

The Life of Grace Vincent from age of two years

(Transcribed by Sandra Vincent, Grace's youngest daughter in law)

Red – is words above the main writing.

Blue – is words I think are being used (and clarifications made by Lesley)

Black – is what is originally used.

Preamble:

Grandfather & Grandma Holland

Arrived in Sydney on 9.6.86 on my father's 8th Birthday. They had Marion, Harry, Rose & Grace, they went to live at a place called the Nob near Hay & before 93 they went to live at Wentworth, Alfred, Bert, Maud & Adelaide were born there Where Grandfather died from Scarlet Fever on 3-4-1901 aged 49. Gran died on 25.6.27 from Pneumonia.

When I was two years old, Dad was cooking for men on Lake Victoria Stn, (**station**) I don't know very much about it, but there were lots of black snakes, Mum nearly stepped (**stepped**) on one while hanging cloths on the line, she shot it, another day there was one down behind a tin trunk. Mum was going to pick up some cloths behind it, but looked first, & saw the snake. From there we when (**went**) back to stay with Grannie (Dads Mum) while there Cath was crawling, & Grannie was feeding her bird, she stepped (**stepped**) back & fell over Cath & broke her arm, & had to go into Wentworth Hospital, she was living at Curlwa on her block, on the bank of the Tuckers Creek, which ran out of the Darling at Wentworth. Dad bought a block out there near Grans, but sold it, I think he was a restless man, he took my Mother all over the place, how she put up with it I don't know. (**Curlwaa is an irrigation settlement a few kilometres upstream of Wentworth on the Murray River in NSW.**)

He took us all to Ballarat, & left Harry & I with Mums Sister, at Anickie (**Anakie is a town between Geelong and Bacchus Marsh, in Victoria**), just where I don't know but was in Victoria & they went on to Melbourne & took Cath, as she was only 6 week old. Mum's Aunt Rose lived at Ballarat & her daughter sung (**swung**) me round, & round & then let me go & I could not stand up.

I was 4 years old then, when we came back, Gran sold her place & bought a piece of land in Wentworth & I think Dad built her a 4 room cottage, where she lived till she died in June 1927. Dad bought a block 2 doors up from her, but did not build on it till I was 8 years old.

After Bert was born he went to cook on Nulla ST (**Station**) for men, it was a very big house & there were lots of men & at Christmas they bought us lots of toys, such as dolls motors cars. Dad made Harry a rocking horse. While I was there a dog bit me & I still have the mark. I was 6 years old. There was a wild Bull there & it used to chase people, & one day it took to two ladies in a buggie(buggy), so the men chasted it on horse back & shot it, before it was able to kill any one.

We went back to Wentworth & Bert was born & we lived in Adam Street, next door to the Days, he was the towns Blacksmith we used to play with Nellie & Gladis on a vacant block between us. The Dr. lived in front of us Dad started to build our house that's were (**where**) we lived when I first went to Sunday school, & I came home very upset, because they hung a man on a cross & killed

him & my Mother told me that we were all born to die. My Mother always read the bible to us & I can always remember Mosses in the bulrushes, as if it was yesterday & its now 75 years ago.

When Nell ([Mary Helen](#)) was a baby we went to the four mile, on Cuthers Stn ([Station](#)), between Wentworth & Broken Hill, I think 100 mile each way. Dad pumped **water** for sheep & horses & may be cattle & we had goats. I was now 8 years old & we had great fun here, use to roam around the paddocks, setting traps. Our water was bore water & was very hard, when Dad was away looking after sheep one day a man on foot came & said he was very thirsty, & he came into the in closer in verandah & sat down & Mum gave him a drink, he took one mouth full & threw it out & said I can't drink that it's to ([too](#)) hard, so he could not have been very thirsty, my Mother always kept the gun handy. Anyway I think Dad came home here & he left.

There was a young man call Dave Martin there who used to bring in the mail horses, he had a hut 200 or 300 yards from us , & one day one of our girls were missing, so we were sent **to look for** & Mother went looking & calling & Mum went up the hill calling, & she came out from behind the big tree, & this fellow had her there, Mum asked her what he was doing & she said he was shaking himself up & down & wanted her to tutch ([touch](#)) him, well my Mother got the gun & said she would shoot him if he came near us again, telling this to my sister years later, she did not remember it, but she did remember him laying down on a bed in the shed & having her on his tummy giving her a horse ride.

