

“Life’s Changing Fortunes”

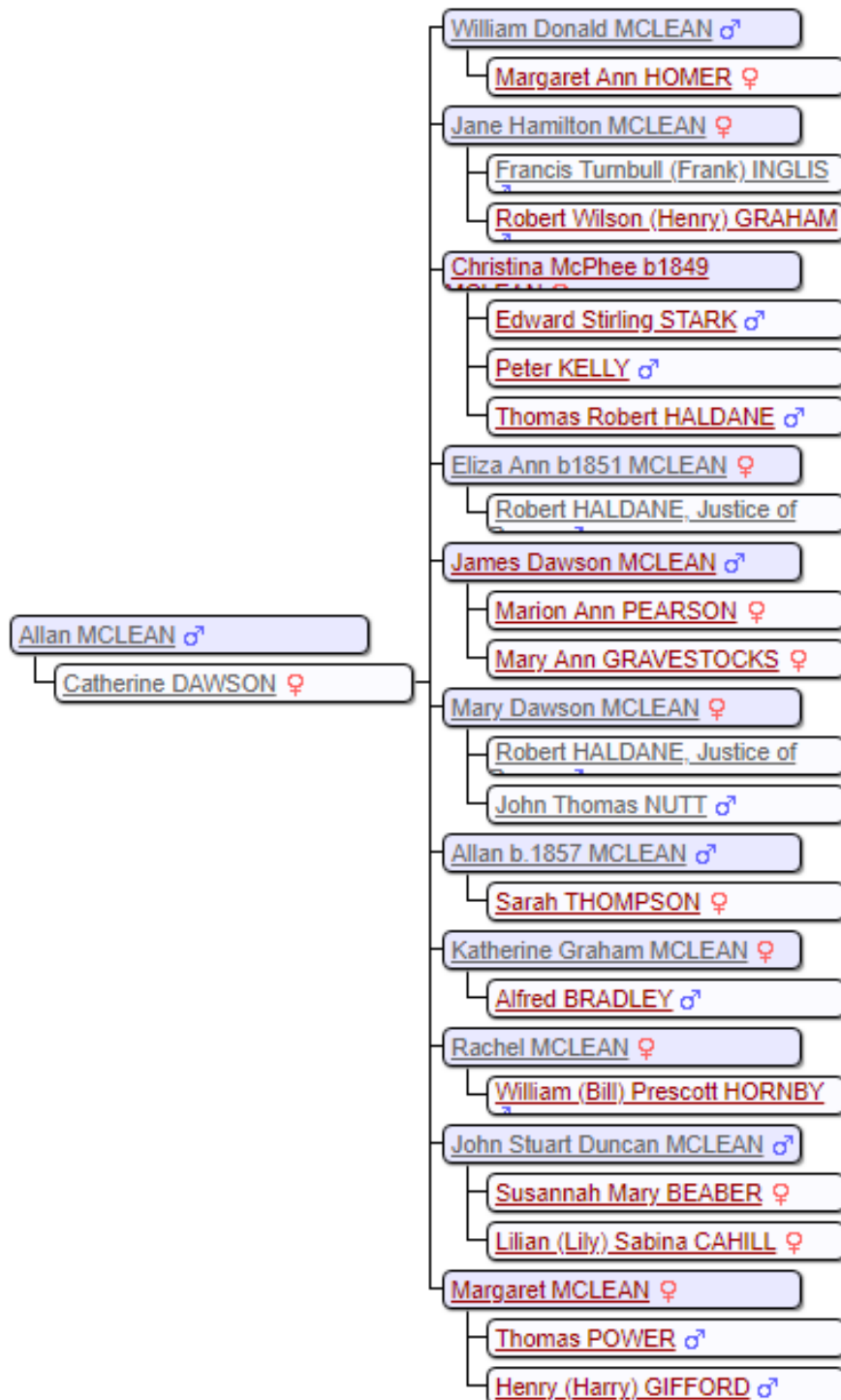
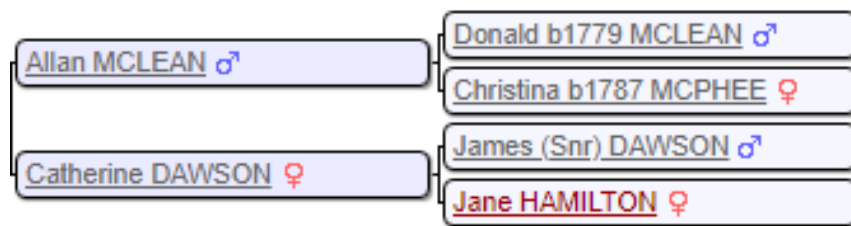
The lives of Allan McLEAN and Catherine, nee DAWSON

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How to use these notes

- Too much detail?: Read the summary first, to get the essence of what this is all about - rather than getting lost in the details in the body of these notes.
- Research: These biographical notes are not in a narrative style because it is not intended for the general public. This is for serious researchers. There are standardized headings and dot-points which are a framework into which extra discoveries can be placed so that the notes can be undated from time to time. These research notes might inspire you to create a more readable story.
- Sources: This is based on the BRB and the work of John Mathews (see reference list) – and on profiles in our website. Other sources are identified throughout. This is mainly from what is available on the internet - we have not yet directly researched original physical records.
- Our other docs: This is one of a series of notes which are interconnected. These can be found in the SMALL PRINT and STORIES directories on the left of the homepage. The stories that are most relevant to Allan and Catherine are:-
 - STORIES:-
 - 5003 – ‘Allan McLean & Catherine Dawson’** – an earlier version of their biography – as per BRB in 1995.
 - J18 – My Red Red Rose** – Allan & Catharine McLean’s baby, Sarah
 - SMALL PRINT:-
 - J25 – ‘James Dawson & Jane Hamilton – 1785 to 1885’** - Catherine’s parents
 - E40 – ‘Tour guide for Fort William, Blaich & Duisky’** – places of Allan’s childhood
 - G20 – ‘Overview of Donald’s life’** - Allan’s parents
 - G40 – ‘Donald’s continuing working years in Duisky - with a growing family’** – Allan’s childhood
 - G45 – ‘Donald’s life - Migration of our McLeans on the Navarino in 1837’** – the journey to Adelaide
 - G55 – ‘Donald’s life around Adelaide - 1837 to 1842’** – the first years in the colony
 - E52 – ‘Donald’s 80 acre farm in Hilton, near Adelaide’** - the McLean’s first farm in the colony
 - G60 – ‘The first wheat grown in South Australia – 1838’** – Allan had a central role
 - G70 – ‘Donald’s life around Strathalbyn - 1841 to 1855’** - the McLeans pioneering the district
 - J910 – ‘Allan (junior) McLean & Sarah, nee Thompson’** - Allan’s & Catherine’s son
- Authors: These notes were compiled by Don Gordon, in collaboration with Lorna McLean. Don is a great-great-grandchild of Allan & Catherine who are 3 x great uncle and aunt of Lorna.
- Feedback: Your corrections and comments will be welcomed - via ‘Contact us’ on the homepage.



Summary

Allan was born in Blaich (Scotland) in 1811. His parents were Christina, nee McPhee and Donald McLean who farmed Duisky Estate. Allan was the eldest of 10 children.

As a youth, he won a big race around town.

In March 1837, he was subject to a paternity complaint by Catharine McLean about Sarah who was born in 1834.

When he was 26 years old, he migrated to the new colony in South Australia with his parents and siblings - on the Navarino in August 1837. Straight away he went to Van Dieman's Land for farming supplies.

The family set up a small farm near Adelaide. As the eldest son, Allan was the main figure, along with his father and brothers, in producing the first wheat crop in the colony.

After three years in Adelaide, the family were among the first to settle in Strathalbyn. Allan purchased a property which he called Meadow Bank.

He married Catherine Dawson in 1844. Catherine was the third of nine children of Jane, nee Hamilton and James Dawson. Her father was a colourful character and there are many stories about his exploits in Persia, Scotland (Falkirk) and Strathalbyn.

Catherine was born about 1825 in Persia and she spent her earliest years there - where her father was in military service. Her schooling years were in Falkirk and then her family migrated on the Fairfield in 1839 when Catherine was 15 years old. They settled in Strathalbyn, where they established their family farm, Springfield.

The McLeans and Dawsons, along with the Rankins, were the main pioneering families who established the district. The Dawsons arrived in Strathalbyn in 1839 and the McLeans moved there a couple of years later. James Dawson became prominent in public life. On the other hand, Allan's parents and many siblings were not such public figures but would have been well known as a large family with their wide farming interests across the district as they opened up the new agricultural land.

Catherine and Allan had seven girls and four boys. The big family prospered over the following three decades. As the children grew up and were married, they were involved with many farms across the district. The extended family was a significant presence in the community.

Allan acquired many other properties in the district over the years and was a prosperous famer. But in 1878, after 37 years in the area, at the age of 67 years, Allan was inspired by the prospects of new land being opened up. He sold everything in Strathalbyn (all his properties and all their chattels), and tried to get established in Collinsfield, 214 kilometers to the north.

This move became a failure within a couple of years – partly because of a run of bad seasons – and possibly poor management. For the last decade of their lives, Allan and Catherine had to rely on staying with their own children in various locations. It was devastating contrast - from prosperity to dependence.

Things looked a little brighter a few years later when Catherine inherited some land in Strathalbyn after the death of her mother in 1885.

In the late 1880s, there was a spirited exchange of letters to newspaper about Allan's plight in his later years, and his role in agriculture in the first years of the colony.

Allan died in 1890, aged 79 years, and Catherine died 16 months later, at the aged of 67 years.

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Allan's childhood in Scotland - 1811 to 1837

Allan was baptized on 12th February 1811 in the parish of Kilmallie. His parents, Donald McLean and Christina, nee McPhee, were living in Blaich, near Fort William.

What was the area like when Allan was a lad? See our E20 & E30 & G40.

Allan was the eldest of twelve children (two died early). The baptisms of the first four were recorded as Blaich whereas, all the children born after 1818 were recorded as Duiskey. This indicates that family were living in Blaich until Allan was seven years old when they moved to Duiskey farm. But they might have been living on the farm earlier than this as is might have been a reflection of the way that the births were recorded rather than direct evidence of precisely where the family was living. It would not have been a major change because Blaich and Duiskey are right next to each other on the shores of Loch Eil. Blaich was a string of crofts and cottages rather than a village whereas Duiskey is a large farm with just a few crofts and cottages.

Allan was surrounded by other children in his childhood. He was the oldest of twelve siblings (but two died as infants) and there were probably many cousins close by. The children would have spent a lot of time around the loch and in the harsh steep hills.

It is probable that Allan did not have any formal schooling as there were no schools nearby. Maybe he had some informal instruction at home. Somehow, he became literate (this is indicated by letters he wrote near the end of his life – see appendix F).

He would have been involved with the agricultural tasks from an early age. As the oldest son, he would have taken a key role in the many activities around the cottage and farm. He would have been involved when his father built a substantial dwelling house and reared cattle and sheep, grew oats and barley and fishing.

He might have been a good sportsman, or had a sense of bravado because he claimed that he won a long distance race. His nephew, Edwin McLean recalled (appendix B) what Allan had told him. *“He said in Scotland, Lochaber, they used to have a race every year all round the town and he won it once, and he said he ate nothing but bread and cheese for a month before the race - I forget the prize.”* This may have been around Fort William. [Research: The Lochaber Family History Group might have some information about these races.] Of course, there were no photos back in the early 1830s but we can get an idea of what this race might have been like with this photo, in 1903 (seven decades later) - of the first race up Ben Nevis which is near to Fort William (Fiona Maclean, ‘Around Lochaber’, p25).



Paternity case

In March 1837 Allan appeared before the Kilmallie Kirk Sessions when Catharine McLean claimed that he was the father of her child, Sarah.

There is no doubt that this was ‘our’ Allan, as the minutes of the Kirk Session refer to him as *“Allan McLean, son of Don'd McLean Blaich in the Parish of Kilmallie”*.

Catharine was born in 1816. Her parents were John McLean and Sarah McGugan.

Conception had occurred in July 1833 when Allan was staying for a few days at Catharine's father's inn at Bellanoch. He was on his way from Duiskey to Glasgow. This was a long 250 km journey with Allan walking or travelling by horse, and there were about eight ferry crossings. Bellanoch was a half-way point.

Places: Catharine was born in Cosandrochaid. She was 17 years old when she met Allan in Bellanoch. Three years later she was in Anichonan when she lodged her complaint. Cosandrochaid is within Tayvallich, 11 kms southwest of Bellanoch. Anichonan is halfway between Cosandrochaid and Ballanoch.

Six months after Bellanoch, John and Allan met at a public house in Glasgow. John was acting on behalf of Catharine and he had a plan in mind when he set up this meeting. He had a letter that he wanted Allan to sign, thereby admitting that he was the father of the child that Catharine was carrying. This might have been the first that Allan had heard that Catharine was pregnant. John and Allan argued late into the night, and Allan was drunk when he finally signed.

The letter must have been drafted before-hand as the wording was of such quality that it would not have been penned hurriedly on the drinkers' table at the public house – it was erudite and contrite: -

To Miss Catharine McLean, Bellanach
Dear Madam,
I understand that you are in the family way, and that you blame me for the same. I acknowledge my own fault, and should it come on my time, I confess the same, and take you good care to do justice between you and me, as we have to stand at the judgment seat of our Saviour, and give an account of our works, whether good or bad. Therefore go you and give up your time according to Law, and I will be answerable for myself, and by so doing you will much oblige.
Yours,
Allan McLean
Glasgow, 22nd January 1834

Catharine's baby, Sarah, was born in 1834 and the birth was subsequently registered when the girl was almost five years old – *"Sarah an illegitimate daughter of Allan McLean parish of Kilmaly and Catherine McLean in this parish born 15th April 1834"*.

Sarah was almost three years old when Catharine made her complaint and laid the letter before the session clerk – exactly three years after Allan had signed it. Catharine lodged this with the Parish of North Knapdale where she was living, and the matter was referred to the Kirk Sessions in Kilmallie where Allan was living.

The hearing was in the Corpach church, across the loch from Blach and Duiskey, on 12th March 1837. The minutes stated that when *"interrogated as to the authenticity of a letter of date 22nd Jany 1834, bearing what purported to be his signature Allan admitted the signature to be his, but denied that he ever wrote such a letter himself, or ordered any other person to write it for him. Maintained that he knew nothing of the contents of the paper to which he adhibited his name and that his signature was obtained at a late hour in a Public House in Glasgow when he was the worse of liquor in company with the said John McLean"*. Initially Allan *"would not admit his being the father of her child until John McLean and a young man who was about the House would clear the woman upon oath"*. Finally, Allan *"confessed to being guilty of fornication with the said Cath McLean about the time corresponding with the birth of said child, while lodging for a few days at the House of Hugh McLean, Merch at Bellanoch, when on his way to Glasgow."*

Catharine might have been seeking financial alimony from Allan. No decision is recorded in the minutes of the Kirk Session, but similar cases incurred a formal rebuke in front of the church congregation, and imposed a fine and ongoing payments for the support of the child. Allan might have paid something straight away. He would not have continued to pay anything because he left for South Australia a few months later.

There are no indications that Allan had any direct contact with Catharine after 1833, nor that he ever saw his baby Sarah. They took no further part in each other's lives after he migrated. We have no other information about the life events of Catharine and Sarah.

Coincidentally, Allan's sister, Mary lodged a complaint in the same Kilmallie Kirk Sessions, just six weeks after Allan's case. Mary claimed that Ewen Cameron was the father of her child who was soon to be born.

There is a semi-fictionalized story of all this – 'My Red Red Rose' at the bottom of the profiles of Allan and Catharine or J19 in the STORIES directory on the left of the home page of www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com.

Settling into the new colony - 1838 to 1841

There would have been a lot of talk about migrating. Allan would have heard many stories – some wild and some accurate – about the pros and cons of migrating to various colonies, especially with South Australia about to start.

When Allan he was 26 years old, in 1837, the whole family migrated. At that time, the McLean family consisted of the father 58 years old, mother 50, Allan 26, Hugh the elder 23 years, John 21, Mary 19, Archibald 17, Ann 15, Rachel 12, Margaret 9, Jane 7 and Hugh the younger 1 year old.

Allan and the older siblings applied for free passage. His parents applied for themselves and the younger siblings. In the application, Allan's occupation was recorded as labourer, but it is not clear whether this was what his occupation was in Scotland or whether it was what he intended to do in Australia.

The family disembarked from the Navarino in Holdfast Bay near the newly declared township of Adelaide on 6th December 1837.

Detailed descriptions

See our G45 for details of the [journey](#), G55 for the family's [first years](#) in the colony, and G60 for the first [wheat crop](#).

We do not know exactly what part Allan had in all this early activity, but we can guess that his parents and younger siblings would have looked to him for leadership and to carry responsibilities expected of the eldest son of an elderly father. Whatever pattern of sharing family duties they had established when they were younger in Scotland, were further developed to meet the new demands of this pioneering life. We can imagine how the McLean boys worked together – quite a force with the four brothers aged from 17 to 27 years old. And their five sisters, aged from 7 to 20 years would have played their part. And their toddler brother. Donald probably directed proceedings and Allan would have been a key contributor towards the family's achievements.

Supplies from VDL

As soon as they arrived in the colony, it was clear that they need more supplies to commence farming, and that these could not be acquired in the little colony. So Donald sent Allan to Van Dieman's Land.

- Ship to Van Dieman's Land:

- ☐ The Navarino was in Holdfast Bay for a month, maybe it required some repairs and re-provisioning, and then Allan was again back on the ship after just 4 weeks on dry land.
- ☐ Allan was probably not keen to get back on this too-familiar ship after the long voyage, sharing limited space with several hundred in the cramped migration journey. At least this time, there was just five other passengers.
- ☐ Allan re-boarded the too-familiar ship with five passengers – Allan would have known two of them well because they also came out on the Navarino from England - Richard Fitzsymmons and Peter Gough. It

Report of the Arrival at the Port of Hobart Town of the Brigantine Navarino

From where	Age	Sex	For Van Diemen's Land	Passenger	For New South Wales
When sailed	6 months		Catharine McLean	Thomas McLean	Catharine McLean
Date of Birth	1811			John McLean	
Master	C. B. McLean			John McLean	
Passenger	John McLean			John McLean	
Food	100 lbs			John McLean	

is not known when the other two had arrived in South Australia – Edward Hughes and Matthew Femmingham (or Walter?? Birmingham??).

- ☐ The ship departed Holdfast Bay on 6th January 1838 and arrived in Hobart Town six days later, on 12th January (Appendix G).
- Return trip:
 - ☐ We have not been able to confirm the details of Allan's return from VDL to Adelaide. It is possible that he came back on the Giraffe which left Launceston in late February.
 - ☐ Maybe he could not get the supplies he needed in Hobart but somehow he got to Launceston which might have been better provisioned. So, did he purchase his supplies in Launceston? This would have been a considerable journey. Across country, the two locations are 200 kms apart, but in those times Allan would have travelled by ship, up the east coast, around the north-east of VDL and about 60 kms along the River Tamar.
 - ☐ Did Allan then leave VDL from Launceston on the Giraffe on 21st February? This would have been 40 days after arriving on the island. See appendices H & J.
 - ☐ The trip from Launceston took 13 days and arrived in Port Adelaide on 5th March.
 - ☐ It would have been quite an event when the ship arrived. Because of the inadequate wharfing conditions, the off-loading of Allan's substantial supplies, along with all the other freight, would have created great interest in the little colony.
- Summary (if he returned on the Giraffe):-
 - ☐ He left Adelaide on the Navarino on 6th Jan and arrived in Hobart on 12th – a 6 day journey.
 - ☐ He was on the large VDL island for 40 days. During this time he somehow travelled from Hobart to Launceston.
 - ☐ He left Launceston on the Giraffe on 21st February 1838 and arrived at Port Adelaide 5th March 1838 – a 12 day journey.
 - ☐ So the whole trip took 58 days.
- Supplies:
 - ☐ The BRB (pages 10 & 11) lists the following items Allan brought back:-
 - ✧ 2 teams of bullocks
 - ✧ Horses, including 'Nugget'
 - ✧ Drays
 - ✧ Seed-wheat @ 3 shillings per bushel
 - ✧ Cat for Christina
 - ☐ If he came back on the Giraffe, the manifest (appendix H) indicates:-
 - ✧ 10 cattle
 - ✧ 3 horses
 - ✧ 2 carts
 - ☐ There were probably other items such as harnesses for the bullock teams and saddles for the horses - and maybe he had other items scattered elsewhere on the manifest.
- Another trip: In 1840, Allan possibly made another journey to Van Dieman's Land – with his father. They returned on the 'Miniver' which left Launceston in November of that year. [Research: Details required.] They brought back supplies, probably in preparation for moving to Strathalbyn.

Getting started

- Land: On Allan's return from Van Dieman's Land, his father and brothers would have been wanting to get started now that they had the equipment. Allan was surprised to learn that, while he was away, his father had quickly purchased half an acre in Hindley Street, within the town site. But this was nothing to what they needed as farming land. Allan would have been frustrated to learn that 80 acres of farming land, which his father had pre-purchased before they left the mother country, was not yet available. As it turned out, their land in Hilton would not become available for another four months.
- Details: See G55 for the family's life around this time, E51 for Donald's purchase of Hindley Street, G60 for their wheat crop, and E52 for the Hilton farm.
- Ploughing:

- When he was 76 years old, Allan wrote to the newspaper about his ploughing half a century before.
- Before starting at Hilton: *"I arrived in South Australia by the ship Navarrino in January or February 1837, and immediately took up land at the Reedbeds, having brought my plough with me from Glasgow. I commenced farming at once, only waiting for the soil to get soft for the plough. In April or May 1837, I turned the first sod with the plough"* (SA Register, 12th Dec 1887, p7 - per appendix F in our J20). In a subsequent letter, he acknowledged that had got his date of arrival mixed up.
- Hilton: The McLean's harvested their wheat in December 1838, so they must have cleared, ploughed and seeded as soon as they knew what farmland they were allocated – so maybe by early July 1838.
- After the Hilton crop: *"I did lots of ploughing afterwards on piecework at £5 an acre, my first job for wages being for Mr Leigh at the Sturt"* - also Bay and port roads (SA Register 11th Jan 1888 p7 & Adelaide Observer 14th Jan, p12).

Strathalbyn beginnings - 1842 to 1844

Initially, Allan and all his siblings (except Mary, who remained in Hindley St in Adelaide with her husband) would have lived on their father's property, section 2603, called Auchananda's. This was only a kilometre or so from what was to become the centre of Strathalbyn township – but as yet, the town was only beginning to take shape. The big family had to immediately erect some make-do shelter. Allan and his brothers would have helped their father clear some of the virgin bushland to start cropping and running some sheep, but quickly got onto building permanent accommodation. They constructed a substantial house and farm buildings.

See E53 for notes about Auchananda's.

Meadow Bank: Allan soon got to working on his own property that he named Meadow Bank. He had purchased lot 49 (part of section 2624) which was a few kilometres from Auchananda's and two kilometres from the centre of the township. It was adjacent to Burnside and there was a swamp on the other side of the road. He farmed both sides of Swamp Road. Allan eventually built a nine-room house which was later described as a *"good family residence, built of stone, with galvanised iron roof and stone stables. The magnificent estate ... containing 506 acres good arable and pasture land, splendidly watered, and almost close to the Town of Strathalbyn, being sections and parts of sections 2610, 2691, 2695, 2693, 2621, 2622, part of 2603 and 2632, part of 2624"* (see auction on page 14, below). In 1871 the property was described as picturesque with *"undulating grounds and a fine lagoon, surrounded by gum trees and brushwood. The place is altogether one of the nicest spots for outdoor enjoyment"* (South Australian Register, 30th Oct 1871, p6). [Research: When did Allan start building the house?]

Meadowbank was the 'home' property, from which Allan worked many other properties which he acquired over the following years. Many of these properties were close to Meadowbank but some were some distance away. He worked most of the properties in conjunction with each other. He would have employed some workers and he also leased out some of the farms – eg Matthew Rankin leased 3603 in Sturt, Hugh Matheson leased 2624 in Strathalbyn, and George Perry & Murdoch McBain leased 2817 at Bremer (Appendix T).

The 1844 census has Allan and his father with 82 acres of wheat, 8 acres of barley, 100 cattle, 7 horses and 150 goats. His brothers, John and Archibald had 20 acres of wheat, 1 acre of potatoes, 26 cattle, 1 pony and 4 pigs (BRB p13). Over the next few years, his brothers purchased other farmland and, as the sisters got married, they all left Auchananda's and established their own homes.

Allan married Catherine in 1844.

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Catherine's childhood - 1824 to 1844

Catherine was the daughter of James Dawson and Jane, nee Hamilton. Her father was a colourful character and there are many stories about his exploits in Persia (Iran), Scotland (Falkirk) and Strathalbyn (see our **J25** in STORIES on the home page).

She was one of nine siblings – two older brothers, four younger sisters, and two siblings died in infancy. Of the nine, five were born in Falkirk, three in Persia (including Catherine) and the youngest one in Australia.

Her father grew up in Falkirk until his early 20's before he went to Persia for the first time – for six years. He returned to Scotland for a year or so and, in 1816, he married Jane. Their first child, James jnr, was born in Falkirk and he remained with an aunt when the parents went to Persia where her father was in military service and manufacturing armaments.

Another brother (Archibald) was born in Persia, then Catherine herself in 1824 or 1825, and then a sister (Eliza). Her earliest years were in Persia, and in later life, she vividly described the Shah's gardens and occurrences that she witnessed as a girl at Constantinople (BRB p37). She was about six years old when the family moved back to Scotland. Her parents had been in Persia for 14 years (after her father's first 6 years before they married)

Now, back in Falkirk, Catherine's father made several property transactions, notably a block of four houses called Persia Row in which the family lived.

Falkirk would have been a significant time in Catherine's childhood – for most of her schooling years - but we do not have information about what schooling she had access to. During these years four more siblings were born – two died as infants (George and Jean) and two survived (Jane and Ann).

After seven years back in Falkirk, her father and brother (James jnr, 20 yrs old) migrated to South Australia with the plan that the rest of the family would follow once he had made some preparations for their arrival. [Research: Which ship?] There are no details about what the father and son did as soon as they arrived in the new colony. It is likely they were in Adelaide while making enquiries about possibilities. They might have had passing interest when they heard about Donald McLean sowing a wheat crop on the outskirts of Adelaide. But perhaps they might have been more interested when they heard stories of good farming land south of Adelaide. Maybe they tackled the rough track over the steep Adelaide Hills to visit the area which eventually became known as Strathalbyn.

Meanwhile, the rest of the family were getting ready for their migration. Little sister (Jean) was born but died. It is understood that six Dawsons took the journey - mother (Jane 36 yrs), brother (Archibald 17 yrs), our Catherine 14 yrs and three sisters (Eliza 9 yrs, Jane 5 yrs & Ann 2 yrs). Catherine applied for a free passage as a domestic, so like many other girls, she might have sailed as a help to a family of friends (Gemmell p14). The passenger list (Di Cummings) only includes Archibald and Catherine. [Research: Why aren't the others listed?]

They boarded the Fairfield in Liverpool. The Captain was Robert Abbott. There were 115 passengers, including 32 children. With them, were the Rankines and many others who were eventually to settle in Strathalbyn.

It was a long and difficult voyage of 159 days, partly because it went via Melbourne [Research: Check this]. They arrived safely on 30th April 1839, but not without drama. One of the passengers, William Rankin reminisced that *"Having reached Holdfast Bay, a fortnight was given to passengers, the majority being immigrants, to find accommodation on land for their families. The single ones soon left, being all too glad to get away from what has been to them a prison. Some passengers landed on the beach, others took boats and came up the Port Creek through the mangroves. Our vessel was reported to have been wrecked on the Troubridge Shoal, [on the other side of St Vincent Gulf, across from Port Adelaide] and all aboard drowned some three weeks before we put in an appearance to contradict a report that had already been forwarded to the owners in England. Our arrival gave great joy to at least one person, a Mr James Dawson, the head of one of the families on the 'Fairfield'. He had arrived some months before us and was on his way down the Port River, when his wife and five children were on their way up. One can imagine his feelings on beholding those who, a short time before, he had never expected to see again."* (Gemmell p16). What a family reuniting that would have been!

The Dawsons and the Rankines would have become well acquainted on their long journey. Soon after arriving, James and William Rankine decided to go to the Strathalbyn area and the two families founded the town.

James established the family farm, 'Springfield', on Dawson Creek, and he became a prominent citizen as the small community grew around him.

Meadow Bank years - 1844 to 1878

The wedding – 1844

Catherine and Allan got to know each other in Strathalbyn. When they married, Catherine had been living there since the very start of settlement – for five years, and she was now 19 years old. Allan had been there for three years and was now 33 years old.

They were married on 22nd Sept 1844 at the 'Wheatsheaf Inn' in Mt Barker which is 20 kms north of Strathalbyn.

It was an elopement [Research: Source?]. It is not known why they eloped but there seemed to have been some degree of family blessing as the witnesses at the wedding were her sister, Jane and a respected family friend Donald Gollan. [Research: Was her older brother, James jnr also a witness?]. However, when Catherine's father heard about this, James lectured his other daughters over breakfast against doing the same thing, and they laughed at him because he and their mother had eloped themselves. As things were to eventuate, two of James' other daughters and two of Allan's sisters also eloped. And, in later years, some of Allan's and Catherine's daughters were married without their approval. So, this is something of a family tradition.

