

## The Tong family

### Ancestors of the Wildens from Canberra Australia

**Thomas Tong** born 1799 in Wheathampstead, St Albans, Hertfordshire, England. He died and was buried on 13 January 1839. He married **Mary Spicksley** born 20 April, 1800 in Wheathampstead, St Albans, Hertfordshire, England.

#### Children of Thomas Tong and Mary Spicksley

Sarah Tong born 1822 in Wheathampstead, St Albans, Hertfordshire, England, died 21 October 1903 buried in Wheathampstead.

Anna Maria Tong born 1826 in Wheathampstead, St Albans, Hertfordshire, England

Mary Ann Tong born 1829 in Wheathampstead, St Albans, Hertfordshire, England

**Thomas Tong** born 1832 Wheathampstead, St Albans, Hertfordshire, England

Charles Tong born 1835 in Wheathampstead, St Albans, Hertfordshire, England

**Thomas Tong**, born 2 October 1832 in Wheathampstead, St Albans, Hertfordshire, England and died 30 Oct 1925 in Queanbeyan, NSW. He was christened in St Albans on 6 January 1833. He married **Mary Sophia (Sophy) Harkin** 21 Oct 1868 in St Gregory's, Queanbeyan.



**Mary Sophia Harkin**, born 1839 in Donegal Ireland; died 4 Dec 1921 in Queanbeyan.

Thomas was born one of five children to Thomas and Mary Tong. He came from Wheathampstead (just outside St Albans) Hertfordshire, England. His ancestors are buried in St Helen's Church of England Cemetery in the village. He originally worked as a tailor with his sister before following the 'goldrush' to Australia. He arrived in Sydney on the ship Abyssinia in 1854.



The family home of Thomas Tong at Wheathampstead, St Albans. Today it is the village post office.

a gang of tank sinkers. He moved up to the Kiandra diggings with his mate Bill Maddrell in about 1858.

He came up through the back country to the Naas district (south of where Canberra was built) where he worked at the Naas homestead which was owned by Mendelshon and Moses. Here he met Sophia (Sophy) Harkins (who had emigrated from Cross Road, Donegal, Ireland) and they were married in St Gregory's, in Queanbeyan, NSW in 1868. At the time of their marriage, he was based at Cuppacumbalong and she was a servant in Queanbeyan.

Sophia came from County Donegal landing in Sydney, in about 1854 where she went to work for a Doctor in Campbelltown. She came to Queanbeyan where she worked at J.J. Wright's flour mill near the Queanbeyan suspension bridge and then she worked as a servant at Naas Homestead. After the wedding they lived at Long Gully Lane.

Thomas went to work at Cuppacumbalong Station at Tharwa and worked with the DeSalis family. He planted elms on the banks of the Murrumbidgee and built the private cemetery at Cuppacumbalong. To do this he carted stone from

He arrived in Australia after 10 months sailing, having stopped over in Durban, South Africa. He went to Melbourne after arriving and spent time in Geelong, Bendigo at and Ballarat at various diggings. He crossed into NSW at Mangaplugh gum swamp where he tasted his first quince pie. At that time he was a boss of



Mt Tennant with twelve horses and drays for ten months.

About this time Elizabeth Ann was born. He then moved to Lanyon station where Celia was born and later selected land near Woden in about 1870 which he later sold to Mr Hawke. John was born in 1872, Patrick in 1874, Mary in 1878, then James (who died in later years.) He moved to Naas in October 1880 where he cut timber with adze and axe and also built his own home (part of it which was still standing in the 1970s.) He also built huts for shepherds in the District.

Transcribed from notes prepared by Iris Carnall.



Headstone, Queanbeyan Riverside Cemetery

Children of Thomas Tong and Sophy Harkin are:

(Ann) Elizabeth Tong, born 1869 in Cuppacumbalong, NSW; married Patrick Curley; born 1853.

**Celia Tong**, born 1870 in Lanyon, NSW; died 07 Aug 1948; married Arthur **Wilden** 17 Sep 1898 in The Manse, Pitt St, Sydney.

James Patrick Tong, born 1874.

Mary Tong, born 1878 in Lanyon, NSW; died 10 May 1917.

John Thomas Tong, born 1872 in Lanyon, NSW; married Mary Jane Bates; born 1875 in Lanyon, NSW; died 10 May 1917 in Queanbeyan, NSW.