

**James Stephen Lynch**

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**An Unsung Life**

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**Part Five**

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**( The Third )**

James Stephen Lynch and his brother Eugene Hugh Lynch had returned home to Australia on their long leave just as the nation was moving into its new stage as The Commonwealth of Australia and it was with great pomp and glamour that the opening ceremony was performed in the Exhibition Building in Melbourne by the Duke of York who was to become George V, on May 9<sup>th</sup> 1901.

This occasion was captured on canvas by Tom Roberts.



A massive painting now residing in new parliament house Canberra.

The selection of Canberra as the new nations capital came at the end of a sometimes very bitter debate that dragged on for some seven to eight years. There were many towns and areas that were suggested and argued about and the one that was for some time to appear to be the favoured site was the town of Dalgety sitting on the banks of the Snowy River. Home of the Lynch family.

It was not to be as there were people with more pull that had other ideas. However there was some great interest in the nomination of the town and area that left us a little legacy of the time.

This photograph was taken on the verandah of “Keating’s Hotel”, Dalgety, in late 1902 or 1903 of the participants of a meeting held to discuss the proposed federal capital site, Dalgety, N.S.W.



Front row, L to R. John Crisp of "Jimenbuyan". Morrice of "Marraubla". David Crisp of "Springvale". H.C.Meritt, First President of Dalgety Shire. J.C.Ryne. of "Malpa". Johnson of "Longfieldss". N.C.Ecclestone of "Coonhoongubla". R.U.B. Rose of "Beleco".  
 Middle row, L to R. John Weston. Thomas Rowe. Postmaster at Buckley's Crossing. Patrick Manning. of "Fox's Plain". ???. Michael Lynch. (Michael is the older brother of James and Eugene). ???. Hugh Muggeridge of "Numbea Vale". George Hedger of "Jimenbuyen".  
 Back row, L to R. ???. Jack Keating, hotel proprietor. H.D.M. Rose of "Woolway". Sergeant Hannah of Dalgety Police Station.

There was a group of Senators that were delegated to tour all the possible named sites and as Dalgety was very much in contention they all came to visit. This following photo was of these gents when they did visit Dalgety and did cause some hilarity in the press.



It was apparently quite a warm day and they all decided to go for a bathe in the Snowy River. They did not allow for the Snowy being fed from the snow fields and it was declared to be a scrotum shrinking experience.

The photographers follow up pictures were never shown and it took some six to eight years before the decision was made to select the area that was to become Canberra and the new national capitol.

All this is just a lead as to what was happening at home while the Lynch brothers were working in Shanghai. 1903 saw James and Eugene joined in Shanghai by their younger brother Thomas Sylvester Lynch in the Shanghai Metropolitan Police.

1905 was the year Eugene Lynch was promoted to Inspector. It was also the year James Stephen Lynch decided to terminate his service with the Shanghai Municipal Police.



James journeyed back to his family home at Bulgundra, Dalgety, and this was to be his base for the next ten years. He slotted back into life on the family property and the town and district activities were also involved as he settled back into country life.

1906, the following year, saw Eugene Lynch take his second long leave from the S.M.P. He and family decided to visit his old home again. As they journeyed down to Australia from Hong Kong on the E. and A. liner "Eastern", it called into Brisbane on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 1906. The Brisbane Courier Mail of the following day presented an article on the "Awakening of China" from an interview with a greatly respected associate of the "South China Morning Post". Also attached to the article were comments by Mr. E. H. Lynch, also a passenger on the "Eastern", bound for Sydney on holiday leave who mentioned about the activity that prevailed in railway construction at Shanghai.

It was towards the end of Eugene's long leave that there was a family picture to record their visit.



Lynch Family:- 17<sup>th</sup> March 1907.

L to R:- James Lynch. Michael Lynch. Eugene and Sarah Lynch. John Lynch. Steve Primmer. Eliza Lynch. Joe Lynch. Joe Miners, holding his son.

Mary Primmer. May Primmer. Nellie Miners. Maude Primmer. Myra Lynch. Lydia Lynch. Noel Lynch. Cyril Lynch. Annie Lynch. Baby Lucy. Owen Lynch. Harry Lynch. And Laurie Lynch.

Someone missing from the family photo above was the Lynch family mother, Catherine Lynch. It was just over one year later that Catherine Lynch died. 24<sup>th</sup> March 1908 Bulgundra, Dalgety. She was buried in Boloco Cemetery, Grave 90a alongside her husband Owen Lynch who had died some 17 years previously.

1910 and there were some more highs and lows recorded among the family. Eugene Lynch was listed as Inspector in charge at Wayside Police Station, Shanghai.

Back home in Dalgety saw the formation of the Dalgety Rifle Club as reported in the Sydney Morning Herald Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August 1910. 23 members attended including the Lynch brothers and it was noted that there were now 42 members in the new club.

Meanwhile in Shanghai just two months later the news was more somber. Sarah Rachel Lynch died in childbirth on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October at the General Hospital, Shanghai. She was buried at Bubbling Well Cemetery.

Eugene Lynch was left a widower with a seven year old daughter, Kathleen. In 1910 Shanghai this would have been somewhat of a shock even when the married Europeans always had an Amah to look after the concerns of the household and the children's needs.

1911 saw life in Dalgety progressing much as usual. "The Monaro Mercury, and Cooma and Bombala Advertiser of Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 1911 reported on the annual meeting of the Dalgety Rifle Club, held at the Commercial Hotel, Dalgety. The club was shown to be in a satisfactory state, having a credit balance of nearly nine pounds on the years transactions, and 42 efficient members who had completed their musketry course. Among the officers who were elected for the ensuing year were the three Lynch brothers, John, Michael and James.

Shanghai 1911 saw Eugene Hugh Lynch marry for a second time.

The bride was Edith Louisa Adelaide Dewis.



L. to R. Thomas Lynch. (Younger brother of Eugene and also a member of the Shanghai Municipal Police). Kathleen, unknown, Eugene, Edith, unknown, unknown.

James Stephen Lynch was now resident back at Bulgundra and well involved with the day to day working of the family property. Work, social functions, fund raisers, local jockey club and the rifle club and a small participation in the reasonably new political atmosphere that was now growing around the country were things James was well involved with.

Life was to become complicated with the coming threat of the War to end to all Wars.