Children

Catherine and Allan had eleven children. In these notes, we mention all their births and their marriages in the context of other events at that time (but we allude to only a few of the births of the 55 grandchildren). Biographies of the eleven children are in the STORIES directory on the homepage:-

- 5004 – 'William Donald McLean & Margaret Ann Homer'
- 5005 – 'Jane Hamilton McLean & Frank Turnbull Inglis'
- 5011 – 'Christina (Tina) McPhee McLean & Edward Stirling Stark'
- 5012 – 'Eliza Ann McLean & Robert Haldane'
- 5016 – 'James Dawson McLean'
- 5017 – 'Mary Dawson McLean & John Thomas Nutt'
- 5018 – 'Allan jnr McLean & Sarah Thompson'
- 5026 – 'Catherine Graham McLean & Alfred Bradley'
- 5031 – 'Rachel McLean & William Prescott Hornby'
- 5032 – John Stuart Duncan McLean & Susannah Mary Beaber'
- 5034 – 'Margaret McLean & Thomas Power'

The seven girls and four boys were born between 1845 and 1869 – all at Meadow Bank. And eventually, there were many marriages at the homestead - and births of some grandchildren. The property was the centre of the life of family for over three decades. It was said that *"a bevy of beautiful daughters made Meadow Bank the ideal home of sociality for many a year"* (BRB p39). And *"it was the scene of many and many festive gathering, for Allan and his good wife were hospitable to a fault, and the bonnie sons and daughters were shining lights in the little social world of the Scotch settlement"* (Southern Argus, 29th Jan 1920, p3).

Their first child, William was born in 1845, then came Jeannie in 1847 and Tina in 1849.

Allan, in partnership with his father, held the occupational license for Mundoo Island in 1846-47. And Allan purchased other properties with his father. Details are in our **E56**.

1850s

Catherine's brother, Archibald, died traumatically in 1851. He was only 30 years old – so it would have been distressing to the family.

The fourth and fifth Meadow Bank births were Eliza Ann 1851 and then James 1853.

By the early 1850's, the older children would have probably walked or horsed into a school in Strathalbyn, 2 kms away.

They might have played around the swamp across the road – trying to catch little creatures like Allan had done in Loch Eil in his own childhood.

Gold rushes drew many from the area in the early 1850s, including three of Allan's siblings.

At the Bremer District Council meeting on 1st Oct 1855, Allan handed in an account for 10 shillings for the Ranger illegally impounding a steer belonging to him in the Longhorne's Creek Pound. However the Ranger informed the council that Allan had no right to run it in the district and also the beast did not have his brand (Adelaide Observer, 6th Oct 1855, p8).

Allan was a member of the first District Council in 1853. He attended a meeting of the Strathalbyn District Council in September 1855 (RA Register on 6th Oct 1855, p5).

In the 1850s, copper and silver was mined at Burnside by the Strathalbyn Mining Company. Allan was involved with this. *"He owned Section 2692 Hundred of Strathalbyn, corner of Avenue and Mines Flat Road on western boundary of Section 2697 close to the southern group of main shafts. The address - Strathalbyn Mines"*¹.

Drought hit the area in 1854.

Allan's father, Donald, died in October 1855. He was 76 years old. His mother, Christina, was then 64 years old and Allan was 44 years and was a father of five children and his wife was about to give birth to their sixth, Mary. Allan inherited part of Donald's section 2603. [Research: Check this. Did this part of 2603 include the homestead Auchananda's – or was it just the farmland which was north of the Langhorne Creek Road] Also he inherited a small portion of his father's Adelaide CBD property – lot 2 of 57 Hindley Street.

He was not present at a Strathalbyn District Council on 13th Oct 1855 (3 days after the death of his father) – Adelaide Observer, 20th Oct 1855, p2)

In November 1855 Allan was asked to be a member of the newly formed Agricultural Bureau. Later that month, there were large fires behind Allan's property (BRB p36).

In August 1856 all the McLeans would have been involved in the biggest and best ploughing contest in the colony. This was followed by an evening at the Strathalbyn Hotel with much dining, drinking, speeches and singing. Many familiar names were involved in the contest during the day and the revelries at night – Donald Gollan, Dr Blue, Mr Cheriton, John Stark, Matthew Rankine, J Rankine, Archibald McLean and Allan McLean. James Dawson was prominent in the evening, especially when it came to speeches congratulating each other.

In the same year, at the first Strathalbyn agricultural show, the McLeans were well represented in the wheat competition with three brothers (Allan, Archibald and Hugh snr) amongst nine from the plains and hills areas. However they did not win any prizes for their wheat. On the day, the only McLean to win a prize was for salt butter by Mrs McLean. (Which Mrs McLean would that be? It was probably not Catherine but more likely, it was old Mrs Christina McLean because she might have been referred to respectfully as Mrs whereas Allan's wife or the wives of his brothers might have been referred to by their first name.) It is not known whether any of the McLeans had entered in the other sections which

1 ['Strathalbyn Mines, by Carolyn Tucker, 2018, onecard network.](#)

included barley, oats, potatoes, onions, vegetables, table grapes, apples, lemons, melons, cheese, lucerne, hams, fresh butter, pears, quinces, flowers, plough iron and harrows. (From Matthew Rankine's diary, in Gemmell, p 15). It must have been a wonderful event in this small community

The seventh Meadow Bank birth was Allan jnr in 1857 and then the eighth was Kitty in 1860.

In 1858 Allan acquired a two-wheeled plough. This was admired by Matthew Rankin when he visited Allan.

1860s

In 1861, Alan and brother Archibald were among twelve proprietors of land in the township of Strathalbyn who attended a meeting to form a trust for the township reserve. Alan and Archibald did not seem to take a leading part in the meeting. Although they were not present at that particular meeting, Donald Gollan, James Dawson and Matthew Rankine were given responsibilities to pursue the matter. (South Australian Advertiser, 21st Jan 1861).

Rachel was the ninth Meadow Bank birth - in 1863.

Catherine's father died in May 1865. Because he was such a strong character, his passing would have had a big impact on the family and the broader community.

Two weeks later, in June 1865, Allan's brother-in-law, Ewen McDonald, wrote: "*Mr Allan McLean in opening a cow he slaughtered found in it a calf with 6 legs to fore and 4 hinder and two on each side. Ill omen would they say back home in Scotland*" And in fact, there was a drought that year.

Minute book of the District Council (Gemmell, p49)

- Arch McLean's fence in wrong place on his north boundary (1865)
- Allan McLean asked to fence swamp road ... fought it ... asked Mr Poole to check his line Swamp Road or Mr McLean will sue. (1865)
- McLean (who was this?) summoned Bosisto (Council clerk) for impounding his sheep from Aboriginal reserve. (1865)
- Allan McLean nominated for the District Council, along with nine others, but he was not successful (7th July 1867).

The tenth birth in Meadow Bank was John Stuart Duncan McLean - in July 1865.

In July 1868, Catherine would have heard from New Zealand of the death of her oldest brother, James jnr, who was killed when a tree that he was cutting down, fell on him.

The first Meadow Bank wedding was held in August 1868, when Tina married Edward Stirling Stark. This was followed in a few months by a second wedding - Jane with Frank Turnbull Inglis. (Frank had been born soon after his parents and older siblings arrived on the Fairfield – fellow passengers with Jane's mother.)

In 1869, while ploughing, Allan turned up a few stones which he thought were metalliferous. This resulted in encouraging assessments and the establishment of a mining company. However nothing came of it. See [appendix S](#).

In that year, Allan and Catherine experienced two joys and a sadness across three generations in three consecutive months. There was delight in the birth of their last child - Margaret. And there was further delight with the birth, their first grandchild - Jane, daughter for Tina and Edward. But this was soon overshadowed by the death of Allan's mother – Christina died at the age of 81 years.

Following his mother's death, her executors arranged for the sale of some of her land and Allan purchased a two-acre block near the brewery, foundry and gasworks for £145 (SA Register, 30th April 1869, p2).

Grief followed when their first three grandchildren died early – one was stillbirth, another was just a few weeks old, and then Jane died aged 7 years.

1870s

"Today an amalgamated picnic of Oddfellows and Forresters took place. The members marched to Mr Allan McLean's picturesque grounds at Meadow Bank. The undulating grounds have a fine lagoon, surrounded by gum trees and brushwood. The place is altogether one of the nicest spots for outdoor enjoyment. Hill & Co's buses plied all day free of charge, and a large concourse of people took part in the boat and foot racing, hurdle jumping, cricket, football and quoits, Aunt Sally, and many other games. The Concordia Band played with the usual ability and taste. The affair was a decided success. In the evening a cold collation was laid at Host Smallacombe's, where Mr Cheriton MP presided. Songs, recitations, band music, and toasts filled up the time" (South Australian Register, 30th Oct 1871, p6).

The third Meadow Bank wedding was Eliza Jane with Robert Haldane in 1873.

In 1875, William married Margaret Ann Homer in Milang.

In 1876, Allan's brother Hugh (the elder) died in Meningie.

Another grandchild was born at Meadowbank - Eliza Ann gave birth to Percy James Haldane in February 1878

Selling up

The family appeared prosperous, but Allan was about to make some dramatic decisions. Allan held about 20 farming properties across the district. The four oldest children were married and establishing their own farming families – these were William 32 yrs at Goolwa, Jane 30 yrs at Kanyaka Station, Tina 28 yrs and Agnus Plains and Eliza 27 yrs at Mt Templeton. Meadow Bank continued to be a busy household with seven children still at home. The family unit then consisted of Allan 67 yrs, Catherine 53 yrs, James 24 yrs, Mary 22 yrs, Allan 20 yrs, Kitty 17 yrs, Rachel 15 yrs, John 12 yrs and Margaret 9 yrs.

Loan (Appendix T):

- In June 1877, Allan borrowed £2000 from Josephine Geyer. This was a substantial amount in those days, and he arranged this by mortgaging with 1191 acres on 17 properties - 9 in Strathalbyn and 8 in Bremer. These properties were almost all that Allan McLean owned.
- It is not known why he borrowed so much. Was he anticipating moving to Collinsfield? Was he already in financial difficulties? Or was it an unwise transaction that led to financial difficulties?
- Whatever his reason, Allan appeared to change his strategy because, just 9 months after taking out this loan, he auctioned off these same 17 properties (plus Bremer section 3603). It is not clear whether the sale of the properties meant that he paid off the £2000 straight away, or continued to repay it in quarterly instalments. Oddly, this memorial refers to another memorial (number 32 book 301) for a mortgage registered to secure the payment of the principal sum of £2000 from Allan McLean to Henry Poulton on 1st April 1878. This is the month that Allan auctioned these properties. In either case, he was declared bankrupt four years later.

In April 1878 Allan sold up everything, in preparation for moving his family 200 kilometres north to Collinsfield.

All their Strathalbyn properties, livestock, equipment and household furniture were auctioned in April and May 1878.

The list of auctioned items (page 15, below) gives an indication that the family was prosperous. It is not known what the total yield was, but it would have been substantial because, according to the local newspaper, Allan got a good price for at least part of it – 174 acres went for 11 pounds per acre which was regarded as excellent. This was purchased by William Marchant, the sheep grazier who bought many farms of those who left the district. [Research: Get hold of the whole Southern Argus article.] The sale of their land and goods must have provided them with considerable cash for their new start.

This was not just a family selling off surplus possessions. This was the cashing in of it all, and leaving completely, in a very public way. It was then still the custom to sell up completely when moving, and these 'clearing sales' attracted

community attention. One wonders what treasured items Catherine was forced to part with. It was not until the turn of the century that people took their goods and chattels with them, as a matter of course, when shifting.

All this would have been a significant event which would have created great interest across the district because so much was up for sale and also because the McLeans were so well known. No doubt there would have been strong viewpoints expressed by others, including the Rankines (this surfaced indirectly, a decade later, in the newspaper – appendix F).

Adding to the upheaval of this time, there were events for two of the daughters – Tina and Mary. While Allan was organising his sales, Tina, also had a sale and left Strathalbyn – probably with Allan (BRB p60). Her husband, Edward Stark, had died a few years previously. Soon after all the sales, while the family were still in the process of settling into Collinsfield, Mary, who was not married at the time, gave birth to Florence in Clare. Florence was initially cared for by Allan and Catherine.

[Research: A map of showing relative distances between Strathalbyn, Collinsfield, Red Hill, Mount Templeton, Goolwa, Kanaka, Hawker, Wilson, Tarcowie, Mt Barker, Angas Park, Clare, Orrero, Yatina, Kilkerrin, Willowie, Balaklava, Port Broughton and Crystal Brook - also maybe Kybybolite, Coo-ee, Battunga Park etc]

Selling land

- Southern Argus 18th April 1878, p2
- On TUESDAY, April 30th. AT THE TERMINUS HOTEL.
- IMPORTANT SALE OF VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY, IN THE DISTRICTS OF STRATHALBYN AND BREMER— 1247 ACRES.
- THE VERY PICK OF THE TWO DISTRICTS
- PORTION OF THE PROPERTY SELECTED SOME 35 YEARS SINCE.
- JOHN CHERITON has been honored with instructions from Mr. A. McLean to sell by auction.
- THE MAGNIFICENT ESTATE known as Meadow Bank, containing 506 Acres Good Arable and Pasture Land, splendidly watered, and almost close to the Town of Strathalbyn, being Sections and parts of Sections 2610, 2691, 2695, 2693, 2621, 2622, part of 2603 and 2632, part of 2624
- ALSO
- Erected on the Land, GOOD FAMILY RESIDENCE, built of stone, with galvanised iron roof, Good Tank, and Stone Stable and Out buildings in good repair.
- ALSO
- All those very Valuable SECTIONS OF LAND Situated in the District of Bremer, and having a Frontage of 2 miles to the Bremer, and 1 mile to Lake Alexandrina, being Sections Nos. 2815, 2816, 2824, 2825, 2826, 3603, 2817, 2818, and 2827, containing 741 Acres of Splendid Pasture and Agricultural Land. This is truly a very desirable Property, and if seen cannot fail to impress the fact on intending purchasers. There are two Substantial Stone Dwellings on this Land, and a Brick House and other buildings.
- The auctioneer can confidently say that no Property of equal value, position, and quality has ever been submitted to competition in this district; and also, that it requires to be seen to be admired; and it is to be sold to the highest bidder, the auctioneer reserving the right to sell the above Properties either in two blocks, or by subdivision, as he may deem advisable at time of Sale.
- For Plans and full Particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, Strathalbyn; or to Messrs. Andrews and Bonnin, Waymouth-Street, Adelaide.
- Sale at 2 p.m.
- Title guaranteed

Auctions.

On TUESDAY, April 30th.
AT THE TERMINUS HOTEL.

IMPORTANT SALE OF VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY, IN THE DISTRICTS OF STRATHALBYN AND BREMER—1247 ACRES.

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ALSO,

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For Plans and full Particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, Strathalbyn; or to Messrs. Andrews and Bonnin, Waymouth-Street, Adelaide.

Sale at 2 p.m.
Title Guaranteed.

The auction was conducted by John Cheriton who was Allan's brother-in-law who had married Allan's sister, Jane.

- *HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE consists of— 2 Cedar Tables 2 Cedar Chairs 2 Cedar-back Sofas 2 Sofas 2 Easy Chairs 2 Socking Chairs 2 Sewing Machines 1 Piano (excellent instrument, made expressly for hot climates) 1 Cedar Wardrobe 1 Deal Wardrobe 2 Iron Bedsteads 2 Cedar Washstands 2 Cedar Dressing Tables 5 Forms 2 Strong Kitchen Tables Crockery, and Kitchen Requisites of all kinds.*
- *DAIRY UTENSILS consist of— 1 Iron Lever Cheese Press 10 Vats 20 Milk Pans 10 Casks 6 Jars 1 Cheese Mill Tubs, Buckets Pump and Piping,*
- *ALSO, Heap of Manure, and an immense quantity of sundries.*
- *The auctioneer, in calling attention to the above Large and Genuine Clearing-out Sale, begs to assure intending purchasers that the Horses are well worthy of attention, the Cattle are really good, and everything he has to offer will be sold; Mr. A. McLean being so well known is, he feels sure, sufficient to ensure a large and appreciative audience. Remember, May 23rd. Lunch at 12 o'clock. Sale at 1 o'clock sharp.*

Meadow Bank afterwards

- Meadowbank was sold to JJ Lee in 1878
- When the railway from Mt Barker went through in 1884, it bordered on Burnside House and Meadowbank.
- Someone connected to the Tuckers wrote in 1920, *"As the train slipped past the swamp at the east end of the town, I looked out to see if the old Meadowbank homestead was still in existence, but I could not pick it out, probably because it may have, been altered out of resemblance to the original building"* (From JWE's Jottings in Southern Argus on 29th January 1920, p3).
- Ruin – when did it become a ruin?
- Photos?
- Later subdivision into Burnside Estate. Allan's land, or some of it, was incorporated.
- Present owners?

Collinsfield years - 1878 to 1882

What was Collinsfield like at that time?

- We do not have any direct descriptions, but there are indications that it was a tiny town with just a railway, hotel, general store, butcher's shop and maybe a school – and little else. The town was closed less than eight years later (after the McLean's left) in preference to Redhill which was just a few kilometres away (ref: Greens)
- Allan purchased several properties in the Hundred Redhill - mostly within close proximity to the Collinsfield railway station.
- Strathalbyn is 215 kms south of Collinsfield
- Adelaide is 160 kms south of Collinsfield.
- The Haldane's farm, Kilkerrin (Eliza & Robert), was at Mt Templeton is 75 kms south of Collinsfield.
- Red Hill was 8 kms north of Collinsfield.
- Koolunga is 10 kms north-east of Collinsfield.
- Clare (Florence was born there) is 50 kms south-east of Collinsfield
- Port Broughton (XXXX was there) is 30 kms east of Collinsfield
- Goolwa (William Donald) is 240 kms south of Collinsfield
- Orroro (Mary) is xxx kms away
- Kanyaka Station & Wilson (Jane) was 290 kms north of Collinsfield.
- Willowie is 110 kms north of Collinsfield. It must be doubted that Allan moved to Willowie as the Belvidere book (p107) is the only mention of this.
- [Research: Compile a map with all these places]

Why did they go?

- Why did they leave Strathalbyn? Such a major step to leave a successful life in Strathalbyn, with so many properties and surrounded by family and friends.

- Was this expected or sudden?
- We are only left to guess, but there are some interesting parallels with Allan's father's move from Scotland to South Australia. At the age of 58 years, his father had moved his family of wife and ten children from an apparently prosperous position in Scotland to the unknown risks the new colony, so far away. Now, four decades later, at 67 years, Allan uprooted his family of wife and seven of his eleven children.
- There were signs that his Plains land, which had yielded so abundantly earlier, was no longer fertile. These were the days before fertilizers. 'Wheat sick' was an issue.
- *"The soil of the plains was exhausted from heavy cropping by the late 1870's, hence the many who departed."* (BRB p294 & Jottings in Southern Argus on 23rd May 1918).
- Sheep were taking over in place of wheat.
- Many farmers were seeking areas either to the north, north-east or south-east. The exciting prospects of the new farming land being opened up would have sounded promising. There were certainly many making a move away from Strathalbyn, including Allan's brother, Archy, and the Gordons.

Buying in Collinsfield

- The sale of everything in Strathalbyn and purchases in Collinsfield were undertaken within a few months - the land was auctioned on 30th April 1878 and the goods and livestock were sold three weeks later, on 23rd May. Then a fortnight later, on 10th June, Allan began purchasing properties around Collinsfield.
- There was a flurry of land purchases within a few weeks. It got quite complicated, with various mortgages, loans and transactions between half a dozen people, including son-in-law Robert Haldane. These are detailed in appendix A. The main features of these transactions were:-
 - At least 10 properties were purchased.
 - 1221 acres purchased from Phillip Ingerson for about £6750 on 10th June - sections 9, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 44 & 45 .
 - ¼ acre near the railway station for £226 on 28th June – lot 20.
 - Another property for £631 – CCXC – 218 – lease 112960.
 - On the same day that Allan purchased several properties, he took out a mortgage on the properties. Thus it appears, if I am understanding this correctly, that he was purchasing the properties for £6750 by borrowing £5036 (75%).
 - Over the next few years, Allan took out loans by mortgaging some of these properties.

Family

- The family group moved to Collinsfield, cashed-up and with high hopes.
- Where did they actually live? Did Allan buy a house or build one? Where was it? What did it cost him?
- Maybe they lived at lot 20 (section 63) in Agnes Street, near the Collinsfield railway station.
- At first there was a dozen in the household who moved there - Allan 67 yrs, Catherine 53 yrs, James 25 yrs, Mary 23 yrs, Allan 20 yrs, Kitty 18 yrs, Rachel 15 yrs, John 13 yrs and Margaret 9 yrs. Also Tina 29 yrs and her children Andrew 5 yrs and Angus 3 yrs.
- While they were creating a new home, farm and tiny community, this large household quickly experienced many changes within the first year and a half. There were four marriages (Allan, Mary, Kitty and Tina) and several births.
 - Birth: Mary gave birth to Florence May McLean in September 1878 in Claire (father was Robert Haldane)
 - Wedding: Allan jnr married Sarah Thompson in November 1878 in Strathalbyn.
 - Birth: Allan jnr and Sarah gave birth to Laurence Albert Allan McLean in December 1878 in Strathalbyn.
 - Wedding: Mary married John Thomas Nutt in September 1879 in Yatina.
 - Wedding: Kitty married Alfred Bradley in September 1879 in Collinsfield.
 - Wedding: Tina married Peter Kelly in February 1880 in Claire.
- So, by early 1880 there were seven in the household consisting of Allan, Catherine, James, Rachel, John, Margaret and baby Florence. The families of Jeannie, Eliza, Kitty and Tina were living close and so they and their husbands may have been able to lend a hand if the aging Allan and Catherine needed some occasional

assistance. Allan jnr came back and forth between Strathalbyn as he tried to balance the needs of his little family and the needs of his father.

- The initial hectic life continued:-
 - Birth: Eliza gave birth to Allan Robert Haldane in May 1880 in Mt Templeton.
 - Birth: Mary gave birth to Alice Maude Jane Nutt in September 1880 in Yatina.
 - Wedding: Rachel married William Prescott Hornby in April 1881 in Red Hill.

Things going wrong

- All this family activity was coming thick and fast – and with some tensions within the family. There had been issues surrounding Florence's birth, and several of the five weddings were against the wishes of Allan and Catherine. This was occurring while the old people were trying to get themselves established in their house, on the farm, and in this small community. And it was not long before business worries began emerging.
- Maybe financial difficulties were beginning just a year after Allan came to Collinsfield when he took out four mortgages. In June 1879, he borrowed £1855 from Robert Haldane – this was mortgaged against at least some of the Collinsfield land. And there were two mortgages, for an unspecified amount, against some property in Goolwa. On one hand, was this a sign of cash flow troubles? Or was it a move forward to upgrade his properties, perhaps to buy more farming equipment or build a house?
- After this flurry in June 1879, less than two years later, Allan borrowed £113 from Alfred Bonnin.
- For some reason, on 16th May 1881, Robert was appointed as attorney to handle all Allan's business transactions as well as those of Allan's oldest son Donald in Goolwa (Mathews, p65).
- By late 1881 it had become clear that the Collinsfield venture had failed.

Insolvency

- Less than four years after coming to Collinsfield, Allan was declared insolvent in the Adelaide Supreme Court on 3rd May 1882 (p 1510 of the gazette of South Australia).
- The debt was £859. The main creditor was Robert Haldane.
- The official causes of insolvency were *"failure of crop, forced sales by mortgagees and there were no books of the insolvent's keeping"*.
- On 4th July 1882, at his final hearing in the Insolvency Courts before His Honor the Chief Justice, Allan faced two charges of *"fraudulent preference"* but *"His Honor considered that the charges were not proved, and awarded him a second-class certificate, to be suspended for six months, on the ground that his affairs had not been conducted under proper supervision"*. He was described as a farmer of Mount Templeton. He was defended by Mr. Bonnin, and Mr. Downer for the trustee, and Mr. Muirhead for the creditors (Adelaide Observer, 8th July 1882, p35). [Research: What does this mean? Was he in even more strife? Was he charged with breaking the conditions of his bankruptcy by carrying on his business without proper supervision, and if so was he convicted and given a suspended sentence. Or, on the other hand, was he then out of trouble - acquitted, innocent?]
- After Allan forfeited all his land, who ended up owning it? The notation on the title-deed for section 9 indicates that it was taken by the Supreme Court on 22nd April 1882 and, on 13th June 1882, the ownership was transferred to George Angus Shand, a farmer near Collinsfield. [Research: How much did George pay for this? How far did this go to paying the debt of £652? What about the other properties?]
- There are several side lights of interest in the insolvency proceedings:-
 - The Judge who sat for the first examination was Hon. Samuel James Way. He married Kitty Gordon (Don Gordon's great-aunt) 16 years later. He was Chief Justice for 40 years and was prominent in public life in South Australia, including being Lieutenant Governor.
 - The lawyer for Allan was Alfred Bonnin who (with John Johnston) had held the mortgage on Allan's property for a couple of years. But he was not named as being one of the creditors. In some ways, he had a conflict of interest. He sold the properties immediately after the insolvency was finalized.
- [Research: It would be handy if someone else, with some expertise, could examine the details of land titles and insolvency documents so that we understand it all properly]

Reasons why it failed so quickly

Why did he fail so badly when Allan had previously shown what a successful farmer he could be? We can speculate:-

The causes of insolvency, as officially stated, were *"failure of crop, forced sales by mortgagees and there were no books of the insolvent's keeping"*. Let's take a closer look at this – but it is all speculation:-

- Crop : Failure of crop
 - Drought:
 - Allan's nephew Edwin recalls, in a 1946 letter (appendix B), that Allan had *"struck bad seasons"*.
 - *"In the 1870s, they had an adage that "rain follows the plough". In the north of South Australia, there were boom years in the 1870s, this is when Allan tried to get established in Collinsfield but, that all busted when, contrary to the adage, there were droughts in 1880, 1881 & 1882. An interesting statistic. Over the hundred of Hawker, which is in the Carrington area, and admittedly is fairly remote, in 1878 they had a district average of 11 bushels of wheat per acre, and in the following four years, the district average was between 1 & 2 bushels. Now, I'm not saying that Allan McLean was in the hundred of Hawker – but wherever he was in the north, it was certainly tough years in the early 1880s, and that is why clearly - he'd come back to Strathalbyn as a destitute fellow in 1886"* (Trevor McLean p24). Hawker is 200 kms north of Collinsfield.
 - Acreage under crop:
 - Allan might have only utilized a small part, while large sections were left unworked or idle.
 - There might not have been enough acres under crop to generate a sufficient income.
 - The blocks were spread out and so would have been difficult to work.
 - It might have been too difficult to work such a large area because of lack of labour.
 - Or there might have been more virgin land to clear.
 - Labour requirements:
 - Allan was already an old man and would have relied on others for the bulk of the work.
 - Allan's insolvency papers indicated that he owed wages to two workers, so maybe he employed some hands on some occasions.
 - Most of the work would have fallen to James, who was 25 years old and unmarried.
 - Allan jnr at 21 years old might have helped out at first, but he married a few months after the move to Collinsfield.
 - Jack, in his early teens, would have given a hand.
 - Other sons and sons-in-law might have been able to give some help from time to time, but they all had other family obligations and were working on their own responsibilities. See notes (below) on what was happening to the rest of the family.
 - Quality of land? Some parts might have been hilly, rocky or infertile. Apparently the land was quite good compared to Haldane's land in Mt Templeton (ref: Trevor McLean)
 - Unsuitable land use
 - Unsuitable crop type (eg wheat Vs oats)
 - Transport: Was there poor transport to markets? - but they were on the railway line – when did that go through?
 - Maybe there might have been other causes of crop failure or soil fertility.
 - Perhaps slack farming practices such as inadequate weed control.
- Debt: Forced sales by mortgagees
 - Allan's total liability was £859 which does not seem to be a huge debt, especially as Robert Haldane, to whom Allan owed £652, was the main creditor (76%).
 - Allan was indebted to Phillip Ingerson, Alfred Bonnin, John Johnson, Robert Haldane and others. Were the mortgagees pressing because of their own financial constraints? Or was it more personal (either positively or some animosity), given that Robert was Allan's son-in-law, and Alfred was an acquaintance from Strathalbyn. Note that Alfred might not have been a creditor.
- Management: There were no books of the insolvent's keeping
 - Maybe he did not keep good records and lost track of the complex arrangements.

