

Warrangee Station Research

by James Michael Fleming

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Introduction

For many years I struggled to find “Wrangear”, the 1859 birthplace of my GG-grandmother Frances Kemp. I have now identified it as Warrangee Station, near Rylstone, NSW.



Jim Fleming is a retired Customs Manager and lives on Sydney's lower north shore. He began researching his family history in 1983 and has been a member of the Society of Australian Genealogists since then. Aside from genealogy he was enjoying travelling and singing baritone in two choirs - before COVID19 interrupted those activities, thus leaving more time for family history!

Researching: Bowen, Flowerdew, Gardner, Gordon, Grady, Hanrahan, Jolliffe, Kemp, Kessey, Murphy, Poulton, Press and so many more!

Website: <http://jimfleming.id.au/up/index.htm>

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Warrangee near Mudgee

Previous knowledge

My GG-grandmother, Frances Kemp, was born on 7 July 1859 at “*Wrangear nr Mudgee*”. These details were recorded by the registrar M Allpass when her father William Kemp registered her birth at Mudgee on 15 August 1859. Despite a thorough search for *Wrangear*, I was not able to locate it for several decades, but I have recently had a breakthrough.

Breakthrough

No.	Date and place of birth of child	Name and whether present or not	Sex	Father's name, occupation, age and birthplace	Date and place of marriage - previous issue	Mother's name and maiden surname, age and birthplace	Informant	Witnesses	Particulars of registration	Name if added after Registration of birth
99252/856	4th July 1859. Wrangear nr Mudgee	Frances not present	Female	(1) William Kemp (2) 33 years (3) Stockman (4) U.S.A.	(1) 10 Nov 1856 (2) Wellington N.S.W.	(1) Emma Elliott (2) 21 years (3) Mudgee	W. Allpass	Frances Gibson	15th Aug 1859	Mudgee

I, TREVOR WILLIAM HAINES, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE COPY OF PARTICULARS RECORDED IN A REGISTER KEPT BY ME.

ISSUED AT SYDNEY, 12th JANUARY, 1984.

Principal Registrar

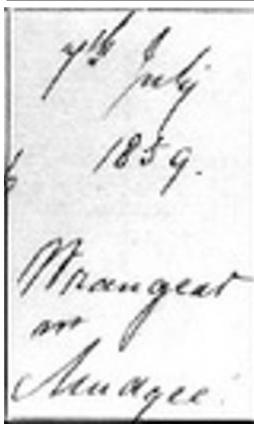


Illustration 1: Birth Certificate for Frances Kemp, 1859

Frances' mother Emma Elliott and grandmother Frances Gibson had arrived in Australia from England four years earlier. Emma had travelled to Mudgee with her mother before continuing without Frances to a cattle station near Quambone that was owned by her uncle, George Gibson.

A year later, Emma had eloped with William Kemp (an itinerant stockman) and they were married at Wellington on 10 November 1856. Their son William was born in 1857, but his birth was not registered. The 1859 birth certificate for Frances is important because it is the first official record that tells us where William Kemp and Emma Elliott went after they were married.

By the time their next children were born (twins Emily and Elizabeth), the family had returned to Merri Merri Creek, near Quambone.

It makes sense that the newly-weds would have headed for the Mudgee District after they eloped in 1856, because that is where Emma's mother was living. It is also where William had been born in 1826 and where he had lived during most of his childhood. He would have known local cattle station people who could provide him with employment. Furthermore, their place of marriage (Wellington) is situated on the road between Quambone and Mudgee. But supposition is not fact, so the evidence provided by the 1859 birth certificate is important.

Warrangee near Mudgee

The certificate indicates that *Wrangear* was, indeed, near Mudgee. This evidence is supported by a newspaper article that indicates that William was in Mudgee in September 1858¹. Nevertheless, it was very frustrating that I could not find a place named *Wrangear*.

The problem was solved when I recently stumbled across a reference to *Warrangee Station* near Rylstone. The station is near the junction of the Umbrella Creek and the Capertee River. It is about 39 kilometres from Rylstone and 96 kilometres from Mudgee, so it could be fairly described as “near Mudgee”. I now believe that this is where Frances Kemp was born.

The eccentric spelling “*Wrangear*” is easily explained as the registrar’s interpretation of William Kemp’s pronunciation of “Warrangee”. William could not have spelled the name for the registrar because he was illiterate, as indicated by him signing the certificate with his mark.

Warrangee Station

<https://oldimagesrylstone.blogspot.com/search/label/Warrangee>



Illustration 2: *Warrangee Station*, Glen Alice Road, Rylstone, painted by Mrs M.E. Jamison and given to Rev. Horace Clarence George Walton, who said he lived there with her after his mother died on 17 August 1887.

