

R D H S

Local & Family History Newsletter

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DABEE 1923

Immediately on the conclusion of the sale of 'Tongy' Messrs. Goldsbrough Mort and Co. Ltd., will submit that magnificent wool growing property, 'Dabee' station, together with stock and plant. This sale is also by order of the Perpetual Trustee Company Ltd., trustees of the late Robert Marsden Fitzgerald.

As in the case of 'Tongy' the Fitzgerald family have held 'Dabee' for nearly 100 years, and this station is also only being offered to wind up the estate.

The property is situated one mile

from Rylstone town and railway station, 140 miles from Sydney. The area is 15,660 acres 3 rds 23 perches freehold undulating to hilly, unsurpassed to growing the highest class fine Merino wool, as indicated by the prices realised for the 'Dabee' clip, which sold up to 32 1/2d in 1921, 38d in 1922, and has invariably been amongst the highest priced clips in the State.

The property is splendidly watered by Cudgegong River, creeks, springs and numerous dams, and is fenced and subdivided into 33 paddocks.

There is a stone homestead, and all necessary out buildings are in order; also stone woolshed with eight machines, yards, dip, etc., manager's residence, 3 boundary riders' cottages.

The stock comprises about 9300 sheep, Dabee and Havilah blood, shorn September – October 1923; about 4860 ewes, of which 3690 are now lambing; about 4300 wethers, 140 rams, 300 cattle, comprising 182 cows, 173 steers and 24 horses (Sydney Morning Herald, 14th November 1923 p 4).

ST JOHN'S WORT 1937

Problem on Nullo Mountain.
RYLSTONE, Friday

A special meeting of the Rylstone Shire Council was held to consider the noxious weed question. Mr K G Cam, special weeds officer of the Department of Agriculture, and Mr G Nicholson, senior agriculture instructor, were present to advise the council of the best method that might be used in the eradication of St John's Wort on Nullo Mountain, in the Rylstone Shire. Mr D D Macfarlane presided.

Mr Cam said that he had visited the Nullo Mountain with

Mr Nicholson, and found that the weed was a big problem, as 3000 to 4000 acres were infested. A serious position had not been exaggerated in any way. The pest was firmly established. With the rich basalt country, this region was ideally suitable for pasture improvement.

On private land, St John's Wort was very bad, but settlers were trying to keep it under control on cleared ground only. If the country was opened up this weed would spread.

The Government had made available, through the Rural Bank, financial assistance for

weed eradication, and £100,000 had been set aside for that purpose. A decided move had been made by the department all over the State in regard to St John's Wort. In the southern districts, five shires contributed £900, which was subsidised by the Government, and this money was spent each year on eradication and clearing of waterways. Poison and salt had been used by means of a spray tank. The country was similar to the Nullo Mountain.

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Late Mrs Jamison 1921

THE LAST OF A GREAT FAMILY INTERESTING SKETCH

A correspondent writes: – Mrs Jamison sen., whose death was reported in last Thursday's Guardian was the 3rd daughter of the late Mr John Maclean of Glen Alice Station, Capertee Valley. By a strange coincidence John Maclean early in the 19th century, married an Isle of Skye girl who bore the same surname Marian Effie Maclean – but was in no way related to him. About the year 1820, Mr John Maclean, born at Condrae House, Isle of Skye, Scotland, came to Australia and with him many of the fine old Scotch families who afterwards settled in The Nile and various parts of the Rylstone district. A few years subsequent to his arrival in New Sales Wales Mr Maclean acquired the Glen Alice property by purchase, at auction, from the late Sir James James, for whom a highly lucrative appointment had been found by the British Government in India. Glen Alice in the heyday of Mr Maclean's ownership held 25,000 sheep, in addition to several thousand head of cattle and horses. The old homestead, modelled on English lines, was widely known because of its comfort, beauty, and the hospitality of its Highland chieftain. It was said of Mr Maclean that he never permitted a swagman to travel past his home with empty ration bags, or tattered boots or clothing. Glen Alice retained bootmakers and

