Glenrowan

Volume VII

EDNA GRIFFITHS CARGILL

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THE ELEVEN MILE CREEK STATE SCHOOL NO. 3517

1934 TEACHER: Elsie Flood.

Back row from left: Thea, Nancy and Tessie Collie, Irene Griffiths, Bernie Chivers.
Front: Betty Hart, Edna and Jean Griffiths, Kevin Griffiths, George Hossack.
Absent: Pia and Mary Collie.

(Source: Martha Griffiths)

BRIDIE KELLY

Bridie Kelly came in to James Quin's home about 1850-51 brought by her father John Kelly on his release at the end of his term as a convict. As the daughter of a convict, Bridie became a bonded servant to James Quin. Bridie worked seamlessly with Mary Quin in running the household, but her children (as well as Mary Quin's) were at James Quin's behest. (That is Quin judged where appropriate money might be provided back to him, now, and into the future.)

Ned was born to Bridie Kelly in 1852 amid a flurry of births in the family. Ned was brought up at Quin's place and was a favourite of Mary Quin.

From the time that Quin became a licensee in the Business he strove so hard to enter, Bridie's girl babies were placed into the orphanages or homes of that system, and the sons went into a home in the section of The Army that provided it with horses. (Bridie did not know this – only that the babies were given-up.) Neither girls or boys were registered at birth.

When James and Mary Quin retired about 1863, Bridie Kelly came onto The Eleven Mile with Ellen Kelly and we are into this story. (Mary Quin did not ever go to Quin's home near Whitfield.)

NED

BORN AND BROUGHT-UP AT QUINS.

NED GREW UP A FREE MAN.

BRIDIE KELLY AND HER SONS 1875-1880

MILES

MICHAEL (MICK)

SAM

BEN

MILES, MICK, SAM AND BEN WERE NOT FREE BUT BOUND TO DO AS THEY WERE ORDERED. THEY WERE NEVER FREE MEN.

As I laid out the 1934 photo of The Eleven Mile Creek State School, I thought I would write to tell you of what a beautiful school it was at that stage of its existence, with that most caring teacher (Elsie Flood) in charge, and those lovely senior girls as the conduit between us.

I was going to tell you that you could read in those of us there as young people, the story of all the various social practices that had been required of our people – and other districts also, to some degree.

Elsie Flood was the teacher who accosted the school inspector to have him take note, and step in with some action, in order to save those lovely senior girls.
(They were in a family not their own – but signed to do what was considered to be their duty to 'Go!' at the age of sixteen.)

I was going to tell you that the little boy who sat next to me (Georgie Hossack) had started at the school that year (1934), and that he and I were in grade 2 – while a number of others, because of their age, were already promoted to grade 3.

Georgie Hossack's mother was just 'Back', and was managing quite well; and because her husband was able to get work, they were set to stay as our near neighbours. They waited on Mrs Hossack's sister's return also, to see if both sisters could settle together in our district. However, a few weeks after her return, the sister pined to make their new start closer to where they had previously lived as girls.
These stories are everywhere.
Auntie Martha, who gave me this photo originally, took her daughter Irene, (marked in the photo, and spoken of before as having a distinct likeness to another lass as shown) – At fourteen, Auntie took her daughter from the district – and lived with her, and worked with her, to keep her safe in the city. It was a very secret arrangement – even Uncle did not know where they were; Auntie took no chances and acted first. That would be mid 1930s.
But the most baffling story as I look at it now, was right there by our sides –
Or, by the side of our school.

On the western boundary of the school were two houses – one behind the other, along the school ground's edge – and, perhaps back then, there was not even a fence between the school and the houses, and we both used the same 'turn-in' from the road.

The house furtherest-in (south) was Bridie Kelly's old house, which had been new-built especially for her before 1880 by her sons.
Bridie did not live there in my time at the school; (or indeed, in my time of remembering her), she lived on the inherited property near Glenrowan; and had only recently been farewelled from there – and had not in any way been taken near this previous home. So, when did she move?

And, more than that, the early property map (1900) shows it as belonging to Frank Kelly – and he, before 1908, donated the two acres of land to the Education Department for the building of the school. [Vision and Realisation (Vol 3, 1973) Page 733].

