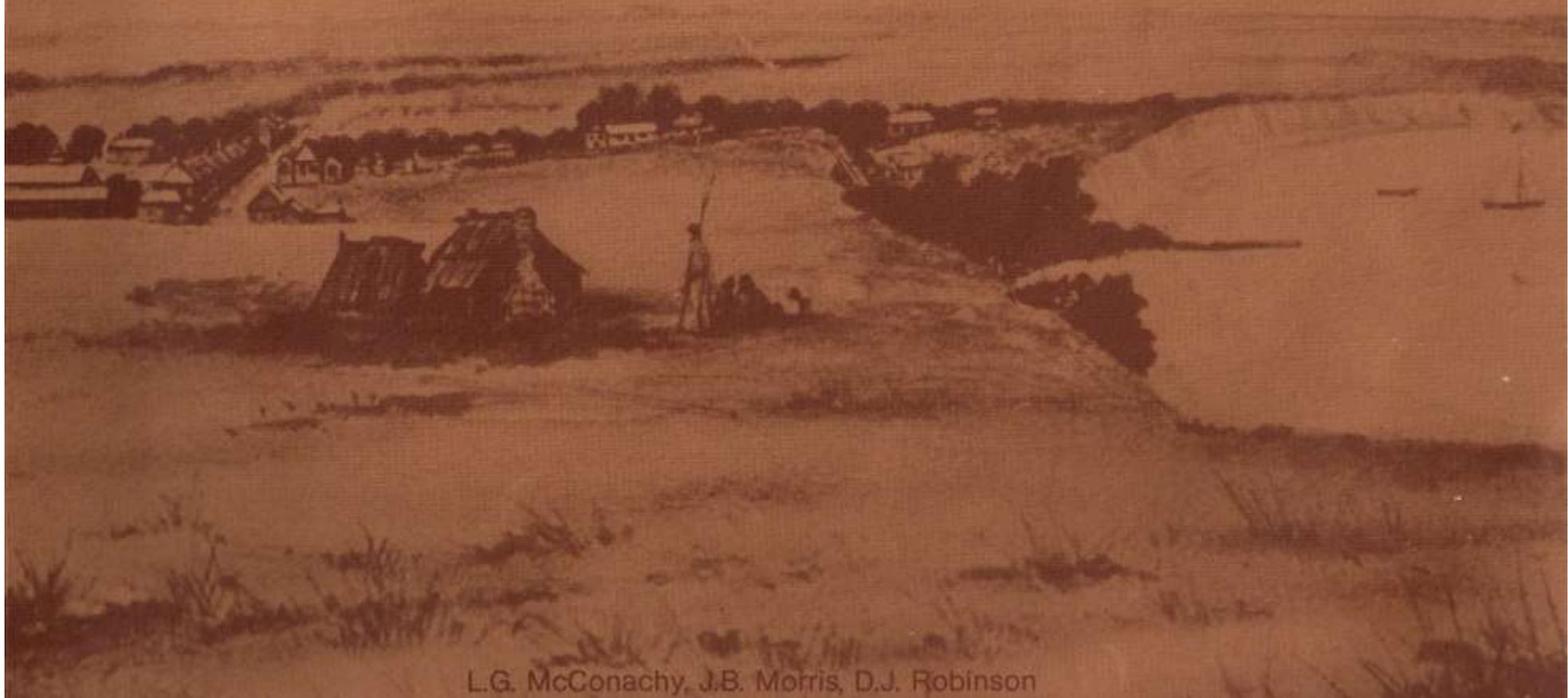


ONE MAN'S FAMILY

Thomas McConachy and His Descendants



L.G. McConachy, J.B. Morris, D.J. Robinson

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Thomas & Margaret McConachy and their Descendants



L.G. McConachy, J.B. Morris, D.J. Robinson & Revised by: Andrea & Stewart McConachy in 2016.

Revised – 8th January 2019 – V11

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DEDICATION

Dedicated to the senior members of the family that so willingly shared their memories and experiences. Their encouragement and enthusiasm ensured this book was completed.

