

Stavrosians in Australia

In 1813, explorers found a way over the Blue Mountains of Australia. This opened the way for settlement into the Outback. People came to the inland area to make new homes and new lives for themselves. For over 50 years, they built settlements and came to open up a new continent. Many were coming from England; others came from far parts of the world. There were some that came as prisoners to survive out their time as forced laborers as well as settlers.

These men came with a dream of a new life. Some came looking for fortune and riches. No matter how they came, this was going to be their big adventure. Two men, William Anderson and Franklin Moore, were among the new arrivals in 1895. William had a mining background. He, with Franklin, had hoped to find gold to make their dreams of great wealth come true. The two men were going to need help with the hard work they would be facing. William hired a man that had been sent to Australia as a prisoner. He was George Kalvakeys, but once he started to work for Anderson, George changed his name. He became George Kelly, that fit the time and place. Now George could work without interference from the law. George Kelly worked hard and was true to the task. What gold they found was due to George's skill with the few pieces of equipment Anderson and Moore were able to get over the mountains and down to the mine.

George was a Stavrosian hybrid. He had worked at ceramic pottery for many years before he went to England to follow English style ceramics. During his time in London, George came on hard times. Without any prospects, he turned to crime as a thief in the marketplace. He was caught, then sentenced to 20 years labor in Australia. He served only three years before he went to work for Anderson. George was able to save enough money to buy his freedom in 1907.

George Kelly went back to working with ceramics in Sydney, Australia. He married and had several children before he died in 1937 at the age of 102. The Kelly blood line has moved around the world a little. The main family still lives in and around Sydney.

Their First Life Celebration had once been attended by Joseph A. Lyons, 10th Prime Minister. He had known George from the Australian Labor Party. George was an advocate for the labor movement. Lyons, it is said, knew of George's Stavrosian roots. This he kept to himself.

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