He was 18 years old she was 4 years old. When Dad came home, Mum **to**ld him & when Mr Cameron came, he was the mail man, Dad said you will have to get rid of him & I will get your horses in for you.

There was also another man up at Combaha, who use to come in the buggy & take us 4 kids for a drive, three of us used to sit on the seat & Harry on another seat, when we left home, & then he used to sit me on his lap & Harry on the seat so he could face the way we were going, I hated it, & when we got to where we were to have lunch he said you kids can go pick flowers, & I was to stay & help him get the lunch, I said no, I want to pick flowers & I went.

Looking back over the years, I know God was taking care of us, not only then but many times. I think he may have done something he would have regretted later. His wife lived In Adelaide & he had been working, (his name was Gibbs) away for quite a while.

When I was 9 years old I fell off a box & hurt my stomach & was very ill & had to be taken to Wentworth Hospital Mrs Bell, the owner, on Cuthro Stn ([Station](#)) came out & drove Dad & I to Wheeldons where the Dr met me and took me to Wentworth. Dad went back on the coach & I was in Hospital & Grannie was also there with a broken arm, she had fallen coming home from the town which was on the other side of the river & it was a rainy day.

We both came out of hospital the same day, I stayed with her for 2 weeks, and Florrie Curry use to come over & play with me, after I went home Gran wrote to say Florrie, had taken ill, & had died of Meningitis. Her Father had been home on leave from the Army, & must have been a carrier.

I went home on the mail & there were two Priests going to Broken Hill, one kept asking me to sit on his lap & I would not. God taking care of me again I have had a lot of narrow escapes, all this happened within 2 years.

We went to Wentworth when Jack was born, but things are blank there on. Then we went again when Wilfred was born, when Wilfred (Dan) was a year old my Mother took ill & was taken to Broken Hill Hospital, she had had a miscarriage, Jack, Wilfred & I stayed with Tall Harvey & Mrs Harvey & Cath, Bert & Nell stayed with Mr & Mrs Florence. When she came home after three weeks we shifted to Coombah, & Harry had been in Broken Hill with Dad.

We were there two years & had lots of fun there were lots of buildings. We had lots of narrow escapes, one day Harry & I got between a cow & calf & she took after us & we ran like mad, & I looked behind to see how far away she was, & she had only come until we were not between her & her calf.

We fell off horses & off roof Nell fell out the kitchen window & stuck a chop bone in her nose & still has the scar.

From there we went into Nulla Wool Shed, there were lots of Buildings there & sheep yards & I was now 12 years old, we only stayed there about 6 months, there were lots of kookurras (kookaburras) & green frogs, we often fell in the river trying to catch frogs.

One day I saw a great big animal on a hill, & went & told Dad, & he went & had a look, but all he could find was sheep tracks & a sheep a bit further away, that had not been shorne for a year or two, it looked as big as a camel to me. While there we went up to sshla(?), my Aunties place & on the way I was very car sick.

Then we shifted up the river near Taylors & their 3 children two school boys & a baby. We went to school from here walked 3 miles each day with the Taylor boys, we fell in the river & out of trees I was dragged out of the river by my hair. Our horse nearly backed us into the river when 2 men came along & saved us.

Burt was chopping an ants' hole, when Nell got in his way & he chopped her little finger off all but a thread, Mum put it together & bandged it & three weeks after a piece of bone worked its way out, any way it glewed (glued) together but was twisted and still is. From there we went to Comera, still part of Cuthers, we went in a car with Wilfred Sullivan a man about 20 & there was an emu on the fence & running like mad & the driver drove like mad & we kept edging him on to go faster, we did not know our Mother was expecting a baby in a month time. This was the 19th Dec 1918 & when we got to Comera at 2 pm Mother was ill, & Dad did not get there until 5 pm in the dray with our things, he sent us down to the creek to get some wood while he rang our Auntie 22 miles away, to send Mrs Sullivans over (Mother of our driver), she got there at 11-30pm & Syd was born at 3 minutes past 12 on 20 Dec, just one month before time. Mrs Sullivan stayed 2 weeks.

