti-German sentiment.

Catharine KNIGHT b1812

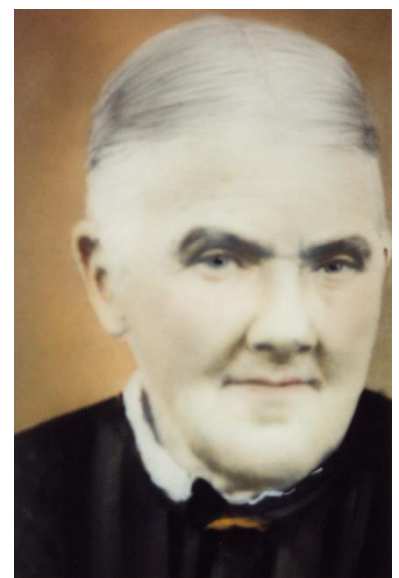
Catharine KNIGHT was born in 1812 in St Winnow, Cornwall. She married William BRAY in 1833, at St Austell. The region to the north of St Austell is noted for its China Clay pits, the fine clay being exported world-wide. It is probable that this was William's mining occupation, and likely that the fine clay dust was a contributor to his early death. They had six children, five living to adulthood and travelling to Australia.

After William's death in 1844, Catherine and her children lived as a family unit for ten years in St Austell. In March 1854, Catharine and her five surviving children left Plymouth, Devon, and arrived at Port Adelaide in June 1854. Her eldest daughter, Maria, had married William HAWKE, and they were on the same ship, and probably provided some much-needed 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 Phillipa arrived in Adelaide as a 19 year old. Catharine died in Uraidla in 1876, of heart failure and dropsy.

Phillipa BRAY b1835

Phillipa BRAY was born in 1835 in St Austell, Cornwall. She came to South Australia with mum and family in 1854, and five years later, in 1859, Phillipa married Franz MEINCKE, and went to live with Franz in Kapunda. All five of Catharine's children that arrived in South Australia lived long lives, and there are more than 600 descendants around Australia. This is one of the better known and researched families, due to work done by myself, David BALES (Gosford NSW), and others in recent decades.

Phillipa BRAY in later life.



I have previously described and written a narrative of the MEINCKE/LANGDON families, including through their surname change to LANGDON, and the story continues there.

Catharine is Anne's great great great grandmother.

The narrative is continued in the MEINCKE/LANGDON narrative at:

<https://jansquire.com/tng/showmedia.php?mediaID=81&medialinkID=81>

Facebook Summary

This narrative is primarily of the BRAY family, but it starts with Catherine KNIGHT, born in 1812 in St Winnow Cornwall. She is the starting person because she is one of the twenty or so ancestors who emigrated to South Australia, Catharine married William BRAY in 1833, but he died quite young, aged just 39 years, in 1844, in Cornwall. Catharine came to South Australia in 1854 as a widow with five living children, one having died.

Catharine KNIGHT was born in St Winnow, Cornwall, to parents William KNIGHT and Elizabeth LANGDON. Catharine married William BRAY in 1833. He was probably a china clay miner, but he died early, in 1844 aged just 39 years. As Catharine BRAY, she appeared in the 1851 English census as a widow with five children under 9 years of age, but still in St Austell. Three years later, with her five children, she had made the very bold decision to come to South Australia, arriving in 1854 on the ship 'Trafalgar'. The family must have been fairly well off to be able to live as a single parent family in Cornwall. What must Catharine's life have been like since William's death? What were the drivers for the family to come to Adelaide at this time? Catharine was 42 years of age when she arrived in South Australia, and she never remarried.

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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 Carey Gully, South Australia, Australia.

Catharine married William BRAY on 9 May 1833 in St Austell, Cornwall, England. William (son of William BRAY and Grace PENHALL) 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.

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; was buried on 5 Aug 1920 in Kapunda Cemetery, 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 in Lanhydrock, Cornwall, England; 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.

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 Carey 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.

5. Charity COLWELL

Children:

- i. Mary KNIGHT was born in 1773 in Lanhydrock, Cornwall, England; was christened on 10 Oct 1773 in Lanhydrock, Cornwall, England.
- ii. William KNIGHT was born in 1776 in Lanhydrock, Cornwall, England; 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 in Lanhydrock, Cornwall, England; was christened on 1 Nov 1778 in Lanhydrock, Cornwall, England.

iv. Thomas KNIGHT was born in 1782 in St Winnow, Cornwall, England; 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.

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.

13. Catherine MILLS
Children:

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