

Annie TUCKER, nee McDONALD & Walter John TUCKER

Biography as published in 1985 & 1995

Annie was a grandchild of Christina and Donald McLean.

Annie McDonald was the first child of Rachel McDonald (nee McLean) and Ewen McDonald – born 8-10-1848, died 20-9-1902.

Annie was born in South Australia on October 8, 1848, the first child of Ewen and Rachel McDonald. The office of the registrar of births, deaths and marriages for South Australia has no record of registration of the birth, so where she was born is unknown.

This was the year that Ludwig Leichhardt disappeared into the interior of Australia after announcing his intention to cross the continent from the Condamine River in Queensland to the Swan River in Western Australia. Annie was only a few months old when Edmund Kennedy, another explorer, was speared to death by Aborigines on Cape York Peninsula. Far away in Europe revolutions broke out in many countries, and Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels published the *Communist Manifesto*.

The Scots have a tradition of respect for learning and Ewen seems to have made sure that his children were literate. He notes in his 1864 diary for Friday, July 8: 'Annie and Flora left at school — Mrs Bell — Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide.' According to the 1866 *Adelaide Almanack*, Mrs J. Bell had a school for ladies in Pennington Terrace and Jeremiah Bell of that address was listed as a jeweller.

Before her marriage Annie was a mistress at the Finniss, or Queen's Own Town primary school. After her marriage she taught Sunday school at the Sandergrove Methodist Church for many years. On March 21, 1871 at her father's residence, *Balmarino*, Annie was married to Walter John Tucker by the Reverend John Anderson. Walter John was the eldest child of George and Lucy Tucker, nee Hanham, and was born in England on May 1, 1839. Leaving their infant son John in the care of his paternal grandparents, George and Lucy left their home in Somersetshire, England and embarked for Australia in the ship *Middlesex* which left Gravesend docks on the River Thames on May 1, 1841.

They were bounty immigrants, part of the government's drive for free settlers to provide labour in the colony of New South Wales. In 1837 settlers in New South Wales were encouraged to bring immigrants of a suitable class to the colony under a system which granted the settler a payment or bounty. The money for this scheme was derived from the sale of Crown land to the colonists. In addition there were government officers acting under the authority of the agent-general for emigration in London, selecting emigrants for despatch on chartered vessels.

The first ship for Port Phillip carrying immigrants direct from England was the *David Clarke* which arrived in October 1839. Until 1851 Victoria was the Port Phillip District of New South Wales and because of its great distance from Sydney where the early immigrants disembarked the population was scanty. During 1841 forty vessels carrying bounty immigrants, including the *Middlesex*, arrived at Port Phillip and the population rose from 16,000 to over 20,000.

There is information in the book *Index to Assisted Immigrants Arrived Port Phillip 1839-51* published by the Archives Authority of New South Wales in 1976 about George and Lucy Tucker and family.

After a voyage of five months the *Middlesex* arrived in Port Phillip Bay on October 1, 1841, docking at Williamstown the next day. George found employment with a large stockholder in Victoria for a short time and,

after delivering a mob of cattle for his employer to Adelaide, he decided to stay in South Australia. He next found employment with Dr John Rankine of Blackwood, Strathalbyn, who had arrived in South Australia from Scotland and taken up land around Strathalbyn in 1839. George later purchased Crown land at Sandergrove about five miles south-west of Strathalbyn, gradually adding to his holdings until he controlled an extensive area. George and Lucy's eldest son Walter John was twelve years old when he joined his parents in 1851, arriving at Port Adelaide with his grandmother. Charity Hill Tucker, in the ship *Bernicia*.

Near the road from Strathalbyn to Goolwa and Victor Harbor, George built a solid two-storied bluestone home with a distant glimpse of the waters of Lake Alexandrina from the upper storey. They called it *Lake View*. In 1867, George donated land at Sandergrove for the erection of a Methodist church and gave generously to the cost of the building and its furnishing.

After their marriage in 1871, Annie and John moved into a newly-built home on the property named *Eldon House*, later called *Corra Lynne*, where they remained until the death of John's father in 1881 when they became the occupants of *Lake View* homestead.