All that I ever heard of Frank Kelly was that he would 'do anything for the children'.
I heard that at least twice – 'Frank would do anything for the children!' He cleared the land there – Mr Kelly said that, but why didn't they say more?

This was an oversight that allowed much to be misconstrued. When Abe Francis died (approx 1944); many (believing the story that I first told you), thought Abe close to seventy years old – ('He must be close to seventy!') – and therefore his death was not thought exceptional in any age-wise way.

But someone knew him as close to sixty years only – and left the discussion there. Well, you know from my story earlier in this writing, that they were two different men.
So where was Frank?
This has puzzled me now over many weeks.
Admittedly, in 1930, Frank would have been fifty five years of age. You see, the little babe who had been carried in to Bridie Kelly on The Eleven Mile soon after Bridie had left Ellen Kelly (Minnie-Ella) and moved to Margaret Lloyd's place was a new-born in 1875, and with him, as the other babe – older by just a few days – the son of 'The Old Man returned to us' in 1926-27. This young boy eventually lived in hiding in Maggie's family. But all of his life he was 'sought-for' – and must stay protected:

And friends and family fought for his life.

How was Frank Kelly different?

Had Bridie had a strip of land beside Frank's so that the 'new' house built for her by her sons before 1880, would serve both causes? When was the second house built? Was it somehow built there to watch Bridie? (Remember when 'Mick' (Nick) came back before 1890 he could not, even over months, get in to see his mother. She was so watched.) Remember that I, as the writer, remembering, came to Mick's stay in that district quite late in all the stories – although Maggie had been to question Hester about his visit to her. So we did know that he had come back on at least one occasion.
But you must see that what has come slowly to us in this story, was known all along by those who had intercepted all the planning and intent of the day of Glenrowan, and turned it to their own use.
Everyone important to them was accounted for – only Mick escaped.
Therefore, they sought Mick over many years.

Remember how the little boy Frank sat with Bridie in the waiting room at Seymour, waiting to fulfil what had been promised to Bridie; namely – That her girls would be brought to her there, and would be free, and could go with her to whatever place she wished – to be with herself and all her family together in one place.

And poor Bridie did not even know that in trying to save her girls, she had let out some word that had made it possible to entrap all her sons at one blow – All that is, except Mick, and he was the one most dangerous for them to leave. He was the one who had been a leader for 'Them'. They had always instructed Mick – and shared any of the spoils back through him.

Bridie was away for months after Glenrowan, as her girls came one by one to spend some time with her in turn – Always going 'back' for some short time, before they were promised to come again. And, in the end, Bridie realised that she was being kept there over-long.

She had her 'new' house to return to, and her own life. Bridie knew nothing of Glenrowan and the great devastation from it, and what her own loss would be when she arrived back home.
But why provide Bridie with that many months' idyll unless that provided time needed by Them?
It let Ned's trial go by – and kept Bridie without knowledge of anything that had occurred. Also, no-one had knowledge of where Bridie now was. And also, Bridie's knowledge was assured of being absent with her. It was nowhere at all, where it could be heard, and used. If that extra house had been built then, in that gap of time, no-one would have interfered; and it would have been there to guard Bridie when she eventually came home.

It was said that nobody could get in to see Bridie – she was so watched.

(Except for Mr Jim Kelly when he came back. His kindness and skill made him the person that could go into anywhere. He found a way!)

But listen to Mr Jim Kelly speaking to my mother:
'It took eight years before Bridie heard about Glenrowan.'
'It was eight years before she knew.' 'How can anyone believe that?'
'It was eight years before she found out!'

It happened like this:
Bridie was being cosseted at Trawool, (I think it Trawool). Bridie, of course, had not been told anything about her losses. She had little Frank with her, and her daughters had visited separately, and stayed two weeks, or a month, for each – And, on leaving, were promised to visit again. Bridie thought it wonderful; and that all the better times that she had been promised had come true!

Bridie may have had some prior interest in the gentleman who was to drive her back to her own home and settle her there – and see that all was well for her and the little boy.

And settle they did!
This gentleman and Bridie started a new life together; and it was a wholly satisfactory life for Bridie.

