

John McLEAN & Mary McLEAN, nee STACEY & Elizabeth McLEAN, nee DIXON

Biography as published in 1995

JOHN McLEAN (1816-1903) - John was the third son and child of Donald and Christina, being, born on 6th February, 1816, in Argyllshire, Scotland

Parents : Christina McLean (nee McPhee) & Donald McLean

John was 22 years old when he arrived in the colony with his parents and brothers and sisters. His elder brother, Allan, continued onto Tasmania in the "Navarino", the vessel in which they had arrived at Holdfast Bay, to obtain seed wheat, bullocks and horses for use in planting a crop of wheat.

John remained in South Australia to assist with settling in whilst awaiting land allocation. He assisted his father, Donald McLean, and brother Allan in planting the first crop of wheat in South Australia in 1838, which was grown on Section 50, at the corner of South Road and Richmond Road, at Marleston.

He accompanied the family to Strathalbyn in about 1841, and is reported in the Strathalbyn census of 1844 as having with Archibald. owned 20 acres of wheat, 1 acre of potatoes, 26 cattle, 1 pony and 4 pigs.

MARRIAGE: On 25th September, 1845, John aged 29 years. was married to Mary Stacey aged 16 years, daughter of James and Mary Stacey, in the Macclesfield Chapel. it is believed that they lived in the Strathalbyn area briefly, as he sold section 2613 to a Henry Goldfinch on 18/6/1855. During this period several children were born.

By 1855 the family were in residence on Section 2778 (now Section 58), the site of "Waterloo" homestead, as a copy of a letter written by him to the Surveyor-General then refers to a survey party passing his homestead block, At this time he was asking for the survey of a further 80 acre block, opposite his homestead and which he subsequently obtained. It was certainly a matter of being first in, first served!

When land was available in the early 1850's, after surveying was completed at Angas Plains, John was able to secure one of the larger sections of 487 acres, most sections were 160 acres. This land was in the Hundred of Bremer, on the main road from Strathalbyn to Milang. The purchase was made in 1853, and he paid £1300.0,0 ~ a substantial sum in those days. John called his property "Waterloo Plains", but this later became just "Waterloo" (named it is said after the Battle of Waterloo, which occurred the year before John was born.)

"Waterloo" is situated (and still standing today in very good condition) on south west corner Section 2778, close to the corner of main Milang-Strathalbyn Road and Davidson Road, Angas Plains. When originally built it comprised a kitchen and minimum sleeping accommodation, as the family increased additional rooms were built on as required. It eventually became a very commodious home. Originally it was stone walls, brick floors, pine rafters and probably a thatch roof. A good supply of water from a well sunk close by completed the original structure.

At this time John also took up Sections 2000, 2001, 2075, 2077, 2078 and sections 56/59, this giving him a valuable extensive holding on each side of the main road, extending a mile northwards and up to almost two miles southwards on the east side and one mile on the west. This was mostly mallee scrub country, with large areas of native pine and some gum country – then and now a good selection of fringe country, between the Angas flood plain and the mallee scrub country.

A change of events occurred following a reported whisky drinking session with William Rankine of "Woodburn" which adjoined section 2778 "Waterloo" when Rankine is supposed to have bought most of John McLean's section 2778 for market value of the day, about £2 to £3 per acre.

Because John McLean had been on the whisky, this was all very much against John McLean's will. Rankine supposedly gave John a sovereign, received a receipt and that was apparently a legal sale. John McLean was very upset about this, bearing in mind that it absolutely emasculated his farm home block, and by a church friend!

Anyway McLean was going to kill Rankine by all accounts, Rankine wasn't going to have any of that, so he disappeared for a couple of weeks by which time John McLean had calmed down. But on the other hand, perhaps he realized that a "signed" receipt was a final transaction (there was no cooling off period like there is today) - and found the proceeds of the sale acceptable.

Nevertheless John McLean lost some valuable land, being left with 28 acres after losing 487 acres of flood plain country.

By the mid 1850's John and Mary had a family of 6 children, Mary Ann, Christina, Agnes Jane, Margaret Ruth, Donald Henry and John James. Ruth and John James, with a later child Eliza Ann, were subsequently in 1864 to all die in a scarletina plague within 2 months! In those days there was no medical knowledge to deal with such calamities, which swept the country unchecked.

These children were never forgotten by John, and he made provision in his will for his grave stone to bear the names of these deceased family members.

Another 6 children were born by 1871, and survived into adulthood, they were Harriett Louisa, Margaret Ann, Eliza Jessie, Jemima Marion and the twins, Edwin James and Alfred John. A total of 13 children in the marriage.