In 1973, Mervyn Tucker, son of Edward Jones Tucker, a brother to John, recalled his Aunt Annie as being a thickset woman, a good cook and a strong character who kept her family in order. He remembered one day in particular at *Lake View* when he feared he had been bitten by a snake and rushed to her for help. Quick to respond she plunged his hand into the hot water tub where she was doing the washing, and so removed any remaining poison from the skin surface. Annie had a talent for drawing, and a black and white sketch of hers is in the possession of the Dunn family of McHarg's Creek.

From the time they were married, John's affectionate pet name for his wife Annie was 'Nan' and it has become a family name. They had a family of thirteen, nine sons and four daughters, and more than their share of tragedy. Their first child, Maurice Hugh died aged three days; the fourth child, Maurice Leslie died of bronchitis aged 7 years; the seventh child, William John wandered away from home and was found dead from exposure in the bush, aged eighteen months; the tenth child, Annie died of tuberculosis aged 9 years; the eleventh child, Rachel died of tuberculosis aged 28 years; and the twelfth child, Arthur Harold, aged 31, and the thirteenth child, John Stewart, aged 23 years, were both killed while serving overseas in World War One. Only five of the thirteen children had descendants.

Like many farmers of last century and early this century, John faithfully kept a daily diary, still to be seen at *Lake View*. An account of family sickness and the cost incurred is seen in extracts from the 1893 diary.

- *Sunday 3rd September — Mother laid up with the measles Lucy and Rachel, George, Jim and Jean.*
- *Monday 4th September — Bert sent the Dr. out to them all. Dr. out once before.*
- *Wednesday 6th September — Dr. out again this morning. Annie not much better. Mother no bet ter. The rest a little better. Mrs. Goldfinch staid all day. Fitch jobing about.*
- *Wednesday 13th September — Mother not so well today. The rest getting on nicely. A fine day. Aunt Jeff came out with Lionel this morning. Mother worse tonight. Edd sent the Dr. out again tonight.*
- *Friday 15th September — Dr. out again this morning; he says she is still improving. Grandmother came from Horsham this morning.*
- *Thursday 2nd November 1893 — Dr. visits to mother and children eighteen times and medecines £25.15.0.*
- *Saturday 9th December 1893 — Grandmother went to Strath with Bert this morning.*
- *Monday 11th December 1893 — Took mother to the Dr. Grandmother went away this afternoon.*
- *Friday 15th December 1893 — Jean's birthday, 16 years old today.*

Bert was their 20-year-old son Hubert Llewellyn. Mr Fitch who was jobbing about was grandfather on the maternal side, to Mr Harold Stowe, town clerk of Strathalbyn from 1939 to 1965, and Edd was John's youngest brother, Edward Jones Tucker. The reference to Grandmother coming from Horsham would indicate the serious concern for Annie during this illness; her mother Rachel at this stage was 70 years old. Annie had the pleasure of

seeing two of her children married before her own untimely death in 1902, at the age of 53 years. They were Lionel, to Ethel Weir in April 1900, and Jean, Caroline Jane, to George Dix in July 1900. John's diary for 1902 tells of the severe earth tremor felt in South Australia and Annie's death within twenty-four hours.

- *Friday 19th September 1902 — All the boys hewing potatoes. Wire from Lucy, Jean a little baby girl this morning. A great shock of an earthquake tonight at 7 minutes past 8 P.M. Travelling from east to west. Two slighter ones followed shortly after.*
- *Saturday 20th September 1902 — Mother taken very ill last night, sent for Dr. Shone, he gave us no hope for her. She had burst a blood vessel in the head. He came again today. She had been unconscious all the time and died at ¼ to 3 o'clock. Lucy came home tonight. Mrs. Percy here and helped us with our trouble.*
- *Sunday 21st September 1902 — Bert and Uncle Ted to Strath. Arranged for funeral. Burgess digging the Grave today.*
- *Monday 22nd September 1902 — A sad day for us all here — Buried dear Mother at 2 P.M. Britt, Aunt Matt and Rachel came up. A verry large number of friends and sympathisers was present at the grave.*

The little girl born to Jean was Gwen Dix who later was to marry Larry Roache. Annie was buried in the small Tucker private cemetery adjoining the Sandergrove Methodist Church. This church is no longer used and has become a store house for *Lake View*. It is said that the pulpit was given to the Methodist church in Strathalbyn and the seats went to Finnis, Mosquito Creek and Adelaide.

