## **RYGATE, Charles Daniel Hartley**

Charles Daniel Hartley Rygate was born on 24th December 1860, at Hartley, NSW. He was baptised at St. John’s Anglican Church, Hartley, on 24th March 1861.

His parents were Dr. Robert (1827-1907) & Jane (nee Mylecharane; 1828-1891) Rygate.**1**

He achieved a B.A. at Sydney University in 1883. In his young years he was a good athlete and sportsman, a noted foot-runner, and was picked for inter-colonial football teams on several occasions. He was one of three brothers who followed the medical profession.**2**

He continued his studies for a medical degree in England.

He returned to Australia on 6th January 1890, from London, aboard the ship *Neotsfield*. That month he submitted to the New South Wales Medical Board the necessary testimonials and qualifications: - Charles Daniel Hartley Rygate, Mem. R. Coll, Surg. Eng. 1889; Lic. R. Coll. Phys., Lond, 1889.

In August 1890 he was appointed to be Government medical officer and vaccinator for the police district of Warren.**3**

In March 1893 Dr. Charles Rygate was appointed a medical officer for the Wellington Hospital, to be re-opened on 1st April.

That year he married Rosetta Rosa Claire Mary Martina Glogoski Towers (‘Claire’), in Sydney. There were no children from this marriage.

Rosetta was born in Dunedin Central, Otago, New Zealand in 1863. Her parents were Simon Szymon Samuel Glogowski Glogoski (1834 & 1909) and Annie Jane (nee Buckingham; 1835-1887) Glogoski, who were married in 1858 at Armidale, N.S.W.

In 1883 she married Herbert William Wood, at Newcastle, N.S.W. At the time she was with the Rosa Towers [perhaps her stage name] Dramatic Company. A son, Herbert W. Wood was born in 1884 and a daughter, Kathleen Mary Wood, in 1885.

By September 1886 she was in India, as a Frank Towers died in India – presumably associated with the Dramatic Society.

She was divorced from Herbert William Wood and in December 1887 married Francis Walter Douglas Hamilton, in Secunderabad, Madras, India. There were two children – Claudine Victoria Hamilton, 1888, in Sydney, and Eileen Gladys Hamilton, in 1890 Queensland.

In June 1893, in N.S.W., she petitioned for divorce, then, that year, married Charles Daniel Hartley Rygate, in Sydney. At the time her occupation was actress.**4**

In 1899 Charles Daniel Hartley Rygate, of Wellington, was appointed a magistrate. In 1900 he was appointed to be Government Medical Officer and Vaccinator at Wellington.**5**

In March 1901 Mrs. Rygate performed in a play called “Naval Engagement” in Wellington.

She is 3rd from the left, her daughter Kathleen 4th from the left.**5a**



In early 1902 Mr. & Mrs. Rygate went on a trip to England, via America, for 8 months, returning to Wellington in October. He had an opportunity to visit his brother who was in practice at Ipswich, Suffolk, England, and his four sisters. Dr. Rygate also went across to Dublin, Ireland, and took his diploma in public health, for which he had studied in London. It had been thirteen years since he was last in England. While in Chicago he purchased a steam motor car for his practice back in Wellington.**6**

In April 1910 it was reported that Dr. Lidwill, of Beecroft, had disposed of his practice and house to Dr. Charles Rygate, of Wellington, N.S.W., whose position was filled by Dr. Watt, of Orange.**7**

In December 1911, at a concert held In the Beecroft School of Arts, Mrs. Rygate, acting the part of a comical landlady, was very successful, and her song, in which she Imitated a magpie warbling “There is no luck about the house,” fairly brought down the house.**8**

In December 1912 Dr. Rygate was driving his car swiftly towards the bank at the side of the road at Beecroft, when a little girl, after hesitating a moment, rushed in the same direction. The car knocked her down and passed over her, and then ran into the bank. The doctor picked the little girl up and as his car was badly damaged, carried her home. It was found that her leg was fractured near the ankle, and that her heel was very much bruised. Dr. Rygate attended to the injuries and made the little patient as comfortable as possible. The car had one wheel knocked off, the gear box-broken, and there were other injuries to the structure and mechanism.**9**

During July and August 1913, at Beecroft, Dr. Rygate successfully vaccinated 550 persons against smallpox.**10**

On 24th December 1913 Miss Kathleen Hamilton, eldest daughter of Mrs. Rygate, was married, in South Africa, to Mr. Tasman Jillett, of Greendale Station, Queensland. The bride and bridegroom returned to Australia in the vessel *Ceramic*.**11**

During 1914 Mrs. Rygate was busy with entertainment at the Beecroft School of Arts. In March she played the Queen of the Fairies in the comic opera “Iolanthe.” In June she arranged to stage a two-act comedy, “Naval Engagements,” with Mrs. Rygate in the cast playing Mrs. Pontifex. The audience thoroughly enjoying the piece, as was evidenced by the frequent applause and laughter.