DEATH: Mrs Mary McLean, mother of the twins, died on 15th November, 1872, from puerperal fever then called "milk fever" - she was breast feeding them until the time of her death.

2ND MARRIAGE: John subsequently remarried in 1874, to **Elizabeth Dixon**, of Macclesfield. Three children were born in this union, Hartley Dixon lived 10 days, but Elizabeth Frances and Florence Ruth lived to old age never marrying.

Around 1870's John met with a serious accident when returning from Adelaide in a bullock dray. Sitting on the footboard of the dray he dozed off momentarily to find his left leg entangled in the wheel of the dray. He was in danger of being toppled under the wheel, as he only had one bullock in the team which would answer to his call and was able to call his name "Blood" loudly enough and long enough for him to stop, bringing the team to a halt. John's leg was seriously injured and he hobbled on one leg for the rest of his life, there being no medical attention for him.

Ben Parker, Ted McLean's father-in-law, used to relate how he observed John McLean working sheep in the paddock opposite "Waterloo" and hobbling after them, with his dog.

Contribution from Lance Wakefield of Belvidere:

SHEEP STEALERS CAMP

"Sheep Stealers Camp on Section 511, Hundred of Bremer, now owned by Lance Wakefield, originated approximately 1870. The tree (see photo) is still known locally as Sheep Stealers Camp and at the time would have been in thick scrub a couple of miles from a cleared track. Two men, one named Cooper and a woman known as Kangaroo Mary owned it then. They used to steal sheep from John McLean's bough sheep yards in the Milang scrub.

John had three bough yards several miles apart. A yard was made by clearing an area of scrub then weaving it through the standing mallee, with thin mallee boughs to form a fence. (This method of constructing a temporary yard from mallee boughs was described as "freathing" to construct a temporary fence.)

These three people got the blame for everything which was stolen. Eventually they were caught with stolen wheat. Actually they stole more than the horses could pull, so hid a few bags on the side of the road in a culvert. When they returned to pick it up they were caught and sent to jail.

John Cheriton was local auctioneer and his brother-in-law was John McLean so they sold up everything one Sunday morning after they had been jailed. The sale consisted of tent, dray, a couple of horses plus a lot of small items mainly stolen."

Note from Jack McLean: "Early settlers used to *freath* the mallee through the fence wires to keep the vi/allabies out. John McLean was still doing this in his old age and Edwin did it to block a hole in my time. It is an interesting word and is not in our dictionary."

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After John's second marriage Margaret Dixon, an aunt of John's wife Elizabeth. occupied a small stone hut near the well on Section 2075, alongside the River Angas - and John's eldest daughter, Mary Ann, a widow lived in a small hut in the same area. Ted McLean used to relate how when Alf and he were boys, they used to be frequent visitors to these huts as they could be sure of cakes, jam and other delicacies being given to them.

John McLean was very aware of the plight of these ladies, especially when the Angas flooded. Ted and Alf would be aroused if the flood came down, often at night to harness the horses in a buggy and rescue the occupants of the huts, from flood waters. Sometimes they would have to back the buggy up to a window, to get the occupants out and take them back to "Waterloo" until the flood subsided. This area is now occupied by Temple Bruer Winery.

The main road from Strathalbyn to Milang is not straight, because it follows a winding course set by early bullock drivers, who travelled along the edge separating mallee scrub from red gum country - it offering the easiest route. John McLean employed a shepherd in the early days before fences were erected - one such shepherd was John Bone, who lived with his wife Sally, and "Black Jack" (a run-away Indian sailor), on Section 513, adjacent to the road opposite the Belvidere Bridge Road. The corner is still known as "Black Jack's Corner"!

Sally apparently found "Black Jack" more helpful than her husband in running en-ands (like collecting offal from John McLean when he killed a sheep) as she was renowned for saying... "If John won't do it - I'm sure Jack will!" This unusual situation produced three black and two white children, who reportedly sat astride the coffin during the cortege of John Bone in a horse and buggy hearse!

A lot of the land became what was described as "wheat sick" due to farming without fertilizer. Ted McLean used to recall when superphosphate arrived in the district "A professor from Roseworthy College arrived at the Railway Station, in Strathalbyn, with this white powder done up in sugar bags - he gave us a couple of bags each telling us to sprinkle it in the drill seedbox as we were planting wheat! This was before brother, Alf, was poisoned - we didn't have to remember where we used the super, the crop was up and away where we used the super before the rest of it was out of the ground".