When Mr Kelly had called a few times he realised that Bridie had no understanding at all, of the circumstances that had engulfed her sons at Glenrowan.
As well as I can understand it, this is where the name 'Knight' comes into our district. He may have been 'Harold' or 'Walter'. (But, quite likely 'Alfred', I decide.)

Apparently he would shake your hand in a most mannerly fashion, and introduce himself formally; and sit you down most comfortably in the parlour; and say a few words on Bridie's behalf; and excuse her to the kitchen for the afternoon tea that she was anxious to prepare.

This was all done so skilfully, and amicably, that no-one ever got into the kitchen with Bridie. Even Margaret (Lloyd), with whom Bridie had lived over many, many, years as young women; and later again on The Eleven Mile, did not ever get the opportunity to speak alone with Bridie.
At the end of four years, Margaret said that she had to agree with Mr Kelly; although she had thought it impossible – 'Bridie did not know anything about the great loss of life among her sons!'
And they mourned together, Margaret and Mr Kelly, for how it would affect Bridie when she did find out – For, surely she could not go on 'not-knowing' –
Surely she would have to find out some time!
However, as Bridie's escort could even take her into Glenrowan, and skilfully attend Bridie while they bought groceries; those few who thought of Bridie and her well-being were at a loss.
Would they be wise to tell Bridie! Even if they could get a minute alone?
Bridie was probably better cared-for than she had ever been in her life. Surely that was worth something to consider! And those who 'thought-of Bridie'; mainly Margaret and Mr Kelly; worried back-and-forth about what was best for Bridie –
'To Know', or to be left 'Not Knowing' – If ever a chance occurred for either one of them to speak alone with Bridie.

However, with that situation, not occurring, they decided each would make an opinion on how the little boy they had known, was being treated.
(Frank: Bridie's grandson, brought to her in 1875.)

Bridie (if fourteen when she came into Quin's at Wallan in 1850-52, then, in 1881, would be mid-forties at least and near the end of her child-bearing years).
In this new relationship Bridie had a son, then, a little daughter.

Of Bridie's previous life:
Bridie had come onto The Eleven Mile with Ellen Kelly (Minnie-Ella) pre 1870.
They were the last of the young women from the Quin family to come.
The two ladies had lived together very amicably for more than five years.
When George King was introduced into the situation, he was designated as Bridie's partner; and was expected to keep himself informed about what was going on – Perhaps with Minnie-Ella herself, certainly with the three children in her care, (Annie Mawby's two daughters, and the one son, whom we know of as Jonothon.)
Also, there was the Quin relative masquerading as a priest, and using that disguise to gain access to the secrets of people's lives.

King was supposed to report to Ned, or to their employers. Bridie had had two children in this relationship with King. The little girl was Lily.

When Minnie-Ella's life needed someone to provide a cover name for her situation ('Children' was said, not just 'child', or 'son', or 'daughter'), Minnie-Ella (Ellen Kelly) just took King away from Bridie and her little family.

And when Bridie complained, Minnie-Ella threw her out!
Then Bridie was tricked away from Margaret Lloyd's house and went into Benalla.
So there Bridie was, homeless, with no means of her own. Then came the drama of clearing-out Bridie's inherited house near Glenrowan. That experiment failed.
Eventually Bridie was found the little house that had been promised to Jim and Maggie. That would be in 1878.
And it was Jim and Maggie now left homeless; while the means for their keep had been claimed by Minnie-Ella in her guise as 'mother'.

If you read Jim's summing-up in that verse in Volume I, you will see that it was Bridie's children who were starving – and when Jim and Maggie went to ask for a little extra money to help feed The Children, they were denied. It was because they said that it was for The Children that they were denied anything more –
And they did not even have the control and use of their own allowance.
(In another section of that verse in Volume I), Jim speaks of them trying to repay their share of the debt accruing from the cost of Glenrowan 1880, and their determination that Maggie's children must not be 'counted-in' as part payment for that debt. That would possibly be around 1886-88.)

As I understand more of this story, which I have been attempting to write down, I see that time can be so confusing. But such a lot happened in that 1877-1880 timeframe. Ned ('Kelly' as you call him) was mostly away; and when he came home all those problems had mounted up. Black Maddocks (William M. Quin), with Borrin as an enforcer, had had George King join them to restrain the whole district.

