

Crimean and Indian Campaigns escorted him to his grave, 'firing three volleys over it', fulfilling his last wish: 'a partisan salute from comrades in arms'.

The widowed Catherine relocated to Sydney. Catherine Crummer survived her husband by 40 years, and all but two of her eleven children, ending her days in a house on the now demolished Rialto Terrace, Darlinghurst in her 98th year. She was survived by her second eldest Eliza Bettina and her eighth child, Henry Samuel Walker.

According to her published obituary, Catherine Crummer 'was confined to her house for many years' though 'she retained her faculties to the last and frequently referred to the incidents of those days in conversation with members of her family'. It is a great loss that these conversations were not recorded in some form by those privileged enough to have heard them. This is also a lesson for the current generation of historians: to record as many such conversations with elderly migrants, shopkeepers and others as possible, before their stories too are lost.

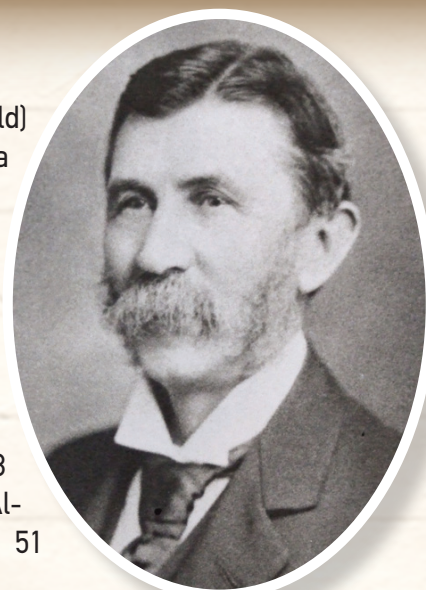
Catherine Crummer was laid in the Old Anglican Section of Waverly Cemetery, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. She shares the burial plot with two of her daughters, Eliza Bettina (d. 26 February 1909) and the youngest Theresa Alexandrina (d. 8 September 1898).

Despite her adventurous life, Catherine was not forgotten. In November 1980, the Australian Byron Society added a bronze plaque to the cross atop Catherine Crummer's tomb: 'To the memory of Katherine Crummer, Lord Byron's Last Friend'.

Neglected for some decades, the widow of Catherine's youngest grandson, Mrs Patricia Crummer, paid for the grave's restoration, adding the words 'nee Πλέσσοις' (Plessos), in homage to Catherine Crummer's Hellenic heritage. There have been a number of prayer services (τρισάγια) and visits by dignitaries and community members to her final resting place, tributes to the remarkable life of Australia's first female Hellene migrant.

Despite James and Aikaterine having eleven children, only two of them had children of their own: Robert

Sherer (the fifth child) and Augusta Louisa (the sixth child). Twins Vasiliko and Jean both died in their first year of life, as did Mary, and Katherine Jane. Eliza Bettina (died 77 years of age), Juliana Catrina (died aged 13 years) and Theresa Alexandrina (died aged 51 years) never married.



Augusta Louisa's sole child, Eccleston, died less than twelve months old. Of Robert's six children, again only two had children of their own. All living descendants of James and Catherine Crummer today are from those two grandchildren.

Of the Crummer children, Henry Samuel Walker was the most prominent, leaving a great legacy to New South Wales as a surveyor, an authority on early New South Wales pastoral holdings and was first librarian of the Sydney Philharmonic Society. In his honour, a peak on Antarctica was named Mount Crummer⁸. He never married and lies in St Jude's Churchyard, Randwick.

The Crummer family story in many ways reflects the story of Australian Hellenism: migration, marriage, childbirth, life's struggles. There is no record of Catherine Crummer having any contact with the fledgling Australian Hellenic community of Sydney in her later years, nor of her attending any liturgy at Ayia Triada (Holy Trinity) Orthodox Church on Bourke Street Surry Hills, consecrated in 1898 and only a short distance from her home. Like so much about the biography of Aikaterine Plaisiou/Catherine Crummer, it remains speculation.

My sincerest thanks to His Excellency Ambassador Hugh Gilchrist for his pioneering three volume work *Australians and Greeks* (Halstead Press) as well as to Professor George Kanarakis (Charles Sturt University) for his pioneering research in the field of Australian Hellenic history and culture as well as for his invaluable advice.

8. Mount Crummer is a massive, brown granite mountain, 895 metres high, immediately south of Backstairs Passage Glacier on the coast of Victoria Land. It was first charted and named by the British Antarctic Expedition, 1907–09, under Ernest Shackleton.