Later on combines enabled the superphosphate to be distributed with the seed to much greater advantage. Superphosphate came into general use during the very early part of this century, being the greatest advance in agriculture since the settlement of the State. In the days when John and Mary were rearing their big family, medical science was without chloroform anesthetic, and many commonly used drugs of today. Child deaths were common place in the district in the mid-1800's, the well known Leslie family losing 3 children in one day. Measles, whooping cough, influenza, often being fatal. The writer recalls his father, Ted McLean, relating to him after he recovered from a ruptured appendix skillfully removed by Dr H.H. Formby in Strathalbyn - "when I was your age

people with appendicitis, we called it inflammation of the bowel - there was no treatment - they were wrapped in a blanket and kept warm by the fire until they died - I can remember seeing one boy - nothing could be done to save him"

Getting back to John McLean, when he was troubled by aboriginals taking wheat from his stripper dumps of "cocky" chaff (which is when the stripper in those days had stripped off the wheat heads, then they'd open up the back and dump a heap out). The aborigines were hassling him getting the wheat out of these heaps, so he enticed one male native into the stripper one day to help scrape out the grain when he stopped - and in a rather "mean" mood he slammed down the rear door, locked it and headed off around the paddock, which meant the stripper was throwing all the heads and the dump from the chaff in onto this poor Aboriginal fellow.

He did a round of the paddock, back to where the other natives were waiting, opened up the back door of the stripper - the aborigine so imprisoned shot out of the back of the stripper - never to be seen again! After that, John never had any trouble with them taking his wheat.

John was a member of a group called the "Redcoats" who met at Belvidere, where the main road crosses the River Angas, 5 miles south of Strathalbyn. They were based mainly at Finnis, but met monthly there on Saturday mornings to, and I quote ..."solve aboriginal problems"... whatever might be read into that! There weren't many such problems - they would more often play a compassionate role in helping any settlers who had been injured or lost a family member.

John McLean was a very religious man, regularly driving in horse and buggy, 8 miles to Strathalbyn for morning service. It is interesting to note also that for many years only a "ford" existed where the present Belvidere Bridge crosses the River Angas,

Often because of loading, or depth of water it was preferred to take the district road along the south west side of the river, then connecting with old Nine Mile Road into Strathalbyn. These Sunday mornings, of course, meant the whole family!

John was also an original member of the first meeting of the District council of Bremer, at Milang. He was also an original Trustee of the Angas Plains Primary School.

John had a bit of eccentricity about him - as he grew older he had a great habit of going around without boots. And if he was challenged by his family - my father or others, and they said "Why aren't you going to wear some boots?" he'd say "Well it's a local outing so we're only going into Strath or Milang - and everyone knows me!" but if they were going further afield to Adelaide, he'd say "Well - what's the point, no-one will know me!"

John McLean was originally quite a large land owner in the Angas Plains district. Travelling south from Strathalbyn, his land commenced at "Black Jack's Corner" where the Belvidere Bridge District Road and Davidson's back District Road form a junction with the Strathalbyn-Milang Main Road. He owned the land on both sides of the main road, extending south to district road opposite Watson Park Road and on the opposite side past Davidson Road, Watson Park Road to Ballandown Road joining with the Main Road. His land also extended sideways east and west a substantial distance, being sections Pt 2778 (now section 58), 2000, 2001, 2075, 2077/78 and 56/59.

However, his drinking session with William Rankine, reduced his holding to only 28 acres surrounding his "Waterloo" homestead, and later he lost Sections 2077/78 between Watson Park Road and Ballandown Road due to farming hardship in the pre-superphosphate era. However, in later years this large and valuable section was acquired by his grandson, John S. McLean and is now known as "Battunga Park" and owned by his son, Darryl J. McLean and his wife Joy.

In 1920 when Ted McLean and his sister-in-law, Mrs Else McLean, dissolved partnership - all of the land north of Davidson and Navarino Roads, together with section on north side of Watson Park Road, passed out of McLean

ownership to the late Mr C.P. Thorpe-Clarke. Angas Plains. In summing up the farming history of John McLean, due allowance must be made for the era he was living in. It was enormously difficult, compared with today - in an era hard to imagine now. Death was commonplace with no medical assistance, farming progress without superphosphate very difficult and a life of hardship for men and women, which is hard to envisage today. John McLean's first wife, Elizabeth, must have been an exceptional person to rear 10 children in a family of 13.

Quite a lot of historical knowledge has been handed down from John McLean's days, an interesting example being the origin of the Strathalbyn-Milang Main Road.

We believe the present road dates back to 1840, or earlier. It would have been a 2-wheeled track, with its earliest users being squatters, who had no legal right to the land they grazed.