While we were there Dad drew a block on Tiltaraga Stn (Station) He called it Marma. Harry was 11½ yrs old & he was putting the saddle on for Dad, & he stepped on the rains & the horse pulled backed, & swang him round & round bumping his head on the yard & cutting his head on the fence. I screamed & brought Dad to him, Mum heard me & threw back the blankets, she thought she had thrown the baby out of bed, so she did not get up, when Dad got Harry cleaned up he had come to, so Dad took Harry in to her so she could see him, but it took all day for him to get better.

About Christmas we went to Wentworth, Dad drawn a block on Tiltargra Stn & he was going to go up, but Mr May kept writing & saying there was no feed or water on the place. So Dad took a

snagging job on the Darling River, anyway when Dad came home from that, Mum said to him, I have read that there has been rain up there, so Dad went up in March & found grass a foot high & both tanks full & Mays cattle in his paddocks, so he came back & took Mum & 6 of the children up, leaving Harry with his Sister Grace ([Collingbourne](#)) & me with his Mother. Harry went up in a years time, but I did not go until May 1923, I had a job in a shop & I had been stay with a women who had a daughter who took fits we used to walk her round on the flat to put her to sleep.

Then Dad sent for me to come up & they would meet me in Wilcannia, the coach was a little old car, & we spent the night at Menindee & came on the next day. There were races in Wilcannia & Dad, Mum & Sid came in with the Booths. Dorothy Weaving was with the Booths, she was their teacher, so she was the first Cobar girl I knew she later Married Mr M^cGinnis & they had 2 children.

I spent the next two years at Marma, then Mum shifted to Cobar so the children could go to school, we arrived in Cobar on 6th March 1925. The first people we knew were the Morelli's. We were church of England, but we started going to the Methodist church with them & we knew Mr & Mrs Drummond, so we have been going there ever since.

I was married there, I had been down to Cargo staying with Mrs Bennett & met my Husband there so he came up here & we were married & we went to Brewarrner, ([Brewarrina](#)) as he had a job on a station there, then 6 weeks before Edith was born we left there & went to Orange, we stayed in a hotel for three week & then got a house in McLaughlin Street, it was a big house & Cecil got a job and had to go away & I was there by myself for a week & scared stiff, then after Edith was born, he got a job a Ludley Hospital, it was depression time & jobs were hard to get.

Then he got a job up at Nyngan out on Burrwara Stn not far out of town I went out there & lived in a tent, but as summer was coming on it was so hot and I was having Jean, I started to get head aches, so the owners wife said I think you should go home to your Mother, so I came home a month before Jean was born. I had Jean on 7th Dec ([1929](#)), but was in hospital a week before & 2 weeks after, then when Jean was 10 days old, Mum took ill & was dead in half an hour.

I got a house in Nyngan [in Nudall St](#) & went back there & took Dan & Syd with me, Cecil still worked out in the bush. At this time Cecil received some money that was coming to him when Mr Bennett went broke. So he went down to Sydney ([Marrickville](#)) & bought a small shop, then I went down & Syd & Dan went home to Dad. We were only there a few month & the depression was getting worse, so we walked out of the shop, & I came back here by train & your Father walked or hitched a ride here & there. The last part of the way he got a lift with Oscar Betts. I got a shop in the main street, to live at the back, from there we shifted to Lewis St, Allen was born from there & when he was 12 month old we swaped houses with people that bought Lewis St house & we shifted in to the house they shifted out of in Green St. 8/- a week rent.

We were only there about a year when Allen took ill & died from Meningitis, he was 18 months old & a lovely little boy. Cecil got his first good job. Keith was born while I was there, also Irene, & John I use to come down to see Mrs Beard every Thursday & one day, I saw Mrs Henning shifting out of here so I came in & asked her & she said yes & gave Mr Campbell's address & I wrote to him & got the house the rent was £5-00 (pounds). Green St was 8/- & here I have been ever since. ([This would be Linsley St](#)). We shifted in on 6th March 1942 & I bought the place in Sept 1959(['59 or '49? Grandfather died in 1956](#)).

I borrowed the money from my Father, but when I went to pay it back he said that was my share of his will. I don't think Hylde liked it, but who cares she did well when she married him, she got all that my Mother did with out.

Then in 1959 I started to build this house I had as many as 21 boarders, I borrowed \$1000 from the National Bank (CBC it was then) & had it all payed off in 7 years. It was hard work, I worked 8 hours in AM, and then 3 hours in the afternoon.

