

William White 2627 birth name William Lyon

William Lyon was born in Glasgow 29 May 1830 to William Lyon and Lucy Gardner. [family bible] His parent's marriage on 28 April 1822 in Glasgow was witnessed by a Methodist preacher Joseph Agar. Nothing is known of his siblings. In his teens he probably spent time in the Glasgow "House of refuge for boys". In 1848 he certainly became involved in the 1848 riots in Glasgow and to avoid being arrested took a boat to Anglesey with a friend Jessie.

In 1849 they were among a group of vagrants camped near the Lledwigan limekilns on December 1849. All the Welsh were released and 7 foreigners charged with being in possession of stolen goods. All were convicted at the quarter sessions in the Beaumaris courthouse on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1850. Accounts of their trial appeared in the *Carnarvon Times* 5<sup>th</sup> January and *North Wales Chronicle* 8<sup>th</sup> January. Both William and Jessie gave false names on being arrested and while Jessie lost her name of White on marriage in Tasmania, William resumed his Lyon surname on arrival in Northam in 1855. On official records, including his marriage to Susannah Carter in 1861, he kept the name White. The 14 children all had the surname Lyon. His twig of the Carter family was only discovered after a proposed Carter reunion in Northam was advertised in late 1979.

William Lyon's contribution to the growth and social life of Northam is well covered by his own story *Fifty five years ago*, published in the Northam Advertiser in 1910; Junior George Throssel's article on him in *Originals and Aborigines* published in the same paper in 1929 along with milestones in his life. He was instrumental in establishing the Mechanics Institute, was a supporter of the temperance movement and is remembered in the "Temperance town estate" with a street named after him. His two eldest were girls and his endeavours to have them well educated were thwarted when the School Board insisted girls go to the girls' school. His letters to the *West Australian* on the subject are well worth a read. Lucy and particularly Phoebe were both well educated. Unfortunately for him his girls were in their late teens and early twenties when the gold rush started and his shotgun was brought out of storage on a few occasions.

After the 1861 partnership with his father-in-law in a farming venture was dissolved in 1866, Lyon became manager for Throssel's store. So close was their relationship that when Throssel built Fermoy, Lyon and his family moved into the old house in Gairdner street.

In his later years he worked as an agent for Millington and became a familiar figure walking around town collecting money owed until he contracted pneumonia and died in 1924. His funeral was attended by the Premier James Mitchell, many civic dignitaries and a huge crowd of friends and relations who are all named in the Advertiser. His headstone in the Northam cemetery is very modest.