In 1843 Occupational Licences were introduced. Pat James Tod had an occupational licence, hence Tod's Hill overlooking the present day caravan park at Milang.

In 1839-1841 four Special Surveys were done, one of which was Poltalloch Station on the opposite of Lake Alexandrina. Their nearest contact with the outside world would have been to Wellington then Strathalbyn, hence direct contact would have been across the lake to Milang then to Strathalbyn.

The present main road followed the line of least resistance along the edge of the Angas flood plain, fringing the Milang scrubland. The many bends (our father, Ted McLean, told us) represented a tree or patch of scrub, wet areas and sandhills. The site for Milang was decided in November, 1853, and in 1854 allotments were being sold.

The big attraction from 1848 onwards was the export from Milang area of Strathalbyn copper and later silver lead to overseas countries; but they soon realized that the Murray mouth was too dangerous to negotiate. The mines also failed to live up to expectations.

Ted McLean told us that when the farmland was surveyed the surveyors got 2/6d (25^c) for corners on main roads, and nothing for district roads; hence the surveyors didn't mind how many corners they put on the Strathalbyn-Milang road. Over 20 bends in the road over this distance.

Murray Road out of Strathalbyn catered for both Milang and Wellington, the same as today, with the Belvidere Hotel situated on the western corner of the branch to Milang - the hotel is just within living memory, destroyed by a mysterious fire, in 1933.

The River Angas ford crossing was down behind Lance Wakefield's house, and its remains can still be seen. It had hollow logs for culverts, then covered with stone, etc. The road now known as Riverside Road connecting to the Nine Mile Road, was also used in flood time and used to be the back road to Strathalbyn.

My father, Ted McLean, born in 1871 could remember before the main road was metalled, and recalled how wagons and drays used to get stuck on Parnell's Hill. which is three and a half miles north of Milang.

They had two main methods of getting out when stuck, one was to borrow another team of horses to put on in front of the wagon, or unload half of the load, take the remainder over the hill. Then unload, and return for the half unloaded earlier, take this over and reload that previously taken over, and continue on their journey.

Parnell's waterhole was at the foot of the hill on the Milang side, a lot of people would stop and give their horses a drink. The water used to run off the road, and only after long, dry spells would it dry up. In dry times kangaroos came in to drink there.

Because the Belvidere to Milang road follows the edge of the old River Angas flood plain, it divides the high salinity scrub land underground water from the low salinity water of the Angas flood plain: The latter have red sandhills - while the scrubland has white sandhills - geologists say it is seven million years older than the flood plain.

Stories of the natives and river leeches were told to us by Ted McLean, who could remember natives taking leeches to Adelaide probably about 1880-1890.

Doctors in Adelaide would buy them for 2/» each (20c) and use them to treat cancerous type problems, ulcers, etc. Dad said they would walk up through Section 2075 (the old "Maplemore" property) with their hands clasped in front of their bodies, carrying a mud pie in which they would have 2 or 3 leeches. Then walk all the way to Adelaide to deliver them. They would have been caught in the swamps adjoining Lake Alexandrina.

He also used to recall, probably in the very early days that the natives would sneak up to the house at "Waterloo" by night being attracted by a candle burning. Then in their endeavours to look through the window, they would slide their noses up the glass in the window, making a weird shrieking noise!

Syd Wakefield of Belvidere used to tell how his grandfather who lived at Bugle Ranges, would come down to the mouth of the Bremer River, "the Canal" in Lake Alexandrina, when his wheat was ripe for a wagon load of natives men, women and children. He would take them back to Bugle Ranges to cut and cart the crop - using a sickle or a scythe.

This would have been in the 1850's before grain strippers were introduced. In payment they insisted on silver money, plus a wagon load of canoe bark which they would cut from the big red gums in the hills.

When he took them home, the wagon carried the bark and all the natives walked behind. When he reached the lake he would give the chief native the silver money.

The chief would then throw the money into the air, and they would all scramble for it. Mr Wakefield said a lot of it would be thrown along the top of the lake water for the fun of seeing it bounce; while some would keep it for a trip into Milang for as they said "exchange" for tea, sugar, and other needs.

Dad (Ted McLean) used to talk of the Royal Mail coach, which probably ceased in early 1900's and ran a daily sen/ice to Milang. The old Cobb and Co stables are in Church Street, Milang. He used to say they would change horses about every 15 miles (24k).

The trip from Adelaide to Milang took about 6 hours, the coach would meet up with the paddle steamer, the Royal Mail would then be taken across the lake to Meningie, meeting with another coach taking it onto Melbourne through Mount Gambier.