- Maybe Allan over-extended himself financially. He had a good deal of cash after his sales in Strathalbyn, but he might have used this unwisely.
- How much cash did Allan actually have from selling everything in Strathalbyn? How did he spend this cash? – land? house? equipment? stock?
- He borrowed 75% for the property he purchased from Phillip Ingerson and outlayed only £1714 (£6750 purchase price less £5036 mortgage)
- Maybe he purchased too many acres at too high a price. But this does not seem to be the case. For example he paid, £6750/10/- for 1221 acres, ie £5/10/ per acre, which is much cheaper than £11 per acre he got for some of his Strathalbyn land a short time before.
- Maybe he didn't have enough cash for:-
 - Setting himself up to become productive within the first years.
 - He had sold everything before leaving Strathalbyn so would have had to buy many basic items to re-establish his farm, house and articles for day-to-day living. He required fencing, wells, equipment, stock (horses, sheep & milk cows etc), housing and household goods.
 - Tiding himself through difficult periods.
- Family worries:
 - Family conflict? Robert Haldane, Allan's son-in-law, was the main creditor. Without Robert's claim, Allan probably would have been able to pay his other creditors without becoming insolvent. In fact, the extra costs incurred against Allan for the insolvency proceeding was greater than all that he owed, apart from his debts to Robert. Robert had helped Allan financially in many ways over those years but maybe conflict developed between them and this prompted Robert to push his claim. Maybe Robert was under financial pressure himself and this might have caused him to press Allan. In either event, Robert sold up a few years later. On the other hand, Allan and Catherine stayed with Robert and Eliza after Allan had lost his land. So maybe they were getting on OK on a personal level.
 - Robert's behavior. A few months after Allan moved to Collinsfield, there was a public meeting to remove Robert as a Justice of the Peace, because of local concerns about him. Alcohol was an issue. Robert was convicted for drunkenness on five occasions during the crucial 1878-to-1882 period while Allan was trying to get established.
- Combination
 - As with most calamities, several of these factors would have intertwined.

What was happening to each member of the family?

The 'Collinsfield years', from mid 1878 to 1882, were a crucial time of transition for the family :-

- As they plunged from prosperity to poverty
- Unsettled from a long-established family home to a series of temporary arrangements
- The profound disappointment of dreams turning to night mares
- Children leaving home, mostly under a cloud – without parent's blessing for their marriage
- Establishing their own lives
- Financial turnaround
- Controversy, humiliation & scandal
- Internal family conflicts reflecting the financial woes
- Left Strathalbyn as a large prosperous family then later returned with nothing to show - no family and no property.

For many in this larger family, it was a pivotal time and so we have reached a stage in our narrative when we can take stock of what everyone was doing before, during, and after those traumatic years.

What parts did the children play in the developments in Collinsfield :-

- William Donald: When Allan made the move to Collinsfield, Donald was 32 years old and had been married to Margaret Homer for three years and they were living in Goolwa which is 240 kilometers south of Collinsfield. Donald probably was unable to be of assistance to Allan in the difficult times at Collinsfield, but Allan helped him buy the Australasian Hotel in Goolwa in June 1879.

- Jane: When Allan made his move to Collinsfield, Jeannie was 30 years old and had been married for nine years and had one child living and was about to have another. She was living with her husband Frank Inglis on Kanyaka Station which was about 250 kilometres north of Collinsfield.
- Christina McPhee 'Tina': Tina was 28 years old, had the care of two children and without a husband for three years when her father made this move. Tina sold up in Strathalbyn at the same time as her father and probably moved with him to Collinsfield. Within a year she had got to know Peter Kelly – probably because Tina's older sister Eliza had a sister-in-law, Agnes Inglis or Jocelyn Kelly who was married to xxxx Kelly who was working around Mt Templeton with the Haldanes. This xxx Kelly was the brother of Peter Kelly. (BRB p60). They married in early 1880 in Clare and lived in *Koolunga* on the River Broughton, south of Crystal Brook about 20 kilometres west of Collinsfield. They soon had two children in 1880 and 1881 before Peter died in 1882 after only two years of their marriage.
- Eliza Ann: Eliza was 26 years old and had been married to Robert Haldane for about five years. They were at Kilkerrin at Mt Templeton which is about 75 kilometres east of Collinsfield. They already had two children living before Allan moved to Collinsfield and they then had three more - Allan in 1880 in Mt Templeton, Catherine in 1882 (she died at 6 days old) and Eliza in 1883 at Maylands, near Adelaide. Of all their children, Allan and Catherine had the closest relationship with Eliza. They went to stay with her when the Collinsfield venture failed in early 1882 and were with her on several occasions and several locations after that. Robert had many dealings with Allan – some good and some bad.
- James Dawson: James was 25 years old and not married. It is possible that he went to Collinsfield with his father – if so, he would have been the oldest son at home and he would have been a vital part of his aging father's new farming enterprise. But there is no direct evidence that he was there. (BRB p78)
- Mary Dawson: Mary who was 23 years old, single and pregnant. She probably came to Collinsfield with the family but left for Clare to give birth to Florence in September 1878. Apparently the father was Robert Haldane, the husband of her older sister, Eliza Ann. Mary may not have returned to Collinsfield after the birth or maybe been there a short time before leaving to marry John Nutt in September 1879 in Yatina. Mary did not raise baby Florence herself. She was cared for by Catherine and Allan. Mary and John lived in Orroroo for the rest of their lives. During the Collinsfield years they had three children - Alice in 1880, Rowland in 1882, and Horace in 1882 – all at Yatina. After that they had seven more children, all at Orroroo.
- Allan jnr: He moved with the family but soon married Sarah Thompson in Strathalbyn in November 1878. He might have continued to help his father in Collinsfield for some periods but spent most of the time with his new wife in Strathalbyn and baby.
- Katherine Graham 'Kitty': Kitty was 18 years when the family moved. She soon married John Bradley in Allan's home in Collinsfield in Sept 1879 (a week after Mary's wedding). Kitty and John had met when Alfred was working in Collinsfield. They had two children in the Collinsfield years - Elsie 1881 and Kate 1884. Janet 1887 (died in infancy). They probably stayed on a property in the area for about eight years until 1888 when they moved to Adelaide where they engaged in business pursuits.
- Rachel: Rachel was 15 years at the time of the move. She met Bill Hornby when he was working at the Collinsfield Hotel. Bill had had very little schooling and had worked for some years on northern sheep stations and was then in Collinsfield, then owned by Collins and later Coffeys. They married at the PM Parsonage in Redhill in 1881 when she was 18 years old. The marriage was against the wishes of Allan and Catherine and there was a break between Rachel and the whole family except with Mary. (BRB p101) By this time it would have been obvious that the Collinsfield venture was failing but, because of the break within the family, Bill and Rachel probably did not assist Allan and Catherine even though they went to live only about 20 kilometres away at Port Broughton. Children born during the Collinsfield years were Allan 1882 and Albert 1885.
- John Stuart Duncan: Jack was 13 years old when the family moved to Collinsfield. He might have left school and would have been quite a help on the new farming property.
- Margaret: She was 9 years old. At just 15 years, and against her parent's wishes, she married Thomas Power in 1884 in Norwood. By this time, the Collinsfield venture had failed two years previously. Thomas was a horsebreaker and over the years much of the family life revolved around horses.
- Florence ('adopted'): As already outlined above, Mary's daughter was born soon after the move to Collinsfield and was initially raised by Catherine and Allan.

Their final years – 1882 to 1892

In the last decade of their lives they moved many times.

Living with Eliza

- The Supreme Court ordered the forfeiture of all Allan's properties – this would have included the property they were living in. Thus, in mid 1882, they moved in with Eliza's family on Kilkerrin farm at Mt Templeton.
- By then Rachel had married Bill Hornby in April 1881, so there were 11 living at Kilkerrin – Allan, Catherine, James 29 yrs, Jack 16 yrs, Margaret 13 yrs and Florence almost 4 yrs as well as Eliza and Robert and their four children, Janet 6 yrs, Percy 4 yrs, and Allan 2 yrs. And baby Catherine was born at that time and died within a week.
- Allan's family were dependent for their subsistence upon Eliza and Robert Haldane. This would not have been an easy time with so many in the house. This was compounded by the death of the baby. Tensions between Eliza and Robert were surfacing. Also, maybe Robert was in financial trouble. Their family was about to experience difficult changes over the next six years.
- They were all together on the farm for only a year before they moved to Adelaide. They were living in Dover St Maylands when Eliza gave birth to Eliza jnr in October 1883.
- They all moved to Vaughans Mansions in Hackney (now Romilly House, North Terrace). The building was a hotel, but we have no information about what rooms the combined families occupied.
- Margaret married Tom Power in Aug 1884 in Norwood.
- In August 1885, two major things happened.
 - Eliza and Robert officially separated in Aug 1885. Arabella was born in Aug 1886. Robert's alcohol issues continued. He was gaoled for assaulting Eliza in late 1886. Their divorce was finalized in Dec 1886. In 1887, Robert was a farmer in Edwardstown (5 kms SE of Adelaide) and Eliza was running a boarding house at Fountain Villa in Pirie Street. Robert died in 1888, at Vaughans Mansions. Later, Eliza was at 4 Botanic Terrace. She died in 1911.
 - Catherine's mother, Jane Dawson, died at the age of 83. Catherine inherited some property in Strathalbyn. Catherine and Allan moved back to Strathalbyn.



Hackney Lodge boarding house at the corner of North Tce and Hackney Rd.

Back to Strathalbyn, then Adelaide

We do not really know how the families and acquaintances of Allan and Catherine reacted to their return to Strathalbyn. Eight years previously, they had left, in a very public way, as a prosperous farmer with a large family, and then they lost everything, all their children had left home, and they were now dependent on family assistance,

Jack, now aged 20 years, had probably left 'home' by then, but presumably Florence, at seven years, was still with Allan and Catherine. They stayed with Allan's brother John at Waterloo at Angus Plains – 16 kilometres from Strathalbyn (BRB p37).

The properties Catherine inherited were part of sections 2613 & 2617. It was the site of what became sale yards and is now bisected by the road to Goolwa. [Research: Was the Springfield homestead on these properties?]

In 1886, Allan put in a few months building a couple of rooms, assisted by his nephew Edwin 15 yrs. Catherine had a crop which was reaped with an old stripper and horses by Allan, then 75 years old, and Alfred, a 15 year old nephew (appendix B). [Research: Was this room and crop on section 2613 or 2617?]

They moved to Adelaide where they stayed at Power's stables in Carrington Street [SA Register, 10th Dec 1887, p xx]. This was probably with their daughter, Margaret – she was married to Thomas Power who was a horse breaker. It is possible that Florence was already living there.

There is an indication that in 1887, Allan purchased some land in David St in North Adelaide (ref: Maureen Edwards) – [Research: Check this]

Some public sympathy was expressed in 1887 when T R Haldane wrote to the newspaper (SA Register on 10th December).

"A South Australian Pioneer Ploughman : There is still amongst us the very man who turned the first sod in South Australia – a pioneer of 1836. The person alluded to is Mr Alan (sic) Mclean, late of Strathalbyn. Now a very old man but in indigent circumstances. He arrived in the colony with his parents, his father being Mr Donald McLean, who died many years ago. On their arrival they took up land at the Reedbeds in 1837; there they (father and son) commenced farming. Mr Alan McLean claims the right to be the first man who turned the soil with a plough. He is now nearly 80 years old and very frail. At one time Mr McLean was very wealthy, but at the moment he is as poor as Lazarus. A good old honest man he is, but rather inclined to hide his poverty. If any man has a right to a place in the Old Colonists' Court in our Exhibition it is Mr McLean; but I think his shillings are few and far between. I appeal to a generous public for some practical help for him in his old age. He can be seen any day at his residence, Power's stables, Carrington Street. Old Alan can spin a good story of olden days. Old colonists know him, but do not know his circumstances. My object in making it public is that he will not do it himself. His excuse is, 'They won't look at me now, now that I am poor'. Rally up and assist a brother pioneer in his old age."

This prompted a series of letters to the paper, debating whether or not Allan had 'turned the first sod'. Allan responded with two letters and several other pioneers joined in the debate (see appendix F and our G60).

By 1889, the South Australian Directories show that Allan and Catherine were living in Clark St Norwood and then a short walk away at William Street Norwood (Liveth p145).

Deaths

Three years before his death, Allan and Catherine probably attended Jack's wedding – to Susannah Mary Beaber in Adelaide in 1887. This was the last of their 11 children to be married.

All the children survived Allan but his last few years were marked by many deaths – including three of his siblings and two of his grandchildren:-

- Allan's sister, Jane died in 10th Oct 1886 in Strathalbyn
- Eliza's baby, Arabella Stuart Haldane died in 1887 aged less than one year old.
- Kitty's baby, Janet, died in 1888 at age of one year
- Eliza's estranged husband, Robert Haldane died on 22nd Nov 1888 in Hackney.
- Allan's brother Archibald died 31st Jan 1899 in Naracoorte
- Allan's sister Mary died 22nd Sept 1889 in Strathalbyn

Allan died in Sept 1890, after four weeks with bronchitis. He had been living in Marion Road, Plympton. It is not known whose house this was, but it is interesting to note that this is just a few kilometres from where he had harvested the first wheat crop half a century before.

[Research: Map showing Marion Rd in Plympton, Marlestone, David St, Carrington St, Hackney & Pirie St]

Allan died aged 79 years. His first 26 years were in Duisky (Scotland), 4 years in Hilton, 26 years in Strathalbyn, 4 years in Collinsfield, 1 year in Mt Templeton, 2 years back in Strathalbyn and he died 4 years later. He had been in the colony for 54 years from its beginnings.

After Allan's death, Catherine went to stay again with Eliza who was now in Hackney. Eliza's former husband, Robert, had died two years previously and three of her seven children had died, so there were four children in the household - Janet 14 yrs, Percy 12 yrs, Allan 10 yrs & Eliza 7 yrs. Florence was probably still with her aunty Margaret at Power's Stables.

Catherine died 16 months after her husband – in January 1892 in Hackney, at the age of 67 years. Catherine was buried at West Terrace Cemetery - 3 path 36A 5, along with Allan.



In contrast to Allan's last few years, which were characterized by a series of deaths, Catherine's last year was characterized by many births of grandchildren:-

- Kitty & Alfred gave birth to Ella Graham Bradley in November 1890 in Adelaide
- Margaret & Thomas gave birth to Mabel Power in February 1891 in Norwood
- Margaret's second marriage, to Harry Gifford in September 1891 in Adelaide
- Mary & John gave birth to Florence Marion Nutt in February 1891 in Orroroo
- Mary & John gave birth to Mabel Isabel Nutt in August 1892 at Walloway
- Rachel & Bill gave birth to Isabella Winniefred Hornby in August 1892 in Port Broughton
- Jack & Susannah gave birth to Alen McLean in August 1892 in Meadows.

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Reflections

What would Allan have thought when he looked back over his own life? Undoubtedly Allan and Catherine would have died with regrets about the way their family's fortunes had fallen away so quickly. Were they bitter, disillusioned, guilty, ashamed or accepting? We do not know.

In contrast to his father, who had died as quite a wealthy man, Allan, although the eldest son, died a poor man. After his father died, Allan continued to build his own wealth but then, about 25 years after his father's death, he sold everything he had - and lost it all in a couple of years in Collinsfield.

Can it be said that one generation made the fortune and the next squandered it? Not really:-

- The families were quite well off for long periods but it is too much to assert that they ever had a real fortune.
- During Donald's later years Allan's property interests had been expanding, sometimes in partnership with his father, so that Allan was already well off when his father died and was not relying on an inheritance from his father. He did not get much through his father's will.
- In fact, Donald did not pass much of his wealth on to his sons. Indeed he made a point of leaving nothing to one of them, Hugh the elder.
- So by any measure, it cannot be said that Allan inherited greatly and then misspent it within a few years.
- Allan lost all he had, but he lost what he had accumulated himself over many decades rather than what he had inherited.
- Although Allan had little when he died, it might be that others in his generation – mainly his brothers (John, Archibald and the two Hughes), may have continued to be wealthy. But that would be another story

Personalities:

- Although we know a great deal about activities throughout Allan and Catherine's lives, we know little about what sort of people they really were and how they affected the people around them.
- Allan: *"It was said that Allan was a typical highlander and in old age, would lapse into Gaelic when he got excited"* (BRB p38).
- Catherine was *"a brilliant conversationalist and excellent at repartee"* (BRB p37).

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References

How this is
referred to in
this document

How it can be
accessed

Gemmell	Nancy Gemmell, 'Old Strathablyn and its People'	Appendix D
Liveth	John Mathews 'Their Name Liveth', 1998	Appendix E
BRB	Big Red Book = 'Donald and Catherine McLean and their descendants', 1995	

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Appendices

A.	Collinsfield land acquired by Allan (Red Hill and Koolunga) Source: Based on details collated by Maureen Edwards, nee Hickey, in 1994	Page 27
B.	Edwin McLean's letter in 1946 Source: 'Old Strathalbyn and Its People' by Nancy Gemmell, page 20	Page 29
C.	Biographic notes about Allan McLean & Catherine Dawson Source: 'Old Strathalbyn' by Nancy Gemmell, pages 19 & 20	Page 30
D.	Biographic notes about Allan McLean & Catherine Dawson Source: 'Their Name Liveth' by John Mathews, published in 1998, pages 143 to 147	Page 31
E.	Sniff Source: Don Gordon	Page 37
F.	Letters to the editor in 1889 & 1890 About Allan's plight late in his life and claims that he was the first ploughman Source: Various newspapers - with comments by Don Gordon	Page 42
G.	Allan's journey to Hobart on Navarino Leaving from Adelaide on 6 th Jan 1838, arriving 12 th Jan 1838 at Hobart Source: Libraries Tasmania - Ref 1476548, CSO92/1/3 p.10 https://lincas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names/search/results?qu=allan&qu=mclean	Page 60
H.	Allan's journey back to Adelaide in early 1838 Some details of ships from Van Deiman's Land to Adelaide in January, Feb & March 1838	Page 61
J.	Giraffe Source: State Library of South Australia – catalogue GRG41, 8, 1, 1838-39 - "Port Adelaide - manifest passenger lists etc of in-coming - Feb 1838 to Sep 1839" – pages 21 & 22	Page 63
K.	Catharine McLean's complaint lodged - against Allan McLean regarding Sarah, who was born in 1834 Paternity case in the Kilmallie Kirk sessions – 28 th Feb 1837 Source: From the minutes of Kilmallie Kirk Session, Scotland's People, Virtual Volumes CH2/719/00001-00025 (p14)	Page 66

L.	Catharine McLean's complaint dealt with - against Allan McLean regarding Sarah, born in 1834 Paternity case in the Kilmallie Kirk sessions – 12 th Mar 1837 Source: From the minutes of Kilmallie Kirk Session, Scotland's People, Virtual Volumes, CH2/719/0001-00025 (p15)	Page 67
M.	List of 6 OPRs of Catharine McLean born in North Knapdale 1794 to 1816	Page 68
N.	OPR: Catharine McLean, born 5 th May 1816, North Knapdale <i>"5th May 1816 Catharine lawful daughter of John McLean & Sarah McGugan Cosandrochaid, North Knapdale"</i> Source: NRS, Birth OPRs 530/ 10 136, North Knapdale, page 136 of 211	Page 69
P.	OPR: Catharine McLean, born 21 st Sept 1814, in Barbreck, North Knapdale <i>"21st September 1814, Catharine McLean lawful daughter Allan McLean & McLean Barbreck"</i>	Page 70
Q.	OPR: Katharine MacLean, born 27 th Jan 1809 in Kilmahumaig <i>"Katharine – lawful daughter of Lachlen MacLean & Catharine Munn"</i> Source: NRS OPR births 530/ 10 110, North Knapdale, page 110 of 211	Page 71
R.	OPR: Sarah McLean – born 15 th April 1834 in North Knapdale <i>"Sarah an illegitimate daughter of Allan McLean parish of Kilmaly and Catherine McLean in this parish born 15th April 1834"</i> Source: NRS OPR Births 530/ 20 97 North Knapdale page 97 of 320	Page 72
S.	Meadow Bank Mine, by Carolyn Tucker, 2018 Source: Strathalbyn Mines, onecard network	Page 73
T.	Allan McLean – large loan In June 1877, Allan borrowed £2000 from Josephine Geyer by mortgaging 1191 acres on 17 properties. Source: – Land memorial 31/301 at State Records Office of SA, & notes by Don Gordon	Page 76

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Collinsfield land acquired by Allan (Red Hill and Koolunga)

Source: based on details collated by Maureen Edwards, nee Hickey??, in 1994

Summary

The main features of these transactions were:-

- ¼ acre in Agnes Street, near the Collinsfield railway station for £226 on 28th June – lot 20.
- Another property for £631 – CCXC – 218 – lease 112960.
- 1221 acres purchased from Phillip Ingerson for about £6750 on 10th June - sections 9, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 44 & 45.
- On the same day that Allan purchased several properties, he took out a mortgage on the properties. Thus it appears, if I am understanding this correctly, that he was purchasing the properties for £6750 by borrowing £5036 (75%).
- Over the next few years, Allan took out loans by mortgaging some of these properties.

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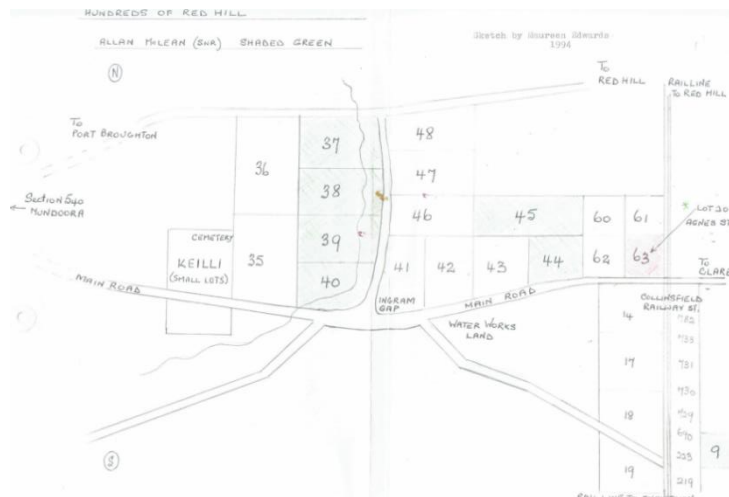
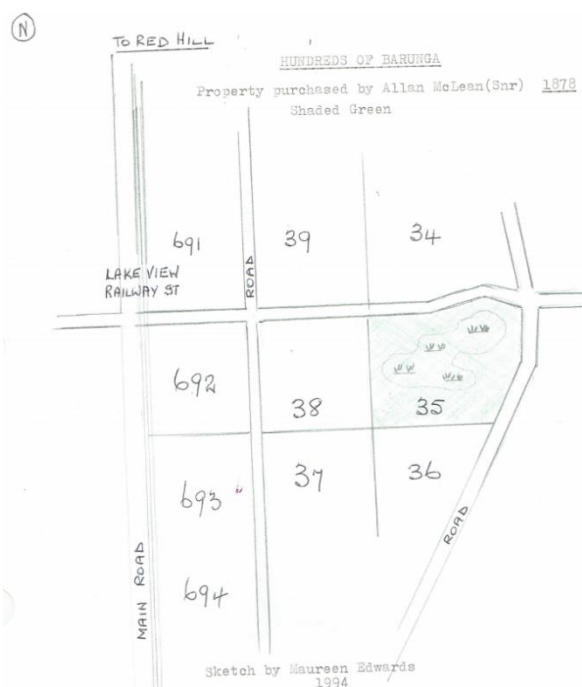
- Land purchased from Phillip Ingerson - transfer 86977 on 10th June 1878 for £6750/10/- – total of 1221 acres

- ☐ Sec 35– CT 206 acres (260? acres) Vol CCXXXI, Folio 147 in the Hundred of Barunga, County of Daly – was this in Koolunga (which is about 8 km east of Collinsfield – or closer to Collinsfield.
- ☐ Sec 9 — Land Grant 139 acres
- ☐ Sec 37, 38, 39 & 40 - Land Grant 614 acres
- ☐ Sec 44, 45 - Land Grant 262 acres -

CLXXIV – 69 - Hundred of Red Hill, Country of Daly
CLXLVII – 46 - Hundred of Red Hill, Country of Daly
CCXLVII – 151- Hundred of Red Hill, Country of Daly

- Lot 20, Agnes St, near the Collinsfield Railway Station - Section 63 (CCXC – 218) was 1 rood or quarter acre. This might have been purchased by Allan, with others, on 28th June 1880, for £226. (ref: Maureen Edwards)
- CCXC – 218 – lease 112960? - ?Land Grant – £631 – Allan McLean, farmer (ref: Maureen Edwards)
- Mortgages:

- ☐ On the same day that Allan McLean purchased section 9 (and other properties), he took out a mortgage on the properties with Philip Ingerson - Mortgage 86978 on 10th June 1878 for 5036 pounds. Thus it appears, if I am



understanding this correctly, that he was purchasing the properties for £6750 by borrowing £5036 (75%). This mortgage was later transferred from Phillip Ingerson to John Johnston and Alfred Bonnin on 22nd June 1880

- ☐ Another mortgage was taken out with Robert Haldane – Mortgage 101215 on 18th July 1879. Robert lent Allan £1855, 3 shillings 2 pence on 23rd June 1879.
- ☐ Australasian Hotel: There were several transactions with Allan's son William Donald McLean the owner of this is hotel. William (known as Donald) purchased it on 4th June 1879. A couple of weeks later, 17th June 1879, Donald took out a mortgage 100025 for a loan from Allan. (It is surprising that Allan gave a loan to his son at this time, given that Allan was taking out loan himself). And a week later, on 26th June, there was another mortgage 100412 this time, a loan from Robert Haldane to Allan (but why was this loan against Donald's property - this does not make sense, so this needs further checking). (ref: Maureen Edwards).
- ☐ He borrowed 113 pounds 10 shillings from Alfred Bonnin on 13th April 1881 – M 124325
- ☐ On 3rd Aug 1881, there was transfer 129364 from Robert Haldane to group (and what does this mean?). (ref: Maureen Edwards).
- Notations on sec 9 (139 acres):-
 - ☐ Land grant to Wentworth Cavenagh in 24th Feb 1873 for 250 pounds 2 shillings
 - ☐ Transfer # 44432 from Wentworth Cavenagh to Phillip Ingerson of Redhill, farmer of the above land, 24th May 1873.
 - ☐ Transfer # 86977 from Phillip Ingerson to Allan McLean of Strathalbyn, farmer of the xxxx land, 10th June 1878.
 - ☐ Mortgage # 86978 including also other property from Allan McLean to Phillip Ingerson, 10th June 1878.
 - ☐ Mortgage # 101215 from Allan McLean to Robert Haldane, 18th July 1879, including also other property
 - ☐ Transfer of the above mortgage # 86978 by endorsement 22nd June 1880 from Phillip Ingerson to John Johnston & Alfred Bonnin of Adelaide gentleman, 24th June 1880.
 - ☐ Mortgage # 124523 (including also other property) from Allan McLean to Alfred Bonnin, 13th April 1881.
 - ☐ Made under Seal of the Supreme Court dated 22nd April 1882. Office copy 24th April 1882. Including also other property.
 - ☐ Transfer # xxxx from John Johnston & Alfred Bonnin as mortgagees to George Angus Shand of near Collinsfield, farmer of the within land, 13th June 1882.
 - ☐ Transfer # 184481 from George Angus Shand to John Coffee of near Collinsfield of the above land, 5th Dec 1884.
 - ☐ Inheritance from John Coffee to Matthias Martin Coffee 14th Oct 1908
 - ☐ Matthias Martin Coffee still owned the land in 1942

Changes of ownership of section 9:-

- Feb 1873 - from the Crown to Wentworth Cavenagh
- May 1873 – from Wentworth Cavenagh to Phillip Ingerson
- June 1878 – from Phillip Ingerson to Allan McLean (Allan immediately took out a mortgage with Ingerson)
- June 1880 – Phillip Ingerson transferred the mortgage to John Johnston & Alfred Bonnin
- April 1882 – from Allan McLean (by order of the Supreme Court) to John Johnston & Alfred Bonnin.
- June 1882 – from John Johnston & Alfred Bonnin to George Angus Shand
- Dec 1884 – from George Angus Shand to John Coffee
- Oct 1908 – from John Coffee (estate) to Matthias Martin Coffee
- 1942 – Still owned by Matthias Martin Coffee

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Edwin McLean's letter in 1946

Source: 'Old Strathalbyn and Its People' by Nancy Gemmell, page 20

See J23 for comments about this letter.

I knew your father uncle Allan well. I was only about 15 years old. I am nearly 75 now. He came back from the north where he struck bad seasons and stayed here [Waterloo] with father [John] for some time. I think Mrs McLean [Catherine] was living then in Strathalbyn on a section of ground on the west of Strathalbyn [2617] and had a crop in, and my twin brother Alfred (who died at 35 just after his marriage and had one little girl), went up with uncle Allan and the old stripper and horses and took a bit of crop off. That section of ground, mostly built on now, is very valuable today. Well, your father [Allan] put in a few months building a couple of rooms and I waited on him, mostly. I remember one thing he told me. He said in Scotland, Lochaber, they used to have a race every year all round the town and he won it once, and he said he ate nothing but bread and cheese for a month before the race - I forget the prize. I just remember Allan, your brother, a fine looking man, worked on Burnside Estate, and I think I remember Jack, a dark young man. Of course I knew young Hughey and his family at Strathalbyn. I think they are all gone except Annie (Mrs Johnston). I believe she is still living, her husband is dead but I understand they did well over there in Western Australia in a general store. I know she was a nice looking young woman. Brother Alf and I went to her wedding at Uncle Hugheys in Strathalbyn. Well all the McLeans are gone now at Strathalbyn, but several grandchildren named Keough and some of them have grandchildren now and they mostly have trades and are doing quite well. There is not one drunkard in the lot.

