

This is a copy of an email I sent to Lara in 2003. I know a lot more now.

Yes it actually does Lara, it is similar to what the bishop from Perth told me. The two brothers migrated to Australia through Melbourne.

They worked in the gold fields slowly moving north to the latest gold discoveries. They finished up at Ardlethan tin mines in NSW. Henry returned to Victoria, James stayed on and ended up farming around Illabo, NSW. I checked the national phone directory and there are 56 Trueloves now. There are still 2 around Illabo. There are quite a few at Warialda.

Henry had a son called "Percy", short for Percival who was quietly famous as a man about town in Melbourne in the early 1900s. He was associated with the Church of England at St Kilda, the verger (accountant). Got into some trouble selling grave sites several times over. He had one son and several daughters. Hence the victorian branch.

I have trouble with the NSW branch. Your great grandmothers were both widows. The Truelove one was very victorian and unapproachable. She lived at North Sydney in a shop in Miller Street, about 4 shops up from the corner of Miller and the Pacific Highway. She supported herself by running the shop for the local police station, it was on the opposite corner. She supplied meals for the prisoners and cleaned the station. She was "protected" by the local constabulary. I can remember visiting her alone when I was quite young. I had been training down at the Olympic Pool and walked up the hill to see her. This was very brave of me. I knocked on the shop door and pushed my way in. 30 seconds later this very large policeman wanted to know what was I up to !

She had several daughters, then a space then your grandfather and then twin boys. Now the naughty bits, she did not have a partner when the three boys came along, so we probably aren't really Trueloves in the real sense, unless our Truelove was a wandering man and only appeared on the scene occasionally. Given the Trueloves were from the bush this may be so.

Anyway our Trueloves were from the Illabo tribe. That's where your great grandmother came from. No one mentioned the northern Casino tribe.

One of the daughters married name was West. There was no Mr West. Her daughters, and there were heaps of them, were your grandparents age and these were the people we most associated with. Another daughter's name was Tyson and I called her Auntie Nell.

Its hard for me to convey a sense of how things were in those days. Sydney was really small, I had relatives in most suburbs, everyone did. So there I was, the first male child in a bloody long time with literally thousands of teenage female "aunties" You have met Betty Mckinnon I think ? she was the youngest one. I attended at least 3 weddings per year and had to play the piano at each one. I have a hard time getting really angry at Garth, because I was a teeny bit badder than him, but I never got caught. I always had a relative to seek refuge with.

The Tysons were big names in the NSW Police force, so I had protection. What with breezing through life, I didn't pay much attention to all the family goings on. However be that as it may, you and I will make arrangements to have a week off soon, I will bring your grandmothers little black book to Sydney and we will go visit the rellies, Its a threat !

Can I sense a birthday coming on :)

Love Dad.

hi La, its late and I have been searching through the NSW archives. Lots of little goosebumps in there. Just found your aunties death notice, sort of gave me a real jolt as I had forgotten her. The death records only go up to 1945. Privacy stuff stops them there. The births only go up to 1905. The first Truelove recorded as born in NSW in 1885 was your great-great aunt Mabel in Petersham, right next door to Lewisham. there are only 8 births up until 1905, but heaps of marriages all over the place starting in 1876. That was the marriage of Jemina Truelove to Roland Mitchell. Now my dim primeval memory has a Jemina living with your great grand mother in North Sydney in the 1950's. I have these folk memories of being told not to get Aunt Gemmies parrot upset, which of course I proceeded to do, as this would get me thripence to go to the shop next door for an ice cream.

Started building a excel spreadsheet with it all on, there are more loose-ends than answers. Good name that GEMINA, must insist on it being the name of my first grand daughter much better than Heather etc etc.

Love Dad XXXX

Notes on all the above. These two emails were sent to Lara in Sydney in 2003. Lara had started working at the Commonwealth Bank in Sydney and had met Michael Kelly who also worked there. His mother's family were related to the Northern Trueloves. This was all news to me at the time and I did jump to some conclusions which were wrong. Gordon 20/08/2019.