THE ORIGINAL COVER

Was a lithograph of an engraving of Geelong viewed from the Township Reserve (*now Eastern Park*), circa 1840. Courtesy of Geelong Historical Centre.

Thomas McConachy, as town herdsman, grazed the town cattle on this site during the 1840s.

This is also the site of the launching of this book on 17 November 1985.

Photo: L. Addison.

THE TITLE PAGE

Is a photograph of plaque placed on the grave site of Thomas and Margaret McConachy at the Eastern Cemetery, Geelong following the 1983 McConachy Reunion.

Original Photo: L. Addison. Current Photo: Andrea McConachy.

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INTRODUCTION

Every line of the family reports of being told by previous generations that all **'McConachy's'** with the same spelling, are related. Two or three generations ago, all McConachy's, in Victoria at least, knew exactly what that relationship was. By 1980, that knowledge was long lost. Clark McConachy (*David line*) and George McConachy (*George line*) decided to hold a reunion of all McConachy's at Winchelsea Football Ground in March 1981. They enlisted the assistance of others and set about the huge task of contacting all McConachy's and McConachy descendants. Over 400 people attended the 1981 reunion, many not knowing exactly where they fitted into the family.

Aided by information from certificates and the memories of older folk, the task continued of compiling a complete family tree of the descendants of Thomas and Margaret McConachy. This was truly a family effort, as one person passed the word to another. Wills, birth, death and marriage certificates, newspaper files, cemetery records, property sales, shipping records, government land grants, rate books, electoral rolls and old books were searched to put together a family history. This was presented at the second family reunion in March 1983, again at Winchelsea. Over 500 people attended, many having been *'found'* since the 1981 reunion. Thomas and Margaret had a vision in coming to Australia in 1841, but it is doubtful they envisaged a family of 3,000 direct descendants.

Family members produced photographs, and the older members were quizzed once again. It was decided to write a book. As interest gained momentum, the original idea of a small duplicated book grew to become this publication.

Through the recording of our family history we have done more than just produce a book. Many have renewed old acquaintances and met and made new friends. In collecting material for this book, we have shared in the experiences of our own family, the triumphs and the heartbreaks retold.

It is impossible to compile list of thanks to people who have helped, as this work has been truly a family effort. Without the cooperation and assistance of the whole family it could not have been completed. Everyone was willing to contribute with finance, photographs, information, anecdotes and even accommodation. Although few of our family have become famous, all contribute in the society to which they belong. One can be justly proud to be part of the McConachy family.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank all those who have contributed, encouraged and assisted in any way during the preparation of this book. We would like to make special mention of a few. Clark and George McConachy who commenced the research and arranged the first reunion in 1981. Elly Morgan, the oldest family member, whose memory and early research have proved to be so accurate. Mary Cavigan, Lynette Clarke, Phyllis McConachy and David Morris for proof reading. Stuart McAdam and Norman Houghton for assistance with Barrabool Shire and Geelong history respectively. Jack Loney for advice regarding early shipping. Allan Hillier for preparation of photographs. The staff of the La Trobe Library and Public Records Offices who have consistently given advice and assistance. The typesetter and printer for their patience. Barry Lloyd of the Titles Office for his assistance. Without the help of many people we could not have been able to complete this task.

About those who compiled this book.

The three people who compiled this book come from different family lines. Lyle McConachy from the Robert line, is a retired farmer at Winchelsea. Janice Morris from the George line, is a retired primary school teacher, Doreen Robinson from the Eliza Jane line, has a word processing business at Mitcham. Lyle and Janice met at the 1981 reunion, and began tracing the descendants of Thomas McConachy. This search soon linked them with Doreen who has combined here interest in family history with her expertise in word processing. The three have worked closely together over the past four years in compiling this book. They hope that this work will encourage others to continue to add to and expand the story.

The Next Generation - *Stewart & Andrea McConachy*

In consultation with the original authors of *'One Man's Family'* it was decided in mid-2016, to convert the paper version into an electronic version – *'eBOOK'*. The book is now complete with all original information and photos PLUS we have also started to include additional information from clan members wanting to update their family story.

All family tree information is available at www.themcconachyclan.com and as part of your purchase you will be sent passwords monthly, so you can download files at your leisure for any updates of the book and your clan.

