

Gen 5: Maher, John (~1813 – 1893)

DB Lowe

→ Father: JC Lowe

→ Grandmother: IM Maher

→ Great-grandfather: M Maher

→ Great-great-grandfather: J Maher

Status: Limited

Research Conclusions

The search starting point is Michael Maher. Michael was born in Geelong on Jan 12th 1843 to John Maher and Margaret Whelan, and baptised on Jan 14th 1843 (see Michael's records). The names John Maher and Margaret Whelan are also confirmed on Michael's marriage record.

There are numerous people called John Maher in Victoria in 1800's, including a number who were married to a Margaret. The current possible conclusions are:

Couple C1a: John Maher and Margaret Whelan/Phelan

The Geelong (Whelan) - Ballarat/Bullarook (Phelan) family

(W= record shown as Whelan, P=record shown as Phelan)

- A. John likely born ~1813, died 28/9/1893 (claimed age 93), Ballarat.
- B. Margaret likely born ~1817, died 11/10/1893 (claimed age 82), Ballarat
- C. Married prior 1841 (likely in 1834/5, given Pat's age).
- D. Immigrated 1841: John (28yo), Margaret (24yo), Pat (6yo) - arrive 30/11/1841 on Marquis of Bute.
- E. Children: Pat (1835-), John P (?1842-), Michael W (1843-1919), Martin W/P (1844-), Edward W/P (1846-), William P (1849), Anne W (1857-), Maryanne P (1859-?)

Core reasoning re Whelan and Phelan being same family:

- Probate for John Maher [P] (1893) refers to his daughter Mary Dedman. Mary Anne and George's marriage certificate lists Mary Anne as being aged 29 and being born in Bullarook to John Maher and Margaret Phelan.
- Wife is shown as Margaret Phelan on John's [P] death certificate.
- Pat's age on DC of John [P] matches age of Pat on passenger list for Marquis of Bute.
- No evidence can be found for separate deaths of John and Margaret Whelan
- For the children of both possible couples, the date of birth is:

	Geelong/Whelan		Ballarat/Phelan
	From birth record		From death records
	Mothers name	Birth	estimated birth year
Patrick	pre-immig.	~1836	~1837/8
John (MARTIN?)	Whelan	19/4/1842	~1842/3
Michael	Whelan	12/1/1843	-
Martin	Whelan	4/8/1844	~1844/5
Edward	Whelan	12/9/1846	(dead)
William	Phelan	15/6/1848	~1848/9
Elizabeth (MAHAR?)	(no surname)	29/3/1851	~1850/1
Anne	Whelan	30/11/1857	~1857
Mary Anne	-	-	~1859

Issues:

- *Inconsistency in naming: Whelan vs Phelan;*
 - o *Some internet information seems to indicate that Whelan was often pronounced as 'Phelan', so maybe it was just written differently by different people when making records.*
- *Michael and Ann missing from John's death certificate*
 - o *Ann died as a 7yo and is buried in the same plot!*
 - o *Maybe Michael was disowned?*
- *Mismatched ages between grave and passenger lists;*
 - o *Passenger lists seems to be quite erratic! But out by 13 years???*
 - o *Suspect that the age on the death certificate is an exaggeration.*
- *St Mary's booklet indicates that John Maher/Margaret Whelan came out as passengers on "Martin Luther"*
 - o *Suspect this was derived from someone who had not done a proper analysis.*
- *John's death certificate indicated how long he had been in the colony – and this could be interpreted as either 30 years or 50 years.*
 - o *No matching immigration record could be found for John Maher arriving around 1863 with a family;*
- *Anne was born in Duck Ponds (Geelong) in 1857. Mary Anne was born in Bullarook – possibly prior to this???*

Couple C2: John Maher and Margaret Ryan

The Tatura family

- F. Married prior 1854
- G. Immigrated 1854: John (30yo), Margaret (25yo), infant (<1yo) - arrived 1854 on John and Lucy
- H. Children: Charles (1855-), Anne (1857-67), Sarah (1858-), Patrick (1860-), Margaret (??-1863), John (1864-).
- I. John d. 9/7/1883 (aged 63), Tatura, Wheelwright/blacksmith
- J. Margaret d. 1905, Tatura

Couple C3: John Maher and Margaret Laffan/Latham

The Tallarook/Seymour family

- K. Immigration 1850: Margaret Laffan arrives in 1850 aboard Aurora (age 27)
- L. Immigration 1852: John Maher arrives in 1852 aboard "Columbia".
- M. Married 1857
- N. Children: Bernard (~1858-), Sarah Ann (~1861-), ?John (~1863-)
- O. John died 17/2/1862, Tallarook, aged 32, buried Seymour
- P. Margaret died 6/12/1892, Melbourne, aged 72, buried Seymour

Couple C4: John Maher and Margaret ??

The Merri Creek couple

- Q. John died 1850 (aged 24) in a horse accident. Newspaper and coroners reports refer to wife Margaret, son Michael, and unnamed brother-in-law.

Couple C5: John Maher and Margaret ??

The Richmond family

- R. John died 8/11/1883 (from probate), Richmond, quarryman, w=Margaret, mention of children but no names.

Couple C7: John Maher + Margaret Sheehy

- S. Married in Vic in 1858
- T. Children: Johanna (1859-1860), Patrick (1862-), John (1866-)

Couple C8: John Maher + Margaret Lalor

- U. Married in Vic in 1845
- V. Children: cannot find any record of children

Couple C9: John Maher + Margaret Cormick

- W. Children: Mary (1870-14/5/1871), Ellen (1873-19/8/1873), Alice (1874-), Thomas (1876-), Bridget (1878-16/2/1889)

And whilst not a John and Margaret, the following is also relevant to some of the research, as it relates to another Maher family very close the Bullarook/Ballarat family.

Couple C6: John Maher + Mary OBrien

- X. Living in Mt Egerton, near Ballarat

Research working notes

In the following notes, facts documented through a verifiable source are listed as Fx. The couple this maps to is shown as [Cx]. Where this has not yet been mapped to a known couple above it is appended with a [C?] tag.