With the death of Annie, the running of the household fell to Lucy, and Rachel as she became older. A young maidservant was engaged, Rose Piercy, whose whole life was to be bound up with the Tucker family. Rose was the daughter of Mr and Mrs Frederick Piercy, the lady in the diary, and was born in the Strathalbyn district on August 25, 1884.

In 1903 John recorded in his diary:

- *20th September — Twelve months today Mother died. Aged 53 years and 11 months and 2 weeks and one day.*
*I once loved a Pretty Girl,
I loved her as my life
She came from Balmerino and I made her my dear wife
We lived so happy here together, oh free from grief but no; from pain
But twelve months today, Jesus thought fit to take her away.*

In his remaining diaries John frequently mentioned Annie's birthday, their anniversary, and the day of her death.

- *20th September 1910— 8 years ago today since my Nanney died.*
- *8th October 1910 — Mother would be 62 today if living.*
- *21st March 1915 — 44 years today our marriage, the mother of all my children.*

Four years after Annie's death, on May 1, 1906, John married Christina Graham, daughter of John Graham of Long Valley. There were no children of the second marriage. When John and Christina retired to Strathalbyn about a year before his death, Rose accompanied them. John died on January 9, 1920 aged 80 years and Rose continued to care for Christina until the latter's death in July 1929 at the age of 73 years. They are buried in the Tucker private cemetery at Sandergrove. The running of *Lake View* fell to James, the seventh son of Annie and John. Today James' grandson David Tucker and his wife Carolyn with their two young sons live at *Lake View* and run the property.

The Strathalbyn *Southern Argus* published an obituary for John.

There passed away on Friday evening at his late residence in Strathalbyn one of the last of the original residents of the district and one of its best known and best loved men in the person of Walter John Tucker, who died after a comparatively brief illness at the advanced age of nearly 81 years, leaving behind him a widow and family of four sons and two daughters to mourn their great loss, as well as a very wide circle of friends, his kindly nature, happy disposition and general excellence of character having won for him a host of acquaintances to whom he stood as a model resident.

Mr. Tucker was the eldest son of the late Mr. George Tucker of 'Lake View' Sandergrove and was born in 1839, his father having been one of the pioneering settlers of the district. He spent his boyhood in assisting in the development of the Estate and thus got thorough practical knowledge of all branches of the farm and station life.

On the death of his father in 1831, he succeeded to 'Lake View' property and continued to reside on it till about a year ago, when he came to town to spend the rest of his days, his son James taking over the management of the estate.

Mr. Tucker was twice married, his first wife and mother of his family being a daughter of the late Mr. Ewen McDonald, another of the pioneers of the south, and his second marriage was to a daughter of the late Mr. George Graham of Long Valley, also a very old resident.

Mr. Tucker, from his youth, took a great interest in all institutions in the district and was in every respect a valued resident.

He was instrumental in improving the sheep industry in this part of the state and his wool brand stood always for high prices. He took an interest in public matters, being for 12 years a member of the local council, several years its chairman, and he was an enthusiastic volunteer in the old days, serving 5 years in the cavalry force which had its headquarters at Strathalbyn, and which numbered in its company many of the finest men in the south.

He was a generous supporter of the local and other agricultural societies and a generous helper of charitable institutions, his assistance being always readily given to any good cause. Two of his sons, Messrs. John Stewart and Harold Arthur were amongst the earliest to enlist in the Great War and paid the supreme sacrifice, their untimely deaths being a great blow to their father who up until then had been wonderfully strong and hearty, having in his long life scarcely known what it was to be ill.

About 2¹/₂ years ago he began to suffer from gastric trouble and on and off since then he became more or less an invalid. Up until the last though, he got about and went to Victor Harbor on New Year's day to see Captain Butler fly.

This trip and its excitement proved a bit too much for his strength and a few days later he had to take to his bed. He gradually grew weaker and passed away on Friday evening with most of his family around him, thus closing a useful and happy life and leaving the town poorer for his death.

His mortal remains were laid to rest in the little graveyard at the Sandergrove church on Sunday, a very large following of friends and mourners gathering there to pay their tribute of respect to his memory. The Reverends Love and Neil conducted the last sad rites of the burial service.

The *Cyclopaedia of South Australia*, printed in 1909, has an entry for John.

