

Birth, parentage, marriage and death of

Dorothy Agnes Shields nee Ludlam

This brief evidences the details of the birth, parentage, marriage and death of Dorothy Agnes Shields nee Ludlam.

Those details are –

Born on 1st August 1901 at 476 Parramatta Road, Petersham, New South Wales.

Born to parents Albert Charles John Ludlam and Florence Evelyn Ludlam nee Shanahan.

Married on 17th August 1929 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney to Alfred Charles Shields.

Died on 3rd July 1994 at Somerton Park, South Australia.

Dorothy was cremated, and her ashes are interred under a plaque at Individual Tree 17, Acacia Court Gardens, Centennial Park Cemetery, Pasadena, South Australia.

Dorothy's birth and parentage

Kath Palyga's papers included the below birth certificate for her mother Dorothy Agnes Ludlam. It confirms that she was born on 1st August 1901 at 476 Parramatta Road, Petersham.

The birth certificate also confirms that her parents were Alfred Charles Ludlam and Florence Evelyn Shanahan.

No.	Date and place of birth of child	Name and whether present or not	Sex	Father's name, occupation, age and birthplace	Date and place of marriage - previous issue	Mother's name and maiden surname, age and birthplace	Informant	Witnesses	Particulars of registration	Name, if added after Registration of Birth
25604	1001. 1 st August 476 Parramatta Road PETERSHAM.	Dorothy Agnes present	Female	(1) Alfred Charles Ludlam (2) Night Watchman (3) 29 years (4) Warracknabeal England.	(1) 26 th July 1897 Parramatta (2) Registered (3) Alfred C. Ludlam (4) Living	(1) Florence Evelyn Shanahan (2) 24 years (3) Adelaide South Australia	Alfred C. Ludlam 476 Parramatta Road PETERSHAM.	(1) _____ (2) M. G. Webb (3) _____	G. O. Bickerton 1 st September 1901 PETERSHAM.	

I, JOHN BRETT HOLLIDAY, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE COPY OF PARTICULARS RECORDED IN A REGISTER KEPT BY ME.

ISSUED AT SYDNEY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 1980.

J B Holliday
PRINCIPAL REGISTRAR.

The certificate states that Alfred was a 27 year old Night Watchman, and was born in Warwickshire, England, and that Florence was also 27, and born in Adelaide, South Australia (in fact, having been born on 18th June 1871, she was over 30).

The certificate also states that Alfred and Florence had married on 26th July 1899 in Orange, NSW.

Kath Palyga's papers also included an Extract Certificate of Dorothy's birth, as follows:

PR 217
Application . P65424/79 BS



Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act, 1973

EXTRACT CERTIFICATE

BIRTH REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

I hereby certify that a recording in a register kept by me gives the following particulars concerning

the birth of Dorothy Agnes Ludlam.

Date of birth 1st August, 1901.

Place of birth Petersham, N.S.W.

Issued at Sydney, 14th September, 1979.

J. B. Holliday
Principal Registrar



This document is issued unaltered and any person making an alteration is liable to prosecution.

39561 10.77 D. West, Government Printer

Kath Palyga's papers also included a copy of a 1924 note from the assistant parish priest of St Thomas Church, Lewisham confirming that Dorothy was baptised there on 25th August 1901, as follows:

*The Rectory
Lewisham
12th Feb. 1924*

*This is to certify that Dorothy Agnes Ludlam
was born on 1st August 1901 and was baptised
in St Thomas Church, Lewisham on 25th August
by Rev. Father J. Egan*

*Parents names { Agnes Ludlam
Florence Shanahan*

*Sponsors names { Thomas Shanahan
Kate Shanahan*

*Signed John Byrne
Assistant Priest*

Dorothy's marriage

Kath Palyga's papers included the original certificate of marriage for her mother.

The certificate is as follows, and confirms Dorothy's marriage details as given above.

No. 21.
St 4449

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. _____

IN MINISTER'S REGISTER.
REGISTRAR'S No. _____

SCHEDULE.
MARRIAGE ACT, No. 15, 1899.