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Bibliography

Abbreviations

ONE MAN'S FAMILY

One man, Thomas McConachy, took unto himself a wife, Margaret McComb in 1813. That one man's family now consists of a family of over 4,000, including descendants and their spouses.

Both Thomas and Margaret were honoured by having descendants name after them. Of their grandchildren, five were named Thomas and eight were named Margaret. It is little wonder that they were often known by a descriptive term prefixing their name, like Big Tom, Tall Tom, Skinny Tom and Old Tom.

Four places bear the McConachy name. There is McConachy Street in Winchelsea, Victoria, McConachys Road at Patho, Victoria, McConachy Road at Three Bridges, Victoria and McConachy's Road at Henty, Victoria.

THE NAME

The name McConachy has been spelt in various ways over the centuries. In the early days in Ireland, when members of the family could neither read nor write, they were dependent on the clerks to spell the name and this they did – sometimes using two different spellings on the same document. So, we get McConochy, McConickie, and McConchy. When Elly Morgan (*nee McConachy*) visited Ireland in 1954 and to look up the old rate books in Belfast, she found that the rates were paid in the name of McConaghy as well as McConachy.

By the time the family migrated to Australia, they were all literate and the name has remained as McConachy since 1841. However, when written by other people the spelling continues to be as varied as it was several centuries ago.

GENERAL IDENTIFICATION

To understand the generations of people mentioned in the text of this book, it is necessary to note the following generation identifications.

ORIGINAL LAYOUT

First generation (*children of Thomas*): each has a chapter heading.

Second generation (*grandchildren of Thomas*): each has a heading as, **Thomas Henry Pearse 1883-1960.**

Third generation (*great grandchildren of Thomas*): each is indicated by bold type as **Mary.**

Fourth generation (*great-great grandchildren of Thomas*): each is indicated by medium bold type as **Mary.**

NEW LAYOUT – as per the Clan Tree's on our website

Blue – 1st **Green – 2rd** **Orange – 3rd** **Grey – 4th** **Purple – 5th** **Maroon – 6th** **Light Green – 7th** **Light Blue – 8th** **Brown – 9th** **Red Accent – 10th**

The family tree chart for each line is at the end of the chapter. It is recommended that the text be read in conjunction with the family tree chart. The charts are compiled as at 1 January 1983. The charts are designed as a continuous line, one page following on from the next. The lines down the left-hand side of the page represent the generations. When you find your name, the lines of the left of your name show your direct lineage from Thomas Pearse. The names of brothers and sisters all touch the line coming directly under the names of their parents.

McCONACHY FAMILY TIME SCALE

- 1788 Arrival of First Fleet at Sydney Cove.
- 1789 French Revolution.
- 1792 Birth of Margaret McComb at Claudy, Northern Ireland.
- 1793 Birth of Thomas McConachy at Claudy, Northern Ireland.
- 1802 Port Philip Bay first explored by Grant.
- 1813 Marriage of Margaret McComb to Thomas McConachy.
- 1815 Battle of Waterloo.
- 1815 Birth of first child, John McConachy at Claudy.
- 1818 Birth of son, David McConachy, at Claudy.
- 1821 Death of Napoleon.
- 1822 Birth of son, William McConachy at Claudy.
- 1824 Hume & Hovell's expedition to Port Phillip.
- 1825 Birth of son, Thomas McConachy at Claudy.
- 1827 Birth of son, Samuel McConachy at Claudy.
- 1829 Birth of son, Robert McConachy at Claudy.
- 1830 Coronation of William IV.
- 1831 Birth of first daughter, Margaret McConachy at Claudy.
- 1834 Hentys settle at Portland Bay.
- 1835 Birth of son, George McConachy at Claudy.
- 1837 Coronation of Queen Victoria.
- 1838 Geelong surveyed and declared a town.
- 1838 Birth of Eliza Jane McConachy at Claudy.
- 1839 *David Clark* first immigrant ship to Port Phillip.
- 1840 Introduction of penny postage.
- 1841 Arrival of McConachy family at Port Phillip Bay.
- 1842 John McConachy appointed police constable at Portland.
- 1846 Thomas McConachy granted a pasture licence.
- 1848 McConachy & Crutch purchase 640 acres at Modewarre.
- 1851 Port Phillip district became the Colony of Victoria.
- 1853 First telegraph line, Melbourne to Williamstown.
- 1854 Eureka Stockade.
- 1860 Melbourne to Geelong railway opened.
- 1860 Death of Thomas McConachy at Geelong.
- 1861 Burke & Wills expedition.
- 1862 Death of son, John McConachy at Hotspur.
- 1880 Ned Kelly hanged.
- 1880 Death of Margaret McConachy (*nee McComb*).