Mrs. Rygate was also president of the local branch of the Red Cross, its headquarters being at the Beecroft School of Arts.**12**

In January 1915 Dr. Charles Rygate’s brother, Dr. Robert E. Rygate, of Grenfell, died at Young, aged 55 years, of typhoid fever, leaving a family of three sons and two daughters.

That year Mrs. Rygate was honorary treasurer of a concert in aid of the Belgian Fund, an organiser of a flower stall on Rose Day in aid of wounded soldiers, and author and actress of a sketch entitled “Off to the Dardanelles.”**13**

In August 1915 Dr. Rygate was in court, in respect of an abortive sale of his medical business.**14**

In November 1916, at the Beecroft School of Arts, a Grecian burlesque, entitled “Ixion,”, was staged in aid of the Y.M.C.A. funds. This clever little play, as was the curtain-raiser farce entitled “A Little Bit Mixed” were written by Mrs. Rygate. This was a smartly written comedy in which three characters took part, all being at cross-purposes. The situations arising out of the mutual misunderstandings gave rise to a great deal of amusement, and the fun was sustained to the finish, when what was developing into a domestic tragedy was satisfactorily cleared up. The parts were portrayed by Mrs. Rygate.**15**

In May 1917 Mrs. Rygate and her daughters, Mrs. Willink and Miss Hamilton, returned to Beecroft from America by the S.S. Niagara on Saturday. They had gone to America with a view to sailing for Europe to assist in some of the war organisations, but owing to the food shortage in England, due to the submarine campaign, they were prevented from carrying out their intention.**16**

In July 1918 Dr. Rygate, of Beecroft, who had recently sold his practice to Dr. Davis and intended giving his services to the Government In connection with the war, was presented with a handsomely equipped travelling case by the Beecroft residents In the School of Arts. In October Nurse Stone opened a private hospital in the former residence of Dr. and Mrs. Rygate, who had removed to the Steyne Hotel, Manly.**17**

In May 1921 Dr. Charles Rygate’s brother, Mr. Philip W. Rygate. M.A., B.E., senior partner in the firm of Rygate and West, surveyors, Castlereagh Street, died at his residence in Wyvern Avenue, Roseville, at the age of 55. He was a well-known Identity in surveying circles in Sydney, being educated at Newington College, Sydney, passing later to St Andrew's College University, from where he was the first graduate of the Engineering School. For a short time he was In the Railways and the Water Conservation Departments, until he began in business on his own account. He was a past-president of the Institute of Surveyors, and an association member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, London. A widow survived him.**18**

In March 1923 a farewell party was given by Mrs. Evans, of Kirribilli Point, on Wednesday evening for Mrs, Charles Rygate, wife of Dr. Rygate, who was leaving for England to visit her daughter, Mrs. Arnold Wilson, of "Blackwood," Moortown, Yorkshire. Mrs. Rygate expected to be absent about six months.**19**

On 29th April 1926, Dr. Charles Rygate, husband of Claire Rygate, died at sea, aged 65 years.

He was surgeon on the ship *Niagara*, on which he died. He had taken up that position

about three years previously with the object of improving his health. Death was due to heart trouble, and from which he had suffered a great deal. The end came while the boat was between Auckland and Sydney, and the burial took place at sea on the same day. He left a widow to mourn her loss.**20**

On 10th February 1942, at a private hospital in Manly, occurred the death of Claire Rygate, of Manly, widow of the late Dr. Charles D. H. Rygate, of Wellington, N.S.W., mother of Kathleen (Mrs. Jillett), Claudine (Mrs. Arnold Wilson, of England), Gladys (Mrs. Atkin, deceased), aged 77 years.**21**

**RYGATE, Robert Edward**

**Robert Edward Rygate**



Robert Edward Rygate was born on 17th January 1827 in Mersham, Surrey, England, and came to Australia in the 1850’s, soon after the breaking out of the “gold fever.”**22**

In 1853 Dr. Robert Rygate started his profession as doctor in the district of Hartley. His address at the time was at Mrs. Mylecharane's, Bowenfels.**23**

In 1854 Dr. Robert Rygate married Jane Mylecharane.

That year he was in possession of 5 acres at Hassan’s Walls, along the Bathurst Road.**24**

Children of the marriage were:

Birth 1854 – Ada, district of ? [died 1929]

Birth 1856 – Esther Annie Ethel, district of Hartley [died 1929]

Birth 1857 – John P., district of Hartley [died 1881]

Birth 1859 – Robert E., district of Hartley [died 1915]

Birth 1860 – Charles D. H., district of Hartley [Hassan’s Walls – on baptism record]

Birth 1862 – Phillip William, district of Hartley [died 1921]

Birth 1864 – Henry Bertrum, district of Hartley [died 1955]

Birth 1866 – Jane Elizabeth, district of Wellington

Birth 1867 – Mabel May, district of Wellington [died 1921]

Birth 1870 – Arthur Montague, district of Wellington [died 1948]

Birth 1873 – Myra Evelyn Minney, district of Wellington**25**

On 2nd May 1864, at Hartley, Dr. Robert Rygate, J.P., was presented with a gold watch, on his leaving the district for Wellington.**26**

