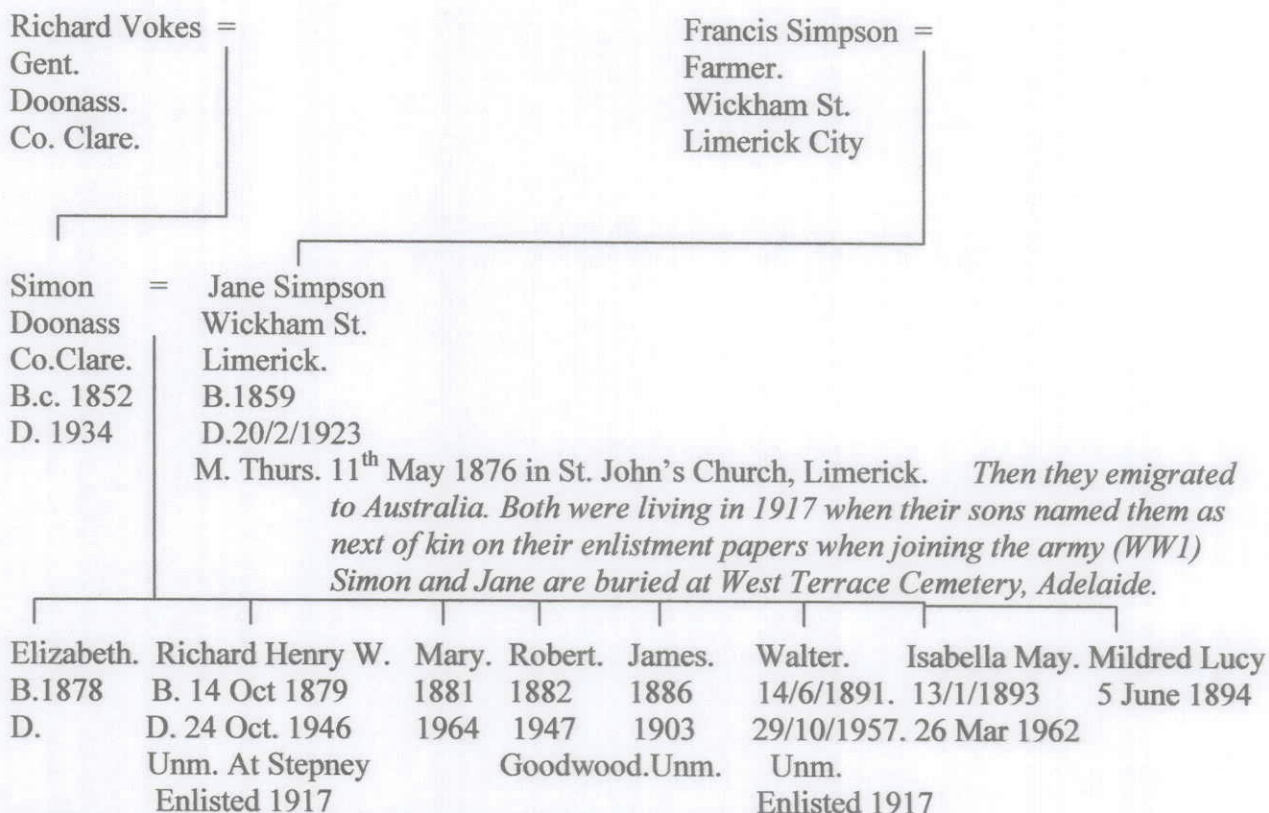


Vokes of Limerick and Adelaide, South Australia By Noel Murphy



There was also a son called Alfred, B. 20th May 1885 at Two Wells.

And a daughter Beatrice Adelaide Dorothy, born 12th June 1897.

On all the Birth Certificates the mother is given as Jane Simpson. (Maiden name used)

Simon and Jane Vokes with their family, settled at Two Wells, 39 Klms north of Adelaide, South Australia. (See below).

Isabella Vokes married James Langdon Atkinson in 1914 when she was 21 years old.

- Familysearch Australia, have Simon and Jane and their seven children.
- Familysearch Ireland, have Simon and Jane's Wedding.
- St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick Archives, have the exact wedding date and the names and occupations of the Bride and Groom's Fathers.

It's not possible to pinpoint which Richard Vokes is involved for lack of information to date.

Whoever gave the later Australian information to Familysearch was not aware of Simon and Jane's country of origin. Therefore the link was not established to show them as the same couple, from Limerick and now of Adelaide.