Walter John Tucker. Grazier and farmer, 'Lake View House' situate about five miles from the town of Strathalbyn, was born in 1839, and is the eldest son of the late Mr. George Tucker, one of the earliest pioneers of South Australia. At an early age the subject of this memoir became familiar with the varied interests of station life, principally on his father's property of the south east, to which he succeeded on the death of the latter in 1881, and has remained in possession ever since. Mr. Tucker engages in wool growing and the raising of fat lambs and has for many years maintained a high standard in this industry, his wool fetching a good price in the Adelaide market. He was for twelve years a member of the district council of Strathalbyn during six of which he occupied the position of chairman, and was six years in the cavalry force of South Australia. In 1871 Mr. Tucker married Annie, daughter of Mr. Ewen McDonald, a pioneer of the district, and one of the first to assist in the bringing of sheep from Sydney to Mt. Barker in the early days of the province. Mrs. Tucker died in 1903, leaving him with a family of six sons and three

daughters, his sons being brought up to farming pursuits under their father's guidance. On May 1st 1906 he married Christina, third daughter of Mr. George Graham who came to South Australia in 1839 and was associated with farming and grazing industries at Long Valley, Strathalbyn.

There was an obituary for Annie in the Strathalbyn *Southern Argus* on September 25, 1902.

We regret to record the death, which took place somewhat suddenly on Saturday afternoon last, of Mrs. W. J. Tucker of 'Lake View House' Sandergrove.

The deceased lady had been in rather delicate health for a few months. though not by any means sufficiently ill to cause anxiety to her family but on Friday she became slightly worse and, three or four hours after the earthquake shock on Friday evening, she became so thoroughly prostrated that cerebral haemorrhage set in from which she succumbed next afternoon despite all that could be done by medical skill to save her. Mrs. Tucker was the oldest daughter of Mr. Ewen McDonald, the original holder of 'Watulunga' estate at Queen's Own Town (Finniss) and prior to her marriage she held the position of mistress at the state school at Queen's Own Town, where she won the respect of the residents for her careful training of the children entrusted to her care, as well as by her own personality.

In her married life she continued to enjoy this respect and brought up a large family in a careful and conscientious manner. She leaves a husband and nine children besides father, mother, brothers and sisters in the Wimmera district, in Victoria, for all of whom deep sympathy is felt.

The funeral took place on Monday when a large gathering met at Sandergrove to pay tribute to the respect of her memory, residents from all parts of the district assembling.

Mrs. Tucker's mortal remains were laid to rest in the little cemetery at the Sandergrove chapel, the Rev. J. H. Trevorror conducting the service at the grave.

Children of Annie and John

1. Maurice Hugh Tucker	Born : 10-3-1872	Died 13-3-1872	Biographies 5123
2. Hubert Llewellyn Tucker	Born : 6-11-1873	Died 24-7-1920	Biographies 5124
3. Edward Lionel Tucker	Born : 30-1-1875	Died 1-10-1955	Biographies 5125
4. Maurice Leslie Tucker	Born : 19-4-1876	Died 5-7-1883	Biographies 5126
5. Caroline Jane Tucker	Born : 15-12-1877	Died -5-1939	Biographies 5127
6. Walter George Ewen Tucker	Born : 20-2-1879	Died 11-7-1941	Biographies 5128
7. William John Tucker	Born : 26-8-1880	Died 7-3-1882	Biographies 5129
8. James Hanham Tucker	Born : 19-1-1882	Died 30~7-1950	Biographies 5130
9. Lucy Hanham Tucker	Born : 7-2-1883	Died 10-4-1957	Biographies 5131
10. Annie Jeffrey Tucker	Born : 6-5-1884	Died 20-11-1893	Biographies 5132
11. Rachel Maud Tucker	Born : 7-5 -1885	Died 26-10-1913	Biographies 5133
12. Arthur Harold Tucker	Born : 1-6-1886	Died 22-12-1917	Biographies 5134
13. John Stewart Tucker	Born : 18-8-1891	Died 2-5-1915	Biographies 5135

The Tuckers of Sandergrove

There are twenty-six headstones for the Tucker family at Sandergrove, some marking double burials.