No. C 280095

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

Insert Christian and Surname in full of Minister or Registrar. I, Joseph Alphonsus O'Donnell being

Insert Designation. a Catholic Priest

Place. St. Marys Cathedral
Sydney do hereby Certify that I have this day at _____ duly celebrated Marriage between

Insert Christian and Surname of Bridegroom at full length. Alfred Charles Joseph Shields Motor Mechanic

Insert Designation, Residence, and Condition of Bridegroom. Bachelor Leichhardt

Insert Christian and Surname of Bride at full length. and Dorothy Agnes Ludlam Domestic Duties

Insert Designation, Residence, and Condition of Bride. Spinster Hurstville

N.B.—"Condition." Bachelor—Spinster, Widower—Widow, Divorced, or Divorced (Petitioner), as the case may be.

after declaration duly made before me as by law required.

DATED this 14th day of August 1929.

Joseph A. O'Donnell { Signature of Minister or Registrar }

Alfred Shields (Bridegroom.)

Signatures of Parties to Marriage. { Dorothy Ludlam (Bride.)

Signatures of Witnesses. { John B. Moore
Josephine Ludlam

Vide Sections 5, 23, and 24, Marriage Act, No. 15, 1899.

"The declaration on the back hereof must be duly made and signed, otherwise the parties and the officiating Minister or Registrar are liable to the punishment by law provided in that behalf."

The witnesses were John Moore, Alf's best man and also his best friend (and who subsequently married Alf's sister Nell), and Dorothy's sister Josephine Ludlam (subsequently Josie Scarra).



This is the reverse side of the certificate:

DECLARATION BEFORE DISTRICT REGISTRAR OR MINISTER.

Bridegroom's name, designation or employment, residence condition.
Oath, or Declaration by Affirmation.
Majority attained or written consent (if not a widower).
Vide Sections 9 and 10, Marriage Act, No. 15, 1899.
Bride's name, designation or employment, residence, condition.
Father's name, residence, and designation.

I, Alfred Charles Joseph Shields Motor Mechanic of Reichhardt Bachelor being duly sworn, do on my oath declare ~~for~~ do solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm—that I have attained the age of twenty-one years—~~or~~—that I have duly obtained the written consent required by the Marriage Act, No. 15, 1899—and I believe there is no impediment or lawful objection by reason of any kindred relationship, or alliance, or any former marriage, or the want of consent of parents or guardians, or any other lawful cause, to my being married to Dorothy Agnes Rudlam Domestic Duties of Hurstville Spinster daughter of Alfred Charles Rudlam of Hurstville Motor Mechanic and I hereby further declare that I have full knowledge that if I swear or affirm falsely I shall be guilty of perjury, and be liable to be punished accordingly.

(Signature of Bridegroom) Alfred Shields

Bride's name and condition.
Oath or Declaration by Affirmation.
Majority attained or written consent (if not a widow).
Vide Sections 9 and 10, Marriage Act, No. 15, 1899.
Bridegroom's name.
Rule out all superfluous clauses, and initial in margin.

AND I, the said Dorothy Agnes Rudlam Spinster being duly sworn, do on my oath declare ~~for~~ do solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm—that I have attained the age of twenty-one years—~~or~~—that I have duly obtained the written consent required by the Marriage Act, No. 15, 1899—and I believe there is no impediment or lawful objection, by reason of any kindred relationship, or alliance, or any former marriage, or the want of consent of parents or guardians, or any other lawful cause, to my being married to the said Alfred Charles Joseph Shields and I hereby further declare that I have full knowledge that if I swear or affirm falsely I shall be guilty of perjury, and be liable to be punished accordingly.

(Signature of Bride) Dorothy Rudlam

DECLARED and sworn—~~or~~—and affirmed—by both parties named, this August 1929 day of Before me,

N.B.—ATTACH WRITTEN CONSENT TO CERTIFICATE FOR REGISTRAR

Signature and Designation of Minister or Registrar. Joseph A. O'Donnell Catholic Chaplain

THE CONSENT OF* being the
of the Bridegroom, was given in writing to the marriage.

THE CONSENT OF* being the
of the Bride, was given in writing to the Marriage.

	Birthplace.		Age last Birthday.	†Father's Christian Name and Surname.	Father's Rank or Profession.	†Mother's Christian Name and Maiden Surname.
	Town or County.	Country.				
BRIDE-GROOM	<u>Swany Hill</u>	<u>N.S.W.</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Hugh Henry Shields</u>	<u>Painter</u>	<u>Emily Mabellett Dec.</u>
BRIDE	<u>Sydney</u>	<u>N.S.W.</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Alfred Charles Rudlam</u>	<u>Motor Mechanic</u>	<u>Florence Evelyn Shanahan</u>

*Father, Guardian by appointment, Mother, Guardian of Minors. Vide Sections 9, 10, and 11, Marriage Act, No. 15, 1899.

