

The McConachy Clan

THE SMALLWOOD CONNECTION

Mary Smallwood (*nee McConachy*) was born 1811 at Cumber, Claudy, County Derry, Northern Ireland. Mary was married at Cumber, County Derry, to John Smallwood. Her three children were born in Derry, Thomas (1838), John (1841) and Mary (1843). Mary embarked at Liverpool England on 23 September 1853, and arrived in Melbourne aboard the *Birmingham* on 4 January 1854. She was a fare-paying passenger.

Her children were Thomas (17 years), John (12 years) and Mary (10 years).

There is no record of her husband John sailing on the same vessel, in fact no record of him ever coming to Australia. We conclude that Mary was widowed and came to join her relatives in Australia. Mary's brother, Thomas McConachy, had migrated to Victoria in 1841 with his wife and children.

Mary (*McConachy*) Smallwood (1811-1889) lived with her son John and his family at Devenish and died there on 19 February 1889. She was burnt to death accidentally. At the Coronial inquest, it was revealed: *She was in the habit of using tobacco and it was thought her cap caught fire while lighting her pipe.*

Evidence was given that screams were heard coming from her room while the family were in the dairy, but by the time they got there it was too late. Mary is buried at Devenish Cemetery.

On Mary's death certificate, she is stated as being the daughter of Thomas McConachy and Margaret McConachy (*McComb*). Mary was a sister of Thomas McConachy (1793-1860).

Mary and Thomas's parents were **Thomas and Margaret McConachy**.

THOMAS SMALLWOOD 1838-1872

Thomas purchased the northwest corner of Section 3 Modewarre from Peter Clarke in 1863. On the 5th November 1863 Thomas married **Jane Wells**, aged 18. Jane was the eldest child of David Wells and Martha Wells (*nee Wiley*) and was born at Workington, Cumberland, England.

The Wells family migrated to Victoria on the '*Wanata*', which arrived on 4 October 1852. With David and Martha Wells, were their three children, Jane, Elizabeth and James. They were assisted immigrants and David Wells farmed around the Geelong district.

Thomas and Jane Smallwood continued to farm at Modewarre, where they had a family of five, John (1864), David (1866), Mary Jane (1867), Martha (1869) and Elizabeth Anne (1871).

Thomas Smallwood died on the 1st December 1872 aged 34 and is buried at Mount Moriac Cemetery. The witness to the burial was his cousin George McConachy who was living at Modewarre. His wife Jane died soon after, thus their children *were* orphaned when quite young. Jane had purchased two plots of land in the Presbyterian section of the Mount Moriac Cemetery in February and July 1873.

John (*Jack*), Thomas's elder son, born 1864, had a grocery store at Fairfield. He married his cousin Mary, but had no family.

David, the second son, born 1866, was a fine violinist, but died early in life, unmarried. David at one time lived at Minto Lodge, Gherang Gherang.

Mary Jane, the next child, born 1867, married **Gustav Schwarze** at the Presbyterian Church, Clifton Hill in 1890. Their only child was Ida born 1893. Ida married Gerald **Cadogan-Cowper** and their son Frank was born in 1915 and daughter Gwendoline in 1919.

Martha, born 1869, died in 1877 at Modewarre.

Elizabeth Anne born 1871 married in 1893 to her cousin, **John Thomas Smallwood**, born 1869. Their first two children, twins were born 1895, Olive Adelaide lived only 15 days and Thomas lived

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10 weeks. Both died at Yonga (*this may be an abbreviation*). Alice born 1896 married Arthur **Leach**. They had two children Jack and Ellen. Another child named Olive Adelaide, born 1897, married John (*Jack*) **Mitchell**.

They had a family of five, John (*Jack*), Lionel, Margaret (*Betty*), Lesley and Clarence

JOHN SMALLWOOD 1842-1924

Mary's second son, John, in his biography *In Victoria and its Metropolis*, states that he worked at 'Eaglehawk Station' from 1854 to 1856. 'Eaglehawk Station', at Aireys Inlet, was owned by his cousin Robert **McConachy** and Thomas **Pearse**. The station's name was later changed to 'Angahook'. The property now forms part of the present-day Aireys Inlet township and Angahook State Forest.

John married Anne **Fulton** in 1864. He leased land at Modewarre, in 1867 and farmed with his brother Thomas. Directories of the time give the listing as **John** and **T Smallwood** farmers.

John then moved to Devenish and selected 76 acres, Lot 16D.

John continued to acquire land in the Parish of Devenish, Lot 25A of 84 acres and Lot 11D of 50 acres. A further 149 acres in the Parish of St James was purchased in partnership with J **Hall**. John served on juries at Benalla in 1882 and 1883. He was secretary of the Benalla Butter Factory in 1899.

John was one of the prime movers in the establishment of State School No. 2124 Devenish East. The school grounds were excised from his 84acre block. Several descendants of John were later pupils at State School No. 1512 Devenish West.

John died in 1924 at Lockhart, New South Wales, but was buried at Devenish. Anne, his wife, predeceased him at Emerald in 1909 and is also buried at Devenish.

Their children, born at Modewarre were:

Elizabeth, born 1865, married Daniel **Matthews** at Nooramunga, (*near Devenish*) Victoria, in 1902.

John Thomas (*Jack*) born 1867 married his cousin **Elizabeth Ann Smallwood** at Benalla in 1893, (*see children under Elizabeth Smallwood*). He then married **Mary Therese** (*Tot*) **McFarlane** at Corowa, New South Wales, in 1899. Their children were Thomas (*1900*), John (*1901*), Gladys (*1905*), Alfred (*1906*), Raymond (*1908*), Evelyn (*1910*), Edna (*1913*), Edith (*1915*) and Ken (*1918*).

William, (*1869*) married **Myra Oliver**.

Their children were Anita (*1912*), Albert (*1914*), William (*1915*), Richard (*1919*) and Roy (*1922*).

Robert, (*b 1871*), never married.

Mary (*1874*) married her cousin **John Smallwood** (*born 1863*) at Nooramunga Victoria in 1894.

The children born to John and Anne at Devenish were:

David (*1876*) never married

Aaron (*1878*) married Clara Victoria **Spriggs** in 1909. Their children were Alfred (*1910*), Edwin (*1911*), Annie (*1912*), John (*1914*), Walter (*1916*) and Clara (*1916*).

Annie (*1880*), married **Henry Alexander** (*Alex*) **Glascow**. They had two children Alma (*1911*), Thelma (*1914*).

Samuel (*1883*), never married

Margaret (*1887*) married **Bob Mitchell** in 1916. Their children were Robert (*1917*), Raymond, Walter (*1924*).

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MARY SMALLWOOD 1843 - 1859

Little is known of Mary and she died in 1859 aged 17 years.



1945 - John Thomas Smallwood

and his wife **Mary Theresa** *(McFarlane)*