Discussions:

Discussions have occurred with the following people:

- Me (David Lowe)
(1) John Maher → (2) Michael → (3) Irene (Lowe) → (4) John → (5) David
- Emily Mansfield:
(1) John Maher → (2) Michael → (3) John → (4) Michael → (5) Mary (Mansfield) → (6) Emily
- Peter Shadwick:
(1) John Maher → (2) Michael → (3) Isidore → (4) Jean (Shadwick) → (5) Peter
- Dan O'Reilly:
(1) John Maher → (2) Elizabeth (Egan) → (3) Elizabeth (O'Reilly) → (4) William → (5) Dan
- Elizabeth Seaton:
(1) John Maher → (2) Mary Anne (Deedman) / br → (3) ????? → (4) ????? → (5) Elizabeth

John and Margaret Maher Immigration:

Whilst it is possible that John and/or Margaret arrived overland from Sydney, or had an arrival that was unrecorded, it is most likely that they arrived by ship in the new Victorian colony. The list of people name John Maher who arrived in the Victorian colony prior to 1860 are as follows:

- F1. John Maher, Single 18, from Tipperary, arr. 17/7/41 on England
- F2. John Maher, 2 8yo, Margaret Maher, 24yo, and Pat Maher 6yo. Arr 30/11/1841 on Marquis of Bute. Came from Tipperary.

Note: In the NSW Assisted Immigrant Passenger List the above names appears to be written as "Nigher" (maybe a mis-written Meagher?). In the Register of Assisted Immigrants (VPRS 3502) it appears very definitely as "Maher". Also there were also three single woman named Whelan on the Marquis of Bute: Biddy 18yo, Ellen 15yo, and Rachel 17yo, with the

first two listed as coming from Roscrea, and Rachel listed as coming from Roscrea in one list and Belfast on another. Could these be sisters of 24yo Margaret?

- F3. John Maher, 20yo, and Margaret Maher, 28yo. Arr. 9/2/1842 on Martin Luther. Both came from Tipperary, both RC.
- F4. John Maher, single, 24yo, from Cork, arr. 9/2/42 on Martin Luther.
- F5. John Maher 24yo and Eliza Maher 19yo, arr. 24/12/1849 on Andromache
- F6. John Maher, single 8yo, arr. 5/6/1852 on Mangerton
- F7. John Maher 30yo + Margaret Maher 25yo, arr. 25/9/1854 on John and Lucy
- F8. John Maher, single 2yo, arr. 11/7/1854 on City of Manchester
- F9. John Maher, single 13yo, arr. 2/8/1855 on Fullerton
- F10. John Maher, single 26yo, arr. 27/1/1857 on Appleton
- F11. John Maher, single 28yo, arr. 19/3/1857 on Columbia
- F12. John Maher, single 21yo, arr. 17/5/1857 on Bride
- F13. John Maher, single 10yo, arr. 5/2/1858 on Shooting Star
- F14. John Maher, single 56yo, arr. 14/5/1858 on Parsee
- F15. John Maher, single 20yo, arr. 14/8/1858 on Africa
- F16. John Maher, single 23yo, arr. 24/11/1858 on Harriet
- F17. John Maher, single 21yo arr. 27/1/1859 on Shalimar

Note that the 3rd or 4th entry above are likely to relate to [C7] - the John Maher + Margaret Lalor who married in Victoria in 1845.

Only the first four of the above people arrived prior to Michael's birth in Feb 1843. Two of these were single, but there is no record of any single women named "Margaret Whelan" arriving in Victoria prior to 1843 and no record of a marriage can be found. Also given that these are both only 12-18 months prior to Michael's birth, and both less than 9 months prior to John's birth (leaving little time for a marriage and then a baby in the colony) both of these single immigrants are unlikely to relate to Michael's parents.

Given the existence of Pat on the first entry, this is almost certainly the John Maher and Margaret *Phelan* who died in Ballarat in 1893, and hence likely to be the John Maher and Margaret *Whelan* who were living in Geelong in the 1840's and 1850's.

As a crosscheck, searching for Margaret (Maher, Whelan, and Phelan) who arrived in the colony prior to Michael's birth in 1843:

- F18. Margaret Maher, 19yo, Convict (house robbery), arr. 30/5/1837 on Ship *Margaret*. Was in Newcastle Gaol and did not receive certificate of freedom until 7/12/1843 – i.e. too late to be Michael's mother.
- F19. Margaret Whelan, single 16yo, arr. 14/7/1840 on Formosa
- F20. Margaret Maher, single 20yo, from Tipperary, arr. 28/8/1841 on Ship Forth
- F21. Margaret Whelan, single 20yo, arr. 13/10/1841 on Lady Kennaway
- F22. Margaret Whelan, married 27yo, arr. 30/11/1841 on Mary Nixon
- F23. Margaret Phelan, single 22yo, arr. 1/5/1840 on China

And just for completeness:

- F24. Margaret Maher, single 17yo, arr. 20/2/1849 on Inchinan
- F25. Margaret Maher, single 17yo, arr. 26/5/1849 on Pemberton
- F26. Margaret Maher, single 18yo, arr. 29/6/1850 on Maria
- F27. Margaret Maher, single 30yo, arr. 1/2/1852 on Joseph Somes
- F28. Margaret Maher, single 24yo, arr. 1/9/1853 on David Maciver

- F29. Margaret Maher, single 19yo, arr. 31/1/1854 on Truro
- F30. Margaret Maher, single 35yo, arr. 28/3/1854 on Blenheim
- F31. Margaret Maher, single 23yo, arr. 9/4/1854 on Persian
- F32. Margaret Maher, single 18yo, arr. 29/9/1854 on Caroline Middleton
- F33. Margaret Maher, single 26yo, arr. 17/10/1854 on Caroline
- F34. Margaret Maher, single 20yo, arr. 31/10/1854 on Patrician
- F35. Margaret Maher, single 21yo, arr. 23/12/1854 on David Maciver
- F36. Margaret Maher, single 10yo, arr. 16/6/1855 on Golden Era
- F37. Margaret Maher, single 20yo, arr. 6/1/1856 on Bee
- F38. Margaret Maher, single 19yo, arr. 6/6/1857 on Black Eagle
- F39. Margt Maher, married 26yo (but no husband shown), arr. 3/10/1857 on John Linn
- F40. Margaret Maher, single 20yo, arr. 4/11/1857 on Victory
- F41. Margaret Maher, single 30yo, arr. 14/5/1858 on Admiral Boxer
- F42. Margaret Maher, single 21yo, arr. 4/8/1858 on Fitz James
- F43. Margaret Maher, single 18yo, arr. 27/5/1859 on Palmyra

It is possible that one of the single ones before 1843 (Phelan/Whelan) arrived and then immediately married, or that the married Margaret Maher came out separately from John, but neither of these possibilities explain the existence of the son Pat, born ~1835.