81-4419 †If deceased, the fact should be stated.

The certificate states that Alf was a 24 year old Motor Mechanic, and was born in Surry Hills, NSW, and that his parents were Hugh Henry Shields and Emily Noblett (deceased).

And that Dorothy was also 24, and born in Sydney, NSW, and her parents were Alfred Charles Ludlam and Florence Evelyn Shanahan. (In fact, having been born on 1st August 1901, Dorothy had just turned 28).

Dorothy's death

Kath Palyga's papers included the original certificate of death for her mother.

The certificate is as follows, and confirms Dorothy's death details as given above.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA	
Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1966.	
DEATH CERTIFICATE	
DECEASED Surname Given Names Sex Date of Death Place of Death Age Place of Birth Occupation Address Period of Residence in Australia Marital Status	SHIELDS DOROTHY AGNES FEMALE 03/07/1994 MASONIC NURSING HOME, SOMERTON PARK 92 YEARS NEW SOUTH WALES HOME DUTIES 91 DIAGONAL ROAD, SOMERTON PARK 5044 WIDOWED
MARRIAGE Age at Marriage/ Name of Spouse	29 ALFRED CHARLES SHIELDS
CHILDREN	KATHLEEN F 01/12/1929 MARY JOSEPHINE F 10/02/1931 BARBARA JOAN F 19/06/1932 ELIZABETH INEZ F 17/09/1933
PARENTS Fathers Name Mothers Maiden Name	LUDLAN, ALFRED CHARLES SHANAHAN, FLORENCE EVELYN
CAUSE OF DEATH AND DURATION	MYOCARDIAL INFARCT 24 HOURS ARTERIOSCLEROSIS 3 YEARS
BURIAL OR CREMATION Date Place Funeral Director or Arranger Address	06/07/1994 CENTENNIAL PARK CREMATORIUM WHITE LADY FUNERALS 209 ANZAC HIGHWAY, PLYMPTON
REGISTRATION Registration Number Registering Officer Date	20026259 CHRISTOPHER COBB 12/07/1994

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION OFFICE ADELAIDE. I hereby certify that this is a true copy of Particulars Recorded in a Register kept in this office in the State of South Australia. Given under my hand and seal this 13th day of July, 1994	 Principal Registrar.	
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Kath Palyga's papers also included a collage of death and funeral notices which appeared in Adelaide's daily newspaper *The Advertiser* on 4th July 1994, as follows:

You cannot teach a child to take care of himself unless you will let him try to take care of himself. He will make mistakes; and out of these mistakes will come his wisdom.

—FRANCIS BACON

40 – The Advertiser, Monday, July 4, 1994

PERSONAL NOTICES


SHIELDS. — THE FUNERAL SERVICE for the late Mrs. DOROTHY AGNES SHIELDS, will be conducted at 9.45 a.m. on WEDNESDAY, July 6, 1994, in the Mawson Chapel, Jubilee Complex, Centennial Park.
WHITE LADY FUNERALS
Plympton Member A.F.D.A.
371 1040

SHIELDS, Dorothy Agnes.
— On July 3, 1994, at Masonic Nursing Home.

Loving wife of the late Alf.
Much loved mother of Kath, Josie, Barbara (deceased), Betty and their families.

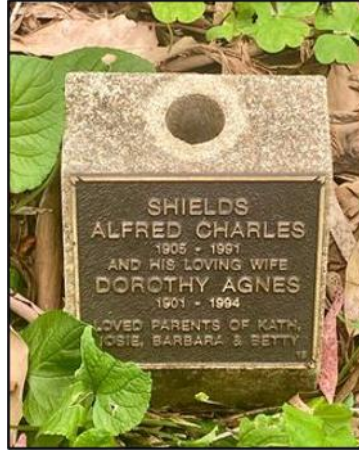
The family would like to thank the Nursing Staff and Administration of Masonic Nursing Home, Somerton Park, for their loving care and attention.

SHIELDS, Dorothy Agnes.
— Loving mother of Barbara Guidera (deceased) and mother-in-law of Jim. Fondly remembered by grandchildren Trish and Andrew, Pete, Tim and Meredith, Andy, Nick, Tony and Helana, Brendan, Angela and Dan.



