

Gen 4: Maher, Michael (1843 – 1919)

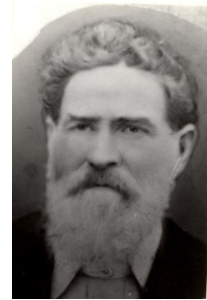
DB Lowe

→ Father: JC Lowe

→ Grandmother: IM Maher

→ Great-grandfather: M Maher

Status: Detailed



Key Events:

1843: Born: 12/1/1843, Geelong Victoria

1868: Married Bridget Caroline Roche (Roach), 23/2/1868, Hughes Creek, Victoria

1869: Child: Margaret - b. 1869, Avanel, Vic; m. 1888 to Owen Smth, Vic; d. 1942, Kogarah, NSW)

1870: Child: John - b. 1870, Nagambie, Vic; m. 1906 to Nora Lehane; d. 1967, Yarrawonga, Vic)

1872: Child: Mary - b. 1872, Avanel, Vic; m. 1907, Berrigan, NSW to James Hanrahan; d. 1929, Wagga, NSW

1874: Child: Martin - b. 1874, Nagambie; m. 1905, Berrigan, NSW to Annie Swan; d. 1959, Griffith, NSW

1876: Child: Louis: b. 1876; d. 1876 – died at 3 months

1877: Child: Thomas - b. 1877, Nagambie, Vic; m. 1916 to Bridget (Cis) Hanrahan; d; 1971, Sandgate, Vic

1880: Child: William James – b. 1880, Nagambie, Vic; m. 1914, Corowa, NSW to Irene Jones; d. 1955, Griffith, NSW

1882: Child: Catherine - b. 1882, Tatura, Vic; m. 1905, Berrigan, NSW to Nicholas Dwyer; d. 1941, Richmond, Vic

1884: Child: Ellen – b. 1884, Numurkah, Vic; m. 1906, Berrigan, NSW to Martin Flanagan; d. 1960, Beaconsfield, WA

1887: Child: Annie - b. 1887, Numurkah, Vic; d. 1887, Naringaningalook, Vic – died at 9 months

1889: Child: Isidore – b. 1889, Numurkah, Vic; m. 1913 to Jessie Roy; d. 1959, Yarrawonga, Vic.¹

1891: Child: Irene May – b. 1891, Numurkah, Vic; m. 1921, Wagga, NSW to William Lowe; d. 1985, Wagga, NSW

1918: Died: 28/4/1919, Yarrawonga, Vic.

Story:

Note: Records for Michael Maher need to be interpreted carefully as there appear to be a number of different people with the name Michael Maher in Victoria in the mid-1800's².

¹ Cannot find any record of Isidore's death. This date/location is from other trees.

² Example records for "Michael Maher" include those related to "my" ancestor:

- *Michael Maher; b. 1843 Geelong; m. 1868 Hughes Creek, Bridget Roach; d. 1919 Y'wonga*

The following records are likely to represent at least three and maybe five other possibilities (born overseas and immigrated)

- Marriage/Death: Michael Maher; b. 1938 (to Jeremiah); m. Margaret; d. 1916 (Bethanga)
- Marriage: Michael Maher; m. 1868 Bridget Hayes
- Immigration: Michael Maher; b. ?1844, imm. 1867
- Immigration: Michael Maher, b. ?1840, imm. 1866
- Immigration: Michael Maher, b. ?1840, imm. 1856
- Death: Michael Maher, b. 1840 (to Jno, Margaret Bourke); d. 1885
- Death: Michael Maher, b. 1840 (to Jno, Catherine Bohan); d. 1915

Michael parents, John Maher and Margaret Whelan, arrived in the Victorian Colony in late 1841 along with their 6 year old son Patrick. In April 1842 they had another son, John, born in Melbourne. Michael was then born in Geelong on Jan 12th 1843, and baptised on Jan 14th 1843 [X1,R1].

Melbourne was founded (by Batman) in August 1835, and Geelong was surveyed 3 weeks later, and then gazetted as a town in October 1838 with a population of 545 (only 3 years before John and Margaret arrived, and 4 years 3 months before Michael was born). The first Catholic church in Geelong was opened on 27th Nov 1842 – just 7 weeks before Michael was born³.

John and Margaret had a number of additional children that indicated they remained around (or returned to) Geelong until the late 1850's: Martin (4/8/1844, Barrabool Hills), Edward (12/9/1846, Mt Eliza), William (15/6/1848, Collingwood), Elizabeth (1851), and Anne (30/11/1857, Duck Ponds - now known as Lara). There may have been another child in the late 1850's – Mary Anne – though this may have just been Anne using a different name.