The coach was a four-wheel chariot type vehicle, the middle of the coach held 6 to 8 people, this being an enclosed cab. The coachman sat up front of the cab in a high driving position, and sometimes a passenger had a seat there as well.

The horse team was 4 horses, 2 on the pole and 2 leaders in front; it had a brake on it, consisting of a wooden block the size of a house brick and very effective if properly adjusted, being connected to the C|FIV8I"S seat with a lever to operate by hand plus a place on the lever for his foot to push.

The coachman was very dedicated to his job, hot or wet, he kept to his time table. One day a wheel came off a coach near Davidson Road - the driver hung the wheel on the back of the coach. shifted passengers to the opposite corner to the missing wheel. He then completed his trip to Milang on 3 wheels. with the 4th axle a few inches off the ground!

A valuable employee of Ted McLean on "Maplemore" Section 2075 was Bill Strachan, who worked there for about 15 years for 10/- (\$1) a week. He smoked a pipe almost continually, or had it in his mouth - his teeth were worn to gums in places from holding it.

His only time off was every other Sunday, when after milking and morning jobs were finished, he'd go to Milang where his sister, Mrs Coppin lived.

He was a returned soldier from World War I, being reared at Woodchester by the Birmingham family - Mrs Birmingham being his sister. He was an exceptionally willing worker, on most farm jobs although not good when handling horses. He was always sober and reliable, always finishing work in hand properly.

He slept in a room of the motor shed, and made a hobby of collecting a variety of working tools, which came in very handy on the farm.

Bill used to play his gramophone of a night time, tell stories to us boys and read the daily paper a day late.

I cannot remember any occasion, hot or cold, wet or dry, that he was ever sick. He always had New Years' Day off to visit Victor Harbor by train, and travelled everywhere on a bicycle overloaded with carriers and bags of every description.

He lived to be nearly 80, in the comfort and retirement of War Veterans Home, at Myrtle Bank in Adelaide.

DEATH: John McLean died at "Waterloo" Angas Plains on 14th December, 1903, aged 87 years, leaving the following will.

JOHN McLEAN'S WILL

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
IN THE SUPREME COURT
TESTAMENTARY CAUSES JURISDICTION

Unto my dear wife Elizabeth McLean my household furniture and consumable stores also one of the best buggy horses, buggy harness also ten milking cows and bull as she shall select also all my pigs and fowls and a legacy or sum of Two Hundred Pounds to be payable as soon as convenient after my death. I give and bequeath unto each of my sons EDWIN JAMES and ALFRED JOHN two plough horses and a light horse as they shall select and I also give to them jointly a waggon and spring cart also my stumpjumping plough and stumpjumping harrows I DIRECT my executors to purchase a gravestone for erection at my grave the same to be suitably engraved in remembrance of the deceased members of my family and myself I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto DAVID BELL of Strathalbyn in the said Province Draper and BERRY SMITH of the same place Accountant [who and the survivor of whom and the heirs executors and administrators of such survivor and other the trustee or trustees for the time being of my will are hereinafter designated my trustees] ALL MY PERSONAL ESTATE of or to which I shall be possessed or entitled at my death [except what I have hereby specifically disposed of] TO HOLD the same unto my said trustees according to the nature thereof respectively UPON TRUST to call in and convert into money such parts thereof as shall not consist of money and shall stand possessed of the proceeds thereof and of the ready money of which I shall die possessed and to pay thereout and therefrom all my just and lawful debts funeral and testamentary expenses and the legacy hereinbefore mentioned also any money due on mortgage of any of my freehold property and any money which may be due or become due and payable for purchase of Section 531 in the Hundred of Bremer and to divide the residue and remainder of the said moneys among my children of both marriages [with the exception of Donald Henry who shall not participate] equally share and share alike but my sons Alfred John and Edwin James shall only be entitled to one share equally between them I GIVE AND DEVISE unto my said Trustees ALL MY REAL ESTATE whatsoever and wheresoever situate UPON TRUST to permit and suffer my said wife to occupy and enjoy or receive the rents issues and profits of ALL THAT piece of land containing about twenty eight acres being that portion of the section No 2775 in the Hundred of Bremer lying to the east of the main road to Milang and joining a