Is it also worth checking the sponsors for the Maher/Whelan children and see what ship they were on, and if it matches any of the above immigrants ships.

- Michael, 12/1/1843, Geelong (bap. 14/1/1843). Sponsor = Richard Head, arrived aboard Martin Luther!
- Martin, 4/8/1844, sponsors = William Dickens, Margaret Corcoran (arrived either Royal Saxon or Susan)
- Edward, 12/9/1846, sponsors = Patrick Cullen, Mary Campbell

Patrick Head is the only sponsor who was on either the Martin Luther or the Marquis of Bute.

There is no definitive evidence as to which of the above records is the correct John and Margaret Maher, but the existence of Patrick Head indicates that the Immigration on the Martin Luther is the more likely one.

Possible marriage records for John and Margaret Maher

There are a number of marriage records for John and Margaret Maher. These would only be relevant if John and Margaret arrived unmarried.

- F44. [C7] John Maher + Margaret Lalor - married in Vic in 1845; cannot find any record of children
- F45. [C3] John Maher + Margaret Laffan - married in Vic in 1857
Note, there is a Mary Laffan whose married name was Maher, and died in Ballarat in 1891. Could this marriage record be an error? Or Maybe two Laffans married two Mahers?
- F46. [C6] John Maher + Margaret Sheehy - married in Vic in 1858

Note that it is possible that any of the women named Margaret Maher could have died in childbirth (or otherwise) and then John remarried another Margaret, so some of the John + Margaret couples might have involved the same John Maher. For example, it could be possible that Margaret Whelan died giving birth to Anne, and John then remarried to Margaret Sheehy.

Irish records for John and Margaret

Given the conclusion that John and Margaret arrived on the Marquis of Bute, the full details of this trip are as follows:

- Ship: Marquis of Bute (also *Marques*), 512 tons. Master = Neil Lamont.
- Departure: 11/8/1841, Greenock (Glasgow)
- Arrival: 30/11/1841, Port Philip Bay, Australia (15 weeks). Quarantined on arrival due to typhoid fever. Cleared out 11/1/1842 from Melbourne for Batavia
- Report: Friday, December 3, 1841 The Port Phillip Herald: The Marquis of Bute had a very severe passage. She had a head wind the greater part of the way. There were 3 births and 8 deaths (principally children) 36 single females, 42 single males, so no bounty paid for 4, 41 adult males and 42 females with chn aged 7-15, 7m, 11f, aged 1-7, 19m, 12f, infants 6m, 7f, total 149 souls, total bounty 3277
- Passengers:
 - John Maher, 28yo, smith, R.C., Read and write, from Tipperary
 - Margaret Maher, 24yo, housemaid, R.C., Read and write, from Tipperary
 - Pat Maher, 6yo. son

For stories of the trip on the Marquis of Bute, see:

- <http://harperfamilytree.com/andrew-and-maria-harper-bound-for-the-colonies/> - *note: the couple in this story lived in Geelong for a while, and the wife died in Bullarook at age 46.*

Notes provided by Dan O'Reilly (Email 6/1/2016):

"John Maher, Born c 1821 Tipperary, Ireland. Father Patrick, a blacksmith, Mother Julia Darcey. Died 28 Sep 1893, Eyre street, Ballarat. Buried 30 Sep 1893, Ballarat Old cemetery Interred Site E2/Sec 15/ 1/7

"Margaret Maher. Born c1821 Tipperary, Ireland. Died 11 Oct 1893, Eyre Street, Ballarat. Buried 13 Oct 1893, Ballarat Old Cem. Interred Site E2/Sec 15/ 1/7

"Children not in birth order, Patrick, John, Martin, Edward, Elizabeth, Mary, William, Michael, Anne

"Possible Marriage: At ROSCREA, Co Tipperary, married 30 Aug 1835, Witnesses John O'Shaughnessy and Ellen Lavy. John surname shown as Meagher.

"24 Nov 2008 received from NSW Archives shipping list of Martin Luther, arriving in Port Phillip on 9 Feb 1842 states John Maher, a labourer, can read and write, 20 years old of Tipperary, Ire., married to Margaret Maher of Tipperary aged 28 yrs, can read. They were assisted immigrants, introduced to the Colony of New South Wales by Johnathon B Were of Melbourne".

Notes provided by Emily Mansfield (Email 26/1/2016):

"Also my parents visited Ireland in 2002 and Mum obtained a bit of information regarding Margaret Whelan and John Maher including a marriage in 1841 and a birth of Margaret in 1821?

"We believe the Maher's & Whelan's came from a town called Roscrea in Tipperary. This town is full of Maher's and Whelan's so I am unsure of how certain this information is".

Search on Roscrea parish records¹ provides:

- Marriage – given that Immigration show Margaret as 24yo on arrival in 1841, and Pat as 6yo, her Marriage is likely to be in the period 1832 to 1835. Search period 1830 to 1838. Only one relevant record found:
 - John Meagher to Margaret Whelan, 30/8/1835 (this is the only record for a John + Margaret in the period Jan 1834-1838

¹ <http://registers.nli.ie/parishes/0805>

- Birth (Pat) – born in 1835-6, so search 1834-1839. Only one relevant record found:
 - Birth, Pat, 30/9/1836, f=John Maher, m=Margaret Phelan (13 months after above marriage)
- Birth (John) – claimed age 28yo on arrival in Victoria in Nov 1841, so likely born 1813. Search for records with f=Pat Maher, m=Julia Darcey, from mid-1811 to mid-184
 - 6/6/1812, John, f=John Meagher, m=Bridget Kirwan
 - 22/12/1812, John, f=James Meagher, m=Anne Costelloe
 - 19/5/1813, John, f=? Meagher, m=Sarah Kennedy
- Birth of Whelan children
 - Biddy, 24/6/1823, f=Malick? Whelan, Mary? Lalor
 - Mick, 25/6/1826, f=Malick? Whelan, Mary? Lalor

Possible death records for John and Margaret Maher:

There are a number of possible death and/or probate records for John Maher with evidence of a wife Margaret.

- F1. [C4] John Maher, 19/3/1850, 25yo (death record). d. 19/3/1850, Merri Creek, farmer, w=Margaret, one son, Michael Maher (probate). A Newspaper article indicates that he was killed in a horse accident at Melbourne racecourse. The article mentions his wife and brother-in-law, but no names.

