

Hi Family,

I'd like to spend a minute explaining how and why I am here. My brother Paul Krasnostein's granddaughter told her teacher that she was a descendant of a convict. Her teacher got very excited and Paul rang me and said 'help' now what? We both spent time searching the web and were fascinated with what we found. We discovered that all our Mother's suspicions and stories were almost true. We laughed when we read that when Mordecai's Father, Myer, filled in forms in England he wrote his occupation as "Ganse Mache" – for those who don't know what that means a translation from Yiddish would be – Big shot or important person! I was mentioning all this to a friend of mine and I thought he wasn't paying any attention. A few weeks later he said to me, I have a friend from school, Adrian Paul, who I speak to every so often and he was telling me the same story. Pete put us in touch with each other and the rest as they say is history. Thank you John, Geoff and Adrian for your amazing efforts in arranging this whole arrival celebration.

I'd like to introduce the people at our table – Bronwen Casey who I have only just met. Bronwen is married to Ian and they have two daughters and three border collies. Bronwen has travelled from Beaumaris in Victoria to be here this weekend.

My cousins Susan Morris (married to Michael Morris) and David Myers (married to Sandra). Susan and David are two of my Uncle Mark's four children. They have a sister Roslyn. Sadly their brother Philip passed away a while ago. Susan and Michael have three children, two daughters and a son and grandchildren. David and Sandra have three sons. My sister, Vicki King, who has come from Perth. Vicki is married to Lionel King from Melbourne, they have two sons and a daughter and 10 grandchildren. One son, Ben, is married to Debby who is from London. My brother, Paul Krasnostein, from Melbourne. Paul is married to Jenni and she is from South Africa. They have a son and a daughter and three grandchildren. Jodi is married to Glen who is Russian born. We are all great, great, great grandchildren of Mordecai. My daughter Natanya Milner and her two absolutely divine children (a totally unbiased opinion) Samuel and Alice. Tanya's husband, Anthony, was born in South Africa so Sam and Ali, like many of their cousins, range from both first generation to seventh generation and everything in between! My son Nicholas married an American, Julie Andrews (no she doesn't sing) and so his two children, Joshua and Kelly are also both

first and seventh generation. By the way my children are also first and sixth generation – my husband, Charles, was born in Holland. As you can see we form our own private United Nations!

I'd like to tell a little of our side of the Mordecai family. We are descendants of Mordecai and Elizabeth's third child Jane who was born on the 12th December 1838. She married Mark Myers in Sydney in 1857. Jane died at the age of 31 soon after giving birth to Sarah. Mark and Jane had 7 children the 4th one was Philip. Philip was born in 1862. Philip married Celia Levy in 1887. Philip and Celia lived in various addresses in Surry Hills, Paddington and Waverley. Philip's profession was listed as dealer, whatever that means. At the time of his death at age 70 in September 1932 they were living at 18 Brisbane St, Waverley. They had 6 children. Godfrey, Jane, Mordecai (Mark), Leon, Joseph (my grandfather) and Hannah. This is where it gets interesting and where Bronwen's family ties in. Bronwen had a DNA test that revealed her Jewish roots and her connection to us. When her Grandfather, Sidney George Stewart, died they discovered that the story of his father dying when he was two was perhaps not the truth. Sidney's birth certificate did not have a father listed at all and the surname Stewart was their Grandmother's name and not the name of Sidney's father. For the first two years of his life he and his mother, Lilian Stewart, were in a home for unwed mothers' in Paddington. Upon further investigation it would appear that a Mr P Myers and a Miss L Stewart were both on a ship from Wellington NZ to Sydney. I thought ah ha! A shipboard fling – but no, the ship sailed in 1903 and Sidney was born in 1905! So Celia had 6 children but Philip had at least one more! What a shame Pop and his siblings never knew they had a half brother. What a shame Sidney never knew that side of his family. Sidney became an Anglican Minister and was made an Hon. Canon of St Andrews Cathedral in Sydney. Sidney married and named of his son, Philip – who is Bronwen's Father! I guess the question must then be asked – did Sidney know his father was Philip Myers?

Pop married Nan, Sarah Dora Goldman at the Great Synagogue on 13th August, 1924. They had two children Mark and Alice (my Mother). The name Mark Myers appears so often it is very confusing. Both Joseph and Leon had son's named Mark. One can only assume they were named after their Uncle who was killed in action at Poziers. Pop served in WW1 in the 4th Battalion. Rumour has it he got shot in the 'toosh' while diving into a trench. I know my grandparent's struggled financially especially after my Grandfather suffered from typhoid fever during the depression and then just as the depression finished and they were getting back on their feet Pop was

hit by a truck and nearly died and was off work for nine months. Pop and Leon were in business together. They had a removalist business and they were commission buyers at Lawsons Auction House. They had a storage building in Hargreaves St, Paddington, which still has Myers Brothers written into the rendering. Unfortunately they never owned the building. My Mother, despite wanting to be a teacher, had to leave school at 14 and worked in a shoe shop where Centrepoin is today. Mum earned the princely sum of 16/-, \$1.60 per week. She loved having a birthday because she got an 8 pence raise.

My late father, Solomon Krasnostein, was from Perth and was on R&R in Sydney where he met Mum. They married in 1946 in Sydney and went back and settled in Perth. I remember our trips to Sydney to visit Mum's family very fondly. I remember visiting Godfrey, Leon and Hannah. Getting relationships correct was made even harder by the fact Godfrey's daughter Dorn married my Grandmother's brother, Eric. So my Grandfather's niece was also his sister-in-law!

One must wonder what the illiterate Mordecai would have thought if he were be here today getting a glimpse of part of the family he was responsible for, seeing the many successes and the impact that many of his descendants have had on the Australian way of life. He too could have written on his papers "Ganse Mache"