It was not until Borrin was removed, that the Pearson families could make their bid for freedom. They needed that chink in time to let them flee – That story is fairly well told. But it fits here; not some years before!

The trip to Melbourne fits here, right here!
Ned's confession in America fits into his final six month stint there –
Probably his last six months could have started as late as the New Year of 1880.

But, back on The Eleven Mile, in 1877-78, more of Bridie's sons are starting to come home on occasional visits. Ned tries to fit them into family and tries to instruct them at their fireside nights: And he tries to make some sort of tolerance between Dan and the other of Bridie's boys: Because Dan had represented himself always, as someone special to Ned. Then, Ned has an obligation to Alice, and Jonothon (Jack), and Imogen – (The Mitty and Mally of our later stories) – His children with Annie Mawby –
Then, Minnie-Ella thinks Ned has an obligation to her!
Possibly more so, as she sees him being drawn more towards Bridie's family.

Jim and Maggie come home to contribute their 'keep' to Minnie-Ella's household, without any 'home' being provided for them. But you can see what immense amount of 'keep' would be needed!

Bridie has nothing once King deserts her (and until her other sons visit).
Margaret (Lloyd) has two well-grown sons who do not really see the precarious position of those around them.
('Old Ned' Griffiths allots jobs to 'Big Ned' and Tom Lloyd because they are really his sons to care for.)
He must also allot jobs to King occasionally, to keep up the appearance to King that he is still employed and trusted:
Probably when Ned was at home for his six months he would have been employed droving in the Australia-wide teams – In secret, as usual! (Because all the teams who had not yet been set up in North America would need to be found employment! Joe Byrne would have worked six months alternately with Ned.)
Ned Kelly and Joe Byrne would have had the same strict conditions as all the other riders. All money but the barest costs from America, was deposited in Melbourne to pay for shipboard places of those of the various families who were intending to flee (migrate) when it was all organised.

'Obfuscation!' was the word you might use when you tried to understand relationships there at Glenrowan West pre 1880.

For sure, 'Old Ned' Griffiths at Benalla, did not understand, or he would have pulled Ned (Kelly) out of the whole planning – Even though Ned was his best rider, and equal best planner. They needed Ned!

Ned knew the riders, and the capability of each man, and which riders were compatible – His great skill was in balancing-up a team of men who would work successfully together. All knew that. Ned was needed!
Did Joe Byrne understand the position that Minnie-Ella had reached with Ned?
Joe did not deal so much with those around Eleven Mile who were to be chosen and ready to go – although nearer to 1880 he had some dealings with Kate. And that was not an easy matter to adjudicate.

In 1877 Minnie-Ella would be forty years of age. She had Ned's three children with her. Alec (Alex) Gunn would have brought them to her in Ned's absence. Gunn and Minnie-Ella had been partners in former years, when colluding together in order to obtain valuable information for the use of those in whose employment they both were.

Mr James Kelly always had great sympathy for Annie Mawby – To think that anyone could have so many, even your own mother, working against you!
It was before his time there; but it seared his heart to think how it was set up; and how helplessly Annie was left – And how her own mother did not even see her, or make the slightest move towards her.

Perhaps it was a plot from the beginning; and Ned's and Annie's great feelings for each other, just a step along the way to their destruction.
Having The Children in her care enhanced Minnie-Ella's position to bargain with Ned. But, obviously for Ned, that bargaining time ran out!

Nobody there, discussed the circumstances of this reigning-in of Ned to Minnie-Ella's whim and desires. In one way of looking at it, the whole idea of any liaison was inappropriate. Minnie-Ella was not Ned's mother – All there understood that –
But, still, it was inappropriate.

Minnie-Ella, all her life (probably since before age fourteen), had had some sort of liaison with James Quinn – She would see this no differently.
For Minnie-Ella it would serve some purpose!
For Ned – It is something we do not know – (We can look at the possibilities; even probabilities; but we cannot know for sure.)
In this time, (1877-78) there was a little girl born: (Elsie) –
But was there not a little boy, previous to that? (And if that were to have been so – Where was that little son?)
This is where I am shocked!