Appendix C

‘Old Strathalbyn’ by Nancy Gemmell

pages 19 & 20



Catherine McLean, daughter of Col. Dawson (1823-1882).



Allan McLean (1813-1880). Allan McLean sold sections 2618, 2621, 2665, 2661, 2621, 2622, part 2660, 2632, 2634.

Allan McLean (1811-1880), son of Donald McLean, married Catherine Dawson (1823-1882) in 1844 at the Wheatsheaf Inn, Mount Barker. The family story is that they eloped and when old Colonel Dawson missed her at the dinner table and was told the news, he gave his remaining daughters a lecture — this was greeted with some amusement, after all he had done it first!

As a young man, Allan and his brother John planted the first wheat in South Australia for their father Donald at Marleston before they came to Strathalbyn. Allan lived at ‘Meadowbank’ near Strathalbyn and gradually increased his holdings, buying from Thomas land on the east that became part of Burnside when he sold out in 1878. After the sale The Smithers Argus reported that ‘one section of 174 acres fetched £11 an acre’, this was I think the land with Donald McLean’s old house on it on the banks of the river section 2603. The Argus went on ‘All brought good prices and all bought by local men, showing their confidence in the district is not worn out. Although a great many farmers have cleared out and gone away, there are some still left who enjoy a good opinion of the south.’ This was part of the great expansion of Wm Merchant and the growth of graziers.

Allan and Catherine had five sons and six daughters, repeating McLean names and thoroughly confusing the researcher. John, James and Archie probably moved north with their parents. Jane Hamilton McLean married Frank Inglis in 1868, a younger brother of Elizabeth Gemmell, and Christina married Edward Stark from ‘Angas Bank’ but was widowed in 1875. Mary Dawson McLean married John Thomas Nutt. Margaret McLean married T. Power.

Writing to a cousin in 1846, Edwin McLean, son of John and grandson of Donald said:

I knew your father Uncle Allan well. I was only about 15 years old, I am nearly 75 now. He came back from the north where he struck bad seasons and stayed

here with Father for some time. I think Mrs McLean was living then in Strathalbyn on a section of ground on the west of Strathalbyn and had a crop in, and my twin brother Alfred (who died at 35 just after his marriage and had one little girl), went up with Uncle Allan and the old stripper and horses and took a bit of crop off. That section of ground, mostly built on now, is very valuable today. Well, your father put in a few months building a couple of rooms and I waited on him, mostly. I remember one thing he told me. He said in Scotland, Lochaber, they used to have a race every year all round the town and he won it once, and he said he ate nothing but bread and cheese for a month before the race — I forget the prize. I just remember Allan, your brother, a fine looking man, worked on Burnside Estate, and I think I remember Jack, a dark young man. Of course I knew young Hughey and his family at Strathalbyn. I think they are all gone except Annie (Mrs Johnston). I believe she is still living, her husband is dead but I understand they did well over there in Western Australia in a general store. I know she was a nice looking young woman, brother Alf and I went to her wedding at Uncle Hughey’s in Strathalbyn. Well all the McLeans are gone now at Strathalbyn, but several grandchildren named Keough and some of them have grandchildren now and they mostly have trades and are doing quite well. There is not one drunkard in the lot...

The section farmed by Catherine McLean was 2617 inherited from her mother Jane Dawson in 1885.

Allan McLean for 1857-1930 married Sarah Thompson, (1861-1937), in 1878. She was the daughter of George and Catherine Thompson who lived in Alfred Place, Strathalbyn. Allan was employed at ‘Collinsfield’ for a time but joined the Railways in 1882 and was stationed at Mt Barker from where he retired in 1927. They had three sons Laurence, Robert, and Sinclair and one daughter Eva, born in 1886.

Obituary: An old colonist in the person of Mrs Allan McLean, died at her daughter’s (Mrs Haldane’s) residence, Hackney, on Thursday last, aged 67. The deceased lady arrived in the colony in 1837 in company with her parents, Mr and Mrs Dawson, who took up their abode at Strathalbyn as pioneers of the district. She was born at Teheran, in Persia, where her father held a position in the army of the Shah as Drill Instructor, and was decorated with the Star of Persia, a medal of great value, and still held by members of the family. The deceased lady was a brilliant conversationalist and excellent at repartee, and could vividly describe the Shah’s gardens at Teheran and occurrences which she witnessed in Constantinople as a girl. She was married in South Australia to the late Mr Allan McLean, of Strathalbyn, the South Australian pioneer ploughman, who died about two years ago. The late Mrs McLean leaves five sons and six daughters and numerous grandchildren.

‘Their Name Liveth’ by John Mathews published in 1998.

There are thirteen biographies, four of which are of particular relevance to the descendants of Donald & Christina:-

- Chapter 1: Donald and Christina McPhee
- Chapter 2: James Dawson and Jean Hamilton
- Chapter 4: John Haldane and Janet McCredie
- Chapter 11: Allan McLean and Catherine Dawson

Extracts have been placed on the website www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com.

The book is thoroughly researched and nicely presented.

It can be purchased for \$xxx plus postage by contacting John:-

- Email:
jhmrt@gmail.com
- Post:
John Mathews
164 Dumas Street,
McKellar ACT 2617

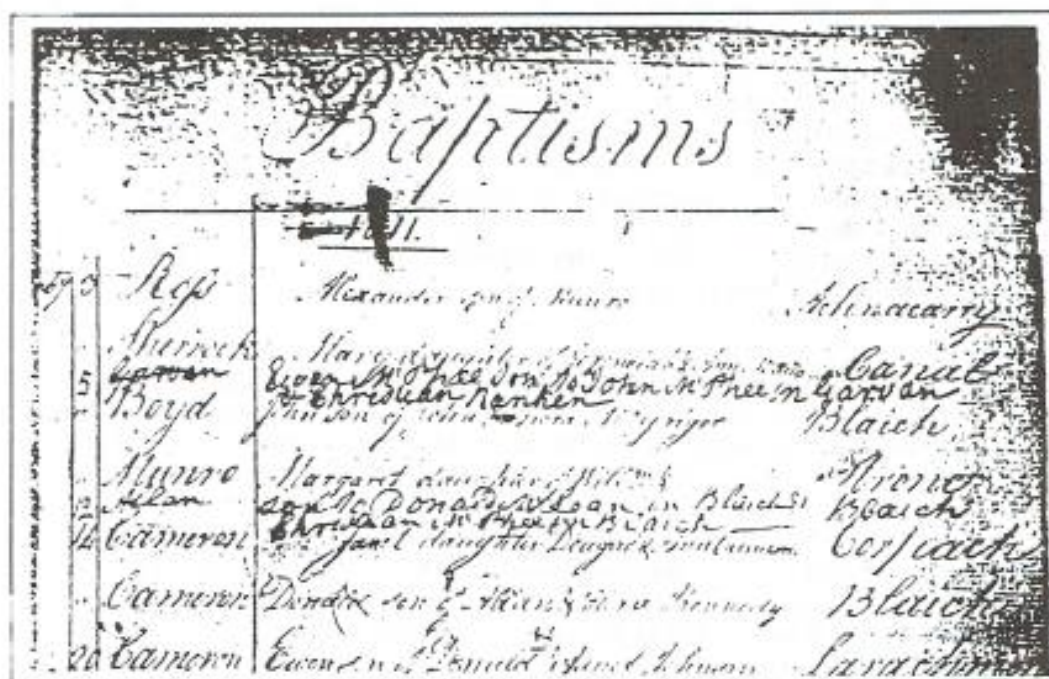
ALLAN McLEAN and CATHERINE DAWSON

Allan McLean, the eldest son of Donald and Christina (nee McPhee) McLean of Blaich, was born on 11th February and baptised on 12th February 1811 in the parish of Kilmallie, Argyllshire, Scotland.

Catherine Dawson was the eldest daughter of James and Jane (nee Hamilton) Dawson. She was born about 1824, probably in Persia where her father was an Artillery Officer in the British Army and later Drill Instructor for the army of the Shah.

Allan was described as a 24-year-old labourer on his registration for free passage to South Australia received 19th August 1837. The entry for his "Trade or Calling" has a couple of hyphens before the word "laborer" [sic], so his actual application may have stated "farm labourer" or "agricultural labourer" which would have more in keeping with his background at Duisky Estate. His age at the time was in fact 26 years. His application was numbered 1373 and he was allocated embarkation number 722.

The application for free passage for Catherine Dawson, 15-year-old domestic servant, was entered into the register on 22nd October 1838 and numbered 3273. Her allotted embarkation number was 1746. If her age at death was correctly recorded in her obituary and her age correctly recorded on her marriage certificate, then Catherine would have still been 14 years old at the time of her application. Many in similar circumstances would have given their age as 15 years in order to qualify for free passage. In the early days of emigration to the new colony, no doubt the Commissioners did not apply this Regulation too strictly, particularly if the person would have had their 15th birthday on the long voyage or soon after arriving in the colony.



Extract from Baptism Register for Parish of Kilmallie showing that of Allan McLean

Following the disembarkation of the family from the *Navarino* in South Australia, Allan McLean re-embarked and sailed in her to Hobart in January 1838. He returned with bullocks, a dray, a horse, and some seed wheat which he and his brother John planted on 20 acres of Section 50, his father's property west of the Town of Adelaide.

He was still shown as being resident there in District "A" on the 1841 Census of South Australia but probably moved to Strathalbyn in 1842 or 1843 after his father started purchasing land in that area. In 1844, Allan McLean and Catherine Dawson "eloped" to be married at the "Wheatsheaf Inn" at Mt. Barker, about 12 miles north of Strathalbyn. It is told that James Dawson was told of this when Catherine failed to appear at the dinner table. His reaction was to give his other daughters a lecture against such a thing but they did not take it seriously as their parents had done the same thing [1]. Witnesses to the marriage on 29th February were a James Dawson and Donald Gollan. The James Dawson was probably Catherine's eldest brother who was about the same age as Donald Gollan.

Allan established his home "Meadow Bank" on Section 2624, a mile northeast of the town and just to the north of his father's Sections 2632 and 2603. It would seem that Section 2624 may have been bought by Donald McLean at least jointly with Allan. Donald was over 60 years old when the family came to Strathalbyn and Allan, as the eldest son, probably worked his father's properties for him. From Donald's Will, Allan inherited part of Section 2603 in 1855.

On 17th April 1846, the Commissioner of Crown Lands granted Donald and Allan McLean licence number 32 for Mundoo Island which is at the mouth of the River Murray, southeast of Hindmarsh Island.

Allan's farming ventures prospered and he invested the profits in more property, mainly southeast of Strathalbyn towards Lake Victoria, and part of lot 175 in the Port of Goolwa. "Meadow Bank" also became the centre of their family life, as the venue for the births of their children, the marriages of their daughters and the birth of many of their grandchildren. So successful was Allan with his farming and grazing that he was invited to be a member of the newly-formed Agricultural Bureau late in 1855.

In the 1870s the land around Strathalbyn became progressively less productive for farming and Allan decided to sell up there and join the growing numbers moving north to farming areas being opened up north of Adelaide. The advertisement of 23rd May 1878 for the clearing sale described "Meadow Bank" as consisting of nine rooms, and having a well and appliances, a sheep dip, and drying pens. Stock included horses, cattle and pigs and there was a good range of agricultural implements and dairy equipment. The contents of the house included an excellent piano along with much cedar furniture.

The following month, Allan purchased properties in the Hundred of Redhill, about 25 miles south of the present city of Port Pirie. They included Lot 20 at Collinsfield, quite near the Collinsfield railway station. However, this part of the country proved to be in a marginal rainfall area and crop failures led to Allan declaring himself insolvent on 3rd May 1882. Very soon afterwards the Court acquitted the insolvency [2].

Allan and Catherine would have been accompanied north by their seven youngest children who were not married at that time and probably also by their widowed daughter Christine and her three young children. When Allan became insolvent, only the youngest two were still unmarried. These four moved to the property of Robert Haldane and his wife, Allan's and Catherine's fourth child, Eliza Ann. The Haldanes farmed at Mount Templeton, 12 miles northwest of Balaklava, in South Australia's lower north region.

In 1885, Catherine McLean inherited parts of Sections 2613 and 2617, just west of Strathalbyn town, from her mother Jane Dawson. Allan and Catherine returned to Strathalbyn, probably only with son John. Allan helped his brother John on the latter's property at Angas Plains, and also planted a crop on his wife's inherited land. He built some rooms on the latter for them to live in.

South Australian Directories show that Allan and Catherine had moved to Adelaide by 1889 [3], their address in that year being given as "Clark Street, Norwood". The editions for the next two years showed "William Street, Norwood", only a short walk from Clark Street, and these were the final two entries for Allan McLean. On 6th September 1890, Allan McLean died at the age of 79 years. He had been a colonist for all but the first twelve months since South Australia's Proclamation. According to his death certificate and death notice [4], he died at Plympton, a southwest suburb of Adelaide. Probably by coincidence, this is only a short distance from Section 50 where he had helped grow the first wheat in South Australia 52 years before. It is possible that he had gone to pay a final visit to one of his granddaughters, Florence May (then aged nearly fourteen years), at the home of her aunt Margaret who was Allan's youngest daughter.

His widow then lived with her divorced daughter, Eliza Ann Haldane, at Hackney on the northeast corner of the city of Adelaide. It was there that she died on 21st January 1892 [5]. Her obituary mentioned her family's pioneering role at Strathalbyn, her life in Persia and her late "pioneer ploughman" husband [6]. She was survived by 5 sons, 6 daughters and "numerous grandchildren". About 40 members of the family attended the funeral.



Allan McLean (1811 - 1890)



Catherine McLean (ca.1823 - 1892)

Their eldest son, William Donald, was born on 25th November 1845 and died on 7th September 1911. He married Margaret Ann Homer in 1875 and they had two sons.

Their second child and eldest daughter was Jane Hamilton (after her maternal grandmother), born on 17th July 1847. In December 1868 she married Frank Inglis who had been born the year after his parents and his many young siblings arrived on the *Fairfield* with Jane's maternal grandmother, aunts and uncle. They had four daughters and three sons. The widowed Jane re-married late in life and died in 1916.

Christina McPhee McLean, born 11th July 1849, was named after her paternal grandmother. She married Edward Stark in 1868 but was left a widow with a young daughter and two infant sons in 1875. She and her children probably went north with her parents and unmarried brothers and sisters in 1878. In 1880, she married Peter Kelly who farmed near Redhill. They had two more daughters before Peter died in 1883. Her sons moved to Western Australia in adulthood and Christina followed with her daughters. She died in Western Australia in 1936.

Allan's and Catherine's third daughter was Eliza Ann, born 25th March 1851. In 1873 she married Robert Haldane of Gawler. Gawler is north of Adelaide and about 60 miles from Strathalbyn. She was probably introduced to Robert through her mother's sister, Eliza Willock (nee Dawson), who had married Robert's much older brother Thomas. After their marriage, Robert farmed at Mount Templeton, twelve miles northwest of Balaklava. Robert had been appointed as a Justice of the Peace on 8th May 1872 [7] but resigned this appointment on 8th November 1878. They had four daughters and three sons of whom their first born (a son) was stillborn. They supported her parents for a short time in the mid-1880s after her father became temporarily insolvent. They returned to Adelaide in 1883 prior to the birth of their sixth child. On that birth certificate, Robert was shown as a farmer of Dover Street, Maylands. However, they themselves petitioned for divorce on 20th December 1886. The 1887 edition of the South Australian Directory [3] shows Eliza Ann and a woman named Kelly (her widowed sister Christina ?) ran a boardinghouse at the eastern end of Pirie Street, Adelaide, while Robert was listed as a farmer at Edwardstown, three miles south of the city. On 16th May 1881, Robert had appointed John Kelly, solicitor of Adelaide, to act on his behalf in settling business dealings with Allan McLean, his father-in-law, and Allan's son Donald. At this time, Robert's signature appeared very infirm. Robert died on 22nd November 1888, and Eliza Ann continued running a boarding house, first in Pirie Street and then on North Terrace opposite the Adelaide Hospital. She must have also had a residence in nearby Hackney where her mother died in 1892. Eliza Ann died in 1911.

The second son of Allan and Catherine, James Dawson McLean was born on 25th June 1853 and died in 1931. Late in life he married a widow, Mrs. Pearson.

The fourth daughter was Mary Dawson McLean, born 23rd October 1855, twelve days after the death of her paternal grandfather. On 18th September 1878, Mary gave birth to a daughter christened Florence May. The birth was registered at Clare on 20th September, the informant being Mary's sister's husband, Robert Haldane, farmer, of the Hundred of Everard (which included Mount Templeton). Robert informed that he was the father of the child. He also gave the mother's name as "Mary Haldane, formerly McLean" but this could not be possible as he was still married to Eliza Ann. Mary may have gone to stay with her older sister at the end of 1877. Alternatively, Robert and Eliza Ann may have visited Strathalbyn for Christmas 1877 because their son Percy was born at Strathalbyn in February 1878.

In 1879, Mary married John Thomas Nutt, whose father Rowland Nutt had completed a bridge over the River Angas in Strathalbyn in May 1867, then commenced the first stage of the tramway extension from Goolwa to Strathalbyn and constructed the decking on the 274-foot long viaduct over Currency Creek in about 1868 or 1869. Mary and John farmed at

Yatina and Orroroo in the north of South Australia, where they had ten children. Mary, died at Orroroo in 1940 in her 85th year. Mary's daughter Florence stayed with Allan and Catherine McLean initially, and later for a short time with her aunt Eliza Ann Haldane who treated her rather cruelly, which would tend to suggest that Eliza Ann believed that Robert was her father.

By 1890, Florence was living with her youngest aunt, Margaret, at Plympton and throughout her life she was particularly fond of Margaret's two daughters. After she left school, Florence May worked as a domestic for the Scammell family, whose company became Faulding's Ltd., wholesale chemists. In 1902, she married Charles Thomas Gaffney Mathews (see Chapter 10) and they had five children, the youngest of whom is the author's father. She died on 3 July 1978, two months before her one hundredth birthday.

Allan McLean, junior, was born on 11th November 1857. He moved north with his parents in mid-1878 and was described as "of Collinsfield" at his marriage to Sarah Thompson of Strathalbyn, for which he returned to his birth place. After his farming venture at Naracoorte in the State's southeast failed in 1885, he returned to Strathalbyn and joined the South Australian Railways and had to move around much of the time but his family home remained in Strathalbyn. They had three sons and a daughter. He died in 1930.

The eighth child of Allan and Catherine McLean was Catherine Graham, born 9th April 1860. In 1879, she married Alfred Bradley in Collinsfield and they later moved to Adelaide for a short period before returning to country life in the southeast of the State. They had four daughters and a son. She died in 1915.

Rachel McLean was born on 21st March 1863 and married William Hornby in 1881 at Redhill. William was a worker in the hotel at Collinsfield and the marriage was not favoured by her parents. In 1884, they obtained their own land and by prudent management progressed from a life of hardship to relative comfort. They had seven daughters and four sons. William died at the age of 89 years and Rachel died the following year aged 86 years.

The youngest son of Allan and Catherine was John Stuart Duncan, born on 12th July 1865. He married in Adelaide in 1887 to Susannah Mary Beaber of Balaklava and they had one son. John later re-married and died in 1926.

The youngest child, Margaret, was born on 16th February 1869, at which time her oldest brother was 23 years of age. She was only 9 years old when her family moved north and aged 15 years when she married Thomas Power in 1884 at the Adelaide suburb of Norwood. She was widowed with a young daughter when Thomas died about 1892, but re-married Henry Gifford about a year later and had another daughter. In the mid-1890s they moved to Western Australia where Margaret died in 1906. The two half-sisters returned to live in Adelaide.

McLean - Dawson references

- [1] *Old Strathalbyn and its People*, Nancy Gemmell, Adelaide, 1995.
- [2] *The Adelaide Observer*, Saturday, 8th July, 1882.
- [3] *Sands and McDougall's South Australian Directories*, various.
- [4] *The Advertiser*, Tuesday, 9th September, 1890.
- [5] *ibid*, Saturday, 23rd January, 1892.
- [6] *The South Australian Register*, Wednesday, 27th January, 1892.
- [7] *South Australian Government Gazette*, 9th May, 1872 (page 642).

Sniff

IMAGINARY DIARY FOUND IN THE ATTIC OF THE AUCHANANDA'S RUINS !!!

- See notes, below

4th April 1837

And so I start my second book.

As I have been saying, Ewen is taking the Fort Round as just a joke. But I am determined to cross that line in front of him and everyone else. I have my name to defend. Ewen keeps saying that I only won last year because of his cramp. Well it matters what you eat. I am eating plenty of bread, and cheese when I can get some, and that will give me the power to keep going and I will not get cramp. And the year before, I won even though there was so much rain. I can run in any conditions and Ewen can't deny that. So I want our name on the Fort Round board at the Swine and Deer again, three McLeans in a row.

Mr Dugall McMillan was yarning with *athair* (father) last night after he arrived back from Glasgow a few days ago. They were at it 'till so late. He was full of the Wakefield meeting in West End last week. McMillan had been helping a friend take some spuds to market and stayed on to hear all the excitement about the new colony. Wakefield railed against convict settlements. He said how can a town rely on felons? How can there be a civil society without plenty of free labourers rather than slaves? He was against cheap land because it would be too easy for labourers to buy land and then stop working for their master because they were more earnest in clearing and working their own newly bought land. McDermott wouldn't stop talking and *athair* wouldn't stop listening.

But me, I could not hear him out as I retired early and with the race is in front of me.

6th April

Well, I faded at the end but John was a real surprise. It looks good on the board right in front of them when the coalers come after their shifts. "Fort Round" is big red letters at the top the list of winners. Three McLeans in a row - 1833 Allan McLean, 1834 Allan McLean, 1835 John McLean. That looks good after all those years of McDonalds. The McLean name is grand.

Ewen wasn't seen even though he couldn't blame any cramp this time. You will not see 1836 Ewen McLean or any other year. But I tell you, getting off the bread and a heaving into a feast of porridge was well taken.

9th April

Athair keeps talking about that Mr Wakefield. Three things have stuck in his mind. The adventure and opportunity to get out of this mess we are in. There is plenty of land - at a price. And free passage for us all. What is worrying him is, how can we buy land but also get free passage. He had questioned McMillan closely about who one should see about the land and who one should see about the passage. McMillan did not ken why athair was wanting these details and McMillan did not have the answers anyway. He also quizzed him about what farming equipment was there. And McMillan had plenty of answers on this. He said that they could get some stock from van Dieman's land. Athair said that he would be putting in a crop like he did here in Duskie and would use the same plough.

Athair, the old schemer was figuring ways we could be land owners AND labourers. We had to somehow not let the Commissioners, who arrange the assisted passage, know that we were buying land from the South

Australian Company. Athair had a solution to this – we would go into both of their offices on the same day so they would not know each other's business – it would all be settled before they knew what each other had approved. He seemed well satisfied with that idea and sat back to draw on his pipe. Then he quickly leaned forward and hit his fist on the table. His thick eyebrows knitted and his lips tightened. "The plough" he shouted as his fist hit the table again. His gaelic flowed as he cursed the trap he could see. How could we pretend to be assisted labourers when we had the McGromit plough in the hold. Such an agricultural item is not the tool of trade of a labourer – it is the badge of a landowner.

Athair was thinking that he would take as little with him as he could – but he had to have the McGromit. But Christie would insist on the family bible athair bought from her uncle – and the cups – and the puzzle – and we are certainly not going without our Jacobite flag.

Athair is in a dream. He is talking about the colony of South Australia but nothing will come of it. It will fade like the herring and the whisky adventures. Sure the last few years have been poor in spuds but the rains will come again and this is what we are sure of. We will get the inland revenue people off our backs next year.

Then it came to him. Get Robert Rankine to list the plough as his property. But this led to arguments with the loud mouth Worthy. Worthington Nichols liked the idea of intrigue and out-smarting Warming. But he hated others getting the better of him. He threatened to tell Captain Warming the whole story.

NOTES:

- We are imagining that this diary was found in the old Auchanada's homestead when it had been standing unoccupied for many years.
- This is a fictional account based on what we actually know. Nothing in this account is inconsistent with the 'facts' but we have taken liberties in filling in the gaps. We have tried to build the fiction directly on the facts have not created any completely new events – ie have kept closely to the facts – just filled them out. For example, the conversations might have occurred and the personalities might have been as described – but these are just educated guesses. Nothing can be relied upon unless it is in the official biography.
- The diary is a fragment, written at the time that the family were about to migrate.

- A big deal about planting the swag of money – lots of stories around this –how he cashed in his possessions – who became suspicious, where he hid it. Who almost found it. – connections to hiding on the river bank, highway robbery, and the panic over the will – a pattern here.
- The farewells and then the dray ride from Fort William to London – doubts about whether they could buy the land, be approved as assisted and then get births on the boat all within two weeks. Who did they stay with, what else happened when they were in London – Christina’s doubts.
- What is ‘assisted’?
 - How much do you pay for a ‘free’ passage. Who do you pay.
 - Do you arrange your booking at the same time as your assisted concession? - Do you see the same clerk for both?.
 - Athair arranged for xxxx together –
 - Us boys stayed at the Fox and Hound – and Mary was outside in the crowded streets – holding little Hugh. While big Hugh went in with athair and mathair (mother) with the girls. They came out triumphant with their papers. Then us boys and Mary found our way into the crowded office. A sense of excitement and anticipation. Bumped into Robert Rankine there he said that he would help with the plough – he was paying for himself so why was he there?

Athair arranged for Hugh to apply for

On 19th August 1837 (this date is probably not correct if they actually sailed on the 6th)

- Application 1376, embarkation 720 – Donald (farmer – age marked as 35 instead of 65), Christina (wife??? aged 25 instead of 46), Ann 14, Rachel 12, Marg 9, Jane 7
- Allan’s application could not be found but his embarkation was 722. Labourer. Was 26 yrs but marked as xxxx
- Ewen (Hugh the elder) was 1371 and 721. Shepherd. Was 23 but marked as xxxx
- John’s was 1372 and 723. Shepherd. Was 21 but marked as xxxx
- Archibald’s was 724. Shepherd. Was 16 but marked as xxxx
- Mary’s was 1373 and 726. Servant. Was 19 but marked as xxxx
- Hugh the younger - not counted as he was only 15 months old.

Occupations were given to correspond with those wanted in the new colony – Donald as farmer, Allan as labourer, Ewen, John and Archibald as shepherds and Mary as a servant. Donald, already 65??, gave his age as 35 and Christina stated 25 instead of 46.

To obtain free passage the applicant had to be under 40 years so there was much lowering of true ages.

Where do you pay for the land. Across town at the xxxxx office.

What ‘luggage’ can you take with you.

Men – Donald 65, Allan 26, Ewen 23, John 21 & Arch 16

Women – Christina 46, Mary 19, Ann 14, Rachel 12, Marg 9, Jane 7

Baby – Ewen 1

Personalities

- Donald 65 – a schemer who makes others do the work
- Christina 46 – worrier – overwhelmed, illiterate, confused – or power behind the throne
- Allan 26 – competitive
- Hugh 23 – complainer, doubter, cautious, talker, always something to say, ‘the mouth’
- John 21 – the worker
- Mary 19 – mother
- Arch 16 – the striver, ambitious – ideas man
- Ann 14 – dreamer
- Rachel 12 – avoids work

- Marg 9 – drawer
- Jane 7 – mischief maker
- Ewen 1 -

Whisky

Drought

Inland revenue

Plough

Purchase land

Tickets

Explanations

- Based on what we know
- Athair (Gaelic) = father
- Dugall McMillan
- Wakefield

Passengers:-

- Rain
- Teakle
- Jeffery
- Nichols
- Nixon
- Capt Warming,

..ooOOoo..

Letters to the editor – 1887 & 1888

About Allan McLean's plight late in his life and claims that he was the first ploughman in the colony

With notes by Don Gordon – April 2020

There was a series of a dozen letters which were started about concerns for Allan McLean's recent impoverishment but then quickly became a debate about who was the first ploughman in the colony.

1: *TR Haldane on 10th Dec 1887*

A SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PIONEER PLOUGHMAN

There is still amongst us the very man who turned the first sod in South Australia – a pioneer of 1836. The person alluded to is Mr Alan Mclean, late of Strathalbyn. Now a very old man but in indigent circumstances. He arrived in the colony with his parents, his father being Mr Donald McLean, who died many years ago. On their arrival they took up land at the Reedbeds in 1837; there they (father and son) commenced farming. Mr Alan McLean claims the right to be the first man who turned the soil with a plough. He is now nearly 80 years old and very frail. At one time Mr McLean was very wealthy, but at the moment he is as poor as Lazarus. A good old honest man he is, but rather inclined to hide his poverty. If any man has a right to a place in the Old Colonists' Court in our Exhibition it is Mr McLean; but I think his shillings are few and far between. I appeal to a generous public for some practical help for him in his old age. He can be seen any day at his residence, Power's stables, Carrington Street. Old Alan can spin a good story of olden days. Old colonists know him, but do not know his circumstances. My object in making it public is that he will not do it himself. His excuse is, 'They won't look at me now, now that I am poor'. Rally up and assist a brother pioneer in his old age. T R Haldane, East Terrace" (SA Register 10th Dec 1887, p3 & Evening Journal 10th Dec, p8)

Notes:-

- This was the first of three letters from Haldane.
- Ploughing – who?:
 - ☐ Allan was *"the very man who turned the first sod in South Australia. ... the first man who turned the soil with a plough"*.
- Ploughing – where?:
 - ☐ *"On their arrival they took up land at the Reedbeds in 1837; there they (father and son) commenced farming."*
- Ploughing – when?:
 - ☐ 1837
- Help:
 - ☐ *"If any man has a right to a place in the Old Colonialists Court Court in our Exhibition it is Mr McLean"*
 - ☐ *"I appeal to a generous public for some practical help for him in his old age. Rally up and assist a brother pioneer in his old age"*
- Other details:
 - ☐ Haldane stated that Allan's residence was Power's stable in Carrington street in 1887. This would have been the residence of his daughter, Margaret, who married a horse-breaker Thomas Power.
 - ☐ The Old Colonist's Court was an exhibit within the Adelaide Jubilee International Exhibition held in North Terrace Adelaide, in 1887-1888.



