

Archibald McLEAN & Anna Soward McLEAN, nee JANEWAY & Christina McLEAN, nee McFARLANE

Biography as published in 1995

ARCHIBALD McLEAN (1821-1899) - Baptised on 4/3/1821 at Kilmallie, Argyllshire, Scotland.

Parents : Christina McLean (nee McPhee) & Donald McLean

He was the 5th child and 4th son of Donald and Christina (nee McPhee) McLean

Archie was aged 17 years when he travelled by the "Navarino" to S.A. in 1837. His occupation was given as "shepherd". The 1841 Census clearly mistakes "John Archibald" for John AND Archibald. He was then under 21 and of Strathalbyn. The brothers had 20 acres of wheat, 1 acre of potatoes, 26 cattle, 1 pony and 4 pigs. (Previously shown in the John section).

Archibald married twice.

MARRIAGE: 1st to Ann Soward Janeway (Ganoway is an earlier Gaelic spelling of the name). She was born c. 1828 so aged 18 and Archie was 25. The marriage took place at the very early St. Andrew's Church (Presbyterian) at Strathalbyn. Archie gave his age incorrectly as 24 on the marriage certificate. Ann was the daughter of Charles Janeway and his wife Harriet (nee Cooper) who were to be near neighbours at Angas Plains. The father Charles Janeway was buried on 4/1/1888 aged 87 at Strathalbyn and her mother Harriet aged 83 on 12/1/1884, Div 1/305. (Ann was born in Hampshire, England.)

The marriage was performed by John Baptist Austin (Congregational minister) and the witnesses were Hugh McLean, the Elder; Robert Leslie (a brother-in-law); and Robert Jones whose relative Richard, married the eldest daughter (later) of his brother John.

When the gold rush to Victoria began from 1851, Archie with other relatives and friends made the 6 week journey by bullock waggon to the Ballarat diggings and according to descendants found upward of 1000 guineas (\$2050) in gold (a considerable sum in those days) and on return Archie invested in land both in the Strathalbyn and Angas Plains areas, and commenced his property "Melrose" on Section 2776. The River Angas went through this section which was divided from that of his brother John's 2778 of "Waterloo" by Matthew Rankine's land.

After Archie McLean married Ann Soward Janeway in the 1840's, he built a square dwelling more resembling a shed than a house on land adjoining Cheriton's Bridge over the River Angas. In recent years this bridge has been damaged by floods and is now converted to a ford. The old house is still standing, and is used by the present owners for farm purposes.

It is reported at Belvidere that when Archie was taking his bullock dray to Adelaide with produce, he took his wife along too - having to walk behind the dray to assist with the loading. On the return trip he allowed her to ride on the dray.

A few years later Archie, at "Melrose", found himself, together with his brother-in-law Jeff Jeffreys, in trouble with the law. and accused of having "feloniously stolen a cow, the property of William Hayward". The latter subsequently withdrew the charge and appears to have apologised for "the error", but not before both Archie and Jeff Jeffreys were compelled to pay 25 pounds (\$50) each for failing to appear at the Mt Barker Assizes due to a

misunderstanding. As Jeff Jeffreys appears the main (but mistaken) culprit the full account will appear in the Ann McLean (Mrs J. Jeffrey's section). The two men were absolved but, in spite of a plea to the then Governor were obliged to lose half of the fine for contempt.

FROM THE MATTHEW RANKINE DIARIES:-

13/10/1855 - Archie McLean ploughing for Dr John Rankine this season (the Dr was Matthew's uncle and had "Watson Park" on the way to Milang as one of his properties).

12/4/1856 - Archie McLean has commenced ploughing - and on the 23rd - Mr Gordon commenced to plough by Archie McLean's fence.

21/6/1856 - Election of Councillors at Langhorne Creek. There was a Poll. A. McLean thrown out. Mr Cheriton said the election wasn't legal.

Archibald and his brother Hugh the Elder were both then doing well with crops at Angas and Lake Plains respectively as on the previous March 5th at the Strathalbyn Show they both gained prizes for Plains wheat Their brother Allan gained the prize for local (Strathalbyn) wheat and "Mrs McLean" one for salt butter.

22/7/1856 - ploughing match at Langhorne's Creek. Archie McLean Secretary.

22/8/1856 - A meeting at Mr Gordon's to decide on a site for a school. Archie McLean offered a piece of land directly opposite Gordon's if the Government did not object, 20 persons were present. 5 Trustees were nominated - Archie McLean, John Cheriton, M. Rankine, Thos. Graham and R McKenzie.