district road between the same and SECTION NO 2075 and my dwelling house and all outbuildings thereon also the said section NO 2075 in the Hundred of Bremer aforesaid for and during the term of her natural life provided that shall allow those of my children under age or unmarried to live with her AND as to the rest of my real estate I DESIRE my sons EDWIN JAMES and ALFRED JOHN during their minority to work and farm the same jointly with my wife so that she shall receive one half of the profits thereof my said sons taking the other half but in case this arrangement shall not be entered into or prove unsatisfactory I EMPOWER my trustees to let and demise all the said residuary real estate until my sons ALFRED JOHN and EDWIN JAMES (twin) shall attain the age of twenty one years and to pay one half of the annual rents to my wife should she be living and accumulate the other half thereof or the whole in case of my wife's death and the same shall be added to and be deemed to form part of the proceeds of the sale of my residuary real estate hereinafter mentioned ON my sons ALFRED JOHN and EDWIN JAMES (twin) attaining majority provided my wife shall not then be living I DIRECT my trustees to execute or transfer as tenants in common of the twenty eight acres portion of SECTION 2778 and the said SECTION 2075 hereinbefore given to my wife for her life for their own absolute use and benefit and if my wife should be living when they have attained majority the said lands upon her death shall be transferred to and vested in my sons ALFRED JOHN and EDWIN JAMES their heirs and assigns forever as tenants in common I FURTHER DIRECT that upon my son ALFRED JOHN attaining majority he shall be absolutely entitled in fee simple to the remaining portion of the said section 2778 on the west side of the main line of road to Milang and my said trustees shall transfer the same to him accordingly I DIRECT my trustees to transfer to my son EDWIN JAMES on his attaining majority my section of land NO 2000 in the Hundred of Bremer aforesaid for his own absolute use and benefit AND as to all the rest and residue of my real estate I AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT my trustees as soon as conveniently may be after my death to sell and dispose of the same either by public auction or private contract and subject to such conditions and with such stipulations as may seem to them most expedient and may for this purpose execute and do all such assurances and things as they shall think fit and shall stand possessed of the monies to arise from such sale and disposal of my real estate and of any accumulations of rent as hereinbefore mentioned UPON TRUST in the first place to pay the following specific sums that is to say the sum of FIFTY POUNDS to my grandson ALBERT CHAPLIN the sum of FIFTY POUNDS to my granddaughter ELIZA JANE SEMPLE (the child of my deceased daughter Margaret Ann) the sum of Fifty pounds to my daughter HARRIET LOUISA the sum of SE VENTY FIVE POUNDS to my son DONALD HENRY and to divide the residue and remainder of all the said moneys equally share and share alike among my children of both marriages now living (excepting my said sons DONALD HENRY ALFRED JOHN and EDWIN JAMES who shall not participate in such division) PROVIDED ALWAYS and I HEREBY DECLARE that I have already advanced and paid to my daughters MARY ANN JONES the sum of FIFTY POUNDS and CHRISTINA STURGEON the sum of EIGHTY POUNDS and that my said daughters and any other child of mine to whom I shall after the date hereof give any sum of money or any stock in my lifetime shall not participate under the trust next hereinbefore contained without bringing the sums abovementioned and any other sums of money or the value of such stock (but without any interest) into hotchpot and accounting for the same accordingly AND I FURTHER DECLARE that neither of my children or grandchildren shall be entitled to receive any moneys under this my will until he or she attains the age of twenty one years ~ that the shares of my daughters and granddaughter shall be for their sole and separate use - and that if any child of mine shall die after the date hereof leaving lawful issue such issue shall be entitled to their deceased parents share if one wholly and if more than one share and share alike I DESIRE that my sons ALFRED JOHN and EDWIN JAMES shall give protection and support to my daughters by my second marriage should they at any time be in distressed circumstances but this clause shall not be considered to be obligatory upon my said sons I DIRECT that no person herein appointed or to be appointed a trustee who shall cease to be resident the said province shall continue to be a trustee and that any and every vacancy in the trusteeship of my will occasioned by disclaimer resignation ceasing to reside within the said Province or death shall be supplied as soon as may be by the appointment of a fit substitute resident as aforesaid such appointment to be made by my wife during her life and after her death by the continuing trustees or trustee if any or if none by my legal personal representative or representatives for the time being and on every such appointment my trust property shall be vested by proper conveyances and assignments in the new trustee or trustees either alone or as the case may require jointly with the continuing or surviving trustee or trustees I DIRECT that the trusts and powers hereinbefore confided to my trustees herein appointed may be exercised by the trustee or trustees for the time being of my will and in regard to trustees to be appointed as well before as after the vesting of the trust properly in them I APPOINT the said DAVID BELL and BERRY SMITH executors of this my will and jointly with my wife guardians of my infant children during their respective minorities I REVOKE all previous wills

and testamentary dispositions by me at any time heretofore made and declare this only to be my last will and testament IN WITNESS whereof I the said John McLean have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety one _____

SIGNED AND ACKNOWLEDGED by the said)
John McLean the testator as and for)
his last VWI and Testament in the)
presence of us both present at the) (signed) John McLean
same time who in his presence at)
his request and in the presence of)
each other have hereunto set our)
names as witnesses)