Photo of Simon Vokes taken in Limerick presumably on his wedding day. Why the bride is not included is a mystery. Note, Simon was only five foot tall.



T. Bernard's studio was in Rutland Street, Limerick

There was a Richard Vokes, born circa 1780, in the City and he had a son Richard, born 1813 who would be the right age to be Simon's father. This would be the Richard who was a "Whitesmith" when he married Eliza Vokes in 1845. He is not in Griffith's Valuation for Limerick City in 1850. This poses the question, had he died? He is not in Griffith's Valuation for Co. Limerick either and is not in the Co. Clare records for Doonass or any other Clare address. Was he the Richard who died in 1857 and was interred in the Vokes Vault at Mungret.

- Richard William Henry Vokes enlisted in the Australian Army on the 29th Oct. 1917 at the age of 39 years and 10 months. He lied or was mistaken about his age because he was definitely born in 1879. He gave his occupation as a Miner and was unmarried. He listed his mother Jane Vokes, as his next of Kin and gave her address as Saint Peter's Road, Saint Peters, South Australia. He also said his Place of birth was Two Wells, South Australia. He enlisted at Mount Pleasant, South Australia. Service Number 7563. (Two Wells is on the A1 a few miles north of Adelaide). Richard had been convicted by the Civil Power, therefore he had a criminal record.

<http://mappingouranzacs.naa.gov.au>.



Simon Vokes on the right with Asa Fairbanks. Simon's daughters Isabella and Ann married James and Charles Atkinson and their sister Alice was married to Asa.

- Walter Vokes, brother to above, enlisted at Adelaide on the 5th March 1917. He was an unmarried Labourer aged 24 years and 8 months. Next of Kin was his Father, Simes Vokes of Virginia, South Australia. Simes must be a familiar form for Simon. Virginia is a little south-east of Two Wells and closer to Adelaide. The family later moved into Goodwood a suburb of Adelaide on the South side close to the road to Glenelg. Virginia was so named by a gentleman called Brady after his home town in Co. Cavan.

As Simes (Simon) Vokes had a different address than Jane Vokes could it be that Simon and Jane were separated or divorced.

If 24 years and 8 months are subtracted from March 1917 the date of Walter Vokes birth was in July 1892, so Walter wasn't sure of his age either.

Note how Simon named his first son after his own father. Was Elizabeth named after her maternal grandmother? None of the sons were named after their maternal grandfather, Francis. Were Mary or Isabella named for their Paternal grandmother?

Source: - South Australia Record Office, Adelaide. 3/2/2009.

Simon and Jane embarked on board the "Lady Jocelyn" at Plymouth on the 28th of July 1876. They had married in Limerick on the 11th of May, earlier the same year so they began their journey to Australia immediately.

483 Emigrants were on board including 40 Irish Adults, 4 children and 1 infant.

Simon gave his age as 24 and Jane's age as 17. His occupation was Agricultural Labourer. They had no children. Simon was therefore born in 1852. This ties in nicely with the date of marriage of Richard Vokes and his wife Eliza Vokes. Vokes was Eliza's maiden name.

Simon's age at his death was given as 86, therefore he was born in 1848. Which year is the correct one? 1852 must be correct as there was no reason for Simon to claim he was only 24 if he was really 28 years of age.

Simon and Jane had 5 sons but only Robert was recorded as married. When he first married, his wife, a widow, was 12 years older than him and 6 months pregnant. Robert moved into her house in 66 Hampton St., Goodwood, Adelaide. His second marriage was to a 21 year old, 22 years younger than him, called May Woodhouse and she was his 1st wife's daughter by Henry Woodhouse.

Robert Vokes = Sarah Woodhouse, nee Jenkins, Widow of Henry Woodhouse
M. 24th May 1911, at St. Lukes Church, Adelaide.

Aged 28 Aged 40.

Their daughter Beatrice May was born 3 months later on the 1st of August 1911 at Goodwood. Beatrice May, died 9 months later on the 3rd May 1912. Sarah, the mother died soon after on the 28th of November 1912, aged 43 at Goodwood. Henry or Harry Woodhouse lived at 66 Hampton St, at it's junction with Surrey St. He seems to have moved in there in 1900 and he died in 1908 leaving a widow and 7 children, Robert Vokes became the new occupant when he married Henry's widow Sarah in 1911. Robert was still living there in 1942, but in 1943 the Electoral lists give a new owner. Robert is given of Goodwood on his Funeral details in 1947.