Photos by S Solomon – photo collection B10212 – items 1, 34 & 35 – State Library of South Australia

- ☐ There is no direct evidence that Allan was acknowledged at this exhibition, however, from Solomon's photos (above), maybe there might have been photos from the old colonialist banquet which included Allan (check this)

Errors:

- ☐ The McLeans arrived in 1837, not 1836 – and ploughed in 1838, not 1837.'
- ☐ Allan has two 'll's – not one 'l'.

..ooOOoo..

2: Missing letter – RMB's reply to TR Haldane's letter [research: Possibly in the SA Register on 11th Dec 1887]

..ooOOoo..

3: Allan McLean on 12th Dec 1887.

WHO TURNED THE FIRST SOD IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA?

To the Editor. Sir—*In answer to inquiries made through the medium of the newspapers, and R. M. B.'s reply to T. R. H., I beg to state that I arrived in South Australia by the ship Navarrino in January or February 1837, and immediately took up land at the Reedbeds, having brought my plough with me from Glasgow. I commenced farming at once, only waiting for the soil to get soft for the plough. In April or May 1837, I turned the first sod with the plough the people already in the colony telling me I was mad to try farming there at the Reedbeds, as nothing would grow. A few years afterwards I removed to the other side of the hills—to Strathalbyn—where I settled and resided for more than forty years. I have raised up a family, four sons and seven daughters—eleven in all, and all alive. I am 78 years of age, and well known by all old colonists, who will acknowledge me. If I live to January next I will be fifty-one years in the colony, as one of the pioneers of the colony. The ship I arrived in was the Navarrino, Captain C. Warman. I am, Sir, &c, Allan McLean - 78 years of age. Carrington -street, December 10. P.S.—Between January and April 1857 I went to Tasmania for cattle and horses.* (SA Register, 12th Dec 1887, p7 & Evening Journal, 12th Dec, p4)

Notes:-

- This is Allan's first of two letters to the editor.
- Plough - which?:
 - ☐ Allan wrote that "[I] brought my plough with me from Glasgow"
- Ploughing – who?:
 - ☐ Allan claimed "I turned the first sod with the plough"
- Ploughing – where?:
 - ☐ Reedbeds
- Ploughing – when?:
 - ☐ "immediately took up land at the Reedbeds"
 - ☐ "I commenced farming at once, only waiting for the soil to get soft for the plough"
 - ☐ "in April or May 1837"
- Errors:-
 - ☐ The McLeans arrived in December 1837 rather than January or February 1837 – Allan arrived back from VDL in March 1838.
 - ☐ The ship is spelled with one 'r'.
 - ☐ "It was the third ship, the first being the Buffalo, the second the Coromandel, and the third the Navarino". In fact, the Buffalo arrived in December 1836, the Coromandel arrived in January 1837 and the Navarino on 6th December 1837. There were 9 ships from the UK on 1836 and the Navarino was the last of 12 ships in 1838. See also letter 10 from 'Old Salt', below.
 - ☐ "I arrived in South Australia by the ship Navarrino in January or February 1837, and immediately took up land at the Reedbeds". Their land was at Hilton, not Reedbeds. They took up the land at Hilton in late June or early July.

- Comments:
 - ☐ See the heading RELATIONSHIPS, below, for a discussion about the connections between the McLean, Haldane and Rankin families.
 - ☐ Allan stated that he *'immediately took up land at the Reedbeds (and) commenced ploughing at once, only waiting for the soil to get soft for the plough. In April or May 1837, I turned the first sod with the plough'*. In order for ploughing to be undertaken at the Reedbeds, some land must have been cleared, and there must have been some rains by April or May 1838.
 - ☐ He mentions the Reedbeds, but surprisingly does not mention either town half acre 57 in Hindley Street nor 80 acres in Hilton.
 - ☐ Reedbeds were where the suburbs of Fulham, Lockleys & Underdale are now. It is about 6 kms northwest of the 80 acres and 8 kms west of the town half-acre. It is unlikely that Allan, (even allowing for mis-remembering after half a century), would equate/conflate/confuse the Reedbeds with Hilton.
 - ☐ In the early 1838, the only land owned were the town acres. No country sections were available – surveying had not been completed so none could be allocated. The McLeans had a half town acre, but it is not known why Allan did not plough this land. The McLeans were waiting for their county section to be allocated to them. They were eventually allocated an 80 acre farm in Hilton in June 1838 - so in the meantime it appears that Allan started using land which did not belong to him (or to anyone else) in the Reedbeds in April & May – a few months before the McLeans were allocated their own farmland in Hilton.
- Research: Who was RMB? Where is the letter from this person?
- Other details:
 - ☐ Allan confirmed that he was living in Carrington Street
 - ☐ That he went to Tasmania xxxxxx

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4. TR Haldane on 13th Dec 1887

WHO TURNED THE FIRST SOIL WITH THE PLOUGH?

To the editor, Sir – *Should Mr Allan McLean prove he was the first ploughman who turned the soil with his plough, I beg to suggest that some tangible present should be given to him on the 28th of this month. It is scarcely likely he would be able to go to the Bay to see the sports, but some little memento in honour of being the first ploughman should be presented to him. He is indeed worthy of some help. All old colonist will concur with me that Mr McLean has indeed been a good old colonist. Fifty-one years in the colony, and father of eleven children, and all alive and all good colonists. It would be a pity to see the old man want. I appeal again to all kindly disposed colonists to do something. I suggest that the Editor will take charge of any donations that may be sent, the total sum to be handed over to some old colonist for the presentation on the 28th inst. There are many in the colony who can substantiate what the old man says himself. All other aspirants are out of it altogether, old Allan being the pioneer ploughman.* I am, Sir, &c, T R Haldane (SA Register 13th Dec 1887, p3 & SA Observer 17th Dec p12)

Notes:-

- This is Haldane's second of three letters to the Editor.
- Ploughing – who:
 - ☐ Allan "was the first ploughman who turned the soil with this plough all other aspirants are out of it altogether, old Allan being the pioneer ploughman".
- Ploughing – where
 - ☐ Nothing stated
- Ploughing – when
 - ☐ Nothing stated
- Help:
 - ☐ *"He is indeed worthy of some help..... It would be a pity to see the old man want. I appeal again to all kindly disposed colonists to do something."*
 - ☐ *"I beg to suggest that some tangible present should be given to him on the 28th of this month some little memento in honour of being the first ploughman should be presented to him I suggest that the Editor will take charge of any donations that may be sent, the total sum to be handed over to some old*

colonist for the presentation on the 28th inst.” The 28th December is the date of the sports at the Holdfast Bay to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the colony in 1836.

- ☐ There are no indications that Allan was ever presented with a memento or donations.

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5: Robert Rankine on 14th Dec 1887

To the editor. Sir—In your issue of Saturday last appears a letter from ‘T. R. Haldane’, appealing to the public for assistance to Mr. Allan McLean, and stating that he (A. McLean) was the first ploughman who turned the first sod in South Australia. There are a few mistakes in Mr. Haldane’s letter which I wish to correct. Mr. Donald McLean and family, consisting of himself and wife, five sons and five daughters, arrived in the colony per ship Navarino, and landed at Holdfast Bay in the month of December 1837. Mr. D. McLean having purchased an 80 acre section (in London) found on arrival here that he could not select his land till after the preliminary land-order holders had selected theirs, which they did in the month of April 1838. Before that time no country land was occupied; therefore no ploughing had been done, except two or three little patches about the town, viz., one patch on the Torrens near what was Buffalo Row, which was growing with paddy, and also a patch in North Adelaide, known as Hack’s Garden, sown with wheat, and a patch sown with barley near South Terrace belonging to the South Australian Company. So that Mr A McLean’s claim as to being the first ploughman who turned the first sod in South Australia is not correct. Before Mr. D. McLean selected his land, Mr. A. McLean went to Tasmania and brought a few working bullocks, which they worked about town and on the Bay and Port roads. Mr. D. McLean selected a first-class agricultural section adjoining the late Dr. Everard’s land, and not at the Reedbeds, where he lived for some time, when he and his family moved to Strathalbyn, where a number of the family married and settled on land of their own, and were considered to be well-to-do farmers. I am sorry to think that Mr A. McLean, after having reared a family of eleven children, is so poor in circumstances as to be obliged to ask the public for assistance. Surely some of his children are able to support their parent, or in they all so destitute of filial affection for their father that they will not? If they will not assist willingly the law ought to compel them. I am, Sir, &c. Robert Rankine, Stockport, December 12. (SA Register, 13th Dec, p3 & Evening Journal, 14th December 1887, p4 & SA Observer, 17th Dec 1887, p12)

Notes:-

- Ploughing – who:
 - ☐ Mr A McLean’s claim as to being the first ploughman who turned the first sod in South Australia is not correct.”
- Ploughing – when:
 - ☐ Nothing stated
- Ploughing – where:
 - ☐ “Mr. D. McLean selected a first-class agricultural section adjoining the late Dr. Everard’s land, and not at the Reedbeds”
 - ☐ “two or three little patches about the town” (ie town acres), none on county sections of 80 acres etc. The town patches were:-
 - “one patch on the Torrens near what was Buffalo Row, which was growing with paddy”
 - “a patch in North Adelaide, known as Hack’s Garden- sown with wheat”
 - “a patch sown with barley near South Terrace belonging to the South Australian Company”
 - Allan worked his bullocks “about town and on the Bay and Port roads”.
 - ☐ “Mr. D. McLean selected a first-class agricultural section adjoining the late Dr. Everard’s land, and not at the Reedbeds”
- Other details:
 - ☐ Allan went to Tasmania
- Help:
 - ☐ Allan was “so poor in circumstances as to be obliged to ask the public for assistance.”
 - ☐ “Surely some of his children are able to support their parent, or in they all so destitute of filial affection for their father that they will not? If they will not assist willingly the law ought to compel them.”
- Errors:

- ☐ The first land allocation meeting was not in April (it was in May) but Donald had to wait for the second meeting that was in June.
- Comments:-
 - ☐ Robert Rankine was a fellow passenger of the Navarino with the McLean family.
 - ☐ Rankine acknowledges that Donald purchased an 80 acre section in London yet *"he could not select his land till after the preliminary land order holders had selected theirs which they did in the month of April 1838"*. But Donald did have a preliminary land order, so why wasn't he able to make a selection with the others in April rather than wait for the second lot in June?
 - ☐ According to Haldane (his letter on 14th Dec), Allan and Robert were 'fast friends'.
 - ☐ Rankine is assuming that Allan's claim to be the first ploughman was in relation to the 80 acres, but Allan states in his first letter (12th Dec) that he first ploughed the land at Reedbeds.
 - ☐ See the heading RELATIONSHIPS for a discussion about the connections between the McLean, Haldane and Rankin families.

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6. TR Haldane on 14th Dec 1887

To the Editor, Sir – *I am sorry that Mr Rankine's letter was not couched in more temperate tones, as I led to believe that Mr McLean and he were fast friends, as well as old pioneer colonists. I am sure that Mr Rankine could not have seen or read Mr McLean's own letter on the subject claiming to be the only pioneer ploughman, as he brought the first plough into the colony, and went to Tasmania for the bullocks in the interim between January and April 1837, to work his little piece of land with. As to his family – they are all married, and some doing well, but none all them rich. They all do what they can assist their aged parents; reminding one of a remark of olden times, which came from a greater one than Mr Rankine. They have done what they could. My only object in bringing the subject before the public is this: - If Mr McLean is really the pioneer ploughman, old colonists should acknowledge him, and give him a birthday present on December 28th, just a little token of respect. Not that he is in needy circumstances, but it would enhance the old man's pleasure immensely. I rejoice that I am an old man's champion. Let us cheer his remaining last days, for they cannot be many now, and speak kindly. It Mr Allan McLean is what he says, let him think so, without any quibble. Old fossils will quibble over it. But I think Mr McLean has the honour. In my first letter I spoke only of father and son – Allan, not sons. As I did not know them all, I could not speak correctly. I have had several conversations with the old man, and he maintains that his plough was the first in the colony. As to society and time he is likely a little at sea owing to old age and so long ago, but it was doubtless, in the year 1837, fifty-one years ago. I trust my suggestion will be carried out. Let some abler pen than mine do it, and do some practical kindness to an old colonist like the pioneer ploughman. I am, Sir, &c., T R Haldane* (Evening Journal 14th Dec 1887 p4 & SA Observer 17th Dec p12)

Notes:-

- This is Haldane's third of three letters.
- Plough – which:
 - ☐ Allan *"brought the first plough into the colony. he maintains that his plough was the first in the colony"*
- Ploughing – when:
 - ☐ Not stated
- Ploughing – who:
 - ☐ *"I think Mr McLean has the honour"*
- Ploughing – where:
 - ☐ Not stated
- Help:
 - ☐ *"As to his family – they are all married, and some doing well, but none all them rich. They all do what they can assist their aged parents; reminding one of a remark of olden times, which came from a greater one than Mr Rankine. They have done what they could."*
 - ☐ *"If Mr McLean is really the pioneer ploughman, old colonists should acknowledge him, and give him a birthday present on December 28th, just a little token of respect'."*
 - ☐ *"Not that he is in needy circumstances, but it would enhance the old man's pleasure immensely.Let us cheer his remaining last days, for they cannot be many now, and speak kindly"*
 - ☐ *"do some practical kindness"*.

- Relationships:
 - Robert Rankine & Allan were 'fast friends'

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7: WB Sexton on 23rd Dec 1887 (but dated 3rd Jan!?)

THE PLOUGH

To the editor. Sir— Concerning the above Mr. P. R. Haldane writes:—"Mr. Allan McLean, now nearly 80 years of age, commenced ploughing in April or May 1837, having brought the first plough into the colony. Between January and April of the same year he went to Tasmania for bullocks to work the plough. When I asked a recent question, I had then in my mind what Mr. McLean had told me. Mr. McLean maintains he has the claim, and no one can say no. He brought the first plough here, and therefore has the claim. Many old colonists can prove it if they like. I thank your numerous correspondents for their answers, but none of them can beat the first ploughman— viz , the pioneer ploughman —Allan McLean

"This is Mr. P. R. Haldane's version. Now, Sir, I will give mine, and to commence I give a most emphatic No to the above. In the first place, it is stated that Mr. McLean commenced ploughing in April or May, 1837, which is an impossibility, as the McLean family, of which Mr. Allan was a member, did not arrive in South Australia until sometime in December of the same year, as immigrants per ship Navarino, and it is equally impossible that he could have gone to Tasmania between January and April of the same year to purchase bullocks to work the plough. As regards bringing the first plough that assertion is equally erratic. The first plough was brought in the barque Hartley, Captain Thomas Fewson, which arrived at Holdfast Bay on October 20, 1837, the owner of the plough being Mr. John Watson, a Northumbrian, who was a passenger, and I also was a passenger by the same vessel, and was one who assisted to carry or drag this pioneer plough over the sandhills after it was landed from the ship on the beach. And as in all probability some of my fellow passengers are still living, they will remember this redoubtable plough, as it was a most conspicuous ornament on board, being lashed to the starboard side of the quarterdeck; and many a joke was cracked about the wonderful work it was destined to do in turning the land in South Australia upside down. Then, as to Mr. McLean being the pioneer ploughman. Such an assertion is misleading, as the first land turned up was in North Adelaide, in what was then known as Hack's Garden, also a small piece of land on South-terrace, and that by the pioneer ploughman, John Watson. It is an absolute absurdity for Mr. McLean to say he commenced to plough on his country land so early, as there was very great delay in getting the country sections surveyed, so much so that the then Colonial Commissioner (the late Sir James Hurtle Fisher) chartered the brig Lord Hobart, Captain Henry Hawson, with Mr. Birdseye as supercargo, to go to Timor for a cargo of ponies, with the intention of having what was to be termed a 'running survey;' but, unfortunately, through rough weather in returning, most of them were lost, only something less than a dozen being landed, hence another cause of delay. The only lands surveyed for some considerable time were the town acres and the preliminary sections contiguous to Adelaide, and these were taken up by the South Australian Company and other gentlemen acting as agents for English speculators. To each preliminary section a town acre was given in; hence so much city property in the hands of absentee capitalists. So, Sir, I think I have proved beyond doubt that Mr. McLean did not bring out the first plough, neither was he the pioneer ploughman. So well do I remember, the McLean family just after their arrival in South Australia that it was a source of amusement to some of us— then young sparks— to watch the female portion of the family yoked together, pulling behind them a large cask, going to the Torrens for water and returning with their load— they were good pullers, stanch to the collar— to Immigration Square, where a number of wooden huts had been erected with ship-fittings for the accommodation of the newly arrived immigrants, on the South Park Lands, in a line with North-terrace. This was in the latter end of December 1837, and the beginning of January 1838. In conclusion I beg to state that if Mr. P. R. Haldane has derived his information through dictation from Mr. Allan McLean, the inference is that on account of his weight of years his memory must be much impaired. As to myself, although I am on the shady side of threescore and ten my retention of memory as to many events that occurred in the very early days is as fresh as though they had occurred only a few months previously. : I am, Sir, &c, W. B. Sexton, Kanmantoo, January 3. (SA Register 5th Jan 1888, p7 & it also appeared in SA Advertiser 23rd Dec 1887 p4 – however the letter is dated 3rd January, Adelaide Observer, 7th Jan 1888, p11)

Notes:-

- Plough – which:
 - "The first plough was brought in the barque Hartley, Captain Thomas Fewson, which arrived at Holdfast Bay on October 20, 1837, the owner of the plough being Mr. John Watson, a Northumbrian, who was a

passenger, and I also was a passenger by the same vessel, and was one who assisted to carry or drag this pioneer plough over the sandhills after it was landed from the ship on the beach. And as in all probability some of my fellow passengers are still living, they will remember this redoubtable plough, as it was a most conspicuous ornament on board, being lashed to the starboard side of the quarterdeck; and many a joke was cracked about the wonderful work it was destined to do in turning the land in South Australia upside down.” This was seven weeks prior to the McLeans landing.

- Ploughing – when:
 - ☐ Not stated
- Ploughing – who:
 - ☐ *“the first land turned up was in North Adelaide, in what was then known as Hack’s Garden, also a small piece of land on South-terrace, and that by the pioneer ploughman, John Watson. John Watson ploughed a small piece of land on South-terrace*
 - ☐ *“It is an absolute absurdity for Mr. McLean to say he commenced to plough on his country land so early, as there was very great delay in getting the country sections surveyed The only lands surveyed for some considerable time were the town acres and the preliminary sections contiguous to Adelaide, and these were taken up by the South Australian Company and other gentlemen acting as agents for English speculators”*
- Ploughing – where:
 - ☐ *“the first land turned up was in North Adelaide, in what was then known as Hack’s Garden,*
 - ☐ *“also a small piece of land on South-terrace”*
- Girls:-
 - ☐ *“the McLean family just after their arrival in South Australia that it was a source of amusement to some of us— then young sparks— to watch the female portion of the family yoked together, pulling behind them a large cask, going to the Torrens for water and returning with their load— they were good pullers, stanch to the collar— to Immigration Square, where a number of wooden huts had been erected with ship-fittings for the accommodation of the newly arrived immigrants, on the South Park Lands, in a line with North-terrace. This was in the latter end of December 1837, and the beginning of January 1838”*
 - ☐ *“I think I have proved beyond doubt that Mr. McLean did not bring out the first plough, neither was he the pioneer ploughman”*
- Town acres:
 - ☐ *“To each preliminary section a town acre was given in”. Donald was not ‘given’ a town acres even though he had pre-paid (preliminary) for a county section. He did get a half acre, but he paid for this. The reason why he missed out is not clear. Was this ‘giving’ just for the first 437 Land Grants. Or maybe Donald was not aware of this concession. But lack of awareness would have been surprising because there seemed to be a general understanding at that time, that town acres go with the County Sections – as exemplified in Sexton’s letter.*
- Errors:
 - ☐ It is T.R. Haldane not P.R. Haldane.
- Immigration:
 - ☐ John Watson arrived on the Hartley on 20th October 1837
 - ☐ William Bradshaw H Sexton arrived on the Hartley on 20th October 1837
 - ☐ John Barren Hack & Stephen Hack arrived on the February 1837

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8. Allan McLean on 11th Jan 1888

THE PIONEER PLOUGHMAN

To the editor. Sir, the date of my arrival in South Australia was December 1837 – I am not sure of the day, but at all events, on consideration, it was in that month. The ship I came on was the Navarino. It was the third ship, the first being the Buffalo, the second the Coromandel, and the third the Navarino. I landed at Holdfast Bay with my parents, five sisters and four brothers, twelve in all, belonging to the one family. Finding no cattle, save a few sheep, I proceeded by the same vessel to Tasmania for cattle or horses to work our section (80 acres), which my father bought in London. Having procured bullocks in Tasmania I returned in February 1838, and took up our section. The situation in where Goodwood

now stands, close to John Everard's. Some years afterwards this land was cut into blocks, ten pieces, every one of the family getting a portion. This was after Donald McLean's death, some thirty years ago. I did not commence to plough until April 1838, so my former statement was incorrect, being one year out of my reckoning. Still there were no ploughed lands in the colony at this time, and not either until my plough struck on the first land and turned the first sod. Mr Sexton can say what he likes about his pioneer plough and ploughman, but the plough of John Martin never struck out until long after I brought the plough out with me, a heavy cumbersome article, not one that went on wheels, but had to go on its shears, and hard work it is as to hold it. I took off my first crop in December 1838, which realized 21s a bushel. I did lots of ploughing afterwards on piecework at £5 an acre, my first job for wages being for Mr Leigh at the Sturt. The seed I brought with me from Tasmania, costing me 3 shillings a bushel. I adhere to my first statement about the plough – that my plough turned the first sod, and the plough was held by myself, and drawn by my bullocks. As to Mr Sexton's remarks about the girls, it's perfectly true. They did what they could, drew water themselves from the river, filled the barrel, and pulled the barrel on a sledge up to the camp where the gaol now stands, the motive power being themselves. Mr Sexton may have been amused at the picture of seeing Highland girls working hard for their old father. Still we got on, sold our land and went Strathalbyn soon after we got separated, some going that way and some the other. My father being dead, I, being the eldest came into possession, I remained in Strathalbyn for nearly forty years, raising a family of four sons and seven daughters, all alive. Now I am old, nearly 80 years of age. I have lost almost everything in a worldly sense through a succession of bad years. I maintain that I turned the first sod and my plough did it. I am Sir &c Allan McLean. (SA Register 11th Jan 1888 p7 & Adelaide Observer 14th Jan, p12)

Notes:-

- This is Allan's second of two letters to the Editor.
- Plough – which:
 - ☐ "I brought the plough out with me"
 - ☐ "A heavy cumbersome article, not one that went on wheels, but had to go on its shears, and hard work it is as to hold it ... drawn by my bullocks" Xxx
- Ploughing – when:
 - ☐ "I did not commence to plough until April 1838 there were no ploughed lands in the colony at this time"
 - ☐ "I took off my first crop in December 1838, which realized 21s a bushel"
- Ploughing – who:
 - ☐ "the plough of John Martin [Watson] never struck out until long after I brought the plough out with me,
 - ☐ "my plough struck on the first land and turned the first sod"
 - ☐ "I adhere to my first statement about the plough – that my plough turned the first sod, and the plough was held by myself, and drawn by my bullocks"
 - ☐ "I maintain that I turned the first sod and my plough did it.
 - ☐ "my plough turned the first sod, and the plough was held by myself"
- Ploughing – where:
 - ☐ "I did lots of ploughing afterwards on piecework at £5 an acre, my first job for wages being for Mr Leigh at the Sturt" - also Bay and port roads
 - ☐ Hilton – Allan described their section (ie country section 50) as "where Goodwood now stands, close to John Everard's". Yes, it was next to Everard's section, but Goodwood is 3 kms southwest of Hilton.
 - ☐ Hilton – "Some years afterwards this land was cut into blocks, ten pieces, every one of the family getting a portion. This was after Donald McLean's death". Surprisingly, it appears that Allan, to have confused the subdivision of the Hindley St and Hilton.
 - ☐ "sold our land and went Strathalbyn soon after"
- Later life:
 - ☐ "we got separated, some going that way and some the other. My father being dead, I, being the eldest came into possession, I remained in Strathalbyn for nearly forty years, raising a family of four sons and seven daughters, all alive. Now I am old, nearly 80 years of age. I have lost almost everything in a worldly sense through a succession of bad years."
- Help:
 - ☐
- Girls:

- ☐ *"As to Mr Sexton's remarks about the girls, it's perfectly true. They did what they could, drew water themselves from the river, filled the barrel, and pulled the barrel on a sledge up to the camp where the gaol now stands, the motive power being themselves. Mr Sexton may have been amused at the picture of seeing Highland girls working hard for their old father."*
- Seed:
 - ☐ *"The seed I brought with me from Tasmania, costing me 3 shillings a bushel"*
- Colony development:
 - ☐ No cattle, few sheep, and *"no ploughed lands in the colony at this time"*
- Tasmania:
 - ☐ Went on the same vessel to Tasmania
 - ☐ Returned in February 1838
- Errors:
 - ☐ Navarino was not the third ship. – see letter 10 from Old Salt.
 - ☐ Allan referred to John Martin instead of John Watson
 - ☐ *"I returned in February 1838, and took up our section."* They took up their section four months after February - in late June or early July.
- Comments:
 - ☐ Surprisingly, Allan did not mention anything about Hindley Street, but he said that the Hilton property was divided up in the way that Donald's will specified for the Hindley Street.
 - ☐ Allan contradicted himself by stating that the land was sold before the family moved to Strathlbyn. Also, as the eldest son, he came into possession.
 - ☐ All quite confusing. Maybe he had lost track of the facts after half a century.

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9: John Chambers on 11th Jan 1888

A CHAT WITH AN OLD COLONIST (By our Special-Reporter.)

The ranks of the pioneers in the settlement of this colony are gradually being thinned, and there are not many now amongst us whose experience of South Australia extend over fifty years. A chat with one of these old colonists is always of interest to those who remember and honour them as having "borne the heat and burden of the day." Mr John Chambers is well known as a pioneer, and on Tuesday morning we had a long talk together over the old times.

'Oh, yes,' said Mr Chambers, 'I am an old colonist now, and know something of what life was in those early days. The ship I came in was the John Rennie, which arrived here on February 7, 1837, so that I have been in the colony nearly fifty-one years. My brother James was here before me, having come in the Coromandel.

The Hon John Baker was a great trader in those early times between here and Tasmania, whence he brought pigs, sheep, and all kinds of general produce for the colonists. The first bullocks which came to this colony were from Tasmania too. They belonged to Mr J. B. Hack and his brother Stephen, who fetched them here. There were five altogether. It was only about a fortnight after I landed that they came, and I can recollect well meeting Stephen Hack walking up the Adelaide Plains from Glenelg to Adelaide, just past the place where Sir John Morphett now resides. He was looking at the country before he landed the bullocks. Mr James Fisher arrived shortly after with a small mob of cattle which he had bought in Sydney. They had to be taken care of when they landed through fear that they would be injured by the blacks or lost.

It was part of my duty to see that they were looked after at night, and what a trouble I had in finding a man to do the work. At last a man named James Howford was engaged, but he would not do anything unless we found him a cutlass and musket as he was afraid of the natives. I got these for him from the Government store, and, stayed with him most of the night. The cattle were quiet after a feed, and next day we took them to Adelaide. There were about thirty in the mob, and most of them were killed for food.

Shortly after this between forty and fifty head of bullocks, which my brother purchased at the Cape while the Coromandel was there, arrived. We used to run them on the plains all-round the city. Some of them were killed, and others were used as working cattle, which were very valuable then. They were carefully watched but once I recollect they got away. My brother and a man named Levi got on their tracks and followed as far as they could. They had no provisions, and were obliged to come back. Then they employed a man named William Fergusson to get them. Fergusson and another man followed the lost cattle, and found them somewhere near the Light, about 40 or 50 miles from Adelaide. The country was quite unknown at the time, and Fergusson, when he returned, was made quite a lion of.

They had Government horses, for there were hardly any others in the colony at the time. Mr JB Hack had a few, about half a dozen, Mr Osmond Gillies had a horse, and Sir John Morphett had a little white pony. Governor Hindmarsh owned two mules, and for the rest there were about twenty horses belonging to the Government.