There is no further record of Michael until 1868 (the Victorian gold rush occurred in the 1850's, and whilst he would only have been 7 years old when gold was discovered, his family may have visited the gold fields. Michael was 11 years old at the time of the Eureka rebellion).

On the 23rd February 1968, aged 25, Michael married Bridget Roche (later spelt Roach) at Hughes Creek. Michael is listed as a farmer living at Tabilk, whilst Bridget is listed as having been born at Yea and currently also living at Tabilk [X2,X3,R2]. The marriage was celebrated by Fr Brannigan (the third Priest in the parish of Kilmore – 60km South of Tabilk⁴), who also celebrated another marriage on the same day and location.

Bridget's obituary stated "*Mrs. Maher was born on the farm of her father, the late Mr. John Roche, in the Strathbogie Ranges, where the town of Yea now stands. She married when 20 years old Michael Maher, of Yea. They afterwards lived variously at Nagambie and Numurkah and then came to Mt. Gwynne, near Mulwala, NSW.*"

Parish Plans for the Nagambie area (around 120km north of Melbourne) – specifically the Parish of Tabilk and the Parish of Wormangal – show a number of "selections" by Michael, as well as the family of his wife Bridget, during the early 1870's.

Michael and Bridget subsequently had at least 12 children. Whilst two died as infants, the rest of the children – 5 sons and 5 daughters – all outlived Michael. The first 7 were born in Avanel/Nagambie: Margaret (1869), John (1870), Mary (1872), Martin (1874), Louis (1876), Thomas (1877) and William (1880).

The next child – Catherine (1882) – was born in Tatura, 50 km north of Nagambie. The family then moved another 50km north to Numurkah, where the last 4 children were born: Ellen (1884), Annie (1887), Isidore (1889) and **Irene May** (1891).

At some point between 1891 and 1904⁵ the family moved another 70km north to Mt Gwynne, just across the border into NSW.

Michael died on 28th Apr 1919 in Piper Street⁶, Yarrawonga [N2,N3,X4,P2] (though there is some confusion over the year⁷). The death is reported as due to "heart failure". His wife's subsequent obituary, 8 years later, stated:

³ See <http://www.stmarysgeelong.com.au/history.html>

⁴ See <http://www.stmarysseymour.com/history.html>

⁵ A newspaper article [N1] from Dec 1904 lists them living in Mt Gwynne, but attending a wedding at Numurkah.

⁶ In later electoral rolls, Michael's son's Isidore Maher and Thomas Frances Maher (and their wives) are both shown living in Piper Street – though no street addresses are given, so it is not known if they are the same address, and whether this matches where Michael was living when he died.

⁷ Bridget Maher's obituary from 1926 states that Michael died around 8 years earlier, so around 1918. The grave [P2] has a death date of 28/4/1918 (though this was only constructed in 2003 by his descendants). Both of these are inconsistent with the death Index and the newspaper death notice, which both indicate 28/4/1919. Also, the death index lists Michael's father as "Michael Maher". This is likely to have been an error (either on the death record or the transcription to the index).

After Mr. Maher's death, about eight years ago, his widow went to Yarrawonga, and later to Wagga, and lived with her daughters, Mrs. James Hanrahan [i.e. Mary] and Mrs W. Lowe [i.e. Irene May]. Mrs. Maher reared a family of five son's and five daughters, all of whom are living. The sons were present at the funeral. About 50 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren are included in those who mourn their loss. Three of deceased's sons are at Yarrawonga, one at Daysdale, and one (Bill) is among the soldier settlers at Griffith, N.S.W.

Sources (on file):

X1: Index, Birth 1843a
X2: Index, Marriage 1868a
X3: Index, Marriage 1869b
X4: Index, Death 1919a

R1: Record, Birth 1843a
R2: Record, Marriage 1868a

N1: Newspaper, Wedding Guest 1904a
N2: Newspaper, Obituary 1919a
N3: Newspaper, Obituary 1919b
N4: Newspaper, mention 1871a

P1: Photo unknown 1
 sourced from Ancestry
P2: Photo, Grave 1a
 sourced from Ancestry

M1: Maher, Michael (1843) - Parish Plan, Nagambie 1

W1: Web, Tree (Nissen) 1a
W2: Web, Tree (Nissen) Photo 1a.jpg

Sources (still required):

Sources (desired):

Record, Death