‘In Wellington he practised his profession for nearly a quarter of a century. He was the second Mayor of Wellington, succeeding the late Joseph Aarons, and was in office at the time of the opening of the railway here. He ranked as the oldest magistrate of Wellington, being Mr. Gaden's senior, and held the offices of returning officer, coroner, Government medical officer, etc., for many years. He was also associated with the great majority of public movements and was medical officer to the hospital up to the date of his departure from Wellington. Dr. Rygate also ranked as one of the oldest medical practitioners of New South Wales. He relinquished practice in the late 1880’s, owing to asthma and heart trouble.’**27**

On 2nd November 1891, at Wellington, N.S.W., Jane, beloved wife of Robert Rygate, M.R.C.S., Eng., died from influenza, aged 63 years.**28**

In March 1892, Mr. Arthur M. Rygate, son of D. Robert Rygate, left Wellington to join the *Oceania*, which sailed for England, from Melbourne, and proceeded to England where he intended following the profession of his father. Arthur Rygate, had been, during the past two years, located at Sydney University.**29**

On 7th September 1893 Dr. Robert Rygate left Wellington for Sydney. The "old doctor," as he was familiarly known, was probably the most popular man in Wellington, and when he left that town to reside in Sydney he was accorded a send-off the like of which has probably never been experienced by any other resident of the west.

On 28th September 1893 Robert Rygate, J.P., M.D., M.R.C.S.E., Government Medical Officer, Sydney, late of Wellington, married Ada Florence Frances, third daughter of John Armstrong, J. R, Sunnyside, Narrandera.

A child, Norman Keith Rygate, was born in 1894, in the district of Marrickville [died 1974].**30**

In 1902 Dr Robert Edward Rygate, of Grenfell, medical practitioner, was declared bankrupt, and a Sequestration Order was made against him, on the petition of the A.J.S. Bank (Limited).**31**

On 5th August 1907 Dr. Robert Rygate, died suddenly, at his residence, ' Clifton,' George-street, Marrickville.

‘By the first union there survive Dr. Robert Rygate, Grenfell; Dr. Charles Rygate; Mr. Philip Rygate, M.A , civil engineer, Sydney; Dr. Henry Rygate, London, England; and Dr. A. M. Rygate, Wellington, N.S.W.; Mrs. Holland, Miss Rygate, Miss M. Rygate, Mrs. Borred, and Mrs. Longe. All the daughters reside in England with the exception of Miss Rygate. As the result of the second union a boy is left, and the wife also survives.’**32**

**Bibliography**

1 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages; Ancestry.com

2 Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser, Sat 26 May 1883; Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate (NSW), Thu 13 May 1926

3 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Tue 7 Jan 1890; Australian Star (Sydney, NSW), New South Wales Government Gazette, Fri 17 Jan 1890; Sat 18 Jan 1890; Australian Star (Sydney, NSW), Mon 11 Aug 1890

4 Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney, NSW), Sat 1 Apr 1893; NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages; Ancestry.com

5 Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 21 Oct 1899; Australian Star (Sydney, NSW), Sat 10 Feb 1900

5a Wellington Times (NSW), 22 March 1934

6 Wellington Times (NSW), Thu 30 Oct 1902

7 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 9 Apr 1910; Wellington Times (NSW), Mon 11 Apr 1910

8 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 9 Dec 1911

9 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 21 Dec 1912

10 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 19 Jul 1913; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 16 Aug 1913

11 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 3 Jan 1914

12 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 7 Mar 1914; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 9 May 1914; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 6 Jun 1914;

13 Young Witness (NSW), Fri 22 Jan 1915; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 17 Apr 1915; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 17 Jul 1915; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 31 Jul 1915

14 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 28 Aug 1915

15 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 18 Nov 1916

16 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 May 1917

17 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 13 Jul 1918; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 12 Oct 1918

18 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Thu 26 May 1921

19 Sun (Sydney, NSW), Sun 4 Mar 1923

20 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages; Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 1 May 1926; Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate (NSW), Thu 13 May 1926

21 Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 11 Feb 1942

22 Wellington Times (NSW), Mon 5 Aug 1907

23 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 2 Aug 1853

24 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages; New South Wales Government Gazette, Wed 19 Jul 1854

25 NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages; Ancestry.com

26 Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 14 May 1864

27 Wellington Times (NSW), Mon 5 Aug 1907

28 Sydney Morning Herald, Thu 5 Nov 1891

29 National Advocate (Bathurst, NSW, Fri 11 Mar 1892

30 National Advocate (Bathurst, NSW), Wed 6 Sep 1893; Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Fri 10 Nov 1893; Methodist (Sydney, NSW), Sat 18 Nov 1893; NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages; Leader (Orange, NSW), Tue 6 Aug 1907

31 Government Gazette of the State of NSW, Fri 25 Jul 1902

32 Wellington Times (NSW), Mon 5 Aug 1907; Leader (Orange, NSW), Tue 6 Aug 1907

**NOTE**: Additional information contained within Beecroft Cheltenham History Group book ‘Beecroft and Cheltenham, the Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914’.