Note: The feasibility of this being the John Maher who is married to Margaret Whelan seems unlikely, given that only one son is mentioned (Michael), whereas Margaret Whelan had multiple children during the 1840's, and additional children after 1850.

There are likely to be at least three John and Margaret Maher's in the colony by early 1850: (1) the 1841 Marquis of Bute couple; (2) the 1842 Martin Luther couple; (3) the John Maher and Margaret Lalor who married in 1845. Given that there is a reference to a brother in law, it might be worthwhile seeing if this can be traced. Maybe look at who lived in Merri Creek at this time?

Consider the origin of the son Michael. The only record for a Michael born to John Maher and Margaret is that to Whelan. This suggests either Michael's birth was not registered, or he arrived in Victoria from elsewhere? Also, no relevant death record can be found – so maybe Margaret remarried and Michael took on his step-fathers name (there are many marriage records for a "Margaret Maher" in the 1850's).

- F2. [C3] John Maher, d. 17/2/1862, Tallarook, w=Margaret, c=Bernard (3), c=Sarah Ann (1) (probate) → *This is almost certainly the "Seymour" John Maher and Margaret Maher (probably nee Laffan/Latham)*
- F3. [C2] John Maher, 1883, 63yo, Tatura. (death record) d. 9/7/1883, Tatura, Wheelwright and blacksmith, w=Margaret, c=Charles, c=Sarah, c=John (probate). → *This is almost certainly the "Tatura" John Maher and Margaret Maher (probably nee Ryan)*
- F4. [C?] John Maher, 8/11/1883, Richmond, quarryman, w=Margaret, mention of children but no names (probate).
- F5. [C1b] John Maher, d. 28/9/1893, Ballarat, age 93

- Death: 28/9/1893, Eyre St, Ballarat; Farmer; 93yo; f=Pat Maher (blacksmith), m=Julia Darcey; born Tipperary Ireland; 30?/50?² years in Victoria; married in Tipperary, age 30, to Margaret Phelan, Children:
 - Patrick, age 55, (so born ~1838
 - John, dead
 - Martin, age 48 (so b. ~1845)
 - Edward, dead
 - William, age 44 (so b. ~1849)
 - Elizabeth, age 42 (so b. ~1851)
 - Mary, age 38 (so b. ~1855)
- Probate: w=Margaret, c=Martin, c=Mary Deedman (probate).
- See the discussion below on this John Maher

Note also there is an unrelated probate record for John Maher, d. 17/6/1897, aged 56, Ballarat, Hotel Keeper, w=Ellen (so born 1841)

Other records which can be discounted include:

- John Maher, 1863, 43yo, Victoria. (death record). The record shows that he drowned and is buried in Woodend cemetery. His children are listed as: John (dec), James (dec), Denis (21), Ann (dec), Sarah (16), Thomas (15), Ann (6), John (5), Mary Jane (3). His wife is shown as Mary Kenny. Had been in colony 11 years (so arrived ~1852), married ~1839, at age 19 in Liverpool.
- John Maher, 16/7/1886, Kyabram. This was initially reported in a newspaper, but was subsequently corrected to the death of Thomas Maher.

And there are a few additional death or probate records for a John Maher, but where the wife is unclear:

- John Maher, 22/3/1886, 65yo, West Hotham. A newspaper article described the sudden death of a Milkman at a residence in Provost Street from heart disease (note: Hotham is the area now known as North Melbourne). A separate article indicated that he lived in Burrell street, Hotham.
- John Maher, d. 3/10/1879, Prahan, w=?, c=John (probate)
- John Maher, d. 13/5/1892, Limestone Creek, w=?, siblings= Richard, James, Bridget (NZ) (probate)
- John Maher, d. 25/10/1892, Hesket, w=?, grandson=James, c=John (w=Nord Holohan) (probate)
- John Maher, d. 11/10/1901, Banyena, w=? nephews=John & James Byrne

Regarding Margaret Maher (nee Whelan/Phelan), given the period of childbirth [known to be at least 1843-1846 and probably till 1857] her date of birth is almost certainly to be in the period 1807-1827, and likely to be 1812-1825. Searching for death records for Margaret Maher, born in this window, gives:

- F6. [C3] Margaret Maher (nee Laffan), d. 1892, Brunswick, Vic, age 72 (b. ~1820) (death) d. 6/12/1892, buried Seymour, Vic, age 71 (b. ~1820). (probate).
- F7. [C1b] Margaret Maher, d. 11/10/1893, Ballarat, age 82 (b. ~1811). See the discussion below, which seems to confirm that this is Margaret *Phelan*.
- F8. [C2?] Margaret Maher, d. 1897, f=Ryan Michl, Ballarat, age 73 (b. ~1824)

² It is unclear whether the record says 30 years or 50 years. For 30 years, not matching immigration record (i.e. a John Maher, married, with a number of children, and born prior to 1822) can be found. For 50 years, this was match an arrival in the early 1840's.

- F9. [C2?] Margaret Maher, d. 1905, Tatura, Vic, age 87 (b. ~1818) (*note: a private Ancestry record indicates that the death certificate shows this as Margaret Maher nee Ryan, d. 17/12/1905, Tatura - but this could not be confirmed*).

The last two are somewhat confusing. John Ryan, blacksmith of Tatura, and husband of Margaret Maher nee Ryan, died in 1883. Their first child (that can be identified) was born in 1855, shortly after their likely arrival in the colony in 1854 aboard the *John and Lucy*. If this immigration record is correct then Margaret was 25yo, so born ~1829. Conversely, the probate record for Margaret Maher, d. 1905 in Tatura refers to the same allotment of land as John's will. This indicates that the Margaret Maher nee Ryan who died in 1897 in Ballarat is a different Margaret.

Census:

TBD.

