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Lehane - Willis family.
also spelt La Hayne, Lahane.

Joseph Willis came to N.S.W. in 1819 by the ship Surry. He was born about 1788, as his age was given in 1828 as 40 years. His wife Rose arrived in 1820 by the ship Jarvis. He was aged 30 in 1828.

His son John Willis was born at Parramatta in 1826. He married, first, Ann Walpole in 1847 - we do not know the date of her death - but in 1854 he married Margaret LaHayne at Samarang.

Margaret was born (about 1835 to 1838) at the property Cliffdale, just a few miles north of Scour. She was said to be the daughter of John Lehane.

(The information about John Willis' two marriages must have come from his marriage certificate in 1854, but we have not seen it. Our informant for this was Mrs. McPherson of Mangerton, many years ago.)

Cliffdale was granted to a Scottish settler in 1835. He had no descendants and the property was left to Scottish relatives when he died in 1860.

We have no other information about Margaret Laheen - Lehane, so there were no clergy in the Scour district when she was born, so she may not have been baptized for some years. Samarang was a very lively gold mining area in the 1860's, and perhaps she spent time with her father.

Note: Since this letter was written it has come to light that Margaret Laheen was born in 1838 at Mount Shannon in Ireland. The Laheen family emigrated from Ireland on the ship "Charles Kerr" departing Limerick on 15 September 1838 and arriving in New South Wales on 8 January 1839.

We have made a careful search for Margaret's possible forebears. At Mudgee in the 1860s was a saddler named Patrick Laheen, which is about the nearest name to Lehane we can find.

Since you have a death certificate for a Daniel Laheen Willis born at Mudgee in 1860, and Mrs Laheen witnessed the child's birth, she was very probably Daniel's mother's mother.

If I were you, I would start searching at Mudgee. Try the local historical society for records of burials in the cemetery, get someone to look at the microfiche records of deaths for any Laheen after 1860, and if you find a Daniel or John within the next few years you might find Margaret's father.

You have Daniel as her father on your chart. Is that correct?

The microfiche index of Probate of Wills is important to look at, as it gives the name of the place when the person was living when he made his will, and also his date of death. We will make a search here, and let you know shortly if it is found. Meanwhile, try Mudgee.

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