Burial

Dorothy's ashes are buried under the following plaque at Individual Tree 17, Acacia Court Gardens, Centennial Park Cemetery, Pasadena SA¹ (previously interred at Native Shrub Walk, Shrub Area E, Position 15).²



Confirmation of parentage – father-daughter letters

We have two letters from “Alf Ludlam” to “Dolly”. These letters were amongst Dorothy Shields’ papers handed down to Kath Palyga. They confirm the father-daughter relationship.

The first letter is dated 11th July 1941. We also have the envelope, which is addressed to “Mrs A Shields, Motor Garage, Stockingbingal N.S.W.” Thus verifying that “Dolly” is Dorothy Shields. The envelope is postmarked “Kogarah”, but the postmark’s date is illegible.

Alfred talks of his Coventry relatives, and the death in the Coventry blitz of Violet, the daughter of his younger brother Albert Edward John Ludlam (known as Jack). Alfred signs the letter off as “love to all from Dad”.

July 11th 1941
27 Fairfield St
Kogarah

Dear Dolly,

Just a line hoping you Alf and Kiddies are all well. we received your letter, also letters from Kath, Joe & Barbara. I suppose you were surprised to hear that I have been retired from the "Sydney Morning Herald" they granted me a life pension of £2. 10. 0 a week. so Mother & myself have had to economise greatly, but we are hoping to spend a short holiday with you again. towards the end of the year. that is of course if you will take in two poor old souls. we received a letter yesterday from little Florie (England) with some very sad news. In the first "Blitz" they were bombed out, and whilst her Mother, and Florie were in Air Raid Shelter their homes were blown to bits, everything they had was gone. poor Alf (Elderly son) was so badly injured, he had to have his leg amputated, and whilst lying in Hospital

and Violet's husband with him, the Hospital got a direct hit, and they were poisoned with shrapnel glass. they had nearly recovered and were home again. when Alf's home was bombed and poor Violet with another woman and her two little girls took refuge in a Air Raid Shelter. when a Land mine exploded and blew them all to pieces. poor Violet's body was found with the head arms & legs all severed. just her trunk, it was such a pitiful letter. Uncle Jack & Florie are inconsolable and Florie asks me to write to them as early as possible. they have taken refuge in the Country, some distance from Coventry. if you would like to write a line or two to little Florie (she is such a brave little soul) I have enclosed her address - Mrs Kendall
3 Bloque Hall Cottages
Lutterworth Road
Burleigh
Warwickshire
England

Love to all from Dad
Alf Ludlam

¹ See the cemetery map at https://centennialpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Centennial-Park_Map_June_2025_Hi_Res.pdf.

² Photo attribution: the photo is at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152449051/dorothy-agnes-shields>.

Dec 2nd 1942

27 Bayfield Street
Kogarah.
N. S. W.

My Dear Dolly & family

We have to apologise for missing Kath's birthday but am sending her a card to-day. Just to show we have not forgotten wishing her all the best of good luck and good health, and am very pleased to hear she is such a great help to her mother in the Shop also. Just so I suppose we would hardly know any of them now. They will have grown so much in the last ten years, we were glad to hear you were all getting on so well in the Shop, and hope someday to see you all again. I am still under the Doctor but am progressing slowly. I can get about now, and dress myself without any help. It is a slow & painful ridical. I have to go on to the Doctor early in January 1943. When I hope to be very much better by then. Mother has her time taken of assisting Joe with the new baby. He is five months old now, and is a fine little. His name Kenneth. Alf. wife also presented him with another daughter Robin. They are all getting on well.

I was surprised to read of your interview with a Mr. Ludlam. your Uncle Jack in Country has been for years, trying to trace members of the Ludlam family, and met several of them.