1. Lucy Anne — daughter of A. and M. TUCKER Died 30th December 1882 aged 6 years
2. Charity TUCKER - Died 11th March 1876 Aged 87 years
3. George TUCKER (son) Died 13th August 1881 Aged 69 years
4. Lucy (his wife) Died 20th January 1871 Aged 59 years
5. Caroline MATHEWS (daughter) Died 31st October 1874 Aged 31 years
6. William Hanham (son) Died 3rd November 1887 Aged 41 years Interred in Horsham Cemetery, Victoria
7. Jane Sophia TUCKER Died 11th December 1930
8. Arthur Harold TUCKER - Killed in action in Palestine on 22nd December 1917 Aged 31 years and 6 months. Interred in Jaffa

9. Walter John TUCKER Son of George Tucker — Died 9th January 1920 Aged 80 years And his widow Christina TUCKER Died 12th July 1929 Aged 73 years
10. Annie (wife of W. J. TUCKER) Died 20th September 1902 Aged 53 years
11. William John (son) Died 7th March 1882 Aged 1¹/₂ years
12. Maurice Leslie (son) Died 5th July 1883 Aged 7 years
13. Annie J. (daughter) Died 20th November 1893 Aged 9 years
14. Rachel Maud TUCKER Died 26th October 1913 Aged 28 years
15. John Stewart TUCKER Killed in action at Gallipoli on 2nd May 1915 Aged 24 years and 9 months
16. Mary Jane (Jinnie) Wife of George TUCKER — Died 6th June 1931 Aged 47 years Also...
17. Walter George E. TUCKER (husband of Jinnie) Died 11th July 1941 Aged 62 years
18. Arthur TUCKER who departed this life 28th February 1910 Aged 69 years
19. Martha Alice TUCKER his beloved wife Died 16th December 1926 Aged 82 years
20. Hubert Llewellyn TUCKER loved husband of Susie Isabell — Died 24th July 1920 Aged 47 years — Also
21. Susan Isabell TUCKER Beloved wife of above —Died 17th October 1956 Aged 88 years
22. Jane Sophia TUCKER In loving memory of Born 31st August 1850 Died 13th December 1930
23. Mary In sacred memory of dearly beloved wife of James H. TUCKER Died 13th December 1937 Aged 59 years
24. James Hanham TUCKER beloved husband of above Died 30th July 1950 Aged 68 years
25. Hubert Arthur — beloved husband of Rose F. TUCKER loved father of Rosemary, David, Diane and Robert Died 1st November 1951 Aged 30 years
26. Edward Jones TUCKER — beloved husband of A. L. TUCKER Born at Sandergrove Died at Strathalbyn 26th September 1939 Aged 84 years
27. Annie Louisa and wife of Edward - Born in Somerset. England Died at Strathalbyn 18th June 1955 Aged 85 years

The children of George and Lucy Tucker are listed in a family bible, held by Mr Keith Tucker of Apsley.

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| 1. Walter John Tucker | Born 1-5-1839 | Died 9-1-1920 |
| 2. Arthur Tucker | Born 20-9-1840 | Died 28-2-1910 |
| 3. Caroline Tucker | Born 6-11-1842 | Died 31-10-1874 |
| 4. George Tucker | Born 5-9-1844 | |
| 5. William Hanham Tucker | Born 5-3-1846 | Died 3-11-1887 |
| 6. Rachel Tucker | Born 28-9-1848 | |
| 7. Jane Sophia Tucker | Born 31-8-1850 | Died 11-12-1930 |
| 8. Martha Bartlett TUCKER | Born 17-11-1851 | |
| 9. Edward Jones Tucker | Born 24-2-1855 | Died 26-9-1939 |

- SOURCE : This biography was from page 65 of "History of Ewen & Rachel McDonald & Descendants" by Jill McDonald which was originally published in 1985. It was republished as part of "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" in 1995.
- COLONIALISTS : Christina and Donald McLean and their ten children migrated from Argyllshire to South Australia in 1837. This was in the earliest years of the colony. The McLeans initially settled near Adelaide where they grew the first wheat crop in SA. Then in about 1840 they pioneered the Strathalbyn area. There are now well over 20,000 descendants spread across Australia and elsewhere.
- CHANGES : Please contact us with additions, corrections or suggestions about any part of this family tree.
- CONTACT : Visit our website www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com or Strathalbyn Museum phone 08 8536 2656 to discover more about your family – and about privacy and copyright.