

Thomas Mitchell Shadwell 1811-1893

Thomas Mitchell Shadwell, 167 The Grove, Hammersmith, London 14 Dec 1881

Sir, I beg to ask for the following information viz whether a marriage has been registered from the year 1869 to 1876, both inclusive, between Charles Dewdney Cowland, builder, born in England May 1849, son of John Dewdney Cowland, builder of Notting Hill, London and any lady whomsoever, and particularly with Agnes Johansen, a Danish woman, age, parentage etc unknown.

Should any such record exist please forward copy of same, if otherwise, a letter to that effect from you is the evidence I want in this inquiry; and I should be glad if in the latter case you will inform me whether by the law of marriage and registration in the Colony, a legal marriage could be contracted without registration at your office.

A question of bigamy being involved in this inquiry I will thank you for a reply at your early convenience.

I enclose a P.O. order for 13s, which upon inquiry at the Office of the Agent General for New Zealand appears to be the amount of fees payable in this matter and I beg to say that I shall be ready to forward any further sum that may be necessary should the above be insufficient.

Annotation:

Searched 1868 to 1877 inclusive – no entry can be found – no entry of name Cowland

Archives NZ R15906767 BDM1 1882/138 Inwards letter to the Registrar General

Emma Jane, the wife of Timothy Mitchell Shadwell, died at 167 The Grove, Hammersmith, on 9 July 1882.¹ In 1884 their son, Harry Winstanley Shadwell, used the same address when he subscribed to Saint Bartholomew's Hospital Reports.²

Thomas Mitchell Shadwell, after serving as Secretary to the West Cork Mining Company in 1837,³ became Secretary to the Trustees of the Royal Harbour of Ramsgate⁴ by the time he married in August 1840.⁵ He retained this role until at least April 1861.⁶ Ten years later he was a retired civil servant of the Board of Trade.⁷

His grand-daughter, Florence Mary Shadwell, a minor, married Charles Dewdney Cowland on 21 October 1882 at Christ Church, Lancaster's Gate, Bayswater.⁸ Charles was the father of two illegitimate children born to Emily Palmer.

¹ Morning Post 17 Jul 1882 Death Notice

² Wikimedia Commons

³ Morning Herald 9 Sep 1837 Advertisement

⁴ Shipping and Mercantile Gazette 20 Aug 1840 Royal Harbour of Ramsgate - Notice to Mariners

⁵ Morning Herald 7 Aug 1840 Marriage to Emma Jane, daughter of Captain Kennett Beacham Martin (1788-1859) harbour master; and Ramsgate Marriage Register 5 Aug 1840

⁶ 1861 Census 22 Keppel Street, Bloomsbury St George, Middlesex

⁷ 1871 Census 2 Elgin Crescent, Kensington, London

⁸ Marriage Register Christ Church, Paddington and marriage notice in The Ballarat Star (Victoria, Australia) 20 Dec 1882

In the 1881 census the eldest, Charles Dewdney Cowland Palmer⁹, aged two years, was visiting his grandparents, Benjamin and Caroline Palmer at Henley-on-Thames.¹⁰ The younger child, Ethel Cowland Palmer¹¹ was with her mother at 9 Emma Place, Kensington.¹²

At the same time Charles, an unmarried builder, was living in Kensington with his two younger brothers John Walter Cowland and Frederick William Cowland.¹³ By the end of the year the business partnership between the two older brothers, as builders, decorators and house agents, was dissolved.¹⁴

Their father, John Dewdney Cowland, built a large proportion of the houses in Notting Hill about 1850.¹⁵ When he died in December 1875¹⁶ his son Charles was probably in Melbourne, Australia. His last activity before returning to England involved preparing bills of quantities for the Graving Dock at Auckland, New Zealand¹⁷ as part of a tender submitted by Edwin Orpen Moriarty.¹⁸

In February 1876 Agnes Cowland applied for the transfer of the license of the Radnorshire Arms hotel, in Ballarat, from Brooks Richardson. This was refused as it was not the usual practice to grant licenses to women whose husbands were away.¹⁹ In November 1876 Henry Theomeyer, licensee of the Farmer's Club hotel in Doveton street, was charged with allowing Agnes Cowland to be in effect the keeper of his licensed house. The license was forfeited after Agnes stated that she was the sole mistress of it.²⁰

In February 1882 Mrs C. D. Cowland, formerly of the Farmers' Arms Hotel, Ballarat was asked to communicate with Crawford at 39 Queen-street.²¹ This was probably Alfred Galen Crawford of A. G. Crawford & Co., Hotel, General Business, and Partnership Agents, with offices at the same address. At the time they had 300 hotels for disposal.²²

Charles and Agnes were together in August 1872 when clothing marked "C. D. Cowland" was stolen from the yard of Agnes Cowland, Ballarat East.²³

Charles, aged 20 years,²⁴ arrived in Melbourne on the ship *Yorkshire* on 19 August 1868²⁵ and probably joined his uncle, William Unwin Cowland. In January 1873 Mr C. D. Cowland was present on behalf of his uncle in a claim against the City of Ballarat for £4,350.²⁶

To date no trace of a marriage between Charles and Agnes has been found.

⁹ GRO Jun Qt 1879 Birth Warwick – Charles Dewdney Cowland Palmer

¹⁰ 1881 Census Market Place, Henley-on-Thames – Benjamin Palmer, Postmaster C. S. Office and family

¹¹ GRO Mar Qt 1881 Birth Kensington – Ethel Cowland Palmer. She was born 7 Nov 1880 at 9 Emma Place, Kensington and the birth was registered by her mother on 3 Jan 1881 (Ancestry: Murphy Family Tree – Lawrence Murphy)

¹² 1881 Census 9 Emma Place, Kensington – Marian McKenna, 27 years, unmarried, milliner; Emily Palmer, 25, unmarried, no occupation, born Henley-on-Thames; Ethel C. Palmer, daughter, aged 5 months, born Kensington

¹³ 1881 Census 16 Portland Road, Kensington – C. D. Cowland, 33 years, unmarried, builder master of 30 men; J. W. Cowland, 26, builder; Frederick Cowland, 21, builder – all unmarried and born Kensington;

¹⁴ Shipping and Mercantile Gazette 3 Dec 1881 Partnership dissolved – between Charles Dewdney Cowland and John Walter Cowland of 15 Portland-road, Notting Hill and 4 Queen's-road, Bayswater, Middlesex

¹⁵ Kensington News and West London Times 14 Aug 1953

¹⁶ National Probate Calendar 1876 John Dewdney Cowland

¹⁷ The Argus (Melbourne) 26 Jun 1875 Advertisement – and repeated until 4 Sep 1875

¹⁸ See obituaries in the Australian Star and Goulburn Herald 1 & 2 Oct 1896 respectively. Moriarty died in Southsea, England.

¹⁹ The Ballarat Star 16 Feb 1876 Police

²⁰ The Ballarat Star 29 Nov 1876 Police Intelligence

²¹ The Argus (Melbourne) 9 Feb 1882 Advertisement

²² Ovens and Murray Advertiser 16 Mar 1882 Hotels Advertisement

²³ Victorian Police Gazette 27 Aug 1872 page 228 Stealing otherwise than from the person or from dwellings

²⁴ Victoria Unassisted Passenger Lists

²⁵ The Herald (Melbourne) 20 Aug 1868 Shipping

²⁶ The Ballarat Star 13 Jan 1873 News and Notes