

QUOTATIONS FROM "A MILLER'S TALE" The memoirs of John Dunn
of Mount Barker, S.A. 1802-94

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Pages 50/51

"Settlements began to grow up quickly about the district, and wherever there was water the firstlings of townships were founded. Mr (now Sir) Samuel Davenport and his brother, Robert, had come to Macclesfield before I had got to Mount Barker. The Strathalbyn Special Survey was taken up by Mr Allan McLean, the brothers John and William Rankine and Mr James Dawson. My brother George had laid out Mount Torrens, a trigonometrical station, which took its name from the adjacent river. My brother Charles founded a village close by and called it after his own name. Nairne was also settled." (No further mention of Allan McLean)

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"As a rule the southern country was settled by Scotchmen, who were the best pioneers. Strathalbyn was a Special Survey, and was taken up by Dr John Rankine, Mr William Rankine, Mr Dawson and Mr McLean.

The last-named was one of the first men to grow a patch of wheat on the plains. He had some grain ground at Mr Ridley's so-called flourmill while I was at work there. We began to upbraid him for his foolhardiness in taking up land so far away in the unknown wilderness, where he would suffer much privation and - if he escaped being eaten alive by savage beasts or savager men - would probably starve to death. He began to dance a Scotch reel, but not to the sound of the bagpipes but to song and words of his own making. As far as I could make out he was crooning , "I'll nae starve, plenty cows, plenty milk, plenty butter, plenty hens, plenty eggs, plenty pigs, I'll nae starve". And so on through another long list of eatables. He had a jolly day and was not disposed to look at the dangers of the expedition. It was more than probable that whisky had something to do with the elevation, for in after-life he was a slave to it."

There is no further reference to McLEAN on these pages, or elsewhere, except in the Index.

By Alfred P McLean, eldest son of Edwin James McLean, who was the 2nd twin and youngest son of John McLean's 13 children in his marriage with Mary Stacey

24/2/93 - NOTE BY ALF McLEAN

In collecting information for the Family History entitled "Donald & Christina McLean, First Wheat Growers in S.A." I have not encountered any suggestion that my great grandfather, Donald McLean, was in any way addicted to whisky..

Perhaps it should be noted that Mr John Dunn was a noted teetotaler.