(Photo: Michael Walton)

¹ Donegal Relief Fund, *The Freeman's Journal*, Advertising column, 4 Sep 1858, page 1.

Obituary

D. McLEAN JAMISON

The late D. McLean Jamison was born at "Warrangee Station," in the old convict built home of the McLean's of Capertee Valley. "Warrangee," subsequently owned by deceased's father, the late William Henry Jamison, was a free grant in 1823 to Jonathan MacLean, afterwards Governor of Norfolk Island and formerly Curator of the Sydney Botanical Gardens. Duart McLean Jamison was a great grandson of Dr. Thomas Jamison, surgeon to the First Fleet, under Governor King, who arrived on H.M.S. Sirius in Sydney Cove, when the Union Jack was struck in Port Jackson, in the year 1788. Dr. Jamison afterwards became the first resident medical officer of the city of Sydney and Surgeon General of the State. He was recalled to London to give evidence in the Governor Bligh rum-scandal case and died in the the Empire's capital after its termination. Deceased's grandfather was also a scion of the medical profession and became principal surgeon to the Royal Navy during the reign of King George the Fourth. It was due to Dr. John Jamison that the plague in Aboukir Bay, which threatened the extinction of the

fleet of Sir Phillip Sydney of whom Napoleon said: "That man made me miss my destiny," was arrested and stamped out. Subsequent to this at the request of "The Government of France," he suppressed a fearful plague in Paris, and before coming to Australia successfully operated upon the Queen of Sweden entirely removing the left breast. The nature of the malady was malignant and contracted through a poisoned arrow, received during a cruise of the Islands. Before the former died Dr. Jamison received a knighthood and a second one was conferred for the latter by the King of Sweden being subsequently ratified by King George the Fourth of England. Sir John Jamison came to Australia in the early nineteenth century. He did much useful work in the development of the pastoral, agricultural and viticultural world, was the first man in N.S.W. to organise and run a race meeting, and became the first president of the Royal Agricultural Society of N.S.W. It was Sir John's horse "Binalong," that secured the first award for a blood stallion given by the society he did so much to found.

His home in the metropolitan area was at Parramatta and subsequently near Penrith. It bore the name of "Regentville" and was in

proximity to Jamison town, named after the old knight. Sir John at the time of his death owned vast station interests in the State, including most of the McMaster acres in the vicinity of Coolah, "Umbrella," in the Capertee Valley, Cullen Bullen near Wallerawang and valuable property in the cities of Sydney and Hobart.