(signed) E. J. TUCKER

SOLR. STRATHALBYN

(signed) MR MARTIN

LAW CLERK, STRATHALBYN

THE ABOVE WILL of John McLean late of Angas Plains in the State of South Australia Farmer deceased who died at Angas Plains aforesaid on the fourteenth day of December 1903 was proved in the Supreme Court of South Australia on the twentieth day of January 1904 by DAVID BELL (formerly of Strathalbyn in the said State Draper of East Adelaide in the said State Gentleman one of the Executors therein named (Berry Smith late of Strathalbyn aforesaid Accountant deceased the other Executor having died during the lifetime of the testator)

Dated this 20th day of January 1904

Alex Buchanan

Registrar

Estate sworn not to exceed in value £4900.0.0

In connection with property initially owned by John McLean, by the time of his death in addition to 487 acres acquired by William Rankine from Section 2778, Sections 2077 and 2078 towards Milang had also been disposed of.

At the time of his death there remained portion of Section 2778 and Sections 2000, 2001, 2077, 2078, 2075 and 56/59 (being renumbered sections) in Hundred of Bremer.

In the division of John's estate, the twins Messrs. Alfred John and Edwin James McLean, of Angas Plains, purchased the above land from his Estate.

Following John McLean's death the following Obituary was published in the "Southern Argus" on 17th December, 1912.

"The death is announced of Mr John McLean of Angas Plains, one of the oldest colonists, in his 89th year (error 88th year), the old gentleman passing away on Monday last. Mr McLean came to this State in 1837 with his father, the late Mr Donald McLean, Mr James Baird of Lake Plains being a shipmate.

He lived on the Adelaide Plains briefly, but soon after moved to Strathalbyn with his brothers, settling at "Angas Bank", which property he subsequently sold to Mr Alexander Stark, and took up land at Angas Plains where he resided until his death, farming and sheep breeding. He was a typical Highlander, coming from Lochaber and was proud of the fact that he kept himself well up in Gaelic to within a year or two of his decease. He was naturally an adherent of the Presbyterian body being one of St Andrews staunchest members.

He was twice married, his second wife, 3 sons and 7 daughters survive him. Mr H. McLean and Mrs Jeffreys of this town being a brother and sister respectively. For some time the old gentleman has been in feeble health, and his

death came rather as a peaceful release to his suffering than a shock, but in his home circle he will be very much missed. He was laid to rest in the Strathalbyn Cemetery yesterday, the Rev. G. C. Love conducting the graveside service in the presence of a large gathering of relatives and friends"

The late Mr John McLean's widow, Elizabeth, with her two daughters, subsequently purchased the manse of the next door Primitive Methodist Church, at 10 Chapel Street, Strathalbyn, called "Cumbererte" then. On the attached land they kept horse and cart, 2 cows, some pigs, and "about 100 hens".

DEATH: Mrs Elizabeth McLean passed away on 29th November, 1907, aged 72 years and was buried in the Strathalbyn Cemetery.