Children:

Both the marriage and birth record for Michael Maher (1843) list his parents as John Maher and Margaret Whelan (with Michael being born in Geelong in 1843). Three other children are also listed being born to John Maher and Margaret *Whelan*:

- F10. [C1a] Michael, 12/1/1843, Geelong (bap. 14/1/1843)
F11. [C1a] Martin, 4/8/1844, Barrabool Hills (bap. 25/3/1845)
F12. [C1a] Edward³, 12/9/1846, Mt Eliza (bap. 29/10/1846)
F13. [C1a] Anne, 30/11/1857, Duck Ponds (now known as Lara) (bap. 10/12/1857)

There is also a couple of possible additional records:

- F14. [C1a] John (MARTIN, Heidelberg, Victoria, 1842, f=John MARTIN, m=Margaret WHELAN.
Note: If this is part of the same family, then it would indicate that maybe they arrived in Melbourne and stayed there whilst John was born (prior to April 1842, given Michael's birth in Jan 1843) and then moved to Geelong some time during 1842.
F15. [C1a] Elizabeth MAHAR, Fier⁴, 29/3/1851, bap. 4/11/1851, f=John, m=Margaret

Regarding John Maher and Margaret *Phelan*, there is a clear connection to the John Maher who died in Ballarat in 1893: the death certificate states that he married Margaret Phelan (in Ireland, around 50 years earlier, so ~1843), and this is confirmed by the name on the marriage certificate of his daughter Mary Dedman and the death certificate of his son John. There are a number of children listed on the death certificate, but these can also be linked to the following from other records:

- F16. [C1b] John, no birth record located, but the death record from 1880 lists age as 37 and parents as Maher/ Phelan, hence b. ~1843
F17. [C1b] William, baptism record shows b. 15/6/1848, Collingwood (bap. 7/5/1849)
F18. [C1b] Mary, age 38 (so b. ~1855). No birth record located, but a marriage record in 1888 (to George Dedman) gives her age as 29, born in Bullarook, and parents as John Maher and Margaret Phelan, hence b. ~1859

There are numerous other children listed in the Victorian BDM with John Maher as a father and various different Margaret's as a mother:

³ Some records show this as "Eduard Mahar".

⁴ See <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/AUSTRALIAN-PLACENAMES/2005-04/1113729910> for information on where "Fier" might be located.

F19. [C2] John Maher + Margaret Ryan: Charles (1855-), Anne (1857-67), Sarah (1858-), Patrick (1860-), Margaret (??-1863), John (1864-).

F20. John Maher + Margaret Sheehy: Johanna (1859-1860), Patrick (1862-), John (1866-)

F21. John Maher + Margaret Latham: Sarah Anne (1864-)

F22. John Maher + Margaret Cormick: Mary (1870-14/5/1871), Ellen (1873-19/8/1873), Alice (1874-), Thomas (1876-), Bridget (1878-16/2/1889)

There are interesting parallels between the lists of children for Whelan and Phelan that suggest these could be same lists of children (e.g. both have Martin and Edward, born at roughly the same period). Conversely there are also interesting differences hinting that the two lists might be for different parents (e.g. no Michael or Anne on the Phelan list, and numerous names missing from the Whelan list – though this might be because many of the Phelan births were not registered).

A key question is therefore whether there is one couple (with Margaret Whelan/Phelan being the same person) or two couples (with Margaret Whelan and Margaret Phelan being different people). This might be resolved by tracing further details of the children...

Tracing Martin Maher

There appears to be both a Martin Maher born to John Maher and Margaret Whelan (from the 1844 birth/baptism) and a Martin Maher born to John Maher and Margaret Phelan (from the death and burial records for John Maher). A critical question is whether there is any evidence that these are the same person? If so, then this would be a compelling piece of the picture connecting *Geelong Whelan* and *Ballarat Phelan*.

The only record of a Martin Maher being born to parents John and Margaret is the Boorabool Hills record [C1a] mentioned above, born 4/8/1844 (though there may have been other Martin Mahers who arrived in the colony as a child, or whose birth was not registered).

There is also a Martin in the will of the Ballarat John Maher [C1b], listed as aged 48 on John's death 28/9/1893, so likely born 9/1844-9/1845 (almost, but not quite, overlapping). This could be the same Martin who was born to John Maher and Margaret Whelan, and hence the John and Margaret Maher in Ballarat are the same John Maher and Margaret Whelan who had children in Geelong in the 1840's (Q: *Is this too tenuous a link?*)

A search for relevant records related to Martin Maher reveals the following marriage records, any of which might be relevant:

- Married 1862 to Mary Shea (Martin would be aged ~18)
- Married 1864 to Anne Dwyer (Martin would be aged ~20)
- Married 1869 to Hannah Stockden (Martin would be aged ~25)
- Married 1876 to Margaret Buckley (Martin would be aged ~32)

Looking for the death of Martin Maher may help provide clarification (by finding an age / date of birth for this Martin Maher, to see if it matches the Martin Maher/Whelan). Note that the Ballarat Martin was definitely alive in 1893 (re probate for his father's will) and there is a newspaper entry in 1901 that refers to Martin Maher of Bullarook (renting his farm), so this suggests this Martin was still alive at this time.

Records for a Martin Maher that seemed feasible:

- 1926, Wagga, f=John, m=Margaret. Newspaper obituary describes him as 83 (so b. ~1843), and a prospector, but no mention of any relatives in Wagga.
- 26/11/1926, Staceys Bridge, gent (probate),

Others that are not feasible:

- 1872, age 56 (so b. ~1816), Victoria. *Too old to be either the son of either Margaret Whelan or Phelan.*
- 1898, age 73 (so b. ~1825), Brunswick. *Too old*
- 1899, age 84 (so b. ~1815), Hotham, Vic, f=Patk Maher, m=Margt
- 19/7/1899, bu. 20/7/1899, Gordon, Vic (about 14km from Bullarook) (cemetery) Lived in Mt Egerton, w=Anne Maher (probate) age 60, so b. ~1839, f=Jno Maher, m-Mary Obrien (death). An obituary for his wife Anne (d. 27/8/1915) describes them as being married in Bacchus Marsh on 17/4/1864. A marriage record shows Martin Maher and Anne Dwyer marriage in 1864.

This indicates that the John Maher who appears in various records associated with living in the Egerton area is part of a John Maher + Mary Obrien couple, and distinct from the John Maher and Margaret Phelan of Bullarook.

- 21/3/1902, age 56 (so b. ~1846), Trentham, Vic. (Cemetery Index), Blue Mountain, f=Martin Maher, m=Cath Cantwell. (death cert)
- 1912, Ballarat, Vic, aged 83 (b. ~1829). Died in a fire at Ross Creek, f=Wm Maher, m=Katherine Stone.
- Martin Maher, d. 1920, Yarrawonga, f=Jno Maher, m=Jane Coghlan. This Martin was born in 1868 in Malmsbury.

i.e. the Wagga record seems to be the only one that matches, but no clear reason as to why he would be in Wagga?

It may be possible to narrow this down by looking for children of Martin Maher, and see where they were born, and who is the mother.