I was the first man who built a house in the colony with a fireplace, door, and glass window. It was made of mud, rushes, and grass. The situation was between the Railway Station and where the Government Garden now is. I believe the old place is standing, at any rate the walls are, and after I left it the Government Gardener lived there for years. While it was being built Governor Hindmarsh, the Colonial Architect Mr. White, and others used to come and see my work. They were very pleased with it at the time, but were afraid that the reeds and grass in the mud might burn. The house was 16 by 10. I carried the rafters and everything required. The rafters and battens were taken from the Pine Forest beyond North Adelaide, just above where the Windmill Hotel now is. It was hard work to carry these things on my shoulders, but when the work was done I had a more comfortable hut than anyone else here.

Well, yes, there was a deal of variety in the structures first put up in Adelaide. They were all tents; poles and rails covered with all kinds of bed clothing, blankets, patchwork quilts, and anything else which would serve the purpose of giving shelter; all sizes and all shapes. It is something to think of when one looks at the city today and considers the contrast of then and now. The chief of these residences were along North-terrace from below Trinity Church as far up as where the Buck's Head now stands. They were placed there in that position because it was the most convenient for obtaining water from the Torrens. Water-carting was a great work in the early days. Barrels of all kinds were fixed on wheels, and men, women, and children all had to help drag these filled with water from the Torrens to the tent door. The work in those days was hard. It had to be done, and there were few here to do it.

Along the track from the Bay to Adelaide, which extended from the end of Hindley-street directly past Netley to the mouth of the Patawalonga Creek, one could see all kinds of goods left lying while the owners rested or went for a drink. There was no fear of anything being stolen. Our community was so small that if a man did take anything he could not sell it, and it would soon be recognised by the rightful owner. It was this, and not the honesty of the people altogether, that prevented robbery.

People living on the Park Lands, as we were, only did so on sufferance, and I was the last to leave. Extra liberty was given to me because I had a good deal to do with the Government. We did all the Government carrying work, and moved the surveying parties wherever they required.

Governor Gawler at one time thought of taking a long tour, and asked me to go with him. He gave instructions that I was to remain in the house I had built till he returned. He never made the tour, but I went with him on a trip he did make down to the south of Encounter Bay, Currency Creek, the Meadows, and Willunga. All that country was at the time perfectly new to the colonists. I recollect when we were at Willunga the men cried out about want of rations. I told the Private Secretary of this, and Mr Gell and myself went out to secure meat. We killed three kangaroos, which gave us fresh meat for a time. At another time on this same journey we divided into parties, Governor Gawler giving instructions to the Surveyor where they were to camp. The Surveyor made a mistake, and guided the drays into the wrong place. The others did not come at nightfall and we fired off guns, and lit fires on the top of a hill to show where we were. The Governor got to the camp, after travelling all night, about 7 o'clock in the morning. Mr Hall, the Private Secretary, came in about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Mr Inman, the Inspector of Police, was still out, and I and another of the party went to look for him. We found his saddle some distance from the camp, but could not see him. Afterwards we lit a fire on the top of a hill, and about 6 o'clock Mr Inman turned up, half dead with hunger and thirst. This was at Currency Creek then a quite unknown country.

After returning to Adelaide I removed to Cherry Gardens. There were only three other persons residing there at the time. I did the first ploughing in the colony. It was the city acre 55, where the Castle Inn now stands, on the Morphett street frontage between Hindley-street and North-terrace. The land belonged to Mr. Birdsey, who gave me £10 for the work. The plough was of the most improved description. It was brought here by the Hon BT Finniss, who came here before Mr Allan McLean. I see that Mr. McLean has claimed that he turned the first sod here, but it is a mistake. I have two letters here, one from Mr John Templer, of Two Wells, and another from Mr Windebank, of Hamilton, mentioning that I ploughed the first acre of land in South Australia. Windebank, who came out as farm bailiff to the late Mr Robert Thomas, was I remember well the first constable in the colony. The ploughing was done with a team of six bullocks. I guided the plough, and George Parsons drove the bullocks. Afterwards I ploughed 2 acres of land on the south corner of Hurtle-square for Mr. George Milner Stephen, who paid me £20 for the work. The land which Mr. McLean ploughed was about 3 acres near where Keswick now is, and that he sowed with wheat. Mr. Donald McLean built a house there, and he and his family resided at the place for some years.

The natives on the Adelaide Plains in those early days were very numerous. I think there were as many blacks in the vicinity of Adelaide as anywhere I knew, except perhaps on the Murray. They were never any trouble, poor fellows, if they were properly treated.

It is true that I had a good deal to do with Mr Stuart and his explorations. He was at Port Lincoln with his friends when, through Mr Finke, I got him to survey our Northern stations. There were the Oratunga, Bobmuna West, Palsey's Springs, Mount Chambers, Balcaracana, and others. We wanted them surveyed, and I took him up to do the work. While up there in the course of conversation he said that he could cross the colony. I promised to supply him with everything he wanted if he would make the attempt. He agreed, and I fitted him out with horses and food, and men off the station formed the party. No one off the station knew of the enterprise till he had started. I hardly remember the year, but I think it was 1857 or 1858. After failing in his attempt Mr Stuart returned to Oratunga Station.

In subsequent expeditions of Stuart my brother James, Mr. Finke and myself, all assisted in fitting him out. I started him on his final expedition from Mullooloo, which was made the head station instead of Oratunga. William Cave and myself shod all his horses and punched all the spare shoes which he took with him on that journey. When Stuart was returning after his successful journey I was at Bolmuna West when the first news that he was coming back arrived. I went up to Leigh's Creek, now a railway station, below Farina to meet him. At that time the furthest settlement north was Chambers's Creek Station, about 150 miles further up, held by Humphrey & Barker, and that was the last point of civilization Stuart passed on his way out, and the first he touched at on his return. At Leigh's Creek I met him and his party, and brought them through to Adelaide, about the last 400 miles of their journey. They were all emaciated when I saw them. Stuart would never have got through but for Auld and others of the party. Coming down I had the great pleasure of witnessing the receptions of the party at the Burra, Kapunda, and Gawler, and the enthusiastic termination of the journeyings in Adelaide.

I lived at Cherry Gardens till 1855, when I removed to my present residence at Richmond. During this time I looked after the stations at Lake Bonney and the other places I have mentioned, which were situated: about 350 miles north. When these northern runs were first taken up they were the furthest north, and were looked upon as quite out of the world. Others soon took up the surrounding country, however, but it was so new that the Government paid Stuart for the surveys which he made for me.

Yes, it is a pleasure to look back on those old days and see what the colony is now. We had to work then, and did work, but we were all the better for it. We had a new land before us and had to prove it.

Fresh meat was worth something in those days. I remember Basil Sladden, who lived at the Horseshoe, and used to supply the people with kangaroo meat and wild turkeys at 1s. a lb. Vegetables were scarce, too. The first man who grew vegetables here was a shipmate of mine named Hobbs, and the first produce he sold was some cabbages. Another man used to sell some native vegetable, which he called cabbage, in small bunches at 6d. each, and we were glad to buy it. Although the life was hard then we used to enjoy ourselves and were very happy. We never expected to see such progress as has been made. To receive letters from England in a month we could not have believed possible. If we got a reply from the old country in eighteen months it was very good. And the Exhibition— no you are right — we never thought to see anything like that in Adelaide. No, but it is pleasant to look back now and see what has been done here, compare Adelaide now and as it was when I first knew it, or to have a chat with one whom I knew in those old times.

South Australian Register – 11th January 1888, page 6

Notes:-

- This is not a letter, but it appeared in the same paper, on the same page as another letter about the first ploughing.
- Plough – which:
 - *"The plough was of the most improved description. It was brought here by the Hon. B. T. Finniss, who came here before Mr. Allan McLean".* Boyle Travers Finniss arrived on the Cygnet in Sept 1836. John Chambers arrived on the John Renwick in February 1837. This was eight months before the McLeans. It is not clear whether Finniss brought a plough in the Cygnet, or whether he arranged for it to come out on a later ship.
- Ploughing – where:
 - *"City acre 55, where the Castle Inn now stands, on the Morphett street frontage between Hindley-street and North-terrace. The land belonged to Mr. Birdsey".* This is about 100 metres east of Donald's half-town acre.
 - *"2 acres of land on the south corner of Hurtle-square for Mr. George Milner Stephen, who paid me £20 for the work".*
 - *"The land which Mr. McLean ploughed was about 3 acres near where Keswick now is, and that he sowed with wheat. Mr. Donald McLean built a house there"*
- Ploughing – when:

- ☐ *"I did the first ploughing in the colony Mr. McLean has claimed that he turned the first sod here, but it is a mistake"*
- Ploughing – who:
 - ☐ John Chambers & George Parsons – *"I guided the plough, and George Parsons drove the bullocks"*
 - ☐ *"I see that Mr. McLean has claimed that he turned the first sod here, but it is a mistake"*
 - ☐ *"I did the first ploughing in the colony.... Mr. Birdsey gave me £10 for the work."*
 - ☐ *"I have two letters here, one from Mr. John Templer, of Two Wells, and another from Mr. Windebank, of Hamilton, mentioning that I ploughed the first acre of land in South Australia. Windebank, who came out as farm bailiff to the late Mr. Robert Thomas, was I remember well the first constable in the colony "*
 - ☐ *"Afterwards I ploughed 2 acres of land on the south corner of Hurtle-square for Mr. George Milner Stephen, who paid me £20 for the work."*
 - ☐ John Bowler Bull agreed that Chambers was the first ploughman (Letter 12)
- Ploughing – how
 - ☐ *"The ploughing was done with a team of six bullocks. I guided the plough, and George Parsons drove the bullocks"*
- Stock:
 - ☐ 5 bullocks from Tasmania by Stephen Hack & JB Hack – in February 1837
 - ☐ 30 cattle from Sydney by James Fisher - early 1837
 - ☐ 40 or 50 bullocks from the Cape on the Coromandel - brother of Chambers – early 1837
 - ☐ 20 Government horses
 - ☐ 6 horses by JB Hack
 - ☐ Little white pony – John Morphett –
 - ☐ 2 mules – Governor Hindmarsh
- Food:
 - ☐ *"Basil Sladden, who lived at the Horseshoe to supply the people with kangaroo meat and wild turkeys at 1s. a lb"*
 - ☐ *"The first man who grew vegetables here was a shipmate of mine named Hobbs, and the first produce he sold was some cabbages".*
 - ☐ *"Another man used to sell some native vegetable, which he called cabbage, in small bunches at 6d. each"*
- Immigrants:
 - ☐ John Chambers in Feb 1837 on the John Renwick
 - ☐ James Windebank arrived in the colony on 14th Nov 1836 on the Africaine. He was 22 year old labourer engaged by Robert Thomas (ref: <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/BSA/ShipLists%20Alpha%20by%20Year/1836.htm>)
 - ☐ John Templer arrived on 12th Jan 1837 on the Coromandel
 - ☐ Boyle Travers Finniss arrived on 11th Sept 1836 on the Cygnet
 - ☐ Cornelius Birdseye arrived on 30th July 1836 on the Lady Mary Pelham.
- Errors:
 - ☐ Chambers' ship was the John Renwick - not the John Rennie

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10. 'An Old Salt' on 12th Jan 1888

THE PIONEER PLOUGHMEN

To the editor. Sir— As it will soon be fifty years since I landed at Holdfast Bay, I naturally take a deep interest in matters relating to the early days of the colony. and cannot refrain a smile at times when I see how 'mixed' some of the old pioneers get in their revelations. In your issue to-day Mr. McLean says:— "The ship I came in was the Navarino. It was the third ship, the first being the Buffalo, the second the Coromandel, and the third the Navarino". Mr. McLean has evidently lost his reckoning, and is drifting hopelessly without chart, sextant, or compass, as will be seen by the following list of vessels which arrived before the Navarino, the third vessel, according to Mr. McLean, which dropped anchor in St. Vincent's Gulf : — Duke of York, Lady Mary Pelham, John Pirie, Rapid, Cygnet, Emma, Africaine, Tam o' Shanter, Buffalo, Coromandel, William Hutt, John Renwick, Mary and Jane, South Australian, Sarah and Elizabeth, Shah, Isabella, Lord

Hobart, Abeona, Solway, Katherine Stewart Forbes, Hartley, Peter Proctor, and Lady Emma. It matters little to me whether Mr. McLean, Mr. Watson, or Mr. Chambers' turned the first furrow in South Australia, but when I see the nautical history of the colony so garbled by a 'Pioneer Ploughman' I cannot refrain from entering it in the log. I am, Sir, &c, An Old Salt (South Australian Register, 12th January 1888, p6 & Adelaide Observer 14th Jan, p12)

Notes:-

- Plough – which:
 - ☐ Nothing stated
- Ploughing – when:
 - ☐ Nothing stated
- Ploughing – who:
 - ☐ Nothing stated
- Ploughing – where:
 - ☐ Nothing stated
- Ships:
 - ☐ The Old Salt's list of ships coincides with the details on Diane Cummings' website "Bound for South Australia".
 - ☐ There were 9 passenger ships in 1836, and 15 in 1837. The Navarino was the last of these.

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11. TR Haldane on 14th Jan 1888 (letter dated 5th Jan)

THE OLD PLOUGHMAN

To the editor. Sir—In answer to Mr. W. B. Sexton, and all the other correspondents who have taken part in the controversy, let me say in brief to save time and space, "Who's to prove it?" Let the old men meet and talk over the matter themselves. What a glorious time they would have to talk over half a century of events of the colony in which they live. Just fancy—Mr. McLean, age 78; Mr. R. Rankine, 77 ; and Mr. Sexton, 76, meeting. This little trio would soon settle the matter by searching up at the Land Office old files. That would settle it. These three gentlemen are all known to each other, but there is not much love lost, all the others save poor Mr. McLean being well to do. Mr. Sexton's caustic remarks re the female portion of the McLean family has certainly done them no harm. It is well known that every member of the old family— old Donald's family—had to work hard. As to the date of arrival, Mr. Allan McLean is a little out, Mr. W. B. Sexton having preceded him by only four months. That's not long. But the matter of the plough and plough man. Whose was it, and who brought it out, and who was he? Mr. McLean says it was he. Now, I think if the three met and discussed it over it would settle it. What do you say, Sir? I am, sir, &c., T. R. Haldane. East-terrace, January 5 (Adelaide Observer, 14th January 1888, p12)

Notes:-

- Plough – which:
 - ☐ Not stated
- Ploughing – when:
 - ☐ Not stated
- Ploughing – who:
 - ☐ "Mr. McLean says it was he"
- Ploughing – where:
 - ☐ Not stated
- Girls:
 - ☐ "Mr. Sexton's caustic remarks re the female portion of the McLean family has certainly done them no harm. It is well known that every member of the old family— old Donald's family—had to work hard."
- Solution:
 - ☐ "settle the matter by searching up at the Land Office old files"
- Relationship:
 - ☐ Allan, Robert Rankine & William Sexton – "These three gentlemen are all known to each other, but there is not much love lost."

12: John Bowler Bull on 15th Jan 1888

THE FIRST PLOUGHMAN

To the Editor. Sir— I was quite surprised at Mr. McLean claiming to be the first that ploughed up ground in South Australia. Now, Sir, for your information and the public I have heard my father say when I was a boy, over forty years ago, that the first ground ploughed in the colony was an acre on East-terrace for himself, and a small piece under the North Adelaide Hill for the Hack Brothers, and that Mr. John Chambers was the man who ploughed the ground, so he must be the first pioneer ploughman. My father was a man you could depend on as to truthfulness. I never knew him to tell a lie, and he hated a liar. Mr. McLean naming the Reedbeds as the first place where ground was ploughed in the colony made a great mistake. My father occupied one of the first sections at the Reedbeds by putting a flock of sheep there. Old Miles was the shepherd, and I think it is known by the name of Bull's section to this day. My father's business at that time brought him in contact with everything that was going on, so I think he ought to be a good authority. If Mr. McLean is in poor circumstances let his friends assist him by all means by getting up a subscription-list, whether he be the first or last ploughman, I will give my mite. I am. Sir. &c, John Bowler Bull, Wallup, Victoria, January 15. (South Australian Register, 18th January 1888, p7)

Notes:-

- Plough – which:
 - ☐ Nothing stated
- Ploughing – when:
 - ☐ Nothing stated
- Ploughing – who:
 - ☐ “The first ground ploughed in the colony that Mr. John Chambers was the man who ploughed the ground, so he must be the first pioneer ploughman”.
- Ploughing – where:
 - ☐ An acre on East-terrace for John Bull's father.
 - ☐ “A small piece under the North Adelaide Hill for the Hack Brothers”
 - ☐ Not Reedbeds: “Mr. McLean naming the Reedbeds as the first place where ground was ploughed in the colony made a great mistake. My father occupied one of the first sections at the Reedbeds by putting a flock of sheep there. Old Miles was the shepherd, and I think it is known by the name of Bull's section to this day.”
- Help:
 - ☐ “If Mr. McLean is in poor circumstances let his friends assist him by all means by getting up a subscription-list, whether he be the first or last ploughman, I will give my mite
- Immigrants:
 - ☐ John Bowler Bull's father was probably Edward Bull who arrived on the Buffalo in December 1836.

Relationships

On the face of it, this exchange of letters appears to be between citizens who are simply expressing their views but who are not personally connected with Allan, and do not know each other. In fact, there is some history between them and they did not declare their interests. A little digging reveals some fascinating insights into the circumstances surrounding these letters.

Allan, Robert Rankine & William Sexton – “These three gentlemen are all known to each other, but there is not much love lost.” (Haldane letter 11)

Haldane families:

There were many linkages between the Haldanes and the McLeans :-

- TR Haldane might have been Thomas Haldane who had married Elisa Willock Dawson in 1852. Elisa's sister was Catherine who was Allan's wife.
- Thomas's younger brother Robert had married Allan's and Catherine's daughter, Eliza Anne (in 1873). Allan and Catherine stayed with Eliza and Robert in Mount Templeton and again with Eliza in Hackney after Robert died a year after the letters.
- On 16th May 1881, Robert was appointed an attorney to handle all Allan's business transactions as well as those of Allan's oldest son Donald. (ref : Mathews, p 65)
- But note also Thomas and Elisa Willock separated around 1880. And Elisa Ann's and Robert's marriage was dissolved at the end of 1886. The breakdowns of these marriages would have affected relationships between the kinship network.
- Allan's and Catherine's daughter, Christina (Tina) married Peter Kelly who had (unspecified?) connections with the Haldanes.
- The other family association alluded to by TR Haldane is that another daughter, Margaret married Thomas Power so maybe Allan and Catherine were staying with either Margaret or her in-laws at Power's stable's.

Rankine families:

- We are not certain what connections Robert Rankine had with the Rankins who were a prominent pioneering family which had had a great deal to do with the McLeans around Strathalbyn over the previous half century.
- However, we are certain that Robert and Allan knew each other because they both came out on the Navarino together exactly 50 years previously. We know this because of a gravestone in the Stockport cemetery has it that Robert Rankine died in 1896 at 86 years old after 57 years as a pioneer. This corresponds, within a year so, of the details on the passenger list which had him 26 years old. However, the list has his wife as Isabella whereas the wife named on the gravestone is Margaret – maybe this was a second marriage. Robert and Allan would have got to know each other very well on the long voyage.
- Now, half a century later, maybe he reacted so unsympathetically because of some antagonism between the families – possibly arising from (or the cause of) Allan's dramatic departure from Strathalbyn a decade previously. So we ask, were the Rankines rankled when the McLeans cleaned out?
- There was a hint of conflict between the families in an incident back in the 1860s when William Rankine tricked Allan's brother, John, out of most of *Waterloo* (section 2778) during a whisky drinking session (BRB p264).
- Some jealousy between the two pioneering families might be implied because Mr Rankine was nitpicking over whether the McLeans "turned the first sod in South Australia". Mr Rankine identifies three crops (paddy, wheat and barley) on town blocks. He does not say how large these crops were and neither does he specify when this was. It could have only been between when the first settlers arrived in late 1836 and June 1838 when the McLeans acquired their 'country' land. The McLeans would have set about clearing and ploughing very soon after that because they harvested their first crop later that year. Rankine leaves it open that the McLeans could have been the first to sow a substantial (20 acres) wheat crop because the town blocks would have been quite small and may in fact have been prepared by shovel rather than plough. We do not know. In either case, it seems a bit churlish of Rankine to dwell on this technical point of whether or not a plough was used and whether the crop was wheat or some other crop. He bypasses the main thrust of the Haldane letter which was that Allan was undoubtedly a pioneer and was undoubtedly needing some help now.
- At the same time, there was Andrew C Rankine who was prominent in the spectacular growth of the Church of Christ in Norwood (HR Taylor's history of the CoC, p 116). It is not known what the relationship was between Andrew and Robert, but Allan would certainly have known AC very well (why?) – but this is probably not relevant. However for a time he worked for Alexander Gordon on Angas Plains near Strathalbyn (ref : obid p 179), so he did have connections with Strathalbyn where the Rankine family was prominent.
- TR Haldane described Robert Rankine and Allan and as being 'fast friends' (letter 6), but implied that there had been a falling out..

Seeing that it was possibly in the background of this exchange of letters, we can reflect for a moment on the comparative contributions of the three pioneering families in Strathalbyn – McLeans, Dawsons and Rankines. The Haldanes were never part of the Strathalbyn story but had marriage connections with the McLeans and Dawsons. There were of course many other pioneering families in Strathalbyn – most prominent amongst them were Donald Gollan and less prominent were the Gordon's. But for now, let's just focus on the three families :

- McLeans: The McLeans settled in Strathalbyn just a year or so after the very first settlers. Allan was the eldest son and was there for 36 formative years before he left. Allan was briefly a member of the local council, but generally the McLeans were not prominent in civic life or elders in the church. So they were not key figures in the leadership and planning for the development of the area. Apart from the first wheat crop, they did not continue to be innovators in agricultural practices. Their important place in the district is because of the size of the families and their many farming properties across the districts south of Strathalbyn.
- Dawsons: Catherine as the oldest daughter of James Dawson who was there right from the beginning and was prominent in many aspects of public, commercial and agricultural life.
- Rankines: Robert was possibly the son of Dr John Rankine. John and his brother, Mathew, along with James Dawson, were regarded as the founders of the town and district.

We do not know whether TR Haldane and Robert Rankine knew each other personally or whether they exchanged words directly before or after this public exchange through the newspaper. But they certainly would have known other members of their extended families even though the two men had now moved away from Strathalbyn - TR in East Terrace and Robert in Stockport.

Although Robert Rankine did not declare his underlying motivation, neither did TR Haldane declare his connections with the McLeans. Mr Rankine was probably aware of the general connections between the McLeans, Haldanes and Powers but he might not have known the specifics of how much the children had helped their parents. Otherwise he would have known that it is not warranted to criticize them for lack of 'filial affection' and the need to 'compel' them to help their father. Mr Haldane's motivation in seeking public support might not have been to obviate the need for family contributions because we know that at least daughter Eliza, brother John and maybe daughter Margaret, had cared for them in recent years.

Maybe Robert Rankine had a point – who were Allan and Catherine staying with? :-

- With Eliza and Robert at Kilkerrin for a year or so. And then with Eliza (after she separated from Robert) in Adelaide for a year or so.
- With John at Waterloo for a short time.
- With Margaret at Power's Stables at the time of the letters.
- Could have, or did, the other children contribute. What were they thinking?
- How destitute was he? Catherine had inherited a substantial property in 1885 after her mother's death and Allan farmed this land for a year or so before moving to Adelaide.

So, with these letters, Allan's plight and his family's obligations were canvassed in public way. This must have had a big impact on many people. We are left to ponder the various points of view which would have been voiced across the meal tables – between Allan and Catherine, and the many other McLean households around the countryside. Also, the general readers of the newspaper would have been either sympathetic or disdainful of the sentiments expressed by TR Haldane and Robert Rankine.

There are general connections between the Rankines and the McLeans which the present parties might not have been aware of :-

- The Rankines are seps of clan McLean.
- The Rankines are the pipers for clan McLeans.
- Allan's grandmother was probably a Rankine.

Robert Haldane died eleven months after these letters. Allan died almost three years after these letters.

Summary

The various locations are summarized on the following table:-

Where	When	Crop	Owner	Ploughman	Method	Reference
"North Adelaide known as Hack's Garden" - "small piece under the North Adelaide Hill". This might be town acres 1004 to 1018.		Wheat	Hack brothers	John Chambers and/or John Watson		Rankine, letter 5 & Sexton, letter 7 & Bull letter 12
"one patch on the Torrens near what was Buffalo Row" (Emigration Square)		Paddy		Not specified		Rankine, letter 5
"Near South Terrace"		Barley	South Australian Company	Not specified		Rankine, letter 5
Town acre - "small piece of land in South Terrace"				John Watson	Bullocks	Sexton letter 7
Town acre in East Terrace			Edward Bull	John Chambers		Bull, letter 12
Town acre 55 - "where the Castle Inn now stands, on the Morphett street frontage between Hindley St & North Tce"			Cornelius Birdseye	John Chambers & George Parsons	6 bullocks	Chambers, item 9
Probably town acres 598 & 599 - "2 acres of land on the south corner of Hurtle-square" -			George Milner Stephen	John Chambers & George Parsons	6 bullocks	Chambers, item 9
Town acres 71 & 72 - "Near the corner of Morphett and Hindley Streets"		Wheat	Charles George Everard	William Everard	By spade	Appendix A in G60
About town and Bay & Port Roads			Various	Allan	Bullocks	Rankine, letter 5
Sturt & lots of others	After Hilton in late 1838 or 1839		Mr Leigh	Allan	Bullocks	Allan, letter 5
Reedbeds	April & May 1838		Owned by no-one	Allan	Bullocks	Allan, letter 3 Haldane, letter 1
Hilton - 20 acres	July 1838	Wheat	Donald McLean	Allan & John McLean	Bullocks	

Conclusions

- Help: The series of letters started with Robert Haldane's proposal that Allan, who was impoverished, should receive help from the public. This did not prompt a strong positive response.
- Relationships: The letters imply some interesting connections between the early colonialists - the McLean, Haldane and Rankin families.
- Debate: The letters were debating "Who ploughed the first sod?", rather than "Who grew the first substantial crop of wheat?"

- First plough: Donald's was not the first plough to be brought to the colony. The Watson plough arrived on the Hartley, seven weeks before Donald's on the Navarino. And John Chambers says he used a plough owned by Finnis which might have arrived many months before that. Maybe there were other ploughs, but we have no indications of this.
- First wheat: There were a couple of crops of wheat either the year before, or the same year as McLeans – but these were smaller. They were at Hack's garden in North Adelaide and Dr Everard's town acres.
- First ploughman: Three people might have been doing some ploughing before Allan but not as much as him. They were John Chambers, John Watson & William Everard. There was a total of 86 acres cultivated in 1838 – only 20 acres where the McLeans' was wheat. This means that the other 66 acres of non-wheat crops were ploughed by other ploughmen (but some were turned with spades).
- First locations: In the first year or so, there would have been many areas where the sod was turned by spade and at least eight areas ploughed – probably many more. These were all small fields, mostly on town acres.
- McLeans: Their efforts contrast with all these others in that it was much more extensive:-
 - ☐ Reedbeds: Allan ploughed for some sort of crop in the Reedbeds in April and May in 1838.
 - ☐ Hilton: The McLean's harvested their wheat in December 1838, so they must have cleared, ploughed and seeded as soon as they knew what farmland they were allocated – so maybe by early July 1838.
 - ☐ Elsewhere: Allan did a lot of ploughing around town and in Sturt, Bay Road and Port Road. This might have been in late 1838 or subsequent years.
- Credibility:
 - ☐ There is some credibility in Allan claiming that he was the first ploughman and that this was at Reedbeds because:-
 - ☐ Means: He had the plough, had the bullocks and had the seed.
 - ☐ Needs: The colony would have been anxious for someone to grow any kind of crop
 - ☐ Land: In early 1838, the only land owned were the town acres. The McLeans had a half acre, but it is not known why Allan did not plough there. The McLeans were waiting for their 80 acres to be allocated to them (Hilton) so maybe Allan started using land at Reedbeds which did not belong to him (or to anyone else)
 - ☐ Memories: However, Allan and the other correspondents, would have some faulty memories about some details because they were trying to recollect activities which had occurred a half-century before. Inaccuracies would have crept in as people perceived the same events in different ways
- Reconciling the claims
 - ☐ We should not overstate the part the McLeans played. Many others were contributing to the early development of agriculture in the colony. Others were ploughing and others were growing wheat – but none as much as the McLeans.
 - ☐ The McLeans stand out, because no one else was so early, with so many acres, and so successful with wheat.

..ooOOoo..

Allan's journey to Hobart on Navarino

Source: Libraries Tasmania - Ref 1476548, CSO92/1/3 p.10

https://lincas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names/search/results?qu=allan&qu=mclean

J20 - Allan McLean & Catherine, nee Dawson - web - page **60** of **79**

Appendix H

Allan's journey back to Adelaide in early 1838

Some details of ships from Van Dieman's Land to Adelaide in January, February & March 1838

Allan McLean stated that he returned from VDL to Adelaide in February (SA Register 11th Jan 1888 p7 in our J20, appendix F). This mention of February was 50 years after the event and so Allan's memory might not have been absolutely correct – but it certainly indicates that it was either February or March.

He arrived in Hobart Town on 12th January and would have needed quite a few days, maybe a few weeks, to arrange his purchases.