tailors, and the wants of the needy at the request of the owner were invariably made good. In those days there were no railway lines, motor cars, telephones, or telegraph lines; not even distant centres of country civilisation. The requirements of a property supporting 70 odd shepherds and station hands had to be met by the services of the early gig and the bullock dray, having contact across the Blue Mountain Chain, nearly 200 miles away, with Sydney. Sugar and flour and other requisites cost more than was ever paid during the submarine crisis in Britain in 1918. Wild blacks were numerous, and bushranging episodes were not infrequent. On one occasion Mr Maclean was returning from Sydney with over £200 in cash in his possession to pay his servants. Riding across the Bailbone Gap, near sunset, he was accosted by a daring horseman in wild bush garb. The stranger drew a pistol, and levelling it at John Maclean's head cried angrily, "Hands up, or I'll blow your brains out." The old man, who latterly wore a glowing white beard, obeyed the command. McIntyre, the bushranger, hesitated for instant then broke in sternly, "What's your name?" "John Maclean" was the reply.

"Of Glen Alice?" asked the desperado.

"Yes," said Mr Maclean.

"Then you can go on; I wouldn't hurt a hair on your head; I thought you were Billy B--, and if you had been I'd have shot you as dead as a crow and scalped you. But mind, I warn you, don't look back."

The temptation was too great, and before dipping the range a backward glance was made.

Mcintyre shook his fists in the air and roared an injunction, but did not fire.

Mr Maclean was renowned for his physique and strength. In the early sixties, at Glen Alice (recorded in Australian Men of Mark) for a wage of £5, he carried a spade pressed bale of wool, weighing 553 lbs, a distance of 150 yards on his back. It was a usual feat to take a full-size Merino wether in each hand and cast both with comparative ease into the wash pool. Between the years 1860 and 1880 wild horse chasing and bull shooting were amongst the outdoor sports. Old hands, like Mr Samuel Nicholson, of Glen Alice, will remember the heroic feat performed during the 70s by the late owner of Glen Alice, when, with his old horse pistol he destroyed an infuriated wild bull on the Blue Rock Flat in proximity to the Old Crow Station. He was walking across the flat with the bridle of his pony upon his arm, when the bull broke from a mob of cattle nearby.

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Late Mrs Jamison

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Turning in a flash to mount his charger Mr Maclean was amazed to find that the bridle had been slipped and the pony was not there. Wonderful presence of mind stood him in good stead, and calmly drawing the horse pistol from its holster he levelled the weapon at the charging monster which fell in a lifeless heap at his feet.

The home of Mr Maclean was open to all comers and strict Presbyterian as he was Monsignor O'Donovan was always hospitably entertained at Glen Alice.

Mrs Jamison's maiden name was Margaret Effie Maclean. She married William Henry Jamison youngest son of Sir John Jamison MD, of Regentville, Penrith. Sir John Jamison was a son of Dr Thomas Jamison, surgeon of the Royal Navy, who landed in Sydney Cove with Governor Phillip in 1788, and was the first medical officer of the city of Sydney. He came to Australia as assistant surgeon on HMS Sirius (1788). Sir John was the first president of the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales, Deputy Grandmaster of the Masonic Lodge, and was the organiser of the first race meeting ever held in the State. Binnalong, his blood sire, received the first award given by the Royal Society. Sir John left two sons, Robert Thomas, member of the first Parliament for Nepean and William Henry (husband of the late Mrs Jamieson, of

Warrangee) who owned Baanbaa and Ingelabah Stations in Queensland and Warrangee, in New South Wales. Some years after Mr and Mrs John Maclean were living at Glen Alice, two of Mrs Maclean's brothers came to Australia. These were Jonathan and J D Maclean. The former was Curator of the Sydney Botanical Gardens and (I think) in the year 1833, subsequently becoming Administrator of Norfolk Island. The latter became the owner of the famous "Westbrook" Estate on the Darling Downs.

Before his untimely decease at Westbrook, Mr J D Maclean was Premier of Queensland, and upon one occasion lent £300,000 to the Queensland Government to tide it over a period of financial depression.

Mrs Jamison's brothers were the late Donald Martin Maclean of "The Crown" Station; the late George Maclean, of Sydney; the late Alexander Maclean, of Co Co Creek; the late Jonathan Maclean, of Mungrabambone Station; and the late John Hector Maclean, of Coolamitchell Station. There were two sisters, Kate, who married Murray Davidson (son of the Surveyor General of New South Wales), and Jessie, whose husband was a professional man, named Marshall.

