

The McConachy Clan

John McConaghy

Born in Deffrick, County Antrim in Northern Ireland between 1784 and 1794, the McConaghy's (*MacConachies*) left Oban, Scotland to settle in Northern Ireland because of the religious persecutions in Scotland.

Hugh and Ann McConaghy

Extract from a biography written by Alison Robertson (nee Beveridge) not earlier than 1977.

Owing to the religious persecutions in Scotland, the McConaghy's (*MacConachies*) left Oban, Scotland to settle in Northern Ireland.

Andrew McConaghy, born 1801, married Matilda Alexander, born 1807. They lived at Bushmills, 4 to 5 miles from Portrush, Northern Ireland, and had 9 sons and 1 daughter. Their daughter Martha was 10 years old when she died from pneumonia. Alexander, born 1836, was the second son of Andrew and Matilda. He decided to emigrate to Australia in 1863.

He was in love with Mary Chesnut, a girl of 16 years, and she had promised to marry him when he had a home for her in Australia. After arriving in Sydney in 1863, Alexander attended the old iron Presbyterian Church, St. Stephens, in Macquarie St, where he became very friendly with Thomas Meiklejohn who was engaged to marry Jessie (?).

Mary left Northern Ireland in 1865, the ship sailing first to Scotland before coming to Australia. The "General Caulfield" took four months to reach Sydney arriving on the 12 October 1865. Mary was very seasick. Also on the "General Caulfield" were Alexander's elder brother, David, as well as David McConaghy, 19, Alexander's cousin and the son of Hugh and Catherine McConaghy of Antrim, Ulster. Alexander and Thomas Meiklejohn were on the wharf on the 12 October 1865 to meet and welcome Mary and Jessie to Sydney. Mary and Jesse had become close friends on the ship, so great surprise and happiness for them all.

In accordance with the law then, Alexander and Mary's wedding took place 3 weeks later. Mary had brought her wedding gown and wedding bonnet with her from Ireland. She was given away at the wedding by the Captain of the "General Caulfield".

David McConaghy - Alexander's brother, went to live in New Zealand where he prospered and he married a doctor's daughter.

David McConaghy - Alexander's cousin married Mary Lang, a farmer's daughter, and later they settled in Cootamundra. Two of their daughters, Catherine and Mabel, married brothers Walter and Edwin McClintock, who had properties a few miles out of Cootamundra.

Alexander and Mary McConaghy

Alexander McConaghy arrived in Sydney 5 December 1863 as assisted immigrant on the ship "Hotspur". Alexander and Mary lived at 66 Great Barcom St and Victoria Lane, Darlinghurst, 1867-1875.

They attended St Stephens in Macquarie St, friend of Thomas Meiklejohn.

They built a home at 41 (15) Glenview St, Paddington in 1888/89 and probably the row of terraces adjacent.

Alexander and Mary McConaghy were buried in Presbyterian Cemetery Necropolis Rookwood in grave allotment 147 sect 4D, death reg#17851.

The McConachy Clan – Managed by Stewart McConachy

PO Box 2128, East Grovedale, Victoria, 3216, Australia.

Ph: +61 (0) 400 488 553

E: stewart@themcconachyclan.com W: www.themcconachyclan.com

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Six members of the McConaghy family are buried in this grave:

- Alexander McConaghy, born 3 March 1836, died 29 October 1918.
- Mary McConaghy, born 7 March 1847, died 9 July 1933.
- Their two children:
- Andrew McConaghy, sixth and youngest son, born 29 th September 1882, died 1904.
- Martha, third daughter, died at 10 months about 1973.

Their parents - Andrew McConaghy and Matilda McConaghy (*nee Alexander*) came to Sydney about 1878 or a little later and died within a week of each other about 1882.