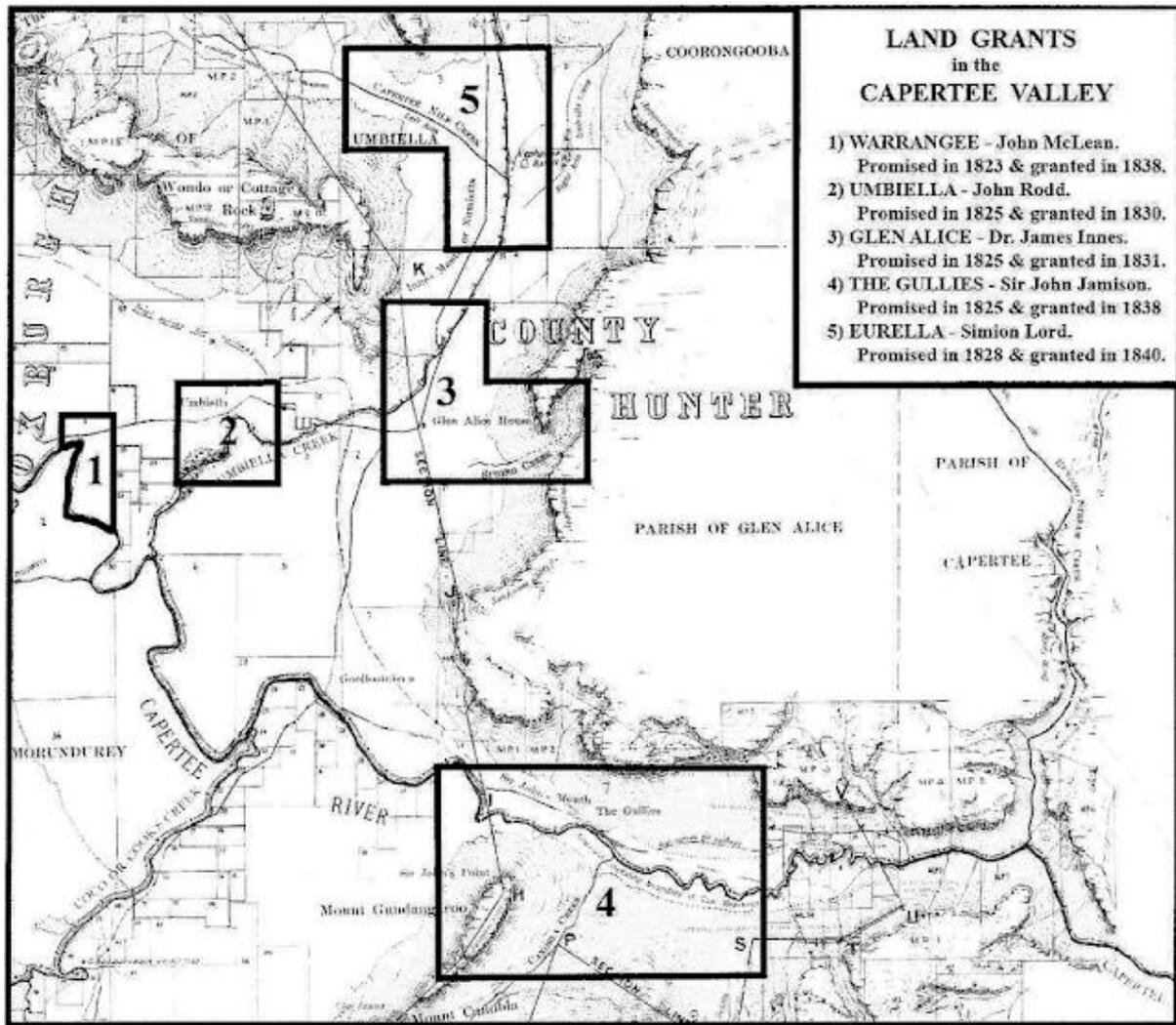
He crossed the Blue Mountains in Governor Macquarie's carriage en route to the beautiful plains of Bathurst in 1812 travelling along the first road constructed by that grand old man Captain William Cox, grandfather of James and Alfred Cox of Brymair, Capertee Valley. Sir John was one of the founders of the Bank of Australia and it has been said that his losses in its collapse exceeded £500,000. He, Sir John, left two sons, William Henry and Robert Thomas. The latter was member for the Nepean in the first N.S.W. Parliament and William Henry abandoned medicine after the third year to follow pastoral pursuits. He owned Angelala and Neave Downs stations in North Western N.S.W. and later "Warrangee" in Capertee Valley. His son D. McL. Jamison, was educated privately and at the Rockdale College. For many years he managed "Warrangee," for his mother, who was a daughter of the late John

McLean of Glen Alice. In 1914 D. McL. Jamison acquired a property known as Huntingdale in the Capertee Valley, which some years afterwards was sold and is now owned by Campbell brothers. In 1915 he enlisted in the A.I.F. and to the day of his decease wore the silver medal given in recognition of the sacrifice made in the cause. After the war he acquired properties at Glen Alice and near Mudgee. During the war he married the only daughter of Commander Fearnley.

There are no children. He was an original councillor of the Shire of Rylstone, and held office until the last. As a citizen, he was held in high esteem by high and low, rich and poor, and his many acts of generosity and helpfulness to the deserving poor and needy, will long cause his memory to be feelingly remembered. The last moments in his little country home were spent during the spell of a painful illness, in saying farewell to all classes of the district, who came long distances in the grand old spirit of loyalty, kindness and friendship to pay their last tribute of respect. The remains were laid to rest in the Glen Alice cemetery in the presence of the largest assemblage of people ever witnessed at Glen Alice.

Obituary of D McLean Jamison (1929, November 25). *Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative (NSW : 1890 - 1954)*, p. 14. Retrieved May 21, 2021, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article156241552>. He was a son of Sir John Jamison (1776-1844)

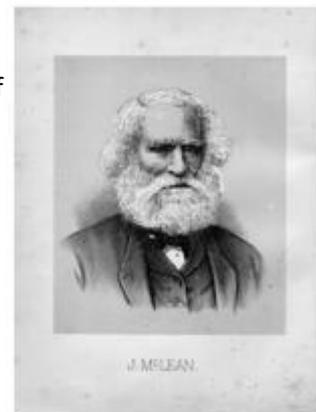
Warrangee near Mudgee



<http://www.rdhswiki.com/page/McLean%2C+John+%281800-1876%29>

McLean, John (1800-1876)

Mr. John McLean's strongly-marked character is essentially signalled by those noble qualities of determination and endeavour which were necessary to the pioneer's success in the past. He brought to the battle of life in Australia the indomitable spirit of those early colonists who spent their manhood in subduing nature, and in warring against untoward circumstances that beset their path at every turn, and Mr. McLean did not stay his hand until he had wrung from the new land to which he had venture a substantial fortune for himself and heirs. If his autograph is plain and unpretending it nevertheless possessed two characteristic qualities, namely, it ever defied all attempts at imitation or forgery, and was never dishonoured at the bank.