He might have made a few purchases around Hobart but maybe he found that he had to go to Launceston to get most of what he wanted. Possibly Allan had to carrying some supplies which he had already purchased in Hobart. This would have taken some time to obtain a trip up the east coast, and around the north west of Van Dieman's Land and then more than 50 kms along the Tamar River to Launceston. All this would have taken a while but he would have wanted to get back to Adelaide as soon as possible, especially once he had purchased some animals.

So this indicates that Allan's memory was correct in stating that the homeward journey was most likely in February – not in late January, unlikely to be late March, and certainly not April or later. This is supported by his statement that he begun ploughing in the new colony in April or May (SA Register, 12th Dec 1887, p7 in our J20, appendix F).

But which ship? We have searched for a ship leaving Hobart and arriving in Port Adelaide in late February, with listed passenger Allan McLean and, against his name, the freighting of his substantial purchases, including some livestock.

After an extensive search, we have not found anything which completely matches what we are looking for. The strongest contender is the Giraffe:-

- ☐ Dates and ports: The Giraffe left Launceston on 21st February 1838 and arrived at Port Adelaide 5th March 1838. So, Allan arrived in Hobart on the Navarino on 12th January after a 6 day journey, and was on the large island for 40 days before the Giraffe left Launceston and arrived in Adelaide after a 12 day journey.
- ☐ Vessel: It was a 200 tons brigantine constructed in South Shields 1834
- ☐ Captain: Under Commander Hew Burn or Captain Hurst
- ☐ Name: Was Allan McLean a passenger? His full name was not noted but there was a 'Mr Allan' listed amongst the 12 passengers and a 'McLean' listed against the freight of 10 cattle.
- ☐ Freight: Apart from 10 cattle, 'McLean' might have also had 2 carts and 3 horses which were listed under the 10 cattle – and maybe he had other items scattered elsewhere on this manifest.
- ☐ Details: At the end of this appendix are images of the manifest and passengers, together with transcriptions.

Other than the Giraffe, there are other contenders, but none specify the name Allan McLean:-

- Navarino: It was certainly not the Navarino because she did not go back to Adelaide – she went to Valparaiso in Chile after Hobart.
- Lady Emma: John Mathews has suggested that it might have been in the fourth week of January from Launceston on the Lady Emma which carried stock and passengers (Mathews p11). However, Allan is not listed among the passengers. There are questions about whether he got all his supplies from Hobart (where the Navarino had taken him) or Launceston – and also this might not have given Allan enough time to make all these purchases. The Lady Emma does not appear on the table below, and the Emma does not have these dates.
- Abedina: Alternatively, Mathews has noted that the Abedina returned from Hobart in May (Mathews p11) but this seems a bit late. Abedina does not appear on the following table.
- Other options: The shipping records are patchy. We have compiled the following table from several sources:-
 - ☐ Dianne Cummings' website 'Bound For South Australia'
 - ☐ Graham Jaunay's website - www.Jaunay.com
 - ☐ RT Sexton, 'Shipping Arrivals & Departures – Tasmania 1834 to 1842', Roebuck Society Publication Number 42, 1990, Gould Books, ISBN 0 947284 9 2

- RT Sexton, 'Shipping Arrivals & Departures - South Australia 1627 to 1850 – A Guide for Genealogists & Maritime Historians', Gould Books, Roebuck Society.
- 'Port Adelaide – Manifests & Passenger Lists etc of Incoming Shipping – Feb 1838 to Sep 1839' – State Library of South Australia, GRG41 8 1 1838-1839

Ship	From	To	Arrived	Details	Source
John Dunscombe	Launceston	Port Adelaide	Jan 19th	Passengers - but not listed	Cummings
Hartley	Launceston	Port Adelaide	Jan 26th	332 tons, master = Thomas Hewson, crew = 26 named, passengers = 16 named (no McL:ans) & children, cargo= 3 business named, 1000 sheep	Cummings
Waterwitch	Hobart	Port Adelaide	Jan 30th	No details	Cummings
William	Launceston	Port Adelaide	Feb 9th	Passengers - but not listed	Cummings
Gem	Launceston	Port Adelaide	Feb 10th	Passengers - but not listed	Cummings
John Dunscombe	Launceston	Port Adelaide	March 4th	88 tons, master = Neil Maclean, crew = 5 named, passengers = 3 named (no McLeans)	Cummings
Giraffe	Launceston	Port Adelaide	March 5th	Captain Hew Burn, Brig, 260 om sheep & gen? Passenger Mr Allan, and freight by McLean	Sexton, 1990, page 38 & State Library
Eagle	Launceston	Port Adelaide	March 7th	Sheep	Cummings
Victoria	Hobart	Nepean Bay	March 11th	No details	Cummings
Lady Emma	Launceston	Port Adelaide	March 13th	Passengers - but not listed	Cummings
Hartley	Launceston	Port Adelaide	March 16th	No details	Cummings
Abeona	Hobart	Port Adelaide	March 17th	Brigatine 105t	Jaunay
John Pirie	Hobart	Port Adelaide	March 27th	Passengers - but not listed	Cummings
Emma	Hobart	Port Adelaide	March 28th	No details	Cummings
Lowestoft	Launceston	Adelaide	April 1st	Passengers - but not listed	Cummings
Gem	Launceston	Port Adelaide	April 1st	Passengers - but not listed	Cummings
Truelove	Launceston	Port Adelaide	April 2nd	Passengers - but not listed	Cummings
Eagle	Launceston	Port Adelaide	April 2nd	Sheep	Cummings
Emma	Hobart	Port Adelaide	13 th April	Brigatine 161t	Jaunay
Elizabeth	Launceston	Port Adelaide	April 17th	Passengers - but not listed	Cummings
Black Joke	Launceston	Port Adelaide	May 1st	No details	Cummings
Abeona	Hobart	Port Adelaide	May 15th	30 passengers	Cummings
Abeona	Hobart	Port Adelaide	May 24th	18 passengers	Cummings

Giraffe

Source: State Library of South Australia – catalogue GRG41, 8, 1, 1838-39 – “Port Adelaide - manifest passenger lists etc of in-coming - Feb 1838 to Sep 1839” – pages 21 & 22

Page 38 in RT Sexton, 'Shipping Arrivals & Departures – Tasmania 1834-1842',
Roebuck Society Publication Number 42, 1990, ISBN 0 947284 9 2

GIRAFFE

brig, 260 om; South Shields 1834

Hew Burn

A 5 Mar from Launceston (cld 21 Feb); sheep & gen c

Cld 7 Apr for Launceston (25 Apr); ballast



Manifests and lists of
crew and passengers
of ships arriving at
Port Adelaide
Feb 1838 - Sep 1839.
[Dates of clearance usually refer to
clearance from port of origin, not
from Port Adelaide]

Manifest Book

JOLLY, James (1/1-1/1) Prob James Jolly Surgeon Adelaide Hospital 1841 SA 23/5/18
THOMSON, J (1/1-1/1)
BRIG GIRAFFE -
12 passengers from Launceston 5/3/1838.
HURST, Captain 500 sheep, 2 horses 28 head of cattle and sundry merchandise.
ALLAN, Mr (1/1-1/1)
BAKER, Mr (1/1-1/1)
DE LITTLE, Mr (1/1-1/1)
SMITH, Mr (1/1-1/1)
8 in the steerage.
BARQUE LADY EMMA -
passengers from Launceston 13/3/1838

Giraffe		
23. Briggs, James	Thomas Ritchie	Captain
24. Briggs, James	L. J. J. J.	
1. Briggs		
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23. Briggs, James	Thomas Ritchie	Captain
24. Briggs, James	L. J. J. J.	
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Transcription:

NOTE "Manifests and lists of crews and passengers of ships arriving at Port Adelaide Feb 1838 – Sep 1839 [Dates of clearance usually refer to clearance from port of origin, not from Port Adelaide]"

PASSENGERS

- Brig Giraffe from Launceston 5/3/1838 [arrived in Adelaide]
- 12 passengers
- HURST, Captain
- 500 sheep, 2 horses, 28 head of cattle and sundry merchandise
- ALLAN, Mr (//-///)
- BAKER, Mr (//-///)
- DE LITTLE, Mr (//-///)
- SMITH, Mr (//-///)
- 8 in steerage

MANIFEST (red front = indecipherable)

Page 21

	28 Bags Flour	Thomas Ritchie	Order
	500 Sheep	L.M. Gilles	
	1 Cow		
	7 Oxen		
	2 Horses		
	1 Bag Harnesses		
FOT	5 Hhds Stout	Hewit Gore & Co	
C	6 Hhds Ale		
B (in diamond)	4 Casks Bottles O Stout		
EB	1 Case Leather		
	3 Bales		
ED	8 Cases Pickles	William Smith	
4 (in triangle)	3 Hhds Stout		
	1 Bag Ginger		
	1 Horse Dray		
S (in diamond 3/5)	3 Casks Crockery		
	1 Bale Leather		
	1 Bale Paper		
	1 Bale Scythes		
	1 Cask Barley		
1/3	3 Casks Slops		
	1 Water Truck	Sam Feutrill	
Feutrill	2 Guns		
	1 Dray		
HD	10 Casks Ale	Sy Dowling	JB Hack
1 (in triangle) FK	10 Cases Claret	Eddie Welsh & Co	Order
WC	6 Cases Sherry		
W (in triangle)	10 Boxes Soap	W ^m Smith	
(triangle)	10 Bages Sugar	Eddie Welsh & Co	
	30 Bags Flour		
	2 Casks Ironmongery		

HR	1 Case Ironmongery	Hewitt Gore & Co	Order
FW	5 Hhds Gin		
DP	35 Cases		
W Sy & Co	5 Hhds		
BE	47 Cases		
BB	3 Cases Cherry Brandy	Eddie Welsh & Co	
BC Sy	2 Hhds Cherry Brandy		
GC	10 Cases Cherry Brandy	W ^m Smith	
BT	89 Cases Gin	Hewitt Gore & Co	
W 13/20	8 Kegs Beanby		
BC 5	1 Hhds Beanby	W ^m Smith	
AH 1/2	2 Hhds Beanby		
GC	22 Cases Beanby		
N ^o 4	1 Dray	Th ^{os} Scott	RI Tod
	40'000 Shingles	Hewitt Gore & Co	D.B. Fisher
	1 Plough		
	1 Dray		
	1 Water Cart		
	10 Cattle		I Miller
	2 Carts		
WW (in diamond)	28 Boxes Tea		Hallett & Duff
C (in diamond)	8 Cheese		
Kilmanrs	3 Half Chests Tea		
	4 Bullocks		
	1 Dray		
	10 Cattle		Mc Lean
	2 Carts		
	3 Horses		Order
FM	24 Hams	Ja ^s Ross	

		Stores	
		Hhd 58 Gallons Beanby	
		Hhd 60 Gallons Generoa	
		Cases 35 lbs Tobacco	
		11 Casks Provisions	
		1 Bag Flour	
		1 Cut Bread	

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Catharine McLean's complaint lodged

against Allan McLean regarding the child, Sarah, who was born in 1834

Paternity case in the Kilmallie Kirk sessions – 28th Feb 1837

Source: From the minutes of Kilmallie Kirk Session, Scotland's People, Virtual Volumes, CH2/719/00001-00025 (p14)

Eoderm die?? The moderator laid before the session a letter from the session clerk of the Parish of North Knapdale dated the 23rd instant, enclosing the following extract.

At Tayvillich 22nd January 1837, the Kirk Session of North Knapdale being met and constituted, sederunt The Rev^d Don.... McLachlan moderator, Duncan McKellar, John McNeil and Albert Stewart elders. Inter alia compeared Catharine McLean, Arichoman, who stated that she was delivered of a female child on the 15th April 1834. And that Allan McLean, son of Don'd McLean Blaich in the Parish of Kilmallie was the father of said child. She at the same time laid before the meeting a letter from Allan McLean acknowledging having committed guilt with her, and if the birth of her child should correspond to the time he had criminal connexion (with her, which time is not stated) he confessed himself the father of said child. and a copy letter from Allan McLean referred to in said minute of date 22nd Jan 1834.

Glasgow 22nd January 1834

Dear Madam

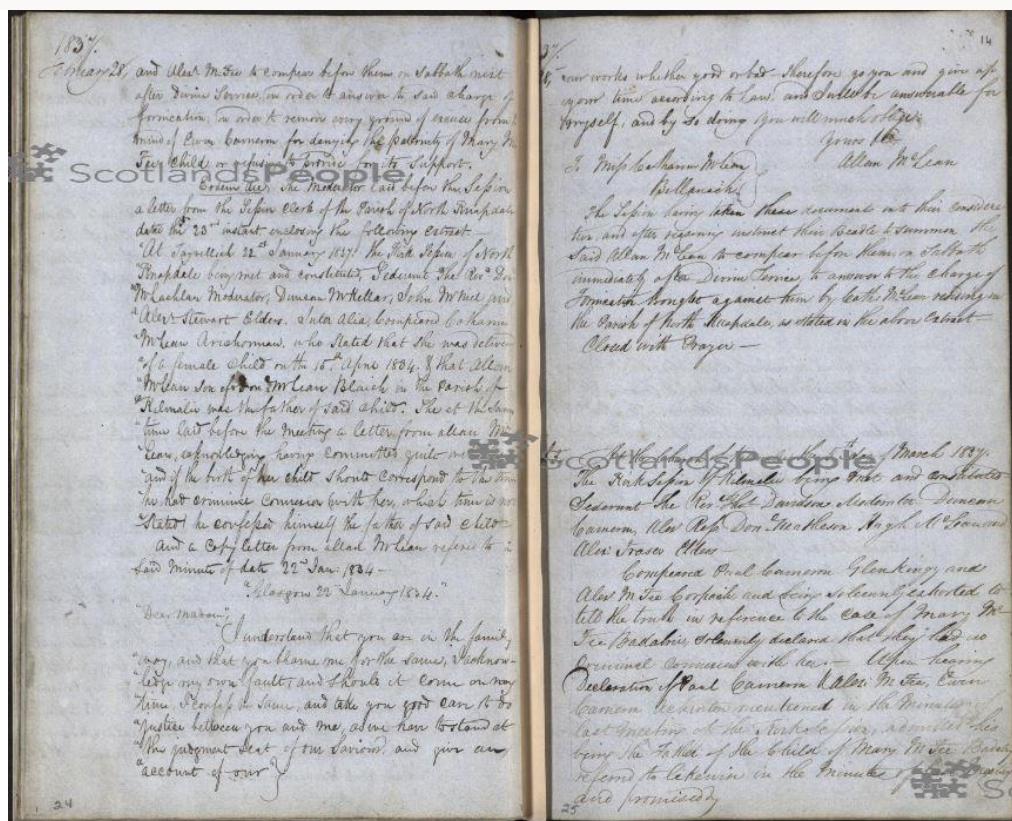
I understand that you are in the family way, and that you blame me for the same. I acknowledge my own fault, and should it come on my time, I confess the same, and take you good care to do justice between you and me, as we have to stand at the judgment seat of our Saviour, and give an account of our works, whether good or bad. Therefore go you and give up your time according to Law, and I will be answerable for myself, and by so doing you will much oblige.

Yours ??

Allan McLean

To Miss Catharine McLean, Bellanach

The session having taken these documents into their consideration and after reasoning?? instruct their Beadle to summon the said Allan McLean to compear before them on Sabbath immediately after Divine Service to answer to the charge of fornication brought against him by Cath McLean residing in the Parish of North Knapdale, as stated in the above extract.



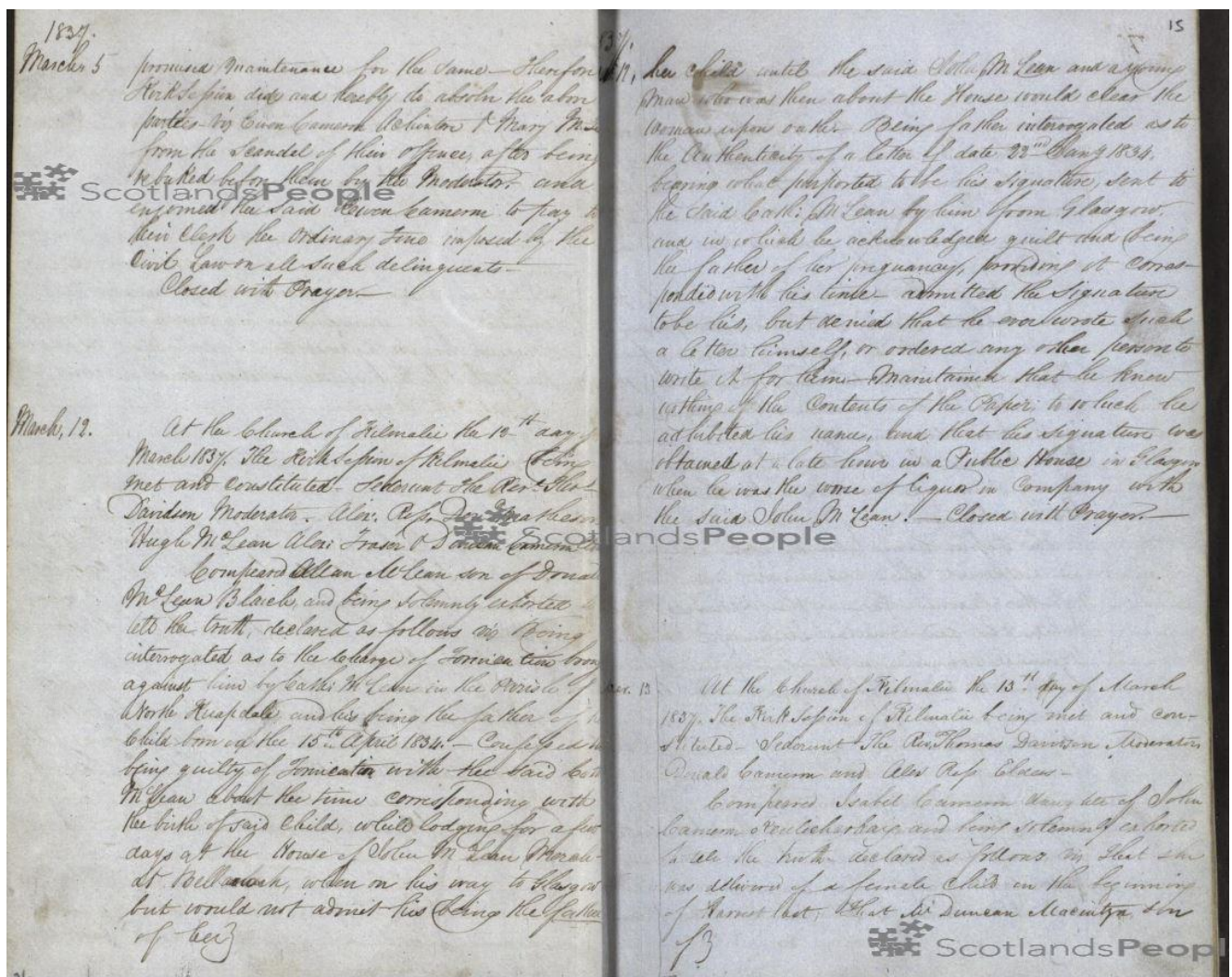
Catharine McLean's complaint dealt with

against Allan McLean regarding the child, Sarah, who was born in 1834

Paternity case in the Kilmallie Kirk sessions – 12th Mar 1837

Source: From the minutes of Kilmallie Kirk Session, Scotland's People, Virtual Volumes, CH2/719/00001-00025 (p15)

At the Church of Kilmallie the 12th day of March 1837. The Kirk Session of Kilmallie being met and constituted sederunt the Rev Alex Davidson moderator, Alex res?? Dond Matheson, Hugh McLean, Alex Fraser & Duncan Cameron elders. Compeared Allan McLean, son of Donald McLean Blaich, and being solemnly exhorted to tell the truth, declared as follows vis being interrogated as to the charge of fornication brought against him by Cath McLean in the Parish of North Knapdale and his being the father of the child born of her 15th April 1834. Confessed to being guilty of fornication with the said Cath McLean about the time corresponding with the birth of said child, while lodging for a few days at the House of John McLean, Merch at Bellanoch, when on his way to Glasgow, but would not admit his being the father of her child until the said John McLean and a young man who was about the House would clear the woman upon oath. Being further interrogated as to the authenticity of a letter of date 22nd Jany 1834, bearing what purported to be his signature, sent to the said Cath McLean by him from Glasgow, and in which he acknowledged guilt and being the father of her pregnancy, provided it corresponded with his time, admitted the signature to be his, but denied that he ever wrote such a letter himself, or ordered any other person to write it for him. Maintained that he knew nothing of the contents of the paper to which he ad hibited ?? his name and that his signature was obtained at a late hour in a Public House in Glasgow when he was the worse of liquor in company with the said John McLean



Appendix M

6 OPRs of Catharine McLean born in North Knapdale 1794 to 1816

First Name	Surname	Birth date	Father	Mother	Place of birth	Age in July 1833
CATHARINE	MCLEAN	12/02/1820	JOHN MCLEAN	FLORA MCLEAN		12
CATHARINE	MCLEAN	05/05/1816	JOHN MCLEAN	SARAH MCGUGAN	Cosandrochaid	16
CATHARINE	MCLEAN	21/09/1814	ALLAN MCLEAN	MCLEAN	Barbreck	19
KATHARINE	MACLEAN	27/01/1809	LACHLEN MACLEAN	CATHARINE MUNN	Kilmahumaig	23
KATHARINE	MCLEAN	13/05/1803	MALCOM MCLEAN	MORE MCMILLAN		29
KATHARINE	MCLEAN	05/10/1794	DONALD MCLEAN	MORE MCLARTY		39

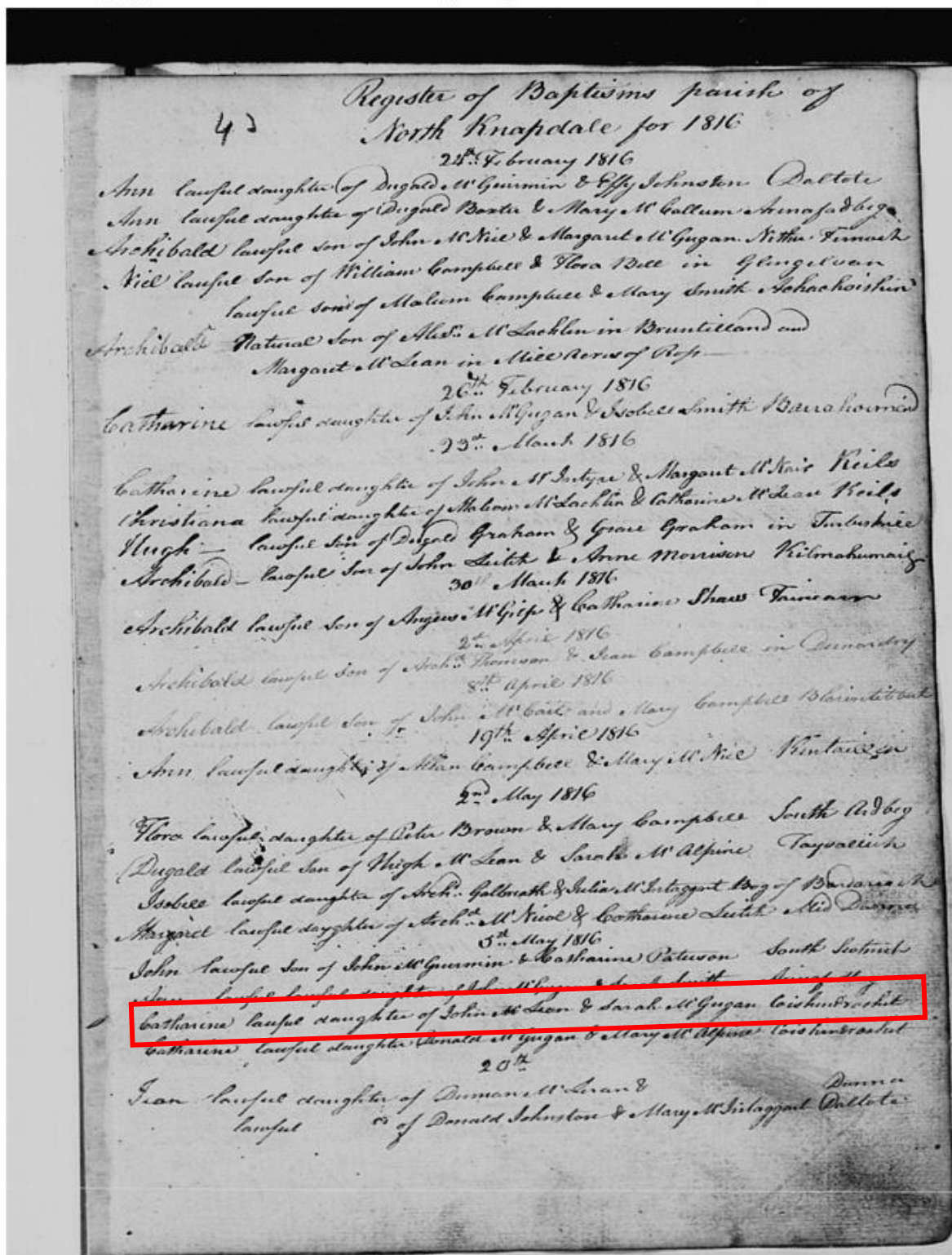
Catharine McLean, born 5th May 1816, North Knapdale

"5th May 1816 Catharine lawful daughter of John McLean & Sarah McGugan Cosandrochaid, North Knapdale"

05/05/1816 MCLEAN, CATHARINE (Old Parish Registers Births 530/ 10 136 North Knapdale) Page 136 of

211

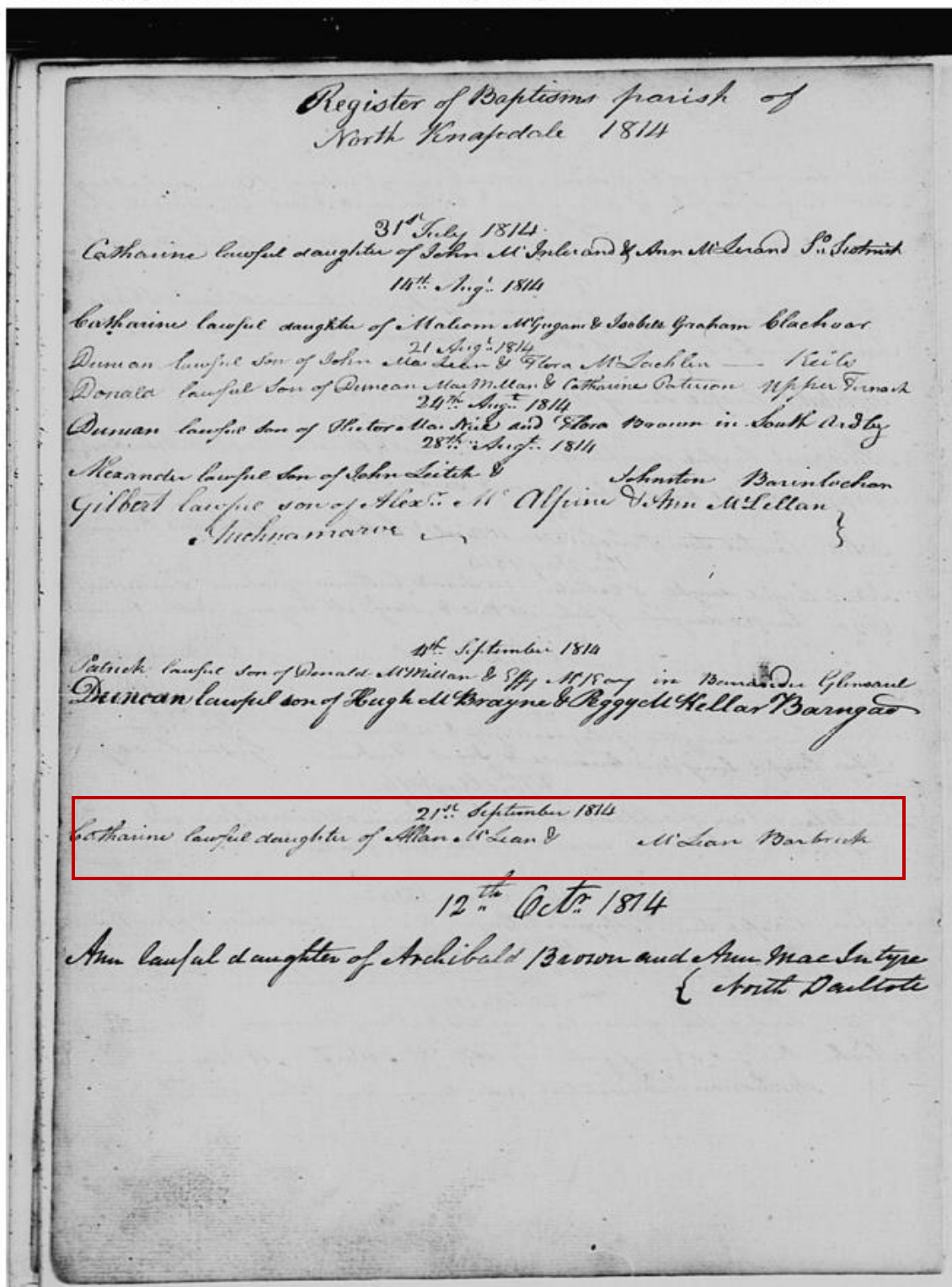
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Catharine McLean, born 21st Sept 1814 in Barbreck