1793 - 1860 Thomas McConachy
 born Claudy, Ireland died - Geelong
Farmer – Claudy

1813 married
 Claudy, Ireland
Herdsmen and Squatter – Geelong

1792 - 1880 Margaret McComb
 born Claudy, Ireland died - Winchelsea
Farmer – Modewarre

1822 William (*research on Williams NZ McAnulty family required*), **1825 Thomas & 1833 Henry** – *died without issue*

1815-62 John m. Jane McGuinness	1818-1901 David m. Elizabeth Clark	1827-98 Samuel m. Isabella Reid m. Mary Lancaster	1829-1918 Robert m. Sarah Pearse	1831-1916 Margaret m. Andrew Clark	1835-1901 George m. Elizabeth Ewart	1838-1901 Eliza Jane m. Samuel Lighton
Policeman Innkeeper Portland Dartmoor Hotspur	Limeburner Farmer Geelong Modewarre Winchelsea	Innkeeper Farmer Portland Goroke	Farmer Aireys Inlet Winchelsea	Farmer Modewarre Milloo Cobden	Storekeeper Farmer Modewarre Patho Cobden	Storekeeper Farmer Geelong Modewarre Devenish
1838 Mary m. H. McCombe 1839 David 1844 Margaret 1846 Margaret m. S. Condon	1851 Annie m. T. Pearse 1853 Thomas m. E. Steel 1855 Peter m. F. Stead 1857 Robert 1859 George 1861 David m. K. Anderson 1863 Margaret m. J. Reynolds 1866 Isabella m. W.G. Freeman 1868 Robert m. M. Parish 1871 Elizabeth m. G. Freeman 1873 Mary 1877 Jessie m. T. Parish m. F. Stiles m. J. Prowse	1854 Thomas m. S. Hutchinson m. M. Hamilton 1855 William m. B. Miller 1857 Ruth 1863 Margaret 1867 Marion 1869 Marion 1877 Martha m. J. Pascoe 1879 Samuel m. M. Hocking 1880 Eva m. R. Kennedy 1881 Claudia m. C. Jackson 1883 Edith 1890 Gertrude	1861 Ellen m. G. Pilley 1863 Thomas m. H. Tilley 1865 William m. I. McKenzie 1867 Samuel m. E. Oliffe 1869 Bessie m. G. Taylor 1871 Louisa 1874 David m. A. Kilpatrick 1875 Robert 1877 Alfred 1879 Emma m. G. Brown 1881 Alexander 1883 Mary m. W. Schroeter 1886 Edward m. E. Hall 1889 Albert 1891 Rebecca	1855 Peter 1856 Thomas 1859 Margaret m. T. Packham 1861 Elizabeth m. W. Buckingham 1863 George 1864 William 1876 Isabella m. W. Marwood	1860 Thomas m. M. Bail 1863 Annie m. R. Silvester 1864 Samuel m. A. Collie 1868 Margaret 1869 William m. E. Collie 1870 Eliza m. F. Baker 1873 Isabella m. T. Tarrant 1875 G. Henry 1876 Robert m. T. Court 1881 M. Evelyn m. R. Hammond m. P. Morrison	1858 John 1861 Margaret 1863 Samuel 1866 Eliza m. C. Martin 1868 Thomas m. E. Payne 1870 Robert m. E. Bennion 1871 Isabella 1874 William m. E. Wallace 1875 Joseph 1877 Walker m. M. Hooper 1883 Albert m. E. Woods

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