John McLean was born at Lindel, Dunvegan, in the Isle of Skye, Scotland, in the year 1800, and was a scion of the house of Loch Bouy, the reputed chief of the McLeans. Here he spent his early years familiarising himself gradually with all the details of the sheep and cattle breeding industry carried on there from time immemorial.

Warrangee near Mudgee

In 1833 he married Miss Marion McLean, daughter of Mr. Donald McLean, of Aird and Glen, Skye. A few years after that his attention was first drawn to Australia, and, as was the case with so many other bold and original spirits, tired of the old beaten paths their forefathers had trodden for generations, the fascination of a new life at the Antipodes so grew upon his mind that he could see no other alternative but to accept the call and follow whither fortune led him. Mr. McLean therefore sold off his possessions in Skye, and in 1837, the year of Her Majesty's accession, sailed with his wife and three sons -- G. R. McLean, A. McLean, and D. M. McLean -- to Australia, in the good ship Midlothian, which reached Sydney on the 12th December of that year.

He lost no time in deciding on the career on which he proposed to enter in this new country, as he spent his first Christmas in Australia in [Capertee](#), west of the Blue Mountains.

Some of his relatives had already preceded him to Australia; among others his brother-in-law, Mr. John McLean, at that time (1837) superintendent of Norfolk Island. From him Mr. McLean purchased the station called "Warrangee", in the [Capertee](#) country, near Mudgee; and settling down there at once entered on the business of his youth, viz., the rearing sheep, cattle, and horses.

Considerable success attended Mr. McLean's matured efforts. His stock and possessions continued to grow and increase about him from year to year, until he lived to brand over 500 foals, 700 calves, and 7000 lambs yearly, producing employment for upwards of 100 men. In his accumulation of acres of territory, both leasehold and freehold, his success was equally remarkable. When he first settled in Capertee he found it mainly occupied by Sir John Jamison, Mr Dalmahoy Campbell, and Mr. George Innes, each of whom he gradually supplanted by purchase and otherwise absorbing their territory, until at length he became undisputed lord of Capertee. Capertee, he rented the station of Cullen Bullen, a large tract of country near Wallerawang, and on the borders of Capertee. Here he was in the habit of mustering his sheep for the [shearing](#) season, as it was nearer Sydney than Capertee, which last had the additional inconvenience of a very bad road. Cullen Bullen was also useful to him in this way, when he purchased Coolamidgel, near Sunny Corner, as large leasehold and freehold sheep property, from the late Mr. Irving of Bathurst. This last purchase of all the runs on Palmer's Oakey, Williwa, and the Upper Turon, down to as far as the Gulf, so that he owned all the land without a break from Capertee to the mountains in sight of Bathurst, a distance of over sixty miles. This princely domain, large as that of many a territorial magnate in other lands, whose name perhaps is one of the pillars of the state, might well have suggested some such remark of magnificent sweep as that which is out into the mouth of Timon, "To Lacedaemon did my land extend." When the late Mr. James Walker, of Wallerawang, died, Mr. McLean rented Walgan -- a miniature Capertee -- and immediately adjoining it on the south-east side. With this fine run he purchased the stock and right of brand to all the cattle, horses, mules, and asses thereon, which in time he has moved to Capertee by a new road cut by him, with prodigious labour, through the steep mountain wall (2000 feet high) that separates these two fertile valleys, In 1859 Mr. McLean purchased Mr. Gibson's extensive squattage on the Merri Merri, near Coonamble, which he soon afterwards stocked with three thousand head of cattle. Capertee, Coamidgel, and the Merri Merri properties are still in the possession of the family. It was his pride and pleasure to see the sun rise and set in his own distant hills; a delight he long enjoyed. Although but a little above a medium-sized man in appearance, his strength was surprising. On one occasion he carried a bale of [wool](#), weighing 5 cwt. on his back a distance of over sixty yards -- a feat of strength impossible to any one of the hundred men then employed on his establishment. His strength of mind was equal to his strength of body, for although he was no great academician. Indeed it must be confessed that his disposition was somewhat aggressive and fierce, as he disinherited his eldest son, a magistrate of the territory,

Warrangee near Mudgee

who had served him faithfully and without salary for nearly twenty years, because he offended him on one occasion.