"21st September 1814, Catharine McLean lawful daughter Allan McLean & McLean Barbreck"

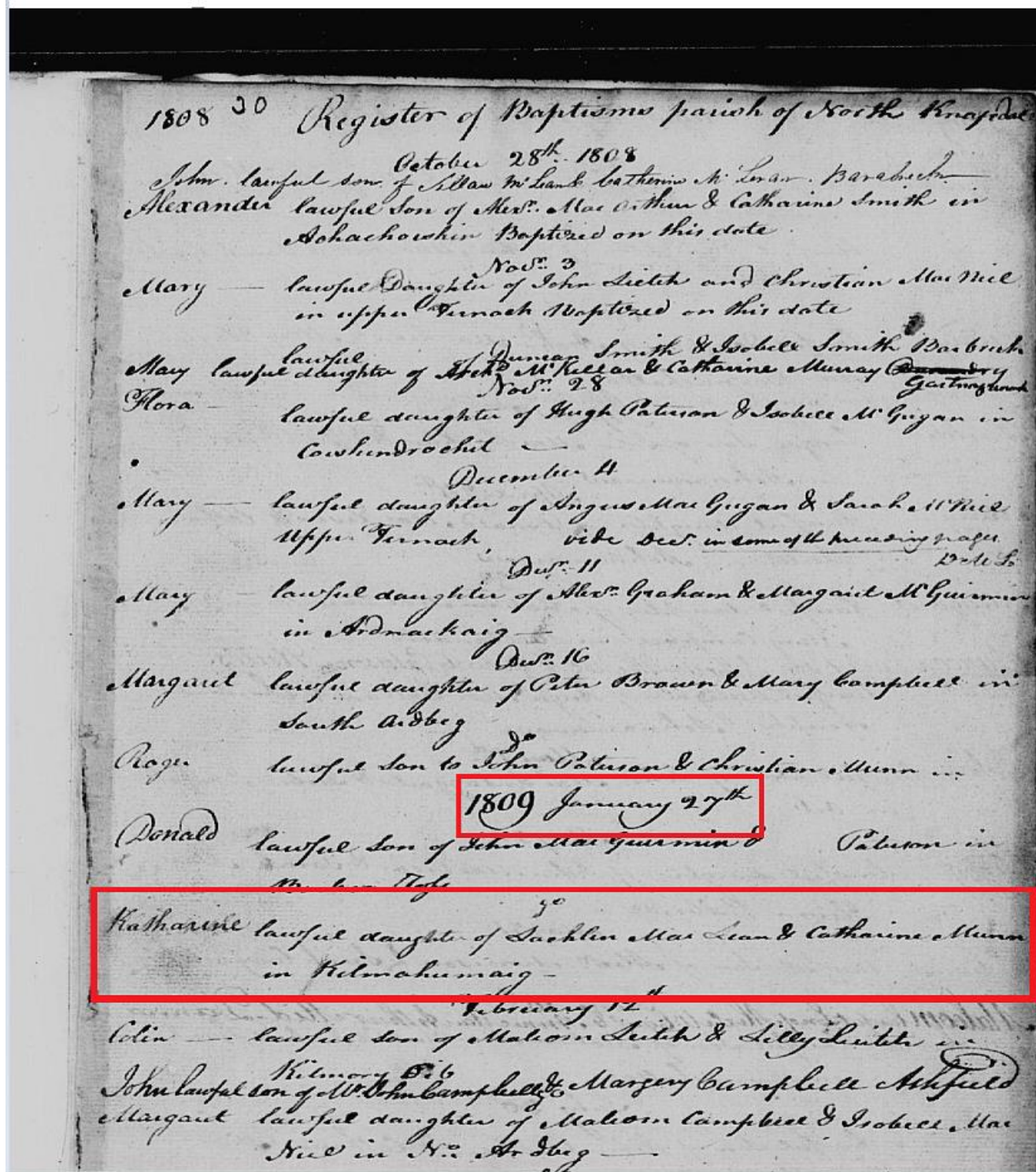
21/09/1814 MCLEAN, CATHARINE (Old Parish Registers Births 530/ 10 129 North Knapdale) Page 129 of 211
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Katharine MacLean, born 27th Jan 1809 in Kilmahumaig

"Katharine – lawful daughter of Lachlan MacLean & Catharine Munn"

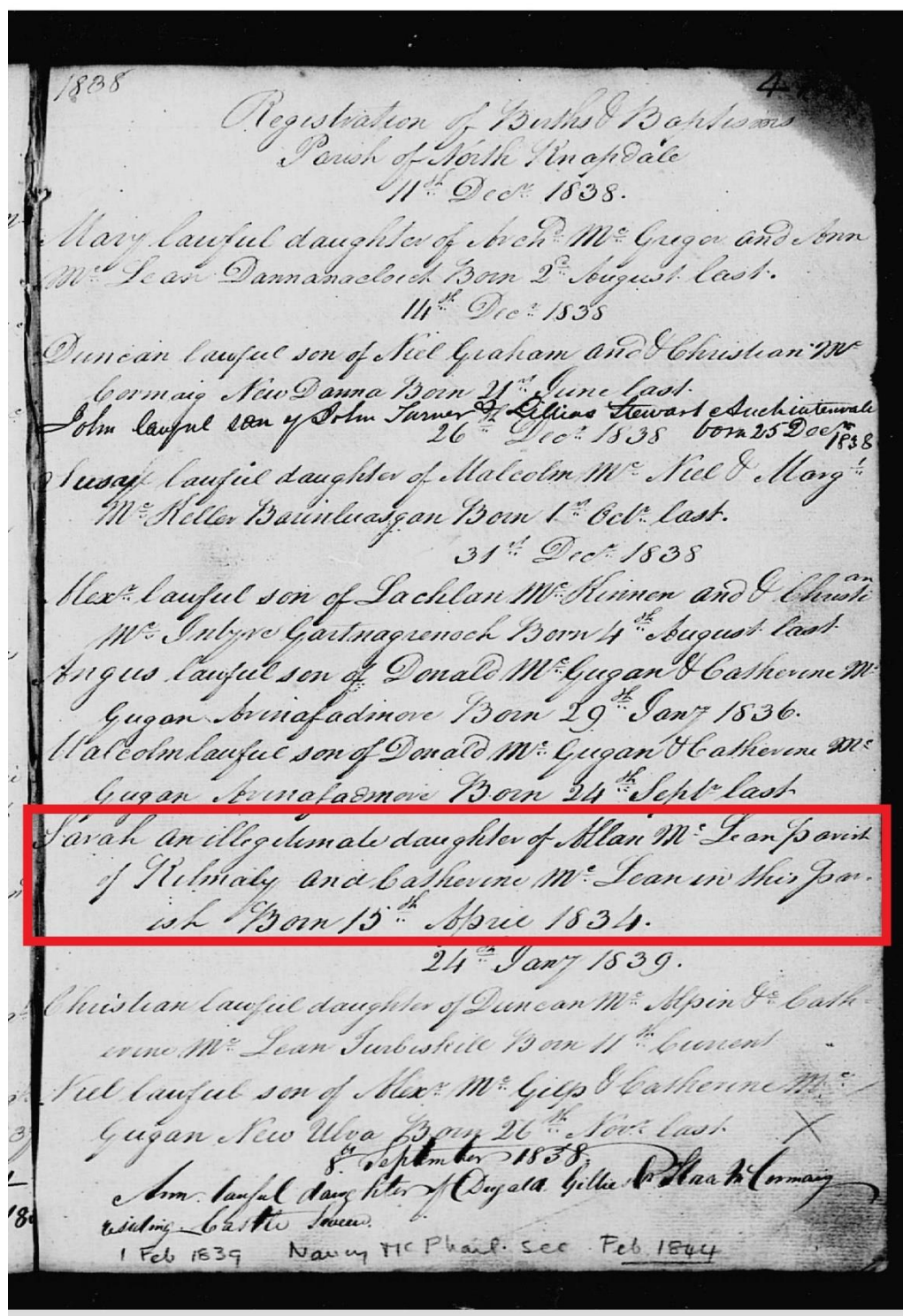
27/01/1809 MACLEAN, KATHARINE (Old Parish Registers Births 530/ 10 110 North Knapdale) Page 110 of 211
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Sarah McLean – born 15th April 1834 in North Knapdale

"Sarah an illegitimate daughter of Allan McLean parish of Kilmaly and Catherine McLean in this parish born 15th April 1834"

15/04/1834 MCLEAN, SARAH (Old Parish Registers Births 530/ 20 97 North Knapdale) Page 97 of 320
©Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image was generated at 22 September 2021 04:51



Meadow Bank Mine

by Carolyn Tucker

2018

Source: Strathalbyn Mines, onecard network

Location:

- On the East side of Strathalbyn in the area of Swamp Road, between Strathalbyn Mines and Callington Road. Copper ore was discovered by Alan McLean on his farming property 'Meadow Bank'.

Newspaper items

- From S.A Register, 19/6/1869 Page 4. With Supplement of Mining Intelligence. The Strathalbyn local press has the subjoined. "During the past week, the recent mineral discovery at 'Meadow Bank' has formed the principal topic of interest in this district. That there are mineral deposits to a considerable extent in the neighbourhood of Strathalbyn is well known but attempts made to develop them have from the expensive mode of management and high rates of cartage to the seaboard, hitherto resulted in failure. The Strathalbyn and Wheal Ellen Mines which were worked for a number of years have been pronounced by competent authorities with careful management to be highly remunerable. Another mine is about to be worked on Mr. Allan McLean's freehold property, called 'The Meadow Bank Mine'. Not long since, Mr. McLean, while engaged ploughing, turned up a few stones which he thought were metalliferous, and on opening a large reef cropping out of the surface, a lode of some description of stone was cut a few inches below the surface. The lode when opened was rather contracted but on sinking, widened rapidly and at a depth of 17 feet, the lode was 7 feet across. Stones were taken from various depths of the shaft, sunk and sent to town for analysis. The results showed the presence of both gold and silver in payable quantities. One analysis by the Rev. M. Maughan in February 1869, showing 15 ozs. 5 dwt. silver to the ton. Another analysis by Jas. James in the same month of a darker stone taken from the lode resulted as follows, Large Stones – Silver 1 oz. Gold 5 dwts. Small Stones – Silver 1 oz. Gold 8 dwts. The other 9 assays have been made with results similar to the above. The lode has been cut a few hundred yards from where it was first opened and again at a spot a quarter of a mile distant. 6 cwt. from the former and 18cwt. from the latter was sent to Railey's machine, the result from which we published in our last. Mr. McLean has given a 21 year lease of the mineral rights of 3 Sections free of rent for the consideration of a certain numbers of reserved shares. Through one of those Sections runs the lode of the old Strathalbyn Mine. The promoters of the Company fixed upon 300 shares at £6 each for a commencement of 210 of which were offered to the public, and in the course of the past week, they have nearly all been taken up. There is for every prospect of the lodes being thoroughly tested and should it turn out well, not only those interested in it will receive the advantage, but the township will be very materially benefited."
- From S.A Chronicle & Weekly Mail 10/7/1869 'Strathalbyn Corporation' Page 14. "The Southern Argus announces that operations have been commenced at the Meadow Bank Mine. Men were set costeening to cut the lode between the shaft and the rising ground and the costeening pit near the Swamp. The top of the lode was cut 2-3 feet down. The Miners are now engaged in proving the width of the lode, after which sinking will be commenced."
- From The Express and Telegraph 17/7/1869 P.2 Mining Operations in the South (from The Southern Argus) "The Meadow Bank Mining Association are vigorously carrying on operations on their property at Meadow Bank. The lode is widening rapidly as the sinking proceeds and the ore brought to the surface is assuming a much richer appearance. We understand that a gentleman of large mining experience who visited the Mine on Friday was highly pleased with the indications and expressed his opinion that the mine will eventually prove a great success."
- From The S.A Register 30/7/1869 Page 3. "Meadow Bank Mining Association. The men at work at this mine near Strathalbyn are still on the lode and the prospects are considered to be encouraging."
- From The Southern Argus 5/6/1869 "PROSPECTUS of the MEADOW BANK MINING ASSOCIATION, Strathalbyn. Preliminary Capital - £1,500, in 300 Shares of £5 each. Payable 10s. on application ; 10s. on allotment ; and the remainder in calls of 10s. per month." Provisional Promoters. J. Cheriton. Esq., J.P. Hon. J. Hodgkiss, M.L.C.

A.H. Landseer, Esq , J.P. Donald Gollan, Jun., Esq. A. McLean, Esq. J.S. Duncan, Esq. "It is intended to form a preliminary Company, the number of Shares to be 300, for the purpose of thoroughly testing the auriferous and argentiferous Reef or Lode, which shows itself of great magnitude on the surface the whole length of Section 2693. In sinking a splendid Silver Lode has been opened at a few feet below the surface. To the north and east is situated Section 2691, through which the Reef runs. It is also known to contain a rich Green Carbonate Copper Lode, going east and west, which has been worked to the boundary of Section 2691 by the Strathalbyn Mining Company. It will cross the main Reef near the middle of the Section. To the south and west is situated a Government reserve, secured by mineral right of search, and intervening between 2693 and 2610, also the freehold property of A. McLean. Esq., situate within one mile of the terminus of the Strathalbyn and Middleton Railway. The proprietors reserve to themselves 90 of the 300 shares which shall be considered as paid-up to £4, as the price of the mineral rights alone for a period of 21 years of the above Sections, with a piece of land not less than five nor more than ten acres, for the erection of the necessary works on either of the aforesaid Sections ; also as payment to the discoverer and for all expenses incurred for sinking and assays to this date. A renewal of the 21 years' lease will be granted on the expiry of the first, by paying a fine of £1 per acre. Should the results warrant it, before the expenditure of the whole of the above capital, a meeting will be called for the purpose of multiplying the shares to say 3,000, and each proprietor of a share will be entitled to receive scrip for ten shares. At the same meeting the future capital of the company will be considered and decided upon. Should the shares not be taken up within a reasonable period, the application money will be returned less the printing expense. When the shares are taken up, a meeting will be called to consider a deed of agreement, and for the election of Directors, Bankers, and Solicitor. Forms of application can be obtained at the office of this paper, and at the National Bank of Australasia, Strathalbyn, where the application money will be received. Copies of assays can also be seen at this office. JAMES CLOSE, Hon. Sec.

- No further reports of works at the Mine have been found after July, 1869.
- Six months later... From the S.A Chronicle and Weekly Mail 8/1/1870 P.15 Strathalbyn Corporation. "Councillors Leslie and Trenouth deputed to purchase from Meadow Bank Mining Company for Corporation purposes, some gum slabs." This, while not conclusive, is suggestive of a reduction in mining works as timber slabs used to line the shafts and drives were essential for any future activity, and in large numbers.
- From The Southern Argus 15/10/1870 P.2 Advertising. The Meadow Bank Mining Company advertised to sell 400 x 9 feet gum slabs by Auction. It is unlikely that mining operations continued beyond 16 months from June 1869.
- From The Southern Argus 16/2/1888 P.3 Meadow Bank Mine "Talk of the Old Strath Mine at Meadow Bank being started. The Mine has ardent supporters and if Mr. Marchant will allow to be worked, there will be little difficulty in forming a powerful company." Altogether mining matters in this district look healthy."
- From The Southern Argus 7/6/1888 P.2 General News "Nothing further has transpired as to the future working of the Meadow Bank Mine."

Record of mines – summary card

- Source –Mineral Resources Level 4 101 Grenfell St., Adelaide.
- Mineral – Silver Lead Gold
- Name of Mine – Meadow Bank Alternative Name – Brady's Hope The following is incorrect – Sect. 36, Hundred of Macclesfield
- Correct Section/Block 48 & 49, Hundred of Strathalbyn
- Location – Near Strathalbyn Mine
- Geology – Small gossan iron lode embedded in a calcareous formation.
- Workings – Shaft 30 feet with drive at bottom Shallow shafts
- Production – 24 cwt. ore raised June 1869.
- Summary – In 1869 a mineral discovery was made during ploughing operations on Allan McLean's property near Strathalbyn mine. Assays gave from 102 to 153/4oz silver per ton and 5 dwt to 8 dwt of gold per ton. The Meadowbank Mining Venture was formed locally and 6 men were put to work. Sinking and driving was carried on for about 6 months but no payable lode was found. About 1899, Brady's Hope Syndicate briefly re-worked the mine but nothing payable was found.

The McLean Family of Meadow Bank

- Allan McLean, eldest son of Donald and Christina McLean, was born in Scotland 1811 and when age 26, arrived with the family to S.A, having sailed on the 'Navarino'. He had land Sections on the eastern out skirts of Strathalbyn, adjoining his father's 'Auchanadas' property which was beside the Angas River and the Milang Road. Allan farmed on both sides of Swamp Road. His 9 room Meadow Bank home was built on land which is now Block 49 (since 1903). In 1844 at age 33, Allan married 19 year-old Catherine Dawson, the daughter of Colonel James and Jane Dawson. At Meadow Bank, their family of 11 children were born between 1845 and 1865. In 1878, at the time of the 'exodus', Allan and Catherine held a large Clearing Sale at Meadow Bank. The farm of 174 acres was auctioned and purchased for £11 per acre by William Marchant, the sheep grazier who bought many farms of those who left the district. Allan tried farming in the Hundred of Redhill, near the Collinsfield Railway Station. Problems arose and in 1882, insolvency caused the family to return to the Strathalbyn district. They lived near Allan's brother at Angas Plains.

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Allan McLean – large loan

SA State Records office – memorial; 31 in book 301

Notes by Don Gordon

In June 1877, Allan borrowed £2000 from Josephine Geyer. This was a substantial amount in those days, and he arranged this by mortgaging 1191 acres on 17 properties - 9 in Strathalbyn and 8 in Bremer. These properties were almost all that Allan McLean owned.

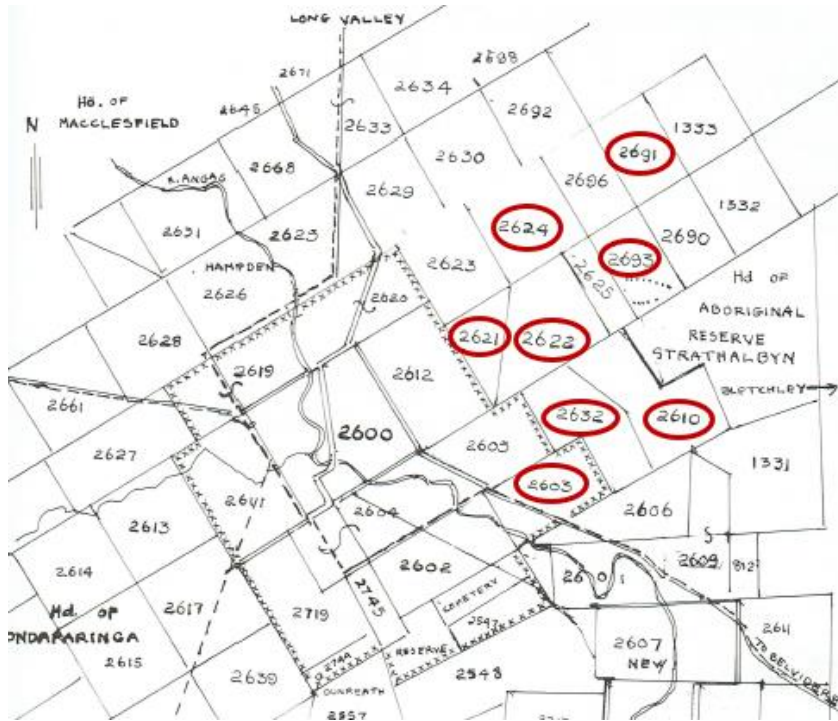
It is not known why he borrowed so much. Was he anticipating moving to Collinsfield? Was he already in financial difficulties? Or was it an unwise transaction that led to financial difficulties?

Whatever his reason, Allan appeared to change his strategy because, just 9 months after taking out this loan, he auctioned off these same 17 properties (plus Bremer section 3603 in Sturt). It is not clear whether the sale of the properties meant that he paid off the £2000 straight away, or continued to repay it in quarterly instalments. Oddly, this memorial refers to another memorial (number 32 book 301) for a mortgage registered to secure the payment of the principal sum of £2000 from Allan McLean to Henry Poulton on 1st April 1878. This is the month that Allan auctioned these properties. In either case, he was declared bankrupt four years later.

TRANSCRIBER'S NOTES

- Image:
 - ☐ A small image of the memorial is below and a full image is linked to Allan's profile on the McLean website – item 'Allan McLean - mortgages for loan - June 1877 - memorial 31'.
- Transcription:
 - ☐ By Don Gordon on 2nd June 2023
- Dot points:
 - ☐ The original memorial contract did not have punctuation (eg commas) – this is typical of legal documents of that era. To make it easier to follow, in this transcription dot points have been added but the exact wording is retained.
- Strathalbyn properties:
 - ☐ These are on Gemmell's map (below) – except 2695.
 - ☐ 2610 & 2691 (Strathalbyn) – 165 acres
 - ☐ 2695 (Angas) – 20 acres – can't find on map [Research: Find on a map]
 - ☐ 2693 (Hindmarsh) – 60 acres
 - ☐ 2621 (Angas) – 80 acres
 - ☐ 2622 (Angas) – 65 acres (ex Donald & Christina McLean)
 - ☐ 2603 & 2632 (Angas) – 95 acres (ex Donald & Christina McLean)
 - ☐ 2624 (Angas) - 5 acres - about 7 chains along eastern corner, abutting northwest side (southeast side of Hugh Matheson's 2655), and about 6 chains along a public road on northeastern boundary of the section, and on the south next other part of 2655 – [Research: Where is 2655 on Gemmell's diagram, below?]
- Bremer properties:
 - ☐ [Research: Find a map showing the location of these properties.]
 - ☐ 2818 (Bremer) – 75 acres
 - ☐ 2817 (Bremer) – 40 acres (leased by Allan McLean to George Perry & Murdoch McBain on 1st April 1872 for 7 years)
 - ☐ 2815, 2816, 2824, 2825, 2826 and 2827 (Bremer) – 507 acres
 - ☐ 2824, 2825, 2826 and 2827 (Sturt) 79 acres – leased from David Bayne, John Bullock & Allan McLean to Matthew Rankin on 1st April 1872 for 7 years
- Repayments:
 - ☐ 'in even portions'
 - ☐ Quarterly: 27th September, December, March & June each year.

- Interest: 7% of £2000 is £140 pa or £35 each quarter – but what about paying off the principal?
- Some questions arise (different figures appear in various parts of the contract):
 - Was the loan for £2000 (most probably), £2250 or £1277/7/6?
 - Was the interest rate 7% (most probably) or 8%?
 - Was the loan from Josephine Geyer (most probably) or Henry Poult?
 - When was the loan meant to be fully paid off? Amount to be paid each quarter, for how many years?
- Locations & auction:
 - This diagram is from page 51 of Nancy Gemmell's 'Old Strathalbyn & Its People'. Red ovals are Strathalbyn properties that were in this contact in June 1877, then auctioned just 9 months later in April 1878 (per p14 in J20) [Research: Find a map of the locations of the non-Strathalbyn properties (Bremer etc)]



Auctions.

On TUESDAY, April 30th.
AT THE TERMINUS HOTEL.

IMPORTANT SALE OF VALUABLE FREE-HOLD PROPERTY, IN THE DISTRICTS OF STRATHALBYN AND BREMER—1247 ACRES.

THE VERY PICK OF THE TWO DISTRICTS.

PORTION OF THE PROPERTY SELECTED SOME 35 YEARS SINCE.

JOHN CHERITON has been honored with instructions from **Mr. A. McLEAN** to sell by auction—

THE MAGNIFICENT ESTATE known as **Meadow Bank**, containing 506 Acres Good Arable and Pasture Land, splendidly watered, and almost close to the Town of Strathalbyn, being Sections and parts of Sections 2610, 2691, 2695, 2693, 2621, 2622, part of 2603 and 2632, part of 2624.

ALSO,

Erected on the Land, **GOOD FAMILY RESIDENCE**, built of stone, with galvanised iron roof, Good Tank, and Stone Stable and Out-buildings in good repair.

ALSO,

All those very Valuable SECTIONS OF LAND Situated in the District of Bremer, and having a Frontage of 2 miles to the Bremer, and 1 mile to Lake Alexandrina, being Sections Nos. 2815, 2816, 2824, 2825, 2826, 2803, 2817, 2818, and 2827, containing 741 Acres of Splendid Pasture and Agricultural Land. This is truly a very desirable Property, and if seen cannot fail to impress the fact on intending purchasers. There are two Substantial Stone Dwellings on this Land, and a Brick House and other buildings.

The auctioneer can confidently say that no Property of equal value, position, and quality has ever been submitted to competition in this district; and also, that it requires to be seen to be admired; and it is to be sold to the highest bidder, the auctioneer reserving the right to sell the above Properties either in two blocks, or by subdivision, as he may deem advisable at time of Sale.

For Plans and full Particulars, apply to the Auctioneer, Strathalbyn; or to Messrs. Andrews and Bonnin, Waymouth-Street, Adelaide.

Sale at 2 p.m.

Title Guaranteed.

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J20 - Allan McLean & Catherine, nee Dawson - web - page **78** of **79**

- in even portions quarterly on the 27th September, the. 27th December, and 27th March, and the 27th June, in each and every year until the said principal sum of £2250 (sic) shall be fully repaid and satisfied
- she, the said Josephine Geyer her heirs or assigns will, at the request and cost of the said Allan McLean his heirs and assigns, reconvey the said land hereditaments and premises, unto him or them free from encumbrances to be made or suffered by the said Josephine Geyer her heirs and assigns.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY CONVEYED

- Firstly, all those sections of land containing together 165 acres, little more or less, and numbered respectively 2610 and 2691 situated in the Hundred of Strathalbyn, County of Hindmarsh in the said province,
- and also all that section of land containing 20 acres or thereabout number 2695 situated in the Angas Special Survey County of Hindmarsh aforesaid,
- and also all that section of land containing 60 acres or thereabouts number 2693, situated in the county of Hindmarsh aforesaid,
- and also all that section of land containing 80 acres, little more less numbered 2621 situated the Angas Special survey in the said province,
- and also all that piece or parcel of land part and parcel of the section of land numbered 2622 in the Angas Special Survey and which said piece of land contains by admeasurement. 65 acres little more or less, and as the same is particularly delineated and described in and conveyed to the said Allan McLean by the certain indenture of conveyance dated the 18th June 1844 registered in the General Registry Office at Adelaide aforesaid number 457. Book 5 made between Donald McLean and Christina, his wife had therein described of the one part and the said Allan McLean of the other part,
- and also all those two several pieces or parcels of land containing together by admeasurement, 95 acres, little more or less being parts and parcels of the two sections of land in the Angas Special Survey numbered 2603 and 2632 as the same are more particularly delineated and described in and conveyed to the said Allan McLean by the said indenture dated the 18th June 1844
- and also all that piece of land containing 5 acres or thereabouts, being the eastern corner part of the section of land numbered 2624 in the Angas Special Survey, which piece of land abuts as well on the northwest side next other part of the said section of land, now or late the property of Hugh Matheson as on the southeast side next section 2655 severally 7 chains and 46 links and as well on the northeast side next a public road there running along the north eastern boundary of the said section as on the south next other part of the said section of the property of the said Hugh Matheson severally 6 chains and 70 links and one third of the link or thereabouts.
- Secondly, all that section of land containing 75 acres or thereabouts numbered 2818, situated in the hundred of Bremer, County of Hindmarsh,
- and also all that piece of land containing. 40 acres or thereabouts being the eastern moiety of the said land numbered 2817 situated in the said Hundred of Bremer subject to a certain lease thereof. from the said Allan McLean to George Perry and Murdoch McBain for the term of 7 years from 1st April 1872.
- Thirdly, all those sections of land containing together 507 acres or thereabouts and numbered, respectively, 2815, 2816, 2824, 2825, 2826 and 2827 situated in the Hundred of Bremer, County of Hindmarsh,
- and also all that section of land containing 79 acres or thereabouts numbered 3603 situated on the River Bremer in the County of Sturt, subject as to the said sections 2824, 2825, 2826 and 2827 to a certain lease thereof from David Bayne and John Bullock and the said Alan McLean to Matthew Rankin for the term of 7 from the first day of April 1872 with a right of renewal for a like period.
- And subject as to the lands hereinbefore secondly and thirdly described to a certain indenture of mortgage bearing even date here with registered xxblankxx book xxblankxx from the said Allan McLean to Henry Poult to secure the payment of the principal sum of £2000 on 1st April 1878 with the interest thereon after the rate of £7 per centum per annum by quarterly payments on the days therein named together with the messuage tenement dwelling house and buildings erected and being on the said land.

IF A CONVEYANCE OR MORTGAGE - CONSIDERATION AND HOW PAID (OR IF A LEASE - THE AMOUNT OF RENT)

- In consideration of the premises and of the sum of £1277/7/6, starting now lent and paid by the said Josephine Geyer to the said Allan McLean on the execution thereof the receipt whereof the said Allan McLean doth hereby acknowledge.

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