14/3/1857 - A. McLean called last night and I sold him barley at 5 shillings and 6 pence (55 cents) a bushel.

27/10/1857 - Matthew canvassed the district for subscriptions towards the enlarging of St. Andrew's church. Cheriton was offended at being asked (note - John Cheriton was an Anglican!) - and Archie McLean could not give anything at present. The Rev. Mr Gardener laid the foundation for the addition.

DEATH: of Archie's first wife Ann (nee Janeway) on 19/3/1861 from pneumonia, at her father's house "Triangular Farm". She was aged only 33 years and left 6 children (another died in infancy). These were Harriet (15) - Christina (13) - Rose Ann (12) » George; (7) - Archibald Sinclair (5) and Charles (2) It must be supposed that the girls kept house for their father, though most families had a servant girl in those days.

Matthew wrote.-

21/3/1861 - I went to Mrs Arch. McLean's funeral - she died yesterday.

10/11/1865 - Arch McLean here in his trap. No further entries concerning Archie were found and he was not mentioned in the diary of his brother-in-law Ewen McDonald.

In 1869 the eldest daughter Harriet married and about this time Archie subdivided his pan section at Strathalbyn and gave land to the Church of England on what is now East Terrace for the building of Christ Church. The foundation stone was laid in 1870 by Lady Edith Fergusson, wife of the then Governor of S.A. with much ceremony and many dignitaries present. On 21/10/1871 this church was opened for services. Up to then a variety of venues had been used, from local auction rooms, the Court House (now the Museum) and the Primitive Methodist Church. So one could say that Archie was the founding father of the Strathalbyn C. of E. although he was of the Presbyterian faith. However his wife Ann, English born, was C. of E. and the gift would have been in her memory. In fact by this time, from May 1865 the then 3 Scottish churches, namely the Established Church of Scotland, the United and the Free Scots had amalgamated and at Strathalbyn St. Andrew's was henceforth Presbyterian, as were all in the then Colony.

In the 1870s the Plains land which had yielded so abundantly earlier was no longer fertile. Sheep were taking over in place of wheat and many sought areas either to the north or to the south-east. Archie's daughters were settled. Christina married James Payne and Rose lived with her until married in 1874 at Payneham. So Archie sold all his properties at Angas Plains and Strathalbyn and now aged in his 50s set out from "Melrose", Angas Plains with his three sons for the newly opened up south east of S.A. He was still a widower. They went by bullock wagon across the River Murray via the Wellington ferry and through the 60 miles of sand of the Coorong where they were frequently bogged and on one occasion were held up for days. They finally reached Naracoorte. Here Archie had invested in land at "The Gap", 16 miles from the town on the Bordertown main road.

"The Gap" is a break in the ranges and farmed by a water run-off from Western Victoria and Frances area. The water runs westerly through the ranges into Morambro Creek which then runs into Cockatoo Lake. The land had previously been Morambro Station of 103 square miles, taken up by Mary Oliver who was partnered by Brown who was killed by the blacks and pinned to a log by a spear.

Archie was known as "Old Mac" by the locals, and said that when he was going through the Morambro country, travelling with a mob of sheep in the direction of Tatiara, he encountered an elderly man named Brown, a cook for the drovers, he was told that in the old days the aboriginals were very treacherous and required a lot of watching.

Of the sons who accompanied Archie, George had originally left by September 1874 to go shearing in Victoria, but Archibald Sinclair and Charles remained to help their father. By 1877 Archibald Sinclair had also left for Victoria and Charles stayed on until 1879, aiding his father to become established, then moved to Victoria also.

MARRIAGE: 2ndly - to **Christina McFarlane**, nee McKenzie, widow, and daughter of Hugh McKenzie. The certificate records Archie as being of "Dun Fields" and Christina of Naracoorte. She was illiterate and made her mark on the certificate. The witnesses were Donald McArthur of ironstone Ridge and Phyllis Field, spinster of Naracoorte. The priest was Timothy Murphy. The wedding took place at Naracoorte, on 11/2/1875. Their ages were given as Archie, 50 and Christina 48. Archie was 53.

Christina had come out from Scotland with her first husband and shepherded for John and William Cameron who had purchased Morambro Station from Oliver and Brown. It is of interest that William Cameron migrated to New Zealand and married the daughter of a Maori chief and received an island as a wedding gift and his Maori wife used to sail to fetch him from the island. This is from a long account of Morambro Station and its history in the "Border Watch", written by Les. Hills. The long account of Naracoorte appears to have been published in 1906.