One by one my children got married first Edith & went to WA. Then Jean & went to on to a station & while she was in Hospital with Patricia, John (Betts) had & accident & was taken to Sydney & died, so she came home & work

in the P.O. then 2 years later she married George (Lowe) & had 5 sons & one daughter. Then Irene went to work in C B A Bank, then left there & went to Sydney to work, then left & went over to Edith, then came home & met John & was married & lived in Victoria (here and there) Had three children. The girls are married & have children the boy is still single.

John was married, he worked in the P. M. He married Sandra Holt. They lived in Broomfield St. Then Mr & Mrs Holt left Cobar & went to live at Greenwell Point so Sandra wanted to go there, so John got a move to Nowra P. O. & bought a house in Barto (Bartlett Drive) Street on the hill at Greenwell Point were (where) they still live. They have three children Phillip, Colin and Trina, Trina has a boyfriend, but as far as I know the boys do not have girlfriends. Stephen, Keith's son to Joan, married Robyn Smith they have Rodney & Tracy nice children. Nerida, Keith's daughter to Joan, has five children. She has been married twice, devoiced her first Husband, they had no children then she married Bruce Benning. I went down to her wedding but she has devoiced or left him after having 5 children & lives in Bundaberg.

After Joan died Keith went to Qld & met & married Avril Gordon & has five children Dereck, Geoffrey & twin girls Judith & Jennifer & Kerry-Ann. Dereck is or was married & had 2 sons, but she left him & I think lives in Sydney. Jeff lives in NSW the girls live home & Kerry-Ann is a teacher.

Irene & John live in Dromana Vic. They have Annette, Narissa & Darren. Annette married Larrie & they have two sons Justin & Danel Rahanx. Narissa married Mark but they have parted, they have three children Reecca & Jason & Jarard.

Darren is not married.

The years are slipping by, I am now 88 years old & live here by myself, last August 20th I took sick & was flown to Sydney, but did not know anything about it, I woke up at 12pm Monday & Stephen & Robyn were beside my bed, I said what are you doing here, Stephen said we came to see you, & the nurse came just then & said how are you Mrs Vincent & I said good. She said where are you I said in the hospital, & she said where, I said Cobar, & she said, no you are in intensive care in St Vincent hospital in Sydney, I could not believe it, then on Tuesday they shifted me up to the ward & the nurse said what day is it I said I thought it was Wednesday, my up there it says Tuesday, then she said what year is it, I said 1993. I stayed there until 12th Sept & flew back to Cobar & stayed there until 27 Sept & came home, but had to walk with a hoop for about a week.

In the St Vincent Hospital there were nurses from all country men & women, one little Chinese Nurse was lovely and so good to me.

When I came home I thought I was going to die, all I did was sit & look **at** the walls, then in May I started to get better & started to cook my own meals, before I was having meals on wheels. I did not like them. I was going to Dr every week, or rather taken by one of the Church Ladies, they have been so good.

Jean Poulter comes to see me every day & Lois comes about every other day, & Inid use to come often but not so much now I am getting better. They **take** me to Church & down the street to do my shopping. Jean has gone to Perth for two week & Lois has gone to Cannes (**Cairns?**) for 6 weeks, so Edna is taking me to Church & to shopping & will take me to K Y B when it starts again on 12 July. My legs used to swell up so Dr gave me fluid tablets, I could not go out because I was running to the toilet all the time Dr told me to go to Church, I said I cannot because I want to go to the toilet all the time, so he said don't take the tablet till you come home.

I can tell you I have been to Hell & back again, but I am all right now but the girls still come every morning & bath me in case I fal (**fall**)over. I have a beeper, that I can press if I fall & cannot get up or while I am out side & Sydney answers it and if I don't answer it she calls Jean, Jean Poulter or Lois Toelbrige & they come to me I did have a fall after I came home from C.W.A. one afternoon & I did not have it on, I could not get up, I bumped my head on the door as I was on the step, I was so worried I thought I might sit there all night & freeze to death, as it was very cold, any way I managed to turn on my back, slide over to the rail & pull my self up, I had the key in my hand all the time any **way** I got in side but was very shaken, so now I wear my beeper all the time. It costs me 24 dollars a month.

I have a girl, to bath me every day & make my bed she is here for ½ an hour, Wed she is here for two hours & cleans up the house & changes the bed & hangs out the washing, I do the washing.

Grace Agnes (Holland) Vincent

Born 26th January 1906

Married 11th February 1928

Died 29th May 1997, aged 91.