Mr. McLean had one other characteristic in common with the old feudal chieftains of his clan besides indomitable determination and resolve, and that was his unbounded hospitality. The broad tables of [Glen Alice](#) always bent beneath their weight of the fresh beeves, and the hospitable doors were always flung wide open to welcome the weary traveller to Capertee by night or by day. People came and went there as they listed, for their pleasure in that respect was high; both high and low, rich and poor, alike were to his best while they stayed. Like the feudal chieftain, too, he had the rare faculty of attaching his servants to his service. He never discharged a man from his employment, and some of them continued to serve him willingly and faithfully for nearly forty years.

For many years Mr. McLean took an interest in political affairs of the colony, and on occasions of general election always took his spare men to the nearest polling-booth, [Rylstone](#), a distance of thirty miles, to vote for the late Mr. W. G. Suttor, or Mr. Henry Rotton, or Mr. Andrew Brown, each of whom he greatly admired. But on one occasion his men deserted him at the poll and voted for Mr. John Lucas instead of for their master's candidate. The act of treachery and ingratitude (for he had stopped his shearing and supplied his men with money and horses to enable them to record their votes) so disgusted Mr. McLean with manhood suffrage and vote by ballot that he lost all interest in public affairs and eschewed politics for the remainder of his life.

Mr. McLean was once stopped by a bushranger, the notorious [Jack McIntyre](#), on a lonely part of the old Mudgee-road, about a mile on the Sydney side of the Capertee railway station. The encounter was characteristic. The ferocious looking highway-man, with stringy-bark belt about his loins, and oposom skin cap on his head, blocked the road before him, gun in hand, and reportedly called upon Mr. McLean to stand. The latter, however, although unarmed and alone, continued to approach the desperate ruffian, steadily and dauntlessly, until his horse was struck on the nostrils with a loaded weapon. "It was a lucky thing for you," exclaimed the now enraged robber, "that you are McLean of [Capertee](#), or you would be a corpse by this time." after warning him not to run such another risk again, the terror of the roads allowed Mr. McLean to proceed on his way without any further molestation. Mr. McLean afterwards declared that he would have closed with the brawny brigand rather than have been robbed by him, as he had a considerable amount of money about him at the time.

Mr. McLean was a constant reader of his Bible, in the whole truth of which he believed as implicitly as did ever the most devout Covenanter.

After a life of endless care and endeavour, for he had toiled terribly all his days, he lies in his stately tomb at [Capertee](#) by the side of the church which he himself had erected.

His death took place at [Glen Alice](#) on 30th May 1876. "When shall such hero live again?"

A History of Rylstone 1920 - 1988 (p. 8) states: We know John McLean at Glen Alice gave the land and built the Glen Alice church for Presbyterian worship. [Colin Stewart](#) was the executor to John McLean's will.

Note: Re penultimate paragraph above, John McLean is in fact buried in the [Glen Alice](#) cemetery.
Ref: Australian Men of Mark Vol. II

<http://www.rdhswiki.com/page/McLean%2C+John+-+An+Early+Settler>

McLean, John- An Early Settler

JOHN McLEAN (1790-1876) – GLEN ALICE

[John McLean](#) was born in 1790 at Lynedale, Dunvegan, in the Isle of Skye, married Marion McLean in 1825, she being born in 1807, the daughter of Donald of Aird and Glen, in the Isle of Skye, a member of the ancient House of Boreray being descended from the Kinloch and Vattan branches.

Having sold all his lands and effects in Skye, John McLean, accompanied by his wife and three sons, namely George, Alexander and Donald, together with their nurse Marianne Stewart, sailed on the "Midlothian", reaching Sydney on 12th December, 1837, and proceeded to [Capertee Valley](#) where he took over his brother-in-law's property known as "[Warrangee](#)".

Having been a farmer all his life, he soon put his knowledge to good use and proceeded to rear sheep, cattle and horses. Considerable success attended his efforts. His stock and possessions continued to grow and increase about him from year to year until he lived to brand over 500 foals, 700 calves, and 7,000 lambs yearly, providing employment for upwards of a hundred men.

John McLean, although only medium in stature, was of surprising strength and his strength of mind was equal to his body. His disposition was somewhat aggressive and fierce but he was respected by his men. It is said he never discharged a man from his employment and some of them continued to serve him willingly and faithfully for nearly 40 years. He was also renowned for his hospitality. Rich and poor alike were always welcome day or night to his home "[Glen Alice](#)".

McLean was once stopped by a bushranger, the notorious [Jack McIntyre](#), on a lonely part of the Old Mudgee Road about one mile on the Sydney side of the present [Capertee](#) railway station. The ferocious looking highwayman, with stringy bark belt about his loins and a possum skin cap on his head, blocked the road before him, gun in hand, repeatedly calling on McLean to stand. The latter, however, although unarmed and alone, continued to approach the ruffian until his horse was struck on the nostrils with the loaded weapon. "It was a lucky thing for you", exclaimed the enraged robber, "that you are a McLean of [Capertee](#) or you would be a corpse by this time". He then allowed him to proceed on his way. Mr. McLean had a considerable amount of money about him at the time.