I had been following the life of Bridie –and the life of little Frank with her:
And had recall of the story of little Frank sitting in the station waiting-room at Seymour with Bridie in 1880, aged five years (Because he came-in in 1875 with the other little babe also – who would also be aged five years in 1880). If you can remember: Bridie would not take that second child – declaring that neither he, nor his father (later 'Our Old Man of 1926-27'), had any claim on her.

I had somehow concluded, that that little unwanted mite was the boy in all Maggie's stories later, as the wonderful little boy 'Jack' – of whom Maggie told so much –

And who was definitely Ceddie's father – and therefore, definitely my grandfather. And I was very happy with that position! Off to one side! Slightly related to the main players.

(I did wonder at the wonderful access that Ceddie had to both the Kelly Stories and the Griffiths Stories – And indeed, most of all, to the 'Charlie Stories'.)

I was shocked when the realisation hit me!

Maggie took Jack into hiding when he was six years old.
But Maggie and Jonothon were two years in hiding in South Australia with Hugh Mitchell as he conducted business there!
(Clive and Mona Mitchell were born.)
Then Maggie had one year in Victoria, near Hepburn, where Primmy was born.
That takes us to 1883. In 1884 she was in New South Wales less securely hidden by her disguise as the mother in the Tawney Family.

That is when we start hearing about Jack being with Maggie – and that is where we start to hear about Mr James Kelly trailing their movements; being ever watchful of danger to them – and of Jack being the one most sought for, and most needing to be saved!

Remember a few pages ago as we left Margaret Lloyd (nee Quin) on The Eleven Mile talking with Mr James Kelly about Bridie's situation in her new home with 'Alfred' Knight,

and with her new little family; in probably what was the best time of her life. Margaret and Jim Kelly discussed whether the little boy Frank, who was Bridie's grandson, was as well treated now, as he had been earlier – and Mr Jim Kelly left it to Margaret to solve that question – Because, as he said, he was needed now, full time, to act to keep Maggie and her family – and particularly 'Jack', safe. (Well, that is fairly well told in the main books.)

But, now, back in Bridie Kelly's Story in her new home, in approximately 1885.
Margaret (Lloyd) was always quick to say that she wasn't a clever person. But what she did next in that story was just so practical that it was brilliant – (Just the right thing – to ease into the situation without causing any suspicion of meddling at all.)

Margaret suggested that now Frank was well-grown, and since her own two sons ('Big Ned' Lloyd and Tom), had left home for their fifteen year sojourn in the Army – Since Margaret was so alone, Bridie and her partner might kindly spare Frank, who was now nine or ten years old, for a day now and again.
So that she, (Margaret), had a boy to bring in the wood for the fire –
That was what she missed so much with her boys gone!

Bridie knew how Margaret had always cared for the boys at her home. So it was arranged that Margaret walked over to get Frank on one day of the week; and always returned with him, to his family, for Sunday lunch.

Soon Frank could go to Margaret's whenever it was suitable to his family –
But still, they came back to Bridie's for lunch on Sunday. The little boy there (Alfie, I think) would soon want to go with Frank, and that was allowed on occasions.
Then, the little girl would want to go with her brother! So gradually all three children became used to Margaret's home.
This may have proved providential, and in the end, it could have saved their lives.

I wrote before that Bridie Kelly was too dangerous to be near!
Well, of course that was not the case in this earlier part of her time with 'Knight'.
That was by far the best time!
But, when approximately eight years had passed, a deployment of six or eight Army soldiers arrived and set up camp just next to Bridie's house – On the north side – Nearer the road. And probably just where that second house stood in my earliest times at The Eleven Mile Creek State School.

The soldiers arranged some shelter for their horses and Knight went to talk to them!
To Knight's credit, he apparently was quick to assure those in charge that he was quite sure that Bridie knew nothing – They could take his word for it!

And he assured the questioners that if they must persist, according to their orders – Then, if they could give their questions to him first, he would ask Bridie gently, and bring the answers back –
But, for himself, he could assure them, that there had been nobody about that he didn't know. He was sure that this questioning was all unnecessary.