Children of Mary and John :-

1. Mary Ann McLean – born 15/10/1846 at Strathalbyn. MARRIED: on 3/11/1869 at the Primitive Methodist Church, Angas Plains, to Richard (Dickie) Jones. His father, John Jones, set him up at Bonney Flat on the Milang-Strathalbyn Road. The small obituary of Sydney Wakefield who died in 1974 states that his own farm at Belvidere, once belonged to his fathers uncle, who went broke in the 1880's and had married a McLean. The Bonney Flat land is now in the ownership of the Cross family. Mary Ann and Richard then went to Kaniva, Victoria, where his father, John, was later to join them and die there. Mary Ann and "Dickie" were childless. The obituary of her sister, Mrs Sturgeon, of 1930 mentioned that her deceased elder sister, Mrs Richard Jones, had been of Yanipy, in the Kaniva district of Victoria. DEATHS: Richard (Dickie) Jones died on 22/10/1916, aged 76 years. Mrs Mary Ann Jones, died on 2/12/1927, aged 81 years. Both were interred at Kaniva, Victoria.
2. Christina Mclean – born 26/7/1848 at Strathalbyn. Married George Harvey Sturgeon. [See biographies 5055](#)
3. Agnes Jane McLean – born 20/7/1850 at Strathalbyn. Married Thomas Chaplin. [See biographies 5061](#)
4. Margaret Ruth McLean - born 12/7/1852, at Strathalbyn. Died aged 11 years and 6 months on 18/2/1864 at "Waterloo" Angas Plains. There was an epidemic of both scarletina and diphtheria that year (the Leslie family lost 4 of 5 children), and although most records give Margaret's death as from diphtheria. the official cause was registered as "scarletina". She was buried in the Strathalbyn Cemetery on 19/2/1864 in the same grave as a younger brother.
5. Donald Henry McLEAN, born 27/8/1854, possibly at "Waterloo" Angas Plains. Married Mary Frances Smith. [See separate 5063](#)
6. John James McLean - born at "Waterloo" Angas Plains, Strathalbyn, StA. on 12/11/1855. He commenced school when the newly built Angas Plains Public School opened in 1861. He subsequently contracted "Scarletina" and died on 26/1/1864, being the first of three children in the one family to die within 2 months of each other. He was buried in the Strathalbyn Cemetery.
7. Harriet Louisa McLean - born at "Waterloo" Angas Plains, on 1/3/1859. Information on Harriet is sparse. She married a George Henry Bennett. date and place not confirmed. When John McLean, her father, made his will on 19/2/1891 he made various family bequests including an amount of £50,0.0 to Harriet - no surname mentioned merely "my daughter" whereas married daughters had their surname (i.e. husband's surname) specified, so this possibly indicates Harriet was unmarried at this time - but that is unimportant really. She was last heard of in WA and did not have any children. Harriet's date of death has not been ascertained.
8. Eliza Ann McLean -, born at "Waterloo" Angas Plains, on 14/8/1861. She died on 24/3/1864 of diphtheria, aged two and half years, and was buried in the Strathalbyn Cemetery. She was the last of three children, who died within 2 months of each other.
9. Margaret Ann McLean - born at "Waterloo" Angas Plains, on 8/4/1864 Married William Semple. [See biographies 5070](#)
10. Eliza Jessie McLean – born 5/7/1866 at 'Waterloo', Angus Plains. Defacto Richard Bent. Married William Samuel Andrews. [See biographies 5073](#)
11. Jemima Marion McLean – born 5/12/1868 at 'Waterloo', Angus Plains. Married Charles James Hine & Michael Morris. [See biographies 5074.](#)
12. Alfred John McLean – born 16/10/1871 at 'Waterloo', Angus Plains. [See biographies 5075](#)

13. Edwin James McLean - born 16/10/1871 at 'Waterloo', Angus Plains. [See biographies 5075](#)

Children of Elizabeth Dixon & John McLean

14. Hartley Dixon McLean was the first child born to John McLean and his second wife, Elizabeth McLean (nee Dixon), on 15th May, 1875. He died aged 10m days, and was buried in the Strathalbyn Cemetery on 26th May 1875.
15. Elizabeth Frances McLean was born at "Waterloo" Angus Plains, on 3/9/1876, being the first daughter of John and Elizabeth Francis McLean. She attended the Angus Plains Public School with other members of the family. She resided as an adult at "Waterloo", but on Alf's impending marriage in 1904, moved to 12 Chapel Street, Strathalbyn. Elizabeth and her younger sister Florence lived here together, as spinsters for the rest of their lives. This dwelling had previously been the Primitive Methodist Church manse. In addition to the property frontage on 12 Chapel Street, they also owned two large blocks of land connected to this property with frontage to Murray Street. On this land they kept, in earlier days, a couple of cows, several pigs plus a horse and cart and a large flock of fowls. Elizabeth did most of the outside work being a keen vegetable gardener. Until they reached old age, they kept several boarders, who were assured of being well looked after. They were always very thrifty with money and supported themselves. The land they owned was previously the property of the Primitive Methodist Church, the church building and their house still standing on the corner of Chapel Street and Murray Street. During the sixty years they occupied the property, whilst gardening they found 29 coins, mainly pennies dating back to 1850. Children must have lost them and their nephew Jack McLean still has the "Capstan" tobacco tin full of coins. They lived till old age brought about their demise, greatly respected by their nieces and nephews from whom they gained much enjoyment. They were staunch supporters of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Strathalbyn. The writer recalls his Auntie Lizzie telling him, that at times she had still been milking the cow when the church bell commenced ringing. She had completed these duties and taken her seat in the church choir before services commenced. She died unmarried on 8/10/1957, age 81 years. and was buried in the Strathalbyn Cemetery.
16. Florence Ruth McLean was born at "Waterloo" Angus Plains on 15/12/1877, leading an identical life to Elizabeth. They each accompanied their mother to the residence in Strathalbyn, remaining there for the rest of their lives. Florence died aged 84 years on 27/4/1962, and was buried in the Strathalbyn Cemetery.

- SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 264 to 332
- 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.