

# **Janet & Mick Hohnen's visit with Jean Talbot**

**Ballybritt near Roscrea, Tipperary. June 2018**

Thanks to Tim for giving us enough detail to make the contact.

Jean's maiden name was Whitten. We also briefly met her brother Anthony, with his cows, at the end of the day.

At one stage 7(5) Whitten siblings migrated to Australia, so there are many descendants there. Jean mentioned some who have visited from Australia. (the close ones: Wes, Mark, Tim, Jenny Gleeson etc.). Others she mentioned, and she clearly has busy correspondence too:

- Lexi Prince (Tamworth)
- Yvonne Matthews
- June McCann (Suffolk Park, NSW) (Could be Jill McCann)
- Terry Russell (Scone) (??)
- Gloria (nee Whitten) and Ian Urquhart (Armidale)
- Sister Patricia Whitten, a nun, (George St. East Maitland) – very positive comments
- Frances Murray (French's Forest) (Max's sister)
- Mae Betts – 60 years ago.

Jean is now a widow of 83 and active thanks to recent hip replacement, drives a sturdy little car (Mick may remember the brand) and took us here and there. She is, was until recently, a Diocesan Reader in the Anglican Church and active in the Mothers Union since 1961.

Jean and her late husband have 5 kids – a son and 4 daughters – all the daughters are teachers. She said they put their effort and resources into the education of the kids, as their land would be insufficient to support the next generation. Her son lives nearby – she pointed out the house.

Jean visits her daughter in Wales each year, they holiday together – UK, France, Madeira...

Tim you may have this next part more straight: Jean talked about Billy who died 3 years ago. Billy's aunt was Jean's mother. Billy's mother Frances was married to John Williams.

Then I have Frances and William had 5 children: Jack, George, Bertie, Renda, Maria. (but I have this Jack as Billy's father). Probably you have this all straight in tribal pages, Tim. (Marjorie passed farm to Frances then to Billy)

Note by Tim:

John **WHITTEN** & Matilda(Tilly) **WILLIAMS** had: Matilda(Jean), Edward(Ned), Thomas(Frank), William(Henry), George(Anthony/Tony), Dorenda(Kathleen) & Marie(Val). and Frances **WHITTEN** & John **WILLIAMS** had Robert(Bobby), Edward(Ted), Iris, Arthur, William(Billy) & Charles. And the Lorries are still owned by Frank Whitten's son and grand sons

Jean arranged with Frank and Jean Kenny 'current owners of Fancroft;' for us to meet and look over the old homestead. Is that another name for 'Sunnyside'? The Kennys gave Jean the copy of the history which I just forwarded to you.

Jean talked about Whittens having been shearers, riding around on push bikes, then progressing to owning a fleet of lorries, but this business was later bought out. She thinks the name Whitten (Whitton) may come from Yorkshire. Certainly, there is a complex history of English movement to Ireland, including during Oliver Cromwell's time – he was very tough on the Irish; thousands of men came from England at that time.

We stayed 2 nights in Roscrea, by bus from Dublin and then went on to Limerick – easy decision as that was the final destination of the bus. Before visiting Jean, we had breakfast at Pauline's café in the main street of Roscrea. Pauline was so impressed when she heard we were to visit Jean that she gave us a cake to take with us for Jean.

Janet Hohnen 28-Sep-2018