However, more permanent barracks were set up.
I hear the word 'Barricade!'
Perhaps They barricaded for their own safety first; then They barricaded Bridie's house:
And Knight went back and forth trying to supply the answers to their many, many, questions.

In the end, not willing to believe that there was nothing to be found-out from Bridie – The man in charge dismissed Knight altogether;
And relieved him of his task to get information from Bridie – And sent him off!

Poor Bridie was alone, left to face all this questioning by herself.
Knight was right! Bridie had known nothing –
Even of 'Glenrowan'. She had no knowledge at all!
Now she had to face real interrogation from quite unsympathetic officers, who would not allow that Bridie could not know what was going on!

We, of course, now understand that this was the time when Mick (Once 'Nick', and now 'Abe') came back from North America to see both Hester and his mother – and could not get in to see Bridie because she was so over-watched all the time.
This is what brought about that oft told saying that it was too dangerous to be near Bridie. Nobody could get in to see her!

It was said that Bridie cried for three years, when she at last understood what had happened to her sons!
I think it was said that Knight was appalled by Bridie's grief, and while he was still there, had tried to remind Bridie that she now had another little family to see to; and that her little boy and girl loved her also! Perhaps this is where Frank and the children were got out to Margaret's place – or, Frank was there already; and the children came to be there with him. I only know that Frank was there on his farm twenty years later – in order to give the land for the school; and that there was another generation of 'Knights' and 'The Other Kellys' to come to the new school! (They were right beside the school! Perhaps there was a wish by all those involved with the setting-up of the school, that its position there, would be a bulwark against danger for those most fragile of families.)

You will not want to hear what happened to Bridie in those years of 1888-1890.
You will not want to know what her interrogation consisted of –
How can you try to make someone give up information, that they don't even know!
Before 1880, Bridie's older daughters had been brought to Bridie to persuade her that some wonderful life was possible for her and her sons and daughters – all being able to live together.

Then –
After 1880, Bridie's girls had come to her in turn to make their mother feel that all was well; and would soon be even better!

Now, before, and around 1890, Bridie's daughters were brought back to her one at a time: with the life of each young woman as a bargaining point to persuade Bridie to give up news of Mick – And since Bridie knew nothing to give up:
The life of each young woman was given up in turn.
Apparently Heather, and Acacia, and each young woman in turn; each with her lovely name given to her by the flowers at her birth, was found strung along the wires of Bridie's back boundary fence, as a means of persuading Bridie!
(One could expect that they are all buried there amongst the rocks and tors of that Story Hill!)

(I know that Mr James Kelly rode there sometimes, and paid it homage as a sacred place. As for the rest of us – Our veneration was to never go there –
It was a sadness that any person not seeing it as it happened, could not appreciate.)

If you have followed the stories through, you will realise that this was the time that 'Old Ned' Griffiths with his good friends, The Westmans, and the sons of each; had thought of strongholding in the district.

They had good reason to be cautious.
Many of them would have heard whispers of Mick's visit, and, would, in fact, have known more of 'Mick' than Bridie did – guarded as she had always been earlier by the presence of Knight.
Why did Bridie, herself, still survive so that we could see her photographed in her nineties? It was, no doubt, judged that if Bridie did not supply information at that point, the promise of information was there to be tried-for again at some future time.

What I remember most of that story, is a memory picture of Margaret, with the boy Frank already, (and perhaps Alfie also), coming in to see Bridie on a Sunday as was usual – And standing off cautiously, unseen in the bush; waiting for Bridie to understand that they would be there.

And at last the little girl came running – And they could all go home together with Margaret. (I somehow think that the little girl might have been called Peggy – (which would thus be named for Margaret) because there was much about 'Peggy' in Mr James Kelly's stories of that time.)

I came back to these stories earlier, to try to understand who would have been around The Eleven Mile at the time of these children growing up.
I can hear Margaret reassuring my mother (Mavis Griffiths nee Webb) that she did not mind speaking of it – The Children on The Eleven Mile – Who were born to Minnie-Ella, before, and after, 1878.
Mr James Kelly had passed it on as something, he, somehow, could not manage to speak of very well.
Margaret had said that when Minnie-Ella had been required to leave in 1878, she was not ready when called for. Minnie-Ella had not believed that it would actually happen – and that if it did, she would know full well in advance.