- With Mary Shea: Ellen, Bacc (1863), Ellen, Djer (1864), Thomas (1854), John (1866), Mary (1868), Catherine, Sebastapol (1871), Margaret, Ballarat (1873), Hannah, Bacc (1875)
- With Alice Stockton: Catherine, Sebastapol (1870)

Given the location and dates, the above two are the most likely to be Martin, son of Mgrt Phelan C1b.

- With Anne Dwyer: John, Bacchus Marsh (1866), Michael (1870), Mary (1872), Martin (1878), Anne, Egerton, (1880)

Clearly the Egerton Martin

- With Bridget Fogarty: Bridget Mary, Melbourne (1871)
- With Hannah Stockden: William, Ross Creek (1872), Mary Emma (1874), Timothy (1876), Martin (1879), Ellen, Ross Creek (1881), James (1884), Robert (1886), Thomas, Ross Creek (1889), Hannah, Ross Creek (1891), Alice, Ballarat (1893)
- With Margaret Buckley: William (1877), Margaret (1878), Martin (1881), Daniel, Hawthorn (1883), Michael (1886), Catherine Mary, Fitzroy (1888)
- With Margaret Kennedy: Margaret, Carlton (1891)

None of these are sufficiently definitive to provide clarification. Apart from the Martin Maher in Ross Creek, no other Martin Maher is shown living in or near Ballarat in the census in 1903.

Considering other information: There are newspaper references as follows:

- Martin Maher of Bullarook was renting his farm in 1901.
- Martin Maher of Bullarook was renting his farm in 1911.

None of this is definitive.

Tracing Edward Maher

Edward W was born to John Maher and Margaret Whelan at Mt Elephant (near Geelong) on 12/9/1846. The Death certificate for John Maher (d. 1893, Ballarat) lists a son Edward who is dead.

A search for death records lists several possible Edward Mahers

- d. 1891, aged 49 (so b. ~1842), Kilmore. *Conclusion: age is not close enough.*
- d. 26/4/1892, King Parrot Creek, Yea (from probate). Married to Catherine Dowling in 1875, with children aged 15yo down to 6yo. Death record eventually located – and shows f=Mich, m=Mary Cashan. *Conclusion: not the right Edward.*

Another possibility is that he emigrated. An Edward Maher emigrated from Victoria to London aboard Essex in Jun 1872, aged 24 (so b. ~1847-8).

Tracing William Maher

William P was born to John Maher and Margaret *Phelan* at Collingwood on 15/6/1848, and the death record for father John indicates he was alive in 1893 aged 44. No record of his death or probate (or other related records) can be found.

Tracing Anne Maher

Anne W was born to John Maher and Margaret *Whelan* at Duck Ponds (now known as Lara, 18km north of Geelong) on 30/11/1857. She does not appear on the death certificate of Ballarat John Maher, indicating that she either died very young, or she became known as Mary Anne (who *does* appear on John's death certificate and in his will as Mary Anne Dedman).

There are two people called Anne Maher who died as children:

1. Anne Maher, d. 1867, Victoria, age 10, f=John Maher, m=Margaret Ruan (probably Ryan)
2. Anne Maher, d. 1865, Victoria, age 7, f=John, m=Margaret. The associated newspaper obituary clearly connects this to the Anne Maher born in Duck Ponds.

Tracing Michael Maher

Michael Maher was born to John Maher and Margaret *Whelan* on 12/1/1843. Oddly, he isn't listed on the death certificate of John Maher (d. 1893 in Ballarat), so there may have been a falling out. Nevertheless, Michael was married in 1868 in Hughes Creek, and his marriage certificate shows the same parents, and that he was living in Tabilk. All of his children born between 1869 and 1880 have birth locations in the Nagambie/Tabilk/Avenel area, so it is likely he lived in this area.

It is possible that if Michael was living in the area he may have had other members of his family with him (including John and Margaret?) It is also worth noting that Michael's older brother Pat left Geelong (with his wife and 6yo son Michael) around 1864, and travelled north eventually settling in Coolac, NSW. Michael may have travelled with him as far as Tabilk?

Some background information on the area:

Nagambie is a rural township on the Goulburn River in central northern Victoria, 27 km north of Seymour. It is on the Goulburn Valley Highway and the railway line (1880) between Seymour and Shepparton. Farm selection activity began in the mid-1860s in the Nagambie district, and in 1868

the Nagambie township was gazetted. It was located beside a flood prone horseshoe shaped piece of ground which was usually surrounded by a lagoon on the town site. Nagambie is thought to be an Aboriginal word meaning lagoon or still waters. Within ten years Nagambie had a school (1870), a Catholic church (1872), a mechanics' institute and two flour mills. There were 76 buildings in the township in 1877. The Goulburn Valley vineyard, one of several in the district, adjoined the lagoon. In 1871 the Goulburn shire was created, with Nagambie as its administrative centre. (<http://www.victorianplaces.com.au/nagambie>). *The population in 1871 was 141.*

Tabilk is a rural locality between Seymour and Nagambie in central Victoria, best known for the Chateau Tabilk vineyard. During the mid-1860s small farms began to be occupied in the Tabilk district, for which much grey box forest had to be cleared. The land was suitable for growing wheat and grapes. ... Apart from vineyards, Tabilk had orchards and grazing. A school was opened in 1868. (<http://www.victorianplaces.com.au/tabilk>)

It might be worthwhile searching for information on land selections in the Nagambie/Tabilk area. A good starting point might be the relevant parish plans⁵.

Township of Nagambie – plan number 5570
Parish of Avenel – plan number 2031
Township of Avenel – plan number 5022
Parish of Tabilk – plan number 3520
Parish of Wormangal – plan number 3900
Parish of Warring – plan number 3699

In the Tabilk Parish:

- Martin Roach, (38A,B), selected 24/8/1871, file no. 1903/33, area = 156-0-0 acres

And in the Wormangal Parish

- Martin Roach, (24B'), selected 16/7/72, file no. 31/10311, area = 67-1-12 acres
- M. Maher, (43B), selected 9/10/1871, file no. 33/2014, area = 141 acres, 1 rood, 36 perches.