The first church service to be held in the Valley was possibly the one presided over by Archdeacon Broughton (later Bishop Broughton) about 1832 when he stayed at "[Warrangee](#)" for several nights. The service was held on the front lawn and was attended by the surrounding settlers. Later the Reverend Colin Stewart from Bowenfels visited the Valley several times a year to conduct a service.

In the 1860's John McLean donated a piece of land near his property (this area later was declared a suburb and known as [Glen Alice](#) Village) for a church to be erected thereon and the surrounding land for a cemetery. The church, built of timber, was opened by the Reverend [Colin Stewart](#), who also took the first service. Mr. Murray Davidson (later son-in-law of John McLean) furnished the plan for the church and also presented a fine pulpit Bible for the use of the church. It is known that John McLean brought with him a very fine silver Communion Service from Scotland when he came to New South Wales. Possibly this was used in the above church.

Warrangee near Mudgee

The Church at some later date was rebuilt (possibly the old one may have been burnt as it was all timber). The Church was built for the Presbyterian faith, but was available for the use of other Protestant denominations.

The small cemetery has many McLean, Jamison, Ashe and Naker graves, many of these families had inter-married. Other sections of the cemetery are set aside for the Church of England, Roman Catholic, Wesleyan and other denominations. The cemetery is situated at the rear of the church in the village of Glen Alice.

On the death of Mr. James Walker of Wallerawang, John McLean leased from his estate the property known as "Walgan" situated in the Wolgan Valley which adjoins the [Capertee Valley](#), and purchased all the stock thereon. McLean cut a pass through the steep mountain wall, thus enabling him to take his stock from [Capertee](#) to Wolgan and then on to Cullen Bullen station (another property he had leased) and enabling the stock to rest before being sent to Sydney. The pass that he cut through the mountain was possibly the one shown on today's maps as "McLean's Pass" which appears to be at the foot of Mt. McLean.

Gradually McLean, by leasehold and freehold, absorbed much of the land owned by [Sir John Jamison](#) and others. He also owned the land that later became the township of [Glen Davis](#). He also had properties away from [Capertee](#), one being "**Mungabambone**", near Quambone, which was a large property with fine homestead and many out-buildings and a magnificent garden surrounding the house. He purchased this from Mr. Gibson and stocked it with 3,000 head of cattle. "Coolamidgel" Station near Sunny Corner, not far from Bathurst, was also purchased by McLean from Mr. Irving of Bathurst. This latter purchase gave him command of all the runs on Palmer's Oakey, Williwa and the Upper Turon down as far as the Gulf so that he owned all the land without a break from Capertee to the mountains in sight of Bathurst, a distance of over 60 miles. In the eyes of the surrounding landowners he became the undisputed "Lord of Capertee".

John McLean died at his home "[Glen Alice](#)" on 30th May, 1876, aged 86 years, and is buried in the family tomb in the Glen Alice cemetery which he himself donated. He left a wife and eight children, five sons and three daughters, three other daughters having predeceased him. After one hundred and thirtytwo years (1837-1969) there have been no less than 250 to 300 descendants of John and Marion McLean of [Glen Alice](#), [Capertee](#), born in Australia.

The last property in the Valley in the name of McLean was "[The Crown](#)" owned by two sons and a daughter of Jonathon, the youngest son of John McLean; it finally passed out of the family in 1950. The homestead property "[Glen Alice](#)", also two other properties known as "[The Nile](#)" and "[Goollooinboin](#)" were inherited by three of John McLean's granddaughters, the children of Murray and Catherine Davidson, who from time to time sub-divided and sold various portions, the last sale being in the late 1930's. The old homestead on [Glen Alice](#) station was demolished in the early part of the century. Today a small cottage stands almost on the site and the new station homestead is a short distance away, not far from the foot of one of the many mountains that surround the Valley.

Ref: *Rylstone Area - History of Settlement*

<https://rylstonehistory.blogspot.com/2016/01/>

The late Mrs. Jamison- The last of a Great Family

Mrs. Jamison Senior, whose death was reported in last Thursday's Guardian", 1st September, 1921, was the third daughter-of the late Mr. JOHN MacLEAN of GLEN ALICE STATION, Capertree Valley. By a strange coincidence John MacLean early in the nineteenth century married an Isle of Skye girl who bore the same surname - Marion Effie MacLean - but who was no way related to him. About the year 1820 Mr. John MacLean, born at Coudrae House, Isle of Skye, Scotland, came to Australia and with him many of the fine old Scottish families who afterwards settled in the Nile and various parts of the Rylstone district. A few years subsequent to his arrival in New South 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 these 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 seventy odd shepherds and station hands had to be met by the services of the early gig and 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.

