

The Simpson - Bryce Family

by Ian Bryce

My Great-grandmother **Jane Auld** married **William Simpson** at Loganholme in 1879. They came by bullock wagon to Maleny and settled in the Baroon Pocket area. He had had some schooling in the Redbank area where his parents built and established the Redbank Hotel. His older brother **John Simpson** settled in Beerwah, where he established the Hotel.

William & John Simpson are believed to have visited the range in 1876 looking for timber to cut, to acquit a contract for cutting railway sleepers for the Brisbane to Ipswich railway line. William had his bullock team and cut timber, which he hauled to various mills and to the timber shutes for shipping to Brisbane. He was often absent from their home while Jane tended their growing family. She is believed to have had the first dairy cow in Maleny. The notorious and feared aboriginal **Captain Piper** and his family lived in the bush with them. My Grand-mother **Jane Heaps Simpson** was their daughter and reputedly the first female white child born on the Maleny plateau. I do not know whether she had any formal schooling but she was literate and knowledgeable.



Stuart & Beryl Bryce c1912

In 1910 she married **Charles Bryce** who is first recorded as having arrived in Maleny in 1902 from the Berry/St Georges basin in NSW. The Bryce family had land holdings there from the 1840s which were sold after the death in 1896 of the family's father. At least another four of his siblings, followed Charles to Maleny. The family were engaged in dairy farming in much of the district. Charles and Jane built and lived in what is now the Historical Cottage. They later went to North Maleny with their four children, **Stuart, Beryl, Keith** and **Ivor**. They all attended the Maleny State School at its original site in Cedar Street. They rode the same pony to school and there is a picture of the four of them in line on the horse. Stuart, born 1911 was my father. He used to relate how one morning when riding to school when crossing a creek, they had a brush with a large black snake which unexpectedly reared up. They all fell off and had to walk to school quite wet, as the pony galloped home. They all had to help milk the cows before heading off to school.

The education must have been good at the Maleny School. Stuart continued his secondary schooling at Gympie High School where students were boarded out with townspeople. He shared his accommodation with the young **Henzell** from Caloundra in a friendship that survived many years. Dad came back to Maleny where he joined the E.S.&A. Bank. He completed a Chartered Accountancy course and eventually retired as the Queensland auditor of the ANZ Bank. He attended the 1988 schools' 75th Centenary and enjoyed many reminiscences.

My Father, Grand-father and Great-grandfather would be delighted that two of my Grandsons, **Samuel** and **William Lapsley** are currently students at Maleny State School. My Aunt Beryl went as a boarder to Moreton Bay College after Maleny and was the bookkeeper at New England Motor Company and later at C.I.G gases in Brisbane. Ivor and Keith went onto Brisbane Boys College. Ivor was an accountant with the Taxation Department while Keith a farmer and businessman.

My primary schooling unfortunately was not in Maleny but was at Eumundi and later Strathpine. Like Maleny both had a horse paddock where on a wet day the distinctive odour of a wet chaff bag/horse saddle blanket would permeate the classroom