(The Goulburn Valley Highway now runs straight through the middle of this one! And the above three are right next to each other)

- Michael Maher, (7A), selected no date, file no. 16843/19.20, area = 163-0-2 acres
- Ellen Roche Devine (7B), selected no date, "Cer 30/9/1880", file no. 440/19.20, area = 163-0-2 acres

(The above two are right next to each other)

- Martin Roach, (38B), selected no date, file no. 19739/19.20, area = 113-3-16 acres

Note: Michael's wife was Bridget Roche. Bridget had both a father and a brother Martin Roche/Roach, and a sister Ellen Devine nee Roche. She also has sisters whose married names were Griffin, Watson, Waide, Lineham, O'Dwyer, Henry – many of these names appear on the Parish plans.

⁵ For information on land and plans in Victoria see the following:

<http://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/c.php?g=245235&p=1632907>

<http://www.insidehistory.com.au/2013/03/expert-qa-researching-australian-land-records-with-carole-riley/>

<http://prov.vic.gov.au/provguide-55>

<http://prov.vic.gov.au/research/buildings-and-land>

<http://prov.vic.gov.au/publications/lands-guide>

Note: to access a specific parish plan, go to "access a collection" then search within the series VPRS 16171 with the plan number in the search.

Miscellaneous records

The following additional records exist:

- 10/10/1855: Newspaper: Article about the arrest of John Maher for murder (at Mt Blackwood goldfields).
- 12/6/1857: Newspaper: John Maher (a dirty looking vagabond) charged with indecent exposure
- 4/11/1859: Newspaper (Ballarat): John Maher charged with threatening to take the life of his wife, Margaret
- 11/12/1874: Newspaper (Ballarat): John Maher acquired licence for Limerick and Kilaloe Hotel
- 6/2/1875: Newspaper: Mention of John Maher of Nagambie
Note: Michael Maher was living in the Nagambie area from ~1870 to ~1880

Possible John and Margaret Maher in Seymour

The record for Margaret Maher, d. 1892 in Seymour, led to further exploration of this possibility, and the identification of a gravestone⁶ in Seymour Old Cemetery (also called Seymour Pioneer Cemetery) which lists both John and Margaret Maher.

Note that Seymour is between Yea (where Bridget Roche was born and lived) and Tabilk where Michael Maher and Bridget Roche were living when they were married in Feb 1868 (around 20km from each). In 1860 Tahbilk Winery was established, so Michael and Bridget, and possibly John and Margaret, could have been living near this. The marriage record for Michael and Bridget shows the marriage occurring at Hughes Creek, which travels past Avenel and then Tabilk before joining the Goulburn River.

Avenel is only 12km from Tabilk. The Kelly family (i.e. Ned Kelly) moved to Avenel around 1864 and John "Red" Kelly died and was buried in Avenel Cemetery in late Dec 1866⁷. Sometime later (either "a few years later" or "the following year", depending on the source) the family moved to Greta. It is therefore likely that Michael and Bridget knew the Kelly family briefly during the 1860's – and that the Kelly's were still in Avenel when Michael and Bridget were married in Hughes Creek, only 14 months after "Red" Kelly died.

If John and Margaret were living (with Michael) in/near Tabilk in 1862, when John died, then it is worth considering where John might have been buried. Tabilk is closer to both Avenel and Nagambie, but Avenel cemetery wasn't opened until 1863⁸ (there may have been an earlier cemetery in Avenel, but this might have been private?) and Nagambie cemetery wasn't founded until the 1870's⁹. Seymour was certainly the much more established town at this time.

One possible complicating factor is a brief mention of "John Maher, Nagambie" in the Melbourne Advocate, on 6/2/1875 (Michael Maher was living near Nagambie during the 1870's).

The gravestone indicates that John died 17/2/1862, aged 32 (b. ~1830), and Margaret died 6/12/1892, aged 72 (b. ~1820). John's age is therefore not consistent with Michael being born in 1843 - unless the age is wrong!

⁶ See <http://www.australiancemeteries.com/vic/mitchell/seymourpioneer.htm> and http://www.australiancemeteries.com/vic/mitchell/seymourgn_data.htm

⁷ See <http://www.fethard.com/people/redkelly.html>

⁸ See <http://www.bonzie.com/c/a?a=p&p=280704&d=stories&story=726053965>

⁹ Search internet for "Strathbogie Shire Heritage Study Stage 2 Volume 3 - Part 2 (L to W)".

Originally the only BMD record for a John Maher that I could find around 1862 was a death registration in 1863 for a John Maher who died in "Victoria", aged 43. The death record for this person however shows that he drowned and is buried in Woodend cemetery.

A record in the probate registers records:

- John Maher, Tallarook (*this is 10km South of Seymour*), Farmer d. 17/2/1862. prob. 21/8/1862.

This leads to his probate documents, including his will (dated 15/2/1862). In his will he states that he had two children: Bernard, aged 3, and Sarah Ann, aged 1. Note also that Margaret's will describes three children, Bernard, Sarah Anne, and John (*Maybe Margaret was pregnant at the time of John's death?*) Given the children's ages it is likely that John and Margaret were likely married in 1857 or early 1858 – indicating that this might have been Margaret Sheehy or Margaret Laffan.

It is also interesting to note that a birth of Sarah Anne Maher, daughter of John Maher and Margaret Latham was registered in Seymour in 1864 (two years after John's death). This could have been a late registration, and might indicate that John's wife was Margaret *Latham*.

Conclusion: This couple is clearly not Michael's parents.

Just for completeness....

This John is too old to have been born in the Victorian Colony.

No arrival record of a *married* John Maher, born around 1830 and arriving in the Victorian colony can be located. Several arrival records for a single John Maher of close to the right age (though not exact), and arriving prior to 1862 were located:

- Oct 1851, aboard Earl Grey, age 20
- Sep 1852, aboard Tippoo Saib, age 22/32 (depending on index)
- May 1853, aboard Bride, aged 21
- Mar 1857, aboard Columbia, aged 28, Irish, Miner

There may also have been a child John Maher who arrived in the later 1830's or early 1840's but was not named.

Two possible marriage records can be found.

- John MAHER + Margaret SHEEHY, married 1850 / 1858 (both dates are shown)
 - Margaret Sheehy arrived in Melbourne in Dec 1857 (aboard Ebba Brahe) as a 19 year old – so born ~1831. She is too young to be the Margaret Maher on the gravestone in Seymour.
 - Margaret Shea arrived in Melbourne in Sep 1841 (aboard Eleanor), aged 23 – so born ~1818
- John MAHER + Margaret LAFFAN, married 1857
 - Margaret Laffan arrived in Melbourne in March 1850 (aboard Aurora) as a single 27 year old – so born ~1822 and married as a 34 year old.