Mrs Jamison was born at Old Warrangee Station in the year 1846. Her husband died at the Globe Hotel, Rylstone, in 1891, as the result of an

accident, leaving seven young children and a station of 16,000 acres in extent, who were to become the charge of his widow. The business acumen and ability of the late Mrs Jamison may be gauged by the fact that she personally controlled their interests with success, only relinquishing the actual management of the Warrangee Station a few years before its sale to take up residence in the Blue Mountains and later in North Sydney. During the days of its late owner, Warrangee may have been likened unto an elastic house, for it was always possible to find room for the visitor and traveller as well as a pleasure to dispense hospitality. The removal of one of the most picturesque figures in the social and industrial life of the Rylstone district takes place with the decease of Mrs Jamison, and moreover, it means the entire disappearance of the last Australian link of the grand old Scottish pioneering family. There are many good people within the precincts of the old home who will long remember her neighbourly propensities and kindly humanitarian acts.

For many years in the Capertee Valley were the homes of the sick and afflicted visited by the late deceased at all hours of the day and night, and it was always a great pleasure to her to be able to administer or bring comfort to suffering humanity.

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Late Mrs Jamison

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Like her late father, whose memory is revered at Glen Alice today, she never permitted a poor swagman or destitute wayfarer to pass the door of her home without dispensing whatever aid lay within her power. Eloquent testimony of sorrowing and grateful community to this was borne by the large number of residents who came to the graveside of the Glen Alice Cemetery to pay their last tribute of respect last Tuesday afternoon. The cause of the decease of the late Mrs Jamison was cerebral haemorrhage. The end was doubtless hastened by war anxiety, but specialists agreed that the life could have been prolonged another 15 or 20 years, but for the cerebral rupture. The end came peacefully in the presence of members of her family at North Sydney, her last wish being that her remains should be interred in the old cemetery at Glen Alice.

The children surviving are six in number: Marion E Ashe, Mary F Jamison, Kathleen Jamison, Duart Maclean Jamison, William James Jamison, Lyndon G Jamison, deceased, H J C Jamison (Mudgee Guardian 1 September 1921).

OBITUARY 1989

ARTHUR POTTS

The death occurred of Arthur Potts in Rylstone District Hospital on August 25 at the age of 82 years.

The late Mr Potts lived in Rodgers Street, Kandos the past 12 years and prior to that, during his working years, owned the Bakery at Lue.

As a baker, Mr Potts came to Lue for 3 weeks in 1933 where Snowy Thompson had built a bakery and needed someone to work it for a while.

Arthur worked for Snowy until it was sold to Ossie Carrette 1938. He worked for Ossie and bought the bakery himself in 1939. The bakery had a Scotch oven, woodfired, to make more loaves with thick brown crusts, and baked a batch of 120 loaves in three quarters of an hour.

Apart from mixing the dough and shaping the loaves, Arthur also had a two-hour delivery run, with some orders going to Mudgee.

On his first visit to Lue from Mudgee, Arthur met Nellie Walsh, the girl he was to marry. They were married in 1939 and his wife helped in the business.

Arthur retired in the late 60s and continued living in Lue until the death of his wife Nellie in 1977.

Arthur was one of the last small country bakers, who kneaded a lifetime of wisdom and experience into every loaf he baked.

Some of his baking tins will live on in the Kandos Museum, where they are on display.

Since Arthur retired at the bakery it was closed down and hasn't functioned as a bakery since.

His wife Nellie, predeceased him and he is survived by his daughter Valda, son-in-law John (Keech) and granddaughter Simone. A sister Rose (Walsh) from Lithgow also survives him.

A service was conducted in St John's Anglican Church, Mudgee by Rev Michael Birch and burial took place in the Mudgee Cemetery (Mudgee Guardian 19 September 1989 p 2).

St John's Wort

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The settlers are doing most good by introducing Subterranean Clover, which gradually worked the weed out. Experiments had also been made with black face sheep, and a remarkable success has been achieved with Suffolks. Lambs

fattened and realised up to 25/- per head. He was convinced by the Tumbarumba experiment, comprising 15,000 acres, that the problem could be handled by pastoralists (Sydney Morning Herald, 30 January 1937, p 14).