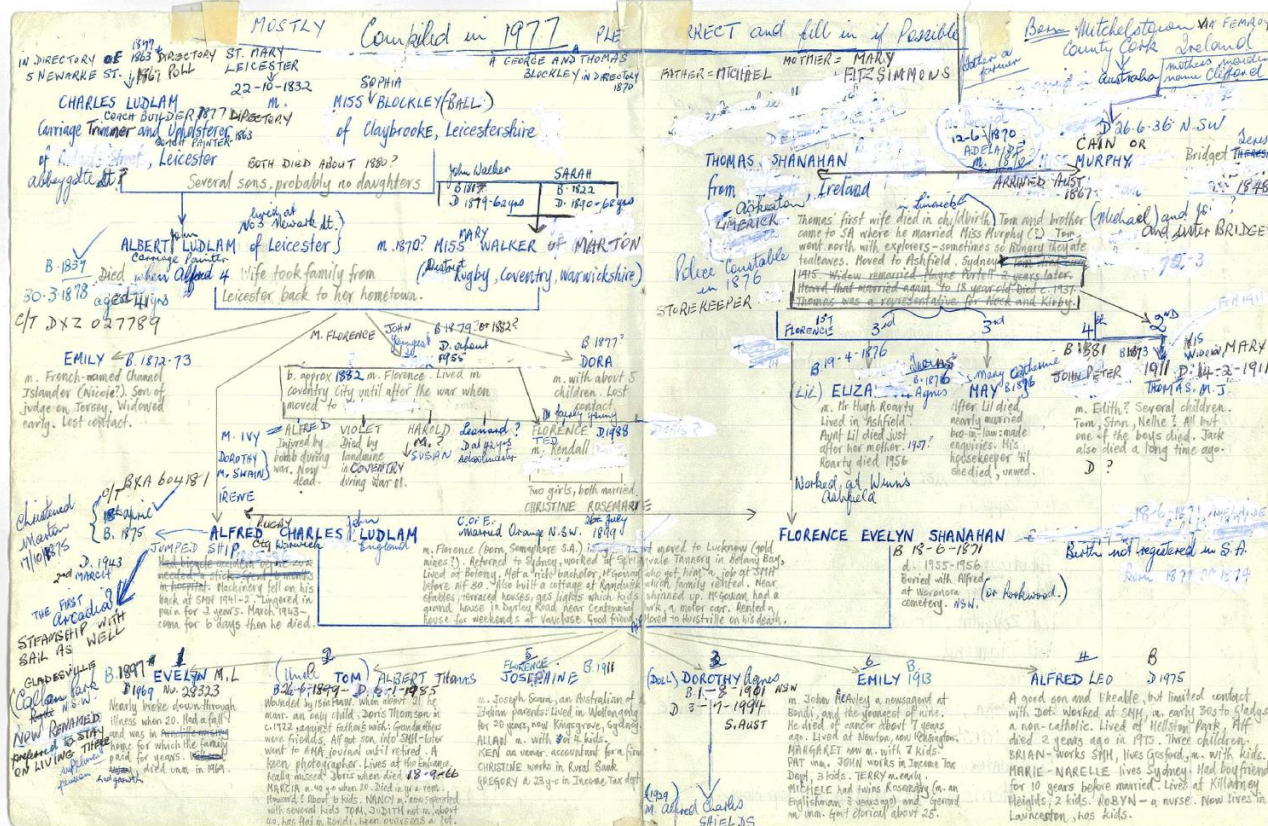
2

but was never successful in meeting relations.
If you should ever meet this gentleman again
I can give you some enlightenment on our ancestors.
— My grandfather was Mr Charles Ludlam, and
carried on business as a Carriage trimmer and
upholsterer, in Leicester. Alleygate Street. I think it
was. My grandmother's maiden name was Blackley Belle
of Blaybrook Leicestershire. But I was very young when
they died, there were several sons. My father
Albert died suddenly when I was four years of age
and the other sons (Uncles) we lost trace of them
all. as my poor mother went home to her own
people the Walkers at Maxton, Warwickshire;
where we lived all through our school days.
It would be very interesting should you come
across a lost relative, if only to know what
became of the others.

Well I will close now. with my best love
to yourself and Kate, and all the family
hoping to hear from you again soon.

Yours aff Dad
Aff Ludlam

Steve Palyga took an oral history from Dorothy Shields in the 1970s, and compiled a family tree from the information she provided, as follows.



Notwithstanding notations added subsequently to the original document (the original document is the part in Steve Palyga's handwriting, being most of the document, and mostly in pencil to allow for corrections), this oral history provided by Dorothy confirmed that her father was Alfred Charles Ludlam, and that he died in March 1943 (he actually died one year later), and that her mother was Florence Evelyn Shanahan, and that she was born in Semaphore, South Australia, and she died in 1955-1956, and is buried in Woronora Cemetery with Alfred.

(Woronora Cemetery is in Sutherland Shire on the southern outskirts of Sydney).