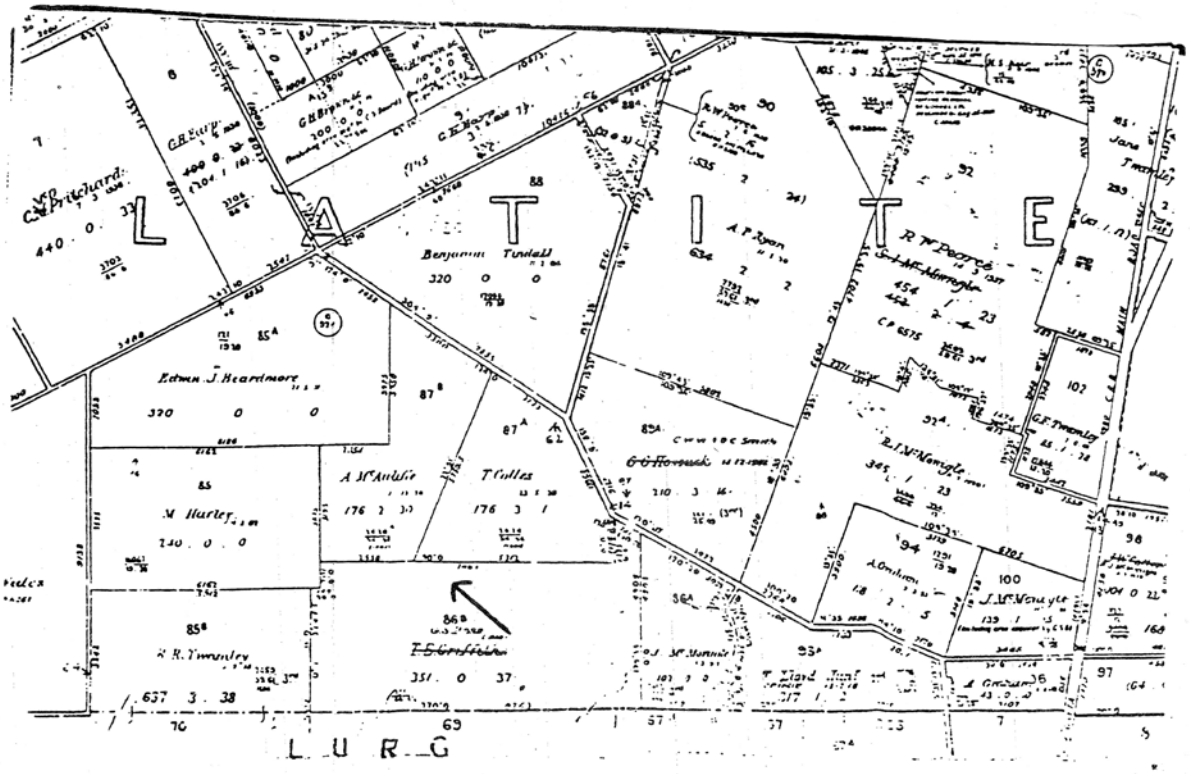
However, she was taken by surprise on both accounts, and moreover, was told that she could take only one child with her – And without ado – the little boy older than Elsie, was left; because at six months of age, Elsie must go with her mother.

Margaret said that the little boy had been deemed neglected because, of course, Bridie was not there, and Kate also went off around this time.
The little boy's grandfather was prevailed upon to take the child into care.
(I had never before really faced – or realised – the fact that this little boy grew to be our wonderful 'Jack'. I had known, of course, that 'Jack' was Ceddie's father: and that all his wonderful stories were 'our' heritage.) 'Jack' was placed with 'Old Ned's' great friends, and his story goes on as previously written.

