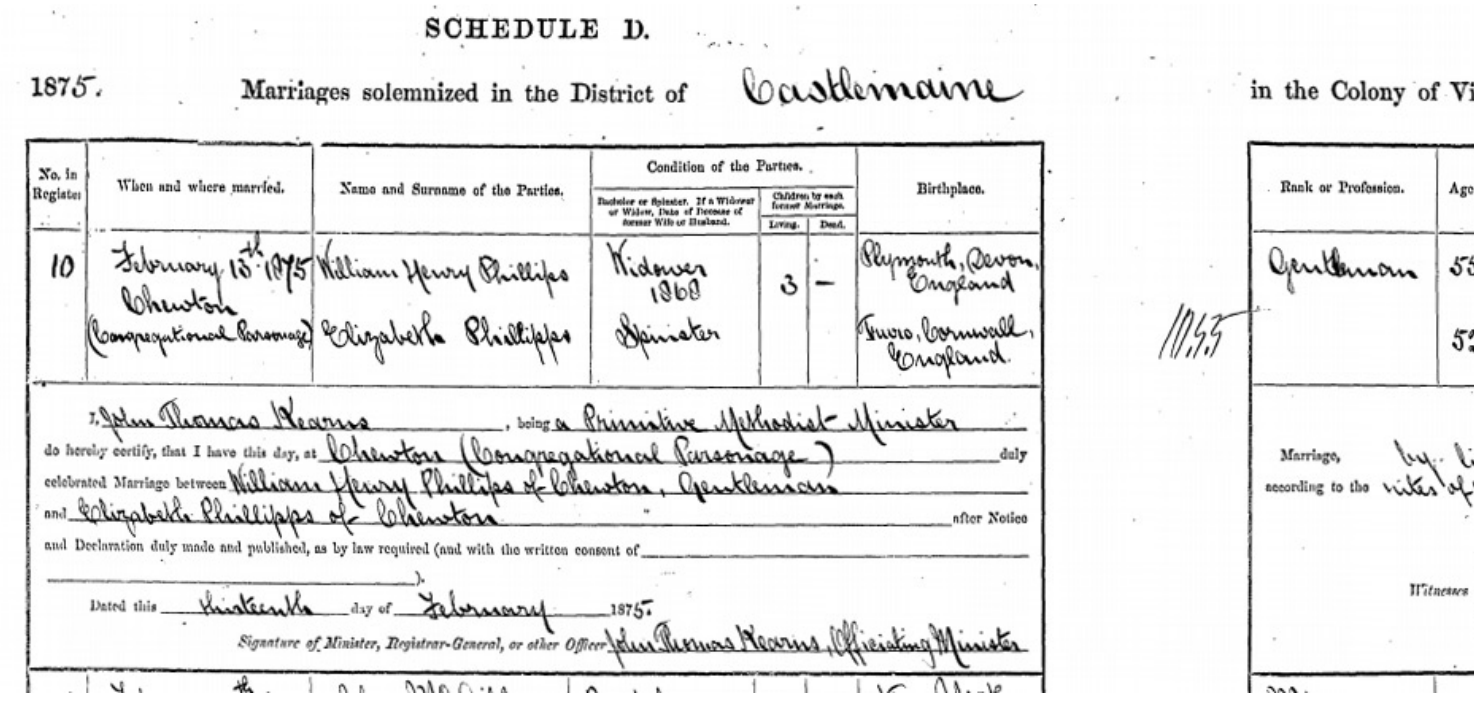
One of the challenges I've had is that William Henry Phillips Snr married three times, and for some reason the details of his first wife had been lost in the family's memory.

Perhaps this was encouraged by the fact that the second wife Elizabeth Phillipps (note the 2 P's) had ancestry tracing back to the pedigreed Arundel family in England.

In my early work with the Phillips family I had found that WHP snr's Death certificate, that indicated he had remarried in Victoria Australia, and luckily was able to get a digital copy of this online. This provided many interesting facts, none the least that he had been widowed in 1868. Given that WHP jnr was known to have been born around 1845 in Truro, Cornwall, he must have been born to the first wife.

Here is the Marriage Certificate for WHP's Second marriage. (Right - Click to view image in more detail)



SCHEDULE D.

1875. Marriages solemnized in the District of Castlemaine in the Colony of Vi

No. in Register	When and where married.	Name and Surname of the Parties.	Condition of the Parties. Bachelor or Spinster. If a Widower or Widow, Date of Decease of former Wife or Husband.	Children by each former Marriage. Living.	Dead.	Birthplace.	Rank or Profession.	Age
10	February 13th 1875 Chewton (Congregational Parsonage)	William Henry Phillips	Widower 1868	3	—	Plymouth, Devon, England	Gentleman	53
		Elizabeth Phillipps	Spinster			Truro, Cornwall, England		52

I, John Thomas Kearns, being a Primitive Methodist Minister do hereby certify, that I have this day, at Chewton (Congregational Parsonage) duly celebrated Marriage between William Henry Phillips of Chewton, Gentleman and Elizabeth Phillipps of Chewton after Notice and Declaration duly made and published, as by law required (and with the written consent of).

Dated this thirteenth day of February 1875.

Signature of Minister, Registrar-General, or other Officer John Thomas Kearns, Officiating Minister

Marriage, by [illegible] according to the rites of

Witnesses

Note that Certificate states:

- WHP Snr was widowed in 1868
- he had 3 children
- he was born in Plymouth, Devon (Not Cornwall)
- she was born in Truro, Cornwall
- he was 55 - so born in 1820
- she was 52 so born in 1823
- all the parents are listed, including the mother-in-law's maiden name, "Rundle", aka Arundel.
- unfortuantely the names of the witnesses are unreadable - that often tells something

So this was a valuable document in the search for this family history.

So who was the first wife?

This quest has taken many a turn. The name "William Phillips" was a little bit common in the 1800's, and luckily they did have and use the middle name "Henry". Even though, there were still a few of them as well.

One of the issues confronting this search, is that official Government records of BDM (Births Deaths and Marriages) were not kept until 1840, and prior to that there are only Parish Church records. Some of these are online. The offical records are, butonly indexes, names and a year quarter, but no date or other details. With the proper index code, you can purchase a Birth Certificate. Consequently I have purchased many an irrelevant document.