Robert Vokes = May Woodhouse, the daughter of Henry Woodhouse who died in 1908

B.c. 1882 B. 12th Oct. 1897

M. 18th June 1917 in the Baptist Church in St. Peters

D. 17/6/1947. D. 23rd Nov. 1954. Aged 57. Goodwood

His age is given on marriage cert. as 34 and her age is given as 21 and she was single.

An Email reply says that Robert and May had two sons before they married, Robert Harold, born 19 Nov. 1913 and Alfred James born 15 Nov. 1916. The sender's mother-in-law's mother was Isabella May Vokes who said the rest of the family didn't have much to do with them. The

message also said that young James, who died in 1903, was killed by having a chair pulled out from under him.

Robert and May had the following children: -

Beatrice Mavis Vokes	B. 4-5-1919.
Gladys Mary Vokes	B. 25-4-1921.
Walter Richard Vokes	B. 22-8-1923.
Robert Harold Vokes	B. 1924 [recte 1913]
Gordon Lascombe Vokes	B. 18-4-1925.
Kathleen May Vokes	B. 12-7-1926

All born at Goodwood in Adelaide, South Australia.

Robert Vokes died on the 13th June 1947, aged 65 but the family were gone from 66 Hampton St by 1943 as C. Bastain was the new occupier in that year.

May Vokes died on the 21st November 1954, aged 57, at Goodwood.

They are both buried in West Terrace Cemetery, south of road 5, in Row 3W.



Simon is at the back on the left with the white beard. He was having a picnic with the Atkinson family James Atkinson is the man with the hat at the back. The woman with the covering over her hair must be James's wife, Isabella.

Also buried in W.T.C. These four Vokes all sharing the same grave, (See photo)

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| James Vokes | D. 6- 1- 1903 aged 15. Son of Simon and Jane. |
| • Jane Vokes | D. 21-2-1923, aged 64, Morris St. Evendale. |
| • Simon Vokes | D. 16-10-1934, aged 86, of 66 Hampton St., Goodwood |
| Mary Jane Vokes | D. 1- 8- 1964 aged 83, last abode was Central Ave.
Daughter of Simon and Jane. |

Road Area 1/2 Row 18W. (See Photo)

Simon and his wife Jane and two of their children.

The South Australia Directory for 1912 gives R. Vokes, Labourer, living at 66 Hampton St. in the corner house with Surrey St. in the Goodwood area.

3135. Private Walter Vokes, 43 Battalion AIF, died at Springbank on the 29-10-1957, aged 67. Youngest son of late Jane and Simon. He was also buried at W.T.C. but in Kendrew Oval.

Richard William Henry Vokes, aged, 68, died in Adelaide on the 24th October 1946. He was of Stepney. Mary Jane Vokes, his sister, was living at 4 Stepney St., Stepney, in 1928. She was at 33 Love Lane, Stepney by 1933 and was at 59 Nelson St., Stepney, by 1945.

A Simon Vokes, aged 78, Single, of Eastwood died on the 16th August 1963. Therefore he was born in 1885. Who was this Simon ? He is not on the shipping lists but the existing lists are only one third of the full lists. The rest are lost.

Simon Vokes from Limerick, lived in Two Wells at least until 1910. In 1919 he was described as a Blocker, of Virginia Blocks, Virginia which is 10 Kms closer to Adelaide on the south of Two Wells. He was still there in 1933 at the age of 85. Jane Vokes was living at 38 Morris St., Evandale in 1923 when she passed away at the age of 64. When Simon died in 1934, his address was given as Goodwood, so he must have died in his son Robert's home.

A Blocker is apparently one who leased a block of land to produce food for his own use or for sale. In 1919 Simon was 67 years old.

Robert Harold Vokes	=	Alice Maude Josephs
B. 1914		B. 1916
		M.20-7-1935 at Miles End
Son of Robert.		Daughter of Francis William Josephs.
D. 13-6-1947		
At Northfield.		
Grid 94		

William Vokes. Irishman.

