

6 Elster Avenue

Gardenvale 3185.

15th. October 1981.

Dear Phyllis,

I am of the opinion that my information may not help you a great lot except that my great great grandfather who lived at Handythy Farm in the area of St. Just Cornwall married Jane Oates. I have no authority for the spelling of Oates, although my father's sister and cousin have both recorded that spelling. (Veronica's friend Edwin James Semmens is the cousin I refer to above.) Of course it is probable that their original information is from the same source, although both have given me identical information, each has added some extra information not given by the other. The following list of the children of James Semmens and Jane Oates combines the information I have.

James- m. Sarah Gilbert from near Penzance and had children (not recorded)
Joseph or Josiah -m. Amelia (surname not recorded) from Penzance. They are believed to have had 2 children, gone to Cuba or America and died there.

Jennifer -m. George Grey in Maddern Church Town

Peter- m. Sarah Morris Bennetts of Lecuthin. (My great grandfather) They came to South Australia before 1852 when they came to Victoria and settled in Bealiba. Of 9 children credited to them I can name 8. James, Peter Henry William Josiah Herbert Mary and Jane. Herbert was my grandfather. Josiah being Uncle Teds Father.

William- married a schoolteacher at Truro school. No issue recorded.

Mary Anne-m. John Harvey. One of their descendents lived in Maryborough Victoria

I have contacted a Ross Semmens of Greensborough (Vic) who has compiled a family tree commencing with James Semmens and Jane Oates. He has eight foolscap pages of "tree" but cannot find a John Semmens Oats. He says there are at least three families of Semmens in New Zealand not closely related one to another.

I have also contacted a John Squire Semmens of Frankston, a descendant of one New Zealand Semmens family. He also has no knowledge of a John Semmens Oats.

I note that you record John Semmens Oats as having been in Bendigo. I was stationed in Bendigo in 1937 and remember a E. Semmens in a shop in Mitchell St. As I wasn't interested in family in those days I didn't meet him.

It may be of interest that William Josiah and Herbert carried on the trade of coachbuilding in Toongabbie in Gippsland around 1880.

I hope you will have success in your efforts to trace your family,

Yours sincerely