Upon one occasion Mr. MacLean was returning from Sydney with over £200 in cash in his possession to pay his servants, when riding back back he was accosted by a 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 an 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 of your head. I thought you were Billy B . . . and if it had been I'd have shot you as dead as a crow and then 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 fist 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 Neath") for a wager 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 sized merino wetter in each hand and cast both with comparative ease in 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, well remember the heroic feat

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performed during the seventies 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 close proximity to the old Crown 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. Turning like 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 M.D. 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 of H.M.S. 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 of the Nepean, and William Henry (husband of the late Mrs. Jamison, of **Warrangee**) who owned Baanbaa and Ingelobah 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 in approximately 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 Jonathon MacLean of **Mungrabambone Station**. There were two sisters, Kate, who was married to 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 her interests with success, only relinquishing the actual management of the **Warrangee** Station a few years before its sale to take up residence on 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

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disappearance of the last Australian link of a 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 humanitarianism 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.

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 a sorrowing and grateful community to this was borne by the graveside at the Glen Alice Cemetery by the large number of residents who came 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 for another 15 to 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 be interred in the old cemetery at Glen Alice. The children surviving are six in number :- Marion E. Ashe; Mary R. Jamison; Kathleen Jamison; Duart MacLean Jamison; William James Jamison; Lyndon G. Jamison - Deceased H.J.C. Jamison.

Jamison, Sir John (1776–1844)

by G. P. Walsh

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Sir John Jamison (1776-1844), physician, landowner and constitutional reformer, was born at Carrickfergus, Antrim, Ireland, the eldest son of [Thomas Jamison](#) and his wife Rebecca, who arrived in the colony as surgeon's mate in the First Fleet. After education at the University of St Andrews (M.D., 1808) he joined the navy and served in many parts of the world. In 1809, while physician in the hospital ship *Gorgon* with the Baltic Fleet, he was instrumental in curbing a serious outbreak of scurvy in the Swedish navy. This work, which was carried out in the face of great opposition and ignorance, earned him the approbation of King Charles XIII of Sweden, who honoured him in July 1809 with a knighthood of the Order of Gustavus Vasa. In May 1813 he was appointed a knight bachelor by the Prince Regent.

On the death of his father in 1811 Jamison inherited several grazing properties close to Sydney, including 1000 acres (405 ha) near Penrith, together with some city property. He arrived in Sydney in the *Broxbornebury* in 1814 to look after his interests, until then administered by [D'Arcy Wentworth](#). He soon became associated with the public and official affairs of the colony. He accompanied Governor [Lachlan Macquarie](#) on his visit to the interior in June 1815, and in 1818 explored the Warragamba River. In 1817 he was one of the founders of the Bank of New South Wales, and asked the British government to appoint him a member of any proposed colonial council.

His relationships with Governor Macquarie were at first friendly but in December 1817 because he objected to the governor's emancipist policy, called by him 'the very impolitick levelling measures of this Government', Macquarie in a secret report named him one of twelve intriguing and discontented persons. By 1819, however, Macquarie regarded him as loyal and appointed him a justice of the peace, an office which was extended by Governor [Sir Thomas Brisbane](#) in 1821. Because of his 'wealth, landed possessions and consequent influence', Brisbane included him in the list of ten nominees submitted for a colonial council in 1824, but withdrew his

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nomination next year. In 1822 Jamison had made serious allegations of immorality among the convicts in the government establishment at Emu Plains but an inquiry did not substantiate his charges; in consequence, he remained *persona ingrata* with the Colonial Office for some years. In 1826 Governor [\(Sir\) Ralph Darling](#) was instructed that on no account whatever should he be employed in any civil office under the colonial government. Jamison appealed against this decision in 1827 and Darling tried without success to persuade the Colonial Office to modify its censure. In 1831, however, Jamison was restored to the magistracy, and next year Governor [\(Sir\) Richard Bourke](#) recommended him for a vacancy in the council in place of [John Macarthur](#). This time the British government accepted the nomination, but it was not until 1837 that he took his seat in the Legislative Council. He remained a member until January 1843 when he and [Robert Campbell](#) were omitted from the nominations for the new council; according to Governor [Sir George Gipps](#), both were 'by years and infirmities unable to continue their services to the Public'.