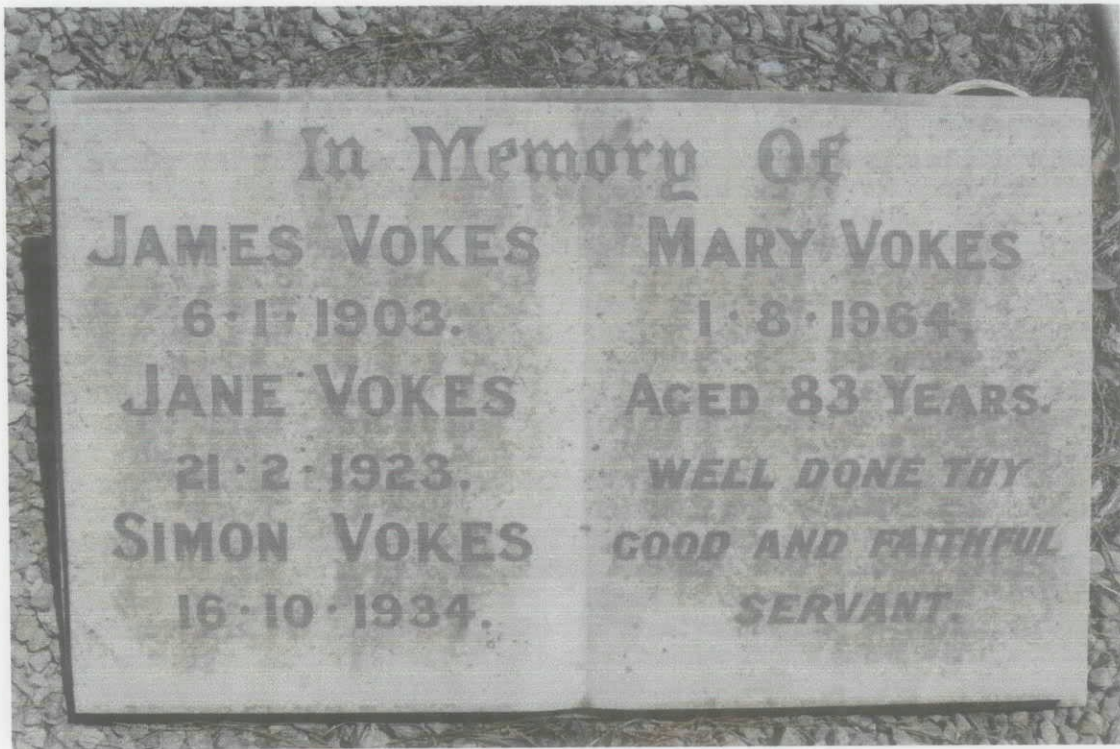
Two years after Simon and Jane arrived in South Australia an unknown William Vokes arrived there too. He embarked on the "Queen of Nations" at Plymouth on the 22nd of August 1877 and arrived in Australia on the 2nd of December the same year. He was aged 23 and described himself as Irish and an Agricultural Labourer. He was single and was travelling alone. There is no record of him marrying or of any children being born to him. There is a record of a William Henry Vokes who was buried at West Terrace Cemetery on the 21st of July 1900, aged 44 having died at the Lunatic Asylum.

1877 minus 23 means William was born circa 1854.

1900 minus 44 means William Henry was born circa 1856.

"a whitrod" also claimed that a William Vokes, was Simon's brother and he arrived in Australia, two years after Simon, accompanied by a James Simpson, possibly a brother of Jane's. William tried to kill himself in 1878 and was placed in an Asylum where he died on the 30 March 1900 aged 44. Simon, Jane and James were witness to the suicide attempt.

There are 5 entries for the Vokes family in the 2008 Adelaide Telephone Directory.



Photograph of the Vokes family Tombstone taken in West Terrace Cemetery in 2009. Simon and Jane who were born in Limerick, Ireland, now lie at rest in Adelaide, South Australia.

The Limerick Chronicle for Thursday the 11th of May 1876 ran an advertisement offering Free Passage to South Australia for Artisans, Agricultural Labourers, Railway Labourers and other Labourers and Gardeners and Copper, Tin and Lead Miners not exceeding 40 years of age, Single or Married with no more than 3 children, Also to Single Domestic Servants. COAL MINERS ARE INELIGIBLE.

Applications to London or to

Messrs. Bunting & Co., Shannon Street, Limerick.

There was a train service from Limerick to Waterford and a shipping service to London that stopped at Plymouth, a much used departure point for ships to Australia.

The Railway line running north from Adelaide passes through Virginia and 10 K. further up the line passes through Two Wells where there were large stockyards.

Griffith's Valuation records a Robert Simpson who owned numbers 22 to 28 in New Clare Street, Limerick City. In fact number 26 was the most valuable house on the street being valued for Rates purposes at £62-0-0. Robert also owned 1&2 Nelson St.

A quick check through the records in the Limerick City Library revealed that Simpson was a rare name in Limerick at the time, 1850 to 1911.