Archie continued to farm at "The Gap" until 1899, the year of his death.

DEATH: aged 77 years on 31/1/1899 at Naracoorte where he was buried

OBITUARY: from the "Naracoorte Herald", Tuesday 7/2/1899, headed "Death by Painful Circumstances"

"Mr Archibald McLean, an old resident of the district, died on Tuesday, Jan. 31, under very painful circumstances. The old gentleman had resided with his wife for many years on a piece of land about 16 miles from Naracoorte along the (then) Bordertown main road (the former Morambro station area) Although he was well known to the neighbours, very little was seen of him and he only visited Naracoorte once or twice a year. On Friday 27th January he was taken very ill

and brought into the Naracoorte Hospital where he was attended to by Dr MacMillan. From what we can learn it appears that in bodily health he became worse and he also showed symptoms of lunacy so marked, that it was considered inadvisable to keep him any longer in the institution, and he was brought before the Naracoorte Police Court on Monday January 29th, on a charge of being a lunatic unfit to be at large.

Dr MacMillan tendered evidence as to his state of mind and stated that he was not fit to be removed to the Asylum and suggested that until he improved he be kept in a cell attended by a special nurse. The Bench acted on this recommendation and made an order accordingly. Poor old McLean however did not trouble anyone very long, for he died on the police premises on Tuesday evening.

We have been unable to obtain particulars of Mr McLean's career as an old colonist, but in the early days we believe he was a large farmer and grazier in the southern district somewhere in the neighbourhood of Strathalbyn. He had a reputation of being an upright man of more than average intelligence and although he lived in comparative retirement in this district those who knew him highly respected him. The painful circumstances that surrounded his death are much regretted. He was 74 years of age." (Error: he was 77.) The death certificate gives 75.

He was suffering from an aggravated prostate condition, and would have been in excruciating pain affecting his mental state.

The death certificate simply has "farmer of the Gap, Naracoorte", that he died at the police station on 31/1/1899 of cerebral thrombosis of 14 days.

DEATH: of his 2nd wife Christina (formerly McFarlane) at the Naracoorte hospital on 14/5/1906 aged 88 years - of old age. Both interred at Naracoorte.

JANEWAY: in 1918 Sir Lancelot Stirling of Strathalbyn, during some reminiscences published in the "Southern Argus" and concerning driving to Milang, mentioned that in passing the Janeway cottage he was reminded of the big pear tree which every boy in the district knew and stole fruit from. Sir Lancelot recalled that the Janeways made pear wine (known as peary in the old days) and how when he was aged 6 years and travelling with his father Edward Stirling, they stopped at Janeways on a very hot day for a drink and Lancelot was made very drunk from trying to quench his thirst with the delicious pear wine.

ARCHIBALD'S land transactions and ownership from Lands Titles Dept Adelaide:

- Angas Special Survey - part section 2624 (Strathalbyn).
- On the River Angas, Hundred of Bremer » 2762 - 2766 - 2765 (Angas Plains).
- Angas Special Survey - 2624 and pan sections 2611 and 2612 (Strathalbyn).
- 21 of Alberlon of Section 423 S.B.
- 3 of Town Acre number 57 (Hindley Street, Adelaide).
- Section 2799. Hundred of Bremer (Angas Plains).
- The Will of J. Girdlestone and credit agreement 14710.

There were seven children from the marriage of Archibald with Ann. There were no children from Archibald's second marriage with Christina.

Children of Archibald and Ann.

1. Harriet Cooper McLean – born November 1847 in Strathalbyn. Married Edward Warland. [See biographies 5087](#)
2. Christine McPhie McLean – born 11/7/1849 in Strathalbyn. Married James Payne. [See biographies 5089](#)
3. Rose Ann McLean – born November 1850 in Strathalbyn. Married Albert Edward Bunday. [See biographies 5090](#)
4. George Henry McLean born 15/8/1853 in Strathalbyn. Married Sarah Ann Milgate. [See biographies 5092](#)
5. Archibald Sinclair McLean - Born about 1854 at Strathalbyn but died there aged 6 months (first of the name). Dates not registered.
6. Archibald Sinclair McLean – born 18/12/1856 at Strathalbyn. [See biography 5096](#)
7. Charles Soward McLean – born 2/3/1859 in Strathalbyn. Married Maria Elizabeth Kruger. [See biographies 5097](#)

• SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 402 to 454.
• 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 exolore more about your family – and about privacy and copyright.