It is quite feasible that this latter couple are the ones who ended up in Seymour – e.g. 27 year old Margaret Laffan arrives in 1850, and then 28 year old John Maher arrives in 1852 aboard "Columbia". They marry later in 1857 and move to Tallarook, where they have two children before John dies in 1862 (aged ~32) and Margaret dies in 1892 (aged ~69).

Postscript: The following email response was received from Bernie Gray of the Seymour Old Cemetery Trust:

My research indicates that the JOHN MAHER who is buried in the Seymour Pioneer Park Cemetery (died 1862) was the son of Daniel Maher and Sarah Sweeney. He married Margaret LAFFAN. All these Mahers settled on Tallarook Flats and their descendants are still in Seymour

John and Margaret Maher in Ballarat:

One possible relevant family is a John and Margaret Maher living in Ballarat late in the 1800's. John Maher died in Ballarat in 1893 (probate documents give date as 28/9/1893). His will referred to leaving his estate to his wife Margaret, his son Martin, and his daughter Mary Deedman (aka Dedman), and his death certificate lists children that overlap strongly with the baptism records for Maher/Whelan. This connection between John + Margaret + Martin suggests this is worth exploring in detail.

Considering Mary Deedman (nee Maher):

The marriage certificate for Mary Maher and George Deedman/Dedman, lists her as Maryanne Maher, married 19/12/1888, aged 29 (so b. ~1859), with f=John Maher and m=Margaret Phelan. Interestingly, the marriage record shows her as being born in Bullarook!

No birth record for a Maryanne Maher (or similar) in 1859 can be found – which would make sense if she was living in the relatively remote area of Bullarook. Maybe the birth wasn't registered?

The death record lists Mary Deedman d. 1926, aged 70 (b. ~1856), f=Jno Maher, m=Margt. No obituary could be located, and no additional relevant information could be found that would confirm whether or not the mother was Margaret Whelan or Margaret Phelan.

Considering John and Margaret:

The only death index for John Maher in 1893 in Ballarat gives his age as 93 and his parents as Pat Maher and Julia Darcey¹⁰. No other relevant record for a John Maher born ~1800 can be found (Q: *could the age be wrong on the record? Or maybe his age was different in other places?*)

Margaret Maher died very soon after John, on 11/10/1893 (13 days after her husband¹¹). There is however a significant confusion over the death record. This records the age as 8 (instead of 82 on the grave record), is missing information on the parents names and marriage status, and indicates she was born in Ballarat and lived her entire life in Victoria (clearly not be possible if she was born around 1810)! There is an associated obituary that clearly indicates that Margaret Maher, relict of John Maher, died at this same time! Either whoever wrote the record was incredibly sloppy (to the point of making things up – such as the birth location) or there was both a child and an adult Margaret Maher who died at the same time and were buried on the same day.

The records for the grave are somewhat confusing. The Ballarat cemetery website lists the following as buried in the same grave plot (Area E2, Section 15, Row 1, Grave 7)¹²:

- Maher, John, age 37, buried 27/10/1880 – implies born ~1843
- Maher, John, age 93, buried 30/9/1893 – implies born ~1800
- Maher, Margaret, age 82, buried 13/10/1893 – implies born ~1811

Other records¹³ however also include the following:

- Maher, Margaret, purchased 20/8/1890 (with note, "*grave of her daughter*")
- Maher, Anne, age 7, buried 15/4/1865 – implies born between 4/1857~4/1858

¹⁰ It was common Irish practice to name the first son after the paternal grandfather. If this was followed then this John Maher might have been expected to name his first son Pat (or Patrick) rather than either Michael or John?

¹¹ Note that Margaret appears to have died only 2 weeks after John, which might explain why there appears to have significant issues with regard to the probate of John's will and probate.

¹² See <http://ballaratcemeteries.com.au/php/results.php?start=45&dataentered=Maher>

¹³ Image provided by Liz Seaton – source unspecified.

This latter record is consistent with the record for Anne Maher, b. 30/11/1857 in Duck Ponds (now known as Lara) to John Maher and Margaret *Whelan*. There is however no Anne listed as a child of John Maher on his death certificate. Confusingly, the death record for the younger John (d. 1880) shows his father as John and his mother as Margaret Phelan (not Whelan).

In other words, the grave appears to contain John Maher, his wife Margaret Maher, a son John whose mother is Margaret *Phelan*, and a daughter Anne whose mother is Margaret *Whelan*.

Considering land records

It is also worth exploring the land records for John Maher. The Parish Plan for the Parish of Bungaree (plan # 2279), 14km NE of Ballarat, shows a land selection by J. Maher. It is recorded as:

- Grantee: J. Maher
- Date of grant: *not specified (other selections in the area are mostly dated between 1868 and 1872, with neighbouring selections in 1871).*
- Area: 100 acres, 0 roods, 0 perches
- File number: 66/11604
- Allotment: Allotment 3, section 18
- Dimensions: 4000 links x 2500 links
(= 502.5m x 804m)
(1 link = 66/100ft; 1 acre = 500x200 links)



It would be useful to trace the dates of ownership of this land from the original selection by John Maher, to its (possible) transferral to Martin in 1893, to its (possible) sale by Martin. *Note: Tracing the ownership of this particular selection requires a visit to the Public Records Office of Victoria reading room, as most records are not yet available online.*

It is also worth noting that there are newspaper entries indicates that there are still Mahers living in Bullarook in 1930.

Further Research

- Search for birth records of daughter Mary
- Continue to search Ireland records
 - Possible: <http://tipperarynorth.rootsireland.ie/search.php> (requires subscription - 1 month = 25€)
 - <http://registers.nli.ie/parishes/0805>
- Explore what other types of records might exist for the Nagambie area
- Obtain land records for selection and ownership of Tabilk land selections.
- Obtain land records for selection and ownership of Bullarook land, and in particular whether this was originally selected by John (around 1870?), then passed to Martin (around 1893) and then passed onwards again.
- Explore possible records from the 1856 census
- Search for additional information on Michael's brother Pat, and Pat's son Michael – and particularly their time in Coolac/Gundagai (maybe check the death record for this Pat)?
- Obtain the death record for Anne Maher d. 1865 to check if it indicates Margaret Whelan or Phelan as the mother? And where this occurred?
- Obtain death certificate for Martin d. 1926 in Wagga

- Do a more detailed search for Michael's brother John (particularly around the Nagambie area in the 1870's).