In spite of his differences with the government Jamison always exhibited great public spirit and was prominent in most movements aimed at the improvement of prevailing conditions or at the redressing of an evil. Throughout his colonial life he devoted his time, wealth and influence to the introduction of the free institutions of England into New South Wales. Although not as forceful and prominent a speaker as his friend [William Charles Wentworth](#) Jamison, as the chief representative of the immigrant settler class, presided over many important meetings in the 1830s to agitate for representative government and trial by jury. He thus became the first president of the Australian Patriotic Association, founded in 1835. Bourke described him in 1837 as one of the 'many free Emigrants of great wealth and intelligence ... who advocate liberal principles'.

By the 1820s Jamison was 'one of the first Landed Proprietors in the Colony'; he acquired more land by grant and purchase and extended his Penrith estate, where about 1825 he built Regentville, a famous country house of the early period, named in honour of George IV, the former Prince Regent. Regentville was a model property with vineyards, an irrigation scheme, and a woollen mill built about 1842; it was here that Henry Parkes obtained his first employment in Australia. Commissioner [John Thomas Bigge](#) referred to Regentville as one of the more prosperous and improved properties in the colony. Described by Darling in 1829 as 'holding perhaps the largest Stake in the Colony', Jamison in the 1830s had grazing runs on the Namoi and Richmond Rivers, about 11,000 acres (4452 ha) at Bathurst and over 18,000 acres (7284 ha) at Capertee. He also took a keen interest in the turf and was an importer of bloodstock. He was a founder and president of the old Sydney Turf Club in 1825-27 and of its successor, the Australian Racing and Jockey Club formed in 1828. He was patron of the Hawkesbury Racing Club in 1829 and had his own race-course at Penrith.

He was prominent in organizations which aimed at the betterment of agriculture and the protection of the grazing interest, being a founder in 1822 and president for many years of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of New South Wales, and founder and first president of the Northern Districts Stock-owners' Association in 1837. His annual presidential addresses to the Agricultural Society took the form of detailed accounts and criticisms of the state of the primary industries and manufactures. In 1830 the London Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce awarded him a gold medal 'for his successful method of extirpating the stumps of trees', a process outlined in his address to the Agricultural Society in 1829.

Jamison's other public activities were many; he was one of the founders and a president of Sydney College (later Sydney Grammar School) in 1830, and for his charitable contributions he was made a life member of the Benevolent Society. Like many naval and military officers of the period he was a member of the Masonic craft. In 1817 he was admitted to the Royal Arch Chapter, Mount Floreb No. 227, under the Registry of Ireland, and in 1834 was elected president of the United Masonic Fraternity. He was interested in natural history, taking with him a 'collector of natural History productions' on his exploration of the Warragamba in 1818 and sending specimens to England. In 1811 he was elected a non-resident member of the Wernerian Natural History Society of Edinburgh, and admitted as a corresponding member of the Société d'Histoire Naturelle of Mauritius in 1830. In the 1830s he was a member of the Australian Museum and the Botanical Gardens committee.

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Sir John Jamison entertained lavishly both at his town house and at his country estate, and in the season of his affluence never lost an opportunity of extending hospitality to visitors to the colony, for whom he arranged outings, picnics and other diversions. He lived like a genial and prosperous English squire, earning by his unlimited bounty the appropriate title, 'the hospitable Knight of Regentville'.

In February 1844 he married his housekeeper Mary, daughter of John Griffiths, an ex-private in the marines, by whom he had already had two sons and five daughters. The eldest son, Robert Thomas (1829-1878), was a member of the first three parliaments under responsible government. The 'hospitable Knight' died on 29 June 1844, comparatively poor through the failure of the Bank of Australia, in which he was the second largest shareholder. His wife died at Hunter's Hill in 1874, aged 74.

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Related Entries in NCB Sites

[view family tree](#)

- [Gibbes, Harriet Eliza](#) (daughter)
- [Jamison, Robert Thomas](#) (son)
- [Jamison, William Henry](#) (son) 
- [Jamison, Jessie Isabella](#) (daughter-in-law) [Jamison, Margaret Effie](#) (daughter-in-law)
- [Gibbes, William John](#) (son-in-law)
- [Jamison, Thomas](#) (father)
- [Griffiths, John](#) (father-in-law)
- [Place, Thomas Tristian](#) (half-brother)
- [Place, James](#) (nephew)
- [Gibbes, Frederick Jamison](#) (grandson) 
- [Gibbes, William Charles](#) (grandson) 
- [Birch, John Anthony](#) (educational sponsor)
- [Cameron, Donald Anderson](#) (educational sponsor)
- [Croaker, Philip Henry](#) (educational sponsor) 
- [Lacy, Ambrose](#) (educational sponsor)
- [Abbott, Henry Palmer](#) (educational sponsor) 
- [Abbott, Thomas Kingsmill](#) (educational sponsor)
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