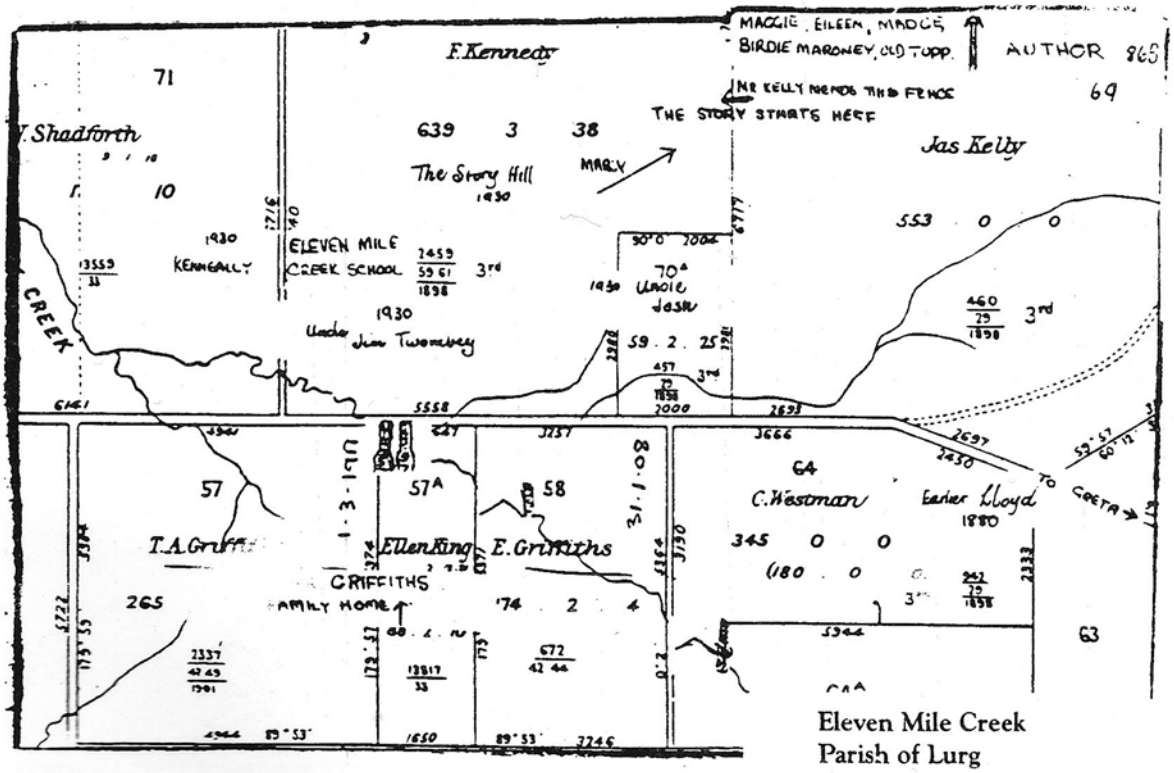
Now, much of the story of 'fleeing' and 'strongholding' to try to keep Jack safe makes extra sense. When you read what went on over the years to try to wipe-out all trace of Ned Kelly – and all trace of 'The Other Kelly Sons', you will realise that 'Jack' could never have survived – Nor could Jonothon, without Maggie had 'Run' with him immediately after the trial – and had kept him safe until he had some protection from the courts – Hear 'Old Ned' Griffiths say that in the main story.

If this was 'Jack' – full son of Ned Kelly – then where was that other little child, brought in to The Eleven Mile with the babe who grew to be the Frank Kelly that we have been following – Bridie's grandson?
He was the son of 'The Other Ned Kelly' – (Who, Our Mr Kelly believed, had no 'Kelly' connection at all; but a great 'likeness' to Ned; to the point that they were spoken of as 'mirror images' to each other.) (This 'likeness' must have come from a 'father' in common, was the held belief.)

Who else in the stories could this other boy be?
Do you know, I think it may have been Richard – said to be Richard Gilling who came into Maggie's stories rather unheralded and late – Said to be brought in to help them with their efforts to set sail to, and settle in South Africa before 1900. Richard was capable enough to stand-by Clive, (Maggie's son), and teach him the ordinary sensible things in life and business, that would set them up in the future.



Mr James Kelly 69
The Little Creek approx. border 86B,87B and 87A View to Glenrowan



Eleven Mile Creek
Parish of Lurg

Glenrowan

VOLUME VII ...

"My mind is as easy
as the mind of any man
in this world ..."
– Ned Kelly 1880

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